



La Nueva Voz

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



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



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Pomona primary election results leaning toward re-electing mayor with three new councilmembers

The ink's dry on the ballots and, although they won't be certified by Los Angeles County until tomorrow (March 29), it is starting to look more and more like Pomona will re-elect Mayor Tim Sandoval for another four-year term but, come the November general election, elect all new councilmembers in the three seats up for grabs.

Here's how it all breaks down – as of the 12th ballot count update from the county, the “top two” candidates for Mayor of Pomona were Sandoval, with 52.71 percent of the vote, and challenger Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, with 28 percent of the vote.

If those numbers hold, Sandoval will win re-election without

having to appear on the November ballot because he'll end up with more than 50 percent of the vote.

Even so, in a conversation with La Nueva Voz, Sandoval sounded optimistic but was stopping short of accepting the numbers until they are certified.

He said he's not assuming anything until that point, although

he is hopeful he'll prevail in the primary so he won't have to run again in November.

Other challengers for the mayor's seat were Veronica Cabrera, who received 11.52 percent of the vote, and Gustavo Ramirez, who received 7.78 percent.

But for the rest of the city council, it is starting to look like vot-

ers are deciding it is time for a change. And based on conversations around town, the reasons are all over the map – concerns about prostitution, reaction to a sudden change of city managers that was also expensive because of a \$600,000 severance pay package, and even questions about in-

Election results... pg. 6

Casa Colina supporters hear success stories at annual gala

“They changed my life, plain and simple. I would not be the person I am today without their help.”

Samantha Bosco summed up her thoughts on Pomona's Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare in an interview with La Nueva Voz moments before she spoke to some 900 guests at this year's annual “Tribute to Courage Gala” at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center.



President and CEO Kelly Linden
Casa Colina Hospital

a fall alone in her home, were this year's honorees at the event – two former Casa Colina patients selected because of their amazing stories of success.

Grace underwent months of day treatment at Casa Colina's Transitional Living Center to address memory and other cognitive deficits, fatigue and sensory issues.

Now, nearly four years later, she has returned to music, teaching at USC's Thornton School of Music, and performing and finding new inspiration in music and in life.

And she even performed at the gala!

Casa Colina annual gala... pg. 2

Pomona Valley Hospital opens \$15 million pediatric unit

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center officials cut the ribbon last month to open their new and upgraded \$15 million grant-funded “Inpatient Pediatric Unit” – the only unit of its type within a 15-mile radius serving the region – all while making a statement about the local hospital's commitment to providing patients and their families quality care right here at home.

And at a time that many other hospitals are no longer making available inpatient pediatric care, Pomona Valley Hospital – while opening its new state-of-the-art facility – has really offered similar service



President and CEO Rich Yochum
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center

all along.

The new unit is on the ground floor next to the existing women's center, but the original inpatient pediatric unit is upstairs on the second floor in the hospital's main building – and it provided services there beginning in 1955 and continuing until transitioning over to the new unit this month.

Hospital President and CEO Rich Yochum, speaking

to a group of nearly 100 donors, board members, staff members, volunteers and supporters, called the opening a “historic milestone.”

“For more than 120 years . . . our hos-
\$15 million pediatric unit... pg. 14

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

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Casa Colina annual gala... from pg. 1

“This healing is the hardest thing I’ve ever done, and I’m so grateful for the chance to be alive and doing it,” Grace said in the program notes.

Gold medal-winning Paralympic cyclist Bosco was involved in a crash on a training ride in June of 2021, sustaining major injuries that would jeopardize not only her cycling career but her ability to function in everyday life.

“I was on a training ride with a group of people and there was something in the road, people panicked, people went down, I happened to be one of them, don’t remember finding a doctor,” Bosco told La Nueva Voz.

She learned much later from her husband, who was riding behind her, that a total of six or seven riders went down in the chain-reaction pile-up.

“Basically, long story short, I had a skull fracture, maxilla bone and my sphenoid, and traumatic brain bleed which meant traumatic brain injury,” she added.

Bosco experienced microbleeds and had tracking issues in her right eye and right ear issues, all requiring physical therapy.

“It was a fluke accident, hopefully one and done with the fluke accidents, but I was very, very fortunate with the circumstances,” Bosco said.

The training ride itself was on a standard local training ride around

the lake at Bonelli Park in San Dimas – a relatively easy loop with several rolling hills along the way.

Bosco said she was “patched up” at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. In reality, it was a little more than just patching her up – she was in the intensive care unit for five days and then transferred out to a room for two more days before being released to go home.

“And we had an appointment with Casa Colina I want to say two days later,” she said. “We started really quickly – I was super motivated to get back into the swing of things, hopefully to go to (the 2021 Paralympic games in) Tokyo. But my injuries were a little bit more severe than I even knew.”

“We did a lot of disability rehab (at Casa Colina), a lot of it was eye tracking, a lot of it was getting my neck aligned with my eyes so that when I was turning, it was all going together,” Bosco explained. “We did a lot of work with the metronome, a lot of work moving, and trying to have cognizant function as I was moving and under exertion also.”

Bosco’s journey to recovery followed an unsuccessful surgery for a childhood leg complication after which she learned to function with a lower-extremity disability.

There was a happy ending.



Kathleen Grace

While she didn’t make it to Tokyo, she returned to cycling and became the 2022 World Champion in the C4 time trial and road race at the UCI Para-Cycling World Championships in Quebec, as well as the World Cup Series Overall winner.

Today she continues to race competitively at the highest levels.

“I can say without a doubt – none of it was possible without Casa Colina” Bosco said.

Casa Colina President and CEO Kelly Linden, in an

interview with La Nueva Voz before speaking at her first Casa Colina gala, said the guests at the

event were the hospital’s “closest friends.”

“This is such a special event and to be a part of Casa Colina and to be a part of this tribute is very special to me,” said Linden, who came on board 13 months ago in February 2023 to replace Dr. Felice Loverso, who retired in 2022.



Samantha Bosco

“We have some very inspiring stories as I know we have had in the past, and tonight will be no different,” she said. “I know that everybody

here will be in awe of the patients and their powerful stories and the work they’ve accomplished over

their lives, and I’m thrilled to be a part of it.”

The Casa Colina “Impact Award” this year for contributions to the fields of healthcare and rehabilitation for individuals with disabilities went to Selena Gomez, who accepted the award virtually at the event.

“She is a wonderful actress who is just very committed to those with disabilities and those in need of mental health services,” Linden said. “She has a (cosmetics) company, Rare Beauty, that we were privileged to participate in a research study with, and in that process they have done some really special packaging to help those who have difficulties with their upper extremities.”

“They’ve been able to adapt the packaging to make it more accessible and she’s very much about accessibility, and so we’re thrilled to honor her,” Linden added.

Gomez also launched the Rare Impact Fund in 2020 to expand access to mental health services for young people around the world.

Palladium Sponsor for the event was Trinity Construction, Inc., and Platinum Sponsors were JTS Surgical Innovations, Morrison Healthcare and Shernoff Bidart Echeverria LLP, along with another 69 Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors.

Casa Colina is an independent, nonprofit provider of medical-surgical and rehabilitative care serving children and adults since 1938, regardless of ability to pay.

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Community comes together for third annual 'Harriet Tubman Day Unity Walk'

About two dozen marchers walked 1.3 miles to Pomona's Lincoln Park from the African American Advisory Alliance headquarters in Downtown Pomona this month to join a gathering of about 100 in a third annual "Harriet Tubman Day Unity Walk and Unity Day" in front of a statue of American icon and abolitionist Harriet Tubman.

"I think of Harriet Tubman and that relentless . . . attitude that she had toward liberation and freedom, toward solidarity within the community," said Chara Swodeck, president of the African American Advisory Alliance.

"Some people were left behind, some people didn't get up when they were supposed to get up and they were kind of comfortable where they were and they weren't ready for freedom, they weren't ready to make that trek," she added.

"You don't need permission to save your own life," she said. "As a community, that is what we're doing. You can't force that on people but what you can do is be an example. You can share the good that you know and even

when you don't know the way... you keep moving forward."

Her organization partnered with Pomona's Ray Adamyk for the third annual "Unity Day."

Adamyk, owner of Pomona's Spectra Company, funded the project that produced the statue along with the City of Pomona.

Tubman, a 25-year-old slave, was able to escape and walk hundreds of miles leading others to freedom. She was known in American history as the "conductor" of the Underground Railroad aiding slaves escaping and making their way to the North in the 1800s. And she made the trip 19 different times.

"There's a rich African-American history in this city," said Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, who told the group he first asked Cultural Arts Commissioner Joshua



Photo by Renee Barbee
Marchers walk the 1.3-mile route this month from Downtown Pomona to Lincoln Park for a "Harriet Tubman Day Unity Walk."

Swodeck – in the wake of the George Floyd murder in Minneapolis in 2020 – what he thought about the idea of a statue in Lincoln Park of Frederick Douglass, who fought for African-American civil rights in the 19th century.

Sandoval said later when he was talking to Adamyk, he learned Adamyk's church, Salem Chapel, in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada was at the end of

the Underground Railroad and Sandoval suggested a statue of Tubman.

"What stands behind us is an American revolutionary, an American hero for all of us," Sandoval said, adding that Tubman "found the will and the power to... change not just her life but the lives of so many others."

"There was a time that I'm sure African-Americans in this community could not even come here (to Lincoln Park), could not live here, could not be a part of what I know Pomona can now represent," Sandoval said, adding that "certainly there's a lot more work

Unity Walk... pg. 8



The Harriet Tubman statue in the center of Pomona's Lincoln Park was the focus of this month's "Unity Walk."



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Federal officials reviewing Foothill Transit closure of Pomona location

Federal Transit Administration officials in Washington, D.C., are taking a look at West Covina-based Foothill Transit after La Nueva Voz reached out to them to determine if they were considering taking action against the local bus company based on alleged non-compliance with federal regulations.

La Nueva Voz called on the federal agency for a response after learning Foothill Transit's own Title VI analysis conceded the bus company was in non-compliance when it abruptly closed the Pomona Transit Store at the downtown Pomona Transit Center late last year after 25 years of operation.

Foothill's transit stores provide bus passes, route planning information and related services, many of which are available online. However, many riders do not have access to the internet, computers or cell phones.

Federal law required the Title VI review to ensure the service cut in Pomona did not place a burden on low-income riders and those who identify as Black, Indigenous or people of color (BIPOC).

And while Foothill's own analysis confirmed it was in non-compliance, it tossed in a work-around by claiming that adding eight Saturday hours a month at the West Covina transit store would mitigate the impact of the closure in Pomona.

Title VI compliance is required of agencies receiving federal funds and is part of the original Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin.

Those mitigation measures require Pomona riders who previously used the now-closed transit store to travel 11.8 miles to the West Covina transit store. Foothill documents showed some 22,000 customers a year were using the Pomona location, compared to only 9,161 "walk-ins" in West Covina.

The e-mailed inquiry to the Federal Transit Administration from La Nueva Voz last month asked if the agency would be considering action against Foothill for closing the store despite violating Title VI requirements and then using the apparently unsupportable mitigation measures as an excuse.

The inquiry also included a ref-



Customers walk in and out of the Chase bank building in West Covina where Foothill Transit corporate offices and the West Covina transit store are located on the second floor. Hours are posted on the outside door and prices for fares and passes are posted on the glass at the store counter. The Pomona Transit Store closure notice is pictured at left.

erence to similar action in closing a transit store in Puente Hills, and asked the federal agency if that "pattern and practice" of reducing service in low-income areas would become a matter of concern.

La Nueva Voz asked federal officials if they would consider taking administrative, legal or punitive action in this matter or if this was something that was already being considered, and if it was possible that their agency could require Foothill to reopen the Pomona store. Finally, the agency was asked if they had previously looked at or taken action against Foothill for similar matters in the past.

Federal officials promised a follow-up response but, as of press time for this issue, none had been received.

As a part of the La Nueva Voz investigation, the Federal Transit Administration's civil rights officer in the Region IX office in San Francisco also was made aware of the developments, but no official response was received.

Both offices received links to the original page one La Nueva Voz story in the January 2024 issue and the page seven editorial in the February issue (both are avail-

able under past issues at lanuevavoz.net).

La Nueva Voz first learned of the Dec. 29 closure on Dec. 29 from a reader who complained about the development at a city event. The newspaper also has received telephone calls complaining about the service cut and has even heard from a contact at a local credit union that a customer was complaining about the closure as well.

The closure was based on a staff

decision and apparently did not require board action. However, board members were aware of the development. La Nueva Voz reached out to Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, who represents Pomona on Foothill's joint powers authority board, asking if he would advocate for a re-opening of the Pomona store, but he did not respond by press time.

His comments in last month's editorial pointed out that moving the transit store out during a

remodeling of the building was necessary but that "hopefully once the update is done the store can return."

A spokesperson for Foothill, however, said there were no plans being considered to reopen the Pomona store.

The closure, according to Foothill Transit documents, was expected to save the bus company \$40,000 a year. Foothill's current annual operating budget is \$230 million.

Foothill Transit Fares and Passes

Foothill Transit Fares and Passes					
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Student Estudiante	\$1	\$4	\$8	\$40	N/A
Senior / Persons with Disabilities / Medicare Personas mayores / Personas con discapacidades / Medicare	\$0.75	\$3	\$6	\$30	\$42
Commuter Express Lines 490, 491, 495, 498, 499, 699	\$5.50	-	\$44	\$180	\$220

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Pomona Optimist Club members recognized four "students of the month" from Pomona's Madison Elementary School last month in awards ceremonies at Metro Event Center in Downtown Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Unified School Supt. Darren Knowles; February honorees Emily Madera-Monroy, 5th grade, and Breyner Diaz Mena, 6th grade; January honorees David Gaona-Camacho and Sohphia Santiago, both 6th graders; Pomona Unified School Board members Lorena Gonzalez and Roberta Perlman; and Optimist Club President Lorraine Canales.

Photo by Renee Barbee

Election results... from pg. 1

creased trash collection rates now that the dust is settling in Pomona after approval of a new contract last year with Athens Services.

Even with the new “top two” arrangement with the two top vote getters heading into the runoff in November, the results seem to be trending in favor of Lorraine Canales, Guillermo Gonzalez and former City Councilmember Debra Martin.

At this point in the tabulation, Canales is ahead in District 6 with 37 percent and will be going into the runoff for a two-way contest against Miranda Sheffield, who has 34 percent. Glenda Barillas had just over 28 percent of the vote in the primary.

The District 6 race was wide open because Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres ran for Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez’ seat and lost (Rodriguez termed out and ran for mayor). Torres was prohibited from seeking two elected positions at the same time.

In District 1, the race was really all about Debra Martin and the incumbent, Councilmember John Nolte, with Martin coming in on top heading into the runoff.

Martin tallied 41 percent of the vote while Nolte appears to be ending up with 36 percent at this point of the calculation. The two will face off against each other in November to see who picks up the most votes from the other two candidates on the ballot in their district.

Perennial candidate John Men-

doza, who has run for California Assembly, Pomona City Council and Three Valleys Municipal Water District board, where he has served in the past, came in with only 15 percent of the vote, and Luis Cano came in with 8.5 percent.

It is a similar story over in District 4 where so far political newcomer Guillermo Gonzalez came in on top of two-term incumbent Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole. Gonzalez received 36.5 percent compared to Cole’s 34.8 percent, giving Gonzalez an advantage heading into the runoff in November.

Community volunteer Chara Swodeck is out of the running at this point, subject to final certification, since she placed third with only 28.7 percent of the votes. But interestingly, her position on bottom with 791 votes compared to Gonzalez’ position on top with 1,007 votes – a difference of only 216 votes.

Gonzalez and Cole will be scrambling to try to pick up Swodeck’s 791 votes in November to add them to their own scores which now are only 45 votes apart.

Voter turnout in Los Angeles County for the primary was 28.88 percent.

Assembly race

Things were a little different but interesting nonetheless in the race for Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez’ seat (again, Rodriguez is terming out and is required to step down).

With four Democrats and a Republican vying for the seat, it looks like the Democrats did a little vote splitting in the election, leaving Republican candidate Nick Wilson to come out on top with 43 percent of the vote.

Michelle Rodriguez, Freddie’s wife, came in second with 20.2 percent of the vote.

But the way the math usually works around here, Michelle likely will pick up the votes from the other three Democrats who are now out of the race and win in November going head-to-head against Wilson in this heavily Democratic district.

Robert Torres was third in the primary with 16.6 percent of the vote, Javier Hernandez had 15.7 percent of the vote and Three Valleys Municipal Water District Director Carlos Goytia came in with 4.4 percent, all according to the latest California Secretary of State figures before press time.

Congressional race

It was Republican Mike Cargile against Democrat Norma Torres for the third time this month, although this time Cargile achieved his goal and made it into the “top two” to get on the ballot in the runoff.

Cargile had 39.6 percent with 31,930 votes and Torres had 48.2 percent with 38,928 votes.

Democrat Melissa May had 7.9 percent with 6,397 votes, and Republican Vijal Suthar had 4.3 percent with 3,469, for our readers who want to do the math and figure out which of the “top two”

candidates will pick up those 10,000 “leftover” ballots in November.

“This is our best shot yet in our efforts to unseat Norma Torres,” he told La Nueva Voz in an e-mail response. “We are so grateful for the efforts of all of our many, many supporters to get out the vote in so many key areas.”

“We will continue our efforts to focus on millennials and those dreamers whose futures, and future opportunities, are rapidly disappearing under this current administration,” Cargile added.

Ballots for congressional and assembly offices will be certified by the California Secretary of State on April 12.

Pomona propositions

Both Pomona propositions ap-

peared to be heading for a win. Measure P would keep the city’s 0.75 percent sales tax beyond its current end date in 2029 until such time that the voters put another proposition on the ballot to bring it to an end. And Measure X would repeal that same March 2029 end date for the sales tax but also would reduce the city’s sales tax from 0.75 to 0.50.

If both measures are successful, the proposition with the most votes wins.

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Compassion and our mental health

**By Dr. Frank Rogers, Jr.
Member,
Compassionate Pomona**

I consider it an act of compassion itself that Tri-City Mental Health has designated the third week of March as Green Ribbon Week to reduce mental health stigma and increase awareness of mental health needs and resources. I am a survivor of child sexual abuse. I know how abuse can ravage one's mind and body. And I know the shame that forces one to endure it all in silence.

In the midst of my young adulthood, lurid secrets within my soul erupted and the foundations of my mental stability were obliterated. For months on end, sordid

memories and flashbacks invaded my waking hours; a crippling depression made getting out of bed in the morning near impossible; self-loathing chastised me that I was soiled into my cells. I became suicidal. I cut myself with razor blades. And the shame so stained me that I kept my anguish secret at all costs. I faked my way through being a professor, a person of faith, an upstanding family man. Until I could not keep it secret any longer.

After an attempt to kill myself left me stranded in my car on a Mt. Baldy Road cliffside, I was admitted into a local mental institution. I stayed for six weeks, and thus began my decades-long quest for psychological well-being and spiritual vitality.

What healed me was compassion.

First, compassion exuded from the mental health professionals that selflessly offered me care. The unsung heroes and "sheroes" of my recovery were the nurses, the outpatient counselors, the support group leaders, the chaplains, and the trauma-informed psychotherapists who companioned me on the road toward healing. When I risked sharing the anguish and horrors of my mental condition, I was not met with the scorn and disgust that I had expected. On the contrary, I was enveloped with a caring understanding as these guardians of the spirit embodied their vocational calling to help ease my suffering and nudge me towards the shores of well-being. They offered indispensable resources for regulation and recovery; a solidarity to let me know that I was not alone on the journey; and an empathic presence that held me when I struggled and celebrated as I found my way one step at a time. For me, these companions were icons—instruments through which the healing life-force of the universe restored me back to life.

In addition, I learned the recuperative power of self-compassion.

Like many sufferers of mental illness, I felt that the psychic turmoil I experienced came from some defect within me. I was sure that the anxieties, the depressive episodes, the suicidal urges, and the self-destructive impulses came from some flaw in my character, or some inherent depravity, or an innate inability to marshal the willpower to simply tough it out. I judged my tumultuous interior states, castigated myself for feeling this way, and tried to dispel them out of repulsion alone. Like buoys that resist being shoved underwater, however, these interior states defied my attempts to banish them. So, I learned what seemed dubious to be sure. I turned to them with curiosity.

We are not born with these self-destructive impulses and ferocious emotional states. They come from someplace. They come from our suffering. They come from the trauma that we have experienced along the way. As implausible as it seems, when we explore our disturbing psychic states with understanding, we can recognize their pain and hear their cry for healing and caring attention. Tending to these warring states with compassion relaxes them and leads us down the road toward healing and restoration.

During this week of mental health awareness, may all men-

tal health caregivers stay closely aligned with their superpower – the extravagant gift of compassion that inspired their vocations in the first place.

May all those who struggle with the vicissitudes of mental unwellness know that they are not alone, that resources are available, and that their suffering can be cradled in the arms of abundant compassion.

And may the rest of us remember that we are both – though maybe not professionals, we can offer those in our families and communities who struggle with mental illness a word of encouragement, a gesture of kindness, a shoulder of empathic care. And though we may not be traumatized abuse survivors or suffering from severe mental distress, we all find ourselves driven at times by troubling emotions and impulses as we navigate the stresses of life. These too are cries of the soul. These too can be held with self-compassion. And compassion has the power to heal and restore us all.

Editor's Note: Dr. Frank Rogers, Jr., of Claremont, is a professor of spiritual formation and the co-director of the Center for Engaged Compassion at the Claremont School of Theology. He is the author of several books, and has recently released his latest, titled "Cradled in the Arms of Compassion: A Spiritual Journey from Trauma to Recovery"

Just Us 4 Youth receives grant for pilot program to help build culture of safety

Pomona's non-profit Just Us 4 Youth recently received a one-year grant from the California Community Foundation for its "safe passages program," a pilot program that helps foster collaborations between school districts and other community based organizations to provide supportive services on school campuses and in the surrounding community to build a culture of safety and well-being.

The grant will help the group implement a school safety transformation project that promotes a culture shift to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, according to a spokesperson. It will include investing in healing and trauma informed supportive care for students, families and school personnel.

The program already is up and running at schools and "hot spots" in Pomona offering a variety of creative programs.

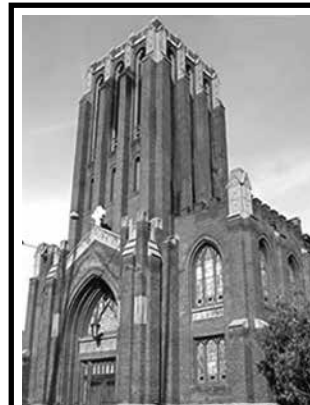
Just Us 4 Youth and Pomona Valley Pride also have recently entered into an agreement with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's representative for the Metro I-10 ExpressLanes Extension Project. Members will work with Metro to provide information and solicit input about the extension project with an emphasis on those who are traditionally underrepresented in the transportation process.

Just Us 4 Youth is a mentoring and restorative justice orga-

nization that serves "at promise" youth and their communities to help them develop as scholars and leaders. It also provides violence prevention and intervention services on behalf of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis.



Photo by Renee Barbee
Laura Brantley, at right, representing State Sen. Susan Rubio, presents a certificate to Tracy Evanson-Norwood, CEO and founder of Healed Women Heal, at a "Women Empowerment Luncheon" this month at Metro Event Center in Downtown Pomona. Speakers included author Gail Burks-Stansell, trial lawyer Denisse Gastelum, Dr. LaToya Brown of Rowland Adult and Community Education, Monique Robles of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, and Athens Services Director of Government Affairs Iso Nakasato.



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Unity march... from pg. 4

to be done.”

“Today is about a reminder of our history, but also a reminder of where we need to go,” he added.

Adamyk, who has created 10 sober living recovery homes for men and women in Pomona and is nearing completion of his company’s renovation of the former YMCA building, now known as “The Union,” told participants that the day was about “unity day, walking together, hand in hand, as a human race” and adding that Tubman was his “new hero.”

“What she did . . . to go back and forth and get freedom seekers, slaves, and bring them to freedom, I mean that is just unbelievable,” he said. “And she risked her life over and over again. She is amazing.”

“Let’s continue the hard work... it is a fight but we can work to-



Chara Swodeck



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval



Ray Adamyk

gether to bring unity,” he said.

Adamyk told La Nueva Voz before the event that for him, the annual event is about “bringing the unity together because in our country, over the last several years, we’ve been very divided and I think this is a way to bring people together where we’ve got all races, ethnicities and people walking together in unity and around something that’s beautiful, and (Tubman’s) legacy and what she did for freedom.”

The 80-inch bronze statue was produced at a cost of \$119,000 with Adamyk funding about two-thirds of the cost and the city covering the rest out of its public art

fund.

The first unveiling of the statue was held on July 4, 2022, before the statue was permanently installed in the park. A second walk and “Harriet Tubman Day” celebration was held in March 2023.



Participants in Pomona Rotary's speech competition for Pomona Unified School District students pose for the camera following their competition this month at the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley. Pictured, from left, are Rotary President Josh Landis of Foothill Transit, Daryl Beans, a broker with HMR Property Management, Pomona Rotary's chair of the speech contest, runner-up Joaquin Resendez of Pomona's Ganessa High School, winner Brandon Macias of Nogales High School, and Mack Moore, President of the Walnut Valley Rotary Club. The six-minute speeches were on the topic of creating hope in the world. Macias will go on to the next round to compete against students from Azusa and Claremont.



Pomona Rotary's participants in the speech competition last month, from left, are Edwin Davila, Melissa Jimenez, Christian Perez, Joaquin Resendez and Breanna Rangel. Resendez won the round and went on to the next level of competition against Brandon Macias of Nogales High School (see above photo).



Photo by Renee Barbee

The “Character Champions” puppets made another appearance in Pomona this month, this time at Pomona’s Unity Church. Rev. Jan Chase hosted a “name your price” sale fundraiser. The puppet troupe is working to create balance and compassion among people.

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Lopez Urban Farm honors memory of newspaper publisher Ignacio Lopez

City and school district officials, community volunteers and others held a ribbon-cutting this month for a new mural at Pomona's Lopez Urban Farm honoring the memory of community newspaper publisher and civil rights advocate Ignacio Lopez.

Pitzer College Professor Emeritus Jose Calderon, President of the Latino and Latina Roundtable, recognizing Lopez' accomplishments at the event, called Lopez "a great civil rights leader that grew up right here in Pomona."

Calderon said Lopez was born in Mexico in 1908, but grew up with his father who founded the Mexican Congregational Church in Pomona. He attended Pomona College and graduated from UC Berkeley.

But he returned to his community in 1933 "right here and instead of like others that go on to higher positions and don't come back to their community, he came here and used his education to develop a Spanish newspaper called 'El Espectador' that from 1933 to 1960 was not just a newspaper in terms of words in the library," Calderon said.

"He used it as an organizing tool, a beacon for exposing racism against our community that resulted in the desegregation of swimming pools and theaters and restaurants against Mexican people here in Pomona, in San Bernardino, in Upland and in Ontario," he added, "places that had signs of 'white only' in their front windows, places that turned you away."

"If you tried to use the city swimming pools on the wrong day," he said as an example. Most of the time, Mexicans could only use the swimming pool on Sunday late at night because that was the time that they would then clean them for the following week."

"This was the reality in San Bernardino where Mexicans could not swim in those swimming pools," he said. "In movie theaters in Upland, Mexicans could only sit in the balconies or along the walls. And in places like Claremont, there were segregated Mexican schools on the east side."

"You can go today to Claremont and see a park there that we helped save called Barrio Park and a barrio community is still there on the east side where these Mexi-

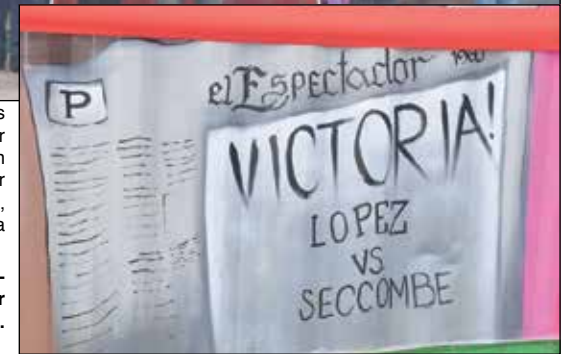


CUTTING THE RIBBON FOR A MURAL -- Officials and volunteers cut the ribbon this month for a new mural at Pomona's Lopez Urban Farm, honoring Ignacio Lopez, for whom the farm -- and a school next door -- is named. Pictured, at far left, is Lopez Farm board member Angel Arellano, at center, from left, are Pomona Unified School District Supt. Darren Knowles, Farmer Stephen Yorba of Lopez Urban Farm, Pomona Unified School Board President Arturo Jimenez, Pitzer College Professor Emeritus Jose Calderon, Pomona City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and John Nolte, muralist Thundr One (David Calvillo) of La Puente, and, third from right, Pomona Cultural Arts Commissioner Joshua Swodeck, a supporter of Lopez Urban Farm.

can segregated schools existed," Calderon said. "He could have gone on to a higher paying job but like Cesar Chavez and so many others returned here to connect his learning, his writing and his research with social change organizing."

Calderon said in 1939, Lopez brought together three Latino groups who carried on a boycott of theaters in the west end of San Bernardino Lopez... pg. 17

A representation of "El Espectador," at right, the Pomona community newspaper once published by Ignacio Lopez and a predecessor of La Nueva Voz, is pictured on the new mural at Lopez Urban Farm. The mural tells the story of Lopez, his life and his legacy.



Pitzer College Professor Emeritus Jose Calderon presents the history of Ignacio Lopez this month at a ribbon-cutting for a new mural telling the story of Lopez' life. Ignacio Lopez himself is depicted on a portion of the mural (above).



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval presents a certificate to Lopez Urban Farm on the occasion of a ribbon-cutting for a new mural depicting the life of Ignacio Lopez. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Unified School District Supt. Darren Knowles, Farmer Stephen Yorba of Lopez Urban Farm, Pomona Unified School Board President Arturo Jimenez and Sandoval. Seated is Roy, Sandoval's son. Interested in visiting the farm? A spring egg hunt is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the farm on Sunday, March 31.

BINGO

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Saturday, May 4, 2024

Join us for family Bingo night at Pilgrim Church on Saturday, May 4, 2024, 5:00-8:30 p.m. at the church located at 600 N Garey Ave, Pomona, CA 91767. Admission is \$30.00 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. This event includes a Spaghetti dinner, salad, bread, drinks, & dessert, 16 bingo cards, the chance to win non-cash prizes, a 50/50 drawing for gifts and prizes. Additional cards can be purchased for \$2 each. A special kid's corner will be held in Pilgrim Hall with dinner and activities for children 12 and under.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at the church.

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Duarte Library
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Duarte, CA 91010
10 am - 1 pm
3/23/24, 4/13/24

Pomona Public Library
625 S. Garey Ave.
Pomona, CA 91766
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2/24/24, 3/2/24, 3/9/24,
3/16/24, 3/23/24, 3/30/24,
4/6/24, 4/13/24

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 - 1099-G Unemployment Compensation
 - Cash
- Information for other income
- Form 1098-T Tuition Statement and any other educational expenses
- Information for deductions
 - IRA contributions
 - 1098-E Student Loan interest
 - 1098 Mortgage Interest
 - Real estate taxes
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 - For returning clients, let us know what location you visited
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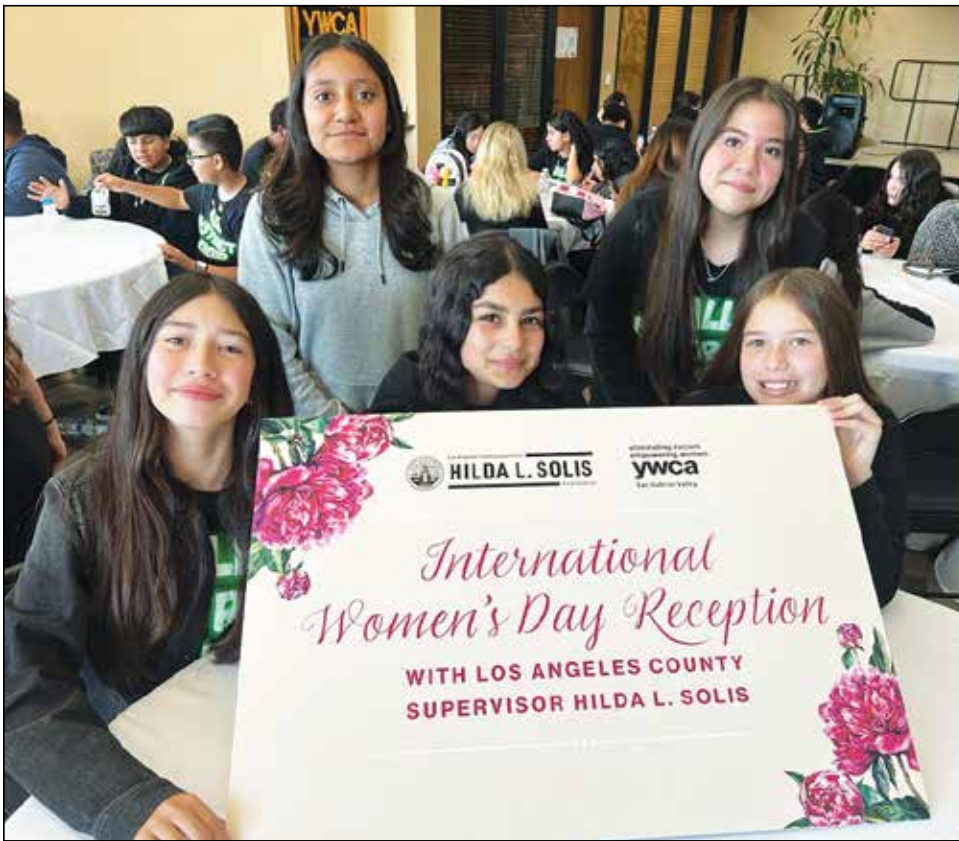


Photo by Yolie de la Rocha

SUPERVISOR SOLIS OBSERVES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY -- Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis hosted an "International Women's Day" reception at the YWCA San Gabriel Valley in Covina to "celebrate women leaders who have helped strengthen our communities." Members of the Pomona Unified School District Honor Choir performed at the event. "I look forward to my continued partnership with women across the First District so that we can create a society where every young girl and woman activates her infinite potential for change," Solis added. Pictured, from left, are Valeria de la Rocha, Makayla Rodriguez, Dunia Saed, Kimberly Delgado-Fierro and Vienna Sajinovic.



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Pomona Chamber of Commerce officials helped cut the ribbon last month to officially open CTX Hall Events, a new event center located at 280 W. Third St. in Downtown Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, owners Irma Neri Lozano and Pomona real estate broker Eduardo Neri and their children, at rear from left, Diana Rojas, Carlos Neri and Simeri Neri. The newly-remodeled facility offers seating for 300 guests and has a private lounge available for weddings, corporate events, seminars, parties and more. Neri purchased the property two years ago. For information, call (626) 675-8265 or e-mail cdxhallevents@gmail.com.



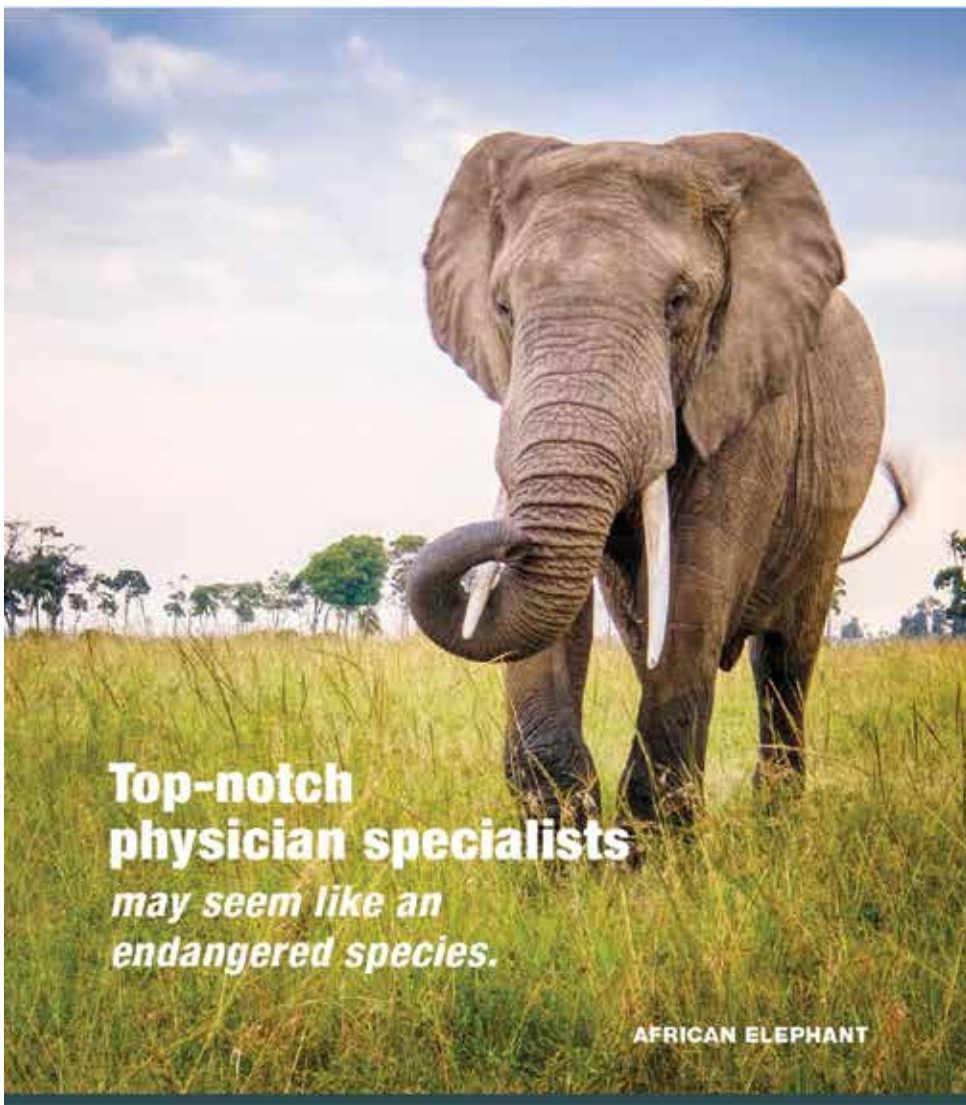
Mariachis (Mariachi Los Michoacanos) were an important part of the excitement at the opening last month of the new CTX Hall Events.



STILL TIME TO GRAB A JOB AT THE FAIR!

-- Benny Ayala of Pomona's Fairplex, at left, this month interviews a candidate for a job at the LA County Fair, which will be held this year from May 3 - 27 on the theme "Stars, Stripes and Fun." About 300 applicants lined up at the job fair and were able to fill out their applications on the spot. About 500 jobs will be available, with some 200 of them for parking positions alone, according to a spokesperson. A second job fair is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 6 (enter at Fairplex Gate 9).





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**STARS,
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\$15 million pediatric unit... from pg. 1

pital has been a pillar of health in this community celebrating the miraculous occasion of a new birth, guiding patients along the path to achieve good health, providing help to families in medical emergencies, and the moments of relief upon a discharge,” Yochum said. “Our associates, including our doctors, all of our employees and our volunteers, are committed to compassionate patient and family centered care at every stage of life.”

He added that as the community grows, patients’ needs change, and the hospital continues to grow along with them.

“Today, we are proud to unveil our new, highly specialized pediatric inpatient unit,” Yochum said. “This new unit will continue to set (the hospital) apart as a leader in pediatric health services in the community. Families can be assured that when the



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval

they tour the facility, she wanted them to “see more than just the bright colors on the wall.”

“I want you to see the culmination of dedication, compassion and unwavering support from all those who have contributed to make this dream a reality,” she said.

That included, she added, everyone from the visionary leaders “to the talented health care professionals who will provide the excellent care for our children.”

She also included members of the Pomona Host Lions Club and the California Lions Foundation (in a matching grant) who donated toys for the play area and a supply of little stuffed li-



Michele Atkins-Young
Director of Children's Services

child is ill, they can continue to remain close to home to receive specialized care.”

“We believe it is important to offer (this service) to the community,” he added.

Funding for the project was provided by the California Health Facilities Financing Authority, established in 1979 to provide financial assistance to public and non-profit health care providers in California through loans funded by the issuance of tax-exempt bonds.

Michele Atkins-Young, the hospital’s director of children’s services and a 40-year veteran of the hospital, called the opening “an exciting milestone for our hospital” that reflects the hospital’s “commitment to the health and well-being of our youngest patients.”

And she told guests that when

ons wearing miniature t-shirts with the hospital logo above the Pomona Host Lions name.

Every patient that comes in will take a stuffed lion home.

“The opening of this pediatric unit represents more than just new beds and medical equipment – it reaffirms our collective commitment to ensuring that every child in our community has access to the highest quality health care regardless of their background or circumstance,” she said.

“It is a testament to our belief that every child deserves a chance to thrive, laugh, play and grow into the best version of themselves,” she added.

“The true measure of our success will not be found in the number of our patients that we care for . . . but in the smiles that we inspire, the fears that we al-



The new pediatric unit can accommodate patients of all sizes, as indicated by the special crib. Pictured giving a tour, at left, is Michele Atkins-Young, the hospital’s director of children’s services.

lay,” she said.

“How fortunate we are to have Pomona Valley Hospital in our city, in our region,” said Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval. “Every single day this place is saving lives, and not just in Pomona but all over the region.”

“And for this new space that has been developed, I’m a huge believer that when you make an investment in your children, in your young

people, particularly early on, you have better results,” he added. “We need to continue to make that commitment and to see the work happening at the Pomona Valley Hospital. It’s much appreciated.”

The new facility bumps the number of beds up to 15 from 10 beds in the unit it is replacing, along with rooms for proce-



All the comforts of home are right there in a family room setting in the new pediatric unit at Pomona Valley Hospital.



Cutting the ribbon to officially open the new inpatient pediatric unit at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center are, from left, Dr. Muzna Atif, medical director of inpatient pediatric services; Lana Gonzales, RN, pediatric clinical supervisor; Hospital Auxiliary President Anthony Santorufo; Carrie DuPee, RN, pediatric clinical nurse specialist; Dr. Jennifer Kim, pediatric specialist; Director of Children’s Services Michele Atkins-Young, RN; Hospital Board Vice Chair Rosanne Bader; President and CEO Rich Yochum; Darlene Scaffidi, RN (at rear), executive vice president of patient care services; Pomona City Council member Steve Lustro; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; and Hospital Board Chairman Bill McCollum.



A stuffed lion will go home with every patient discharged from the new pediatric unit, courtesy of Pomona Host Lions.



Pictured is one of the private rooms in the new pediatric unit.

dures and exams, play areas, an activities space for adolescents, a family area and more.

Included are nine fully private rooms and three semi-private “sibling rooms” that can accommodate large families.

All rooms have showers, storage, and sofas that can become beds for visiting family members staying overnight.

Nursing stations are located directly outside the patient room to support a higher level of care.

Pomona Valley Hospital will provide medical transport from surrounding hospitals to improve the timely transfer of pediatric patients to the facility.

The unit took three years to complete and opened for business early this month.



Carrie DuPee, pediatric clinical nurse specialist, shows off some of the offerings of the new pediatric outpatient unit at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.

‘Soft opening’ tours of ‘The Union’ set for next month

“Soft opening” tours of “The Union,” formerly Pomona’s YMCA built in 1922, are scheduled next month at the newly renovated event venue, office space and non-profit “hub,” according to owner and historic preservation developer Ray Adamyk of Pomona’s Spectra Company.

Tours are scheduled to continue from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 25, at the building, located at 350 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.

“We’re probably about 90 percent complete,” Adamyk told La Nueva Voz in an interview this month, adding that some of the “bells and whistles” and “fine tuning” remain before a grand opening tentatively planned for July.

The first major event – a renewal of vows for Adamyk and his wife Michelle – was held in the building’s “Cathedral,” a converted YMCA gymnasium now used as an event venue for weddings, receptions, conferences, concerts and more.

And tenants are expected to begin moving in next month. Adamyk said about half of the building will

be occupied in April.

Occupants – in addition to Adamyk’s own Spectra Company – will include a professional skate shop, operators of the “Cathedral” itself, a pawn shop, a flower shop, a barber shop, Humanity Church and a financial and insurance group.

A café with its own bakery – part of a chain with locations in Chino, Ontario, Redlands and soon in West Covina – also is expected to open serving breakfast and lunch.

“It’s been a dream,” Adamyk told La Nueva Voz. “I used to live in Claremont. My wife and I specifically intentionally moved to Pomona because we wanted to help the city in some way.”

The opportunity to buy the old YMCA came up, he said, and they decided this would be a great way to help and to “take that beacon which had not been open for close

to 15 years and restore it and bring it back to life and help turn the city around. That’s why we’re here. We’re excited about that.”

Adamyk said probably 500 workers and 40 to 50 subcontractors have been involved in the project to date.

“At one time we had over 200 workers at the project six months ago,” he added.

His own company, also located in Pomona, will move into the building’s ground floor. While he said he generally has about 200 employees, most are always working out in the field. He said 20 to 30 of his employees will be working out

of their new offices in The Union.

Adamyk said the city’s historical experts have been “good to work with” since that’s what his company specializes in.

“Spectra Company does historic preservation and we are one of the largest in the Western United States that does that,” he said.

And he said the “soft opening” is open to anyone to drop in and take a look, adding that he still has some space available and the “Cathedral” is open for business, so people can begin booking weddings and receptions.

Adamyk purchased the building for \$2.65 million in 2017 and,

with the help of three banks and a credit union, invested another \$17 million on top of that in the upgrade project. The building already has received its temporary certificate of occupancy from the city, Adamyk said.

A foundation based in China purchased the building in 2013 with plans to renovate the property and turn it into a four-year art university.

Developers at the time said the entire process was expected to cost \$4 to \$5 million and take two years to complete. Plans changed and they ended up selling the property to Adamyk.

The three-story 59,000 square foot building is on a two-acre site on the northern edge of Downtown Pomona.

The YMCA moved out of the building in June 2013 and reopened at the Village at Indian Hill, although that location was shuttered in July 2016 and the YMCA combined operations at its Diamond Bar location.

For more information on The Union, call (909) 762-6910.



Tours are set for April at "The Union."

Pomona’s Ray and Michelle Adamyk propose a toast this month at their renewal of vows with 300 guests in attendance in “The Cathedral,” an event center formerly a gymnasium at Pomona’s old YMCA. It was the first event held in the newly completed venue. Adamyk’s Spectra Company, which specializes in historic construction, is nearing completion of the building now known as The Union.



Photos by Renee Barbee



Members of the wedding party form a dance circle after the processional – right on top of the free-throw line on the original surface of the former YMCA’s main basketball court – at this month’s renewal of vows for Ray and Michelle Adamyk.

A NEW LOOK! – “The Cathedral,” now an event center and the venue for Ray and Michelle Adamyk’s renewal of vows this month, has a completely new look since it was the basketball gym in Pomona’s old YMCA. The original running track overlooking the entire room will now be used for everything from added seating to audio visual equipment, and huge chandeliers top it all off by giving the room the look of, well, “The Cathedral” – all while maintaining the tradition of the original hardwood floor. The Y’s original stained glass windows are visible at right.

MAY I HAVE THE RING? – Author and family friend Clive Raharui of New Zealand, who also maintains a home in Claremont, officiated at the renewal of vows this month for Ray and Michelle Adamyk. Pictured is Reharuhi, at left, as Ray and Michelle receive the ring from ring bearer Titus Ebner, 8, whose parents, Cedric and Elizabeth Ebner, of Pomona, are close friends of the family.



OPINION

The importance of community gardens

By Fia Powers,
Cameron Macdonald
and Wynne Chase

Close your eyes and imagine a world where you could walk down the block to pick up produce from a nearby garden. Shouldn't that be the case? Shouldn't everybody have access to homegrown, nutritious, and fair food?

Community gardens are an important step in making this dream into a reality; they offer practical, hands-on solutions for communities to take care of each other in hard times.

The good news is that this work is already in motion.

The Inland Empire's own Huerfano del Valle is a community-run farm project with locations in Ontario and Jurupa Valley. Their vision is to create "one garden every mile." Communities within the IE have few defenses against pollu-
Community gardens... pg. 23



Pomona's Prince of Peace Church celebrated its 26th anniversary last month with members past and new reunited to remember its beginnings. The church site was inaugurated in 1998, although the congregation of the interdenominational Christian church was established in the mid-1970s. The church is located at 895 E. 7th St. and all are welcome for Sunday school, family services and teachings focused on youth. For information, call (909) 750-0331.



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Lopez... from pg. 9

County and forced the owners to halt their discriminatory practices against Mexicans.

"And it was after that that he led the movement where he sued the City of San Bernardino in 1943 for its practice of segregating Mexican people in the city swimming pools," he said. "His organizing won an end to the segregation."

Calderon said Lopez also was the leader in the court case Lopez v. Seccombe, who was the mayor of San Bernardino at the time, arguing that the mayor and the city under the fifth and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution were discriminatory in barring Mexican people from pools and other recreational facilities.

"Ignacio Lopez led the way in winning the most important court case that led to the end of segregation in pools and recreational facilities not only in San Bernardino but throughout the entire Inland Empire region," he said.

This was particularly significant, Calderon said, because this "historic contribution" took place "way before Thurgood Marshall won the 1946 case Mendez v. Westminster that put a stop to segregated Mexican schools, and way before Brown v. Board of Education had ended segregation in schools in 1954."

"Ultimately, the San Bernardino ruling was cited in both the 1946 Mendez v. Westminster case in which segregated schools were banned in California, and in Brown v. Board of Education that struck down separate but equal racially segregated schools," Calderon said.

And Marshall, of course, went on to become the first Black justice

to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

"That's how important Ignacio Lopez is – we know Thurgood Marshall but we don't know Ignacio Lopez," he said.

In another area, Calderon added, he took on the developers in the early 1950s who "openly discriminated against those of Mexican origin by refusing to sell newly built tract houses" in Pomona and surrounding cities.

And he said Lopez led protests that forced developers to remove barriers to all people of color – both Latinos and African-Americans.

"He was a leader in seeing the potential political power of our Mexicano Latino communities," he said.

Farmer Stephen Yorba, who formed a non-profit organization to create Lopez Urban Farm as a community space on land owned by Pomona Unified School District, thanked school district officials for their support.

"We would not have this place without them," he said. "We would not have this farm, this educational center, without their vision."

"From the very beginning, they have championed this place, they have offered us access to this space, they have provided us the sustainability to be here and do the work," Yorba said. "This is their farm, it is our farm, it is all of our farm . . . they make this happen."

He also pointed out that the school district recognized Ignacio Lopez first when they built a

school next to what later became the farm and named it Ignacio Lopez Elementary School.

Yorba added that Lopez actually attended Pomona schools "and now we dedicate the farm to his way of life and his legacy."

Pomona Unified School District Supt. Darren Knowles told nearly 50 people at the Saturday morning event that "it takes hard work to do this work."

"Under the direction of our leadership of our Board of Education and our President Arturo Jimenez, Pomona (Unified) has made a very intentional effort to partner with the community," Knowles said. "We're partnering here, Lopez Farm, we're partnering with the city, we're partnering with the (Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley), the Latino and Latina Roundtable, we are partnering with Upward Bound, Bright Prospect, Cal Poly, the University of La Verne, we are really partnering for a purpose and to help our students."

"And our students are doing great . . . we want to help them find their passion, we want to help them grow, we want to help them build confidence, and we want to help them learn that later in life, you stop trying to become what other people want you to be, and you become who you want to be," Knowles said. "And that's important. And it's a journey but it takes a little bit to get there. And our students need our support more than ever."

Pomona Unified School Board

President Jimenez called Lopez Urban Farm "one of those issues that we do come together and we really are passionate about."

But regarding the "vision," he said the first person to thank should be Candelario Mendoza, a former school board member and community leader who proposed naming a school after Lopez.

"Mr. Lopez had a whole community to work with and Candelario was one of those people that worked with Mr. Lopez and he became one of the very first trustees that were Latino in our school district," Jimenez said.

Mendoza wrote news stories for Lopez' El Espectador and later went on to create his own newspaper, partnering with Al Castro to launch the original La Voz which published for 28 years from 1981 to 2009. And La Voz, of course, was the predecessor of the current La Nueva Voz which has published since 2009.

"This school district has done the work of investing in the poorest areas of our community," he added, pointing to the "major investment" in the Village at Indian Hill, the new Washington Elementary School, work under way at Kingsley Elementary School, and Roosevelt Elementary School, another new school.

Yet despite the millions of dollars being spent in these areas, he said the test scores do not reflect the work that is being done.

He blamed that discrepancy on what he called "testing bias" with 92 percent of the children in the

district considered socio-economically disadvantaged.

"So that's why as a community we need to work together and to help the school district get out the good word," Jimenez said. "All of you guys have to become a good ambassador for the school district . . . and go tell everyone outside what's happening."

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval told the group that often people who live in apartments have nothing but concrete and children don't have places to go.

"How important is it for particularly young people to be able to find a place (like Lopez Urban Farm) they can go to and run around, to be amongst the trees, nature," he said. "I just want to say thank you to Stephen and your amazing team. I also want to say thank you to PUSD."

He called Lopez Urban Farm a place that "brings people together to laugh, to cry, to sing, to dance, to learn new methods of how to grow things."

"And that is so, so important when we are just dealing with the daily stresses of life," he added.

Sandoval also commended Lopez for publishing El Espectador newspaper "to tell the story and the narrative of our people" at a time when journalism itself was "under fire" struggling to tell the local stories as it is today "with the exception of La Nueva Voz which does a really good job."

Lopez Urban Farm is located at 1034 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona, and is open to the public.

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Information: Mitch Stein, (909) 255-1070 or coachmitchstein@gmail.com

Services held for Stephen Manzanares

Funeral services were held this month for lifelong Pomona resident Stephen Leroy Manzanares who died last month at his home surrounded by his family. He was 95.

Manzanares was born on Dec. 26, 1928, to Joseph and Louise (Perez) Manzanares at the family home only two doors from the home in which he died.

He attended Hamilton Elementary School and Fremont Junior High School, and as a young boy he and his brothers worked in the family business, Joe Manzanares & Sons Cement.

One of their projects was pouring portions of the cement for St. Joseph Catholic Church in Pomona, the same church in which his funeral mass was celebrated before a gathering of nearly 200 friends and family members.

Graveside services were held at Pomona's Holy Cross Cemetery with Todd Memorial Chapel officiating.

At the age of 17, Manzanares enlisted in the U.S. Army and, after basic training, he went on to Ft. Benning, GA, where he trained for the 82nd Airborne Division



Stephen Manzanares

and served in World War II. He was a member of the 504 P.I.R., known as the "Devils in Baggy Pants."

Upon discharge from the service, Manzanares returned to his home in Pomona and married his sweetheart, Dora Martinez, from Chino. They made their home in Pomona and raised five children in the house on the same street on

which he was born, and where he lived the rest of his life.

While he traveled around California while working in construction, he always returned for seasonal employment at the Los Angeles County Fair where he first worked prior to entering the Army. Eventually, he was hired full time by the Fair Association for a position as a laborer with Laborers Union Local 806.

Manzanares was promoted to grounds foreman in 1972 and was the first person of color to hold a permanent supervisory position in the fair's history. He remained at the LA County Fair until his retirement in 1992.

He was a member of the Hispanic Airborne, the Am Vets Post 113 and the 82nd Airborne Association Ruben Tucker Chapter.

He volunteered many hours posting colors at dedications, ceremonies and conventions

throughout the country, including placing wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery, taking part in the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and the 50th anniversary of the Airborne in Washington, D.C.

Of all the details Manzanares participated in, he took the most pride in serving in an 82nd Airborne Division Association

Honor Guard to send the veterans on their final journey, which he did for more than 30 years.

He was often seen at events in Pomona wearing his full 82nd Airborne dress uniform complete with a red beret. But he could just as easily be seen wearing a Mexican cowboy hat with a feather or a huge traditional sombrero.

Manzanares appeared in La Nueva Voz often – whether while attending Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis' first veterans resource fair at Fairplex, sitting on stage with elected officials at an Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration, greeting Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez in the lobby of the Fairplex administration offices and discussing the old days, or sitting in the street in front of his house at his birthday party to greet several dozen motorcyclists from the American Legion's "Legion Riders" stopping by to pay their respects.

He regularly attended Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrations where his daughter Dee Dee Ybarra was an organizer and served as tribal chairwoman of the Rumsen Am:A Tur:Ataj Ohlone.

He told La Nueva Voz from time to time that he thought it was important for people to read about his life while he was still alive instead of waiting until reading about it in an obituary.

And he loved having his picture taken with Supervisor Solis, Congresswoman Norma Torres and other elected officials, or simply at a community event with his arm around Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz.

Manzanares was a strong, supportive, loving husband. When his wife, Dora, was diagnosed with dementia, he spent many hours sitting with her on their porch reminiscing about their life,

trips and cruises until she passed away in 2017 after 67 years of marriage.

He never got over losing her and made sure to offer her a piece of Hershey's chocolate every night before bed even until his last night.

In the early 1970s, Manzanares was asked to be a member of the committee to build Sharkie and Cherrieville Parks. He accepted because of his love for the youth in the community and the city itself. He spent many hours at meetings helping to get the award-winning parks approved. He also took part in organizing fiestas and fundraisers for the parks.

Manzanares was proud of his heritage and knew the history of his family and of the City of Pomona. The Manzanares and Perez families were original inhabitants of the Los Angeles basin not only through their Indigenous roots but also through their Spanish and Mexican relations as well.

Taking a ride with him through the streets was a favorite pastime because there would always be a history lesson involved.

Manzanares is survived by his son Arthur Manzanares of Pomona, his daughters Dee Dee (David) Ybarra of Hesperia and Donna (James) Otero of Pomona. He leaves behind 14 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and godchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dora, sons Anthony and Stephen Manzanares, grandsons Vincent Otero, Tony Quiroga Jr., Arturo and Roberto Manzanares, his parents, his siblings Mary Carrey, Gloria Alba, Hermie, Elias, Paul, Joe and Teney Manzanares. His last sibling Ralph died only two days after his brother Stephen.

Services held for Pomona High School grad Danny Martinez

Services were held in Pomona this month for Reginaldo "Danny" Martinez who died in January with his family by his side. He was 88.

Martinez, son of Reginald and Syria Martinez of Pomona, graduated from Pomona High School in 1954 and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force before settling in La Verne until his retirement from General Dynamics in Pomona.

He was an avid bowler until last year, and traveled the country as a member of a competition senior men's "slow pitch" softball

team where he received nine world series rings.

His grandfather, Santiago Martinez, was a pioneer in Pomona Valley after migrating from New Mexico in 1842.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Clara Martinez, daughters Jeri Parish-Martinez and Diana Martinez, granddaughter Sara Johnson and great-granddaughters Riley and Addisyn Johnson, sister Leticia Martinez-Hernandez, and four nieces and nephews.

Services were held at Pomona Valley Memorial Park.

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OPINION IN RESPONSE

Feeling the suffering of others

By Madeline Newman Ríos

Your Feb. 22, 2024, issue included an article entitled “Compassion difficult as Pomona Council takes on Israel / Gaza” by Dr. Roberta Perlman, who identified herself as a “Member, Compassionate Pomona.” In that article Dr. Perlman takes issue with the Jan. 22, 2024, Pomona City Council resolution that calls for a “Ceasefire and Immediate Peaceful Resolution to the Ongoing Conflict and Humanitarian Crisis Impacting Gaza and Israel.”

Dr. Perlman opened her article by stating that compassion requires “listening with willingness to understand another’s perspective. It requires feeling the suffering of others.” She went on to say that “some of the rhetoric during the Jan. 22 city council meeting demonstrated a notably shallow understanding of the current situation,” and she called to “ensure that our youth are given the tools to evaluate all sides of complicated issues and identify the inaccuracies of ill-informed rhetoric.” Unfortunately, the analysis provided by Dr. Perlman herself fell far short of meeting such requirements.

Dr. Perlman noted that (knowledge of) the trauma of displacement and annihilation of Jews over the centuries is essential in order to understand the dynamics of the

current conflict. Yet she made no mention whatsoever of the history of the Palestinians, which is just as essential. She described Jews as “indigenous to the land,” but failed to recognize the deep roots that Palestinians have to that same geographic area.

Understanding the dynamics of the current situation also necessarily calls for an understanding of the violent displacement of Palestinians from their homes by Jewish settlers. Some such incidents date back to the 1920s. Upon the founding of Israel in 1948, confrontations included massacres of Palestinians in which hundreds of Arab majority towns were depopulated. Three quarters of a million Palestinians either fled or were expelled from what is now Israel proper. That event is referred to as the “Nakba” (the “catastrophe”). Currently, in the West Bank, the Israeli government continues to encourage displacement of Palestinians by Jewish settlers. There, Jews live under civilian law, but Palestinians live under military law, and segregation even declares which roads can be used by Jews and which can be used by Palestinians. In Gaza, an indefinite blockade has been imposed by Israel as of 2007 when Hamas seized control. The blockade has created severe hardships for the population ever since.

The Pomona City Council’s resolution recognized the death of over 1,200 Israelis and the capture of innocent civilians by Hamas. It also specifically acknowledged “the deaths of over 30,000 innocent Palestinians, the damage to 85 percent of the infrastructure, and the displacement of 1.9 million Palestinians.” Many different words could be used to describe this brutal but widely disproportionate infliction of human suffering upon the peoples in the region. Dr. Perlman objects to use of the term “genocide” to portray what is happening at present in Gaza, a word that does not even appear in the City Council resolution. While she refers to the brutal Oct.

7 Hamas attack and the taking of innocent hostages, there is no acknowledgment in her article of the losses that have been inflicted upon Gaza’s Palestinian population and aid workers.

Dr. Perlman’s approach to analyzing the reality of this crisis in the Middle East asks La Nueva Voz readership to consider Jews as the sole “indigenous” people of Israel. Ironically, when the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted in September 2007 by the United Nations General Assembly, the State of Israel did not even vote on the resolution. The “Basic Law: Israel – the Nation State of the Jewish People” adopted by the Israeli Knesset

(parliament) in 2018 states as one of its basic principles that “The realization of the right to national self-determination in the State of Israel is exclusive to the Jewish People.” Such justifications of the supremacy of one ethnicity over another are never justified. It is disturbing to see Dr. Perlman take such an approach.

About the author: Madeline Newman Ríos is a Jewish-American woman living in Claremont. She works as an independent, certified Spanish translator and interpreter. Ms. Newman Ríos was one of the speakers at the Jan. 22, 2024, Pomona City Council Meeting in support of the ceasefire resolution.

SoCalGas exceeds Public Utilities Commission goals on diversity spending for 31st consecutive year

SoCalGas spent more than \$1 billion last year with a total of 618 diverse suppliers – enterprises owned by minorities, women, LGBT individuals and disabled veterans, according to the company’s annual “Supplier Diversity Report” submitted recently to the California Public Utilities Commission.

According to a news release this month, the company exceeded the CPUC’s diverse spending goal for a 31st consecutive year, purchasing more than 44 percent of all

goods and services from companies meeting the criteria.

The achievement was made possible through the company’s continuing efforts to help increase the pool of diverse suppliers through broad outreach and education.

“We are proud that our supplier network reflects the diversity of the customers we serve,” said SoCalGas CEO Scott Drury. “With so many diverse business enterprises in California, we are committed to expanding opportunity as we advance cleaner energy in-

novations.”

“Our strong supplier diversity program increases competitiveness, enhances innovation and supports our customers,” he added.

With this year’s \$1.02 billion added to the total, the company has spent nearly \$6 billion with diverse business enterprises over the last seven years.

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Photo by Renee Barbee

FATAL TRAFFIC COLLISION -- Area residents were stopping by to pay their respects at a memorial for three people killed this month in a fatal two-vehicle traffic accident at White Avenue and Phillips Boulevard. Pomona police and Los Angeles County Fire Department crews responded and treated victims but two were pronounced dead at the scene and a third was pronounced dead at a local hospital. Two other passengers in the vehicle were injured. The five reportedly were on the way home from a baby shower. The alleged driver of the second vehicle, identified by Pomona police as Victor Siharath, 36, of Pomona, was expected to appear in court earlier this month. He was arrested on suspicion of felony driving under the influence and has been charged with three counts of murder, reportedly because of a previous DUI conviction in San Bernardino County in 2014. The victims were identified as driver Lorena Morales, 58, of Montclair, Alejandra Olaez, 33, and Yesenia (Ochoa) Olaez, 33, a dental technician who worked at a free dental clinic operated in Pomona by the Assistance League of Pomona Valley. Juan Manuel "Jaime" Garcia, the front seat passenger and husband of Lorena Morales, was hospitalized in critical condition, along with Noemi Olaez, 12, Alejandra Olaez' daughter. Blanca Gonzalez, Yesenia Olaez' sister, helped to raise funds for a funeral through a car wash, where she told La Nueva Voz she was "very grateful to the community for coming together." She called it a "tragic loss for the family." Pictured at right is an NBC4 News crew preparing for a "live" shot from the scene.

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Historical Society of Pomona Valley board members were sworn in for another year in office at the Ebell Museum last week at the group's annual meeting. Pictured, from left, are Vice President Mike Schowalter, Alejandro Martinez, Carson Bennitt, Alice Gomez, Donna Otero, Jay Munns, Secretary John Clifford, Renee Barbee, Treasurer Jan Braunstein, and President Deborah Clifford. Administering the oath of office, at right, is Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole. Not pictured was board member Benny Ayala.



POTATO TIME AT TABLE THREE -- Pictured at Table Three at the Historical Society event just getting ready to try out those potatoes are, from left, Anne Henderson, Kathryn and Don Martens, Paula Lantz, Anthony Bonner, Melissa and Maura Ayala and Renee Barbee.



ALL ABOUT THE POTATO -- It was really all about the potato at last week's "build your own baked potato" fundraiser for the Historical Society. And here's just one example of many with this particular potato obviously designed by someone who has amazing artistic skills and who truly knows how to enjoy a potato.



GUEST SPEAKER -- The theme of this year's Historical Society annual meeting was "Stompin' at the Rainbow," named after the Rainbow Gardens, a club in Pomona that attracted some of the top names in jazz and later rock and roll from the 1940s to the 1960s -- names like Little Richard, Ronnie and the Pomona Casuals, Perry Como, Nat "King" Cole, Count Basie, Ritchie Valens, Roy Orbison, Lou Rawls, Frankie Avalon and many others. Candelario Mendoza, a radio disc jockey and educator at the time who later published the original La Voz, Pomona's community newspaper, was credited with booking many of the bands at the Rainbow. Pictured is guest speaker at the Historical Society event David Reyes, a Chicano music historian and archivist, composer and musician.

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Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-888-892-5598 Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for \$149. Call 1-888-892-5598

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Photo by Renee Barbee

HEROES AT THE LIBRARY – The Pomona Public Library held a "superheroes" event this month with four of them pictured just lining up and being, well, superheroes. Superhero capes were given to the first 100 children in attendance.

Info on student group programs at AGRIScapes:

www.agriscapes.cpp.edu

4102 S. University Drive, Pomona (next to the Farm Store)

Sign up for Pomona Unified School District's

Free 'Early Learning Literacy' App!

It's a fun way to improve reading skills.

Register at www.myf2b.com/register/pomona footsteps2brilliance

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



LUCK O' THE IRISH TEA PARTY
 -- Members of the Assistance League of Pomona Valley held their 25th annual "Luck O' the Irish Tea Party" this month at Pomona's Ebell Museum. And if you are going to a tea, you've got to wear a hat, right? Well, there were plenty of hats at the event -- plus each table had its own green Irish Bowler hat in the center just to set the mood. There were also silent auction items and plenty of shopping opportunities -- everything from wreaths to handbags to jellies and jam. Did we mention those little sandwiches with the crust cut off the bread for lunch? The non-profit Assistance League is dedicated to improving the lives and well-being of children and families by providing new school clothing to children in low-income families, "survivor kits" to women and children who are victims of trauma or assault, and a dental center.



Photo by Renee Barbee
 Pomona's Dr. Huu Dinh Vo, President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley, at rear, recognized some of the children dressed in traditional regalia at a community celebration of Lunar New Year, the "Year of the Dragon," last month at SJ Restaurant in Pomona.

Pomona council re-names downtown parking lot 'Manuel Castillejos Plaza'

Pomona city councilmembers this month unanimously voted to re-name Vehicle Parking District Lot 13 "Manuel Castillejos Plaza" in honor and memory of Castillejos' musical and historical contributions to Pomona and the regional Latino community. Castillejos died last July at the age of 72. The parking lot is located at the southeast corner of Garey Avenue and Second Street in Downtown Pomona where Castillejos and a wide variety of mu-

sical groups performed through the years. The request for re-naming the lot was submitted by former Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa. Only Vehicle Parking District Commissioner Joe Mladinov spoke in opposition to the action based on what he said was his concern over the potential loss of parking spaces in the lot. He suggested other areas could be selected instead.

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Teens from throughout local communities submitted 28 entries in House of Ruth's 10th annual "Teen Art Awareness" event designed to raise awareness on teen dating violence and what to look out for in a healthy relationship last month during "Teen Dating Violence Awareness" month. Pictured are the entries downstairs at Pomona's dA Center for the Arts. House of Ruth assists women and children victimized by domestic violence.



House of Ruth CEO Pat Bell



YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE -- Members of the House of Ruth "Youth Advisory Committee" hosted last month's "Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month" event at Pomona's dA Center for the Arts. Pictured, from left, are Nataly Jacobo, Chino High School; Mairead Lucke, Claremont High School; Rio Quinto, Pomona Catholic; Lena Tran and Kayla Lay, Montclair High School; Samantha Zieminski, Los Oso High School in Rancho Cucamonga; and Sophia Velarde, Pomona Catholic. Not pictured is Keylah Alvarez.



"Royal Connections" by Kailyn Salinas (2nd place winner), an 11th grader at Etiwanda High School.



"Consent Matters" by Itzel Ruacho, a 12th grader at Pomona's Garey High School.



"And She Fell . . ." by Tracy Morales, a 12th grader at Pomona's Garey High School.



"Love shouldn't hurt" by Hailey Conde (1st place winner), a 12th grader at Pomona's Garey High School.

Community gardens... from pg. 16

tion and development, but there's a long history of how community gardens catalyze community change under myriad systemic difficulties.

According to "The Development of a Model of Community Garden Benefits to Wellbeing," during both World Wars, community gardens experienced a moment of heightened popularity when they formed in North America and Europe. Thanks to these community gardens, citizens were able to intake the nutrients necessary for their health, and work alongside their neighbors during a time of incredible trauma.

Unfortunately, community gardens' popularity and demand took a plunge after the World Wars. Community gardens are a systemic solution to systemic problems. In the case of war, there was not

enough access to food, and nowadays, we need a defense against the countless warehouses as, once again, national resources and infrastructure abandon civilians in favor of corporate industrial interests.

The IE was once known for its lucrative citrus production, but it has since transformed from sprawling agriculture into more than a billion square feet of warehouses, cites the Robert Redford Conservancy, thus causing a severe increase in carbon emissions, while also seeing a rapid destruction of natural landscape and communal green spaces. Residential communities are isolated from sources of healthy food and choked in diesel truck fumes.

Inaccessible healthy foods and fractured community connections are what sparked the founding of

Huerta del Valle as a project, and while it has grown and flourished, so has the steady march of industrial warehouses. Ontario now has some of the worst recorded levels of carbon emissions in the country according to Grist, a nonprofit, independent media organization dedicated to highlighting climate solutions and uncovering environmental injustices.

As one of many responses to this crisis, Huerta del Valle was a recipient of the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Grant, which "empowers the communities most impacted by pollution to choose their own goals, strategies, and projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and local air pollution" (California Strategic Growth Council).

With the vision of "one garden every mile," Huerta del Valle is

developing programs that seek to address these issues to engage the community by relying on close, local community networks to move away from participating in national, corporate systems. Through the TCC grant, Huerta offers the "Community Composting Program," which builds relationships with their neighbors. The program focuses on engagement with households within a one-mile radius of Huerta del Valle through education and participation in communal composting of local food waste. The compost is offered back to community members who want to develop and nourish their own gardens, creating a cycle that emphasizes mutually beneficial interdependence and empowers individual households to grow their own food using locally nurtured soil.

National resources and infrastructure during wartime were dedicated primarily to supporting the military, and civilians were abandoned. Now, resources go toward corporate and industrial interest. In both instances, communities of civilians whose labor often supports the industry are

still suffering from national negligence. Similarly to the World Wars, there is trauma, health risk, food insecurity, and general lack of care – all things that can be alleviated with a communal agricultural space.

Huerta del Valle is a brilliant model of how community gardens are an effective method of providing community support and health resources. Their values, mission, and practice get community members together and offer a space for health and gathering. To get involved in any way, visit www.huertadelvalle.org for information on hours, workshops, donations, and more. This call for community action has become increasingly important this past season, when Huerta was broken into and more than \$10,000 to \$15,000 of tools, including generators, were stolen. Here is the link to their "gofundme" to donate or read more about the burglaries: www.gofundme.com/f/huerta039s-campaign-for-huerta-del-valle.

Editor's Note: The writers are students at Pitzer College in Claremont and are interns at Huerta del Valle.

What is trigger finger, and what can you do about it?

By Mariem Metry, MS, OTR/L, CHT

Clinical Coordinator, Hand Therapy Program
Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

The famed educator Maria Montessori once said, "the human hand allows the mind to reveal itself."

It's true! Our hands do so much for us, allowing us to touch, grasp, manipulate objects, and so much more. Unfortunately, with all of the use our hands get over time, there are also many conditions that can adversely affect hand function – and therefore our ability to engage in daily activities. One of the more common hand disorders is known as "trigger finger."

Trigger finger is a condition in which a finger gets stuck in a bent position and snaps straight like a trigger being pulled and released. It happens when inflammation occurs in the tendon, resulting in a narrowing of the space between the tendon and the protective sheath around it.

Risk Factors

Trigger finger is more common in women and people who have diabetes. It is also common with people whose work requires repetitive gripping. The most-often affected fingers are the thumb and



Mariem Metry

ring finger. However, more than one finger can be affected, and both hands can experience the condition simultaneously.

Symptoms

Depending on the severity of the condition, symptoms can vary from simple finger stiffness (especially in the morning), a locking sensation when trying to bend the affected finger, tenderness, or a bump in the palm at the base of the affected finger.

When should you seek medical help?

If you are experiencing symptoms of trigger finger, start by calling your primary care physician and requesting a physical examination. Diagnosis of trigger finger is usually based on medical history and symptoms. It can be performed at your physician's office and should not require laboratory work. Your physician may consider referring you to a certified hand therapist.

Treatment

There are several therapeutic options effective at treating trigger finger. One of these is a splint. A certified hand therapist can pro-

vide a custom-made finger splint to keep the affected finger in an extended position, which will help to rest the inflamed tendon and decrease pain.

You may also be advised to try activity modification. This means avoiding activities that require repetitive grasping or the prolonged use of hand-held objects, such as driving, gardening, or typing. Despite the need to decrease certain activities, your therapist may also suggest gentle strengthening exercises to maintain mobility of the affected finger.

Finally, if your symptoms do not improve with therapy, your physician might consider a steroid injection or a percutaneous release surgery. This will likely be considered only if therapeutic options are unsuccessful.

Don't let trigger finger symptoms go unchecked – call your doctor today if you are experiencing discomfort! If a hand ailment is affecting your quality of life, Casa Colina's Hand Therapy Program offers specialized services to restore hand and upper extremity function. For more information, call 909/596-7733, ext. 3500.

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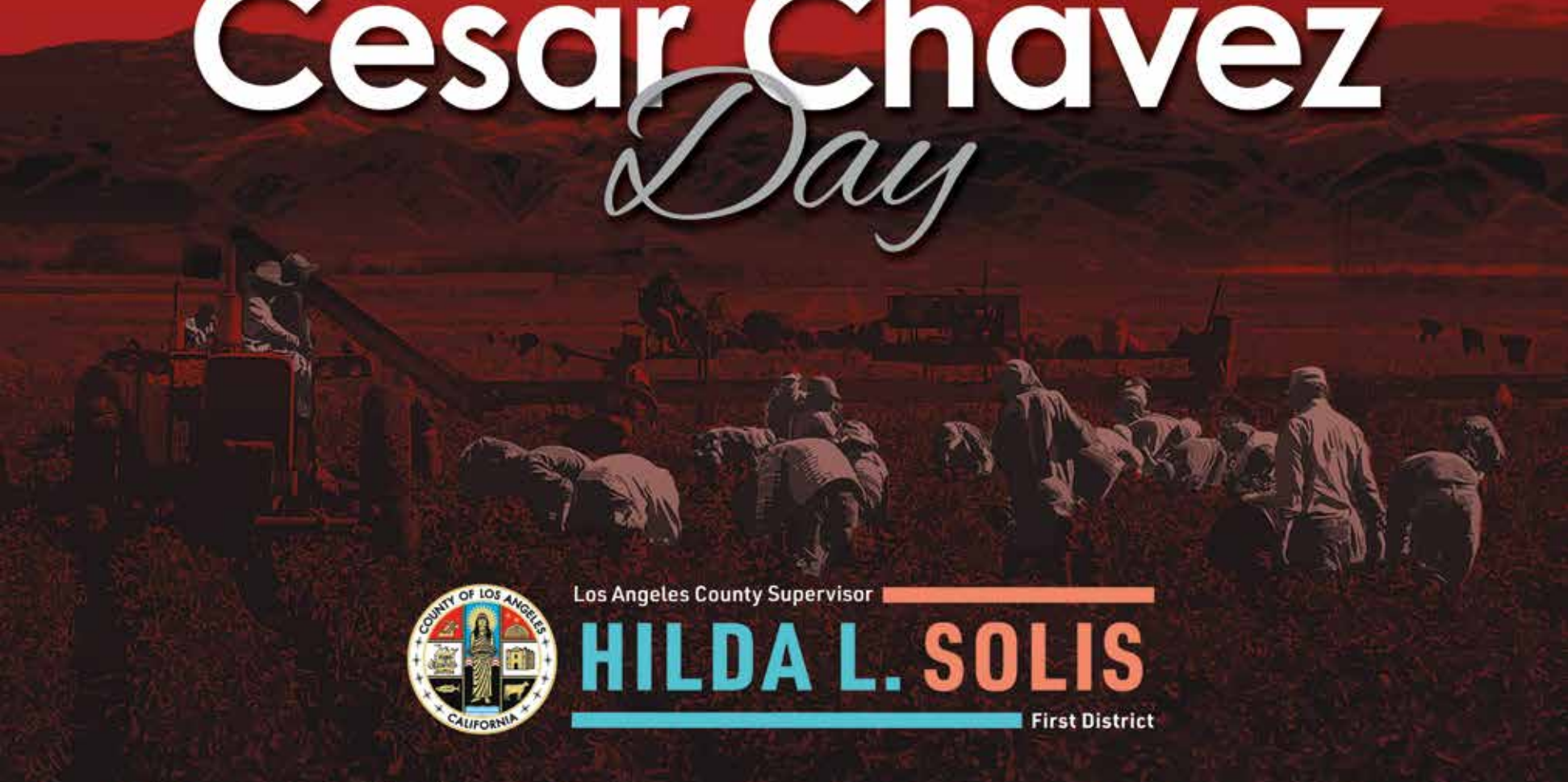
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