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



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Member

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Pomona's outstanding woman, veteran, business, educator of the year named at Freddie's final summer BBQ

Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz was named Pomona's Woman of the Year and Bob Radcliff of Pomona's Post 30 American Legion was named Pomona's Veteran of the Year last month at Assembly-member Freddie Rodriguez' 11th annual "Summer BBQ and Open House" program at his district office in Chino.

Pomona's Educator of the Year was Robin Raco, of Pomona Unified School District, and Superior Duct Fabrication of Pomona, owned by Mike Hilgert, was named Pomona's Small Business of the Year.

Alexa Villegas, who gradu-



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presents certificates of recognition, from left, to Mike Hilgert, owner of Pomona's Small Business of the Year Superior Duct Fabrication, Pomona's Educator of the Year Diamond Ranch High School teacher Robin Raco, Pomona's Veteran of the Year Bob Radcliff, and Pomona's Woman of the Year Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz.

ated from Pomona's Garey High School this year, received the annual \$1,000 "Everybody Loves

Raymond" scholarship, awarded exclusively each year to a Garey High School senior in memory of Raymond Garcia, a 16-year-old football player going into his senior year at Garey High School when he was killed in a drive-by shooting.

Villegas plans to attend UCLA to major in biology before going on to medical school to become a psychiatrist.

Rodriguez said she has been aware of the significance of investing in mental health and wellbeing since she was a child and was exposed to those whose mental and emo-

tional health problems often are ignored and minimized.

He said she aspires to give back to the community by helping those who need support with mental health, and he added she is an advocate for higher education regardless of social status.

Rodriguez said she believes achieving your dreams is possible as long as you believe in yourself.

"She is an amazing example of selflessness, hard work and perseverance," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez created the annual scholarship award when he was a member of the Pomona City Council.

It was the last summer recognition event for Rodriguez who is terming out after the November election.

Rodriguez introduced Renee Barbee as vice president of marketing and operations for La Nueva Voz, Pomona's only community newspaper, who also serves on the executive board of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce as board secretary. He said she also serves on the boards of Smiles and Tears Children and Family Services, a foster family agency in Pomona, the Historical Society of Pomona Valley, the Pomona Public Library (an appointed position), and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Project.

She is a member of the Pomona Optimist Club, the Assistance League of Pomona Valley, and NCNW of Pomona Valley. And she was a recipient last year of the Zennie Cummings Award, the

Persons of the year... pg. 4



MUSICAL PERFORMANCES OPEN DOWNTOWN POMONA'S ARTWALK -- Members of the country music band MØNARK, out of Redlands, crank it up on Second Saturday this month to help kick off the season's Artwalk. MØNARK was one of two bands performing at the event on the theme "Honky Tonk," a free family event featuring live country music, family activities and more. The opening act was country musician JT Harker out of Santa Monica. The entertainment was part of a new Downtown Pomona Owners Association plan to bring top-rated bands to Downtown Pomona events. A second stage on Thomas Street featured hip-hop performers, and, of course, art exhibits were everywhere. (See additional photos on page 2.)

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Four Pomona students on short list of California Latino Caucus scholarships

A total of 76 students from across California -- including four from Pomona -- have been selected to receive a 2024 scholarship from the California Latino Legislative Caucus Foundation.

The scholarship program, created 10 years ago, this year provides \$6,500 to each recipient for a total of \$494,000.

"This year, we are proud to demonstrate our continued commitment to investing in our next generation of leaders by recognizing an unprecedented number of awardees and increasing the scholarship amount," said Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes (D-Riverside), chair of the Latino Caucus. "Pursuing higher education requires commitment and dedication, which these students have demonstrated,

and we commend them for their hard work."

"Now more than ever, it is crucial to maintain avenues of support that will contribute to the academic success of Latino students in California, irrespective of their immigration status," Cervantes said.

Winners from Pomona were Jocelyn N. Lomeli, of Pomona's Fremont Academy of Engineer-

ing and Design, who will attend Cal Poly Pomona and major in architecture; Naomi Nicole Aguila, of Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School, who will attend Cal State University Fullerton, where she plans to major in business administration; Orlando Arias-Pulido, of Pomona's Ganesha High School, who will attend UC Berkeley and major in political science and ethnic stud-

ies; and Oscar Vargas-Chavez, of Pomona's Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design, who will attend UC San Diego and major in mechanical engineering.

A total of 834 students applied for the scholarships this year. Winners were selected based on academic performance, personal statements, extracurricular activities, leadership positions

held, special awards and honors received, and work history.

The scholarship program was created in 2015 with the goal of dispelling the myth that educational gaps cannot be closed when Latinos pursue higher education.

It has awarded more than \$2 million in scholarships to a total of 490 students over the past decade.

Gas Company warns of imposters and scams

SoCalGas is encouraging customers to be aware of imposters and possible scams and to question anyone who claims to be a Gas Company representative.

Most SoCalGas employees will drive a company car and truck and be in uniform with the company logo. They are required to carry a photo identification badge, as are contractors working with the company.

And in online computer searches for web sites to pay a gas bill, scammer sites can appear instead of SoCalGas.

For more information, visit socalgas.com/ScamAlert.



Photos by Renee Barbee
Cowboy hats were available for sale at a booth in the middle of Shaun Diamond Plaza on Second Saturday this month as the Downtown Pomona Owners Association kept things on a cowboy and cowgirl "Honky Tonk" theme to go along with the live country music. And to make sure everybody knew it was a "country" night, they even had pony rides and a petting zoo for the kids. The event was the kick-off for the DPOA's Artwalk season in Downtown Pomona.

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Dear Parents, Students and Staff:

We hope your summer was fantastic and you are ready to start an exciting 2024-2025 school year. Our theme again this year is “Student Success is Our Success,” and we truly believe that each student’s achievements and growth are a reflection of our collective efforts.

This summer, students across the District participated in various educational enhancement opportunities through summer school and learning enrichment as they had the chance to continue growing, exploring and preparing for the upcoming year. We were thrilled to see the student participation and the impact of these programs. We would also like to thank our teachers, staff and administrators for supporting our summer programs.

The first day back for students is **Tuesday, August 13, 2024**. Be on the lookout for communications from your student’s school for more information about how to navigate the start of the school year. Let us work together to make this year a remarkable one. Your success is our success and we are committed to supporting each of you every step of the way.

Sincerely,

Darren Knowles
Superintendent



Pomona Unified School District
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Persons of the year... from pg. 1

Martin Luther King, Jr., Project's highest honor.

The assemblymember introduced Bob Radcliff as a staff sergeant who served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1970 in the Vietnam War.

A resident of Pomona since 1979, he is a 25-year member of Pomona's Post 30 American Legion where he has been involved in many parades, honor guards and color guard details. He was the founder of Post 30's "Legion Riders" motorcycle unit and he rides with Patriot Guard Riders escorts, riding in parades and providing support at funerals for veterans.

He is a local resource for history and works regularly to help those less fortunate, Rodriguez said.

Mike Hilgert was introduced by Rodriguez as the founder of a local business who has strong family values, adding that honesty, integrity and accountability are the foundation of his business.

And his sense of value to his community is evident in both his charitable donations and his participation in blood drives, toy drives and cancer walks.

Rodriguez said Hilgert's com-



State Sen. Susan Rubio

pany, in operation for 22 years in Pomona, manufactures some of the best duct work and sheet metal products in the nation for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning industry, including industrial duct, collection and exhaust systems.

His work has been used in installations for the Las Vegas Raiders football team, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center and the Rose

Bowl.

Robin Raco was introduced by Rodriguez as the "heart and soul" of Diamond Ranch High School, where she has become a pillar of support after coming here more than 20 years ago.

He said she embodies compassion, dedication and resilience and has touched the lives of countless individuals. Rodriguez said she goes "above and



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presents this year's 'Everybody Loves Raymond' scholarship to Alexa Villegas.

beyond" to ensure her students feel valued, heard and supported in her classroom.

She has orchestrated countless events, programs and traditions that have enriched the lives of students, has been a mentor, friend and role model to many, and her legacy will be to leave a lasting impact.

State Sen. Susan Rubio

State Sen. Susan Rubio, making an appearance at the event to

congratulate Rodriguez on his accomplishments during his time as a member of the Assembly, told the audience she has known Rodriguez for the past 15 years and that they align on many issues including public safety, the value of police officers, firefighters and first responders, and they both have members of the military in their families. "I am saddened right now because I recognize that today is probably his last barbecue of his tenure which has been many years," she said. "And I wanted to just say to all of you, not only as a friend but as your state senator, that Freddie Rodriguez has been just a staunch advocate of your community. He is a fighter."

She called him an "incredible public servant."

"I've seen him in action -- he will stand with his community," Rubio said. "He will stand his ground and vote his conscience because he knows what his community needs."

Members of the Ganesha High School Junior ROTC performed the presentation of colors and led the flag salute. Angie Carrillo, a

Persons of the year... pg. 12



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**Arturo Jimenez,
President**

Editor's Note: This page is the fourth in a series of a Phase Three statewide program with three focus areas -- "Anti-Hate," "Socioeconomic Justice and Equity" and "Health." The program is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library in partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs as part of the "Stop the Hate" program. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to <https://www.cavshate.org/>.

Hate, Justice, Equity and Health – Phase Three of an on-going series as La Nueva Voz participates in a statewide program as newspapers attempt to help make a difference

\$1.83 billion in federal funds heading for California to help achieve equity in internet access -- but experts say funds won't reach L.A. County where it is needed the most

By Jeff Schenkel, Publisher

Talk about equity!

"Socioeconomic Justice and Equity" is one of the three topics of this year's special nine-month series of La Nueva Voz articles funded by a grant from the California State Library.

But Pomona's Larry Ortega has been fighting for equity for the past 30 years in what is known in the telecommunications industry as the "Digital Divide" or, simply, two types of internet access -- high speed for the "haves" and lower speed he claims has artificially high pricing for the "have nots."

Long recognized as a national expert on the subject, last month he took his involvement to the next level all self-funded, as he organized, produced and moderated an on-line conversation on the topic "The Trillion Dollar Scandal: Blocking your community from accessing billions of dollars."

And the bottom line, in Pomona at least, is that when it comes to equity in internet access, we're not there yet. In fact, and even worse, while much of the funding is there to begin to



Larry Ortega

level the playing field, it appears that the dollars just haven't been going where they are supposed to go.

As the name of last month's two-and-a-half-hour-long "Zoom" meeting seminar implies, true equitable access to the internet is a complex and controversial topic which Ortega claims has been manipulated by the telecommunications industry for decades.

Ortega's promotional materials pointed to one common example throughout the country, with allegations focused in the direction of the major players in the nation's telecommunications industry.

"California is set to receive over \$1.83 billion for internet upgrades," Ortega said. "The irony -- not a dime will hit the very regions (e.g. East Los Angeles, South Los Angeles and Pomona) designated to be upgraded because these regions are plagued by monopolistic control of our internet."

As a result, he concluded, communities will remain exactly where they are today, without affordable high-quality, fiber-optic access to the internet.

In Pomona, he said, with its population of 152,000, some 6,000 families have no internet and the \$1.83 billion in federal funds is still not enough to get them connected.

"I saw the promise of the internet all the way back in 1994 ... in large part why I committed most of my professional career to ensuring our families knew about it," Ortega told La Nueva Voz. "I saw the internet would level the playing field for young people, regardless of race or income level."

"We made a pact with big telecommunication enterprises -- you can tax and assess fees on rate payers to build out the fiber to the home," he said, adding that in return, cities throughout California would create community technology centers in cooperation with schools and libraries to ensure the training and digital literacy components are in place.

"The promise of the internet has fallen well short of the vision cast by the telecommunications giants themselves," Ortega said. "Instead, what is now being disclosed is that despite receiving hundreds of billions of dollars from rate payers, monopoly corporations, their regulators and a majority of our elected officials acted in collusion (apparently) to divert these funds away from their intended target of building fiber to the home."

Because of this, he added, teachers in K-12 schools have been unable to assign homework using internet resources because they know most kids don't have internet access.

And, he said, the same "playbook" that has impacted Pomona is "playing out across the country in New York, Oklahoma, and all over the globe wherever there is a major telecommunication presence."

"Give them wireless, for they are mere peasants and know no better," Ortega said is essentially what the industry has been saying.

"The bait and switch is happening on a national level, and is bigger than ever," he added. "The push now being made by the same monopoly telecommunication corporations who created the digital divide in the first place are saying we must put up cell phone and 5G towers everywhere to close the digital divide."

"What they are not telling you is that wireless connectivity is 10,000 times slower than fiber optic connectivity, and there are over 1,000 scientific studies that have shown wireless radiation to be biologically harmful," Ortega said.

In addition, he said the wireless industry's "planned obsolescence" promises to cost five times more than a fiber "drop" would cost in a 10-year period.

Alice Stebbins, now a consultant and brain cancer advocate and former executive director of the California Public Utilities Commission, agreed with Ortega and said in the Zoom "event" alongside other nationally known experts in the field that the money is not going where it was intended to go.

"The landlines in California are virtually disappearing," she said. "But what's interesting about the rules around the funding of the landlines is that the landlines were funding everything. Wireless was funding very little."

"If you are paying for something and you're being regulated for something, that money has to go where it is supposed to go, and it needs to remain in that area," Stebbins said. "In California, I can assure you that's not happening. And I think that's a huge issue, probably in all the states. I think it's larger than anybody realizes."

She told the group that she was asked to go to work for the California PUC to "clean them up when their financial situation was not good."

"And what I mean by that is that they didn't have any accountability in their accounting of the money that was coming in and going out, or was expected to come in," she explained. "And after two and a half years, I was fired from the PUC in September 2020 because I reported \$200 million that was uncollected by the Public Utilities Commission, I reported that to my commissioners."

She said she went to court and, while she lost in court, the 12-member jury "said that I did in fact blow the whistle and that I did report illegal state and fiscal practices at the PUC and that they did break laws."

"Has anything been done about that? The answer is no," she said.

About half of the \$200 million, she said, was related to telecommunications -- a program like "Lifeline," providing free telephone service and phone to low-income qualifiers, was not collecting money from the PUC, along with a "deaf and disabled" telecommunications program that similarly went unfunded.

And, she said, the reason this was "a problem for me" was that the telecommunications giants basically report their earnings to the PUC on a "self-reporting" basis to determine how much money they are required to pass on to the PUC.

In other words, no auditing was required. And when she raised that question, she was terminated within the next six months.

The telecommunications companies allegedly were even holding back funding for what was known as "Communications on Wheels," used in time of emergencies, so equipment could not be wheeled into California during huge brush fires, preventing first responders from being able to communicate with each other.

"We have rules that can regulate the telcos," she said. "However, we don't utilize them in California and, overall, (in) the United States, the telecommunications companies are not regulated. So, you are paying more for your phone ser-

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vice than you should.”

Heather Hutto, executive director of Bristow Public Library and knowledgeable about rural and tribal communities in Oklahoma, said she once worked with schools in California’s Bay Area in the early 2000s.

But when she moved to Oklahoma to work with tribal communities on digital skills and digital literacy, the differences were immediately apparent.

Most of the school districts she worked with in Oklahoma were 50 percent or more Native American.

“Being able to see the stark differences in where people are at not only as far as access to technology but with their digital skills and information, literacy, they were just overwhelming compared to my experiences and the things that I observed out in the Bay Area of California,” she said.

Hutto began researching the issue, wrote a paper on tribal rule digital inclusivity, and produced a comparison study.

“Essentially what my research has been able to determine thus far is that states with tribal populations are less likely to have been

good stewards and good managers of information as it pertains to the digital divide,” she said.

In other words, she concluded states without tribal populations do better.

Also on the panel was David Rosen, author of the book “Disconnected -- How America’s big telecoms stole billions from the public and created the digital divide.”

He agreed that generally there is no oversight of the telecommunications industry by state or federal agencies, although industry giants are making political contributions and funding nonprofit organizations that benefit “their agenda.”

“We are fighting an uphill battle,” he told the panel.

And on Stebbins’ conclusions based on her work at the California PUC, an agency she said is “probably the most powerful and the most hated agency in California?”

It “is a clear case of a scandal that is waiting to explode because it illustrates really just how ... people systematically do not want to hear, and those who are accountable don’t want to know what’s going on and how people are getting ripped

off,” Rosen said.

Stebbins added that politicians tell voters they are not going to raise taxes.

Instead, she said, they come to agencies like the Public Utilities Commission and ask them to create programs with rate payer fees.

“So, the politicians didn’t raise the taxes but they backdoored you and created a program that the PUC can do because they have the authority to do that,” she said.

Rosen pointed out that while much of the concern is with rural America not having internet access, the problem does not stop there.

He said 800,000 households in New York don’t have access to the internet -- 1.5 million school-aged kids don’t have any kind of access. And in Southern California, he said 18 percent of the households have no access to the internet.

“I call it digital inequality because it’s more than a digital divide,” Rosen said.

Despite all of this, Ortega pointed out that Chattanooga, Tennessee, has figured out a way to provide free internet access for low-income residents. And one small community in Texas on the border with

Mexico is offering service for only \$25 a month to households.

He said AT&T’s own data shows it costs service providers \$2.63 per month to send a signal to a household to provide internet access, while “they are charging hundreds of dollars every month to the consumer.”

He said there are only two providers in Pomona -- Frontier and Spectrum -- and both “coincidentally” offer the same pricing.

“The municipal broadband alternative (owned and operated by the city) ... would be able to create the competition necessary within our community, to create the jobs, and everything, so many benefits that would be able to happen as a result of that,” Ortega said.

“So, we said OK, great, the money’s here, it’s coming down,

but then you go to the city council representatives, and you say, hey, there’s this great opportunity ... let’s get going, let’s take advantage of it, let’s create a municipal broadband, let’s make it happen,” he said.

Meanwhile, council members then go to city staff members asking them for their thoughts on such a plan.

“And what do they know about the digital divide? Absolutely zero,” Ortega said.

He said part of the solution will be to educate city staff at the local cities and then get the local elected officials on board.

“The incumbent players (AT&T, Verizon, Comcast, Spectrum) raised this giant façade in the public’s eye that they really cared about closing the digital divide

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<https://pomonaca.gov/ppl-digital-collections>
and go to page 2 for La Nueva Voz.

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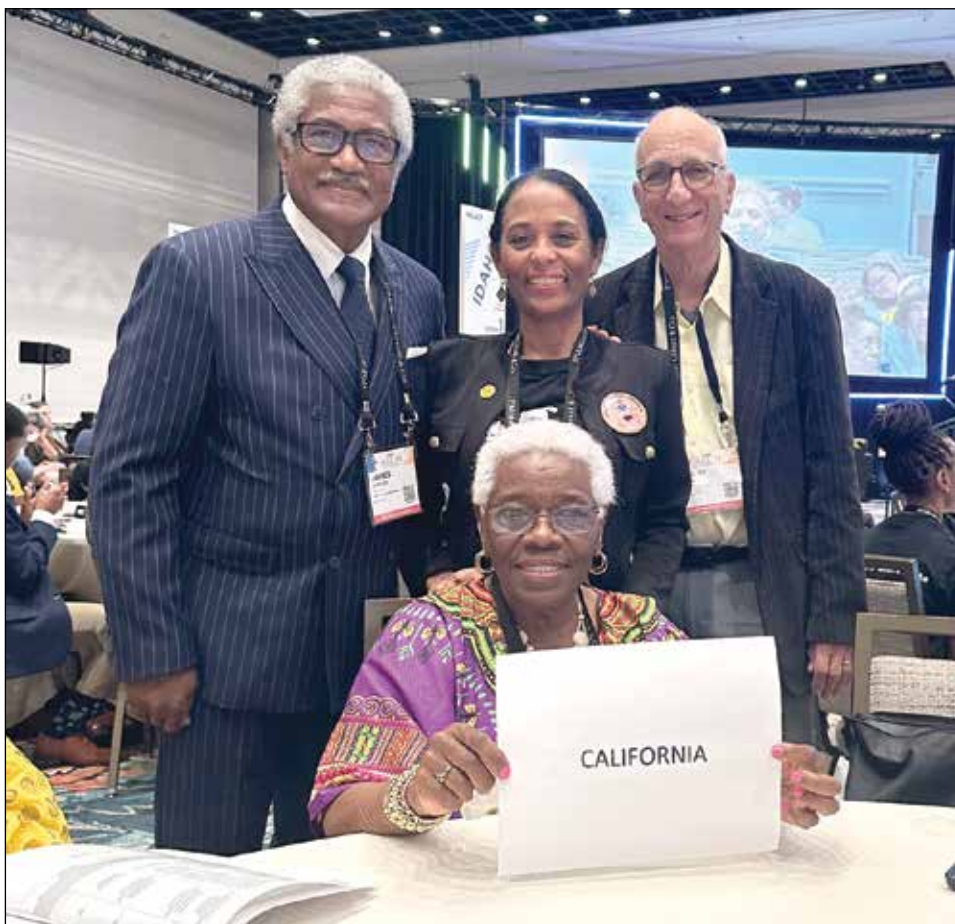





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POMONA'S NEWEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT OPENS -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce help cut the ribbon last week to officially open Pomona's newest Mexican Restaurant, El Luchador Bar and Kitchen, in a celebration including mariachis, samples of menu items and more. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber Ambassador Essence Guss; Ambassadors Dominic and Frank Carillo of On Time Photo Booth; Ambassador Joel Rosales, of Modern Woodmen of America; Chamber Executive Board Members Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz and Jeff Johannsen (at rear); Chamber Ambassadors Ron Garner, Jr., of Inland Empire Fencing, and Tracy Evanson-Norwood, CEO and Founder of Pomona's Healed Women Heal (at rear); Heidi Ortega, of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association; Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado; and Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, at far right. Cutting the ribbon is owner Sergio Nogueron with his mom, Carmen Ramirez, at left, his wife, Sara Nogueron, at right, and kids, Audrey, 5, and Sebastian, 10. The restaurant is located at 184 W. 3rd St. in Downtown Pomona. Nogueron is partnering with developer John Pena in the business.



POMONA DELEGATION TRAVELS TO 115TH NATIONAL MEETING OF NAACP IN LAS VEGAS -- Members of Pomona's NAACP were in Las Vegas this month at the 115th national meeting of 4,700 members of the NAACP, where they heard President Joe Biden speak (apparently his last speaking engagement before withdrawing his candidacy for reelection) and participated in voting on the various resolutions that were considered. One of those resolutions, submitted by the Pomona branch, was adopted at the convention and will call on educators across the country to add to the educational curriculum the rich history of the Buffalo Soldiers, created by the U.S. Congress in 1866 after the Civil War as six all-Black cavalry and infantry regiments. It is estimated that tens of thousands served in those units, according to Pomona's Donna Jackson-Houston, who learned that her own grandfather served in one of the units during World War I. Once she learned that bit of history about her own family, she founded the Nogales, Arizona, Buffalo Soldiers Legacy Association to honor their memory. She said she now plans to work with educators nationally to collaborate in developing a curriculum to recognize that history. National Buffalo Soldiers Day will be held on Sunday, July 28, when reenactment organizations nationally gather to celebrate. Pictured, from left, are members James Shirley, Donna Jackson-Houston, Jerry Fenning and, seated, Pomona branch President Jeanette Royston.

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‘Pomona Police Summer Day Camp’ scores a big hit with 100 kids

Nearly 100 kids participated in this year’s “Pomona Police Department Summer Day Camp” last week, a free event open to children ages 8 to 11 attending schools within the Pomona Unified School District, all just for a day of good, fun time on the Pomona Fairplex campus with an opportunity to get to know, well, lots of Pomona police officers.

It was the first time the event was held inside and outside the Millard Sheets Art Center instead of just across the way next to the outdoor model railroad display.

All the usual activities were included -- huge bubble wands and take-home gifts from the Pomona Lions Club, pizza from the Pomona Kiwanis, a climbing rock, a video game trailer, a magician and even a free t-shirt to wear at the event and take home for keeps.

The inspiration for moving the event to Millard Sheets came from another event held there.

“We think it’s a huge success this year . . . we have opportunities to have different vendors where it’s all closed in and it’s nice that everybody can be together,” said Corporal Jeff Hayward, head of the Pomona Police Department’s Community Services unit.

“Our greatest success is when we can interact with the kids and have a positive experience when we want to change the image of who police are and what police officers do,” Hayward said. “So, I think if we can have an opportunity to have fun with kids and have this be their core memory of having a positive interaction with the police department, then we’ve done our job”

Then how did the kids seem to like the event?

“One kid told me he felt like he was walking into a dream, so that tells me that we did something right,” he added.



Participants in this year’s Pomona Police Department “Summer Day Camp” program pose for a group photo last week outside the Millard Sheets Art Center at Pomona’s Fairplex.



Members of Pomona’s Kiwanis Club were on hand to distribute slices of pizza to the kids. Pictured, from left, are members Carolyn Hemming, Gino Elias, Diane Elias, incoming President Diana Avila (at rear), Rene Guerrero, and Rodney Tanaka.



Pomona Police Sgt. Ernie Rios, at left, and Corporal Jeff Hayward make sure the kids have everything they need at last week’s Summer Day Camp sponsored by the Pomona Police Department on the Pomona Fairplex campus.



Face painting was popular as always at the Pomona Police Department Summer Day Camp.



One camper had no trouble finding a place to have a seat for some quality time with a couple of slices of pizza.



The game trailer was a popular attraction at the Summer Day Camp with kids having an opportunity to take their pick of a number of video games.



Kids work on making their own bracelets at the Pomona Police Department Summer Day Camp.



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Local Vietnamese community honors top students with GPAs as high as 4.98!

A total of 41 students with high grades and special talents were recognized for their accomplishments this month at the annual student awards dinner reception in Pomona of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley.

Awards and scholarships were presented for students receiving doctorates, master's and bachelor's degrees, as well as students completing high school and middle school and others completing Vietnamese language classes.

Master of ceremonies for the event was Pomona's Dr. Huu Vo, President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley.

"The key thing is our children," Vo said. "I am very proud. They can be successful."

And, speaking to the students, he told them everybody selects a profession to go to work, and most end up supporting a family.

"If you like what you do, and if you're good at what you do, you'll be successful," he said. "America is a land of opportunity."

And the list of students itself was impressive -- the lowest grade point average was 3.78 and the highest was 4.98 for a valedictorian (and there were at least two valedictorians on the list -- one at Cal Poly Pomona and one at an area high school, along with a "magna cum laude" at another

high school).

For those who are counting, there were a total of 23 GPAs of 4.0 or above on the list. Only three were below 4.0 -- the 3.78, a 3.85 and a 3.95.

There were two doctorates -- from the USC School of Dentistry and Touro University Nevada; master's degrees from National University and Eastern Virginia Medical School; and bachelor's degrees from UCLA, Cal Poly Pomona, UC Berkeley, University of Wisconsin and Revelle College.

The reception was held at the Phap Van Buddhist Cultural Center in Pomona.



All of the honorees, speakers and special guests posed for a group photo at the end of the special recognition program.



Jonas Truong, second from left, poses with Dr. Huu Vo, at left, President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley, and his parents, at right, at this month's annual student awards dinner reception. He graduated from Centennial High School in Corona with a GPA of 4.6.



Tiffany Tran poses with Dr. Huu Vo, at left, and her parents at the student awards dinner sponsored by the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley. She was a student at Edgewood High School in West Covina, where she graduated magna cum laude with a 4.70 GPA.



William Le smiles for the cameras at the student recognition program, pictured with Thich (Reverend) Chon Tri, Dr Huu Vo and his parents. He completed his studies at Wiltsey Middle School in Ontario with a 4.0 GPA.



Henry Duong poses for cameras with Thich (Reverend) Chon Tri, at left, of the Phap Van Buddhist Temple in Pomona, and Dr Huu Vo. Her parents are pictured at right. He graduated from Montclair High School with a 4.0 GPA.



Alina Duong is pictured with her certificates at the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley recognition ceremony with Thich (Reverend) Chon Tri and Dr. Huu Vo, at left, and her mom, at right. She completed her studies at Grace Yokely Junior High School in Ontario with a 4.0 GPA.



Cindy Duong poses for the cameras at the student recognition program with Thich (Reverend) Chon Tri and Dr. Huu Vo at left and her dad at right.



Lacey Thi Nguyen shows off her certificates at a Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley student awards program this month. Pictured, at left, is Dr. Huu Vo. Her mom is pictured at right. She graduated from Montclair High School, where she graduated in the "top 10" with a 4.6 GPA.



Evan VN Nguyen shows off his certificates at the student recognition program, pictured with Thich (Reverend) Chon Tri, Dr. Huu Vo, and members of his family. He was recognized for completing his Vietnamese language studies.



Adalene Truong was recognized for completing her Vietnamese language studies.



Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz congratulates the honorees at the special recognition program with other special guests and participants. Pictured, from left, are Thich (Reverend) Chon Tri, Dr. Huu Vo, Barbee, Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Neha Upadhyaya, representing State Sen. Susan Rubio, Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, and Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado.

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NEW ITALIAN RESTAURANT IN DOWNTOWN POMONA -- Pomona developer John Pena, at center, surrounded by members of his family, cuts the ribbon to officially open his newest creation, Maxximo Italian Restaurant and Lounge, located in the historic Masonic Temple which has been completely remodeled. Front row, from left, are Pomona Chamber Executive Board Member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; Chamber Ambassador Dominic Carillo, of On Time Photo Booth; Jacqueline Elizalde, representing Congresswoman Norma Torres; Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles; Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; State Sen. Susan Rubio; owner John Pena and his wife, Maria Cortez; Pomona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President Minerva Hernandez; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; and Downtown Pomona Owners Association Board President Cary Lowenstein. Back row, from left, are Chamber Ambassador Ron Garner, Jr., of Inland Empire Fencing, Chamber Board Chair Nef Cortez, of Re/Max Galaxy in Diamond Bar, and Chamber Ambassador Frank Carillo, of On Time Photo Booth. The restaurant, featuring two bars, indoor and outdoor seating and a banquet room complete with stage that seats 150, is located at 395 S. Thomas St., Pomona.

Persons of the year... from pg. 4

student at Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School, sang the national anthem.

For the past 11 years, the annual event has celebrated community, honored inspiring leaders served as a forum for discussing state and legislative issues.

Honorees included businesses and residents of Chino, Montclair, Ontario, Upland and Pomona -- the cities making up Assembly District 53.

Rodriguez told 200 guests at the event that he was able to obtain more than \$23 million for his district, including nearly \$1 million for the Pomona Police Department to support human trafficking efforts and retail theft, nearly \$2 million for job training programs at Pomona's Fairplex learning centers' workplace apprenticeship and job training programs, and more than \$3 million for the Historical Society of Pomona Valley.



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PILGRIM IN THE MOVIES? -- Well, not really the movies, but crews have been filming a new, still in the making television series at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church this month -- and part of one episode was being produced right there in the sanctuary. And on top of all of that, crews had to transform Pilgrim into a Catholic church, confessional and all. The name of the series is "Grotesquerie," a horror drama series as the name would imply, and is being produced for the FX television channel. Want a scoop? Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce has a big part in the series, appearing in eight episodes for his first major acting role. Ryan Murphy is producing the series set for a fall premiere. Pictured is a crew member checking details on the newly-installed confessional at Pilgrim. He told La Nueva Voz they have been visiting the church and setting up as needed, going on to another location, and coming back from time to time. They have also been using Trinity United Methodist Church, located right around the corner from Pilgrim, for some of the scenes.



POMONA KIWANIS CHECK PRESENTED TO POLICE EXPLORERS -- Members of the Pomona Kiwanis Club presented a check for \$1,400 to the Pomona Police Department's Police Explorers program to help cadets purchase their uniforms and equipment. The presentation was held at the Pomona Police Department's police academy. Pomona's Public Works Director Rene Guerrero is this year's club president. Kiwanis members pictured with the Explorers are, from left, Pomona Police Lt. Brian Hagerty, Police Chief Mike Ellis, Gino Elias, Ish Arias and Mitchell Stein. Kiwanis member Diane Elias is pictured in the front row, second from left.

Federal funds... from pg. 6

and demanded resources to be thrown at the problem," Ortega told La Nueva Voz. "So, the Biden administration obliged by giving California \$1.83 billion for closing the digital divide. (But) the rules to accessing these resources were set up by the incumbent players and designed to keep neighborhoods like Pomona permanently red-lined with no more than two internet service providers."

And those two companies, Ortega alleged, would continue to charge the same high prices for low-quality service instead of actually moving the bar to close the digital divide.

"Pomona, like thousands of regions throughout the country who have been digitally red-lined, are offered one solution, mu-

nicipal broadband, a network owned and operated by the city," Ortega said. "Pomona must create direct competition with incumbent players and work to duplicate more than 900 other cities across the country who are now offering 500 mbps up and down for under \$25 per month."

He told La Nueva Voz after the Zoom "event" that the concept of cities owning and operating their own network -- in the interest of truly achieving equity -- is really the "mandate we on the panel are calling for across the country."

Interested in hearing an edited version of the Zoom "event?" Go to https://youtu.be/0MMwDXa5_nM.

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San Dimas Community Hospital celebrates 50th anniversary three years late due to COVID

San Dimas Community Hospital CEO Parrish Scarboro, welcoming an estimated 150 guests to the hospital's 50th anniversary and ribbon-cutting ceremonies this month, said that in 1971 "when it all started" a gallon of gasoline was 36 cents, astronauts landed on the moon in Apollo 14, and Disneyworld opened.

"And also, 1971 was when San Dimas Community Hospital opened its doors and started serving this wonderful community," said Scarboro, who noted he's been on board as CEO for nearly seven years.

"And 50 years later, in 2021, we were in the midst of caring for patients in this community during the throes of the unprecedented COVID pandemic and so we didn't have time to celebrate that 50th anniversary," he added. "So today, we're here to celebrate our 50th anniversary, plus three years, of serving this community."

"We are very appreciative of all of the support and loyalty the community has shown to us throughout the years, throughout the entire 53 years," Scarboro said. "And we are very humbled and honored to be your community hospital."

"I also am very proud of and thankful for our 500 employees here at the hospital, as well as our physician staff of over 300 physicians and our team of volunteers," he said. "I am very appreciative of their efforts, their contributions, and their just day-to-day diligence from taking care of our patients and our patients' families. And without them we would not be here as well."

He also acknowledged the members of his governing board in the audience, along with numerous elected officials and representatives of elected officials.

Following the ceremonies, La Nueva Voz had an opportunity to chat with Colleen Vest-Evans, of the hospital's staffing coordinating and nursing administration office, who visited the hospital's opening day ceremonies with her family as a child in 1971 when they walked over to the hospital



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS PLUS THREE -- Officials, employees and friends cut the ribbon at San Dimas Community Hospital celebrating their 50th anniversary which actually occurred in the middle of the pandemic. Pictured, front row, from left, are San Dimas Mayor Emmett Badar, Operating Room Director Mckena Alexander, San Dimas Community Hospital CEO Parrish Scarboro, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jhujhar Singh, Chief Nursing Officer Silvia Sarmiento, Administrative Assistant to the CEO Crystal Lewis, Roxanne Meyers, Regional Director of Business Development, Marketing and Communications for Prime Healthcare, and Dr. Ameerah Shalikh, Medical Director of the hospital's newly opened inaugural family medicine clinic.

from their home.

"We walked over, us five kids and our parents," she said. "It was very exciting that we were going to have a hospital."

She remembered the hospital was serving ice cream and snow cones on a chilly November day.

And she remembered "all the doctors in their suits, the nurses in their whites and their white hats . . . very prestigious and very exciting."

"My father owned a business in Monrovia, but all his kids came here," Vest-Evans said. "I had both of my children here -- in '92 and '99. I have just always been at this hospital."

She said she really never left the area but graduated from Charter Oak High School and Mt. San Antonio College before going to work in the family business, a restaurant.

And for the past year, she's been on staff at the hospital -- and still lives in a house a block from the house she grew up in.

Then is she going to stick around for a while?

"I plan on it -- I really enjoy working here," she said. "I love the people that I work with, I love the sense of family and community, I feel that it is very



Parrish Scarboro



Colleen Vest-Evans

dedicated to the community to do the best they can and to be there for them."

Then would she recommend the hospital to students looking for jobs in the medical field?

"Definitely -- we are in need of RNs, RVNs, CNAs, radiology," she said. "It's a really good company to work for . . . it's very family oriented."

"(And) they make us feel very appreciated," she added.

San Dimas Community Hospital, a member of Prime Healthcare, serves a surrounding community of more than 45,000 people within a 20 square-mile

area with a median population age of 45.5 years.

It is one of the largest employers in the area and is striving to build a culture of health and wellness, giving all members of the community an equal opportunity to live the healthiest life they can.

The hospital offers a 24-hour emergency department, cardiovascular/respiratory services, advanced primary stroke center capabilities, robotic surgery, inpatient and out-patient surgical services and more.

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Compassion ain't for wimps

By Kathryn Martens
Member, Compassionate Pomona

Lots of us today seem to think this way: If your ideas are different from mine, there's an easy way to tell whose ideas are best.

The "best" ideas belong to whoever can shout the loudest, act the most outraged, be the most dismissive of others, be the biggest "disruptor." And get the most "likes."

And the best thing about being a clever "disruptor" is that all you need to do is break things. You leave the unglamorous, hard work of cleaning up your mess, picking up your trash, putting things back together and making things work again to other people. And disruptors never seem to care that their kind of thinking can lead vulnerable people to go to awful extremes.

Some people may think of "compassion" as a vague, fluffy

concept. But think about the compassion of trying to understand the reality of the burdens carried by people who are different from us,

no matter who. Think about the compassion of truth and integrity versus deceit and manipulation. Think about the compassion of listening to others with real and respectful attention and responding respectfully. Think about

the compassion of supporting the values of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, free elections, a free press. Think about the compassion of making the effort to work together with those who don't think exactly like we do in order to make positive things happen in our communities, our country, our world. Compassion is our lifeline, our strong way forward through turbulent times. Full stop.



Kathryn Martens

Metrolink brings back \$15 summer day pass

Metrolink, Southern California's regional passenger rail provider, has announced the return of its \$15 summer day pass -- a seasonal weekday promotion -- that will continue now through Labor Day.

A \$10 weekend day pass will continue on Saturdays

and Sundays throughout the summer.

Metrolink also offers a free student adventure pass.

Passes are available at any Metrolink ticket machine or on the Metrolink mobile app.

Visit metrolinktrains.com/summer-day-pass.

California leaders at immigration summit prep for November election

By Suzanne Potter
California News Service

More than 500 leaders in the immigration rights community at the fifth annual Immigration Summit, held this month in Los Angeles, have vowed to stand strong no matter what happens with the November election.

The Republican candidate for president has called for mass deportations.

Former Pomona Fairplex CEO Miguel Santana, now president and CEO of the California Community Foundation, said it alarms many people in a county where more than one-third of the residents of all ethnicities are foreign-born, and about 60 percent of children have at least one immigrant parent.

"We've been engaged in scenario planning," Santana explained. "We've prepared our immigrant community so that they know their rights, that we have the proper defense, but also, we're advancing comprehensive immigration reform. That is really what's needed."

The summit was co-sponsored by the California Community Foundation, the Council of Immigrant Inclusion and the Equity Research Institute at the University of Southern California.

Manuel Pastor, director of the institute, said deportations would



Miguel Santana

leave a huge hole in the economy and tear families apart.

"In L.A. County, about a fifth of all Angelenos are either undocumented themselves or living with a family member who is undocumented," Pastor pointed out. "Fear of deportation, problems with accessing services because of status, affect a wide number of families."

Researchers also released the fifth annual

"State of Immigrants in Los Angeles" report, which found naturalizations and wages for immigrants are up over the past few years. It also recommended continued support for county programs providing legal aid and helping people access services in their preferred language.

The report focused on three main "pillars" used to assess immigrant inclusion -- civic engagement, economic mobility and warmth of welcome.



Dr. Manuel Pastor



Pomona's Latino and Latina Roundtable President Jose Calderon, at left, and Executive Director Lina Mira update several dozen members on on-going activities last week during a "Members and Friends Picnic" in Pomona's Ganesha Park.

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What Is Integrative Cardiology?

By Hammad Khan, MD, FACC

Cardiologist, Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), heart disease remains the number one cause of death for Americans, leading to nearly 700,000 deaths annually. As such, cardiologists are often exploring ways to combine preventative care, medication, and lifestyle changes to maximize the health of our patients. One way your cardiologist can provide more comprehensive heart care is through an approach called “integrative cardiology.”

Integrative cardiology is a fascinating mix of conventional allopathic Western medicine and traditional Eastern holistic practices in cardiovascular care. This approach considers each patient’s unique lifestyle and tailors a personalized care plan to best suit their needs. It does not replace but rather complements the modern diagnostics, medicines, and procedures used to treat heart disease, helping to address the underlying factors that contribute

to increased risk for cardiovascular disease.

The core principle of integrative cardiology is the commitment to treating patients as whole individuals. This multipronged approach considers not only the classic contributors to heart disease we all know -- high blood pressure and cholesterol -- but takes into account factors such as stress, anxiety, and poor sleep, which may also negatively affect heart health. For example, in addition to prescribing statins, an integrative cardiologist might recommend healthy activities such as acupuncture, yoga, meditation, or even talk therapy -- all of which can be helpful in mitigating cardiovas-



Hammad Khan, MD, FACC

cular risk. Integrative cardiology emphasizes the mind-body connection to improve overall physi-

cal, mental, and emotional well-being.

Not surprisingly, integrative cardiology also emphasizes healthy lifestyle changes. Integrative cardiologists work with patients to create individualized care plans to achieve optimal health, including heart-healthy nutrition plans, exercise regimens, and smoking cessation if needed. A healthy, realistic diet is encouraged for anyone with increased cardiovascular risk, including moderate portions of foods that reduce inflammation in the body and are accessible and affordable for

the patient. The vast majority of premature heart attacks and strokes could be

prevented with appropriate lifestyle changes. This is where an integrative approach to cardiology is truly important. If you or a loved one needs a referral to integrative cardiology care, we recommend asking your primary care physician to connect you with an integrative cardiologist. In addition to knowing how to treat your cardiovascular concerns, they may just have the knowledge and guidance to prevent them from happening in the first place.

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Meeting to be set between Pomona, Foothill CEO over 'transit store' closure

Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado is attempting to schedule a meeting next month with Foothill Transit CEO Doran Barnes in an effort to review options for bus riders here following the Dec. 29 closure seven months ago of Foothill's transit store in Downtown Pomona, leaving 22,000 customers with the option of traveling to West Covina for bus-related services.

Preciado, who serves as Pomona's representative on Foothill's Joint Powers Authority Board, committed to the meeting -- that would include Pomona's Public Works Director Rene Guerrero -- based on an on-going dialogue with La Nueva Voz on the issue which has been the subject of a series of six stories in this newspaper this year, including this story.

The local transit store, operating in a city-owned building in the Downtown Pomona Transit Center for the past 25 years providing bus passes, "TAP cards" and route planning assistance, was abruptly closed Dec. 29 -- despite the fact that the closure, according to Foothill's own records in a routine Title VI (federal compliance) review, failed to comply with federal regulations pertaining to placing an undue burden on low-income riders and those who identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC).

Title VI is part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and applies here because the bus company receives federal funding. Foothill applied a work-around to "mitigate" the closure's impact on the 22,000 riders who used the store last year by adding a few extra hours on two Saturdays a month at the West Covina store some 11.8 miles away.

Preciado told La Nueva Voz on opening day of the LA County Fair following a ribbon-cutting at the beginning of May he supported a reopening of the transit store, although he said it may not look exactly the same as before.

For one thing, the existing city building is currently undergoing upgrades -- first, restrooms are being upgraded to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. In addition, he said, additional upgrades are planned to include fencing, new lights, demolition of the bus recharging station and additional remodeling in future projects.

However, this work has not yet been specifically planned or funded.

He said in his opinion the current location formerly housing the transit store is not a "safe environment."

One of the options to be discussed with Barnes will be staffing a window in Pomona's City Hall, similar to the way "Get About" transportation services are now provided, with a computer terminal -- either Foothill's or the city's -- and employees, either Foothill's or the city's, although City Hall is several blocks away from the Pomona Transit Center.

"I believe if the Transit Center was up to par that would be the best location (for the transit store) but I don't believe the Transit Center is up to par," Preciado told La Nueva Voz in a telephone interview this month.

Lorraine Canales, a candidate for Pomona City Council District 6 on the November ballot,

Suspect charged with attempted murder after first-ever shooting aboard Foothill Transit bus

A 32-year-old West Covina man pleaded not guilty to attempted murder and other charges this month in Los Angeles Superior Court's West Covina courthouse in connection with the alleged first-ever shooting aboard a Foothill Transit passenger bus traveling westbound on the 10 Freeway in Baldwin Park.

Juan Mario Trejo was being held in Los Angeles County jail on \$1 million bail and will return to court at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 5 in West Covina Dept. 4 for an "early disposition" hearing.

The alleged incident -- in which an apparently innocent female passenger was injured -- occurred on June 17 aboard a westbound "articulated" Silver Streak Line 707 bus, according to Foothill spokesperson Felicia Friesema. She said the bus originated at the Montclair Transit Center and stopped in Pomona on its way to Los Angeles before the incident occurred east of Puente Avenue in Baldwin Park, although it was not clear when the suspect boarded the bus.

Trejo was arrested by California Highway Patrol officers the following day in Los Angeles, according to Baldwin Park CHP spokesperson Officer Joseph Davila. The arrest resulted from an extensive investigation by the CHP's Southern Division Major

after reading last month's story about the issue in La Nueva Voz, said she believes it is important to keep the transit store where it was located for 25 years because it is convenient to riders.

"If our goal is to have people use the transportation system instead of cars, we need to provide locations that are convenient and accessible," Canales told La Nueva Voz. "Many people are unaware of why it was shut down and do not know where to go."

She added it would be important to add signage informing riders of what happened and where they can go for alternative service.

The City Hall option may end up being considered an "interim" solution while construction upgrades at the Pomona Transit Center are continuing.

The Federal Transit Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, is already

Crime Unit detectives and officers from the Baldwin Park CHP office.

"On Monday evening, Foothill Transit experienced its first incident of gun violence on board one of our buses," Foothill CEO Doran Barnes said in a prepared statement on Foothill's web site. "First and foremost, our hearts are with the victims and their families. We've been working very closely with CHP on the investigation and within 24 hours, they had the suspect in custody."

"We can say without a doubt that extensive security trainings, tabletop exercises, and strengthened partnerships with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department and the (federal) Transportation Security Administration (TSA) have all had a direct impact on how this incident played out," Barnes added.

He said "de-escalation pro-

investigating the transit store closure based on inquiries and related information from La Nueva Voz.

Depending on the outcome of the federal investigation, Foothill could receive legal, punitive or administrative penalties or fines and could even be required to reopen the Pomona facility.

Foothill was similarly investigated by the FTA in 2016 for another Title VI matter involving deficiencies of the bus company's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program designed to prevent discrimination in the award of FTA-assisted contracts.

Foothill's West Covina office last year logged only 9,161 walk-in customers last year compared to the 22,000 in Pomona.

Congresswoman Norma Torres, who represents the Pomona area, has been asked by La Nueva Voz if she would ask U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to

expedite the federal investigation in the interest of more quickly restoring service to the 22,000 local riders.

She has refused to become involved at all, claiming it is not a federal matter and insisting it is a city issue and is a matter for Pomona City Councilmember Preciado, because he is the city's representative on Foothill's Joint Powers Authority Board.

Torres said she'll consider becoming involved after the FTA completes its investigation.

According to Foothill's reports available on their web site, the Pomona closure saved Foothill only \$40,000 out of its \$230 million annual budget.

Torres is a senior member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development which, of course, includes transportation matters under Buttigieg.



Photos courtesy of the California Highway Patrol
An unidentified CHP "transporting" officer out of the Baldwin Park CHP office is pictured with suspect Juan Mario Trejo following his arrest for charges related to an alleged shooting aboard a moving bus. The incident occurred on a Foothill Transit bus headed for Los Angeles that only a short time before had traveled through Pomona, according to a spokesperson for the bus company.

Pictured is a 9mm handgun CHP officers said was believed used in last month's alleged first-ever shooting aboard a moving Foothill Transit bus on the 10 Freeway in Baldwin Park.



ocols" were followed by the bus operator, and victims were quickly transported to local hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries. In addition, all other passengers on board were quickly transferred to another bus and on-board video and audio recordings were immediately shared with re-

sponding authorities.

"We all face, as a community, multiple challenges with homeless, untreated mental illness, and drug addiction," Barnes said. "Addressing these issues requires deep collaboration with all our local partners, including law en-

San Dimas Community Hospital celebra 50 aniversario con tres años de retraso debido a COVID

El director general del San Dimas Community Hospital, Parrish Scarboro, al dar la bienvenida a unos 150 invitados al 50º aniversario del hospital y a las ceremonias de inauguración este mes, dijo que en 1971, "cuando todo empezó", un galón de gasolina costaba 36 centavos, los astronautas aterrizaron en la luna en Se abrieron el Apolo 14 y Disneyworld.

"Y además, 1971 fue cuando San Dimas Community Hospi-

Transit bus... from pg. 17

forcement and our first responders, as well as our elected officials and social service networks."

Trejo was charged with attempted murder involving use of a firearm, assault with a semiautomatic firearm, possession of a firearm and related offenses. His arraignment and plea, originally scheduled for June 21, was continued to July 10.

A female passenger allegedly was wounded in the incident after a fight allegedly broke out on board the moving bus between the suspect and the bus driver and another passenger and shots were fired, according to the CHP inci-

tal abrió sus puertas y comenzó a prestar servicios a esta maravillosa comunidad", dijo Scarboro, quien señaló que ha estado a bordo como director ejecutivo durante casi siete años.

"Y 50 años después, en 2021, estábamos atendiendo a pacientes en esta comunidad durante la agonía de una pandemia de COVID sin precedentes, por lo que no tuvimos tiempo de celebrar ese 50 aniversario", añadió. "Así que hoy estamos dent report.

The injuries were considered non-life-threatening, and the victim was transported to Los Angeles County Medical Center for treatment.

The bus stopped at the Puente Avenue stop and the suspect allegedly exited the bus and fled the scene on foot.

CHP officers reported 17 passengers were on the bus at the time of the incident.

The incident is still considered an active investigation and anyone with additional information is urged to call the CHP at (323) 644-9550.

aquí para celebrar nuestro 50.º aniversario, más tres años, de servicio a esta comunidad".

"Apreciamos mucho todo el apoyo y la lealtad que la comunidad nos ha mostrado a lo largo de los 53 años", dijo Scarboro. "Y nos sentimos muy honrados y honrados de ser su hospital comunitario".

"También estoy muy orgulloso y agradecido por nuestros 500 empleados aquí en el hospital, así como por nuestro personal médico de más de 300 médicos y nuestro equipo de voluntarios", dijo. "Aprecio mucho sus esfuerzos, sus contribuciones y su diligencia diaria al cuidar de nuestros pacientes y sus familias. Y sin ellos tampoco estaríamos aquí".

También saludó a los miembros de su junta directiva presentes en la audiencia, así como a numerosos funcionarios electos y representantes de funcionarios electos.

Después de las ceremonias, La Nueva Voz tuvo la oportunidad de conversar con Colleen Vest-Evans, de la oficina de coordinación de personal y administración de enfermería del hospital, quien visitó las ceremonias de inauguración del hospital con su familia cuando era

niña en 1971 cuando caminaban hacia el hospital. desde su casa.

"Nos acercamos, nosotros cinco niños y nuestros padres", dijo. "Fue muy emocionante que íbamos a tener un hospital".

Recordó que el hospital estaba sirviendo helado y cucuruchos de nieve en un frío día de noviembre.

Y recordó "a todos los médicos con sus trajes, las enfermeras con sus trajes blancos y sus sombreros blancos. . . muy prestigioso y muy emocionante".

"Mi padre era dueño de un negocio en Monrovia, pero todos sus hijos vinieron aquí", dijo Vest-Evans. "Tuve a mis dos hijos aquí, en el 92 y el 99. Siempre he estado en este hospital".

Ella dijo que en realidad nunca abandonó el área, pero que se graduó de Charter Oak High School y Mt. San Antonio College antes de comenzar a trabajar en el negocio familiar, un restaurante.

Y durante el año pasado, formó parte del personal del hospital y todavía vive en una casa a una cuadra de la casa en la que creció.

¿Entonces se quedará por aquí un tiempo?

"Lo planeo, realmente disfruto

trabajar aquí", dijo. "Amo a la gente con la que trabajo, amo el sentido de familia y comunidad, siento que estoy muy dedicado a la comunidad para hacer lo mejor que puedan y estar ahí para ellos".

Entonces, ¿recomendaría el hospital a estudiantes que busquen trabajo en el campo de la medicina?

"Definitivamente, necesitamos enfermeras registradas, enfermeras registradas, enfermeras registradas y radiología", dijo. "Es una muy buena empresa para trabajar. . . está muy orientado a la familia".

"(Y) nos hacen sentir muy apreciados", añadió.

San Dimas Community Hospital, miembro de Prime Healthcare, atiende a una comunidad circundante de más de 45.000 personas dentro de un área de 20 millas cuadradas con una edad media de la población de 45,5 años.

Please visit our website at www.lanuevavoz.net to see the latest issue of La Nueva Voz, past issues and more!

La Iglesia Príncipe de Paz en Pomona te invita a esta gran reunión. El Presbiterio de California de la Iglesia Cristiana Interdenominacional desea concerte y darle gracias a Dios por tú vida y orar por tú necesidad. ¡Prepárate!

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Local nonprofits awarded \$1.5 million in grants to combat violence

Four Inland Valley nonprofits have been awarded a combined \$1.5 million in grants by the Trauma Prevention Partnerships Initiative to help disrupt violence and promote peace in the community.

The grants were announced last month during Gun Violence Awareness Month.

They were awarded to help organizations do their important work of healing and hope in Los

Angeles County.

“By funding these vital programs, we are investing in the health and safety of our communities,” said Dr. Adrienne Hill, Program Officer at California Community Foundation. “These nonprofits are at the forefront of trauma prevention, and we are proud to support their efforts.”

Recipients were Pomona’s House of Ruth, a domestic vio-

lence organization, that will use the funding to support youth in emergency situations; Just Us 4 Youth of Pomona, which invests in young lives through mentoring; Southern California Crossroads, which provides safety and healing for individuals and communities impacted by trauma caused by violence (funding will support the capacity of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center to support victims of violence); and Pomona-based Project Resilience, an organization committed to empowering survivors of sex trafficking through community outreach and advocacy.

The four recipients were recognized for their innovative approaches to trauma prevention and their dedication to fostering safer environments. The funding was expected to enable the organizations to expand their violence prevention programs, provide critical support services, and enhance community outreach.

The Trauma Prevention Partnerships Initiative is a collaboration between the Los Angeles County Department of Public

Health’s Office of Violence Prevention and the California Community Foundation, which was founded in 1915 to lead positive systemic change that strengthens Los Angeles County communi-

ties.

The initiative to date has awarded \$25 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to community-based organizations throughout Los Angeles County.

Pomona Optimists to hold annual ‘Respect for Public Safety’ awards dinner

Members of the Optimist Club of Pomona will hold their annual “Respect for Public Safety” awards dinner and ceremony to honor local first responders next month at the Fuego by Metro Event Center on Downtown Pomona.

This year’s honorees will be Pomona Police Department Motor Officer Michael Varnum and Los Angeles County Fire Capt. Jeremy D. Frye, of Battalion 15, Fire Station 186.

A social hour is set for 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, dinner is at 7 p.m. and the ceremony begins at 8

p.m.

Tickets are \$40 per person and a table of 10 for the event is \$375. Tickets can be purchased in advance using either Zelle or Venmo by e-mailing pomonaoptimistclub@gmail.com, or by mailing a check to Optimist Club of Pomona, P.O. Box 24, Pomona, CA 91769.

Guests also can text Lorraine Canales at (213) 509-4980 to confirm reservations and pay at the door. RSVPs and payment are requested by Friday, Aug. 16.

Fuego is located at 205 E. 2nd St., Pomona.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HENRY! -- Friends and family attended a 100th birthday party celebration last month for Henry Rangel, a lifelong resident of Pomona. The event was held at Central Basco, a Basque French restaurant in Chino. Rangel served during World War II with the U.S. Navy Seabees construction forces in the Pacific Theater. Pictured with Rangel is Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval who stopped by the house the next day to wish Rangel a happy birthday. Pomona’s Gino Elias presented the “Certificate of Recognition” from the City of Pomona to Rangel at the event.

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Guillermo Gonzalez, who has been a resident of the Lincoln Park area since 2011, holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science - Public Service and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration. He currently works as a Human Resources Executive for a private equity firm and has been a strong advocate for community development in Pomona to increase city revenues.

Ad paid for by Greg Estel and the Estel family.

Not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate.



Foothill Gold Line

-Glendora to Pomona-

KIEWIT-PARSONS, A JV

NOTICE: Active Train Testing

**DAYTIME & NIGHTTIME PROJECT WIDE
(CITIES OF GLENDORA, SAN DIMAS, LA VERNE, & POMONA)
JULY 8 - DECEMBER 31, 2024**

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

As part of the 9.1-mile Foothill Gold Line light rail project, active train testing will begin to take place daily and nightly throughout the project (from between Barranca Ave in the City of Glendora to past Garey Ave in the City of Pomona) starting Monday, July 8th and continuing through the end of 2024. Testing will occur Monday thru Friday, specifically during shifts as shown below. Regularly scheduled construction activities will also continue. Train testing, using an active train, will occur with the help of local police departments and the Los Angeles County Sheriff directing traffic at the grade crossings. To limit noise, the grade crossing bells will be disconnected as much as possible during this testing period and the train operators will use their optional “quiet-zone” horns as much as possible. Please follow all safety instructions and be aware of active trains and dropping crossing gates at railroad crossings project wide.

WHEN

Beginning Monday, July 8th and continuing daily/nightly thru December 31st, 2024. Testing will occur Monday - Friday as follows:

- **July 8th - 12th:** Daily testing; 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM (longer hours may be needed occasionally)
- **July 15th - December 31st:** Nightly testing; 6:00 PM - 4:30 AM (longer hours may be needed occasionally)

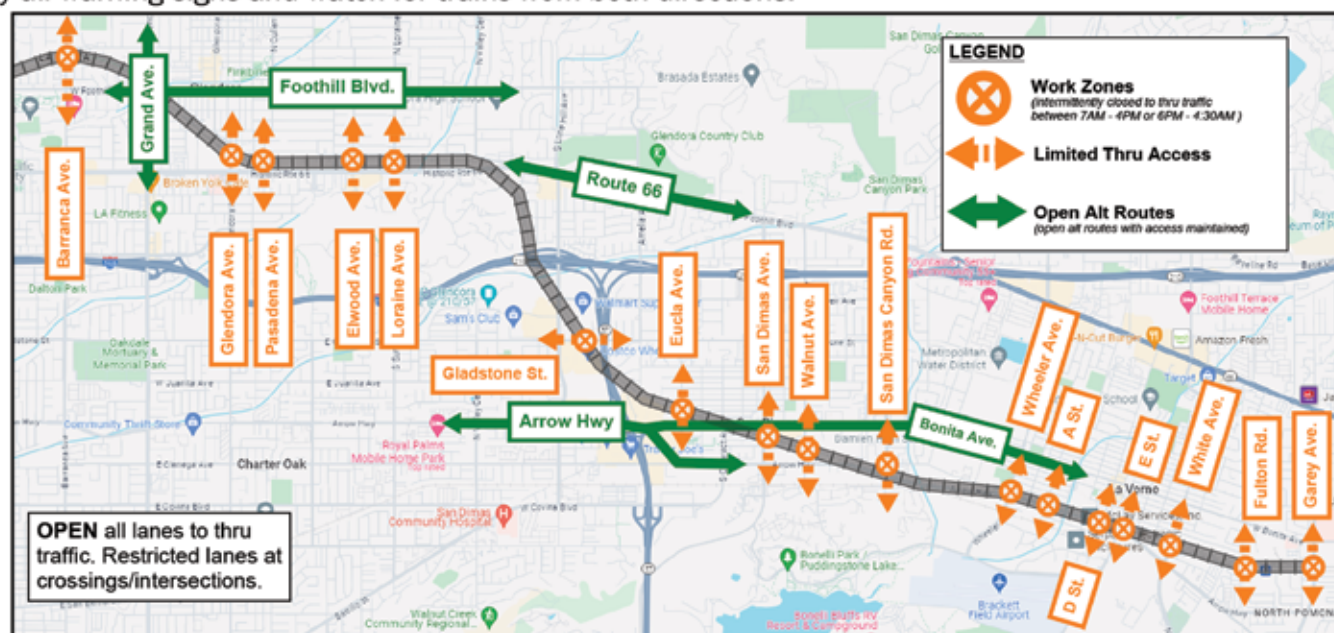
NOTE: Additional daytime/nighttime testing may occur, including on Saturdays and Sundays if needed.

TRAFFIC ADVISORIES

- Crossing gate arms will drop throughout the work shift when testing is taking place.
- Vehicular and pedestrian traffic will be stopped when gates are down; and resume as normal once gate arms are raised.

NOTE TO RESIDENTS

- Never walk on the train tracks.
- Never go around the lowered gates and follow all safety instructions.
- Obey all warning signs and watch for trains from both directions.



QUESTIONS?

Project Construction Questions Hotline: (626) 513-5788 **Email:** CommunityRelations@Kiewit-Parsons.com
General Project Questions: (626) 471-9050 **Email:** PublicAffairs@Foothillgoldline.org

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

*Construction schedules are subject to change for various reasons, including, but not limited to, weather conditions and unforeseen delays.