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# La Nueva Voz

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



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Member

Issue No. 152

Thursday, March 24, 2022

## War in Ukraine comes to Claremont with protests . . .

Several dozen demonstrators from the Pomona-Claremont area and as far away as Riverside County this month held signs, chanted slogans and waved to passing motorists honking their horns in support of what may have been the region's first protest of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The local demonstration was organized by members of the locally based group UPWARD (Uniting Peace with Actions, Respect and Dignity) and was held in conjunction with an "International Day of Action to End the War in Ukraine," called for by the group Code Pink: Women for Peace.

Code Pink describes itself as a grass roots and social justice movement working to end United States-funded wars and occupations and to redirect resources into health care, education and "green" jobs.

The three-hour "Peace Rally and Vigil for Ukraine, Europe and the World" in Claremont, with protestors on all four corners at Indian Hill and

Protests... pg. 3



**RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE REACHES CLAREMONT/POMONA** -- Dozens of local demonstrators gathered this month in Claremont to protest the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Pictured are two organizers of the demonstration -- Jerry Hoffman, at far left, and Gustavo Ramirez, at center, both of Pomona.

## . . . and Gold Line construction comes to Pomona with traffic congestion

Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority crews were several days late getting long-anticipated work under way at the Garey Avenue railroad tracks crossing last month but the orange cones, caution signs and even "permanent" lane markings all were put in place essentially on schedule as Garey was transformed into a two-lane roadway for a couple of blocks -- with all the traffic congestion that goes along with it -- and the street will remain that way for the rest of the year through the end of December.

The lane closures -- one lane closed in each direction -- were required to relocate underground utilities in anticipation of actual work on the tracks in preparation for the Gold Line light rail commuter trains.

Construction authority officials, in response to a question from La Nueva Voz, reported that in addition to the year-long partial closure, the anticipated full closure of

Gold Line... pg. 6



**TRAFFIC ON GAREY** -- A worker, pictured four cars up at the tracks, holds up a "stop" sign while construction workers move equipment around at rear to do a little digging in the street as they work on relocating underground utilities in preparation for getting the tracks ready at the Garey Avenue crossing for the Gold Line light rail project extension. Also visible is the white line "restriping" that narrows Garey down to one lane in each direction in a project that will continue until the end of the year.



**Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez . . . announces retirement**  
(See story pg. 5)

PAID ADVERTORIAL

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Aviso de Audiencia Pública  
de la Comisión de Salud Mental



Tuesday, April 12, 2022 | Martes, 12 de abril de 2022



3:30 pm - 5:30 pm



bit.ly/tcmh2022-23

**We may not be meeting in person,  
but we still want to hear from you!**

Share your thoughts about the Annual Update Fiscal Year 2022-23 of the Mental Health Services Act (MHS) and the new Innovation project, Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs).

**For more information/Para más informacion:**

Rimmi Hundal, MHS Director  
(909) 623-6131 | rhundal@tricitymhs.org | www.tricitymhs.org

**¡No es posible reunirnos en persona,  
pero aún queremos saber de usted!**

Comparta sus comentarios sobre la Publicación del Plan Anual del Año Fiscal 2022-23 de la Ley de Servicios de Salud Mental (MHS) y el nuevo proyecto de Innovación, Directiva Anticipada Psiquiátrica (PADs en ingles).

Spanish and American Sign  
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# Free Foot Health Screenings

## Are you at risk for foot ulcers associated with diabetes and PAD?

Join Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare for a free health screening focused on identifying people at risk for lower-limb complications that could lead to amputation if not treated—



specifically those with diabetes and peripheral artery disease (PAD).

The foot exam will take 5 to 10 minutes and will be performed by a certified wound care nurse with experience treating diabetic foot ulcers. The nurse provides a dermatological, neurological, musculoskeletal, and vascular screening for all participants, followed by appropriate recommendations if needed.

**First Friday  
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RSVP today! Call 909/596-7733, ext. 3039 to register.

Walk-ins are also welcome. To learn more about the Casa Colina Limb Preservation Program, call 909/596-7733, ext. 3039 or visit [www.casacolina.org/LimbPreservation](http://www.casacolina.org/LimbPreservation).

\*Screenings are not offered on holidays and some holiday weekends. Dates and times are subject to change.

This screening is limited to identifying individuals at risk for foot ulcers associated with diabetes and PAD.



*Limb Preservation Program*



**OPTIMIST ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS** -- Students at Pomona's Village Academy High School received a certificate of participation for the Pomona Optimist Club Essay Contest. Pictured are, top row, from left, Diego Luna; 2nd place winner Natalie Vidarte; Alvin Wang; Janet Merino; Vincent Hoang; Albert Miranda; and Johnathan Luna. Bottom row, from left, are Vice Principal Albert Tan; Julianna Naag; 1st place winner Marlene Quinones; 3rd place winner Pat Khengsom; Angelina Portillo; Lenny Thai; and Optimist Club President Lorraine Canales. A total of 24 students competed in the contest from Pomona high schools.



Kids had an opportunity to make their own "Cat in the Hat" hats this month -- with the help of Crystal Orosco of the children's room at the Pomona Public Library. The event was the library's "Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash," featuring story time, crafts, refreshments and more. About 120 people turned out for the event. And down the street the same day at the Pomona Unified School District offices, Supt. Richard Martinez and one or two of his school board members stopped by several district schools to read to the kids (Martinez picked Kellogg Polytechnic Elementary School) as part of the National Education Association's 24th annual "Read Across America" celebration encouraging educators, students and parents to celebrate literacy and the love of reading. California Teachers Association President E. Toby Boyd called on adults to take the "reading challenge." "Reading is a gift that cannot be measured," he said. "When children see successful adults reading to them, our hope is that they too see reading as a way to cultivate leadership."



Hablo Español



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## America's Job Centers offices – including Pomona location – re-open for walk-ins for first time since pandemic closures of 2020

Los Angeles County's 19 America's Job Centers of California locations – including an office in Pomona – this month re-opened for in-person walk-in services to workers and businesses for the first time since the pandemic closure in March 2020.

The Los Angeles County Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services and its Economic Workforce Development branch made the announcement on behalf of the region's one-stop resource for all employment, training and business needs.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, for the past two years services were offered either virtually or by appointment only.

Virtual and "by appointment" services will continue to be available, according to a news release.

Services also are available online at [ajcc.lacounty.gov](http://ajcc.lacounty.gov).

During the pandemic closure, the Pomona location, operating as Pomona Valley AJCC, moved from Monterey Avenue offices near Downtown Pomona to 1460 E. Holt Ave., Entrance #3, Pomona, CA 91767, telephone (909) 242-7999.

The office is operated by Managed Career Solutions and serves communities throughout the Pomona Valley.

"By enhancing virtual access and providing critical services and resources on-line, the AJCCs

helped keep communities afloat during the pandemic," said Otto Solorzano, acting director of the Department of Workforce, Development, Aging and Community Services. "As we re-open the AJCCs to walk-in visitors, today marks an important milestone on our road to an equitable recovery."

The agency develops and supports a skilled and diverse workforce ready for competitive careers in high-demand industries by serving both job seekers and businesses with job search assistance, career counseling and referrals to community resources such as housing.

It also provides both in-class and on-the-job training with paid wages and even assistance with rent, utilities, transportation or work-related expenses for those eligible.

Services are available to Los Angeles County residents 14 and older.

Since the pandemic began in March 2020, the agency has placed nearly 29,000 people into paid jobs and about 1,500 businesses were connected to the Employer Assistant Grant Fund, a first-of-its-kind business assistance grant.

And \$1.5 million in financial assistance was provided to more than 1,000 people, reaching underserved populations including people experiencing homelessness and displaced workers.

## What the heck is a total knee replacement?

By Luis A. Corrales, MD

Director, Revive Joint Replacement Program - Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

If you are looking for a medical textbook explanation, stop reading because you might be upset. My goal is an easy-to-understand conceptual explanation for a total knee replacement (TKR). This means avoiding medical jargon even doctors find confusing, and maybe even making a car reference.

Let's start with a simple fact: Knees bend. When knees bend during walking, bones must glide on one another to produce movement.

If you have ever rubbed your hands together really fast (think of Mr. Miyagi healing the injured Karate Kid), you realize friction and heat are produced, and if you keep going you will injure your skin producing pain. Now imagine if your knees produced this amount of friction during bending when the bones glide (rub) against one another. You would not get far before your knees started hurting or perhaps catching on fire!

Why doesn't this happen? The answer is: Articular Cartilage (AC). Ok, it's medical jargon but it's necessary because it's the crux of understanding a TKR. AC provides a virtually frictionless surface for the bones of the knee to glide during bending without producing friction, heat, or pain! In fact, there is less friction in your knees

during bending than there are between two pieces of ice sliding on each other. Amazing, right? Sorry about that nerdy moment, but this is why you can bend your knees, walk or run without injury or pain.

Here is where we get into problems. If you start losing your AC, commonly due to age and "wear and tear" (called osteoarthritis), you can start having pain. Once you lose a significant amount of AC and have pain affecting the quality of your life, even after conservative treatment, your doctor may recommend a TKR.

Here we are. What the heck is a TKR? Think of how we reached this point. We lost our AC, which causes pain. Currently, we don't have the ability to regenerate AC lost from osteoarthritis. We can only replace it with an artificial surface. During a TKR all we are doing is removing the worn-out AC and replacing it with new artificial materials (metal alloys and polyethylene) that reduce friction. We don't change the muscles powering your knee, or the major ligaments

giving stability, nor do we remove large amounts of bone. We merely replace what was lost and restore balance to your knee. Simply put, a TKR is like changing the tread on your car's tire.

*Editor's Note: Dr. Corrales is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon specializing in the management and surgical treatment of degenerative and arthritic conditions of the shoulder, hip, and knee. He is*



Dr. Luis Corrales

*medical director of the Revive Joint Replacement Program at Pomona's Casa Colina Hospital, which has received distinctions in Joint Replacement Excellence, Total Knee Replacement, and Total Hip Replacement from Healthgrades, and has also earned the Gold Seal of Approval for Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification, the highest certification awarded by the Joint Commission and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. For information about the Revive Joint Replacement Program, please call at 866/724-4130 or visit [casacolina.org/move](http://casacolina.org/move).*

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### MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

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**Up to 90% of child targets are abused by someone they know or trust.**

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**Talk to your children!**



Visit our web site at [YourVoiceMatters.LA](http://YourVoiceMatters.LA)

For information, contact [MarioOlmos90041@gmail.com](mailto:MarioOlmos90041@gmail.com)

## La Nueva Voz

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Publisher: Jeff Schenkel

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V.P. of Marketing & Operations: Renee Barbee

Cell: (909) 762-1446 • [reneebarbee7@gmail.com](mailto:reneebarbee7@gmail.com)

Layout & Design: Dora Cruz

[dcruz1549@gmail.com](mailto:dcruz1549@gmail.com)

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**Pomona Unified Supt. Martinez announces retirement, school board picks interim superintendent, deputy superintendent**

It's official – Pomona Unified School District Supt. Richard Martinez told school board members at the beginning of their meeting last week he will retire as of June 30 after some 21 years with the district, 13 of them as superintendent.

And in a related action taken near the end of the same meeting, board members voted unanimously (Board member Adrienne Konigar-Macklin attended by telephone connection) to appoint Darren Knowles, currently deputy superintendent of human resources, as Interim Superintendent and Lilia Fuentes, currently assistant superintendent of educational services, as Deputy Superintendent.

That action came on a motion by Board Vice President Lorena Gonzalez that was seconded by Board member Andrew Wong.

Both positions will be for one year beginning July 1 after contracts are negotiated. Only Knowles' position is considered an interim position.

Martinez timed the move to coincide with the end of his current contract.

"After 33 years in education, I've decided to retire, so that's effective June 30 of this year," he said in what he called a brief comment "for our stu-

dents, for our families, for the board." "It has been my honor and privilege to have spent 21 of those years in Pomona Unified School District and the last 13 as your superintendent," he said.

"During that time, I've been immensely gratified to have led a team of dedicated teachers and staff that has never failed to meet whatever challenges have arisen," he added. "I've had the support of a board of education that has always envisioned the best interests of our students."

"And I've been so very grateful to our families and to our community who understand that when we educate

our children, we are sculpting the future," he said.

His last board meeting will be June 30.

In a telephone conversation after being contacted by La Nueva Voz two days before the board meeting, Martinez said he started discussing his plans with the school board late last year and executive search consultant Jim Huge of the Reno-based Jim Huge & Associates was brought in to assist in the selection of the next superintendent.

**Executive search consultant's report**

"School districts in California and throughout the country are facing

unprecedented challenges attracting and retaining talent." Huge said in his summary report to the school board dated March 9. "The available labor pool is dwindling, and highly skilled, motivated employees have become the target of strong recruitment efforts by competing employers."

"This is starkly evident in the superintendency – there is an unprecedented number of vacancies," he said in the report. "Well-qualified and motivated candidates are becoming increasingly scarce."

And in the local Southern California market during the last two years, he said there have been more superintendent vacancies than he has seen in his 30 years working as a consultant.

In Pomona Unified, he said, Martinez has "prepared a strong bench of talented executives."

"You may find outsiders who are equal, although at this time the pool is shallow, but none who would also have the knowledge of the district, community, student population, and who have built the positive relationships with so many in the district," he said.

He added that if the school board opted for a full external search, the entire process would require about three

months to hire a superintendent with most activities performed using videoconference or as long as six months if "in-person" meetings were desired.

In addition, he said districts typically pay a new superintendent from outside the district a higher salary than they would for an internal candidate who is elevated to the position.

Huge said in his report that the two internal candidates, Knowles and Fuentes, "are exceptional individuals who are well-prepared . . . and make a great team, are well-regarded and share values that focus on the whole child, achievement and stakeholder engagement."

He recommended taking advantage of an opportunity "for continuing strong leadership" by offering the interim superintendency to Knowles and the position of deputy superintendent to Fuentes, with the "interim" option for the superintendent providing "time for both parties to decide if the role is a good fit."

He also recommended that before Martinez retires the two "embark on a listening tour to engage all stakeholders" and then report their findings to the school board for the board's use in building the "entry plan" which will

Superintendent retirement... pg. 13



Darren Knowles



Lilia Fuentes

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## Gold Line... from pg. 1

Garey “is tentatively scheduled for this summer, but construction has a lot of variability and schedules change.”

Again this month, they stopped short of estimating how long that full closure would continue, although an unofficial and unnamed contractor employee source indicated it was expected to come around the last week in April and “only” continue for about a month.

While all of this was going on, construction authority CEO Habib Balian, in his staff report to members of his board of directors on status of the agency’s community outreach program, said his team “makes regu-

lar and proactive communication with stakeholders a core principle, with the agency goal of having ‘no surprises’ once in construction.”

But a closer look by La Nueva Voz at the actual “in the field” work under way appeared to show that was not entirely the case.

In a conscientious effort to obtain information from a variety of sources for this story, La Nueva Voz first asked the agency’s public relations staff for responses but, to take it a step further on specifics, then reached out to agency board members Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and La Verne City Councilmember Robin Carder.



Conventional orange cones were placed down on the first day of lane closures on North Garey Avenue in Pomona late last month. Those cones were quickly replaced with actual lane striping and those little two-inch diameter orange plastic markers that screw into plastic holders cemented to the street. Cars immediately started slowing as they merged into one lane in each direction and made their way through the area of construction.



Pictured are some of the signs and barriers warning motorists of a lane closure on Garey Avenue in north Pomona as the Gold Line project makes its way through Pomona. Garey will be restricted to one lane in each direction until the end of the year with the exception of about a month this summer when the entire roadway will be closed to through traffic.



Workers place a steel plate over an open underground vault in the “slow lane” of Garey Avenue in Pomona as work gets under way preparing for the Gold Line tracks reconfiguration project.

Questions from La Nueva Voz then were passed on to agency staff and, interestingly, a more comprehensive response was obtained.

Following is a summary of what came out of that entire e-mail conversation.

### No advance news release issued on Garey lane closures

As reported last month in La Nueva Voz, no Gold Line news release was distributed to the news media in advance of the lane closures. And

La Nueva Voz has been receiving news releases on a variety of developments in the project on a regular basis over the past several years.

La Nueva Voz learned of the lane closures only through on-line Facebook chatter in which residents were voicing their concerns.

Agency spokesperson Albert Ho last month told La Nueva Voz the construction authority normally sends out news releases only for full closures, but not simply for lane clo-

tures, like Garey.

La Nueva Voz indicated in its e-mail to Sandoval and Carder that this was curious, especially because Garey is one of the seven busiest streets in Pomona.

In a comprehensive e-mail response to La Nueva Voz, Lisa Levy Buch, the agency’s chief communications and strategic development officer, said her agency “conducted outreach to the most impacted neigh-

**Gold Line.... pg. 12**



**BEFORE AND AFTER** -- Pictured, at left, is a workman preparing to mark the southbound lanes of Garey Avenue for restriping as the roadway is narrowed through the end of December due to work on the Gold Line project. At right, voila! The finished product -- one of those white lines with “merge” arrows as the lane closures on Garey go into effect late last month.

## Pomona Valley Hospital offers \$50 screening mammograms in April

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center is offering its annual low-cost \$50 screening mammograms with no physician order or proof of insurance during the month of April.

According to a hospital news release, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention rate breast cancer the second most common cancer among women. The release added that in women who are over 40 or at high risk of developing breast cancer, annual screening mammograms are critical to early detection and diagnosis, which can lead to more treatment options and successful health outcomes.

Hospital officials noted that throughout the pandemic, they saw a 25 percent decrease in women scheduling a screening mammogram for breast cancer.

“The pandemic has caused many individuals to put off important health screenings, includ-

ing mammograms,” said Dr. Paul Reisch, medical director of the Breast Health Center at the hospital. “By offering these low-cost mammograms, we’re hoping to reduce any financial barriers that may be preventing women in our community from getting the care they need.”

Women who are eligible are over 40, have no breast implants, do not have a history of breast cancer in the past five years and are not experiencing breast problems.

Pomona Valley Hospital offers digital 3D mammography to all its patients and was one of the first in the region to do so. In addition, it is also one of the few hospitals in the region to offer the SmartCurve breast stabilization system, a more comfortable mammogram.

To schedule an appointment, call (909) 469-9395. Appointments are available at the Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center in Pomona or at the Pomona Valley Health Centers in Claremont, Chino Hills or La Verne.

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**CHAMBER RIBBON-CUTTING AT DERBY ROOM** -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting last month to officially open the new Derby Room at Pomona's Fairplex, a re-branding under new management of the former Finish Line Sports Bar and Grill offering both a new menu and a new look. Brandon Zennedjian, who owns the restaurant with his dad Armen, brother Gregory and another partner, said the restaurant serves breakfast all day as well as lunch, dinner and appetizers, with offerings including both “sports bar” food and Asian food. Pictured, from left, are Chamber Ambassador Roberto Arnold, of Alpha Prime Consulting; Danny Mosaquites, of SDP Payroll, Chamber member; Chamber Executive Board Member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; Aldo Macias Arrelano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang; Chamber Board Member and Ambassador Jeff Johannsen, Executive Director of Pomona Hope; Derby Room owner Brandon Zennedjian; Chamber Board Member Victor Caceres, Executive Director of the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley; Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez; Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado; Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares; and Chamber Board Member Leo Arredondo, of Pomona's Uppercuts barber shop. Fairplex is the sixth location for the Derby Room, which also has restaurants in Norco, Perris, San Bernardino, Glendale and Victorville. The Fairplex location is at 2201 N. White Ave., Pomona.

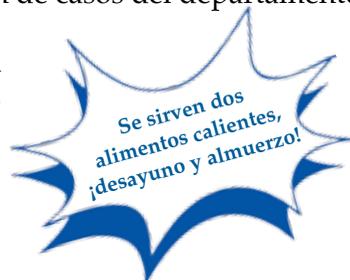


Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez, at right, welcomes Derby Room owner Brandon Zennedjian to Fairplex at last month's Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting. Marquez said he was happy to have the restaurant on board in time for the upcoming 100th anniversary of the LA County Fair which will mark the first time Fairplex has hosted the Fair in two years. Commenting on the theme of the restaurant, Marquez said horse racing was an integral part of a long history at Fairplex.

## ¡Aceptando nuevos participantes!

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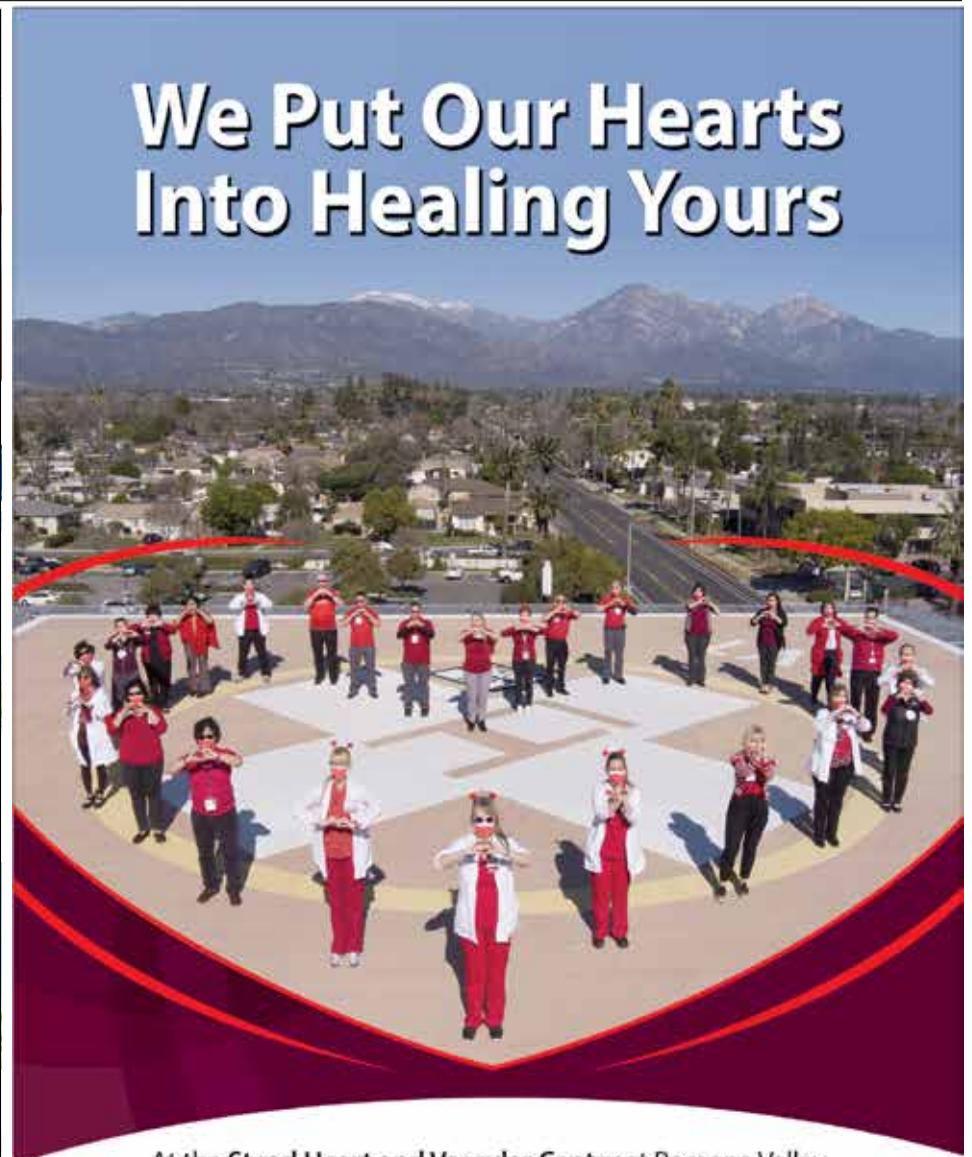
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At the Stead Heart and Vascular Center at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, our team of nationally recognized, leading experts are dedicated to healing hearts. We offer access to exceptional care for a full spectrum of heart, vascular and stroke related conditions.

Our cardiac and interventional labs feature the most advanced diagnostic and non-invasive tools in the medical field, offering preventative, intervention and rehabilitative care for our patients, close to home.



For more information regarding our heart and vascular programs and services, please visit [pvhmc.org/heart](http://pvhmc.org/heart) or call **909.479.5384**.  
 1798 N. Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767





**HOT WHEELS SHOW UP FOR COVID BIRTHDAY PARTY** -- Ruth Lopez of Pomona, it seems, was heartbroken because she couldn't have a "real" birthday party for her two kids last month because of COVID so she did what any good mother would do -- she reached out to her friends on-line at Nextdoor Neighbor to try to find the owner of a very cool "Monster Hot Wheels" car that had been featured on the site. Her kids Jeanie, 8, at left, and Joel, 4, in the car, have birthdays 10 days apart in February. Gary Aguirre, pictured at right, owner of this amazing looking 1976 Ford Mustang Cobra II, saw the post and arranged to drive over to surprise the kids at their otherwise very quiet birthday party at home on Randolph Street in Pomona, giving the story a happy albeit "pandemic" ending and a little posing for photos out in front of the house. Good job, Gary, and happy birthday, kids!

## Western University welcomes Dr. Robin Farias-Eisner as new president

Dr. Robin Farias-Eisner was welcomed this month as the new president of Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences, becoming only the third permanent president in the school's nearly 45-year history.

Farias-Eisner most recently served as Director of the Lynch Comprehensive Cancer Research Center and Chief Academic Officer in the School of Medicine at Creighton University in Omaha.

He also served as associate dean of women's health and professor and chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology while at Creighton.

Prior to his work at Creighton, Farias-Eisner spent much of his career at UCLA, where he completed a fellowship in gynecologic oncology in 1992.

He then spent the next 30 years working to improve the health of women in underserved communities in South Los Angeles who were critically ill, many of whom were battling cancer diagnoses.

According to a Western University news release, he has been a pioneer in surgical procedures being used to treat gynecologic malignancies. The release said he

is a skilled clinician as well as a skilled researcher and fundraiser.

He earned a bachelor's degree from UCLA, a medical doctorate from the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland, a doctorate in molecular biology from UCLA, and a Master's in Business Administration from Pepperdine University.

"I am humbled and honored to be the next president of WesternU," Farias-Eisner said. "WesternU's mission of producing health care professionals in a humanistic tradition instantly drew me to the institution. Not only is WesternU guided by core values that deeply align with mine, but my entire career has been about advocating for equity, inclusion, respect, empathy and trust."

Western University's founding president the late Dr. Phil Pumerantz launched Western University's founding college, the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific, in 1977 in Pomona. He led the growth and restructuring into Western University in 1996 and retired in 2015.

President Emeritus Dr. Daniel Wilson served as Western's president from 2016 to 2021.



Dr. Robin Farias-Eisner



**NEW CLOTHING SHOP ON SECOND STREET** -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and others gathered this month to cut the ribbon and officially open Empire Custom Prints, a new clothing and printing shop located at 147 E. 2nd St., in Downtown Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Jack Kunz, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; Salvador Gonzalez, the owner's dad; Emiliano Gonzalez, 8, the owner's brother; Chamber President and CEO Monique Monzanes; Juana Gonzalez, the owner's mom; store owner Kevin Gonzalez; his sister, Katie Gonzalez; brothers Mikey and Orlando Gonzalez; Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado; Chamber Board member Daniela Franco of Pomona's Metro Event Center; Marco Argote, of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association; and Chamber Executive Board Member Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz. Not pictured is Salvador Gonzalez, Jr., also a brother of owner Kevin Gonzalez. Sylvia Quesada, a visual merchandiser, helped create the show room for the new store.

### Public service ad courtesy of La Nueva Voz

Tickets are available on-line for the Pomona Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon set for Thursday, April 14.

Panelists include Mayor Tim Sandoval, Sen. Susan Rubio, Supervisor Hilda Solis, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, Congresswoman Norma Torres and Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang.

Please contact the Chamber office to reserve your tickets and to sponsor.

## Kiwanis Club of Pomona to celebrate 100th anniversary!

Members of Kiwanis Club of Pomona will celebrate 100 years of service to the Pomona community in June, marking its beginnings a century ago with 54 members meeting for their first regular luncheon meeting on June 21, 1922, in the old Avid Hotel.

Today, Kiwanis has more than 550,000 members from K-Kids to Key Club to Kiwanis and many ages in between in 80 countries and geographic areas. Each community has different needs, and Kiwanis empowers members to pursue creative ways to serve the needs of children, such as fighting hunger, improving literacy, providing college scholarships, offering guidance, and assisting nonprofit organizations in the pursuit of a better community.



Interested in joining Kiwanis and serving your community?

Or interested in registration information for attending the 100th anniversary celebration?

### CONTACT:

Committee Chair and Incoming President  
Patricia Lozano at [plozano@westernu.edu](mailto:plozano@westernu.edu)

### Save the date!

100th anniversary celebration

(public invited to join us!)

Saturday, June 25

Pomona Valley Mining Company

*'Honoring those who came before us and looking ahead to reinvigorate our efforts to help the children'*

President	A. Loyd Hickson
Vice-President	Dr. Frank W. Burns
Secretary	Walter C. Wilson
Treasurer	Frank C. Robinson
Sergeant at Arms	Howard E. Ulery
District Trustee	Dr. Robert J. Taylor
Directors:	
J. Ransom Casey	Ruben A. Coverdale
C. B. (Jack) Afflerbaugh	Edward W. Curtie
Milton W. Zander	William S. Dannel
	Lowell C. Pratt

Members of our first Board of Directors 100 years ago (reproduced from a page of the original minutes from our first meeting).

Kiwanis Club of Pomona meets at noon on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at Metro Ale House Restaurant, 197 E. 2nd St., Pomona.

## Pilgrim Congregational, with history of valuing education, celebrates 135 years

Susan McWilliams Barndt, a professor of politics at Pomona College in Claremont and keynote speaker at last month's 135th anniversary celebration at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church, told a story of how 135 years ago a few blocks from the church a small group of the first members of the church got together on a Saturday evening and came up with \$1,000.

The next morning after services, she said, they agreed to use that money to build a college – Pomona College which, although first built in Pomona, now is located in Claremont and is also celebrating its 135th anniversary this year.

"And they decided to build more colleges," she said. "Today, that \$1,000 has resulted in seven institutions of higher learning at Claremont."

Since their founding, she added, more than 100,000 students have graduated from those schools with graduates including Nobel Prize winners, Rhodes scholars, civil rights leaders, Olympic medalists, ambassadors, members of Congress, Hol-

lywood stars, screenwriters and producers, musicians, writers, teachers, doctors, nurses, inventors and more.

And to this day, she said, students receive financial aid when needed which often "comes in no small part" from donations from members of Pilgrim Congregational.

In fact, she said, more than half of all Pomona College students receive "no loan" financial aid and a quarter of the students are the first in their family to go to college.

Barndt told nearly 200 guests in the sanctuary that in her work she has the joy of watching how college "transforms (students') lives and how they then go on to transform the lives of others."

"This church brought those stories into being, this church made those things happen, this church changed those lives and helped those kids grow into the adults they have become," Barndt said. "In one weekend, this church, the first members of this congregation, brought all that and more into the world."

"On behalf of so many people, I must say thank you to Pilgrim Con-



Members of the Choir at Pilgrim Congregational's 135th anniversary event last month, conducted by church music director Susan Winckler.

gregational Church," she said.

Barndt added that the church at the time of its founding had 100 members, or about half the number it has today.

"Those early pilgrims had a powerful faith in the power of congregation," she said. "It was a deep expression and extension of their faith, a place where young men . . . young people could come together in congregation in search of their development."

"Truly, it was a big act of faith by a small group of people," she said, and a group that had faith "that a small group of people could make a big difference."

"No matter how complex the world seems to get, it remains simple but true that a single act of kindness can transform a day, a week, a year or even a life," she said.

Rev. Dr. Patrick Horn, senior minister at Pilgrim Congregational, said the church has a long history of valuing education.

"This is a day for all of us to be students, and learners," he said. "We have had and still have numerous teachers and professors in our midst. This history extends even further back than our own beginnings to the days that Congregationalists established two of the first universities in America – Harvard University in 1636 and Yale University in 1701 were both established by Congregationalists of Colonial New England."

"In the spirit of that love and appreciation for education, we invite you to learn more about Pilgrim Church and its connection to the City of Pomona and the surrounding areas that make up our regional history," he added.

The church was organized in May  
**Pilgrim Congregational... pg. 11**



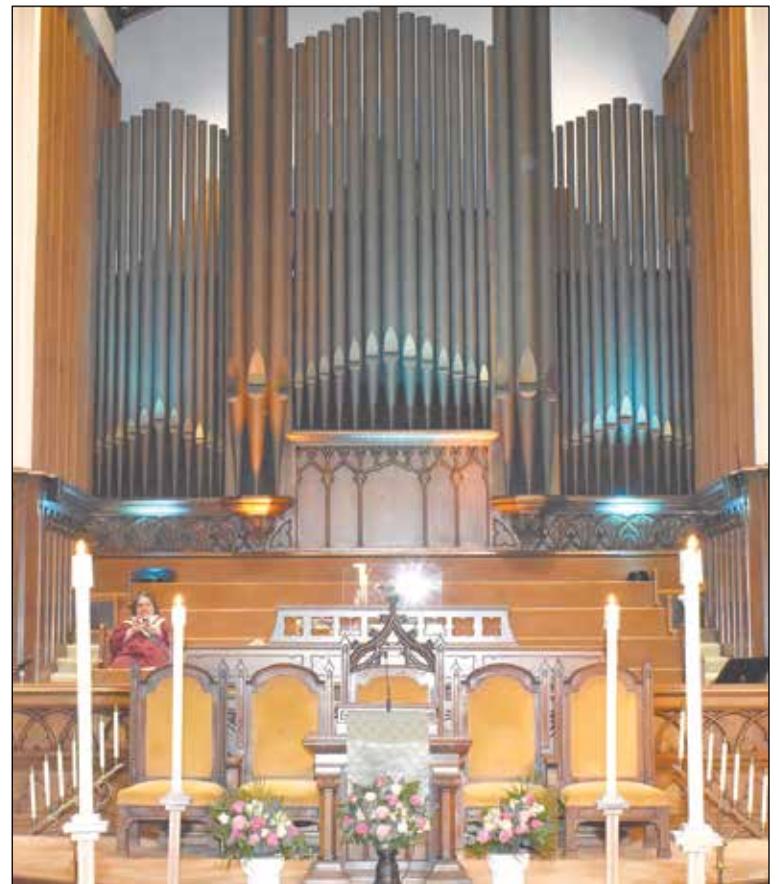
Keynote speaker  
Dr. Susan McWilliams Barndt



Rev. Dr. Patrick N. Horn



Pilgrim's Rev. Dr. Patrick Horn chats with Pilgrim's Karli Gordon, administrative assistant and events manager, before the 135th activities got under way.



Pictured are the pipes of Pilgrim Congregational's historic pipe organ. Did you know there are 3,245 pipes in the Murray Harris organ which was installed originally at the old church structure at 3rd and Thomas Streets in 1902 (at the time with only 780 pipes) at a cost of \$3,100? It cost \$4,000 just to move it to the present location in 1912.



Bruce Jones literally pulls out all the stops on the church organ during the 135th anniversary celebration last month. La Nueva Voz learned he switches off on the historic keyboards with organist Mary Ferguson.

## Pilgrim Congregational... from pg. 10

1887 by a group of 36 Congregationalists in the Taylor Opera House on the northwest corner of Third and Thomas Streets in Pomona – at a time when there were only 10 other churches in the city. Pomona, which would not be incorporated for another eight months, had a population of about 3,000.

The first permanent home of the church was a chapel erected on the southeast corner of Third and Thomas as at a cost of \$7,600. And the first Sunday service was held there on Nov. 26, 1887, just six months after the church was formed.

The original chapel was enlarged and a bell tower was added in 1897, but by 1910 the membership had soared to 500 and plans for a new site and building were made.

The present site of the church at Garey Avenue and Pasadena Street was acquired.

A cornerstone was laid in May 1911 for a building that was to cost \$107,573. And at the time of dedication a year later, a debt of only \$19,000 remained.

Pilgrim Hall was completed first and was the site of worship services until the sanctuary was finished. The new complex was dedicated on May 26, 1912, the 25th anniversary of the church.

The gymnasium was built in 1926 and was the first full-sized gym to be built by a church west of the Mississippi River.

Last month's celebration included



Pictured are participants in a four-day 'Interdenominacional sean bienvenidos' celebration in May 1930 in front of Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church, complete with a harpist and her harp at left, fashionable hats for the men, and ivy-covered walls of the church. The historical photo was on display at Pilgrim's 135th anniversary celebration.

tours, exhibits and more.

Horn also announced at the event that this year's donations to an Easter offering – that each year go to a local nonprofit organization – this year will go to Inland Valley Hope Partners in Pomona which, for more than 50 years, has provided food, shelter and healthy living programs for those in need.

Congregationalists, as a Christian denomination, trace their origins to the late 1500s and early 1600s when Separatists in England refused to submit to the authority of the Church of England.

In 1620, about 40 members of Separatist churches boarded the Mayflower and arrived in Cape Cod Bay after a three-month journey. In the decades that followed, Congregational churches in the Colonies of the New World grew and developed, especially in New England.



Pictured is the stained-glass window in the south wall of the Pilgrim Congregational sanctuary, depicting "Christ the Teacher."



Ten well-dressed members of Pilgrim Congregational Church, in a photo on display at Pilgrim's 135th anniversary, pose for the picture that has become a piece of history from days gone by.



Volunteer Jan Manildi shows off some of the historical facts about Pilgrim's Women's Auxiliary, founded in 1887 as the Ladies Society of Pilgrim Church. Included was one interesting fact (among many) -- the church held its first rummage sale in 1927. Today, of course, the rummage sale is held twice a year, is famous throughout Pomona and beyond, and generally fills rooms throughout the church, both upstairs and down.



Pomona's Virginia Madrigal, president of the Community Engagement Group, holds down the organization's booth in the gymnasium at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church during Pilgrim's 135th anniversary celebration last month. The group was founded by the late Joe Romero, former Pomona Police Chief, following the murder of California Highway Patrol Officer Thomas Steiner as he left the Pomona Superior Court building. The group formed as part of an effort to find solutions on how to deal with violence in the community.



Pictured is a page out of the original floor plans and elevations for Pilgrim's proposed chapel and classrooms, prepared by Robert M. King, A.I.A., Architect.

## Pomona's poet laureate keeps busy schedule with stops coast to coast

Pomona's inaugural poet laureate David Judah Oliver has been keeping busy these days with everything from working on a new board game to serving as the "artist activist in residence" at Pitzer

College in Claremont.

He checked in with La Nueva Voz this month to explain the board game, "Level Up," is the creation of his fiancé Courtney Baker who came up with the idea

for a game based on careers.

Billed as a game of success, it explores careers "through the lens of investing in your community, soft skills and life nuances" – and it begins with players roll-

ing the dice and moving around the board to experience various career pathways – much like real life.

At Pitzer, Oliver said the first "Storytellers Art and Latino Stu-

dent Film Fest" is planned for April 22-23 and will include a poetry fest and "slam" with a cash prize, a "SoCal" poet laureate panel, and a poetry open mic

Poet laureate... pg. 13

bors, the local hospitals and the first responders and others agreed to with the City of Pomona.”

“We also included information on the upcoming lane closures in a construction alert (which goes out to thousands of interested stakeholders, including the local media),” she added. “Ahead of the full closure, we will conduct an additional outreach effort that will include a media advisory and working with mapping platforms to show the closure on their maps. In the current condition, Garey Avenue is open and useable.”

She also pointed out that the City of Pomona agrees that the road is working well.

“As part of your February issue, the construction authority purchased an ad with contact information on how to reach us with construction questions,” she said. “We felt that was helpful, knowing the lane closures were upcoming.”

The messaging in that advertisement included a headline stating “Gold Line construction under way through 2025,” along with a telephone number for construction questions and a web site for signing up for construction alerts.

It did not include a specific reference to the Garey closures.

**Notifying the public that work is continuing through end of year or only April 24?**

During one of several visits to the Garey Avenue project site for photos and news gathering, La Nueva Voz noticed those electronic signs indicating work in the area would continue from Feb. 24 through April 24, something quite different from the “end of the year” date of completion an agency spokesperson provided to La Nueva Voz, as published in last month’s newspaper.

“There are six changeable message boards out warning the traveling public about the lane closures,” Levy Buch told La Nueva Voz in her e-mail response. “The message on those signs is approved by the city and coordinated through KPJV (the joint venture team of Kiewit-Parsons, which is responsible for major construction work on the project).”

“I am not aware of the reason they are including the current phase on the sign; but it is not done to provide less information to the community,” she added. “It is what the city and contractor believe is the right message to ensure drivers are aware of the current lane closures. If I had to guess, it may have to do with the

change that will take place following this current phase, which will include the full closure of the street. That will require a different message.”

She again confirmed the lane closures will continue through the end of the year.

**Full closure at Garey – exactly when and how long?**

As indicated earlier in this report and as published in last month’s La Nueva Voz, the construction authority declined – both last month and earlier this month – to estimate when the anticipated full closure of Garey would come and how long it would continue.

The construction authority would say only that when it had the information that dates were finalized, it would issue a news release, and that was what La Nueva Voz reported in its February issue.

However, La Nueva Voz, again on the scene late last month (following publication of the February issue) and in a conversation with an unofficial and unnamed construction team source, learned that somebody did, in fact, know when all of this was expected. The source estimated Garey’s full closure would come around the end of April and continue for about a month.

**Gold Line... from pg. 6**

Only after La Nueva Voz provided this information to the construction authority did staff confirm that the estimate sounded pretty close.

La Nueva Voz received that confirmation early this month in an e-mail from spokesperson Albert Ho.

“As of now, the full closure of Garey Avenue is tentatively scheduled for this summer,” he said in the e-mail. “But construction has a lot of variability and schedules change. As of now, the full closure of Garey Avenue is not set in the schedule.”

He said once the closure is set and approved by the City of Pomona, his agency will “conduct a full outreach effort, including sending information out to the media and mapping platforms, so that people traveling . . . will be notified to avoid the full closure and use the detour.”

Levy Buch, in her March 8 e-mail response to La Nueva Voz, took it a step further.

“We received an updated crossing construction schedule this week which anticipates closure of the street in early summer; but there are many things that may impact that schedule,” she said. “Once we have confirmation, as I stated above, we will conduct an additional outreach effort.”

“You will be part of that effort, as a member of the media,” she continued. “It only benefits us to have as much information as possible out in the community. When we discuss the lane closures on Garey, for instance, we explain that a full closure will be needed. As we get closer to the date of the closure – and we are more confident in the information – we will get the word out.”

Also of interest was the comment above from Levy Buch, in which her “guess” was that the message board message was a harbinger that the next message would be for the full closure and, of course, the current end of phase date on the message boards of April 24 would seem to confirm an “end of April” full closure, some two months ahead of the beginning of summer (Ho’s tentative timeline was simply for “this summer”) at the end of June.

**Is the contractor’s public information office an effective resource?**

La Nueva Voz has contacted the KPJV public information line, an office separate from the construction authority’s public information office, on several occasions, without first indicating the call was from a newspaper, just to ask about start dates for lane closures and, generally, to see how they are handling responses on their end.

Their telephone number is listed on various banners attached to fences in construction areas, listed on various web sites, mentioned in different notices to the public and even included in an ad in last month’s La Nueva Voz.

In theory, the public has every opportunity to know they are there to answer questions.

In one of those conversations, last month just before the first day the lane closure cones were placed on Garey, La Nueva Voz asked the KPJV spokesperson, after identifying itself as a newspaper, how many calls she had received on the Garey closure portion of the project.

She replied that La Nueva Voz was the only call she had received.

It would be speculation only, but perhaps the reason for that is the telephone number has not been adequately publicized, perhaps most of those drivers navigating the cones on Garey are from out of the area and have not received notices or stopped to read the banners, or a variety of other reasons.

Levy Buch had a response of her own.

“To date (again, this was a March 8 e-mail), the construction authority and KPJV have not received any complaints,” she told La Nueva Voz. “I have also communicated with the City of Pomona, and they, too, are not aware of any complaints coming into the city regarding the current lane closures.”

On the other hand, La Nueva Voz has talked to employees working in a hospital next to the construction area, employees in a nearby business in a medical-related field and others.

Before work began, at least two employees were unaware the closures were coming and every other employee contacted once work was under way was concerned with the

Gold Line... pg. 13

**The following public service ads are courtesy of La Nueva Voz**

*Project Sister Family Services*  
*Sexual Assault and*  
*Child Abuse Services*  
 909-626-4357  
 or 626-966-4155  
[www.projectsister.org](http://www.projectsister.org)

**Feeding the Hungry,  
 Sheltering the Homeless**  
 Grocery Distribution at  
 209 W. Pearl St.  
 Pomona   
 Volunteering: 909-622-3806  
[www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org](http://www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org)

**HOUSE OF RUTH**  
 Abused by your partner  
 and need help?  
 24-hour hotline:  
**(909) 988-5559 or toll  
 free at (877) 988-5559**

**Pomona Public Library Hours**  
**Monday through Thursday**  
**Noon to 7 p.m.**  
**Saturday**  
**11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**Friday and Sunday**  
**Closed**

**Info on student group programs at AGRiscapes:**  
**[www.agriscapes.cpp.edu](http://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](http://www.myf2b.com/register/pomona)  
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 La Nueva Voz is a proud member of PUSD’s Literacy Collaborative.

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

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

- Pomona City Hall lobby
- Pomona library
- Claremont library
- Claremont City Hall lobby
- La Verne City Hall lobby
- La Verne Senior Citizens Center
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce, 101 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
- Pomona Unified School District administration building lobby
- Western University of Health Sciences Patient Care Center
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center maternity lobby, outpatient services, emergency room
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
- Jicamez Tacos Y Carniceria, 604 E. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphia Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- LaundryLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



## Gold Line... from pg. 12

slowdown and, in several instances, had already changed routes to and from work.

### What happens to that brand new roadway surface after the Gold Line work?

In a related area of concern, that roadway surface between the tracks and Bonita Avenue – where all the cutting and underground work will be under way for the rest of the year – was literally brand new before those first cones went out. In fact, La Nueva Voz observed the work hadn't even been re-stripped but still had those little white markers waiting for the truck that sprays the lane divider lines on the road surface.

Even an unnamed Gold Line construction worker – in an unofficial conversation – thought it was curious that the work would be cutting through a new surface.

La Nueva Voz checked with the City of Pomona on all of this and learned from a spokesperson that the section of Garey Avenue in question had been repaved around April 2017 in a project that included Garey from Foothill Boulevard to Aliso Street at a cost of roughly \$8 million.

The project was funded by Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 1, Measure R, and Propositions A and C, the spokesperson said.

But the new surfacing – that surface that had not even had the lines painted yet – was part of a resurfacing job – resulting from street cuts needed for utility connections – that the city required the developer of a new apartment complex adjacent to the project site to provide.

According to the spokesperson, developers are required to repave streets for the full width of their development at their own expense if their project involved an area of the street that has been repaved by the city in less than five years which, of

course, was the case here.

Similarly, according to the city, the construction authority will be required to perform “pavement repairs as necessary.”

Meanwhile, on that entire notification of the public issue, in fairness, the city spokesperson said the city provided notification to the community in the city manager's weekly report on the city's web site last month and on its various social media platforms under a “construction advisory notice.”

And, as published in last month's La Nueva Voz, city staff last month – responding to a request from La Nueva Voz – predicted delays driving through the new Garey bottleneck of up to 15 minutes during rush hour traffic and perhaps five minutes during non-rush hour periods due to the congestion caused by two lanes feeding into one in each direction. But a city spokesperson indicated this month that “there have not been extensive delays in relation to the magnitude of the project.”

Even so, based on La Nueva Voz observations, there clearly has been consistent slowing in the area due to the combination of delays from passing trains, the funneling of two lanes of traffic in each direction into only one lane of traffic in each direction, and for good measure a construction worker with a “slow/stop” sign cautioning motorists when heavy equipment is being used on the site.

For more information, call the project construction “hotline” at (626) 513-5788.

The 9.1-mile, four-station Gold Line project segment from Glendora to Pomona is on budget and on time to be completed in 2025.

The Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority completed the first segment from Union Station to Pasadena in 2003.

## Poet laureate... from pg. 11

event.

Oliver said he'll participate in a workshop on day two of the event along with English professor Stephanie Liu-Rojas.

And on April 19, he'll appear at the museum of the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center in Charlotte for “A word from the laureates,” featuring about 15 Black poet laureates from across the nation.

He will be back in Los Angeles on April 24 appearing as a featured poet at the Pan African Film Fest.

Locally, he is planning to have his second “Red Carpet Poetry Laureate Reading” at the Pomona Public Library in April, although date and time have not been set.

Oliver was selected to serve as Pomona's first poet laureate in December 2019.

## Superintendent retirement... from pg. 5

identify goals for the new leadership team.

Knowles has been on board at Pomona Unified for the past 29 years and Fuentes has served the district for the past 26 years.

Since 2015, Hugu has served as senior executive consultant for Atlantic Research Partners, providing executive services to schools and school leaders. His own company has served clients across the country since 1980 with an emphasis on organizational development and school district governance.

Hugu has worked with Pomona Unified, in his words, “over the past decade and a half.”

Martinez told La Nueva Voz a second consultant, Bonnie Moss of Oakland-based Clifford Moss, was hired by the school board three years ago to begin “legacy training” to allow for transition of leadership.

“The appointments of Mr. Knowles (interim) and Ms. Fuentes allow for a competent, compassionate continuity of leadership,” said Pomona Unified School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman. “Over the next months, this new leadership team and the Board will have the opportunity to listen to community stakeholders – our stu-

dents, families, teachers, staff, and community members – as we conduct community conversations to further learn what matters most to our constituents.”

“We are counting on the participation of our families, students, staff, and community to help us shape PUSD's future as we continue to better address the needs of each and every child in our district,” Perlman added.

### Then what's next for Martinez?

In an exclusive telephone interview with La Nueva Voz before last week's school board meeting, Martinez said he has several opportunities in mind, including focusing on volunteer work in the area of transition in youth and foster care working with a faith-based organization through his church, creating support systems for kids 16 through 18 who are “aging out” of the foster care system.

In addition, he said he will explore consulting opportunities in the area of executive coaching of administration.

“Most of my work that I'm going to do will be really passion work, things I've done my entire life,” he said, adding that he wants to have an impact in foster care systems and families in crisis.

“I'd like to kind of come back to

that,” Martinez said, since his social work degree was in that area.

And he hopes to have time to travel with his wife.

Martinez said he'll remain on the board at the Los Angeles County Fair Association and at the Pomona Community Foundation.

“It's been such an exciting 13-year run, 20-year time here in Pomona Unified School District,” Martinez told La Nueva Voz. “There's just so many wonderful memories.”

Martinez, who grew up in East Los Angeles and graduated from Garfield High School, began his career in education at Montebello Unified School District. He came to Pomona Unified as Director of Pupil Resources after serving as Director of Student Services at Irvine Unified School District.

He said he made the move from Orange County because he wanted to be able to support “families that looked more like my family.”

Martinez was appointed interim superintendent here in June 2009 and superintendent in November 2009.

**Your ad here!**  
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**Book Recommendation for our Cities: The Rabbit Effect: Live Longer, Happier, and Healthier with the Groundbreaking Science of Kindness**

**By Rev. Jan Chase  
and Dr. Roberta Perlman  
Compassionate Pomona**

In 1978, researchers in New Zealand studied the development of heart disease in response to high fat dietary intake. Rabbits were used in the study, as they respond to high fat diets much like humans. Over several months, genetically similar rabbits were fed the same high fat diet and their cholesterol, heart rates, and blood pressure were measured. At the conclusion of the study, all the rabbits had developed high cholesterol, but they differed greatly in the associated fatty deposits that leads to heart disease.

What could have protected some rabbits against the accumulation of these dangerous fatty deposits? The only difference was traced to a researcher who handled one group of rabbits. She was the only researcher who held, petted, and talked to the rabbits each day. She treated them with kindness and

love!

They repeated the experiment and found again that the animals who received extra kindness and affection did not suffer the adverse effects of their diet!

Kelli Harding, M.D., the author of "The Rabbit Effect: Live Longer, Happier, and Healthier with the Groundbreaking Science of Kindness," wrote, "It turns out the rabbits were just the introduction to a much larger story. I call it the Rabbit Effect."

"When it comes to our health, we've been missing some crucial pieces: hidden factors behind what really makes us healthy," she continued. "Factors like love, friendship, and dignity. The designs of our neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces . . . Ultimately what affects our health in the most meaningful ways has as much to do with how we treat one another, how we live, and how we think about what it means to be human than with anything that happens in the doc-

tor's office."

Even more amazing is that these ties of love, connection, and purpose that bind us to each other affect the health, not only of individuals, but of whole communities, which then ripple out and affect the whole world.

Communities that are aware of each other's well-being and spread acts of kindness and compassion are healthier and live longer, so the small acts of kindness have big effects on many lives!

We encourage community members to read this book and see the potential for ourselves, our families, our neighborhoods, our cities, and our world.

Compassionate Pomona along with our Pomona City Council has proclaimed April 2022 as Acts of Kindness Month. Let us start new kindness practices and develop a kindness mindset that carries over throughout the year.

Notice how good it feels to be kind! When you do, see, or receive

an act of kindness, post a picture or video on social media using #kindnessPomona to raise awareness about the outpouring of kindness in our community!

Not a social media person? E-mail your photo, video or story to Pastor Jan Chase at janhoshin@aol.com throughout the month of April.

aol.com throughout the month of April.

We would like to collect this information citywide!

For more information, visit the Compassionate Pomona web site at [www.compassionatepomona.org](http://www.compassionatepomona.org).

**Pomona group promotes compassion**

**By Dick Bunce, Member  
Compassionate Pomona**

An informal group, consisting of clergy and laity of various faith traditions, school and agency representatives, and community volunteers, has successfully advocated for compassion over the last several years.

The group, called Compassionate Pomona, is convened by Rev. Jan Chase, minister of the Unity Church of Pomona. Members have been guided in part by the International Charter for Compassion, a nonprofit organization that has welcomed almost 500 cities onto its roster.

These cities, including Pomona, agree to make compassion a primary municipal value and

to take strides toward exercising compassion in city policy, community programs, and in the common life of the city.

Pomona has a long history of welcoming and promoting services for families and individuals who live on the margins due to poverty, ill health, ex-felon status, immigration, and other challenges. This civic impulse was given a great boost by a unanimous vote by the Pomona City Council in 2018 to sign on to the Charter for Compassion.

Since then, the Compassionate Pomona group has been instrumental in formation of school enrichment programs, health practices, police-community dialogues, values observances, and

conflict management initiatives.

The group meets regularly to foster planning and support for actions that reflect and promote compassion. According to Rev. Chase, "We bring people out of their organizational silos and work toward a common vision and innovative ways to act on our commitment to compassion."

The city website now lists engaged compassion among the core values of the city. This is more than an aspiration. Compassion is clearly and increasingly integral to the city life of Pomona.

For more information, visit the web site at [www.compassionatepomona.org](http://www.compassionatepomona.org).

**An ice cream tradition from Jalisco lives on in Downtown Pomona!**

It is often impossible for those migrating to another country to bring their traditions with them. But more and more Latinos are starting businesses based on those traditions.

Virginia Villasenor and her children are an example of this – originally from Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, they started their business in Downtown Pomona's Art Walk and worked various

farmer's markets for two years selling funnel cakes.

Now operating out of their own ice cream shop and still making funnel cakes, Delicious Freedom USA, at 310 S. Thomas St., Pomona, proudly boasts they are the only ice cream shop in Downtown Pomona.

And after opening with only six flavors, they already have expanded to 25 different flavors

of 100 percent artisan ice cream.

Just imagine hand churning a garrafa full of ice cream for an hour and 45 minutes. And that nieve de garrafa goes all the way back to its beginnings with the Italians in colonial times and the tradition prevailed in Jalisco.

And the ingredients are 100 percent natural. So, stop in and tell them La Nueva Voz sent you!

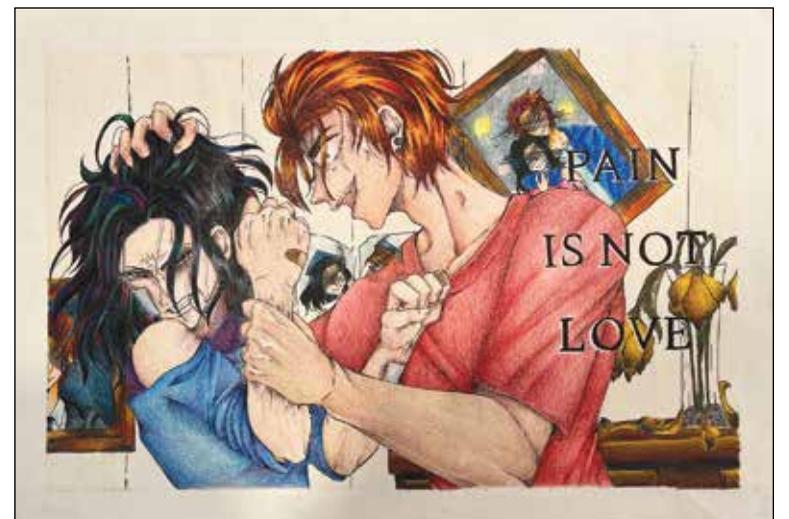


**HOUSE OF RUTH ART SHOWCASE WINNERS**  
— Pomona's House of Ruth celebrated February as "Teen Dating Awareness Month" on the theme "Talk About It." To bring awareness and education about teen dating violence, House of Ruth's prevention team hosted a virtual "8th Annual Awareness through Art Showcase" with local teens submitting their artwork. Pictured is the first-place winner "Let yourself be free," by Jacquelynn Nguyen, a 10th grader.

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Pictured is the second-place winner in the art showcase, "Love is trust, equality, respect," by Yuna Choi, an 11th grader.



The third-place prize in the art competition went to Jasmine Nguyen, an 11th grader, for her work "Pain is not Love." A "community choice" award went to Alondra Herrera, a 12th grader, for her work "We're Here."

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## Lions offering free vision screenings in Chino

The Pomona Host Lions Club and the Chino Valley Lions Club are co-sponsoring a free vision screening next month in Chino.

The event is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 30, at the Chino Community Building, 5443 B Street, Chino.

No identification is required. "Recycled" eyeglasses will be

available at no cost.

The screening will be conducted by California Lions Friends in Sight.

The group also is collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids during the event.

For more information, contact Mike Preston at (909) 573-3600 or mp Preston7@verizon.net.

## Tickets available for Kennedy Austin fundraiser at 'Lassie House'

Tickets are available and donations are welcome for the May 1 Kennedy Austin Foundation Fundraiser "30 years in the Making" – a celebration brunch in honor of Damon J. Jones.

The event is scheduled for

2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, May 1, at the "Lassie House," 1195 Washington Blvd., Pomona.

Tickets are \$100 for adults, \$50 for youth 13 and up, and \$25 for children.

For information, contact ethelgardner2000@yahoo.com.



Photo by Renee Barbee

COVID-19 vaccinations are being offered at mobile vaccination clinics moving around to various schools in Pomona Unified School District to make them convenient, according to Supt. Richard Martinez, to students and families in the community. He said the school district will continue hosting the clinics at various elementary school sites until further notice. Jennifer Francev, the district's director of health services, said the vaccination rate for children ages 5 to 11 in Pomona is at 25.4 percent and for ages 12 to 17 is at 71 percent. Flyers for the mobile clinics are being distributed in the community with details. The clinics are open to district staff, students, families and local residents. Appointments are recommended but not required. Taco trucks are even providing free meals at some locations to the first 100 vaccinated (first dose, second dose or booster). Pictured is Ezquiel Lara, 9, receiving his second vaccination dose last week at Alcott Elementary School.

La Nueva Voz... For ads, call (909) 629-2292

## Pomona Unified parents who 'care about kids' recognized by school district for winning top national honor

Pomona Unified School District parents who have been engaged in a group called "Parent Leads" over the past 15 years were recognized at a special presentation this month in Pomona to celebrate with the parents themselves their group being named one of three top prize winners in the country.

As reported in the Jan. 27 La Nueva Voz, Pomona Unified is receiving a "28th annual 2022 Magna Award Grand Prize" – one of only three top awards nationwide selected by the National School Boards Association from some 20,000 entries.

Pomona Unified's award was the top prize in the country for large school districts with more than 20,000 students.

The actual award for supporting underserved students, which will be presented at the association's national conference on April 3 in San Diego, recognizes Pomona Unified for its innovative parent participation "model" program based on the volunteer parent "leads" group that meets monthly and now involves between 50 and 100 parents representing the district's school sites.

The meetings, now occurring virtually, are held to "educate, promote and inform" the community on matters of importance to students and the schools.

A National School Boards Association news release said the Pomona program has grown to encourage active parental engagement that "builds capacity and develops leadership skills."

"It has led to employment opportunities, created educational avenues for the parents, and increased awareness of educational opportunities for children," the release said.

Also receiving the top award, announced last month, were California's Lowell Joint School District in Whittier, for school districts with fewer than 5,000 students, and Topeka Public Schools in Kansas, for school districts with between 5,000 and 20,000 students.

This month's breakfast presentation, arranged by Pomona Unified and hosted by Pomona's American Museum of Ceramic Art, honored about 80 parents who have been involved in Parent Leads, along with another 45 at-

tendees including school district and school board officials, college partners including Cal Poly Pomona University President Dr. Soraya Coley, who provided a keynote address, along with Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and members of the Pomona City Council and Pomona Police Department including Police Chief Mike Ellis.

The plaque will be displayed at the district's parent center.

Awards competition each year is sponsored by American School Board Journal, the National School Boards Association's flagship magazine.

In addition to the three grand prize winners, 15 "silver award" winners were selected from enrollment categories of under



**RECOGNIZING PARENTS WHO CARE ABOUT KIDS** -- Pomona Unified School District officials -- in the district's first in-person indoor parent event since before the pandemic -- this month recognized about 80 parents who have worked with the school district's "Parent Leads" group over the past 15 years. The school district received one of only three top prizes -- the Magna Award Grand Prize -- awarded in the country and will receive the actual award next month at a conference in San Diego. Pictured presenting an advance certificate for the parents are, from left, Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez; Zoila Savaglio, the district's director of state and federal programs for the district's Educational Services division; Maria Garcia, senior tech assistant for the district's Pupil and Community Services division; Pomona Unified Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman; and Fernando Meza, assistant to the superintendent for facilities and operations in the Planning Division.

Former Pomona Unified Supt. Dr. Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana provided congratulatory comments to the parents over a special telephone connection. Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez told La Nueva Voz she served as superintendent in Pomona from 2006 to 2009 at the time the Parent Leads group was created.

In introducing Dr. Coley to the group, Martinez told her that the Parent Leads participants were there "because they care about kids."

Martinez said the event also marked the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic that parents were welcomed to an event other than outdoor sporting events.

Music was provided by the Garey High School Jazz Band and student volunteer support was provided by Pomona's Village Academy High School.

5,000 students, 5,000 to 20,000 students and over 20,000 students.

This was the fifth year the Magna Awards recognized school districts and their leaders for efforts to provide support to underserved students. An independent panel selected the winners from district submissions.

"The 2022 Magna Award-winning districts represent the enormous efforts of school leaders during the pandemic to continue to remove barriers for their underserved and vulnerable children," said association Executive Director and CEO Dr. John Heim.

The National School Boards Association, founded in 1940 and based in Alexandria, VA, represents locally elected school board officials serving approximately 51 million public school students. It advocates for equity and excellence in public education through school board leadership.

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**Fair Association's Cid Pinedo named CEO  
for Mexican American Opportunity Foundation**

Los Angeles County Fair Association Board member Dr. Cid Pinedo has been named chief executive officer of the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF), one of the largest nonprofits in California, providing social services to more than 125,000 people each year in seven counties.

Pinedo, who replaces Martin Castro who recently retired after 21 years in the position, takes office next month.

He brings to the job more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit, government, academic, business and religious organizations, advocating and serving under-resourced communities, according to a news release.

Most recently, Pinedo served as CEO of the Children's Fund, an organization which serves children experiencing poverty, abuse, and neglect. He previously served as president of the Hope Through Housing Foundation, COO of the National Community Renaissance, and associate superintendent of business services and economic development for Chaffey Community College.

"We are thrilled to have Cid Pinedo at the helm, not only for the breadth of experience and perspective he brings, but also because he embodies the values, heritage,

and history of MAOF," said Board Chair Anita Quinonez Gabrielian. "On behalf of the board and the 875 dedicated employees of MAOF, we are grateful for the incredible legacy that Martin Castro has left and look forward to welcoming Cid as our new CEO."

"As the son of Mexican immigrants and a first-generation college graduate, I feel it is my personal obligation to provide access and support to anyone who lacks the resources to actualize their future story," Pinedo said. "As CEO of MAOF, I am very honored to work with the board, staff and all levels of the community to effectuate transformational change for families in California."

Pinedo received a bachelor's degree from St. John's Seminary College in Camarillo, a doctorate in organizational leadership and management from the University of La Verne, and an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Union Institute and University.

The Mexican American Opportunity Foundation, established in 1963, serves residents of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, San Diego, Ventura, Kern and Monterey Counties. It maintains more than 60 service locations and has an annual budget that exceeds \$160 million.

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