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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. 154

Thursday, May 26, 2022

## LA County Fair celebrates 'Back to our Roots' theme on 100th anniversary

Representatives of the LA County Fair, city and county officials and members of the public lined up this month at the "Yellow Gate" for a ribbon cutting and opening of the Fair's 100th anniversary run – this year the first time it was held in May – and, as confetti rained down on participants and with a "Welcome to the Los Angeles County Fair"

from President and CEO Walter Marquez, a month of excitement, education and fun was open for business.

And you still have time to go – the Fair is open on the theme "Back to our Roots" from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday, May 26, through Monday, May 30.

The change from September to May – in an attempt to hold the



Photo by Renee Barbee

It just seemed so easy on opening day – three, two, one and cut the ribbon and the 100-year anniversary of the LA County Fair was open for business on opening day. But Fair staff worked double time for the past four months to make it all happen. It usually takes a year, but due to the pandemic Fair officials did not receive a green light until only four months out. Pictured, from left, are Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez, Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Los Angeles County Fair Association Board Chair Heidi Hanson, Pomona Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez, also a member of the Fair Association Board, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Holly Mitchell, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, and Roy Sandoval, in the stroller.

## Top Siemens USA executive visits Pomona site of planned \$40 million plant expansion



**SIEMENS POMONA PLANT SLATED FOR \$40 MILLION EXPANSION** -- Siemens USA CEO Barbara Humpton and Congresswoman Norma Torres toured Pomona's Siemens facility this month. The company plans to invest \$40 million in a "greenfield" plant expansion as part of President Biden's "Made in America" agenda. Pictured with plant employees, from left, are Humpton, Torres and plant manager Adam Kastamo.

Congresswoman Norma Torres and the U.S. chief executive officer for Munich-based Siemens this month toured the company's existing 53,000 square foot facility in Pomona where Siemens

plans to invest \$40 million in a plant expansion as part of President Biden's "Made in America" agenda.

Siemens USA CEO Barbara Humpton and Congresswoman Norma Torres visited the Pomona plant expansion... pg. 4

Fair during a cooler time of year to increase attendance – was one of the modifications that came out of a year-long series of brainstorming sessions with the community that resulted in the release in 2018 of a strategic plan for Fairplex.

When La Nueva Voz visited on opening day – which also was "Pomona Day" at the Fair – attendance was low and, as the saying goes, you could have rolled

a bowling ball down the midway without hitting anybody.

But on a second visit on Sunday, May 15, attendance clearly had picked up to near-pre-pandemic levels.

A Fairplex spokesperson said no attendance figures would be released until the end of the Fair.

There was no Fair at all in 2020 and a scaled down version of the Fair was held last year, with selected games, rides and food

booths set up next to the NHRA raceway in the parking lot.

This year, everything was all about 100 years of the Fair – even the baking, jam and table setting competitions were back which, according to a collective La Nueva Voz memory, years ago were in the exhibition hall that now houses the NHRA museum but now were located under the grandstands.

Back to our Roots... pg. 12

PAID ADVERTORIAL

## Tri-City Mental Health launches a loan repayment program for new and current employees

Tri-City Mental Health has launched a Loan Repayment Program to support the dedicated and qualified staff who work together to meet the needs of clients, consumers and community members in Pomona, La Verne and Claremont. Funded through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Workforce Education and Training (WET) Plan, full-time employees who agree to continue to work with Tri-City for an additional 12 months will be able to apply to receive up to \$7,500 toward payment of their educational loans. Through this program, Tri-City Mental Health seeks to recruit and retain the highly qualified behavioral health professionals who support our comprehensive system of care and the diverse communities we serve.



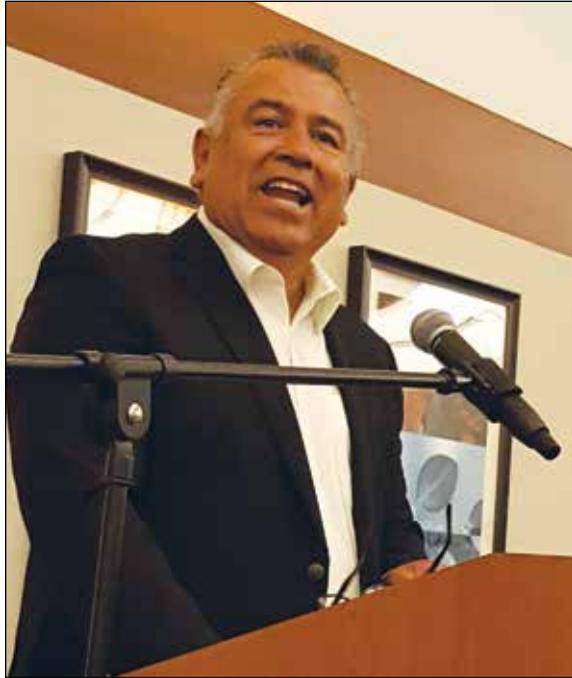
In addition to financial incentive programs, Tri-City provides its workforce with an array of benefits including:

- \$2,500 sign-on bonus
- 80% employer-paid health insurance (medical, dental, vision)
- CalPERS pension and deferred compensation plan
- Flexible scheduling and intermittent telework
- Longevity pay
- Employer-paid short-term disability (STD) and long-term disability (LTD) insurance
- Public loan service forgiveness and much more!

Find the best opportunity for you at Tri-City Mental Health. You can help advance community well-being for all to thrive. To learn more about the positions that Tri-City Mental Health is currently offering, please visit [www.calopps.org/tri-city-mental-health-authority](http://www.calopps.org/tri-city-mental-health-authority).

## Supt. Richard Martinez lists empowering a community, opening doors wide as top accomplishments

Pomona Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez, speaking to 350 friends and colleagues at his retirement “celebration” this month in Pomona, said the one thing he is most proud of in his 13 years in the office was the district’s ability to “empower a community.”



Supt. Richard Martinez

He cited the advice of a former professor who told him the superintendent is the “custodian” of the school district, and that the

superintendent’s job is to “open those doors wide.”

“I believe I did what (he) told me to do,” Martinez said. “You leave your house in a better place than when you came in.”

“I like to believe we have done some wonderful things in this organization,” he added.

“I look at drop out rates, and I look at how many kids are going to college . . . but one thing I have to say when people have asked ‘what are you most proud of,’ I think parent and children and student involvement, what we have done here in this community is empower a community.”

“Our students and parents at PUSD, they’re so special to me – that’s why we’re here,” he said. “They represent strength, they represent resiliency, compassion, care, future, hope, love and inspiration. Those are our parents, those are our kids, that’s what they do for me, they energize me.”

“These are ordinary people with very little means across Pomona, and they do extraordinary things that they don’t even know about . . . and against (all) odds,” he said.

Martinez, speaking at the event at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center, said on June 30 he’ll have to hand the keys to

another leader.

“And there’s a sadness and there’s an excitement because I want to get out of the way for this cabinet,” he said, adding that with Darren Knowles as interim superintendent and Lilia Fuentes as deputy superintendent, “we’re going to go places.”

“We’ve got to take our work seriously and we have to be very intentional with our work and that’s what I tried to do,” Martinez said, adding that he thanks everyone in the room for keeping him “grounded” as the district works to ready its kids to “prepare our world to model the behaviors on a daily basis . . . (so we can ensure) our children carry forward.”

Martinez sounded particularly impressed with the video recorded by his successor, Dr. Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana, who served as assistant secretary of education under President Obama, and who he said has been a friend since 1985.

Speaking from her home in Albuquerque, she wished him a wonderful retirement and cautioned him that at first it will be difficult since he has spent so many years around the district and his staff.

Eventually, she assured him, he will learn to enjoy his time with family and friends.

Martinez said he looks forward to continuing the travels he started with his wife, Elva, although COVID required a respite from all of that.

But he said he wants to travel to places off the beaten path – not necessarily Hawaii but visiting missionaries they’ve supported around the world.

“Visiting friends that are missionaries around the world and seeing what they’re doing and the investment that we’ve been making in the work that they do because they’re sacrificing their lives to help others in third world,” Martinez said. “That’s where I’d like to go.”

He called himself a storyteller and said he finds himself trying to assist, “maybe too much – it’s probably the counselor in me,” pointing out that was the nature of his work at the beginning of his career.

But he said he knows how to “seek out the value and the humor in most everything and everyone I encounter . . . because this work is hard, this work is tough, it’s very emotionally draining, and you have to look for that.”

He thanked everyone – from the teachers to the classified and confidential employees and the superintendent’s cabinet.

“You’re all tenacious leaders and workers and heroes of our departments and school sites,” he said. And, he added, from funerals to the pandemic, “it’s incredible how we come together as a community.”

And he thanked all those who “showed me the way.”

He also expressed appreciation to the Po-

Martinez... pg. 6



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**ASSISTANCE LEAGUE GOLF TOURNAMENT** -- Members of the Assistance League of Pomona Valley held their 22nd annual "Smile with a Child" charity golf tournament this month at Red Hill Country Club in Rancho Cucamonga with proceeds of the sell-out event going to the group's programs. Activities include "Operation School Bell," providing new clothing to school-aged children and their families, and a dental center in Pomona offering children, adults and seniors access to reasonable dental maintenance and care. Pictured at the event are members and board members of the Assistance League, which has served the Pomona Valley for more than 70 years. For more information, visit the web site at alp.org.



**RIDING HIGH?** -- We're not sure who he is or where he was going or, for that matter, exactly what you would call that two-story bicycle he's riding on. But La Nueva Voz was in Downtown Pomona talking to, by coincidence, a cycling friend on a conventional bicycle when this bike happened by. Wonder how the weather is up there (especially since his bike is in the shade down here with the rest of us). There's never a shortage of news photos in Downtown Pomona.

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## Siemens plant expansion... from pg. 1

Humpton met with Torres here after joining Biden in March to announce her company will invest \$54 million in the program nationwide that will create 300 new manufacturing jobs across the country and will help produce low voltage electrical equipment for industrial and commercial installations.

At the time, Humpton told Biden Siemens was actively recruiting for more than 2,400 open jobs nationwide with about a quarter of those positions in manufacturing.

The Pomona expansion, actually a replacement of the existing “legacy” facility, will be constructed on a previously undeveloped portion of the company’s 7.7-acre site in South Pomona, known as a “greenfield” investment (undeveloped parcel in a city or rural area) manufacturing site which, as Torres pointed out, is a focus of the federal government’s program to expand manufacturing in the U.S.

Serving the West Coast, the Pomona facility focuses primarily on low-voltage electrical equipment for industrial and commercial installations such as switchboards and panelboards for data centers and factories. In addition, the new facility will produce “make-ready” power distribution equipment to serve the expanding electric vehicle market.

The Pomona location generated \$81 million in revenue last year and is on track to grow beyond that this year as well, according to plant manager Adam Kastamo’s

comments before the tour in an overview presentation.

He said the expansion project will replace the existing 53,000 square foot facility with a new site estimated to be more than 130,000 square feet, providing more salaried and hourly jobs and more hourly union member jobs.

It is projected to employ more than 250 people, Kastamo said.

“I’m really excited about the new jobs that will be created in this expansion,” Torres said during the briefing. “It’s not surprising to me that two presidents have come to Pomona to promote green energy and co-energy. I’m very happy that President Biden is also engaging in our community and sees the potential here with our residents.”

“Not all Americans understand the importance of the electrical infrastructure that is being manufactured here,” Humpton said. “It is one thing to generate power, it’s another thing to transmit it via high voltage but now how do you get it from medium voltage down to low voltage and out to where it is going to be used.”

She added that the Siemens team in Pomona is working on, for example, the transition to electric vehicles, building equipment like that used by Amazon to electrify their fleet.

“Not only are you partnering with highly professional and highly trained employees . . . but you are also investing here in my home city,” Torres said. “Thank you for that.”

Humpton told Torres, in re-

sponse to her question, that Siemens has been working for more than 20 years in the area of cyber security and was recently invited to the table by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to provide their expertise in talks there. The company employs



Congresswoman Norma Torres, at left, and Siemens USA CEO Barbara Humpton chat during a briefing in a packed Siemens conference room before touring the facility this month.

1,200 cyber experts globally.

Torres told Humpton the \$60 billion federal infrastructure package is just beginning the appropriations process and she invited Humpton to provide her with specifics regarding what Siemens needs from that, adding that she wants to see those jobs here locally.

“I think there are huge opportunities here, lots of warehouse,

the open space that is still fairly affordable for us to grow manufacturing,” Torres said.

Humpton said what the Biden administration proposed and Con-



**VIEWING SITE OF NEW FACILITY** -- Officials touring Pomona’s Siemens facility this month take a look at the unused portion of the company’s 7.7-acre site where a new plant will be constructed. From left are Siemens plant manager Adam Kastamo, Siemens USA CEO Barbara Humpton, Congresswoman Norma Torres and IBEW Union Local 1710 head Amalia Arroyo.

gress passed “is actually the seed funding for a massive transformation of infrastructure.”

“And what the president and his team were celebrating was the fact that a foreign company like Siemens . . . is investing in the U.S. because we see that the future is more electric,” she added. “And so now we have the opportunity. One of the commitments we made

**Siemens plant expansion... pg. 6**

### MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

## Your Voice Matters

People who molest children will use tricks. Teach your child so that they do not fall for it.

#### ADULTS WHO ABUSE CHILDREN MAY:

- Treat them like they are special
- Give presents
- Give attention
- Spend extra time with them
- Lie and be secretive
- Be special to the whole family
- Replace the love the child may be missing
- Get time alone with the child

#### YOU CAN HELP END CHILD ABUSE BY:

- Being present with your kids
- Being open with your own mistakes
- Knowing who your child is with
- Watching for signs of adults who abuse children
- Talking to your kids about the people they spend time with

### Talk to your children!

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

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

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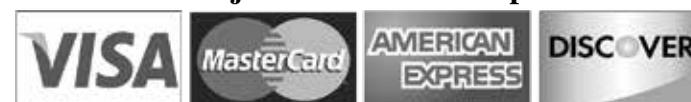
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## Dr. Enrique Medina called role model, man of integrity at retirement event

Pomona's Dr. Enrique Medina, head of Pomona Unified School District's adult school and the San Antonio Regional Occupational Program, was called a role model and a man of integrity with a strong work ethic at his retirement celebration last month at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel.

Pomona adult school principal Miguel Hurtado, master of ceremonies for the event, told 150 colleagues and friends that Medina cares for his work and cares for his community, particularly when it comes to getting people from the classroom to the workplace.

"You've been incredible, you've helped me follow my path of idealism," said Pomona Unified School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman. "You have done so much and there are so many more things we can do so you have made this beautiful foundation for us to help the community."

School board member Arturo Jimenez also thanked Medina for the

work that he did, adding that he was always gracious and "always teaching forward, leading by example, by being a model."

Jimenez commended Medina for the way he "built a team," for his professionalism and for his creation of some 100 certified programs.

And he said Medina was an advocate for kids who wanted to go into the trades.

Pomona Unified School District's Deputy Supt. for Human Resources Darren Knowles thanked Medina's family for sharing his time with the school



Supt. Richard Martinez



Adult School Principal Miguel Hurtado, at left, presents a retirement recognition award to adult school director Dr. Enrique Medina.

district.

"You made a difference in a lot of people's lives," he told Medina, adding that one word that describes him is "innovative."

"He really is a wealth of knowledge, he knows a lot about Pomona, he knows a lot about how Pomona works, he knows how to get things done," Knowles said.

"You are the best, we're going to miss you."

And Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez thanked Medina's mother and his wife for allowing Medina to commit so many years to the kids of the school district.

"He's helped prepare us to advance our education," Martinez said, explaining that Medina worked to advance the district's leadership and teachers just as he did the student body.

Martinez thanked him for his service and said he hopes Medina will stay on as a consultant and "continue . . . to support that next generation . . . to make sure they are in good hands."

"You honor me with your presence," Medina told the group in response to the many accolades.

"Over 30 years ago, I walked into Pomona Unified School District ready to . . . reform the community," Medina said. "I am the one who has been changed."

He said he was able to create programs that are focused on the students and the community.

"I take comfort that I've had

**Man of integrity... pg. 15**

*La Gran Venta*

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Pomona City Council and the community “for extending your hand to ensure that every child in Pomona Unified has the necessary tools to create an environment to foster academic success.”

“It truly takes a village,” Martinez said.

He received certificates before dinner and the ceremonies got under way from State Senators

Supt. of Instructional Services, served as master of ceremonies at the event that was based on the Dr. Seuss theme “The places you’ll go,” emphasizing the importance of choosing the right “captain, a pilot, someone to lead your team.”

“A good pilot knows how to use all of the controls,” she said, adding that it is important not to choose a pilot who has a device,



Members of Mariachi Real Tapatio perform at Supt. Richard Martinez' retirement event.

Connie Leyva and Susan Rubio, as well as Cal Poly University Pomona President Dr. Soraya Coley.

“We’ve been lucky to have you,” Leyva said.

Stephanie Baker, who retired from the school district as Deputy

for example, but one that is not charged.

“Because for your team, then, it won’t be all the places you’ll go, it will be all the places you won’t go, because you won’t be able to get there.”

### Diamond Ranch senior recognized in Music Center teen competition

A student at Pomona’s Diamond Ranch High School was one of 100 talented Southern California students who were named as semifinalists in the Los Angeles Music Center’s 34th annual “Spotlight” program, a free nationally acclaimed performing arts competition and scholarship program for teens.

Senior Gael Saldana, a resident

of Montclair, performed in the jazz instrumental category.

More than 1,300 students from 256 schools in 181 cities auditioned for the program which offers more than \$100,000 in scholarships.

A total of 14 “grand prize” finalists will perform next month at the Music Center’s Ahmanson Theatre.

## Martinez... from pg. 2

Deputy Supt. for Human Resources Darren Knowles, who tag teamed with Baker as master of ceremonies, provided a little background on Martinez out of his personnel file – he came to Pomona Unified in 2001 as administrative director who served as assistant to the superintendent and as public information officer, and he served as assistant superintendent of pupil and community services before becoming superintendent 13 years ago.

He graduated from Garfield High School in East Los Angeles and went to Cal State University Los Angeles before completing his graduate work at National University and the University of La Verne.

Before coming to Pomona, he worked at Irvine Unified and Montebello Unified School Districts, and even served at the Bell Gardens Police Department as a crisis counselor.

Knowles read from his original personal statement in his job application in which he said he was “committed to building up our youth and improving opportunities for them to succeed.”

“After working five years in the police department, I realize that providing prevention and intervention services in a school setting made better sense than wait-



**SUPERINTENDENT'S CABINET** -- Members of Supt. Richard Martinez' cabinet presented the boss with a special recognition award at his retirement celebration. From left are Silvia San Martin, Director of Elementary Education; Deputy Supt. for Human Resources Darren Knowles; Martinez; Monica Principe, Director of Secondary Education; Assistant Supt. of Educational Services Lilia Fuentes; Assistant Supt. - Chief Business Officer Sandra Garcia; and Assistant to the Supt. for Facilities Fernando Meza. Not pictured are Assistant Supt. for Pupil and Community Services Dr. Krystana Walks-Harper and Public Information Officer Oliver Unaka.



Co-masters of ceremonies former Deputy Supt. of Instructional Services Stephanie Baker and Deputy Supt. for Human Resources Darren Knowles take the podium at Supt. Richard Martinez' retirement celebration.

ing for him or her to commit a crime,” the statement continued.

But it was the last sentence that Knowles said “really defines Richard Martinez.”

“He’s going to assist school ad-

ministrators in serving students and he’s going to serve students and families of the Pomona Unified School District, and that’s exactly what he did,” Knowles said.

## Siemens plant expansion... from pg. 4

have been booming.”

“This team has been part of the response to make sure that America keeps ticking,” she said.

Then what does this new \$40 million investment mean specifically for Pomona?

“I think the number one story on here is jobs,” Humpton said in response to a question from La Nueva Voz, “good jobs, with a great relationship with the union. We’re counting on the union to enable this team to deliver on the commitments that are now being made.”

IBEW Union Local 1710 head Amalia Arroyo, based in El Monte, was on hand for the briefing this month.

Biden’s “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” will rebuild America’s roads, bridges and rails, expand access to clean drinking water, ensure every American has access to high-speed internet and more.

Combined with Biden’s “Build

Back Better Framework,” it will add on average 1.5 million jobs per year for the next 10 years, according to the White House web site.

“The investment Siemens is making in American manufacturing, such as the investment in Pomona, will be critical in the successful implementation of projects that are jumpstarted through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding,” Kastamo told La Nueva Voz after the visit.

Siemens, which has 40,000 employees nationwide and more than 300,000 employees globally, is recognized in the United States for innovation, technology and sustainability.

The local facility currently has 145 employees. The existing building was constructed in 1972 and expanded slightly in 1976 before Siemens purchased the property in 1983. It is located at 2420 S. Reservoir St., Pomona.

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## Local Vietnamese Community observes 47th anniversary of Fall of Saigon

Pomona's Dr. Huu Vo, president of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley, presided over the group's 47th annual commemoration of the Fall of Saigon this month in a solemn community event attracting elected officials and area residents of all ethnicities to remember the day in 1975 when Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, was captured by the People's Army of Vietnam and the Viet Cong, falling into enemy hands and marking the end of the Vietnam War.

And as solemn as the day of remembrance is each year, the observance represents hope that those who fled their country one day will be able to return to see their homeland once again.

Dr. Vo was one of more than 120,000 people who fled Vietnam following the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975.

He fled his homeland with the "boat people" in August 1975 to escape communism, and he became a medical doctor here in 1980. He continues to practice in Pomona today.

Guests joined Dr. Vo on stage in the parking lot of Pomona's Hoa Binh Plaza where flags were flown both for the United States and for South Vietnam.

Included were Pomona City

Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Claudia Castaneda, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and others.

"How important it is that you have brought us here to work together with the Vietnamese community because together as partners we can make this community a lot better," said Pomona Police Lt. Manny Ramos, representing Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis. "We are all here together to work as a team in order to make things better."

He repeated a portion of his message in Vietnamese.

"We thank Dr. Vo and the community for inviting us to cover this and attend" in honor of the Vietnamese community, said Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz.

The event included patriotic songs from the old country as emotional reminders of another life in the homeland.



Dr. Huu Vo, president of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley, pictured at center, leads group in song and waving of both the American flag and the flag of South Vietnam at annual ceremonies this month at Pomona's Hoa Binh Plaza commemorating the Fall of Saigon at the end of the Vietnam War.



Guests from throughout the Pomona community were recognized by Dr. Huu Vo, president of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley, during this month's commemoration of the Fall of Saigon. From left are Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; Thich (Reverend) Chon Tri, of the Phap Van Buddhist Temple in Pomona; Dr. Vo; Pomona Police Lt. Manny Ramos, representing the Pomona Police Department; Claudia Castaneda, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz; and Helen Tran, candidate for Mayor of San Bernardino.



Optimist Club Southeast District Gov. M. Joyce Bakersmith, a member of the Pomona Club, at right, speaks to guests at the Optimist annual fundraiser dinner this month at the Pomona Eagles as Pomona Optimist President Lorraine Canales looks on. Proceeds will go to support Optimist programs including a Christmas Shopping Spree for kids, "Tea for the Soul" scholarships and the essay and oratorical contests.



Photo by Renee Barbee

Volunteers working the registration desk at this month's Optimist fundraiser dinner at the Pomona Eagles pose for the La Nueva Voz camera, apparently while taking a look at the latest copy of La Nueva Voz. Pictured, from left, are Ruby Jung, Fernando Meza and Ruth Alvarez.

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Photo by Renee Barbee

**CONGRATULATIONS TO NEIL ARMSTRONG ELEMENTARY!** -- Pomona Unified School District board members and officials joined with staff last week at the district's Armstrong Elementary School in Diamond Bar to congratulate team members on being selected as a 2022 California Pivotal Practice (CAPP) Award recipient, which this year replaces the prestigious California Distinguished Schools Program. The awards were announced last month by State Schools Supt. Tony Thurmond, who lauded the winners "for their creativity, dedication and innovation in the face of adversity." Armstrong Principal Sanita Shropshire told La Nueva Voz that the school's "Armstrong's Virtual Engagement for All" initiative captures the hearts of all of our staff members." She added that during the pandemic the staff "persevered through unforeseen barriers to create an inclusive pivotal practice to continue the strong equitable learning opportunities for all students during distance learning," providing students "access to instruction . . . in the most engaging and supportive ways." Pictured, front row, from left, are Pomona Unified School Board member Arturo Jimenez, Silvia San Martin, Director of Elementary Education, School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman, Armstrong Principal Sanita Shropshire, and former Armstrong Principal Dr. Cynthia Sanchez, now the district's head of educational technology. Back row, from left, are Deputy Supt. for Human Resources Darren Knowles, School Board member Lorena Gonzalez, teacher Shannon Krawiec and Supt. Richard Martinez, along with other Armstrong teachers and paraeducators. Teacher Monica Medina-Jimenez is pictured back row, fifth from right. A total of 727 schools and 121 school districts statewide received the honor this year for their innovative efforts during distance learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the areas of student engagement, distribution of technology, nutrition services and social emotional well-being of students. The California Department of Education is expected to transition back to the California Distinguished Schools Program next year.

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Assemblymember  
Freddie Rodriguez**

The Historical Society of Pomona Valley will hold "An Evening Under the Stars at the Phillips Mansion" next month to honor Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, who organizers said is a staunch supporter of historic preservation.

Special guest at the June 18 "full service, sit-down dinner" complete with entertainment will be State Sen. Susan Rubio.

The event will be held on the lawn at the historic Phillips Mansion, located at 2640 Pomona Blvd., Pomona. Tickets are \$125.

Proceeds will provide general support for the Historical Society.

The mission of the organization is to make the rich and diverse history of the Pomona Valley a meaningful part of people's lives.

For more information or for tickets, visit the web site at [pomonahistorical.org](http://pomonahistorical.org) or call (909) 623-2198.

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We are a State-Licensed and Certified Day Care Program (Community-Based Adult Services or CBAS) located in the City of Montclair offering services to eligible older adults and/or adults with disabilities to restore or maintain their optimal capacity for self-care and to delay or prevent inappropriate or personally undesirable institutionalization.

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Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



**PUSD 'EMERGING ARTISTS' AT THE DA** -- Pomona Unified School District Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman this month reviews a sampling of three walls at Pomona's dA Center for the Arts filled with student artwork in the weeklong 14th Annual Emerging Artists Exhibit. The exhibition showcased both high school art students as well as K-8th grade art lead schools. Victoria Tessier, the school district's visual and performing arts teacher specialist, coordinated more than 250 works of art representing the creativity from each campus in the district. Some 50 special recognition awards were presented to students for their art entries by representatives of the school district and the group Promoting Academic Achievement, a division of Pomona's Promise. In a related program, dA PUSD Family Art Night programs will continue from 6 to 8 p.m. May 27 and June 3, 17 and 24 at the dA, located at 252 S. Main St., Pomona. Family Art Night is free for students in pre-K through 12th grade. For information, call (909) 397-9716 or visit [www.dacenter.org](http://www.dacenter.org). Advance registration is required.

## Juneteenth exhibit in Pomona to commemorate legendary Buffalo Soldiers

A traveling exhibit honoring the Buffalo Soldier to secure and patrol the U.S. border," she said. "With this new discovery, I thought it was vital to recognize not only my grandfather but also the other Black soldiers who fought for our country."

The free exhibit will be on display beginning with entertainment and guest speakers, including descendants of the original Buffalo Soldiers, 11 a.m. Saturday, June 18, at the African American Museum of Beginnings, in the Village at Indian Hill, 1460 E. Holt Ave., Suite 188, Entrance 3.

It will be on display throughout the summer. Pomona's Community Life Commission Chair Donna Jackson-Houston organized the tribute to Buffalo Soldiers in January after discovering that her grandfather, Lucius Franklin Monroe Jackson, was a Buffalo Soldier in the 25th Infantry of the U.S. Army stationed at Camp Little, Arizona.

"Last year I read an article that my grandfather had come to Nogales in 1918 as a Buffalo Soldier to secure and patrol the U.S. border," she said. "With this new discovery, I thought it was vital to recognize not only my grandfather but also the other Black soldiers who fought for our country."

An inaugural tribute was held in Arizona to kick off Black History Month. Jackson-Houston also is founder and president of the Nogales Buffalo Soldiers Legacy Association, which partners with schools and communities throughout the U.S. to educate the public highlighting the accomplishments of a group of soldiers who served patriotically while subjected to oppressive and discriminatory conditions. The Buffalo Soldiers served from 1866 to 1951. Juneteenth is a national holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans.

For more information, visit [www.nogalesbuffalosoldiers.org](http://www.nogalesbuffalosoldiers.org).





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To schedule an appointment, call 909/596-7733, ext 3800.

\*Screenings are not offered on holidays and some holiday weekends.  
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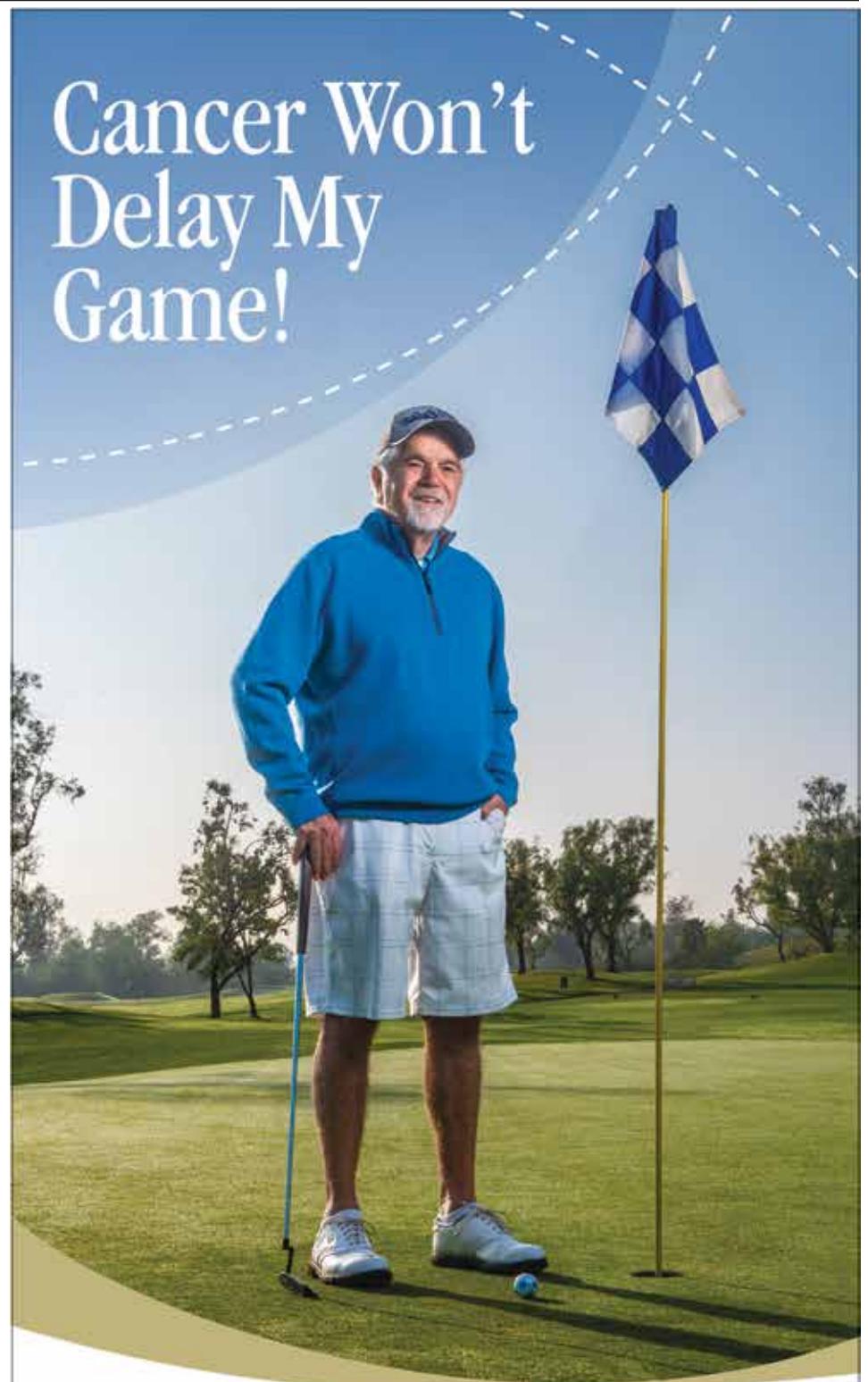
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**Richard** has always led an active lifestyle. You can regularly find him on the local golf course playing 18 holes with his friends. So when he began feeling unwell, he went to the doctor for a routine physical, including a screen for Prostate Cancer. A cancer diagnosis was the last thing he expected.

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## Acts of kindness By Teresa Nunez

Rooted in caring since 1926, Foothill Family is committed to improving the social-emotional well-being of infants, children, youth, and families in the Greater Los Angeles region.

Foothill Family has been providing a variety of social services in Pomona since the 1980s and most recently found a permanent facility which will allow us to expand our early childhood development and youth and family. Throughout the years we have earned a reputation for providing high-quality care which promotes long-term change that starts now and ripples outward into the community and forward through generations.

Our programs include mental health care, early childhood development and parent education, school-based services, and youth and family services including prevention and treatment of child abuse, domestic violence, and elder abuse, as well as services for pregnant and parenting teens. Our core values of dignity, diversity, and empowerment are woven into how we care for and serve the

community, no matter how big or small the need.

Last year, our agency celebrated its 95th anniversary. One of the many ways we celebrated this extraordinary milestone of

95 years was by doing what we do best – being kind and compassionate to others.

Our staff recognized the importance of giving back to their community, so we set the goal

to complete 95 acts of kindness as a team before the year ended. Not only did we achieve our goal – we surpassed it. Some examples of acts of kindness performed were donating blood,

taking clothes and toys to a shelter, providing lunch for homeless people, donating plants to the neighborhood, and leaving notes with positive encouraging

**Acts of kindness... pg. 18**



Photo by Renee Barbee

**FAREWELL AND THANKS TO POMONA'S STATE SEN. CONNIE LEYVA** -- Pomona City Councilmembers, Pomona Unified School District board members, Pomona Public Library supporters, city commissioners, a water board member and others gathered in front of Pomona City Hall last month to give thanks to State Sen. Connie Leyva for her service to Pomona. Redistricting placed Pomona in Sen. Susan Rubio's district and Leyva, who will represent Pomona through the end of the year, is running for fourth district San Bernardino County Supervisor. And even though she's on her way out, Leyva came to the event armed with a \$1.38 million check from the State of California to the City of Pomona to provide, among other things, an "all abilities" playground as a "kids world" center for children in the Pomona Civic Center. Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said construction will begin in either late winter or early spring with a groundbreaking expected within the next 12 months. "We want the residents to be able to come here and be a part of a resource fair, a children's festival, a concert, poetry, dance, you name it . . . and connect with the community," Sandoval said. Leyva told La Nueva Voz the project would "make sure the kids have a safe place to play," adding that she believes "this is so important for the community, it's a great way to start rebuilding our community" after being indoors during the pandemic. Pictured holding the check are Leyva and Sandoval.

## ¿Está buscando comprar su primera casa?

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## Back to our Roots... from pg. 1

“A hundred years ago a group of Pomona merchants looked across a barley and beet field and said, ‘I think we should put a county fair here,’” Marquez told elected officials and community leaders at an opening day reception on top of Picnic Hill, now known simply as “The Hill.”

Marquez, who told visitors he grew up in the area, was born in Pomona and was the son of a Garey High School graduate, said Fairplex now looks forward to the next hundred years “as we celebrate Fairplex here in the City of Pomona.”

“What an exciting time to be celebrating 100 years,” he said. “Everything that makes up Fairplex Pomona has been a part of throughout the entire way.”

And, he added, even without the Fair during the pandemic, Fairplex was used for everything from COVID testing to vaccines to food distributions, a quarantine facility and even an emergency intake site for unaccompanied minors.

### FIRST EVER POET LAUREATE FEST AT FAIR --

Pomona’s own inaugural poet laureate David Judah Oliver moderated the first ever Southern California Poet Laureate panel at the LA County Fair this month in a special event on the patio at the Millard Sheets Gallery. Reading their own poetry at the event in addition to Judah were poet laureates Lynne Thompson of Los Angeles, Natalie Graham of Orange County and Hope Anita Smith of El Segundo. Pictured is Oliver at the microphone reading several of his poems including one from his first book which was published in 2013.



Pictured is one of several Ferris wheels at this year’s LA County Fair -- and this one comes complete with built-in umbrella-like covers.



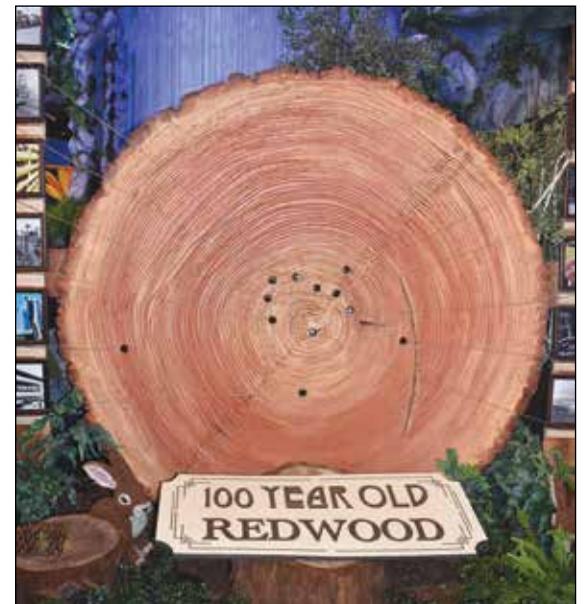
Now here’s the competition we’re talking about -- everything from cookies and candies to brownies. Can somebody let us know how we can sign up to judge this one next year? Hey, just trying to be helpful.

this year’s Fair, which normally comes after a year-long planning effort, was produced in only four months as the world in 2021 was in the middle of the Omicron variant.

Not only was the decision made late to go for it – Fairplex was working with a third of the staff that had been in place in 2019.

He credited his “incredible staff” and a sense of resiliency for making it all possible.

LA County Fair Association Board Chair Heidi Hanson told the group that the Fair – which



We’re guessing most of our readers can find the year they were born on this chunk out of a 100-year-old redwood tree – just count the rings, starting at the center. And it is right there in the center 100 years ago when the first LA County Fair opened for business.

has been home to everything from the Hula Hoop to hotdogs on a stick – has been working for 100 years “for the benefit of the community.”

**Back to our Roots... pg. 13**



This one caught our eye -- an exhibit featuring everything from local citrus crate labels from the old days and, well, a piece of art commemorating the 100 years of the LA County Fair made of oranges, lemons and limes. See it for yourself before the Fair closes in the Flower and Garden Pavilion.



**ORIGINAL ART FROM A TALENTED FAMILY** -- Pictured hanging on the wall inside the Millard Sheets Gallery at Pomona’s Fairplex are two original pieces of art by Brooklyn Swodeck, 16, daughter of Joshua and Chara Swodeck. The two pieces were part of the artist’s “Indian Village” collection which was an attempt to “recognize native people are not only part of our past, but a very real part of our present and our future,” particularly after history books promulgated “cultural erasure within the region,” according to a brief abstract accompanying the exhibit. Brooklyn, whose artwork is produced under the pseudonym Harvey Swodeck, is a student at Pomona’s School of Arts and Enterprise where her dad serves on the board. Brooklyn’s dad also is a member of Pomona’s Cultural Arts Commission, and her mom is vice chair of Pomona’s Historic Preservation Commission.

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

to see the latest issue of La Nueva Voz, past issues and more!

## Back to our Roots... from pg. 12

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Holly Mitchell, who told the group that Los Angeles County is “a county of resilient people,” thanked members of the community for stepping up to the plate “at a time that none of us could have envisioned in 2020.”

She said it was that spirit during the COVID-19 pandemic that “allowed the public space to be used for public good.”

“But now it’s time to get back to Fair activity, it’s time to get back to some corn on the cob and some turkey legs,” Mitchell said. “I look forward to it.”

“The Fair gives Angelenos a unique opportunity to experience our rich culture, to support small business, as an inner-city girl like me to be close to livestock – that was a 5-year-old experience, I smelled pigs probably for the first time – an important opportunity for Angelenos to come together and find fellowship and be outside and breathe air and just enjoy each other’s company,” Mitchell added. “That’s what makes it so special.”

Pomona Valley Hospital Medi-



That classic LA County Fair competition under the grandstands this year also included the table-setting competition, with everything from doll theme to a “family garden dinner” theme.



cal Center sponsored Pomona Day at the Fair, along with the Flower and Garden Pavilion.

“Our relationship with the Fair is incredibly important to all of

us,” said hospital Vice President of Administration Leigh Cornell, who said the hospital itself is celebrating its 119th year and has partnered with the Fair for the

past 100 years.

“This asset, this organization that’s been here . . . for 100 years . . . has been essential to the development and well-being of the



Fairplex President and CEO  
Walter Marquez



LA County Fair Association  
Board Chair Heidi Hanson

City of Pomona,” said Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval.

And from the way things looked to La Nueva Voz, the Fair is continuing to make a contribu-

**Back to our Roots... pg. 17**

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**POMONA OPTIMIST STUDENTS OF THE MONTH** -- Members of the Pomona Optimist Club have announced their four "students of the month" for the months of February and March, this time all from Pomona Unified School District's Pantera Elementary School in Diamond Bar. Pictured from left, all with Principal Dr. Lacey Lemus, are Audrey Cho, 6th grade; Kaelyn Lam, 4th grade; and Allison Teo, 3rd grade. Not pictured is Kayla Fang, 5th grade.

## Damon Jones, whose death inspired Kennedy Austin Foundation, was family protector, best friend

Damon Jermain Jones, who died in an automobile accident at the age of 17 in 1992, was his cousins' protector and best friend, according to Ebony Robinson, of Orange County, who spoke this month at an event that filled the back patio at Pomona's Lassie House.

"We all grew up together," she said. "Auntie (Damon's mom, Pomona's Ethel Gardner, Executive Director of the Kennedy Austin Foundation) is like my second mom."

"There are people here who were there that day that we found out that Damon passed away and I can remember it like it was yesterday – it was devastating," Robinson said.

"Everyone has spoken about feelings and just growth," she



**Ethel Gardner**

added. "But if it wasn't for the people in this room . . . some of the faces that I see . . . I don't know how we all would have got through it."

"I believe in community, this is community, this is what community is all about, my aunt stands for community," said Robinson, one of several speakers at the event, adding that she was grateful for all of them.

The event, a fundraiser on the theme "30 years in the Making," was a celebration brunch in honor of Damon.

Gardner founded the Kennedy



**Ebony Robinson**

Austin Foundation in his memory to serve communities with mental health and crisis intervention services, working to educate, equip and empower families and mothers who have suffered the loss of a child.

"I am so inspired today to be able to stand before you all," Gardner said, adding that she also was humbled "because 30 years ago today is Damon's actual birthday, May 1."

"I remember when he was born – I was in a terrible relationship with his father," she said. "And when they told me that the baby

was a boy, I didn't want to see him for four days."

"I was so angry that I'd allow a person to dominate my life, and when I looked at my son, he looked at me with these beautiful little eyes," and she realized it was not fair to believe that all males were bad because of one person.

She finally picked up her child for the first time after three days, she said.

"When our eyes connected, there was such a connection between him and I, he knew me . . . and I knew him," she said, adding

that Damon was "such a humanitarian" and "to me he was born way before his time."

"I operated the majority of my life out of pain . . . out of hurt, out of trauma, out of devastation, because I had no idea who I was," Gardner said. "But when this little kid started growing up and this unconditional love that he showed me made me connect that not only to my children but to myself."

"And that's when I started learning how to love," she said, while before that, she was simply protecting her children from men.

"It opened up my heart, it opened up my soul," Gardner said, adding that she was able to learn how to laugh again and enjoy life again.

And today, "that is my mandate, to preach unconditional love," she said, using "the broken pieces" of her life for the good of the community.

She urged others to do the same, "because you all have something great to bring to this earth."

Damon died in a single-car rollover on his way home from a weekend trip in Lake Havasu. Gardner founded her first group a year later.

For more information, contact [ethelgardner2000@yahoo.com](mailto:ethelgardner2000@yahoo.com).

### La Nueva Voz...



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**POMONA OPTIMIST STUDENTS OF THE MONTH AT RANCH HILLS** -- Members of the Pomona Optimist Club have announced their four "students of the month" for the months of April and May, this time all from Pomona Unified School District's Ranch Hills Elementary School in Phillips Ranch. Pictured from left, with Principal Todd Riffell and Pomona City Councilmember Steve Lustro, are Liliana Juarez and Samuel Santos, and with Riffell and Optimist Club Southeast District Gov. M. Joyce Bakersmith, a member of the Pomona club, are Zachary Kung and Micah Palasek.

## Man of integrity... from pg. 5

a hand in making it the district that it is today," Medina said, "just as you all had a hand in making me the man I am today."

And he had a little advice for his colleagues, as well.

"What you do matters, who you are matters," he said. "You may not change the world but you bring your own special uniqueness to the table and you are the only one who can do that."



Pictured are Pomona Unified School Board Chair Dr. Roberta Perlman, at left, and Board member Arturo Jimenez.



Deputy Supt. Darren Knowles



**KID ZORRO AT THE POMONA LIBRARY** -- The Pomona Public Library celebrated Dia de los Ninos this month with a bilingual "Kid Zorro" puppet show on the Civic Center Plaza in front of the library. Plus the kids got to create their own puppets after the show. The program was supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered in California by the State Librarian.

## Community 'ZOOM' sessions to study 'Rabbit Effect' on emotions

A community "ZOOM" study of "The Rabbit Effect" of how emotions have an impact on our bodies will continue online this month and next as part of a partnership between Compassionate Pomona and the Pomona Public Library Foundation.

ZOOM sessions are scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursdays May 26 and June 9. Visit the Pomona Public Library Foundation Facebook page for the ZOOM link.

The book "The Rabbit Effect" by physician Dr. Kelli Harding shows how the effects of emo-

tions can be harnessed and best used to improve the quality of life and health in the community.

The concept is based on Harding's work as a young physician in training when she was puzzled to find some people who felt, looked and acted "sick" but had no diagnosable illnesses, and others who had been diagnosed with serious illnesses but were functioning well.

When she asked a mentor physician about this, he attributed it to "the rabbit studies."

Those studies started in 1978

with a group of researchers examining the physical effects of high fat diets.

Researchers were feeding high fat diets to male New Zealand white rabbits, which develop heart disease over time on such a diet, just like humans.

While all the rabbits developed high cholesterol during the study, one group had 60 percent less arterial fatty deposits than the others.

It turned out that one group had been cared for by a research as-

'ZOOM' sessions... pg. 16




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## Putting your best foot forward with diabetes care

By Martin Johnson, MD, MPH Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

One of the first questions I ask a patient with a diabetic foot wound is: Do you like having feet?

It's blunt but it gets their attention. And it should. According to the nonprofit Amputee Coalition, 85 percent of lower-limb amputations begin with one of these pesky wounds. Diabetic foot ulcers heal slowly and are prone to infection, mostly due to neuropathy, or loss of sensation in the feet. Diabetes not only causes the numbness that prevents you from feeling these wounds worsen – it also throws the autonomic nervous system out of whack, so your feet generate less oil and sweat. They become more prone to cracking and, hence, problematic wounds. It's a vicious cycle that affects most diabetics.

All told, diabetes contributes to 80 percent of the 120,000 non-

### 'ZOOM' sessions... from pg. 15

assistant who didn't just feed them but also took time to talk to them and pet and cuddle them.

The study was repeated under the same conditions, the results were the same and the term "The Rabbit Effect" (and a book by the same name written by Harding) became part of the literature.

### P3 parent workshops to help parents deal with issues of teenaged kids

The Partnership for a Positive Pomona (P3) has scheduled a series of parent workshops to help parents learn how to strengthen communication with teens, learn how to talk to them, and share their concerns about alcohol, marijuana and opioids.

The three Wednesday workshops, all from 6 to 7 p.m., are being held on the theme "Popsicles with P3," and participants will receive a free popsicle.

Topic of the June 1 workshop is MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Presents: Power of the Parents. On June 8, the topic will be Marijuana in Pomona. And the June 15 program will be "Prescription Medicine with Free Naloxone (opioid overdose medication) Training."

All workshops will be held at Delicious Freedom, 301 S. Thomas St., Pomona.

traumatic amputations performed annually in the U.S. About half of individuals who lose a limb due to diabetes will have the other limb amputated within two years. Even scarier is the five-year mortality rate for diabetic lower-limb amputees, which averages above 50 percent – second only to rates for pancreatic and lung cancers.

So obviously, if you have diabetes, you need to care for your feet! Quitting smoking, eating healthy, and exercising will help to maximize circulation to your feet and minimize further nerve damage. Keeping your blood pressure, cholesterol, and body weight in check will increase your net benefit here.

But you can be even more proactive. Self-administered diabetic foot exams are easy and quick – just ask your doctor how to perform one. Healthcare providers like Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare also offer free monthly foot health screenings. You might consider requesting referral to a podiatrist, who can further evaluate your feet. Keeping your feet clean and moisturized, your toenails trimmed, and wearing well-fitting shoes also are great ways to protect your feet.

If you develop a foot ulcer, don't panic. Ask your doctor for



Dr. Martin Johnson

referral to a physician specializing in wound care. This doctor may prescribe certain dressings – such as a podiatric felt pad or total-contact cast – that relieve pressure off the wound. Relieving that pressure allows new blood vessels to develop and new tissue to form, which in turn allows for wound closure.

As always, the ideal approach is preventing that wound before it happens! Stay proactive with your diabetes care and see a healthcare provider at the first sign of a foot wound – your feet will thank you.

*Editor's Note: Dr. Martin Johnson is based in the Limb Preservation Program of the Hyperbaric Medicine and Wound Care Center at Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare. Casa Colina hosts free monthly foot health screenings at both its Pomona and Azusa locations. For patients who require medical care for a foot wound, the Casa Colina Limb Preservation Program offers comprehensive services including podiatric surgery, wound care, diagnostic imaging, hyperbaric and physical therapies, and state-of-the-art services. To register for a screening, or for more information, call (909) 596-7733, ext. 3039.*



Alejandro Gonzalez Arias, an owner of Pomona's Mi Havana Cigars, was hard at work this month rolling cigars by hand and then handing them out to chamber of commerce members at a Multi-Chamber Mixer at The Derby Room at Fairplex to kick off the LA County Fair. Nearly 300 chamber members from the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and surrounding chambers attended the event.

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

**Feeding the Hungry,  
Sheltering the Homeless**  
Grocery Distribution at  
209 W. Pearl St.  
Pomona  
  
Volunteering: 909-622-3806  
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

### 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
- 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



### 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)

footsteps2brilliance

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

## Back to our Roots... from pg. 13

tion here.

So go ahead, get out there for the last few days, hop on the Sky Ride across the top of the Fair, enjoy a turkey leg or a lemonade – made from fresh cane sugar carved out of a piece of sugar cane while you wait – and take a step back in time for the thrill of a century-old piece of Americana.



Opening day at the LA County Fair this year was Pomona Day, as always, but this year for the first time ever it happened to fall on Cinco de Mayo. Pictured is a group of all female mariachis performing at the ribbon cutting to officially open the fair. They played again on The Hill at an opening day reception for elected officials and community leaders.



Hey, kids, it's not the LA County Fair without a funhouse, right?



Los Angeles County Supervisors Chair Holly Mitchell

There are games at the LA County Fair and where you find games you'll find prizes, including these huge stuffed animals just waiting for somebody to sink a few basketballs.



Leigh Cornell  
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center



Pomona Mayor  
Tim Sandoval



We just had to include this picture of jalapenos and onions on the grill.



Biggy's was hard at work making their half pound burgers on opening day. And there's just something special about being able to walk up and watch it all being put together before your eyes.



Here's another "back to our roots" moment -- the jam competition at the LA County Fair. Oh, and Desiree Hickam of Pomona won twice for first place/best of class (fig jam) and again for second place (plum jam).



Theme of the LA County Fair this year on its 100th anniversary is "Back to our Roots." And how better to go back to our roots than by exhibiting winners of the baked goods competition in a special viewing location under the grandstand?

### COMMENTARY THROUGH POETRY

## No One Can Breathe

This world has gone mad! It's not about the color of this corruptible skin we are in. It's not about race! It's about running the race. It is about leaving this world a better place. It's about grace.

It's not about things long past. It's about memorable things that last. Leave those lost souls in the past – in the dark domain where they chose to remain. Let go of the chains!

Don't run into the fire like sheep. Reach for the heavens instead! Look to the stars where all things are made new!

Time is quickly fading away! It is being torn from our grasp! We have one last gasp left to save us from this darkness surrounding

our souls. Let's not live like we are mere pieces of trash.

It is time to climb up out of the mire. Put out the fire! Let us use our precious, short lives to inspire!

Hold onto what's greater than hate! Hold on to love and each other! Look around and see that now no one can breathe!!

Stop killing each other! Let's reach for the heavens instead!! Let go of the chains! This isn't what the Almighty ordained!

This journey we are on is about loving each other no matter how different we are! We are all one. We are beautiful souls – we are God's delicate creatures. We are a garden of flowers here only for a

season. We will all quickly wither away – like dust we will wither away . . .

There is no time left to waste! Look around and see that now no one can breathe! STOP the destruction. Stop tearing each other apart! Let go of the chains before it's too late.

Let go of the poison that's destroying us all! The world has gone mad! How much more can we bear? The skies weep for us all, as we drown in the rivers of death and despair . . .

One died for us all, but today many innocents die! For what?!

Look around and see that now no one can breathe!

Susie Perales



**LIQUIDATION STORE GRAND OPENING** -- Representatives of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and Pomona city officials helped cut the ribbon this month at the grand opening of Carlisle Essentials, a new liquidation store located at 742 E. Holt Ave., Pomona (at San Antonio Avenue). The store features prime overstock deals from top retailers including Amazon, Target, Walmart and others -- everything from electronics and furniture to home decor and kitchen appliances. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee; Jenny Macias representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares; Kaila London, whose sister owns the new shop; Velvet Rice, the owner's mom; store owner LaShara Carlisle; Patrick Carlisle; Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; Jacqueline Elizalde, representing Congresswoman Norma Torres; and Pomona Chamber Ambassador Angie Leyva.

### Acts of kindness... from pg. 11

messages in random places like park or bus benches, just to name a few.

These are just some of the examples that represent the values that we at Foothill Family embody. Now, as we expand our services to Pomona, we want to be part of the work Compassionate Pomona has embarked on to serve the community.

Foothill Family is committed to working with our community partners, parents and childcare providers to not only support young children to develop their minds to learn, to think creatively and problem solve, but also to nurture their hearts to grow the ability to feel empa-

Acts of kindness... pg. 19

## Services pending for Pomona Post 30 American Legion Auxiliary Past President Vicki Grillot

Past president, treasurer and secretary of Pomona's American Legion Post 30 Auxiliary Vicki Gail Grillot died last week in Rancho Cucamonga following an illness of several months. She was 76.

A resident of Lucerne Valley, she was living at Kindred Hospital in Rancho Cucamonga at the time of her death.

Grillot and her late husband, John Grillot, a former Post 30 Commander, were active for more than 30 years in all American Legion activities here. She continued to drive to Pomona for American Legion events, volunteering for food give-aways and more, following her husband's death in 2019.

A loving wife, mother and grandmother, she was born on Sept. 15, 1945, in San Diego to Walter and Kathryn Camp.

She graduated from El Cajon High School in 1963 and continued her education at San Diego State University.

Grillot married her high school sweetheart John in 1966. They were married for 53 years.

She retired from Savon Pharmacy in 2012.

Grillot had a passion for cross-stitch

and needlework and was an avid reader.

Her husband was a Vietnam War veteran, and she devoted many hours supporting veterans -- from collecting blankets and slippers for veterans' homes to organizing fundraisers.

Known as the family historian, she enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren recounting stories of her life and her heritage.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, and granddaughter Danielle.

Grillot is survived by her daughter Jill Webster and son-in-law Larry of Hesperia, grandchildren Trevor, Bridget, Courtney, Landon and David, and great granddaughter Hennessey Rose.

She also is survived by her sister Sherrill Randazzo and her husband Alfred, nieces Jodie Harris and Lisa Gabaldon and nephew Steven Randazzo, along with great nieces and nephews and many cousins.

A celebration of life will be scheduled in coming weeks. Grillot will be interred with her husband at Riverside National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in her name to a local animal shelter or rescue organization.



Vicki Gail Grillot



Cal Poly Photo by Tom Zasadzinski

**CAL POLY'S FIRST IN-PERSON ON CAMPUS COMMENCEMENT IN TWO YEARS** -- More than 7,200 members of the Class of 2022 at Cal Poly University Pomona -- and about 1,000 graduates from summer and fall 2021 -- walked across a traditional stage on campus in 12 commencement ceremonies in the University Quad this month after a two-year break. Last year's graduation was a "drive in" series of ceremonies for both the class of 2021 and 2020 in Pomona's Fairplex parking lot because of the pandemic. Pictured are Collins College of Hospitality Management students at ceremonies last week.

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## Cal Poly team receives ‘Climate Champions’ grant from Gas Company

A research team at Cal Poly University Pomona has received a \$40,000 “Climate Champions Initiative” grant from Southern California Gas Company in connection with new green technology being developed by Cal Poly Professor Reza Baghaei Lakeh and his students.

The team has developed an in-

novative low-cost thermal energy storage system using repurposed desalination waste salt for applications ranging from grid-scale energy storage to solar and geothermal applications.

The technology would provide solutions to two environmental challenges – the need for low-

cost energy storage for intermittent power generation such as solar and wind, and improved disposal of desalination concentrate.

“Thermal energy storage and desalination are both growing markets, both in the U.S. and globally,” said Lakeh, an asso-

ciate professor of mechanical engineering. “If our technology scales up and succeeds, we will be able to use a significant amount of desalination waste salt and prevent the release of a hazardous material to the environment while reducing the cost of both thermal energy storage

... and the cost of concentrate disposal for in-land desalination plants.”

Twenty undergraduate students and five graduate students are working on the project in which they next will design, fabricate and conduct a field test demonstration system.

## Acts of kindness... from pg. 18

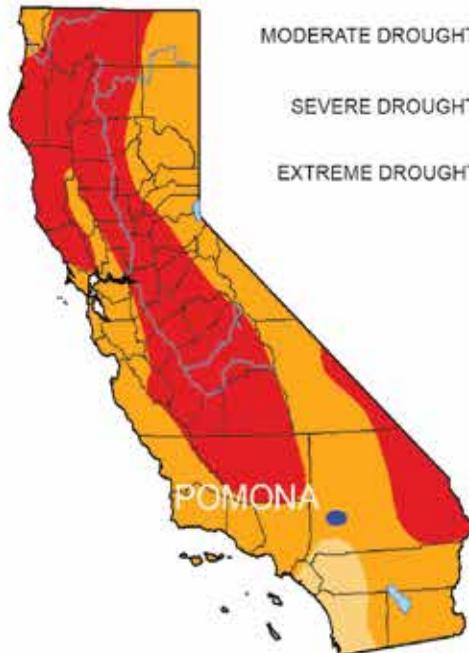
thy and compassion and see the humanity in others.

By modeling a caring culture for the generations to come, our communities will bear the fruit of healthier, longer, and thriving lives and sow the seeds of peace and kindness counter to the violence and pain that we so often see in the news today.

*Editor’s Note: The above article is part of a continuing series written and submitted by members of Compassionate Pomona. Teresa Nunez is manager of early childhood education and mental health at Foothill Family Early Head Start.*



**COUNTY AWARDS POMONA VALLEY HOSPITAL GRANT TO SERVE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE** -- Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, county officials and staff members of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center held a news conference this month in front of the Robert and Beverly Lewis Outpatient Pavilion to announce the hospital has been awarded a \$150,000 grant to enable the hospital to provide 24-hour response for assault related recovery services for victims of violence. Joining Solis at the news conference were Los Angeles County Department of Public Health officials, hospital officials and the county’s violence prevention partner Southern California Crossroads. The grant is part of the county’s \$25 million investment in violence prevention -- \$5 million in county funding and \$20 million through the American Rescue Plan. Solis is pictured fourth from right. The grant will fund hospital violence intervention programs and provide case management for victims of trauma using new specialized personnel.



**We are in the depths of an historic three-year drought in Southern California.**

**Import water supplies are constrained and local storage levels are well below normal.**

**Let’s continue to SAVE WATER!**

- ◆ Reduce outdoor usage 20-30%
- ◆ Consider installing drought tolerant landscapes
- ◆ Do not hose down sidewalks or driveways

### Three Valleys serves the following areas and agencies:

Azusa, Boy Scouts of America-Firestone Reservation, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, City of Industry, Claremont, Covina, Covina Irrigating Co., Diamond Bar, Glendora, Golden State Water Co., Hacienda Heights, La Puente, La Verne, Mount San Antonio College, Pomona, Pomona-Walnut-Rowland Joint Water Line Commission, Rowland Heights, Rowland Water District, San Dimas, Suburban Water Systems, Valencia Heights Water Co., Walnut, Walnut Valley Water District and West Covina

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# CONGRATULATIONS

## CLASS OF 2022



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