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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. 164

Thursday, March 23, 2023

Harriet Tubman statue unveiled in Lincoln Park

The new statue of American icon and abolitionist Harriet Tubman during a brief break in the rain was unveiled in the middle of Pomona's Lincoln Park this month for the second time – and this time it's there for good.

"I'm thankful for this moment," said Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval. "I'm also mindful of the times that we live in – there is still hatred, there is still frustration, there is still exploitation,

and particularly our African-American community continues to face very real challenges across this country."

"So, while we celebrate and honor the resistance against slavery we have to remind ourselves...and remain optimistic that the fight for freedom is not finished," Sandoval said.

"This park never would have been named Harriet Tubman Park

Tubman statue unveiled... pg. 5



UNVEILING STATUE IN LINCOLN PARK -- An official unveiling of the new Harriet Tubman statue in Pomona's Lincoln Park was held this month. Pictured unveiling the statue, from left, are Ray Adamyk, who funded most of the project; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; former Pomona Poet Laureate David Judah Oliver, at rear; Manuelita Brown, who sculpted the statue; Pomona Valley Branch NAACP President Jeanette Royston; Chara Swodeck, of Pomona's African American Advisory Alliance; and Khalif Rasshan founder and curator of Pomona's African-American Museum of Beginnings.

'Read Across America' spreads across Pomona

It was "Read Across America" day in Pomona this month – actually spread out over several days – with everybody – from Pomona Unified School District schools to the Pomona Public Library – getting involved in a "reading challenge" as part of the national celebration of the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss.

Retired teachers, current teachers, school board members and others were on hand, especially at elementary schools like Ranch Hills, Decker and Alcott.

And over at the city's library, kids, parents and even members of the library's

Read Across America... pg. 4



GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT OF DR. SEUSS -- Pomona's Ranch Hills Elementary School Principal Ashley Hedrick with kindergarten student Bradyn Sebestyen, 6, were all decked out in the spirit of "The Cat in the Hat" this month as Ranch Hills and the rest of Pomona participated in "Read Across America" day to celebrate the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss and to promote the love of reading.

La Nueva Voz launches three new features!

Three new features have been launched by La Nueva Voz – a Spanish language news page, statewide classified ads, and free on-line Pomona Police Department arrest logs.

Perhaps the most exciting of the three is the full page of Span-

ish language summaries of content included in each issue.

The first all-Spanish page appears this month on page 20 and was prompted by numerous requests in recent years. Translation is by La Nueva Voz designer and translator Dora Cruz.

We're calling it "Only one page!" based on the request in those exact words of one of our regular readers at Pomona's Washington Park Community Center.

In addition, for the second

New features... pg. 12



SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 29, 2023

Inaugural Youth Wellness Symposium

A HAPPY ME, A HAPPY WE: LEARN TO THRIVE

Free Event • Raffle Giveaways • Mental Health & Wellness • Free Food

Tri-City Mental Health Authority, in partnership with Pomona Youth Prevention Council (PYPC) and local community partners, will be hosting a Youth Wellness Symposium, "A Happy Me, A Happy We: Learn to Thrive" on Saturday, April 29, 2023 (8:30 a.m. registration and 9:00 a.m. start time). Hosted at the Western University of Health Sciences, this free half-day symposium will provide a safe and supportive space to empower youth and young adults ages 12 to 18 in Pomona, Claremont and La Verne to develop and identify sustainable wellness practices and knowledge to thrive in their respective life paths.

Through hands-on workshops and interactive peer-led activities, we hope this event empowers young people to become self-advocates and provides them the necessary resources to increase their ability to navigate social, mental, and emotional barriers that may arise during their lives.

For symposium information and how to register:
Brittany Nguyễn, bnguyen@tricitymhs.org





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Mandarin DLI Program:

Pantera Elementary (909) 397-4475



Read Across America... from pg. 1

Board of Trustees came out to participate in an entire Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash featuring everything from a magic show to a book give-away and treats.

Officials at the California Teachers Association perhaps said it best in a news release, describing California's 25th annual "Read Across America" as an opportunity for educators, students and parents to promote literacy and the love of reading.

Even CTA President E. Toby Boyd took time out to read to students at Tahoe Elementary School in Sacramento after the special day was officially recognized by both the State Senate and Assembly through resolutions honoring the event and promoting an appre-

ciation of reading.

"Reading is a gift that lasts a lifetime," Boyd said. "When children see successful adults reading to them, our hope is that they too see reading as a way to cultivate leadership."

Many educators were reading books from "California Reads," teacher-recommended books for

Read Across America... pg. 6



POMONA POLICE DEPARTMENT PITCHES IN -- Need readers to help celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday? Who are you going to call? Why, the gang from Pomona Police Department is there to help out at Alcott Elementary School this month. From left are Principal Philip Herrera, dispatcher Michael Medina, Corporal Angela Torres, Lt. Alyssa Bostrom, Chaplain Jacky Dennis and Assistant Principal Catherine McKay. Not pictured is Officer Michael Varnum who also was on hand to read to the kids.



ENTIRE SCHOOL GETTING INTO THE ACT -- Pretty much the entire school got involved in helping out with reading to the kids this month on "Read Across America" day at Alcott Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are Principal Philip Herrera, Pomona Unified School District PTA liaison Mary Lopez, Pomona Unified School District family case worker Emily Miranda, PUSD parent lead volunteer Jeannette Molina, Assistant Principal Catherine McKay, and Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman.



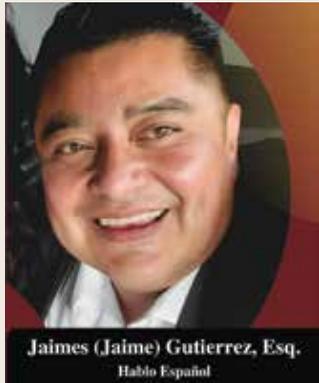
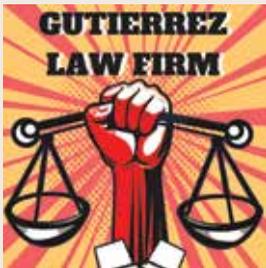
'READ ACROSS AMERICA' AT ALCOTT ELEMENTARY -- Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, at rear, center, reads a little Dr. Seuss to the kids in Sergio Uribe's fourth grade class at Pomona's Alcott Elementary School, one of several schools she was able to visit for this year's "Read Across America" day.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH -- Optimist Club of Pomona "Students of the Month" for December and January -- all from Pomona's Philadelphia Elementary School -- were honored last month at Metro Ale House in Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Vice Principal Stacy King, January awardee Alessandra Lanuza, sixth grade; Principal Susan Shaw; Javier Daniel, fifth grade, also a January awardee; Pomona Unified School Board member Arturo Jimenez; Sophia German-Cuevas, first grade, December awardee; Pomona Unified Interim Supt. Darren Knowles; and Optimist President Lorraine Canales. Not pictured was Jose Arana, second grade, a December awardee.

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Photo by Renee Barbee

Tubman statue unveiled... from pg. 1

when this city was first founded and yet we stand here today in the year 2023 and we can say that the City of Pomona has come a long way . . . but there's more work to be done," Sandoval added.

He explained he started a conversation with Pomona's Ray Adamyk soon after the murder in 2020 of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis.

"While we do face challenging times, I can tell you in the City of Pomona there are a lot of people who are working incredibly hard (to change that but) our work is not done," he said.

Sculptor of the piece Manuelita Brown told an audience of about 200, some of whom marched to the event from Downtown Pomona, that she hopes viewers of the statue will see "an unwavering figure moving forward with an invitation to follow her" as "the emancipator and abolitionist . . . the Union Army cook and



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval



Sculptor Manuelita Brown

nurse or the scout and spy behind enemy lines" who liberated more than 750 enslaved people at the time of the nation's Civil War.

Chara Swodeck, of Pomona's African American Advisory Alliance, called the statue "lifelike." "It's the size of us, it's attainable," she said.

"I love that there is the realism of Harriet Tubman that brings to it something tangible for everyone to attain to, someone to look up to," Swodeck said.

She called it "a phenomenal legacy to be here in this park, so close to so many of our schools." "There's a story to tell, there's a life to be honored, and I'm grateful to be part of that," she said.

Her organization partnered with Adamyk on what was billed Tubman statue unveiled... pg. 6



Trudy Coleman, organizer of "Juneteenth" activities each year in Pomona, takes a moment to admire the new Harriet Tubman statue after the unveiling ceremonies.



Former Pomona Poet Laureate David Judah Oliver



Chara Swodeck



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Notice of Public Hearing of the Mental Health Commission

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- Share your input about the MHSA 3-Year Program and Expenditure Plan Fiscal Year 2023-24 - 2025-26
- Aprenda sobre los programas fundados por la Ley de Servicios de Salud Mental (MHSA, por sus siglas en inglés)
- Comparta sus comentarios sobre el Plan de gastos y programa trienal conforme MHSA para los años fiscales 2023-24 - 2025-26



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Read Across America... from pg. 4

all age groups. The CTA web site includes lists of the books and tips on how to make children better readers in eight languages.

In Pomona, many of the books selected for reading were from Dr. Seuss himself, and many of the students – and their teachers – were dressed as Seuss characters in books like “The Cat in the Hat” and others.

American author and cartoonist Theodor Seuss Geisel (1904 - 1991) is known for his work writing and illustrating more than 60 books under the pen name Dr. Seuss.



Volunteers helping celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday at Pomona Public Library included, from left, Omar Shilleh, Abulfazi Rizvi and Lana Kasfy.



'CAT IN THE HAT' ALL OVER THE PLACE! -- And it really was all over the place this month in Christina Garcia's first grade classroom at Pomona's Decker Elementary School. Pictured with a whole lot of students wearing 'Cat in the Hat' hats are Garcia (foreground) and intervention teacher Jacque Liberto wearing, yep, another 'Cat in the Hat' hat.

Photos by Renee Barbee
Magician Abbit the Average performs a few tricks outside the Pomona Public Library during the library's celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday.

Tubman statue unveiled... from pg. 5

Pomona Chamber to hold annual 'Legislative Luncheon'

Tickets are on sale for next month's Pomona Chamber of Commerce annual "Legislative Luncheon," featuring scheduled speakers Congresswoman Norma Torres, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval.

Program moderator will be Chamber Executive Board member Josh

Landis. Questions will focus on issues impacting the local community.

The event is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 6, in the Fairplex Derby Room outdoor arena.

Tickets are \$100 for members and \$125 for non-members.

Sponsorships are still available.

For information, e-mail info@pomonachamber.org or call (909) 622-1256.

as a second annual "Unity Day L.A."

Adamyk, owner of Pomona's Spectra Company who along with the city funded the project, called Tubman "my hero, Harriet Tubman, Moses of her people."

He called her a 25-year-old woman who was enslaved but escaped and walked hundreds of miles "and finds her way to freedom . . . and goes back up to 19 different times, hundreds of

miles, and finds other enslaved people, freedom seekers," and brings them to freedom.

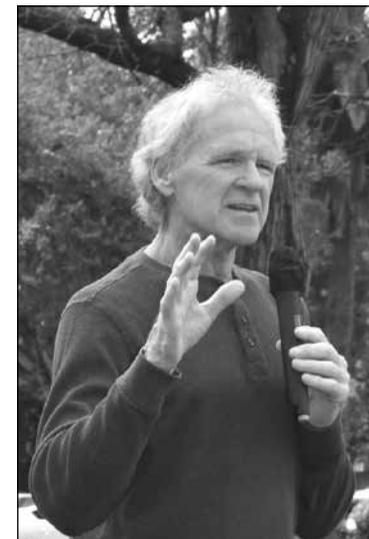
Speaking of the statue, he said, "yes, its here to stay this time."

The \$119,000 80-inch bronze statue originally was unveiled in ceremonies last year on July 4 while still loaded on a trailer and then placed in storage awaiting final approvals by the city of permits for placement of the pedestal and arrangements for the city's cost sharing out of its public art fund.

Adamyk funded about two-thirds of the cost.

Tubman was known in American history as the "conductor" of the Underground Railroad aiding slaves escaping to the North in the 1800s.

This month's ceremonies in-



Ray Adamyk

cluded the reading of a poem by David Judah Oliver, Pomona's first poet laureate, and an opening prayer by Jeanette Royston, President of the Pomona Valley NAACP.

About a third of the guests walked to the event in a 1.3 mile "walk for racial unity" from the African American Advisory Alliance headquarters in Downtown Pomona.

Activities continued later that night at Pomona's Fox Theater in a special concert to benefit the Salem Chapel, the last stop on the Underground Railroad in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.



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New regenerative patch a game changer for diabetic wound treatment

By Martin Johnson, MD, MPH

Casa Colina Limb Preservation Program, Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine Center
Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

Patients with diabetic foot ulcers can now become part of their wound treatment – literally!

The 3C Patch® Wound Management System is an innovative new wound care method that concentrates living cells from the patient’s own blood and then delivers them to the wound in the form of a robust three-layer patch. Blood is drawn from the patient and placed into a centrifuge, where it is processed to create a patch containing the patient’s own fibrin, platelets, and white blood cells.

FDA-approved and covered by Medicare, this regenerative wound care treatment is backed by extensive clinical research. Notably, a large randomized controlled trial published in “The Lancet” in 2018 showed that the patch significantly increased the chance of wound healing. The International Working Group of the Diabetic Foot has also recommended the use of the patch as an adjunctive treatment in non-healing diabetic foot ulcers.

Dr. Martin Johnson of the Casa Colina Limb Preservation Program and Wound Care Team has more than 40 years of experience

as a plastic surgeon, and for the last seven he has specialized in outpatient wound care. He used the patch with good results on diabetic chronic wounds at his previous practice in Arizona, and he started the first application of the patch at



Dr. Martin Johnson

Casa Colina in March 2022.

“It makes great sense, because you are taking the patient’s own blood, and with essentially no manipulation other than spinning the blood for 20 minutes in a centrifuge, you get a three-layer patch that will deliver the patient’s own white cells and growth factors to the wound site,” Johnson said.

The Casa Colina Wound Care Team has used the patch on 10 patients so far, with a wound duration ranging from six months to two years. One patient’s wound closed after just four applications, and the other patients currently being treated with the patch are showing a significant reduction in the size of their wounds. The Casa Colina Wound Care Center is the first in California to offer this breakthrough treatment.

“The results we are seeing in the clinic match the evidence that supports the use of this advanced wound care modality,” Johnson said. “When patients see improvement and healing in ulcers that have been present for months or years, and because it’s only their blood being used to support the healing process, they become even more excited.”

Editor’s Note: For patients who require medical care for a foot wound, the Casa Colina Limb Preservation Program and Wound Care Team offers comprehensive services, including podiatric surgery, advanced wound care therapies, diagnostic imaging, hyperbaric and physical therapies, and state-of-the-art surgical services. For more information, call 909/596-7733, ext. 3611.

Repertory Opera Company

‘Music at Noon’ a must hear next month!

Carmen Tejada, who describes herself as an operatic singer of Mexican heritage and a senior citizen, will perform at Pomona Repertory Opera Company’s “Music at Noon” event next month at Trinity United Methodist Church.

She will be accompanied by “professional pianist to the stars” Danny Guerrero.

Musical selections will include “Sin tu amor” by Sandoval and “Munquita Linda” by Maria Drever, according to LizBeth Lucca, the opera company’s artistic director.

Her performance is scheduled for noon Wednesday, April 5, at the church, located at 676 N. Gibbs St., Pomona.

Pianist Guerrero also will perform Hungarian Rhapsody #2 and Clair de lune by Debussy.

The performance is free and open to the public.



Photo by Renee Barbee

Pomona resident Melissa Givens, an assistant professor at Pomona College in Claremont, performs this month at Pomona’s Repertory Opera Company’s “Music at Noon” free weekly concert at Trinity United Methodist Church in Pomona. Her second solo recording, “Songs from the Composers’ Fiftieth Birthday Year,” was released last year. Twyla Meyer accompanied her on the piano.



Photo by Renee Barbee

A FATHERLESS FIELD -- Everything was free -- food, haircuts, music, face painting, games and more -- at “A Fatherless Field” community outreach in Pomona. The non-profit provides food, job training, wellness classes, clothing and more. Pictured at the event representing “The Way Pomona,” one of the participating churches, are, from left, Danny Gonzales, Mike Lopez, Alex Ramirez, Jason Trang, Dominica Jackson, Pastors Chris and Maribel Morgan, Antonia Ruiz, Maricela Lopez, Sandra and James Aguirre, and Clarence Smith.



COMMUNITY ADVOCATE AWARD -- Endy Farrow, of the non-profit PEARLS of Service, Inc., was awarded the “Community Advocate Award” at last month’s 2023 Living Legacy Awards Reception in Upland. PEARLS of Service (Promoting Education and Reassuring Loyal Services) provides scholarships and promotes community and scholastic achievement in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Pictured, at left, is Farrow with Ta Lese Morrow, publisher of Inland Valley News, which presents the annual award. Other honorees were YWCA San Gabriel Valley CEO Debra Ward, recipient of the Fannie Lou Hamer Living Legacy Award, and others.

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Executive Board Member, Pomona Chamber of Commerce

Compassionate Pomona well-being challenge

By Liz Burgis

The Human Values Center

Member, Compassionate Pomona

If you are reading this article, it is likely that you care about your community, and it is likely that you are aware that pretty much everyone around us is struggling with a variety of mental health and well-being issues. There are many



Liz Burgis

organizations that are working to address these issues. However, we are lacking an effective way to connect our conversations.

Compassionate Pomona, a group of community volunteers and advocates, with support from a City of Pomona grant, is kicking off a resiliency program to help strengthen individuals and build engagement with one another as community members. This is your formal invitation to participate in this challenge! It's free, it is fun, and it will make us stronger – together.

There are factors beyond jobs, job creation, and GDP (Gross Domestic Product), that go into building a healthy economy. A healthy community and vibrant society start with each of us caring for ourselves and those around us. A Well-

being Economy is an economic model designed to serve people and the planet, not the other way around. Not simply a different economic system, a Well-being Economy is a model to shift how we seek to live together from seeing ourselves as simply owners and consumers toward being caretakers and creators of a flourishing world. It is heart-centered. It is compassionate.

We will know that we are thriving in a restored, safe, and vibrant environment when we have learned to give back as much as we are given. We will know when we have a unified collective voice and find belonging, mean-

ing, and purpose through genuine connection to the people and planet that sustain us. This mission begins with connection, which must begin on the individual level. In order to sustainably care for others, each one of us must care for ourselves, be gentle with our mind, and take just a few minutes a day for self-care and compassion.

Compassionate Pomona invites you to participate in a fun four-week app-based challenge that encourages us to take care of ourselves, others, and the planet. The app plants seeds of well-being – for you, your family, and your neighbors. We have the challenge available in English and Spanish, in the hopes of reaching as many community members as possible. It will help to improve participants' overall attitude and mind-

set, build a sense of connection among the Pomona community, and amplify compassionate action in Pomona. This challenge includes mindfulness exercises, suggests ways to creatively express ourselves, and has a service component (without which there can be no fundamental change). The challenge includes games, and has prizes for the most involved, donated by local businesses! This is an invitation to imagine a shared future. It is an exploration into collaboration to solve problems, centering compassion at the heart of our intentions. Please join us in building a well-being economy that starts with loving kindness for self and others.

We will be distributing surveys to the participants before and after this challenge to find and collect the metrics we will need to refer to as we go forward building a Well-being Economy that includes everyone's voices.

Please visit <https://sites.google.com/hvc-world.org/pomona-well-being/> home to register for this



FREE and FUN 30-day Pomona Well-being Challenge that starts April 17th!

Feel free to contact liz@hvc-world.org with any questions.

State treasurer says government accounts are good despite banking troubles

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma reported in a news release last week that state and local funds managed by her office are safe and secure in the wake of the closure of Silicon Valley Bank and other recent issues in the banking community.

"Despite recent uncertainty in the banking industry following the closure of Silicon Valley Bank, I want to reassure taxpayers that the State Treasurer's Of-

fice has no exposure to SVB, and all State of California and local government funds managed by my office are safe and secure," she said.

"I'm pleased to see the swift action taken by President Biden and continued efforts by Gov. Newsom's administration to limit the fallout and to ensure that depositors are made whole," she said. "My office will continue to monitor the situation and report

on any developments."

She said depositors or anyone affected by the bank's closure should contact the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at fdic.gov or (866) 799-0959.

An FDIC-operated "bridge" bank was created to hold all assets and deposits of SVB following its closure this month by the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, she said.

Casa Colina receives fourth 'Outstanding Patient Experience' award

For the fourth year in a row, Pomona's Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare has received the Healthgrades Outstanding Patient Experience Award which recognizes hospitals providing an overall outstanding patient experience based on patient survey data.

The award places Casa Colina in the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide for patient experience.

Data for the survey used in making award selections is provided by the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems.

Survey questions focus on patients' perspectives of their care in the hospital ranging from cleanliness and noise levels in patient rooms to medication explanations and hospital staff responsiveness to patient needs.

Questions also include whether a patient would recommend the hospital to friends or family.

In order to be evaluated, hospitals must submit at least 75 patient experience surveys covering patients discharged from January through December 2021. Only 419 hospitals nationwide received the award.

"At Casa Colina, we offer an outstanding patient experience by prioritizing safety and best practices and using state-of-the-art technology," said hospital President and CEO Kelly Linden. "However, nothing is as critical to our success as our people."

"I am proud of our staff and physicians for their unwavering dedication to high-quality, patient-first care," she added. "This wonderful recognition belongs to them."

La Nueva Voz...

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Pomona High School celebrates all cultures during Black History Month

Pomona High School Principal Dr. Cindy Green told La Nueva Voz she came up with an idea to celebrate all cultures represented in Pomona.

And when Pomona High School Cultural Celebration Day all came together last month, it just accomplished everything it was intended to accomplish.

“We were looking to do a Black History Month celebration, but it’s all history because I serve all students, right?” she told La Nueva Voz at the event on campus outside the gymnasium. “And so I have



Pomona High School Principal Dr. Cindy Green kicks off “Cultural Celebration Day” last month with the Pomona High School Band in the background.



The Pomona High School Folklorico dancers added to the excitement of the event.

everything represented here – Black, white . . . Jewish, Hispanic, Asian.”

“We couldn’t procure the lion dancers, I wanted that, too, but next year,” she said.

“This will be an annual event to celebrate all the cultures we support here in Pomona and it will be annually at the end of

Black History Month,” Green said. “And my staff just came together beautifully to kind of make it happen. I thought of it in the summer, and they jumped on board.”

Heading the list of speakers was Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval.

“I am a very, very proud graduate of Pomona High School,” he told students.

“This has been a very difficult last three years – not just in Pomona but all over the world,” he said. “All I can just ask you is just continue if you can to look out for each other. There’s a lot

Celebrating cultures... pg. 19



Rapper Mea Mitchell adds a little culture of her own to the event by, well, rapping.



Books on cultures of the world were on hand, of course, at Pomona High School’s “Cultural Celebration Day,” courtesy of the school library.



Pomona’s Junior Army ROTC (Reserve Officers’ Training Corps) students were on hand at the event. Pictured, from left, are retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Mike Murphy, instructor; Kevin Andrade and Jonathan Olea, both ninth graders; and Jessica Mojica, 12th grade.





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Editor's Note: This page is the sixth in a series of nine special "Stop-the-Hate" features made possible by a La Nueva Voz grant awarded by the Latino Media Collaborative, a non-profit news media organization, and funded by the California State Library. The "Stop-the-Hate" program itself is administered by the California Department of Social Services as a statewide effort to increase public consciousness about hate incidents and hate crimes, their harmful impacts on individuals and communities, their prevention, and support and resources available for healing.

'Stop-the-Hate' -- A special La Nueva Voz feature series

Through the Eyes of a Child

By Lorena Gonzalez, President
Pomona Unified School District Board

A long time ago, there was this child whose days were filled with playing handball, tetherball, foursquare, tag and everything else there was to play on the school playground. They looked forward to school breakfast and lunch. What could they be serving today? They loved arts and crafts and school plays. At the end of the school day, their only thought was getting home, dropping their backpack, and running outside to get as much play as possible before the sun came down. Once that sun went down, the chant of mothers from every apartment door would begin, "come inside," "time to eat" and on occasion the angrier of voices yelling "come do your chores." Being a kid meant thinking of nothing else but playing, being with friends and the simple joys of sliding down the big hill on a piece of cardboard or spending the summers in the community pool. As the years went by, the memories of playing hide and seek, going over to their best friend's house or making friends with every little bug in the small patch of dirt by the front steps was further and further away. The world of adulting and understanding or not understanding but seeing fights, the smell of alcohol, mom and dad arguing, and violence was setting in. As they got older, being picked on and seeing others being picked on was becoming a concept that still, that child did not understand, yet became witness to. Having fun in the park and at the community pool was replaced by the horrific scene of beer bottles flying up in the air, people bleeding and running and sirens everywhere. Too soon, this little mind's memories became a source of pain, confusion, anger, and sadness. Riding in a police car at the age of 10 and taking the stand in a big court room to point out a bad person was now a new memory. They began to see that their Black best friend was not being treated like the rest and was, in fact, being treated differently. But why? The disfunction that existed in their life began to interfere with the joys of being a child, learning at their full potential and even dreaming of something more beautiful and better than what currently was.

This story began over 40 years ago and yet, it is not difficult to relate to some or all of it. Living in poverty sometimes means living in and through unique situations that do not necessarily foster opportunities to thrive. Hunger, unhoused, poorly clothed, little to no emotional support, lack of guidance, little to no access to learning tools and opportunities, no love and warmth from kin and the list goes on and on. It can be a challenge for a little mind to see a different life outside of "having not." And then you add hate. We may never know why hate can manifest in one person but not another. However, we do know that adversity in a young mind trying to find themselves and a way to survive can feed into hatred. So, what now? How do we begin to heal ourselves, these children, and future generations?

The child mentioned in the story above loved going to school. It was a safe space with warm classrooms in the winter and cool ones in the summer, with books, play time, discipline, fun and their favorite thing, food. As a school board member, I am in awe of the miraculous things our schools have done, are doing and will continue to do with innovation for our young minds. The love that is poured into activities that broaden the horizon and open the gate to the world is what our educators do every day. We have emotional support at all levels and in every school. We also embrace partnerships that can provide full circle support looking not only at the whole child but the whole family. We connect our families to resources ranging from tutoring and mental health services to food and clothing pantries.

Crucially, the schools could be the only source for a hot meal a child gets on any given day.

As a mom, I am grateful that the schools have provided my children with support when we need it the most. I know there are teachers and staff that have looked out for my children's wellbeing, even if it was reminding my son for the 100th time to take his sweater home. Or the kind individual in the cafeteria who did not say a word when he brought home a dozen apples because we had none. As an educational system in a community where we have a high percentage of underserved families in need, we find ourselves being creative and innovative. There is not a day that goes by that I do not pull from my good childhood memories and reflect on the adventures created by non-profits, the libraries, and my schools. Memories like taking swimming classes and learning how to swim like an Olympian. I went on a field trip to the Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles to have lunch with the L.A. Rams. I took a field trip with my French teacher, and we dined in a French restaurant, (no escargot for me), and so much more. I want that for every child in our schools. Through the adversity I have faced, I have also been supported by loving individuals who invested in my growth and have faith in my purpose. Being a board member was a leap of faith and courage that turned into love, compassion, and hope, not hate.

What can we do to stop the hate? How can I, as an individual contributor be that change?

In every single situation, we have an opportunity to see through the eyes of a child. We can choose to be the fuel that makes that fire consume to destruction or we can choose to be synergy. We can choose many interactions that create harmony, union, and alliance to something positive through LOVE and COMPASSION. Every day, our actions are a choice and children are ultimately the collateral damage to the choices we make as adults. Choose to understand that adversity creates a behavior, not the person. Choose to believe that most humans are good people who sometimes make poor choices. Choose to speak out of love and not out of judgement and assumptions. Remember yourself as a child and choose to play and see life as a world full of exploration and joy so that our children can emulate that from us.



Lorena Gonzalez



Photo courtesy of Lorraine Canales

VILLAGE ACADEMY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN HOUSE OF RUTH ART PROJECT -- Students in the JOI (Junior Optimist International) Club at Pomona's Village Academy High School participated in the ninth annual "Awareness Through Art Showcase" competition last month at Pomona's House of Ruth domestic violence non-profit. The project was an effort to uplift youth in the community through artistic talent. Participants were able to share artwork and posters, sing a song, perform a "spoken word" or perform a dance. The two themes this year were "qualities of a healthy relationship" and "teen dating violence." Pictured with the Village Academy kids -- who won top awards at the event -- are, at left rear, Village Academy counselor Lorraine Canales and, at right rear, Village Academy art teacher Sadie Phillips.



Photo courtesy of Hector Arias

HISPANIC ART IN EAST LOS ANGELES -- Hector Arias, the newest member of Pomona Chamber of Commerce, perhaps bragging about his wife Lori Arias a little bit, told La Nueva Voz she was commissioned by Nuevo Amanecer Mujer Integral in East Los Angeles to produce an eight-foot by four-foot mural. She was asked to produce something representing a strong Latina woman seeking to better herself. The result was a woman with a diploma on her right hand representing education, a loaf of bread on her left hand signifying she will provide for her family, and a crucifix around her neck to represent her faith. The painting was dedicated this month on International Woman's Day. Pictured is Lori in front of the new mural. Want to see it? The address is 4609 E. Cesar Chavez Ave., East Los Angeles. Hector and Lori live in Chino Hills. Hector owns Fantastic Cleaning Services and has both commercial and residential customers. For more information, visit the web site at www.fantasticcleaningsvcs.com.

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Assemblymember Rodriguez' bill to boost Medi-Cal fees for ambulances

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, speaking in a recent news conference in Sacramento, has called for an increase in the state's Medi-Cal reimbursement rate for ambulance services to bring compensation in line with costs.

Rodriguez introduced Assembly Bill 55 in December which would do just that. The measure has been referred to the Assembly Health Committee.

He was accompanied at the news conference by representatives of the California Ambulance Association, according to his news release.

"As a career first responder,

New features... from pg. 1

nee Barbee at (909) 762-1446 or reneebarbee7@gmail.com.

Finally, we're now publishing on our web site Pomona arrest logs listing every arrest made by Pomona police officers – wherever it is made, as long as the suspect is booked into the Pomona jail.

The special feature is made possible through an arrangement with localcrimenews.com and created on our site by our web consultant

Vincent F.D. Santomero. Pomona arrest logs are updated weekly as information is provided by the Pomona Police Department.

Just visit our web site at www.lanuevavoz.net, click on "Arrest Logs" on the feature bar on the home page and scroll down to see an interactive map and text listings of the arrests.

We hope you like what you see, and we look forward to hearing your comments.

I have watched firsthand as our providers receive far less than fair compensation for their life-saving service," Rodriguez said. "Current reimbursement rates do not even cover ambulance transport costs. This has left our providers with their backs against the wall and is threatening the overall stability of our transport infrastructure."

AB 55 would require the reimbursement rate for private emergency ground transport providers to be increased to \$350 per transport.

Currently, California ranks 46th in the nation with a reimbursement rate of about \$111.48 per transport.

The national average is more than double that at about \$257.

California funded its last Medi-Cal base rate increase for ambulance services in 1999 but cut it by 10 percent in 2013 and never replaced it in later budgets.

Because of the low rates, privately insured patients are charged higher prices to balance the losses, according to the news release. Raising the rate would alleviate costs for both patients and providers.

The median pay for emergency medical technicians is about \$17 an hour.



HOUSE OF RUTH SUCCESS STORY -- House of Ruth keynote speaker Jackie Aina is honored after telling her story at this month's House of Ruth 45th anniversary gala. Aina, her mother and six siblings stayed at the House of Ruth shelter in the early 2000s when Jackie was a child. She told the story of how, after surviving domestic violence by leaving an abuser in search of freedom, that experience helped her become a strong and independent woman free from violence, now working as a digital creator and entrepreneur. Also speaking at the gala was State Sen. Susan Rubio, who recounted her personal struggles with domestic violence and her legislative advocacy for survivors in Sacramento. From left are House of Ruth Board President Brian Kraatz, House of Ruth Chief Development Officer Rhonda Beltran, Jackie Aina, House of Ruth Executive Director/CEO Pat Bell, domestic violence survivor and Jackie's mother Lonje Aina, and House of Ruth Board member Thomas Allison. More than \$125,000 was raised at the event to help provide programs at the domestic violence non-profit organization. More than 225 guests attended the gala which was held at Padua Hills Theater in Claremont.



Photo by Raymond AP
Pomona's Dr. Huu Vo, President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley and President of the executive committee of the United Council of Vietnamese Homeland and Overseas, participated in Lunar New Year activities in Little Saigon in Garden Grove where he congratulated Teresa Mai/Sangeeta Kaur for becoming the first Vietnamese winner of a Grammy Award with her classical vocal solo album last year. Teresa is from the Pomona Valley and was selected Miss Vietnamese Los Angeles in 2012. Dr. Vo, front row, fourth from right, presented Teresa, front row center, with a bouquet of roses on behalf of the organizing committee.





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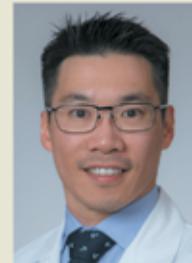
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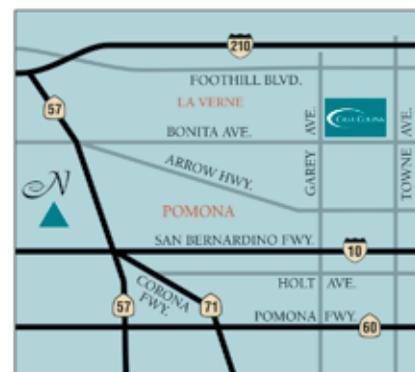
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Photos by Renee Barbee
Snow was piling high atop houses and cars on Mt. Baldy while snowplows with their chains still on stand by at the ready for the next round in these photos from a trip to the top on Saturday, March 4.

Renee Barbee and Jeff Schenkel of La Nueva Voz made a quick trip to the top of Mt. Baldy after the snow early this month to see the snow on the ground, to grab a few pictures of snowmen and snowboarders, and to see what, according to the thermometer in the dashboard, 33 degrees felt like since it hasn't been that cold down here for a long while.

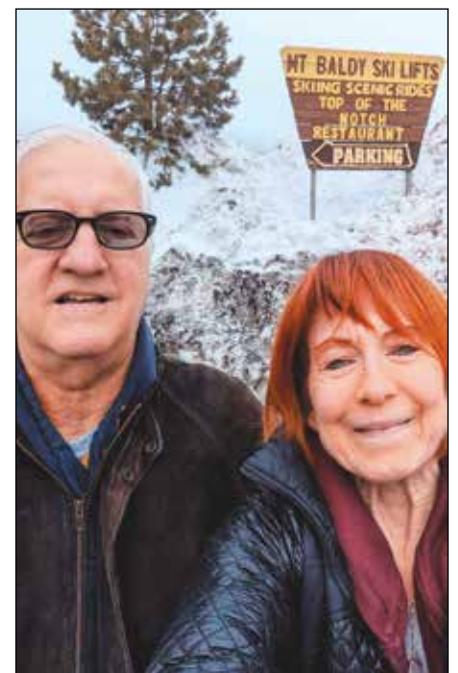
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Supervisor Solis awarded dA Center's 'Arts Advocate Award'

In recognition of her efforts to elevate the county's commitment to arts, culture and diversity, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis was presented the dA Center for the Arts "2023 Arts Advocate Award" at last week's second annual "dART for ART" benefit fundraiser at the Downtown Pomona gallery.

"I don't think there are enough

words from us to her and her staff for all that they have done for the arts and our community," said Margaret Aichele, executive director of the dA. "They've seen us, they've listened to us, and they have supported us."

Solis was introduced by Pomona Unified School District Deputy Supt. for Educational Services

Arts advocate... pg. 21



Supervisor Hilda Solis takes a moment to admire walls filled with art last week at Pomona's dA Center for the Arts. She was in Pomona to receive the "2023 Arts Advocate Award" from the dA during an annual fundraiser.



ADDING TO THE DONOR WALL -- Duane Smith, President of the Pomona Public Library Foundation, announced the latest additions to the donor wall in the library lobby -- an oversized replica of a former library staple -- during ceremonies this month. Five donors were added at the \$1,000 plus level -- Lisa and Bill Snider, Dr. Prasad A. Jeerreddi, Jaye and Eduardo Steinbrick, Criselda and Tim Sandoval, and Councilmember Nora Garcia. Foundation members also unveiled the latest honorary tile in a library atrium, this one in honor of Pomona children's librarian Lois Robbins, who served from 1990 to 2013. She was honored last June for her work at the foundation's Mayor's Gala fundraiser.

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When it comes to the Letts, art is all in the family

Just a couple of months ago, Victor Lett, a visual artist and son of Pomona artist Gary Lett and his wife Lisha, asked his dad if he would curate an art show of his son's work.

Gary's first thoughts, as he said in a news release to La Nueva Voz, were, "Just how can I tell my aspiring and talented artist son that my own art work schedule is too busy to comply with his request and curate an art show that is often time

consuming in and of itself?"

And now, with the Feb. 11 – 28 show behind him, Victor, who now lives in Compton, has expressed adulation to both his father and his mother for a job well done on his behalf, according to his dad.

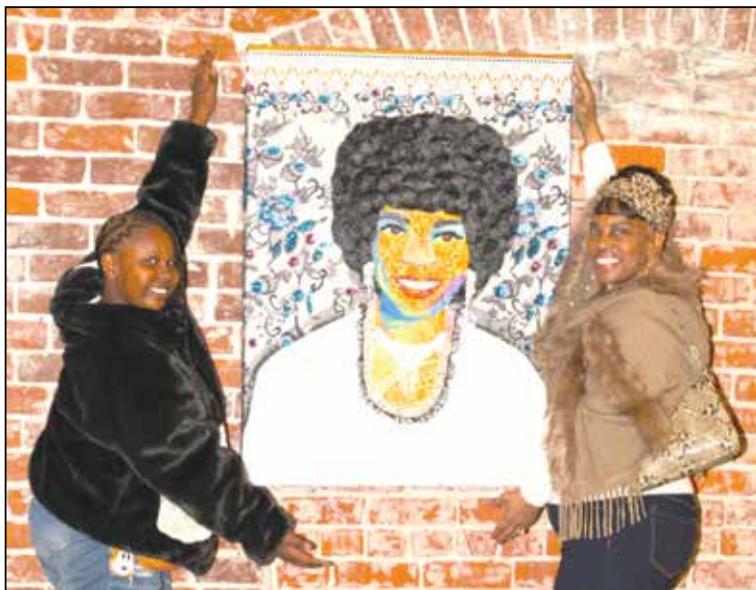
The exhibition – works of Victor, his dad and his mom Lisha – filled the walls of Pomona's African American Advisory Alliance in Downtown Pomona making the event truly a family affair.

Victor's "hanging" art was produced a little differently – rather than using conventional brushes and tools, he created using Q-tips, toothpicks and other miscellaneous discards.

The show also included a PowerPoint presentation of his paintings that was produced on his cell phone and was accompanied by his



Pictured is the opening slide from artist Victor Lett's PowerPoint presentation at his recent exhibition at the African American Advisory Alliance in Downtown Pomona.



Pictured are Lisha Lett, at right, with her granddaughter Iriee, artist Victor Lett's daughter, showing off a portrait of Lisha's mother, Mableine Barlow. The artwork, made of fabric, was a collaboration between Gary and Lisha Lett.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval attended the opening of the exhibit at the African American Advisory Alliance. Pictured, from left, are artist Gary Lett, his wife Lisha Lett, Roy Sandoval, his mom, Criselda Sandoval and the mayor.



The Lett family posed for a group photo at the art show at the African American Advisory Alliance. Pictured, second from left, is artist son Victor and, second from right, son Vincent, next to his dad, Gary Lett. Mom Lisha Lett is pictured at center with Gary's brother, Leo Lett, who retired from NASA, at rear.

own musical beats and songs.

Closing reception for the show which was on the theme "It's a Lett Art Thang" early this month included a long list of community leaders who were Victor's mentors along with members of the entire Lett family.

Victor's dad is a noted local and national artist, a leader in the community and an African American historical advocate, and his mom is a highly respected community leader and volunteer.



Pomona artist Gary Lett and his wife Lisha pose with a fabric portrait of Gary's mother, the late Annie L. Lett.



Artist Gary Lett poses with his ceramic sculpture "Inner Peace" with Pomona volunteer Duane Smith at the opening of the show.

'Full closure' of Garey Avenue at Gold Line railroad crossing extended one week due to weather

The full closure of Garey Avenue at the Foothill Gold Line railroad crossing in Pomona has been extended for one week due to weather.

The street now is expected to open once again to traffic on Friday, March 24.

It has been closed since the beginning of February and originally was expected to be closed for 45 days.

The construction project is part of the 9.1-mile Foothill Gold Line light rail extension from Glendora to Pomona.

Congresswoman Torres secures \$54 million to address housing needs in Inland Empire

Congresswoman Norma Torres announced this month that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is providing more than \$54 million in funding to build affordable housing, support community development and provide homeless assistance in San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Riverside Counties.

Funding for Pomona included in the package consists of \$1.8 million in Community Development Block Grant funds, \$905,000 in Home Investment Partnerships funding, and \$159,000 for Emergency Solutions Grant funds.

"Every family deserves a safe, decent place to call home and the number one concern I hear from my constituents in the Inland Empire is about the lack of affordable housing," Torres said in a news release. "In Congress, it has been one of my top priorities to expand access to housing for communities across Southern California."

Torres is a member of the House Appropriations Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee, where she advocated for significant increases in funding for these federal programs.

U.S.-China tensions bring on fresh wave of AAPI xenophobia

By Sunita Sohrabji

Contributing Editor

Ethnic Media Services

Editor's Note: According to this contributing writer, Congresswoman Judy Chu and Dominic Ng, President Biden's appointee as Chair of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), have been accused of having ties to the Chinese Communist Party and being unpatriotic.

Asian American Pacific Islander community leaders are concerned that the tense U.S.-China relationship, which has become more fraught in recent weeks over accusations of Chinese spying, has spurred on a fresh wave of xenophobia as high-ranking Asian American politicians become the targets of Republican attacks.

Congresswoman Judy Chu, the first Chinese American woman elected to Congress, is accused of being "unpatriotic" by Congressman Lance Gooden, R-Texas, because of her support for Dominic Ng, President Biden's appointee as chair of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Ng is accused of having ties to the Chinese Communist Party by Gooden and five other House Republicans.

Chu, a Democrat from California, is the chairwoman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), and perhaps one of the most well-known AAPI members of the House.

'Sheer buffoonery'

"This is absolutely alarming, but not unsurprising, given the parties involved," John C. Yang, president

and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC, told Ethnic Media Services. "Gooden has questioned Chu's patriotism, which is repulsive, reprehensible, and unforgivable."

"Congresswoman Chu is a true patriot. Any accusations of being a Communist are sheer buffoonery," said Yang.

"To suggest that Dominic Ng is somehow a spy is laughable and flies in the face of common decency," he added.

Yang noted that any time China comes into the national conversation as an adversary, there is a palpable spike in racist attacks. "We do have geo-political differences with China, but also a hot war with Russia, yet no one is profiling Russian Americans."

The White House should issue a statement about how Chinese Americans have contributed to the nation's well-being, suggested Yang.

'Ramping up xenophobia'

Manjuusha Kulkarni, Executive Director of the AAPI Equity Alliance and co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate, told Ethnic Media Services she was very discouraged by the attacks on Chu and Ng. "Upstanding citizens who are leaders in our community are under attack only because of their ethnicity," she said, adding that she would not be surprised

to see a spike in hate crimes against the AAPI community. "We are ramping up xenophobia once again."

"Chinese Americans are not responsible for the spy balloons and there is no evidence that they are engaging in dangerous activity," she said. "A lot of Chinese immigrants are against the CCP, and may be why they migrated – to seek a new life and a different form of government."

Kulkarni said she is alarmed by the number of bills in state legislatures across the nation which seem to be fueled by xenophobia. Of particular concern to her is Texas' SB 147, which, in its original form, would have barred Chinese citizens from buying homes in the state. The bill has been modified, after a volley of concerns about racism.

Chu's loyalty and competence in question

In an interview with Jesse Waters of Fox News last month, Gooden stated that Ng had ties to the Chinese Communist Party. He went on to say that Chu should be investigated, along with Ng.

"I question her loyalty and competence," said Gooden. "If she doesn't realize what's going on then she's totally out of touch with one of her core constituencies."

"I'm really disappointed and shocked that someone like Judy

Chu would have a security clearance and (be) entitled to confidential intelligence briefings until this is figured out," Gooden said. He called for the congresswoman to be relieved of her committee assignments.

'Loyalty Should Not Be Questioned'

Democrats, and Republican Mike Gallagher, R-Wisconsin – who co-chairs the new House Select Committee on China along with Democrat Raja Krishnamoorthi of Illinois – immediately denounced the statements by Gooden, saying they were racist. Gallagher and Krishnamoorthi appeared on "Face the Nation" with Margaret Brennan last month and condemned the attack on Chu.

"One of my colleagues, unfortunately, attacked Judy Chu, the first Chinese American Congresswoman in the United States Congress, saying that somehow, she's not loyal to the United States. I find that offensive as an Asian American myself," said Krish-

namoorthi.

Gallagher agreed. "Well, let me say we should not question anybody's loyalty to the United States. I think that is out of bounds. It's beyond the pale," he said.

FBI Letter

Last month, Gooden and five Republican members of Congress sent a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray, alleging Ng's ties to the CCP and calling for an investigation. The letter stated that between 2013 and 2017, Ng served as the executive director of the China Overseas Exchange Association which is a front organization for the United Front Work Department, a Chinese intelligence service whose mission is to liaison with foreign political parties, influence operations, and collect intelligence.

COEA subsequently merged with the China Overseas Friendship Association, which "remained a front group for UFWD

Tensions bring xenophobia... pg. 18

Collaboration between doctors and paramedics improves heart attack survival rates

When fire department paramedics observe heart attack patients they helped on the street and can follow the patients into the hospital to observe treatment and recovery, it improves heart attack survival rates, according to officials at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.

A unique collaboration between the hospital's Stead Heart and Vascular center and the Chino Valley Fire District has improved local cardiac arrest survival rates during 2018 to 2021 from 16.7 percent to 62.5 percent.

During the same period, state and national averages have remained relatively flat – under 30 percent – according to the Car-

diac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) database.

Upon admission to the hospital, patients are immediately assessed for treatment necessary. And to promote learning and a continuum of care, Chino Valley personnel are allowed to observe cardiac catheterization lab procedures and encouraged to visit their patients in the hospital as they recover.

"CVFD has seen a consistent improvement among the patients we have served since the initiative began," said Dave Williams, fire chief. "This type of collaboration produces a model of life-saving care that can be replicated across the nation."



Photo by Renee Barbee

JOB FAIR IN POMONA -- Michael Thomas, of Pomona Valley America's Job Center, and Monique Cardenas, of the San Antonio Regional Occupational Program, two of Pomona's leading jobs experts, pose for the La Nueva Voz camera at last month's "Fair Chance and Homeless Career and Resource Fair" produced by Pomona Valley America's Job Center at the Village at Indian Hill. About 200 attendees had the opportunity to visit booths of 21 employers and 28 community-based organizations.

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'Beep baseball' mom gets word out on charity golf tourney

Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church member Lisa Keepers is not a soccer mom – she's a "beep baseball" mom – and she's getting the word out on the first-ever Southern California Beep Baseball Charity Golf Tournament to raise funds for her son Darren's favorite sport for the visually impaired.

Darren Keepers, 35, was born in Pomona, raised in Alta Loma and now lives in Pasadena where his wife works for the local school district.

But his true passion is beep baseball, a sport now in its fifth decade that was developed for

the visually impaired and is played on a specially designed baseball diamond with a ball that actually beeps.

Darren formed the California Panthers team two years ago which, at the time, was the only beep baseball team in California. He has since formed two teams in addition to his own adult team – a youth team and a team for military veterans.

The National Beep Baseball Association was founded in 1976 and oversees the entire sport with teams from all over the country. They even compete in an annual world series of their own. This

year's world series will be held in Norman, Oklahoma.

Then how does it all work? The game itself is based on a team that includes a "sighted" pitcher and catcher. But everybody else on the team is blind. And, since there are varying degrees of blindness, every player wears a blindfold to ensure an even playing field.

Darren is completely blind and has been since dealing with optic nerve atrophy when he was 5 and 6 years old.

In the absence of sight, sound becomes more important than ever – not only the beeping ball making it possible for players to find it but the shouted word "stop" to avoid collisions on the field, according to Darren's mom.

"He has the highest percentage

of total blind on his team," Lisa told La Nueva Voz. She said she and her husband Darrell are huge supporters of the three teams and are even members of their son's board of directors.

Lisa said the sport is important in terms of "bringing life to the visually impaired and letting them know that they can get out and move around and have a team sport and enjoy a favorite pastime."

She added that it gives the players a chance to be around people, make new friends and "just know that because you are blind or vi-

sually impaired doesn't mean that your life stops."

The inaugural Southern California tournament is scheduled for Friday, April 28, at Upland Hills Country Club in Upland. Cost is \$140 per person and sponsorship opportunities are still available. Registration deadline is March 28.

For information or registration, contact fish4keeps@hotmail.com or call Darrell Keepers at (909) 215-6094. Additional information is available on the web site at www.socalbeepbaseball.org.

Tensions bring xenophobia... from pg. 17

when Mr. Ng began a five-year term as COFA's executive director in 2019," the letter continued.

"Organizations like the UFWD and its affiliated groups play an increasingly important role in Chinese foreign policy and allow political actors like Mr. Ng to gain influence in sensitive American institutions to advocate for the interests of communist China. This tactic is regularly employed by the CCP to infiltrate governments and influence policies for CCP-oriented outcomes," the letter said. "The

Biden Administration has allowed the CCP to infiltrate the third-party sector and, consequently, political leaders that have existing relationships to these groups and are privy to U.S. intelligence. Further encroachments cannot be tolerated."

The letter was signed by Gooden, and Congressmen Tom Tiffany, R-Minnesota, Ben Cline, R-Virginia, Doug La Malfa, R-California, Keith Self, R-Pennsylvania, and Congresswoman Lauren Boebert, R-Colorado.

The following public service ads are courtesy of La Nueva Voz

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Celebrating cultures... from pg. 9

of people going through a lot of difficult times right now.”

“We have to look out for each other, we have to support each other, we have to love each other,” Sandoval said.

Pomona High basketball coach Eric Anderson sang the Black National Anthem (“Lift every voice and sing”), the Pomona High School Band played, the Pomona High Folklorico dancers danced and more.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval

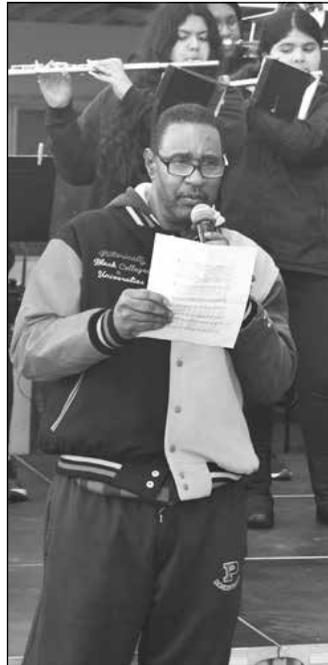


The amazing Pomona High School cheerleaders kept the spirits up under cloudy skies at last month’s “Cultural Celebration Day” on campus.



Charles ‘Boogie’ Fletcher
Boogie Down DJ Services

At left, music provided by Pomona’s own Boogie Down DJ Services set the mood for a little dancing at Pomona High School’s “Cultural Celebration Day.”



Pomona High basketball coach Eric Anderson sings the Black National Anthem at “Cultural Celebration Day,” accompanied by the Pomona High School Band.



Need any Pomona High School gear? They had it at “Cultural Celebration Day.”

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SCAN ME

Solamente una página

Nota del editor: La Nueva Voz está agregando esta página con contenido en Español a petición e interés de los lectores. Un lector frecuente del Centro Comunitario del Parque Washington preguntó si este periódico pudiese incluir al menos “solamente una página” en Español. Entonces, buen amigo, aquí lo tienes. Esperamos que nuestros lectores nos den a saber lo que piensan.

Inauguran estatua de Harriet Tubman en Parque Lincoln

Este mes, durante un breve descanso de la lluvia, la nueva estatua del icono e abolicionista americana Harriet Tubman fue inaugurada por segunda vez en medio del Parque Lincoln de Pomona – y esta vez para siempre.

“Estoy agradecido por este momento”, dijo el alcalde de Pomona, Tim Sandoval. “También soy consciente de los tiempos en los que vivimos: todavía existe el odio, todavía existe la frustración, todavía existe el abuso y, en particular, nuestra comunidad afroamericana continúa enfrentando desafíos muy reales en todo el país”.

“Entonces, mientras celebramos y honramos la resistencia contra la esclavitud, debemos recordarnos a nosotros mismos... y permanecer optimistas de que la lucha por la libertad no ha terminado”, dijo Sandoval.

“A este parque nunca le hubiesen puesto el nombre Harriet Tubman cuando se fundó esta ciudad, sin embargo, nos encontramos aquí hoy en el año 2023 y podemos decir que la ciudad de Pomona ha progresado mucho... pero hay más trabajo por hacer”, agregó Sandoval.

Explicó que todo comenzó con una conversación con Ray Adamyk residente de Pomona, poco después del asesinato de George Floyd en el año 2020 por un oficial de policía en Minneapolis.

“Aunque aun enfrentamos tiempos difíciles, puedo decirles que en la ciudad de Pomona hay muchas personas que están trabajando arduamente (para cambiar eso, pero) nuestro trabajo no ha terminado”, dijo Sandoval.

La escultora de la estatua, Manu-élita Brown, dijo a una audiencia de alrededor de 200 personas — algunas de las cuales marcharon al evento desde el centro de Pomona — que espera que los visitantes al monumento vean “una figura inquebrantable que avanza hacia adelante invitándonos a seguirla” como “la emancipadora y abolicionista... la cocinera y enfermera del Ejército de la Unión o la exploradora y espía detrás de las líneas enemigas” que liberó a más de 750 personas esclavizadas durante la Guerra Civil de la nación.

Chara Swodeck, de la Alianza Asesora Afroamericana de Pomona, describió la estatua como muy “real”. “Es de la misma estatura que nosotros, es accesible”, dijo.

“Me encanta que existe una autenticidad de Harriet Tubman que atrae consigo algo tangible que puede ser alcanzado, que es digna de admiración”, dijo Swodeck.

Ella lo llamó “un legado fenomenal de estar aquí en este parque, tan cerca de tantas de nuestras escuelas”.

“Hay una historia que contar, hay una vida que honrar y estoy agradecida de ser parte de ello”, dijo Swodeck.

Su organización se asoció con Adamyk en lo que fue presentado como el segundo evento anual de Unity Day L.A.”

Adamyk, propietario de la Compañía Spectra en Pomona que, junto con la ciudad financió el proyecto, llamó a Tubman “mi héroe, Harriet Tubman, la Moisés de su gente”.

La describió como una mujer de 25 años que estaba esclavizada pero que escapó y caminó cientos de millas “en busca de su libertad... y regresa al menos 19 veces, volviendo a caminar cientos de millas, para encontrar otras personas esclavizadas también en busca de su libertad”, y guiarlos hacia esa libertad.

Hablando de la estatua, él dijo: “sí, está aquí para quedarse esta vez”.

La estatua de bronce, con una

estatura de 80 pulgadas y con un costo de \$119,000, originalmente fue revelada en las ceremonias del 4 de julio del año pasado mientras que aún seguía cargada en un remolque. Después se almacenó en espera de la aprobación final de los permisos de la ciudad y de la colocación del pedestal, además de los acuerdos de los costos compartidos por la ciudad a través de su fondo para el arte público.

Adamyk financió alrededor de dos tercios del costo.

Tubman fue conocido en la historia estadounidense como el “conductor” del Ferrocarril Subterráneo que ayudaba a los esclavos a escapar hacia el Norte en los años 1800s.

La ceremonia incluyó la lectura de un poema por David Judah Oliver, el primer poeta laureado de Pomona, y una oración de apertura por Jeanette Royston, presidenta de la NAACP del Valle de Pomona.

Alrededor de un tercio de los invitados caminaron 1.3 millas desde la Alianza Asesora Afroamericana ubicada en el centro de Pomona, hacia el evento en una “caminata por la unidad racial”.

Las actividades continuaron más tarde esa noche en el Teatro Fox de Pomona en un concierto especial a beneficio de la Capilla de Salem, la última parada del Ferrocarril Subterráneo en St. Catharines, Ontario, Canadá.

Pomona High School celebra todas las culturas durante el Mes de la Historia Afroamericana

La Dra. Cindy Green, directora de la Preparatoria Pomona, le dijo a La Nueva Voz que se le ocurrió la idea de celebrar todas las culturas representadas en Pomona.

Y cuando llegó el Día de la Celebración Cultural de la Preparatoria Pomona, se logró todo lo que se pretendía lograr.

“Estábamos queriendo celebrar el Mes de la Historia Afroamericana, pero todo es historia porque sirvo a todos los estudiantes, ¿verdad?” le dijo a La Nueva Voz en el evento llevándose a cabo afuera del gimnasio. “Pues tengo todo representado aquí: negro, blanco... judío, hispano, asiático”.

“No pudimos conseguir los bailarines del león, yo también quería eso, pero el año que viene los conseguiremos”, dijo Green.

“Este será un evento anual para celebrar todas las culturas representadas aquí en Pomona y lo celebraremos al final del Mes de la Historia Afroamericana”, dijo Green. “Y mi equipo de trabajo se unió a esta idea de una manera maravillosa para llevar todo esto a cabo. Tuve la idea durante el verano y ellos se comprometieron a formar parte de esta celebración”.

Encabezando la lista de oradores estaba el alcalde de Pomona, Tim Sandoval.

“Soy un graduado muy, muy orgulloso de la Preparatoria Po-

‘Read Across America’ se esparce por Pomona

Este mes se celebró el día de “Read Across America” en Pomona, pero en realidad el evento se extendió durante varios días, con todos — desde las escuelas del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Pomona hasta la Biblioteca Pública de Pomona — participando en un “reto de lectura” como parte de la celebración nacional de el cumpleaños del autor infantil Dr. Seuss.

Maestros jubilados, maestros actuales, miembros de la junta directiva escolar y otros estuvieron presentes, especialmente en las escuelas primarias como Ranch Hills, Decker y Alcott.

Y en la biblioteca de la ciudad, niños, padres, e incluso miembros del Consejo Directivo de la biblioteca salieron a participar en una fiesta de cumpleaños de Dr. Seuss en lo cual disfrutaron de un espectáculo de magia y donde se distribuyeron libros gratis y otros regalos.

Los funcionarios de la Asociación de Maestros de California quizás lo expresaron mejor en un comunicado de prensa, describiendo el evento anual (ahora en su 25° año) de “Read Across America” de California como una oportunidad para que los educadores, estudiantes y padres promuevan el alfabetismo y el amor por la lectura.

mona”, dijo a los estudiantes.

“Estos últimos tres años han sido muy difíciles, no solo en Pomona sino en todo el mundo”, dijo Sandoval. “Lo único que les pido es que continúen, si pueden, cuidándose unos a otros. Hay mucha gente pasando por momentos difíciles en este momento. Tenemos que cuidarnos, tenemos que apoyarnos, tenemos que querernos”, dijo Sandoval.

El entrenador de baloncesto de Pomona High, Eric Anderson, cantó el Himno Nacional Afroamericano (“Levantemos todas las voces y cantemos”). También participó la banda y el folclórico de Pomona High School, entre otros.

Incluso el presidente de CTA, E. Toby Boyd, se tomó un tiempo para leerles a los estudiantes de la Escuela Primaria Tahoe en Sacramento después de que el Senado y la Asamblea del Estado reconocieran oficialmente este día especial a través de resoluciones que dan reconocimiento al evento y promueven la apreciación de la lectura.

“La lectura es un regalo que dura toda la vida”, dijo Boyd. “Cuando los niños ven que adultos exitosos les leen, nuestra esperanza es que ellos también vean la lectura como una forma de cultivar el liderazgo”.

Muchos educadores estaban leyendo libros de “California Reads”, libros recomendados por maestros para todas las edades. El sitio web de CTA incluye listas de libros y consejos en ocho idiomas sobre cómo ayudar a que los niños sean mejores lectores.

En Pomona, muchos de los libros seleccionados para leer eran del propio Dr. Seuss, y muchos de los estudiantes y sus maestros, estaban vestidos como personajes de Seuss en libros como “El gato en el sombrero” y otros.

El autor y caricaturista estadounidense Theodor Seuss Geisel (1904 - 1991) es conocido por escribir e ilustrar más de 60 libros bajo el seudónimo de Dr. Seuss.

“Desayuno Cesar Chávez” de la Mesa Redonda Latina se llevará a cabo el 31 de Marzo

El decimonoveno desayuno anual está programado para las 8 a.m. el viernes en el Fairplex de Pomona.

Se le rendirá reconocimientos a los homenajeados por su servicio a la comunidad.

Para más información, comuníquese al (909) 480-6267 o envíe un correo electrónico a info@latinolatinaroundtable.org.

Visita nuestro sitio web en www.lanuevavoz.net



FACE PAINTING AT PUBLIC SAFETY FAIR -- The Pomona Police Department held a public safety fair outside police headquarters this month featuring everything from demonstrations, a SWAT vehicle and a helicopter to information on police, fire and first responders. Pictured hard at work at face painting three young customers with varying degrees of interest are Village Academy High School students, from left, Luciana Barraza, Lorraine Martinez and Ashley Alvarado. All three are members of the JOI (Junior Optimist International) Club.

Four Pomona executives honored by Supervisor Solis at Women's History Month breakfast

Four women executives representing Pomona non-profit organizations were among 32 women leaders from non-profit organizations honored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis this week for their service to residents of the first supervisory district.

Pat Bell, executive director/CEO of Pomona's House of Ruth, a domestic violence non-profit, Margaret Aichele, executive director of Pomona's dA Center for the Arts, Alicia Mardini, chief executive officer of East Valley Community Health Center, and Cynthia Brown, executive director of Project Caring and Sharing were honored by Solis at her ninth annual Women's History Month Empowerment Breakfast Monday in the student center at East Los Angeles College in Monterey Park.

"The women I had the honor of celebrating today are beacons of hope," Solis said. "Each one of them has empowered their respective organizations' staff to ensure families in hard hit communities received the necessary support to stay safe and healthy during this pandemic. I'm grateful for their leadership and commitment to public service."

Keynote speaker at the event was Xochitl Covarrubias, Los Angeles Chapter President of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement.

Lilia Fuentes who received the award last year for her efforts to enhance the partnering relationship between the dA and the entire school district.

"This is a special place," Solis said to more than 100 guests at the event, adding that since she was there last it has changed "but it has gotten better and I think all of you here have helped to make that happen."

She said soon after she was first elected to the Board of Supervisors she visited the dA and was

impressed by the work of a Latino artist from Claremont who she later contacted.

"I had him paint a portrait (of Solis) that is now hanging at the (U.S.) Department of Labor (from) when I was Secretary of Labor," Solis said, explaining that he painted the portrait from her photograph, and it is still hanging in Washington, D.C.

"So local artists . . . should be celebrated in every part of our country and our society regardless of where you grew up, regardless

of what you look like, regardless of what side of the street you live on, whether you have education or not," she said. "If you have talent and skills, then L.A. County wants to be here to support you."

She said the dA Center has been "very critical for my efforts working with the (Los Angeles County) Arts Commission."

Solis said the county also has been reaching out through various non-profits to artists who may have become unemployed during the pandemic. She said she

encouraged artists to apply for grants that are available through the American Rescue Plan Act.

She said the county also allocated \$1 million to implement its cultural equity and inclusion policy.

"So, we're not just talking, we're actually doing," she said.

The initiative is billed as a "roadmap to provide meaningful access to arts and culture for every resident in Los Angeles County.

Solis said about \$50,000 of that funding went to the dA, "and

Arts advocate... pg. 22

Arts advocate... from pg. 15



Let's Go to Bingo!!

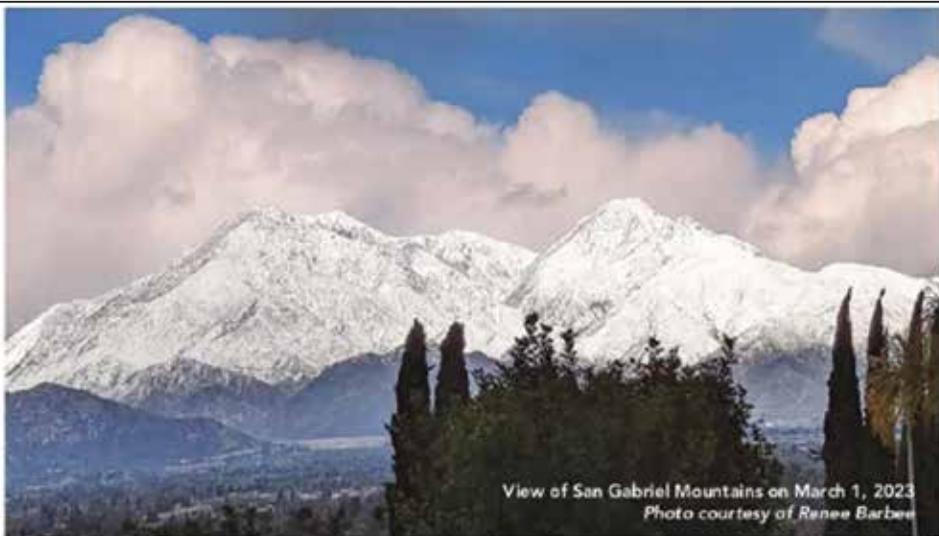
Saturday, May 6, 2023

Join us for family Bingo night at Pilgrim Church on Saturday, May 6, 2023, 5:00-8:30 p.m. at the church located at 600 N Garey Ave, Pomona, CA 91767. Admission is \$25 for adults, and \$10 for children 12 and under. This event includes a Spaghetti dinner, salad, bread, drinks, & dessert, 10 bingo cards, the chance to win non-cash prizes, a 50/50 drawing for gifts and prizes. Additional cards can be purchased for \$2 each. A special kid's corner will be held in Pilgrim Hall with dinner and activities for children 12 and under.

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

RSVP BY APRIL 24, 2023 to the church office at 909-622-1373 as space is limited.

LOOKING FORWARD TO FUN, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & PRIZES



View of San Gabriel Mountains on March 1, 2023
Photo courtesy of Renee Barbee

Rain or Shine: Water Supply Issues Remain

*A Sustainable Water Reserve Requires Conservation,
Investment in Big Projects*

This photo of the snow-covered San Gabriel Mountains by Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz was published in the Winter 2023 issue of "Southern California Sustainable Living," which is inserted in daily newspapers throughout Southern California. Barbee's photo appeared on page two with the featured story on water supply issues. Snowfall in the mountains is a significant source of water throughout California. The publication is produced by Chris Lancaster's Civic Publications, Inc.

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Arts advocate... from pg. 21

hopefully more will come."

She also provided significant funding through a county Department of Arts and Culture grant, an intern grant and a community project grant, among others.

Solis was presented with a special collage by East Los Angeles contemporary Chicano artist and muralist Paul Botello, consisting of photos and painting depicting Solis' life

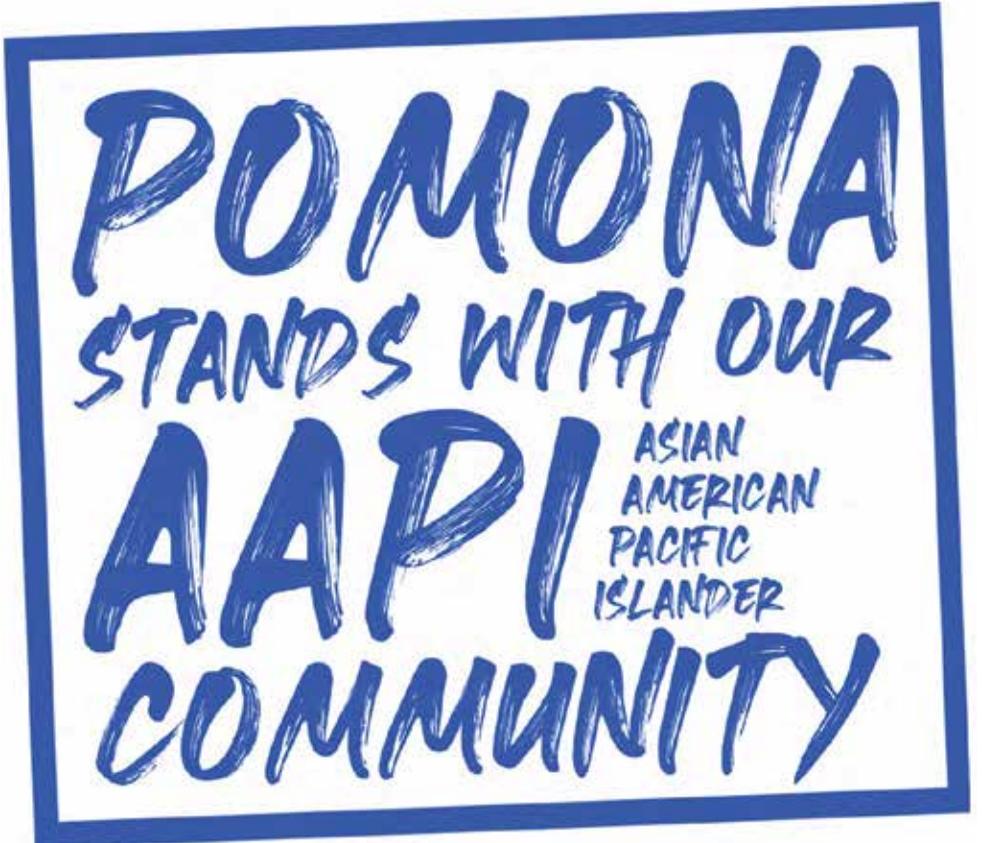
in politics. Botello has been a participant at the dA since 2003 and has produced at least one mural in Pomona.

Angelique Barnum, dA board treasurer and executive board member, was chair of the event in which guests participated in a drawing with tickets selected by an "Elvis" impersonator for an opportunity to select donated works of art or other donated items.



HONORING SUPERVISOR SOLIS -- Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis was honored last week with the dA Center for the Arts "2023 Arts Advocate Award" during an annual fundraiser. Pictured, from left, are Solis; Chicano artist Paul Botello who created the special collage presented to Solis; dA Executive Director Margaret Aichele; and dA treasurer and executive board member Angelique Barnum, chair of the fundraiser.

Public service ad courtesy of La Nueva Voz (created by Joshua Swodeck)



#StopAsianHate

Pomona Optimists to hold 'Tea for the Soul' luncheon

The Pomona Optimist Club will host its annual "Tea for the Soul" scholarship luncheon next week as a celebration of the young women of Pomona who will be attending college.

Students participating in the program were invited to complete an application, write an essay and submit their college application. A total of 65 applications were received this year.

Teatime and lunch is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, March 31, at the Ebell Club House, 585 E. Holt Ave., Pomona.

Organizers are encouraging successful women in the community to participate and sit at a table with the young women, all dressed wearing hats and gloves, to share experiences on how they

became successful.

Servers will include Pomona dignitaries, school district administrators, Pomona Police Department officials, Los Angeles County Fire Department officials, and members of service clubs in Pomona.

Organizers said they need to "empower our young women to have a voice and be aware of the challenges they will face as they enter the adult world and become independent, well-adjusted young women."

Sponsorships are still being accepted.

Cost is \$40 and deadline for RSVPs is March 27.

Contact Lorraine Canales at (213) 509-4980 for more information.

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Executive Board Member, Pomona Chamber of Commerce

Claremont Rotary to hold 'Taste of Claremont'

The Rotary Club of Claremont is scheduled to hold its 22nd annual "Taste of Claremont" next month offering what organizers say will be another festive night of delicious food, wine, craft beer and entertainment from local artists and establishments.

The event is set for 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 29, at the Claremont Colleges Services, 101 S. Mills Ave., Claremont.

Included will be food, live music, an art exhibit and raffle prizes.

According to a news release, last year's event attracted more than 1,000 guests and raised more than \$100,000 for The Claremont Rotary Foundation.

All proceeds from the event directly benefit local, regional and international charitable organizations.

This year's event will feature more than 40 local restaurants,

wineries and breweries providing samples of their wares.

Tickets are available at Eventbrite and both tickets and information can be found at www.tasteofclaremont.org.

Organizers also are accepting sponsorships and donations for the auction.

For information, contact Harry Sparrow at hsparrownv@gmail.com or at (707) 373-5336.



GIANT LITERACY ADVENTURE -- An estimated 1,000 students in grades "transitional kindergarten" through third grade arrived at Pomona's Ganesha High School on school buses last week to become "explorers" at Ganesha's "Giant Literacy Adventure," a campus-wide two-hour event for five of Ganesha's "feeder" schools -- Arroyo, Cortez, Roosevelt, Kellogg and Westmont Elementary Schools -- all to promote literacy on an African safari theme. Pictured are some of the 55 kids in one classroom working on making animal safari face masks with explanations on the back describing the animals they are coloring. Helping out, at left, dressed as a giraffe, is Teresa Murillo, a community school specialist at Ganesha, and, at right, dressed as a lion, Heidi Garcia, an educational community worker, also at Ganesha. Students were able to explore different types of literature, learn more about characters and stories, create their own stories, work on crafts and more. The event was part of "Read Across America" day, sponsored by the National Education Association, to promote the love of reading and enhance future academic success.



Photos by Renee Barbee

WINNIE THE POOH AND THE HONEY POT! -- About 1,000 kids in grades T-K through 3rd grade had a real treat last week when students in the Army Junior ROTC program at Pomona's Ganesha High School dressed in costumes of everyone's favorite Winnie the Pooh characters and read to the students from "Winnie the Pooh -- the Honey Tree." The presentation was part of a "Giant Literacy Adventure" produced by staff, teachers and students at Ganesha for the kids. Pictured, from left, are Winnie the Pooh (Azter Romero), narrator Kevin Gonzalez, reader Yahaira Alvarez, Piglet (Gezelle Mariscal), Eeyore (Gwen Melendez), and Tigger (Joshua Cruz). The Pomona Unified School District Board proclaimed March 2, the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss, as "Read Across America Day."

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