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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. 189

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Roundtable founder Jose Calderon, stepping down as president, honored after 21 Cesar Chavez Breakfasts

Dr. Jose Calderon, founder of Pomona's Latino and Latina Roundtable, the organization's president since 2003 and an honoree at last month's 21st annual Roundtable Cesar Chavez Breakfast, was introduced by Congresswoman Judy Chu as "a tremendous leader whose charisma, commitment and strategic thinking has played a significant role in advocating for quality and social justice."

Calderon and his wife Rose were honored for their accomplishments as they both step down from their official Roundtable responsibilities and hand over the reins to incoming president Lidia Manzanares.

Chu told an estimated 450 supporters at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center that she has partnered with Calderon for more than 40 years, going back to the beginning of her political career when he was a doctoral student at UCLA and became involved in a controversial "English only" movement in Monterey Park in the 1980s.

The city was proposing English only signs on buildings at a time Chinese language signs were appearing, and was proposing English only books in the library.

She said Calderon, one of the first to protest before the Monterey Park City Council, led a door-to-door fight eventually defeating

the city's effort that received national media attention as a city torn apart by racism.

Chu was elected to the Monterey Park City Council before her election to Congress, and she said Calderon went on to become a faculty member at Claremont's Pitzer College where his teachings consistently focused on race, ethnic relations and community engagement.

"And he continues to fight throughout



SPECIAL NATIVE AMERICAN CEREMONY – Al Villanueva, representing the Pomona Valley Indigenous Native American community, performs a special Native American ceremony honoring Jose and Rose Calderon. The Calderons received top honors at last month's Latino and Latina Roundtable Gala for their service to the Roundtable and to the community. From left are Villanueva's daughter, Magdalena Serrajo; Villanueva; and Jose and Rose Calderon.

Day Labor Organizing Network . . . the Pomona Day Labor Center, the unions . . . and the local, national and international movements that we need today in overcoming the right wing Draconian policies that we are facing," he said.

"In this spirit we are thankful that we've been part of building the Latino and Latina Roundtable from its beginning," Calderon said. "You are supporting

Casa Colina, in time of need, works its magic on one of its own!

Physical therapist Yannick Darmon, a Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare researcher – and now patient and this year's honoree at the hospital's annual gala last month – told La Nueva Voz before the event that he's telling everybody he can "how good Casa Colina is because they've done an amazing job with me."

Darmon was the guest speaker at last month's gala at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center where he explained to supporters that he is working on research on stroke survivors and individuals with spinal cord injury.

"Ironically, I ended up with a spinal cord injury"

In time of need... pg. 5



Casa Colina Board Chair Gary Cripe, at left, and Casa Colina's Chief Planning and Development Officer Bonnie Scudder are dealt the first hand of the night last month by blackjack dealer Angel Tran at the hospital's annual gala, this year on a "Havana Casino Night" theme.

the community for those who are the most vulnerable," she added. "It's astounding to think about how much Jose Calderon has changed our community for the better."

Calderon told the audience that he and his wife were only stepping down "so that new leaders can lead and so we can sustain the organization long term."

"We thank all of you here who are helping to sustain the long term sustainability of our organization, for in this time period as Judy said we need to build community based organizations such as the National

the sustainability of our efforts to ensure our fight and what it's about right now, that our tax dollars, that our resources created in this society through our labor, are used for better health, for better housing, for better work place conditions, for all our people, regardless of their immigrant, their gender, their racial or their sexual orientation."

Rose Calderon served on the Roundtable Board for 14 years handling bookkeeping, fundraising and initiating both the scholarship program and the Round-

Cesar Chavez breakfast... pg. 2



Check In With Your Mental Health

CHECK IN - LEARN MORE - GET SUPPORT



This May, Take Action for Mental Health by Embracing the Continuum of You

May is Mental Health Awareness Month – a time to remember that, just like we care for our physical health, we can take action to support our mental well-being every day. Mental health looks different for everyone. There's no one-size-fits-all approach – what matters is showing up for yourself and others, one step at a time.

This May, Tri-City Mental Health invites you to join California's Take Action for Mental Health movement and celebrate the power of community. This year's theme, *Mental Health as a Continuum*, encourages us to embrace the full spectrum of our well-being. Whether you're simply getting through the day or taking a step toward self-care, each moment is valid and meaningful.

Scan the QR code to RSVP and explore free local in-person and virtual events happening all month long! Follow us @TriCityMHS or visit tricitymhs.org to get involved and discover resources to support your mental health journey.

Cesar Chavez breakfast... from pg. 1

table's Dia de los Muertos event. She also has helped organize the Cesar Chavez Day Breakfast since 2008 and, she said, she has seen it grow from 75 guests to as many as 600.

"I've been involved in organizing and doing social justice work since the age of 18, going to and organizing marches and demonstrations, cooking and selling enchiladas to help pay for electric bills for our community center in Colorado," she said. "We organize to make change, to end racism, sexism, and inequalities of our people and the working class, to empower and educate our community, and fight against police brutality."

"In the beginning this was a full-time job," she added. "This was our career. We worked only to pay the bills, have a place to sleep and eat. Our kids were part of our organizing."

Calderon said she and her husband delayed their formal educa-



Jose Calderon, at left, and Congresswoman Judy Chu.

tion and their careers.

"But we didn't see that as a sacrifice," she said. "We saw our organizing as our responsibility. I have very few regrets for doing this."

She said she was influenced by her husband's on-going activism and commitment to fighting injustice, but she said she was also influenced by the inequalities she saw as a child – "how my dad had to retire as a laborer when I was in high school because no one would hire him because of his age."

Calderon said her father was

in his 60s when she was in high school.

"My mom worked so hard cleaning offices and hard cleaning hotels," she said, "and was treated as less than human."

"This along with the massive demonstrations happening throughout the school and the country against the war – these are all the things that influenced me when I was young," she said.

"Today more than ever we need to be active in our communities to let the politicians know what we want and to empower our communities to action," she said.

Al Villanueva, of Claremont, representing the Pomona Valley Indigenous Native American community, performed a special ceremony at the event honoring Jose and Rose, wrapping them in a blanket "representing 50 years of the sanctity of mar-



Pasadena Community Job Center and NDLO 2nd Responders



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS – This year's scholarship winners, selected for their work in the image of Cesar Chavez, received their scholarships from Roundtable Executive Board member David Estrada, Board Secretary, representing the Scholarship Committee. "Each of these individuals embodies the spirit of community, leadership, and social justice that our organization strives for," Estrada said. Pictured, from left, are Estrada, Brianna Shirley Angulo, a sophomore at Cal Poly Pomona, Andrea Ibarra, of Occidental College, Natalie Ascorra, a student at Pitzer College, and Marissa Ferrel, a student at Walnut High School who plans to attend UC Berkeley.

riage."

The two also were the recipients of a new award – named in their honor – which each year will honor their legacy by presenting the Jose and Rose Calderon Lifetime Achievement Award to someone in the organization who has shown longevity and commitment, made a significant impact through contribution to the com-

munity, excellence in recognition, leadership and mentorship, and service and dedication.

The Roundtable's Community Star Award, presented each year to a member who has contributed behind the scenes, went to Board member Maria Galvan for her volunteer efforts.

Also honored at the event was muralist and educator Paul Botello, who has created seven murals on the life of Cesar Chavez in Pomona and who told the audience that art is important to a community and that people learn from murals.

"Art is so powerful it can be used as a tool to change the world," he said. "I use art as a form of activism."

The Pasadena Community Job Center and NDLO 2nd Responders were honored for their work helping provide relief and recovery in the catastrophic Eaton Fire, and labor leader Mark Ramos, President of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1428, was honored with the "Si Se Puede" award for his tireless commitment to justice, service



Cesar Chavez breakfast... pg. 5

The Pomona Library Foundation Congratulates


Dr. Estela G. Ballón Mr. Paul Knopf

Awardees at this Year's Mayor's Gala

CELEBRATE WITH US!
June 12th, 5:30pm
Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center

Cal Poly Pomona





Come Join Us!

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

Monday, May 26, 2025

Pomona Valley Memorial Park
502 East Franklin Ave., Pomona
(between Towne and Garey)

Gates open at 8:30 am • Program starts at 9:00 am
Pomona Concert Band, Linda Taylor, Conducting

Celebrating Pomona Valley Memorial Park's
148th year of honoring our veterans!

National Anthem, Pomona Concert Band
Color Guard ceremonies will be provided by
Pomona American Legion Post 30



POMONA

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULES 2025

Thursday, May 29th



Adult & Career Education

4:00 p.m. at Sheraton Conference Center

School of Extended Educational Options

5:30 p.m. at Sheraton Conference Center

Diamond Ranch High School

7:00 p.m. at Diamond Ranch Stadium

Pomona High School

7:00 p.m. at Pomona High School Stadium

Friday, May 30th

Village Academy of Film & Technology

4:00 p.m. at Sheraton Conference Center

Park West High School

5:30 p.m. at Sheraton Conference Center

Fremont Academy of Engineering & Design

7:00 p.m. at Sheraton Conference Center

Ganesha High School

7:00 p.m. at Ganesha High School Stadium

Garey High School

7:00 p.m. at Garey High School Stadium





JOB AND CAREER EXPO -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and friends hang out at the Chamber table this month at the 2025 "Pomona Valley Job, Career and Entrepreneur Expo" at the Village at Indian Hill, produced by America's Job Centers of California (AJCC), Pomona Unified School District and the Pomona Chamber, among others. Everything was available including workshops, resources, and an opportunity to network and connect to get hired on the spot. From left are Monique Cardenas, of the San Antonio Regional Occupational Program; Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Karla Aceves of AJCC (at rear), Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, Chamber Board member and Ambassador's Chair Ron Garner of Inland Empire Fence and Construction, and Briyana Ramirez of AJCC.

Boxing great George Foreman a mentor to Pomona youth boxing coach Bernard Roberts

Two-time world heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman, who died last month at the age of 76, competed from 1967 to 1997 as a professional boxer, he was a successful businessman, an author and even a minister.

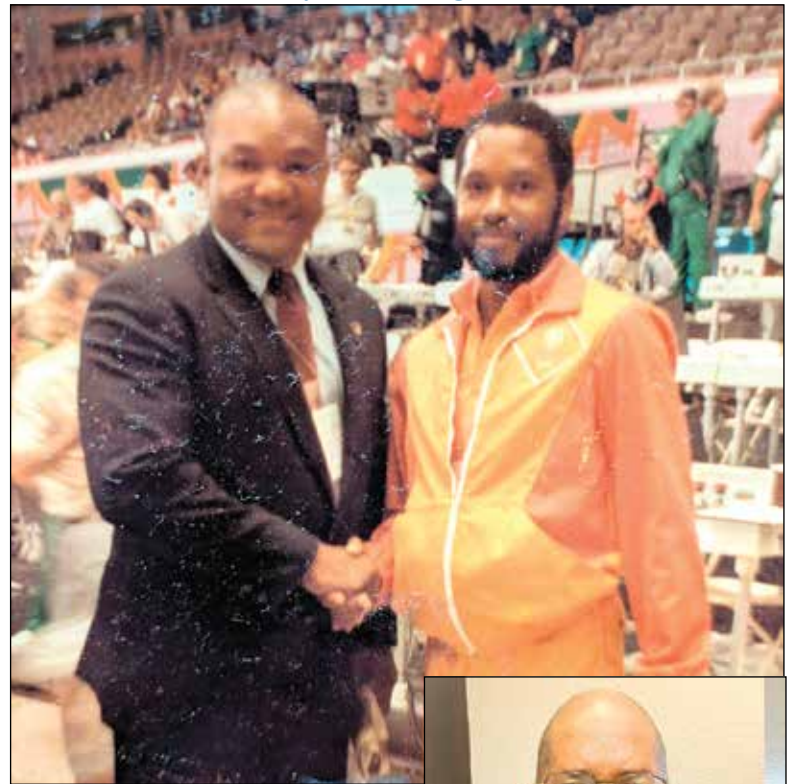
But to long-time Pomona resident Bernard Roberts, Jr., he was a mentor – whether Foreman really ever knew it or not.

The two first met when Roberts was in college in 1968 at the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico, and Foreman was training for the Olympics at a school 10 miles away.

Foreman won a gold medal in the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, Mexico, as an amateur. He turned professional the next year and won the world championship in 1973 with a second-round knock-out of then-undefeated Joe Frazier.

He defended the belt twice but had his first professional loss to Muhammad Ali in "The Rumble in the Jungle" in 1974 and retired after a loss to Jimmy Young in 1977.

Roberts' own boxing career resulted in a New Mexico state



George Foreman, at left, and Pomona's Bernard Roberts at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.



Bernard Roberts

heavyweight championship in 1969. He advanced to the Golden Gloves nationals, where he lost to Earnie Shavers, who later fought Muhammad Ali unsuccessfully for the world heavyweight crown. He didn't see Foreman again until he

ran into him when Foreman appeared at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles where Foreman was introduced as a former Olympian. Roberts was working at the Olympics at the time as a boxing competition staff assistant ringside in the now demolished Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena. To this day, he has a full-sized poster of his legendary boxing hero.

(Roberts, who also worked as a boxing manager and volunteer at the 1991 U.S. Olympics Festival in Los Angeles, returned to the ring during his law enforcement career to win a gold medal in the heavyweight division of the California Police Olympics.)

But as is so often the case, life is about outcomes and, in the case of Roberts, he became something of a boxing legend here in Pomona working with young boxers just getting into the sport – placing him in the ranks of people like Indigenous community leader Tony Cerda, who trained Pomona's own Sugar Shane Moseley (who held world championships in welter-

A mentor to boxing coach... pg. 16

In time of need... from pg. 1

and became one of his own research participants.

Now confined to a wheelchair, Darmon – who has been working at Casa Colina for about three years – told La Nueva Voz the injury occurred about a year and a half ago during a judo competition not far from the hospital in Los Angeles County when his opponent fell on his neck.

“I did an attack, he came for me, and he fell on my neck directly,” Darmon said, adding that his weight class is under 90 kilos (198.4 pounds).

“That’s a lot of weight on the neck, that’s a lot of pressure,” Darmon said.

A hospital spokesperson said Darmon became a patient at Casa Colina and has been living in the facility’s transitional living center under the “free and subsidized care” program which, interestingly, is the same program benefiting from the proceeds of the gala.

“And he’s making great gains because of that,” said spokesman Michael Timmons.

Then how’s Darmon doing?

“I’m doing better,” he told La Nueva Voz. “There’s still a lot of work to do.”

And, while he said he’s not quite back at work yet, “I’m fully recovering and trying to get better.”

When does he expect to be back in the office?

“As soon as possible,” he said with a huge smile, as he’s looking forward to getting back to helping the people he works with on a daily basis.

And what was he planning on telling the audience at the gala?

“I’m thanking them for their support, because we get to raise money for the free and subsidized care program at Casa Colina, and (I’ll) tell all the people how good Casa Colina is because they’ve done an amazing job with me.”

Casa Colina Board Chair Gary



Elex Michaelson
Master of Ceremonies



Yannick Darmon
Honoree

Cripe, a board member for 18 years and a practicing lawyer for nearly 50 years, told La Nueva Voz he was recruited to the Board by his fellow Board member Steve Norin (now a director emeritus).

“And it’s among the most gratifying experiences of my life,” Cripe said, “because I get to witness firsthand miracles every day.

I don’t know of any other place where I could have spent 18 years and experienced that, so I’m very grateful for the opportunity.”

Casa Colina’s Chief Planning and Development Officer Bonnie Scudder was hosting the event with Cripe.

She told La Nueva Voz they planned to tell supporters “about all the wonderful things that Casa Colina does, our programs and services, but we’re also going to highlight a patient, Yannick Darmon, tonight . . . (who) is a wonderful person who has an incredible story of courage and survival after a spinal cord injury.”

Scudder said Darmon, who has received his doctoral degree, was collaborating with Casa Colina on research projects involving patients “kind of ironically” who have had spinal cord injuries and strokes.

She added they also will be highlighting three programs that are new developments happening at Casa Colina – a new mobility park for wheelchair sports and mobility, a new sports field, and a new satellite facility that is in the works.

“So, Casa Colina is growing, it’s bustling and we’re very proud of

what we’re doing and we hope to be able to provide this level of care to more and more communities,” Scudder said.

Cripe added that Casa Colina is unique in a number of ways.

“One of them is we have a research institute which is really unheard of for a hospital like our own,” he said. “We are not a teaching hospital. Usually research institutes are only at teaching hospitals.”

“We do research projects with the (U.S.) Department of Defense, NIH (National Institutes of Health), CDC (Centers for Disease Control), Yale, Harvard, UCLA, USC,” he said, adding that it is led by Dr. Emily Rosario “who is a fantastic neuroscientist and her team.”

“And it’s really a unique special place where we try to do research projects that will also benefit our patients,” Cripe said.

Master of Ceremonies for the “Havina Casino Night” themed evening was Elex Michaelson, co-anchor at Fox 11 News in Los Angeles, who – while a reporter at KABC television in Los Angeles – covered a story of a former Casa Colina patient who was a survivor of the Route 91 Harvest Festival mass shooting in Las Vegas.

He became a friend and supporter of the hospital and now has hosted its “Tribute to Courage Gala” for both 2024 and 2025.

Casa Colina is a non-profit provider of specialized medical and rehabilitative care for people of all ages with disabling conditions resulting from accidents, disease, or illness – from medical-surgical and intensive care to acute rehabilitation, residential rehabilitation and long-term residential care.

It has served the Southern California community and beyond for 85 years.

Cesar Chavez breakfast... from pg. 2

and empowering working people – all values aligned with the legacy of Cesar Chavez.

Ramos cited an effort under way in Florida to allow students as young as 14 working in the field and said “we never stop even after we have a victory.”

“This honor is really about the collective work of the incredible people at UFCW Local 1428,” he said.

New Roundtable President Lidia Manzanares said in the program notes that the organization for more than 20 years has commemorated the legacy of organizing and fighting for rights as demonstrated by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta.

“Today more than ever we must continue the practice of organizing to protect the most vulnerable in our communities as well as protect our Constitution and the



Pomona Mayor
Tim Sandoval



Artist Paul Botello



Mark Ramos, President
UFCW 1428



Roundtable Executive Director
Lina Mira



Volunteer and Board Member
Maria Galvan

democratic institutions created to protect our rights,” she said.

“All the individuals and groups being honored today exemplify the virtuousness and selflessness of dedicating their lives to social justice and integrity,” she added.

“We are living through very difficult and challenging times,” said Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval.

“There is a tremendous amount of fear and stress and angst and frustration and anger and I think a lot about what we are doing to respond to that.”

“This is not the

time to be divided – this is not the time to work against each other,” he said. “This is the time for us to be incredibly united.”

“It’s about unity,” said Roundtable Executive Director Lina Mira. “Please promise me that you will try to build movement – we really need to work together.”

Pomona Concert Band

‘Spring Concert’ set for May

The Pomona Concert Band will present its annual Spring Concert” titled “Viva Musica” next month in the Palomares Park Community Center.

The event, sponsored by the City of Pomona, is set for 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 16, at the park, located at 499 E. Arrow Highway, Pomona.

Included will be music with

a Latin flavor including “Noche de Luna Entre Ruinas” by Mariano Valverde, “Courtly Airs and Dances” by Ron Nelson, “Viva Musica” by Alfred Reed, and others.

It is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit the web site at www.pomona-concertband.org.

OPINION

Greg Estel homicide a reminder of why we're glad we don't often cover court stories

It seems like every time we step out of our Pomona comfort zone and set foot in Pomona Courthouse South we go away either disappointed, upset with the system or amazed that they ever get anything done in there at all – but we are never surprised.

Our friend Greg Estel was shot and killed in December while sitting in his truck in front of his house in Pomona. Three months later detectives with the Pomona Police Department – doing remarkable work as always – arrested a suspect in the case on March 6 – Julious Ray Whiten, 56, of Covina, who was booked on suspicion of homicide, convicted felon in possession of a gun and other charges in connection with his alleged actions.

La Nueva Voz ran stories on the incident in our December issue and on the arrest and scheduled arraignment in our March issue (all available on our web site under “past issues”).

The defendant's original arraignment on the charges was scheduled for March 10 but was bumped over, as is typical in the court system, until April 10.

La Nueva Voz decided to attempt to grab a photo of the defendant during the proceeding just as we did seven years ago when the defendant in the slaying of Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas was arraigned. (We ran that photo on the front page of our July 2018 paper, but we had to e-mail the presiding judge downtown to make it possible.)

The normal procedure is you go on to the Los Angeles Superior Court web site, click on media photos, and fill out two forms. All staff has to do is send the forms to the court clerk, in this case in Department N in Pomona.

Then, in this case, La Nueva Voz simply shows up at the courtroom at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the hearing and hopes that Judge Robert Serna will grant the request on the spot, in the presence of both the deputy district attorney and, for this matter, a defense lawyer from the public defender's office.

So, the first sign of trouble was when the audience “organizer,” a very nice sheriff's deputy / bailiff, asked why everybody was there and, in the case of La Nueva Voz, said she had received no paperwork for a camera in the courtroom re-

quest.

Fortunately, we took a copy with us – it was clearly filed well ahead of the advance deadline, plus we even had a confirmation e-mail from the downtown court when we asked if they had received our forms and was everything on track. We had an e-mail indicating that yes, the request would be considered by the judge at the time of the hearing.

(In fairness, La Nueva Voz received a telephone call last week from L.A. Superior Court media relations downtown in response to our e-mail explaining the approval mix-up. It turns out the original camera request paperwork originally went to another judge filling in at the time and never got in the hands of Serna ahead of the hearing date.)

Back in Pomona court, the bailiff asked the court clerk, and the court clerk took our copy of the paperwork to the judge in chambers for his review. Meanwhile, La Nueva Voz while out in the hall met the deputy district attorney on the case, Lance Hansen, who, while he seemed to be a real nice Upland boy, as he put it, who reads La Nueva Voz when he is having lunch at Pomona Pizza, told us he was opposed to photos in court because they might impact the case.

Still reading? Then, back in the courtroom, the clerk came over to La Nueva Voz in the front row and said the judge had denied the camera request. Case closed. La Nueva Voz would have no opportunity to respond or appeal.

But there's more – turns out the defense lawyer, Maribel Meza, of the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, was a no-show. She just wasn't there at the appointed time of the hearing, and nobody had any idea why. La Nueva Voz heard no mention of asking staff to make a phone call, no mention of sanctions, just a quick decision to bump the arraignment over a second time, this time to April 23, again in Pomona South Department N.

The public defender gets away without penalty for inconveniencing 15 audience members, a deputy district attorney and the entire courtroom staff (she may have decided to sleep in, as far as the court was aware) but La Nueva Voz – or typically, in most cases, any media representative – is treated in that particular courthouse as the bad guy (even Los Angeles Superior Court staff downtown have told La Nueva

Voz in the past that “East District” judges have a reputation of refusing cameras in court).

Deputy District Attorney Hansen, working with the judge to try to agree upon a new date, mentioned to the judge that there was a media request for a camera in the courtroom.

“Oh, I've already denied that,” the judge responded quickly and gloriously.

(The judge, acting as is typical over there as though it is all his personal “fiefdom,” and another defense attorney seemed more interested in the humor surrounding protocol in an unrelated case – the judge explained his clerk had to call another judge's clerk to determine schedule availability before he could call the judge and ask him to take a case so he could recuse himself. The lawyer held up his hands in surrender and said “Hey, that's way above my pay grade.”)

And, sadly, as La Nueva Voz explained to the district attorney, this was our last “court of opportunity” to grab a photo of the defendant for our readers. We had previously gone several rounds of e-mail discussion with our friend Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis requesting his booking photo, but Ellis held firm – even double checked with the lawyers. He said department policy prevents releasing booking photos (even though we've received photos of suspects for publication in the past under previous police chiefs).

No problem – we reached out to the Sheriff's Information Bureau, the media office of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and were welcomed with open arms – they went right to work on our request for a photo taken when the defendant was processed into Los Angeles County Jail.

But, alas, there was even more bad news – they were unable to release their photo without the approval of the Pomona Police Department, because Pomona was the arresting agency. And Ellis stuck to his guns, so to speak, once again.

(As a side note, the family of the defendant told La Nueva Voz they did not want photos – we said that would be up to the judge – and even Laura Estel, widow of the victim, told us she preferred no photo.)

(La Nueva Voz even reached out to the California News Publishers Association, of which we are a member, on the issue of booking photos and was told that if the police department took a photo, it was public record.)

So, good readers, we just wanted you to know that everything – certainly not here in Pomona's favorite courthouse – does not always go as smoothly as things look like on television.

Everybody in the courtroom got a good look at Whiten, seated by the door to the lock-up area next to the jury box in a black COVID mask, handcuffs and a blue L.A. County Jail jumpsuit, shackled to a chair with the bailiff standing next to him, but he was never even seated at the defense table in front of the judge since there was no arraignment hearing after all.

The bottom line is there will be no photo of the defendant in this issue of La Nueva Voz, despite significant interest among our readers in seeing what he looks like. We'll try to keep you updated at several key benchmark points in the trial proceedings which, of course, are expected to go on for a while – likely multiple years.

But if we want to see photos, we could always poke around on the internet to see what's out there, right?

Best we can do.

Oh, and on Serna's bumbling performance in open court – which we're guessing might be why his duties have been relegated to arraignments (the actual trial is expected to be handled by another judge) – his current term is up on Jan. 4, 2027, in case anybody wants to make a note on the calendar for when he comes up for election.

La Nueva Voz

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CITY OF POMONA

HOW TO DISPOSE OF BULKY ITEMS

CÓMO DESHACERSE DE ARTÍCULOS VOLUMINOSOS



Bulky items are large solid waste materials that don't fit in a standard trash cart. Athens offers convenient curbside pickup for these items upon request.

- Single-family residents: Up to 6 pickups per year
- Multifamily dwellings: Quarterly per property manager's schedule

Los artículos voluminosos son residuos sólidos de gran tamaño que no caben en un contenedor de basura normal. Athens puede recolectar estos artículos en la acera a pedido.

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- *Viviendas multifamiliares: Trimestralmente según el calendario del administrador de la propiedad*



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- Call the Customer Care Center at (888) 336-6100

Please submit your request at least 24-hours prior to your scheduled collection date.

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- Visite AthensServices.com/Bulky.
- Llame al Centro de Servicio al Cliente al (888) 336-6100.

Envíe su solicitud al menos 24 horas antes de la fecha de recolección prevista.



IMPORTANT REMINDER

It is illegal to dump items on the sidewalk without contacting Athens Services to arrange for a pick-up.

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Es ilegal arrojar artículos a la acera sin contactarse antes con Athens Services para concertar una recolección.

Other items not specifically included or excluded above will be collected provided that they are no more than eight (8) feet in length, four (4) feet in width, or more than one hundred and fifty (150) pounds.

Se recolectarán otros artículos no incluidos o excluidos específicamente más arriba siempre que no midan más de ocho (8) pies de largo, cuatro (4) pies de ancho o pesen más de ciento cincuenta (150) libras.



ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Furniture
- Carpets
- Mattresses
- Electronic Waste
- White goods
- Brown goods
- Clothing
- Green waste produced by single-family residents

ARTÍCULOS ACEPTABLES

- Muebles
- Alfombras
- Colchones
- Desechos electrónicos
- Línea blanca
- Electrodomésticos de menor tamaño
- Ropa
- Residuos verdes producidos por residentes unifamiliares



NOT ACCEPTABLE

Items defined as Exempt Waste
For disposal of these items, contact the
LA County Sanitation Districts
(800) 238-0173
(888) CLEAN-LA

NO ACEPTABLES

Artículos definidos como residuos exentos
Para deshacerse de estos artículos, comuníquese con los
Districtos de Saneamiento del condado de Los Ángeles
al **(800) 238-0173 (888) CLEAN-LA.**

Large items must be generated by and at the single-family residence where the large items are collected.

Los artículos voluminosos se deben generar en la residencia unifamiliar, donde se recogen los artículos voluminosos, y esta debe generarlos.



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FOR UP TO 72 MONTHS

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2025 Honda
CR-V HYBRID SPORT-L 2WD
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2024
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\$5,500 due at signing
LEASE LOYALTY OFFER

2025
INTEGRA A-spec 1.5L CVT
\$298 /mo. for 48 months + tax
\$4,999 due at signing
LEASE SPECIAL

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Las ofertas podrían aplicar en vehículos elegibles solamente. Los términos de acuerdo a crédito aprobado. Efectivo hasta 5/30/25. Visite Metro Honda para detalles completos. Sujeto a disponibilidad de vehículos.



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Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center is honored to be recognized by Healthgrades as one of America's Top 100 Hospitals for Joint Replacement. We are proud to rank in the nation's top 10% for joint replacement excellence, and we have achieved 5-Star ratings in Hip Fracture Treatment, Total Knee Replacement and Total Hip Replacement. Additionally, we have been awarded Advanced Certification in Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement by The Joint Commission.

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www.pvhmc.org   



COMPASSIONATE POMONA RECEIVES SCHOOL DISTRICT AWARD -- Compassionate Pomona received a community partner award this month from Pomona Unified School District. Award ceremonies were organized by the school district's Pupil and Community Services Department to recognize "the incredible partners and dedicated volunteers who support our school sites in countless ways." Pictured, from left, are Kathryn Martens of Compassionate Pomona, Pomona Unified School Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman and Board President Patricia Tye, Don Martens and Jan Chase of Compassionate Pomona, Pomona Unified School Supt. Darren Knowles, and Madelene Brooks, Director of Pomona Unified's Pupil and Community Services Department.



SOROPTIMIST CLEAN-UP AT GANESHA PARK -- It was Soroptimist clean-up and a day of planting new trees at Ganesha Park this month in the Soroptimist Redwood Grove at Ganesha Park right across from the main entrance to Fairplex. The Soroptimists planted 50 original redwood trees on the land which was donated to the city and added to Ganesha Park. The grove was dedicated on Sept. 30, 1971. Another 200 redwoods were planted in 1976 for the nation's bicentennial celebration. Soroptimists collaborated with City of Pomona crew members on the project. Pictured, from left, in front, are Soroptimist President Linda Chavez-Nunez, Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin, and Soroptimist Gayle Claiborne. At rear, from left, are Diamond Ranch High School football team members Caeleb Cortes, Johan Almaraz, Cortavion Stewart, Julian Iniguez-Chavez and Evan Ortiz, and volunteers David Ceballos and Jose Ceballos.

Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez authors 'Hero's Overtime Relief Act'

Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez introduced Assembly Bill 1057 this month, a bill known as the "Hero's Overtime Relief Act," to propose a tax exclusion for qualified overtime wages earned by eligible taxpayers for work related to emergency operations between Jan. 1, 2025, and Jan. 1, 2030.

"In times of emergency in our state, we turn to the brave first responders who put their lives on the line to protect our communities," Rodriguez said. "It is time California provides tax relief so these heroes are fairly compensated for their extraordinary service and sacrifice."

Under the proposed legislation, overtime

pay earned by qualified first responders would not be considered taxable income if it is earned while responding to or supporting emergency operations in a designated disaster zone.

Rodriguez said the measure would ensure that those most directly involved in disaster response receive the financial support and recognition they deserve.

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2025 CONCERT SERIES

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MAY 16 ZAPP MIDNIGHT STAR	MAY 17 DRU HILL MIA	MAY 18 LOS TUCANES DE TIJUANA
MAY 23 CHEAP TRICK	MAY 24 CHRIS JANSON	MAY 25 LOS HURACANES DEL NORTE

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW AT
LACOUNTYFAIR.COM

Free Community Seminars

Stroke Awareness: From Prevention to Recovery

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare, Loverso Education Center, Building 1E • 255 East Bonita Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767

PRESENTED BY



Adeel M. Popalzai, DO
Neurologist



Marie Yeseta, PT, DPT, NCS
Physical Therapist

Topics of discussion will include:

- What is a stroke and how does it happen?
- What are the signs and symptoms of a stroke?
- Can we prevent or minimize the risk of a stroke?
- Update on the latest rehabilitation services and technologies to treat a stroke
- Demonstration of current rehabilitation technologies
- Current research and tools for advancement of stroke rehabilitation
- Resources for survivors and caregivers
- Question and answer session

Three easy ways to register!

- Call 866/724-4132
- Online at casacolina.org/communityevents
- Scan the QR code

Refreshments will be served and space is limited.



www.casacolina.org •



Photo by Renee Barbee

OPTIMIST STUDENTS OF THE MONTH -- Two sixth grade student from Pomona's City of Knowledge Islamic School were honored this month as "Students of the Month" for the month of April by members of the Pomona Optimist Club at their meeting at the Eagles lodge. It was the last "Students of the Month Awards Dinner" for the school term, a program designed to bring out the best in youth. Pictured, from left, are Optimist M. Joyce Bakersmith, student of the month Fatemeh Rezaei, Optimist Fernando Meza, student of the month Mohammad Amin, and Optimist President Lorraine Canales.



Photos by Renee Barbee

Alice Gomez, at left, and Donna Manzaneres-Otero were among nine recipients to receive a miniature statue of the Goddess of Pomona, the city's highest honor, at a meeting this month of the Pomona City Council. Recipients were being honored for their service on city commissions. Gomez served on the city's Historic Preservation Commission for nine years and Manzaneres-Otero served on the city's Parks and Recreation Commission for four years.

Assemblymember Rodriguez authors lifesaving K9 legislation

Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez introduced Assembly Bill 463 this month aimed at enhancing care and protection for police canines injured in the line of duty.

Under the measure, emergency medical services would be permitted to transport police canines injured in the line of duty to veterinary clinics by ambulance if no human requires medical attention from the ambulance.

Rodriguez said the legislation recognizes the vital role police canines play in our law enforcement and ensures they receive timely medical care if injured on the job.

"Police canines are law enforcement officers – they're regularly placed in dangerous, often life-threatening situations to protect the public," she said. "It's time we provide them with the care and protections they deserve."

Do you have a news story?

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Officials welcome 2028 Olympics to Pomona

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Pro Tem Hilda Solis is applauding LA28's historic decision to host some of the most popular Olympic and Paralympic sports at existing Los Angeles County venues within the First District.

The Fairplex in Pomona will serve as a venue for cricket competition, while the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area will host the clay target events for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"The selection of the Fairplex in Pomona for cricket and the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area for clay target events as host sites . . . represents a historic and transformative moment – not just for the Games, but for the First District and Los Angeles County as a whole," Solis said. "Both of these venues, deeply rooted in the San Gabriel Valley, highlight a strong commitment to equity, regional representation, and

"And it will be a great opportunity for our local and regional community to get a chance to see an Olympic sport close to home," he added.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval called it a huge honor for the City of Pomona.

"We look forward to welcoming athletes and spectators from all over the world," he said.

Los Angeles County Fair Association Board Chair John Landherr called the announcement another milestone on the checklist of historic events at Fairplex.

"To add the Olympic Games to the catalog of events here at Fairplex is a dream come true," he said. "It's a dream for any venue."

"It's a moment of global unity through sport and a celebration of cricket's growing legacy on the Olympic stage," he added.

The LA28 Games will mark the third time Los Angeles has hosted the Olympic Games,



La Nueva Voz archive photo

LA COUNTY FAIR PARADE IN 2017 CELEBRATES OLYMPICS COMING BACK TO LOS ANGELES IN 2028 -- Then-Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti takes time out for a selfie with a group of volunteers from the Olympics LA84 Foundation in a special parade through the LA County Fairgrounds in September 2017. The parade was part of a celebration of the Olympics returning to Los Angeles in 2028.

inclusion."

"For too long, communities like ours have been excluded from global events of this magnitude," she added. "Now the Games will shine a spotlight on neighborhoods that reflect the true diversity and spirit of Los Angeles County."

The announcement was made last week.

The game of cricket is returning to the Olympics in 2028 after a more than 100-year hiatus, according to a Fairplex spokesperson.

Cricket was last part of the Olympic Games in 1900, when only two countries participated in a two-day event. The popular international sport has 2.5 billion followers worldwide.

"We are ready to welcome a global audience to Fairplex and Pomona," said Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez. "Our campus is perfect for such an event as the Olympics with everything from a hotel to parking to open space."

previously held here in 1932 and 1984. It is the first time the city is hosting the Paralympic Games.

Then-Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Supervisor Solis and then-Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson, Jr., rode in a special "Celebrate 28" parade at the Los Angeles County Fair in September 2017 (see page one of September 2017 La Nueva Voz under "past issues" at www.lanuevavoz.net) as the Fair helped celebrate Los Angeles' selection as host city of the 2028 Olympics.

Garcetti told La Nueva Voz at the time that some of the events might be heading "this way" to locations in or near Pomona.

The Games are independently operated by a privately funded non-profit organization, with revenue generated from corporate partners, licensing agreements, hospitality and ticketing programs and a significant contribution from the International Olympic Committee.

Free Community Seminars

Being Active: A Key to Managing Diabetes and Living Well

Tuesday, April 29, 2025 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare, Loverso Education Center, Building 1E • 255 East Bonita Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767

Join us to learn about:

- The importance of physical activity for people with diabetes
- Creative ways to make physical activity more comfortable and sustainable
- Setting realistic and achievable physical activity goals
- Lowering blood sugar naturally through movement
- Question and answer session

Cooking for a Healthier You

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare, Casa Colina Hospital Cafe, Building 2 • 255 East Bonita Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767

Join us for a cooking demo and discussion:

- Crafting and sampling healthier meals and quick and easy snacks
- Making sense of food labels and ingredients on packaging
- Selecting nutritious food within your budget
- Tips for wholesome cooking
- Saving time by preparing meals in advance
- Question and answer session



PRESENTED BY

Melanie Barbee, MS, RDN, CDCES, DipACLM
Registered Dietitian with WesternU and Certified Diabetes Care & Education Specialist

Three easy ways to register!

- Call 866/724-4132
- Online at casacolina.org/communityevents
- Scan the QR code

Refreshments will be served and space is limited.



www.casacolina.org •



EL MERENDERO CELEBRATES 50 YEARS -- El Merendero restaurant in La Verne celebrated its 50th anniversary this month with everything from ceremonies to mariachis to free tacos. The family's El Merendero in Pomona will celebrate its 45th anniversary in August. Pictured, from left, are La Verne City Councilmembers Wendy Lau and Steven Johnson, Mayor Tim Hepburn, and El Merendero owners Frederico and Victoria Rojas. The two have operated the business for the past 20 years. It was founded by Victoria's parents, Willie and Petra Lopez, pictured in the photo on the easel. The La Verne location is at 1910 Fairplex Drive.



Photo by Donna Houston-Jackson
STATE SEN. SUSAN RUBIO 'WOMEN OF THE YEAR' -- State Sen. Susan Rubio handed out recognitions last month in Covina to her "Women of the Year" in her Senate District 22. The theme of the event was "WINGS" (Women Inspiring the Next Generation of Sisters). Pictured is Rubio with the Pomona recipients. From left are Tracy Evanson Norwood, of Healed Women Heal; Cal Poly Pomona President Dr. Soraya Coley, who was "Educator of the Year," Rubio; and Chara Swodeck, representing AAAA (Pomona's African American Advisory Alliance). Rubio said it was "an honor to recognize these phenomenal women whose stories continue to inspire me in my work as a senator." A total of nine women were honored at the event held during "Women's History Month."

Mt. SAC named tree campus – again!!

For the third year in a row, Mt. SAC has the distinction of being named a "Tree Campus Higher Education" by the Arbor Day Foundation, according to a college news release.

The 420-acre campus is home to more than 3,000 trees representing

214 unique species.

Only 16 California colleges and universities are "tree campuses," and Mt. SAC is one of only three California community colleges on the list.

Requirements for the recognition were meeting five standards

including the establishment of a campus tree advisory committee, evidence of a campus tree care plan, and the creation of a service-learning project aimed at engaging the student body.

"(Trees) are part of our community, and you could say they are

part of our family – they are more than just ornamental," said Eera Baktiwale, Mt. SAC's Director of Sustainability.

"They're literally an organ to this campus – our trees support every aspect of our daily lives," Baktiwale said. "They are these

things of beauty for sure, but it's astonishing how much work they are doing in the background."

According to the news release, trees remove pollutants from the air which supports lung health, provide shade and humidity which

Tree campus... pg. 13

The 2025 LA County Fair set to open May 2

It is time once again for opening day of the LA County Fair on the theme this year of "Art Unleashed," beginning its annual run on May 2 and continuing through May 26.

Officials reported in a news release that this year's Fair "offers an immersive experience showcasing boundless creativity."

And, as always, you'll be able to see everything at the Fair – from home arts to culinary masterpieces, and from visual wonders to captivating performances.

And, as Fair officials point out, art is color and art is emotion and it is not only on canvas – it can include the last dollop of whipped cream atop a pillowy funnel cake or a photograph of a wide-eyed toddler feeding a lamb.

"We want to show our guests that art is full of boundless opportunities, out of the box ideas, something to be enjoyed, experienced and embraced," said Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, whose district includes the LA County Fairgrounds, agreed.

"As the leading author for Los Angeles County's Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative and the County-wide Cultural Policy, I am thrilled to see the LA County Fair lean into showcasing artists, creatives and cultural works," Solis said. "The arts enhance the quality of life for people and communities contributing to healing and wellness."


Fair hours on opening day May 2 will be 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The Fair will be open Thursdays through Sundays and Memorial Day from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

For more information on the 2025 LA County Fair, visit lacountyfair.com or on social media @lacountyfair.



Fair mascots Thummer and Lily



IN MEMORY OF JESS GOMEZ
4/13/46-3/30/25

MY FATHER'S HAND
 ONE NIGHT AS I LAY SLEEPING I DREAMT OF ALL THE PAIN AND SORROW IN LIFE I HAD ENDURED. WHEN SUDDENLY, I HEARD A VOICE THAT LED ME TO A MOUNTAIN. I SAW THIS TALL AND RUGGED MOUNTAIN AND KNEW I HAD TO CLIMB IT TO REACH THE VOICE THAT I HEARD CALLING...
 IN PLACES IT WAS STEEP AND LOOKED SO HARD TO CLIMB, BUT STILL, I KEPT ON CLIMBING. BUT, AS I CLIMBED I KEPT ON FALLING. AND IN MY DEEPEST SORROW I CRIED AND FELT LIKE GIVING UP. THE MOUNTAIN LOOKED SO TREACHEROUS AND THREATENING. I BEGAN TO FEAR THAT I WOULD NEVER FINISH THE JOURNEY I WAS ON...
 MY HANDS AND KNEES WERE BRUISED AND BLOODY, AND MY EYES WERE FILLED WITH ANGUISH, AND RED FROM ALL THE TEARS I'D SHED. MY FAITH WAS QUICKLY FADING AND MY STRENGTH WAS NEARLY GONE. BUT, I KNEW IF I KEPT ON TRYING I WOULD REACH THE VOICE THAT I HEARD CALLING...
 FINALLY, I FOUND THAT I HAD REACHED THE TOP UNTO MY KNEES I FELL AND THERE I WEPT AGAIN. FOR THE LORD, IN ALL HIS GLORY, CAME AND HELD ME IN HIS WARM AND LOVING ARMS. NOW, MY TEARS WERE TEARS OF JOY AND TRIUMPH, FOR I HAD FINALLY REACHED MY PRECIOUS FATHER'S HAND AND THE VOICE THAT I HEARD CALLING.

SUSIE PERALES
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PARCHMENT QUENCHED



Photo by Duane Smith

POMONA LIBRARY TRIVIA BEE WINNERS -- Members of Friends of the Pomona Public Library held their annual Trivia Bee competition and fundraiser this month at Downtown Pomona's Fuego Event Center. First place winning team, making them the "smartest team in town," included members of Support Our Pomona Public Library. From left are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval (handing out the trophy and ribbons), Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, Historical Society President Deborah Clifford and Historical Society Board member John Clifford.



Photo by Duane Smith

Second place winners at the Friends of the Pomona Public Library Trivia Bee, members of the Pomona Public Library Board of Trustees, from left, are Meg Johannsen, Lisa Snider and Tom Rodriguez, with Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval handing out awards.



Photo by Nora Garcia

Third place winners, representing Pomona's Fairplex, from left, are Renee Hernandez, Fairplex Director of Communications; Natalie Chaidez, Projects Manager, and Sara Orduna, Business Process Analyst, with Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval congratulating the winners.

Pomona library services available during summer closure

Pomona Public Library officials, in an effort to remain "connected with our community" during its temporary closure through the summer for construction and renovation, is providing an "information and resource table" just outside the library to provide services during April and May.

Included are library program information, general resource assistance, item renewals, online services assistance, and passport photos.

Additional services will be available during June, July and August.

Hours of the outside location (weather permitting) will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The library also is continuing to host events and programs throughout the community.

Tree Campus... from pg. 12

combats "heat island" effect, and capture storm water which replenishes local aquifers.

A recent study showed trees on campus capture nearly 26 tons of carbon per year and remove nearly a ton of pollution.

In addition, being around trees helps reduce blood pressure and stress and may even help the immune system, she said, adding that having an urban forest is a vital resource for students who live in areas where green space is limited.

"People come to Mt. SAC certainly because of the education but what we also don't realize is that the college is giving them access to a lot of basic resources (clean air, clean water, shade) that we otherwise take for granted," she added.

The library's Homework Club will continue at the Pomona Unified School District's Mendoza Center, at 851 S. Hamilton Blvd., Pomona.

Repairs will include upgrades to the roof, air conditioning and heating, and landscaping.

For more information, visit the web site at pomonalibrary.org, e-mail the library at library@pomona.gov, or call (909) 620-2043.

Diamond Ranch basketball wins 'Southern Championship,' loses state title to International High School in San Francisco

A remarkable playoff run by Pomona's Diamond Ranch Panthers – this year's CIF Division 5 Southern Champions in boys' basketball – came to an end last month at Golden 1 Center in Sacramento when International High School (San Francisco) defeated the Pomona team and won the state championship for their first time in school history in a 71 to 52 victory.

Diamond Ranch led the first half 27 to 19, but International surged ahead with a dominant third-quarter scoring burst, claiming a 45 to 34 lead, the largest of the game, according to a Pomona Unified School District news release.

Diamond Ranch guard Devin Turner led the squad with 16 points, and forward Michael Salazar registered 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Panthers before

fouling out late in the game.

It was the Pomona team's first-ever state championship appearance.

Coach Kevin Ryan said he "couldn't be more proud of how far this team has come."

"There were a lot of ups and downs this year, but the kids came in every day with the right attitude and mindset," he added. "It's been a season of growth."

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Breakfast Lunch Dinner





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Photos by Renee Barbee
POMONA OPTIMISTS TEA FOR THE SOUL -- Young ladies graduating from high school this year and heading off to college were honored by members of the Pomona Optimist Club and friends with an annual "Tea for the Soul" event this month at the Ebell Museum in Pomona. The girls are provided with fancy hats to make it all seem like an actual "tea," and mentors -- like Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Robles, at this table -- sitting with the young ladies to provide them tips to use as they begin their college careers. The ladies always are served by Pomona leaders, always men, so they will learn how they should expect to be treated by gentlemen. Pictured on stage are the scholarship winners announced at the event. At far right are Optimist Fernando Meza, who handed out the scholarships, and Optimist Club President Lorraine Canales. A panel of guest speakers included Tracy Evanson Norwood, of Healed Women Heal; Staff Sgt. Sandra Garcia, a career counselor with the California Army National Guard; and Monique Robles.



Human rights leader Dolores Huerta honored on her birthday by L.A. County Supervisors

On a motion by Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Pro Tem Hilda Solis on April 8, Los Angeles County Supervisors voted unanimously to proclaim April 10 as "Dolores Huerta Day" in Los Angeles County, celebrating Huerta's 95th birthday and "honoring her remarkable achievements."



Photo courtesy of County of Los Angeles
HONORING ACTIVIST DOLORES HUERTA -- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis, at right, presents a plaque to human rights activist Dolores Huerta for her many accomplishments. The special presentation and reception followed action by the Board of Supervisors this month -- on a motion by Solis -- to proclaim April 10, Huerta's 95th birthday, as "Dolores Huerta Day."

Huerta herself was in attendance to receive the honor in the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in Downtown Los Angeles.

Solis said the recognition was designed to "uplift Huerta's legacy in social justice and human rights" and to encourage

communities across the county to recognize her contributions through volunteering efforts and events.

Acting Gov. Eleni Kounalakis also issued a proclamation declaring Huerta's birthday as "Dolores Huerta Day" in California.

"A powerhouse for social justice, Dolores Huerta . . . spent most of her early life in the Central Valley of California, where she found her passion for fighting for the rights of workers and their families and helped pioneer a transformative farm labor movement that carries on to this day," the state proclamation said.

"In 1962, Huerta and Cesar Chavez established the National Farm Workers Association, which organized farmworkers for better working conditions," it continued. "The organization was a predecessor of United Farm Workers."

According to the proclamation, Huerta, through the Dolores Huerta Foundation, "continues her tireless work advocating for marginalized communities and teaching the next generation of organizers to empower others and drive social change."

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golden corral

Pomona Chamber legislative event highlights experts advocating for business – from Pomona all the way to the White House

A top government affairs official with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, responding to a question from La Nueva Voz, told Pomona’s business leaders last week his organization in the nation’s capital in these tumultuous times is taking the message of American business to everybody from trade associations to Congress to the White House – and, when pressed, assured the group Washington is paying attention.

Jennings Imel, Vice President of the U.S. Chamber’s Western Region in the Governmental Affairs Division, told 200 Pomona Chamber of Commerce members and guests at an annual legislative economic update luncheon at DoubleTree Pomona he and his team “strategize with (their fellow associations) regularly.”

And on tariffs and the trade issue in particular?

“We talk with members of ‘The Hill’ and then we also, of course, talk to the administration, particularly with the Department of

Commerce and with the National Economic Council – we’ve got relationships there at staff level,” Imel said.

“And then when it comes to Congress, we’ve been working with members in both the Senate and the House,” he added. “We supported, for example, the Senate . . . resolution from a couple of weeks ago that would have ended the national emergency on fentanyl – that’s what was the basis for the 25 percent tariff on Canadian imports, so we supported that, and we’re encouraged by some other efforts.”

Imel said his chamber’s primary focus is always economic growth, “and that’s kind of the lens through which we view every policy item.”

He said included is everything from tax policy, regulatory policy, energy policy, workforce and immigration – all in an effort “to get back to a point where we get to 3 percent annual GDP (gross domestic product).

And he said, “probably the big-



PANEL DISCUSSION -- Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang kicks off the panel discussion at last week’s Pomona Chamber of Commerce “Legislative Economic Update Luncheon.” From left are moderators Jill Dolan of Mt. San Antonio College and Lanae O’Shields of So Cal Gas, co-chairs of the Chamber’s Legislative Affairs Committee; Prang; California Department of Insurance Deputy Commissioner Julia Juarez; and California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce President and CEO Julian Canete.

gest crisis long-term facing the United States is our debt.”

“We’ve got \$36 trillion in debt,” he added. “One of the best ways to tackle that is to grow your economy. If you can grow your economy at a rate that exceeds the rate of growth in your debt, then you can pay off your debt.”

He said that’s why 3 percent is so important, “and it’s something that we had achieved between 1950 and 2010,” with an average annual rate of growth of about 3.4 percent.

“And that’s what allowed us to become the most powerful and prosperous nation on the face of the earth,” he said. “But if you look at the Congressional Budget Office forecasts over the next 10 years, they’re forecasting economic growth right around 1.8

percent annually, and so that’s why this is so important.”

Today, however, the nation is facing “headwinds” like more international competition than ever, a dwindling workforce, and fewer people coming into the workforce to replace aging baby boomers.

On tariffs and other actions by the Trump administration, Imel said there have been 124 executive orders so far and the administration still is in its first 100 days.

“So there is just a lot to kind of take in at the moment, but we’re doing our best to represent the interests of business to the administration and to Congress” on the issues of tax and tariffs, he said, adding that if Congress does nothing at the end of the year, the nation will face a \$4.5 trillion tax



Jennings Imel
Keynote speaker

hike, “the largest tax increase in American history.”

Included would be a 20 percent deduction that businesses can take off of their “qualified business income” to lower federal tax liability – a deduction that is set to expire at the end of the year. He said his chamber is advocating to get that renewed on a permanent basis to provide on-going relief for the business community.

And on tariffs, he said his cham-
Advocating for business... pg. 16

Weaving chords of hope

By Kathryn Martens, Member, Compassionate Pomona

Our world today seems super-unsettled, with tons of anger and so many big problems to be solved. Who has time for compassion? Who dares to have hope? Do we? Or do anger, apprehension, fear just seem to overwhelm us? Can things happening today that seem to overwhelm us connect us in any way to what’s gone on in this world before us? What wisdom from the past can help us now? We know that human life and human history have always been marked by big challenges of many kinds. So, the need for compassion, for hope, and for belief in the possibility of renewal have also been constants of human life through the eons that people have been on earth.

In this season of spring, we see nature’s own signs of encouragement as the hours of daylight grow longer, the weather grows warmer and plants and creatures renew their growth cycles. And in this same season when nature shows us its hope, some long-cherished traditions give us reminders of the strength, the courage and of the exhilaration that can come from centering hope and renewal over defeat and despair.

Through familiar and treasured stories, rituals and practices, the

spring holidays of Easter and Passover offer, each in its own way, the reminder that dawn follows dusk, that despair and bondage can give way to hope and freedom. Such traditions work as chords of hope which the communities that keep those traditions have used to pull themselves through many tough times over many centuries. Such traditions remind us that as communities come together to bear witness to hope they offer all of us vital signposts for our human journey.

The month of Ramadan, which this year according to the lunar calendar includes early spring, is a communal affirmation of virtues that include gratitude, patience, forgiveness, empathy and charity as well as self-discipline, all vital building blocks of a healthy human society. Other spring traditions include the Hindu festival of Holi celebrating the triumph of good over evil and the spring birthday of the Buddha, which honors virtues that include loving kindness, compassion and honesty.

The need to weave strong chords of hope to pull us through tough times goes on. Our ancestors have done that work in the past. And their inspiration reminds us that we can continue to do it now.

AnthonyMontoyas1.com

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power. (1 Corinthians 2:4)

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PROPHET ANTHONY MONTOYA

A mentor to boxing coach... from pg. 4

weight, lightweight and light middleweight classes), among others, and Jorge Castaneda, who founded and served as board president of Pomona's "Fist of Gold Youth Center" for 30 years (Castaneda handed off operations to new Executive Director Jason Patterson two years ago but is still involved).

Here in Pomona, Roberts was trained by Cerda in the 1970s and later became involved as a coach himself, working in youth boxing for more than nine years and helping coach kids alongside Moseley more than 30 years ago when Sugar Shane had a boxing gym behind Garey and Monterey Avenues where the Monterey Station Apartments are located today.

He also coached for Castaneda in the 1980s and 1990s when Castaneda was operating "Fist of Gold" out of the old YMCA in Pomona. He even taught youth boxing in the 1980s where he worked for 20 years as a youth correctional counselor in Chino, and he helped Ernesto Mercado in the early days of his "Gangs to Grace" boxing program which has become a successful youth boxing opportunity in Pomona.

Roberts served for several years as a family community assistant and a substitute teacher for the Pomona Unified School District Board and later he was appointed to fill a school board vacancy from an unexpired term.

But he was clearly influenced by Foreman who Roberts called "a nice guy" and "smooth" – "but he

hit hard," as he considered Foreman a mentor both in boxing and in life.

Of course, George "Big George" Foreman has passed away, something that Roberts said was hard on him.

"He was one of the great boxers of my years of living and being involved in boxing," he said. "He was a great fighter, great, hard-hitting, but not only was he a fighter, he was also a preacher, he had a church in Houston, Texas."

He called him a great community person.

"It was really touching to me," Roberts said.

But Roberts still has the memorabilia, the memories and his respect for a champion from another era – and the stories that go along with it – that will stay with him forever.

La Nueva Voz asked Roberts about the well-known George Foreman Grill advertised on television beginning in the 1990s that sold more than 100 million units in just over 15 years. Salton, Inc., paid Foreman \$138 million in 1999 in order to buy out the right to use his name.

It was estimated he earned more than \$200 million for the endorsement, more than he ever earned as a boxer.

"I have one," Roberts said with a smile.

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Advocating for business... from pg. 15

ber has been "unequivocal in our opposition to tariffs for throughout our 113-year history."

"They are not good for economic policy," he said, and will "result in higher prices, taxes or tariffs that are paid by the importing company that are ultimately passed on to the consumer . . . so they do have an inflationary effect."

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang led off a panel discussion telling the group that the recent fires in the county are "consuming an enormous amount of our time."

"We estimate that there are about 24,000 properties within the burn area," he added. "About 11,000 properties were completely destroyed. There are 13,500 properties that we've currently identified and processed as

properties that have either been destroyed or damaged, and we're still continuing to assess more."

Prang explained that property owners experiencing damage due to natural disasters are entitled to property tax relief.

"We will lower the assessment to reflect the damage until that damage has been restored," he said, but that property owners are still responsible for property taxes on their land, "although for the first time, as far as I know, in California history, my office is actually going to be lowering the value of the land."

Prang said regulations in the property tax administrative system have "very rigid rules," but his office is sponsoring four bills in Sacramento to help provide additional property tax relief to the fire victims, including extending

the period for filing for property tax relief. Another will make it easier for fire victims to apply for relief if they inherited their home from their parents but never filed paperwork to change the name on the deed.

Julia Juarez, who heads up the California Department of Insurance community relations branch, also commenting on the impact of the fires, said her group is working with their partners at Cal Fire to help consumers bring down the risk of fire throughout the state.

They are also working with insurance companies to make sure consumers receive the appropriate discounts because of their efforts.

She said California is the biggest insurance market in the country and fourth in the world.

"And so, we are making abso-
Advocating for business... pg. 17

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VISITS POMONA VISTA CARE -- The Prince of Peace Church children's ministry held its first visit to Pomona Vista Care Center this month. They performed songs of worship and afterwards spent time talking and socializing with the residents. "It is important to practice what we preach," said Sunday School teacher Giovanna Castellanos. "We teach the children about empathy and compassion, so it is important to expose them to sharing these qualities outside of the church walls with the elderly." Pictured, from left, are Mailen Hernandez, 6, Ezra Hernandez, 5, Eli Castellanos, 7, Kiyoshi Pedraza, 12, and Lucas Cardenas, 6. Prince of Peace Church is located at 895 E. 7th St., Pomona. For information regarding the church's outreach program, call (909) 750-0331.

Rodriguez bill to enhance penalties for disaster-related crimes

Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez co-authored Assembly Bill 468 this month to take "critical steps to address crimes such as looting during emergencies and impersonating emergency personnel during wildfires and other disasters."

Rodriguez said she is joining many of her colleagues in this effort which "aims to protect Californians."

"While most Californians come together in times of crisis to support one another, there are always a few who seek to exploit these disasters for criminal gain," she said in a news release. "The legislation we are

supporting in AB 468 will impose harsher penalties to hold accountable those who take advantage of our state's most vulnerable moments."

She said individuals who put firefighters at risk and prey on communities "must be held accountable," adding that looters impersonating emergency personnel "create chaos and confusion, endanger residents and first responders . . . and victimize communities that already have suffered unimaginable harm."

The measure was introduced by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel.

Advocating for business... from pg. 16

lutely sure that we work with the industry, with our consumers to make sure that they receive the things that they need . . . but then also working with the industry to make sure that the market is healthy for the consumers (and) that they are able to pay what they need to pay," she added.

They have had about 9,000 consumers reach out for help and the department has held workshops with experts to provide assistance with claims.

Julian Canete, President and CEO of the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, told the group there are 130 Hispanic and diverse chamber members throughout the state, including Pomona.

And, of the more than four million small business owners in California, 49.1 percent of them are diverse or women-owned businesses. He said his work to help "better grow California's economy" really is designed to help all small business in the state, working on issues ranging from affordability of healthcare insurance to housing and even

artificial intelligence.

"We want to see the values, of course, come back to property, but we also don't want to have to bear the price of paying the taxes from a business perspective," he said.

He said he is looking, as another example, at proposed budget cuts in the California State University system in an effort to balance the budget, although at the same time his group recognizes that it is important to support workforce development programs to be able to grow the economy.

Canete said his chamber's positions on legislation all are available on their web site at www.chc.com.

Theme of the event was "Navigating the new U.S. Administration – Insights from business leaders."

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TRUVEN HEALTH ANALYTICS

**15 TOP
HEALTH SYSTEMS**

Stroke recovery and rehabilitation

By Marie Yeseta, PT, DPT, NCS

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Board Certified Specialist – Neurologic Physical Therapy

May is National Stroke Awareness Month. Every 40 seconds in the U.S., someone experiences a stroke, a disruption of blood flow in the brain from a blockage or burst vessel that damages brain tissue. Possible at any age, stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reducing mobility in over half of survivors older than 65.

Stroke survivors may face persistent symptoms affecting how they think, feel, move, and act. Challenges range from difficulty with breathing, swallowing, and speaking to decreased motor control and impaired cognitive skills. These changes significantly impact quality of life and independence.

Encouragingly, recovery is possible. Some spontaneous improvement occurs as the brain heals naturally, but stroke survivors can significantly increase their recovery potential by participating in rehabilitation.

Recovery timelines and the extent of improvement vary for everyone, making specialized rehabilitation critical for achieving the best possible outcome. A person's rehabilitation program depends on the brain areas affected and the skills needing improvement. A dedicated team of specialists often includes physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, psychologists, and recreation therapists.

Rehabilitation programs center on establishing personal goals and using targeted exercises and

activity training to address impairments. This process relies on neuroplasticity – the brain's ability to form new connections and reorganize, allowing healthy areas to take over functions from damaged regions. This adaptation is achieved through focused, specific, high-repetition, and high-intensity practice of activities meaningful to the individual. By engaging in challenging tasks, stroke survivors can retrain their brains and regain

independence.

Technology often assists rehabilitation, enhancing effectiveness, increasing engagement, and promoting independence. Tools may include electrical stimulation, robotic devices, reaction time training, virtual reality, computer interfaces, game-based training, and activity monitoring, with new tools continually being evaluated.

Finding the right rehabilitation team is vital for a stroke survivor. A supportive team helps individuals work towards specific goals, supports their caregivers, and addresses physical, mental, and emotional health needs. This comprehensive approach maximizes opportunities for recovery and helps survivors achieve their highest potential level of function. Rehabilitation truly helps maximize improvements after a stroke.

For more than 60 years, Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare has been at the forefront of care for individuals recovering from stroke, offering a nationally renowned continuum of care. Learn more at www.casacolina.org/programs-services/stroke.



Marie Yeseta



PUSD'S ALL-DISTRICT CHOIR GOES ON THE ROAD -- Pomona Unified School District's All-District Choir recently performed at the California Association for Bilingual Education's (CABE) 50th anniversary conference held this year in Long Beach. CABE is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1976 to promote bilingual education and quality educational experiences for all students in California and focuses on biliteracy, multicultural competency and educational equity for all. Attended by thousands, this four-day event was dedicated to promoting equity and excellence in bilingual education. CABE provides an opportunity for educators and students to engage in workshops, leadership activities, and networking sessions focused on language acquisition and inclusive teaching strategies.



SUNDAY HORSE SHOW AT CAL POLY POMONA -- It was horse show time at Cal Poly Pomona this month as visitors nearly filled the stands of the outdoor arena at the equestrian center on campus. La Nueva Voz decided to stop in and grab a few photos. A tradition started by W.K. Kellogg in 1926, the normally monthly Sunday show features Cal Poly students riding Arabian horses in different disciplines and styles. Training and handling are accomplished entirely by the Arabian Horse Center's students and staff. For more information, visit the web site at cpp.edu.

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La Nueva Voz,

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STUDENTS RECEIVE DKG CITIZENSHIP AWARDS -- A dozen students, all seniors, from 12 area high schools in Pomona, Claremont, San Dimas and La Verne were honored last week by women educators in the Beta Mu chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International at its 52nd annual Citizenship Awards Program at Pomona's Trinity United Methodist Church. The students were recognized for improving their school, their community or their own lives, according to Program Chair Peggy Redman, in an effort to honor students of outstanding character who may not be recognized by other awards. Front row, from left, are Angel Bolanos (Chaparral High School); Maisie Phan (San Dimas High); Jasmine Ochoa (Pomona High). Center, from left, are Andrea Morales (Bonita High); Vance Olmos (Diamond Ranch High); Pearl Moreno (Ganesha High). Back row, from left, are Eli George (San Antonio High); Brandon Barrera Hernandez (Village Academy High); Abril Ibarra (Garey High). Not pictured were Amelia Morales (Park West High); Angel Aguilar-Andrade (Fremont Academy); Aidan Furmanski (Claremont High). Each student received a certificate, a pin and a \$200 check.

Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez co-authors 'Leno's Law' to allow smog exemptions for classic cars
 Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez has co-authored Senate Bill 712 allowing classic cars produced before 1976 to be exempted from California smog check laws. "I signed on as a co-author of SB 712 because of the strong cultural significance classic cars – especially lowriders – hold in the Latino community," Rodriguez said, adding that the cars serve as "living symbols of heritage and pride." The bill has been championed by author State Sen. Shannon Grove and car enthusiast Jay Leno.

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WILLPOWER INSTITUTE GRAND OPENING -- Pomona's new Willpower Institute USA held its grand opening complete with ribbon cutting this month at its new "Los Angeles Center" in Pomona. Billed as a nonprofit nondenominational meditation center that originated in 1997 in Thailand, its offerings include everything from educational opportunities to a tranquil space to find peace, cultivate mindfulness and enhance well-being. Other locations include Thailand and Edmonton, Canada. Pictured, from left, all Thai teachers (Ajarn), are Jenny Gallagher, head of teaching schedule; Ubosoth Anekananda, teacher; Kuryarin Visarutanun, director; Anna Khousakoun, President of Willpower Institute Canada; John Judabong, assistant director; Sue Judabong, head of registration department; and Carolyn Dorcy.



Pictured at the beginning of an opening day presentation are Ajarn Ananya Ponamnuay, at left, and Ajarn Dhanoo Jordanian. The organization offers a free meditation course via Zoom from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday as a simple and powerful meditation technique for everyone. Willpower Institute is located at 1567 S. Reservoir St., Pomona. For information, call (323) 810-0737 or e-mail carolyndorcy52@gmail.com.

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SI SE PUEDE -- Pomona's Galan Cultural Center pulled out all the stops last month to present "Si Se Puede, A Play About Cesar Chavez," in a nicely done production in the Pomona Unified School District auditorium. The group hopes to take the production on the road depending on funding (they are applying for grants) and has already appeared for its premiere performance last month (before bringing the play back to Pomona) at Plaza de Cultura y Artes en Los Angeles. Pictured working in the field with other "farmworkers" is Cesar Chavez (as an adult), played by Jose Esparza. Marlo Tapia played Chavez as a child. The show has a cast of two dozen players, plus dancers and farmworker activists played by the No Te Rajes Jalisco Folklorico Group and music and songs by Mario Tapia and Galan President Goretty Ornelas.



Dancers and farmworkers were played by the No Te Rajes Jalisco Folklorico Group. The play, which opened with its first performance last month in Los Angeles before appearing in Pomona, was Galan's first play in a "Teatro en Espanol" series showcasing the talent and passion of the group's first effort "celebrating our proud heritage."



RECOGNIZING POMONA'S CRISTINA CARRIZOSA -- Former Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa was recognized at the event as "El Corazon de Galan" ("Galan's Heart") "for being an integral and cherished part of our community and for your unwavering dedication to helping us create lasting and meaningful change." Pictured, from left, are Carrizosa, Galan Cultural Center President Goretty Ornelas, and actress Blanca Araceli Soto, director of "Si Se Puede."

Supervisor Solis introduces motion ensuring education for immigrants

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Pro Tem Hilda Solis introduced a motion last week to request the Los Angeles County Office of Education, in partnership with the Office of Immigrant Affairs, to ensure that immigrant students are not deterred by federal immigration actions from receiving an education.

"Now more than ever, it is

imperative that we stand by our commitment to provide education to all children, regardless of immigration status, and respond to the needs of our families who have been deterred by changing federal policy from sending their children to school," Solis said.

The federal government rescinded previous policy and expanded locations where immigra-



Music and songs were performed by Mario Tapia and Goretty Ornelas.



State Sen. Susan Rubio, at left, greeted members of the audience at Pomona's first performance of "Si Se Puede." At right is actress Blanca Araceli Soto, who adapted and directed the play. Her professional credits include playing the voice of Emcee in the 2017 animated movie Coco by Pixar Animation Studios, a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Co.

House of Ruth domestic violence "walk-a-thon" set for May 3

House of Ruth, a Pomona-based domestic violence agency, invites the community to step up to do-

mestic violence at its "Stride to End the Cycle: Walk-A-Thon," on Saturday, May 3, at Bonita High School in La Verne.

The event, which is being held during Mental Health Awareness Month, highlights the connection between mental wellness and domestic violence.

It will bring together community members, advocates and supporters to raise awareness and critical funds for House of Ruth's emergency and restorative services for survivors of domestic abuse and their families.

Solis said the new motion was necessary despite on-going efforts at the county level to support the rights of all students to a public education.

The motion will be on the agenda for the May 6 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Taking place on the school track, it begins at 7:30 a.m. with registration. The walking session will continue from 8:30 a.m. to noon (families with children under 7 will walk from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and all others will walk at their preferred pace from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.).

Included will be vendors, live music, a DJ and an "opportunity" drawing.

For more information or to register, visit www.houseofruthinc.org or e-mail development@houseofruthinc.org.