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



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Member

Issue No. 191

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Ganesha High School students go out with a bang!



Photo by Jeff Schenkel

GANESHA GRADUATES TURN THEIR TASSELS – Cannons on opposite sides of the field fired off streamers that filled the stadium at the exact moment Pomona's Ganesha High School graduating seniors were asked to turn their tassels making it all official. Co-valedictorians (and twin sisters) Jannese, at left, and Jannell Gonzalez are pictured standing in the front row at right.

PUSD graduates ... pg. 6

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PUSD’s Head Start Preschool Program receives top award at library foundation Mayor’s Gala

Pomona Unified School District’s Head Start Preschool Program received the “Mayor’s Award” at this month’s sixth “Mayor’s Gala” fundraiser for the Pomona Public Library Foundation.

The preschool program prepares children ages 3 to 5 for success in kindergarten and beyond through school readiness and comprehensive development.

“We believe as a partner with the school district that it’s so important that we invest in our children, and that when you invest in children, you have better long term social and economic outcomes,” Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said in presenting the award.

He added that a student who wants to go to college should have that opportunity because the community has “worked together to ensure that every child, no matter what neighborhood they live in, or the family they’re born into, has the opportunity to realize their full human potential.”

Sandoval said the school district’s program, which was created in 1971, has “evolved from offering childcare during nighttime hours to the current model, which serves full day options during the school year and provides childcare services from Rancho Cucamonga all the way to Baldwin Park.”

“This program has made significant strides in serving the Pomona community . . . (providing) comprehensive services that extend beyond education, including health services, mental health support, assistance for individuals with disabilities,

Gala... pg. 5



POMONA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GUESTS -- PUSD representatives gather on stage to support Bobby Guerro, director of PUSD’s child development program, winner of the Mayor’s Award. From left are Governmental Relations Director Ronald Lawrence, Board member Patricia Tye, Human Resources Technician Sandra Duque, Board member Tamara Gonzalez, teacher Monica Jimenez, her son Cristian Jimenez, Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, Supt. Darren Knowles, teacher Paul Knopf, Bobby Guerro, Associate Director of Child Development Laura Borja, and Board member Arturo Jimenez.



Pomona librarian Anita Torres



Library Foundation President Bree Hsieh



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at left, and master of ceremonies Richard Montoya, described as a blue-collar playwright and independent filmmaker, well, kind of warm up the audience of nearly 200 guests at this year’s Mayor’s Gala.



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Cal Poly team makes finals in NASA challenge

A Cal Poly Pomona student team is one of 12 advancing to the final rounds of the NASA Human Lander Challenge in which university teams were asked to develop innovative solutions for storing and transferring the super-cold liquid propellants needed for future long-term exploration beyond Earth that could be implemented in three to five years.

As a finalist, the team was awarded \$9,250 to further develop their concept and to travel to the finals in June in Alabama.

Team members are Caroline Herrera of Torrance, Charles Johnson of Corona, Dominique Munoz of Modesto, Nathan Antonio of Sylmar, and Osheen Gupta of Lake Forest.



Congrats

As we close out the 2024–2025 school year, Pomona Unified School District is proud to share an exciting update: 690 English Learner and Multilingual students have officially reclassified as English Proficient! This final number reflects the incredible progress and determination shown by our students throughout the year.

Their success is a testament to their perseverance, the support of their families, and the dedication of our educators who guide and encourage them every step of the way.

Congratulations to each of our reclassified students—your hard work has paid off, and we can't wait to see what you achieve next!



Memorial Day in Pomona a time to remember and a time to honor

Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez reminded guests at Pomona Valley Memorial Park during Memorial Day ceremonies last month that the annual observance is a time to remember and honor the men and women who gave their lives.

“While serving the United States armed forces, these individuals answered the call to serve and made the ultimate sacrifice so we can enjoy the freedoms we have today,” she said, adding that the day holds a personal meaning for her, as well.

“My stepdad, my uncles were veterans,” she said. “I’m deeply grateful for their service as well as the service of all who wear the uniform.”

And, she added, she wanted to recognize the families of the fallen.

“Your loved ones, courage and sacrifice will never be forgotten,” Rodriguez said. “Thank you, veterans and active duty service members who are here today. Thank you to all the volunteers, community leaders and organizations who helped make today’s event possible.”



POST 30 MEMORIAL WREATH -- Aliso Viejo City Manager Mitzi Ortiz places a memorial wreath on behalf of Pomona's Post 30 American Legion. Post 30 color guard members pictured with Ortiz are Post 30 color guard members Bob Radcliff, at left, and Jack Peterson.



Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez



Congresswoman Norma Torres



Speakers at last month's Memorial Day ceremonies at Pomona Cemetery pose for photos. From left are guest speakers Kathryn O'Bryan Strong, Andy McTigue and his service dog, Silky; Pomona City Councilmembers Steve Lustro, Nora Garcia and Lorraine Canales, Pomona Cemetery General Manager Janet Roy, Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, Anthony Moreno representing State Sen. Susan Rubio, and Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole. Not pictured are Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez, Congresswoman Norma Torres, and Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis.



Master of Ceremonies Mitchell Quintero American Legion Post 30

Pomona by Navy Seal team veteran Andy McTigue and his service dog, Silky.

“We have come together not only to recognize the brave men and women who have served in

Memorial Day in Pomona... pg. 10



Pomona American Legion Post 30's Bob Radcliff, at left, and Jack Peterson of the Post 30 color guard conduct the ceremonial lowering of the American flag before raising it to half staff during Memorial Day ceremonies this month at Pomona Cemetery.



Congresswoman Norma Torres offered a “heartfelt thank you to the Gold Star families gathered here today.”

“Memorial Day is a day of remembrance, reflection and gratitude,” she said. “We come together not just as individuals but as a community bound by the values that define our nation, freedom, service, sacrifice. And today we pause to remember the men and women of our armed forces who made the ultimate sacrifice. They didn’t just wear a uniform (but) they laid down their lives so that we could live ours in peace.”

“And although they are no longer with us, their spirit lives on in the freedoms we enjoy,” she said.

Guest speaker was Kathryn O'Bryan Strong, creator of USA Strong for Veterans, who ran 3,000 miles across the country to raise awareness for veterans and the challenges they face. She was accompanied in

POMONA EAGLES WREATH -- Placing a memorial wreath from the Pomona Eagles is Dick Lotz, at right, accompanied by American Legion Post 30 color guard members Bob Radcliff, at left, and Jack Peterson.

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A portion of proceeds will benefit Pomona-area organizations supporting human trafficking survivors.

Mayor's Gala... from pg. 2

nutrition, family and community engagement," he said.

Bobby Guerro, PUSD's Director of Child Development, accepted the award on behalf of the program.

"This is such a great honor for our program," Guerro said. "It's been around for so long and I've been in the program for 17 years and I've seen it evolve to what it is now. And there's much more to come."

"If you're not aware of what's happening at the national level, Head Start is under attack," he said. "Luckily they were able to reverse course on the potential of eliminating the program, so it's

really important for you to make your voices heard with Congress to let them know that this program is extremely important because there are a number of our families who could not do what they're doing right now in terms of working or even going to school without our program."

This year's "Foundation Award-ees" were Dr. Estela G. Ballon and Paul Knopf of Cal Poly Pomona who have led classes and facilitated the connection to tutors from Cal Poly through 10 years of support in the drop-in one-on-one after-school Pomona Public Library Foundation Homework Club.

Ballon is professor and interim co-chair of the liberal studies department at Cal Poly, and Knopf is coordinator for the Cal Poly Pomona Teacher Academy, a lecturer in Cal Poly's ethnic studies department, and has served as a teacher in PUSD since 1996.

Librarian and Deputy Director of the Library Anita Torres told guests that the Pomona Public Library currently is temporarily closed for a major \$6.1 million construction and renovation project with a construction team that she said is doing "a fantastic job."

But she added that despite the



PUSD Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, at left, presents the Foundation Award to Paul Knopf and Dr. Estela Ballon, recognized for their work involving Cal Poly Pomona students in the Foundation's "Homework Club."

closure, library programs are continuing.

"Our library services are still going strong," she said, adding that when it reopens in the fall, it will have a new roof, a new heating and cooling system, new lighting and more.

"The foundation is going to be there as they have been to help us make this feel like a home," she said, with new furniture and other items.

"This library means so much to

me, so much to our staff, so much to our community," Torres said. "We work so hard alongside all of you to make it the best it can be and we just want to continue doing that."

Master of ceremonies at the event was Latinx filmmaker, playwright and actor Richard Montoya of Culture Clash.

Funds raised at the gala, which

was on the theme "A Night in Wonderland," will be used to increase capacity of summer excursions, continue to develop the Homework Club, provide furnishings for the main library hall, upgrade the atriums at the library, provide conferencing technology and more.

The gala raised about \$70,000, more than the \$50,000 raised last year.



Pomona's Ron Vander Molen served as the evening's volunteer auctioneer at the Pomona Public Library Foundation fundraising Mayor's Gala.



Bill Snider
Foundation treasurer

Supervisor Hilda Solis appoints Pomona restaurateur to Small Business Commission

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis this month announced her appointment of Pomona restaurateur and long-time small business advocate Ali Ataya to the Los Angeles County Small Business Commission.

"Ali Ataya brings decades of experience in business, management and community service," Solis said in a news release. "As an immigrant from Lebanon who came to the United States seeking education and a better life, he understands the challenges small business owners face – and the value they bring to our local economy."

Ataya, who has served for nearly 10 years as general manager of Pomona's Vita Italian Bar & Grill,

began working in retail and restaurants while attending college in Texas. He later took on management roles and opened a small family business, gaining firsthand experience with the barriers small business owners often face.

Since moving to California in 1996, he has worked with major retail brands and hotels throughout Los Angeles.

"I am honored to be appointed to the Los Angeles County Small Business Commission," he said in the news release. "As someone who started out in this country working retail and restaurants while attending school, I know how hard small business owners work to support their families and communities."



Ali Ataya

"I look forward to bringing that lived experience to the commission and helping shape policies that uplift small businesses across the county."

He told La Nueva Voz he also looks forward to meeting with business owners in Pomona to see what the commission can do to address the needs of local businesses.

The Small Business Commission, part of the county's Department of Economic Opportunity, was created by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1999 to advise the department director and the Board of Supervisors on both small business contract utilization and small business development in the county.

It makes recommendations to supervisors at least once a year.

The commission is made up of 20 voting members, four appointed by each member of the Board of Supervisors. Meetings are held quarterly.

Services pending for Ron Vander Molen

Memorial services were pending for Ron Vander Molen who died Sunday, June 22, following a lengthy illness – only 10 days after conducting his last fundraising art auction at the Pomona Public Library Foundation's Mayor's Gala. He was 71.

A resident of Pomona, Vander Molen attended Ontario Christian High School before graduating from Chaffey College in 1973.

He and his wife Susan Vander Molen were married in October 1996.

Vander Molen, owner and founder of Vander Molen Estate Liquidations, for decades devoted his life to works of fine art, maintaining a particular focus and passion in the area of vintage California artists, although he was increasingly drawn in the art world to acquiring works from other leading American and European artists.

His art business, which originally was a local gallery, grew quickly and served collectors around the world, earning a reputation as one of California's premier destinations

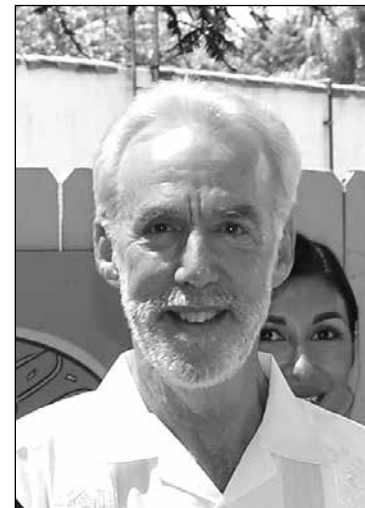
and web sites for collectors of American and California Impressionism.

"Our mission is to bring fine art to as many individuals, homes and collectors as possible... at an affordability level that is unique to the industry while maintaining a high level of fine quality art," he once said.

But he was probably even better known for his community service and for volunteering as an auctioneer for fundraisers for the Pomona Public Library Foundation, Pilgrim Congregational Church and others.

He also served for two terms as a Pomona Planning Commissioner,

Vander Molen... pg. 12



Ron Vander Molen

PUSD's 1,650 graduates include 14 GPAs over 4.0... from pg. 1

A total of 1,650 students graduated from Pomona Unified School District schools as the school year came to a close, according to school district officials – and the results districtwide ranged from amazing to beyond amazing.

For example, Fremont Academy alone boasted two graduates with grade point averages above 4.0 – Valedictorian Aylin Hernandez, the school district's first-ever 5.0 GPA student, and Salutatorian Moises Garcia-Ramirez, with a GPA of 4.88.

Other valedictorians and salutatorians around the district above the 4.0 GPA mark included Diamond Ranch High School with Nathan Trinh and Violet Hoang, both with a 4.94 GPA, and Julian Delgado, with a 4.92. And Ganesha High School had three graduates with a 4.84 GPA – Jannell Gonzalez, Jannese Gonzalez and Efren Perez.

At Garey, Leonardo Castro, Jr., graduated with a 4.94 and Ashley Alvarado-Valenzuela took home a 4.90.



School Board member
Tamara Gonzalez

Pomona High School had Rafael Vega with a 4.87 and Daisy Estrada with a 4.81, and Village Academy High School had Taylor Dang with a 4.75 and Grace Delgado with a 4.70.

Ganesha Principal Joseph Biagioni, speaking at the school's 66th commencement ceremony last month, told his graduates that for the past four years they have been "gathering materials, strengthening foundations and working together to build something remarkable – yourselves."

"But a structure is only as strong as its foundation – the lessons you've learned here – perseverance, critical thinking, collaboration – these are reinforced concrete that will support whatever

you choose to build next," he added.

And Biagioni said when "storms come – and they will – you'll discover whether your foundation holds and if it needs repair," cautioning students not to despair – "the strongest structures are often those that have weather damage and have been thoroughly restored."

He said their high school years are part of their "story."

"Continue on the path, be focused, strive for glory, always remember to work hard and be well and thrive," he said.

Salutatorian Efren Perez told the parents and guardians who "stood by us" that their "love, patience, and sacrifice didn't go unnoticed."

He said their life was simple "back in elementary school."



Asst. Supt. Silvia San Martin

"We were just kids curious for what came next – (and) then came middle school, accompanied by schedules, a little more workload and learning how to balance a little more responsibility," Perez said, adding that then in high school, they all were tested but it was ambition that kept them going."

"We've always had this fire inside us, a drive to go further, to push past limits as we step forward – whether it's college, a job, the military, that ambition stays with us," he said.

And he said, "the best is still coming – we are the future, and we are what we desire."

Co-valedictorian Jannell Gonzalez, who said she shared the title with her twin sister Jannese, con-



Leslie Soria

gratulated her classmates for making it.

"Some of us have done something that our parents have never done before – walk across a graduation stage," she said. "We're graduating as first generation students and going off into the next steps of our future."

She thanked the parents, along with the teachers and staff "who supported our journey here."

"So now, the question is, what do we do with this moment, with this wide open future we build – we build lives of purpose, we build communities of compassion" (and will enter) "careers that create, heal, teach, inspire and lead."

"We build a world that reflects the values we believe in," she said.

And while some class members may not know what direction they will take, "you know who you are – you're resilient learners, thinkers and doers."

"Never forget the future is not something we enter, it is something we create," she concluded.

Her sister, Jannese Gonzalez, who is also Associated Student Body President, told her class that "the future is not a far-off place – it is something we begin creating right now."

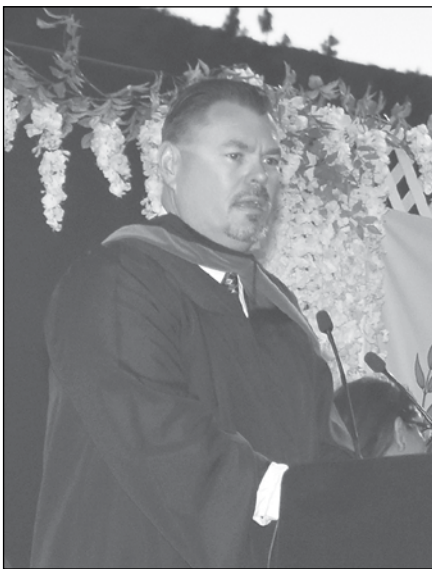
"The world we are stepping into is changing fast – there will be challenges and moments of uncertainty, but I believe in this class," she said. "I believe we have the resilience, the creativity and heart to make a real difference . . . (the future) is already calling us."

She called Ganesha "a place where we discovered our voices . . . and where we found each other as we stand here today at the threshold of everything."



Efren Perez

She encouraged her classmates not to walk off the field in fear of what's next "but in confidence – let's meet the future with open minds, steady hearts and the same courage that got us here."



Principal Joseph Biagioni

Senior Class President Leslie Soria told students "we've come a long way . . . we've become seniors, and not just any seniors – (we're) strong, resilient, compas-

PUSD Graduates... pg. 16

La Nueva Voz

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UPDATED STREET SWEEPING PROGRAM

PROGRAMA ACTUALIZADO DE BARRIDO DE CALLES

Beginning July 1, the City of Pomona and Athens Services will launch an updated street sweeping program designed to enhance neighborhood cleanliness, improve curb appeal, and prevent flooding caused by debris-clogged storm drains.

The program uses regenerative air sweepers – advanced trucks that act like vacuums equipped with water sprayers to minimize dust. Operating at about 6 to 8 mph, these trucks use rotating brooms to sweep gutter debris into their vacuum systems. This technology allows efficient cleaning with minimal water use, preventing dust clouds and improving air quality.

Important Reminders for Residents:

- **Do not place yard waste or other debris in the street or gutter.** Yard trimmings must be properly disposed of in green waste bins. Moving waste to the street impedes sweeping and violates local regulations.
- New **“No Parking” street sweeping signs** are now posted throughout the city, showing schedules for both sides of the street. These signs are fully funded by Athens Services as part of its franchise agreement with Pomona.
- Vehicles must be removed from the street during the **entire posted sweeping time** – either **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** – even if the sweeper has already passed your area.
- Street sweeping parking restrictions will not be enforced on rainy days or on holidays that delay trash collection.

To ensure streets are thoroughly cleaned, residents and business owners must move vehicles off the street on sweeping days – ideally to a driveway, the opposite side of the street, or a nearby legal parking space. A single parked vehicle can prevent the sweeper from cleaning up to three car lengths of curb.

The new routes and schedules were developed by Athens Services in coordination with the Pomona Department of Public Works, following pilot programs held last year.

A **“relaxed enforcement”** period will be in effect from **July 1 to September 30, 2025**, giving residents time to adjust. **Full enforcement begins October 1, 2025**, at which point citations will be issued for violations by City Code Enforcement.

For more information, visit www.pomonaca.gov/sweeping or call (909) 620-3665.

A partir del 1 de julio, la Ciudad de Pomona y los Servicios de Athens lanzarán un programa actualizado de barrido de calles, diseñado para mejorar la limpieza de los vecindarios, mejorar el atractivo de las aceras y prevenir inundaciones causadas por la obstrucción de los desagües por residuos.

El programa utiliza barredoras de aire regenerativo: camiones avanzados que funcionan como aspiradoras equipadas con rociadores de agua para minimizar el polvo. Operando a una velocidad de aproximadamente 6 a 8 millas por hora, estos camiones utilizan escobas giratorias para barrer los escombros de las canaletas hacia sus sistemas de aspiración. Esta tecnología permite una limpieza eficiente con un consumo mínimo de agua, evitando el polvo y mejorando la calidad del aire.

Recordatorios importantes para los residentes:

- **No deposite desechos de jardín ni otros escombros en la calle ni en las canaletas.** Los restos de poda deben desecharse adecuadamente en los contenedores para residuos verdes. Trasladar los residuos a la calle impide el barrido e infringe los reglamentos locales.
- Se han colocado nuevas señales de **“No Estacionar” para el barrido de calles** por toda la ciudad, con horarios para ambos lados de la calle. Estas señales están financiadas totalmente por Athens Services como parte de su acuerdo de franquicia con Pomona.
- Los vehículos deben removerse de la calle durante **todo el horario de barrido indicado**, ya sea de **8:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m. o de 11:00 a.m. a 3:00 p.m.**, incluso si la barredora ya ha pasado por su zona.
- Las restricciones de estacionamiento para el barrido de calles no se aplicarán en días lluviosos ni en días festivos que retrasen la recolección de basura.

Para garantizar una limpieza completa de las calles, los residentes y propietarios de negocios deben mover los vehículos de la calle los días de barrido, idealmente a una entrada para autos, al otro lado de la calle o a un espacio de estacionamiento legal cercano. Un solo vehículo estacionado puede causar que la barredora no pueda limpiar lo equivalente de tres autos de longitud. Las nuevas rutas y horarios fueron desarrollados por Athens Services en coordinación con el Departamento de Obras Públicas de Pomona, tras los programas piloto realizados el año pasado.

Un período de **“ejecución flexible”** estará en vigor del **1 de julio al 30 de septiembre de 2025**, lo que dará tiempo a los residentes para adaptarse. **La ejecución completa comienza el 1 de octubre de 2025**, momento en el que se emitirán multas por infracciones por parte del Departamento de Cumplimiento de Códigos de la Ciudad.

Para obtener más información, visite www.pomonaca.gov/sweeping o llame al (909) 620-3665.



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Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center has been named one of America's Best Maternity Hospitals in the nation by Newsweek and Statista for the second year in a row.

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Officials dedicate new Pomona Gold Line station

About 200 people attended dedication ceremonies last week under a tent in the middle of Pomona's new Gold Line station to welcome electric trains to the city for the first time since the old "Red Car" trains were shut down here in the late 1930s.

While trains will not be running on the line into Pomona until later this summer, the ceremonial opening was

part of a series of four celebrations for what is now being called Metro A Line serving stations in Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne and Pomona.

The \$1.5 billion nine-mile corridor from Glendora began major construction in July 2020 and now has been turned over to Metro, which is currently carrying out final preparations to ready the extension for passenger service.



UNVEILING THE CREDITS -- Officially unveiling a huge boulder at the Pomona Gold Line station are all the elected officials, speakers at the event, Gold Line staff members and former elected officials who were involved in the project bringing light rail to Pomona.



Master of Ceremonies Frank Mottek



Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis

"Today we celebrate more than just four new stations – we're witnessing a true game-changer for the San Gabriel Valley," said Foothill Gold Line Board Chair and Claremont City Councilmember Ed Reece. "This summer, when . . . trains begin service, it won't just be about getting from A to B – it will be about unlocking unprecedented access to jobs, education and entertainment, transforming how our communities thrive and connecting millions across the greater Los Angeles region like never before for generations to come."

KABC 790 radio's Frank Mottek, host of "Mottek on Money," who served as master of ceremonies for the dedications in Glendora, San Dimas and Pomona, told the audience he would do his best "to keep the ceremony right on track and hopefully we'll not lose my thought of train as we go along."

"Today's station dedication is the latest in a long history of milestones in the City of Pomona – rail has helped shape this great city for more than 150 years with Southern Pacific, Santa Fe, Pacific Electric Red Cars, Amtrak and Metro-link all having had stations and service to and from Pomona," he added.

The Pomona station includes unique artwork designed by a city-selected sta-

New Pomona Gold Line station... pg. 15



ATHENS SERVICES ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM -- Five Cal Poly Pomona environmental studies majors this month were awarded scholarships of \$2,000 each by Athens Services in an annual Pomona scholarship program. Applicants were required to live, work or intern in Pomona and to write essays on why they chose an environmental studies major and what their plans are upon graduation. From left are students Rigoberto Rincon and Angela Alam, Iso Nakasato of Athens Services, student Jenny Phung, Brandi De La Torre of Athens Services, and student Miah Browning. Holding the "check" is Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz who has assisted in the selection process for the past two years. Not pictured is student Tyler Rousseve.

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Memorial Day in Pomona... from pg. 4

our armed forces, but to express our deep appreciation for all the sacrifices they have made, sacrifices that we benefit from" she said. "Every single day, whether they served in combat or in support overseas or here at home, each veteran made a choice to put something bigger than themselves first – our country."

"When someone raises their right hand and takes that oath, they commit to more than just a job – they commit to a lifestyle of discipline, courage and duty, and that commitment doesn't end when the uniform comes off," she added.

And, she pointed out, for many veterans, the hardest battles aren't just on the battlefield.

"The hardest battles are the ones that follow them home," she said, based on estimates that 22 veterans a day lose their lives to suicide.

"That number is . . . a painful reminder that the wounds of war are not always visible," she said. "These are our sons and daughters, spouses, parents and heroes that are struggling silently."

"We must not only honor our veterans with words, but with support, supporting them with our actions and mental health resources, including service dogs, open conversations, and strong communities like Pomona," she said.

"To the spouses, children, parents and friends, thank you," she said. "Your support is a vital part of our nation's strength and it does not go unnoticed."

McTigue told guests that Strong ran 40 miles a day to cross the country in 77 days over a period of an entire summer, raising funds for his organization, Veterans Canine Intelligence Academy, which trains veterans to train their own service dogs.



Members of the Navy Junior ROTC firing squad from Troy High School in Fullerton, under the direction of Master Chief Ed David, are pictured during their 21-gun salute.

"If you know a veteran that's interested in having his dog trained or her dog trained, contact us," he said, adding that there is no charge for the service which has literally saved lives.

To contact his non-profit in Irvine, call (949) 293-3243, e-mail VetsCIA@gmail.com, or visit the web site at veteransdog-training.org.

Pomona Vice Mayor Steve Lustro represented the city at the ceremonies along with City Councilmembers Debra Martin, Lorraine Canales and Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole. He urged guests to take a moment during the day to remember the sacrifices that men and women made "for us to enjoy what we enjoy today on a daily basis."

Anthony Moreno represented State Sen. Susan Rubio and Eva Thiel-Maiz was on hand representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis. Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman represented the school district at the event, and the Pomona Concert Band performed under the direction of Linda Taylor.

Master of Ceremonies Mitchell Quintero, Adjutant of Pomona's Post 30 American legion, thanked Boy Scouts Troop 214 of Chino Hills and Troop 777 of Diamond Bar for placing flags at the grave sites of veterans in the cemetery.

Tickets available for KABOOM!

Tickets are on sale for KABOOM!, the region's best Fourth of July party, a signature event each year at Pomona's Fairplex featuring dirt-splashing monster trucks, live entertainment and an amazing fireworks show.

Barbecue, hot dogs and hamburgers will be available along "Food Alley" on Farm Road at Fairplex, as well as popcorn, ice cream cones and a cold tall brew.

Tickets to the show, which sells out every year, are available on line for \$14 for "grass viewing," \$28 for bleachers, and \$42 for trackside and ADA.

At the gate, tickets are \$15 for grass viewing, \$35 for bleachers and \$45 for trackside and ADA.

Doors open at 4 p.m., entertainment starts at 4:15 p.m., monster trucks are at 8 p.m. and fireworks begin at 9:15 p.m.

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PASSING THE GAVEL AT ROTARY -- Pomona Rotarian Jill Dolan of Mt. SAC, center, presents outgoing Rotary President Josh Landis of Foothill Transit with a commemorative gavel in recognition of his service. Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Robles, at left, was installed as the new Rotary president at ceremonies this month at Kellogg West on the Cal Poly Pomona campus.

Pomona Concert Band announces 78th annual summer concert schedule

The Pomona Concert Band’s 78th annual summer concert series “Music in the Park” will begin on Thursday, July 10, with “Viva Musica,” featuring music with a Latin flavor.

Concerts are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. every Thursday for eight concerts and a bonus concert. All performances are free to the public and held at the G. Stanton Selby Bandshell in Pomona’s Ganesha Park.

The second concert, “Pomona Concert Band’s Got Talent,” is set for Thursday, July 17, with a concert titled “An Eclectic Experience.”

“A Bark in the Park” will be the theme for the third concert on Thursday, July 24 with lighthearted show music that was written for man’s best friend.

On Thursday, July 31, the concert theme will be “The Great U.S.A.,” featuring music written for different regions of the country.

On Thursday, Aug. 7, the band will pres-

ent “Linda’s Musical Kaleidoscope,” directed by Linda Taylor.

The band will present “Echoes of Gershwin” on Thursday, Aug. 14, and “Music Through the Decades” on Thursday, Aug. 21.

A special bonus concert is set for 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 24 (note the different time and day) and will feature the Golden State British Brass Band.

And the final summer concert on Thursday, Aug. 28, is titled “Salute to America.”

The Pomona Concert Band is directed by Linda Taylor and assistant Conductor Kerry Kline.

Band members come from Pomona and more than 20 surrounding communities. The band was founded by G. Stanton Selby in 1947 as part of a local Pomona American Legion Post.

For more information, visit www.pomonaconcertband.org.

Interested in who has been arrested by Pomona Police in Pomona?

Please check our weekly listing at <http://www.lanuevavoz.net> and click on “Arrest Logs” on our home page.

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POMONA WINNERS IN UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION ESSAY CONTEST -- Four Garey High School students were winners in the United Nations Association-USA Pomona Valley Chapter's annual high school essay contest, this year with a theme on "policies that mitigate the climate change that threatens the globe" and discussing policies the U.N. should implement to transition to green energy. The Garey winners, all coming in tied for second place, were, from left, Joshua Mireles, Gabriel Castellano-Espinoza, Ezra Santillon and Manuel Vargas. First place went to Dorhle Davila Mendoza of Claremont High School, and Isaac Bass, also of Claremont High School, also tied for second place. The first place winner received \$500 and second place winners received \$300. A total of 42 essays were submitted.



Photos by Dora Cruz
NATIONWIDE PRO-TESTS COME TO PO-MONA -- Demonstrators accompanied by former Pomona City Council-member Cristina Carrizosa turned out at Garey Avenue and Mission Boulevard in Downtown Pomona this month to participate in the nationwide "No Kings" protest, billed as a nationwide day of defiance. Other protests were held in cities throughout Southern California and across the country.



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**Vander Molen...
from pg. 5**

serving as both vice chairman and chairman, and even dabbled in election campaigning in the 2012 Pomona City Council race.

He had served as a member of the Los Angeles County Fair Association since 2002, where he served on the Pomona Community Committee and The Learning Center's Art Center Advisory Committee. He also served on the boards of the Pomona Heritage Society and Fairplex Friends, and he was past president of Pomona Heritage Old Homes Tour.

He was a past president of the Ganesha Hills Homeowners Association, a member of the Pomona Rotary Club, California Art Club and Historic Council Collections, along with the Fraternal Order of the Eagles.

Vander Molen was named a Pomona Community "Hero" on Pomona Day at the LA County Fair in 2019.

He was a member of the Fairplex Neighborhood Advisory Committee

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MCC

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Machinist Career College offering pathway to manufacturing careers

Interested in a career as a machinist in the manufacturing industry?

The Ontario-based Machinist Career College (MCC) is now accepting applications for enrollment from students of all ages in Pomona and surrounding cities interested in manufacturing training that leads to machinist careers in the aerospace, military defense, medical, dental and automotive industries.

And, according to MCC officials, students can actually be on their way to a new career after as little as four months of training.

MCC President Danielle Skinner said the college is a “viable option for long-standing career attainment” without being in the position of constantly looking for a job.

She said the training offers an option to young men and women who have not

given options outside of four-year education.

According to Skinner, graduation rates in her industry historically have been 98 percent with 95 percent of graduates going on to meaningful employment.

“We need 30,000 machinists by 2026,” Skinner added, to replace retirees and changes in the industry nationwide.

In addition, she said 8 percent of all manufacturing in the United States is happening in California, making the state the nation’s largest contributor.

“It’s just a great industry to get into,” she said, adding that MCC makes certain there is a strong connection between the college and future employers – through advisory boards and other approaches – to understand current needs in industry so the college is preparing the types of job candidates with the skills that will be needed.

Skinner said college is not for every young man and woman. Plus, as she pointed out, during World War II, while men were away at war, it was women who stepped up and built everything from aircraft to military weapons.

“So, this is not a job that

only a man can do,” she said, pointing to several local companies where equal numbers of men and woman are operating the machines.

Plus, she added, often women graduates end up in a leadership role, some as early as a year after going to work.

Fred Baumann, President of HiRel Connectors, Inc., with nearly 500 employees in the industry making him Claremont’s largest employer after the Claremont Colleges, has been advocating for growing the manufacturing industry for more than 60 years.

He said good training programs are essential – both because companies like his always need to be able to hire from a good employee pool and because training is essential to being able to sustain a manufacturing industry in the United States.

Baumann said he started with his own machine shop soon after coming to this country in 1960 at the age of 25. And he said MCC has what it takes to train future employees for his companies and others in the manufacturing industry – employees who will be ready to go to work on day one.

Skinner, who has worked in manufacturing education since 2019 and in private adult career education throughout her entire 25-year work history, said MCC – with its state-of-the-art industry standard equip-

ment, from manual lathes to computerized numerical control (CNC) mills, and her team of eight experienced instructors offers everything needed to point students in the direction of a successful and meaningful career.

In fact, some of her students already have been hired away by employers before they even have completed their studies (she said

she made special arrangements with a combination of morning and evening classes for the students to complete their training while they worked).

Interested in more information? Call (800) 962-6862 or (310) 686-5876, visit the web site at www.mcc4me.org, or stop by for a visit at 1717 S. Grove Ave., Ontario.



Fred Baumann



Danielle Skinner





Jeff Schenkel of La Nueva Voz poses next to a classic biplane, one of two that flew over Chino Airport this month in a demonstration flight (the two are pictured in flight), as Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz tries out a Hiller H-230 “Raven,” a multi-purpose light helicopter which was in service in both Korea and early Vietnam.



An authentic replica of the original Wright Brothers airplane is on display at the Planes of Fame Air Museum at Chino Airport.



Aircraft from literally every era -- both civilian and military -- are on display in seven hangars on a 14-acre campus at the Planes of Fame Air Museum at Chino Airport.



Photos by Renee Barbee
Jeff Schenkel of La Nueva Voz tries out the seating inside a Lockheed L-18 (C-60A) “Lodestar” transport plane at the Planes of Fame Air Museum. The aircraft, built in 1943, was the private aircraft of U.S. Sen. Lyndon Baines Johnson in the late 1940s. It is a twin-engine aircraft that had a maximum speed of 253 miles per hour and a cruising speed of 200 miles per hour.



RIBBON CUTTING FOR POMONA MERCANTILE -- It is the cutest little shop located in the heart of Downtown Pomona! And the Pomona Chamber of Commerce welcomed it as the newest Chamber member this month with an official ribbon cutting at its grand opening. The cozy little shop, which calls itself a "community driven store," sells everything from original art, t-shirts and sweatshirts to candy, water, energy drinks, chips, cookies, brownies and more. Pictured with the scissors at center cutting the ribbon is owner Maricela Rodarte as several of her regular local artists look on. At far left is Chamber Board member Daniela Franco of Metro Event Center and, at right, from left, are Chamber Executive Board members Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz and Jeff Johannsen of Pomona Hope, Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, and Chamber Board member Frank Guzman of Pomona Valley Pride Center. The shop is located at 351 S. Thomas St., Unit A2, Pomona. Hours are 4 to 9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 4 to 10 p.m. Friday, and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday.



New Pomona Gold Line... from pg. 9

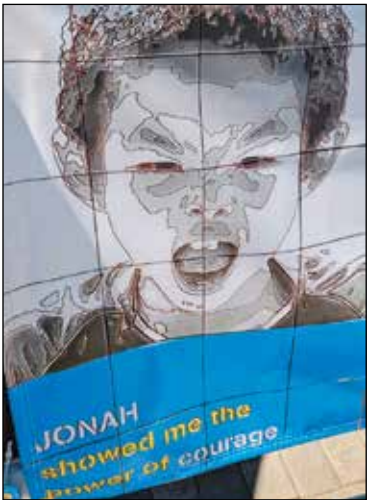
tion artist and team to incorporate city history, culture and landscape. It was the first Measure M-funded light rail project to break ground and is named one of Metro's 28 priority projects to be completed before the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Tickets will cost \$1.75. The Gold Line Construction Authority is preparing the final 3.3-mile, two-station project segment from Pomona to Montclair for construction. Included will be stations in Claremont and Montclair.



Photo by Renee Barbee
Celebrated Pomona artist Gary Lett stands next to his own picture.



ARTWORK THEME -- Theme of the Pomona Gold Line station's public art exhibit, preserving part of the city's history and culture, is "The Power of Pomona is People." Pictured at right is a photo permanently displayed on tiles of the late Mickey Gallivan, who herself devoted much of her life to preserving the city's history.



Jonah Hwang
Pomona 8-year-old drive-by victim



Former Pomona school board member
and La Voz founder Candelario Mendoza




Pomona leader and former City
Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa


Vander Molen... from pg. 12

and served as an ambassador to the LA County Fair. Todd Memorial Chapel is handling arrangements. Vander Molen is survived by his son, Zachary Vander Molen, and his wife, Ashley; stepson Raymond Beasley and his wife, Brenda; grandchil-

dren Bailey Beasley and Jack Martin; stepson Justin Beasley, his wife, Rachelle, and grandchildren Benjamin, Audrey and Grace; Vander Molen's mother, Patricia Cole, his brother, Michael, his sister-in-law Gail Nobles and his brother-in-law Jim Nobles.




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PUSD Graduates... from pg. 6

sionate and courageous. We are ready.”

“We may be heading in different directions, but the bond we share will always remain,” she said. “Let’s chase our dreams with everything we’ve got and let’s never forget that we are capable of more than we know.”

Assistant Supt. Silvia San Martin told students they represent part of the largest graduating class of seniors in U.S. history.

“And with that, you carry an incredible power, the power to shape communities, industries and the world,” she said. “Your potential is limitless, not just in numbers but in heart, in voice and in action.”

“If you’re sitting here today, you’ve already proven that you have what it takes to keep going – if you made it here, you can make it there, wherever your ‘there’ may be,” she added. “The world is waiting for you and needs you now more than ever before. We’re entrusting all of our future to you.”

And Pomona Unified School Board member Tamara Gonzalez told the students everyone was proud of them.

“Your next chapter might feel exciting, or even a little scary, probably both,” she said. “But here’s the good news – you get to write that chapter, you get to decide what comes next.”

She urged them to be brave, not to wait for everything to be perfect, and to trust themselves.

“The world needs your voice, your perspective, and your boldness, even when it feels risky,” she said, encouraging them to be the one who checks in, who really listens, and who shows up when it counts.

“The smallest actions often make the biggest impact,” she said. “You’ve got the vision, the energy and the courage to shape what’s next, not just for yourself but for the world around you.”

“Now go out there and make it count,” she said.

Ganesha High School’s 232 graduates assembled in outdoor ceremonies at the Ganesha Giants football stadium (La Nueva Voz rotates its pick for “live” coverage each year).

Pomona Unified had a total enrollment this year of 20,218.

Diabetes 101

By Guadalupe Castillo, RN, CDCES
Diabetes Educator, Limb Preservation Program
Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

Diabetes is a medical condition where your body has too much sugar (blood glucose). This happens because your body doesn't make enough insulin or can't use the insulin it makes well. Insulin helps remove sugar from your bloodstream and turn it into energy. If blood sugar stays too high, it can cause health problems.



Guadalupe Castillo

Types of Diabetes:

• **Type 1 Diabetes:** Usually found in children and young adults, this is an autoimmune condition where the body attacks insulin-making cells. People with Type 1 must take daily insulin shots.

• **Type 2 Diabetes:** Most common type seen in adults and children. Linked to being overweight, inactivity, and family history. Your body doesn't make enough insulin or doesn't use it well.

• **Gestational Diabetes:** High blood sugar during pregnancy. Usually goes away after birth but increases the likelihood of both mom and baby getting Type 2 diabetes later.

Signs You Might Have Diabetes: Can be mild, but

look out for:

- Feeling very thirsty
- Urinating a lot
- Unexplained weight loss
- Feeling very hungry
- Constant tiredness
- Blurry vision
- Slow-healing sores/cuts

Getting diagnosed early is crucial to prevent bigger problems.

Diabetes Management: Managing diabetes means keeping blood sugar levels healthy. This involves:

- Checking blood sugar often (home monitor and HbA1c lab

Diabetes 101... pg. 17



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CLUB LEON CONDUCTS GOALKEEPER EVENT IN POMONA -- Josue Espinoza, at left, Academy Director for Club Leon Pomona, presents a "Club Leon Pomona" soccer jersey to Fremont Academy Principal Roger Fasting in appreciation of his support of the soccer program which meets on the Fremont field. The presentation came at a Club Leon "goalkeeper" event at Fremont this month (pictured) presented by Coach Roberto Loera of the LA Galaxy Academy (Los Angeles-based professional soccer club). "When you stop practicing, someone else around the world keeps practicing," Fasting said in an inspiring message to the players. Club Leon Pomona also is presenting three scouting events next month (July 10 in San Bernardino County, July 11 in Pomona and July 12 in Orange County), featuring the head of scouting from Club Leon, one of Mexico's most prestigious football clubs, coming to local fields where overlooked talent lives, according to organizers. The cost is only \$55 per player (no club affiliations required). For details and registration, visit the web site at <http://www.clubleonpomona.com>.



HELPING ALL KIDS SHOWCASE THEIR SOCCER TALENT -- Josue Espinoza, at left, Academy Director for Club Leon Pomona, a nearly year-old soccer program and Pomona Chamber of Commerce member, told parents, players and the news media in a Pomona news conference at the Alliance Community Cultural Center last week that his program is especially interested in bringing soccer to kids who are discouraged because of cost or because they live far away. "We think the kids deserve an opportunity," he said. Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles told the group she grew up in Pomona and played soccer for 18 years. "Our community needs this, our community deserves this," she said, adding that she wants this club to succeed. Chara Swodeck, pictured at right, founding president and CEO of the African American Advisory Alliance and host of the news conference, said the organization supports the community as a whole and that it is important to get more students involved in soccer.



KEY CLUBS AWARDS BANQUET -- Outstanding members of Kiwanis Division 15 high school Key Clubs attended their annual Key Clubs awards banquet recently at Tony's French Dips in Pomona, hosted by Division 15 Lt. Gov. Gino Elias, who also happens to own the restaurant. Key Club International is an international service organization and leadership program for high school students and is the high school branch of the Kiwanis International family.

Diabetes 101... from pg. 16

tests).

- Eating healthy: Focus on whole foods, lots of vegetables, and cut down on high fat and high sugar foods. Drink water instead of sugary drinks.
- Being active: Regular exercise helps, even walking.
- Insulin: People with Type 1, and many with Type 2, need insulin injections.
- Pills: Some with Type 2 take pills to help their body make or use insulin better.

What happens if diabetes isn't controlled? If blood sugar stays too high, it can damage parts of your body over time, like:

- Your heart (leading to heart attacks or strokes)
- Your kidneys (kidney failure, leading to dialysis)
- Your nerves (causing pain, numbness, or even limb loss)
- Your eyes (leading to blindness)

See your doctors regularly to check for these problems.

Living with diabetes means paying attention to your health daily. With good care and support, people with diabetes can live long, healthy, and happy lives. Knowing about diabetes, early diagnosis, and sticking to your treatment plan are the best ways to stay healthy.

Casa Colina is offering diabetes education classes in English and in Spanish. Visit <https://www.casacolina.org/programs-services/community-services/wellness-programs/>

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NEW BOARD MEMBERS AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY -- Pictured at Sunday's annual Board meeting of the Historical Society of Pomona Valley at the Ebell Museum are new Board members for the coming year. From left are Gloria and Benny Ayala, Jay Munns, Donna Manzaneres-Otero, Alex Martinez, Alice Gomez, Renee Barbee, John Clifford and President Deborah Clifford. Not pictured are Carson Bennitt, Paul Ruelas and Mike Schowalter.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS AT POMONA LIONS CLUB -- Newly installed Board members at the Pomona Host Lions Club, installed at the group's 105th installation and awards ceremony in Pomona this month, are, from left, Secretary Ben Selters, Tail Twister Barbara Smith, Second Vice President Steve Storbakken, and Financial Secretary Jack Lightfoot.

AWARD PRESENTATION -- Incoming Pomona Host Lions President George Kopiloff, II, at right, presents a "Kay K. Fukushima Fellow" award for "dedicated humanitarian services" to Pomona Lion Duane Smith. Not pictured is incoming Publicity Director Steve Lustro.



BOARD MEMBERS -- Additional Pomona Lions Club Board members installed this month are, from left, Lion Tamer WendyAnn Stuard, Fundraising Director Carmen Morris, Assistant Fundraising Director Debbie McMaster, Operations Director Don Martens, Community Service Director Anne Henderson, Member Activation Director Jo Fulton, and Treasurer Gil Smith, who served as the installing officer.

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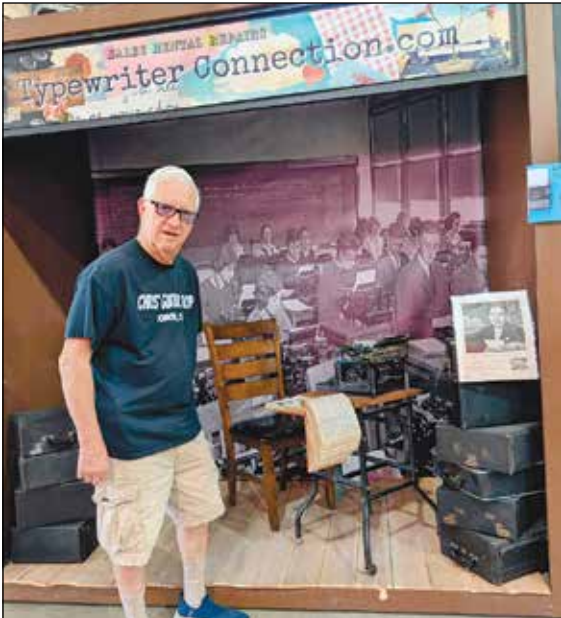
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Another look at the 2025 LA County Fair



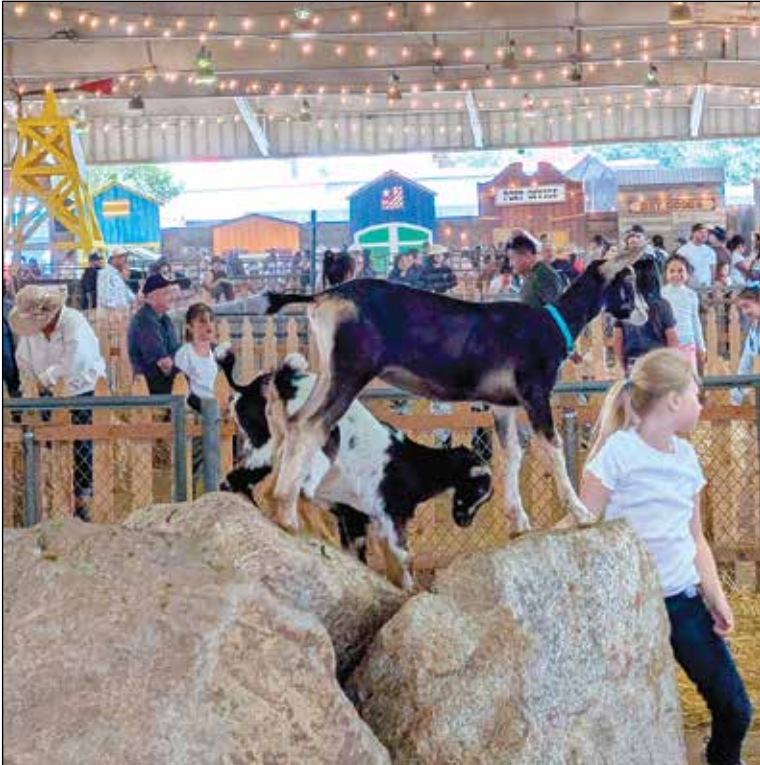
There was even a classic Bentley in the car show exhibit next to the Millard Sheets Art Center (and yes, the owner, pictured at left, even had a jar of Grey Poupon mustard on the pull-down tray in the back seat).



Photos by Renee Barbee
Did everybody notice the classic typewriter display -- with some of the typewriters even available for fairgoers to try a little typing -- in Building 6?



Pomona's own Gayle Claiborne, known for -- among other things -- her regular entries in the jams and jellies competition at the LA County Fair -- shows off her collection of ribbon-winning concoctions from this year's fair. Pictured, left to right, are her first place pomegranate, second place strawberry and third place Meyer lemon marmalade (the tree is conveniently located in her front yard). She told La Nueva Voz she had three entries this year and walked away with three ribbons -- her best year ever.



Kids and animals in The Barns are always an important part of the LA County Fair.



'ART UNLEASHED' AT THE LA COUNTY FAIR -- After all, the theme of the LA County Fair last month was "Art Unleashed," so what could be better than having Pomona's own The Alley Gallery (thealleygallerypomona.com) setting up shop outside of the fair's Flower & Garden Pavilion and staffing a booth throughout the fair with local artists doing what they do best? Pictured at her easel is artist Meraki Diaz of El Sereno. The fair wrapped up its 103rd anniversary on May 26 after its month-long run of 16 days of fair excitement. Preliminary counts showed that 683,008 guests came through the gates, nearly 80 community groups participated in events or hosted booths in the fair's new "community corner" by "The Barns," and the FairKids Field Trip program welcomed more than 22,000 students and chaperones on select Thursdays and Fridays, according to officials. Plus the fair recycled more than 70 tons of waste. Theme for the 2026 LA County Fair next May is "Play Your Way."



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Registration for the Fall session will begin July 1, 2025

Fall Semester begins August 12, 2025

Visit our website at <https://ace.pusd.org> for a complete schedule of classes.
The schedule of classes is subject to change.



Classes Offered August 12, 2025-May 27, 2026

ADULT LITERACY / HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA:

- High School Diploma
- General Educational Development (GED) Test Preparation
- GED State testing available. Register and pay online at: www.ged.com (English and Spanish)
- Adult Basic Education

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE & CITIZENSHIP

- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- ESL Through Distance Learning/Home Study
- Citizenship Preparation
- English Language Learner (ELL) Healthcare Pathways

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION CLASSES:

Minimum enrollment is required to offer course.

- Cosmetology (1000 hours)
- Barbering (1000 hours)
- Secretary/Executive Assistant (690 Hours)
- Pharmacy Technician (600 Hours)
- Medical Assistant (600 Hours)

**Testing and Assessment required to enroll.
Fall Session begins August 12, 2025**

Las clases comienzan el 12 de Agosto, 2025 hasta el 27 de mayo, 2026

Visite la página <https://ace.pusd.org> para más información sobre las clases.
Las clases y horarios estan sujetos a cambios.

ALFABETIZACIÓN / PREPARATORIA

- Clases para la Preparatoria
- Clases para el Certificado Equivalente de la Preparatoria (GED)
- Se ofrece el Exámen de GED estatal. La registración y forma de pago se encuentran en la página: www.ged.com (inglés o español)
- Educación Básica para Adultos

INGLÉS COMO SEGUNDO IDIOMA Y CIUDADANÍA

- Inglés Como Segundo Idioma
- Aprenda Inglés en casa
- Preparación para el Exámen de Ciudadanía
- Terminología Medica para aprendices de ingles

CARRERAS TÉCNICAS

Se requiere un número mínimo de estudiantes para ofrecer las clases.

- Cosmetología (1000 horas)
- Barbería (1000 horas)
- Secretario(a)/Asistente Ejecutivo(a) (690 horas)
- Técnico(a) de farmacia (600 horas)
- Asistente Medico (600 hours)

Se requiere prueba de evaluación para inscribirse.

El semestre de otoño empieza el 12 de agosto, 2025.

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NEW DANCE STUDIO AT DIAMOND RANCH -- Pomona Unified School District officials joined Diamond Ranch High School administrators, teachers and students at a ribbon-cutting ceremony last month for a new dance theater at the school, constructed at a cost of \$650,000 and funded through a performing arts grant. The program is led by dance instructor Megan Frausto and, although it is an elective, it helps fulfil the fine arts requirement for graduation, offering students both a creative outlet and academic credit. Pictured from left are, fourth from left, teacher specialist Vicki Tessier, Deputy Supt. for Educational Services Lilia Fuentes, Administrative Director for Secondary Education Monica Principe and dance instructor Megan Frausto. At right side, from left, are Principal Dr. Mark Gomez, second from left, along with Pomona Unified School Board member Patricia Tye, Supt. Darren Knowles and, at far right, are Director of Curriculum and Instruction (elementary) Dr. Rosario Ambriz and Assistant Supt. Fernando Meza.

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