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



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Member
Issue No. 194

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Metro A Line extension to Pomona opens for passenger service to Los Angeles and Long Beach

Mariachis, drummers from Damien High School in La Verne, suited-up mascots from most of the universities in the area and an entire parking lot filled with specialty food trucks cooking lunch for an audience of more than 200 dignitaries last week welcomed the first Metro A Line train, formerly known at the Foothill Gold Line – filled with elected officials and others – to Pomona.

What officials called the world's longest rail line represented the

first time in more than 70 years – when the old Pacific Electric Railway “Red Car” passenger trains ceased operation in 1951 – that light rail passenger train service was available in Pomona.

And just to remind everyone that Metrolink standard gauge rail cars were available also, several of their clean-burning diesel trains from the other side of the Pomona North Station sounded their horns during the ceremonies. A Line

Metro A Line extension... pg. 5



The first Metro A Line train -- loaded with officials attending an opening day event and breaking through a banner as confetti cannons fire into the air -- rolled into Pomona last week.



Photo by Jeff Schenkel

TRAIN DERAILMENT SHUTS DOWN VALLEY BOULEVARD

-- A derailment of four empty railroad cars that apparently started rolling and ran out of track took a right turn into the street onto Valley Boulevard near Cal Poly Pomona this month, shutting down all traffic in both directions for eight hours. No injuries were reported. Pictured are Union Pacific contract crews with bulldozers and cranes as they hooked up chains to lift up the cars and remove them from the roadway. (See story and additional photos on page 12.)

Regional Chamber CEO tells Pomona business leaders 2028 Olympics will bring crowds seven times size of Super Bowl each day!

The CEO of the San Gabriel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce told members of the Pomona Area Community Advisory Committee this month that his group is gearing up for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics where numbers are estimated to bring crowds seven times the size of the Super Bowl to the region each day.

As a part of all that, the regional chamber's Aziz Amiri said his group soon will be rolling out a new – and permanent – “VisitSGV.com” program as part of the marketing end of their five-year strategy, with a start-up event open to the public next month in Pomona.

Amiri said population has been declining – and many schools

have been closing – in the region over the last 10 years in communities like Pomona, Walnut, Diamond Bar and La Puente.

“As a chamber of commerce, we try to improve the businesses . . . but we are kind of swimming upstream because (with) declining population, there's less and less

Crowds for 2028 Olympics... pg. 6

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Civil rights activist Dolores Huerta tells local YWCA ‘change is always possible’

Labor leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta, honored by the YWCA San Gabriel Valley last month with the presentation of a “Lifetime Commitment Award,” told guests at the YWCA’s 90th anniversary “legacy” gala in San Gabriel that “with grassroots organizing, change is always possible.”

She was recognized as a champion of community organizing that directly impacts women and families.

“We are energized by partnerships with agencies that provide continued support to communities,” Huerta said. “I’ve worked a lot with struggling families, and when programs for women are funded, lives change.”

She also acknowledged the threat posed to marginalized communities by potential federal funding shortfalls under the current administration, and she told guests the state Senate had passed Proposition 50, the “Election Rigging Response Act,” earlier that afternoon.

The measure, a legislatively referred constitutional amendment, will appear on California’s special election ballot in November and could temporarily redraw congressional districts.

The YWCA also honored Los Angeles County Supervisor Hil-da Solis with a “Lifetime Com-



Pictured at last month's YWCA San Gabriel Valley's 90th anniversary gala in San Gabriel are, from left, Congresswoman Judy Chu, civil rights activist and labor leader Dolores Huerta, and YWCA CEO Debra Ward.

mitment Award,” recognizing her decades of partnership and advocacy.

Other guests included Congresswoman Judy Chu, who praised the YWCA’s impact in the community.

“The YWCA provides so many services, not the least of which is serving senior lunches over at the Pasadena Center,” Chu said. “They are integral to fighting domestic violence. I also greatly

appreciate what they did for the Eaton Fire survivors, providing immediate support . . . so people could begin rebuilding their lives.”

Jasmin Shupper, founder and CEO of Greenline Housing Foundation, received the “Emerging Voices Award” for her work closing racial wealth and homeownership gaps.

And board member Gayle Claiborne was recognized with

the “Board Trailblazer Award” for six decades of service.

“My passion has always been, and will always be, to fight for social justice for women, children and families,” Claiborne said.

The “Keeper of the Flame Awards” were presented to the Robert H. and Ann W. Baker Family Foundation and the Ludwick Family Foundation, honoring them as long-term legacy donors for their commitment to sustaining the YWCA domestic violence program and services.

A “Community Partnership Award” was presented to the Covina Police Department for their support of survivors of domestic violence through crisis intervention services to the YWCA’s shelter.

“Tonight, we honor not only 90 years of history, but also the visionaries, trailblazers and everyday leaders who have made our region stronger and more compassionate,” said YWCA CEO Debra Ward.

The event brought together community leaders, elected officials and city officials to celebrate the YWCA San Gabriel Valley’s work over the past 90 years toward its mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice and freedom for all.

PUSD graduation rates show dramatic increase

Graduation rates rose significantly from 2024 to 2025 in Pomona Unified School District, with Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design posting the largest annual gain jumping from 84.4 percent to 94.3 percent, according to a news release.

School Board President Patricia Tye, a former teacher and administrator in the district, said she understands how hard it is to reach this level of success.

“As a Board member, it’s incredibly rewarding to see the dedication of our administrative team’s investments in our educators, in our programs and most importantly in our students paying off.”

“These are not just numbers, they are students who put in the hard work and earned their high school diploma,” she added. “Congratulations to each and every one of them.”

“We could not be more proud of our students and staff for all their hard work,” said Pomona Unified Supt. Darren Knowles. “These incredible graduation rate increases are a testament to the district commitment of ‘Student Success is our Success! – Staying the Course.’”

Close behind Fremont is Pomona High School, which improved

Increase in graduations... pg. 13

Funcionarios electos protestan contra el fallo de la Corte Suprema que genera más “terror racial”

Funcionarios electos de California y numerosas organizaciones de defensa étnica se unieron este mes para expresar su oposición al fallo de la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos. El gobernador Newsom criticó a la “mayoría de la Corte Suprema cuidadosamente seleccionada por el presidente Trump”, que según él, “se acaba de convertir en el gran mariscal de un desfile de terror racial en Los Ángeles”.

“No se trata de hacer cumplir las leyes de inmigración, sino de atacar a los latinos y a cualquiera que no se parezca al concepto que tiene Stephen Miller (el jefe adjunto de gabinete de la Casa Blanca) sobre un americano. Estos ataques incluye a ciudadanos y niños estadounidenses, para dañar deliberadamente a las familias y pequeñas empresas de California”, declaró Newsom.

“La policía privada de Trump ahora tiene luz verde para perseguir a su familia, y cada persona es ahora un blanco para atacar, pero seguiremos luchando contra estos abominables ataques contra los californianos”, añadió.

El fallo de la corte, emitido a principios de este mes por una mayoría de 6 a 3, permite a los agentes federales de inmigración

Terror racial... pág. 17



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Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis introduces expanded information center, invites businesses and residents to share their security cameras

Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis introduced the police department's new "Real Time Information Center" (RTIC) and encouraged business operators and residents to participate in the center's free security camera sharing program.

He called the new capability a "force multiplier for the officers we have" taking advantage of available technology.

one room has been a step toward making those goals a reality.

"We received funding from (then) Assemblymember (Freddie) Rodriguez, about \$800,000, towards this project," he said. "We also received some federal ARP (American Rescue Plan Act) dollars, so it allowed us to put a lot of the pieces in place to get where we are today."

He said they have 37 "pan, tilt



Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis

Ellis explained the RTIC, now a "physical space" in the police department headquarters, is staffed with a sergeant, a dispatcher, two crime analysts and officers who "come in and out part-time to help with the work in there."

He said the center has computer monitors displaying live feeds of video and analysts who are using the equipment for "live work on calls for service," with a core function of real-time information for officers who are responding to calls in the field.

"So as they're going to a call, if we have a name, we have a (license) plate, the analysts are able to give the officer information to make him more efficient and hopefully put bad guys in jail," Ellis said. "And most importantly, it's an integration of technology that we have here at the City of Pomona to reduce response times, be more efficient and, again, put people in jail."

While some of the equipment has been on hand since 2000, one of his strategic goals for the department was to use technology to improve efficiency and reduce response times.

He said by putting everything in

and zoom" cameras, strategically located "with the goal of reducing human trafficking and solving violent crime."

In addition, the department has 68 license plate readers in the city.

"So those have become invaluable in solving crimes," he added. "And I know there's folks that worry about privacy . . . we don't save the data forever, we use it for in-progress crimes or crimes that recently occurred and the data is gone."

He added that all of the data is encrypted and not accessible to anyone but Pomona police.

The newest piece of equipment the department has is a drone, located on top of the police station, and used as part of a first responder program.

"The dispatcher can actually press a button and automatically send the drone to be overhead, usually within a minute or two," he said. "It goes about 45 miles an hour line of sight . . . giving real-time information to our staff, our officers that are responding. It's also capturing video evidence."

He said the drone program is re-
Expanded information center... pg. 7

Metro A Line extension... from pg. 1

trains are powered by electricity from overhead lines.

The opening of the new nine-mile extension adding Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne and Pomona to the system extends the 48.5 mile Long Beach to Azusa Metro A Line, expanding access to many regional destinations including colleges and universities, Pomona Fairplex, regional parks, historic downtowns, museums, hospitals, medical centers, and shopping, dining and entertainment venues.

Passengers also will be able to walk across the parking lot and



**Metro CEO
Stephanie Wiggins**

transfer to Metrolink trains traveling on into San Bernardino County.

The \$1.5 billion rail extension project was built by the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority and will be operated by Metro.

It is the ninth project completed in Metro's "Twenty-Eight by



**Foothill Gold Line
Board Chair Ed Reece**



**Pomona Mayor
Tim Sandoval
Metro Board member**

to be around 64 minutes. A similar 30-mile drive on the San Bernardino Freeway could easily take an hour and a half or longer during peak commute periods.

Trains will operate every eight minutes during peak service week-



Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board member Hilda Solis

"28" initiative, an ambitious plan to enhance the region's transit infrastructure in time for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Travel time between Union Station in Los Angeles and the new Pomona North Station is expected



Whittier City Councilmember and Metro Board Chair Fernando Dutra

days, 10 minutes off-peak, weekday and daytime weekend service, and every 20 minutes during evening and late-night service.

Several Foothill Transit bus lines will serve the new stations to support seamless integration of bus



CUTTING THE RIBBON -- Cutting the ribbon after all of the speeches -- just to make the Metro A Line to Pomona official -- are, from left, Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority CEO Habib Balian, Metro Board First Vice Chair Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Metro Board Chair Fernando Dutra, Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins, La Verne Mayor and Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority Board member Tim Hepburn, Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board member Hilda Solis, Pomona Mayor and Metro Board member Tim Sandoval, State Sen. Susan Rubio, former Congressmember Grace Napolitano, former Duarte Mayor and former Metro Board member John Fasana, and Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez.

and rail services along the extension.

Metro Board Chair and Whittier City Councilmember Fernando Dutra told the group the opening marked Metro's first expansion since he became chair in July.

"Rail line is more than steel and stations, right?" Dutra said. "It's a lifeline, every stop is a doorway, and every connection is someplace where we need to be, and we'd like to get there safely and on time."

member, told the group "We never thought we were going to quite get it here but we did it."

"Some years back, I introduced a motion to provide \$126 million in the San Gabriel Valley Subregional Equity Program Fund . . . and thanks to the continued advocacy of Metro and its partners, we've secured an additional \$798 million through SB 125, funding to take the line even further to Clare-

mont and Montclair, and the work is not done," Solis said.

"All of the hard work has paid off -- we've come a long way, baby," she added. "And this was one of the first Measure M projects to break ground, thanks to overwhelming support by L.A. County voters."

"And I think they have gotten what they wanted on this particu-

Metro A Line extension... pg.15



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State Sen. Susan Rubio

"We can do that on this line -- for tens of thousands of students . . . this is a direct link to opportunities like internships and first jobs," he added. "For workers and small businesses, it's dependable access to shifts and customers."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, also a Metro board

Crowds for 2028 Olympics... from pg. 1

demand,” Amiri said in a Zoom meeting. “So, we are launching a program called ‘Live, earn, live and thrive in the Valley’ that we want to make sure that we empower the community” to help boost the local economy and workforce opportunities.

The regional chamber, he said, is pursuing what he called a “prosperity wage” in the region rather than only a “minimum wage.”

He said the timing is good for such a program with the LA 28 Olympics coming in, making it important to equip the youth, pro-

World Cup (FIFA soccer) organizers next year, he said, will be selling 70,000 tickets per game for six games in the San Gabriel Valley, with 60 percent of them sold to out-of-town visitors.

“There will be 180,000 out of town visitors (in the San Gabriel Valley) and a total of 40 Olympics venues in the region,” he said, with millions coming to Southern California for the games.

Six local Olympics games will include cricket in Pomona, equestrian in Arcadia, skeet shooting in South El Monte, mounting biking

alone in the Pomona, Diamond Bar and Walnut area should be able to generate \$19 million in revenue for the two-week period of the Olympics.

The Pomona Area Community Advisory Committee was formed by Ali Ataya, general manager of Pomona’s Vita Italian Bar & Grill, who was appointed by Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis to serve on the Los Angeles County Small Business Commission. His advisory committee helps gather information from the local business community to pass on to the Small Business Commission.

The workforce will be ready, for example, if students in the ninth grade today are put on a track to acquire the skills needed by the time they graduate. And professionals can be equipped with career growth and networking and certification. Entrepreneurs will have access to contracts, he said.

“So, what the chamber will be doing is we’ll be teaching entrepreneurs, businesses and professionals to get certification . . . so they can wait for contract opportunities,” Amiri said. “And then we’re going to bring the community together for participation in the games through cultural events, fairs, experience with different environments and food.”

And he said they’ll even be working with the school districts and fitness centers to help make the population fit and ready, and will be sharing information with all of the other chambers of commerce in the region.

The chamber also will be working with jobs organizations and the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity to help entrepreneurs, professionals and young people obtain certification and to provide a mentorship program using industry leaders.

“Our goal is to place 500 youth in Olympic roles, whether they are working as a ticket agent, guide (or) host,” he said, adding that 500 entrepreneurs for vendor registrations will be needed to supply water, food, transportation and security. More than 300 professionals

will be needed for certifications and placements.

“And we would like to start a community summit where we can



Aziz Amiri

hopefully invite 5,000 community members to know about other cultures and be hospitable and get excited about the Olympics,” he said.

He’s already working with economic opportunity groups, workforce development groups and tourism and convention officials.

According to Amiri’s PowerPoint presentation (available on the La Nueva Voz home page at www.lanuevavoz.net), the program’s goal is to organize and leverage Los Angeles County re-

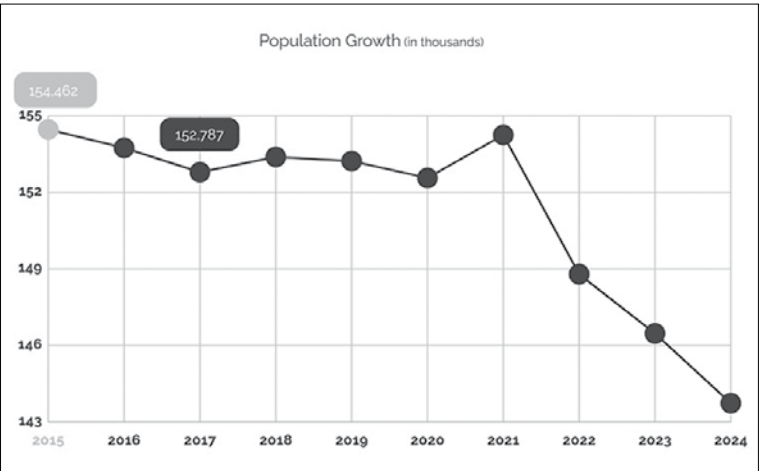
sources to “participate meaningfully in LA 2028, drive economic growth, build cultural pride and leave a lasting legacy.”

And he said the regional chamber’s kick-off “San Gabriel Valley Business Wins through Readiness – Women Leading the Way” event is scheduled for Oct. 16 at Mountain Meadows Golf Course in Pomona, with State Treasurer Fiona Ma as keynote speaker. The effort – with 200 guests expected to attend – will focus on women leading the way, “because our data shows that among all entrepreneurs of different genders, women are behind in terms of the earning capacity and number of women in entrepreneurship.”

The event will cover preparation for opportunities for business ranging from World Cup 2026, Super Bowl 2027 and LA Olym-

Crowds for 2028 Olympics... pg. 15

POMONA



Graph shows population decline in Pomona from 2015 to 2024.

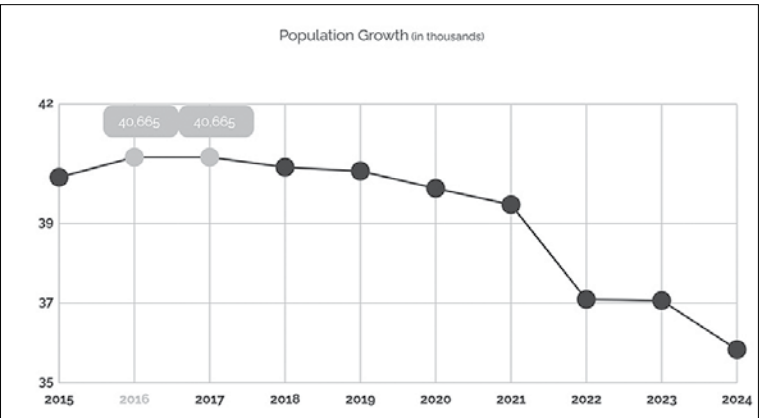
professionals and entrepreneurs “to take advantage of this Olympic-driven industry.”

Amiri said that while people are moving out of the area because of affordability of housing and other costs, the regional chamber will be pursuing population prosperity

at Industry Hills and diving at the Rose Bowl.

“So now you have these people looking for housing, entertainment and food,” he said. “There’ll be five billion TV viewers, so how can we, as a chamber of commerce in collaboration with the county

LA PUENTE



Graph shows population decline in La Puente from 2015 to 2024.

and a wage or income “driven by enhanced skills and new opportunities.”

This can be possible, he added, because of AI (artificial intelligence) or other new technology.

and also with other chambers of commerce, with our (Los Angeles County Small Business) Commissioner bring opportunities to our region.”

He said the hospitality industry

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Pomona Mayor Sandoval starts weekly community meetings on immigration activities impact

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval this month launched what was expected to become a weekly Zoom meeting focusing on how best the community can deal with the impact of federal immigration activities in the area and the city’s “Pomona Compassion Fund” to assist those impacted in Pomona.

The inaugural meeting included representatives of various community non-profits, the business community, mental health support organizations, Pomona City Hall staff and more.

Format for the meeting was similar to the Mayor’s COVID Task Force which was organized in 2020 and continued for nearly four years dealing with issues related to the pandemic in Pomona.

Nearly 90 participants were on the call for the first meeting.

“All of you are aware of the impact that the change in our government is having on our community,” Sandoval said. “This has had a devastating impact on the stability of this city, but not just the city, but people all over this

country.” He said the group would continue to meet to explore “how can we be most responsive and . . . be there for our community that is faced with, as you all know, a very dire situation.”

Sandoval said there have been a number of raids in Pomona beginning in January.

“You are probably well aware that the budget for (the U.S. Department of) Homeland Security is going up from \$9 billion to \$170 billion,” he added. “You are aware of the recent (U.S.) Supreme Court decision which, while I am disgusted, I am not shocked by what we are witness to.”

“You’ve seen the impact on our children and our schools, perhaps not going to school, not going to work, afraid to go to the market,” he said. “And when you think about community, this is not a community that has tried to create an environment where people don’t feel a sense of

belonging. It’s really destabilized this community. But I’m also mindful (that) throughout Pomona’s history, in moments like this, is people coming together.”

“That’s why I invited you to come here . . . to put our heads together and to think about ways in which we can have a positive impact on the current situation,” he added.

The Pomona Compassion Fund, he said, was created two months ago to help individuals and families

who have been impacted by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids.

He called on participants to donate whatever possible to the fund to add to an initial \$120,000 approved this month by members of the Pomona City Council.

Funds will be provided as needed, for example, to families unable to work and pay their bills because of the current climate.

Sandoval added he had just at-

tended a meeting in Monrovia of a 2028 Summer Olympic - Paralympic Committee made up of cities of the San Gabriel Valley where the immigration topic was discussed.

He said he had an opportunity to talk with Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo regarding bringing mayors together from across the San Gabriel Valley “to talk about how this is impacting our communities and how we respond.”

Expanded information center... from pg. 4

ducing response times and increasing homicide “clearance rates” from 38 percent in 2020, which was below the national average of 54 percent, to 83 percent last year.

Another program makes it possible for police to type in an address of an incident in progress and immediately see the

three closest cameras focusing on the front door of the location.

For more information, or to participate by connecting live feeds or simply making the police department aware you have cameras, visit the web site at PomonaSafeCommunities.org.

Supervisor Hilda Solis proclaims ‘Adopt a Shelter Dog’ month

Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors – on a motion authored by Board Chair Pro Tem and First District Supervisor Hilda Solis and co-authored by Board Chair Kathryn Barger – proclaimed October as “Adopt a Shelter Dog” month in Los Angeles County.

This year’s proclamation also was designed to address the growing impact of immigration enforcement on the county’s animal shelter program.

Solis said the action was an effort to increase awareness of adoption events.

“At a time when our communities are still recovering from the January wildfires and facing the effects of immigration raids, it is clearer than ever that when

we uplift animals, we uplift people,” Solis said. “This motion ensures that we extend compassion to all beings while investing in the resilience of our communities.”

County Department of Animal Care and Control officials have been able to track pets that were surrendered or found stray because their owners were deported with at least 40 pets confirmed as surrendered due to deportation as of this month.

The motion also directs the Departments of Mental Health and Public Health to promote “Adopt a Shelter Dog” month by sharing information about the physical and mental health benefits of pet companionship.

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Pilgrim Congregational Church rummage sale offers special help for teachers

Classroom teachers everywhere can always use a little help, and a group of retired Pomona Unified School District teachers have hatched a plan to provide just that.

They are among members of Pilgrim Congregational Church in Pomona who have set up a program to collect books and other educational materials donated by retired teachers and make them available, without cost, to any current teacher who can use them.

The materials will be in a special "Teachers' Room," part of the twice-annual Pilgrim rummage sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18 with thousands of low-cost items of clothing and accessories as well as housewares, kitchen goods, furniture, linens, appliances, books, shoes and a large number of CDs.

During the sale, the special room for teachers will be open to any teacher to come by and grab what they can use in their classrooms. The room will be loaded with children's books, teacher resource books, learning games, flashcards, "manipulatives," instructional and motivational post-

ers, art supplies, educational equipment and many other learning materials. All items are free of charge.

"Our goal is to get these learning materials back into the classroom," explained Sue Villa, a retired Pomona Unified teacher who, in conjunction with Judy Sanders and Jan Manildi, directors of the rummage sale, has helped organize the church's campaign to collect and disburse educational tools to current teachers.

"Retired teachers may have stored these materials at their homes for some time or recently used them in their classrooms, but when we get them, we work to get them back in schools helping children," she said.

The learning materials give-

away continues to grow. With the approval of Pomona Unified, Villa and fellow retired colleagues also for the last two years have taken a load of the donated books and other learning materials to the district's

new teacher orientation.

"Most of what we brought was quickly taken by grateful new PUSD teachers," Villa said.

Pilgrim Congregational Church is located at 600 N. Garey Ave. in Pomona.



Retired teacher Sue Villa organizes some of the many educational items to be made available to teachers at no cost in a special program during the Pilgrim Congregational Church rummage sale on Oct. 18.

La venta de artículos usados de la Iglesia Congregacional Pilgrim ofrece ayuda especial para maestros

Los maestros siempre necesitan ayuda, y un grupo de maestros jubilados del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Pomona ha creado un plan para brindar precisamente eso.

Se encuentran entre los miembros de la Iglesia Congregacional Pilgrim de Pomona que han establecido un programa para recolectar libros y otros materiales educativos donados por maestros jubilados y ponerlos a disposición, sin costo, de cualquier maestro que pueda usarlos.

Los materiales estarán en una "Sala de Maestros" especial, parte de la venta de artículos usados bi-anual de Pilgrim, que se realizará de 8:00 a. m. a 1:00 p. m. el sábado 18 de octubre, con miles de artículos de ropa y accesorios a bajo costo, así como artículos para el hogar, artículos de cocina, muebles, ropa de cama, electrodomésticos, libros, zapatos y una gran cantidad de CD.

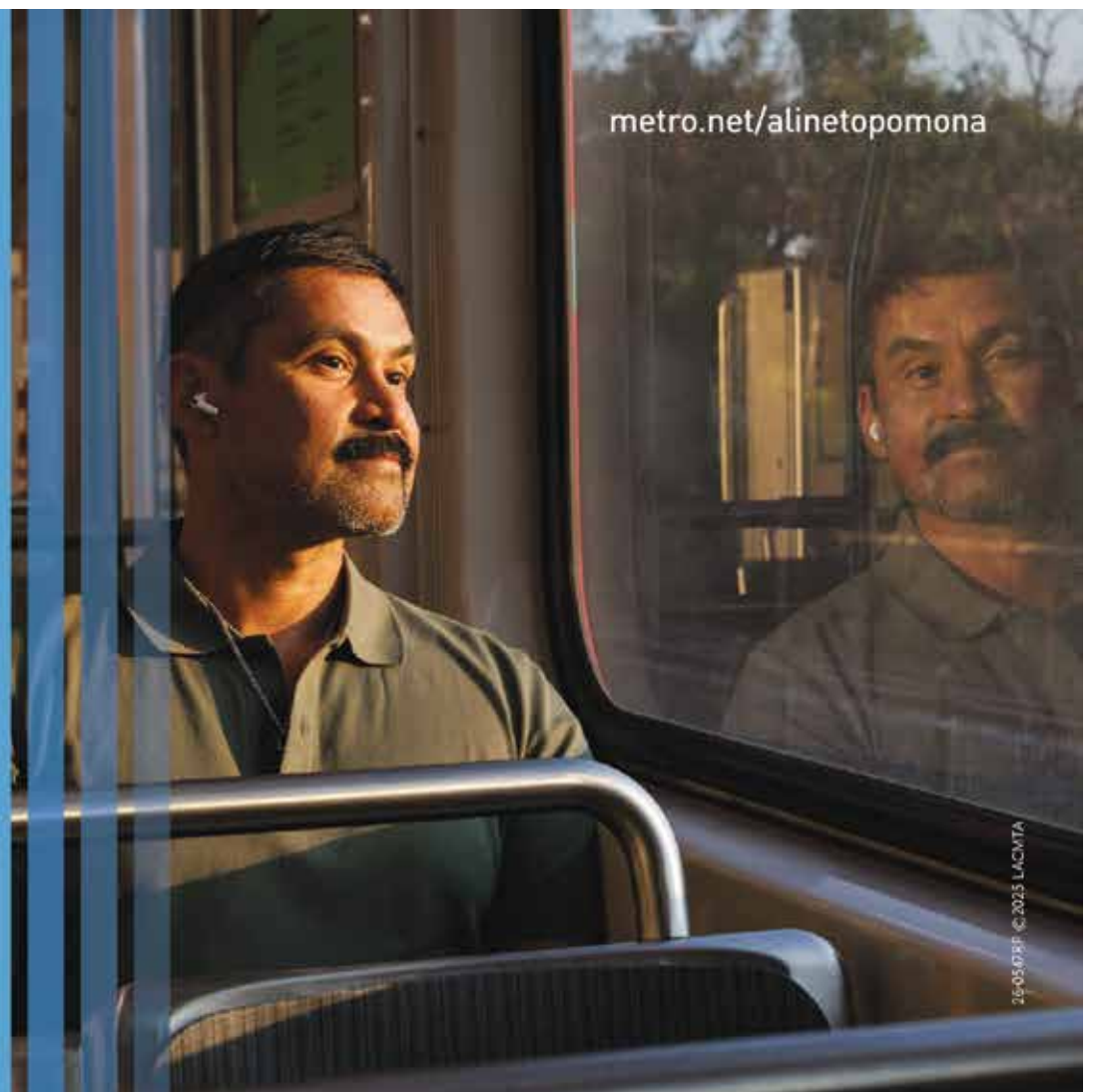
Durante la venta, la sala especial para maestros estará abierta para que cualquier maestro pueda

Ayuda para maestros... pg. 10

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California ranks highest with average credit card debt

California ranks highest in the nation in a survey of average household credit card debt with \$13,847 as the average, an increase of \$263 in second quarter compared to first quarter of 2025.

Total credit card debt in the state is \$167.8 billion, according to a recent survey by WalletHub, a personal finance company.

Nationwide, at \$28 billion for second quarter, the increase in credit card debt was about 21 percent smaller than the previous year.

Total credit card debt as of second quarter was roughly \$1.32 trillion on an inflation-adjusted basis, which was about 13 percent below the record high.

Pomona library reopens after five months of construction

The Pomona Public Library, closed for the past five months due to construction, reopened early this month and returned to regular operating hours last week.

An estimated \$6.1 million in upgrades included a new roof, new LED lighting, a new HVAC system, and removal of an interior wall to allow an open floor plan in the children's room.

The project was funded by California State Library grant funds and a donation from Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, according to Library Manager Anita Torres.

Hours are noon to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

A re-opening celebration is tentatively scheduled for next month.

And the first actual event since the construction, a "Pomona Valley Authors Meet and Greet," is planned as a free "literary celebration" from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11.

Guests will be able to meet local authors and poets and discover their works, hear readings and have an opportunity for book signings.

The program is being presented by the Pomona Public Library Board of Trustees.

For more information, contact the library at (909) 620-2043 or e-mail library@pomona.gov.

Pomona Unified concludes Pomona High School lawsuits with \$25 million in settlements

Pomona Unified School District officials this month resolved the final cases – with combined settlements totaling \$25 million – related to allegations of inappropriate sexual abuse conduct by former male athletic coaches in the 1990s at Pomona High School.

While the students making the allegations are long gone, the claims were brought forward following the passage of Assembly Bill 218, known as the California Child Victims Act, which extended the statute of limitations for claims that were previously beyond the statute.

According to a news release, school district officials notified Pomona police as soon as they became aware of the allegations. The district also conducted its own investigation and fully cooperated throughout the legal process.

Information was limited because the incidents dated back several decades. School board members voted this month to approve one settlement in the amount of \$7 million and, in a second case, to approve a combined settlement of \$18 million divided among three plaintiffs.

"The individuals accused of misconduct no longer work for the district," said Pomona Unified spokesperson Ronald Gonzales-Lawrence. "PUSD remains steadfast in its commitment to student safety and well-being, and continues to strengthen policies, procedures and training to foster a safe, supportive and respectful environment for every student entrusted to our care."

The school district serves the cities of Pomona and Diamond Bar and has an enrollment of more than 20,000 students.

Ayuda para maestros... de la pág. 9

acercarse y adquirir lo que pueda usar en sus aulas. El salón estará repleto de libros infantiles, libros de recursos, juegos de aprendizaje, tarjetas didácticas, materiales didácticos, carteles instructivos y motivacionales, materiales de arte, equipos educativos y muchos otros materiales de aprendizaje. Todos los artículos son gratuitos.

"Nuestro objetivo es que estos materiales de aprendizaje regresen a las aulas", explicó Sue Villa, maestra jubilada del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Pomona, quien, junto con Judy Sanders y Jan Manildi, directoras de la venta de artículos usados, ha ayudado a organizar la campaña de la iglesia para recolectar y distribuir herramientas educativas a los maestros actualmente activos.

"Los maestros jubilados pueden

haber guardado estos materiales en sus casas durante un tiempo o los han usado recientemente en sus aulas, pero cuando los recibimos, trabajamos para que regresen a las escuelas para ayudar a los niños", dijo.

La donación de materiales de aprendizaje sigue creciendo. Con la aprobación del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Pomona, Villa y sus colegas jubilados también han donado durante los últimos dos años, una gran cantidad de libros y otros materiales de aprendizaje en la orientación de nuevos maestros del distrito. "Los nuevos maestros del PUSD, agradecidos, se llevaron rápidamente la mayor parte de lo que trajimos", dijo Villa.

La Iglesia Congregacional Pilgrim se encuentra en 600 N. Garey Ave. en Pomona.

Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez announces women's health fair

Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez has scheduled a "Women's Health and Resource Fair" next month that will provide free health screenings, mammograms and resources all in one place.

The event is being held during "Breast Cancer Awareness Month," according to a news release.

It will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, at the

Montclair Senior Center, 5111 Benito St., Montclair.

Informational booths, local resources, free food and festive "spooky vibes" for Halloween also will be part of the event.

The event is free and open to the public. Appointments are encouraged for mammograms as slots are limited, although walk-ins will be accepted as space allows. For appointments, call (909) 902-9606.



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Elected officials rally over Supreme Court ruling bringing more 'racial terror'

California elected officials and numerous ethnic advocacy organizations lined up this month to voice their opposition to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling with Gov. Newsom calling out President Trump's "hand-picked Supreme Court majority" which he said "just became the grand marshal for a parade of racial terror in Los Angeles."

"This isn't about enforcing immigration laws – it's about targeting Latinos and anyone who doesn't look or sound like (White House Deputy Chief of Staff) Stephen Miller's idea of an American, including U.S. citizens and children, to deliberately harm California's families and small businesses," Newsom said.

"Trump's private police force now has a green light to come after your family – and every person is now a target – but we will continue fighting these abhorrent attacks on Californians," he added.

The court's 6 to 3 majority ruling early this month allows federal immigration officers to conduct stops without suspicion in California by lifting a temporary injunction re-

stricting both stops and "roving patrols" in Los Angeles in the case of *Noem v. Perdomo*.

The decision was considered a victory for the Trump administration, as it enabled U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to resume their sweeps and use factors like race, language, job and location as part of their justification for stops while the case continues in the courts.

U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff said federal agents "rounded up and arrested California residents, including U.S. citizens and legal residents, based on the color of their skin or the language they speak."

"This is blatantly illegal, yet the Supreme Court is allowing it to happen while the case proceeds," Schiff added. "When the history of this country's rapid descent into dictatorship is written, Republicans in Congress and the (U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John) Roberts Court will have been its primary enabler."

U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla point-

ed to the Trump administration which, he said, "has said it themselves."

"They are detaining people simply based on whether they look like an immigrant, on the language they speak or where they work," Padilla said. "(The) radical Supreme Court decision tramples on our constitution and enables racial profiling to continue without explanation."

"This is not the final say – there is still time for the courts to stop this blatantly racist policy from threatening the basic freedoms of Americans and immigrants alike," he added.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, in her dissenting opinion, concluded that Americans "should not have to live in a country where the government can seize anyone who looks Latino, speaks Spanish, and appears to work a low wage job."

California Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas charged that "Trump's Supreme Court is once again attacking our freedoms."

"California will fight back with everything we've got to keep

families safe, protect our way of life and hold ICE accountable," he said. "We've already passed laws to prevent raids in our schools and hospitals, and I will always stand with immigrant communities, workers and families."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis called the ruling "an unacceptable attack on the rights and safety of our residents."

"The timing of this ruling is especially outrageous, coming at the very start of Hispanic Heritage Month, a time meant to honor and uplift Latino communities and their contributions," Solis added.

"This decision will only intensify the fear, trauma, and disruption faced by Angeleno families and neighbors who contribute so much to the strength, workforce and cultural diversity of Los Angeles County," Solis said. "Racial profiling and stops without reasonable suspicion have no place in our society."

State Sen. Susan Rubio condemned the ruling.

"As a classroom teacher for nearly 20 years, a California state senator and an immigrant, I am outraged by the United States Supreme Court's decision to allow immigration agents to target people based on how they look or what language they speak," she said. "This ruling sends a chilling message: that some rights are conditional. That's not the America I taught my students to believe in."

AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) Caucus Chair Mike Fong said the court decision "is a threat to our communities and harms our families."

"The AAPI Legislative Caucus condemns this ruling and stands with immigrants across California, affirming that every family deserves to live with dignity in safe and welcoming surroundings," he added.

And Aileen Louie, interim CEO of the organization Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California, said the court in its decision "has turned its back on the constitution and

More 'racial terror'... pg. 15

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Pomona train derailment shuts down Valley Boulevard for eight hours

A train derailment in Pomona this month near Cal Poly blocked traffic in all four lanes along Valley Boulevard just east of Temple Avenue for eight hours when four empty and idle freight cars ran out of track and took a 90-degree turn into and directly across the entire street before coming to a halt.

A total of 40 cars started rolling down a slight grade to the west in the incident that was reported to Pomona police at 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 10. The street was reopened to traffic at 11:24 p.m., according to a police spokesperson.

No injuries were reported, and no automobiles were involved in the incident. According to reports from officials at the scene, only one woman who appeared to be homeless was in one of the train cars at the time of the incident.

The only actual damage was to the relatively newly resurfaced roadway of Valley Boulevard itself and to some signage and roadway surface of a bikeway alongside the street.

Local officials with Union Pacific referred La Nueva Voz to Jill Micek, manager of communications in corporate relations in Omaha, who confirmed no injuries were reported.

She said the four empty cars that left the tracks remained upright.

Union Pacific crews responded to the incident.

“Our preliminary investigation shows suspected vandalism caused the derailment,” Micek said.

Officials at the scene said it appeared brakes on the idle cars stored on a “siding” or “spur” of tracks were released, causing the cars to begin moving.

La Nueva Voz learned of the incident from three sources and responded to the scene where Pomona police officers were blocking traffic and Union Pacific railroad

security officials were handling crowd control as dozens of on-lookers from Cal Poly, neighboring houses and local businesses were photographing the damage.

Other than La Nueva Voz, it appeared only a helicopter from Channel 9 was on the scene.

Heavy equipment contract crews with oversized load flatbed trucks from Hulcher Professional Services, Inc., a railroad service contractor based in Rialto, operating bulldozers and cranes arrived on the scene and attached chains to the first railroad car at 7 p.m. They completely cleared the roadway at 7:40 p.m., although City of Pomona public works crews were required to inspect the roadway and make any needed repairs to the surface before opening the roadway to traffic.

Damage to the roadway essentially was from heavy steel freight car wheels digging into the pavement. A typical railroad freight car weighs between 25 and 35 tons depending on its type and capacity, according to an Internet search.

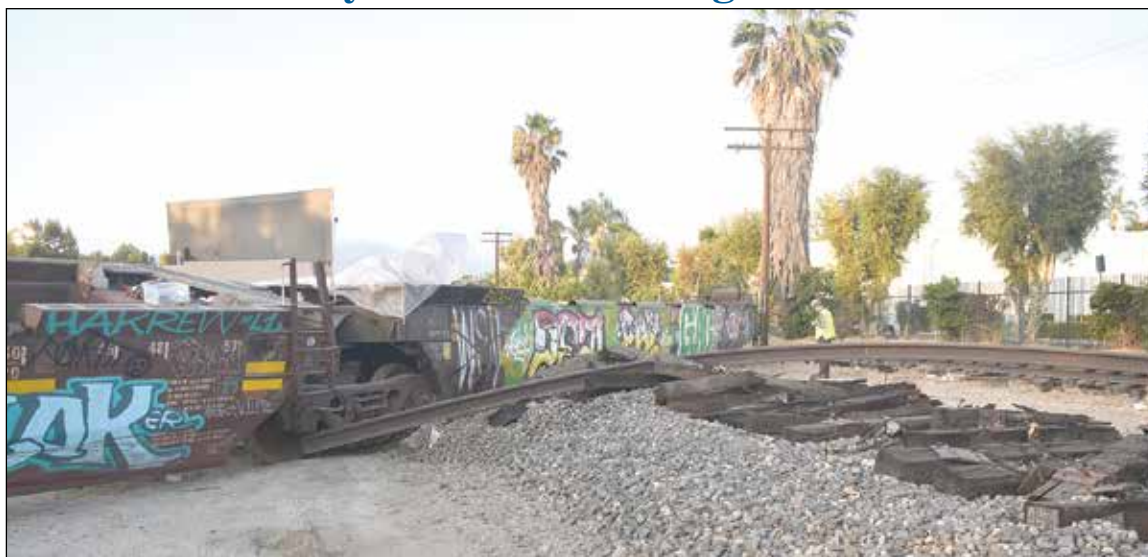
Railroad officials did not provide a dollar estimate of damage caused by the incident or cost of the contract clean-up crew in their response to La Nueva Voz.

The Union Pacific tracks crossing Temple Avenue immediately south of Valley Boulevard were taken out of service – and several hundred feet of track removed on both sides of the street – in a project completed that was marked by a ribbon-cutting in July 2018.

The closure was part of a \$94.8 million Alameda Corridor-East project to permanently divert trains from the Temple Avenue crossing.

Trains that once used that

Train derailment... pg. 16



Photos by Jeff Schenkel
Railroad freight car wheels cutting into the roadway and bent rails torn from the actual railroad ties all resulted from a derailment of four cars in Pomona this month as a total of 40 cars apparently in storage with no engine attached started rolling until they ran out of track. Union Pacific officials said the incident appeared to be caused by suspected vandalism.



Increase in graduation... from pg. 2

from 85.8 to 93.1 percent. Village Academy High School climbed from 95.2 to 98.9 percent, earning the highest graduation rate in the district.

Other campuses showing improvement included Ganesha, Diamond Ranch and Park West High Schools, with each achieving at least a one percentage point gain in graduation rates.

Garey High School posted a strong 93.8 percent graduation rate, with 350 out of 373 students completing their studies – the highest number of graduates districtwide.

Overall, the district’s graduation rate increased from 90.3 percent in 2024 to 92.7 percent in 2025, well above previous state

and national benchmarks. Fremont Principal Robert Fasting attributed the improvement to a shared commitment among students, families and staff.

“The Class of 2025 achievement is a testament to the students’ and families’ commitment to success,” Fasting said. “We have an amazing group of professional educators, including teachers, counselors, administrators and support staff guiding the development of students.

He added that maintaining success means building on what works, addressing challenges as they arise, and cooperating with the community to develop strategies that help students succeed.

Pomona’s Office of Violence Prevention and Wellbeing presents annual ‘Peace Walk’

Pomona’s second annual “Peace Walk” is scheduled for 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, as part of an on-going effort to raise awareness of the impact of violence in the city.

“This walk is an opportunity for our community to come together in strength and compassion,” said Pedro Payne, Division Manager of the city’s Office of Violence Prevention and Wellbeing which is presenting the event. “By

honoring victims and survivors, supporting families and calling for peace, we are reminding one another that change is possible when we stand united.”

He said that behind the statistics are “real lives, families and stories that deserve to be seen and heard.”

Participants in the walk show how the city is committed to **Peace Walk... pg. 15**

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Divide and conquer or listen, learn and care?

By Rev. Natalie Shiras with Rev. Jan Chase

Members, Compassionate Pomona

In this time of increasing polarization of our population and escalating violence, one might ask, “What is the compassionate thing to do?”

I find myself easily drawn into the “Ain’t it awful” or “Ain’t they awful” conversations, feeling very self-righteous in my stances. Yet, have I an inkling of what people on the “other side” are thinking and feeling? Probably not.

I have been a member of the Circle of Chairs for about five years. During that time, I have been a part of conversations that took me into my heart as I listened to people with different experiences and perspectives than mine. As my heart grew bigger, my world grew bigger and deeper.

Now that we seem more polarized than ever, Michael Witmer suggested that we join with Braver Angels, who work to bridge the partisan divide, “not to change people’s views of issues but to change their views of each other.” The Braver Angels Way fits in with the guidelines Circle of Chairs as long used:

The Braver Angels Way

We state our views freely and fully, without fear.

We treat people who disagree with us with honesty, dignity and respect.

We welcome opportunities to engage those with whom we disagree.

We believe all of us have blind spots and none of us are not worth talking to.

We seek to disagree accurately, avoiding exaggeration and stereotypes.

We look for common ground where it exists and, if possible, find ways to work together.

We believe that, in disagreements, both sides share and learn.

In Braver Angels, neither side is teaching the other or giving feedback on how to think or say things differently.

The topic we had chosen for this October’s Circle of Chairs works beautifully for this deep listening session.

The 30th Circle of Chairs Interracial and Intergenerational Dialogue on Race will gather on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Pitzer College Gold Student Health and Wellness Center Multipurpose Room (on the second floor), 1102 Pitzer Service Road, Claremont (just north

of 9th St. at Claremont Boulevard, use East Mesa parking lot). The Community Engagement Center at Pitzer College, one of our new sponsors, is again graciously hosting us.

Our other sponsors are the NAACP-Pomona Valley Branch, National Council of Negro Women-Pomona Valley Section, Baha’I Community of Claremont, Friends Meeting of Claremont, Braver Angels, and Diversity Advisory Group of Pilgrim Place.

Our topic on Oct. 11 is “Should DEI D-I-E?” Participants will sit in small circles of seven to eight people to share their values and how they intersect or not with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. We will engage with both challenges and inspirational ideas. While individuals speak, the other participants sit silently and respectfully without interruption. At the end there is an open discussion. The Circle of Chairs format provides facilitated discussions in a safe space on topics that might be regarded as difficult or controversial.

The unfolding group process reveals different kinds of personal meaning and value, usually positive. Participants are invited to share what they feel comfortable sharing. Whatever comes out of these relationships will have value because we will learn about each other’s lives, each other’s faith, and each other’s strengths and vulnerabilities. We begin to dispel incorrect stereotypes and assumptions about the other. We hope there will be an outcome toward building healthy relationships. There is a saying, “A story is the shortest distance between people.” We hope through these dialogues to build communication, cooperation, and community, freeing our energy for better learning and creative action in today’s society.

We invite you to join us for our next Circle of Chairs event. For more information contact Natalie Shiras, resident at Pilgrim Place, at nshiras@mac.com.

We also invite you to join the Braver Angels in their quest to bring a divided nation together again. Isolated from each other, our communities, and our families, are damaged. As we learn to listen to each other with respect, humility, honesty and responsibility, the common good can be achieved.

Do you have a news story?

We want to hear from you or your organization.

Send your news tips to:

reneebarbee7@gmail.com

Metro A Line extension... from pg. 5

lar line – clean, safe, on time and delivered for many people,” Solis said. “And that’s exactly what we’re doing today.”

State Sen. Susan Rubio said that the new Metro A Line creates opportunity.

“I think of sometimes that elderly couple that needs medication and doesn’t have a car – how do they get to their medical appointments,” Rubio said. “And this is really not just about opportunity and transportation, but it really is a lifeline for so many of our community members, our families, and our students, so many of our students who struggle to get from one place to the other.”

She even acknowledged a protestor with signs who was shouting anti-Trump slogans from across the street during the event.

“Thank you for exercising your right to protest,” she said. “Unless these voices are constantly in front of us, we may not know what they want.”

Rubio said the new A Line is “going to get people off their cars and into transportation that’s not going to be sitting there for hours and hours polluting our air . . . and so clean transportation, good paying jobs, economic boost to our region” increasing mobility, opportunity and a better quality of life.

Pomona Mayor and Metro Board member Tim Sandoval spoke of the workers, residents, children and families that will be able to get on the train.

“There’s a saying, ‘You can’t aim for what you can’t see,’” he said. “But when you have the opportunity to open yourselves up . . . to be able to get on the line . . . families and our children and our older adult population will be able to get to this line and to see the very best of Los Angeles County.”

Foothill Gold Line Board Chair and Claremont City Councilmember Ed Reece called the opening of the new A Line “a celebration of a shared dream that has today become a reality.”

“Today’s opening is proof, proof of what is possible when we unite to overcome challenges,” Reece said. “The (Foothill Gold Line) Construction Authority has now completed 23 of 25 stations entrusted to us. And because of the continued support of Metro, we’re on our way to extending the line to my hometown of Claremont and beyond.”

And Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins told the group that each time Metro opens a new line or extends a line “we are creating something powerful.”

“That’s progress that will lead us into the future, that leaves a legacy that will keep serving our communities for generations,” she added. “We know that millions rely on Metro and that this A Line extension is going to be important for a safe, seamless experience with lasting benefits for our region.”

“So, to you, our new customers, I say welcome to Metro,” Wiggins said. “We want to be your ride, your first choice for transportation in this region. Every day we are dedicated to making every ride easy, convenient, clean, reliable, safe and family friendly.”

Crowds for 2028 Olympics... from pg. 6

pics and Paralympics 2028. The Paralympics alone are expected to bring crowds two and a half times the size of the Super Bowl each day.

To register for the luncheon event, contact the regional chamber at (626) 810-8476 or www.rccsgv.com.

Participants in this month’s advisory committee Zoom meeting in addition to Amiri and Ataya included Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, Eva Thiel-Maiz representing Supervisor Solis, Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Nef Cortez, of Re/Max Galaxy Realty in Diamond Bar, Pomona Chamber Executive

Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Denise Moran of Pomona Valley America’s Job Center, and Jeff Schenkel of La Nueva Voz.

Peace Walk... from pg. 13

standing together against gun violence, domestic violence and youth violence.

“Walking through our city streets reflects both remembrance and a call to action – remembrance for those we have lost and action toward creating safer, more hopeful neighborhoods in the next generation,” Payne added.

The event begins at Pomona’s House of Ruth, 599 N. Main St., Pomona.

More ‘racial terror’... from pg. 11

handed the government a blank check to racially profile.”

“Let us be clear – this ruling is dangerous,” she said. It strips away fundamental protections and normalizes harassment of immigrants and U.S. citizens alike. It tells our communities that the way you look, the language you speak, or the place you work can now make you a target. That is unconstitutional and unacceptable.”

She said the ruling endangers all communities of color.

Meanwhile, California’s U.S. Senators Schiff and Padilla, Judi-

ciary Committee Ranking Member Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) and 16 other senators filed an amicus brief with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in the lawsuit brought against Trump for his alleged misuse of the U.S. military this year.

That lawsuit came from the State of California after Trump deployed thousands of members of the California National Guard and the U.S. Marine Corps to Los Angeles without legal justification or approval from state or local officials.

“Donald Trump made his true

motives for the deployment of our military in Los Angeles plain – instead of improving safety, he is focused on spectacle; instead of protecting Americans, he is punishing cities and states he believes are against him,” Schiff said. “Trump’s abuse of power is clear, illegal and unconstitutional – and our arguments to the court explain why this case must be the line drawn in the sand to prevent further misuse of our service members on the streets of American cities.”

The brief was filed by the senators in Newsom v. Trump.

Educational achievement gap is growing

ment.

“Year after year, California students continue to struggle in reading and math,” said California School Boards Association CEO and Executive Director Vernon Billy. “The state has failed to fully own this crisis. Local school boards carry the burden of trying to triage the situation under political and funding duress.”

He said the state needs to develop a coherent plan to try to close the achievement gap.

In a related development, the National Center for Education Statistics, producer of the statistics known as the “Nation’s Report Card,” elected not to produce state-by-state performance breakouts, making analysis between states difficult.

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Pomona Valley Memorial Park is a nonprofit corporation.

Train derailment... from pg. 12

crossing were diverted to the other side of nearby Cal Poly farmland to an existing Union Pacific right-of-way that was already grade-separated. Passing trains for years caused delays for students, faculty and staff – often making everybody late for work or for class – at one of the main entrances to Cal Poly on what was called Pomona’s busiest street at the time with 33,800 daily vehicles.

Officials said at the time the 2.3-mile diversion route would help

reduce traffic collisions and train horn noise as well as improving traffic flow.

The route was used daily by 20 freight trains at the time, a number that was projected to increase to 42 by this year.

The Temple crossing at the time had experienced two train-vehicle collisions over the previous 10 years (see July 2018 La Nueva Voz at www.lanuevavoz.net and click on past issues).

And that bikeway that was dam-

aged by the derailment – separated from the automobile traffic lanes by actual curbs for added safety – was completed with a ribbon-cutting of its own in March 2022 along a 1.5-mile-long stretch of Valley Boulevard from Temple Avenue to Humane Way.

That project cost \$10 million to complete over a two-year period.

Categorized as a “Class IV Protected Bikeway,” it was designed to increase safety for all cyclists but particularly students riding to and from Cal Poly, Western University of Health Sciences, iPoly High School and Pomona Unified School District.

It was funded by a \$2.8 million Metro grant and \$6.7 million of Proposition C funds, along with other sources (see April 2022 La Nueva Voz at www.lanuevavoz.net and click on past issues).

Other than the two recent train-

vehicle accidents at the Temple Avenue crossing, a Union Pacific train struck a truck carrying an oversized load on Dec. 18, 2024, killing the train’s engineers and injuring three bystanders. Four locomotives and 11 cars derailed, but hazardous materials they were hauling did not leak.

And a broken wheel on the en-

gine car led to a derailment on Christmas Eve 1899, killing at least four people and injuring many others, according to an Internet search.

That accident eventually spurred the creation of Pomona Valley Hospital in 1903 after local residents had to care for the injured in their homes.

Student scholarships available

More than seven in 10 students in Los Angeles County can benefit from a program offering up to \$1,500 in CalKIDS scholarships this school year, according to state officials.

The program for both college and career training is part of a \$2 billion public investment in higher education that has already allocated \$911 million to students in the region, according to a news release.

“Back-to-school is the perfect time to claim your CalKIDS scholarship,” said State Treasurer Fiona Ma. “These funds aren’t just dollars – they’re an investment in our children’s dreams and in California’s future.”

A total of 60 percent of public school students in grades two through 12 are eligible for a \$500 CalKIDS scholarship. **Scholarships... pg. 19**



CHILDREN WHO BEAT CANCER HONORED – Founder Sonya Adams and members of the award winning non-profit organization “Celebrating a Vision” partnered with the Childhood Cancer Foundation of Southern California for the fifth year recently to honor and celebrate children who beat cancer by taking them on a two-hour “Survivor Sunset Sail.” The event included lunch, desserts, games and prizes. The next step for the organization is to begin collecting toys to distribute to hospitals for Christmas. Sponsors include Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Jersey Mike’s of La Verne, Mike’s Subs in Los Angeles, and Mitchell Stein Realty and Starbucks in Pomona. To donate, visit celebratingavision.org. Celebrating a Vision was founded in 2013 and has worked with Pomona Valley Hospital to provide “comfort packages” to patients at the Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center.

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Terror racial... de la pág. 2

realizar detenciones en California, al levantar una orden judicial temporal que limitaba las detenciones en Los Ángeles en el caso Noem contra Perdomo.

La decisión se consideró una victoria para la administración Trump, ya que permitió a los agentes del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas de EE. UU. reanudar sus redadas y utilizar factores como la raza, el idioma, el empleo y la ubicación como justificación de las detenciones mientras el caso continúa en los tribunales.

El senador estadounidense Adam Schiff afirmó que los agentes federales “detuvieron y arrestaron a residentes de California, incluyendo ciudadanos estadounidenses y residentes legales, basándose en el color de su piel o el idioma que hablan”.

“Esto es ostensiblemente ilegal, pero la Corte Suprema lo permite mientras el caso sigue su curso”, añadió Schiff. “Cuando se escriba la historia del rápido descenso de este país hacia una dictadura, los republicanos en el Congreso y el Tribunal Supremo (presidente de la Corte Suprema de EE. UU., John) Roberts

habrán sido sus principales facilitadores”.

“Están deteniendo a personas simplemente por su apariencia inmigrante, por el idioma que hablan o por su lugar de trabajo”, declaró el senador estadounidense Alex Padilla. “La decisión radical de la Corte Suprema pisotea nuestra constitución y permite que la discriminación racial continúe sin explicación”.

“Esta no es la última palabra; aún hay tiempo para que los tribunales detengan esta política descaradamente racista que amenaza las libertades fundamentales tanto de los estadounidenses como de los inmigrantes”, añadió Padilla.

La jueza de la Corte Suprema, Sonia Sotomayor, en su opinión disidente, concluyó que los estadounidenses “no deberían tener que vivir en un país donde el gobierno puede detener a cualquiera que parezca latino, hable español y parezca tener un trabajo mal pagado”.

El presidente de la Asamblea de California, Robert Rivas, denunció que “la Corte Suprema de Trump está atacando una vez más nuestras libertades”.

“California luchará con todas sus fuerzas para mantener a las familias seguras, proteger nuestro estilo de vida y exigir cuentas a ICE”, afirmó. “Ya hemos aprobado leyes para prevenir redadas en nuestras escuelas y hospitales, y siempre apoyaré a las comunidades, trabajadores y familias inmigrantes”.

La supervisora del condado de Los Ángeles, Hilda Solís, calificó el fallo como “un ataque inaceptable a los derechos y la seguridad de nuestros residentes”.

“El momento de este fallo es especialmente indignante, ya que se produce justo en el Mes de la Herencia Hispana, un momento destinado a honrar y enaltecer a las comunidades latinas y sus contribuciones”, añadió Solís.

“Esta decisión solo intensificará el miedo, el trauma y la perturbación que enfrentan las familias y vecinos angelinos que tanto contribuyen a la fortaleza, la fuerza laboral y la diversidad cultural del condado de Los Ángeles”, declaró Solís. “La discriminación racial y las detenciones sin sospecha razonable no tienen cabida en nuestra sociedad”.

La senadora estatal Susan Rubio condenó el fallo.

“Como maestra durante casi 20 años, senadora estatal de California e inmigrante, estoy indignada por la decisión de la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos de permitir que los agentes de inmigración persigan a las personas por su apariencia o el idioma que hablan”, declaró. “Este fallo transmite un mensaje alarmante: que algunos derechos son condicionales. No es el Estados Unidos que les enseñé a mis alumnos del cual deberían estar orgullosos”.

El presidente del Caucus AAPI (Asiático-Americanos e Isleños del Pacífico), Mike Fong, afirmó que la decisión del tribunal “es una amenaza para nuestras comunidades y perjudica a nuestras familias”.

“El Caucus Legislativo AAPI condena este fallo y se solidariza con la inmigración en toda California, afirmando que toda familia merece vivir con dignidad en un entorno seguro y acogedor”, añadió.

Aileen Louie, directora ejecutiva interina de la organización Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California, afirmó que, en su decisión, el tribunal “ha dado la espalda a la constitución y le ha dado al gobierno un cheque en blanco para aplicar el perfil racial”.

“Seamos claros: este fallo es peligroso”, dijo Louie. Elimina protecciones fundamentales y normaliza el acoso tanto a inmigrantes como a ciudadanos estadounidenses. Le dice a nuestras comunidades

Terror racial... pág. 19

Photo by Renee Barbee
Artist Paul Rozsa poses with some of his paintings currently on display at Pomona Mercantile, a new boutique shop in Downtown Pomona that calls itself a “community driven store.” It sells everything from original art, t-shirts and sweatshirts to candy, water, energy drinks, brownies and more, according to owner Maricela Rodarte. The shop is located at 351 S. Thomas St., Unit A2, Pomona (just off the parking lot). Hours are 4 to 9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 4 to 10 Friday, and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday.



Musicians strum the guitars doing a little classic rock and more in front of Downtown Pomona’s Pomona Mercantile store, at 351 S. Thomas St., Pomona. The store is offering free musical acts each month on Second Saturday from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. Pictured, from left, are Bruce Gomez and Paul Rozsa, both of Chino Hills.

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County Supervisor Hilda Solis breaks ground for first regional park in more than three decades

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis joined residents and community leaders this month to officially break ground for the new Puente Hills Regional Park, launching the first phase of one of the county’s most significant environmental justice and public space projects in decades on the site of what once was one of the nation’s largest landfills.

“This moment has been more than 30 years in the making – I grew up just a few miles from this site, where we lived in the shadow of the Puente Hills Landfill,” Solis said. “I remember the smell, the trucks, and the lack of green space. This land was once a symbol of environmental injustice and now we are reclaiming it.”

She said the groundbreaking was a victory for the people who fought to stop the landfill’s expansion, for the families who deserve access to parks and clean air, and for the next generation who will learn and thrive in the park.

The 140-acre park will convert the site of what was once the largest active landfill west of the Mississippi River into a major destination for recreation, education and community connection, according to a news release.

It is the result of decades of ad-



Photos courtesy of the County of Los Angeles
BREAKING GROUND FOR NEW REGIONAL PARK -- Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, at center, along with community leaders and residents, breaks ground this month for construction of the new Puente Hills Regional Park, the county’s first new park in 35 years. The park is on the site of the old Puente Hills Landfill, once the largest active landfill west of the Mississippi River.

vocacy, dating back to when then-Assemblymember Solis authored Assembly Bill 2632 to halt the landfill’s expansion and secure its conversion to parkland.

That bill, passed in 1994, established legal protections for the site

and laid the foundation for the new park.

The landfill closed in 2013 after more than 50 years of operation. In 2014, Solis was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and began working with coun-

ty departments and local agencies to bring the Puente Hills Park Master Plan to life.

Phase one of the park is fully funded, Solis said, with \$157.35 million secured through local, state and federal sources. And it will include the county’s first environmental justice center, a community-focused facility offering educational programming, a collaborative community work space, a podcast studio, and exhibits on sustainability, redlining and waste history.

The park also will include an amphitheater, a nature play zone, an arts plaza, a dog park, playgrounds and more.



An arial view of the new Puente Hills Regional Park shows the general layout of Los Angeles County’s first new park in 35 years -- on the site of the old Puente Hills Landfill -- which will offer recreational opportunities, plenty of nature and wildlife, and majestic views of the San Gabriel Valley.

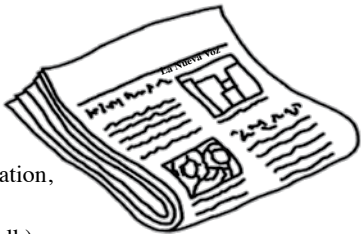
Photo courtesy of Pomona Police Department
E-BIKE ACCIDENTS ON THE RISE – E-bike accidents are increasing, especially among children, according to officials at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, prompting the hospital to team up with the Pomona Police Department last week for a safety demonstration. The event, held at the hospital’s Robert and Beverly Lewis Outpatient Pavilion, included tips on the importance of wearing a helmet that fits, not carrying others on the bike, maintaining visibility, and obeying all traffic laws. Police figures show 30 e-bike incidents this year as of July, compared to a total of 63 incidents – one a fatality – in 2024. The hospital has treated 84 related injuries as of July. In 2024, the hospital treated a total of 86 injuries during the entire year. Pictured is Dr. Michael Jimenez, medical director of trauma services at the hospital, who spoke about the importance of wearing helmets to prevent injury that could lead to disability or death.



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- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona





ASSEMBLYMEMBER MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ HOSTS WOMEN'S LUNCHEON -- Pomona Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez held a luncheon program for women on the theme "Rise and Bloom" last week at the Ebell Museum in Pomona -- including an impactful presentation by "Jessica," who escaped from a life as a human trafficking victim. The event was designed to honor and uplift women who have overcome immense adversity, particularly survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence, and to create a powerful space for healing, connection and celebration. Pomona groups honored included House of Ruth, Project Sister, Healed Women Heal and Project Resilience, along with the Historical Society of Pomona Valley. Pictured accepting their certificate from Rodriguez are, from left, are Historical Society Board members Donna Manzanares Otero and Renee Barbee, Assemblymember Rodriguez, Historical Society President Deborah Clifford, and Board members Alice Gomez and Benny Ayala. Iso Nakasato of Athens Services served as master of ceremonies. "Pomona is a city that really does give and give of their heart, and I think that's a very, very special thing," she said in introducing the organizations recognized at the event. Rodriguez herself is a survivor of gun violence, something she has claimed has always been a motivating factor in her work to improve public safety and strengthen laws protecting families. "We have heard stories of resilience, recognized the work of our non-profits, public safety, and community partners, and celebrated the survivors who inspire us all," Rodriguez said. "Rise and Bloom' is more than a title. It reminds us that no matter the challenges, renewal is always possible. Each survivor here shows that even in the darkest times, hope can take root, strength can grow, and life can bloom again."



Iso Nakasato



Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez

que su apariencia, el idioma que hablan o el lugar donde trabajan pueden convertirlos en blanco de ataques. Eso es inconstitucional e inaceptable".

Dijo que el fallo pone en peligro a todas las comunidades de color.

Mientras tanto, los senadores estadounidenses de California, Schiff y Padilla, el miembro de mayor rango del Comité Judicial, Dick Durbin (demócrata por Illinois), y otros 16 senadores presentaron un escrito amicus curiae ante el Tribunal de Apelaciones del Noveno Circuito en la demanda interpuesta

contra Trump por su presunto uso indebido del ejército estadounidense este año.

Dicha demanda provino del estado de California después de que Trump desplegara a miles de miembros de la Guardia Nacional de California y el Cuerpo de Marines de los EE. UU. en Los Ángeles sin justificación legal ni aprobación de funcionarios estatales o locales.

"Donald Trump dejó en claro sus verdaderos motivos para el despliegue de nuestro ejército en Los Ángeles: en lugar de mejorar

la seguridad, se centra en el espectáculo; en lugar de proteger a los estadounidenses, está castigando a las ciudades y estados que cree que están en su contra", dijo Schiff. "El abuso de poder de Trump es claro, ilegal e inconstitucional, y nuestros argumentos ante la corte explican por qué este caso debe ser la línea divisoria para evitar un mayor abuso de nuestros militares en las calles de las ciudades estadounidenses".

El escrito fue presentado por los senadores en el caso Newsom contra Trump.

Scholarships... from pg. 16

dents in foster care can receive an additional \$500, and students experiencing homelessness receive another \$500, for a total scholarship worth up to \$1,500.

The scholarships can be used at accredited colleges, universities, community colleges and training programs across the country.

Applications are on line at CalKIDS.org and click "confirm eligibility."



REDEDICATION CELEBRATION AT CLAREMONT LIBRARY -- Officials cut the ribbon last week to officially re-open the Claremont Helen Renwick Library in Downtown Claremont. The library was renamed to honor Renwick, a philanthropist and cultural advocate who funded the original construction of the city's first library in the late 1920s, donated the land for the site where the current library is located, and played a central role in the city's civic and educational growth. Pictured cutting the ribbon are Claremont Mayor Corey Calaycay, at left, and County Librarian Dr. Skye Patrick.

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The band "Halfway to Neptune" played, an unidentified soloist sang the classics with a twist, and budding artists with some of their works on display and others works in progress as you watched worked on their style under the guidance of two professional artists at this month's fourth annual Pomona Youth Fest at the Millard Sheets Art Center at Fairplex. The free event is presented each year for youth ages 13 to 18 by NCADD (National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence) of East San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, Inc., and Partnership for a Positive Pomona (P3), a community drug-free coalition, made possible by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Substance Use Prevention and Control.