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EDUCATION

PUSD readies for opening day

Fire recovery, financial woes, federal raids hang over the new school year

By David Wilson
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“The Power of Us: Rising Together.” That was the theme as Pasadena Unified School District on Wednesday held a welcome back event for teachers, administrators and staff at Pasadena High

School. “Let’s innovate, let’s inspire, let’s transform,” Superintendent Elizabeth Blanco said to her teams, as the district looks to move forward from a tumultuous 2024-25 school year that saw the Eaton fire burn down five campuses, displacement of students and teachers, financial

woes that spurred layoffs and the threat of amped-up U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement actions. Many of those same concerns will linger as the new year arrives. Significant levels of innovation, inspiration and transformation will surely be needed to cope with the challenging agenda. Monday will mark the first

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Pasadena Unified School District Superintendent Elizabeth Blanco gives a speech to faculty welcoming them into the new school year at Pasadena High School on Wednesday. **PHOTO BY CONNOR TERRY**

FEDERAL CRACKDOWN

Immigration sweeps shake children’s world



Jose Zavala, right, greets his daughters Isella, 11, center, and Arabel, 14, at their home in Pomona on July 30. He had been held at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing center in Texas. **WILL LESTER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Fear of parents’ detention spurs panic, nightmares, crying jags

By Anissa Rivera
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In their silence and their stomach-aches, or the sudden burst of tears, the children living through hard-line federal immigration enforcement are saying one thing: They are not OK. In the days after her father was

detained while on a landscaping job in La Mirada on June 18, 11-year-old Isella could hardly stop crying. Her mother, Maria Murillo, then noticed Isella’s eyes started twitching, followed by uncontrollable shaking in her head and hands. “We had to take her to the emergency room about a week later,” Murillo said. “They said it was due to too much stress

and anxiety.” As the Pomona family remained separated, with their patriarch, Jose Zavala, later moved to an ICE processing center in El Paso, Texas, Isella, one of the couple’s four children, continued to struggle.

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UC Riverside study confirms ICE raids’ emotional toll on the young

By Gladys B. Vargas
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Aggressive immigration practices, including detention, deportation and workplace raids are causing widespread emotional trauma among children, according to a study by mental health professionals at UC Riverside’s School of Medicine. The report, published July 25

in Psychiatric News, suggests that “acute psychological risks” — among both immigrant and U.S.-born children living in mixed-status households — develop from forced family separations, particularly those resulting from immigration enforcement actions, such as detention and deportation.

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UC Riverside’s School of Medicine, seen in 2023, has been studying the impacts of immigration raids on children. **WATCHARA PHOMICINDA — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

WAR IN EUROPE

Trump reverses call for ceasefire

After summit, president aligns with Putin, says overall peace accord is next step in Ukraine

By Samya Kullab, John Leicester and Emma Burrows
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — U.S. President Donald Trump reversed course in the wake of his meeting with Russian leader Vladimir Putin to say an overall peace agreement — not the ceasefire that he has long championed — is the next step in ending the 3½-year war in Ukraine. In talks with European allies after Friday’s summit in Alaska, Trump said Putin reiterated that he wants the key Donetsk and Luhansk regions that make up the Donbas. But Putin appeared open to the possibility of halting the stalemate in two other regions, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, with a freeze along the front lines.

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EATON FIRE

In her art, Eaton Canyon of memory takes center stage

By Anissa Rivera
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The fire didn’t take this. The Eaton Canyon of Catherine Hamilton’s childhood remains the wild and lush backyard playground, natural history teacher, escape and haven. It was where her father let Hamilton and her brother loose while he birded, where the siblings spied birds, tadpoles, lizards, trees and rocks. One of her earliest memories is finding a scorpion, “and my dad taught me about looking for things under rocks, and how to walk carefully around crevices and other areas where rattlesnakes might be curled up,” Hamilton said. “I really wanted to find a

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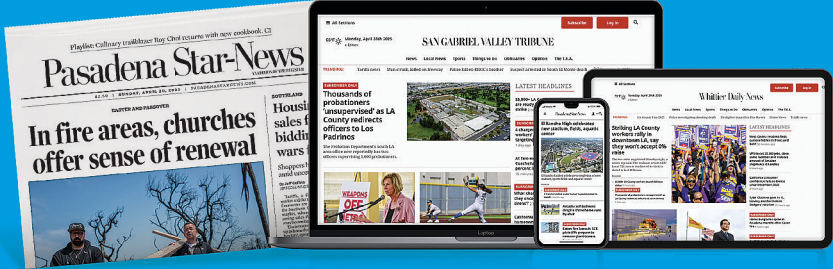
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