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EATON FIRE RECOVERY

Raids disrupt rebuilding efforts

ICE operations said to scare away day laborers, increasing costs and delays

By Alexandra Crosnoe
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Xochitl Trejo called the Altadena home she bought in 2003 after emigrating from Mexico her “American Dream.”

It held everything from her son’s prized U.S. Marines service awards to cherished memories

of her late husband, who died in 2007 after a battle with cancer, years after buying the house for \$500,000 together. Trejo said the couple always dreamed of living in Altadena, a charming community where they could smell the San Gabriel Mountains and strangers would wave and smile at them on the street.

But that dream swiftly turned to ashes on Jan. 8 when the Eaton fire, which ignited a day earlier, destroyed her home in one of the worst fire disasters in California history. Like the thousands affected, the fire forced Trejo and her son to evacuate their home, taking with them only the essentials as they fled for safety.

“All your sacrifices, your time,

See **REBUILD** on Page A8



Xochitl Trejo, whose home burned down in the Eaton fire, stands with her niece, Cynthia Hernandez, in Altadena in August.

DEAN MUSGROVE
STAFF
PHOTOGRAPHER

AZUSA

Old Schoolhouse is a reminder of dark past



State Sen. Susan Rubio holds half of a red ribbon cut Wednesday to mark the dedication ceremony for the Old Schoolhouse in Azusa, where the restored building was moved to Veterans Freedom Park. She is joined by city and state officials, including her sister, Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, standing fourth from right. **PHOTOS BY JOHN MCCOY**

Preserved Craftsman structure was where Latino students were segregated

By Steve Scauzillo
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This historic one-room schoolhouse may not conjure up sweet images of children learning the three R’s and dropping an apple on the teacher’s desk.

That’s because the Old Schoolhouse in Azusa was a place where those of Mexican descent were segregated, taught English through a race-based policy of forced Americanization. Later came another slap in the face to the Canyon City’s growing Latino population, as the Whites voted in City Hall while “the Mexicans” were sent exclusively to the old schoolhouse to cast ballots, according to historical reports.

However, since it was built in 1903, the building has been a witness



Azusa Mayor Robert Gonzales delivers remarks Wednesday during the dedication ceremony for the Old Schoolhouse at Veterans Freedom Park on Foothill Boulevard.

See **SCHOOL** on Page A13

ADELANTO

ICE site keeping some in, some out

Remote processing facility restrictive for detainees but also for visitors, observers

By RYANNE MENA
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Out in the middle of the Mojave Desert and surrounded by Joshua trees, marijuana dispensaries and razor wire, the remote Adelanto ICE Processing Center is a difficult place to visit.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility, roughly 85 miles northeast of Los Angeles, is on a road splintered with cracks and potholes. Once there, some wait for hours to see their loved ones. If a visitor happens to be wearing anything forbidden by the dress code — say a crop top or shorts that rise above the mid thigh — they won’t get to see them at all.

Melanie Lesage is among those who have been

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BALDWIN PARK

Man wrongfully in prison for 33 years to receive \$19.1M

By Jason Henry
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Baldwin Park will pay \$19.1 million to settle a lawsuit filed by a man wrongfully imprisoned for 33 years after a police detective allegedly “coerced” witnesses and “fabricated” evidence to justify the arrest.

Daniel Saldana was wrongfully arrested in 1990 and charged with attempted murder for a drive-by shooting in which a gang member fired at a car full of high school students and injured two. Saldana, 22

INSIDE:
Judge overturns jury’s \$1.9 million verdict against city, two officials.
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