



Sports

LUIS PEREZ TARGETS HIS ELUSIVE DREAM

Former SWC quarterback standout is the ‘King of Spring’ with several NFL near misses

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Photo Courtesy of Ryan Sun / AP

FLU CANNOT DERAIL A MARAVILLOSO PRODUCTION OF EMILIO AND GLORIA ESTEFAN MUSICAL “ON YOUR FEET!”, STORY PAGE 9

THE SUN

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

AN ACP HALL OF FAME NEWSPAPER

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A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

COLLEGE JETTISONS ANOTHER VICE PREZ

Removal of Agdasi continues high rate of admin turnover

BY ALEXA LIMA

Southwestern’s “academic leader of the future” is already in the college’s past after just eight months on the job.



SILVIA CORNEJO TIBETT

Acting vice president of academic affairs



SAM AGDASI

Former vice president of academic affairs

\$2,185.02, 2.16 paid vacation days and full health and welfare benefits.

“The coming together of the community is why I do the hokey

VPAA • PG 3

DEBATE TEAM SLAYS GIANTS AT NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

BY ALEXA LIMA

History’s greatest upsets include David beating Goliath, Mexico defeating France at Puebla on Cinco de Mayo and “How Green is My Valley” grabbing the Oscar over “Citizen Kane.”

Then there is the Southwestern College debate team reaching the finals of the national tournament at Rutgers University.

Barón Castañares, 21, and Pia Maria Flores, 18, came within one point of a bigger upset than “Little Green Apples” winning the Grammy over “Hey Jude.” SWC’s deadly debate duo wrestled 2nd place from older Ivy League foes at the Cross Examination Debate Association

DEBATE • PG 3



PHOTO BY YANELLI Z. ROBLES

‘WELCOME TO OUR LAND’

Erica Pinto, chairwoman of the Jamul Indian Village, said the guests of honor were also the rightful hosts of the second annual Southwestern College Spring Powwow. Kumeyaay People and other Indigenous persons celebrated a new era of cooperation between the college and San Diego County’s 17 reservations.

SPECIAL PULLOUT SECTION

DESPAIR ENVELOPS TIJUANA REFUGEES

Termination of immigration mechanisms strands desperate refugees in Mexico

BY ALFONSO JULIÁN CAMACHO AND DIRA WONG

Carla Sofia’s dream died a public death on January 20 at 9 a.m.

A refugee from South America, she had a late morning appointment to make her case for political asylum.

Minutes after Donald Trump was sworn in on a frigid mid-morning in Washington D.C., a bitter wind stabbed the borderlands. Carla Sofia’s meeting was cancelled – probably forever. Trump’s first of a flurry of executive orders froze all asylum applications.

Carla Sofia (a pseudonym) escaped violence in her home country, only to find more in Mexico. A nation that was once decent to refugees has turned hostile, matching Trump’s virulent anti-immigration actions, according to human rights activists in the borderlands.

In Mexico, the already-disorderly process of seeking asylum or permission to enter the United States has turned utterly chaotic. Gente Unida founder Enrique Morones said the situation was “a red hot mess.”

“For so many years we heard people say things like migrants need to get in line,” he said. “There never was a clear line. Now there is no line.”

Altruistic Mexicans like Judith Cabrera de la Rocha has seen lines – lines of women eager to stay at the Borderline Crisis Center that she serves as co-director. Anxiety and fear have been augmented with despair and resignation, she said. Cabrera said she is also troubled by the turn of events and the chaos it has unleashed, but she and her team are keeping their heads up and trying to find a way to help the desperate people who have shown up at the Center’s door.

Cabrera is plenty unhappy with Trump and his immigration wrecking crew, but even more disappointed in her own government, which she said is acting weak and supplicant to Trump. Mexican soldiers and police as now doing America’s dirty work, she said.

“When the last caravan (of migrants) from Central America arrived in 2018 there were 7,000 people,” she said. “No other caravan has made it

CENTER • PG 4

“We had a family with an appointment for January 20 at 8 p.m. The 5 a.m. appointments went in. At 9 a.m. and on everything was canceled. They lingered hopefully for days, but nothing changed. **There were thousands of cancellations that week and thousands more in following weeks.** We sheltered a pair of Colombians and the four families who had an appointment. It was devastating.”

—JUDITH CABRERA DE LA ROCHA



PHOTO BY DIRA MARIE WONG / STAFF

WHERE DREAMS COME TO DIE

Yolanda Ramirez, 63, has been a victim of sexual violence most of her life. Her efforts to escape violence in Mexico for a dream of a peaceful old age in the U.S. were dashed when the new administration abruptly terminated refugee programs and immigration from Latin America. She now lives in Tijuana’s Borderline Crisis Center with scores of other women and children with no immediate hopes of entering the United States.