AHS students participate in mock election

As America took to the polls last week, some 1,700 Adelanto High School students were also casting their votes and learning about the democratic process.

Adelanto High School history/government/economics teacher Fran Herdlein organized a school-wide mock election Nov. 8 with the help of his fellow social studies teachers and about 20 student aides.

Herdlein’s classroom was decked out with flags and other patriotic decor, and students visited throughout the day to cast their
'Lunch With Your Student' at SHS

Local families came to Silverado High School on Nov. 17 as the school celebrated National Family Involvement Day with a "Lunch with Your Student" event. Hosted by Family Engagement Liaison Nakia Wilson (right), the event was catered by Silverado culinary arts students. Scores of families attended the event and had lunch with their students. (Photos submitted by Heather Conkle)
A group of school and district representatives were in the Washington, D.C., area last week to accept the school’s National Blue Ribbon Award.

The award, announced earlier this school year, is the second Blue Ribbon for UP — an unprecedented accomplishment for a high school in San Bernardino County.

The district will hold a celebration on the UP campus later this school year to recognize this outstanding accomplishment by staff and students.

Victor Valley High School culinary arts students were hard at work this week preparing for an annual Thanksgiving dinner for those in need.

In partnership with the Victor Valley Rescue Mission, the students (under the direction of culinary arts teacher Kelli Valencia) use food donated to the mission to produce a large number of free meals for the banquet.

This year’s event is set for Tuesday, Nov. 22.
ADELANTO HIGH SCHOOL

The U.S. Army visited Adelanto High School Nov. 1 with an interactive event to teach students about impaired and distracted driving. Soldiers handed out goggles that simulate alcohol and drug impairment, and AHS freshman Natalie Mata, right, had difficulty finding her balance. Above, senior Cyrus Llontop prepares to experience an impaired driving simulator under the direction of Sgt. 1st Class Kalvin Jones. The event was set up by AHS Career Guidance Technician Kathy Bertelsen.

GOODWILL EDUCATION CENTER

Goodwill Education Center staff welcomed students and their families to the school’s first Awards Night of the school year earlier this month. The awards recognize Goodwill students for their academic accomplishments throughout the year. Organizers said the event, held in the VVUHSD board room, had the biggest turnout of any Awards Night in the school’s history.
votes in several voting booths. The students voted using the exact same ballots that Adelanto voters received in their mailboxes, and they even received “I Voted” stickers after they were done.

“All students were eager to participate,” Herdlein said. “The special education classes were included because the franchise is open to all Americans regardless of their disabilities. It was great to see how warmly the regular ed. students treated the special ed. students.”

Herdlein said the election “went very smoothly,” but “the most arduous task was counting the ballots of 1,700-plus students.”

In the U.S. Presidential race, they voted overwhelmingly for Hillary Clinton, who garnered 63 percent of the vote while Donald Trump received only 10 percent.

“The students are full of questions today because of the outcome of the real election,” Herdlein said on Wednesday.

In the local races, some of the students’ favorites fared better. Jose Berrios was the top candidate for the VVUHSD board with 32 percent of the students’ votes, and he won a seat in the actual election as well. John Pinkerton led all VVC Board candidates in the AHS students’ voting at 24 percent, and he also won a VVC board seat in the real election.

“The students gain understanding of the election process by actually doing it,” Herdlein said. “They gain understanding in civic participation, (and) they learn how to engage in civic participation.”
stepped down, came in third with 20.93 percent. Ken Larson was fourth at 19.13 percent.

The San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters had counted a total of 49,999 votes as of Nov. 17, with 100 percent of precincts reporting.

Dew, a Victorville native and Victor Valley High School grad, is an elementary school teacher in addition to her long service with the VVUHSD board and other legislative agencies at the county and state levels.

Berrios taught physical education, health, reading and independent study in the district for 37 years before retiring after last school year. He also spent years as a football and wrestling coach, serving as an assistant under hall of fame coach Sam Gollmyer when the Victor Valley High wrestling team won a state championship in 1987. He served as the Victor Valley Teachers' Association president for five years.

A 38-year resident of the area, Berrios expressed appreciation for "the hard work by VVTA members as well as my friends and family."

Berrios and Dew will be sworn in at the Dec. 14 board meeting.

At the Nov. 16 meeting, board members Penny Edmiston, Tim Norton and Dew joined Superintendent Dr. Ron Williams in thanking Hinojos for his service to the board and community over the past six months.

“The Superintendent’s office would like to congratulate Barbara Dew and Jose Berrios on their victories in the Victor Valley Union High School District Board of Trustees election,” Dr. Williams said in a written statement. “I am excited to continue working with both of these longtime educators and community members. We’d like to thank all the candidates, including Rosie Hinojos and Ken Larson, for stepping up and vying for a chance to serve our students and community. It has been a pleasure working with Mr. Hinojos over these past several months. He is a truly dedicated servant of the community, and we wish him the all the best in the future.”

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**THANKSGIVING POTLUCK**

District employees packed the break room in Building 1 as the VVUHSD district office hosted its annual Thanksgiving Potluck event on Nov. 16. Tech Ed employees Eric Buzzard, left, and Rick Ochoa, center, carried on an annual tradition of cooking the turkey. Superintendent’s Office Assistant Richard Gonzales, right, organized the event.