

SANTA FE SPRINGS BUSINESS

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Shaping Tomorrow: YEF Awards Historic Destiny Scholarships to Two Local Students

For the first time in the history of the Destiny Scholarship, the Youth Enrichment Fund (YEF) proudly awarded not one, but two outstanding students each with a \$20,000 scholarship. This milestone year celebrates the achievements of Jaelyn Hernandez of Pioneer High School and Mia Fernandez of Santa Fe High School—two remarkable young women who embody the spirit of leadership, service, and academic excellence.

Jaelyn Hernandez:

A Passion for Life and Medicine

Pioneer High School senior Jaelyn Hernandez will be heading to UCLA this fall to major in Biology, with aspirations of becoming an anesthesiologist. Known for her passion, reflection, and deep care for others, Jaelyn shared during her interview that her most valued principles are her loved ones, the



Jaelyn Hernandez

importance of caring for others, and life itself.

Encouraged by her career counselor to apply for the Destiny Scholarship, Jaelyn overcame self-doubt to seize this life-changing opportunity. Her determination and vision for a future in healthcare made her a standout candidate. She now looks forward to embracing the academic and personal growth that awaits her at UCLA.

Mia Fernandez: Dedicated to Community and Women's Health

Santa Fe High School senior Mia Fernandez, the second recipient of this year's Destiny Scholarship, will attend UC San Diego to study biological sciences with a focus on women's health. Her goal is to become an OB/GYN and to serve the women in her community who have inspired and empowered her.



Mia Fernandez

Mia's passion for medicine began during her participation in the GATE program, where she first discovered her love for STEM. With a strong sense of empathy, leadership, and attention to detail, Mia is deeply committed to creating positive change and encouraging others to do the same. Her drive to uplift those around her and make a lasting impact made her an ideal recipient of the Destiny Scholarship.

A Historic Year for the Destiny Scholarship

The Destiny Scholarship is awarded annually to students who demonstrate resilience, leadership, and a clear commitment to their goals. This year marks a significant milestone with two recipients—both of whom are not only academically accomplished, but also deeply passionate about giving back to their communities through careers in healthcare.

The Youth Enrichment Fund congratulates Jaelyn and Mia on this well-deserved honor and looks forward to watching them thrive as they begin their next chapter.



Santa Fe High Senior Named First-ever Recipient of YEF Vocational Grant

Estella Aguilar, Santa Fe High School

The Youth Enrichment Fund (YEF) is proud to name Estella Aguilar, a senior at Santa Fe High School, as the first recipient of its \$2,000 Vocational Grant, created to support local students pursuing careers in the trades.



Estella Aguilar

Estella plans to attend Grand Canyon University to study nursing. Her passion for healthcare began in an R.O.P. Emergency Medicine class, and she recently completed a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program. She is now preparing for the state licensing exam.

Estella's dedication and drive reflect the mission of the Vocational Grant—supporting students with a clear path toward meaningful careers. We congratulate her and wish her continued success as she works toward becoming a Registered Nurse.

CalChamber Rebrands Job Killer List to Focus on Affordability and Good Jobs

The California Chamber of Commerce is rebranding its long-standing "Job Killer" list as part of its Affordability Agenda, which highlights legislation that either reduces or increases costs for businesses and consumers.

For over 25 years, the Job Killer list helped block 93% of harmful bills. But now, CalChamber is broadening its focus to reflect growing concerns about the cost of living. "It's not just about jobs anymore," said CalCham-

ber President and CEO Jennifer Barrera. "We must also address policies that raise costs for both businesses and consumers."

Going forward, the list will be divided into two categories:

- Cost Cutters – Bills that lower costs and support good jobs
- Cost Drivers – Bills that increase costs and hurt affordability

With affordability topping voters' concerns in the 2024 election, CalChamber aims to amplify that message in Sacramento. The first set of Cost Cutter and Cost Driver bills is now available, with updates to follow as legislation evolves.

Cost Cutters: Legislation that reduces costs for businesses and consumers

SB 540 (Becker; D-Menlo Park) Independent Regional Energy Organization: Authorizes the California Independent System Operator and California utilities to integrate into a broader regional energy market governed by an independent regional organization.

SB 607 (Wiener; D-San Francisco) CEQA Reform for Infill Projects: Exempts certain housing rezoning projects from CEQA and improves current CEQA exemptions to make them easier to use for housing

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Santa Fe Springs Chamber Celebrates 58th Annual Golf Tournament with a Day of Fun and Fellowship

The Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce hosted its 58th Annual Golf Tournament on April 7 at the stunning Hacienda Golf Club — a historic course known for its rolling fairways, lush greens, and serene landscape nestled in the hills of La Habra Heights.

The event teed off with a lively check-in and a hearty breakfast featuring fresh breakfast burritos and morning libations, setting the tone for a relaxed, fun-filled day. Golfers, sponsors, and community members enjoyed friendly competition under sunny skies, navigating the picturesque course

that perfectly balanced challenge and charm.

Following the tournament, guests gathered for the Awards Dinner, where laughter and applause filled the air. The evening featured a bountiful buffet, a festive raffle, and recognition of standout performances on the green.

The event once again proved to be a cherished tradition, bringing together local businesses and leaders in celebration of community, camaraderie, and good old-fashioned fun.

See more on pages 8 and 9.



Mayor Bill Rounds (right) awards Dan Stepanian of CR&R Waste & Recycling Services the prestigious Mayor's Cup!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carlos Gallardo, Farmers and Merchants Bank

Reflections on My Term as Chamber President

Serving as your chamber president has been both a rewarding and challenging experience. Throughout my term, I have had the privilege of celebrating the arrival of new businesses in our city and participating in various networking events that foster community connections. However, the most significant challenge has been the search for our new CEO.

The preparation involved in this transition has been more extensive than I anticipated. Replacing a CEO who has dedicated 26 years to our chamber and has done an outstanding job is no small feat. I am deeply grateful for the support and guidance of my executive team throughout this process. Their insights have been invaluable, and I am confident that our hiring committee will select the best candidate to lead us into the future.

As my term draws to a close, I want to highlight an important upcoming event: the Youth Enrichment Fund's annual Destiny Dinner scheduled for Saturday June 14. This wonderful occasion brings together our city and business community to celebrate our local students, awarding scholarships that can make a

significant difference in their educational journeys.

Over the past 28 years, the Youth Enrichment Fund has awarded an impressive \$642,500 to 67 local students. For more information about this impactful event, please contact the Santa Fe Springs Chamber office or visit the Youth Enrichment Fund website at www.youthenrichment.org.

In a world filled with uncertainty, one thing remains clear: the chamber will continue to be a vital resource for our local business community. We will provide opportunities for networking among professionals and maintain close collaboration with the city to enhance our business environment.

As I say goodbye as your chamber president, I reflect on the connections we've built and the progress we've achieved together. Thank you all for your unwavering support and dedication. Together, we have created a brighter future for our community.



**Celebrating 26
Wonderful Years: A
Note from Kathie**

Dear Chamber Members and Santa Fe Springs Business Community,

After 26 incredible years with the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce, I want to share some personal news with you. While I first shared this decision with our Board of Directors in December, I now want to let you all know I have made the decision to retire.

This was not an easy choice, as these years have been so much more than just a job—they've been a journey filled with growth, friendships, and memories I will treasure forever. From the day I first stepped into the Chamber office as a part-time employee following my career with AT&T, I could never have imagined the incredible experiences and meaningful relationships that would follow.

Serving this remarkable community has truly been one of the greatest honors. The support, collaboration, and camaraderie I've experienced with my incredible Chamber staff/family, our business leaders and members, and the entire City of Santa Fe Springs—including staff and the City Council—have meant the world to me. You've turned everyday work into something deeply rewarding, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

While the thought of retirement brings excitement, it is also bittersweet to step away from a place and people who have meant so much to me. I will officially retire in June, and over the coming months, I'll be working closely with our team to ensure a smooth and thoughtful transition. A successor has not yet been selected, but I am confident the process will unfold with care and intention.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your lives and your businesses over these past 26 years. I am so proud of what we've accomplished together and will carry these memories with me always.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Kathie

PS. I'm not entirely sure what retirement holds just yet—perhaps more time with my grandkids? A few new adventures? Definitely sleeping in past 6:00 a.m.! Whatever comes next, I'll be stepping into it with a full heart and a big smile, thinking of all of you.

**City Announces
Zoning Code Update:
Your Input Matters!**

The City of Santa Fe Springs is excited to announce that it is embarking on a Comprehensive Zoning Code Update to help shape the future of our community. This significant initiative aims to ensure that our zoning regulations reflect the evolving needs of residents, businesses, and the environment. It also seeks to foster sustainable growth, improve infrastructure, and create vibrant neighborhoods.

The Zoning Code Update will be a collaborative effort that includes community input, expert consultations, and a careful analysis of current urban trends. This update will help streamline the zoning process, align regulations with modern development standards, and enhance the quality of life for all who call Santa Fe Springs home.

How You Can Get Involved:

As a valued member of our community, your opinion is crucial to the success of this project. We encourage all residents to stay informed and actively participate throughout the process. We will be holding a series of public meetings, open forums, and workshops to gather your feedback and hear your ideas on how we can make our city even better. The dates for these events will be announced soon, and details will be available on the City's official website.

In addition, we will actively share important updates, news, and engagement opportunities via the City's social media channels. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest announcements and reminders about upcoming events.

For questions or more information, contact the Community Development Department by email at CommunityDevelopment@santafesprings.gov or by phone at (562) 868-0511, ext. 7550.

Join the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce!
Call 562-944-1616 or email mail@sfschamber.com

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Unlocking the Dream: Free Home Buyers Workshop Coming to Santa Fe Springs!

For many individuals and families, buying a home is more than just a transaction — it's a dream deeply rooted in stability, legacy, and hope for the future. Yet, for first-time buyers, the process can often feel overwhelming. Between rising costs, confusing paperwork, and uncertainty about where to start, the dream of home-ownership can seem out of reach.

That's exactly why a team of dedicated real estate and mortgage professionals is bringing a free Home Buyers Workshop to the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center, located at 9255 South Pioneer Boulevard, Santa Fe Springs, 90670, on Wednesday, June 11, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This event is designed to empower local residents with the knowledge, confidence, and tools they need to make informed decisions on their path to owning a home.

"We know how intimidating this process can feel," says Real Estate Broker Lina Ariza. "This workshop is all about breaking it down in a way that's easy to understand — no pressure, no sales pitch — just real education from professionals who genuinely care."

Attendees will walk away with a clear understanding of the step-by-step home buying journey, including how to get pre-approved for a loan, what to expect during escrow, and how to avoid common pitfalls. The workshop will also cover special loan

programs, down payment assistance options, and strategies to help buyers compete in today's market.

But more than just information, the event offers something even more valuable: peace of mind.

"Our goal is to turn confusion into clarity," says Lina Ariza, a seasoned Real Estate Broker with over a decade of experience. "When people understand their options, they feel empowered. And when they feel empowered, they're more likely to take that first step."

This workshop is ideal for anyone thinking about buying a home — whether you're just starting to save, currently renting and unsure of your options, or even if you've tried before and felt discouraged. All are welcome, including couples, single parents, young professionals, and multi-generational families looking to invest in their future.

Santa Fe Springs has long been a community of working-class pride and family values. As homeownership continues to be one of the most powerful ways to build generational wealth, this workshop serves as a meaningful opportunity for residents to get the support they need to pursue that dream.

The event is free, but space is limited. So reserve your seat today! Call Lina Ariza, (562) 777-6116.

Santa Fe Springs Crime Statistics Year-to-date Comparison of Part I Crimes March 2025

Crimes reported	2024	2025	-/+	%
Total	391	344	-47	-12 %
Homicide	0	0	0	0 %
Rape	4	2	-2	-50 %
Robbery	19	4	-15	-79 %
Aggravated Assault	21	16	-5	-24 %
Residential Burglary	2	4	2	100 %
Commercial Burglary	92	58	-34	-37 %
All Thefts	174	197	23	13 %
<i>Shoptlifting</i>	34	31	-3	-9 %
<i>Burglary/Theft from Vehicle</i>	82	63	-19	-23 %
<i>Other theft</i>	58	103	45	78 %
Grand Theft Auto	76	58	-18	-24 %
Arson	3	5	2	67 %



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Networking at Noon Showcases Local Talent Ahead of ArtFest 2025



Heritage Park full of guests engaged in guest speakers while enjoying the ambiance.



Councilmember John Mora invites the crowd to attend ArtFest 2025.

The Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce hosted a vibrant Networking at Noon event on March 20 on the lawns at Heritage Park, celebrating the creative spirit of the community by featuring local artists and their work. Held in collaboration with the City of

Santa Fe Springs, the event offered attendees a unique opportunity to network while enjoying a preview of the upcoming ArtFest.

There was a dynamic display of paintings, mixed media, and striking sculptures—each piece created by

artists who will showcase their work at the city's annual ArtFest at Heritage Park on Saturday, April 26th. Guests mingled among business leaders, city employees, and council members, connecting with one another and the artists themselves over lunch.

This collaboration between the Chamber and the City served as both a professional gathering and a cultural teaser, setting the stage for what promises to be a lively and artistic celebration.

April Brings Great Bites to Networking at Noon!



Mr. Fries Man owner Kimberly Puente (left) and her crew

The Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce served up good vibes and great food at its latest Networking at Noon event, held on April 17 at Mr. Fries Man. Local professionals gathered for an afternoon of connection, conversation — and a whole lot of fries.

The event had the energy of speed dating, with attendees rotating through quick chats that kept the room buzzing. New connections were made at every table, with business cards flying and laughs shared all around.

Of course, the star of the show was

the food. Guests enjoyed a mouth-watering meal from Mr. Fries Man's famous menu, proving that networking is even better with loaded fries, chicken wings, melted cheese, and a cold drink!

The chamber's Networking at Noon series continues to grow as a favorite among local businesses, offering a casual, fun space to build relationships and support the Santa Fe Springs business community.

Check the chamber website at sfschamber.com or call (562) 944-1616 for more information and upcoming events.

Networking @ Noon 11:30am-1:00pm

SFS Chamber members and non-members getting together for a business-to-business networking lunch.

15
MAY

Chick-fil-A
12501 Imperial Hwy., Suite 120
Office Bldg/Santa Fe Springs, 90670

19
JUNE

SFS Swap Meet
13969 Alondra Blvd.
Santa Fe Springs, 90670

17
JULY

Tepeyac Restaurant
13131 Crossroads Pkwy South
City of Industry, 91746

Visit sfschamber.com or call (562) 944-1616 to register or for more information

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- Understand all that the Chamber has to offer: marketing, member programs, legislative affairs
- Meet the Chamber team and learn how they can work for you
- Make new business contacts with other new Chamber members
- Learn how the Chamber begins working for you immediately upon joining

We look forward to seeing you and appreciate your membership!

Wednesday,
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10:30am-11:30am

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Are You on Our Email List?

Information featured each month in Santa Fe Spring Business News. We try to share information and programs provided by the chamber as we work hard to be Catalysts, Conveners and Champions and make a difference in our community. Make sure to sign up for our emails, if you haven't done so already by contacting the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce at (562) 944-1616 or email us at mail@sfschamber.com.

'Healthy Living: Small Changes, Big Impact' with Dr. Andrea Smith



The Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce welcomed Dr. Andrea Smith of Healthways Chiropractic & Sports Rehab for a highly interactive and informative Leads Group event held on March 25 at the Betty Wilson Center. Centered around the theme "Healthy Living: Small Changes, Big Impact," the session offered attendees practical strategies for improving their overall well-being.

Dr. Smith shared valuable insights on the effects of sedentary habits, how to age gracefully, and simple wellness practices that can lead to lasting improvements in health. Her approachable and research-based presentation encouraged open dialogue and inspired attendees to take proactive steps toward a healthier lifestyle.

The event underscored the chamber's commitment to supporting members not only in business, but also in their personal growth and wellness. For more information about Healthways Chiropractic & Sports Rehab, visit 15651 East Imperial Highway, Suite 100, La Mirada, or call (562) 902-0050.

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Kindly register all attendees by
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Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce

**"The Synergy Mindset - Unlocking Business
Growth Through Collaboration"**

Keshawn Cupid - Lead trainer, facilitator, and author of *The Synergy Mindset*, guiding participants on how synergy can transform organizations, leadership, and collaboration to achieve more together.

**Tuesday
May 20th**



Discover how a synergy-driven approach can transform your business. Sponsored by Cerritos College

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- The Five Principles of a Synergy Mindset - Cultivate and sustain synergy within teams and organizations
- Real World Success Stories - Case studies of businesses that accelerated growth through collaboration
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- Actionable Takeaways - Tools and strategies you can implement immediately

Meeting time: 8:30 am - 10:30 am

Register Today!

Town Center Hall : 11740 Telegraph Rd, SFS CA 90670

For detailed information: www.sfschamber.com
or call Claudia Guardado (562) 944 - 1616

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2025

**Summer
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at Heritage Park

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**New Romantics
Taylor Swift**



June 20

Just Dave Band



June 27

Kings of Queen



July 11

Soto Band



July 18

**Harry Katz and
the Pistachios**



July 25

**Mariachi
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August 1

@LOS NIETOS PARK 5:00 PM

CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS

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8:00 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast
10:00 a.m. - Veteran Recognition
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Pioneer High School Alumni Association

The PHS Alumni Association (PHSAA) is committed to preserving the legacy of Pioneer High School, fostering meaningful connections among alumni, and supporting future generations through scholarship fundraising events and initiatives. We aim to illuminate the present by empowering new alumni with guidance and opportunities, while embracing the future with a proactive and engaged community. (562) 536-6328 my.cheddarup.com/c/phaa-golf-tournament-2025/items?c



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Dave's Hot Chicken

Dave's Hot Chicken in Santa Fe Springs brings the heat with its signature Nashville-style hot chicken, offering seven spice levels—from "No Spice" to the daring "Reaper." Located at 13321 Florence Ave., this vibrant eatery serves up hand-breaded tenders and sliders topped with kale slaw, pickles, and Dave's Sauce, all nestled in soft potato buns. Open daily from 10:00 AM to 2:00 AM, it's the perfect spot for a flavorful meal any time of day or night. 13321 Florence Ave., Santa Fe Springs 90670



Metro Little League

Metro Little League is a non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to provide a safe, instructional and fun environment for the children of Santa Fe Springs, Pico Rivera, Norwalk, and Whittier, ages 4-16. Chartered under the umbrella of Little League International, Inc. and Little League District of Southern California, we share a mission to "to promote, develop, supervise, and voluntarily assist in all lawful ways, the interest of those who will participate in Little League Baseball." (562) 619-4638 | www.metrolittleleague.com



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Hands-On Workshop Brings Social Media Strategy to Life

The Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce welcomed a full house of engaged professionals to its interactive workshop, “Elevate Your Social Media Strategy with Smart Marketing Tools,” hosted at the Town Center Hall.

Led by Tipp Bunnag, owner of Blue Voltage–Video Production, and Claudia Guardado, marketing director of the chamber, the session offered hands-on guidance with today’s most popular digital tools: CapCut, Instagram, and ChatGPT. Attendees from various industries came ready to sharpen their skills and apply new strategies to their social media efforts.

The workshop covered:

- how to use CapCut templates to create engaging video content,
- quick photo and video editing tips using just a phone,
- Instagram best practices to increase visibility and engagement, and
- creative content generation using ChatGPT.

The atmosphere was educational and collaborative, with many attendees sharing how useful and timely the information was for their businesses.

For those interested in taking their video content to the next level, Tipp Bunnag can be reached directly at (818) 533-1209.

Did you know the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce offers CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN for products manufactured in the United States as a FREE member benefit? Contact the chamber at (562) 944-1616 or email mail@sfschamber.com

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 4:00 pm - Fight Back
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Dave's Hot Chicken Fires Up Santa Fe Springs with Grand Opening Celebration

The flavor was bold, and the community spirit even bolder, as Dave's Hot Chicken officially opened its doors in Santa Fe Springs. The grand opening brought together city officials, local businesses, and residents to celebrate the arrival of the popular fast-casual restaurant known for its fiery flavor and crave-worthy chicken.

Located at 13321 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs 90670, the new restaurant welcomed guests into a vibrant space filled with excitement, great food, and a sense of hometown pride.

Mayor Bill Rounds, May Pro Tem, Joe Angel Zamora and Councilmember, Annette Rodriguez was in attendance, joined by state and local officials, all showing their support for one of Santa Fe Springs' newest businesses. It was a great moment for the city, as familiar faces from the business community stopped by to meet the team, enjoy a few bites, and be part of the positive momentum.

"This is exactly what our community is about—supporting new ventures, creating connections, and celebrating together," said one local business owner. Come visit this delicious hot spot at 13321 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, and taste what everyone's talking about!



Exalt Barbershop Celebrated with Chamber Ribbon Cutting

On April 9, the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce proudly welcomed Exalt Barbershop to the local business community with an official ribbon cutting ceremony. Friends, community members, and Chamber partners gathered to meet owner David Villareal, explore the shop, and show support for this exciting new venture.

Guests enjoyed the warm hospitality, had a chance to see the talented barbers in action, and shared in the excitement of a new business committed to top-quality service and community connection.

Located at 11524 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, Exalt Barbershop is now open for appointments. To book your visit, call (562) 332-8513.

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California Overtakes Japan to Become Fourth Largest Economy in World

By Shane Croucher and Hugh Cameron

The Californian economy has overtaken Japan's to become the fourth-largest in the world by gross domestic product (GDP).

That is according to data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), a fact highlighted by the California governor's office as it battles President Donald Trump's trade policies.

The IMF put Japan's GDP at \$4.02 trillion in 2024. That compares to California's GDP of \$4.1 trillion for

the same year, according to the BEA's figures. It places the state behind only the United States, China, and Germany in global rankings.

California's import-reliant economy is projected to be hit hardest by Trump's tariffs, and Governor Gavin Newsom has been among the state leaders most vocal in criticism of the president's trade policy. The governor has framed the new data highlighting California's position as the nation's principal economic powerhouse as evidence of the progress that could be jeopardized if Trump refuses to roll back his trade policies.

Newsom has been heavily critical of Trump's April 2 "Liberation Day" tariffs, in which the president announced "reciprocal" taxes on imports for other countries alongside a baseline tax of 10 percent on all global imports. The reciprocal tariffs have since largely been paused, with the notable exception of China.

According to recent analysis by the policy research firm Trade Partnership Worldwide, California is set feel the worst effects of the tariffs so-far announced by Trump. Estimates sug-

gest the state could pay over \$170 billion in import taxes in 2025, assuming that import demand remains flat from 2024.

Newsom said previously that California would seek to build new trading opportunities around the world to dampen the worst impacts of Trump's trade policies.

California would be pursuing its own trading agreements with foreign partners, Newsom added, and seeking exemptions for California-made products.

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Scrambled Eggs and Solid Connections: Santa Fe Springs Chamber Kicks Off March with a Morning to Remember

The early bird really did catch the networking worm on Wednesday, March 5, at the Santa Fe Springs Chamber Business Card Exchange. Sponsored by the wonderful people at Holiday Inn La Mirada, this month's mixer delivered much more than just a hot cup of coffee and crispy bacon.

Held bright and early, the event brought together local business owners, Chamber members, and guests ready to exchange cards, ideas, and laughs. With roundtable questions sparking conversations like, "What would you do if you weren't in your current job?" and "Which celebrity would best represent your brand?"

Games added to the fun and the raffle prizes had attendees leaning in with anticipation — because who doesn't want to win a Starbucks gift card at 8:30 a.m.?

Ambassador Chairperson Jerry Pinkston, who wore the emcee hat (and might've missed his calling as a game show host) kept the room buzzing and the laughter flowing.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our generous sponsor, Holiday Inn La Mirada, who not only hosted us but also served up a delicious breakfast that had people lingering just a little longer at their tables.

If you missed it, don't worry — we'll save you a seat next time. The Chamber's Business Card Exchange Breakfast takes place on the first Wednesday of every month at rotating Chamber member venues. So mark your calendars, bring a stack of cards, and prepare for coffee, connections, and maybe even a prize or two.



April Business Card Exchange at Its Best!

On Wednesday, April 2, the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce hosted its monthly Business Card Exchange breakfast sponsored by The Arc of Los Angeles and Orange County. The event served up a perfect blend of professional connections and fun.



A ball toss icebreaker had attendees lobbing a beach ball around the room, making introductions and answering questions while getting to know one another in a way that felt more like recess.

In between bites of a tasty breakfast and chuckles from our networking games, guests got a glimpse into the incredible work being done by our sponsor.

The Arc of Los Angeles and Orange County is a nonprofit dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They provide essential services — from job training and independent living support to advocacy and education — helping clients live their fullest, most vibrant lives.

The students prepared, cooked, and served a full breakfast, coffee station, and a continental breakfast bar. Talk about inspiring! Attendees walked away with fantastic door prizes, goodies and grins.



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The Youth Enrichment Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides educational and enriching programs to youth in Santa Fe Springs.



Mentors with their mentees enjoy a hearty lunch out on the patio of the Ruth B. Shannon Center.



One of four groups listening to college students at a Q&A session.

Youth Enrichment Fund Hosts Cultural Event at Ruth B. Shannon Center

On April 15, the Youth Enrichment Fund Mentor Program held a special Cultural Event at the Ruth B. Shannon Center for the Performing Arts, bringing together students from Santa Fe High School and their mentors for a day of inspiration, learning, and connection.

The event kicked off with students meeting their mentors in the theater and breaking into small groups to hear directly from current college students involved in the program. These peer mentors shared personal stories and insights about their college experiences, coursework, and campus life—offering valuable advice and encouragement.

Following the discussions, attendees enjoyed a casual lunch on the patio, giving students, mentors, and college speakers a chance to mingle and continue conversations in a relaxed setting. The day concluded with a guided tour of the Whittier College campus, providing students a firsthand look at college life and helping them envision their own futures in higher education.

The event reflected the heart of the Youth Enrichment Fund's mission: to support, uplift, and guide young people on their educational journey through meaningful mentorship and cultural enrichment. Thank you to the Lathem Grant which supports this annual event for the program.



Mentors + Mentees + Vision Boards = One Inspiring Afternoon!

The Mendez Gym at Santa Fe High School was buzzing with positive vibes on March 11, as the Youth Enrichment Fund (YEF) hosted a fun and inspiring Mentor Event. Mentors and mentees teamed up to create their own vision boards — a hands-on activity filled with creativity, personal aspirations, and big dreams.

Papers were gathered, scissors snipped, and glue sticks got a workout as everyone shared their goals and brought their future visions to life. From dream colleges to career goals and a whole lot of everything in between, the boards were as unique as the people making them. The creativity continued event through lunch. (Some were so engrossed in the project that lunch was a distant thought!)

There's something powerful about putting your dreams down on paper — it helps clarify what matters most and makes those goals feel more real and achievable. A few of them shared their boards and why they chose what they did. It was a perfect afternoon of connection and inspiration.

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- Recognition as Masters Sponsor in all pre/post materials and event signage.
- Recognition on event invite (Deadline – April 23).
- Four guest dinner tickets to the event.

PH.D. SPONSOR - \$1,000 (Commitment of 5 years)

Includes:

- Company name on program, name on YEF website, newspaper, & social media recognition.
- Recognition as Ph.D. Sponsor on all pre/post materials and event signage.
- Two guest dinner tickets to the event.
- PH.D.s who are also a Masters or Doctorate Sponsor will receive a Sponsor upgrade to the next sponsor level.

GRADUATE SPONSOR \$1,200

Includes:

- Company name on program, logo on YEF website, newspaper, & social media recognition.
- Recognition as Graduate Sponsor on all pre/post materials and event signage.
- Two guest dinner tickets to the event.

HONORS SPONSOR - \$500

Includes:

- Company name on program, newspaper, & social media recognition.

COMMUNITY LEADER SPONSOR - \$250

Includes:

- Company name on program & newspaper.

DINNER TICKET- \$150

Cost Cutters, Cost Drivers continued from page 1

projects.

AB 231 (Ta; R-Westminster) Work Opportunity Tax Credit: Provides a tax credit to businesses who hire previously incarcerated individuals who are re-entering the workforce.

AB 265 (Caloza; D-Los Angeles) Small Business Recovery Act: Allows the Office of Small Business Advocate to provide grants to small businesses impacted by the Los Angeles fires.

AB 417 (Carrillo; D-Palmdale) Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts: Improves the ability for local governments to build critical infrastructure and provide financing for economic development in targeted districts within their jurisdiction.

AB 609 (Wicks; D-Oakland) CEQA Reform for Infill Projects: Will help to reduce the cost of housing, by reforming the permitting process for infill housing.

AB 685 (Solache; D-Lakewood) Small Business Recovery Act: Authorizes the Office of Small Business Advocate to provide funding and technical assistance to small businesses impacted by the January 2025 fires in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

AB 941 (Zbur; D-Hollywood) CEQA Reform for Electricity Infrastructure Projects: Reduces the time for electricity infrastructure projects to go through permitting, which will allow for projects to be built faster.

AB 1308 (Hoover; R-Folsom) Expedites Entitlement Process for Housing Construction: Requires the building department to provide an applicant of a residential building permit with an estimated timeframe in which the inspection of the permitted work will be completed

AB 1138 (Zbur; D-Hollywood) and SB 630 (Allen; D-Santa Monica) Film Tax Credit: More than doubles the State's Film Tax Credit to \$750 million annually.

Cost Drivers: Legislation that increases costs for businesses and consumers

SB 7 (McNerney; D-Pleasanton) Restricts Use of Automated Decision Systems in Employment: Imposes impractical requirements on employers of every size related to automated decision systems, which will discourage the use of such tools and subject employers to costly litigation and onerous new compliance procedures.

SB 222 (Wiener; D-San Francisco) Climate-Related Disaster Liability: Sets a troubling precedent of singling out a small, targeted group of companies and makes them jointly, severally, and strictly liable for virtually all damages suffered as a result of climate-related disasters regardless of cause or fault.

SB 259 (Wahab; D-Hayward) Online Pricing: Prohibits businesses from using any input data to

create prices or discounts.

SB 295 (Hurtado; D-Bakersfield) Pricing Algorithms: Prohibits a person from using or distributing pricing algorithms that use, incorporate, or were trained on "nonpublic competitor data."

SB 310 (Wiener; D-San Francisco) Expands Private Right of Action for Penalties: Creates a new private right of action for wage and hour penalties that will be manipulated by trial attorneys, undermining the 2024 Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) reform, which sought to reduce avenues for litigation abuse and overall costs on employers.

SB 384 (Wahab; D-Hayward) Prohibition on Using Information to Set Competitive Pricing: Effectively banning the use of technology to help set prices or help manage supply levels.

SB 464 (Smallwood-Cuevas; D-Los Angeles) Publication of Pay Data: Encourages litigation against employers based on the publication of broad, unreliable data collected by the state.

SB 573 (Smallwood-Cuevas; D-Los Angeles) Corporate Tax Increase: Originally more than doubled California's corporate tax rate (to as much as 22.5%) for targeted employers, decreasing California's business competitiveness and increasing employer costs. Cost Driver status and opposition removed April 3, 2025 due to amendments changing bill to a different subject. CalChamber neutral.

SB 601 (Allen; D-Santa Monica) Punitive and Onerous Water Quality Permitting Requirements: Creates duplicative permitting obligations and dramatic legal liability requirements for businesses, agriculture, and water and wastewater utilities by granting the water boards broad authority to impose permitting requirements without considering economic impacts or the critical need for housing and recycled water projects.

SB 632 (Arreguin; D-Berkeley) Expands Costly Presumption of Injury: Significantly increases workers' compensation costs for public and private hospitals by presuming certain diseases and injuries are caused by the workplace and establishes an extremely concerning precedent for expanding presumptions into the private sector.

SB 682 (Allen; D-Santa Monica) De Facto PFAS Ban: Creates a de facto ban on the use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in all commercial and consumer products, unless Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is petitioned and makes an affirmative determination that the PFAS in a particular product is an unavoidable use.

SB 684 (Menjivar; D-San Fernando Valley) Climate Superfund: Imposes retroactive financial liability on companies for lawful greenhouse gas

emissions dating back to 1990.

SB 763 (Hurtado; D-Bakersfield) Vast Expansion of State Antitrust Penalties: Raises penalties under California's antitrust law, the Cartwright Act, from \$1 million to \$100 million, and individual penalties from \$250,000 to \$1 million.

SB 766 (Allen; D-Santa Monica) Legal Liability for Car Dealers: Dramatically increases legal liability to car dealers.

AB 298 (Bonta; D-Alameda) Prohibits Cost Sharing: Increases premiums for California's employers and employees by restricting insurers from imposing a deductible, coinsurance, or copayment for in-network health care services provided to an enrollee under 21 years of age.

AB 405 (Addis; D-Morro Bay) New Climate Disclosure Requirements: Imposes costly, duplicative, and misaligned regulatory requirements on apparel companies that will increase clothing prices. Dramatically expands existing disclosure rules under SB 253 (2023).

AB 858 (Lee; D-San Jose) Onerous Return to Work Mandate: Unnecessarily transforms prior COVID-19 specific law that created an onerous and stringent process for specific employers to return employees to the workforce for specified industries into a new mandate that applies to any natural disaster.

AB 1018 (Bauer-Kahan; D-Orinda) Impact Assessments of Automated Decision Systems: Limits use of automated decision systems (ADS), including by small businesses, which will lead to significant liability and increased costs that will ultimately be borne by consumers.

AB 1221 (Bryan; D-Los Angeles) Restricts Use of Data in Employment: Imposes impractical requirements on employers of every size relating to any worker data collected by a workplace surveillance tool, which is defined so broadly that it would impact everything from security footage to emails.

AB 1234 (Ortega; D-San Leandro) Creates New Penalty and Revises Wage Claim Procedures: Imposes new, automatic 30% penalty on all orders issued by the Labor Commissioner, which penalizes employers that exercise their due process rights.

AB 1243 (Addis; D-Morro Bay) Climate Superfund: Imposes retroactive financial liability on companies for lawful greenhouse gas emissions dating back to 1990.

AB 1331 (Elhawary; D-Los Angeles) Restricts Workplace Safety and Security Tools: Undermines workplace safety by effectively prohibiting the use of any surveillance technology in the workplace, including security cameras, cybersecurity systems, and anti-theft devices.

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