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## El Camino reports success at Compton Center

### ENROLLMENT, CERTIFICATES AWARDED AND TRANSFERS ALL UP

By Cheryl Scott  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—El Camino Community College District has mailed a report to residents in all of the cities that comprise the Compton Community College District enumerating the improvements that have been made at the Compton Center in the last five years.

The Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges revoked Compton Community College's accreditation in 2006 after the Board of Trustees informed the state Department of Education that it was operating



at a deficit and did not have the funds to meet its payroll.

AB 318, sponsored by Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally was passed to make it possible for the college to partner with the El Camino Community College District so that there would continue to be a college open in the Compton district.

"The Five Year Success Report is amazing," interim CEO Keith Curry said. "It motivates me. I think that the community will be surprised and happy to see how much improvement there has

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## Council reins in city manager's spending authority

By Chris Frost  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The Compton City Council voted at its meeting on Sept. 20 to reduce City Manager Willie Norfleet's signature of authority, or the amount of money he can spend without council approval, from \$25,000 to \$5,000.

Council Members Willie Jones, Yvonne Arce-neaux and Janna Zurita voted in favor of the resolution. Mayor Eric J. Perrodin and Councilwoman Lille Dobson voted against it.

"Several years ago former City Manager Barbara Kilroy came to the Council and said because of inflation, the spending limit should be increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000," Perrodin said. "If an emergency takes place on the weekend that costs over \$5,000, it may not be acted on at the next meeting if the problem occurs less than 72 hours in advance of the meeting."

Zurita urged her colleagues to support the resolution because the city is in a financial crisis.

"If we limit the signature of authority, then we have more control over the money that is spent," she said. "The original intent may have been for emergencies, but that is not what it is being used for now."

Dobson said if the Council approves the resolution, vendors doing business with the city will suffer.

"I can speak from experience that \$5,000 is not a lot of money," Dobson said. "If a vendor is

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Bulletin photos by Chris Frost

Barbara Calhoun helps the children pick out backpacks at the Compton Veterans Stand Down on Sunday, Sept. 25.

## Standing up for veterans

### This year's aid event for vets tops last year's totals

By Chris Frost  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The eighth annual Compton Veterans Stand Down drew a record number of people from all over Los Angeles County, seeking dental and eye care, clothing and legal assistance.

The grassroots, community-based intervention program is designed to help the nation's estimated 107,000 homeless veterans combat life on the streets. The term "stand down" originates in American battle language, referring to the removal of exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover from the battle-

fields to a place of relative security and safety.

The event was hosted by The United States Veterans Initiative, one of the nation's oldest nonprofit groups serving at-risk homeless veterans.

"U.S. Vets has been a part of the Veterans Stand Down since its inception," Inglewood U.S. Vets Site Director Ivan Mason said. "It was a pleasure working with former Councilwoman and event host Barbara Calhoun over the years, but since she did not get re-elected, we have stepped up to make sure Compton continues to have this event."

The goal is to keep growing the event in Los Angeles County, he said, and continue to

spread the word about the event.

"Last year we helped 473 people during the Stand Down, and this year we served almost 500 vets just on the first day," Mason said. "We have a lot of people here today (Sunday) as well, and by the time this event is over we will make a difference. It would be terrific if Compton would let us continue down on Bullis Road, but we will work with any municipality."

The University of Southern California's School of Dentistry provided dental care, and Angels for Sight, in conjunction with the Lions Club, has exceeded its 2010 totals for people

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## Willard answers critics of Just in Time ordering

By Chris Frost  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Deborah Willard, associate superintendent of Business and Administrative Services for the Compton Unified School District, has offered some clarity to the "Just in Time" ordering system, which has been in place for about a month.

The system, identified as a vendor by Superintendent Karen Frison at the Aug. 23 Board of Trustees meeting, is actually an ordering system implemented by the district.

"The principals can plan for the year and order what they need ahead of time," Willard said. "This is called 'Just in Time.' The whole purpose of this is to promote better planning."

Willard said when she arrived at the CUSD about \$800,000 worth of inventory was stored in the warehouse. The new system eliminates inventory because items are delivered the next day directly from the vendor.

"With the economic hardship and the financial challenges we are facing, I wanted to bring that total down, to help balance the budget and save positions," she said.

The system should allow the district to save \$200,000 to \$300,000 because excess inventory will not be kept at the warehouse.

The Just in Time system will be used for the

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### Council rejects cuts in benefits for union workers 5A

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# WILLARD

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two approved vendors, Office Depot and South-west School and Office Supply.

"Under our old system, the warehouse would order office supplies and hope the end-users would request what they ordered," Willard said.

CUSD principals are depleting the items at the warehouse before implementing the Just in Time system. One or two people will be in charge of ordering at each school and those people have received training on the proper ordering method.

"The current ordering system has been used for a long time," Willard said. "They circumvented the system by calling a local vendor to get what they needed. I was signing checks all the time."

The lack of uniformity made it difficult to track spending, she said. With the new system, orders go through a complete process, including a purchase order for the vendor and an invoice, which comes directly to the district.

The CSUD warehouse will continue to carry

cleaning and paper products, and make normal deliveries for those items.

Contrary to claims made by warehouse employees, Willard said, vendors are bound to the prices they promised in their bid. If the price goes up, the district can abandon the contract.

"It will be the job of the purchasing department to watch the numbers and make sure they match the bid price," Willard said.

She said that she stands by her promise that no one will be laid off, but warehouse employees can be reassigned elsewhere.

"As time moves on, we may expand Just in Time," Willard said. "As people leave through attrition there may be some savings, because they will not be replaced."

To get the deficit under control, she said, "thinking outside the box can be the best course of action."

"The school district has been under the control of the state before," Willard said. "Every department has been asked to cut costs so it does not happen again."

# EL CAMINO

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been and how much it has affected student success."

The report, El Camino College Compton Center: Five Years of Success, marks the fifth anniversary of the partnership between the two districts.

Since 2006, El Camino College Compton Center has seen significant gains in enrollment, the number of certificates and degrees awarded, and students transferring to four-year colleges and universities. Numerous academic programs and student support services have also been established since the partnership was created.

"Five years ago, the immediate focus went to recruiting students, while introducing a central mes-

sage: El Camino College Compton Center is open, accredited and ready to serve area residents with high-quality academics and student support services," the report said. "The numbers show these efforts paid off, with enrollment nearly tripling in five years, and scores of student success stories along the way."

The report is part of a stepped-up communication effort meant to introduce El Camino College Compton Center to the communities of the Compton Community College District and inform community members about the services, programs and opportunities offered at the Compton Center.

In addition to the report, Curry will take an aggressive role in communicating with the communities about the center's ongoing effort to gain accreditation as a separate campus.

He will be visiting community organizations in the upcoming weeks. "After that, I'll be making presentations at all of the city council meetings in the district. The students deserve to be recognized for their achievements, and the college needs to be recognized for the improvements that have been made on the road back to accreditation."

"I don't think people realize just how much is going on here and how much things have improved since 2007," he said. "There have been controversies along the way, but when you step back and look at what the students are doing, it's very

gratifying."

According to the report enrollment has increased at the center from 6,726 in the 2006-07 school year to 12,092 in the 2009-10 year.

In recent surveys conducted by El Camino College Compton Center 85 percent of students and 71 percent of community members believe an education received at the center is as good or better than at other institutions. Students surveyed said they believe the center is comparable to other colleges academically. They rated the courses offered, the instructors and the availability of classes as the top reasons for attending the Compton Center.

The college has received nearly \$1.6 million in grants since the partnership began. Approximately \$10,000 Title V Mini Grants have been awarded to

the center for innovative projects aimed at improving student success.

The Robotics and Engineering Technology program received \$522,500 in grants. The Aerospace Manufacturing program received \$375,000. The Nursing Department's Tutoring and Mentoring program received \$240,000.

Financial aid and scholarship awards rose from \$3,652,782 in 2006-07 to 9,908,879 in 2009-10.

Nearly 60 students received a total of \$46,100 in 2011.

Newly appointed Special Trustee Thomas Henry said he was "elated

by the striking differences" he sees on the campus. "When I left in 2008, student enrollment was so low that most classes only had five or six students in attendance," he said. "I toured the campus when I first arrived, and I was pleasantly surprised to find that every class I looked into was full."

Henry also commended the maintenance and operations department for the condition of the facility. "I can see that they have worked very hard to improve the condition of the campus, from rest rooms to the upkeep of the grounds," he said. "This is so important because you don't get a second chance to make a good first impression."

He is optimistic about the accreditation effort going forward. "Everyone has been working diligently to fulfill all of ACCJC's requirements," he said. "But accreditation is a lengthy and complex procedure. It will take time."



### "I don't think people realize just how much is going on here and how much things have improved since 2007."

Interim CEO **Keith Curry**

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# Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker September 28, 2011

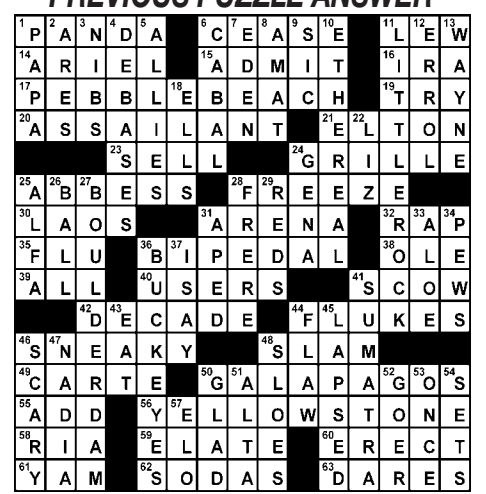
## ACROSS

- 1 Hinged fastener
- 5 Gig gear
- 9 Raft wood
- 14 Piercing tools
- 15 Gather by cutting
- 16 Abrasive cloth
- 17 Romances
- 18 Indian tourist city
- 19 Rubber byproduct?
- 20 Part of an active lifestyle, for some
- 23 Suffix for "velvet"
- 24 Eruption coverage?
- 25 Mattel fella
- 26 Abbr. on a cough syrup bottle
- 29 Scornful smile
- 31 Turns from ice to water
- 33 Something ground-breaking?
- 34 Copying the style of
- 36 Bucolic setting
- 37 Magician Jillette
- 38 Part of an active lifestyle, for some
- 42 Like creme brulee
- 43 Nervous movement
- 44 Word with "waste" and "want"
- 45 Dug in, so to speak
- 46 Does a little housekeeping
- 48 Arles' river
- 52 Sleuth, in slang
- 53 Stable particle?
- 54 Pkg. delivery company
- 56 He was Opie and Richie
- 57 Part of an active lifestyle, for some
- 61 Runny-nose condition
- 63 Lake Nasser supplier
- 64 Be loud, as an engine
- 65 Put an end to
- 66 Where the iris is
- 67 Tiny aquatic plant
- 68 Madison Ave. workers
- 69 Some resort prohibitions
- 70 Crawl (with)

- 8 Low-key firework
- 9 Gets started
- 10 Last word of the Bible
- 11 Stretch out
- 12 \_\_\_ Lanka
- 13 Sailor's "sure"
- 21 Before sunup
- 22 Hold for questioning
- 27 It's on the record?
- 28 It's full of oink or ink
- 30 A pop
- 32 Take, as a nonrequired course
- 35 Honest-to-goodness
- 37 \_\_\_ helmet (safari wear)
- 38 Cause for fishing-hole excitement
- 39 It's usually scooped up
- 40 "Attention!"

- 41 Anatomical backs
- 42 Cat's prey
- 46 Stone arrangement a la Stonehenge
- 47 Lease prohibition, often
- 49 National's local rival
- 50 Period of immaturity
- 51 Memory trace
- 55 Judges hear them
- 58 English river to the Trent
- 59 \_\_\_ Gauche (Paris' Left Bank)
- 60 "Oh, phooey!"
- 61 Nipper's real master
- 62 "... a man Bojangles and \_\_\_ dance for you..."

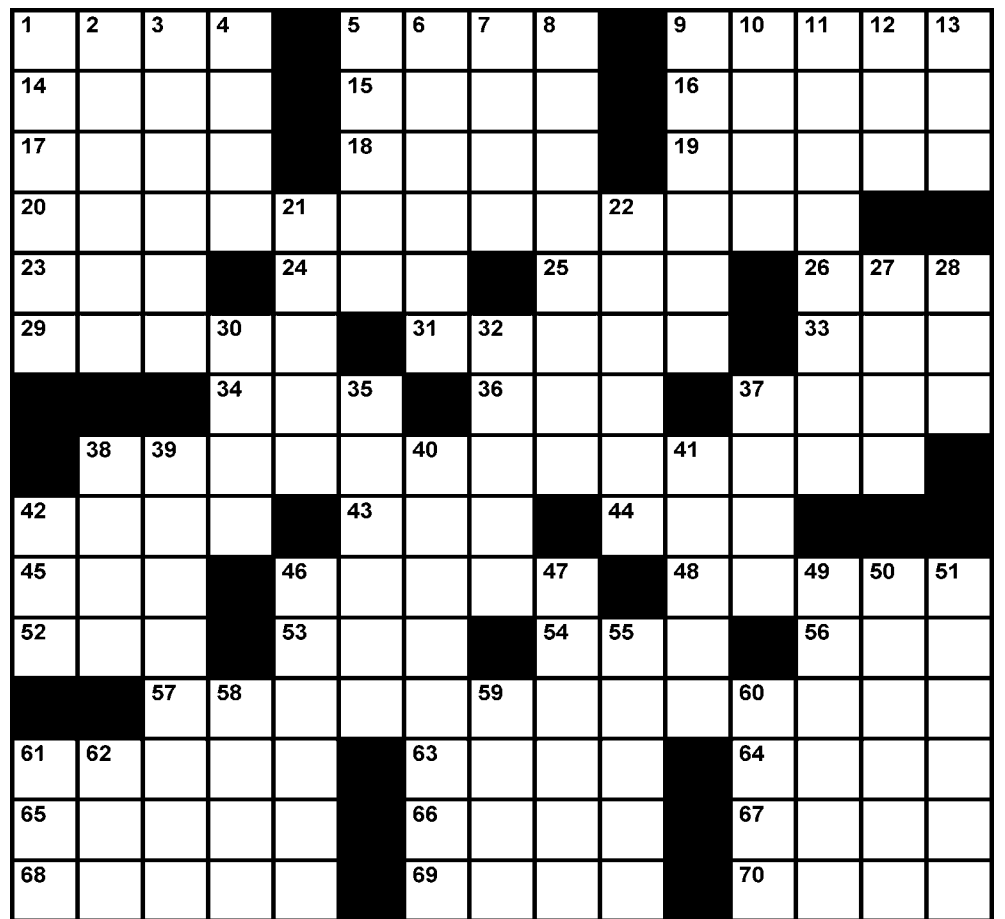
## PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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9/28

## ACTIVATE! By Stanley Banks



# COUNCIL

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doing a job for the city and finishes on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, he will not be able to get the check he needs to pay his employees."

Arceneaux asked about provisions in the City Charter, which allow the city manager up to \$100,000 to spend on emergencies when the health, safety and welfare of residents are at risk.

City Attorney Craig Cornwell said that that emergency authority is not part of the City Charter, but was a resolution passed by the Council on Feb. 19, 2008.

"The mayor's response is correct," he said. "We had a problem with a water pipe in the basement. After that we had a resolution prepared to deal with such emergencies."

The city manager can approve an emergency expense and bring the item back to the Council to be ratified.

Cornwell said if the Council did not approve the emergency expense, the city would need to undo the transaction.

"If a tree on a street falls and hits a house, the city will need to remove it and board up the house," Perrodin said. "If the cost exceeds \$5,000, the city manager would be precluded

from doing anything until it comes before the City Council. That would not be a city emergency."

Arceneaux reiterated the importance of the limit, saying that she personally has been kept in the dark by Norfleet about certain expenses that are just coming to light because of the current budget crisis.

"If the main concern is the honesty of the city manager, then you need to get rid of him," Perrodin said. "If someone is going to steal \$24,000, he will also steal \$4,999. When I was first elected, it was normal policy for the city manager to give out purchase orders for \$4,999."

He urged the Council to keep the current system in place, and advised the city controller and treasurer to serve as the check-and-balance system for the city manager.

"The previous city manager created this deficit," he said. "There were people going on trips without bringing it before the Council. Mr. Norfleet did not create this deficit."

"This has nothing to do with honesty, it is about controlling a deficit," Zurita said.

Dobson said the reduction means the city will write more \$4,999 checks and it will not offer any additional control of funds.

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