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Area residents share memories, Page 2A

The Bulletin

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El Camino threatens to leave partnership with CCCD

Disagreement over budget stated as cause

By Cheryl Scott
Bulletin Staff Writer

TORRANCE—El Camino President Dr. Thomas Fallo notified Chancellor of Education Jack Scott that the college intends to withdraw from the partnership between the El Camino Community College Dis-

trict, the Compton Community College District and the California Community College Chancellor's Office if budgetary matters cannot be resolved.

The announcement was made in a public statement distributed to the staff and faculty of El Camino Community College and the El Camino

Compton Center stating that Fallo had sent a letter to Scott on June 17 citing a memorandum of understanding that allows El Camino to withdraw from the partnership if Fallo does not concur with the budget submitted by the CCCD.

However, the memorandum of understanding expired in December 2010 and a new one has not been put in place yet. Once notified of El Camino's intent to leave the partnership, the state chancellor has 90 days

in which to resolve the issue. That time period is up on Sept. 13.

According to our sources, Scott responded to the notification, asking Fallo to draft a new MOU, which Fallo declined to do. Former Special Trustee Thomas Henry is reportedly working on a draft agreement.

The public statement did not specify the issues of concern in the budget, but sources speaking on condition of anonymity have said that it is money being spent by Special

Trustee Genethia Hudley-Hayes on consultants.

According to our sources, Hudley-Hayes has hired a bodyguard and an event coordinator at a cost of more than \$100,000 a year each. She has reportedly also hired a consultant for a variety of duties ranging from government matters to community affairs.

The CCCD recently laid off nine

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Bulletin photo by Chris Frost

The Compton YAL dancers in Hawaiian costumes pose for photos by parents and supporters at the luau.

Youth Activities League dancers perform at luau

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The Compton Youth Activities League took time out on Wednesday, Aug. 31, to celebrate the end of summer with a luau featuring performances by the dance team and kabobs prepared by parents and staff members.

The "dance family" performed to Hawaiian music, and also showed off a dance created for a Justin Bieber song. The performance was the culmination of a summer-long class led by instructor Anna Bernice, who was thrilled by their efforts.

"I feel a lot of emotions right now and they are all good," Bernice said. "There was so much work and sweat in the last two weeks. The girls even brought me to tears last Friday because of their commitment to rehearsing, dedicating

"The camaraderie of the dance family is what truly motivates me."

Anna Bernice, instructor for the class

their time even when I wasn't here to what became a terrific performance today."

She said seeing the girls all dressed up in Hawaiian costumes with their hair and makeup done made it very fulfilling. "I am blessed," she said. "The camaraderie of the dance family is what truly motivates me. I continually work to make this class even better than it is, and help them become truly great dancers."

Bernice said that the performance, while extremely successful, is only the beginning for

the group.

"We are making plans to have a nice showcase performance during the holiday season," she said. "As the group moves forward, there will be bigger events."

Looking toward fall, she said a new dance club is about to begin, and it will be all about individual expression.

"The students will select their own music, create dance moves and have fun," she said. "I

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Increased water fees distribution remains a mystery

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The use of funds from water bill increases intended to install and upgrade residential water meters has not been made public by the Compton Municipal Water District.

The request was made at the city clerk's office on Thursday, Aug. 25. As of press time the data had not been released.

The water bill controversy was a heated campaign issue that spurred newly elected Councilwoman Janna Zurita to run for office.

"One of the reasons I decided to run for the council is because I was frustrated about our water bills," she said. "The meter maintenance fee has doubled in the last two years. No one has ever explained what that fee is for. My meter is not being maintained."

Zurita said that "a lot of people" calling the water department to ask about the fees were told

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State test scores yield mixed results for the CUSD

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The 2010-2011 Academic Performance Index report issued by the California Department of Education, shows both positive results and continued challenges for the Compton Unified School District.

The report, released on Aug. 31, lists the schools' scores individually, along with any gains or losses from the 2009-2010 school year.

The district posted an average API score of 686 for 2010-2011, which is a seven-point increase from the 2009-2010

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CUSD won't fully answer questions on Title II funds

FULL STORY » PAGE 3A



CUSD Board President Satra Zurita to speak at sorority breakfast

FULL STORY » PAGE 3A

DISAGREEMENT

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classified employees because the state budget has reduced funding for community colleges.

CCCD Chief Business Officer Danny Villanueva is set to present the budget for the upcoming fiscal year at a meeting of the Budget Planning Committee on Sept. 8. If approved by the committee it will go before the CCCD Board of Trustees for ratification on Sept. 12.

It is expected that Fallo will decide at that time whether to go forward with the withdrawal from the partnership.

The partnership was made possible by AB 318, a bill introduced in the state Assembly by Rep. Mervyn Dymally after Compton College lost its accreditation in 2006. El Camino Community College District agreed to operate the college as El Camino College Compton Center, assuming responsibility for academic programs, personnel matters and all aspects of the day-to-day operations of the Center.

The Compton Community College District still exists, and is helping El Camino get the Center accredited as a new college operated by El Camino. El Camino will then turn the college back over the CCCD, returning it to local control.

The bill was passed in an effort to keep a college open in the city of Compton. Had a partner not been found to operate the college, it would have been forced to close. It lost its accreditation because of mishandling of funds that left it without enough money to meet its payroll.

A financial crisis management team was called in to investigate the operation of the college, and a report was issued enumerating the deficiencies at the college.

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges has set forth a detailed plan for the application for accreditation.

The process is expected to take at least 10 years from the date of lost accreditation because of the complexity of the improvements that must be made by the college.

If El Camino should withdraw from the partnership it will be required to find another college district willing to take its place. The announcement reassured the faculty and staff that it would stay in the partnership until a new partner agrees to operate the Center.

The CCCD has existed as an autonomous college district since 1927. It is supported by local taxpayers, who voted in 2005 to approve a \$100 million bond measure for the construction of new buildings on the campus. The bond measure was approved by 78 percent of the voters.

"This would be the very first community college in the state to lose its accreditation," said Cheryl Fong, spokesperson for then-Chancellor Marshall Drummond, at the time. "We can't let that happen. We need to keep the college autonomous if at all possible. Community support is one element in the overall effort to reinstate the college's accreditation."

Hudley-Hayes was appointed special trustee to the CCCD by Scott in January 2010, replacing Peter Landsberger, who retired after more than four years in the position.

The special trustee position was created in 2005, after the ACCJC revoked Compton College's accreditation. The special trustee is there as a representative of the state Board of Education and has control of the District and its Board of Trustees.

Hudley-Hayes formerly served as president of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education and as an executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Martin Luther King Legacy Association.

SCORES

Continued from Page 1A

score of 679.

In a press release, the CUSD announced that one school had scored above 900, eight scored above 800, and 23, including one middle school, scored above 700.

That statement, while true, shows a range total of all schools scoring above 700, and does not mean that 23 schools scored in the 700s and eight in the 800s.

The actual totals had one school scoring above 900, seven schools in the 800 club, and 14 schools achieving scores in the 700s.

The top performing school in the CUSD for 2010-2011 was Laurel Elementary. Its score of 927 is a 39-point improvement from the 2009-2010 total of 888.

Other schools in the district scoring above 800 were Bursche, Mayo, Carver, Clinton, McNair, Washington and Roosevelt elementary schools. Lincoln, Bunche, Dickison and Tibby elementary schools came close, scoring 798, 789, 786, and 785 respectively.

Additionally, the CUSD identified four schools that were designated as year one performance improvement schools. The group, including Carver, Clinton, Kennedy and Rosecrans elementary schools, has a five-year average API score that has risen in three of the four schools.

Of those schools, only Carver showed an increase in its 2010-2011 score, increasing by one. Clinton dropped by 12 points, Kennedy fell by 41, and Rosecrans had a 105-point decline.

Last year, 21 schools showed positive growth, while 14 showed a decline against its 2009-2010 totals.

The top five schools with increased API test scores are Caldwell Elementary School with a 73-point gain, Roosevelt Elementary which achieved a 50-point gain, Dickison Elementary which was a plus 49, Laurel Street Elementary at plus 39, and Whaley Middle School, which an increase of 38 points.

Of the schools that showed improvement, three were in the 500s, four scored in the 600s, 10 scored in the 700s, three scored in the 800s, and one scored in the 900s.

Of the 14 schools that showed a decline from 2009-2010, four scored in the 800 range, five scored in the 700s, and five scored in the 600s.

The five schools with the largest declines are Enterprise Middle School, which fell by 165; Rosecrans Elementary, dropping 105 points; McNair losing 53 points; Robert F. Kennedy falling by 41; and Mayo Elementary with a 33-point drop.

When grouped by grades, the CUSD elementary schools had the most success, with only one school, Rosecrans Elementary, scoring below 700. Roosevelt Middle School was the lone representative in the 700 club for that group of eight schools, with a score of 713. No high school scored above 700.

An email seeking more information from the CUSD office had not been returned as of press time.

Compton Unified School District API Scores

Elementary Schools

- Laurel Street Elementary 927
- Bursche Elementary 883
- Mayo Elementary 839
- Carver Elementary 832
- Clinton, William Jefferson 816
- Ronald E. McNair Elementary 814
- Washington Elementary 812
- Roosevelt Elementary 800
- Lincoln Elementary 798
- Ralph Bunche Elementary 789
- Tibby Elementary 786
- Dickison Elementary 785
- Anderson Elementary 783
- Caldwell Street Elementary 783
- Jefferson Elementary 758
- Foster Elementary 755
- Emerson Elementary 749
- Kelly Elementary 743
- Robert F. Kennedy Elementary 737
- Longfellow Elementary 726
- McKinley Elementary 716
- Martin Luther King Elementary 707
- Rosecrans Elementary 699

Middle Schools

- Roosevelt Middle School 713
- Vanguard Learning Center 681
- Bunche Middle School 664
- Enterprise Middle School 642
- Davis Middle School 638
- Willowbrook Middle School 635
- Walton Middle School 625
- Whaley Middle School 612

High School

- Dominguez High School 622
- Centennial High School 580
- Compton High School 578

CHILDREN

Continued from Page 8A

Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Reform wrote: "...it is a natural reaction to cut spending when faced with a budget deficit. Make no mistake, reducing spending in some areas is necessary and warranted. However, when one has dug themselves into a hole, the solution is not to stop digging as much as to start digging the hand and toe holds that facilitate climbing out. Investing in early childhood education is that hand and toe hold."

When Dr. King left us in 1968, calling for a Poor People's Campaign, there were 11 million poor children. Today there are 15.5 million poor children and who knows what the new

poverty data will show on September 13? I've no doubt he'd be calling for a poor people's campaign today. I suggest that a loud organized voting citizen posse call on our President and Congressional leaders to begin with a poor children's campaign and commit to protecting rather than cutting children's food, shelter, health, early childhood development, and education they need for a positive future. Dr. King is not coming back. We're it. Let's get going to rescue children from the political lions poised to attack them in the weeks and months ahead.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund.

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Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker September 7, 2011

ACROSS

- 1 God worshiped by Jezebel
- 5 Fabric joint
- 9 Better suited to the occasion
- 14 "___ La Douce"
- 15 Edible seaweed
- 16 Ballet school handrail
- 17 READY
- 20 Banana oil and others
- 21 Like some senses of humor
- 22 Party throwing a party
- 23 "L.A. Law" star Susan
- 24 Barbecue offering
- 26 Harvard rival
- 28 Word after "your" or "my"
- 30 Mob enforcer
- 34 Existed once
- 37 Spades or clubs
- 39 Brother's daughter
- 40 AIM
- 44 Southwest plain
- 45 Stitched up
- 46 Tie the knot
- 47 Muscle/bone connection
- 49 Obsolete "for fear that"
- 51 Eat like a rodent

53 Actress

- Charlotte of "The Facts of Life"
- Undergrad degs.
- Russian gold medalist Kulik
- Lamb's lament
- Conceit
- FIRE
- Cartoon hunter Fudd
- Hair-removal brand name
- Arias, for instance
- Shot with extreme spin
- Where Aeneas fought
- Ship's framework

DOWN

- 1 Any animal with two feet
- 2 Defied gravity
- 3 Town terrorized in "Jaws"
- 4 Use a surgical beam
- 5 Most lathery
- 6 Santa subordinate
- 7 Declare assuredly
- 8 See 46-Across
- 9 Disney subsidiary
- 10 Pitiful
- 11 Backup group, often
- 12 Winged god of love
- 13 Become a

lessee

- Drops the ball
- Asian nursemaid
- B.B. King's genre
- Bellybutton accumulation
- Raul Castro's predecessor
- Feline line
- Crowning point
- "A friend in ___ is ..."
- Whip mark
- Wheel shaft
- Cross over
- Babel structure
- Final show-downs
- Masked mammal, commonly
- Distasteful
- Catches, as an attempt-

ed base stealer

- "There's no 'I' in ___"
- "The Man Who ___ There"
- Exquisite gem
- Ring-shaped reef
- Emmy-winning title role for Sally Field
- Same as before, in footnotes
- Country singer McCann
- Doctrines
- Quite some ways away
- Singer with Crosby and Stills
- Furor
- Carnival locale

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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9/7

AH, SHOOT! By Morgan Coffey

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