

# The Bulletin

SERVING COMPTON AND THE INGLEWOOD TRIBUNE, CARSON BULLETIN, WILMINGTON BEACON, THE CALIFORNIAN & THE SOUTH L.A. VOICE

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## CCCD announces redistrict plan

### Option 1 chosen over three alternatives

By Cheryl Scott  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Special Trustee Thomas Henry of the Compton Community College District has selected new trustee area boundaries that conform to state law and the terms of a lawsuit regarding population balance. Three options were presented for the redistricting plan, and each was reviewed in the light of the State Voting Rights Act requiring ethnic balance among the five trustee areas. Although some current board members opposed the decision, Henry believes that Option 1 most conforms to the letter of the law and is the best

possible decision for the redistricting, which is required every 10 years by the state of California. "Some are not happy with this decision," he told The Bulletin. "But it's important to adhere to the letter of the law. It's especially important for us because we were sued over our previous boundaries and we are under the microscope because of the accreditation issue." The college's accreditation was revoked by the ACCJC (Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges) in 2006 and it is currently being operated by the El Camino Community College District as a satellite campus. It is systematically working its way through the accreditation process, which will take several years to complete. "It's important for the board to function well as a business entity because its actions will be evaluated by the ACCJC," Henry said. "The pur-

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## Council approves successor agency budget

By Chris Frost  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The Compton successor agency took another step closer to functionality at the Tuesday, May 1, Council meeting, as the group passed a resolution approving its budget.

Successor agencies wind down redevelopment agency projects and return proceeds from property liquidations to the county auditor and controller for distribution to the taxing entities.

On Dec. 30, the California Supreme Court invalidated Assembly Bill 27, allowing cities the right to pay a fee to continue redevelopment efforts, while upholding AB26, protecting the state's right to end redevelopment.

The resolution gives City Controller Stephen Ajobiewe the authority to transfer the former Community Redevelopment Agency's \$70 million budget to the successor agency.

"Once approved, the Council will still be limited to using the money within the perimeters of AB26, and it can only be used for enforceable obligation payment schedule (EOPS) expenses," City Attorney Craig Cornwell said.

The approval came after considerable debate about dramatic budget changes for the remaining fiscal year.

"The amount may seem high, but it contains our bond proceeds, meaning the entire amount will not be consumed within the fiscal year," former Community Redevelopment Director Dr. Kofi Sefa-Boakye said. "Approximately \$40 million is for the new senior activity center and housing projects, which are part of the successor agency's activities."

Updated budget figures show a dramatic decrease in personnel expense, but operations and maintenance almost doubled.

"The original budget included 12 employees, but now we only have five," Sefa-Boakye said. "We are also preparing our enforceable and recognized obligation payments, which must include all the expenses the successor agency will incur. The less money we show, the more money the state receives."

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## Compton's Works of Art



Photo courtesy of Compton Unified School District

Compton High School students showed sophisticated portraiture at Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum during the CUSD Cinco de Mayo celebration. Compton students entertained community members and families on Saturday, May 5, with a series of musical performances at the Annual Arts and Aviation Career Expo at Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum. The event also included student art galleries featuring the work of the district's most talented middle and high school artists. Details, Page 4A.

## Gospel fest raises money for school music programs

By Chris Frost  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—An education enriched with music was on the agenda on Saturday, May 19, as Compton High School teamed up with the Compton Alumni Ministry to raise money for its choir program.

The event featured comedy, dance, singing, lunch and vendors. About 150 people attended.

"This is an exciting collaboration," Principal Letitia Bradley said. "We have a group of outstanding performers from the area who wanted to help. Because of them, the choir will move forward."

The district is experiencing budget cuts, she said, and programs teaching the arts are usually the first ones cut.

"This lays the seed for future Gospel Fests," Bradley said.

"The event moves forward with greater success every year."

Councilwoman Yvonne Arceneaux called the event a tribute to the power of prayer.

"The Bible tells us to sing praises unto the lord, and that is exactly what everyone is doing today," she said. "This lifts our

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Bulletin photo by Chris Frost

Deborah Spottsville was honored for her faithfulness and dedication to the Compton High School Alumni Association during the Gospel Fest help on Saturday.

## CUSD Personnel Commission divided on eligibility lists

By Chris Frost  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The divided Compton Unified School District Personnel Commission continued its debate about whether to supply candidate lists to district administration officials on Thursday, May 17, setting the stage for a showdown at the Thursday, June 7, meeting.

The debate focused on positions in the warehouse and food service departments.

The commission rejected a district request on Tuesday, April 12, for a warehouse store manager eligibility list, which would have listed applicants qualified to fill a position, bringing a protest from Warehouse Supervisor Michael Bush.

"We are getting bombarded at the warehouse," he said. "There is a bunch of student test material backed up and we have only two people."

Bush said his department still has budgeted money for the storekeeper position.

"The warehouse needs one person to help out," he said. "To me, this is sabotage."

Irving does not favor another vote on the warehouse storekeeper position.

"The district is not solvent," she said. "There should be a moratorium on all hiring. Gov. Jerry Brown is cutting funds for schools. I cannot approve a list in good conscience when the district has so many financial issues."

The commissioners debated approving additional eligibility lists for food service supervisor positions.

"The commission approved one list with three promotional candidates (people already working for the CUSD), and another with one open candidate (an applicant not employed with the district) for nutrition supervisor in Jan-

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Photos courtesy of Compton Unified School District

Mother Candice Johnson embraces her daughter, second-grader Erica Garrett, after she performed a dance routine at Lincoln Elementary School's Ninth Annual Significant Female Event, May 10.

## Lincoln Elementary students explore female empowerment

From staff reports

COMPTON— Parents, role models and students attended Lincoln Elementary School's Ninth Annual Significant Female Event on May 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. Decorated with pink and purple balloons and table cloths, the school's cafeteria, 1667 E. 118th St., was the center of activity for the event, which was designed to encourage mothers, grandmothers, aunts and role models to support and inspire female students. Sponsored by Centerfield for Youth and Lincoln's PTA, this year's dinner also featured musical and dance performances by the school's students.

The event also featured speeches by Alissa McNeil, Ed.D. and Dr. Caren Floyd, as well as readings by the school's female essay winners in kindergarten and fifth grade, who paid tribute to the women in their lives.

The winners included Kindergartener Robyn Garrett, first-grader Helen Rosas, second-grader Raven Sandville, third-grader Cryshell Perkins, fourth-grader Erin Galloway and fifth-grader Priscilla Partida.

For Principal Ronald Stamper, the event was an opportunity for female students to realize the benefits of having the support of their role models. "We're proud to host this dinner for a ninth consecutive year," he said. "It's a great night for young female scholars to build on the strong bonds they have with the women who matter to them most. I'd also like to thank Centerfield for Youth and our school's PTA for sponsoring the event."

Debbie Flood, co-founder of Centerfield for Youth, said she was excited to be a part of this year's event. "It's always a pleasure to give back to this community and work with the school," she said. "For the last few years we've seen a lot of positive changes here and this event really highlights the good things going on. The girls love it and they're inspired by it."

Second-grader Erica Garrett was not only proud to be among the event's dance performers, but also to display her talents in front of her mother. "I love my mom because she takes care of me when I get sick. She helps me with my homework and makes me feel brave enough to go on stage and dance," she said.

For Garrett's mother, Candice Johnson, watch-



Blanca Rosas said she was all smiles as she listened to her daughter, first-grader Helen Rosas (right) read her essay.

ing her daughter on stage was an early Mother's Day treat. "This is a wonderful thing for our girls and for all the moms," she said. "And I think it's great for our girls because they walk out with a sense of dignity knowing they have someone behind them. Our girls can go on with more confidence."

In her award-winning essay first-grader Helen Rosas commended her mother for her community service. "She donates clothes, toys and food. ... I want to do the same things as her," she said.

Rosas' mother Blanca said she appreciated the school and its sponsors for organizing the dinner. "This is a beautiful thing to do for all of us, especially the moms," she said.

"The girls also get encouragement from their moms, grandmas, aunts and teachers, which is always a good thing."



Bulletin photo by Chris Frost

Keno Camp relaxes backstage at the First Annual Compton High School Gospel Fest on Saturday, May 19.

## GOSPEL

Continued from Page 1A

spirits in these difficult economic times, and hearing this music touches me to the point of tears. I am very proud of this event."

Keeping the children on a positive road is vital, Arceneaux said, and religion is the foundation for success.

"That includes everyone in the world," she said. "Not just people in the Compton Unified School District and the city."

The Compton Fire Department Explorers provided security and first aid services for the event.

"I volunteered to help at this event," Explorer Richard Carter said. "Firefighters always help. After I graduate from El Camino College that is my career goal. I want to be a fireman."

A community empowered through gospel music was the vision of Alumni Ministry President Flora Eason.

"We focused on getting everyone to go out and recruited church participation," she said. "This event creates a greater city."

The group recognized Alumni Ministry member Deborah Spotsville for her faithfulness and dedication to the group.

"This award humbles me," she said. "There is a team that works together reminding current students of the rich tradition the school has."

Christian recording artist Roque said the meaning behind her song "King Jesus" inspired her for the event.

"It reminds us that Jesus will lift us up and never leave us," she said. "There is a gospel revival in Compton and this song complements the message this event sends to the community."

Comedian Ricky Harris emceed the event, and took time to acknowledge the talents of vocal group New Essence.

"I see a lot of money ahead of you," he said. "Keep God first, and the group has a great future."

Minister Anthony Stokes said God is in charge of the music.

"We allow them the freedom to pursue their Christianity," he said. "God will lead them to the right place."

Stokes said the youngsters discovered music at an early age.

"I directed the chorus, and the group is a progression of those experiences," Stokes said. "The group has been together for about three years."

Children struggling along the way, he said, must remain strong.

"Put God first, stay in school, and be a light for others," Singer Jabbarri Jones said. "Our youth leadership events make a difference."

A Tone, leader of the group A Tone and Team Jesus, hated the violence in Compton when he lived in the city.

"I took it upon myself to become a role model every day," he said. "People have options."

His brother Stitch said their mother bought them instruments at a young age.

"Music influenced us, and the house was never quiet," he said. "We did not understand when we were kids, but now it is crucial to us spiritually."

Texas native Montre said his parents divorced when he was young, but his mother went on to become a pastor.

"It is interesting to have two generations serving the lord in the same family," he said. "Old style religion is great for the past, but the world evolves and so should faith."

The music of A Tone and Team Jesus promote family values, he said, and parents need to set the example for their children.

"You are not their friends," Montre said. "The environment instills the value system if parents do not."

Singer Nadia Lopez said divorce led her to the lord.

"I went to Bible study and discovered how uplifting the word of God is," she said. "I moved forward and will never turn back."

Keno Camp rapper Escort said God opened the door in Compton, and they gladly took the opportunity.

"We love God and rap, and follow his calling," he said. "I do not know where that leads us, but we will be in service to the lord."

Group leader Jerkball said the group stands against the typical stereotypes associated with rap music.

"Compton can be famous for Christian rap," he said. "I am from the same streets, and can tell people how to change."

Eason said restoring the school auditorium to its original condition is the next fundraising opportunity.

"We want it to look like it did when we all went to high school," she said.

Call 310-635-3881 for more information about the Compton High School Choir.

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## REDISTRICT

Continued from Page 1A

pose of redistricting is to attain population balance within the areas, not to preserve the current board membership."

Opposing members of the CCCD Board of Trustees stated that they wanted to create the least disruption in the makeup of the district.

The new area boundaries were selected on May 16, following the third public hearing on the matter.

An election waiver request will now be submitted to the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors for consideration at its July 2012 meeting. Following approval of the election waiver by the Board of Governors, the CCCD will submit the new trustee areas to the Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder's Office for the new trustee areas to become effective for the November 2013 election.

Trustees elected for Areas B and E in November 2013 will serve an initial term of two years, and trustees elected for Areas A, C and D will serve a term of four years, as determined by lot accomplished by a random drawing conducted by the district's legal counsel at the May 16 board meeting.

The California Voting Rights Act of 2001 expands on voting rights granted under the federal Voting Rights Act by, among other things, granting standing to groups who are too geographically dispersed to elect their candidate of choice

from a single member district. This eases the path for proportional voting systems to be used as remedies for minority vote dilution.

Both pieces of legislation guide traditional redistricting criteria that were used in the process to adopt new trustee area boundaries. These include population equality, contiguous territory, geographic compactness and, most importantly, "communities of interest."

Communities of interest include ethnic communities covered by the California and Federal Voting Rights acts, as well as residents sharing interests or a common thread of social, economic or political interests such as income levels, educational backgrounds, issues of concern, environmental conditions and employment and economic patterns.

All of the maps developed for the district were constructed to create an optimal plan of unifying communities and following transportation borders, while also considering the communities of interest.

Opposing board members and many community members who attended the public hearings were in favor of Option 2.

"That was this least desirable option in terms of the letter and the intent of the law," Henry said. "It was the closest to the current area map, and we were sued because it did not follow the letter of the Voting Rights Act of 2001. I had to make the decision I made, despite the fact that I knew there would be opposition."

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