

The Bulletin

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Trustees censure Fisher

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The Compton Unified School District Board of Trustees unanimously censured Skyy Fisher during its Tuesday, May 8, meeting.

Fisher took a 60 day leave of absence from the group on Friday, May 4, after making controversial statements about Trayvon Martin, interim School Super-

Civil rights leaders and community members demand Fisher resignation » FULL STORY, PAGE 5A

intendent Karen Frison, and a CUSD student and family who accused a Davis Middle School teacher of sexual misconduct.

Board Secretary Micah Ali read the censure document to the capacity

crowd in attendance.

“The Board of Trustees formally rejects and repudiates the inflammatory, insensitive, disparaging and disrespectful statements made by Board of Trustees Member Skyy D. Fisher, and

through this censure resolution declares its strong disapproval of his actions and our sincere desire to disassociate ourselves and this district from these events,” he said.

The group was united about Fisher resigning his position.

“Fisher’s comments demonstrate a complete lack of tolerance and a total disregard for others at a time when we need to display more, be more inclu-

sive and respectful of others,” Ali said. “I see an utter lack of compassion, sensibility and maturity in Mr. Fisher, and call for his resignation.”

The vote comes less than seven months after the Personnel Commission censured Commission Vice-President Janice Irving after accusations surfaced that she used her influence

» See FISHER, Page 9A



Bulletin photos by Chris Frost

The Walton Middle School band is ready for lunch after a performance at the first annual Garden Art Walk held on May 12.

Garden Art Walk celebrates nutrition, nature and history

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Compton residents enjoyed music, art and healthy vegetables on Saturday, May 12, as Community Care hosted its first Garden Art Walk.

The event featured the Walton Middle School garden in full bloom and a new painting from artist Mohammed Mubarak.

“I am a former Walton Middle School student, and coming back here to contribute is truly a pleasure,” he said. “Every stroke of the brush meant something to me.”

The art is representative of the Hispanics and African Americans in the community and pays tribute to the school’s namesake, Frank L. Walton.

“I am working on a project out of town, and

» See ART, Page 4A



Corn growers Refugio Vargas, Gerardo Wenceslao, Brian Vargas and Tony Martinez take a break at the Garden Art Walk held by Community Care.

Fisher sets plan to repair damaged reputation

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Compton Unified School District Board of Trustees member Skyy Fisher is hoping to turn his image around after controversial and offensive comments he made during a recent podcast interview.

Fisher took a voluntary 60 day leave of absence from the Board of Trustees on Friday, May 4, after his public remarks about Trayvon Martin, interim School Superintendent Karen Frison and a CUSD student and family who accused a Davis Middle School teacher of sexual misconduct.

Fisher now says he plans to use his absence to deal with health issues and asked for privacy.

“This is part of that journey,” he said. “I think people need to hear my side of the story. Channel 5 came to my job. I had no privacy, and decided not to run from this issue.”

» See REPUTATION, Page 9A

Final public hearing on proposed Compton Community College District Trustee Area Boundaries scheduled to be held May 16

By Cheryl Scott
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Special Trustee for the Compton Community College District Thomas Henry will hold the third and final public hearing on the proposed District Trustee Areas on Wednesday, May 16, at 6 p.m. in the CCCD Boardroom, located in the Administration Building at 1111 E. Artesia Blvd. The hearing will follow the closed session of the May CCCD Board of Trustees meeting.

» See COLLEGE, Page 6A



Artists honored

Compton, Watts take top awards at Congressional Art Competition

FULL STORY » PAGE 3A

Council receives update on property tax assessment

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The City Council received a report from the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office that can translate into significant cash savings for residents at its meeting on May 8.

The assessor's office is working on a new outreach program, and reaching out to the 88 communities served in Los Angeles County.

"The program focuses on community input so we know which community groups the office can help," Compton Assessor Elcid DeRamis said.

Council members received folders highlighting the assessor's website, along with information packets for groups seeking help.

"We offer this information in seven different languages," DeRamis said.

One featured program utilizes Proposition 58, saving money for seniors transferring property.

"This is a parent to child transfer," DeRamis said. "Those transactions are exempt from reassessment."

Other programs applicable through the office include Proposition 13 (the People's Initiative to Limit Property Taxation), and Proposition 60, allowing residents 55 and older who are buying a replacement home their Proposition 13 rights.

"People who must meet ADA (Americans with Disability Act) requirements can use Proposition 110 to exempt themselves from reassessments for improvements made to things like kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms," DeRamis said. "People need this information and the outreach program can save people money."

Councilwoman Yvonne Arceneaux applauded the program, and asked DeRamis how groups can get involved.

"The best way is to have them contact their Council person first, then reach out to the assessor's office."

Religious groups are encouraged to reach out.

"We have specialists who help churches," DeRamis said. "A lot of companies charge them for service, and we do it for free. Every service offered by the assessor's office is complimentary."

Homebuyers can also receive information about the latest scams affecting the real estate market.

This is especially valuable if someone is planning a real estate transfer," DeRamis said. "Bad advice can cost people tax money."

Councilwoman Lillie Dobson said she receives a lot of calls from residents claiming to pay more taxes than people in other cities.

"It varies depending on the city," DeRamis said. "Property taxes are based on Proposition 13, which is a 1 percent fee charged to everyone. From there, residents vote on and approve a city's direct indebtedness and assessment."

Dobson said she owns property in other cities, and the rate seems higher in Compton.

"I also own property in the city," he said. "We pay more for police services and fire, and that affects how much we pay."

Residents experiencing declining property values can receive an adjustment.

"We have been doing that proactively since 2008, when the market started declining," DeRamis said. "Hopefully no one pays more than necessary, but residents can contact the assessor's office, and we will review the matter."

Councilperson Janna Zurita thanked DeRamis for accepting her invitation.

"People are struggling with their property taxes, and I hope they will contact you and investigate any possible relief options," she said. "I'll give your information to the block clubs and seniors so they know who to call."

You can visit online at assessor.lacounty.gov for more information about the programs offered by the Los Angeles County Assessor

CUSD to hold superintendent search forum

From staff reports

COMPTON—The Compton Unified School District will hold a forum on the search for a new superintendent on Saturday, May 19, in the CUSD board room, 501 S. Santa Fe Ave., from 10 a.m. to noon. The forum will allow com-

munity members an opportunity to discuss the qualities and attributes that the next superintendent should bring to the district. Surveys in English and Spanish will be available for all attendees.

For more information, contact CUSD's Office of Communications at 310-604-6529 or log on to www.compton.k12.ca.us.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

The district is currently in the process of reviewing and modifying its elected trustee area boundaries. State law requires that boundaries of public agency districts be reviewed every 10 years in order to keep the individual trustee areas population-balanced. The review has been included and public hearings have been held.

The proposed maps would increase the number of trustee areas to five, with each area having one vote on the board.

The proposed districts have been created using community input received at

those meetings and from comments posted on the CCCD Website. This will be the final opportunity for the public to comment on the new boundaries.

The Compton district is also required by the terms of a legal settlement to ensure that the trustee areas are ethnically balanced. Residents will vote only for their areas.

Alex Landeros and Luis Landeros filed a lawsuit last year against the district, stating that because the current trustee areas are not population-balanced they violate the districting principles of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, the California Constitution and the California

Education Code.

Currently, trustees in the CCCD must live in the trustee area they represent. Residents vote by trustee area, only voting for candidates who reside in their specific trustee area.

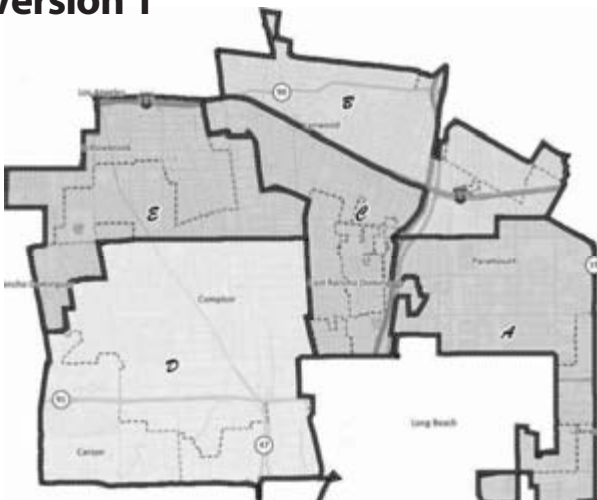
The special trustee announced in January the appointment of five individuals to serve on the newly formed Redistricting Committee.

The committee has been an important part of the CCCD's overall redistricting process.

After the public hearing Henry will adopt one of the proposed Compton Community College District Trustee area maps.

PROPOSED TRUSTEE AREAS

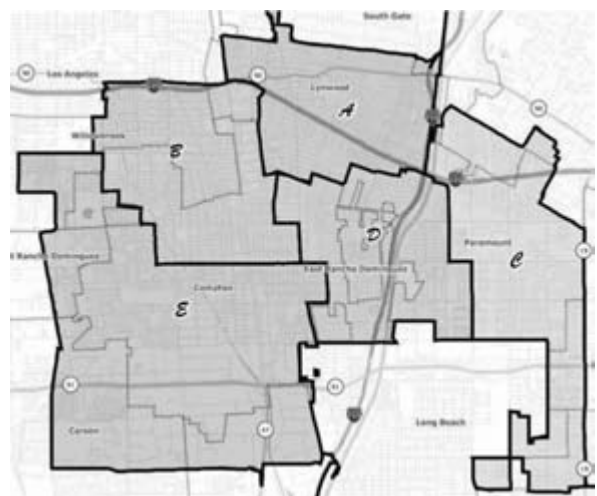
Version 1



Version 2



Version 3



Version 4



Navy christens cargo ship named for Cesar Chavez

From staff reports

SAN DIEGO—The military has christened its newest cargo-ammunition ship for civil rights leader and labor activist Cesar Chavez, who served in the Navy during World War II.

The Los Angeles Times reported that a champagne bottle was broken over the ship's bow during a ceremony Saturday night at the General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard in San Diego.

The 689-foot vessel will join the Military Sealift Command and bring ammunition, food, fuel and other supplies to U.S. ships at sea.

The ship's sponsor is Chavez's widow, Helen Fabela Chavez.

Chavez joined the Navy in 1944 at age 17 and served for two years.

He later led United Farm Workers union grape boycotts and raised awareness of the plight Hispanic agricultural workers.



Metro Briefs

GATEWAY CITIES

All Aboard Metro's Expo Line!

Take advantage of direct and convenient rail service between Downtown LA and the Westside on Metro's new Expo Line. Discover Culver City's dining scene, Expo Park museums, downtown nightlife and more. Plan your trip at metro.net.

Get Through Traffic Faster With ExpressLanes

If you drive the I-110 and I-10 freeways, you'll want to watch a new video series that shows how Metro's upcoming ExpressLanes program can get you through traffic faster. Find out about FasTrak® transponders, congestion pricing and more at metro.net/expresslanes.

78 New Rail Cars to Join Metro's Fleet

Metro's Board of Directors has approved a \$299-million contract to buy 78 light rail cars from Kinkisharyo International, LLC, with the option to buy 157 more cars. These cars will be used on lines under construction, including the Expo Line to Santa Monica and the Gold Line Foothill Extension.

Buy Your Metro Pass Anytime!

Metro's Weekly Pass is now a flexible 7-Day Pass, good for 7 consecutive days starting the first day it is used, rather than for a specific calendar week. Similarly, Metro's Monthly Pass has become a 30-Day Pass, good for 30 consecutive days starting the first day it is used. Look for details at metro.net.

Bike to Work Day – May 17, 2012

Show your pedal power for Bike to Work Day on Thursday, May 17. Metro and community partners will host pit stops for two-wheeled commuters throughout Los Angeles County, with snacks and bicycle resource information. For more information about Bike Week events and pit stop locations, check metro.net/bikeweek.

FUNDED BY THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)

Funding for Compton residents who are homeless due to financial hardships caused by current economic conditions is available. SSG-HOPICS, a community based organization providing housing and supportive services in South Los Angeles, has limited funding for eligible households through the Homelessness Prevention/Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP).

Financial assistance includes the following only (no ongoing rental assistance is available):

- Security Deposit, or Security Deposit and 1st month's rent;
- Move in assistance. U-Haul and/or Storage (one month arrears and a bill must be provided at the time of the initial assessment).

To qualify for HPRP assistance:

- Households must currently live in the City of Compton
- Households must be homeless or at risk of homelessness, with no alternative housing options, financial resources or support networks to help you find housing or stay in your home.
- Household's current income cannot exceed 50% of the area median income as listed on the following table. Preference will be given to households whose income is 30% or below.

Total Household Members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50% Income Limit	\$29,550	\$33,750	\$37,950	\$42,150	\$45,550	\$48,900	\$52,300	\$55,650
30% Income Limit	\$17,750	\$20,250	\$22,800	\$25,300	\$27,350	\$29,350	\$31,400	\$33,400

Source: HUD FY 2012 Income Limits for LA County

- The household must be able to continue paying the rent once the HPRP funds end. Households should look for apartments that do not exceed 60% of their gross monthly income.

For more information please contact: Maria Santa Cruz at the SSG-HOPICS San Pedro site: (323) 432-4399 x 226.



Metro

If you'd like to know more, visit metro.net.

PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO