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# The Black Voice News

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## Full Court Press For 'Unified' 2010 Census



Census worker Samuel Darguin, left, distributes 2010 Census information. Questionnaires mailed in mid March. April 1 is Census Day.

### COUNTING THE "HARD TO COUNT"

The Black Voice News

INLAND EMPIRE

By Chris Levister

It's that time: the once-a-decade moment when the U.S. Census Bureau takes a snapshot of America.

"It's the equivalent of a country going to war in terms of what's required in resource and energy," says Ardess Lilly, Census Partnership Coordinator for the Los Angeles region, which includes Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

With an estimated 310 million people residing in the United States the herculean task of manually

counting each person is one of the largest, most arduous processes the government undertakes.

The census is a complex and costly (an estimated \$14 billion), operation but the stakes are high. The results often determine a community's funding for roads, hospitals, schools and congressional representation.

The census has long disproportionately missed minorities. In 2000 the bureau noted, about 1.3 million people were over counted, mostly because of duplicate counts of Whites with multiple homes while more than 4.5 million Blacks and Hispanics were never counted.

Lilly, says the run up to Census Day, April 1, 2010 will involve a full court press – and vast strategies – to assure the maximum number of

hard-to-count individuals are counted.

"We have hundreds of people running across the region verifying addresses and updating our data base. As the Black community continues to suffer disproportionately from job losses, foreclosures and other ravages of the great recession, it is vitally important that we not have a repeat of the 2000 cen-

sus," said Lilly.

But the Census Bureau can't count whom they can't find. For a long time racial minority groups have shied away from giving the government the information they need to get a more accurate count of the country's population by not responding to mailed question-

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## Kennedy-Smith Promoted to Captain

The Black Voice News

RIVERSIDE

Sheriff Stan Sniff has promoted Lieutenant Shelley A. Kennedy-Smith to the rank of Captain. She becomes the first Black woman in that position. Captain Kennedy-Smith will assume the command of Court Services West, Central, and East. These courts include the Historic Court House in Riverside, the Hall of Justice, the Family Law building, the Corona Court, Moreno Valley Court, Juvenile Court, Southwest Justice Center, the Hemet Court, the Banning Court, the Indio Court, the Civil Bureau, and the County Administrative Center.

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Sheriff Stanley Sniff & Captain Shelley A. Kennedy-Smith

## Sponsors Announced for RIFF

The Black Voice News

RIVERSIDE

Major sponsors for the 2010 Riverside International Film Festival (RIFF) include a list of local businesses and organizations that are eager to support this popular event.

The prestigious Director's Club sponsor for the Festival is the City of Riverside. Mayor Ron Loveridge commented, "It is an honor to have a renowned international film festival in Riverside. I am proud that the City is a key sponsor of an event which directly furthers Riverside as the City of Arts & Innovation."

Actor's Club sponsors include the Riverside Medical Clinic, the Riverside Arts Council, the Riverside Human Relations Commission, and UltraStar Cinemas. Media sponsors for RIFF are the Press Enterprise, the Black Voice News, InstantRiverside.com, and Charter Communications. Harki Dhillon, President of RIFF, noted, "We couldn't be happier with the current group of community sponsors that enable us to present a world-class Festival."

The 8th annual RIFF launches April 16 and continues through April 25, 2010. The best of international and independent features, documentaries, and shorts will be shown at UltraStar Cinemas in the University Village at 1201 University Avenue, Riverside, CA, 92507. The entire University Village plaza is excited to participate in RIFF and plans are underway to highlight the "Experience the World in 10 Days" theme throughout the plaza.

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## Faith and Justice Summit Planned March 18th

The Black Voice News

SAN BERNARDINO

The tenth annual Faith and Justice Summit sponsored by the Cops and Clergy Network takes place March 18th, 2010. This year the summit is being hosted by Chief Kilmer, San Bernardino Police Department and the City of San Bernardino.

The over-arching theme is "Civil Stimulus Powered by: FBO, CBO and Civil Partnerships" while sub-themes are: "Make a Difference in Your Community" and Graffiti: Prevention, Cost and Psychology". Our government has been trying to stimulate the economy with minimal success. The truth of the matter is that the power and

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## No 'Race To The Top' Funds Highlights Growing Schism

State loses chance for up to \$700 million when dropped from federal grants competition

The Black Voice News

SAN BERNARDINO

By Chris Levister

Imagine Olympic speed skating sensation Apolo Anton Ohno being disqualified from competing in the final race for the Gold and his reaction being, well – slightly relieved.

That was the reaction on Friday from some teacher's union leaders after learning that California was disqualified from competing for hundreds of millions of dollars in federal school reform funds. Fifteen other states and Washington D.C. are in the running for billions in federal grants as part of President Barack Obama's Race



Supintendent Gary Thomas

to the Top education initiative.

"I won't say that I'm in sorrow of California losing it. There wasn't a great deal of support," said Marty Hittelman, president of the California Federation of Teachers. The union had opposed for example, basing teacher evaluations on

standardized tests they say are flawed.

Others who had pushed hard for the funds, including Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and state Sen. Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles), expressed disappointment.

"This decision by the Obama Administration demonstrates that we need to be more aggressive and bolder in reforming our education system. While the reforms we passed did move our state forward, they did not go far enough because other states were more competitive," said Schwarzenegger. "I will continue to fight for additional education reforms to make California truly competitive for the billions of dollars our students desperately need – the people of California expect nothing less."

Ironically the decision was released on the eve of the state's "Day of Action" massive protests throughout California to protest drastic state budget cuts made to

education.

Race to the Top offers money in exchange for a commitment to education reforms. Reforms that includes more challenging academic standards, better testing to measure what students know, rigorous evaluation systems for teachers and principals, plans for turning around failing schools, cutting-edge data systems to track progress, and state laws that establish "successful conditions" for high-performing charter schools and other innovative schools.

"We're going to raise the bar for all our students and take bigger steps towards closing the achievement gap that denies so many students, especially Black and Latino students, a fair shot at their dreams," Obama told a group of sixth-graders last week.

"Our children deserve quality education and God knows we need money but not at the expense of foregoing local oversight in

exchange for a government subsidy and mandates," said San Bernardino second grade teacher Josita Arias.

"If you take the cover off this, it's all about resistance to accountability," said Dr. James Samuels a local psychologist who last year removed his son from Wilson Elementary School. The San Bernardino school was listed this week as being among the worst 5 percent in the state.

"It's pretty clear the system is broken and dead broke. However in this case it's just as easy to engage in resisting change while allowing our children to fail."

State officials had not planned exactly how to use the money, but California's exclusion is yet another financial blow in a state confronting an unprecedented multi-billion dollar budget crisis. School districts up and down the state are bracing for teacher layoffs,

See RACE, Page A-4

## March Healthcare Development Terms Presented to Public

The Black Voice News

RIVERSIDE

**BUSINESSWIRE** The March Joint Powers Authority (JPA) presented the March Healthcare Development (MHD) principal terms of the Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) to the public during a monthly study session. The terms were presented by Gerald Trimble, of Keyser

Marston and Associates—advisor to the JPA. Keyser Marston has over 35 years experience and is the West Coast's top advisor for public-private partnerships. The firm has represented the JPA for over ten years.

The March LifeCare Campus encompasses over 3.5 million square feet. The 144 acre, three-phase development includes: hospitals, outpatient facilities, med-

ical office buildings, and retail. At a cost of \$3.3 billion (in 2010 dollars), Trimble described the ratio between the amount subsidized (\$20.5M) and the amount returned (\$273M) as, "One of the best we've seen. Normally 10/1 is considered good and this exceeds that."

In addition to the significant return on investment, the benefits of the March LifeCare Campus to the agency and surrounding commu-

nity were listed as 12,700 construction jobs, and 7,200 full-time healthcare and related jobs. Councilman Andy Melendrez from Riverside stressed the importance of hiring locally to address the high unemployment in the region.

Trimble stated the project has "significant economic benefit to the agency" and this is an "incentive to move the project forward." Several JPA members expressed an

interest in protecting the public's interest as the project moves along, and Chair Richard Stewart from Moreno Valley stated the goal is "to make sure the process is transparent to the public and the press."

Trimble described the improvements which will be made to the property as "greatly enhancing" its value. "The developer is not just

See MHD, Page A-4

## Sprited Rally Made the Point: Fund Education

In statewide effort, UC Riverside demonstrators were large, loud and also, peaceful

The Black Voice News

RIVERSIDE

Crowds of demonstrators at UC Riverside were spirited and peaceful during the March 4 Day of Action for Education, a statewide effort to raise awareness about the need for more state support for schools.

The Inland area group included hundreds of UCR students, staff and faculty members, many wearing red t-shirts or red armbands. They were joined by labor organizers and other local college students. The crowd ranged from a few hundred to a peak of perhaps 1,000 people.

Picketers, speakers, drummers, singers and even dancers chanted, exhorted and performed during the day at events that started at the car-



Students, staff and faculty gather at the bell tower for a statewide Day of Action to call for more funding for education.

illon tower at 11 a.m. and moved to the ARTSblock in downtown Riverside.

Student organizers repeatedly called for an orderly, nonviolent protest, and even had their own

security detail to make sure that marchers stayed safe.

At one point, Chancellor Timothy P. White was invited to address the group. "I stand with you. I stand with our faculty. I stand

with our workers. I stand with our administration. We are working night and day to turn things around," he said.

He asked the crowd to turn north to Sacramento and yell, "Fund education." They did. "Say it again." They did. "One more time." The crowd yelled again. "The success we have today will help those still to come. I'm proud of you. I'm proud of you. I'm proud of you."

In a letter to campus the following day, he wrote, "I saw many picket signs at the rally - some serious, some crude, and some with erroneous facts. I was moved by one of the signs, which poignantly stated, 'I'm here for my little sister.' Our students realize this isn't all about them, but rather the generations yet to come through the great halls of UCR to take their place as our future leaders."

Among other speakers that day, Stephanie Kay, a lecturer in the Writing Program, said fee increases

amount to privatizing the UC system. "We must fight for our rights. Make noise. Don't be passive." She encouraged students to write and get their parents to write letters to UCR administrators and legislators.

Students talked about the impact of working three jobs and losing sleep in order to pay for college. A librarian said he is a product of the UC system and has worked here for 10 years urged the students to ask for restoration of library hours that have been cut. "You want more hours, you ask for it. Don't forget, we want to see you in there." The California Department of Education is turning up the heat on failing schools. Officials announced Monday that seven San Bernardino schools are among the worst 5 percent in the state.

Six Title I funded SB elementary schools and Pacific High School

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