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The Black Voice News

PRE-SORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
RIVERSIDE, CA PERMIT
NO. 1942

Volume 37 Number 18

Serving the Inland Empire Riverside/San Bernardino Counties

Thursday, November 19, 2009

MHD Receives Green Light on Development

Vote of 8-0
Approves MHD

The Black Voice News
RIVERSIDE

By BVN Staff

Yesterday the March Joint Powers Commission unanimously approved the development of California first destination medical campus when the commission voted 8-0 to adopt the specific plan and certify the Environmental Impact Report for the March HealthCare Campus.

Don Ecker, managing member and leader of the project, assembled an all-star team of community leaders and industry experts to address the 8 member commission.

Representing McCarthy Building Companies, the development's master builder, Mike Gritters, VP Operations Healthcare Services told the audience of over 500 residents, "our job is to turn your dreams into reality." McCarthy is the largest hospital builder in California and one of the oldest employee-owned companies in the country. They have completed 376 projects in Southern California since 1984. McCarthy was joined by HoK, the largest hospital architectural firm in the world, and Siebert Brandford, Shank & Co, the largest minority bond firm and top 10 firm in the country.

When complete the medical campus, which will be located on surplus federal land near March Air Reserve Base, will span close to 200 acres and cover more than 3.5 million square feet.

Cross Word Christian Church Pastor Lacy Sykes, whose church is part of the development area
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Pastor Lacy Sykes of Cross Word Christian Church addresses the commission during the recent public hearing on the March HealthCare Campus. Photo by Ted Nevills



Thanksgiving turkeys and the traditional fixings will cost less this year thanks to a global downturn driving down the cost of wheat, corn and milk.

Welcome Relief In Grocery Aisles

Stores slashing prices pushed by 10% unemployment, online shopping and stiff competition

The Black Voice News
INLAND EMPIRE

Although the weather feels more like June than November, Thanksgiving and the rest of the holiday season are around the corner. Grocery shoppers are finally seeing some reprieve from last year's sticker shock price increases. Prices for dairy, meat, fruits, vegetables and bread are plunging to record lows.

When Petra Irwin's Facebook page glared, frozen turkeys at Wal-Mart - 88 cents, she raced to the nearest store in Colton. She was so pleased that she hefted two of them into her grocery cart. "At that price you have to buy two. You'd be crazy not to. How can you go wrong?" Just last year she paid \$1.79 a pound for a turkey - twice the current price.

"Turkey is relatively inexpensive anyway, but anything we can save on right now, with this economy, is

always a plus," she said. "I'm always looking for ways to save."

Food prices are dropping as the global downturn drives down the cost of staples such as wheat, corn and milk. That's left grocers fighting for the wallets of penny pinching consumers.

Locally, Stater Bros., Vons, and Ralph's markets have slashed prices on thousands of products by as much as 25 percent over the past month.

At the Stater Bros. Market on 40th Street in San Bernardino, evidence of the competition is everywhere. Shoppers are bombarded by the chains' price slashing campaign: 'Lowering prices on everything to help you save on what you pay'. New brightly colored tags highlight savings on each item: Stater Bros' label frozen ground beef patties 3 lb pkg. \$6.99 a savings of \$3.00. All laundry detergents 60 oz., \$3.99 shoppers save \$2.34.

"There's a lot of competition among retailers," said Adam York an economic analyst at Wachovia. "Consumer budgets are pretty tight right now. Grocery retailers are pulling out the stops to keep shop-

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Feds Deliver On Stimulus Money For Weatherization

State shares in \$192 million

The Black Voice News
RIVERSIDE

By Chris Levister

After a series of fits and starts, mostly about worker pay disputes, federal stimulus money to make low-income homes more energy efficient is flowing like water from a spigot.

"This money is putting people to work and investing in local communities," President Barack Obama said recently during a visit to a weatherization plant.

"There is nothing better that you can do to make homes more energy efficient than weatherization."

Every year, hundreds of homes are weatherized throughout the region. In Riverside County the Community Action Partnership (CAP) of Riverside County through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) reduces energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety.

CAP Riverside uses the Whole House Weatherization concept, which requires advanced diagnostic skills and cost-effective measures in material selection and installation. This includes single-family homes, mobile homes, multi-family homes and apartment complexes for low-income residents. Services vary and may include installation of water-saving showerheads, water heater blankets, fur-



Stanley Lupowski (left) and crew leader Darryl Mercer, install a weather-tight door using funds from the federal stimulus bill.

nace repair, attic insulation, door and window replacements.

Weatherization or weatherproofing is the practice of protecting a building and its interior from the elements, particularly from sunlight and wind. It is used for modifying a building to reduce energy consumption and optimize energy efficiency. The phrase "whole-house weatherization" extends the traditional definition of weatherization to include installation of modern, energy-saving heating and cooling equipment, or repair of old inefficient equipment, (furnaces, boilers, water heaters, programmable thermostats, air condi-

tioners, and so on).

Weatherization measures check and repair cracks, gaps, holes, especially around doors, windows, pipes that penetrate the attic ceiling and other areas with high potential for heat loss, using caulk, foam sealant, weather stripping, door sweeps, electrical receptacle and gaskets to reduce infiltration. Some of the measures may include replacing old drafty doors with tightly sealing foam core doors.

A low-income household spends 14% of their total annual income on energy compared to 3.5% for higher income households.

Low-income families often cut back on other necessities to pay their energy bills. Weatherization reduces a household's gas, heating and cooling consumption by nearly 33% and creates average energy savings of \$300 per year. Annually, the CAP Riverside Weatherization program weatherized more than 650 homes. For every \$1.00 invested in weatherization, there is a return of \$2.10 in energy related benefits.

Weatherization is done free of charge to the applicant if they qualify within the low-income guidelines required by the program.

St. Paul A.M.E Church will conduct Thanksgiving, Sharing & Caring Day

The Black Voice News
SAN BERNARDINO

St. Paul A.M.E Church will conduct its annual "Thanksgiving, Sharing & Caring Day on Saturday, November 21," from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the church campus located at 1355W 21st St. in San Bernardino. The day's

theme is "feeding the whole person."

St. Paul will host the following pavilions: 1.) Food Pavilion: Serving a traditional Thanksgiving meal, as well as providing participants a bag of groceries; 2.) Health Pavilion: Providing FREE Mammogram screenings, dental screenings, High Blood Pressure, HIV/AIDS screen-

ings. In addition, there will be hearing testing, as well as diabetes, cholesterol, and body mass index testing. Information on Planned Parenthood "Choices" will be available; 3.) Green Living Pavilion: Providing information on energy efficiency, green jobs, water conservation, air quality, and green chemistry (toxic household

products). St. Paul will also unveil its new community garden; and 4.) Vendor's Pavilion: Providing "free giveaways" from 37 vendors including California Access and Molina Healthcare. Free new clothes and toys will be available as well.

For more information, contact (909) 887-1718.