

50 cents

The California

Volume 45 No. 4 ~ January 28, 2011

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ADVOCATE

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Fresno's African American Community Newspaper

Bomb Found At MLK March Had Chemical Component

A bomb maker mixed chemicals with shrapnel in what law enforcement officials say was a weapon designed to inflict maximum injuries during last week's Martin Luther King Jr. march in downtown Spokane.

Tests are being conducted to determine the type of chemical

and whether it made the bomb potentially more deadly, Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich said Tuesday.

"I know the bomb had some kind of chemical material inside, but we are still trying to figure out what kind. All we know there is a substance," Knezovich said.

"If there was an added dimension, it added to the lethality of it."

County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich said early talks indicated the chemical could have been a compound used in common rat poison. Rat poison has been added to bombs in the Middle

East for the stated purpose of acting as an anti-coagulant - which inhibits the ability of bleeding wounds to clot.

He cautioned that it was too early to confirm that mixing the chemical with the shrapnel was an overt act to make the bomb more

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FBI Revisits MLK Bomb Location Hoping For Witnesses

Officials To Examine Redevelopment Agency Of Fresno

SACRAMENTO -

State Controller John Chiang today announced his auditors were beginning reviews of 18 redevelopment agencies (RDA) across the state in an effort to obtain facts on how RDA funds are used and the extent to which they

comply with laws governing their activities.

"The heated debate over whether RDAs are the engines of local economic and job growth or are simply scams providing windfalls to political cronies at the ex-

Continued on Page 10 ▶

Mom Jailed Trying to Put Kids in a Better School

OHIO -

A Summit County woman will spend 10 days in jail after she was found guilty in a school residency case that could set a precedent for Ohio school districts.

Judge Patricia Cosgrove also placed 40-year-old Kelly Williams-Bolar on two years probation and ordered her to complete 80 hours of community service.

On Saturday, a jury found Williams-Bolar guilty on two counts of tampering with records. She was also facing one count of grand theft, but the judge declared a mistrial on that charge after the

jury couldn't reach a verdict.

"I felt that some punishment or deterrent was needed for other individuals who might think to defraud the various school systems," Cosgrove told NewsChannel5 after the sentencing.

Prosecutors said Williams-Bolar lived in Akron, but falsified enrollment papers in the Copley-Fairlawn School District so her two girls could attend schools for two years.

Prosecutors said the lies cost the district about \$30,000. Copley-Fairlawn does not have open enrollment and out-of-district tuition is about \$800 per month. ■

Chevron Strikes Oil in Wells Off Congo

CALIFORNIA -

Chevron Corp. said Tuesday that it has hit oil in two wells in the Atlantic Ocean about 40 miles off the coast of the Republic of Congo.

The wells, in 2,600 feet of water, were drilled to about 6,000 feet, and each was tested and oil

flowed, the company said in a statement.

"These discoveries further demonstrate the potential of West Africa where Chevron has made significant investments to develop new energy resources," company Vice Chairman George Kirkland said. ■

Black Adults Say Today's Kids Have it Worse

Black children in the United States face harsher conditions today than they did in 1994, say most black adults surveyed for a new report. They cited bleak economic opportunities and disproportionately high black incarceration rates, among other things. But black youths themselves are more optimistic, with 72 percent saying they have it easier today

than did their parents' generation. The findings come from a report sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, a Washington-based advocacy group.

The report, conducted by Hart Research Associates, is based on interviews in November and December of 801 black adults and 403 black youths ages 11 to 17. ■

WE DO BIG THINGS

President Barack Obama's State of the Union Speech

Delivered to Congress and the nation on January 25th 2011

THE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, members of Congress, distinguished guests, and fellow Americans:

Tonight I want to begin by congratulating the men and women of the 112th Congress, as well as your new Speaker, John Boehner. (Applause.) And as we mark this occasion, we're also mindful of the empty chair in this chamber, and we pray for the health of our colleague - and our friend - Gabby Giffords. (Applause.)

It's no secret that those of us here tonight have had our differences over the last two years. The debates have been contentious; we have fought fiercely for our beliefs. And that's a good thing. That's what a robust democracy demands. That's what helps set us apart as a nation.

But there's a reason the tragedy in Tucson gave us pause. Amid all the noise and passion and rancor of our public debate, Tucson reminded us that no matter who we are or where we come from, each of us is a part of something greater - something more consequential than party or political preference.

We are part of the American family. We believe that in a country where every race and faith and point of view can be found, we are still bound together as one people; that we share common hopes and a common creed; that the dreams of a little girl in Tucson are not so different than those of our own children, and that they all deserve the chance to be fulfilled.

That, too, is what sets us apart as a nation.

Continued on Page 8 ▶



91% Approve of State of The Union Speech

An overwhelming majority of Americans approved of the overall message in President Obama's State of the Union speech on Tuesday night, according to a CBS News poll of speech watchers.

According to the poll, which was conducted online by Knowledge Networks immediately after the president's address, 91 percent of those who watched the speech approved of the proposals Mr. Obama put forth during his remarks. Only nine percent disapproved.

Last year, 83 percent of viewers approved of Mr. Obama's State of the Union remarks.

This year, 82 percent of those who watched the speech said they approve of the president's plans for the economy, up from 53 percent who approved before the speech. Eighty percent said they approved of Mr. Obama's plans for the deficit - in contrast to 45 percent before the speech. Eighty-three percent approved of Mr. Obama's proposals regarding Afghanistan, which received only a 57 percent approval rating beforehand.

The sight of Democrats and Republicans sitting side by side gave speech watchers more confidence about the possibility of bipartisan cooperation: 62 percent said they

Continued on Page 10 ▶

Bush Administration Broke the Law in 2006 Elections



By PETE YOST

WASHINGTON (AP) -

In the run-up to the 2006 midterm election in which Republicans lost control of the House, the Bush administration repeatedly broke the law by using federal funds to send Cabinet secretaries and other high-level political appointees to congressional districts of GOP candidates in tight races, according to a government report.

"Because those trips were classified as official, funds from the U.S. Treasury were used to finance the trips and reimbursement from the relevant campaigns was never sought," stated the report by the Office of Special Counsel, an independent federal agency that enforces Hatch Act restrictions on partisan political activity inside the federal government.

"In other cases, even when trips were correctly designated as polit-

ical, agencies used U.S. Treasury funds to cover the costs associated with the trips and did not recoup those funds as required by the Hatch Act and its regulations," the office concluded.

OSC found that 10 agencies used federal funds to pay for political appointees to travel to events supporting Republican candidates in 2006 in an operation monitored closely by the White House Office

Continued on Page 10 ▶



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MICHAEL VICK: Eagles QB Signs First Deal For Endorsement Since Arrest

Michael Vick: Eagles QB Signs First Endorsement Deal Since Arrest.

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick, two years removed from prison and following a sensational 2010 NFL season, has just signed his first endorsement deal since he was arrested for running a dog fighting ring.

Vick signed with Unequal Technologies, a manufacturer of football pads that

Vick wore last season.

Unequal Technologies chief executive officer Rob Vito feels Vick should be treated equal after improving his ways since the arrest: "We're real excited about it," he said Tuesday. "Michael is good people. He paid his dues. President Obama reached out to him. He deserves an opportunity. This is what makes America so great. He's moved forward. He's a whole other

person."

Vick signed a two-year contract with the company.

"We believe it was worth it," Vito said, "because of Michael Vick and how he can shed light on the technology of our products."

Vick passed for over 3,000 yards this season with 21 touchdowns to six interceptions, and rushed for 676 yards and nine touchdowns.

He led the 10-6 Eagles to the playoffs.

Flavor Flav Opens His First Chicken Eatery in Iowa

IOWA –

Rapper and reality TV star Flavor Flav is bringing the flavor of chicken to Iowa.

Flav's Fried Chicken opens Monday in Clinton, Iowa. Flav has been there preparing for the launch and told the Clinton Herald he'll

visit often for promotions and even work the fryer.

Flav says it's the first in a chain that stemmed from the 99 cent wings he served at Mama Cimino in Las Vegas. His business partner is the brother of that restaurant's owner.

Flavor Flav, whose real

name William Drayton Jr., founded hip-hop group Public Enemy in the '80s. He found fame anew in 2004 on the third season of VH1's "The Surreal Life." He also starred in the network's "Flavor of Love."

He has a culinary degree and restaurant experience.

Will.i.am Teams with Intel on New Partnership

LOS ANGELES
HOLLYWOOD REPORTER –

Black Eyed Peas frontman will.i.am has teamed up with Intel Corp. to become their new Director of Creative Innovation.

The Grammy Award-winning musician will be assisting with the development of devices including laptops, smart phones and

tablets, Intel announced Tuesday at their internal sales and marketing conference.

Intel, the world's largest chipmaker, hopes to gain the attention of younger generations by incorporating both entertainment and technology, according to Deborah Conrad, the company's head of marketing.

Will.i.am will be in-

involved in a multiyear collaboration with the technology giant, which is said to be a hands-on, creative partnership.

Intel's chips currently run more than 80 percent of the world's personal computers.

The Black Eyed Peas have sold 29 million records and have won 6 Grammy Awards.

Jay-Z And Will Smith Team Up For Major Movie Project

JEFFREY UFBERG,
GETTY IMAGES

Last week word got out that Willow Smith was in talks to star in an 'Annie' remake with Jay-Z overseeing the soundtrack, the rumors have been confirmed. Will Smith's Overbrook Entertainment has officially formed a joint venture with Jay-Z to develop and produce the remake of the classic 1977 musical, with Willow attached to star as little orphan Annie and Sony Pictures to fund the film.

"The Overbrook Entertainment family and I have a unified vision," said Jay in a statement, referencing their past ventures in producing the Broadway musical 'Fela!' "We've already produced a Tony Award winning play and we're developing a true superstar in Willow. This venture into film development and production is a perfect next step with teams that are accomplished, creative, and innovative."

Overbrook, which consists of partners James Lassiter, Ken Stovitz, Jada Pinkett Smith and Will Smith, echoed Hov's sentiments.

"We are excited to partner together to develop and produce a wide variety of films with our longtime friend Jay-Z, with whom we share a common global vision, both commercially and philosophically, and look forward to collaborating once again with the in-



Will Smith



Jay Z

credibly talented executives at Sony," said Lassiter.

Though it's unconfirmed if Jay will handle the music side of 'Annie,' Willow is set to take a break from music to film the remake. The 10-year-old singer, who is signed to Jay's Roc Nation imprint, recently released her platinum single 'Whip My Hair' and is soon to follow up with the dance-driven single '21st Century Girl.' Her debut album is slated for release later this spring.

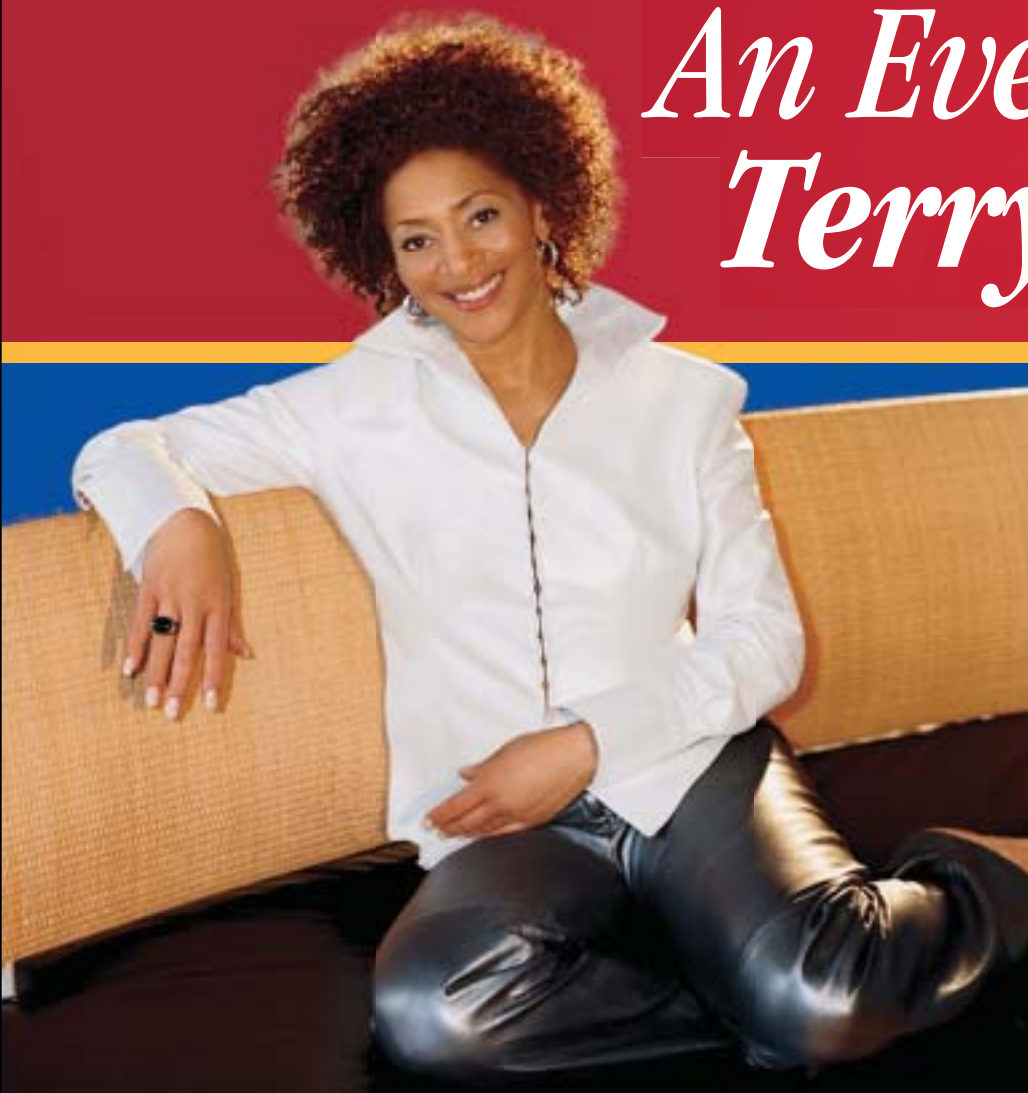
Jay-Z Partners with Will, Jada Smith For Film Venture, Preps 'Annie' Remake

Will Smith, Jada Pinkett Smith and their partners at Overbrook Entertainment have formed a joint-venture with Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter to develop and produce major motion pic-


tures. First up? A remake of the Broadway musical "Annie," in which Will and Jada's daughter, Willow – who recently signed to Jay-Z's Roc Nation label – will star in.

Although the project is in its preliminary stages, it will be developed with Sony Pictures Entertainment and produced by Overbrook and Jay.

The partnership between Will and Jada and Jay-Z began when the three decided to invest in the beauty line Carol's Daughter. Their next venture together was when they joined forces again to co-produce the Broadway play "Fela!" Since then, Willow, who is managed by Overbrook's Miguel Melendez, has signed to Roc Nation and released first single "Whip My Hair."



An Evening with Terry McMillan

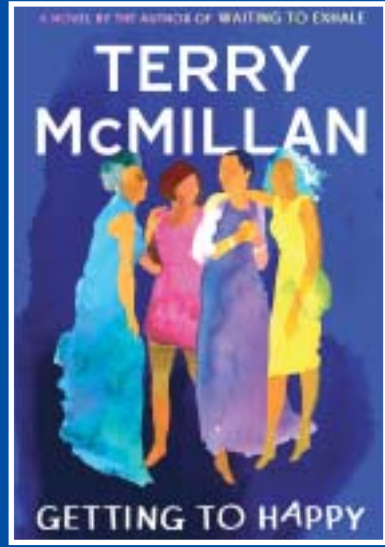

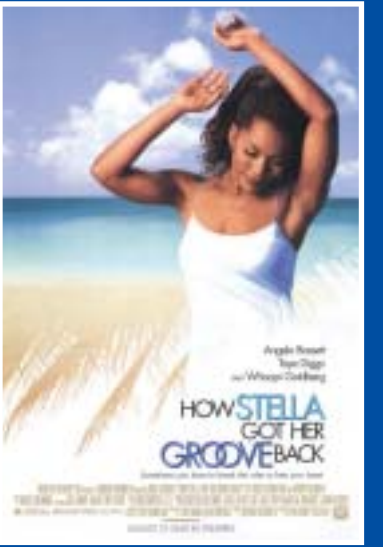


Best-Selling author of *Waiting to Exhale* and *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, Terry McMillan will speak in depth on her latest novel, *Getting to Happy*. McMillan is the winner of both an NAACP Image Award and an Essence Award. The Martin Luther King Visiting Scholars committee selected McMillan to speak with funding support from IRA.

Since her breakout novel *Waiting to Exhale* surged onto *The New York Times* bestseller list, critics and readers alike have been captivated by her irreverent, often-hilarious take on the issues faced by con-

temporary African-American women. With several of her bestsellers, including *Waiting to Exhale*, *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, and *Disappearing Acts*, made into hit movies, she has made her mark on both the literary world as well as in Hollywood.

In 2002, McMillan won an NAACP Image Award and an Essence Award. She released her first non-fiction effort in 2006 under the title, *Its Okay if You're Clueless*, and *23 More Tips for the College Bound*. McMillan is currently at work on a signature household line.

Saturday, February 12, 2011
7:00 p.m.

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Bernice King Resigns SCLC Presidency

Aims to Form an 'Army of Young People' Committed to Non-Violence

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

TRICE EDNEY NEWS WIRE

WASHINGTON –

After months of conflict, which Elder Bernice A. King described last year as suffocating the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, she has selected to step down from the presidency of the organization before ever really taking the helm.

“After numerous attempts to connect with the official Board leaders on how to move forward under my leadership, unfortunately, our visions did not align. Therefore, after praying mightily and seeking wise counsel, I have decided not to assume the presidency of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference,” King said in a statement released last week.

Then, in an interview with the Trice Edney News Wire, she explained that she had made her decision after being offered a contract that appeared to be irreconcilably board-driven when she had – at the board’s request three months ago – submitted her vision of a more affable style of leadership between



Bernice King

board and chief executive.

In a nutshell, King was elected as president and CEO in October 2009, but did not assume the office during legal turmoil surrounding the 53-year-old organization co-founded by her father, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Then, following a September 2010 court ruling, which determined SCLC’s legitimate Board of Directors, King reached out to the court-recognized board leadership regarding her transition, but there was no agreement on how to move forward.

“When there was no consideration for talking about it, discussing a win-win situation,” she said in the interview, “I felt it was in my

best interest as well as in the best interest of the organization if I declined the position and allowed them to move in the direction that they choose to move in.”

But, as the youngest King daughter, renown for her oratorical skills, she appears to be moving ahead with clarity of vision and purpose. She outlined three key roles that she will take on in coming years in her mission to continue her family’s legacy of progress for people of color.

She announced that she is shifting her focus to further grow the legacy of her mother, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, who maintained a vision for women leadership development through the Coretta Scott King Young Women’s Leadership Academy in Atlanta.

She spoke excitedly of how she just kicked off 100 days of non-violence on the day after the King Birthday Holiday “and will culminate on my mother’s birthday on April 27.”

Amidst record youth violence and bullying, she said she anticipates carrying the message of non-violence further into other Atlanta schools, “particularly those named after my father” and

then to other parts of the nation as well.

Her goal, she says, is to “have an army of young people who are committed to embracing non-violence.”

King also spoke guardedly about a “ministry initiative” that she will be announcing later this year. But, she declined to ex-

pound.

Finally, King announced that she has formed a partnership with Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, which was inspired by the SCLC.

“We’ll be dealing with the Black-Brown divide, addressing issues of educa-

tion and health disparities” with 6-9th graders, she said.

Leaving behind the SCLC controversy, King indicates that she carries no bitterness or ill will: “I will continue to pray for SCLC’s growth and resurrection and wish the organization great success in its mission.”

Fox News’ Credibility on the Decline; PBS is Top-Rated

“PPP’s annual look at the public’s trust in various TV news outlets finds that Fox News’ credibility is on the decline, that the traditional networks are seeing an up tick in their numbers, and that PBS is at the top of the heap,” the group Public Policy Polling reported Wednesday.

“A year ago a plurality of Americans said they trusted Fox News. Now a plurality of them don’t. Conservatives haven’t moved all that much — 75% said they trusted it last year and 72% still do this time around.

“But moderates and liberals have both had a strong increase in their level of distrust for the network — a 12 point gain from 48% to 60% for moderates and a 16 point gain from 66% to 82% for liberals. Voters between left and center tend to be more trusting of the media across the board, which is why a fair number of them were still rating Fox favorably even a year ago at this time. But it looks like with a lot of those folks it has finally crossed the line to being too political to trust.”

THE CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE

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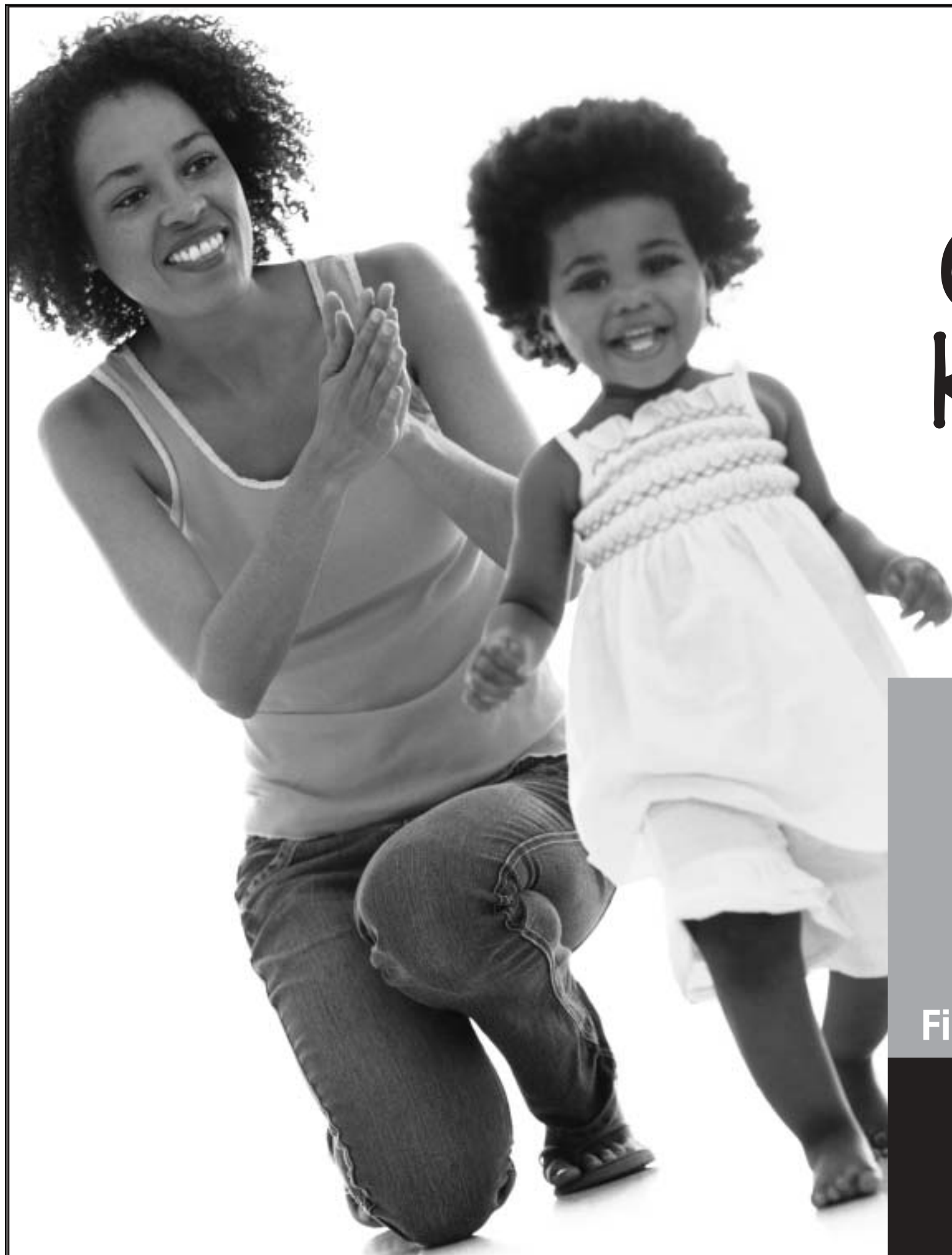
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News Story About Missing Black Girl Replaced with White Girl Story on Nancy Grace TV Show

By SCOTTY REID -

MARYLAND -

The mother of missing Black Teen Phylicia Barnes and a spokesperson for the Baltimore Police Department are critical of the national media in its slow reaction in covering the case of the missing black teen.

Janice Sallis, Phylicia's mother who lives in Monroe, North Carolina was interviewed this past Sunday by CNN's Don Lemon stating, "The first 48 hours were crucial and they were ignored". Phylicia Barnes

disappeared from her half-sisters apartment in Baltimore, Maryland while visiting back in December of 2010.

Janice Sallis has been very vocal and critical of Phylicia's paternal older sister whom was supposed to be caring for the teen when reports surfaced that the police found that many people came in out of the apartment and reported use of drugs and alcohol.

Janice Sallis was not clear on whom she blames in the media for not covering the case early on.

However, Baltimore police spokesperson Anthony Guglielmi was very clear in blaming the national media for not providing adequate coverage early on in the girl's disappearance. In a recent CNN interview, Guglielmi said, "this girl's in danger. And she needs help. And it was very frustrating for my office to see an anemic response from our national media partners". Guglielmi singled out CNN's Nancy Grace and said that he and the commander of the homicide unit were set to appear on Nancy

Grace's national program to discuss missing teen Phylicia Barnes but were bumped from the program for an hour long report on missing white teen Hailey Dunn who is a cheerleader at Colorado Middle School in Colorado City, Texas.

Hailey Dunn was reported missing on December 28, 2010 and has not been found and dogs searching for the teen reportedly found evidence at a landfill in Abilene, Texas, some 70 miles from Colorado City. Investigators did not elaborate on what type of evi-

dence was recovered from the landfill.

Black Talk Radio News & Views contacted CNN for comment on why Phylicia Barnes story was bumped for a report on Hailey Dunn that took an entire hour. At the time of this report, CNN or Nancy Grace has issued no statement on the matter. Many in the black community feel that the national media does not give adequate attention to stories of missing black children and tend to favor stories about missing blonde haired white girls.

About 26 Million People in U.S. Have diabetes; Up 9%

ATLANTA -

U.S. health officials have raised their estimate of how many Americans have diabetes to nearly 26 million.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the new estimate Wednesday. It means about 1 in 12 Americans have diabetes, a disease in which the body has trouble processing sugar.

The new figure marks a 9 percent increase from the 2008 estimate of 23.6 million.

Health officials believe diabetes is becoming more common for two reasons - more people are developing obesity-related Type 2 diabetes, and people who have it are living longer.

But CDC officials say an additional blood sugar test that's now used more widely may be responsible for as much as half of the increase.

Family of Victim Killed by LAPD Officer Awarded \$1.7 Million

After deciding this week that a former Los Angeles police officer fired for dishonesty was liable for killing a man, a federal jury Wednesday awarded the victim's family \$1.7 million.

Joseph Cruz killed Mohammad Usman Chaudhry early on a March morning in 2008, when Cruz and his partner encountered the 21-year-old autistic man lying in the bushes alongside a Hollywood apartment building.

Since the killing, Cruz has insisted that Chaudhry tried to attack him with a knife and that he fired his gun in self-defense. On Monday, however, after four days of testimony, the

jury rejected Cruz's account when it returned a unanimous verdict finding that the ex-officer had used excessive force and acted in "a reckless, oppressive or malicious manner" when he shot Chaudhry.

During the trial, lawyers for the Chaudhry family presented evidence aimed at putting doubt in the minds of the jurors over Cruz's account. Testing on the knife that Cruz said Chaudhry had used, for example, found one person's DNA profile on the handle and blade but showed that the DNA was not Chaudhry's.

Also, after Cruz claimed he had never met Chaudhry before the shooting, a man testified that he had been

present on multiple occasions when Cruz confronted Chaudhry and called him by name.

After the verdict, the jury was asked to decide how much money, if any, to award Chaudhry's parents. Attorneys representing Cruz and the city of Los Angeles had tried to limit the size of the award by arguing that Chaudhry had had a frayed relationship with his parents that lessened their suffering.

Lawyers for the family countered that the parents cared deeply for their son, despite the strain on the relationship caused by his autism.

"We're very pleased. I think the jury saw the truth

in this case," said Olu Orange, an attorney for the family. "This was about restoring the honor of this family's son."

Orange called on the city, and specifically Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, to forgo an appeal.

"In light of the findings of the jury on the facts of this case, I hope Mayor Villaraigosa would apologize to the Chaudhry family on behalf of the city, accept the verdict and not put the family through further trauma over the loss of their son," he said. "If the city doesn't, they'll just be spending more taxpayer money to defend a dishonest cop."

John Franklin, a spokesman for the city at-

torney's office, declined to comment on the verdict or whether the city would appeal. Peter J. Ferguson, who represented Cruz, could not be reached immediately for comment.

The award punctuates the awkward role the city played in the case. After the shooting, the LAPD fired Cruz for dishonesty in an unrelated case. At the time, lawyers for the city argued that Cruz had destroyed his credibility.

During the trial, however, the LAPD and city attorney's office tried to persuade the jury that Cruz was, in fact, credible and that his account of the shooting should be believed.

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Janice M. Stain, MD, OB/GYN
Community Medical Centers Physician

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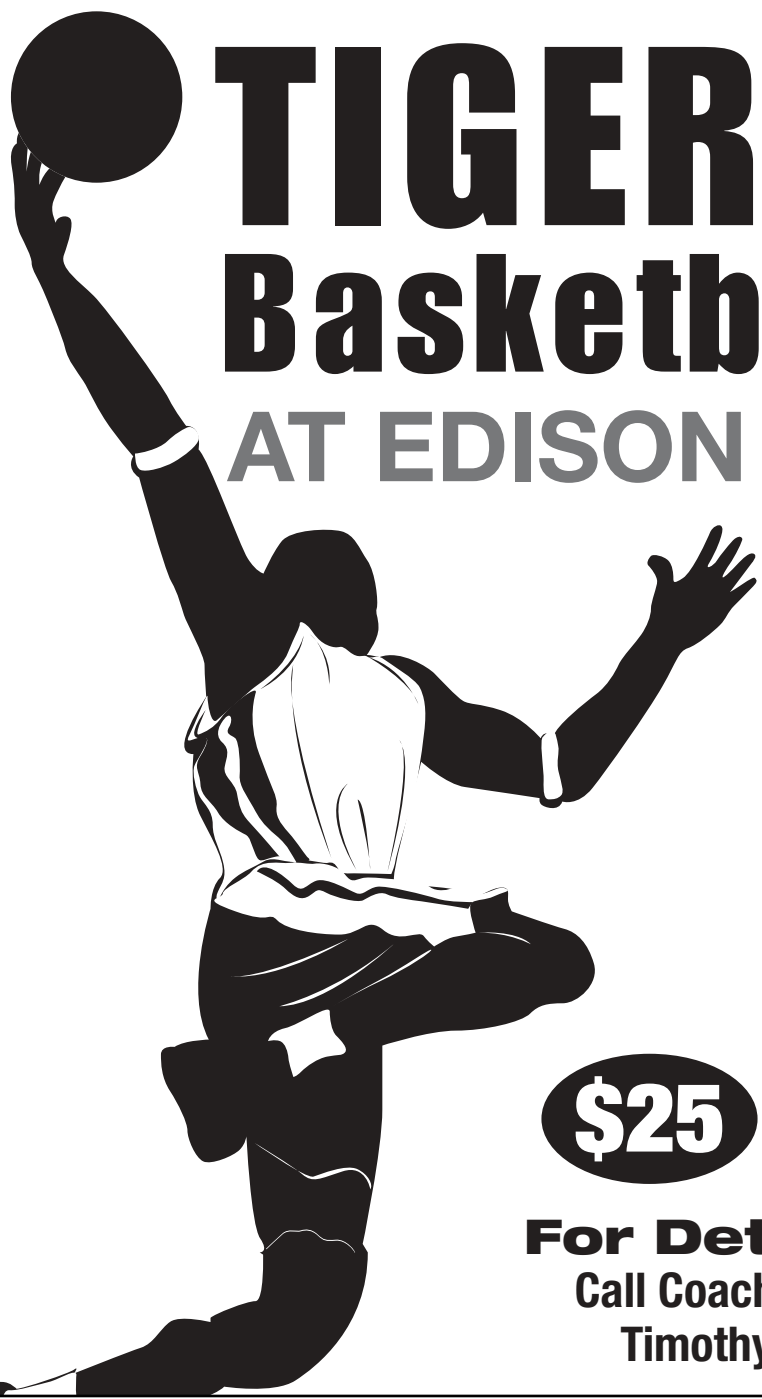


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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

"What's Going on in Your Community"

Tiger Youth Basketball League

JAN/FEB
'11
Tiger Youth Basketball league will be held every Saturday from January to February at Edison High School. Boys and Girls between the grades of K - 8 are welcome to attend. Parents interested can register at Edison High School in the front office or contact Coach Wilkins at (559)284-2335 or email timothy.wilkins@fresnounified.org.

Annual Quilt Show: "Quilts from the Mother Land"

FEB
5
We are planning our Annual Quilt Show, "Quilts from the Mother Land" at St. Community Church of God in Christ for Black History Month in February. If you are interested in displaying your quilt, please join us. The quilt show will be held February 5th, 2011. There is a \$10 entry fee per quilt (a maximum of 2 quilts). General admission is \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Quilts will be on sale by different quilters. For more information or to receive an application, email wjcjean49@yahoo.com or call (559) 289-2226.

The African-American Museum

FEB
12
The African American Historical and Cultural Museum of San Joaquin Valley presents their Black History Month Celebration Banquet held on February 12th, 2011, at the Holiday Inn Hotel. The reception will start at 6pm followed by a dinner at 7pm For more information, contact (559) 268-7102.

Bethel Temple Fashion Show

JAN
29
Fashion Show! Auction! Lunch Buffet! The Bethel Temple invites you to our 6th Annual Fashion Show and Auction on Saturday, January 29th, 11:30, at the EOC Nielson Conference Center. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling (559) 442-1463.

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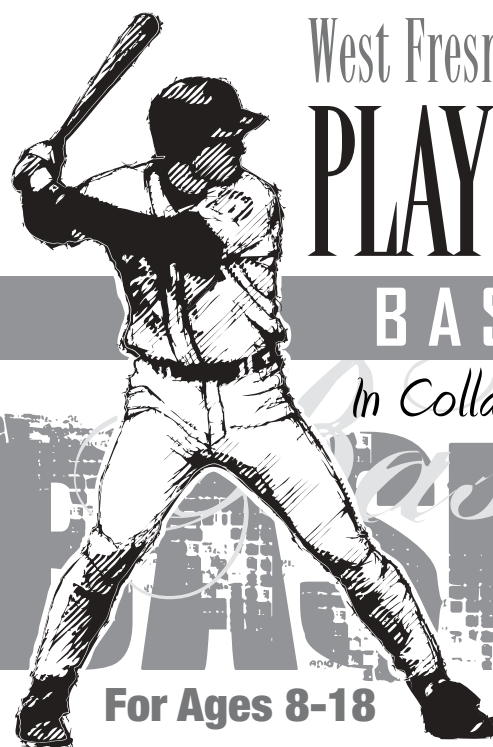
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Obama's State of the Union Speech...

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Now, by itself, this simple recognition won't usher in a new era of cooperation. What comes of this moment is up to us. What comes of this moment will be determined not by whether we can sit together tonight, but whether we can work together tomorrow. (Applause.)

I believe we can. And I believe we must. That's what the people who sent us here expect of us. With their votes, they've determined that governing will now be a shared responsibility between parties. New laws will only pass with support from Democrats and Republicans. We will move forward together, or not at all – for the challenges we face are bigger than party, and bigger than politics.

At stake right now is not who wins the next election – after all, we just had an election. At stake is whether new jobs and industries take root in this country, or somewhere else. It's whether the hard work and industry of our people is rewarded. It's whether we sustain the leadership that has made America not just a place on a map, but the light to the world.

We are poised for progress. Two years after the worst recession most of us have ever known, the stock market has come roaring back. Corporate profits are up. The economy is growing again.

But we have never measured progress by these yardsticks alone. We measure progress by the success of our people. By the jobs they can find and the quality of life those jobs offer. By the prospects of a small business owner who dreams of turning a good idea into a thriving enterprise. By the opportunities for a better life that we pass on to our children.

That's the project the American people want us to work on. Together. (Applause.)

We did that in December. Thanks to the tax cuts we passed, Americans' paychecks are a little bigger today. Every business can write off the full cost of new investments that they make this year. And these steps, taken by Democrats and Republicans, will grow the economy and add to the more than one million private sector jobs created last year.

But we have to do more. These steps we've taken over the last two years may have broken the back of this recession, but to win the future, we'll need to take on challenges that have been decades in the making.

Many people watching tonight can probably remember a time when finding a good job meant showing up at a nearby factory or a business downtown. You didn't always need a degree, and your competition was pretty much limited to your neighbors. If you worked hard, chances are you'd have a job for life, with a decent paycheck and good benefits and the occasional promotion. Maybe you'd even have the pride of seeing your kids work at the same company.

That world has changed. And for many, the change has been painful. I've seen it in the shuttered windows of once booming factories, and the vacant storefronts on once busy Main Streets. I've heard it in the frustrations of Americans who've seen their paychecks dwindle or their jobs disappear – proud men and women who feel like the rules have been changed in the middle of the game.

They're right. The rules have changed. In a single generation, revolutions in technology have transformed the way we live, work and do business. Steel mills that once needed 1,000 workers can now do the same work with 100. Today, just about any company can set up shop, hire workers, and sell their products wherever there's an Internet connection.

Meanwhile, nations like China and India realized that with some changes of their own, they could compete in this new world. And so they started educating their children earlier and longer, with greater emphasis on math and science. They're investing in research and new technologies. Just recently, China became the home to the world's largest private solar research facility, and the world's fastest computer.

So, yes, the world has changed. The competition for jobs is real. But this shouldn't discourage us. It should challenge us. Remember – for all the hits we've taken these last few years, for all the naysayers predicting our decline, America still has the largest, most prosperous economy in the world. (Applause.) No workers – no workers are more productive than ours. No country has more successful companies, or grants more patents to inventors and entrepreneurs. We're the home to the world's best colleges and universities, where more students come to study than any place on Earth.

What's more, we are the first nation to be founded for the sake of an idea – the idea that each of us deserves the chance to shape our own destiny. That's why centuries of pioneers and immigrants have risked everything to come here. It's why our students don't just memorize equations, but answer questions like "What do you think of that idea? What would you change about the world? What do you want to be when you grow up?"

The future is ours to win. But to get there, we can't just stand still. As Robert Kennedy told us, "The future is not a gift. It is an achievement." Sustaining the American Dream has never been about standing pat. It has required each generation to sacrifice, and struggle, and meet the demands of a new age.

And now it's our turn. We know what it takes to compete for the jobs and industries of our time. We need to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world. (Applause.) We have to make America the best place on Earth to do business. We need to take responsibility for our deficit and reform our government. That's how our people will prosper. That's how we'll win the future. (Applause.) And tonight, I'd like to talk about how we get there.

The first step in winning the future is encouraging American innovation. None of us can predict with certainty what the next big industry will be or where the new jobs will come from. Thirty years ago, we couldn't know that something called the Internet would lead to an economic revolution. What we can do – what America does better than anyone else – is spark the creativity and imagination of our people. We're the nation that put cars in driveways and computers in offices; the nation of Edison and the Wright brothers; of Google and Facebook. In America, innovation doesn't just change our lives. It is how we make our living. (Applause.)

Our free enterprise system is what drives innovation. But because it's not always profitable for companies to invest in basic research, throughout our history, our government has provided cutting-edge scientists and inventors with the support that they need. That's what planted the seeds for the Internet. That's what helped make possible things like computer chips and GPS. Just think of all the good jobs – from manufacturing to retail – that have come from these breakthroughs.

Half a century ago, when the Soviets beat us into space with the launch of a satellite called Sputnik, we had no idea how we would beat them to the moon. The science wasn't even there yet. NASA didn't exist. But after investing in better research and education, we didn't just surpass the Soviets; we unleashed a wave of innovation that created new industries and millions of new jobs.

This is our generation's Sputnik moment. Two years ago, I said that we needed to reach a level of research and development we haven't seen since the height of the Space Race. And in a few weeks, I will be sending a budget to Congress that helps us meet that goal. We'll invest in biomedical research, information technology, and especially clean energy technology – (applause) – an investment that will strengthen our security, protect our planet, and create countless new jobs for our people.

Already, we're seeing the promise of renewable energy. Robert and Gary Allen are brothers who run a small Michigan roofing company. After September 11th, they volunteered their best roofers to help repair the Pentagon. But half of their factory went unused, and the recession hit them hard. Today, with the help of a government loan, that empty space is being used to manufacture solar shingles that are being sold all across the country. In Robert's words, "We reinvented ourselves."

That's what Americans have done for over 200 years: reinvented ourselves. And to spur on more success stories like the Allen Brothers, we've begun to reinvent our energy policy. We're not just handing out money. We're issuing a challenge. We're telling America's scientists and engineers that if they assemble teams of the best minds in their fields, and focus on the hardest problems in clean energy, we'll fund the Apollo projects of our time.

At the California Institute of Technology, they're developing a way to turn sunlight and water into fuel for our cars. At Oak Ridge National Laboratory, they're using supercomputers to get a lot more power out of our nuclear facilities. With more research and incentives, we can break our dependence on oil with biofuels, and become the first country to have a million electric vehicles on the road by 2015. (Applause.)

We need to get behind this innovation. And to help pay for it, I'm asking Congress to eliminate the billions in taxpayer dollars we currently give to oil companies. (Applause.) I don't know if – I don't know if you've noticed, but they're doing just fine on their own. (Laughter.) So instead of subsidizing yesterday's energy, let's invest in tomorrow's.

Now, clean energy breakthroughs will only translate into clean energy jobs if businesses know there will be a market for what they're selling. So tonight, I challenge you to join me in setting a new goal: By 2035, 80 percent of America's electricity will come from clean energy sources. (Applause.)

Some folks want wind and solar. Others want nuclear, clean coal and natural gas. To meet this goal, we will need them all – and I urge Democrats and Republicans to work together to make it happen. (Applause.)

Maintaining our leadership in research and technology is crucial to America's success. But if we want to win the future – if we want innovation to produce jobs in America and not overseas – then we also have to win the race to educate our kids.

Think about it. Over the next 10 years, nearly half of all new jobs will require education that goes beyond a high school education. And yet, as many as a quarter of our students aren't even finishing high school. The quality of our math and science education lags behind many other nations. America has fallen to ninth in the proportion of young people with a college degree. And so the question is whether all of us – as citizens, and as parents – are willing to do what's nec-



essary to give every child a chance to succeed.

That responsibility begins not in our classrooms, but in our homes and communities. It's family that first instills the love of learning in a child. Only parents can make sure the TV is turned off and homework gets done. We need to teach our kids that it's not just the winner of the Super Bowl who deserves to be celebrated, but the winner of the science fair. (Applause.) We need to teach them that success is not a function of fame or PR, but of hard work and discipline.

Our schools share this responsibility. When a child walks into a classroom, it should be a place of high expectations and high performance. But too many schools don't meet this test. That's why instead of just pouring money into a system that's not working, we launched a competition called Race to the Top. To all 50 states, we said, "If you show us the most innovative plans to improve teacher quality and student achievement, we'll show you the money."

Race to the Top is the most meaningful reform of our public schools in a generation. For less than 1 percent of what we spend on education each year, it has led over 40 states to raise their standards for teaching and learning. And these standards were developed, by the way, not by Washington, but by Republican and Democratic governors throughout the country. And Race to the Top should be the approach we follow this year as we replace No Child Left Behind with a law that's more flexible and focused on what's best for our kids. (Applause.)

You see, we know what's possible from our children when reform isn't just a top-down mandate, but the work of local teachers and principals, school boards and communities. Take a school like Bruce Randolph in Denver. Three years ago, it was rated one of the worst schools in Colorado – located on turf between two rival gangs. But last May, 97 percent of the seniors received their diploma. Most will be the first in their families to go to college. And after the first year of the school's transformation, the principal who made it possible wiped away tears when a student said, "Thank you, Ms. Waters, for showing that we are smart and we can make it." (Applause.) That's what good schools can do, and we want good schools all across the country.

Let's also remember that after parents, the biggest impact on a child's success comes from the man or woman at the front of the classroom. In South Korea, teachers are known as "nation builders." Here in America, it's time we treated the people who educate our children with the same level of respect. (Applause.) We want to reward good teachers and stop making excuses for bad ones. (Applause.) And over the next 10 years, with so many baby boomers retiring from our classrooms, we want to prepare 100,000 new teachers in the fields of science and technology and engineering and math. (Applause.)

In fact, to every young person listening tonight who's contemplating their career choice: If you want to make a difference in the life of our nation; if you want to make a difference in the life of a child – become a teacher. Your country needs you. (Applause.)

Of course, the education race doesn't end with a high school diploma. To compete, higher education must be within the reach of every American. (Applause.) That's why we've ended the unwarranted taxpayer subsidies that went to banks, and used the savings to make college affordable for millions of students. (Applause.) And this year, I ask Congress to go further, and make permanent our tuition tax credit – worth \$10,000 for four years of college. It's the right thing to do. (Applause.)

Because people need to be able to train for new jobs and careers in today's fast-changing economy, we're also revitalizing America's community colleges. Last month, I saw the promise of these schools at Forsyth Tech in North Carolina. Many of the students there used to work in the surrounding factories that have since left town. One mother of two, a woman named Kathy Proctor, had worked in the furniture industry since she was 18 years old. And she told me she's

earning her degree in biotechnology now, at 55 years old, not just because the furniture jobs are gone, but because she wants to inspire her children to pursue their dreams, too. As Kathy said, "I hope it tells them to never give up."

If we take these steps – if we raise expectations for every child, and give them the best possible chance at an education, from the day they are born until the last job they take – we will reach the goal that I set two years ago: By the end of the decade, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world. (Applause.)

One last point about education. Today, there are hundreds of thousands of students excelling in our schools who are not American citizens. Some are the children of undocumented workers, who had nothing to do with the actions of their parents. They grew up as Americans and pledge allegiance to our flag, and yet they live every day with the threat of deportation. Others come here from abroad to study in our colleges and universities. But as soon as they obtain advanced degrees, we send them back home to compete against us. It makes no sense.

Now, I strongly believe that we should take on, once and for all, the issue of illegal immigration. And I am prepared to work with Republicans and Democrats to protect our borders, enforce our laws and address the millions of undocumented workers who are now living in the shadows. (Applause.) I know that debate will be difficult. I know it will take time. But tonight, let's agree to make that effort. And let's stop expelling talented, responsible young people who could be staffing our research labs or starting a new business, who could be further enriching this nation. (Applause.)

The third step in winning the future is rebuilding America. To attract new businesses to our shores, we need the fastest, most reliable ways to move people, goods, and information – from high-speed rail to high-speed Internet. (Applause.)

Our infrastructure used to be the best, but our lead has slipped. South Korean homes now have greater Internet access than we do. Countries in Europe and Russia invest more in their roads and railways than we do. China is building faster trains and newer airports. Meanwhile, when our own engineers graded our nation's infrastructure, they gave us a "D."

We have to do better. America is the nation that built the transcontinental railroad, brought electricity to rural communities, constructed the Interstate Highway System. The jobs created by these projects didn't just come from laying down track or pavement. They came from businesses that opened near a town's new train station or the new off-ramp.

So over the last two years, we've begun rebuilding for the 21st century, a project that has meant thousands of good jobs for the hard-hit construction industry. And tonight, I'm proposing that we redouble those efforts. (Applause.)

We'll put more Americans to work repairing crumbling roads and bridges. We'll make sure this is fully paid for, attract private investment, and pick projects based [on] what's best for the economy, not politicians.

Within 25 years, our goal is to give 80 percent of Americans access to high-speed rail. (Applause.) This could allow you to go places in half the time it takes to travel by car. For some trips, it will be faster than flying – without the pat-down. (Laughter and applause.) As we speak, routes in California and the Midwest are already underway.

Within the next five years, we'll make it possible for businesses to deploy the next generation of high-speed wireless coverage to 98 percent of all Americans. This isn't just about – (applause) – this isn't about faster Internet or fewer dropped calls. It's about connecting every part of America to

the digital age. It's about a rural community in Iowa or Alabama where farmers and small business owners will be able to sell their products all over the world. It's about a firefighter who can download the design of a burning building onto a handheld device; a student who can take classes with a digital

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textbook; or a patient who can have face-to-face video chats with her doctor.

All these investments – in innovation, education, and infrastructure – will make America a better place to do business and create jobs. But to help our companies compete, we also have to knock down barriers that stand in the way of their success.

For example, over the years, a parade of lobbyists has rigged the tax code to benefit particular companies and industries. Those with accountants or lawyers to work the system can end up paying no taxes at all. But all the rest are hit with one of the highest corporate tax rates in the world. It makes no sense, and it has to change. (Applause.)

So tonight, I'm asking Democrats and Republicans to simplify the system. Get rid of the loopholes. Level the playing field. And use the savings to lower the corporate tax rate for the first time in 25 years – without adding to our deficit. It can be done. (Applause.)

To help businesses sell more products abroad, we set a goal of doubling our exports by 2014 – because the more we export, the more jobs we create here at home. Already, our exports are up. Recently, we signed agreements with India and China that will support more than 250,000 jobs here in the United States. And last month, we finalized a trade agreement with South Korea that will support at least 70,000 American jobs. This agreement has unprecedented support from business and labor, Democrats and Republicans – and I ask this Congress to pass it as soon as possible. (Applause.)

Now, before I took office, I made it clear that we would enforce our trade agreements, and that I would only sign deals that keep faith with American workers and promote American jobs. That's what we did with Korea, and that's what I intend to do as we pursue agreements with Panama and Colombia and continue our Asia Pacific and global trade talks. (Applause.)

To reduce barriers to growth and investment, I've ordered a review of government regulations. When we find rules that put an unnecessary burden on businesses, we will fix them. (Applause.) But I will not hesitate to create or enforce common-sense safeguards to protect the American people. (Applause.) That's what we've done in this country for more than a century. It's why our food is safe to eat, our water is safe to drink, and our air is safe to breathe. It's why we have speed limits and child labor laws. It's why last year, we put in place consumer protections against hidden fees and penalties by credit card companies and new rules to prevent another financial crisis. (Applause.) And it's why we passed reform that finally prevents the health insurance industry from exploiting patients. (Applause.)

Now, I have heard rumors that a few of you still have concerns about our new health care law. (Laughter.) So let me be the first to say that anything can be improved. If you have ideas about how to improve this law by making care better or more affordable, I am eager to work with you. We can start right now by correcting a flaw in the legislation that has placed an unnecessary bookkeeping burden on small businesses. (Applause.)

What I'm not willing to do – what I'm not willing to do is go back to the days when insurance companies could deny someone coverage because of a preexisting condition. (Applause.)

I'm not willing to tell James Howard, a brain cancer patient from Texas, that his treatment might not be covered. I'm not willing to tell Jim Houser, a small business man from Oregon, that he has to go back to paying \$5,000 more to cover his employees. As we speak, this law is making prescription drugs cheaper for seniors and giving uninsured students a chance to stay on their patients' – parents' coverage. (Applause.)

So I say to this chamber tonight, instead of re-fighting the battles of the last two years, let's fix what needs fixing and let's move forward. (Applause.)

Now, the final critical step in winning the future is to make sure we aren't buried under a mountain of debt.

We are living with a legacy of

deficit spending that began almost a decade ago. And in the wake of the financial crisis, some of that was necessary to keep credit flowing, save jobs, and put money in people's pockets.

But now that the worst of the recession is over, we have to confront the fact that our government spends more than it takes in. That is not sustainable. Every day, families sacrifice to live within their means. They deserve a government that does the same.

So tonight, I am proposing that starting this year, we freeze annual domestic spending for the next five years. (Applause.) Now, this would reduce the deficit by more than \$400 billion over the next decade, and will bring discretionary spending to the lowest share of our economy since Dwight Eisenhower was President.

This freeze will require painful cuts. Already, we've frozen the salaries of hardworking federal employees for the next two years. I've proposed cuts to things I care deeply about, like community action programs. The Secretary of Defense has also agreed to cut tens of billions of dollars in spending that he and his generals believe our military can do without. (Applause.)

I recognize that some in this chamber have already proposed deeper cuts, and I'm willing to eliminate whatever we can honestly afford to do without. But let's make sure that we're not doing it on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens. (Applause.) And let's make sure that what we're cutting is really excess weight. Cutting the deficit by gutting our investments in innovation and education is like lightening an overloaded airplane by removing its engine. It may make you feel like you're flying high at first, but it won't take long before you feel the impact. (Laughter.)

Now, most of the cuts and savings I've proposed only address annual domestic spending, which represents a little more than 12 percent of our budget. To make further progress, we have to stop pretending that cutting this kind of spending alone will be enough. It won't. (Applause.)

The bipartisan fiscal commission I created last year made this crystal clear. I don't agree with all their proposals, but they made important progress. And their conclusion is that the only way to tackle our deficit is to cut excessive spending wherever we find it – in domestic spending, defense spending, health care spending, and spending through tax breaks and loopholes. (Applause.)

This means further reducing health care costs, including programs like Medicare and Medicaid, which are the single biggest contributor to our long-term deficit. The health insurance law we passed last year will slow these rising costs, which is part of the reason that nonpartisan economists have said that repealing the health care law would add a quarter of a trillion dollars to our deficit. Still, I'm willing to look at other ideas to bring down costs, including one that Republicans suggested last year – medical malpractice reform to rein in frivolous lawsuits. (Applause.)

To put us on solid ground, we should also find a bipartisan solution to strengthen Social Security for future generations. (Applause.) We must do it without putting at risk current retirees, the most vulnerable, or people with disabilities; without slashing benefits for future generations; and without subjecting Americans' guaranteed retirement income to the whims of the stock market. (Applause.)

And if we truly care about our deficit, we simply can't afford a permanent extension of the tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans. (Applause.) Before we take money away from our schools or scholarships away from our students, we should ask millionaires to give up their tax break. It's not a matter of punishing their success. It's about promoting America's success. (Applause.)

In fact, the best thing we could do on taxes for all Americans is to simplify the individual tax code. (Applause.) This will be a tough job, but members of both parties have expressed an interest in doing this, and I am prepared to join them. (Applause.)

So now is the time to act. Now is the time for both sides and both houses of Congress – Democrats and Republicans – to forge a prin-

cipled compromise that gets the job done. If we make the hard choices now to rein in our deficits, we can make the investments we need to win the future.

Let me take this one step further. We shouldn't just give our people a government that's more affordable. We should give them a government that's more competent and more efficient. We can't win the future with a government of the past. (Applause.)

We live and do business in the Information Age, but the last major reorganization of the government happened in the age of black-and-white TV. There are 12 different agencies that deal with exports. There are at least five different agencies that deal with housing policy. Then there's my favorite example: The Interior Department is in charge of salmon while they're in fresh water, but the Commerce Department handles them when they're in saltwater. (Laughter.) I hear it gets even more complicated once they're smoked. (Laughter and applause.)

Now, we've made great strides over the last two years in using technology and getting rid of waste. Veterans can now download their electronic medical records with a click of the mouse. We're selling acres of federal office space that hasn't been used in years, and we'll cut through red tape to get rid of more. But we need to think bigger. In the coming months, my administration will develop a proposal to merge, consolidate, and reorganize the federal government in a way that best serves the goal of a more competitive America. I will submit that proposal to Congress for a vote – and we will push to get it passed. (Applause.)

In the coming year, we'll also work to rebuild people's faith in the institution of government. Because you deserve to know exactly how and where your tax dollars are being spent, you'll be able to go to a website and get that information for the very first time in history. Because you deserve to know when your elected officials are meeting with lobbyists, I ask Congress to do what the White House has already done – put that information online. And because the American people deserve to know that special interests aren't larding up legislation with pet projects, both parties in Congress should know this: If a bill comes to my desk with earmarks inside, I will veto it. I will veto it. (Applause.)

The 21st century government that's open and competent. A government that lives within its means. An economy that's driven by new skills and new ideas. Our success in this new and changing world will require reform, responsibility, and innovation. It will also require us to approach that world with a new level of engagement in our foreign affairs.

Just as jobs and businesses can now race across borders, so can new threats and new challenges. No single wall separates East and West. No one rival superpower is aligned against us.

And so we must defeat determined enemies, wherever they are, and build coalitions that cut across lines of region and race and religion. And America's moral example must always shine for all who yearn for freedom and justice and dignity. And because we've begun this work, tonight we can say that American leadership has been renewed and America's standing has been restored.

Look to Iraq, where nearly 100,000 of our brave men and women have left with their heads held high. (Applause.) American combat patrols have ended, violence is down, and a new government has been formed. This year, our civilians will forge a lasting partnership with the Iraqi people, while we finish the job of bringing our troops out of Iraq. America's commitment has been kept. The Iraq war is coming to an end. (Applause.)

Of course, as we speak, al Qaeda and their affiliates continue to plan attacks against us. Thanks to our intelligence and law enforcement professionals, we're disrupting plots and securing our cities and skies. And as extremists try to inspire acts of violence within our borders, we are responding with the strength of our communities, with respect for the rule of law, and with the conviction that American Muslims are a part of our American family. (Applause.)

We've also taken the fight to al Qaeda and their allies abroad. In Afghanistan, our troops have taken Taliban strongholds and trained Afghan security forces. Our purpose is clear: By preventing the Taliban from reestablishing a stranglehold over the Afghan people, we will deny al Qaeda the safe haven that served as a launching pad for 9/11.

Thanks to our heroic troops and civilians, fewer Afghans are under the control of the insurgency. There will be tough fighting ahead, and the Afghan government will need to deliver better governance. But we are strengthening the capacity of the Afghan people and building an enduring partnership with them. This year, we will work with nearly 50 countries to begin a transition to an Afghan lead. And this July, we will begin to bring our troops home. (Applause.)

In Pakistan, al Qaeda's leadership is under more pressure than at any point since 2001. Their leaders and operatives are being removed from the battlefield. Their safe havens are shrinking. And we've sent a message from the Afghan border to the Arabian Peninsula to all parts of the globe: We will not relent, we will not waver, and we will defeat you. (Applause.)

American leadership can also be seen in the effort to secure the worst weapons of war. Because Republicans and Democrats approved the New START treaty, far fewer nuclear weapons and launchers will be deployed. Because we rallied the world, nuclear materials are being locked down on every continent so they never fall into the hands of terrorists. (Applause.)

Because of a diplomatic effort to insist that Iran meet its obligations, the Iranian government now faces tougher sanctions, tighter sanctions than ever before. And on the Korean Peninsula, we stand with our ally South Korea, and insist that North Korea keeps its commitment to abandon nuclear weapons. (Applause.)

This is just a part of how we're shaping a world that favors peace and prosperity. With our European allies, we revitalized NATO and increased our cooperation on everything from counterterrorism to missile defense. We've reset our relationship with Russia, strengthened Asian alliances, built new partnerships with nations like India.

This March, I will travel to Brazil, Chile, and El Salvador to forge new alliances across the Americas. Around the globe, we're standing with those who take responsibility – helping farmers grow more food, supporting doctors who care for the sick, and combating the corruption that can rot a society and rob people of opportunity.

Recent events have shown us that what sets us apart must not just be our power – it must also be the purpose behind it. In south Sudan – with our assistance – the people were finally able to vote for independence after years of war. (Applause.) Thousands lined up before dawn. People danced in the streets. One man who lost four of his brothers at war summed up the scene around him: "This was a battlefield for most of my life," he said. "Now we want to be free." (Applause.)

And we saw that same desire to be free in Tunisia, where the will of the people proved more powerful than the writ of a dictator. And tonight, let us be clear: The United States of America stands with the people of Tunisia, and supports the democratic aspirations of all people. (Applause.)

We must never forget that the things we've struggled for, and fought for, live in the hearts of people everywhere. And we must always remember that the Americans who have borne the greatest burden in this struggle are the men and women who serve our country. (Applause.)

Tonight, let us speak with one voice in reaffirming that our nation is united in support of our troops and their families. Let us serve them as well as they've served us – by giving them the equipment they need, by providing them with the care and benefits that they have earned, and by enlisting our veterans in the great task of building our own nation.

Our troops come from every corner of this country – they're black, white, Latino, Asian, Native American. They are Christian and

Hindu, Jewish and Muslim. And, yes, we know that some of them are gay. Starting this year, no American will be forbidden from serving the country they love because of who they love. (Applause.) And with that change, I call on all our college campuses to open their doors to our military recruiters and ROTC. It is time to leave behind the divisive battles of the past. It is time to move forward as one nation. (Applause.)

We should have no illusions about the work ahead of us. Reforming our schools, changing the way we use energy, reducing our deficit – none of this will be easy. All of it will take time. And it will be harder because we will argue about everything. The costs. The details. The letter of every law.

Of course, some countries don't have this problem. If the central government wants a railroad, they build a railroad, no matter how many homes get bulldozed. If they don't want a bad story in the newspaper, it doesn't get written.

And yet, as contentious and frustrating and messy as our democracy can sometimes be, I know there isn't a person here who would trade places with any other nation on Earth. (Applause.)

We may have differences in policy, but we all believe in the rights enshrined in our Constitution. We may have different opinions, but we believe in the same promise that says this is a place where you can make it if you try. We may have different backgrounds, but we believe in the same dream that says this is a country where anything is possible. No matter who you are. No matter where you come from.

That dream is why I can stand here before you tonight. That dream is why a working-class kid from Scranton can sit behind me. (Laughter and applause.) That dream is why someone who began by sweeping the floors of his father's Cincinnati bar can preside as Speaker of the House in the greatest nation on Earth. (Applause.)

That dream – that American Dream – is what drove the Allen Brothers to reinvent their roofing company for a new era. It's what drove those students at Forsyth Tech to learn a new skill and work towards the future. And that dream is the story of a small business owner named Brandon Fisher.

Brandon started a company in Berlin, Pennsylvania, that specializes in a new kind of drilling technology. And one day last summer, he saw the news that halfway across the world, 33 men were trapped in a Chilean mine, and no one knew how to save them.

But Brandon thought his company could help. And so he designed a rescue that would come to be known as Plan B. His employees worked around the clock to manufacture the necessary drilling equipment. And Brandon left for Chile.

Along with others, he began drilling a 2,000-foot hole into the ground, working three- or four-hour – three or four days at a time without any sleep. Thirty-seven days later, Plan B succeeded, and the miners were rescued. (Applause.) But because he didn't want all of the attention, Brandon wasn't there when the miners emerged. He'd already gone back home, back to work on his next project.

And later, one of his employees said of the rescue, "We proved that Center Rock is a little company, but we do big things." (Applause.)

We do big things. From the earliest days of our founding, America has been the story of ordinary people who dare to dream. That's how we win the future.

We're a nation that says, "I might not have a lot of money, but I have this great idea for a new company." "I might not come from a family of college graduates, but I will be the first to get my degree." "I might not know those people in trouble, but I think I can help them, and I need to try." "I'm not sure how we'll reach that better place beyond the horizon, but I know we'll get there. I know we will."

We do big things. (Applause.) The idea of America endures. Our destiny remains our choice. And tonight, more than two centuries later, it's because of our people that our future is hopeful, our journey goes forward, and the state of our union is strong.

Thank you. God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

Officials Examine Redevelopment Agency...

► **Continued from Page 1** ap- pense of public services has largely been based on anecdotal evidence," Chiang said. "As lawmakers deliberate the Governor's proposal to close RDAs and divert those funds to local schools and public safety agencies, I believe it is important to provide factual, empirical information about how these agencies perform and what they bring to the communities they serve."

The 18 RDAs selected for the reviews represent urban, suburban and rural communities. They are geographically diverse and represent a mix of varying populations. The reviews will look at, among other things, how the RDAs define a "blighted"

area, whether they are appropriately paying for low- and moderate-income housing as required by law, whether they are accurately "passing through" payments to schools within their community, and how much RDA officials, board members and employees are being compensated for their services.

To assist lawmakers in their budget debates, the reviews will be completed in early March. The chosen RDAs are as follows:

- Redevelopment Agency of the City of San Jose (Santa Clara County)
- Redevelopment Agency for the County of Riverside

- Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (Los Angeles County)
- Richmond Redevelopment Agency (Contra Costa County)
- Redevelopment Agency of the County of Sacramento
- Redevelopment Agency of the City of Pittsburg (Contra Costa County)
- Redevelopment Agency of the City of Fremont (Alameda County)
- Pasadena Community Development Commission (Los Angeles County)
- Redevelopment Agency of the City of Fresno (Fresno County)
- City of Palm Desert Redevelopment Agency (Riverside County)
- Placentia Redevelopment Agency (Orange County)
- Parlier Redevelopment Agency (Fresno County)
- Hercules Redevelopment Agency (Contra Costa County)
- Anderson Redevelopment Agency (Shasta County)
- Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Citrus Heights (Sacramento County)
- Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Calexico (Imperial County)
- Community Development Agency of the City of Coronado (San Diego County)
- City of Desert Hot Springs Redevelopment Agency (Riverside County)

91% Approve of State of The Union Speech...

► **Continued from Page 1** expect more bipartisan- ship now than in years past.

In his speech, Mr. Obama outlined ways to limit federal spending and reign in the deficit. Of those watching, fifty-six percent said they think the president's economic plans could reduce government spending; 43 percent were not persuaded.

The president had more success convincing viewers that his economic proposals would lead to job growth and increased success on the international playing field: 75 percent of viewers said they thought the president's plans would make America more competitive in the world economy, and 75 percent also said they thought the plans outlined in his speech would create jobs. That's up from 55 percent before the speech.

Mr. Obama also defended health care reform in

the speech – and approval of the law saw a slight boost among speech watchers. Sixty-five percent said they approved of the health care law after the address, a nine-point boost from pre-speech numbers.

Americans who watched the speech were generally more Democratic than the nation as a whole. Forty-four percent of viewers polled were Democrats and 25 percent were Republicans. (Historically speaking, that is not an unusual statistic: a president's supporters are more likely than his opponents to watch State of the Union addresses.)

Tuesday night was Mr. Obama's second State of the Union address as president. In his remarks, Mr. Obama focused on creating jobs and economic growth, national unity, and spurring American innovation through research and education.

Bush Admin Broke Law in 2006 Elections...

► **Continued from Page 1** of Political Affairs. The report says that aspects of OPA that came in conflict with the Hatch Act during the Bush era "have apparently existed for decades."

On Tuesday, David Sherzer, a spokesman for former President George W. Bush, declined to comment.

The report found that in the three months before the 2006 elections, agency po-

litical appointees participated in 197 events.

Out of that number, 183 of the events were with a Republican candidate. In contrast, in the same time frame in 2005, a non-election year, agency political appointees went to 76 events, 46 of them with a Republican candidate.

Hatch Act violations are punishable with a maximum penalty of dismissal, a rem-

edy that is unavailable since those involved left the government. OSC spokesman Darshan Sheth said no criminality was uncovered in the office's investigation and that therefore, the results were not referred for possible prosecution to the Justice Department, where spokeswoman Tracy Schmalzer declined to comment.

The 10 agencies that used

federal funds to pay for political appointees to travel to events supporting Republican candidates in 2006 were the departments of Transportation, Interior, Housing and Urban Development, Education, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Energy, the Veterans Administration, the Small Business Administration and the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Bomb Had Chemical Component...

► **Continued from Page 1** lethal or to instill more fear.

"We are still trying to figure out this additional portion of this bomb threat. It was some kind of agent and we are not quite sure what yet," Knezovich said. "Let's face it, going back to my former military training as a medic, anytime you add anything to a wound it complicates the wound. It adds another dimension to clean up."

Frank Harrill, special agent in charge of the

Spokane Office of the FBI, said he could not talk about any aspect of how the bomb was made or the power of the device; it has been sent for testing at the FBI laboratory in Quantico, Va.

"We are in constant communication with our laboratory and other analytical analysis resources across the county," Harrill said. "Those findings are not likely to be made public until an enforcement action is conducted or we put out a request for fur-

ther information."

Officials said the bomb, found at the northeast corner of Washington Street and Main Avenue, was placed to concentrate the blast toward the marchers, who were rerouted after three contract workers found the black backpack and alerted Spokane Police officials.

Harrill said investigators have not executed any search warrants and are not ready to name any persons or groups as suspects.

Investigators have reviewed video surveillance and still photographs, yet have not publicized a basic suspect description such as gender, height, weight, clothing or hair color.

"Right now, we are not in a position to release that type of information or request that information," he said. "I don't know of any impending threat ... to suggest that this is going to be repeated at any time or in any part of the country."



When Should I Consider Refinancing My Home Loan?

By Herman Badgett, Union Bank, N.A.



Herman Badgett
Vice President and Branch Manager
Oakland Branch

If you're planning to stay in your home for a number of years, it could make sense to take advantage of lower interest rates.

There are many reasons to refinance a home mortgage, and in the right situation, it can be a smart financial move. Perhaps you would like to take advantage of a lower interest rate than you are paying now, or build up equity more quickly by converting to a loan with a shorter term. Maybe you would like to get cash out at closing for a home improvement by borrowing against the equity in your home. Or perhaps you would like to move from variable rate to fixed rate to lock in a predictable low payment.

Whatever the reason, a refinance will generally involve fees and your time, so take into consideration these questions to help determine if now is the right time to refinance your home mortgage:

What is your current interest rate?

If you notice that rates have dropped two points from what you are currently paying, you may consider refinancing. By refinancing at a lower interest rate, you can substantially lower your monthly mortgage payment.

How long have you been paying on the current loan?

When you refinance your home mortgage, you're basically paying off your existing mortgage by taking out a new mortgage loan. When taking on a new loan, take into consideration that the bulk of your payment will once again go towards interest.

How much longer do you plan on living in your home?

If you're thinking of selling in the next three to five years, the amount you save on refinancing may not cover the closing costs. If you're planning to stay in your home for a number of years, it could make sense to take advantage of lower interest rates.

What fees will I have to pay?

The closing process (when the mortgage ends with one lender and begins with a new lender) typically generates a number of fees. When refinancing, ask for a quote that includes all appropriate fees.

Does my current mortgage include a pre-payment clause?

If your current mortgage agreement includes a pre-payment penalty, you may lose money by refinancing unless you can negotiate with your lender to waive the pre-payment clause.

At Union Bank, our knowledgeable mortgage consultants can assist you in determining if now is the right time to refinance your mortgage and help you find the loan to match your personal goals.¹ Check out the handy refinance calculator at unionbank.com to help you determine how much interest you can save when you refinance your mortgage with Union Bank or call (510) 891-2432 to speak to Herman Badgett who can help you.

For more information contact: Oakland Branch

1970 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94612
Herman Badgett, VP & Branch Manager
(510) 891-2432

The foregoing article is intended to provide general information about considerations for refinancing your home loan and is not considered financial or tax advice from Union Bank. Please consult your financial or tax advisor.

Herman Badgett is a Vice President and Branch Manager for the Oakland branch of Union Bank, N.A., is a full-service commercial bank providing an array of financial services to individuals, small businesses, middle-market companies, and major corporations. As of September 30, 2010, the bank had 397 banking offices in California, Oregon, Washington and Texas and two international offices. UnionBankCal Corporation is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. Union Bank is a proud member of the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG, NYSE:MTU), one of the world's largest financial organizations. Visit www.unionbank.com for more information.

¹ Loans subject to credit and collateral approval. Financing available for collateral located in CA, OR, or WA. Restrictions may apply. Terms and conditions subject to change.



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Dr. Paulette Fleming	Education/Artist
Juanita Perry	State Government
Carlton Lockett	Business/Entrepreneur
W. Ray Johnson	City Government/Museum Director

Special Tribute to Ray Johnson (Past Director)

Raiders Promote Hue Jackson to Head Coach

By DENNIS J. GEORGATOS

The final NFL head coaching vacancy was filled on Monday night when the Raiders announced they had hired Hue Jackson, elevating him from offensive coordinator.

Jackson, 45, will be formally introduced as the Raiders coach at a news conference on Tuesday. He replaced Tom Cable, who was fired two weeks ago after guiding the Raiders to an 8-8 finish.

The Raiders ended a streak of seven consecutive losing seasons but the team opted to part ways with Cable, declining to pick up his option amid reports he had clashed at times with owner Al Davis.

On Sunday, there was word that Cable had filed a grievance with the NFL and seeking reimbursement of \$120,000 in fines levied

against him by the team this past season. The fine was imposed because Davis apparently was upset over the league's decision to strip the team of two OTA practice sessions for violations of league guidelines governing the offseason workouts.

The head coaching assignment is a first for Jackson, who has spent 25 years as an assistant in the college and professional ranks. He's a three-time NFL offensive coordinator, including this past season with the Raiders when he figured prominently in a resurgent Raiders offense despite injury related instability at the quarterback position.

For his part, Jackson received a ringing endorsement from Davis.

"The fire in Hue will set a flame that will burn for a long time in the hearts and minds of the Raider football team and the Raider Na-

tion," Davis said in a statement.

The Raiders ranked sixth in the NFL in scoring, averaging 25.6 points per game. They were fueled by running back Darren McFadden's breakthrough season and the emergence of play-making rookie wide receiver and return man Jacoby Ford. The Raiders were the league's second-ranked rushing team and finished 10th in the league in total offense. Their 410 points scored last season more than doubled their total from the previous season.

Before joining the Raiders staff prior to last season, Jackson spent two years as the quarterbacks coach in Baltimore, where he tutored Joe Flacco.

Jackson was Atlanta's offensive coordinator in 2007 and the Washington Redskins' offensive coordinator in 2003.

South Sudan to Retain Name as an Independent State

NAIROBI - South Sudan has decided to name itself the Republic of South Sudan upon the near-certain declaration of its independence as a result of a referendum vote whose final result is due to be announced mid-February, the region's officials revealed on Sunday.

A steering committee formed by the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) has been working to decide on a number of issues concerning the attributes of the potential state, including the adoption of an official coat of arms, a national flag and a national anthem.

Benjamin Marial, GoSS's minister of information and a member of the steering committee, revealed on Sunday in the region's capital Juba that south Sudan would retain its current name as an independent state, according to a report published on Monday by the New York Times.

"The majority preference is for South Sudan," he said, adding that the decision was made last week and its official announcement could be made on 14 February to coincide with the announcement of the referendum results.

"We've had South Korea, North Korea, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, South Sudan and North Sudan," Marial said.

Marial said that the committee had discussed a dozen of potential name but finally agreed to adopt the Republic of South Sudan due to the familiarity and convenience of the name.

Among the names discussed, according to the minister, were Azania, Nile Republic, Kush Republic and even Juwama, an acronym for Juba, Wau and Malakal, three major southern cities.



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Conference Workshops 9:30am - 12:30pm	3 on 3 Boys & Girls Basketball tournament 5:pm - 9pm	
Lunch 12:30pm - 1:30pm		
1:30- 2:00 Financial Literacy Presentation		
2:00 - 3:00 From Africa to President Obama		
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FREE contact: Paul Copeland (559) 681-9005



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MENU

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#1 Tri-Tip \$6.59	1 Tri-Tip	Whole Tri-Tip \$16.99
#2 Pork Ribs \$6.59	1 Slab Ribs	Slab Ribs \$16.99
#3 Barbeque Chicken \$5.59	1 BBQ Chicken	Barbeque Chicken \$9.99
#4 Tri-Tip Sandwich \$4.99 (No Sides)	4 Hot Links Sausage	3 lbs Hot Link Sausage \$16.99
Side Orders	1 Quart Potato Salad	Sides by the Pound
Tri-Tip \$2.99	1 Quart Beans	½ Pint \$0.79
Pork Ribs \$2.99	6 Rolls	Pint \$1.19
Barbeque Chicken \$2.99	2 Liter Soda	Quart \$2.19
Hot Links Sausage \$1.19		Drinks
Dinner Roll \$0.50		\$1.00

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CATERING AVAILABLE



City Of Fresno Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday March Sets Record



Les Kimber

Over six hundred Fresno and Valley residents participated in the MLK Holiday March held in Fresno on Monday, January 17th, in downtown Fresno.

The diverse march included elected officials from the City of Fresno and Clovis, as well as state and congressional office holders.

Several speakers, including Congressman Jim Costa, State Senator Michael Rubio, Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer and Fresno City Member Oliver Baines made remarks at the march.

Former Fresno City Council Member Les Kimber also spoke at the march. The following is the full text of the remarks he made at the event:

We come here today to celebrate the life and legacy of our beloved hero, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We come here with the horror of the shootings and killings that took place in Tucson, Arizona fresh in our minds.

Ten days later we are still wrestling with the question of what is wrong in our country that would allow things like this to happen. There have been attempts to place blame for this horrific event. No one individual or one political party is to blame – we must all share the blame.

All of us must share the shame because we have allowed hate and hate speech to flourish to the point where there is little or no civility and accountability in our political discourse in our effort to meet

the multitude of challenges that we face in this country.

We have not yet learned one of the most important lessons that Dr. King attempted to teach us about the negative and devastating impact that hate has on our society.

Dr. King said, "Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Hate destroys a man's sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true."

We are also reminded of the role that hate played in Dr. King's life. Dr. King was demonized by his opponents on a daily basis, so much so that Dr. King's assassin, James Earl Ray, decided that he would be doing the country a favor by killing Dr. King.

While there may be no direct correlation between hate speech and the Tucson Massacre, there is no doubt in my mind that the toxic atmosphere created by the demonization of our government and our leaders on a daily basis provides the opportunity for another mentally unbalanced person to use their second amendment 'remedies' to solve our political differences.

While it is appropriate and right to march in honor of Dr. King, we also have a moral and patriotic obligation to seek civility and accountability from those who pollute our airwaves on a daily basis with words of hate and division. President Obama is right – this nation can do better by using words that heal instead of using words that wound.

I challenge the religious community, and especially my fellow Christian brothers and sisters, to join us in the effort to bring back civility and respectability to our political discourse. And let us be reminded of the words expressed in the Gospel – *how can you say that you love me whom you have never seen and hate your brother who you walk with daily?*

