



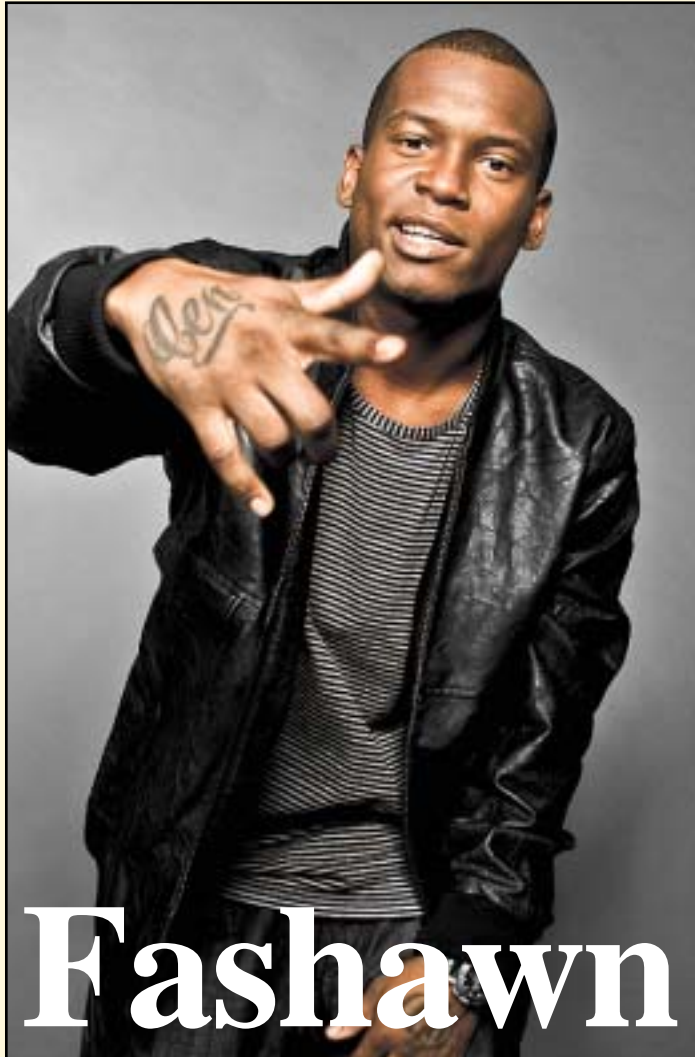
ADVOCATE

Fresno's African American Community News



The New Miss California, Noelle Freeman, shown here in the swimsuit competition phase of the Miss California Pageant held in Fresno California this month, is one of a few ethnic women that are seeking to be role models for young Black girls statewide.

Fresno Artist Makes BIG MOVES



Fashawn

BY MARLISE MOORE

As a Central Valley native, Santiago Leyva – AKA Fashawn – has traveled all around the world and back, but he leaves his roots here in the Central Valley. Born during the Tookie Williams era and under a household of gang-banging and drugs, Fashawn learned quickly about how to survive in the streets of Fresno. He started rhyming and chose the name Fashawn in 1992; he was 12 at the time. He was affected by hip hop – it

was big at that time, a time he calls the ‘global domination stage’.

“Fashawn is me, I am still trying to find myself and I am constantly evolving so Fashawn is just me being who I want to be, not who anybody else wants me to be or what everyone thinks I should be, that’s the main reason that I took that name. I actually got it from a Rakim song, a song called ‘When I Be On The Mic,’ which was around 1999 and he said “my fashawn last long like ap-”

Continued on Page B6 ▶

Obama Picks A Fight With GOP

President Obama intensified pressure on congressional Republicans in negotiations over the federal debt, depicting GOP leaders as supporting tax breaks for jet-setting executives at the expense of college scholarships or medical research.

BY PETER NICHOLAS AND CHRISTI PARSONS

WASHINGTON – President Obama intensified pressure on congressional Republicans in negotiations over the federal debt, depicting GOP

leaders as supporting tax breaks for jet-setting executives at the expense of college scholarships or medical research.

Obama’s decision to chastise Republican leaders in an hour-long televised news conference Wednesday moved the debt talks out of the realm of closed-door meetings and into full public view. The administration plans to follow up by sending top officials to appear on television to echo the president’s message and build a

Continued on Page B5 ▶

2011 MISS CALIFORNIA PAGEANT

Fresno Police Chief To Retire From Position

Mayor Ashley Swearegin today praised Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer for his “incredible leadership” of the department and his “extraordinary record of accomplishment” over the past 10 years as chief.

Chief Dyer today announced that he will retire from the department, effective June 30. He will remain as interim chief until a successor is selected.

“The City of Fresno owes Chief Dyer our deepest thanks for his lifetime of”

Continued on Page B5 ▶



BART, Oscar Grant's Mother Settle for \$1.3 Million

BY DEMIAN BULWA

OAKLAND – BART agreed Tuesday to pay \$1.3 million to settle a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by the mother of Oscar Grant, the unarmed train rider who was shot in the back by a transit agency police officer on New Year’s Day 2009, attorneys said.

The deal with Wanda Johnson, which includes no admission of fault by BART or any of the officers she sued, was reached at a settlement conference in U.S. District Court in San Francisco.

It closes another chapter in a case that prompted protests and vandalism, ushered in reforms on the BART police force and led to the involuntary manslaughter conviction of

Continued on Page B5 ▶



Brittany Bell



Jasmine Johnson



Elizabeth Wubishet



Velvet Johnson

Advocate's Exclusive Interviews With Statewide African-American Contestants gives us a unique look at their motivations and backgrounds

The State Finals for the 2011 Miss California Pageant was held in Fresno at the Saroyan Theater Friday, June 18.

This year, The California Advocate had the rare opportunity to sit down and interview some of the African American contestants competing for the title. We hope these young ladies will inspire other African American girls to strive for success. We interviewed them about their personal experiences. In the effort to encourage African American girls to strive for success we are sharing our personal interviews with our readers with these exceptional young ladies. Here are their stories:

Brittney Bell, 23 Miss Studio City California

“I used to dance for the Phoenix Suns, and dancing for the NBA grooms you to speak publicly, representing an organization which is what pageants are all about. I came from a very strict household but I am also a first generation college student. I was the first one in my family to test run everything because I am the oldest. So I am the one who has been going after things because I want to make a better life not only for the people around me but my family, my children and that is what has been encouraging me. God has been an amazing force in my life. For the past year he has been so strong in my life and my faith has been increased. He has used

Continued on Page B5 ▶

ADVOCATE'S COMMUNITY PROFILE: Fresno County Public Defender Ms. Latayvius Alberty

BY MARLISE MOORE –

Meet the Deputy Public Defender For Fresno County, Latayvius Alberty. As a 2003 Edison High School graduate, Alberty has accomplished a great deal in 8 years. Although she's quite busy these days, she was gracious enough to take time out of her schedule to sit down with the California Advocate to recap on her high school experience and share valuable information with our readers.

As a Tiger, Alberty treasures the memories of being a part of the varsity volleyball, basketball and track teams. She proudly talks

Continued on Page A4 ▶



Latayvius Alberty

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Volume 45 No. 25 ~ June 17-July 1, 2011



THE CHICKEN COOP

New Black Owned Restaurant Opens



No April Fools' joke. With all the pranks and jokes that were played on April 1st, one thing that happened was definitely no joke: The Chicken Coop restaurant opened on the corner of Ashlan and Blythe in Fresno, serving delicious down-home food. Conveniently located within Super Liquors 4, the Coop serves arguably the best tri-tip sandwich in the city, but the

chicken and waffles have become the customer's favorite.

There is something on the menu to satisfy everyone, namely: fried chicken, rib-blet basket, hamburgers, smothered chicken and rice, collard greens, fresh peach cobbler, and tacos made your way. It is definitely worth taking a ride, but if you don't feel like driving, the Coop will deliver it to

you.

The managers, Major Boles Jr., Antoine Hatcher and Anthony Plunkett are long-time Fresno residents and look forward to serving you. So if you're in the loop, slide through the Coop. Hours of operation are Sunday through Saturday, 11am to 9pm. For more information or to place an order for pick-up or delivery please call (559) 271-1127.



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Grace Community Church
 1703 Fulton St.
 Fresno, Ca. 93720

Monday Night Youth Meeting: 6:30pm
 Bible Study: Thursday, 6:30-7:30pm
 Biblical History: Sunday, 6:00am
 Sunday School: 9:00am Worship Service: 10:00am

Engagement / Wedding Anniversary Announcements

*Submit you engagement/wedding/anniversary announcements.
 Place a special announcement telling us about the love of your life!*

Please send the Advocate newspaper the following:

- ✦ If announcement is about an engagement, wedding or anniversary.
- ✦ Bride/Wife's first & last name (include maiden name if for an engagement announcement)
- ✦ Groom/Husband's first & last name
- ✦ Photo of the couple together
- ✦ How long have the couple been together
- ✦ Engagement or wedding date
- ✦ Future plans
- ✦ How the couple met

You can submit your announcement in person or by email.

For submissions made by email, send the required information and digital photo to bernique@caladvocate.com with subject line: "Wedding Announcement 2011"

For submissions made in person, drop off an envelope labeled with the couple's name, including a photo (digital or print) and the couples information to the office of:

The California Advocate,
 1555 E Street
 Fresno, CA 93706

For More Info, Call 268-0941

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 on NBC, Monday July 4th at 9pm. Check your local listings. For more information, visit macys.com/fireworks ©2011 Macy's Inc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Advocate:

Thank you for the outstanding article and the excellent way the California Advocate reported my achievements. I am greatly

humbled by the way the California Advocate projected my views and my love for the black community. I want to remind peo-

ple that it was never about Kehinde. It was always about my service to my students and my community. Once again thank you. I

will be eternally grateful for such an outstanding article.

*Sincerely,
Kehinde Sowazi*

To The Advocate:

Thank you or being our MC at our First Black Men and Boys Graduation. You were great! We appreciate you helping our program flow as smooth as it did.

Thank you for your support and presence at our graduation. Thank you also for being that voice and letting the community know about Black Men and Boys

through The California Advocate. We cant tell you how many more people that have covered what BMB was about through your newspaper. Thank you being

a support and I look forward to long lasting partnership. Thank you!

*Sincerely,
Keith Kelly*

To The Advocate:

June 25th marked the 61st anniversary of the Korean War. Our thoughts focus on the 33,739 who died as a result of hostile action. A truce was signed on July 27, 1953, with conflicts ongoing.

With the fierce fighting from the main line of resistance against the communist forces, the odds were against us but, we fought bravely and courageously, and they came like a swarm

of ants. A clear distinction was made between Korea and other areas. That's why a Korean Service Medal was awarded only to actual war veterans and a National Defense Services Media to all others.

Although Japanese Americans were a minority in the Korean War, there were 256 Americans were a minority in the Korean War, there were 256 Americans of

Japanese American ancestry who paid the ultimate price. A granite memorial honoring those soldiers was funded and built by the Japanese American Korean War Veterans, and dedicated on Wednesday, May 15, 2001, at Korean War Veterans and dedicated on Wednesday May 15, 2001 at Imjin-Gak, Paju-City Kyonggi-do in the Republic of Korea along the 38th Parallel between North and South Korea. The

Medal of Honor was awarded to Corporal Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura (POW), and he is alive and well.

The ROK soldiers taught me Chinese and Korean, and in return I taught them Japanese. The scary part was the enemy look so much like me. I survived "By the Grace of God."

*Yours in Comradship,
Floyd Takeuchi*

To The Advocate:

Father's Day for Black Children & Can We Save Young Black Boys?

Fathers' Day is a late, but welcome addition to the list of celebratory holidays and is designed to make dad feel special on his day: ties, slippers, robes, bright eyes offering gifts, and breakfast in bed. Who wouldn't love it!

Fathers' Day is a "miracle day" that is, miraculous because you can share it with your offsprings; a day to remind them that you love them and will protect them. You will be there for them; you have their back.

You can share the genealogy of their history; why they are here, from where and from whom they came; through the years of degradations and humiliations and how peoples' inner strengths result in this day that calls a father and his children to be together.

I hope this definition of Fathers' Day describes your day and your children's day,

but for many children it is an "impossible dream." Too often there is no father to teach them to be men or allow them to be children and enjoy their youth, their innocence.

Being black has never been easy in this culture and it may never be so. Since DuBois' 'Souls of Black Folks' through Obama's 'Dreams from my Father,' black males have needed to continue the struggle to be free: Free from obvious restraints like jail, unemployment, racism, and most importantly, free from ignorance and fear.

A father is often the missing element in conquering the demons that command our children, especially when they reach school age and begin to face the challenges inherent in a system that Jawanza Kunjufu argues is ... *The Conspiracy*

to Destroy Black Boys.

The argument here is that the promise of Brown v. Board of Education has not been fulfilled, and is now becoming obsolete with our seeming indifference. For example, over half of the black male students in the local high schools will not graduate; most of those students who do graduate will not be near grade level; black kindergarteners will be a grade behind at 4th grade, and statistics go on indefinitely noting the difficulties of black students in their travails through the public schools.

There is no panacea for the preparation of black boys for manhood, for 'Developing Positive Self-Images and Discipline in Black Children' (Kunjufu), and for respecting self and others, but the most important and powerful force for

change with black boys is a father figure, preferably the father of the child.

Black boys are considered an endangered species as the "achievement gap" widens, as more black boys enter the judicial system, drop out of school, and the increasing number who don't attend school at all.

One constant in this misery is that "parents play a big role in academic success." Whether black students attend a public or private school matters less to their academic success than whether their parents take part in their education and have high aspirations for their children's success in school.

Fathers you are needed to save your child!

THERON BELL
LICENSED EDUCATIONAL
PSYCHOLOGIST

In Memory of Arthur Lee Foston



Arthur Lee Foston was born on September 1, 1924, in Needville, Texas. He has seven siblings, three of which are currently living in Texas, which he often refers to as "home." Arthur has a son (Frederick) who is a physician in Southern California and a daughter who is a Marriage & Family therapist in Northern California from his 1st marriage to Mary Neil, a retired school teacher, who died in 1990. He also has another daughter, Donna Taylor, who lives in Houston, Texas.

Arthur is the proud "Grandpa" of six grandchildren (all young adults). He has two grandsons who live in Texas, one granddaughter who lives in New York, another granddaughter who lives in Maryland and two granddaughters who live in Southern California.

He has been married about 15 years to Vassie Novella, who retired from the California Department of Motor Vehicles and from this union has become known as "dad" to her three adult children who live in the Fresno/Clovis area and is "Grandpa" to four young adults living in the Fresno/Clovis area and two young adult granddaughters living in Washington, D.C. He also has three great-grandsons who you might occasionally see cheering up Orchard Park residents when they visit & two other great grandsons in Washington, D.C.

Arthur served in the army during World War II before going back to school to earn both undergraduate and graduate college degrees and becoming a teacher. He taught high school in Texas before becoming a college professor at Prairie View A&M College and was there for five years before being recruited to teach at California State University, Fresno, in the Department of Industrial Arts and Technology. He is a retired Professor Emeritus from Fresno State University and has taught classes at Fresno City College. His talents extended to teaching positions at Colorado State University, and also in the industry where he consulted at Hughes Aircraft. He has published several articles and a book on computer integrated manufacturing systems.

Above all, Art has strong Christian values and is a long-standing member of St. James Anglican Cathedral in Fresno where he has served as an usher, chalice bearer and member of their vestry.

Fresno County Public Defender Ms. Latayvius Alberty...

► Continued from Page 1 about being a member of the Black Student Union and the 'Diva's Club,' which was a club geared specifically toward black women.

As a member of the Diva's Club, Alberty and other young ladies engaged in college tours and had professional speakers presented to them on campus. She says she will never forget one of the speakers, an attorney, who actually hired Alberty for an internship during the summer. That internship was what introduced her to civil rights and employment discrimination laws.

After graduating from Edison, Alberty then enrolled at UC Irvine where she received her undergraduate degree followed by UCLA Law School. Now she is the sole black attorney for the misdemeanor department. She handles misdemeanors ranging from driving under a suspended license, DUI's and occasionally vehicular manslaughters. She and her colleagues currently have over 500 open cases and approximately 100 cases a day.

Alberty still keeps in touch with many of her Edison classmates today and she still

goes back to Edison all the time. She feels a great connection with her clients that she serves and she feels this way because many of them know her personally.

LaTayvius Alberty is commended by the California Advocate for coming back to Fresno to serve her community and for helping those around her in need. We had a chance to sit down with her to hear her take on being a public defender and her tips to the Fresno community regarding the law:

ADVOCATE: What is the percentage of African American's coming through your office?

ALBERTY: The majority of my clients are either African American or Latino. There are very few Caucasians that come through. The majority that come through cannot afford an attorney and their income is too low. I would say that it is a pretty even split between Latinos and blacks.

ADVOCATE: What particular part of the law did you study?

ALBERTY: At UCLA we had a specialization program where you can take classes geared towards your certain end of the law. I focused on

critical race studies. I did want to go into civil rights. I studied under some of the leading civil rights activists as far as the law goes, so I have a specialization in that particular area.

ADVOCATE: So you have been at the Fresno Office for 6 months now?

ALBERTY: Yes, I just passed the bar examination in December and I started working in Fresno on December 26th.

ADVOCATE: Are you planning on starting your own practice?

ALBERTY: I like working in public service. I might decide to do federal work eventually.

ADVOCATE: As far as the public defenders office goes, how many lawyers work out of that office?

ALBERTY: Currently we have around 53 attorneys.

ADVOCATE: What legal advice can you give our community about utilizing your services?

ALBERTY: The best advice is to know your rights. A lot of police patrol the area specifically where our youth congregate in West Fresno, which is also known as the "Dogpound." By becoming

familiar with your rights, you will learn that you don't have to consent to being searched or your vehicle being searched except if you are on parole or probation. The point of our office is if you do come into our court system, do not just plead and go along with whatever someone is telling you. What our office and what I try to do is be a counselor. A lot of eighteen to nineteen year olds who come in are just getting out of the juvenile system and are just becoming an adult, often making unwise decisions in their lives.

I am just trying to keep them from going down the wrong path, to try and get their record clean, and to advise them to get out of Fresno if that's what they need to get their life in order and to do something positive with their life. That is what I advise to some of my clients. Some of them are reachable, so it's not too late, but many others are living a life where unfortunately they don't have family or friends looking out for them, and often being in gangs is all they know. It's my hope that I can be a factor in their lives.



Latayvius Alberty with Advocate staff member Marlise Moore.



Latayvius Alberty with Advocate publisher Mark Kimber

Red & White Scholarship Banquet

Eight young college students will be receiving scholarships at the Red and White Banquet on July 23 at Saints Community Church of God In Christ. Each student will receive financial support ranging from \$250 to \$1000 dollars in an effort to support these students in their freshman year of college. Saints Community C.O.G.I.C.'s goal is to support Fresno's students financially while in college.

If you would like to make a donation or to receive tickets please contact (559) 999-8725



Johnson, DaeJanea



Gezahgn, Fiseha



Manning, Cody



Scott, Kandace



Manning, Gary



Maxwell, Shakiyla



McGee, Myrk



Destini Walker

Community Calendar for Events in July, 2011

Community Events in July

SPORTS

Annual Passing Down Skills "Camp with the Pros"

JULY 15 July 15th: 11am-2pm. 5th Annual Passing Down Skills "Camp with the Pros." Located at Buchanan High School in Clovis. Fox Sports and Scout.com will be in attendance. This event will feature hands-on position-specific instruction from former and current NFL players for all rising 9-12th graders. This camp is non-contact. Deadline to register is July 5th. Registration cost is \$55.00. For more info go to www.passingdown.com

Raider Celebrity Golf Tournament

JULY 16 The 2011 Raider Celebrity Golf Tournament will be held on July 16th from 8am to 11am at Riverside Golf Course, 7492 N. Bryan Avenue in Fresno. \$125 for each player, \$500 for a foursome. Prizes given for the longest drive, hole-in-one and more! Raiders legends in attendance: Cliff Branch, George Bueller, George Atkinson, Tod Kwalick, Rod Martin, Art Toms, Morv Hubbard, AJ Smith, and Raymond Chester. For more information, call (559) 346-9869.

Tachi Palace Fights

AUG 5 Aug 5th: 5pm-10:30pm. Tachi Palace Fights. With 10 features, one main event with Flyweight Champion Darrel Monatgue vs. World #3 ranked Ian McCall. The co-main event features former Bellator Champion Joe Soto vs. Eddie Yagin. Tickets start at \$30.00. Tachi Palace is located at 17225 Jersey Avenue, Lemoore Ca.

Fresno Pacific Volleyball Camp

JULY 4 July 4th-8th, 9am-4:30pm. Fresno Pacific All Skills Volleyball Camp begins their first session. Camp #2 will be held on July 11-15 from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Cost: \$265 - Commuter (lunch provided); \$395 - Resident (13 meals, 4 nights lodging). Camper check-in: Monday July 4, and Monday July 11, 8:00-9:30 a.m. Camp begins at 9:00 a.m. sharp all other days. Concludes at 4:30 p.m. each day, except 3:00 p.m. on Friday. Registration deadline: July 1 for both camps (\$50 late fee if after deadline). For more information call (559) 453-2032.

Fresno Grizzlies 2011 Baseball Camp

JULY 6 The Fresno Grizzlies 2011 Baseball Camp will be held on Wednesday, July 6th to Friday, July 8th at 8:30a.m at Chukchansi Park. Boys and girls ages 5 to 14 will have the opportunity to work with and meet Fresno Grizzlies players. Manager Steve Decker, his players, and coaching staff will teach the fundamentals of baseball. Camp participants will receive a chance to meet and play with Grizzly players, instruction in Baseball fundamentals, 2 tickets to the Grizzlies game on July 9th, On-field recognition prior to the game and an official Grizzlies camp shirt. Camp registration \$150 per player (Deadline June 27th, 2011). For more information call (559) 264-0795.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

July 4th Freedom Run and Walk

JULY 4 On Monday, July 4th a Freedom Run & Walk will be held at Woodward Park benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Candle lighters & Sierra Challenge. The 4-mile run will start a 7:00am and the 4-mile walk will start at 7:05am.

Juneteenth Scholarship Program

JULY 13 The Fresno Metro Black Chamber Foundation is asking the community to help in supporting African-American student success at their Juneteenth Scholarship Program on Wednesday, July 13, at 11:30 am to 1 pm at the Piccadilly Inn-Shaw. The keynote speaker will be Chancellor Deborah Blue of State Center Community College District. The Juneteenth Scholars Program, held by The Fresno Metro Black Chamber, aims to support African-American students who choose to go to a college or university here in the Valley between Merced and Bakersfield. All proceeds will go towards scholarships and internships for current African-American college students from this region.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

Kids Water Camp

JULY 17 Kids Water Camp on Friday, July 17, 2011, at 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at Woodward Park. Kid's ages 8-to-9 years old are invited for a day of summer fun to learn about water recycling and new ways to save water.

ENTERTAINMENT

B. Wash Performing Live

JULY 1 On July 1st from 10 pm to 2 am, B. Wash will be performing live in concert and premiering his new video "Rock" at Twist Lounge in Fresno. Twist is located at 7835 N. Palm Avenue. The performance begins at 12. Get your tickets at bwashlive.eventbrite.com. The cover charge is \$10.00. 21+

Live performance by Cedric Soul

JULY 2 July 2nd: 9pm. Ced Soul Lounge 2. Live performance by Cedric Soul. The location of this event is Jefferson's Wings in Hanford California, 1120 North 10th Avenue. For more information call (559) 584-8551. There is no cover charge.

Fireworks Extravaganza at the Island Water Park

JULY 3 A Fireworks Extravaganza will be held on July 3rd from 3:00 pm to 9:30 pm at the Island Water Park, 6099 West Barstow Avenue in Fresno. The cost for general admission is \$23.99 before 3:00pm. After 3:00pm the cost is \$13.99, and after 6:00pm the cost is \$6.99.

Blues, Brews and BBQ

JULY 1 July 1st, 6:00pm at Blues, Brews and BBQ, located on Garden St. and Main in Visalia, California, every Friday night starting July 1st. Your Friday nights just got a whole lot better! Come listen to a variety of great music at Garden Street Plaza on the 1st Friday of every month, April through October, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.. The music is FREE with beverages and food available for purchase. Bring your friends and family downtown for amazing music and beautiful summer nights. For more information call (559) 732-7737 or visit www.DowntownVisalia.com.

Ringling Bros and Barnum and Bailey Circus Tour

JULY 6 The Ringling Bros and Barnum and Bailey Circus Tour will be held on July 6th at 7:30 pm. Don't miss the fully charged Ringling Brothers circus. where megawatts of thrills explode off the arena floor! This event will take place at the Selland Arena, 700 M Street, Fresno California, 93721. For more information, call 800-745-3000.

Blues, Brews and BBQ

JULY 8 July 8th, 6:00pm at Blues, Brews and BBQ, located on Garden St. and Main in Visalia, California, every Friday night starting July 1st. Your Friday nights just got a whole lot better! Come listen to a variety of great music at Garden Street Plaza on the 1st Friday of every month, April through October, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.. The music is FREE with beverages and food available for purchase. Bring your friends and family downtown for amazing music and beautiful summer nights. For more information call (559) 732-7737 or visit www.DowntownVisalia.com.

Salt-N-Pepa Concert

JULY 8 July 8th: 8pm. Salt-N-Pepa will hold a concert on July 8th, 8:00 pm at 801 10th Avenue, Hanford California, 93230 at the Kings Fair. To purchase tickets go to www.559afterdark.com. Tickets prices include \$6.00 admission into Kings Fair. For more information call (559) 584-3318.

Blues Brews and BBQ

JULY 15 July 15th and 22nd, 6:00pm at Blues, Brews and BBQ, located on Garden St. and Main in Visalia, California, every Friday night starting July 1st. Your Friday nights just got a whole lot better! Come listen to a variety of great music at Garden Street Plaza on the 1st Friday of every month, April through October, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.. The music is FREE with beverages and food available for purchase. Bring your friends and family downtown for amazing music and beautiful summer nights. For more information call (559) 732-7737 or visit www.DowntownVisalia.com.

Ladies Night Out Concert

JULY 29 On July 29th at 8:00 pm, 103.7 The Beat will hold a Ladies Night Out Concert featuring: K-Ci & Jo Jo, Ginuwine, Dru Hill, Jon B, Rocky Sandoval & Special Guests! Ticket prices for the event are: \$29.00, \$39.00, \$49.00 & \$59.00.

Haute Summer Nights Fashion and Entertainment Show

JULY 30 On July 30th at 5:00pm, the Haute Summer Nights Fashion and Entertainment Show will be held and is located at West Hills College Conference Center, Building 200, 555 College Avenue in Lemoore, California. Hosted by Comedian and Radio Personality "Andre Covington of B95's Juice Crew Morning Show." The Dress Attire will be "All White, with a touch of Purple." Tickets are \$35.00 and can be purchased online at www.miloevents.net, at the door or you may contact us at (559) 469-7055. Evening includes: Vendors, Fashion Show, Entertainment and After Party with a No-Host Bar. The After Party will be held at The Old Firehouse, 215 N. Douty St., Hanford CA. Entry with ticket stub and White Attire is free; if not you will have to pay. DJ Straws is on the grounds at the Fashion Show. Doors for Event at WHC open at 5pm. After Party will begin around 11pm at The Old Firehouse. M.I.L.O. and Women With Visions Unlimited invites you out to support your community. Part of the proceeds will go to a non-profit (WWVU) with the objective to open an office locally for M.I.L.O. Please check out our website to get more familiar with who M.I.L.O. is. Donations, sponsors are welcomed. Doors open at 4:30pm. Event begins at 5pm.

Visit the Advocate Online!
www.caladvocate.com

2011 Juneteenth Celebration Vendor Pictorial

The California Advocate Newspaper was made an official media sponsor by the 2011 Fresno Juneteenth Committee. The event was held at the Hinton Center in West Fresno on June 18. For a history of Juneteenth, please see our website at www.caladvocate.com

Dear Community Members,

The Collaborative Juneteenth Committee would like to express its gratitude to the community for supporting this year's 2011 Juneteenth Celebration, "Embracing Our Heritage through Unity and Education -Freedom Amplified."

The aspiration this year was to embrace our history, both nationally and locally and to unify the community by sharing our rich African American heritage. Juneteenth celebrates a significant part of American history, and we believe our freedom should be amplified and never taken for granted.

The Committee worked long, tireless hours to diligently make this three-day event spectacular for the children as well as for the elders. This family-oriented occasion gives us the opportunity to celebrate our faith, family, and freedom. We hope our efforts transcend your expectations.

Look forward to seeing you next year. May you stay encouraged, 2011 Collaborative Juneteenth Committee!

See Page B1 for a Complete List of Juneteenth Vendors



Advocate Publisher Mark Kimber and Founder Les Kimber Pictured with Juneteenth Vendors.



See Page B1 for a List of Juneteenth Vendors

2011 Juneteenth Celebration Vendor Pictorial





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THE CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE'S REPORTER ON THE STREET

What Does Freedom Mean To You?

Interviews conducted June, 18th at the 2011 Juneteenth Celebration at Hinton Center, in West Fresno, California.

Robert Lockhard



"To come and go as I please, say what I want, do what I want and serve the God I choose."

Miss Teen Fresno Erika Steele



"To be able to do what you feel."

Deontae Bullock



"Being able to do what you want to do."

Marshaun Williams



"Freedom means the power to do what I want to do and be who I want to be."

Michael Ricks



"Jesus Christ, that is what freedom means to me."

Martha Williams



"The right to express yourself and not be oppressed."

Chris Jefferson



"The right to have options, be spontaneous and do what I feel."

Jaron Leavell



Freedom is doing what you love.

Francis Wilson



"Freedom means having complete control over your mind and being able to explore who you are."

Annetta Fondern



"Freedom means the ability to go where you want, do what you want. It is not being incumbent by anything or anyone."

Tyrone Brazzell



"Freedom means being able to do whatever I want to do. Go to college, get a degree, have a great job, be in congress."

Nia Shabazz



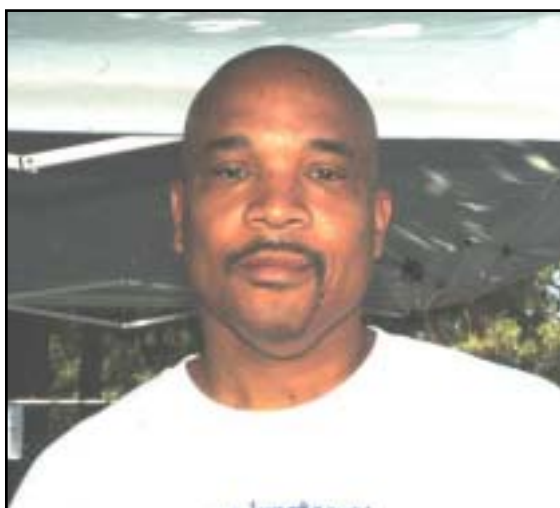
"Life, freedom to me means life. A good life. Being able to accomplish what we need to accomplish to be happy."

Trui Maxwell



"Well, it's hard to say because we have never experienced slavery other than the hidden slavery that we have now. Without freedom we would not be able to gather as a bunch of people without being harassed, whipped and chained."

Landon Green



"Freedom means everything. It is the theme for Juneteenth. There are so many freedoms our ancestors died for that we are not exercising, like the right to vote, travel and congregate. Amplify your freedom, turn it up! It is your freedom; use it wisely!"

Jocelyn Chretien



"Freedom to me is being able to express how you are without any restrictions. To be able to be confident with who you are and not having to worry about what people are saying. The right to make your own decisions, the right to change certain things. Being able to do that is freedom to me."

Sonia Swank



"Freedom to me means the right to be who you are as a person, to be able to walk down the street and not fear who's out there what they are doing. To be able to have religion like you want it. To be able to get out and get to know people and not be afraid to cross the boundaries of diversity. Expanding yourself culturally. Freedom is being able to be me and express myself."

2011 Juneteenth Celebration Vendors

FOOD VENDORS

Spicee & Mz Ladys Catering: Chicken Wings, Fries, Peach Cobbler. Contact person: Cheryl Sumler, 222-3720.

Southern Bell Sweet Tea: Sweet Tea Beverages. Contact person: Julie Dunn, 908-1240.

Makhenda International Missions: Fried Fish, Chicken Kabobs, Pulled Beef/Pork Sandwiches. Contact person: Harlene Woods, 408-9522.

God Inspired Productions: Fried Rice, Egg Rolls. Contact person: Edith Amey, 412-8491/ and 217-9352.

Bethlehem Baptist Church: BBQ Ribs, Chicken, Links. Contact person: Rev. Lee Pointer, 441-0287.

Deliverance House of Prayer Ministries: Tacos. Contact person: Helen Walker, 255-1163.

SISTAS For Christ, Mt. Pleasant Church: Cakes, Cookies, Fruit. Contact person: LaShell Aldredge, 284-6531.

Sanctuary Community Church: Fruit, Corn on the Cob. Pastor Reginald Grey, 313-9480 and 341-4436.

Uncle "D's": Tri Tip, BBQ Ribs. Contact person: Derrick Wale, 493-1229.

Food for Your Soul: Tri-Tip, Mac n Cheese, Salad. Contact person: Charles Baldwin, 228-8723

Ice Cream Express: Ice Cream Vendor Truck. Contact person: Willie Muhammed, 275-7989

CENO (Cancer Excludes No One): Frozen Fruit Punch & Cinnamon Rolls. Contact person: Valette Farwell, 323-5300.

Tropical Delites: Shaved Ice. Contact person: David Ledesma, 412-8129.

Ebony Pearls Catering: Cajun Shrimp Pasta, Shrimp Cocktail, Hush Puppies. Contact person: Ronnie Greene, (510) 253-6505.

Step Out on Faith Ministry: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs w/Bacon. Contact: Rosa Davis, 273-5141.

Sanctuary Community Church: Corn on a Stick. Contact person: Pastor Reginald Grey, 313-9480.

United One Productions: Chili Verde Burritos, Salads. Contact person: Judy Rogers, 709-1007

MERCHANDISE VENDORS

Nealy Enterprises: Home Décor. Contact person: Tom Nealy, 977-4425.

Ardyss International: Body Magic Garments. Contact person: Mickie Valentine, 977-7554.

Donna Crafts & Things: Crafts. Contact person: Donna Nolan, 930-7099.

Hakeem & Things: Oils. Contact person : Hakeem.

Thompson & Sons: Variety Merchandise. Contact person: Samuel Thompson, 477-2439.

For the Inside: Greeting Cards, Post Cards. Contact person: Mikki Addison, 999-9445.

Cookie Lee: Jewelry. Contact person: Georgina Reiland, 266-9272.

Adrian & Company: T Shirts, Merchandise. Contact person: Adrian Jones.

True African American Church of God: T Shirts, Merchandise. Contact person, Bobbie Parks, Cloteal Jones.

Mary Ellen Brown Center: Handcrafts Contact person: Carleen Bryant, 313-4448.

Scentsy: Wickless Candles Contact person: Denice Turner, 930-9329.

Brody & Company: T- Shirts. Contact person: Brody McDaniels, 681-3110.

Mardi's Wig Parties: Wigs & Products Contact person: Jovits Hall, 495-8464.

Sandra Mc Cullar: Shoes, Clothes, Jewelry & Purses Contact person: Sandra McCullar, 761-4168.

Cookie Lee: Jewelry & Water Beads. Contact person: Georgina Reiland, 266-9272.

Pink Palace Inc: African Hair Products, Clothes, Contact person: Kemi, 355- 4028.

INFORMATION VENDORS

NAACP: Educational Material/Membership Info. Contact person: Audrey Redmond, 559-213-5925

The Black Diabetic Foundation: Hypertension & Diabetes Testing/Materials. Contact person: Ruth Pierce, 281-345-1022.

Fresno County Republic Central Committee: Educational Material. Contact person: Audrey Redmond, 213-5925.

Chosen by God, Kingdom Children Ministries: Information. Contact person: Alexander Crowder, 346-1475.

Rosa Davis: Information. Contact person: Rosa Davis, 451-1844.

Herbalex: Information. Contact person: Jimel Thomas, 720-1351.

Central Valley Health Network: Information. Contact person: Vanessa Hines, 347-1214.

Big Brothers & Big Sisters: Information. Contact person: Denneah Fobbs, 268-2447.

Baha'i Faith: Information. Contact person: Ay-chavua Gavires, 441-1657

The Advocate's Teen Scene: New Teen Club Opens in Hanford

Club X, a new teen club in Hanford, opened June 10th. We spoke with the hostess Caroline Sowers, who is 17. She opened up to the California Advocate and told us what can be expected from this new teenage club"

ADVOCATE: What is your position at Club X?

CAROLINE: I'm the host and I am the one that is putting it on with the help of J Live Entertainment.

ADVOCATE: What is Club X?

CAROLINE: It's a club for fourteen to nineteen year-olds and it's basically a night club. Of course, it's no alcohol. There is dancing and a DJ that is set up really nice. There is a red carpet and a backdrop where you can put photographers there. We have a bar with soda and water for when people get thirsty. We also have VIP sections, too.

ADVOCATE: What made you come up with the idea of a Teen Club?

CAROLINE: I kinda came up with the idea after Spring break. I just like putting on stuff for people. I like entertainment stuff. I was in Santa Barbra, San Luis Obispo and San Luis Obispo has a thing called The Graduate and it's just like a dance. It's nothing big like a night club and it gave me the idea. Hanford or actually nowhere around here has anything like this, so I figured that I work for an entertainment company, so why not give them the idea.

ADVOCATE: We know there will be no alcohol, so what will you be serving teens instead?

CAROLINE: Water and soda and eventually we want to do virgin drinks, but we haven't done that yet.

ADVOCATE: Will there be

food available? If so, what kind?

CAROLINE: No Food.

ADVOCATE: How late is the club open?

CAROLINE: 8:00 until midnight.

ADVOCATE: Where is it located?

CAROLINE: We are going to try to do different locations and the main goal is to say Club X is coming to your city. We are going to bring it different cities, that is what we want to do in the long run.

ADVOCATE: For the parents who are worried about safety, what security measures do you have in place?

CAROLINE: They do hire security.

ADVOCATE: Can teens leave and re-enter the club?

CAROLINE: No. Due to all of the alcohol problems that we could have, we have no re-entry into the

club. That causes a lot of problems.

ADVOCATE: What kind of music do you play?

CAROLINE: Your typical music that plays on Q97, B95.

ADVOCATE: What is the capacity of the venue?

CAROLINE: It depends on the venue. Last event held about 6 hundred.

ADVOCATE: Why do you feel that teens should attend Club X?

CAROLINE: Well, eighteen to nineteen year-olds can go to clubs, but we geared it toward the age groups that need something to do. It will keep them from doing bad things. It appeals to both sides. It appeals to the adult side which is, like, ok, they are going to be in a safe place and for my age, it feels like you're going to a nightclub.

Byron Allen Launching New HD TV Channel For African American Audiences



Entertainment Studios, the company owned by Byron Allen, has announced that it will launch a new high-definition channel early next year with programming intended for an African-American audience. Legacy TV, which has not yet made a deal with a TV or satellite provider for carriage, is expected to offer programs on black history and biographies of African-American leaders.

"The mission of Legacy.TV is to celebrate African-American excellence everywhere," said Allen, the former comedian who heads Entertainment Studios. "Our goal and commitment is to make Legacy.TV an engaging and compelling platform which communicates the entire African-American journey. All content will be originally produced in-house to insure the highest level of creative quality, as well as the ability to distribute our content globally on all platforms."

Entertainment Studios currently produces six niche-oriented HD channels including ES.TV, Comedy.TV, Pet.TV, Car.TV, Recipe.TV, and MyDestination.TV. All are presently being carried by Verizon FiOS TV service and other outlets.

Profiling Local Teen Sensation Brian Cade

Meet Brian Cade. He is a nineteen-year-old graduate from Clovis High School who is currently and aspiring R&B and Hip Hop artist. Cade is known for his electrifying vocals which led him to win The Big Fresno Fair's 2009 and 2010 'Next Big Thing Talent Show.' Here is a sneak peek of his journey on becoming a renowned artist and performer:

ADVOCATE: Brian, how long have you been in music?

CADE: I have been singing since I was 7. That is when I first found out that I could really do music. I think that I really got serious about it when I was 13. So that's 7 years. I told my dad that I wanted to be a rapper when I was 7. I didn't really get serious until I was 13.

ADVOCATE: Tell us about your accomplishments so far?

CADE: I won the Fresno Fair's 'Next Best Thing Talent Show' for 2 years in a row. I just had a show that I headlined at the Tower Theater. I have not won any awards yet but hopefully I have some in my future.

ADVOCATE: Who are your role models or idols?

CADE: I have a lot of role models; I think that my stepdad Troy is one, and my dad. As far as Idols, I look up to Stevie Wonder, I was just listening to his music today. Just anyone who makes good music, who sings outside of the box, and who are the best at what they do in general is an idol of mine. I like people that are the best, but that don't show they are the best. They are not arrogant.

ADVOCATE: What is your source of inspiration?

CADE: Really, life. I know that I am only 19, and if I told someone older than me that my inspiration was life, they would say "you haven't even lived life yet." I think that all of my music is something that I have been through. I don't sit around and talk about stuff that I haven't done and I think that's what makes my music so easy to listen to, because it's not like you're listening to a fictional story.

ADVOCATE: Finish this sentence: I will know I am successful when:

CADE: I can go to the mall and people want to take pictures with me

ADVOCATE: What do you love about performing?

CADE: The reaction on peoples' face. I like getting on stage because when I am on stage I take on a different character. Performing is like a rollercoaster: I am in control of everything, all eyes are on me. People react the way I want them to react when I am performing.

ADVOCATE: What made you get into performing?

CADE: I have always been an 'attention hog' when I was younger. I always wanted all eyes on me and I always sang for people, acted and danced. So, I just decided to make it my life.

ADVOCATE: Describe your music performances?

CADE: My shows are full of lots of energy because I've noticed that if I go on stage and I give it 110 percent, the crowd most likely will give me at least 50 percent of what they have and 50 percent of what they have is better than nothing. I perform basically to where if I was in the crowd watching me perform I would be happy with what I saw. I try to entertain

and bring smiles to people's faces.

ADVOCATE: Where can we find your music?

CADE: You can find my music on YouTube.com/briancade1 or you can follow me on twitter at twitter.com/briancadesings. If anyone follows me there they can just ask for down-

loads and I can shoot them links.

ADVOCATE: Tell us about your upcoming shows:

CADE: I have a show July 8th where I will open up for Salt and Pepa at the King's Fair. I have a show on the 22nd in Hanford and on the 29th I will be at the Tower Theater.

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ME
tonight?
i'm the designated driver



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The telephone survey was conducted among a national probability sample of nearly 1,000 adults 21 years of age and older. Interviewing for this survey was completed September 24-26, 2010.

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ADVOCATE REVIEWS

CD REVIEW: BEYONCÉ, '4'

BY NADINE CHEUNG
www.aolradioblog.com

Beyoncé has unveiled 'Best Thing I Never Had,' another new single from her upcoming album, '4,' due out on June 28.

In the song, Beyoncé sings about a failed attempt at love that she feels lucky to have missed out on. She thinks she's "dodged a bullet" because the man has shown his true colors, and the R&B star has managed to avoid heartbreak.

"I wanted you bad / I'm so through with that / Cause honestly you turned out to be the best thing I never had / And I'm gonna always be the best thing you never had / I bet it sucks to be you right now."

Beyoncé showcases her vocal strength in this song, ripping through the scorn verses with grit, but treating the confessional chorus and



The cover of Beyoncé's latest recording, 4.

bridge with restraint.

The song follows the release of Beyoncé's first two singles, 'Run the World (Girls)' and '1+1.' Each

song has shown a different side of the chart-topping diva, implying that '4' will offer fans an exciting potpourri of music.

WHO WE WILL MISS

CLARENCE CLEMONS: JANUARY 11, 1942 - JUNE 18, 2011

The Bell is Beginning to Toll for Baby Boomers' Aging Music Idols



BY WILLIAM DOUGLAS
McClatchy Newspapers

Pennsylvania. — Months before he passed away, saxophonist Clarence Clemons told Rolling Stone magazine that Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band's 2009 tour was pure hell for him physically.

But despite being 69 years old having his knees and hips replaced, Clemons spoke eagerly about getting back on the road with "The Boss" in 2012 and maybe

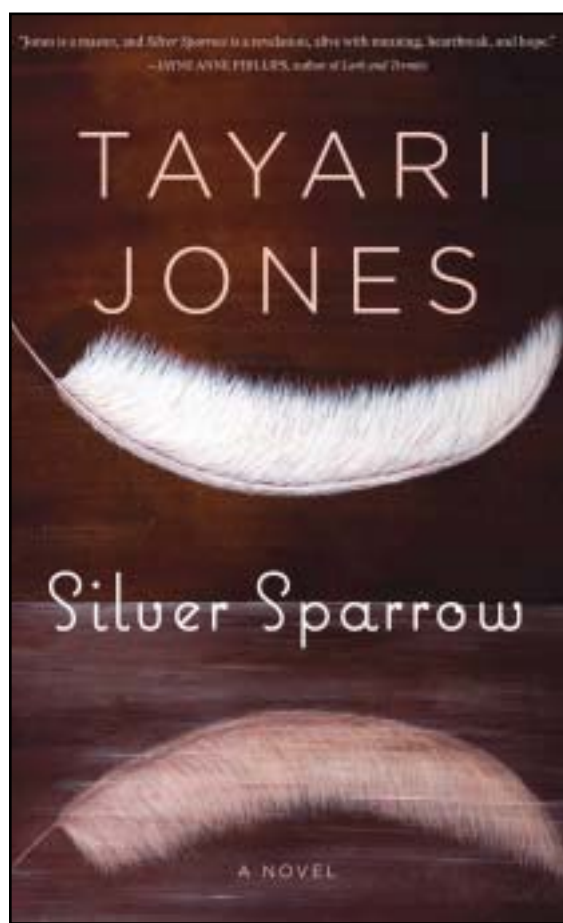
touring with Lady Gaga, who he performed with on his "Born This Way" CD.

"As long as my mouth, hands and brains still work I'll be out there doing it," he told Rolling Stone in February. "I'm going to keep going 'till I'm not there anymore."

Clemons died in Florida from complications related to a stroke he suffered on June 12. Springsteen, E Street Band members, families and friends said their goodbyes to the massive,

ebullient sax player known as the "Big Man" at a private funeral service Tuesday in Palm Beach, Fla.

Clemons' passing — along with a recent spate of deaths of other artists from the 1970s and '80s — is forcing some baby boomers to reconcile that the seemingly indestructible musical idols that provided the soundtrack of their lives are either dying or growing old and suffering from the same aches, pains and illnesses that they do.



Interview with Author Tayari Jones on her latest novel, SILVER SPARROW

"A Story of sisters and secrets, Silver Sparrow will break your heart before you even know it. Tayari Jones has written a novel filled with characters I'll never forget. This is a book I'll read more than once." — Judy Blume

With the opening line of "My father, James Witherspoon, is a bigamist," Tayari Jones unveils a breathtaking story about a man's deception, a family's complicity, and two teenage girls caught in the middle.

Set in Atlanta in the 1980s, Silver Sparrow revolves around James Witherspoon's two families — his public one...and his secret one. The two daughters meet and form a friendship, but only one of them knows they are sisters. At the heart of it all are these two girls whose lives are at stake, and like the best writers — think Toni Morrison with The Bluest Eye — Jones elegantly portrays the fragility of her characters with raw authenticity as they seek love, demand attention, and try to imagine themselves as women.

Why did you tell this story through the perspective of the two daughters, Dana and Chaurisse? Was one of the girls easier to access than the other?

I Don't have a hard "why" for artistic decisions. The story felt incomplete without both girls' perspectives or without their mothers'.

I found the girls equally easy and equally difficult to access. I think it's because I identify so completely with both of them. Like Chaurisse, I have a close relationship with my father. I had such fun writing their scenes together, and in order to do it, I was able to tap into my own inner girl and think of life before I understood my parents as people with layers and complications. It means so much to a girl to have her father's attention. It makes you feel special in a way that no other person can really duplicate.

What roles do social class and privilege play in the novel?

Social class has always been an issue that interests me. I think Silver Sparrow complicates the questions a little bit. Dana has many bourgeois affectations, but she and her mother are not as financially secure as Chaurisse and her mother. So much of class is about performance. Dana and her mother have upwardly mobile aspirations and do everything they can to transcend social class, but of course money limits their options.

Chaurisse enjoys great privilege but she

doesn't know it, and I think this is often the case. No one goes around thinking how lucky they are that their dad claims them. She thinks her life is just average. She has no idea that the life she enjoys is on someone else's back. Her moral litmus test is what she will do about it once she knows.

You delve into the idea of titles, that calling someone a "wife" doesn't really explain the full complexity of her position and that it "matters what you called things." Why is a title — and the firm boundaries that come with it — so important?

Actually, I think Silver Sparrow makes you wonder if titles are all that important after all. Clearly titles give people access to social standing. Laverne is the "wife," and that gives her public approval. But I felt like Gwen is his wife, too. And no matter what James chooses to say, Dana is his "daughter." I feel like titles are honorifics. When I started writing this book, I didn't understand how deep these sorts of relationships could be.

How did you come to the title Silver Sparrow?

This was really an eleventh hour title. This book went through half a dozen titles before I settled on Silver Sparrow. The reference is to the gospel classic "His Eye Is on the Sparrow." When I was a girl, I took great comfort in the idea that God is taking care of everything and everyone, even a tiny sparrow. (This was especially important because I grew up in Atlanta during a very dangerous time.) The characters refer to the song, and it occurred to me that although Chaurisse things of Dana as her "silver girl," in many ways Dana is the tiniest sparrow in the story. She is flawed, of course, and sometimes she acts out, but she is also "the least of these."

What do you hope readers will take away from Silver Sparrow?

I hope that readers will come away from the book with a sort of tolerance for people who find themselves in complicated and messy situations. When I started writing this novel, I didn't really have empathy for Gwen, and I had nothing but sympathy for Laverne. But by the time I finished, I sort of understood the way people get trapped and try to make the best out of bad situations. Both women love their daughters with a bottomless devotion. As Dana would say, "You can't help but respect something like that."

THE CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE'S

Artistic Expressions

Reader Submitted Artwork

ARTIST: Jeanette Brewer

Submit your own artwork, poems, short stories or paintings to be featured in the California Advocate!

THE CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE

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Celebrity Bowling Challenge at AMF Sierra Lanes Bowling Alley

HOSTED BY B95's ANDRE COVINGTON, WITH SPECIAL GUESTS RICKY MANNING JR AND LOUIS LEONARD

June 17th's Annual Celebrity Bowling Challenge, held at AMF Sierra Lanes, saw a huge show of support from NFL stars, local celebrities and community members alike. The event was put on by K.Y.J.O Enterprises and D.R.E.A.M

Central Valley. These two organizations have teamed up to provide seven residential homes in Fresno, Hanford and Clovis. The homes give twenty-four hour care to twelve to seventeen year-olds with an emphasis on at risk youth.



The California Advocate staff with friends and family.



Celebrities bowl with participants.



Ricky Manning, Jr. lending his support to a bowling team.



Stephonne Paige, former Kansas City Chief, and Ricky Manning, Jr.



Former St. Louis Ram Ricky Manning, Jr. and Celebrity Bowling Challenge host Andre Covington.



Former Minnesota Viking Marcus McCauley, Ricky Manning, Jr. and former Fresno State star Vincent Mays.



Cleveland Browns player Clifton Smith tells Ken McCoy why this event is important.



Bowling for a worthy cause.



Two young ladies getting ready to enjoy the day's festivities.



Yes, the California Advocate did take home a trophy!



Louis Leonard of the Denver Broncos and Ricky Manning, Jr.

Obama Picks A Fight With GOP...

► Continued from Page A1 consensus behind what he calls a "balanced" approach to deficit reduction.

Obama and Republicans have been locked for more than a month in a confrontation over increasing the nation's borrowing limit. Republicans have insisted they will not approve the increase unless Obama and congressional Democrats agree to long-term spending cuts. Top Republicans also pulled out of discussions with Vice President Joseph Biden last week, objecting to a White House demand that any deal include additional revenue.

The president is prone to delivering lengthy answers in a professorial tone, relying on abstract ideas. By contrast, he laid out his arguments Wednesday in simple, everyday terms, echoing a former president he has been studying: Ronald Reagan.

"These are bills that Congress ran up," Obama said, explaining why the nation must not default on its debt obligations. "They took the vacation. They bought the car. Now they're saying, 'Maybe we don't have to pay.'"

Obama cited a high-profile tax break offered to owners of corporate jets several times, even though it would bring in only an estimated \$3 billion over 10 years. Other Democratic proposals would net \$41 billion by tightening oil-and-gas credits and \$21 billion by eliminating credits

for hedge-fund managers.

The largest Democratic tax proposal would limit deductions claimed by those earning more than \$500,000 a year. In all, the White House said this year that it wants \$760 billion in new revenue over 10 years.

Obama painted a stark image of winners and losers under the GOP debt deal. Oil companies already making money "hand over fist," he said, would continue to receive taxpayer subsidies, at the expense of "a bunch of kids out there who are not getting college scholarships."

Medical research would be undermined and food inspection weakened if Republicans pursue their "maximal-

ist position," he said.

Obama chided lawmakers for taking frequent recesses instead of finishing work on the issue, noting his two young daughters exhibit more diligence in doing their homework than Congress has shown.

"They don't wait until the night before," he said. "They're not pulling all-nighters. Congress can do the same thing."

Reacting to the criticism, senators are considering abandoning a weeklong Fourth of July recess, and House leaders said they would stay in session until negotiations were finished.

Republican leaders offered scant hope of a shift on the issue of tax revenues.

Police Chief To Retire From Position...

► Continued from Page A1 service to our community," Mayor Swearingin said. "The depth of the commitment Chief Dyer made to the Fresno Police Department and to the entire City is remarkable, and the level of sacrifice he made - both personally and professionally - is tremendous."

"Needless to say, this transition is bittersweet - bitter because we don't want to see Chief Dyer go, but sweet be-

cause he has accomplished so much. The standard he has set for the Police Department and for the person who will take his place could not be any higher."

In addition to the department's accomplishment, Mayor Swearingin said Chief Dyer has been a great fundraiser by launching the Fresno Police Chief's Foundation, which raises money to meet the unmet needs of the department,

most notably the Operation SkyWatch helicopter patrol.

Under Chief Dyer's direction, the department received national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement (CALEA), making Fresno the largest municipal law enforcement agency to receive the accreditation. Next month, the department will receive its second reaccreditation status

and will receive the "Accreditation with Excellence" designation as a result of meeting 100 percent of the CALEA standards.

In addition, Chief Dyer has been a state and national leader in law enforcement, having served as the president of the California Police Chiefs Association. This year, he received the association's Joseph Malloy Award for distinguished service as a police chief.

Oscar Grant's Mother, BART Settles...

► Continued from Page A1 former BART Officer Johannes Mehserle, who was recently released after serving half of a two-year prison term.

"If I got \$1 or \$100 million, it still wouldn't bring Oscar back. My heart still

grieves for my son," Johnson said at a news conference at the Oakland office of her attorney, John Burris. "The loss was unnecessary, and I just pray that as officers go around, and they have to make decisions, that they would choose the right

decision. It didn't have to be this way."

Burris said the video-recorded shooting of a black man by a white officer had wounded not only the Grant family but the "psyche of the African American community."

A trial on the civil case was months, and perhaps years, away. Dale Allen, an attorney representing BART, said, "This is a fair settlement, given the risks to both sides and the economics of continuing this litigation."

2011 Miss California Pageant...

► Continued from Page A1

pageantry in order to increase my strength and my faith. That is why I am here and I think that all of us are here on faith, that one opportunity, that one chance."

Jasmine Johnson, 19
Miss City of Inglewood

"I am 19 years of age and I am from Inglewood, California. My education there was not the best education so it forced me to be a hard worker and to search for resources outside of my community. For example, in my 10th grade year I was admitted to Yale University for summer school so I went there for a summer. I was able to overcome not having the resources or privileged education that other people may have had. After my four years of education at my high school in Inglewood, I was accepted to UC Berkeley on a full academic scholarship so that was really an accomplishment for me. I was able to pursue higher education, and this is also an accomplishment, being able to be a contestant for Miss California."

that is Ethiopian and a mother who is Filipino. I have two older sisters and a younger brother. It's kind of funny because even my older sisters think that I am a role model to them. They always say "well, your kind of like the bigger sister". I grew up with a big family, lots of different foods. I have always been independent and go on my own will. I was the first one to leave and go far away from home and so it's different"

Velvet Johnson, 20
Miss Ladera Heights

"I am from a single parent home. My mom and my dad divorce when I was 5-years-old. My dad was a drug addict and that is why they divorced and when my mom asked for the divorce my dad set our house on fire and left. I haven't seen or talked to him for fifteen years now. My mom is a breast cancer survivor and she was diagnosed when I was fourteen. So I had to raise myself for a while because it was just me and her in the home. I have half brothers that are from my dad but they are not very active in my life. I am a Pre-Med Biology Major at Cal State Bakersfield. I am a first generation literally out of my whole family to go to college."

Elizabeth Wubishet, 24
Miss Briarwood

"Ever since I was 7, I did musical theater, acting, singing and dancing. I grew up with a father

Fresno Artist Fashawn Makes Big Moves...

► **Continued from Page A1** parel." I don't know why that stuck out to me. He was actually saying fashion, like apparel but he swang it, like, "fashawn last long." I took that name and I rhymed it like a million times, "Fashawn, last long, blast off, that's all." I said that's my name, I can spell it like I want and that's why I chose it: I think it fits, I think it's easy on the tongue."

He remembers rapping to Snoop Dogg and MC Hammer lyrics. He also started writing. That was how he said he made sense of everything irrational in his life. In 2006, Fashawn dropped "Grizzly City" – an album that led him into dropping out of school and going on tour with local lyricist, Planet Asia. In October 2009 he released his debut album, "Boy Meets World."

Although Fashawn is only 23, he has already toured with many established artists such as Ghostface Killah, Mistah Fab, Brother Ali, and Wiz Kalifa. Fashawn has released over 8 mix tapes and is featured on over twenty popular albums. On June 24, he invited The California Advocate Newspaper to his studio to tell us an overview on his experiences about his plans to take his rap career to the next level.

ADVOCATE: As an established artist, what keeps you coming back to Fresno?

Fashawn: What keeps me coming back to Fresno is my history here. It's the way that the city moves. When I go to LA or New York, it's fast-paced and it's really dominant in the business world. So when I come home I get back to my reality: I get back to that calm place in my spirit where I can get centered and put everything back into perspective after all of the madness that I have seen prior.

ADVOCATE: When did you know that rapping was your "thing" and that you wanted to make a career out of it? We at the Advocate, have been following you since you were 12.

Fashawn: When a brother by the name of DJ Orelle asked me if I wanted to do this, he was, like, "you want to be a rapper?" I was, like, "sure!" He then asked me

again: He was, like, "do you really want to be a rapper?" I was, like, "yes." From that moment on I have not stayed out of the studio and I have not stayed off of the stage.

ADVOCATE: How old were you?

Fashawn: I was 12 years old.

ADVOCATE: Do you include the Central Valley in your videos?

Fashawn: All of them. There is not a video that I haven't shot besides 'Samsonite Man' which is about me traveling everywhere. I shot that in L.A., but every other video I shot in Fresno.

ADVOCATE: What is your advice to aspiring artists in the Central Valley, which can be a hard place to make it in the industry?

Fashawn: Well, it depends on what they aspire to do. There are a lot of aspiring artists. Some people aspire just to get money, some people aspire just to be famous. I would say that my advice to them is to really stick to the music because that is where it starts and to stay true to yourself. Never be ashamed of where you are from. Central Cali is a beautiful place and don't ever mistake that. It's where I come from and I try to paint the picture as vivid and as clear as I can.

ADVOCATE: What was your experience like touring with Wiz Kalifa?

Fashawn: Touring with Wiz Kalifa was fun and this was right after I got off of tour with Brother Ali. They are two different artists whose music is aimed at two different kinds of audiences, so it was just a big learning experience for me how to cater to certain audiences. It was just mind blowing. All of the shows were sold out, it was really another level that I have never experienced yet.

ADVOCATE: What other artist have you worked with?

Fashawn: I've worked with the Alchemist, Dilated Peoples, J. Cole, Dr. Dre ... a long list of people and there is still a long list that I would like to work with, but those are some of them.

ADVOCATE: Who are some of the people that you would

like to work with?

Fashawn: I would like to work with Angie Stone, Joss Stone, Kendrick Lamar. I think that he is a phenomenal artist. Stevie Wonder. I wish I could resurrect Marvin Gaye.

ADVOCATE: What can your fans expect from your performances?

Fashawn: Expect for me to leave it all on the stage. A lot of high energy performing, no adlibs. A lot of artists will be performing and have the vocals playing in the background. I totally don't do that. I want my fans to get the pure experience of what I do. A lot of surprises, a lot of special guests: The next level of hip hop, not just your traditional MC and turntable. I am bringing it a little different this year. I have a band now, and we just got out of rehearsal, and we are really sounding good. I am excited about the performances for the rest of the year.

ADVOCATE: What do you love about performing?

Fashawn: I love creating moments because I think in the studio you can capture and press record and play it over again, but when you are performing for an actual live crowd you create these moments and there's nothing like it. You can never duplicate that. The feeling that you get on stage, that's my favorite part. The butterflies you get on stage and feeling them fly away as I am on stage, I love that part of performing. That is my favorite part.

ADVOCATE: What are some of your concerns as an African American artist in the industry?

Fashawn: My concerns are for people in the higher parts of the industry is not to exploit what it is to be African American or what they think it is to be an African American. That is what my main concern is. But other than that there is nothing that the industry could do to African American people; we are strong people.

ADVOCATE: There still exists an element of exploitation concerning our African American artists. What hurdles have you had to over-

come in that regard?

Fashawn: It's like they want you to be ignorant, and it's like they want you to be misogynistic and all of the kinds of stuff that they already assume that us young brothers do. That is some of the hurdles that we've got to go through; just to explain to these people, "no, it's not like that." We have actually progressed as a people and it's not the same as it was twenty years ago or thirty years ago, fifty years ago, and just having to explain that to people in 2011. I did not think that we would have to explain that to people in 2011, for God's sake, but that is the biggest that we go through. It's just proving to people that we are just as equal as anybody else, "civilized" as anybody else. That is what I've got to go through and I am sure that a lot of other young brothers have got to go through it too.

ADVOCATE: Tell us about your upcoming shows and the projects that you are currently working on?

Fashawn: I have an album coming out called 'The Ecology' and when you hear the ecology or anything that has to do with the ecosystem, you probably think about the environment, the trees and everything that's green, but to me it was me studying everything. Not just the trees, but the people and how we affect each other and how everything is kind of one thing. Not everything is separated like we perceive it to be. Everything is connected. To me, therefore, it's all one; it's one world that we live in. That's what the ecology is about: the study of the human experience and just being a human being. I felt like with a



Fresno artists Fashawn being interviewed by Advocate staff members, Marlise Moore and Bernique Covington.

title like that it was so universal that I could talk about anything from love to hate to ignorance to politics. So The Ecology is my next album and it should drop this winter. Before that I have to do 'Rock The Bells,' which is a big hip hop tour. It's going be me, Nas, Lauryn Hill and an abundance of dope artists. I cannot wait for that.



Fashawn and Advocate publisher Mark Kimber.

ADVOCATE: Why do you think it is important to support black-owned media?

Fashawn: I feel like it's important for us to have our own outlet so that nobody can tell us how to be us. That has been a problem for the majority of the years, because we had somebody else controlling another ethnicity. That is why I feel like it's im-

portant for us to own our own stuff. In all outlets, whether its journalism, music or whatever.

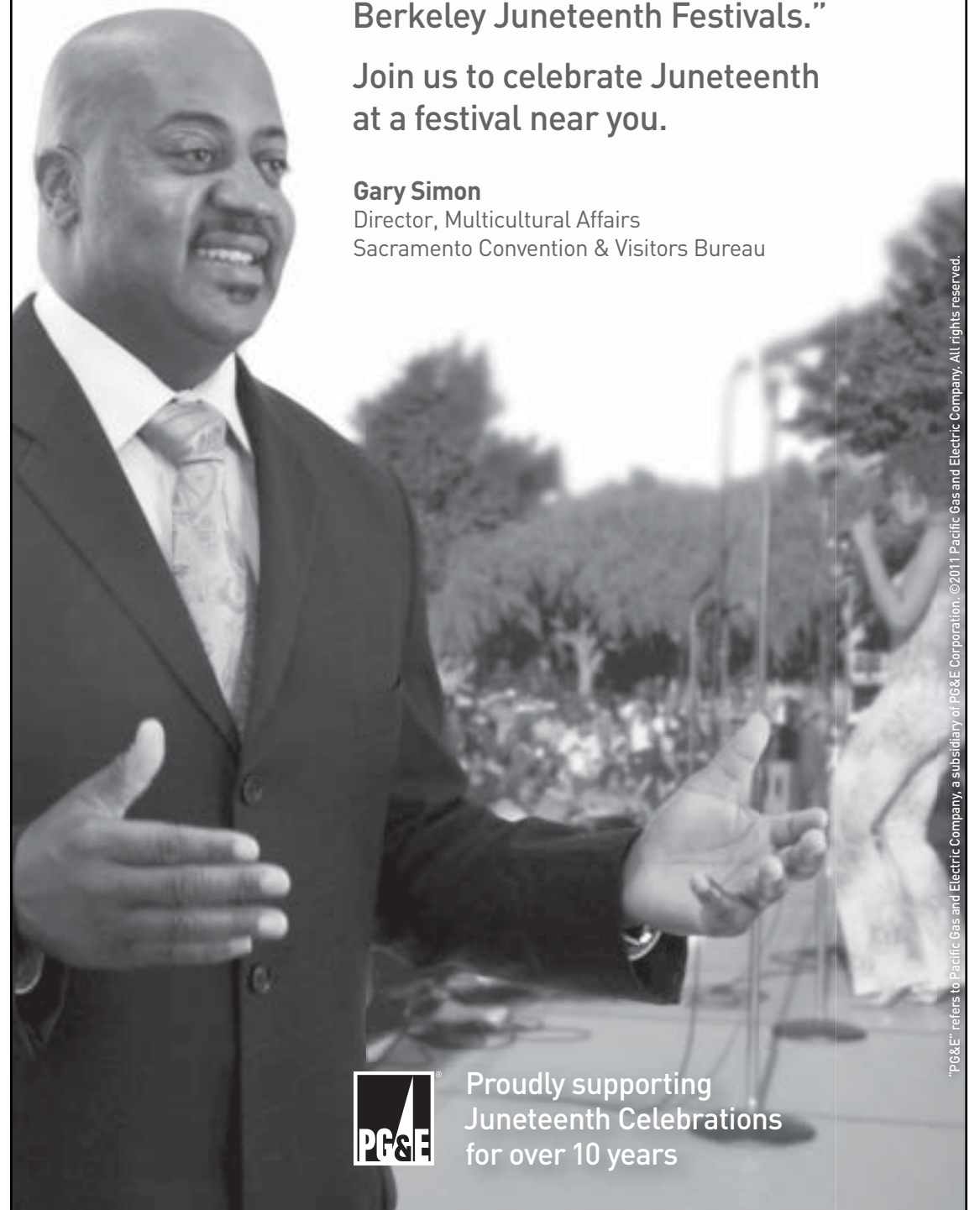
ADVOCATE: When will you feel like you are successful and you have actually made it?

Fashawn: I don't know, I guess when everyone knows my name or if everyone is singing my songs in the whole world. That is one of the hardest questions I know because I don't know particularly what success is. A lot of people say that I am successful, but I still work hard every day like I don't have a dime in my pocket. I still have so far to go and I still want to get all of the other accolades. I have never been to an awards show before and I can't wait to do that. I don't care if I win or not, I just want to be there. I guess that is when I will feel like I'm successful, when I have reached the next level. I think life is about learning and mastering, and right now I am just learning. So when I master this level and get to the next level is what I will consider success. Longevity: That is what I consider success, not just being hot right now. That is what success is to me, having a long career. Like Luther Vandross, I want to have a long career.

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THE BEST OF BLACK LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT

The 2nd Annual Central Valley Comedy Competition

ADVOCATE: What is the Central Valley Comedy Competition?

ANDRE: It's an opportunity for up and coming comedians to test their comedic skills against other comics. To see where they stand in the comedy game. It gives them exposure throughout the Central Valley by performing in different venues. Also, it teaches them how to compete on a high level.

ADVOCATE: What is the name of your company that puts on the competition?

ANDRE: Unique Entertainment.

ADVOCATE: How many years have you been doing this?

Andre: This is the 2nd annual and we are looking forward to it being even bigger this year. Last year, all our preliminary rounds were done in smaller venues but, every venue sold out. We had about 800 people at our finals which was held at Woodward Park Amphitheatre. This year we're holding it at the Ap-Cal winery in Madera. This year we are looking for a more intimate setting, under the stars. The venue holds around 1,200 people and we are looking to fill it to capacity.

ADVOCATE: What made you start the Central Valley Comedy Competition?

ANDRE: Well, as a stand-up comedian myself, I think back in my career and how comedy competitions helped me. I was a finalist in the Bay Area Black Comedy Competition, which led me to get roles that directly benefited from that, like Def Jam and Comedy Central. I was also in the Seattle Comedy Competition which led me to a spot on MTV. I was a finalist in several other competitions that really prepared me for the next level of stand-up. When you are doing television and things of that nature you are under the clock. You only have a certain amount of time. That is what this competition is about. You have 5-6 minutes in the preliminary round to prove what you have. You have to work under those constraints, or you'll be penalized which could hurt your score and cause you not to advance. The semi-final rounds are 8-10 minutes therefore you have to stretch your material out. If you only have five minutes of material you will be exposed by the second round. If you make it to the finals you will have 12-15 minutes, that separates the men from the boys. To be entertaining the crowd for that amount of time is where you start to realize it's work to do what we do. It's a good starting point for you to have a solid 15 minutes in your career. Later on you hope to get up to an hour or an hour and a half which is what some of the major headliners do across the country.

ADVOCATE: Who was the winning comic in last year's comedy competition?

ANDRE: Last year's winner is Samuel J Comroe. He's from Los Angeles Ca. He has Tourettes, which causes him to twitch. He has a twitch on stage, and he has turned it into a part of his routine. Since winning the competition he has gone on to some

bigger things in his career. He's making more money. He has also gone on to do some deals with NBC and other higher levels of stand-up. He has toured around the country and has made quite a name for himself.

ADVOCATE: How did last year's finalist benefit after it was over?

ANDRE: Jackson McQueen, who was the runner up last year is now starring in a Bud Light commercial, and is also traveling all over the country doing stand-up, which is a big jump from last year. So these guys have really upped their status. They are doing a lot more and they credit the competition as one of those things that has given them confidence.

ADVOCATE: How much money is on the line this year?

ANDRE: \$5,000 in cash and prizes will be divided up between the last 6 finalists. The winner will walk away with \$2,000.00 and the rest will be divided up between the other finalists.

ADVOCATE: What do you expect from this year's contestants?

ANDRE: Originality, it's always great to see new faces in stand-up coming along and doing big things. So, they will surprise everybody and let everyone know they are a force to be reckoned with.

ADVOCATE: What can the audience expect at the finals this year?

ANDRE: Excitement, fun times and a beautiful atmosphere! We're at a winery, we're outdoors underneath the stars. It's a 21 and over event so there will be alcohol. There will be wine tasting and vendors with different foods for your palate. Just a good time! A very laid back atmosphere we want people to dress casual to come out and enjoy a night of comedy under the stars. With 6 fresh faces. I'll be hosting the show and we'll have a surprise special guest performance as well. So, it will be a whole lotta comedy! 2 1/2 hours of fun and laughter under the stars.

ADVOCATE: What is the cost to get into the finals this year?

ANDRE: The finals this year are \$20.00. (Tickets are available at 559afterdark.com)

ADVOCATE: What made you choose the winery in Madera for your finals?

ANDRE: It's more intimate. We are probably going to get around 1,000 or 1,500 people. I would rather have a nice intimate setting where everyone is together laughing. The space of the place is so beautiful, it really caught my eye.

ADVOCATE: Will you be hosting any part of the competition?

ANDRE: I will be hosting the preliminary rounds throughout the whole competition. As it goes on further down the road, and it becomes the 10th and 15th annual I will continue to use some of my past winners and guys who have come along and gone



Dewayne 'Insane Wayne' Jackson, Matthew Nouriel, Michelle Rowe and Andre Covington.



TJ Young, Johnny Osburn, Cris Cruz and Andre Covington.

on to make bigger names for themselves. Like they are doing in the Bay Area Black Comedy Competition. Past winners include Jamie Foxx, Mike Epps, and Don DC Curry and these guys have gone on in Hollywood to make movies, they still go and support. That's my goal for the Central Valley.

ADVOCATE: Who will be headlining this year's Central Valley Comedy Competition?

ANDRE: The finalist will be your headliners. The 6 people who make it there and have gone through two rounds and gotten it done those will be your headliners. They are the people we will focus on. I will be

hosting the show and we will have a surprise special guest. Remember, check out 559afterdark.com for tickets and listen up for more info on B95 too!

The 6 Finalists who will be going on to the Appellation California Winery on July 2nd are as follows:

- 1 Dewayne 'Insane Wayne' Jackson, Stockton
- 2 Michelle Rowe, Fresno
- 3 Matthew Nouriel, Los Angeles
- 4 TJ Young, Bakersfield
- 5 Chris Cruz, Fresno
- 6 Johnny Osburn, Fresno

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