

# EDISON BETHUNE CHEER TEAM TAKES STATE HONORS

Photos by Marty Solis



**THE CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE NEWSPAPER FRESNO CA –**

The California Advocate is proud to give due recognition to Edison Bethune Charter Academy's amazing cheer squad. Their cheerleaders brought fierce competition to the National State Grand Championship in the elementary school division at Knotts Berry Farm in Los Angeles and returned with 3 trophies, 3 individual medals, 3 spirit sticks and 4 trophies and medals for parent involvement on March 24.

Congratulations to coaches Ruby Espitia and Erica Rivera and their talented cheer squad; Grace Johnson, Sophia Orozco, Jada White, Julia Vidrio, Madison Barnes, Sade Turner, Savanna Morales, Natalie Cortez, Daisy Gonzales Conesco, Jocelyn Paxton, Tarajah Green, Jocelyn Marquez, Sunshine Vang,

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# Local Reaction To The Trayvon Martin Killing

For latest Trayvon Martin news and a timeline of events see pages B1, B3 & B10

BY KYRA JENKINS, CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE

It's been over a month since 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was shot and killed in Sanford, Florida. The shooter, self-appointed neighborhood watchman, George Zimmerman has not been charged. Trayvon, who was African-American, was returning to his father's girlfriend's house in a predominantly white neighborhood when he noticed he was being followed by Zimmerman.

Zimmerman, who remains in hiding,

claims he shot the teen in self-defense, although Martin was found with nothing more than a bag of Skittles, an ice tea and \$22 in his pocket.

Trayvon's parents lead a rally in Miami on the day of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination on April 4. Prominent figures such as James Fortune and Fiya, Vickie Winans, the Wardlaw Brothers and Sensere paid tribute to the fallen Civil Rights leader who was killed in 1968; they also called for justice for a 17-year-old teenager whose voice has been

silenced. The California Advocate spoke with local activists and influential leaders to hear what they have to say about Trayvon's death.

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Tate Hill  
FMBCC President



Pamela D. Young  
NAACP President



Dr. Jean Kennedy  
Radio Host

ADVOCATE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH FRESNO STATE PRESIDENT DR. JOHN D. WELTY

# How Tuition Hikes are Affecting Minorities

SEE STORY ON PAGE A5



Dr. John D. Welty

# Fresno Media Icon Launches TV Segment to Help Local Economy

BY KYRA JENKINS, CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE

**FRESNO, CA –** Whether you know her from being a Reporter or Anchorwoman at ABC 30, the host of "0 to 5" on PBS, or the news director at K-JEWEL, most valley residents have seen at least a glimpse of this valley icon's media career.

And now Juanita Stevenson's new pilot television segment, "Valley Works," sheds light on chronic issues affecting the Central Valley, which

will likely stay with us for a while – unemployment and re-entering the workforce.

"Employment is always going to be an issue...it's not going to go away. It's not just about the economy, it's how the workforce has changed and how you go about finding a job today in a changing economy."

It seems Stevenson may become the face of every professional seeking to rejoin the workforce and what a population she represents. Local residents are getting a firsthand



Juanita Stevenson

look at a 16 percent jobless rate, which is affecting everyone from young to old to low income and middle class.

"I have met people in challenging times who are making the best of it, people who have been unemployed for years but have found a way to keep their spirits high, and haven't

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# Black Chamber Expo Honors Top Diverse Fresno Companies

BY KYRA JENKINS,  
CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE

**FRESNO, CA** – The Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce welcomed Fresno businesses and entrepreneurs to the Central Valley Diversity Expo at the University Square Hotel in Fresno, March 28. The expo showcased top businesses for diversity and discussed the state of local minority businesses.

Several large companies were represented, showing an effort to invest in minority business advancement such as AT&T, Bank of America, PG&E, NorCal Bounce TV, and the California Advocate, to name a few.

Special guest speakers such as Mayor Ashley Swearingin, President of Southern California Minority Business Development Council Victoria Gomez, Program Consultant Patrick Nelson for Supplier Diversity, and Program Manager Lou Rosas with AT&T all preceded keynote speaker Orson Aguilar of Greenlining Institute.

Mayor Ashley Swearingin delivered an optimistic address as she noted one can't help but notice that while the community is recovering from a recession, we're on the cusp of a new era in Fresno.

"We're like a champagne bottle just about to burst, there's so many positive things happening in Fresno...we have a little bit more to push through. We have to deal with financial issues at City Hall, but we're doing so with the mindset of expansion. If we're not ready, we will miss the greatest opportunity in the last 50 years in Fresno," said Swearingin.

The mayor highlighted several initiatives that are helping local businesses thrive, such as Buy Local, Local Bites, and FREE-Ba, which generate food promotions that remind residents to shop locally.

"Fresnans are starting to take pride again in products and services available and made here in Fresno, a sign of optimism," said Swearingin.

The CEO of the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce, Tate Hill, partnered with several minority-based organizations last year to encourage business diversity and determine the success and failure of large

businesses hiring minorities through information gathered from a survey.

"We're working with the Fresno Area Hispanic Chamber, Central California Hispanic Chamber, NAACP and Greenlining. We want to collect that information and gauge where we are...maybe banking is doing well but manufacturing isn't. Maybe a lot of great things are happening in the Asian community but not in the Latino or African-American community. If you don't know where you are, how do you know as a community where we can progress?" said Tate.

Tate said he determined which companies would be awarded according to their minority workforce population and the services they offer to that demographic, all specified on the survey.

"If you have 100 employees or you're doing work with state or federal government that have mandates, what are you doing locally? Sometimes you can fulfill requirements but not accomplish that in Fresno. That diversity practice is only as beneficial as what it does locally."

Hill awarded five businesses with the Diversity Award for servicing minorities and allotting them equal vocational and education opportunities.

**Clovis Unified School District** was the first to be recognized for investing in the higher educational opportunities of their minority students. Hill says they support their diverse student body by holding the largest minority recruitment conference, and the African-American scholarship dinner with nearly 900 participants.

"Clovis Unified is the only school district in this area that has a black male principal...African-Americans and minorities are all throughout their entire organization. Even though Fresno Unified is smaller, they're not on par. We want to highlight some of the organizations and say this is the direction you need to go," said Tate.

**Fresno Housing Authority** was also recognized for bringing revenue to locally-based contractors instead of outsourcing or hiring from large construction companies. Richard Atilano says he reinforces a federal mandate requiring the organization to give priority to low income individuals when hiring for development pro-

jects – something that he hopes will benefit the local economy.

"HUD says if we're going to give you federal dollars, you contractors need to hire low income residents...so they're no longer on welfare, but contributing to the economy; that's what Section 3 requires."

Atilano said last year 52 percent of the federal funds they received for development projects went to local 'business concerns' or contracting businesses with at least 30 percent of minorities in their workforce.

He says in order for a contracting company to be hired for repair and redevelopment projects, they first need to get certified and he holds workshops to guide interested parties.

**ITT** serves a diverse student population and Tate says their faculty reflects that.

"Their campus director is African-American, they have a number of women administrations and minority faculty on staff because that mirrors their population. They have a large student base that's Latino. They're a private company, not under federal mandate, but they see diversity as a business strategy."

**Enterprise** car rental company was awarded for giving minorities equal vocational opportunities.

"If you look at Enterprise's management and staff, particularly in this region, you're going to see women, and minorities that are in staffing positions, being trained to be managers and who are managers. If I'm a college student and I'm African-American or Latino, I can have equal access. They're not just talking about diversity, they're doing it."

**Cocola Broadcasting** company was honored for having 20 shows out of 30 which air ethnic media.

President of Cocola

Broadcasting, Gary Cocola, accepted the award. The company broadcasts digital stations such as channel 4.2 Bounce TV, which is the first African-American broadcast network; 43.6 MeTV, featuring classic TV shows; and 33.1 MegaTV in Spanish, to name a few.

Tate said he wants the Fresno Metro Black Chamber to be known as an organization that facilitates business growth for minorities, which in turn helps improve the economy in Fresno.

"We want to create an environment where minority businesses are getting the training and support they need to have the capacity to do business and we're helping facilitate relationships with larger companies that do business with them."

Tate said for a person considering starting their own business, surrounding yourself with the right people is key.

"Starting a business is not easy, but perseverance and knowing the industry, customers and building relationships is important. No matter how smart you are, you have to have people around you to tell you if you have a great idea. Find a CPA friend, take them out to coffee and get free advice from them or someone who knows marketing and management... so you have a team of people around you who can advise you and help be champions for you."

The Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce is looking forward to their next event on April 18 when the President of the U.S. Metro Black Chamber of Commerce, Ron Busby, will speak at the 'State of the Black Business Community & Board Installation Luncheon.'

For more information contact the local branch at (559) 441-7929 or visit [www.fmbcc.com](http://www.fmbcc.com).

Photos by Ken McCoy





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# Pasadena Police Shooting Gets Outside Review

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Pasadena police Chief Philip Sanchez asked a Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department watchdog agency to investigate the shooting of a 19-year-old unarmed man by two of his officers Saturday, an incident that has sparked community concerns.

Kendrec McDade was shot by two Pasadena police officers as they pursued him and another man who were believed to have ransacked a car and pointed a weapon at the car owner about 11 p.m. Saturday night.

Sanchez asked Michael Gennaco who heads the

L.A. County Office of Independent Review to help conduct an investigation into the fatal shooting.

The deadly incident began when a car owner said he was returning from a taco truck at Orange Grove Boulevard and Summit Avenue when he confronted the men rifling through his car, police said. The man told police that one suspect flashed a handgun before taking a laptop from the car. The man initially backed off, but then pursued the men as they fled and called police on his cellphone.

One officer on foot and another in a patrol car spotted McDade and shot

at him after he appeared to reach into his waistband, according to Pasadena police Lt. Phlunte Riddle. He was taken to Huntington Memorial Hospital, where he died.

Police have yet to find a weapon or the laptop in the area.

McDade’s mother hired an attorney Tuesday. And the American Civil Liberties Union called for an independent probe. A 17-year-old was charged with burglary, theft and being an unregistered gang member.

“I just want to make sure justice is served for my son,” said Anya Slaughter.

# Prosecutor: Sanford Police Sought to Charge Zimmerman

## Cops asked for arrest warrant in Trayvon Martin case, but Seminole State Attorney’s office held off

BY FRANCES ROBLES, THE MIAMI HERALD

Despite public claims that there wasn’t enough probable cause to make a criminal case in the Trayvon Martin killing, early in the investigation the Sanford Police Department requested an arrest warrant from the Seminole County State Attorney’s office, the special prosecutor in the case told The Miami Herald on Tuesday.

A Sanford Police incident report shows the case was categorized as “homicide/negligent manslaughter.”

The state attorney’s office held off pending further review, The Miami Herald has learned.

The Miami Gardens high school junior was killed Feb. 26 by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer. The 28-year-old insurance underwriter and college student was never charged, triggering a nationwide crusade on the dead teen’s behalf.

Asked to confirm that the police recommended a manslaughter charge, special prosecutor Angela Corey said: “I don’t know about that, but as far as the process I can tell you that the police went to the state attorney with a *capias* request, meaning: ‘We’re through with our investigation and here it is for you.’ The state attorney impaneled a grand jury, but before anything else could be done, the governor stepped in and asked us to pick it up in mid-stream.”

A *capias* is a request for charges to be filed.

The Seminole County State Attorney’s Office declined to comment on whether its prosecutors ever recommended against filing charges.

“If you go with what was reported in the press the first night, there would have been an arrest right away, but obviously something gave investigators pause,” said a source in the Seminole State Attorney’s office who did not want to speak publicly, because the case is now assigned to a different prosecutor. “We get *capias* warrants all the time. That doesn’t mean we file charges right away. We investigate to see if it’s appropriate. That’s the responsible thing to do.”

The Seminole County State Attorney’s Office was consulted the night of Trayvon’s killing, but no prosecutor ever visited the scene. As the controversy intensified, Gov. Rick Scott replaced Seminole State Attorney Norm Wolfinger with Corey, the state attorney for Duval, Nassau and Clay counties, based in Jacksonville.

“The case now has a new state attorney, and they didn’t file charges the first day they got it, either,” the Seminole prosecutor who asked to remain anonymous said.

The development is in stark contrast to the statements repeatedly made by Bill Lee, the Sanford police chief who has since stepped aside and was lambasted for his handling of the case. Lee publicly insisted that there was no probable cause to arrest Zimmerman, leading many critics to say he came across more like a defense attorney for the security buff.

“Zimmerman provided a statement claiming he acted in self-defense which at the time was supported by physical evidence and testimony,” Lee wrote in a memo posted on the city’s website. “By Florida Statute, law enforcement was PROHIBITED from making an arrest based of the facts and circumstances they had at the time.”

He cited the statute number for Florida’s “Stand Your Ground” law, which provides immunity to people who kill someone in self defense.

Lee’s was criticized for his explanations, because many people thought he was bending over backward to protect the shooter based on the results of a shoddy investigation.

A spokeswoman for the city said the police department would make no further comments on the ongoing investigation.

The FBI and Florida Department of Law Enforcement

took over the case. An FDLE investigator and the new prosecutor were spotted in Zimmerman’s neighborhood Tuesday interviewing witnesses.

Many of the facts of what happened at the Retreat at Twin Lakes that night remain murky.

What’s clear is that Trayvon was staying at his father’s girlfriend’s house in a gated community in Sanford while serving out a 10-day suspension for getting caught with an empty baggie of marijuana at Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School.

He went for a walk shortly before the start of the NBA All Stars game to buy Skittles and iced tea. Zimmerman, who had a history of reporting “suspicious characters,” spotted Trayvon when he was on his way back from 7-Eleven and called police saying he saw someone who looked high, walked too slowly in the rain and appeared to be looking at people’s houses.

The neighborhood watch volunteer, who was licensed to carry a 9 mm handgun in a holster, was recorded on the police line muttering profanities and a possible racial slur. He tailed Trayvon until the boy took off running.

Trayvon’s attorneys say the dead teen’s cell phone records show he was on the phone with his girlfriend, who told lawyers that Trayvon was alarmed that someone was following him. She heard him ask Zimmerman why he was pursuing him, then heard a scuffle before the line went dead.

# Study: Blacks Have Bad Relationship with Doctors

BY THEGRIO

A study published by the American Journal of Public Health concluded that health care physicians are biased in their treatment to African-Americans. The study is said to have found proof that doctors dominate the conversations with their minority patients and that blacks tend to not trust or recommend their primary health care physicians. This causes the patient to feel less involved in their health decisions and to feel disrespected.

Primary care physicians who hold unconscious racial biases tend to dominate conversations with African-American patients during routine visits,

paying less attention to patients’ social and emotional needs and making these patients feel less involved in decision making related to their health, Johns Hopkins researchers report. The patients also reported reduced trust in their doctors, less respectful treatment and a lower likelihood of recommending the biased doctor to a friend.

In a report published in the American Journal of Public Health, the researchers say the findings provide new evidence that even when racial bias is not overt, it can have a negative impact on the way care is delivered and the quality of the doctor-patient relationship. It reinforces the idea that there may be a link between racial

biases and stereotypes playing out in the doctor-patient relationship and the racial disparities found across health care settings in the United States.

“If patients have good patient-centered interactions with their doctors, we know they’re more likely to follow through with care, make follow-up appointments and better control diseases such as diabetes and depression,” says study leader Lisa A. Cooper, M.D., M.P.H., a professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. “This study suggests that unconscious racial attitudes may be standing in the way of positive interactions to the detriment of patient health.”

# FEC Fines Rangel \$23K for Apartment Misuse

BY DARIUS DIXON

Rep. Charlie Rangel has agreed to pay a \$23,000 civil fine for effectively taking campaign contributions in the form of a rent-regulated apartment turned campaign office, according to Federal Election Commission documents.

An FEC letter dated Friday says that Rangel, a 21-term New York Democrat, accepted “excessive in-kind contributions” in the form of leasing a rent-stabilized Harlem apartment at a price below market rate from the property owner.

Four years ago, Rangel faced scrutiny over living in three neighboring rent-stabilized apartments on the 16th floor of a luxury building in Harlem. But the new FEC findings were instead related

to a one-bedroom apartment on the 10th floor of the same building that he used as a campaign office for two of his political committees without reporting the discounted rent as a contribution.

The unit’s lease also required him to use it “for living purposes only,” according to the documents, released by the National Legal and Policy Center Tuesday, which filed the original complaint against Rangel to the FEC.

According to an analysis by The New York Times, Rangel paid \$630 per month for the 10th floor apartment-turned-campaign office, while the market-rate for similar units in the building rented for \$1,700 a month or higher.

In an e-mail to POLITICO Tuesday, Rangel spokeswoman



Rep. Charlie Rangel

an Hannah Kim said simply, “People settle not because they’re guilty but because they don’t want to go through the arduous process and expense to show they’re not guilty.”

# Trayvon Shooter Told Cops Teenager Went For His Gun

BY MATT GUTMAN AND SENI TIENABESO, GOOD MORNING AMERICA

George Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch crime captain who shot dead 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, originally told police in a written statement that Martin knocked him down with a punch to the nose, repeatedly slammed his head on the ground and tried to take his gun, a police source told ABC News.

Zimmerman had claimed he had called police about Martin, whom he found suspicious, then went back to his car when Martin attacked him, punching him.

The new information is the most complete version yet of what Zimmerman claims happened on the night of Feb. 26 when he shot and killed the teenager.

In addition, an eyewitness, 13-year-old Austin Brown, told police he saw a man fitting Zimmerman’s description lying on the grass moaning and crying for help just seconds

before he heard the gunshot that killed Martin.

The initial police report noted that Zimmerman was bleeding from the back of the head and nose, and after medical attention it was decided that he was in good enough condition to travel in a police cruiser to the Sanford, Fla., police station for questioning. He was not arrested.

Martin’s girlfriend had said in a recording obtained exclusively by ABC News that she heard Martin ask Zimmerman “why are your following me, and then the man asked, what are you doing around here.” She then heard a scuffle break out and the line went dead.

Phone records obtained by ABC News show that the girl, who is 16 and asked to remain anonymous, called Martin at 7:12 p.m., five minutes before police arrived, and remained on the phone with Martin until moments before he was shot.

ABC News has also learned that Martin was staying in Sanford at the time because he’d been suspended from

Krop High School in Miami after school officials found him with a baggy that they suspected contained marijuana. He was staying at his father’s fiancée’s house in Sanford.

Family spokesperson Ryan Julison confirmed to ABC News that Martin was suspended for an “empty baggy that had contained pot.”

“It’s irrelevant to what happened on Feb. 26, does not change material facts of the situation, specifically that had George Zimmerman not left his vehicle and heeded the police dispatcher’s guidance, we wouldn’t be here today,” Julison said.

During Zimmerman’s call to 911, the dispatcher asked him if he was following the teen. When Zimmerman replied that he was, the dispatcher said, “We don’t need you to do that.”

Martin’s mother, Sybrina Fulton, said at a news conference today, “All I’ve got to say is they killed my son, and now they’re trying to kill his reputation.”

# Author: ‘Bandstand’ Blocked Blacks

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

Professor Matthew Delmont set out to write about how the ‘50s dance show “American Bandstand” was an integrated bastion of pop culture, where Philadelphia’s black and white teens mixed and mingled on television even though the rest of the country was bitterly divided by race.

Then he discovered his entire premise was dead-wrong.

In his book, “The Nicest Kids in Town,” this assistant professor of American studies at Scripps College details how “American Bandstand” kept African-American teens off the show, despite host Dick

Clark’s later claims to the contrary.

When he was in graduate school, Delmont wanted to write a book about how segregation differed in the North from the South.

Indeed, there was nothing overt about racism on “Bandstand.” The show didn’t hang a shingle outside of its 46th and Market studio barring African-Americans from the premises.

“What they did was use what could only be described as underhanded tactics,” Delmont said. “They would have a dress code and black teens would just so happen not have the right clothes on.”

“Bandstand” used a core

group of 10 to 20 dancers. If other teens wanted to get on the show, they had to write in for passes. Producers would screen the ticket applications for classically ethnic names, picking out kids with Polish, Irish and Italian names who they assumed were white.

In the book, Delmont talks with Walter Palmer, who lived in West Philly during “Bandstand’s” heyday. “‘Bandstand’ was segregated,” Palmer told Delmont. “There were white kids from all of the Catholic schools, but no black kids. West Catholic was on 46th, and they were always there; our school was on 47th (and we could not go).”

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# ADVOCATE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH FRESNO STATE PRESIDENT DR. JOHN D. WELTY

## How Tuition Hikes are Affecting Minorities

BY KYRA JENKINS,  
CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE

FRESNO, CA -

As local college students grapple with the rising price of tuition, which is expected to increase once again in the fall and precede a freeze on enrollment at most CSU campuses this upcoming spring, the reality of obtaining a degree is becoming more of a luxury as their college funds get eaten up by the state's shortcomings.

Students recently discovered that California State Universities will freeze most admissions for spring 2013, with the exception of a few hundred community college transfer students being admitted to only eight campuses at Cal State University's 23 sites.

Furthermore, Fresno State will not admit students for the 2013 spring semester and applicants applying for the 2013 fall semester will be wait-listed until after the November election. If the governor's tax initiative isn't approved by voters, admission to CSU's will be further reduced by \$10.5 million, according to CSU's website.

California State University Fresno students are still recovering from a 23 percent increase in tuition which trustees approved last year at all of the 23 campuses because of \$750 million in cuts to higher education in the state budget.

Undergraduate students at Fresno State have seen their tuition increase over \$1,200 since last spring, according to the board of trustees, and the price will increase another 10 percent by the fall semester. The upcoming surge in tuition has put students like Kiani Shaw on the fast track through college with limited resources.

"I was cut off from financial aid, did not receive the grant through scholarships that I usually receive. I've been struggling with rent, can't keep up with my house bills. My teachers are unsatisfied with the fact that I cannot buy my books. All the money I had was used to pay my tuition," said Shaw, president of the Black Student Union at Fresno State.

Fresno State President Dr. John D. Welty recently addressed staff members to give an update on the budget and said students registering for this fall semester will only be allowed to enroll for 16 units. He said it's frustrating when you work very hard to try to increase the number of students going to college to see the state's 'disinvestment in higher education.'

"As tuition goes up it is more difficult. We have made an attempt to make sure financial aid is available for those students that need the help. One-third of all fee increases are devoted to financial aid for the most needy students and in recent years Pell Grants have gone up also.

I think students that have a major need probably are able to get the financial aid they need. For those that are in the middle income bracket, it's probably more difficult to make ends meet," said Dr. Welty.

But Cal State University students aren't the only ones who've been hit with the harsh reality that they're helping relieve the state's \$9.2 billion deficit. Local community college students are also being affected.

"As far as this year's budget for 2012, the government proposed the budget to include \$4 billion of revenue and the state of California didn't reach that. As a result, student enrollment fees have gone up," said Ed

Eng, Vice Chancellor of Finance Administration for State Center Community Colleges.

Tuition has doubled at Fresno City College from just \$18 a unit five years ago to \$36 this year and it's expected to reach \$46 by this summer semester.

Although Community Colleges also lost \$564 million due to last year's budget cuts, enrollment is slightly down from 22,700 in 2005 to 22,181 in spring of 2012. Enrollment at Fresno State has been quite steady for the past 5 years, hovering around 22,000 students.

California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott says community colleges have lost over 300,000 students since

***"Higher education is one of those discretionary parts of the state budget and tends to get cut disproportionately as compared to other parts of the budget, but it has long term negative consequences for the state if we have an uneducated workforce." – Dr. Welty***

2009 because there is a high demand in courses but a limited amount being offered due to budget cuts.

Scott condemned the Cal State System for approving salary increases for two college presidents, Mildred Garcia at Cal State Fullerton and Leroy Morishita at Cal State East Bay, and called for state officials to invest more in higher education during the State of Community Colleges Address on March 22.

"There's no question the state has disinvested in higher education and that's been the primary reason that fees have gone up in an effort to generate sufficient revenue to provide classes for students... while fees in California are still below the national average, they have risen dramatically and it is a major concern to me that we are impacting access and we need to reinvest in higher education," said Welty.

Although Fresno State is one of the campuses freezing admission next spring, officials at Fresno City College said it's difficult to gauge how they will be impacted if the governor continues to make cuts to higher education if his tax initiative isn't approved by voters in November.

Eng said they will know exactly how their budget will be affected after a board retreat meeting on April 20th and 21st. But he expects that they will face drastic cuts, like other state colleges being funded by the state.

"For our district [including FCC, Reedley College, Willow International, Madera Center and Oakhurst Center] we would face around a \$14.6 million cut if the tax initiative fails... it's hard to say how it will affect students until the board retreat," said Eng.

"The impact on Fresno City College's 2012-2013 budget could be over \$8 million if the tax initiative does not pass in November," said Tony Cantu, FCC interim president.

Even though the price of college units has gone up from \$20 in 2009 to \$46 this upcoming summer, Eng said community colleges still offer a good alternative when compared to some other colleges and universities.

"A lot of our students are on the Board of Governor's Waiver so their fees are waived. Compared to UC's and CSU's, we're significantly lower in fees," said Eng.

**Tuition Affecting Minority Students**

While full-time undergraduate students at Fresno State prepare to dish out \$5,970 beginning in August for a limited amount of courses, Kiani Shaw is concerned that may put a heavier burden on the minority student population.

"Fresno has a high retention rate that may be the reason why [the African-American population is low]...we are the minority on Fresno State's campus. If you're a black student, you will be in class by yourself or with one other black student and that kind of discourages people. A lot of people want to feel comfortable in their school environment with people who look like them, and increases in fees are



Dr. Welty and Advocate Reporter Kyra Jenkins. (Photos by Ken McCoy)

with their budget...others say they have to take out more loans to stay in school. One member says with tuition increasing, he was not able to attend this semester," said Jacobo.

**Not Your Parent's Generation**

It's not typical for tuition to increase several times within two years to a new high as it has for California State Universities and colleges, and with high unemployment, today's students are faced with more challenging times.

"Higher education is one of those discretionary parts of the state budget and tends to get cut disproportionately as compared to other parts of the budget, but it has long term negative consequences for the state if we have an uneducated workforce," said Dr. Welty.

According to HBSA and BSU, more and more students find themselves weary of working two or more jobs to afford tuition, but the option of not obtaining a degree is not an option at all. Students are experiencing a tough job market while in college, which is also expected after they obtain a college degree.

The national unemployment rate for college grads is 8.6 percent, compared to 9.6 percent for those with a high school degree according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment counselors realize that these are trying times for students trying to enter the workforce.

"Today's students are facing more vocational challenges than their parents' generation. One of the challenges is that the job market is highly competitive now. Students may be competing with applicants that already have their college degrees, have employment experience, and are more skilled at interviewing," said Employment Counselor Cindy Dunn with Fresno City College.

**Reacting to Tuition Increases**

It's no secret that the price of college tuition will likely continue to climb the scale as aspiring students climb the ranks to achieve vocational success.

Welty said with an enrollment cap for the spring 2013 semester and the possibility of the same that fall, it could drive the budget down another \$12.6 million and bar 800 or more students from enrolling at Fresno State for the 2013 to 2014 fiscal year.

Many Democratic lawmakers support a ballot initiative proposed by Gov. Jerry Brown that would fund education and public safety programs by temporarily raising income taxes on people who make more than \$250,000 a year and temporarily increasing the sales tax by half a cent.

However, thousands of protesters have commuted to the state's capital since March 1 in support of a permanent tax on the rich and to stop tuition

increases at state colleges and universities.

The UC students association has endorsed a rival initiative proposed for the November ballot that would tax millionaires and earmark the revenue for education, according to Los Angeles Times.

Fresno Community College student Nathan Alonzo was one of the students speaking out at the Occupy Education rally along with other members of the Associate Student Government on March 5. Alonzo says as a first generation college student, attending college was an uphill climb from the start and now it just became harder for him and many others.

"Most students choose to go to Fresno State from the community college. CSU putting a freeze on admission messes up educational plans that people have had set for years back. Most students stay in Fresno and give back to the community. We pay triple of what we give back to community," said Alonzo, legislative vice president of the FCC Associate Student Government.

"It's very important to speak out because we are young and will be the future of the county. We need support...for all schools to go to Sacramento, do something organized and write letters to Sacramento so we are not out there screaming," said Jacobo.

**Connecting to Resources**

Students are finding some means of support whether it's joining an organization for guidance or financial assistance.

Jacobo has been able to benefit by finding resources available through financial aid and a scholarship from Ruiz Foods.

"Companies and alumni send internship information and remind us of scholarships. Our business adviser writes letters for scholarships. Ruiz Foods is one of our biggest sponsors; they give us thousands of dollars in scholarships based on our community involvement. The more you get out there and give a good impression of yourself, the more you get back," said Jacobo.

"I would encourage students not to give up because of the cost, but rather pursue information because there is aid available...they should talk with someone in the financial aid office to make sure they haven't missed something so it won't be necessary for them to sit out or get another job. But it is a difficult time, there is no question about it," said Welty.

Even though the fall semester will bring another tuition increase, Shaw said dropping out or taking a leave of absence is not a possibility.

"It is not an option, I am in school to be in school and finish my education. Taking time off will deter me from what I want to accomplish, time off is not an option," said Shaw.

# President Obama Expresses ‘Love’ For Black Press

BY GEORGE E. CURRY,  
 NNPA SPECIAL  
 CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – President Barack Obama expressed admiration for the balanced picture African-American newspapers present of the Black community each week, saying such portrayal not only helps Blacks but Americans of all races and ethnicities.

“One of the things that I always love about African-American publications is that it’s not just gloom and doom,” the president told members of National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) last Thursday at a private gathering at the White House. “Part of what you guys do is you lift up that kid who’s overcome barriers and is now succeeding, or that family that has pulled together and helped to strengthen a community, or that church that is the bedrock of a neigh-

borhood.

“Those stories of success and hope, that’s what sustains us, that’s what has driven us, that’s what has given people a sense that no matter how tough things get sometimes, there’s always a better day ahead. And you’re part of telling that story. So I very much appreciate you.”

President Obama spoke to publishers who were in the nation’s capital to celebrate NNPA’s annual Black Press Week. In a 10-minute speech, the president gave the publishers a preview of the case he will be making to voters as part of his campaign to get re-elected.

“Now we’ve obviously gone through three challenging years but, whereas we were losing about 800,000 jobs per month, the month that I took office, we’ve now seen job growth over 23 consecutive months, almost 4 million jobs created, jobs in

the manufacturing sector for the first time since the 1990s.

“We have seen consecutive quarter after quarter after quarter of economic growth and so we’re starting to turn the corner and make progress. But all of you know that too many people, where folks are still struggling that were struggling before this recession and they’re struggling now even more. Folks who can’t find a job, if they have a job, they’re underemployed or not making a living wage.”

A recent report by the Department of Labor titled, “The African-American Labor Force in the Recovery,” noted: “Aggregate numbers show that the African-American community as a whole has exhibited poorer labor market outcomes than other races even prior to the recession and during the recovery, demonstrating that they often face different and greater challenges.”

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April 5 – May 10, 2012

6:00pm – 7:30pm

Cost is \$15 for materials

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# When Should I Consider Refinancing My Home Loan?

By Herman Badgett, Union Bank, N.A.



**Herman Badgett**  
 Vice President and Branch Manager  
 Oakland Branch  
 1970 Franklin Street  
 (510) 891-2432

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.

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. Headquartered in San Francisco, UnionBankCal Corporation is a financial holding company with assets of \$84 billion at September 30, 2011. Its primary subsidiary, 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. The bank operated 404 full-service branches in California, Washington, Oregon and Texas, as well as two international offices, on September 30, 2011. 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](http://www.unionbank.com) for more information.





# Clovis North's African-American Student Union Welcomes Actor Brian White

The AASU Scholarship dinner was established in 2008 by the Parent Advisory Council to initiate a College Scholarship Fund for the graduating seniors of the club to assist with their college expenses. The council seeks to

award up to \$5000 in scholarships each year. The class of 2011 was issued a total of \$4000 in scholarships.

Donations received for this event also help to fund field trips and other college related expenses.

This annual event is open to the entire community in the efforts to empower, educate and encourage academic excellence within all students.

Actor Brian White who starred in the Emmy Award nominated

drama series "Men of A Certain Age" and recent Tyler Perry film "Good Deeds," spoke at the 4th Annual African-American Student Union Scholarship Dinner held at Clovis North high school on March 10th.



Photos by Ken McCoy







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# Fresno NAACP Delivers Gospel Extravaganza

The Fresno chapter of the NAACP presented their Gospel Extravaganza Dinner Fundraiser February 18 at the Golden Palace Banquet Hall in Fresno CA. The event featured Christian comic "KP Crayon," "Miss K's Inspirational Dance Troupe," and male quartet "The Men of God." It was a fun filled evening topped off with an inspirational message delivered by Dr. Jothany Blackwood. The theme of the evening was 'Stepping out on Faith; We will not go back.' (Photos by Ken McCoy)





# African Union Launches Fresh Bid to Capture Rebel Leader Joseph Kony

By GINNY STEIN,  
ABC News

The African Union has announced it will launch a combined military operation aimed at ending the reign of Ugandan rebel leader Joseph Kony.

The fresh impetus to capture the internationally wanted warlord follows the celebrity-backed success of the viral video Kony 2012.

Kony is the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a guerrilla group that has forced more than 60,000 children to fight in a murderous armed conflict lasting more than two decades.

With the help of a child army enlisted at gunpoint, he terrorized, maimed and destroyed whole communities. Tens of thousands of children were made soldiers or

sex slaves.

The African Union now aims to coordinate 5,000 soldiers already hunting for Kony from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and Uganda with logistical and intelligence help from the United States.

For the people of Northern Uganda, there will be joy when his capture comes, but for now there are more pressing concerns; that of survival and rebuilding their lives.

Uganda's leading gospel and hip-hop artist George Lubega is a survivor of the conflict.

"We forgive Kony, but you see, some things can never be forgotten, like losing family," he said.

"Many people's lips were cut off; children are suffering

because their mothers have died in war. It has left a whole bunch of wreckage behind."

**Family 'cooked'**

Another survivor is Jacob Wokorach, who was abducted by Kony's forces and watched as his relatives were killed.

"They tied them like this and they laid them down, they beat them back here with the log and they leave them there," he said.

"Eight people together and they collect them, and they put them all together in a big saucepan and they put them in a fire and cooked them together."

Australian Irene Gleeson is a witness to the war.

She came to northern Uganda 20 years ago and has stayed throughout the con-

flict.

Her mission back at the start of the conflict was to help a growing swathe of orphaned children.

Two decades on, she is now helping the next generation.

"My thing is to get a rubbish can kid, someone that the world thinks there is nothing, no potential, and you just give them a chance, you give them the basics first - food, medicine, water, shelter, and then you give them education and then vocational," she said.

Like many Ugandans, Ms. Gleeson believes capturing Kony is incidental to the real problems facing the north.

"Kony is not here. Hasn't been here for five years. So let us address the leftovers, the survivors of the Kony's war," she said.

# Landmark Case: Nigerian Villagers Sue Shell Over Oil Spills

By F. BRINLEY BRUTON,  
MSNBC.COM

**LONDON** – Around 11,000 Nigerian villagers who say their livelihoods were ruined in oil spills launched a legal battle Friday to seek compensation from Shell.

The case marks the first time any oil firm has faced claims in the U.K. from a community in the developing world for environmental damage caused by oil extraction operations, the villagers' lawyers said.

Shell, the largest international firm operating in Nigeria, admitted liability for two oil spills in August 2011. However, the two sides dispute the amount of oil spilled and the extent of the damage caused, one of the villagers' London-based lawyers told msnbc.com.

At the crux of the disagreement is whether the spills that devastated the area were due to so-called operational failures on the part of Shell, or if they were the result of sabotage, illegal refining and theft.

Shell Petroleum Development Company (Nigeria) has admitted responsibility for two spills amounting to around 4,000 barrels.

However, experts representing people in the Bodo community, a network of 35 villages whose inhabitants were mainly subsistence fishermen and farmers, maintain that amount is closer to 600,000 barrels, one of the villagers' lawyers told msnbc.com.

100 miles of oil: Spill likely Nigeria's worst in decade

"We have urged them to have their expert work with

our expert," said Martyn Day of law firm Leigh Day & Co. "But (Shell has) totally refused."

Day said that negotiations broke down last week.

**'No need for the legal activity'**

Shell spokesman Jonathan French told msnbc.com that the firm cannot discuss details of the legal process, but said the company was dismayed that the case was going to court.

"There really has been no need for the legal activity which has delayed the payout and cleanup," he said.

"We accepted responsibility at the earliest point we could ... there was no need for this firm of London solicitors to take action."


"Nobody is saying is that there isn't a problem with oil spills in the Niger Delta," French added. "The point is that there is this formula enshrined in Nigerian law that spells out level of compensation."

Instead of resorting to court, the villagers should have followed the process already in place in Nigeria, French said, adding that the involvement of law firms such as Leigh Day "can serve to delay compensation."

Shell paid out \$4 million in compensation to victims of operational oil spills in 2009, and \$1.7 million in 2010, French said.

Shell has been criticized for its behavior in Nigeria before.

In 2011, the United Nations released a report saying the company and the Nigerian government had contributed to 50 years of pollution in the Niger Delta.



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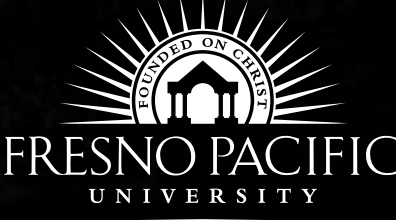


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# Fresno's Father Daughter Event:

## A Call for Fathers to Love their Daughters and Dance

By KYRA JENKINS,  
CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE

FRESNO, CA – It's a relationship that no one and nothing can substitute for. The impact a father has on his daughter is so unique it's life defining. Relationship experts with the American Community Survey say the risk of domestic violence, substance abuse and other addictions are tremendously high without the influence of a father. That is why Ron Carnegie is organizing a father-daughter dance, something you don't hear much about in west Fresno when many children are raised in single-mother households.

According to local data, there are 23,000 single-parent households in the city of Fresno and single-mother households make up 70 percent of them. Carnegie said all dads are being called on to take on more responsibility with parenting, whether they are married or not.

"I want to send the message to fathers first, about how important we are in their lives and how we set the standard for all men to follow. We're the first man they fall in love with. So from us we set the tone for who they deal with throughout life."

Carnegie said the idea to hold a special event just for fathers and their daughters came to him while he was planning his daughter's sixth birthday.

"Why just make it for my daughter? I started mentioning it to a bunch of friends and the event got bigger and bigger...I said lets open the door for all little girls to experience what I want to provide for my daughter."

Carnegie said he expects a full house at the Father and Daughter Ball on April 21 at the Star Palace in downtown Fresno.

"This is for all girls to have their birthday party, I want every one of them to feel like a princess."

Carnegie worked in a group home for over 10 years which gave him a firsthand look into the importance of a father figure in children's lives.

"A mother and father have different roles to teach children. My mother was protective, loving and nurturing...my father encouraged me to explore.

If it weren't for my father, I would be afraid to take certain chances and risks. With my mom's love, I always knew I was protected and she would be there. A lot of kids are growing up without that important combination, something they need."

He started a small nonprofit organization earlier this year called 'Just a FAD,' or Fathers and Daughters.



Ron Carnegie and daughter, Ryonna.

Carnegie said the proceeds will go to the Westside Boys and Girls Club and also to support his organization in reaching more dads with his message.

"Lots of dads are scared to interact with their daughters. They are quick to go to their son's basketball games [and] football games. It's time to be involved, mothers have been taking care of the bulk of parenting for years. We're just as important as a mother."

As a single father, Carnegie said he's enjoying every moment of his daughter's life, because their relationship is so important. He believes it's something every daughter should experience.

"It's a new experience having a girl...she's very intelligent, we can have conversations all the time. It's a learning experience, she's changed me for the better...I want her to be a leader, not ever a follower and be honest with all adults and authority figures, especially me."

Carnegie said the ball is open to everyone, including mothers. Fathers and daughters can prepare to have their photos taken, eat a three-course dinner, dance, enjoy raffle prizes and have fun from 6pm until 10pm on April 21, at the Star Palace located at 1400 Fulton Street. FAD asks that you purchase tickets before April 14.

For more information visit [www.justafad.org](http://www.justafad.org) or call (559) 473-5473 to purchase tickets, volunteer or become a sponsor of the event.

# Gospel Concert Calling Youth Into Church and Off the Street

By KYRA JENKINS,  
CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE

FRESNO, CA – Reaching youth is something Paul Copeland is good at. He's been investing in inner-city youth for over 16 years through a youth program he founded in 1996 called Helping Our Own Destiny.

"Through the years there's been at least 500 kids that went through our after-school program," said Copeland.

Copeland said this is not the time to turn a blind eye to the needs of kids in west Fresno because they need a positive influence and better guidance now more than ever. The Fresno Unified School District has also noticed that the dropout rate needs to improve, especially among minority students. Reports state there is a 70 percent graduation rate for African-American students in FUSD.

"The big push is to get our kids to a third grade reading level, that is sad, but so many of the parents don't even read. If we don't help our own destiny...so often some of the issues our kids deal with when they leave ghettos and hoods is that they haven't eaten breakfast before school, they're going through gang issues to get to the bus stop and once they get to school they are laying on the desk sleep and after a semester or so they get kicked out," said Copeland.

H.O.O.D. offers recreational activities and mentoring to help children in west Fresno succeed in high school and beyond by providing resources and information on vocational training and academic studies.

Copeland said he's working with school officials to commute children to the center after school so they aren't on the street and under the influence of gangs.

"The Lord has blessed us to work with Fresno Unified and West Fresno School District to get kids bussed to the center. It's a blessing when you're able to make those connections. One of the key factors is our relationship with school districts in order to get kids to the center. We have different workshops with E.O.C, and Planned Parenthood. There hasn't been an entity I can think of which we haven't touched base with to supply kids with the training they really need," said Copeland.

Copeland said nearly 75 children participate with H.O.O.D. every year. They can expect to have fun and be challenged so they can succeed outside of high school.

"I'm setting up a different type of system. In order to be a part of the program...you have different centers that



Paul Copeland, HOOD CEO, William Whitten, HOOD Board Member, Tha G.I.M., and California Advocate publisher Mark Kimber.

entertain kids who are so-called 'bad.' I want to focus on those kids but they need reinforcement to get back on the right track...if you want to play basketball you have to be a part of this reading class. When you leave here you will be a part of a system that will help you in the mainstream."

Copeland recently stumbled on a new facility at the Fresno Westside Seventh-day Adventist Church where the H.O.O.D. program will be housed in just a couple of months. He said the resource center will provide all the training possible to get children on the right track to graduate from high school, go on to achieve a higher degree, and become successful in the workforce.

"It will supply kids, and families with a literacy program, computer training, and recreational activities. It will also equip children with resources and information on gang violence, health and social issues, and employment training. We're having a health conference on bullying, obesity and teenage trafficking coming up," said Copeland.

The center will have two training rooms, a computer lab, and a library filled with African-American artifacts from the late pastor, John E. Collins.

Copeland said he's working with different companies such as the Housing Authority and EOC. He is also working with Fresno State President Dr. John Welty, and Larry Powell with the Fresno County Office of Education.

Now Copeland is trying to get the word out on the street and children into the center, something he expects the upcoming concert to do.

Last year the gospel concert brought in over 300 people, this year Copeland hopes to reach nearly 400 people.

"The church is opening doors to connect with this generation. You would never think of anything like this [the hip-hop gospel concert] going on in the past during my mom's generation. It's not about rap or hip-hop but presenting the gospel, and encouraging youth. Copeland is doing a good job of tearing

down walls in the church community for the church community," said local rapper Tha G.I.M. which stands for 'God In Me.'

H.O.O.D.'s third annual gospel concert is called 'Spring Back to Christ' it will be held April 7 at the center located at 2750 Martin Luther King Boulevard. The purpose is to bring the community together and deliver a positive message to families while showcasing local talent within the community.

Tha G.I.M. will feature new releases from his most recent CD entitled 'Supreme.'

"There will be hip-hop, gospel music, a mix of styles, and R&B. Everyone is bringing their talent to the table. Copeland said he may even have an open mic for youth to showcase their talent as well," said G.I.M.

Tha G.I.M. has been traveling up and down the Golden State touring with three other artists promoting his latest album. He pairs with an organization in every city he tours to reach youth and show them hip-hop gospel music in action. He said bringing his music to the gospel concert is an honor.

Copeland has eight local artists lined up to perform at the concert including Tha G.I.M., DJ Chillz, C Rob, Veronica Solorio, I-Knight, Holy Jamz, YB and Living Proof.

He said the price for admission to the concert is free because Christ paid the price.

Copeland says funding for HOOD comes from sponsorships, and donations. "A lot of them don't have \$15 to come, I would rather let them come through the door. We definitely need money to do these things and I accept offerings."

"We don't charge because our kids don't have avenues where they can get out and perform...It's a ministry event so we are there to give. You get so many people who really want to be there and get something out of it, and that's always going to be a blessing," said Tha G.I.M.

For more information, contact Paul Copeland at 559-681-9005.

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# What Witnesses Say in the Trayvon Martin Case

By MONI BASU

(CNN) – On the night of February 26, Trayvon Martin was wearing a hoodie and had bought Skittles and an Arizona tea at a convenience store in Sanford, Florida. Some time after that, he was shot and killed by neighborhood watch member George Zimmerman.

But beyond those established facts about the shooting of the unarmed teenager in an Orlando suburb last month, much is in dispute about the case that has gripped the nation.

Of the two people directly involved, Martin will never be able to describe what happened, and Zimmerman has kept mum. His lawyer vows that, once all the facts surface, things will not appear as clear-cut as they are too many of Martin’s supporters at the moment.

America will have to wait and see as State Attorney Angela Corey plunges deeper into a case charged with allegations of racism. Martin was African-American; Zimmerman is a Hispanic who, his family says, has been wrongly described as racist.

What’s clear is that, as more is learned about this case, it becomes more complicated.

The little information that has surfaced has been through 911 tapes, what Zimmerman told police and the accounts of witnesses who helped paint a picture of the night Martin died.

Zimmerman was wearing a red jacket and blue jeans when he came across Martin on that night. He was a neighborhood watch member carrying a Kel-Tec 9 mm automatic pistol, according to a police report.

He said he was on his way to a grocery store when he spotted Martin walking through the Retreat at Twin Lakes, according to the Orlando Sentinel, which pieced together an account of what happened based on leaked information from investigators.

Sanford police said the newspaper account “is consistent with the information provided to the State Attorney’s office by the police department.”

Martin was visiting his father’s fiancée, who lived in the gated community in Sanford, a racially mixed northern suburb of Orlando.

Zimmerman called police to report a suspicious person. He described Martin as black and said he was acting strangely and could have been on drugs.

Zimmerman said he got out of his SUV and followed Martin on foot.

“Something’s wrong with him,” he told a 911 dispatcher, according to the contents of a call released by authorities. “Yep. He’s coming to check me out. He’s got something in his hands.”

The teenager started to run, Zimmerman said. A 911 dispatcher asked Zimmerman whether he was following Martin, and Zimmerman said he was. The dispatcher said Zimmerman did not need to do that.

Zimmerman said he lost sight of Martin and began walking back to his SUV; Martin approached him, according to the Sentinel account.

Martin asked Zimmerman if he had a problem; Zimmerman said no and reached for his cell phone, he told police.

Martin said, “Well, you do now” or something similar and punched Zimmer-

man in the nose, Zimmerman said, according to the Sentinel.

Zimmerman said Martin pinned him to the ground and began slamming his head into the sidewalk. The police report described Zimmerman’s back as wet and covered with grass, as though he had been lying on the ground.

Zimmerman was also bleeding from the nose and the back of his head, the police report said.

“I was yelling for someone to help me, but no one would help me,” Zimmerman told police.

By the time police arrived on the scene, Martin was dead from a gunshot wound in the chest, according to Sanford Police Chief Bill Lee. The unarmed teenager was lying face-down.

Zimmerman told police that he shot Martin. And that he did it in self-defense.

## 911 calls

Residents of the gated community heard the gunshot.

Seven 911 calls released by authorities document their fear.

Someone screams, “help, help!” in the background.

“There were gunshots right outside my house. There’s someone screaming. I just heard a guy shot,” a neighbor says. “Hurry up, they are right outside my house.”

Another man cries for help. Then the gunshot.

“Hurry, please. ... There’s someone screaming outside,” a neighbor whispers. “There’s a gunshot. Hurry up. ... There’s someone screaming. I just heard a gunshot.”

In another call, a woman begs the dispatchers to send help, saying someone is “screaming and hollering” for help.

Moments later, she describes a light at the scene of the shooting.

“Oh, my God,” she says. “There’s still somebody out there walking with a flashlight.”

Zimmerman’s call to police was among the 911 tapes released by police. Some people hear what sounds like a possible racial slur. CNN enhanced the sound of the 911 call, and several members of CNN’s editorial staff repeatedly reviewed the tape but could reach no consensus on whether Zimmerman used a slur.

## Witnesses

Mary Cutcher was in her kitchen making coffee that night with her roommate, Selma Mora Lamilla. The window was open, she said.

“We heard a whining. Not like a crying, boohoo, but like a whining, someone in distress, and then the gunshot,” she said.

They looked out the window but saw nothing. It was dark.

They ran out the sliding glass door, and within seconds, they saw Zimmerman.

“Zimmerman was standing over the body with – basically straddling the body with his hands on Trayvon’s back,” Cutcher said. “And it didn’t seem to me that he was trying to help him in any way. I didn’t hear any struggle prior to the gunshot.

“And I feel like it was Trayvon Martin that was crying out, because the minute that the gunshot went off, the whining stopped.”

The two women said they could not see whether Zimmerman was bruised or hurt. It was too dark.



Trayvon Martin



Protestors supporting Trayvon Martin.

“Selma asked him three times, ‘what’s going on over there?’ “ Cutcher said. “He looks back and doesn’t say anything. She asks him again, ‘everything OK? What’s going on?’ Same thing: looked at us, looked back. Finally, the third time, he said, ‘just call the police.’ “

Another resident who identified himself as John contradicted Cutcher’s account. He remembered Martin being on top of Zimmerman.

He told the Orlando TV station WOFL that a guy wearing red yelled to him, “Help! Help!”

“I told him to stop and I was calling 911,” he said. “And then when I got upstairs and looked down, the person that was on top beating up the other guy was the one laying in the grass. I believe he was dead at that point.”

## Martin’s girlfriend

Benjamin Crump, the Martin family lawyer, says Martin’s girlfriend’s account of what happened connects the dots and destroys Zimmerman’s claims of self-defense.

The girl, who did not want to be identified, said she was on the phone with the teen before the shooting.

When Zimmerman got closer to Martin, she told her boyfriend to run, but Martin told her that he was not going to run, she said.

“What are you stopping me for?” Martin asked Zimmerman, according to the girl.

“What are you doing around here?” Zimmerman asked in response.

The girl said she then got the impression that an altercation was taking place and that someone had pushed Martin, because the headset fell out of his ear, and the phone shut off.

## Zimmerman’s friend

Joe Oliver said he spoke with his friend Zimmerman on Monday. He filled Oliver in on what happened between the time Martin came face to face with him and when the gun was fired – the part that’s not all clear.

Oliver said he could not divulge what Zimmerman said, just that the gun went off.

Corey, the state attorney, was asked whether that meant the shooting might have been accidental.

“We look into that in every shooting case,” Corey said.

Oliver said Zimmerman was badly hurt that night. He went to a doctor the next day to be treated for a broken nose.

“He hasn’t been back to his apartment, which is in that complex, ever since that happened, and he’s being treated for post-traumatic stress disorder, for depression, for insomnia,” Oliver said.

“He cried for days after this happened. The George Zimmerman I know is not here anymore, because he knows that he took someone else’s life, and he’s extremely remorseful.”

Zimmerman has not been charged, sparking a firestorm of protest across America. Corey’s homicide staff, meanwhile, continues to work round the clock.

# New Details on Martin Case Emerge from Twitter Account and Witness Testimony

By DYLAN STABLEFORD

As George Zimmerman’s supporters work to stem the rising tide of public outrage aimed at the neighborhood watchman who shot and killed Florida teenager Trayvon Martin last month, a new picture of the victim – culled from the 17-year-old’s Twitter account and witness testimony leaked from local law enforcement—has emerged.

“With a single punch,” the Orlando Sentinel, citing police sources, reported Monday, “Trayvon Martin decked the Neighborhood Watch volunteer ... climbed on top of [him] and slammed his head into the sidewalk several times, leaving him bloody and battered.”

“That is the account Zimmerman gave police,” the paper said, “and much of it has been corroborated by witnesses, authorities say.”

Zimmerman’s attorney, Craig Sonner, says that Zimmerman acted in self-defense and is not a racist as some have portrayed him.

“I think we need to let the investigation come forward and let all the facts in this case come out,” Sonner said on the “Today” show. “I think it’s going to tell a different story than the way it’s been related and portrayed in the media.”

According to a CNN poll released Monday, 73 percent of Americans think police should arrest Zimmerman.

Meanwhile, the difference between the typical teenager Martin’s family and supporters say he was and the way he presented himself on social media is the subject of increasing debate.

As Dan Linehan, a blogger at Wagist.com, pointed out, correspondence with Martin on Twitter before

he died alludes to an incident with a bus driver. “You ain’t tell me you swung on a bus driver,” Martin’s cousin wrote to him on Feb. 21.

The same week, Martin was suspended for 10 days from Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School in North Miami-Dade. “He was not suspended for something dealing with violence or anything like that,” his father said. “It wasn’t a crime he committed, but he was in an unauthorized area [on school property],” declining to offer more details.

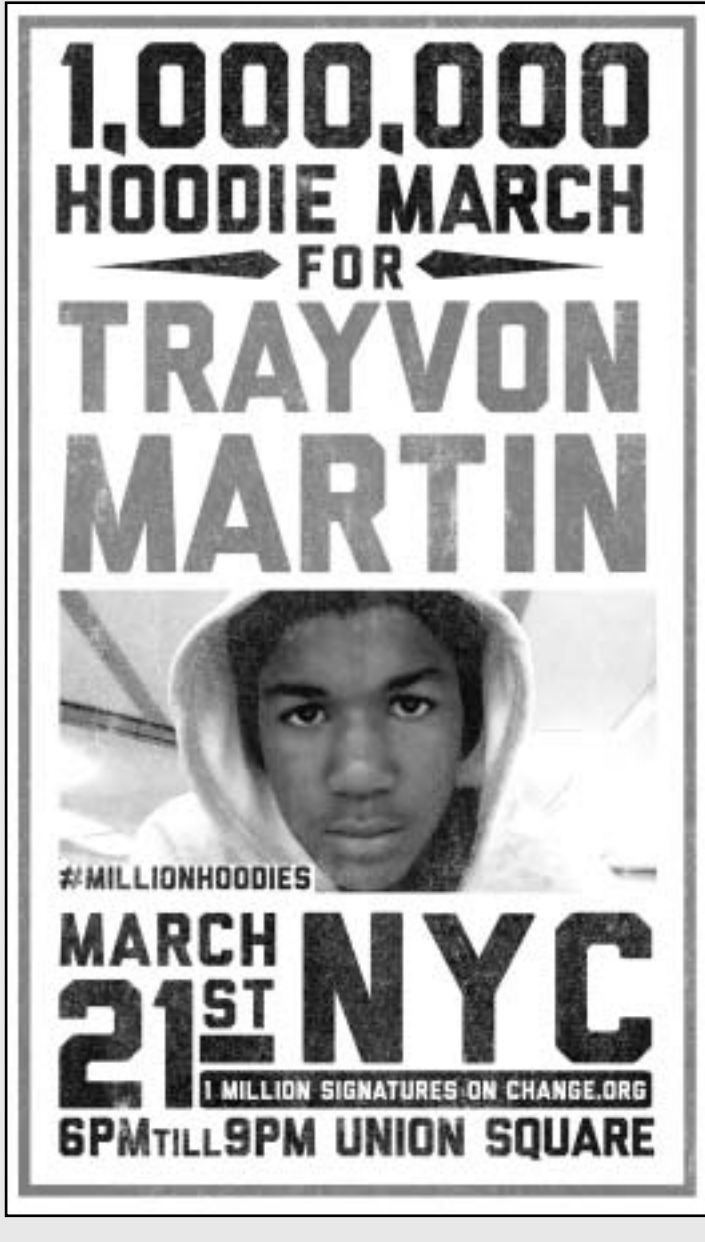
But a family spokesman told the Associated Press on Monday that Martin was suspended because marijuana residue was found in his book bag.

More than 25,000 were expected to attend an afternoon rally in Sanford, Fla., on Monday for Martin, including the Rev. Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson and other civil rights leaders.

“The media is getting the Trayvon Martin story wrong,” Michael Brendan Dougherty wrote on BusinessInsider.com, comparing it to the 2006 Duke lacrosse case, in which three members of the lacrosse team were accused of rape, resulting in a media firestorm and public outcry. The accuser’s case unraveled, and the charges were eventually dropped.

“Oh how little we have learned,” David Shane wrote on PolicyMic.com. The media has rushed to judgment yet again. Now, it’s quite possible that Zimmerman is guilty of everything his worst foes accuse him of. There is plenty about this case that troubles me. But that’s exactly the point – I don’t know. Neither does anyone else, and both the scope and tone of the media coverage ought to reflect that fact.”

**Below: A poster for the Million Hoodie March, which is a nationwide movement to put a spotlight on Trayvon Martin’s fate and the justice system’s treatment of different races.**





# Local Reaction To The Trayvon Killing...

► Continued from Page 1

## College Professor and Radio Host Doctor Jean Kennedy:

This story will go down in history along with Emmett Till’s story. This story will tell about an unarmed 17-year-old black youth who was shot by a self-appointed neighborhood crime watcher. It is a sad day in America when a young black man has to be profiled simply because of what he is wearing. The criminal justice system and Department of Corrections have done that type of profiling for years. Now we have citizens doing profiling and maybe allowed to get away with it as these two organizational systems have done for years. What a sad disposition. My heart goes out to this mother and father. As a Women’s Studies professor,

and a mother, whose heart is broken for another mother, I encourage all women (and men if they wish join in) to: Dare show up at your work-sites, and places of employment, as well as places of worship, wearing a hood top for the entire month of April. Be in solidarity with my sister Sybrina Fulton who lost the son she gave birth to. We have to change this system and action does speak louder than words. If we do not take action, the system will win yet again.

**Pamela D. Young, M.S.W., President Fresno NAACP:** Unfortunately, Trayvon Martin had to be murdered for African-Americans to realize African- American young men are still stereotyped as suspicious and dangerous by a society which unjustly fears them. As

African American parents and community members, we MUST educate our young men of the dangers that wait outside the comforts of their homes in Fresno CA and across this country. Our young men are targeted because of the color of their skin and their potential and good character are too often overlooked because racism is the deciding factor in negative encounters, like the one Trayvon Martin had.

**Tate Hill, Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce President:** “The whole Trayvon Martin situation is really an American tragedy where a 17 year old young man could not safely walk in his own neighborhood. I can recall situations that I’ve been in wearing the same type of attire as Trayvon Martin, and people

who knew me shied away from me simply because they didn’t recognize me. So, I know the stereotypes that when someone sees a person of darker skin in a certain type of attire, the assumption that people would make about that individual. They don’t know the individual has a PH.D, is an entrepreneur or a millionaire just based on the way they are dressed. We as a society have to change how we perceive people. This type of tragedy with Trayvon Martin is really uncalled for...but, what the situation is doing is galvanizing people in our community to recognize there are challenges and racism and discrimination is still very real and alive in our communities and that fight still has to be won because we haven’t overcome that issue.

# TV Segment to Help Local Economy...

► Continued from Page 1

thrown in the towel. They are very strong people,” said Stevenson.

Stevenson’s career is a story of triumph; from success to disappointment and back to success has been her journey, and it’s the same she hopes for everyone in search of a job in the Central Valley. Her television segment is helping prepare the unemployed by offering resources and information on how to hone their skills in order to re-enter the workforce. But, she says her motivation for launching the segment came from her own personal experience.

## An Upward Climb

After working at ABC 30 for 23 years, she stepped back to invest more time in her family, then shifted gears to work in radio as the News Director for K-JEWEL in 2006. Four years later Stevenson found herself in a difficult situation, one that she’d never imagined. She says for the first time in her career she was laid off and in question of what to do next. “They cut their news department for economic reasons. I had never been laid off, never been without a job...I knew it was going to be tough for me because I had been reading about what was happening to people who were being laid off in this economy,” said Stevenson.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows it’s an uphill climb for those 55 and older looking for a job. Although the unemployment rate was 7 percent in 2010 when Stevenson was laid off, the older population clearly experiences a more difficult time finding employment. The average length of time for them to secure a job is 45 weeks. That’s 11 months of job searching, critiquing cover letters and resumes, finding vocational assistance, and finding out how to update skills to successfully enter the workforce – all done with subsidized income, if that.

“I was out there not knowing how to really look for a job because I hadn’t in a long time. A lot of people who

have been in their careers for a long time and are a little older face the same problem...They’ve stayed at the same job for 10, 20 years,” Stevenson said.

How can these workers go from being laid off to laying the ground work for retirement? How can they add to their skills to compete in a high-tech workforce which isn’t the same as what they’ve known? Stevenson says these are some of the topics she brings to light during the segment every week.

“What I choose to do instead of going to a headhunter, I put myself out there with everyone else...I found that it’s very difficult for professional people because there aren’t a lot of jobs for them, plus no one really knows what to do with you. The advice I was given was to move,” said Stevenson.

Stevenson says if Fresno doesn’t invest in providing job opportunities for the middle-class it will be more difficult for our economy to improve.

“A lot of resources are focused on low income people who are not educated ...in the meantime, the recession has done a number on the middle class. A lot of middle-class jobs have disappeared. How are we going to bring back those jobs and put those people back to work? We should not ignore the thousands of professional people currently out of work or underemployed.”

## Refining Skills

Stevenson discovered resources were few and far between for middle-class professionals looking to get back into the workforce. That’s why she launched “Valley Works”, highlighting the changing world of employment and how to compete in today’s high-tech workforce.

“I’ve found a lot of people have trouble identifying their skills. They can talk about the job they had but need to talk about the skills it took to do that job, that’s what employers want to know.”

The host says the primary focus of the segment is to

connect people to vital resources to sustain their livelihood. Stevenson says she is making resources available to her viewers which she wished where available to her when she needed them.

“I know how to use the computer but there were certain programs I needed to update myself on. I didn’t use Excel or PowerPoint but...I could not find a place to take those classes. Adult school is really for people who have very little knowledge of the computer. The other alternative is to enroll in a program that wants you to pay thousands of dollars for an 18 week course; there was nothing. For people like me, who have been in the workforce, all we need is a 6 week program to update our skills and you cannot find that.”

## A Different Job Market

Stevenson says there’s no denying that the job market has changed but knowing how to navigate through it is crucial to finding gainful employment. Now the job seeker has to gain more knowledge to compete in an ever-advancing workforce.

“One, you apply online...everything is done online. If you haven’t interviewed for a job in a long time, you have to know how to approach the interview. How do you prepare for what employers are looking for in this economy? What kind of skills do they want in this economy?”

Stevenson also says job seekers may have to do a bit more for less.

“If you were laid off and go back to work, you’re probably going to be making less [money] than you made at your last job, you’re going to be asked to do more, and be required to have another skill set. I address all those issues; it was an area that wasn’t being addressed.”

## Surviving the Job Hunt

Stevenson says in order to survive the tail end of the recession and Fresno’s high unemployment rate, you have to be patient and diligent in job searching.

“First find a support group, secondly update your skills. It’s important to have

the skills employers are looking for and to put yourself out there. Don’t sit at home and be depressed get out there and stay connected to people. Volunteer, it’s one of the best ways to stay connected and it can lead to a job. And stay positive”

Job consultants say, ‘More important than what you know, is who knows what you know.’

“I’ve done a story about networking. When you apply online, networking is the way you have a chance to interact with people,” said Stevenson.

It’s estimated that 60 percent of jobs come from networking, something Stevenson says we can’t afford to miss out on.

She joined Central Valley Professionals to meet other professionals looking for work, just like her.

“I cannot speak highly enough about them. We try to assist each other with our job search. What we learn we try to pass along to other people and we support each other.”

## The Future of Valley Works

“Our first story was on interview techniques. We’ve explored apprenticeship programs and networking. We’ve also looked at being your own boss. A lot of people who were laid off realize they many not find another job for one reason or another and are looking at self-employment.”

“Valley Works” has been on the air for just four weeks now as an independent project ABC 30 has agreed to air for 6 months; but Stevenson says the show is a long-term project in the making.

“Right now we still need sponsors to cover the production cost...we’d like to be ongoing and self-sustaining...for now our concentration is on the Central Valley because it’s the area that has the highest unemployment rate.”

Valley Works airs on Mondays at 6:30pm. For more information visit [www.centralvalleyworks.com](http://www.centralvalleyworks.com). You can also contact Juanita Stevenson at [Juanita@centralvalleyworks.com](mailto:Juanita@centralvalleyworks.com).

# Video Shows No Blood or Bruises on George Zimmerman

By MATT GUTMAN, ABC/GOOD MORNING AMERICA

A police surveillance video taken the night that Trayvon Martin was shot dead shows no blood or bruises on George Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch captain who says he shot Martin after he was punched in the nose, knocked down and had his head slammed into the ground.

The surveillance video, which was obtained exclusively by ABC News, shows Zimmerman arriving in a police cruiser. As he exits the car, his hands are cuffed behind his back. Zimmerman is frisked and then led down a series of hallways, still cuffed.

Zimmerman, 28, is wearing a red and black fleece and his face and head are cleanly shaven. He appears well built, hardly the portly young man depicted in a 2005 mug shot that until a two days ago was the single image the media had of Zimmerman.

The initial police report noted that Zimmerman was bleeding from the back of the head and nose, and after medical attention it was decided that he was in good enough condition to travel in a police cruiser to the Sanford, Fla., police station for questioning.

His lawyer later insisted that Zimmerman’s nose had been broken in his scuffle with 17-year-old Martin.

In the video an officer is seen pausing to look at the back of Zimmerman’s head, but no abrasions or blood can be seen in the video and he did not check into the emergency room following the police questioning.

Zimmerman was not arrested although ABC News has learned that the lead homicide investigator filed an affidavit urging Zimmerman be charged with manslaughter. The prosecutor, however, told the officer to not file the charge because there was not enough evidence for conviction.

Zimmerman said he was heading back to his car when Martin attacked him.

His lawyer, Craig Sonner, said his client felt “one of them was going to die that night,” when he pulled the trigger.

Martin’s girlfriend, who was on the phone with him in his final moments, told ABC News in an exclusive interview that she has not been interviewed by police, despite Martin telling her he was being followed.

The 16-year-old girl, who is only being identified as DeeDee, recounted the final moments of her conversation with Martin before the line went dead.

“When he saw the man behind him again he said this man is going to do something to him. And then he said this man is still behind him and I said run,” she said.

Phone records obtained by ABC News show that the girl called Martin at 7:12 p.m., five minutes before police arrived, and remained on the phone with Martin until moments before he was shot.

DeeDee said Martin turned around and asked Zimmerman why he was following him.

“The man said what are you doing around here?” DeeDee recalled Zimmerman saying.

She said she heard someone pushed into the grass before the call was dropped.

Zimmerman, who had called 911, was asked by the dispatcher if he was following the teen. When Zimmerman replied that he was, the dispatcher said, “We don’t need you to do that.”

Martin’s death has sparked protests across the country and prompted President Obama to say that if he had a son, he would look like Martin.

Over the past few days, leaks have emerged suggesting Martin was dogged by discipline problems.

Crump alleged that the Sanford police had leaked damaging information about Martin in order to muddy the case, calling it a “conspiracy.” Crump called the school disciplinary problems “irrelevant” to the case that “an unarmed 17 year kid was killed.”

# Cheer Team Takes State Honors...

► Continued from Page 1

Matthew Villarama, Maliyah Ware, Serina Valdovinos, Aaliyah Navarro, Amani Johnson, Velosity Zaragoza, and Ommarshanae Mohamad.

“When they performed, the competition sound booth actually played the wrong music for their routine. It was something

they had never practiced to, yet the team did the routine perfectly! Miss Rivera and I didn't even notice that it was the wrong music until about 20 seconds into the routine because of the fact that they did it flawlessly with no hesitation. All of their hard work has paid off immensely.”

– Coach Espitia

# Black Panther Party Offered Bounty to ‘Capture’ Trayvon’s Killer

By TINA MOORE, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

The new Black Panther Party offered a bounty of \$10,000 Saturday for the “capture” of a Florida neighborhood watch captain who killed unarmed teen Trayvon Martin.

“An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth,” leader Mikhail Muhammad said after announcing the reward for George Zimmerman at a protest in Sanford, Fla.

Muhammad called on 5,000 black men to mobilize and capture the neighborhood watch volunteer.

“If the government won’t do the job, we’ll do it,” Muhammad said, leading chants that included “freedom or death” and “justice for Trayvon.”

Muhammad said New Black Panther’s chairman, Malik Zulu Shabaz of Washington, was taking donations from black entertainers and athletes.

The group hopes to collect \$1 million off the outrage by next week.

New Black Panthers members pointed to what they called the inaction of government officials – from Sanford city officials up to the governor – and accused them of lying and delaying justice.

They also said Angela Corley, the newly appointed special prosecutor, was an enemy of the black community.

“She has a track record of sending innocent young black men and women to prison,” Muhammad said.

The Southern Poverty Law Center calls the New Black Panther Party, a black-separatist group created in 1989, “virulently racist and anti-Semitic.”

Martin, who is African-American, was wearing a hoodie and carrying a pack of Skittles and an ice tea on the night of Feb. 26. He was heading back to his father’s

fiance’s townhouse.

Zimmerman, 28, called 911 to report a suspicious person in the gated community and followed the teen despite the dispatcher’s request that he stand down.

Zimmerman said he shot Martin in self-defense. Zimmerman’s family says he is Hispanic and race was not an issue.

A Florida man was also charged Friday with threatening to kill Sanford Police Chief Bill Lee and his fami-

ly.

Lee temporarily stepped down as chief over the case.

Trayvon’s mom said she was having a hard time realizing that her son’s not coming home, People magazine reported Saturday.

“I look at every door and think, he’s just going to walk through it any minute,” Sybrina Fulton told the magazine.” I just want to see him again, but I can’t.

“He’s in heaven, looking down at me.”



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 1st Annual Community 3-Day Festival

**APR 6** New Light for New Life Church of God invites you to their 3-day Community Festival, beginning on April 6, 2012 at 7:00am at 1106 W. Woodward Ave, Fresno CA 93706. On April 7, the African American Farmers of California will be planting vegetables; On Saturday, April 10, New Light for New Life Church of God will host a community festival block party featuring a mariachi performance, music, poetry readings, praise dancing, gospel singing, stump groups and community organization information tables; On Sunday, April 28 at 6:00pm, a family movie will be shown outside of the church on the lawn where popcorn and drinks will be served. For more information, contact Rev. Floyd D. Harris, Jr. at (559) 803-0286.

## Spring Back-2-Christ Concert

**APR 7** H.O.O.D. (Helping Our Own Destiny) presents their 3rd annual Spring Back 2 Christ concert featuring Tha Gim and Spirit & Truth, on April 7th at the Fresno Westside Seventh Day Adventist Church, 2750 Martin Luther King Blvd., Fresno CA. This event is free. Come and enjoy the music, praise dance, and entertainment. For more info, call (559) 233-3648.

## Gina Lenee at Tower Theatre

**APR 7** Composer-pianist Gina Lenee presents an evening of piano, orchestra, guitar, dance and art on April 7, 2012, beginning at 8:00pm at the Tower Theatre, 815 E. Olive Ave., Fresno CA. Music comes to life through a dynamic multi-sensory event that brings music, dance and art together. Concert proceeds benefit Break the Barriers, a local nonprofit bringing people with all abilities into the world of sports and arts. For more information, call (559) 485-9050.

## Family Fun Day Celebration

**APR 7** Come out and join Harvest of Harmony International Church on Saturday, April 7th, 2012 from 10:00am to 2:00pm where they will be at Frank H. Ball Park (760 Mayor Street, Fresno, CA 93706) celebrating Easter. This event is free! There will be free food, free games, free prizes, a massive 10,000 egg hunt, live band, face painting, Steve Caldwell the ventriloquist, and so much more! Bring all of your family, friends, and neighbors! For more info, call (559) 485-1446.

## Inner Ear Poetry Jam Fundraiser

**APR 9** The Inner Ear gets ready to celebrate their ninth year with the Inner Ear Poetry Jam Fundraiser on April 9, 2012 at the Joe Osjeo's City Arts Gallery, 1475 N Van Ness, Fresno CA. Poets, writers, musicians, local artists and more have come together to show their support. There will be raffle items and auction items. Cover charge is \$5, and hor d'oeuvres and drinks will be available. For more information, call (559) 288-9056.

## 'Speakers on Blast' Hip-Hop Show

**APR 13** The Save Mart Center has added to its lineup a big concert for hip-hop fans featuring The Game, Slaughterhouse, E-40, Paul Wall, New Boyz, Cali Swag District and YG who will perform April 13, 2012 at the SaveMart Center. The lineup is a mixture of veteran and up-and-coming rap acts, mostly from the West Coast. Tickets cost \$39.75, \$55.75, \$69.75 and \$79.75 and be purchased at the Save Mart Center box office or by calling (800) 745-3000.

## 15th Annual Earth Day Restoration & Cleanup

**APR 14** The 15th Annual Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup (presented by PG&E) will take place on April 14, 2012 at Millerton Lake SRA Campground, 47597 Road 145, Friant, CA 93626. Check-in time is 8:30am to 9:00am and project time is from 9:00am to 1:00pm. This year, in celebration of this milestone anniversary, CSPF is providing grants up to \$15,000 (a combination of cash grants and in-kind donations) to parks, allowing for the completion of larger projects that would otherwise be placed on the state's maintenance backlog. With park closures and continued budget cuts looming for state parks, volunteers are more important than ever to keep the parks clean and safe for all to visit and enjoy. For more information, please call 1-888-98-PARKS.

## Fresno Earth Day 2012

**APR 14** Celebrate Earth Day in Fresno on Saturday, April 14, 2012, from 11:00am to 4:00pm at 2672 East Alluvial Avenue, Fresno, CA 93720 (on Alluvial between Chestnut and Willow). Fresno Earth Day is free, kid-friendly and open to everyone. There will fun and games for the entire family and much more. For more info or to become involved, please visit [www.fresnoearthday.org](http://www.fresnoearthday.org).

## Fresno Clovis Prayer and Breakfast

**APR 17** The Fresno/Clovis Prayer Breakfast will be held on April 17, 2012, at 6:00am at the Fresno Convention Center, 848 M Street, Fresno, CA 93721. The event is to celebrate the blessings we have in our communities as well as uphold in prayer our public officials and affirm them as they carry out their duties. The Prayer Breakfast had its origins in the mid 1940's when five business men started meeting for prayer and fellowship. You can purchase tickets on-line through Eventbrite.com.

## Fresno Art Museum's 'Trashique'

**APR 21** The Fresno Art Museum will hold a big-bash fundraiser called "Trashique," which features outfits designed by local artists out of trash and recycled materials. The event will take place on April 21, 2012 at the Fresno Art Museum, 2233 North First Street, Fresno, CA 93703 at 6:00pm. Selected as one of Fresno's Top Twenty Events of 2010, Trashique brought more than 500 people to witness Fresno's own version of Project Runway. For more info, call (559) 441-4221.

## Fathers and Daughters Ball

**APR 21** The 1st annual "Just a FAD (Fathers and Daughters)" Ball will be held on April 21, 2012 at the Star Palace, 1400 Fulton Street, Fresno CA 93721. . The event will begin at 6:00pm and dinner is included. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children. A portion of the proceeds will go towards accommodating families that may not be able to afford tickets. For more information, contact (559) 473-5473.

## Sesame Street Live Elmo Makes Music

**APR 24** Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and all their Sesame Street friends are taking to the stage to share their love of music in Sesame Street Live "Elmo Makes Music" at Save Mart Center at Fresno State on Tuesday, April 24 through Wednesday, April 25. Tickets for all three performances go on sale Wednesday, March 21, at 10:00 a.m. For ticket information visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## Fresno Pacific University's 'On Wings of Song'

**APR 27** On Friday, April 27, 2012, Fresno Pacific University presents 'On Wings of Song' - a dinner, auction and concert benefitting Fresno Pacific University's Crosswind vocal/instrumental ensemble at the Special Events Center of Fresno Pacific University (1717 S. Chestnut Ave., Fresno CA 93702). Silent auction at 6:00 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m.; concert at 7:30 p.m.; Tickets are \$25 each or \$200 for a table of eight; \$5 concert-only seating in the mezzanine. Reservations are required by April 20. For more information, contact [music@fresno.edu](mailto:music@fresno.edu) or call (559) 453-2267.

## The Family Healing Center Grand Opening

**APR 28** The Family Healing Center will have its Grand Opening event on April 28, 2012 at 7025 North Chestnut #102 (Northwest corner of Chestnut and Herndon), Fresno CA 93720 from 5:30pm-7:30pm. There will be wine, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. This fundraising event will help the victims who have either witnessed or been a direct victim of physical or sexual abuse. \$50 per person entry into the event. RSVP by November 13th or for info, call (559) 840-1012.

## Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity Mud Volleyball

**MAY 6** A mud volleyball tournament, sponsored by the Fresno State fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha, will be held on May 6th, 2012. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit community revitalization efforts undertaken by students in neighborhoods near campus that have seen increased criminal activity. The fundraising goal is \$10,000. For more information, please call (559) 278-2656.

## Veterans Job-N-Resource Fair

**MAY 10** The annual Job-N-Resource fair will be held May 10, 2012 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at The American Legion Post 509, 3509 N. First St., Fresno CA 93726 (major cross streets are First & Shields). This event is for veterans, members of the National Guard, and reservists retuning from active duty. Free for all employers and job seekers. For more information, please call Samuel Duran, at (559) 230-4077 or Annette Wholaver at (559) 230-4055.

## Allensworth Old Time Jubilee

**MAY 19** The Friends of Allensworth will hold its Old Time Jubilee on May 19, 2012 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. This day is celebrated by African Americans in honor of their ancestors who received notice of being set free from slavery on June 19 1865. There will be great entertainment, great speakers and free tours of the historic buildings. The friends of Allensworth provides a great family festival atmosphere with entertainment featuring gospel, jazz and drama. For more information, call (619) 271-3185.

## Thina Morris Album Release Concert

**MAY 26** Local artist Dorthina Morris is giving God the highest praise as she prepares for the release of her very first album and will hold an album release concert on May 26, 2012 at Westside Church of God, located at 1424 W. California Ave. Fresno CA 93706. Tickets cost \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. Doors open at 5:15pm. For more information, call (855) 70-THINA.

## 15th Annual Men Who Cook

**JUN 9** Summer is right around the corner and the Fresno Art Museum has begun preparing for the 15th Annual Men Who Cook on Saturday, June 9, 2012 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Fresno Art Museum, 2233 N. First Street (First/Clinton). Put down your tools of the trade and pick up your apron and pans while joining over 75 men who will dish up some mean cuisine. All proceeds benefit the Fresno Art Museum's children's education programs and exhibitions. For more information, call (559) 441-4221.

## New Edition in Concert

**JUN 15** New Edition will be in concert at the SaveMart Center on June 15, 2012. New Edition is reunited and eager to embark on their 30th Anniversary Tour. Tickets will be on sale Friday, March 2nd at 10:00am and are \$46.00, \$52.00 and \$65.00. Tickets may be purchased at select SaveMart Supermarkets, online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), by phone at (800) 745-3000 or at the Save Mart Center box office.

## Clinton Anderson Walkabout Tour 2012

**AUG 4** The Clinton Anderson Walkabout Tour runs from 9:00am to 5:00pm August 4 and 5 at the Save mart Center. Doors open at 8:00am for No Worries Club members, and 8:15am for the general public. Autograph and photograph opportunity will be available throughout the weekend. Advance tickets available online or by phone. No Worries Club members receive special discounts and early access. For more information or to buy tickets call (888) 287-7432 or visit [www.downunderhorsemanship.com](http://www.downunderhorsemanship.com).

## Qura'n Study Sessions at Islamic Cultural Center

**APR 12** Due to prayer time change we will be holding Qura'n Study Session on Thursdays at 7:30pm. This coming Thursday we will be reviewing verses 61-70 from Chapter 25 (Al-Furqan). This is an interactive session where each participant will make a presentation on several verses chosen by him/her and others will contribute to discussions. For more information, please call (559) 297-9535.

## Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World

**APR 26** As part of the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno, ICCF is sponsoring a film screening of 'Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World,' Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 6:30pm at The Fresno Arts Museum, 2233 N. First Street, Fresno, CA 93703. This is a documentary film narrated by Academy Award recipient Susan Sarandon. The film takes audiences on a global journey to present the stories behind the masterworks of Islamic art and architecture. A reception from 5:30pm to 6:30pm precedes the screening. There will also be a discussion with film producer, Michael Wolfe. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. For more information, please call (559) 297-9535.



# The Boys & Girls Club of Fresno County has Upcoming Events!

## Game of Life Wise Up with EECU

Youth Financial Literacy Event

540 N Augusta, Fresno at Zimmerman Boys & Girls Club  
April 17, Ages 13-18 parents encouraged to attend, 4-7:30pm  
There will be financial, credit counseling and debt management workshops available.  
This event will provide free food, live music, carnival games, a DJ and more!

## Summer Jobs PG&E Jobs Program

Deadline to sign up, April 6  
Ages 15-18

10 week career education program  
50 students will be chosen for paid jobs lasting 6 weeks.

For more information visit [www.pge.com/summerjobs](http://www.pge.com/summerjobs)



# Magic Johnson Group to Buy Los Angeles Dodgers



By LATEEF MUNGIN

(CNN) – A group that includes former basketball star Earvin “Magic” Johnson will acquire the Los Angeles Dodgers for \$2 billion, the team said Tuesday night.

The price tag is the most ever paid for a North American sports franchise, according to MLB.com. The group will officially acquire the team, one of baseball’s most storied franchises, after the deal is approved by the judge overseeing the Dodgers’ bankruptcy.

The team has won the World Series championship six times and, for decades, boasted an intensely loyal fan base.

But in recent years, under the ownership of real estate developer Frank McCourt, the Dodgers made headlines more for its financial woes than home runs.

The team’s troubles began when McCourt and his wife, Jamie, decided to part

ways. An acrimonious and expensive divorce battle followed.

The couple fought bitterly over ownership of the team. Last April, Major League Baseball took charge of the beleaguered team. Two months later, the team filed for bankruptcy.

In October, McCourt announced he and his wife had reached a settlement. He is scheduled to pay his wife \$131 million, MLB.com reported. Attorneys’ fees alone could reach \$35 million.

In an effort to hold on to the team, McCourt tried to score a \$3 billion television deal with Fox, but it was rejected by Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig.

Johnson said the sale will start a new chapter for the Dodgers.

“I am thrilled to be part of the historic Dodger franchise and intend to build on the fantastic foundation laid by Frank McCourt as we drive the Dodgers back to the front page of the

sports section in our wonderful community of Los Angeles,” said Johnson, a former Los Angeles Laker who is an icon in his own right.

Along with Johnson, the group acquiring the team includes Stan Kasten, a former executive with the Atlanta Braves and Washington Nationals.

Some members of the group will also partner with McCourt to acquire Dodger Stadium and several other nearby properties for \$150 million.

Legendary former Dodgers coach Tommy Lasorda applauded the sale.

“I am happy for them. I just feel they are going to do everything they can to bring a championship to Los Angeles,” Lasorda told CNN affiliate KTLA.

The Dodgers finished in third place in the National League Western Division last season and did not make the playoffs.

The club has not won a World Series since 1988.

# Whitney Houston ‘Planned to Remarry Brown’

BELFAST TELEGRAPH

Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown were reportedly set to tie the knot for a second time before her death.

Derrick Handspike, a friend close to the couple, claims they were back together just weeks before Whitney passed away in a Los Angeles hotel.

The two were married for 14 years before they divorced in 2007. Whitney was granted custody of their daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown.

However they had reconciled and planned to remarry, according to Derrick.

“They were planning a small wedding with just their daughter Krissi,” he told British newspaper The Sun.

Whitney is said to have split with her R&B singer boyfriend Ray J before get-



Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown

ting back together with her ex-husband.

Meanwhile, Ray J has denied reports that he is in possession of explicit material featuring the late Whitney Houston.

The R&B singer apparently dated the Bodyguard star on-and-off for several years and spent time with her in the

days before her death on February 11.

Star magazine had claimed that the 31-year-old is sitting on “a ton of sexually explicit photos and videos”.

But TMZ has confirmed with his representative that no such material exists. “There is no sex tape,” the spokesperson said.

# Dr. Dre to Produce a Horror Movie, ‘Thaw’

By GIL KAUFMAN, MTV NEWS

Dr. Dre knows beats and he’s one of the best at verbally eviscerating his enemies. But now the rap icon and mogul is getting ready to enter a whole new arena of battle: the slasher movie.

According to Variety, Dre is set to co-produce the horror thriller “Thaw” for the Crucial Films movie banner. The script for the film will be written by Vik Weet, with a story focusing on an “ancient evil that emerges from the rapidly melting ice in the Yukon.”

Variety noted that Weet curiously has also written

another script for an untitled thriller, to be directed by veteran Renny Harlin about the investigation into the 1959 Dyatlov Pass incident, where nine experienced hikers were found dead in Russia’s Ural Mountains.

Dre is no stranger to the movie business, with a resumé that includes acting appearances in the 1996 heist flick “Set It Off,” as well as turns in the comedy “The Wash” and cop drama “Training Day.” He announced a deal in 2007 to team with New Line Cinema’s Crucial Films to produce a series of dark comedies and horror films and “Thaw” would be the first

effort under that compact.

The move into movies is just one of the big deals Dre could be cooking up. According to reports, HTC, the company that bought a majority stake in his Beats By Dr. Dre brand of headphones line – which he co-founded with Interscope boss and “American Idol” mentor Jimmy Iovine – is in talks to acquire the popular online music service MOG.

And, of course, Dre is also still working on his long-promised Detox album. Rick Ross recently told MTV News that he had joined the likes of Eminem, Snoop Dogg, Jay-Z, 50 Cent and Nas.



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# Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Writes Book on Black Inventors

*We Have Better Role Models than LeBron and Jay-Z, Basketball Legend Says*

BY ALEXANDER NAZARYAN

What do the inventor of the potato chip, open-heart surgery and the induction telegraph have in common? They were all African-Americans. And all three (among many others) are featured in the newest book by basketball-great-turned-historian Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, “What Color Is My World?: The Lost History of African-American Inventors.” Written for children of middle-school age, the book highlights little-known achievements by African-American innovators, while continuing Abdul-Jabbar’s interest in a version of U.S.

history that is, as he has put it, not all “Thomas Edison and other white guys.” Speaking of Edison: “What Color Is My World?” gives due treatment to Lewis Howard Latimer, who toiled under Alexander Graham Bell and worked on many of the innovations for incandescent lighting that Edison would later incorporate into one of the great inventions of modernity. But while Edison went on to immortality, Latimer was thanklessly relegated to oblivion. So was Joseph Lee, who invented the bread machine; and Lloyd Hall, an innovator of food preservation; chemist Percy Julian; and

gamma cell inventor Henry Sampson. They, too, have been deleted from the history of American achievement. It becomes a self-imposed, socially reinforced limitation, he says. “They totally neglect their intellect. They either want to be Jay-Z or LeBron James.” Since his retirement from basketball, Abdul-Jabbar has done much to subvert that narrative, writing numerous books and working with his Skyhook Foundation to foster a greater respect for education among inner-city youth. “Engineers and scientists and mathematicians can be heroes too,” Abdul-Jabbar



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

says in earnest. They sure can. And in his newest, most colorful book, they surely are.

# Black Women More Likely to Die of Breast Cancer Due to Racial Disparities

BY GENEVRA PITTMAN

NEW YORK (REUTERS HEALTH) – More than 1,700 black women die of breast cancer every year in the United States because of racial disparities in cancer risks and access to care, suggests a new study. Researchers who calculated cancer death rates in 24 of the largest U.S. cities found that in 13 of them, black women were significantly more likely to die of breast cancer than white women. That’s despite the evidence that white women are more likely than blacks to get breast cancer in the first place. “It’s unfortunate that this disparity exists and we all need to work hard to over-

come it,” said Marc Hurlbert, one of the researchers on the new study from the Avon Foundation for Women, which funded the report. “The good news is it’s a solvable problem, because some cities are doing better than others,” he said. Of the cities where black women were more likely to die of breast cancer, that disparity ranged from a 24 percent higher risk of death in New York to more than twice the risk of death in Memphis between 2005 and 2007. Other cities with racial disparities in deaths during those years included Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, San Diego, Dallas, Jacksonville, Columbus, Milwaukee, Boston and Denver. On the other hand, there

was no difference in black and white women’s chances of dying from breast cancer in Phoenix, San Antonio, San Jose, Detroit, San Francisco, Austin, Baltimore, Fort Worth, Charlotte, El Paso and Seattle. The researchers were missing data on breast cancer deaths in Indianapolis, the last of the 25 largest U.S. cities. Across the country, they calculated that black women were 40 percent more likely to die of breast cancer than whites, adding up to 1,722 extra deaths each year due to racial disparities. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, just over 40,000 women in the U.S. died of breast cancer in 2007, the most recent year with avail-

able data. Lower average family income in a city and more racial segregation by neighborhood were both tied to larger disparities in breast cancer deaths between black and white women, according to the new study, which was published Wednesday in Cancer Epidemiology. That’s probably because poor women in segregated areas can’t easily get to facilities that screen for breast cancer or provide comprehensive treatment, the researchers said. The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends screening mammography every other year for women ages 50 to 74, with the option to start earlier based on a patient’s own risks and preferences.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Healthcare for Veterans is the Best

Having volunteered at The Veterans Affairs Central California Healthcare System for over 4 decades, 3 decades incognito, with coma patients was a wonderful experience. Before the advent of the Privacy Act, being passively interested in saving lives was what I had in mind. I talked to coma patients about families and children, prayed with them and read the King James Version of the Bible to them. Then a more interesting New International Version made patients perk up, and wiggle their bodies more, to show they were more interested in the latter version. They became familiar with me through voice recognition and showed their thought perception detailing a distinct feeling of trust with life movement; they do comprehend. After the patients recovered, thank God, they told me reading from the New International Version made them want to learn more about the Holy Bible. Unlike Palliative Care when the focus is to ease the pain without offering a cure, in a coma they’re in a state of deep unconsciousness which can be due to numerous causes; time is on their side. In my experience, small percentages do recover. Long term care is important for our veterans. On December of 2011 on CBS evening news with Scott Kelly, it was stated “Fresno VA Palliative Care Facility is the best all round in the nation.” Sincerely, Floyd Takeuchi

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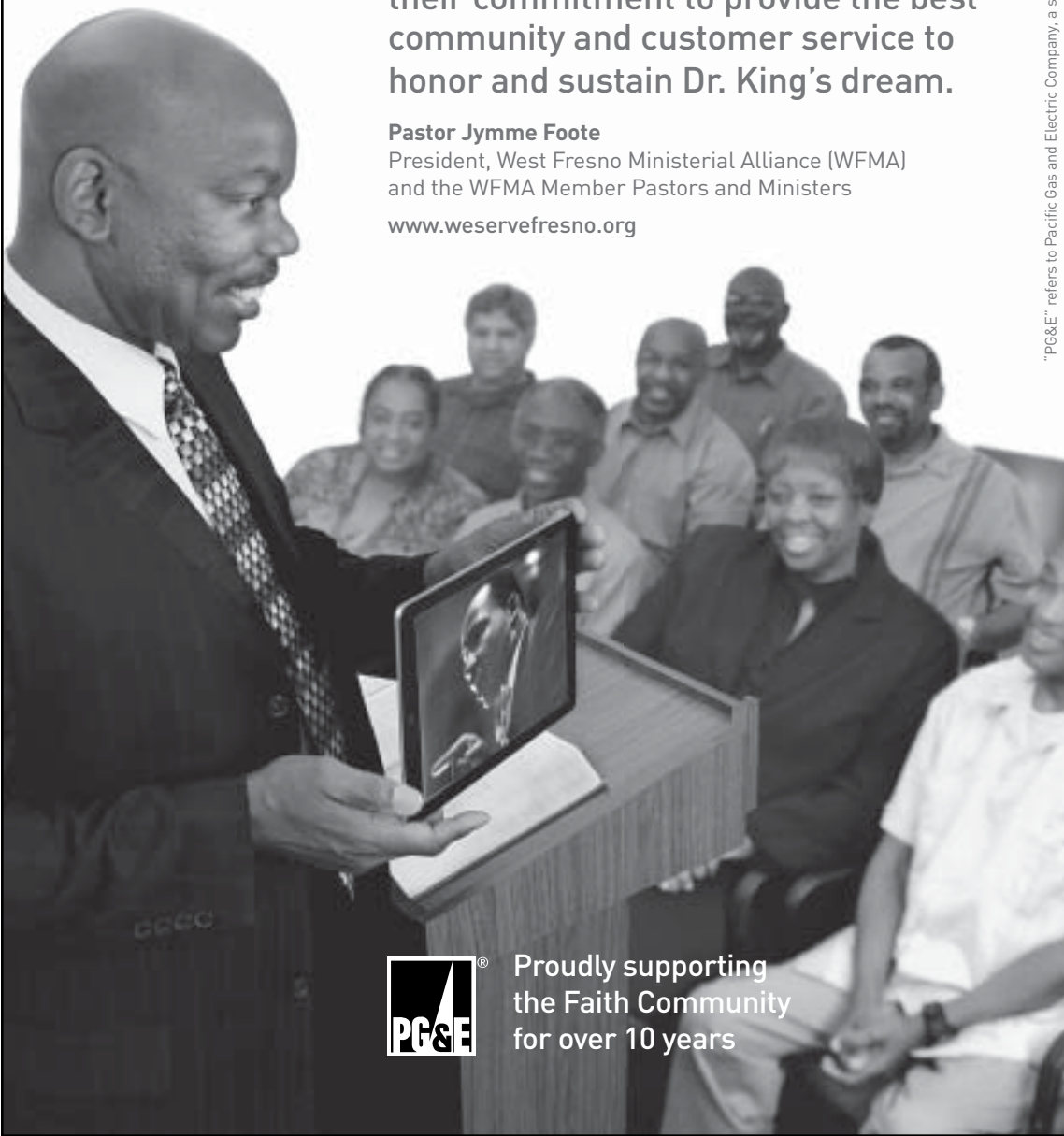
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**Sustaining the Dream**

As we celebrate and reflect on the life and legacy of our country’s greatest civil rights leader, preacher, orator and writer, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., let us remember one of his famous quotes, “Life’s most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”

In this spirit, PG&E honors and recognizes our local pastors for their dedication and tireless efforts to help their communities. We join them in their commitment to provide the best community and customer service to honor and sustain Dr. King’s dream.

**Pastor Jymme Foote**  
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# Purdue Grad Makes History as First Black CEO at McDonald's

Don Thompson is known to show up for early morning meetings with other trustees of Purdue University carrying armloads of McDonald's Egg McMuffins and cups of coffee. That gesture says a mouthful about the 48-year-old Thompson, who on Wednesday was named president and chief executive officer of McDonald's, becoming the first black leader of the world's largest restaurant chain. A leader with deep Hoosier roots, he is often described as warm, friendly, inspiring – and very attuned to other's needs. "I find him to be a clear-thinking and practical and process-oriented member of the board, as you might expect of an electrical engineer," said Michael R. Berghoff, president of Lenex Steel Corp. in Indianapolis and another Purdue trustee. "He has a dynamic per-

sonality and a great antenna for what motivates people by understanding the emotional side of behavior." Thompson was born in Chicago but moved as a child to Indianapolis' Northside to be raised by his grandmother. He graduated from North Central High School in 1980 and from Purdue at West Lafayette in 1984 with a degree in electrical engineering. He was named to the high school's alumni Hall of Fame in 2010 and appointed by the governor to the Purdue Board of Trustees in 2009. Thompson, who has climbed during 22 years with the company from making Big Macs in an Illinois restaurant to regional and national leadership, wasn't available for interviews Thursday after his latest promotion was announced. He succeeds CEO Jim Skinner, who is retiring after 41 years.

But a 2008 profile in the trade publication Franchise Times quotes Thompson about his accidental introduction to the food industry. Soon after graduating from Purdue, he worked as an engineer at an aerospace company. One day, he received a message from a recruiter who he thought was representing airplane builder McDonnell Douglas. Actually, it was for a management trainee job with McDonald's, the restaurant chain. So he took a chance, changed careers and rose rapidly. Thompson is married to another Purdue electrical engineering graduate, Liz, and they are the parents of a son attending the University of Notre Dame and a younger daughter. The Thompsons met as young scholarship students at a banquet

in 1980 at Purdue. They had shared an early childhood on Chicago's rough South Side. Friends including Berghoff said it is not unusual for Thompson to spend time after trustee meetings getting to know new scholarship students. "He is very sensitive to how loans and support can allow a student to go to school" and take advantage of opportunities, Berghoff said. Virginia Booth-Gleghorn, director of Purdue's minority engineering programs, said Thompson's dedication to young people's education is evident, from his personal donations to his hands-on attention. "What really touches my heart about Don is he really takes an effort to remember and credit the programs that helped him," she said. "He was amazed his whole

life changed once he learned about engineering." Thompson formerly was president of McDonald's USA and became the operating chief of the global company in January 2010. He will assume his new role as chief executive July 1 for the Oak Brook, Ill.-based McDonald's. "It will be a seamless transition," said Peter Saleh, an analyst at Telsey Advisory Group in New York. "They're not going to skip a beat going from (Skinner) to Don." Thompson faces the challenge of boosting sales amid increasing competition from Wendy's, Burger King, Taco Bell and others, plus higher commodity prices. "Everyone today is trying to steal shares from them," Saleh said. Thompson's challenge will be to protect the breakfast business and continue to expand McCafe specialty beverages.

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Celebrating Our Youth

Black History Month commemorates African Americans who have positively impacted our society and is a great time to encourage our young people.

In this spirit, PG&E recognizes and congratulates the Fresno Street Saints "Green Team" for their dedication to help their community as role models for a greener and safer future.

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# Trayvon Martin’s Parents Visit Congress, Say They Continue to Fight for Justice

**BY LUCY MADISON, CBS NEWS**

Trayvon Martin’s parents made an appearance on Tuesday in a forum in Congress led by Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee about racial profiling, taking a moment to thank their supporters for helping them “fight for justice” for their son, and for their efforts to make sure that he “did not indeed die in vain.”

“Trayvon was our son, but Trayvon is your son,” said Sybrina Fulton, Trayvon Martin’s mother, to a hushed room. “A lot of people can relate to our situation. And it breaks their heart just like it breaks mine. Thank you for everything.”

Tracy Martin, Trayvon Martin’s father, added his thanks to everyone “who has helped us stand tall in this matter” and who is “holding the legacy of Trayvon and making sure that he did not indeed die in vain.”

“I’d just like to say thank you, and he’s sadly missed, and we’ll continue to fight for justice for him,” Martin said.

The couple, who arrived several minutes into the Democratic-led forum on the role of the federal government on issues of racial profiling and hate crimes, was greeted with applause as they walked into the room. Shortly following

their arrival, House Democrats led a moment of silence on behalf of the 17-year-old, who was slain a month ago by a neighborhood watch member in Sanford, Florida.

Participants in the forums called for Congress to pass stronger laws prohibiting racial profiling, and urged state legislatures to repeal the so-called “Stand Your Ground” laws which have come under intense scrutiny in light of Martin’s death.

There were no Republican lawmakers present at the event.

In Florida, the “Stand Your Ground” law allows a person to “stand his or her ground and meet force with force . . . including deadly force” if there is a reasonable belief it is needed to “prevent death or great bodily harm,” even if there’s a chance to escape.

George Zimmerman, the Sanford, Fla., neighborhood watch volunteer who shot the unarmed teen last month, claims he was defending himself.

According to a report in the Orlando Sentinel, Zimmerman told police he exchanged words with Martin and that Martin attacked him. Zimmerman says he began crying for help, but Martin’s family argues it was their son who was calling for help. Witness accounts differ and 911 tapes are not clear.

“We are here today to discuss a matter that never should have happened,” said Benjamin Crump, the Martin family attorney. “I think it’s one of those matters that if we had a better understanding and more laws on racial profiling, that this never would have happened.”

“We honestly believe that Trayvon Martin is dead today because he was racially profiled,” Crump added.

Speaking to reporters following the forum, Fulton and Martin said they would continue to seek justice for their son’s death.

“Of course my heart is broken, but it breaks even more to know that we have not gotten justice yet and that this man has not been arrested for shooting and killing my son,” Fulton said.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Texas Democrat, said Tuesday that Congress has a “legislative responsibility” to end “the killing of young boys of all backgrounds in America.”

Lee cited figures showing that the number of justified homicides in the state of Florida had increased since the passage of the “Stand Your Ground” law, and suggested that it was because of that law that “the police department in this instance unfortunately did not pursue the vigorous investigation that was necessary.”



**In a packed forum on Capitol Hill, the parents of Trayvon Martin found support among members of Congress who turned the death of their 17-year-old son into a rallying cry against racial profiling.**

Lee, alongside several other participants in the panel, demanded further investigations into “Stand Your Ground” laws, as well as increased regulations and accountability for those patrolling the streets.

“I will not rest until an arrest is made,” said Rep. Frederica Wilson, D-Fla., in remarks. “I will not stop beating this drum until we have justice for Trayvon. I am tired of burying young black boys. I have buried too many, cried too many tears, attended too many funerals, and it is unnecessary.”

Wilson said she planned to introduce legislation demanding the establishment of a federal commission aimed at studying the “race-based injustices, health disparities, and economic disparities affecting African American men and boys.”

“This investigation is laced with racial profiling, lies, and murder,” Wilson added. “Trayvon was hunted, chased, tackled, and shot. Ill-conceived laws and lax gun laws all contributed to this tragedy.”

Over the weekend, New

York Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer called on the Justice Department to expand its probe of the Martin shooting to include an examination of the “Stand Your Ground” laws, which he argued presented a move toward “vigilantism.”

“This ‘Stand Your Ground’ law is a whole new concept in our jurisprudence,” Schumer said on CBS’ “Face the Nation.” “It basically says if you fear great physical harm you can shoot. Some people call it ‘Shoot first, ask questions later.’”

## Attorneys in Trayvon Martin Case Make Arguments

**BY JENNIFER KAY AND ERRIN HAINES**

**MIAMI (AP)** – Attorneys for the family of Trayvon Martin and the Florida neighborhood watch captain who fatally shot the unarmed teen joined the national chorus of voices calling Saturday for justice in the case.

As demonstrators took to the streets in major cities such as Washington and Chicago to voice outrage over Martin’s death, an attorney for the Martin family told board members of the National Association of Black Journalists that federal and local officials have assured the family that the case is a priority.

Meanwhile, an attorney representing the neighborhood watch captain, 28-year-old George Zimmerman, broadly defended his

client and said he believes evidence will show that Florida’s “Stand Your Ground” law was properly applied.

Zimmerman has not been charged in the Feb. 26 shooting that has ignited racial tensions and raised questions about the Sanford police’s handling of the case. Martin was black, and Zimmerman’s father is white and his mother is Hispanic.

“Is George a racist? The answer is no, absolutely not. He’s not a racist,” attorney Craig Sonner said about his client. “The incident that transpired is not racially motivated or a hate crime in any way. It was self-defense.”

Sonner said he’s spoken with several of Zimmerman’s friends, including some who are African-American.

“They only have good things to say about him,” Sonner said.

They’re reluctant to come forward, though, because they fear that the backlash over the investigation will make them and their families targets, too, Sonner said.

Sonner declined to detail what transpired between Zimmerman and the 17-year-old Martin, but he said he believes the case falls under Florida’s stand-your-ground law, which dictates that a person has the right to stand his or her ground and “meet force with force” if attacked.

If charges are brought against his client, Zimmerman would be willing to turn himself in to police, Sonner said. “We will follow the law,” Sonner said.

Sonner would not say where Zimmerman was.

## Protests Grow as New Details Emerge in Black Teen’s Killing

**Civil rights leaders descend on the shaken town of Sanford, Fla., and new reports conflict about who was the aggressor before the shooting**

**BY RENE LYNCH AND RICHARD FAUSSET, LOS ANGELES TIMES**

**FLORIDA** – The nation’s leading civil rights advocates and outraged everyday people packed this laid-back lakeside community Monday to demand the arrest of the man who killed African American teenager Trayvon Martin, even as police sources portrayed the unarmed youth as the aggressor.

Beneath an incongruously cheerful Florida sun, the passionate but well-behaved crowd marched, chanting and shouting, toward the Sanford Civic Center. Inside, the City Commission ceded most of its regularly scheduled meeting to Martin’s grieving parents, their lawyer and a roster of civil rights luminaries who criticized the city’s leadership and its handling of a case that, to some, symbolizes lingering racism and a justice system that too often fails black victims of violence.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson compared city leaders to Pontius Pilate – who, he said, was just as guilty as “those who held the hammer and the nail” – for deciding not to arrest George Zimmerman, the man who says he shot Martin in self-defense after reporting him to police as a suspicious person. Zimmerman followed Martin after a police dispatcher warned him not to.

Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League, compared the case to the notorious 1955 Mississippi lynching of Emmett Till, which catalyzed the mid-century civil rights movement. “We will not rest, we will not stop, until there is justice for Trayvon Martin,” Morial said.

The Rev. Al Sharpton warned that sleepy Sanford,

on the shores of Lake Monroe just north of Orlando, was flirting with worldwide infamy. “You are risking going down as the Birmingham and Selma of the 21st century,” he said.

Police have said that Zimmerman, 28, is protected by a state law allowing someone who feels threatened to stand his or her ground and meet force with force. Critics have noted that Martin, 17, was walking back from a convenience store with only a cellphone, a pack of Skittles and an iced tea.

State authorities and the Justice Department have opened investigations.

Meanwhile, the Orlando Sentinel on Monday reported on its website Zimmerman’s account to police: that Martin had been the aggressor on the evening of Feb. 26, knocking him down with a single punch and slamming his head into the ground.

Police told the Sentinel that Zimmerman’s story was supported by witnesses, including one who said he saw Martin on top of Zimmerman, striking him, as the neighborhood watch captain cried out for help.

Two other witnesses reportedly have suggested the opposite. One of them, Mary Cutcher, told CNN last week: “If it was self-defense, why was he [Zimmerman] on Trayvon’s back?”

The Sentinel reported that Zimmerman told police he’d lost sight of Martin and was heading back to his SUV when the youth stepped into his path. Martin asked Zimmerman whether he had a problem and, when Zimmerman said no and reached for his cellphone, Martin said something like, “Well, you do now,” and punched him.

Zimmerman was bleeding from the nose and the back of his head when officers ar-

rived, the police report says.

Protesters dismissed the Sentinel report, noting that an attorney for Martin’s family has related details of a call the teen made to his girlfriend in which he told her a man was following him and she urged him to run.

The Sentinel also reported that Martin was in Sanford, his father’s city, because he had been suspended for 10 days from his Miami school after the remains of marijuana were found in a plastic bag in his book bag.

“Whatever Trayvon was suspended for had absolutely no bearing on the night of Feb. 26,” the family’s lawyer, Ben Crump, told reporters. “Once again, law enforcement is attempting to demonize the victim.”

The case has sparked widespread anger and demonstrations. On Monday, hundreds of people marched through downtown Los Angeles and held a boisterous rally at City Hall. Many in the ethnically mixed crowd waved signs that read, “Jail for Zimmerman ... Justice for Trayvon” and “Stand Up Against Racism.”

In Sanford, protesters poured into town in church buses, short-circuited beach vacations, skipped out of work and took their children out of school. Radical Marxist-Leninists marched alongside soccer moms.

Lanny Lamb, 74, a white retiree who grew up in Texas, hobbled along with the marchers in a Hawaiian shirt and Panama hat, a fat cigar between his fingers.

“There’s no legalized murder,” Lamb said in a booming Texas basso, saying he had been unable to participate in past decades’ civil rights demonstrations because he was in the Navy then. “This is my chance to stand up and do what’s right.”

## What Does the Autopsy Say?

**BY RENE LYNCH**

What does Trayvon Martin’s autopsy say?

It’s been exactly one month since Martin was shot and killed by a neighborhood watch captain armed with a 9-millimeter weapon. The day is being observed with protests, rallies and a town hall meeting. Also notable are leaks of information from police department sources in Sanford, Fla., that could help support George Zimmerman’s claim that he fired in self-defense.

That brings us back to the autopsy. Does it conclude whether Zimmerman was standing when he fired? Or was he lying on his back in a defensive position? Does it indicate the angle of the gunshot wound?

Zimmerman has said that he noticed Martin that night

in part because the youth was acting strangely – and possibly on drugs. Was he? Martin had reportedly been suspended from school days earlier after he was found to have an empty marijuana baggie. Family members have not confirmed this but say they’re outraged at what they call blame-the-victim reporting.

The autopsy may provide key evidence in a case making national and international headlines amid allegations of racism. But the public won’t get a look at it until the investigation is complete.

The Volusia County Medical Examiner’s office, the body that “independently, objectively and scientifically determines the cause and manner of death under certain circumstances,” handled the autopsy.

For now, that report re-

mains under seal, spokesman Dave Byron told The Times. It has been forwarded to the Seminole County branch of the Florida state attorney’s office and won’t be made public while the investigation is pending.

That office, as well as the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice, are among the agencies investigating the Feb. 26 shooting.

In the absence of evidence from the autopsy report, everyone – media included – is speculating about what happened at the scene of the shooting.

“It will be interesting to see what kinds of defensive wounds Trayvon had on the autopsy report,” one follower said Monday on Twitter.

“...a witness claimed Zimmerman was on top of Trayvon Martin. Was an autopsy done?” asked another tweet.





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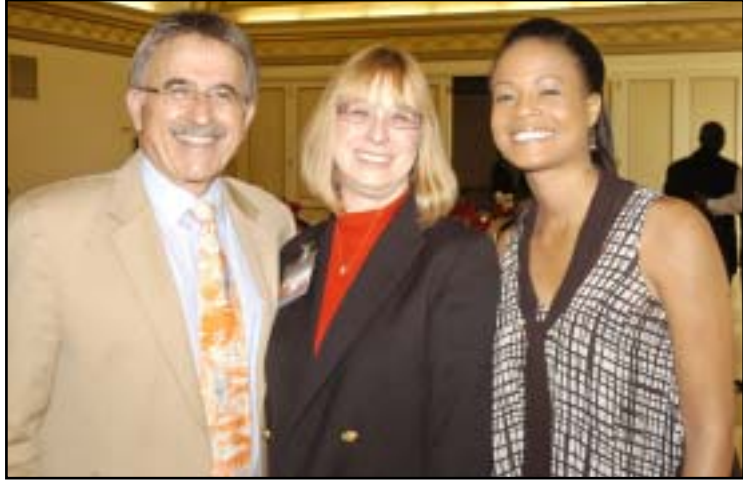
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Photos by Ken McCoy







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