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"I wholly disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."  
Voltaire

# Tri-County Bulletin

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Some of today's most celebrated Jazz and R&B artists will perform at the 25th Long Beach Jazz Festival this weekend. The three day anniversary musical celebration will take place at the Rainbow Lagoon Park in Long Beach. Pictured above

are Dianne Reeves and Larry Graham. Poncho Sanchez, Isley Brothers, Jonathon Butler, and David Sanborn are just a few of the additional acts slated to perform.

## Terminal Bringing Bad Air to the Community

By Dianne Anderson  
Staff Writer

Long Beach air is about to get thicker, like 100,000 truck trips a year thick.

A recent draft Environmental Impact Report predicts that a new proposed terminal will have a negative impact on the community with its 35 ships from the port filling up 700 trucks of granite, sand and other aggregate to roll through the community each day.

Local family practitioner, Dr. Angel Schaffer, said that it is disturbing to think how much pollution will hit the community because the area is already inundated with more than its fair share of environmental toxins.

She said there is ample evidence to show how detrimental pollution has been to Long Beach. Usually, the hardest impact is on the lowest income areas, which are mostly African Americans and Latinos with asthma.

"I'm seeing more and more newly diagnosed asthmatics that are adults, who were not smokers, who had no previous history of asthma, who are now being diagnosed with asthma," she said. "We certainly link those newly diagnosed adults with environmental changes."

She believes that many people

in the community are not aware of the proposed terminal project, but she said that in Bixby Knolls, where she lives, residents would be outraged to learn of the projections.

Many professionals now within the medical community are making the connection between global warming to the nation's increase in respiratory illnesses, she said.

"Global warming, a lot of that is linked to the environment and to industrialization, so I would certainly say it would have an impact on asthmatics," she said.

Community and environmental activist Evelyn Knight was upset to learn that the community hasn't been adequately prepared and made aware of the report sooner. The report recently went online.

But she wasn't surprised. She said that both the city and the port usually wait until the last minute as a tactic to prevent community activists from effectively putting citizens to come out and voice their opposition to these kinds of projects.

Ms. Knight, who has been working on port pollution issues for many years, is currently working with Dr. Alex Norman and other Long Beach advocates

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## Sickle Cell Foundation of Orange County Hosts Gala Fund Raiser

By Eliz Dowdy  
Staff Writer

The Sickle Cell Foundation of Orange County hosted a block party in downtown Brea on Sunday. The event was a fundraiser for the organization started by Star Simmons and her husband Elliot when their son Charon was diagnosed with Sickle Cell disease. They started the Foundation in 2006 to help other parents and children living with the disease, often called the forgotten disease. Charon, now 23, was diagnosed with the disease when he was five years old. Previously he had been misdiagnosed in their southern Orange County region where the numbers of African Americans are less than Caucasians. Star took the young child to Fountain Valley Regional Hospital where she received the news about what was troubling him.

Charon's medical crises in 2011 also served to raise the awareness of the blood disease that primarily affects African Americans. The life expectancy for Sickle Cell sufferers is estimated to be 40 years. Their younger daughter also has the disease.

Ms. Simmons met business owners from the city of Brea, who listened to the report of Charon's condition and wanted to help. James and Lynn Minidis, who own a local pizza parlor in downtown Brea, took the idea of a block party fundraiser to other merchants in the area and on Sunday the entire block closed down to host the fundraiser. Celebrities giving of their time and talents to help the event move forward were interviewed on the red carpet by several media outlets, including the Tri-County Bulletin. The interviews were with 513 Elevators, who take their name from the area code for Cincinnati, Ohio. Other celebrities sharing the walk were Arjay Smith, who starred in the 2004 Fox blockbuster "The Day After Tomorrow," "Malcolm in

the Middle," and Nickelodeon's "The Journey of Allen Strange." Smith is a resident of Orange County.

Jagged, a classic rock band that performs throughout southern California, brings the sounds of Led Zeppelin, Aerosmith, and the Doobie Brothers to life again.

Also, actors Art Evans and E.J. Gage lent their talents to the charity block party. Evans is remembered for his role in "Die Hard 2" and "A Soldier's Story." Edward James Gage is known for his rolling clear voice and roles in "Die Hard 4," "Malcolm in the Middle," "ER" and "My Name is Earl." Asked why they were there, each stated they had met Star, and wanted to get involved to make a difference in the lives of individuals diagnosed with sickle cell disease.

Entertaining on stage was

gospel singer Cherubim; high energy gospel was performed by Brent Jones' Orange County Mass Choir and the blues band of Phil Gates. Gates is a guitarist/vocalist whose style is termed Chicago blues. Closing out the day's events was the Four Tops Revue.

Art Evans and his wife presented plaques of appreciation from the foundation to the sponsors and businesses of Birch Street; master of ceremonies was comedian Dexter Smiles.

Star thanked everyone who had participated to make the event successful. Charon, who was not expected to survive the crisis that he endured last September, also addressed the attendees. He required 35 units of blood; he survived two code blue alerts and his doctors feared he would not survive, or would be unable to walk if he did sur-

vive. Charon amazed all of them; today he is standing, and walking, and he is optimistic that he can return to complete his studies in criminal justice.

The Tri-County Bulletin asked Star about her passion and endless energy in dealing with the health crisis of both her children. She replied that having to navigate the system for her son impelled her to want to help other parents, to have information readily available that they could access and especially for the children. Her passion is contagious and ignites a similar response in others who also want to help as James and Lynn Minidis and their business, The Red Brick Pizza. The goal was the collection of 100 units of blood during the five-hour party. The event was supported by most of the African American organizations in Orange County.

## NAEJA Calls For Community Action and Unity

By Dianne Anderson  
Staff Writer

The scene in Anaheim in recent times has been nothing short of chaotic.

Over several days, hundreds of protestors lined the streets, lashing out against the police killing if two Latino men, and an attack dog that broke free, or was allegedly released, from its police handler into crowd.

But Mary Jones, a resident of Anaheim over 14 years, said the outrage is part of a long history of the community, and the problem is not new to the Black community.

Probably the biggest difference from the police fatal shootings that happened last month and the several shootings of young Black males in recent years in Orange County is that the Latino community quickly sprung to action.

"There's a lot of stuff going on in Anaheim. I'm not surprised. It's about time it starts coming to light," she said.

Ms. Jones, a member of the National Association for Equal Justice in America, said that their civil rights organization is needed in Orange County, and that the group has decades of experience in outreach around civil rights violations.

She would like to see both

the Black and Latino communities come together with regular town hall meetings to address police misconduct, discrimination and the kinds of division that exist not only in Anaheim, but countywide.

"The Anaheim police corruption, it's been like that, and it's worse with Black people. But there is nobody in Anaheim or Orange County that's going to stand up for Blacks," she said.

NAEJA founder and CEO Royce Esters said that his organization will stand up.

Esters, a past president of the Compton NAACP, was recently recognized by the Los Angeles branch NAACP with the Youth Council 2012 Man of Valor Award for service and as a positive role model for young African American males. Last year, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission also honored NAEJA for its role in civil rights in California.

NAEJA was appointed as the crime committee by the Mayor of Compton to hold meetings and resolve complaints against police, and address the city's high homicide rate. Over the years, his organization takes credit for helping alleviate

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Arjay Smith, Charon Simmons, and his dad Elliot Simmons. Photo: Dowdy