### The State of America's Children 2012

(See Page 4)

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

Voltaire

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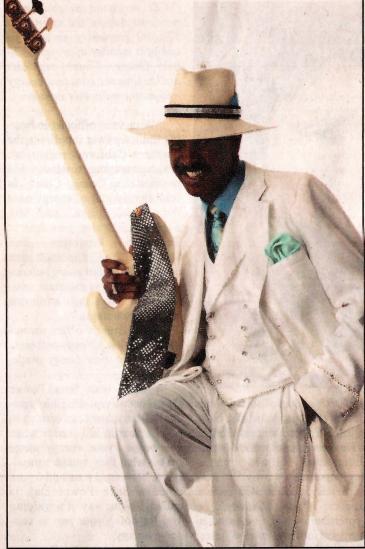
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The three day anniversary musical celebration will take place at the Rainbow Lagoon Park in Long Beach. Pictured above



Some of today's most celebrated Jazz and R&B artists will are Dianne Reeves and Larry Graham. Poncho Sanchez, perform at the 25th Long Beach Jazz Festival this weekend. Isley Brothers, Jonathon Butler, and David Sanborn are just a few of the additional acts slated to perform.

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

**By Eliz Dowdy** 

The Sickle Cell Foundation of Orange County hosted a block 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

The Journey of Affen Strange. Smith is a resident of Orange

Jagged, a classic rock band party in downtown Brea on that performs throughout southern California, brings the sounds of Led Zeppelin, Aerosmith, and the Doobie Brothers to life

> 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

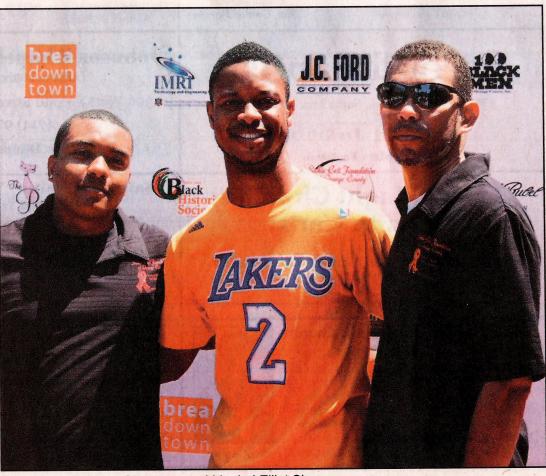
gospel was performed by energy of Phil Gates. Gates is a guitarist/vocalist whose style is termed Chicago blues. Closing out the day's events was the Four Tops Revue.

Art Evans and his wife prefrom the foundation to the sponsors and businesses of Birch Street; master of ceremonies was

comedian Dexter Smiles. had participated to make the tagious and ignites a similar event successful. Charon, who was not expected to survive the crisis that he endured last September, also addressed the Red Brick Pizza. The goal was attendees. He required 35 units the collection of 100 units of of blood; he survived two code blood during the five-hour party. blue alerts and his doctors feared be unable to walk if he did sur- organizations in Orange County.

the Middle," and Nickelodeon's gospel singer Cherubim; high vive. Charon amazed all of them; today he is standing, and Brent Jones' Orange County walking, and he is optimistic that Mass Choir and the blues band 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 sented plaques of appreciation 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 Star thanked everyone who the children. Her passion is conresponse in others who also want to help as James and Lynn Minidis and their business, The The event was supported by he would not survive, or would most of the African American



After Tomorrow," "Malcolm in Arjay Smith, Charon Simmons, and his dad Elliot Simmons.

## **Terminal Bringing Bad Air** to the Community

**By Dianne Anderson** Staff Writer

get thicker, like 100,000 truck residents would be outraged to trips a year thick.

A recent draft Environmental Impact Report predicts that a within the medical community new proposed terminal will have are making the connection a negative impact on the community with its 35 ships from the nation's increase in respiratory port filling up 700 trucks of granite, sand and other aggregate

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 aothuna.

"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 working with Dr. Alex Norman newly diagnosed adults with environmental changes."

She believes that many peo-

ple in the community are not aware of the proposed terminal project, but she said that in Long Beach air is about to Bixby Knolls, where she lives, learn of the projections.

Many professionals now between global warming to the illnesses, she said.

"Global warming, a lot of to roll through the community 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 pulling 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 and other Long Beach advocates

(Cont. on Page 6)

## 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 ruption, it's been like that, and 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 said. of Anaheim over 14 years, said the outrage is part of a long history of the community, and the ization will stand up. problem is not new to the Black community.

ence from the police fatal shootthe 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 in California. coming to light," she said.

National Association for Equal of Compton to hold meetings Justice in America, said that and resolve complaints against their civil rights organization is needed in Orange County, and high homicide rate. Over the that the group has decades of years, his organization takes experience in outreach around credit for helping alleviate 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 corit's worse with Black people. But there is nobody in Anaheim or Orange County that's going to stand up for Blacks," she

NAEJA founder and CEO Royce Esters said that his organ-

Esters, a past president of the Compton NAACP, was recently Probably the biggest differ- recognized by the Los Angeles branch NAACP with the Youth ings that happened last month Council 2012 Man of Valor and the several shootings of Award for service and as a posiyoung Black males in recent tive role model for young years in Orange County is that African American males. Last year, the Equal U.S. Opportunity Employment Commission also honored NAEJA for its role in civil rights

NAEJA was appointed as the Ms. Jones, a member of the crime committee by the Mayor police, and address the city's

(Cont. on Page 2)