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e-Pw brings you a glimpse of events near and far, from around your neighborhood to around our world.

Victim of Hate: Community Grieves for Slain Teen Lawrence King

On February 12, 15 year old junior high student, Lawrence "Larry" King, was shot in the head twice by a fellow junior high student at school in Oxnard, CA. He was later declared brain-dead and taken off life support. According to friends, Larry was perceived to be gay and gender non-conforming and had been bullied at school. The suspect, a 14-year old student, has been charged with attempted murder, and the case is being prosecuted as a hate crime.



Vigils are being held around the state to remember Larry's life and unite the community in spreading the message that stronger anti-bullying policies and anti-bias educational programs are needed in schools.

Nearly 1,000 Oxnard youths and other supporters participated in a peace march organized by students, to pay tribute on February 17. [Read an article from the LA times](#) covering the march (free registration required)

For more information visit the memorial [MySpace](#) and Family Website at www.rememberlarry.com

Messages from GLBT Community Leaders:

"With young people coming out at younger ages, our schools - especially our junior highs and middle schools - need to be proactive about teaching respect for diversity based on sexual orientation and gender identity . . . The tragic death

[Stanislaus PRIDE Day
2008](#)



of Lawrence King is a wake-up call for our schools to better protect students from harassment at school."

- *Carolyn Laub, Executive Director of GSA, Gay-Straight Alliance Network.*

"We are deeply saddened by this tragedy, which is a grim reminder of the need for all of us to re-double our efforts to protect LGBT youth."

- *Geoff Kors, Executive Director, EQCA, Equality California*

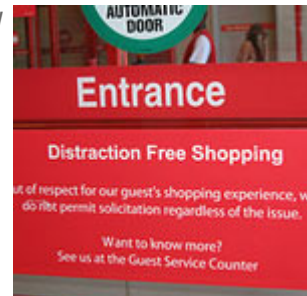
"We are proud to live in a state with laws aimed at preventing harassment and violence in schools. . . but the sad reality is that even with these protections, violence against gay and gender non-conforming students happens all too often. We must address the culture of bullying in our schools to ensure that all youth have safe places to learn."

- *Masen Davis, Executive Director, Transgender Law Center*

Central Valley Target-ed by Anti-Gay Petitioners

You have the right to life, liberty, and a distraction-free shopping experience. . .

Paid signature gatherers are collecting signatures at Wal-Marts, Targets and other stores in Modesto, Turlock and other central valley towns, for an anti-gay ballot proposition to revoke Domestic Partner rights in the State of California.



SAY NO TO SOLICITATION

Target is one of the stores where signature gatherers have been encountered. This store has a long-standing solicitation policy nationwide and do not allow solicitation or petitioning regardless of the cause being represented.

Any private citizen can go into a Target store, ask to see the manager and ask the manager to enforce their policy forbidding all solicitation on store property.

[Read Target's Solicitation Policy](#)

TAKE ACTION: DECLINE TO SIGN

Equality for All, a coalition of LGBT and allied civil rights groups, is launching a "Decline to Sign" campaign to discourage people from signing these petitions that support putting an anti-gay marriage initiative on the November ballot.

Beginning Friday, February 22, volunteers will be sent to locations where paid signature gatherers have been sighted and attempt to educate people and ask them to sign petitions to show support for same-sex marriage.

"We want to make sure people know what they're signing," says Geoff Korrs executive director of Equality California.

Equality for All is looking for Volunteers to help with this effort. Visit www.equalityforall.com to get involved and reporting sightings of petition gatherers.

New GLBT Peer Support Group Begins Tonight - Feb. 21

El Concilio, Latino Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, is starting a weekly GLBT peer support group for adults. Beginning February 21, 2008, the "DIVERSITY Support Group" will meet every Thursday evening from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Stanislaus PRIDE Center. This group will be led by Wilton J. Wielenga, LCSW from El Concilio.



This will be a safe place to share common experiences with other GLBT individuals confidentially. If you identify with the GLBT community, please join us!

- **When:** Every Thursday; Starting February 21, 2008.
- **Time:** 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
- **Where:** Stanislaus PRIDE Center, 823 15th St., Modesto, CA 95354

There is no cost to attend. For more information contact Ana Perez, MSW or Marcos Gallardo, MSW @ (209) 338-5715.

This program is funded by Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and is a collaboration between El CONCILIO and the Stanislaus PRIDE Center.

2008 Transgender Leadership Summit - March 14-16 in Berkeley

The 3rd Annual Transgender Leadership Summit will be held at UC



Berkeley from March 14 -16, 2008.

This event is FREE and is open to individuals of all skill levels who are involved or interested in advancing civil rights for transgender people in **California**.

[REGISTER NOW](#) to reserve your place at the Summit.

Sponsored by:

Equality California
Lighthouse Community Center
Transgender Equality Alliance
Transgender Law Center
Gender Equity Resource Center, UC Berkeley

First ever PFLAG YARD SALE - April 4-5

NOW is the time to start going through your closets, cupboards, storage boxes, storage units, and the garage, the cabin, your mom's house, the office, your desk, your car, etc.



PFLAG Yard Sale

- **Date:** Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5
- **Time:** 8 A.M. to 2 P.M. both days.
- **Location:** Emanuel Lutheran Church, across from MJC in Modesto

Weather permitting, the sale will be in the parking lot. A clothing rack or two for better clothes is still needed. Set up and sorting will be on Thursday (April 3rd) from 4-7 p.m. in the church hall.

SO, How can you help ?! Thanks for asking!!

** Bring your stuff to the church on Thursday, April 3. Stay to help sort from 4-7.

** Come early on Friday and Saturday mornings .

(6 A.M.) We will need a lot of help to get the goods out to the parking lot on Friday and Saturday mornings.

** Bring some coffee, sandwiches and beverages for the crew.

** Be there to help clean up at 2:00 either Friday or Saturday or both.

**Don't forget to shop for fantastic bargains ! Support PFLAG !

Questions???? Alice Miller 526-8812

The SPC facility is open Wednesday through Saturday from 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM.

The mission of the Stanislaus PRIDE Center is to provide resources to strengthen and support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in Stanislaus and surrounding counties."

The SPC has three areas of focus: Culture and Community; Education and Information; Health and Wellness. PRIDE stands for "People Respecting Individuality, Diversity and Education".

SPC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. Federal tax ID 20-2676088.

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