

# WAITING CHILDREN

Lewis is a biracial (black/white) teenager with a huge, friendly smile. Lewis will be sixteen years old in July and he has been bounced around the foster care system since he was two months of age. After having lived in eight foster homes, it is understandable that Lewis has some difficulty adjusting to new homes and new authority figures. This boy will not be easy for an adoptive family to get close to. He can feel very threatened by close personal relationships. His general response to such a threat has been fighting, defiant behavior, stubbornness, lying and outbursts of temper. An adoptive couple would need a great deal of patience and understanding, but the rewards of investing the time and energy on Lewis would be well worth the effort.

Lewis is starting to make more positive goals for himself. He enjoys most sports, especially football. He also enjoys traveling and like most boys his age, he also enjoys eating. Currently Lewis wants to become a chef. Lewis was in the ninth grade at school this last year and has been mainstreamed into a regular classroom. He tests in the borderline range in intelligence. A good adoptive home environment could give Lewis the encouragement to reach his highest potential.

Lewis would like to be placed with an adoptive family that would give him a sense of identification, security and permanence. A loving and supportive family could provide the emotional needs for this boy during these unsettled years between boyhood and adulthood. Lewis has been placed with both black and white families and he feels he could adjust to either. Both single and two-parent families will be considered. Why don't you be the one to reach out a hand to this boy? He is waiting for someone just like you.

## HOW YOU CAN ADOPT

The children described in this column are waiting for adoption. Nationwide, there are over 300,000 children who, for various reasons, have not found permanent parents. Some have physical, mental or emotional handicaps; some are of mixed racial background; some are older; others are siblings.



The Las Vegas SENTINEL, working with AASK (Aid to Adoption of Special kids) hopes to find homes for these children. AASK is looking for people who can give love and nurturing to hard-to-place children. Prospective parents may be single or married.

Subsidies (payments to the adopting family each month and medical expenses) are available for many of the children. Subsidies depend on the financial situation of the adoptive family.

If you'd like more information on how to adopt a special child or how you can help financially support the AASK program, please call 876-7420 or write AASK Adoption Agency, 3305 W. Spring Mountain Road, Suite 92, Las Vegas, 98102.

Adoption is a specific legal matter, and the Las Vegas SENTINEL can answer no questions concerning the children.



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# HOGGARD PARENTS SUE DISTRICT

A group of parents from Mabel Hoggard Elementary School filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court Monday to stop the Clark County School District from converting the school into a sixth-grade center.

The parents — Isabell Daniels, Mattie Parks, Lula Shingles, Gloria Wilson and Alberta Wines — charged school officials were violating their rights to allow their children to attend a neighborhood school.

Trustee Lucille Lusk said Mabel Hoggard was converted to a

sixth-grade center because "it's the plan the courts approved. If they are filing a suit to get the courts to uphold their constitutional rights to attend neighborhood schools, that would negate any court-ordered busing." Lusk said she believed the courts would uphold the sixth-grade plan.

The district's court-ordered sixth-grade center integration plan, which began in 1972, required students living in the western portion of Las Vegas to be transported to other area schools. West Las Vegas elementary schools were converted

into sixth-grade-only schools.

Mabel Hoggard was originally exempted from the integration plan because the school's black enrollment

fell within the plan's racial quota of between 9.1 percent and 50 percent. The black enrollment has steadily increased, until it reached over 95 percent in 1981-82.

## Fire Tips For A Safe Fourth of July

The Las Vegas Fire Department would like to celebrate this fourth of July safely. We, along with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, offer the following safety tips:

- Always read directions
- Have an adult present
- Buy from reliable fireworks sellers
- Ignite outdoors
- Have water handy
- Never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks
- Never reignite malfunctioning fireworks
- Keep in a cool, dry place
- Dispose of properly
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket
- Never throw fireworks at another person
- Never shoot them in metal or glass containers

Have a happy and safe 4th of July holiday. For further Fire Safety information, please call 648-2086.

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James has been a resident of Las Vegas for several years and a real estate licensee since 1978. His expertise lies in residential property. James has been associated with Toler Realty for over two years and has served his clients with professionalism. James, his wife Cluadette and their two children are active within our community. His hobbies are quite varied.

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