

MUNICIPAL COURT, CITY OF LAS VEGAS TRAFFIC WARRANT MORATORIUM ENDS SAT.

Only 1,054 people took advantage of the Municipal Court's moratorium on delinquent traffic fines during the past two Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, leaving court officials hoping for a better turnout this last weekend. Nine court days were scheduled to try to clear some of the 55,000 outstanding traffic warrants. Only 1,956 of the warrants were cleared in the six moratorium court days held, and Judge Seymore Brown said he was both disappointed and angry.

Judge Brown said those who did show up and those who come to this weekend's sessions will receive only minimal fines. Those who don't face the risk of spending their holidays in jail.

"They think everybody else

is going to jail and not them." Brown said. "All it takes is for them to get stopped for a taillight out and boom, the warrant pops up."

In addition to Judge Brown, Judge Ron Parraguirre, who presides over Friday and Satur-

day court sessions, and Judge Valorie J. Vega, who presides over Thursday night court, will hear moratorium cases for the last time on this Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the 17th, 18th & 19th. Five court sessions will be held each day, with court

check-in beginning at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. so people can pay their fines.

"This is the LAST chance, last in capital letters, for those who don't want to be eating their Christmas turkey in jail," Brown warned.

HELP FEEDS NEEDY FAMILIES IN COMMUNITY

This is the season for giving, but many parents in our community are unable to give their families something as simple as a traditional Christmas meal.

HELP of Southern Nevada tries to meet this need through its Christmas Food Basket program. Each year, HELP collects non-perishable food items from the community and local organizations to distribute to needy families. It also provides turkey vouchers which can be redeemed at participating stores.

Last year, HELP assisted over 100 needy families celebrate the season with a holiday meal. This year, the need is even greater, according to Marlene Kirch, HELP program coordinator. If you or your organization would like to contribute food items or put together food baskets, call 369-4357.

HELP is a 23-year-old nonprofit agency which also operates information and referral, low income weatherization and community alternative sentencing programs.

POET'S CORNER

We Need A Change
By Stephanie Brooks

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE KIDS, YET THEY WON'T TAKE CARE OF THEM
WE NEED A CHANGE,
PEOPLE ARE SMOKING AND SELLING CRACK
WE NEED A CHANGE,
PEOPLE OUT KILLING EACH OTHER FOR MONEY
WE NEED A CHANGE,
THERE ARE PEOPLE KILLING OVER COLORS
WE NEED A CHANGE,
MOTHERS ARE SCARED TO TELL THEIR CHILDREN WHAT TO DO
WE NEED A CHANGE,
PEOPLE STEAL WHATEVER THEY CAN GET THEIR HANDS ON
WE NEED A CHANGE,
THERE'S STILL RACISM WHEREVER WE GO
WE NEED A CHANGE,
PEOPLE ON THE STREETS, HOMELESS, NO WHERE TO GO
WE NEED A CHANGE,
PEOPLE CAN'T WALK THE STREETS AT NIGHT WITHOUT WONDERING IF THEY WILL SEE TOMORROW
I FEEL WE NEED A CHANGE,
TEENAGERS PREGNANT AT THE AGE OF THIRTEEN
I HOPE WE HAVE A CHANGE,
PURPOSELY, PEOPLE ARE SPREADING AIDS TO OTHERS
THEY NEED A CHANGE.

THERE ARE SO MANY NEGATIVE THOUGHTS IN THE WORLD. RACISM IS A BIG ISSUE BECAUSE PEOPLE KILL OVER THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN. BLACKS KILLING WHITES, WHITES KILLING BLACKS. GANG MEMBERS ARE KILLING OVER COLORS. TO ME IT JUST DON'T MAKE SENSE FOR STUFF LIKE THIS TO BE GOING ON IN A BEAUTIFUL WORLD LIKE THIS. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LITTLE TIME AND THINK ABOUT THE POSITIVE THINGS IN LIFE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO KILL OVER A COLOR TO PROVE TO SOMEONE THAT YOU ARE BLACK. YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT STUPID TO LET PEOPLE KNOW THAT YOUR BLACK. JUST BEING YOURSELF SHOWS PEOPLE MORE THAN YOU KNOW.



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The Dark Truth

By Keith Brantley

She came to me pale and perfumed
and ultimately doomed;
In my heart and mind
she wasn't my kind.
All my fantasies have dark skin.
As a child, the television took me
in the garden of pale flowers.
The airwaves relentless, raining brainwash showers.
Shallow beauty bombardments,
made up and undressed
changing the tone of beauty
for those not colorfully blessed.
Baked and burned and sunshield oiled;
then custom packaged as pure and unsoiled.
Because all of their fantasies have dark skin.
The black and the brown,
such beauty to astound;
the bronzed and shades of gold;
full of lifes blessings or beauty untold,
Goddess of the garden
to make nature unfold
while pale things harden and grow cosmetically old.
As they fade and wilt,
their envy and guilt
paints them to copy black rainbows.
Painted pale flowers wither as their stains go.
Fantasies and reality have dark skin.

"Mother Time"

By Bemeubwa Badareena Khalfani

I watched as you snatched my people from their land, whipped and enslaved them, and I cried.
I watched as you mentally raped my people, brainwashed, and taught them to hate themselves, and I cried.
I watched as you stole my people's culture, altered it, and called it your own, and I cried.
I watched as my people struggled to be like you while you smiled, and pretended to accept them, and I cried.
But now, I laugh.
For I see that because you had no existence, you had to rape my people of theirs.
I laugh.
Because the days of your fun and games are over.
And now the time has come for me to give back to my people what is rightfully theirs.