

NEWS CLIPS

NORTH LAS VEGAS POLICE CHIEF RETIRES

North Las Vegas Police Chief Alan Nelson who was arrested and charged Friday night on a charge of driving under the influence, has retired. Nelson was the topic of a series of meetings held over the weekend and Monday. He was arrested at 7:10 p.m. Friday evening on Lone Mountain Road near Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas when his city-owned car was seen swerving in the west bound lanes of Lone Mountain Road. He was arrested and booked after failing field sobriety tests. He is a 25 year veteran of the police force.

SEWELL PLEADS INNOCENT

Metro police officer Arthur Sewell pleaded innocent in Clark County District Court last Thursday to two counts kidnapping, three counts of sexual assault, and three counts of oppression under the color of office. Sewell will stand trial June 9 before Judge Jeffrey Sobel. On Tuesday, Sewell resigned from the police department.

WENDELL WILLIAMS SUED BY EX-WIFE

Debra Gray, the ex-wife of Assemblyman Wendell Williams has sued Williams for nonpayment of \$23,000 in child support. In December, Gray also filed a police report against Williams because she thought he might send someone to scare her. Williams' legislative wages have been garnished \$111 every two weeks to pay the back debt. Gray and Williams were married from 1977 to 1984 and had two children. Williams was ordered pay \$110 each month for each of the couple's two children. According to the motion filed by Gray, Williams only made the payments for four months. Gray who was married to a mortgage banker for seven years, said she didn't go to court when Williams stopped the payments because she didn't need the money. Gray, whose mortgage became overdue after divorcing the banker, has filed for chapter 13 bankruptcy. Her \$223,000 home was set for auction last week.

ARMY WILL REVIEW ALLEGATIONS

Five white female U.S. Army soldiers said last week that Army investigators pressured them to accuse their black superiors of raping them. The questioning was part of the Army's investigation into sexual misconduct at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. However, the Army's inspector general will review the sexual harassment cases that were the result of Army's own investigation. Army Secretary Togo West refused to speak with members of NAACP and Congressional Black Caucus who have requested an outside investigator look into the case.

RACIST FUHRMAN HOMETOWN HERO

Mark Fuhrman, the ex-detective who disclosed his racist mindset at the O.J. Simpson trial was honored in his new hometown of Sandpoint Idaho when townspeople turned out to get signed copies of his book, "Murder in Brentwood." Fuhrman moved to Sandpoint after leaving the Los Angeles Police Department. At Simpson's criminal trial, evidence introduced by defense attorneys showed that Fuhrman had lied on the witness stand about his use of racial slurs.

CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY SHOT TO DEATH

Civil rights attorney, Cleve McDowell, 56, the second black person to attend the University of Mississippi, was found dead from a gunshot wound in his home in Drew, Miss. last week. Circuit Judge Gray Ellis issued a gag order on investigators. Calls to Ellis's office regarding the gag order were not answered. McDowell was a public defender in Sunflower County for over 30 years. He was a part of a group of black leaders trying to revive an interest in many never-prosecuted cases in which blacks were killed for civil rights work. McDowell was executive field director of NAACP during the 1980s.

PROMINENT BAPTIST MINISTER DIES SUDDENLY

The Reverend Dr. Mac Charles Jones, 47, an internationally prominent African-American minister and one of the National Council of Churches' two deputy general secretaries, died suddenly March 6 of an embolism in Irving, Texas. He was buried March 11 in Kansas City, Mo. An ordained minister in the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc., and member of the World Council of Churches Central Committee, Jones had served concurrently as the NCCs' Associate for Racial Justice since 1995 and as Pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church, Kansas, Mo. since 1984. He played a leading role in the NCCs' response to the arson attacks on houses, especially African-American churches in the Southeast. He accompanied the 38 pastors who traveled to Washington, D.C. last June to meet with President Clinton, attorney general Janet Reno and treasury secretary Robert E. Rubin to request help in stopping the epidemic of burnings and to bring those responsible to justice-meetings that also helped bring the epidemic to widespread public attention. He was also well known for his work with youth, especially with gangs. He was instrumental in convening the "Gang Summit" on urban violence in 1993 in Kansas City.

Black attorneys to award scholarships

By Damon Hodge
Sentinel Voice

The Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association will hold its 11th Annual Scholarship Banquet at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 22, in the Rio Suite Hotel's Jantar Room. The banquet benefits minority students bound for law school. Tickets are \$50.

NNPA

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American publishers posthumously into the NNPA's Black Press Hall of Fame.

This year's inductees are J. Lowell Ware, founder of the Atlanta Voice in Ga., and Arthur Patrick Townsend, the founder of the Precinct Reporter in San Bernadino, Calif., and the Tri-County Bulletin, also in California.

They will be honored in a candlelight ceremony at Howard University's Blackburn Center.

Ware was a dedicated newspaperman, according to those who knew him. After briefly studying pre-med at Morehouse College, Ware transferred to Alabama A&M University where he earned a bachelor's degree in printing and journalism.

Concerned about civil rights issues and police brutality, Ware established the Atlanta Inquirer as a voice for the black community in 1960. In 1966, he teamed with another African-American newspaperman, Ed Clayton to publish the Atlanta Voice. His business acumen led to his becoming the first black

B.I.G.

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broke out, according to police reports. Officers used pepper spray to contain the crowd of mourners.

Ten people were arrested on disorderly conduct charges and seven officers received minor injuries.

One of the people arrested was a woman reporting for the New York Times, Julia Campbell, who stated that she was handcuffed after she asked a policeman why he used pepper spray on her. B.I.G., whose body will be cremated, was also mourned by fans who lined the block where he once lived, leaving candles, empty malt liquor bottles and a copy of "Ready to Die" B.I.G.'s latest album due to be released Monday.

While thousands mourned the death of B.I.G., reports in the Los Angeles Times claimed that a member of the Crips gang is responsible for his death. According to the newspaper report, the gang member killed B.I.G. over a financial dispute.

Last year, the NBA paid tribute to Addelior D. Guy, III, retired District Court Judge for Department XI of the Eighth Judicial District Court. This year's honoree is retired H.P. Fitzgerald Elementary School principal and current School Board Trustee Shirley Barber.

Up to three scholarships, in varying amounts, will be

awarded to minority students planning to practice law in Las Vegas, according to local bar member Johnnie Rawlinson. Six former scholarship recipients currently practice law in Clark County.

The local NBA established its first scholarship in 1986, five years after its creation in 1981. Guy, III established a second scholarship in his name in 1987. In 1996, a third scholarship, named after Robert Archie, a founding member who died of cancer in 1996, was created.

In addition to meeting the needs of African-Americans studying law, the NBA works to uphold the honor of the legal profession and protect the civil

publisher in the area to own his own printing press. Ware died in 1991 after publishing the Voice for more than two decades. Mr. Townsend published the Reporter for more than 23 years, establishing it in 1965. A former branch president of the NAACP, he was largely responsible for council districts being redrawn in San Bernadino during the 1960s, paving the way for the election of the first black official in the history of the area. A founding member of the West Coast Black Publishers Association, where he served as president, Townsend was also, a long-time member of the NNPA. During three days of Black Press Week activities, member publishers will also meet with top African-American officials. They include: Congressional Black Caucus (See NNPA, Page 4)

Success

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during the past 23 years.

Local funding spans the gamut of services, from youth recreation to English as a second language, child care, drug education, food, emergency shelter and a host of other services.

Las Vegas City Councilman Gary Reese praised the committee's allocation of funds.

The community determines its own needs, said Sharon Segerblom, director of the City of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services Department.

She said a diverse 27-member committee - the Community Development Recommending Board - gathers community input, listens to presentations, reviews applications and recommends grant allocations. "There are no bureaucrats involved," she said. "We're very open because we're very proud of what we do."

So are Galvan and Jackson.



SHIRLEY BARBER

and political right of all citizens. Tickets for the black-tie optional event can be purchased at the door or by calling 386-1923, 4471-0974 or 386-2988.

Second annual Africa fest set for March 29-30

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The second annual "Fruits of Africa" International Black Heritage Festival, March 29-30, will celebrate Africa's influence on the world community.

The weekend festival will take participants on a three-continent, 25-plus nation tour. Participants will sample food, read poetry, hear stories, admire fashions, purchase art, attend workshops and witness afro-centric dancing.

Lorenzi Park and the Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza - inside the park - will host the first day's events from noon to 9 p.m. The park is located at Twin Lakes Drive and West Washington Avenue..

The venue switches to the Fremont Street Experience, 425 Fremont St., March 30, for an Easter Sunday entertainment extravaganza.

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