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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Church co-founder and Rose Award winner Rosie Smith enjoys quiet time at home.

Rose awards honor city's women of color

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Rosie Stanfield Smith is an unassuming, grandmotherly-type. But to the Professional Black Woman's Alliance (PBWA), she's a gem.

Smith will join 23 honorees during the annual Rose Award ceremony 6 p.m. Saturday at the West Las Vegas Library and Performance Art Theater, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. Hosted by the PBWA, the ceremony recognizes the contributions of women of color.

"I feel great and special," said Smith, winner of the ceremony's most prestigious honor, the Rose Award. She co-founded Tried Stone Baptist Church, 621 W. Carey Ave. "I thank God and appreciate all these young women for recognizing me as this great lady."

Two doctors are among several women set to receive humanitarian awards. Dr. Juanita Fain of the University of Nevada, at Las Vegas joins Dr. Dorothy Clark of Bechtel Corporation as winners. Other humanitarian award honorees include Rachel Green who received a bachelor's degree in physics and math; and real estate firm owner Loretta Arrington-Hall, who also serves as Las Vegas City Councilman Gary Reese's public liaison.

Several women, including Kimberly Bailey, coordinator for the Economic Opportunity Board's Microbusiness program, will take home community service awards.

Started in 1985, the Rose Awards aimed to honor women of color often snubbed by Women of Achievement, a group that predominantly honored the achievements of local white women.

"We needed to honor more black women and women of color," said Faye Duncan Daniels, a PBWA founder.

Twelve years ago, Shirley Carol, Lillian Hickey, Barbara Jackson, Joe Hubbard and Bobby Troutman addressed the problem by forming the PBWA and creating the awards ceremony.

Since then, women aged 12 to 90 have won Rose Awards, including two white women.

Like Smith, Rose Award winners have proven to be cut from a unique cloth. One winner fed and aided the homeless whenever possible. Another welcomed AIDS-stricken babies into her home and cared for them.

Memorial set for slain girl

By Damon Hodge
Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas branch of the NAACP and Community at Large will release a large pink and yellow balloon bouquet 12:30 p.m. Saturday, July 19 in remembrance of Sherrice Iverson, a 7-year-old slain Memorial Day weekend at a hotel on the Nevada-California border.

Long Beach Calif. native, Jeremy Strohmeyer, 18, is charged with first-degree murder, first-degree kidnapping and four counts of sexual assault with a minor resulting in substantial bodily harm.

Strohmeyer has been extradited to Nevada to stand trial for the Los Angeles second-grader's murder.

Sherrice was kidnapped, raped and murdered May 25 in an arcade restroom at the Primm Hotel, 43 miles south of Las Vegas.

Set for James A. Gay III Children's Park, Morgan and "B" streets, the balloon release, and subsequent tree planting ceremony, will also memorialize abused or murdered children everywhere, event organizers said.

"We began with seven balloons, but it has blossomed into a big project," said Linda Howard, third vice president of the National

Arcade curfew enacted

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Prompted by the May 25 slaying of a 7-year-old at the Primm hotel, county commissioners passed an ordinance Tuesday requiring guards and imposing curfews in most arcades.

Commission chairwoman Yvonne Atkinson-Gates proposed the ordinance, to take effect Sept. 13.

Sherrice Iverson was sexually assaulted and strangled Memorial Day weekend in a restroom adjacent to an arcade inside the Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas. A Long Beach, Calif. man awaits trial on sexual assault and murder charges.

Atkinson-Gates proposed the ordinance after Sherrice's slaying.

Her plan:

- Expands the county's Strip curfew to all arcades in unincorporated Clark County, not just those in casinos. It also prohibits youth under 18 to be in arcades from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. weekdays and from midnight to 5 a.m. weekends and school holidays unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

- Requires arcades to post rules and hours.

- Defines arcades and small games rooms. Arcades are rooms with at least 20 coin-operated amusement machines; small game rooms have fewer than 20 machines.

- Sets procedures for training guards on how to spot pedophiles and child stalkers.

Atkinson-Gates ordinance won out over commissioner Erin Kenny's proposal requiring hotel-sponsored day-care centers or providing customers with lists of licensed child care providers.



BOBBIE TROUTMAN

Saturday programming on KCEP FM 88.1.

Howard said the event has received a groundswell of community support.

Howard had hoped Sherrice's mother would come from Los Angeles and participate, but she said she has been unable to reach her.

Organizers called the event "a symbolic effort to show that the community loves and supports its children."

"The bouquet will symbolize the life, dreams and hopes left behind in the wake of Iverson's death and all young children everywhere who have died in vain," organizers said. For additional information, call either Linda Howard at 657-0599 or Bobbie Troutman at 222-1723.

National Baptist leader under fire

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The news continued to sour for the head of the nation's largest black church organization with last week's revelation that he owns a \$700,000 Florida waterfront house with a woman - not his wife - convicted of embezzling in 1994.

Also last week, Deborah Lyons, wife of National Baptist Convention USA President Henry Lyons, was arrested and charged with destroying property and setting a fire that caused \$30,000 in damage to that house.

The minister, who leads the 8-million member church group, was in Africa when the fire occurred. He defended his wife during a press conference last week. He also blamed the media for exacerbating the situation.

Deborah Lyons insisted the blaze was an accident and that she knew about the home. But police records say she allegedly set the fire after discovering records showing her husband and Bernice Edwards as its co-owners.

The house Lyons co-owns with Edwards is located in Tierra Verde, an exclusive section of



LYONS

St. Petersburg, Fla.

In 1994, Edwards was convicted of embezzling more than \$60,000 in federal funds from an alternative high school in Wisconsin, Quality Skill Building Center. The school contracted with the Milwaukee public school system to provide education services under Learnfare, a government program that penalizes welfare recipients if their children do not go to school, *The St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times* reported.

Edwards, then the school's executive director, was sentenced to three years' probation and ordered to pay \$32,652 in restitution, according to court records. The National Baptist Convention helped pay her restitution, according to court records cited by the *Times*.

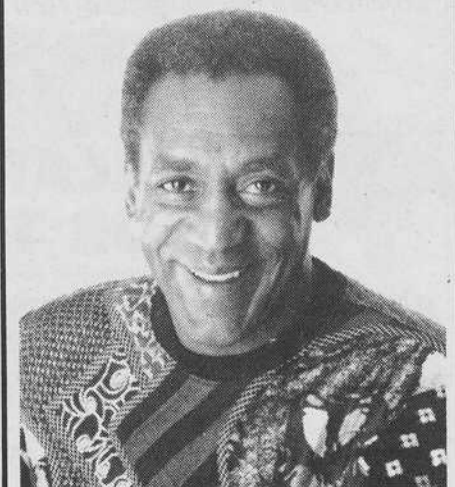
The *Times* reported that court records from Florida and Wisconsin hinted at a lengthy financial relationship between the minister and Edwards.

In March, Edwards wrote a \$25,000 check as partial payment for jewelry.

In October 1995, Edward's lawyer asked a federal judge to release her from probation,

listing her as the church group's "National Public Relations Director." Edwards' lawyer Franklyn Gimbel said the organization knew about his client's criminal conviction.

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Bill Cosby testifies in extortion trial.
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