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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Iverson grand jury transcripts released

### Special to Sentinel-Voice

The friend of murder suspect Jeremy Strohmeyer told a grand jury that the California teen admitted killing 7-year-old Sherrice Iverson Memorial Day weekend, according to grand jury transcripts unsealed Friday.

The transcripts, unsealed by District Judge Don Chairez, contain testimony apparently implicating Strohmeyer, 18, of Long Beach, Calif., in the May 25 attack at the Primm hotel, 43 miles south of Las Vegas. Defense attorneys have promised a media assault aimed at undermining the prosecution's case.

Strohmeyer faces one charge of first degree murder, one charge of first degree kidnapping and two counts of sexual assault with a minor resulting in substantial bodily harm. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

*"I reached over the stall. Jeremy Strohmeyer was restraining her. I believe he had his - I believe it was left hand over her mouth muffling her screams"*

— Grand jury witness David Cash Jr.

Strohmeyer's friend David Cash Jr., 18, of La Palma, Calif., told a grand jury that he witnessed at least a portion of the attack.

After Strohmeyer followed Sherrice in a women's restroom, Cash testified, "Jeremy then grabbed her and took her into one of the stalls...and he shut the door. The door was locked. So I went into the stall to the left and boosted myself up on the toilet and looked over...

"I reached over the stall. Jeremy Strohmeyer was restraining her. I believe he had his - I believe it was left hand over her mouth muffling her screams," Cash testified.

After unsuccessful attempts to coax Strohmeyer out of the restroom, Cash said he left a bit concerned. Minutes later, Strohmeyer appeared. "(Strohmeyer) looked at me very directly and said, 'I killed her'," he testified.

"He said at one point he had fingered her.

She bled out of the vagina," Cash testified. "He strangled her. That's how she initially died, and that he had snapped her neck, I think twice, and that he eventually propped her up on the toilet seat in between her butt on the toilet seat."

Cash then said he and Strohmeyer discussed possible alibis they would tell police if questioned.

Agnes Lee, Strohmeyer's former girlfriend testified that he "likes to date women who looked very young." He had asked her to dress up like a little school girl during their relationship, Lee testified.

Defense attorneys Richard Wright of Las Vegas and Leslie Abramson of Los Angeles promised a media campaign assailing the prosecution and the testimony of several grand jury witnesses.

## Resource center will close Aug. 30

### National NAACP mum on closure

By Damon Hodge  
Sentinel-Voice

In its brief existence, the NAACP Community Development Resource Center made a lasting impact on the community, officials at the soon-to-close facility said Wednesday.

"We put people in homes and in businesses that otherwise would not have had the chance," said Dora LeGrande, who was instrumental in the center's success.

Officials from the national office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People failed to ink a new deal with loan provider U.S. Bank, thus prompting the Aug. 30 closing.

"It's sad that the NAACP has missed out on this opportunity," said Frank Hawkins, the center's director before leaving in May. "We have helped more than 1,000 people."

Started in 1994 by the national NAACP office, the center provided myriad services including credit counseling, mortgage and home loans, business financing and training and youth entrepreneurship workshops.

LeGrande and Hawkins faulted the group's national leadership for the severed relationship.

"You can't blame the bank," Hawkins said. The bank had incredible foresight but national leadership was not proactive, he said. Kweisi Mfume and Smyther Fallen had every opportunity to ensure that the center stayed around, he said. "They dropped the ball."

LeGrande said U.S. Bank tried for more than six months to contact Mfume, the NAACP's national president, and present him with a new contract since the initial three-year agreement was nearing an end. Neither Mfume nor Fallen, who directs the nation's seven resource centers, ever responded. "President Clinton would have called back in six months," LeGrande said.

"We were unable to meet a mutually acceptable agreement (with the NAACP)," said (See NAACP, Page 12)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

### The Principal and the Chairman

Kit Carson Elementary School Principal Linda Gipson talks with Education Committee Chairman Wendell Williams Wednesday at the Rio Hotel. Williams was the guest speaker for a brainstorming session on how the school will use its Nevada 2000 funds. The school received \$14,605 to boost student achievement, staff development and parent involvement. See Story Page 2.

## Embattled lawmaker says truth will come out

By Damon Hodge  
Sentinel-Voice

A legislator, scrutinized for alleging that his job was threatened during the session and questioned about a child support dispute, said the truth will eventually surface and vindicate him.

Wendell Williams made headlines last month when he alleged that city spokeswoman Cathy Hanson and former Las Vegas Councilman Matthew Callister told him three council members supported his firing if he voted for a bill opposed by gaming interests and the City of Las Vegas.

Williams declined to file a complaint, thus ruling out an investigation. However, a probe is pending because of a complaint filed by a citizen who says Williams should have pursued disciplinary action.

Williams said that the thinly-veiled threats occurred in personal conversations with Hanson and Callister. Hanson has repeatedly called the situation a "misunderstanding." Callister reportedly called the allegations "utter nonsense."

Hanson approached Williams in the waning days of the session, he alleged, and told him to vote his conscious on eminent domain legislation

- designed to ease the regulations on the public takeover of private property.

A senior management analyst for the city, Williams said he was not only concerned and offended that his employment was brought into an issue regarding a vote, but that the bill was an insult to his constituents who he says have long been ignored.

Aside from Magic's Westland Plaza, he said, "People in my district have been wronged by eminent domain."

Williams said city lobbyists never discussed the issue with him during the 169-day session - (See Williams, Page 9)