

NEWS CLIPS

LAS VEGAN RECOGNIZED, LAUDED BY PUBLISHER FOR HER WORK

Las Vegas Gwen Walker has earned a spot in the 26th Edition of *Who's Who in the West 1998-1999*. Chosen candidates must have held a position of responsibility or have significant achievement in their field. The book, published by *Marquis Who's Who*, is a guide to nearly 20,000 of this region's most influential people. Walker is a writer, published poet and founder of the Walker African-American Museum. She also owns Nika's Afrocentric Gifts. "We congratulate Ms. Walker on her achievements," says Paul Canning, editorial director of *Marquis Who's Who*. "Our editors use stringent selection criteria to choose the most distinguished professionals for inclusion in each edition." *Marquis Who's Who* was founded in the 1890s by newspaper publisher Albert Nelson Marquis. Over the last century, the publication has created authoritative references that provide instant access to individuals from all fields of endeavor and all geographic areas. To nominate achievers for a *Marquis Who's Who* reference, contact Marquis Who's Who at 1-800-521-8110, ext. 4379.



GWEN WALKER

CRANE, RANGEL, McDERMOTT NAMED CFA CONSTITUENT OF YEAR

The Constituency for Africa (CFA) Award Committee has named Congressmen Phil Crane (R-Ill.), Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) and Jim McDermott (D-Wash.) its 1997 Constituent of the Year winners. The Constituent of the Year is CFA's annual award to an individual or organization who has provided exemplary service in American support of Africa. The awards will be presented at a luncheon Friday, Sept. 12, 1997, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1000 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. In recognizing the congressmen's accomplishments, the Committee said, "The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (H.R. 1432) offers hope of a new basis of respect and dialogue between the U.S. and Africa. The potential inherent in the concept is deserving of this recognition." The luncheon is the culmination of activities held under the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series, an annual presentation of educational forums on issues of interest to Africa and U.S. relations.

NEW NMA PRESIDENT TO LAUNCH EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Nathaniel Murdock, the new president of the National Medical Association (NMA), plans to launch an intense community action initiative aimed at educating minorities and the underserved. The campaign which carries the theme, "Education is the ounce of prevention," is aimed at helping individuals develop healthier lifestyles. Murdock believes a lack of education contributes to such problems as violence, teenage pregnancy, poverty, tobacco and alcohol use and poor health. He says he wants more done to help people deal with the impact that HIV, diet and exercise has on coping with the stresses of everyday life. "Our membership which includes some of the nation's leading physicians will begin to take an even more active role in empowering our communities and promoting healthy behaviors," he said. Murdock was installed as the 96th president of the NMA during the organization's 1997 convention in Honolulu. NMA officials say the group is dedicated to improving the quality of life and health care for all individuals, especially those of African-American descent.

AFRICAN-AMERICANS URGED TO USE AMERICA'S PARKS

The appointment of the first African-American to head the National Park Service should send a new message of inclusiveness to people of color and encourage greater use of America's public lands, say African-American environmentalists Frank and Audrey Peterman. Robert Stanton, a life-long park and recreation professional, was confirmed as the new director of the National Park Service in August. Although national parks across the country attract more than 200 million American families and foreign visitors each year, scant number of African-Americans visit them. "It seems that only a scattering of minorities recognize that these are our lands, that they are the birthright of every American and that we support them with our tax dollars. If millions of foreign tourists are out enjoying our national treasures, why aren't we?" the Petermans asked. The Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Weekend will feature a segment titled "African-Americans and the Environment." The Sept. 11 event is sponsored by Congressman Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.).

Airport's hiring practices need revamp

By Sandra-Dee Fleming
Sentinel-Voice

The faces of McCarran International Airport's top brass are not representative of the workforce at the nation's 9th busiest airport, an airport employee contends.

"A group that makes up 10 percent of the workforce holds 98 percent of the better-paying jobs," said Michael Jordan, services coordinator at the airport.

A 19-year McCarran employee, Jordan said he has seen blacks bypassed more and more for upper management and supervisory positions at McCarran.

"Of the 10 department chief positions, only one is held by a black man, and only two of the supervisory or management positions are held by blacks in

non-custodial departments," Jordan said.

Jordan—who helped create the Black County Employees Association—said he noticed the problem nine years ago.

"As I started to look around, I realized that the blacks I saw were, for the most part, concentrated in custodial departments, and there were no blacks in positions that gave them authority to hire and terminate employees.

"I also noticed that when blacks transferred from one department to another their salary increases were not the same as their white counterparts.

For instance, Jordan said a black employee with schedule-8 status would move to schedule-11, whereas a white schedule-8 employee would

jump to schedule-15.

Jordan said several applicants for supervisory positions have been denied because they were told they did not have the requisite experience. While others, he said, had to be trained once hired. This disheartens minorities and discourages them from climbing the corporate ladder, he said.

"The statistics are what they are," said new airport director Randy Walker. However, Walker promised to equalize advancement opportunities for everyone. "My goal is to see that management is as diverse as the workforce, but it has to be rectified through process, not goals and quotas.

Jordan said Walker has lent a sympathetic ear to the problem.

"I give the new director a lot of credit," he said. "He came to a bad situation but was very receptive to us. And already he has made changes."

Walker has revamped the hiring process and encouraged employees to form a board that make recommendations regarding staff issues.

Jordan said he will continue to fight for more minority representation with his group. He said neither the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People nor the Clark County Equal Employment Opportunity Commission responded to the group's pleas.

The NAACP told Jordan they were too busy and the EEOC said his group had to be licensed by them to act, he said.

First lady touts program at open house

By Damon Hodge
Sentinel-Voice

First lady Sandy Miller touted a new education program Tuesday night during Kit Carson Elementary School's open house. School officials said they plan to piggyback the program onto their new parent academy.

"The day I left the classroom wasn't the day I stopped teaching," the former teacher and mother of three told a standing-room crowd Tuesday night inside the school's multi-purpose room. "Parents are their children's first teacher."

Miller introduced a program called TEACH, started by her and assistant Joan Turner. The "T" is for Talk to children; "E" - Encourage children; "A" - Answer children's questions; "C" - Care about children; and "H" - Help children.

Miller's program provides more than 30 simple, cost-effective methods to boost children's educational experience and confidence. Some suggestions include:

- Reading aloud to children 10 minutes a day.
- Talking with them about what they are learning in



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy
Kit Carson Elementary School Principal Linda Gipson fields questions Tuesday night during the school's open house. First lady Sandy Miller looks on.

school.

- Leaving notes telling them that you love them or to have a good day.

- Praising them and reinforcing praise with hugs.

- Answering and asking questions and teaching them to find answers.

- Planning activities with them.

- Giving them responsibility.

Commercials touting TEACH's objectives will hit television soon, Miller said.

"Many parents want to do

the best they can for their children, but they just needed other suggestions," said Miller who spent a year working with

teachers on the program. Though only operational in Las Vegas, Miller said the program will be used statewide.

School principal Linda Gipson said the TEACH program will piggyback on the school's new Parent Academy. School officials met recently to fine tune the academy which aims to increase parental involvement and boost student performance. The academy will be held once a semester.

A \$15,000 Nevada2000 grant awarded by the Legislature made the academy possible. Kit Carson was one of 19 schools to receive funding. The President Clinton-backed Goals2000 initiative provided parent funds for the state program.

(See Carson, Page 16)

Community Input Meetings - District 6



Please join Commissioner Myrna Williams

for a special series of Community Input Meetings, designed to provide information about the proposed quarter cent sales tax increase to fund a portion of planned water and sewer system improvements, and to provide a forum for open discussion about other growth issues in your neighborhood.

Saturday, Sept. 13

8:30 - 10:00 AM

The Boulevard Mall
3528 S. Maryland Pkwy.
Food Court Alcove

Monday, Sept. 15

6:00 - 8:00 PM

John Mendoza Elementary
2000 S. Sloan Lane
(Sloan & Sahara)

Wednesday, Sept. 17

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Sam's Town Hotel & Casino
Virginia City Room
5111 Boulder Highway

Thursday, Sept. 18

6:00-8:00 PM

Showboat Hotel
Shiloh Room - 2nd floor
2800 Fremont

- We look forward to seeing you there!



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