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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Sentinel-Voice photo by Isador Washington

EVANDER HOLYFIELD

Holyfield crusades for God

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Hands raised toward the sky, heads bowed, thousands at Cashman Field last Friday joined Evander Holyfield in praising God. The WBA boxing champion, who beat Micheal Moorer Saturday night for the IBF heavyweight title, sang, laughed and shared with participants in his "Holy Warrior Invasion," a revival devoted to highlighting the blessings and power of God.

Holyfield recalled how hard it was growing up with eight brothers and sisters, his early defeats in the ring and trials out of it. He gave God all the credit for helping him achieve so much and he thanked his grandmother for introducing him to God at an early age. The champ urged parents to guide their children toward God.



Black soldiers played an integral part in every war fought on American soil.

Photo to Sentinel-Voice by the West Las Vegas Library

Communiversality teaches black history

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Locals eager to spice up their knowledge of black history now have their own university.

The West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd, has opened the Ebony Communiversality for its second year. In the communiversality, an eight-part African-American series will delve into black history, highlighting the social contributions of Blacks.

The Ebony Communiversality has already completed two series, World Leaders in the Diaspora, lectured by Sam Smith on Nov. 1 and The Slave Trade: Who Traded, Why and The Region They Came From, lectured by Joyce Thomas on Nov. 8.

Robert Holland will handle the Nov. 15

lecture on The Reconstruction Era.

On Nov. 22, Assemblyman Wendell Williams will lecture on Blacks in the West.

The Dec. 6 lecture, The History of African American Music, will be given Dr. Al Gourrier. Entrepreneur Ernest Fountain, on Dec. 13, will preside over the History of Business and Early Developments lecture. Ellis Rice will head the Dec. 20 discussion, Black Hollywood and the early Film Makers. A Dec. 27 Kwanzaa Celebration at 6 p.m. ends the series.

"Ebony Communiversality was coined from 'Ebony' which means black, the community and university (which) means knowledge," said Thomas, the library's theatre manager.

She said the staff is excited about the series and looks forward to the celebration of Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa, which means first fruits, is a holiday celebrating African values.

"Any opportunity for African-Americans to sit down and learn about our culture is important," Franklin Verley III said.

"The series are very interesting. I learned some things that I didn't know before and should have known," said Jamal Evans, a 17-year-old Clark high school senior.

Eleven-year-old Robert Rhodes enjoyed learning more about black history. "The program was cool and I liked it."

"The programs are wonderful I just wish we could get more parents and students out to get this information because it is so vital," said Dr. Linda Dougan, trustees board vice chair of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

Study: Nearly two-thirds of black children poor

By Herbert L. White
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Nearly two-thirds of African-American children live in poverty, according to a report from the Children's Defense Fund.

The report, "Rescuing the American Dream: Halting the Economic Freefall Of Today's Young Families," showed that the median income of two-parent Black families has fallen by 46 percent in the last 24 years.

In 1973 the average Black family with children earned \$19,153. A generation later, the figure has fallen to \$10,380. This puts 64 percent of African-American children below the government's official poverty line of \$11,821 for a family of three.

"The soaring poverty rates among young families who are playing by the rules and working as hard as they can are shocking," said CDF president Mariam Wright Edelman. "If the fruits of economic growth had been shared equally among all families over the last 20 years, then the typical young family with children would have seen its income rise by 15 percent instead of falling by 33 percent. Strengthening the economic future of young families with

children must become a priority for every sector of society," she said.

The nose-dive in the median income for young families wasn't limited to Black families. Whites families saw their median income drop 22 percent while the Latino family's median income reflected a 28 percent decrease, according to the report.

In every region of the country 30-49 percent of children in young families are now poor, the report states. Additionally, the poverty rate of children headed by full-time workers has tripled since 1973. The study saw a continued correlation between parental age and the rate of poverty. The relative hourly wage of workers in their 20s is only 73 cents for every dollar earned by an older worker, down from 88 cents in 1973.

"These (young) families in particular have experienced dwindling rewards for their labor, resulting from shrinking wages and vanishing health benefits from employers," said the report's author Arloc Sherman.

As a result, grandparents are bearing more of a support role for younger generations. The number of children living with grandparents as

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Photo to Sentinel-Voice by the West Las Vegas Library

Two children lie on a mattress in a junk heap in the South. A recent study says nearly two-thirds of African-American children live in poverty.