

NEWS CLIPS

DEMONSTRATORS RALLIED IN SUPPORT OF JUDGES' DECISION

Several demonstrators from the local NAACP chapter showed their support on Monday in front of the Clark County Courthouse for Judge Lee Gates' decision to give jail time to three former police officers accused of attacking Las Vegas resident Andrew Dersch. The rally was in response to a vigil held by the officers' families, friends, law enforcement and the Police Protective Association in support of James Campbell, Brian Nicholson and Robert Phelan. According to NAACP president the Rev. James Rogers, "They (the three officers) brought disgrace upon themselves, upon their families, upon the police department and the community."

GUNFIGHT IN NORTH LAS VEGAS LEAVES TWO CRITICAL

A man shot eight times during an incident earlier in the week was the apparent target of a drug-related incident. A second man, shot once, remained in critical condition Monday night. The shooting took place near H Street and Jackson Avenue. Two bicycle patrol officers heard several shots and reported seeing a Geo Metro fleeing the crime scene. One of the victims who was on the ground fired a shot at the vehicle. A car matching the description was later spotted several blocks from the crime scene. No arrests have been made.

BENJAMIN MUHAMMAD NAMED LEADER OF NEW YORK MOSQUE

Minister Louis Farrakhan has named Benjamin Muhammad, formerly Benjamin Chavis, head of Muhammad Mosque #7 in New York City as well as East Coast Regional Minister. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad has described Mosque #7 as the heart of the Nation of Islam while Chicago's Mosque #7 is the head. This appointment, Farrakhan said, is designed to utilize Muhammad's years of experience and suffering in the black liberation struggle and his relationships with a broad spectrum of leadership in religious and civic circles. Farrakhan said Muhammad will bring a "fresh view" to the national development of the Nation of Islam. He cited his activist roles with youth and the poor and his ability to effectively interact with diplomats in his outreach to representatives at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Speculations surrounding the change in leadership at the Mosque caused some vocal rift in the New York community for several months. Some have objected to the "demotion" of Minister Kevin Muhammad, the outgoing leader of the Mosque, who they believed had done much to benefit the community. Minister Muhammad will continue as minister of the Mosque in Manhattan and will assist Muhammad, becoming his East Coast regional assistant.

STUDY: AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALES LESS MOTIVATED

African-American boys, compared with Whites, Hispanics and African-American girls, are "particularly and perhaps uniquely" vulnerable to "academic disidentification," the phenomenon in which success or failure in school ceases to matter to the student, according to a new survey. According to the author, Jason W. Osborne, the correlations between self-esteem and achievement scores and self-esteem and grades provide a measure of the students' degree of academic identification or disidentification: Self-esteem rising or falling with grades and achievement scores indicate stronger academic identification. Over the course of the study, there were few substantial changes in the relationship between self-esteem and achievement scores, except for African-American boys. For this group, these correlations declined dramatically. There was very little support for the idea that African-American girls are similarly affected. The findings come from a four-year study for nearly 25,000 high school students across the United States and are reported in the December issue of the Journal of Education Psychology, published by the American Psychological Association.

JACKSON NAMED ENVOY; WILL ENCOURAGE AFRICAN DEMOCRACY

Named special envoy for encouraging democracy in Africa by President Clinton, Jesse Jackson scheduled Nairobi as his first stop where he will meet with leaders and discuss democratic ideals. "The United States and Africa are entering a new era," Jackson said. He said increased trade with the United States will mean economic growth for the United States and continued development for Africa. His emphasis will be on "democracy, human rights and a free press."

Mother, humanitarian succumbs to cancer

By Sharon Y. Savage
Sentinel-Voice

Tears streaked down my face when I got the word.

Estelle Neal — mother, humanitarian, wife of Sen. Joe Neal, D-North Las Vegas — died at home Sunday, Nov. 30. Neal, who succumbed after a long battle with breast, lung and brain cancer, is survived by five children.

Tasked with writing the story on this tragedy, I could not help but inject my personal feelings about her. So it is with great sadness and pain that I write this, hoping to celebrate her life.

To outsiders, Neal was a working mother, devoted to her family. To her friends, she was an elegant woman, capable of charming humor or stern resolve.

I cannot remember a time when her family and mine's were not intertwined. I recall going to Divine Providence Day Home (now Variety Day Home) as a youth, living in the same North Las Vegas neighborhood, Regal Estates, attending church on Sundays at St. James Catholic Church and celebrating birthdays, holidays and special occasions together.

"Estelle had great wisdom and loved her family and her neighbors as herself," said Rosalyn Royal, a family friend. "She



ESTELLE NEAL

told me that she decided to quit her job because she wanted to have more time to do the things she liked and to be available for her family and people who needed her."

Describe Neal, Royal said: "She was kind, loving, patient, understanding and passionate. She gave of herself freely to everyone and never once asked for anything in return."

In a house with four girls and one boy, Neal was often the calm amid the storm.

The Neal family aided me during one of the most trying times in my life the death of my mother Virginia.

Neal comforted me with a warm embrace, soothed me with encouraging words and blessed me with guidance. I remember my mother telling me how much she cherished the Neal family. Neal and my mother shared a special friendship. They shared their love of God, their experiences and parenting tips. Neal would make sure that my mom had *Our Daily Bread*, a devotional prayer book containing articles for each day of the week.

Neal touched many lives. Through her devout faith, she shared her beliefs through words and action. She led a prayer group at St. James Catholic Church, was a member of the Parish Life committee and the Parish Organizing Team and facilitator for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Neal provided a stellar tribute to what motherhood means. She worked to provide for her children equally. She loved them equally and unconditionally.

Estelle Neal will be missed dearly. I find solace in knowing that her memory still lives on in the children she cherished, her grandchildren, her family and friends and in the lives she touched throughout her journey.

Visitation will be Friday at Davis Funeral Home at 2127 W. Charleston Blvd. Funeral mass will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. James Catholic Church, 820 N. "H" St.

Barber, Williams, schedule parent night at West

Special to Sentinel-Voice

District C School Board Trustee Shirley Barber and Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams are teaming up to co-sponsor a community education forum for parents at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9 at Charles I. West Middle School. The program is designed to give West Las Vegas parents information about newly-enacted laws and how they could impact Nevada's public schools.

The forum is designed to give parents the information they need to make informed decisions about their children's educational future. "We're holding this meeting to give parents a chance to be proactive rather than reactive where their children's education is concerned," Barber said. "Too many times parents react in a time of crisis after something has affected their children's education in a negative way. The reason we are having this session is to give parents some successful strategies they can use to ensure student success."



SHIRLEY BARBER

Williams, who chairs the Assembly Education Committee, says it is vital for parents to know and be able to interpret the laws that affect education. "Several laws were enacted in the 1997 legislative session that have serious ramifications for public schools. The potential impact on students is unparalleled in Nevada for public schools. The potential impact on students is unparalleled in Nevada history. Parents need to know what these laws say and mean. Mrs. Barber and I are committed to helping parents understand how these laws could negatively affect the very



WENDELL WILLIAMS

students they are intended to help," Williams said. Topics to be discussed at the meeting include: charter schools, changes in the state accountability law and ways to enhance parental support and

involvement at the school level.

The establishment of charter schools was approved by the Nevada legislature during the 1997 session. Charter schools are publicly funded but have fewer regulatory controls. They are part of a public school district but operate under the terms of a charter or contract with a sponsoring agency. Under the legislation, the district will be allowed up to four charter schools for mainstream students, and up to 21 charter schools are permitted statewide. Unlimited charter schools are allowed for at-risk students.



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