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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Week-long festivities herald King holiday

By Brenda Kirkpatrick
Special to Sentinel-Voice

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A host of activities throughout the 17th annual celebration honoring slain civil rights activist Martin Luther King will make this year's commemoration which begins Jan. 10, one of the most memorable, organizers said.

A slate of activities are planned. There is a Jan. 10 banquet at Caesar's Palace, tickets are \$75 for adults, \$50 for seniors and youth 18 and under pay \$35.

Robert L. Johnson, the chairman and CEO of BET Holdings, Inc., who is mulling over opening a \$220 million Las Vegas hotel in conjunction with Hilton Hotels, Inc., will be the keynote speaker for a banquet themed: "Living the Dream by Restoring the Family Nucleus."

The 1,000 expected guests will feast on cornish game hens, wild rice and mushroom dressing, wine sauce, assorted vegetables and

cheese cake. They will also get entertainment to match. Jazz group Color Coded Brown, will spice the evening with their brand of music.

An oratorical contest, Jan. 12 at the West Las Vegas Theatre 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. will highlight the skills of middle and high schoolers.

Youth Night Jan. 14 at Cheyenne High School, 3200 W. Cheyenne Ave., will begin at 6 p.m.

Local singing talent will be on display during the free interfaith gospelfest, Jan. 15 at Second Baptist Missionary Church, 500 Madison Ave.

Then Saturday, thousands will watch the parade, which begins at 10 a.m. The parade starts at Hoover Avenue and will head north to Fremont Street, then east to Seventh Street.



ROBERT L. JOHNSON

That night, comedian D.C. Curry, host of Black Entertainment Television's Comic View show, will supply the laughs. Tickets are \$15 for the UNLV Artemus Ham Hall performance.

An 8 a.m. Direction Breakfast

at Chez Place on Jan. 19 concludes the celebration.

The King committee was started Nov. 1, 1981, by Wendell Williams with other community activists hoping to preserve King's legacy of humanitarian work.

Since then, it has earned respect citywide. This year, with the help of volunteers, black organizations, major corporations, hotels, the Las Vegas Convention Authority, Sprint, Southwest Gas and Nevada Power, the committee was able to establish a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee Scholarship Fund. The fund will piggyback on the group's other youth directives like the annual "Back to School Fair" which supplies school items to needy students.

The Las Vegas Housing Authority is currently renovating the committee's center, 1316 W. Morgan Drive, as well as other public housing centers throughout the center.



Governor Neal?

State Sen. Joe Neal, a 24-year veteran of the state legislature announced on Monday his gubernatorial bid. Neal plans to push for higher casino taxes—Nevada pays the nation's lowest gaming gross tax rate—the need for lower health-care costs and lower electric bills. Neal championed a bill passed by the legislature to create a civilian board to review police conduct.

Physician: Strohmeyer was coherent

Special to Sentinel-Voice

A Long Beach, Calif. teenager appeared unnerved, coherent and calm while confessing to police that he raped and strangled a 7-year-old girl, according to Monday's testimony by the doctor who pumped his stomach after he attempted suicide.

During Monday's hearing in District Court Judge Don Chairez's courtroom, Jeremy Strohmeyer's defense attorneys tried to get the confession thrown out since, they claim, the 19-year-old had not been read his rights and his requests for a lawyer were rebuffed, thus claiming the confession was obtained illegally.

Richard Wright and Leslie Abramson also are trying to keep the media and the public out of the courtroom during segments of the hearing dealing with statements attributed to Strohmeyer.

Strohmeyer could face the death penalty when his April 20 trial begins. The former honor student is charged with murder and sexual assault in connection with the May 25 death of Los Angeles second-grader Sherrice Iverson who was raped and strangled in a women's bathroom stall at the Primm Valley hotel in Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas.

According to police reports, Strohmeyer, apparently attempting suicide by ingesting a prescription, reportedly penned a note apologizing for the crime and asking God to let him die.

According to testimony he was taken to a Long Beach hospital to have his stomach pumped and apparently confessed to the crime during taped interviews. Strohmeyer said he committed the crime because he "wanted to experience death," a police report said.

His attorneys say he was in a drug-influenced state and that his Miranda rights were not read nor his repeated requests for a lawyer heeded.

At the next court date on Jan. 26, Chairez will determine whether the media and public will be excluded from portions of the hearing.



Pat Glasper (standing) and Cynthia Wilson started Sports Inc. to help future college students navigate the often complicated maze of choosing colleges. Glasper's son Jamar, an all-American defensive back at Green Valley High School, is being pursued by several colleges. The duo also want to help prospective college athletes choose the right schools.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savo

New sports group tackles college issues

By Sandra-Dee Fleming
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Designed to give parents and students information on how to choose the right college—Sports Inc. will hold its first forum Saturday, Jan. 10 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 4270 South Decatur, between Tropicana and Flamingo.

Sports Inc. will aid college applicants and their families to navigate the collegiate maze, schooling them on when to start looking for a college, what to look for in a college, how to get financial aid, as well as explaining what the Scholastic Aptitude Test and the American College Testing Assessments are. There will also be information on National Collegiate Athletic Association rules for the students

entering college on an athletic scholarship.

"Often, students don't know what is required if they enter college on an athletic scholarship and then get hurt and can't play anymore," said Cynthia Wilson, co-founder of the new group. "And students who wish to play sports professionally aren't told about the insurance they should have in the event that they get hurt."

Along with six guest speakers, a counselor will be available. Former Las Vegas City Councilman Frank Hawkins will discuss his career as a professional football player with the Oakland Raiders.

Wilson said the workshops and rap sessions with professional athletes will be the norm for the group in the future.

Sports Inc. was created when Wilson and her sister became overwhelmed by the onslaught of colleges pursuing Wilson's nephew, Jamar Glasper, an All-American defensive back at Green Valley.

"My nephew got offers from a lot of colleges and my sister and I wondered, 'How do we choose?'"

Thinking of the other parents and students who had to be facing the same dilemma Pat Glasper, Jamar's mother, thought it would be nice if there was a place where they could get relevant information on choosing a college. Wilson agreed with her sister that a need did exist and Sports Inc. was created with the goals

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