

NEWS CLIPS

MARY McLEOD BETHUNE TO BE HONORED IN NATION'S CAPITAL

On March 19-21, Albert McLeod Bethune, Jr., the grandson of Mary McLeod Bethune, will visit Washington, D.C. to participate in a series of activities honoring her legacy. Mary McLeod Bethune became the most celebrated African-American figure of the New Deal era and extended her influence as an educator, civil rights activist and advocate for women's equality into the 1950s. She raised herself from early years on a cotton farm in Mayesville, S.C. to ultimately found the Daytona Normal and Industrial School for Negro Girls. She opened the doors to the school on Oct. 4, 1904 with just \$1.50, not even enough to pay the \$11-a-month rent on the cottage that housed it. The school grew rapidly and eventually merged with Cookman Institute to become Bethune-Cookman College. Mary McLeod Bethune, who served as vice president of the NAACP; in 1935, organized and became president of the National Council of Negro Women, an umbrella organization for African-American women's clubs. Perhaps her most famous friendship was the one she shared with Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. An ardent supporter of African-American causes, Eleanor Roosevelt helped Bethune champion the rights of blacks. Bethune died in 1955 at age 79. For more information on the tribute call (703) 222-0792.

ATLANTA BANK ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION HOUSING GRANT TO HBCU

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta and Georgia State Senator Charles Walker of Augusta recently announced that nearly \$1 million in affordable housing funds are now available for community development corporations of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Since 1990, the FHLBA has awarded \$80 million in affordable housing funds, generating more than \$1 billion in community development throughout the southeast. The five community development corporations selected this year represent Morris Brown College, Ft. Valley State University and Albany State University in Georgia; Coppin State University in Maryland and Johnson C. Smith University in North Carolina.

PRESIDENT CLINTON GIVES LEVI STRAUSS RON BROWN AWARD

President Clinton recently honored Levi Strauss and Co. with the first Ron Brown Award for Corporate Leadership. The award recognizes companies that have demonstrated a sustained and passionate commitment to employee and community relations. IBM Corporation was also a recipient of the award. The Ron Brown Award for Corporate Leadership is the first presidential award for corporate responsibility and outstanding community-based programs. The award program is fully funded by the private sector and managed by The Conference Board. Winners were selected by a distinguished panel of judges from a field of 488 programs submitted by 120 companies. Levi Strauss and Co. earned the distinction for its efforts to combat institutional racism through a unique grassroots initiative known as Project Change. Launched in 1991, Project Change operates in four communities: Albuquerque, N.M.; El Paso, Texas; Knoxville, Tenn. and Valdosta, Ga. Its goals are: to identify and end institutional practices that promote racial discrimination in health care, housing, education, banking and other key areas; ease racial tension and inter-ethnic conflicts in target communities; promote fair representation of community diversity in local government and other important institutions and prevent overt acts of racial and cultural prejudice.

DEMOCRATS BLAST CALIF. GOV. FOR ABOLISHING PREFERENCES

WASHINGTON, DC—Democratic National Committee chairmen Steve Grosman and Gov. Roy Romer (D-Co.) blasted Republicans for their repeated attacks on affirmative action programs. Last week, Republicans in the U.S. Senate attempted to end a program to raise the percentage of federally financed highway contracts that go to women and minority-owned businesses. This week a Gov. Pete Wilson, R-Calif., abolished an affirmative action program which has allowed minority and women-owned businesses to better compete in the U.S. economy. Wilson issued an executive order on March 11, ending years of efforts to boost the participation of women and minorities in state subcontracting. In addition, he has filed a lawsuit targeting four additional state affirmative action programs. Shortly after the House voted to end its investigation into a Southern California election debacle, Republican leaders quickly brought to a vote a proposal that would establish a pilot program in five states to test the citizenship status of voters. "Americans of all races and genders should be sickened at Republican attempts to divide America," said Grossman the committee's national chairman.

March citizen of month gives of herself

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Doretha Williams embodies the characteristics inherent in good citizens; she's caring, hard-working and committed to making her community a better place to live.

That commitment has earned her loads of praise from family and friends, and this just a few weeks ago, from the government.

Las Vegas City Councilman Gary Reese on March 6 announced that the retired educator was named Citizen of the Month.

The Monroe, La.-native, a 51-year Las Vegas resident, retired from the Clark County School District after teaching cosmetology and life science for 15 years. She and her husband, Johnnie Williams, Jr., have two children, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A lifelong member of the Second Baptist Church, Williams teaches in the

Vacation Bible School and is a member of the senior usher board.

But her church activities barely scratch the surface of her participation in community activities. A short list of organizations she works with includes the Afro-American Outreach Diabetics Group, the Cosmetiques, Inc., and the AARP Chapter 34395.

As chairwoman of the Neighborhood Association, Area No. 2, she has spearheaded West Las Vegas neighborhood cleanups, calling attention to the abandoned, broken-down automobiles and problems plaguing the area.

Championing a grass-roots movement that eventually won over city officials, Williams garnered recognition as a historic-landmark for the Old Westside by getting the West Las Vegas gateway sign put up on Owens Boulevard just west of the I-15 overpass.

Working as a member of



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Las Vegas City Councilman Gary Reese and city employee Loretta Arrington, right, congratulate Doretta Williams, City of Las Vegas, Citizen of the Month.

the West Las Vegas Executive Board — the committee of all the area association presidents — Williams has helped organize the Juneteenth Community Festival, the holiday banner project, the successful Back to School Fair at Lorenzi Park, among others.

In addition, she has collaborated with the efforts of the Las Vegas Business Center creating new jobs and encouraging small business development in West Las Vegas, and has quarterbacked the push to expand the Doolittle Senior Center.

Choirs from nation's best HBCUs back

By Sonya Douglass
Sentinel-Voice

As the entertainment capital of the world, Las Vegas provides tourists and locals alike with endless leisure options: dancing showgirls, female impersonators, big-name crooners, high-profile comedians and exotic animals.

As of Tuesday, add world-class choirs to that list.

Back for its second go-round "The Vocal Extravaganza In Black" will be a temporary, yet refreshing boon to a cluttered entertainment landscape, according to Dr.

William H. Bailey, coordinator of the tour which will bring talented choirs from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to Cashman Field.

This three-day event begins March 23 and will feature a wide variety of music styles ranging from classical arias and traditional gospel to Broadway show tunes and contemporary jazz.

The first extravaganza was a hit; Bailey attributed its success to curiosity about the event coupled with the valley's longing for cultural diversity.

"The vast majority of America is not aware of the great talent in HBCU's. This is what blew everyone's mind last year," Bailey said. "They were wondering 'How good are they going to be?'"

Bailey wasn't curious. He knew that the evening would carry over well, providing "future stars," as Bailey calls them, a grand stage and, more importantly, exposure.

And given that the students — most of whom are trained vocalists and/or music majors — will get television exposure — the concert will be taped for

future broadcast — the performers might get the break they are looking for.

In addition to the Cashman Field performances, choirs will sing elsewhere around town: Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Second Baptist Church and Wednesday at 4 p.m. at Fremont Street Experience. These performances are free. The choral competition will take place Monday at Cashman Field from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The soloist competition is set for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

Tickets are \$10, \$25, and \$50. For info call 313-5507.

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Timothy Williams is a member of the Nevada & Illinois State Bar, practicing primarily in personal injury cases.

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