

ENTERTAINMENT

Links-backed play boosting Booker pupils pride

By Deborah Kohen  
Sentinel-Voice

Links volunteers are working with Kermit Booker Prime 6 School pupils on a special performance of "The Wiz" set for Thursday, April 23 at the West Las Vegas Library Theater, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

Members of Links' local chapter began working with the pupils months before a state study tabbed the elementary school as one of 13 "inadequate" schools statewide. The designation resulted from a high number of Booker pupils scoring below state averages on standardized tests.

The pupils have taken to acting.

"When the students first came to the theater, they were so shy they almost didn't want to give their names," Links spokeswoman Delores Pasquito said. "With little previous experience in performing, they were quiet and intimidated. On stage, they wouldn't face the audience.



Director Dee Dee Jasmin

Their heads were cast down. Now we have to be assertive to keep them quiet."

Thanks to the Links' compassion and enthusiasm, the children are brimming with confidence. They stand tall in rehearsal, belting out lines they worked hard to memorized.

"They're so excited and so proud of themselves," Pasquito said.

Eager to enhance educational opportunities for disadvantaged youth, the Links, a network of black professional women, decided to reach out to the school. Founded in 1946, Links



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Keeping the students focused, Dr. Christine Clark advises and works with the students when they are not performing.

now boasts chapters in 240 cities, each dedicated to a four-fold mission: involvement in national trends, international trends, the arts and services to the youth.

Six volunteers from the Las Vegas chapter have worked with the pupils on a weekly basis, helping them hone their acting skills, boost their self esteem, increase the knowledge of and respect for the library and the arts, facility, helping with homework and sharing hugs.

Thursday's performance begins at 6 p.m. and will be followed by refreshments at 7. The event is free and open to the public.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Making sure they keep those A's coming while performing, Timesha McCullah, left, and Jamila Morgan spread out their homework during rehearsals.

Annual jazz festival takes to the Hills

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Michael Schivo and the City of Las Vegas announce the Fifth Annual Las Vegas City of Lights Jazz Festival, Saturday, April 25 at the Hills Park Amphitheater at Summerlin.

Gates open at 11 a.m. The show begins at noon and ends at 10 p.m. Admission is free for children 12 and under, \$10 for youth 13 to 18, but will only be available at the box office the day of the festival and \$40 for adults. Advance tickets may be purchased at Mr. Bill's Pipes and Tobacco shops, Vesely Music, UNLV's Artemus Ham Box Office, the Nellis AFB Ticket office and the Upper Ear.

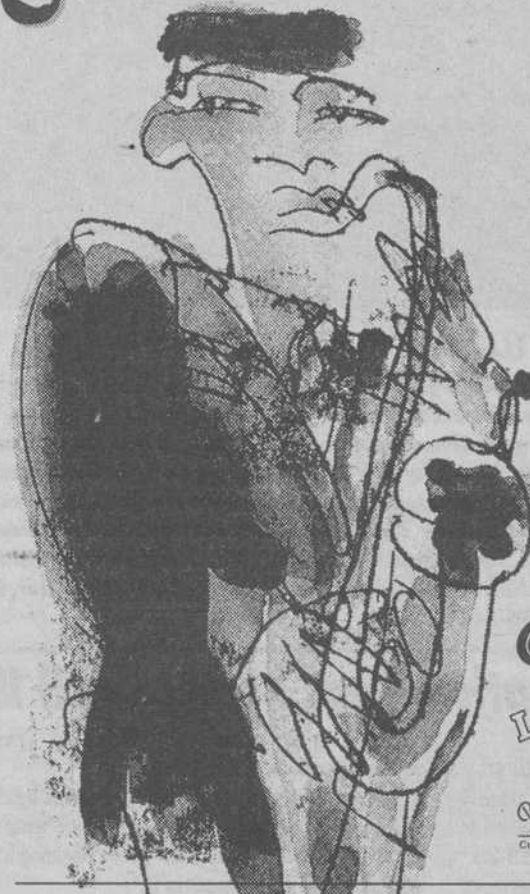
The festival will include a jazz village complete with art exhibits and a food court, although participants can picnic.

Six jazz acts, including headliner Joe Sample who recently co-produced his sixth Warner Bros. Records jazz solo release titled "Sample This," will perform.

A Texas native, Sample has a unique music style which mixes his acumen in gospel, soul, bebop, blues, Latin and classical music. He began playing piano at age 5, and by 14 wanted to be a professional musician. After graduating from Wheatly High School and spending three years at Texas Southern University in Houston, he and four jazz pals headed to Los Angeles to embark on their careers. He started his solo career in 1978, and has since scored a number of chart-topping jazz hits.

For information on the festival, call 228-3780.

5th Annual Las Vegas CITY OF LIGHTS Jazz Festival



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