

# Las Vegan to spend summer in Italy

By Deborah Kohen  
Sentinel-Voice

Racquel Watson is giddy, with good reason: The native Las Vegan will spend her summer in Italy.

Thanks to her smarts, Watson, a junior at Atlanta's Morris Brown College, will leave June 15 for a two-month international study program.

She is the first student from the historically black college selected for participation in this program and the only representative during this decade from the five-campus Atlanta University Center.

The \$9,000 price tag is steep, but with faith and friends, Watson has garnered two-thirds of the money. She hopes the community can lend its financial support. If 150 local individuals or businesses each contributed \$20, the trip would be paid for in full, she muses.



Special to the Sentinel-Voice

Racquel Watson is looking forward to sharpening her artistic skills during a summer stay in Italy.

A fine arts major with a concentration in Graphic Design, Watson takes classes at another AUC school because Morris Brown doesn't offer

them.

She credits moving to Atlanta with giving a taste of adulthood, building her appreciation for her parents —

especially her mother, who worked, cooked, cleaned and cared for her and siblings — and exposing her to loads of cultural events.

Watson can't wait to taste European culture. While there, she will take three classes: art history, photography and concepts of design, and she will work less with computer-generated design and more with drawing. She admits her drawing skills leave something to be desired but said she expects the course to stretch her talents and encourage creativity.

After completing a bachelor's degree, Watson hopes to attend a design institute in San Diego and then become a professional graphic designer.

If you would like to help fund the trip, call the Watson family at 598-5530.

## Firefighters sponsor concert to raise scholarship money

By Deborah Kohen  
Sentinel-Voice

United Firefighters of Southern Nevada will host a concert Saturday, June 20 at the Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza to raise money to fund two scholarships for graduating seniors heading for college or trade school.

The concert lasts from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the plaza, inside Lorenzi Park, 3333 W. Washington.

Tickets are \$20 and available at the door.

Administered by United Firefighters of Southern Nevada, an affiliate of the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters, the scholarship is open to all the county's graduating seniors.

Awards are based on academic achievement, community involvement and a typewritten essay of 300 words or less. The theme of this year's essay contest is, "Keeping the flame of communication in the Fire Service burning." The topic requires research.

United Firefighters are hoping to raise enough money for two \$1,000 scholarships. They estimate that 50 percent of ticket sales will be used to pay the musicians and rent the facility.

Featured entertainers Janis Carter & Friends, the Rohn Shead Project, the Phil Westmoreland Group and Angel Washington will perform jazz and R & B musical programs.

For tickets, guidelines, or to make donations, call 646-1861. The deadline to apply for the scholarships is June 15.



JANIS CARTER

## LOCAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

# Celebration combines doses of history, health

By Lee Brown  
Sentinel-Voice

On June 19, 1865 Union Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston proclaiming slavery's end. Two years earlier President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves, but word was late hitting the southeastern Texas town.

Why did it take so long? Who knows. But when the slaves heard, the celebrated, a lot. So goes the story of Juneteenth. For more than a century, blacks have honored June 19, 1865, with an annual tribute and cultural celebration.

But Juneteenth has lost some of its luster.

As blacks began migrating from the South, they left the celebration behind. Its significance waned.

But it didn't die. About 130 cities and towns across the U.S. and Canada hold annual celebrations to commemorate

the day recognized as a paid holiday in Texas and Oklahoma.

Community Health Centers of Southern Nevada, will host its 3rd annual Juneteenth Celebration Saturday, June 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Nucleus Business Plaza, 916 W. Owens Ave. Food and entertainment will be abound at the free event.

Larry Gamell, community relations consultant for the non-profit, community-based health care centers, said the celebration will educate as well as entertain.

"A people who is ignorant of their past really doesn't have a future," he said. "I think, historically, we've missed out in furthering our own history and carrying on traditions. There are, of course, Juneteenth celebrations in places like Salt Lake City; Denver has a week-long celebration and in Texas it's a state holiday. I feel this is an excellent opportunity to

continue to tell the story of how African-Americans have contributed and persevered in overcoming great, great difficulties."

"Of course, this is a celebration," he added. "We're going to have vendors, a lot of Afrocentric materials and entertainment."

Also part of the celebration, Juneteenth Health Fair — "Freedom from Preventable Illness" — sponsored by Community Health Centers, the American Cancer Society and Schering Oncology Biotech, will offer free health screening for prostate cancer for men over 40, sickle cell anemia screening, eye exams and diabetes screening and blood pressure checks. A free T-shirt will be given to the first 100 who complete the screenings.

"We were looking for an outreach vehicle, especially to the African American community, to encourage the

community to utilize the facilities of the health center and to raise the level of awareness on personal management of health care," Gamell said. "So we undertook hosting the Juneteenth celebration in connection with having a health fair."

"We're hoping that this year's celebration will be the biggest and best," he said. "We have the cooperation, this year, from many community-based organizations."

We have full cooperation from the Cancer Society and Schering Oncology, a pharmaceutical company. We'll be offering a world of information on all types of health problems that primarily affect the African American community.

Those of us who don't know about Juneteenth should come and learn about it. It's going to be a great day."

For more information, call 631-8821.

## Cotton

(Continued from Page 1)

bosses who have since left like Cheryl Miller, who directed human resources, Administrative Services Director Terry Murphey and former county manager Pat Shalmy."

Lamuraglia has filed a complaint with Cotton against Askew and Glode.

Cotton is suing Askew, his boss.

He claims racial discrimination led to his demotion. Cotton was unavailable for comment but his attorney, Valerie Fujii, said her client's requests to be given back his job with the same pay is reasonable. Cotton has requested the county commissioners hire an outside attorney to handle King and Lamuraglia's complaints because of his impending lawsuit against the county.

"I do not want a close door session," Lamuraglia said after learning that commissioners wanted to meet in private to discuss the personal matters. "I want the meeting to be held in public."

He said an open forum will uncover why the demotions

were made. Allegations of sexual and/or age discrimination is part of the reason why King feels that the demotions were executed. She is 43 years old and Lamuraglia is 44 years old.

King said the county falls under a state statute requiring local governments with a population under or above 100,000 to have a personnel code dictating hiring, firing and other employee and personnel matters.

King said implementing the merit personnel system — which falls under chapter 245 of the Nevada Revised Statutes — a classification study must be conducted.

Its comprises: Interviews of the person holding the position and that person's supervisor; filling out audit forms and answering questionnaires, desk questionnaire, and desk audit must be filled out.

"None of these documents have been completed and none of these interviews have been done," King said.

"We know the laws very well," said Lamuraglia, who is confident the county commission will reverse the demotions. "These are not mistakes, these are violations of the law."

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