



# Goynes gets park named in his honor

By John T. Stephens III  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Cementing his legacy in North Las Vegas, Theron Goynes joined hundreds last weekend in hailing the grand opening of a park bearing his name.

About 200 people, including Goynes' wife of 38 years, Naoimi, an assistant principal at Jim Bridger Middle School, his children Byron, Kimberly and Pamela and a slew of political dignitaries poured into Theron H. Goynes Park, 3909 West Washburn Road, to honor the North Las Vegas landmark.

"I feel very very good. I am elated,"

Goynes said. "North Las Vegas is a great place to live, work and raise your family. I've always had a supportive cast."

Praise overflowed for the 34-year North Las Vegas resident.

"It's appropriate, it's fitting and well deserved," Clark County Commission Chairwoman Yvonne Atkinson Gates said.

"I think it was a good idea to dedicate this park to a man who has contributed over 30 years to the city of North Las Vegas," said John Rhodes, a North Las Vegas City Councilman. "This is the greatest (See Goynes, Page 20)



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Theron Goynes and wife, Naoimi, stand inside the park named after the former North Las Vegas politician.

# MLK off-ramp sacrificed in Spaghetti Bowl overhaul

By John T. Stephens III  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

A doubling in Spaghetti Bowl traffic in the last 10 years forced the Nevada Department of Transportation to embark on a \$92 million project to free up the thoroughfare. The Martin Luther King Boulevard exit recently became a casualty to the upgrades.

Motorists traveling on U.S. Highway 95 must use the Rancho Road exit, then turn right on Bonanza Road to get to Martin Luther King Boulevard.

NDOT spokesman Scott Magruder said the Martin Luther King exit "had outlived its use," and that a complete overhaul of the interchange — which

will include a new ramp — was impossible "with the old one still there."

Meadows Valley Contractors began working on the ramps in December to ease the bottleneck caused by the 200,000 vehicles using the interchange daily. Magruder said 100,000 motorists used the loopy interchange daily in 1987.

While the project is under construction — NDOT officials estimate completion in 2001 — motorists will be able to enter southbound Interstate 15 from MLK Blvd. but not southbound Highway 95. Drivers traveling northbound on

(See Off-ramp, Page 3)

# Fun, food, and family spirit permeate Juneteenth festival

By John T. Stephens III  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Sun-baked Juneteenth observers packed the Nucleus Plaza over the weekend, commemorating the end of the last vestiges of slavery with food, fun and frolic.

Children took free pony rides, torpedoed into each other inside the giant Astro Jump inflatable play house, and munched on free hot dogs, sodas, and ice cream floats.

"(We're) celebrating our heritage," said Gwen Walker, owner of Niki's Afrocentric Gifts. "(We're) celebrating the freedom of slaves."

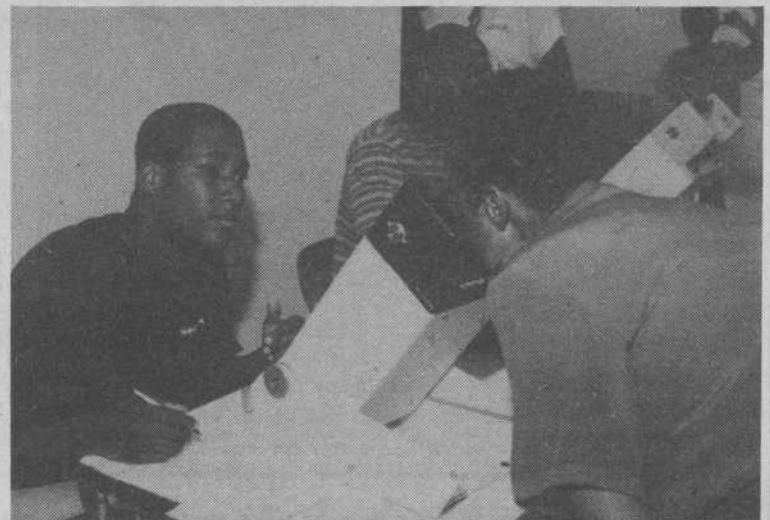
Local talent entertained and educated festival goers, black businesses sold their wares and the Community Health Centers offered free medical attention, including free pregnancy tests, blood pressure screenings and prostate exams.

Prostate cancer kills twice as many black men over 40 than white men. Health center employee Mary Jackson said black men could dent those numbers through early detection.

Alice Wilson, chairwoman of the West Las Vegas Neighborhood Board, said every African-American in the United States should observe Juneteenth.

Juneteenth celebrates June 19, 1865, the day when Texas slaves learned of their emancipation. President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves by signing the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1 of 1863, but the news was two years late in getting to Texas.

Lincoln's move wasn't fueled by compassion for the slaves. Union forces



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Quincy Pool assisted medical personnel who administered free eye examinations and other medical services during the third annual Juneteenth celebration Saturday at the Nucleus Business Plaza. Meracle McKnight, bottom, was one of several singers to perform.



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

## Voices from the motherland...

Performing at the West Las Vegas Library Theater during their American tour, the African Children's Choir electrified the auditorium with song and dance earlier this month.



MERACLE MCKNIGHT

were being decimated by the Confederates. Figuring slaves could bolster the North's military might, he began writing the Emancipation Proclamation in September of 1862. He reasoned that the freed slaves would escape plantations or revolt and unite with Unionists of the pro-slavery South.

"My paramount objective is to save the Union, and not either to save or destroy slavery," Lincoln wrote. "If I could save the Union without freeing any slaves, I would do it."

For nearly a century, blacks have celebrated the Texas emancipation.

"Juneteenth is about correcting a mistake that was made," chimed Ellis Rice, a sound technician with Clark County, saying the mistake was not

(See Juneteenth, Page 11)