



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Leading Mardi Gras festivities for the opening of Doolittle Senior Center were Las Vegas City Councilmen Gary Reese, left, and Mike McDonald, and Mayor Jan Jones.

Senior center opens to fanfare

By Deborah Kohlen
Sentinel-Voice

Jerlys Baker expects to be busier than ever thanks to the new Doolittle Senior Center.

It will be a good kind of busy, the senior programs director said.

Indeed, the new 8,000 square-foot facility, unveiled Tuesday amid Mardi Gras fanfare should be a boon for senior services.

"This is a long-needed addition to the community," Las Vegas Mayor Jan Jones said during the grand opening. She joined other city and county officials christening the

new center with a parade.

The city of Las Vegas Parks & Leisure Activities and Neighborhood Services departments collaborated on the \$2.5 million facility. Community Development Block Grants funded nearly half the cost. The facility is open Monday through Friday from 9 to 4 p.m. and will be closed on holidays.

Since 1965, seniors activities in the 1950 N. "J" St. (on the corner of W. Lake Mead Boulevard) were held in one room.

"With Elmer's glue and imagination, you could turn it

into anything you wanted it to be," Herbert S. Powell recalled.

Now Powell won't have to dream about amenities. The spacious center has a commercial kitchen, two offices and seven activity rooms, including rooms for sewing & crafts, games, computers, TV and exercise.

The exercise room can double as a dance studio with its wall-to-wall mirrors, handrails, parquet floor and rows of cubbyholes for clothing and other items. Powell said the new building will allow for expanded and additional
(See Doolittle, Page 3)

Mentorship program ends third year, graduates 32

By John T. Stephens III
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Yolanda Lewis is interested in radio.

Sherman Rutledge was interested in helping her.

The Summer Business Institute joined them.

For the third consecutive year, the institute — a partnership between the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community Program, the Clark County School District, the county's Business Development Division, Business Innovations Plus, Inc., and private businesses — teamed to provide teenagers work experience.

Closing ceremonies were held for 32 high school students who participated this summer. Twenty-nine sponsors and 33 mentors helped out.

"A part of succeeding is giving back to the community," said KLAS-TV 8 anchorwoman Juanna Hart, mistress of Ceremonies. "We're going to show you the ropes and give you the background."

Lewis, a 16-year-old junior, learned to use the production room and the radio board, became familiar with office management, programming, marketing and sales and even hosted two talk shows while working at KCEP FM (88.1). She wants a career in radio broadcasting.

Rutledge offered her a job.

"The program has been dynamic," said Rutledge, manager of the nonprofit radio station. "It gives KCEP and EOB (Economic Opportunity Board) an opportunity to reach out and help the community."

Students recruited from the federally designated enterprise zones are selected based on class attendance of more than 90 percent and had to have shown an interest in their futures and the plight of their communities.

The program gives them the opportunity to go to college while working on paid internships.



Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice

During the program Melissa Thrower had the honor to work with Federal Court Judge Johnnie Rawlinson.

North Las Vegas City Councilwoman Paula Brown mentored 19-year-old Josefa Sison, a Rancho High graduate.

"It was very wonderful," said Brown of her experiences

with Sison. "We met once a week, talked on the phone many times and got together as often as she liked."

Sison said the program helped map out her future and

thanked Brown for being very insightful.

Brown helped her to fill out scholarship papers and write a resume, and taught her about networking at a North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce meeting. Some students received scholarships and jobs. The Black Tavern Owners Association awarded \$1,000 scholarships to Danielle Harris, Darian Hall, and LaQualia Garrett.

"Our goal is to help them with their education and to push them to go farther," said Lewis Connor Sr., owner of Seven Seas Lounge.

"It's nice to have an opportunity to go to college and receive a scholarship," said Harris, who plans on being a nurse.

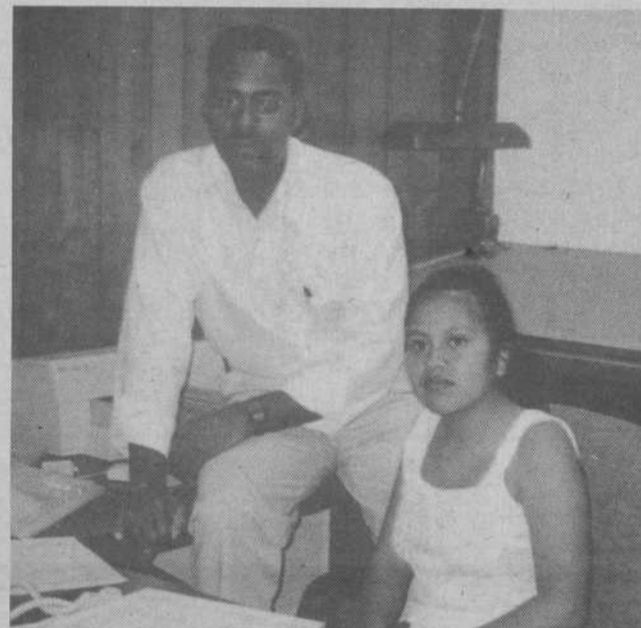


Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice

Architect Manuel Mojicar served as mentor for Mireya Gasper during the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community Program.



Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice

Learning the in's and out's of the construction business Jessica Senter and George Washington join Lou Richardson owner of Richardson Construction.


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