



N. Las Vegas Police Chief Joey Tillmon, joins Renard Lawson, Jr., in signing the pledge to stop gun violence in public schools.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy



## Atonement festivities scheduled

By John T. Stephens III  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

In honor of the third anniversary of the Million Man March, Muhammad Mosque #75 will be sponsoring a day of atonement Friday in the Horn Theater of Community College of Southern Nevada, 3200 E. Cheyenne Ave.

In addition to prayer, fasting and music, there will be satellite speech by Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam.

"We are trying to keep the event in the spirit of the march," said Minister Duke uhammad of Mosque 75. "This is not just a Muslim thing. We are inviting everybody to come."

Festivities begin at 1 p.m. with Farrakhan speaking at 5 p.m. Guest speakers will give lectures titled, the "Role of Black leaders going into the year 2000," the "Role of the youth going into the year 2000," and the "Role of the woman leading us into the year 2000."

The Million Man March was Farrakhan's creation. The Oct. 16, 1995 event in Washington D.C. drew blacks from all over the nation, asking them not to work, go to school, shop or engage in any illicit or self-destructive activity that day. Muhammad is asking local Blacks to again do the same.

"There is much strife and struggle (See Atonement, Page 3)

## Students pledge to fight violence in schools

By John T. Stephens III  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

More than 100 Clark County high school and middle school students recently pledged to stop gun violence.

Launched last Friday at Clark High School, 4291 Pennwood Ave, Z-Squared, or Z<sup>2</sup>, is a school district initiative targeted at reducing violence in schools.

"Z-Squared is a rather new concept," Clark principal Wayne Tanaka said. "It's an idea whose time has come."

Zeroweapons/Zerotolerance is a nationwide program in which students sign pledges to never bring a gun to school or use a gun to settle a dispute, and try to influence their peers to resolve

conflicts peacefully.

"Our approach is proactive and we want to help prevent violence in our schools," said Karla McComb, director of Safe Drug Free Schools and the Z-Squared's prevention component. "We want to act before violence occurs."

The school district has gone eight years without a fatal shooting during school hours, though gun incidents continue to be a problem. Eighty such incidents occurred on school grounds in the last s.

There have been four fatal on-campus shootings since 1982.

The latest, on Feb. 26, 1996, involved a 14-year-old high school student.

"These incidents have sparked concern about the safety of our

children in our schools," Assistant Schools Superintendent Sid Franklin said.

"Violence and crime play a major role in the ability of our children to learn."

A public service announcement will air throughout the week in conjunction with America's Safe Schools Week.

"Kids need to look and listen to what's going on in the schools, so that they don't do anything they're not supposed to do and then have to suffer the consequences of their actions," said 13-year-old Kahle McGee, who is featured in the PSA.

With more than 240,000 students enrolled in 227 schools, the CCSD ranks as the nation's ninth largest school district. The district spends



SID FRANKLIN  
nearly \$400,000 a year on security for school athletic events, (See Students, Page 3)

## Mike Tyson to learn of fate on Monday

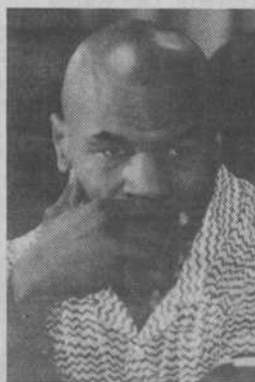
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Mike Tyson will learn on Monday whether or not he can fight again.

The Nevada State Athletic Commission reconvenes then and will determine if the former heavyweight champion can return to the ring after a one-year ban for biting Evander Holyfield's ears during their title fight in June 1997 at the MGM Grand Garden.

Tyson got good news in the form of a psychotherapists' report from Massachusetts General Hospital saying that he was fit to fight. The report was released to the public on Tuesday. But commissioners say Tyson has an uphill battle in explaining his action during an Aug. 31 traffic accident in Gaithersburg, Md. involving his wife.

Tyson is said to have punched one person in the face and kicked another in the groin. Charges could be pending.



MIKE TYSON

## Strohmeyer blames friend, parents for crime

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Jeremy Strohmeyer, the Long Beach, Calif., teen-ager convicted of sexually assaulting and strangling 7-year-old Sherrice Iverson in a casino restroom last year, blamed the crime in part on circumstances stemming from being adopted and criticized friend David Cash for not stopping him from killing the Los Angeles second-grader.

Strohmeyer was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Strohmeyer tried several times to implicate Cash, whom hotel surveillance captured going into the women's restroom May 25, 1997, at the Primm hotel moments after Strohmeyer chased Iverson in.

Iverson's body was found slumped in a restroom stall. Primm is 43 miles south of Las Vegas.

Strohmeyer said he and Cash, now a student at the University of California at Berkeley, bragged about the crime and later discussed they would successfully cover it up.

He said Cash "showered him" with accolades after the crime and said the two had "gotten away" with the killing.

"Dave talked about how we should hide the facts about what happened," the 19-year-old testified.

Strohmeyer said Cash could have prevented the crime since he saw it in action. Cash has not been indicted.

"I'm a condemned man not only

by the state but by my own conscience," Strohmeyer said in Chief District Judge Myron Leavitt's courtroom.

Plea bargaining allowed Strohmeyer to avoid the possibility of the death penalty.

Strohmeyer, while he acknowledged he was ultimately responsible for the crime, did shift some blame to the California state mental-health and his adoptive parents, saying he was kept in the dark about the mental illness and addictions of his schizophrenic birth mother.

Treatment, he said, would have prevented him from killing the 7-year-old girl.