



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Band members of the Charles I. West varsity band are eagerly awaiting their east coast trip.

West Middle School band invited to Washington, D.C.

*By John T. Stephens III
Special to Sentinel-Voice*
Charles I. West Middle School's varsity band has been invited to the nation's capitol to participate in the American Musical Salute honoring the legacy of President George Washington. The band is in the midst of a \$30,000 fund-raising campaign to make the trip possible. Invited by the Fame Organization, the band would perform either at the Capitol Building or the Washington Monument.

Music teacher Anthony Marentic is thrilled and credits the talent of his musicians. Helpers and chaperones would accompany the more than 60 band members to Washington D.C. The West Middle School Booster Club held a yard sale last week on the 2050 South Fire Stone campus. More yard sales will follow, as will bake sales, car washes and solicitations for donations. The band needs \$20,000 before December to reserve

hotel rooms. The band also needs money for equipment, uniforms and future field trips designed to encourage students to succeed in music. "The fact that we were invited to Washington, D.C. to represent Nevada is exciting," said 13-year-old Aiaka Oliver, drum major for the varsity band. "It's important to stand behind your children and push them," said Eula Jacobs whose daughter is a band member.

West Middle School opened last year after West Las Vegas, led by Westside Action Alliance Korp-Uplifting People, filed complaints and pushed for the area's first middle school. Those interested in donating can call Anthony Marentic at 799-3120 ext. 225 or Marzette Lewis at 646-3280. Contributions can also be dropped off at Bank of America, 835 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Bill Johnson assists Lisa Johnson during the yard sale to help raise funds for the band's trip.

Company surprises customer

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Roosevelt Taylor and his family received a lot more than expected when they called Southwest Gas for service on October 7. The gas company's "Prize Patrol" van rolled up and out popped several Southwest Gas employees, bearing gifts and balloon bouquets for the Taylor family.

It's all part of National "Customer Appreciation Week" October 5-9. This year, instead of simply decorating its business offices, Southwest Gas Corporation decided to recognize its customers in a special way. Each day during "Customer Appreciation Week," the Southern Nevada Division of Southwest Gas sent its



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Roosevelt Taylor and his children received a surprise when Southwest Gas Corporation's "Prize Patrol" arrived with gifts for the family. Taylor was randomly selected to receive the gifts as part of Southwest's "Customer Appreciation Week" celebration.

specially decorated "Prize Patrol" van to the home of one customer, selected that morning at random. The van arrives at the door and employees deliver bright purple balloons, a bunt cake, a barbecue, toys, and other presents for the family.

"We are proud of our tradition of service," says Southern Nevada Division Vice President Warren Rustad. "The 'Prize Patrol' is a fun way to let the community know we care about our customers and value their business."

Collaboration targets teen pregnancy, sexual responsibility

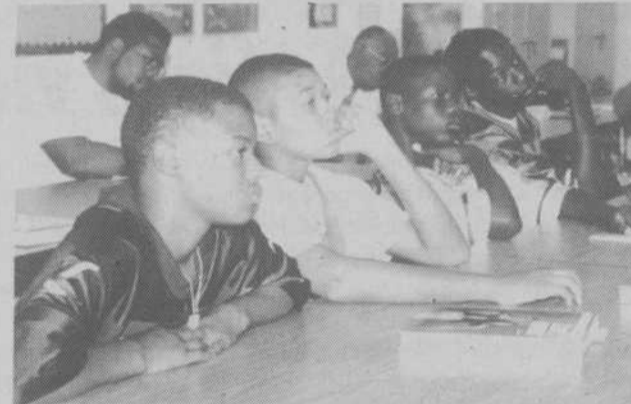
*By John T. Stephens III
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The March of Dimes and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. recently teamed up to form Project Alpha, an initiative teaching adolescents about the risks of teen pregnancies. The national organizations collaborated in response to October as Healthy Baby Month.



"We are here to give the youth an introduction to the benefits of Alpha project," said Joyce Minnes, program service director for the 50-year-old March of Dimes which has helped develop the Salk polio vaccine to terminate polio. We want to "give them the true facts about teen-age pregnancies and the risks involved." Nearly half of the one million teen-agers who pregnant each year carry their pregnancies to term, statistics show. Teen-age mothers are least likely to receive prenatal

care, usually have poor diet and often engage in bad habits such as smoking, alcohol, and possible drug use. As a result, they are at higher risk for premature labor, anemia, high blood pressure, and placenta problems. Of the 12 million cases of sexually transmitted diseases reported last year, teen-agers accounted for one-third. Chlamydia, syphilis and AIDS cropped up the most in

that group. "We are trying to enlighten teens about the options they have and how life really is," said Ricky Watts, Alpha Phi Alpha member and center coordinator of the West Community Center. Project Alpha aims to reduce teen pregnancy, promote abstinence and the use of contraceptives, increase knowledge about the human body and awareness (See Collaboration, Page 4)



Joe Kloeckner, above, explains to a group of teenagers, left, the disadvantages of early fatherhood at Charles I. West Middle School on Saturday.

Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy

CURRENT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Clark County District Board of Health, Chairman
- BankWest of Nevada, Director
- Health Plan of Nevada, Director
- President Associates, UNLV Foundation
- UNLV Alumni Association
- Junior League of Las Vegas
- Clark County Medical Society Alliance

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Northwestern University School of Nursing
- Graduated 1961
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- BS in Finance - Graduated with Distinction 1990

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