

Fifth grader meets NFL role model

Cat Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

Robert Lunt Elementary School fifth grader Tameila Turner won the *Sprint-San Diego Chargers Good Sports Writing Program* essay contest recently after writing about defensive tackle Reuben Davis.

Sprint and the team flew Turner, her family and her teachers out to the Dec. 20 Chargers game in California, where they joined in an on-field, pre-game accolade. They received Sprint and official NFL logo sports bags filled with a telephone, a calling card and other goodies. The high point of the trip was when Turner met Davis and the Charger's assistant coach Wayne Nunnely.

One hundred fourth and fifth graders in the Clark County school district entered the contest.

Dawn Merritt, Community Relations Manager at Sprint, said, "Tameila's essay was the most well-written, well-rounded one. She did a lot of investigative work and she knew her subject well."

"I had seen him (Davis) on tv two weeks before, running through an obstacle course and it was interesting how he helped his team, encouraging them to get through it," said Turner. "When I met him, I was shocked. I didn't know he was so tall!"

Sprint surprised the young student at school announcing her victory in class Dec. 10. They had called her mother, Renette a week before and it was all she could do to keep the secret.

Mrs. Turner describes her daughter as an excellent writer, among other things. "She's a straight-A student. She's involved in a lot of activities—basketball, soccer, track, baseball, storytelling and peer mediation. She's very creative," she said.



Sprint of Nevada's Good Sports Writing Program winner, Tameila Turner, meets San Diego Charger defensive tackle Reuben Davis at a recent Charger football game. Turner wrote about Davis' accomplishments on and off the field. Photo special to Sentinel-Voice by Mike Mike Nowak and San Diego Chargers

Along with footing the bill for the Turners and the teachers trip to San Diego, Sprint donated \$1,000 to Lunt to enhance science and technology equipment and programs.

Oklahoma State cancels classes on King holiday

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP)— For the first time, Oklahoma State will not conduct classes Jan. 18 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Randall Dahl, Oklahoma State's associate vice president for academic affairs, said classes and labs that meet only on Mondays will be rescheduled for Saturday, Jan. 23.

Instructors will schedule their own makeup day for courses that meet more than once a week.

Oklahoma State becomes one of the last schools in the Big 12 Conference to cancel classes in observance of the King holiday. The University of Nebraska also has canceled classes for the first time this year.

The Oklahoma State Student Government Association, at the urging of the Afro-American Student Association, recommended during the fall 1997 semester that classes be canceled in observance of the King holiday.

President James Halligan and the administration agreed in September 1997 to follow the recommendation, Dahl said.

James Ownby, head of the school's botany department, teaches two sections of a plant physiology lab on Mondays and Tuesdays. Ownby said he doubts students will be pleased to learn they will have to attend classes on a Saturday.

Students with legitimate reasons why they cannot attend the rescheduled classes, such as work or normally scheduled classes, will have to be given another way to make up the time, he said.

Dahl said the university will review the policy to determine if there is a better way to handle it.

Overstreet

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with the national NAACP office in June when he sent letters requesting clarification on the election process. He wrote a letter dated Sept. 21 to Tri-State Conference President Ed Lewis with information he says proved that members could run as a slate and which requested that his life-time membership be transferred to the Las Vegas branch.

The NAACP Constitution and By-Laws for Branches states that life members and member-at-large candidates must be actively affiliated with the local branch at least 30 prior to nominations.

"Actively affiliated means

that the individual must have requested in writing that his membership be transferred to the Branch," the section reads. The nomination meeting was held on Dec. 4.

Problems with elections aren't resigned to the Las Vegas NAACP. In Dallas, questions about whether presidential candidate Lee Alcorn was qualified caused the national office to stall the proceedings.

Elections were also suspended in the Minneapolis branch after some members violated by-laws and election procedures by not accepting any nominations from the floor. A group of five members protested, appealed

to the national headquarters and after getting no response sought legal redress.

Julie Fishel, an attorney who worked on the lawsuit and injunction case against the NAACP in Minneapolis, said that the national office warned her of the repercussions her clients may face for giving the organization bad press. One faction within the branch has requested that the five dissenters be suspended, she said.

"It's ironic that the organization that fights for justice, equality and fairness can't seem to ensure those principles are practiced internally," Fishel said.

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