

NEWS CLIPS

PAY HIKE FOR CLARK COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT BRIAN CRAM

The Clark County School District Board of Trustees voted to boost Superintendent Brian Cram's salary by 7 percent. With the exception of Lois Tarkanian, all of the Board approved the increase for this year and an additional 7 percent hike in 1998-99, bringing his annual earnings from \$138,753 to \$148,466. Next year, Cram's pay will go up to \$158,858. Other administrators, support employees and teachers received a 4.25 wage increase for 1997-98 and a 3 percent increase for 1998-99.

FORMER CITY MANAGER TO RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL

Former City Manager, Linda Hinson will throw her hat in the ring for the North Las Vegas City Council in February. Hinson feels that being a resident of North Las Vegas and working for the city for 19 years more than qualifies her for the new job. "When I win, I won't have to worry about running for another three years," she said. "I will be a stable force on the council for the four-year term, enabling me to be effective and work on the issues." Hinson cites crime, education, transportation, the condition of the roads and growth and expansion as priorities. The council voted to end her contract in October. Since then, Hinson has used her time to prepare for her candidacy, rather than seek a new job. "Now that I'm not working, it's the perfect time to do this," she said. Two at-large positions will be up for grabs. Interested candidates can file starting February 23. The primary is May 4 and the general election is June 8.

JOHNNIE COCHRAN WILL REPRESENT HAMPTON UNIVERSITY COACHES

Attorney Johnnie Cochran announced in a press conference earlier last month that he will take the case of the two Hampton University women's basketball coaches, who, along with one of their spouses, were wrongly arrested while in Lubbock, Texas. Patricia Bibbs, her husband, Ezell, and Venetta Kelso have hired Cochran to take possible legal action against the city of Lubbock and the Lubbock Police Department. "I think the facts are out, people will demand some justice for these clients — not 10 percent justice, not 20 percent justice, but 100 percent justice and perhaps a change in the way things are done," Cochran said. The three were accused of being a part of a con game at Wal-Mart, where they had gone to buy some items for the team. They were handcuffed and detained in jail for four hours after a shopper identified Kelso as the person engaging in the "pigeon drop." After reviewing security tapes, the police decided that they had the wrong people and no charges would be filed. All believe that race played a factor in the way they were treated.

COMMISSION: \$1.1 MILLION FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN MONUMENT

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A Greer corporation and senator are the first contributors to the Statehouse's first African-American monument. Backers need to raise \$1.1 million before the February 2000 dedication. BMW Manufacturing Corp. and Statehouse Committee Chairman Sen. Verne Smith were the first donors to the project, which won committee approval last week. The 20-foot granite obelisk and two flanking panels will be placed on a circular plot on the Sumter Street side of the Statehouse. The monument will include bronze-sculpted scenes of slavery and the civil rights movement. At the front will be an etching of the interior of a slave ship. The center will include a tablet with stones from Africa, sculptor Ed Dwight of Denver said. "I think it's done with excellent taste and it will bring harmony, not discord, to this state," Smith said. John Rainey, the monument commission's finance chairman, announced the first donors moments after the committee voted last Monday. BMW made the first corporate donation of \$25,000, while Smith pledged the first individual donation of \$5,000, said Rainey, chairman of Santee Cooper's board of directors. Rainey and one of his vice co-chairs, Juanita Brown of Charleston, also pledged \$5,000. Sen. McKinley Washington, D-Ravenel, pledged \$1,000. Rainey said he wants all the fund raising done by mid-1999. Commission members will write to corporations and make pitches to churches, clubs and schools.

Brawley appeal fund kicks off with \$35,000

Special to Sentinel-Voice

It was an emotional moment when, a slightly shaking, attorney-at-war Alton Maddox asked the crowd at Brooklyn's Bethany Baptist Church if they would excuse his tears. He was overcome by the fact that \$35,000 had been raised in only two hours for the appeal in the Tawana Brawley defamation case by Maddox, C. Vernon Mason and the Rev. Al Sharpton.

"Take your time Alton," called someone in the audience. "We got your back."

Professor Rosalind Jeffries, who presided over the five-hour event, handed him tissues. Laughing, Maddox took them and explained that ordinarily a white kerchief was a no-no, what with the image it might suggest to all. The crowd responded warmly.

Testimonials, praise and no-holds-barred demands for money was the agenda of the evening. Louis Clayton Jones gave the powerful keynote address.

Jones, the brother of the Rev. William Jones, the host pastor, called on newly-elected Attorney General Elliot Spitzer to release all files regarding the defamation suit. They are particularly interested in the statements made by Stephen Pagones and the controversial suicide letter left by Harry Crist.

Crist, allegedly involved in the kidnapping and rape of Brawley, gained national attention when he was found dead shortly after the incident.

While there was a lot going on that evening, the primary function was to raise money for the case's appeal.

"It was indeed successful," Maddox said. "There were about 1,000



AL SHARPTON

people at the event, including such community stalwarts as Percy Sutton, John Beatty and Min. Khallid Abdul Muhammad."

Maddox, Mason and Sharpton were together found liable on 10 counts of defamation and assessed a total of \$350,860 in damages last summer. The money they raised will go toward paying for the trial transcripts, which should cost them about \$80,000. "We have made a good beginning, but we still

have a long way to go," Maddox said.

It may come as no surprise to Pagones, but there is little likelihood he will get any payment if the defendants lose their appeal.

"I haven't got a cent," Maddox said. "I have no material assets, no property and no job, so I can't be garnished."

"Mason is in bankruptcy, and the reverend, who was assessed the least amount, has no meaningful income."

Future plans to gain the resources they need include a campaign to solicit funds from public figures and outstanding lawyers such as Johnnie Cochran, Raymond Brown and Charles Ogletree and a series of fund-raising events. "Sure we've got a long way to go, but it's not as far as we've been in our struggle for freedom and justice," Maddox said.

Ten Wichita workers suing Boeing for discrimination

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Ten Boeing Co. employees have filed racial discrimination lawsuits against the company's Wichita operations.

The lawsuits are just the latest in a recent barrage of racial discrimination complaints against Boeing. Company officials have repeatedly denied the accusations and said Boeing doesn't tolerate any type of discrimination.

Nine black workers in Wichita filed lawsuits two weeks ago claiming they were subjected to a hostile work

environment and were denied promotions based on their race. One, however, asked that her lawsuit be dismissed two days after she filed it Dec. 16.

Meanwhile, a white worker, Carroll Cash, filed a separate federal lawsuit Dec. 8, claiming that Boeing gives minority and female employees preferential treatment and doesn't discipline them as harshly when they break rules.

"They may be bending over backwards not to discriminate, but that can cause a problem, which I'm

seeing more and more of," said attorney Sean Dwyer, who filed Cash's lawsuit.

All 10 Wichita workers contacted the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission before suing. The commission said it had not yet fully investigated their complaints but gave them the go-ahead to file lawsuits.

Roy T. Wells of Wichita, 52, said in his lawsuit that a

Confederate flag hanging where he worked was "a negative and degrading (symbol)."

Melvyn Johnson, Lawrence Andrews, Henry F. Butler, Willie J. Sears, Fred Roseborough, Alvin Allen Jr. and Terry L. Payne filed similar lawsuits. Alice Stewart asked that her lawsuit be dismissed, citing no

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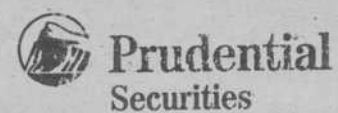
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