

NEWS CLIPS

18TH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING PARADE FLOAT DEADLINE IS FRIDAY

The deadline for applications is Friday, Jan. 8, at 5 p.m. for the 18th annual Martin Luther King parade. The parade is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 16. It begins at 10 a.m. downtown. The fee is \$50 and payable only by money order or business check. Applications accepted after the deadline will be assessed a \$10 nonrefundable late fee. Applications can be mailed to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, P.O. Box 4324, Las Vegas, Nevada 89127. Those interested in more information can call parade chairman Eddie Taylor at 658-8440, Marcia Washington at 799-0670, or Larry Weekly at 631-1913.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT RACES RACE WARNING

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A committee assignment for the 1999 legislative session could divide the state Assembly's Black Caucus and cause disharmony among Democrats, a legislator says in a letter of protest to a party leader. The memorandum by Rep. G. Spencer Coggs, D-Milwaukee, objects to plans by Democratic minority leader Shirley Krug to remove him from the influential Joint Finance Committee. Krug, D-Milwaukee, said last week she plans to appoint Rep. Antonio Riley, D-Milwaukee, instead of Coggs after the Legislature convenes next week. Riley and Coggs are black. Coggs has been on the budget-writing committee since 1993. Krug declined to offer reasons for replacing Coggs but said Riley will be a competent member of the committee. Eight Democrats, she said, sought appointment to the committee, sometimes considered the Legislature's most prestigious because of its policy-making influence.

AUTHORITIES: CHURCH VANDALISM MIGHT BE RACIALLY MOTIVATED

GALESTOWN, Md. (AP) — Authorities in Dorchester County suspect two juveniles are responsible for shooting out the windows of a church in Galestown and vandalizing it, in an attack investigators believe was racially motivated. Police said the juveniles attacked the First Church of God on Dec. 28. The youths caused \$3,000 in damage, said James W. Phillips Jr., chief deputy of the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office. When deputies questioned one of the suspects, Phillips said, the youth referred several times to the race of the church's congregation, which is black. The 14-year-old suspect was arrested and charged with malicious destruction of property, fourth-degree burglary and defacing religious property. The last offense falls under the Maryland Hate Crime statute. The youth was released to a guardian. Phillips said another arrest is expected soon. The juveniles became suspects after town residents told police the youths bragged about what they had done. The church and nearby buildings are a summer retreat for the congregation, used mainly from June to August.

NAACP'S MINNEAPOLIS ELECTIONS BACK ON AGAIN

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — An election for president of the Minneapolis branch of the NAACP is back on the calendar. The national office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ruled that retiring state Rep. Richard Jefferson is ineligible to run for president of the Minneapolis branch. The national office ruled that Jefferson, a lifelong NAACP member, was not current on his dues payments, making him ineligible as a candidate. Instead, Minneapolis Deputy Fire Chief Ricky Campbell will campaign to unseat incumbent president Leola Seals. The eligibility dispute forced the postponement of a November election after the national organization was called in to mediate. The election takes place Saturday at Sabathani Community Center. Matt Little, a former president of the local chapter, called the ruling on Jefferson's eligibility "a technicality." Jefferson is a lifelong member of the organization, under which he voluntarily pays higher dues of \$500 over 10 years. Several years ago he made a payment of several hundred dollars to the organization and thought that he was paid for upcoming years, Little said. Jefferson said he hadn't been notified of due dates for installments of that membership but that he paid up the entire amount when he was told he was behind.

Asheville NAACP officers get suspended

ASHEVILLE (AP) — The national NAACP has suspended all officers of its Asheville branch for noncompliance with state and national mandates, the executive director of the state organization said.

State NAACP officials will be in Asheville within 30 days to elect new officers and reorganize. Those officers could include President H.K. Edgerton and other suspended incumbents if the voting membership so chooses, said the Rev. George I. Allison.

In the meantime, officers must not make any

administrative decisions or actions, Allison said in a letter to Edgerton dated Dec. 22.

"Any and all actions taken by you in the capacity of president or in any other capacity of the Asheville NAACP branch is invalid and out of compliance at this time," Allison said in the letter.

Edgerton said the noncompliance involved a failure to pay assessments of about \$2,250 to the state chapter. But he said he had made arrangements — with Allison's approval — with one of the state organization's financial officers to pay half

of the amount due by Jan. 17, and that he understood that would constitute compliance.

Allison refused to say which of the mandates had not been met by the Asheville branch, but said they could include "financial reports submitted timely on an annual basis, activity reports submitted timely on an annual basis and all financial assessments that are required to be submitted annually — those are the three basic items."

The national office could have suspended the branch's charter but instead decided to reorganize, Allison said.

The action comes after Edgerton earlier this month asked a Black Mountain law firm headed by a white separatist to help the local NAACP sue the city. The local NAACP branches believes the city has failed to look into why blacks are underrepresented as homeowners.

Edgerton asked attorney Kirk Lyons for help on the issue. Lyons founded the now-defunct legal foundation CAUSE, which stands for Canada, Australia, United States, South Africa and Europe.

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Retired Tuskegee airman commander gets fourth star

By Sonya Ross

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a beaming group of Tuskegee Airmen looking on, President Clinton made a four-star general of their commander, Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., whose audacity and heroism helped open doors for blacks in the armed forces.

"He earned this honor a long time ago," Clinton said.

Davis, 85, stood straight and stern in his blue Air Force uniform while his sister, Elnora Davis McLendon, joined Clinton in pinning on his fourth star at a White House ceremony last Wednesday.

"I'm extremely proud to have been a member of the United States Air Force," Davis said. "I will not make a speech, but I say to you, ladies



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

President Clinton and Elnora Davis McLendon, former Lt. General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.'s sister, decorate Davis with his General stripes in a ceremony Dec. 9.

and gentlemen, that all of us owe great thanks to the United States Air Force for its contributions."

The heavily decorated

command pilot drew long applause from a crowd that ranged from enlisted airmen to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Defense Secretary

William Cohen. "Your patriotism and love of country was deeper than the racism that was all around

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