

HEALTH

The Rev. Starkes to lead HIV/AIDS discussion at Borders

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Rev. Lionel Starkes, an HIV/AIDS counselor for the Clark County Health District, will lead a panel discussion on the impact of HIV/AIDS in Las Vegas in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

The event is set for Borders, 2190 N. Rainbow Blvd., at West Lake Mead, Mon. Jan. 18, 2-4 p.m.

Starkes and other panelists will talk about the civil rights leader's impact and theorize how he would have led the battle against AIDS had he been alive.

King was gunned down on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tenn. His birthday became an official national holiday in 1986.

The Nellis Air Force Gospel Choir under the direction of Sgt. Randy Webster and

Rejoice!, a handbell ensemble from First Presbyterian Church under the direction of Dixie Bailey will sing Monday during the musical observance of King day. Start time is 2 p.m.

"Our King Day observance is about the legacy Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. left us with," says David Jonas, Borders general manager. "His is a legacy that continually confronts us to do something, and that something is to stand up and represent those in the margins of society. Those who are struggling with HIV/AIDS are in the margins of society. We are thankful to all who are lending their time to help educate and inform the community on the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS," he continued.

Since Clark County began keeping records

in September 1985, 3,007 cases of AIDS have been diagnosed. Of the 3,007 reported cases, 60 percent have died, Starkes said.

"Today the virus is attacking all segments of the population — all ages," Starkes said. "It's an epidemic, but it's preventable. It's an illness that is widespread. It's preventable in that no one has to catch the virus. With proper information and education people can avoid catching the virus or change behaviors if needed. People don't have to put themselves at risk."

"Nationally, a disproportionate number of African-Americans are testing positive for HIV. Forty-three percent of the new HIV/AIDS cases are African-Americans, though we only make up 13 percent of the population," he said. "Of all the females who are HIV

positive, African-Americans make up 53 percent. Greater than 50 percent of all HIV babies are African-American."

Starkes, who was recently ordained into the priesthood at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, will lead off the panel discussion with a keynote talk titled: "Would the Drum Major for Justice be a Drum Major for AIDS?"

Other panelists include Gloria Jackson, an outpatient counselor with the Healthy Families Project; Vaughan Taylor, an HIV prevention specialist with Aid For AIDS of Nevada; the Rev. David Gillentine, associate pastor of Community Metropolitan Church; and Ulysses Palrose, a registered nurse and the HIV/AIDS Care Coordinator with Sierra Health Services.

Research could lead to improved treatment of severe head injury

Special to Sentinel-Voice

HOUSTON — Research on the brain's blood flow might lead to improved recovery from severe head trauma.

"Traumatic injuries are the leading cause of death in persons ages 1 to 45," said Dr. Claudia Robertson, program director for the study at Houston's Baylor College

of Medicine and Ben Taub General Hospital. "In more than half of these deaths, head injury is the leading factor."

Each year, nearly two million Americans require

medical attention for a brain injury. Of those injured, nearly 74,000 will have a long-term disability, and another 75,000 will die.

Through a study funded

by the National Institutes of Health, a diverse team of researchers is looking for new treatments to improve the long-term outcome of head-injury patients.

"One of the problems with severe head injury is that the blood flow to the brain is lower than it should be," Robertson said. "Blood flow (See Brain, Page 11)

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