

NEWS CLIPS

FREE LEGAL INFORMATION CLASSES SET TO BEGIN

UNLV's Law School and Clark County Legal Services will offer free legal education classes beginning Monday. The classes will cover small claims court, housing and family law and will be taught by UNLV law students under the supervision of an attorney with Clark County Legal Services. "More and more individuals cannot afford an attorney but need vital legal information to protect their rights," said Leah A. Kane, an attorney spearheading the program. "The William S. Boyd School of Law is committed to being a community service institution and we are delighted to be a partner in this endeavor," said Richard Morgan, Dean of UNLV's law school. Those interested can call 386-1070, Ext. 155.

NAACP'S MFUME BLASTS COURT RULING BARRING SAMPLING

Barring the use of the scientific statistical method to conduct the constitutionally mandated census is a "costly miscalculation by the Justices to ensure equality for all Americans," said NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume in response to the Supreme Court's ruling on Jan. 25. "This decision is a blow to democracy given the failures of the last three census counts. In 1990, the census utilized the traditional head count method that again disproportionately undercounted or excluded 8.4 million children, Blacks, Latinos and poor Whites," Mfume said. "It is outrageous that the earlier bi-partisan efforts supporting the statistical count by Congress and then-President George Bush are rebuked by the high court and the current Republican leadership. They have the ability to amend the 1976 federal census law that 'directly prohibits the use of sampling in the determination of population for the purposes of apportionment.' Statistical sampling is the sound, scientific way to ensure a more accurate count in the year 2000."

HERITAGE CREST SERIES UNVEILED AT SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM

The "World Symbol of Unity," the Heritage Crest, was recently unveiled at the Smithsonian Institution's Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C. The event was a part of a world-wide tour launched by the Society of the Heritage Crest, founded and chaired by Charles Walker, Jr. Developed to tell stories of triumph and tribulation from various cultures, the series began with the unveiling of the African-American crest. It will be followed by the Spanish, Jewish, Asian and Native American crests. Walker, who served on the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, said the Heritage Crest was introduced as a symbol for unity and to combat hate. "The Heritage Crest reminds us that all people face adversity and that triumph of the Word (spirit) is what unifies us. Each of the crests' 21 symbols represents centuries of history and significant milestones to which we all can and do relate as testaments to survival and faith." Actor-comedian Steve Harvey is one of the national spokespersons for the society. He will assist in raising awareness and meaning of the crest across the country. The society's licensing board will grant rights to select corporations to use the crest insignia as a seal of approval to signify their appreciation of all people regardless of color. The crest will also be displayed on consumer goods. The Society of the Heritage Crest can be reached at (706) 722-4222.

VIRGINIA HEADQUARTERS FOR NATION'S TOP BLACK FIRMS

Seven percent of the largest Black-owned firms in the nation are headquartered in Fairfax County, Va., according to a list recently released by Black Enterprise. The magazine's annual list ranks the top 100 companies by annual revenues. Virginia leads all states with 16 firms headquartered in the commonwealth, followed by Michigan, New York, Maryland and Illinois. The increase in African-American-owned businesses in Fairfax County is a part of a national trend. The latest data from the Census Bureau indicate that from 1928 to 1987 the number of Black-owned businesses nationally rose 46 percent. In Fairfax County, the number of firms rose from 1,322 in 1987 to the current 2,264.

Clinton salutes Black History month

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton issued his annual Black History Month proclamation Monday, urging the nation to "not only remember the tragic errors of our past, but also celebrate the achievements" of the American descendants of African slaves.

Clinton said this year's events should focus on the proud legacy of leadership blacks have built over their 350-year history in the United States despite the trauma of slavery and government-sanctioned segregation.

He urged public officials, educators, librarians and citizens in general to draw from the power of this collective achievement as they seek to resolve racial problems.

Specifically, Clinton listed notable blacks from NAACP co-founder W.E.B. DuBois to Martin Luther King Jr., and said all Americans could draw from the "skills, determination and indefatigable spirit" they displayed as they were "shaped but not defeated by their experience of racism."

"We remember Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth,

whose powerful firsthand accounts of their lives as slaves and the moral strength of their argument helped create the momentum that brought an end to slavery in America," Clinton said.

"In our own century, ... we remember the strength of Rosa Parks, who stood up for civil rights by sitting down where she belonged.

"African-Americans have been a central element of our national identity, and their long journey from the horrors of slavery and oppression ... informs our national experience," Clinton said. "We not only remember the tragic errors of our past, but also celebrate the achievements of African-Americans and the promise they hold for our future as one America."

In his proclamation, Clinton referred to February as "National African-American History Month," incorporating the increasingly popular reference to black Americans that was advanced by civil rights activist Jesse Jackson roughly 10 years ago.

Brawley supporter refuses to apologize for insult

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. (AP) — A defiant Alton Maddox returned to the scene of the Tawana Brawley defamation trial, refusing to apologize for calling an opposing lawyer a "bald-faced racist."

Maddox arrived at the Dutchess County courthouse Monday, the deadline for the apology ordered by Justice S. Barrett Hickman. Maddox was accompanied by the Rev. Al Sharpton, the activist who was one of his codefendants in the defamation trial

presided over by Hickman.

But in a court brief, Maddox said an apology to William Stanton would be "an act of treason to my Creator, my ancestors."

Maddox, a lawyer, has been suspended from practicing law since 1990 for making outrageous statements and charges. His action Monday could result in his disbarment.

The judge's office said he had no comment Monday. The case will now be referred to another judge.

Maddox made the remarks to Stanton in response to what he said were insensitive comments.

At the time, Stanton was representing Stephen Pagonos, who sued Maddox, Sharpton and C. Vernon Mason for accusing him of raping Brawley, a 15-year-old black girl, in 1987.

Pagonos won a \$345,000 judgment in the defamation trial last summer. A grand jury had previously concluded Brawley's story of abduction and rape by a racist

group of whites was a hoax, perhaps concocted to avoid punishment for staying out late.

Stanton said he doesn't care whether he ever receives an apology.

"I was never anticipating an apology, and as far as I'm concerned, the trial is over and I have to get onto my other clients," Stanton said. "Unfortunately, (Maddox) has been suspended and he doesn't have any, so he has time to go to Poughkeepsie and perform his theatrics."

Powell comfortable with life away from politics

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Retired Gen. Colin Powell says he's comfortable with his decision to remain in private life and likely will stay away from politics in the next election.

"My place in life is in private life, serving the nation in private life and doing

something I think is quite important," he said last Thursday while in town to talk to business leaders and tour a youth club.

Powell referred to Michael Jordan's announcement last week that he was retiring from basketball. Jordan said he was "99.9 percent" sure he

wouldn't play again. "I found Michael a little wishy-washy," Powell said. "He said 99.9 percent. I'm more sure than that. I have been comfortable with it from the day I made it, 100 percent."

As a retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who played a prominent role in

the Gulf War, Powell is viewed as a serious presidential contender. A black moderate, he is considered by some as the sort of candidate Republicans should field if they want to win back the White House.

During the last
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