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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Sentinel-Voice photo taken by Ramon Savoy

Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates, center, joined other dignitaries Friday for the grand opening of the new Clark County Community Resource Center.

County Resource Center opens

Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

North Las Vegas' renewal took another step forward with last week's grand opening and open house of the Clark County Community Resource Center on Martin Luther King Boulevard and Carey Avenue.

Unveiled during Friday's event were the North Las Vegas Justice Court, 2428 Martin Luther King Blvd., the Department of Family and Youth Services and Neighborhood Services, 2424 MLK Blvd., and the Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Senior Center, 2420 MLK Blvd. The Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County will run the King Senior Center.

The buildings are part of the first phase of construction. Two more phases, which will include the building of a memorial plaza and a headquarters for the North Las Vegas

Constable, are expected to be finished in 2000.

When the project is completed a 12-foot statue of King in flowing clergy robes will stand in the plaza. Norwest Bank Nevada, North America donated \$25,000 for the statue.

"This is long overdue," said Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson-Gates, who welcomed the crowd at the event. She hopes to continue renewal efforts since the center is located in the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community — which qualifies for federal improvement funds and offers incentives for businesses willing to set up in the urban valley.

The center sits on an 8.5-acre lot donated by Collins Brothers and the Hecht family. A combination of county, federal and donation (See MLK Center, Page 7)

Man guilty in Texas dragging death

JASPER, Texas (AP) — A white supremacist was convicted of murder Tuesday and could get the death penalty for chaining a black man to a pickup truck and dragging him until his body was torn to pieces in a crime that shocked the nation with its savagery.

The jury of 11 whites and one black took less than 2 1/2 hours to reach a verdict against John William King in the slaying last June of James Byrd Jr. Courtroom spectators applauded and the victim's relatives broke into tears.

The jury then heard evidence on whether the 24-year-old laborer should get the death penalty or life in prison for one of the grisliest racial crimes in the United States since the civil rights era. The penalty phase continued Wednesday.

"I am relieved," said Stella Brumley, Byrd's sister. "That's all we wanted, was justice."

His son, Ross Byrd, said: "All I know is that there's one down and two to go."

King was the first of three white men to go on trial in the slaying, which prosecutors said he carried out because he wanted "something dramatic" to gain credibility for a racist group he was organizing.

King leaned forward when the verdict was read, shielding himself from cameras, then sat back in his chair with his fingers on his chin.

One of his lawyers said King was not surprised by the verdict and considered himself the victim of a conspiracy.

"I hope he receives life without parole," the Rev. Jesse Jackson said from New York. "If these three men saw killing as a solution in their sick state, then we in our sober and sane state must know killing is not a solution."

NAACP President Kweisi Mfume said the case "clearly shouts across the world for

the urgent need of this Congress to move quickly to strengthen and to pass anti-hate legislation."

President Clinton said nationwide expressions of outrage over Byrd's death "demonstrate that an act of evil like this is not what our country is all about."

He added: "Our work for racial reconciliation and an end to all crimes of hatred in this country will go on."

Byrd's head and arm were found torn off after he was pulled nearly three miles while tied by his ankles with a 24 1/2-foot logging chain.

The murder thrust Jasper into a national spotlight that many in the half-black timber town of 8,000 contended was unfair. Members of the Ku Klux Klan and New Black Panthers descended on Jasper, about 100 miles northeast of Houston, to demonstrate.

"Three robed riders coming straight out of hell— (See Jasper, Page 3)



RBD founder Muhammad Nassardeen, right, chats with Frederic Willis Thursday during the business group's inaugural Las Vegas luncheon.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Luncheon introduces business group to Vegas

Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

Approximately 50 people attended a luncheon introducing a new business membership organization to Las Vegas.

Recycling Black Dollars' Friday luncheon at Grace Mercy Christian Ministry, 5828 Spring Mountain Road, Suite 314, featured guest speakers such as Von Robinson, senior vice president of Founders National Bank in Los Angeles, Ernest Fountain, founder and CEO of New

Ventures Capital Development and Enterprise Community Credit Union, Ted Eagans, founder of the human rights organization, Lift Every Voice, Inc., and RBD founder Muhammad Nassardeen.

Eleven locals joined the group, bringing membership to 17, according to RBD executive director Bronnda Everett.

Though the structure of the Las Vegas chapter has yet to be laid out, Everett said she will recruit more businesses and (See Luncheon, Page 2)

Black publishers' group blasts auto manufacturer over racist advertisement

Special to Sentinel-Voice
The Philadelphia Tribune

A controversial advertisement printed in *Jet* magazine has erupted into an avalanche of outrage among African-American publishers and business leaders, with many referring to the ad as "blatantly racist."

Recently, Toyota Motor Sales Inc. placed an ad in *Jet*

magazine, the weekly periodical, featuring the catch phrase, "Unlike your last boyfriend, it [the car] goes to work in the morning." African-American leaders say the ad is an overt jab at black men, who are often stereotyped as shiftless and lazy.

Dorothy Leavell, president of the National

Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), said the advertisement "stinks of racism."

"I am outraged," Leavell said during a telephone interview. "To imply that black men wouldn't work, but yet the car would, is an example of blatant racism, and displays insensitivity and irresponsibility towards

African-Americans.

"I'm just trying to imagine what [Toyota and *Jet* officials] were thinking. I feel the ad is just totally irresponsible." The controversial advertisement appeared in the Jan. 25 issue of *Jet*, one of the top-selling magazines aimed at an African-American audience.

The uproar from black

leaders prompted *Jet* and Toyota to print two full-page retractions in the Feb. 15 edition, apologizing for an apparent oversight.

In *Jet's* retraction the magazine said officials "do not approve" of the ad and "regret that it escaped our attention."

Leavell questions how an oversight of such magnitude

could have been made.

"*Jet* magazine said the ad was one that 'fell through the cracks,'" noted Leavell. "It's very hard to believe they let such blatantly racist material simply fall through the cracks."

Diana DeJoseph, senior media relations administration for Toyota Motors Inc., (See Advertisement, Page 2)