

# COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

## FRIDAY, APRIL 23

"Pneumonia Vaccine Clinic", 1 pm - 3 pm, Senior Friends, MountainView office by the Clark County Health District. The Health District accepts Humana, PacifiCare, Railroad and Medicare Part B (deductible and coinsurance do not apply). Cost of Vaccine \$18, if you do not have the above insurance or Medicare parts. Please call 255-5404 for reservations.... The Poets' Corner, 7 pm, West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 West Lake Mead. Join community griots Pendelita Toney and Keith Brantley for an evening of readings featuring the WLVAC Poetry Workshop and local poets. Free. 229-4800.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 24

A Night at the Apollo with Delta Sigma Theta at the Flamingo Library Theatre. For info. call Mr. Juanita Green 656-1459.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 25

The True Vine Baptist Church Annual Usher's Day, 3 pm, 500 Jackson Street, Corner of "E" and Jackson. The entire community is invited to worship with us. Pastor Bervin Oats, 648-6700.

## MONDAY, APRIL 26

Nevada Republican Network, 7 pm, Clark County Election Department, Clark County Government Center, 500 Grand Central Parkway. Topics & Tours of the Election Dept. to include: Meeting newly appointed Registrar of Voters, Larry Lomax, Demonstration of the Sequia Voting Machines and more. Call Donna, Program Chairman at 871-1414.... CCSN Opens Summer, Fall '99 Registration. CCSN'S Summer session features courses taught in four-week, six, eight and ten-week terms to fit work schedules and lifestyles of students and employees. A second four-week session begins July 6. Pay tuition by automated phone system at 643-7026 or toll-free 800-440-7026.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

St. Vincent HELP Apartments Grand Opening, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm, St. Vincent HELP Apartments, 1516 North Main Street. St. Vincent's HELP, Inc., is a nonprofit partnership of HELP USA and Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada. Call Laurie Perez, Community Relations Coordinator at 385-2662.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 29

"Is your business prepared for Year 2000?" Get Y2K OK, Y2K Conference, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, MGM Grand Convention Center. No Host Mixer and Solutions Trade Show/Expo to follow. Special Keynote Speaker, John Daly, host, RealTV, Carl Morse, U.S. Small Business Administration, Robert C. Johnson, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.... "E-Mail: What is it All About and How Do You Use It?", 1:30 - 2:30 pm, Sunrise Senior Friends Resource Center-Green Valley, 2809 N. Green Valley Parkway. Learn to communicate with family, friends and co-workers through the internet. Reservation required. Call 434-6500.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 30

Spring Dance Concert-Horn Theatre, Friday, 7:30 pm, Saturday, May 1, 2 and 7:30 pm, Community College of Southern Nevada, Cheyenne Campus. Admission \$8, students and seniors \$5. The Nannette Brodie Dance Theatre of Long Beach, California joins the CCSN Dance Ensemble to present contemporary choreographic works. Reception with the dancers to follow. Call 651-4201.... *Over the Rainbow*, a 100 year historical journey through the evolution of the lesbian and gay civil rights movement, 7 pm, Huntridge Theater, 1208 E. Charleston. Tickets \$10. Call Tasha Hill at 733-9800 for tickets and information.

## In Memoriam

Nasheka Andrea Searcy died Saturday, April 17, 1999.

Born in Ashland Alabama in 1983, Nasheka came to Las Vegas 12 years ago with her family.

The young teen attended Las Vegas High School and was an active, vibrant member of many organizations and clubs, including R.O.T.C. at her school.

She is survived by her mother, Sandra Searcy, grandmother, Geraldine Searcy, and many aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and classmates.

Wake and funeral services will be held at Harrison Ross Mortuaries, 2071 N. Las Vegas Blvd. The wake will take place on Thursday, April 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. The funeral will be on Friday, April 23 at 2 p.m.

The family asks that all sympathizers send donations, rather than flowers or gift baskets, to help cover the costs of transporting Nasheka's remains back to Alabama. Please make checks or money orders payable to Sandra Searcy or Geraldine Searcy and mail them i/c/o Harrison Ross Mortuaries, 2071 N. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89030.



Nasheka Andrea Searcy

# HEALTH

## Women with disabilities face healthcare barriers

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*  
HOUSTON — Women with physical disabilities often encounter a number of barriers when trying to access healthcare, says a researcher at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

"Women with physical disabilities face architectural, attitude, and knowledge barriers," said Dr. Margaret Nosek, director of the Center for Research on Women with Disabilities (CROWD) at Baylor.

A lack of accessible equipment in many physician's offices makes it difficult for women with

disabilities to go for a regular pelvic exam or mammogram.

"Most women with physical disabilities have a hard time getting up on regular exam tables, and mammograms are very difficult for those who cannot stand up," said Nosek, a Baylor professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation. "Purchasing elevating exam tables and other equipment would open up a physician's practice to a lot more women and make access to healthcare much easier."

Public misconceptions about women with physical disabilities are a big problem.

Research at Baylor has shown that many people do not think women with physical disabilities have sexual or reproductive health needs.

"Unfortunately, this attitude has filtered down to many physicians," Nosek said. "Some do not think pelvic exams are necessary because they do not think women with disabilities are sexually active. This is a dangerous assumption, and it's false."

Nosek believes the biggest barrier is the lack of information about how a disability affects ordinary health needs.

"No one knows the course of heart disease of a person in a wheelchair, or how pregnancy affects a woman with spinal cord injuries, or a muscle disorder," Nosek said. "There has been little research into these and many other areas. Therefore, physicians are rarely taught how to treat any of these things."

This often leads to illnesses such as heart disease, and osteoporosis being passed off as part of the disability. "Physicians should treat women with disabilities as women first, and look at the disability second," Nosek said.

## Drug companies testing medicines to make childhood healthier

Larry Lucas

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

One of my earliest memories is of quarantine notices nailed up on people's doors, warning that someone in the household had measles or mumps or some other contagious disease. Thanks to vaccines, those and other diseases — including diphtheria, whooping cough and the much dreaded polio — have passed into history. It's a lot healthier to be a kid than it used to be, and it will soon be even healthier. Pharmaceutical companies are currently developing 207 new medicines to meet the special needs of children.

These include:

- 47 to treat cancer, which remains the leading disease killer of children under 15, despite the fact that death rates for children cancer have declined 57 percent since the

early 1970s.

- 15 to treat asthma, a growing threat, particularly among African-Americans.

- 14 for AIDS and related disorders. African-American children account for more than half of the cases of HIV infection and for more than half of the deaths from AIDS among children.

- 10 for psychiatric disorders, including depression, schizophrenia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

In addition, companies are testing new medicines for children with infections, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, epilepsy, gastrointestinal disorders, respiratory disorders, rheumatoid arthritis, skin disorders and other diseases.

Of particular interest to African-Americans is a new medicine now being tested

for sickle cell disease. Sickle cell disease is an inherited disease of red blood cells that can cause attacks of pain and damage to vital organs. It affects more than 70,000 Americans — one in every 1,000 babies born in the U.S. — and the overwhelming majority of these patients are African-Americans.

Young children with this disease are especially vulnerable to severe bacterial infections, such as those that cause meningitis and septicemia. A new drug now in clinical trials for children from birth to adulthood creates a coating on the damaged, sickle-shaped cells, allowing them to flow more smoothly through the bloodstream. In preliminary studies, the drug helped shorten the duration of the crises that sickle cell patients suffer, reducing pain and

hospital stays and improving the quality of life for these children.

At the beginning of the 20th century, death claimed four out of 10 American children before they were old enough to leave home. In African-American families, the losses were probably even greater. Thanks to medicines and vaccines, things are a lot better for today's children. And the 207 more medicines in development will help even more children run, jump, dance, learn and grown into healthy adults.

For more information about "New Medicines in Development for Children," see PhRMA's website at [www.phrma.org](http://www.phrma.org).

Larry Lucas is Associate Vice President of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.



Harvey

# Munford

FOR CITY COUNCIL • WARD 3  
• FOR ALL OF US •

Clark County School District Teacher and Community College Professor

### Concerns and Programs:

- Develop a Strong and Economically Viable Economic Zone
- Develop a Strong Youth Program for Ward 3
- Create a Healthy and Safe Living Environment
- Improve Educational Opportunities for Everyone

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