

Conference sheds light on volunteerism

Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

The Points of Light Foundation ended the second annual National Community Service Conference Wednesday, concluding a 4-day Caesars Palace conference that trained citizens on how to volunteer more effectively.

Three thousand people attended over the course of the conference, sampling from volunteer organizations, community groups, corporations and the military ways to increase and improve upon volunteer efforts.

"Volunteering is the currency which helps to sustain the social contract,"

said Robert Goodwin, president and CEO of the Points of Light Foundation. "It's the thing that anybody can do that has proven to bridge the chasms which divide."

Goodwin, who is African-American, said he hopes more African-Americans get involved in volunteering and providing services.

Begun in 1990, the nonprofit Points of Light Foundation seeks to build community by engaging people in volunteer community service. The foundation distributes information and resources through 450 Volunteer Centers located throughout

the country. Its board of directors includes the likes of Dr. C. Delores Tucker, founder of the National Political Congress of Black Women and former President George Bush.

Officials estimated that 93 million people over the age of 18 volunteered in 1995, the last year for which data is available. Most volunteers, 55 percent, are between the ages of 35 and 44. Over 11,000,000 African-American volunteer, 35 percent of all blacks in the country.

"Community is a series of life actions," said Clifton Taulbert, a former bank executive, author and lecturer

who penned the classic bestseller "Once Upon a Time when we were Colored."

Taulbert spoke during a conference plenary session on the concept of community and volunteerism.

In an interview with the *Sentinel-Voice*, he explained the meaning of community.

"The first place (that community develops) is the home," he said. "The relationships that exist between the homeowners and the young people in the home is crucial. The adults are the builders of that next generation. The example they set, the care they give, the acts of learning that take place set the stage."

City-county park honors local civil rights activist

Special to Sentinel-Voice

A new recreation site named for a Southern Nevada civil rights activist will be the focus of a 9 a.m. community celebration Saturday.

Clark County and the City of Las Vegas officials will be on hand for the grand opening of Clarence Ray Memorial Park, 952 N. Tonopah Ave.

The free event, hosted by Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates and City of Las Vegas Councilman Gary Reese, will feature games and activities for children supervised by the county's Rec Mobile and city's Ramblin' Rec teams, refreshments and music.

Ray helped to secure civil rights and political advancement the West Las Vegas in the '30s and early '40s. He co-founded the first Las Vegas Chapter of the NAACP and was involved in forming the Nevada Voters' League. Both organizations were instrumental in opening up job opportunities for African-Americans at a time when segregation and discrimination flourished.

Ray published his book, "Clarence Ray," as a part of a series giving a commemorative historical account of Black Nevadans and their influence in Southern Nevada.

Clarence Ray Memorial Park is a one-acre site adjacent to the Early Childhood Development Center which provides education to children between the ages of 3 and 5.

The new playground gives the children and youth people from surrounding neighborhoods a close recreational option.

The park features a playground tot lot, sitting area, walkways, fencing, water fountains, security lighting, turf and trees.

The plan for the \$360,000 park was approved jointly by Clark County and the City of Las Vegas Manager's office. Land donated by the Clark County School District will be turned over to the City of Las Vegas for ownership, maintenance and operations.

"The Clarence Ray Memorial Park serves as a reminder to the entire community to actively participate in helping to improve and preserve the quality of life for all residents through a true sense of involvement and concern," Gates said. "Clarence Ray was a model citizen, and his achievements should inspire us to become active members of the community."

Those interested in more information can call 455-7240.

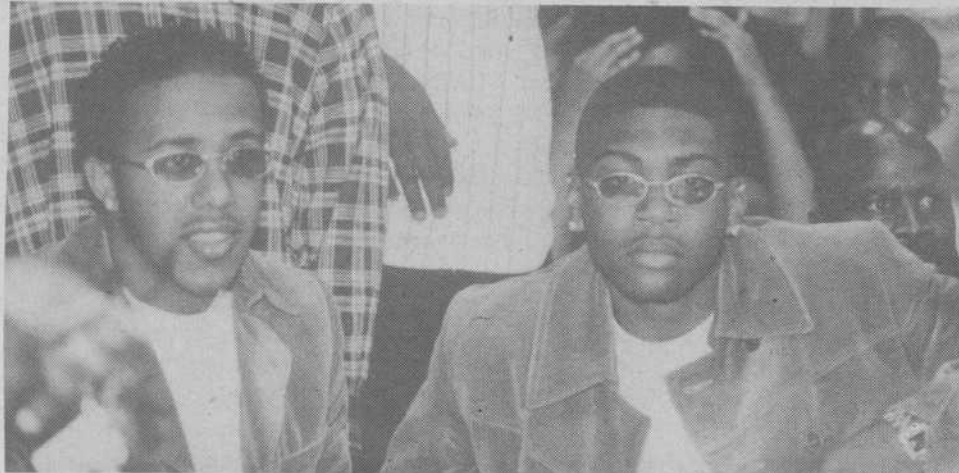
Event kicks off safe summer youth campaign

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Cheyenne High's gym resonated with high-energy as basketball and celebrity entertainment combined during a festive event touting peace in the streets.

The Summer Power Slam 99 Celebrity Basketball Game was held in conjunction with the national peace campaign "Safe Night USA," which promotes no violence, no drugs and no guns.

"This is exactly the type of event that will break the cycle of gangs, drugs, and violence," said Jo Anne Embry, crime prevention and special projects coordinator for the state Attorney General's Office. "Peace and



R&B group Immature lent their talents to the event.

harmony are contagious ... no piece of legislation can do this."

The basketball competition included 3-on-3 games for elementary and middle school youth, ladies and men along with 3-point shooting

contests. A step group and two drill teams dazzled the crowd with their own fancy footwork.

"This is our annual kick off for the "Peace Campaign" said Sherman Rutledge, general manager of KCEP-

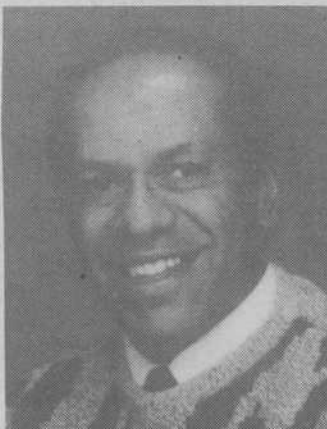
FM 88.1. "It helps Hen Hen (of the Dog Catchers Foundation), Power 88, and other youth organizations to hold events like this and help out the community."

Said Henry Thorns, (See Slam, Page 16)

Humanitarian passes after bout with cancer

Ramon Del Rio, husband, father and one of Las Vegas' most dedicated and committed city workers, passed away after a harrowing battle with cancer.

Del Rio worked with the housing division for more than two decades, establishing programs for low-income homeowners to rehabilitate their homes.



RAMON DEL RIO

"He didn't do a lot of things around the house," his wife, Lynnette said. "He was always so busy helping other people."

A memorial service for the beloved Las Vegan will be held Saturday at 1 p.m. at Griffith United Methodist Church, 1701 E. Oakey Blvd.

Besides his wife, Del Rio is survived by his father, Ramon, two brothers, Tony and Mario, his sister Carmencita, two daughters, Deidra and Terri, two sons, Sean and Carlos and four grandchildren.

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TIMOTHY C. WILLIAMS

Timothy Williams is a member of the Nevada & Illinois State Bar, practicing primarily in personal injury cases.

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