

# COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 28-30**  
**IBP Of OEW Alpha Temple No. 1180 and Paran Lodge No. 1508** presents their 4th Annual Elks Family Reunion. This three day event consist of a fish fry, social/dance, bar-b-que, card/dominoc tournament, breakfast and dinner. The event is taking place at 600 W. Owens Ave. Contact Bobbie Minefee at 642-8748 for additional information.

**THURSDAY, MAY 4**  
**The North Las Vegas Library District** is sponsoring a small business assistance forum. This workshop is designed to help you and your business in accessing credit, training problems and management issues. Joint participation by the Nevada MicroEnterprise Initiative, Women's Business Center, SBA, SBDC and SCORE starts at 6pm. The North Las Vegas Library, 2300 Civic Center Dr. Need more information, call 633-1070... **The Las Vegas Academy** presents "Ce n'est pas une exposition?" This exhibition of visual arts students' two and three-dimensional artwork will be on display at the Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 Las Vegas Blvd. No. through June 26. A welcome reception for the artists from the Clark County magnet program begins at 6 pm. For information, call 229-4631.

**SATURDAY, MAY 6**  
**American Cancer Society** presents "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer." Come out and join the fight against one of the biggest threats to women's lives today. The 3.1 mile walk begins at 7 am at the Paseo Verde Park in Henderson. For more information call 798-6877... **National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer, Inc. and The Women's Health Connection** will be conducting free breast exams, pelvic exams and pap smears for women 40-64 who meet income guidelines. Free mammograms for women 50 and over who meet income guidelines. Testing begins at 9 am at the Von's Supermarket, 1061 W. Owens Ave. Contact Tamara Alonzo at 671-2379 to see if you qualify.

**SUNDAY, MAY 7**  
**The All-Star High School Jazz Band** will be performing a series of contemporary and traditional jazz selections in concert at the Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 Las Vegas Blvd. No. The jazz band comprise of young musicians selected through auditions from southern Nevada high schools. The concert starts at 2 pm. Admission is free. Need more information, call 229-6211.

**ONGOING**  
**The Cultural and Community Affairs Division of the City of Las Vegas Department of Leisure Services** presents "Community Roots Art Display." Eight local artist, Cochise Couyette, Albert Fennell, Joseph House, Frank James, Randy Proby, Gene Redden, Gwen Walker and Michael Wiggins will display two and three-dimensional works. Various mediums including sculpture, painting, miniatures, collages and doll collections can be seen through June 17th. The West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd. For more details call the center at 229-4800... **The Professional Black Women's Alliance, general membership meetings** 10 am the second Saturday of the month. H & H Barbeque Restaurant, 910 N. Martin L. King Blvd. Call Lillian McMorris, president, to answer your questions at 631-0000, fax 313-5255 or email msill@aol.com... **Left of Center Art Gallery**, in North Las Vegas, has a new exhibition "Southern Exposure" on display through June 23. Local photographer Kenn Ruffin exhibits a collection of photographic expressions based on life in the rural south and southwest. The gallery is located at 2207 W. Gowan Rd. Call 647-7378 for additional information..... **Las Vegas Civic Ballet offers Dance Classes for Beginners and Intermediate Students**, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 Las Vegas Blvd. No. Classes open to all ages, are \$25 per month and available Monday through Friday. Registration for all classes and workshops is on going. Call 229-2320 or 229-6211. .... **Champions of Organ Sharing Meetings**, 7 pm, every third Wednesday of the month, Sunrise Hospital Auditorium. Purpose: To act as a support group for organ transplantation recipients and candidates awaiting organs and more. Call Doris Doss at 894-9729 or Joe Novak at 365-8138..... **Nathan Adelson Hospice offering a twenty-four hour Volunteer Education Training Course.** The course will provide volunteers with the tools and resources needed to offer emotional and practical support through their service with terminally ill hospice patients and their families. Volunteers will work with patients in the Pahrump area and around the valley. Call Shari Diebold or Sharon Williams at 1-888-281-8646. .... **Hepatitis "C" Support Groups Meetings**, Mondays at 7 pm, Fridays at 2 pm, Community Counseling Center, 1120 Almond Tree Lane, Suite #207. Call 369-8700 for further information.... "FFIP" is a support group for **Friends and Family of Incarcerated Persons**, meetings at 2000 South Maryland Parkway, meeting room #1, Christ Episcopal Church. Call 314-5463 for more info.... **NAACP-Las Vegas Branch Executive Committee Meetings**, 6:30 pm, 3925 Martin Luther King Ste. 217, No. LV, Hidden Canyon Plaza. General Membership Meetings, 2nd Saturday of each month, 12 pm. Any questions please call 657-0599.

The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice accepts Community Billboard announcements for non-profit and church organizations. Send notices: 900 E. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89104 or fax to (702) 380-8102.

## Ruffin's 'Southern Exposure' exhibit captivating

Tammy D. McMahan  
 Sentinel-Voice

Juxtaposing scenes from his former southern home with abstract views of his new home in the southwest, photographer Kenn Ruffin provides a unique perspective on folk art in his exhibit "Southern Exposure." The photographic exhibit is featured at the Left of Center Art Gallery and Studio, 2207 W. Gowan Ave, in North Las Vegas. The exhibit opened on April 9 and will continue through June 23.

Southern Exposure is captivating for a number of reasons. First, Ruffin shows that even the ordinary can be art. Ruffin's pieces "Up on the Shelf" and "Rainy Day Stash," which are scenes from a southern kitchen, and "Dixie Fast Food," a snapshot from a "Mom and Pop" southern grocery store, showcase the simple beauty of the look and the arrangement of jars and bottles on shelves.

Furthermore, when Ruffin turns to the southwest, Las Vegas viewers may be surprised to discover that some of the photographs are of buildings that they pass every day. In that regard, Ruffin transforms photos of the Pueblo Shopping Center on Lake Mead Boulevard and Rampart into pieces of distinctive, abstract art as shown in "Clay I," "Pueblo Villa I," "Pueblo Villa II," "Pueblo Villa III," "Natural Maze" and "Petroglyph Slate I" and "Petroglyph II."



"Rural Route" from Kenn Ruffin's "Southern Exposure" photographic exhibit.

Second, Ruffin's work is evocative. He's adept at creating a sense of place with his pictures of the rural south. The works "Red Clay Road," "Helter Shelter," "Cross Ties," "Trellises," "Mercantile" and "Gulf" transport the viewer to the land of magnolia trees, weatherboard houses, kudzu and country stores.

The scenes from Ruffin's home state of Alabama will likely make southerners and non-southerners recall the emotional memories connected to their homes. The works "Threshold," "Window Box & Faded Fence," "Sunshine Shadow," "Rural Route" and "Pok Salad" convey that undefinable sense of security and history associated with where one is born and raised.

Furthermore, Ruffin's work comes across as pure and natural. The photograph of Ruffin's mother entitled, "Grace Emerging from the Shadows" is a wonderful, unstaged portrait of a woman. Without elaborate posing and lighting, Ruffin gives the viewer a glimpse of the day in the life of his mother. The photograph of "Wishing Well" is honestly poignant. It's believable that the old, broken down well contains the heartfelt hopes, dreams and fears of passersby.

Third, Ruffin's work is innovative. His wife Sonya Ruffin stated that "with the use of computers, digital cameras and scanners along with the traditional 35 mm camera and printing process, some of Ruffin's work could very well be a form of high

tech folk art." The pieces "10:07," "Sundial," and "1:40:47" illustrate the high tech folk art concept. The photos are pictures of buildings which, through the wonders of computer technology, undergo a metamorphosis to become surreal, monolithic sundials.

When asked about the sources of motivation for his work, Ruffin recalled the sometimes difficult mental and physical journey that he has taken from his native rural Alabama to California to Georgia and, ultimately, to Nevada. In the midst of the hardships Ruffin came to appreciate the art of everyday life. After a life-threatening medical condition impaired his ability to paint, he found (See Ruffin, Page 14)

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION**  
*Proudly Presents*  
*The Langston Hughes Gospel Comedy Kit*  
**TAMBOURINES TO GLORY**

**Starring Galaxy Glenn as Buddy Lomax**  
**"THE DEVIL"**  
**FIVE SHOWS**  
**Friday, April 28 - 7:00 PM**  
**Saturday, April 29 - 2:00 & 7:00 PM**  
**Sunday, April 30 - 2:00 & 7:00 PM**

**WEST LAS VEGAS LIBRARY THEATER**  
**951 West Lake Mead Blvd.**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**  
**\$15.00 PER PERSON**  
V.I.P. RECEPTION  
 OPENING NIGHT \$35.00

**TICKETS ON SALE AT CALIFORNIA CUTZ BARBER SHOP - 1286 Miller Avenue**  
**PRECIOUS PAMPER TIME HAIR & NAILS - 1230 W. Owens**  
**HOUSE OF FLAVA - 1000 Martin Luther King Blvd**

