

Christian Alliance sets stage for talent showcase

Sentinel-Voice

The International Christian Music Alliance hosts its first gospel/R&B talent showcase Friday and Saturday at Cashman Theatre at 850 N. Las Vegas Blvd.

Singers, dancers, choirs, quartets, musicians, comedians, musical groups, duets and rappers are invited.

Video or audio auditions are requested. Admission is

\$12 for adults and \$5 children under 12. Those interested can call 312-4747.

"We want to showcase Las Vegas talent," ICMA entertainment director Wennell Frink said. "Getting the community to come together and see what we have to offer in talent."

The Christian Alliance was founded in South Carolina and in August expanded

to Las Vegas. The nonprofit organization hopes to build a youth center with proceeds from its musical productions.

"(We want) To teach kids how to get in the music business," Frink said. "We would like to make this an annual event and do two shows a year."

The audience will select the winners.

Upwards of \$2,000 in cash

awards are being offered.

The grand prize winner could score a recording contract with MAI-LYNN Records, co-sponsor of the talent show.

The first show is 6:30 p.m. Friday, with eliminations taking place 8 a.m. Saturday. The finals start at 6:30 p.m.

The competition will be taped to air on Channel 33 within a month.

Solar power proponent resigns from top job

Sentinel-Voice

Rose McKinney-James, CEO for the Corporation for Solar Technology and Renewable Resources, stepped down from her post to accept a role as president of government affairs for a company.

She will continue to consult the nonprofit group which promotes solar energy as an alternative form of electrical power for businesses and homes.

The five-year group is set to use the last of its federal funds this year. The Desert Research Institute and UNLV's Engineering School are being courted as investors. The corporation could close if no funding is found.

The corporation counted among its success more solar water heaters in homes and the Million Solar Roofs Initiatives which encouraged builders to place solar roofs on homes.

McKinney-James, who persuaded the 1997 Legislature to approve research and uses for renewable energies in Nevada, mounted an unsuccessful campaign for lieutenant governor a year later.

Downtown hosting energetic street fair

John T. Stephens III

Sentinel-Voice

The City of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services, in conjunction with Fremont Villas Resident Council, will host their first street fair, "A Celebration of Downtown's Renaissance," Sunday, June 4 from noon to 5 p.m. at the corners of Fremont and 8th Streets.

"We want to bring attention to the fact that...we believe that downtown will flourish," said Earl White, vice-president of programs and services for Real Property Services Corp., one of the businesses supporting the

street fair. "(Downtown) Its' on an improve."

The free event includes a youth mural project, art displays, food and vendors.

David Osman will emcee the event, with assists from Sweet Lou Collins and KCEP FM 88.1 radio personality Galaxy Glenn. Stan Rankin T will deejay.

"Our (Fremont Villas) resident council is in the process of changing the image of Downtown," White said. "We (Downtown) need economic growth ... affordable housing for people who work Downtown — be able to walk to work."

Masons to celebrate 20 years of giving

John T. Stephens III

Sentinel-Voice

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Nevada and Jurisdictions, Inc. will host its 20th anniversary June 1-3 at the Alexis Park Hotel and Resort, 375 E. Harmon Ave.

The event is in conjunction with the 19th Annual Desert Rose Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star of Nevada, Prince Hall Affiliated.

The Annual Grand Master/Grand Worthy Matron Banquet takes place 7 p.m. Friday, June 2.

Councilman Lawrence Weekly will deliver the keynote speech.

"We are not a religious organization, we are a fraternity," Most Worshipful Grand Master Willie Waters said. "Not a secret fraternity, but a fraternity with secrets."

African-American Masons date back to the late 1700s when a Black man named Prince Hall was rejected for membership in the Caucasian Masonic lodge. He petitioned a Grand Lodge in England and was granted a charter to start his own lodge.

In 1781, Prince Hall opened African Lodge No. 459 in Boston, Mass.

Today there are more than half a million Black masons in America, on U.S. military installations and in other parts of the world. Local membership numbers 150.

The Masons have completed numerous service projects the past 20 years, including feeding the homeless, donating clothing, giving away Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, caring for the widows and orphans of Masonic brethren, awarding scholarships to UNLV engineering students and more.

Tickets are \$35 for the banquet. Those interested can call 876-2974.

Qualified Medicare recipients could save money

Sentinel-Voice

The Nevada Division for Aging Services says qualified Medicare recipients can save up to \$546 a year.

Potential qualifiers must have Medicare "Part A" hospital insurance, a monthly income of less than \$1,222 for an individual and monthly combined total of less than \$1,633 for couples, a savings account less than \$4,000 for an individual and less than \$6,000 for couples.

Recipients are not required to list houses, cars, burial plots, furniture and burial insurance or life insurance less than \$1,500.

Medicare is funded and regulated by the U.S. Health Care Financing Administration. More than 40 million Americans of 65 or older are affected by changes in Medicare benefits.

Those interested can call 1-800-307-4444 or 1-800-633-4227 or visit their website at www.nvaging.net.

New phone service enables hearing impaired

Sentinel-Voice

Gov. Kenny Guinn recently unveiled a new tool to assist hearing impaired Nevadans with placing phone calls.

Deaf persons can call 711 and reach a special operator who reads and transcribe their messages.

Relay Nevada program was designated as a project of the Nevada Telecommunications Council during the 1999 Legislature. The program is coordinated by the state's Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation.

Nevada is the fourth state to implement such technology.

"I'm very proud that Nevada is among those states taking the lead in utilizing technology for the benefit of people with special challenges," said Guinn. "I'm especially proud of the fact that Nevada, with 13 local phone companies and hundreds of alternative telecommunications providers, is the first multi-vendor to offer this service."

HUD accepts 'safe harbor' as an accessibility rule

Sentinel-Voice

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo recently announced that the Code Requirements for Housing Accessibility will operate as a "safe harbor" for compliance with the requirements of the Fair Housing Act. The CRHA was initiated by the International Code Council with input from all levels of government, industry leaders, and advocates for the disabled.

"HUD is committed to increasing housing opportunities for people with disabilities," Cuomo said. "We're also committed to continuing to provide guidance to the housing industry on the accessibility requirements of

the Fair Housing Act. Now for the first time, we can show builders, architects, advocates for people with disabilities, and local governments how to develop affordable, accessible housing that conforms to the Fair Housing Act."

Provisions in the CRHA absent of waivers or exceptions can be used as a defense mechanism complaints alleging violations of the Fair Housing Act's accessibility requirement for disabled people.

The ICC report is designed to give builders specific building code language on how to construct housing that meets the standards of Fair Housing.

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