

Area youth to welcome summer with safe party

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Youth will have the chance to party in a safe environments throughout Clark County on Saturday.

Activities for Safe Night USA, a national youth violence and substance abuse prevention project, will take place at seven sites. More than 3,000 children are expected to participate in the parties which will include

workshops on conflict resolution and other social skills enhancement activities. Those interested can call 385-0684.

The purpose of the party is to help teach youths how to resolve conflicts peacefully without the use of force and/or violence.

Three rules are highly enforced: no weapons, no alcohol or drugs and no arguments.

The locations are: Rafael Rivera Community Center at 2900 E. Community Center, Bennett Family YMCA at 4141 Meadows Lane, Charleston Heights Community Center at 800 Brush Street, West Community Center; West Middle School at 2050 Sapphire Stone Avenue, Desert Breeze Community Center at 8275 Spring Mountain Road, Cambridge Community Center at 3827

S. Maryland Parkway, and Silver Springs Recreation Center at 1951 Silver Springs Parkway in Henderson.

Olusegun Sijuwade, a former peace officer and at-risk youth counselor, founded the first Safe Night program in 1994 for the City of Milwaukee.

Since its inception, it has been credited for a 60 percent reduction in the city's youth homicide rate.

High school grads eligible for incentive grants to CCSN

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Just in time for spring high school graduates in Clark County, a grants program to pay 80 percent to 100 percent of college tuition and book costs is now being offered at Community College of Southern Nevada.

"The Miller-Gates Incentive Grants, which pay for actual student performance at CCSN, are earmarked for spring high school grads with grade point averages between 2.0 and 2.9," said Arlie Stops, CCSN associate vice president of admissions and

records.

"The grants are then awarded to these students based on academic performance each year at CCSN — an 'A' average earns 100 percent reimbursement of tuition fees and book costs, 90 percent for 'B' and 80 percent for a 'C' average," said Stops.

Supported by former Nevada first-lady Sandy Miller and Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson-Gates, the Miller-Gates grant program is designed to motivate all high school graduates to earn a college degree.

It was modeled after tuition programs in private corporations which reimburse employee college costs based on grades earned.

"Ideally, every high school graduate should strive to earn a college degree so they can realize their greatest personal potential for success," said Gates, "and increase their earning power when they enter the world of work and business."

By supplementing the state's Millennium Scholarship program intended for 3.0 GPA high school grads and

federal grant programs, the Miller-Gates Incentive Grants fill a financial gap in Nevada.

"Miller-Gates grants invest in the many students who are eligible for financial aid even though their financial need is not great enough to warrant a federal Pell Grant," Stops said. "I salute Mrs. Miller and Commissioner Gates for their leadership in bringing this program to the community."

Those interested can call CCSN's Financial Aid Office at 651-5660 or 651-4047.

Black cemetery section sparks debate

WHITTIER, Calif. (AP) — At Rose Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary, veterans, masons, Buddhists and Jewish families all have special places of honor. But the addition of a special section for blacks at the Whittier cemetery — believed to be the nation's largest — provoked outrage from the community it was trying to acknowledge.

Earlier this year, the Rev.

L. Daniel Williams approached cemetery officials to discuss making burial plots more affordable for his nearly all black congregation at the Baptist Church of the New Covenant in Norwalk.

When he saw the areas designed for certain groups, he got a different idea, envisioning a specific section "to honor the presence of blacks who have uplifted the com-

munity" in Southern California.

"I asked if it was possible for them to designate some land for African-Americans," Williams said.

He printed fliers and published advertisements to publicize the new site, originally named Ebony Land, where ground was broken in February. The reaction wasn't what he expected.

Letters and phone calls began coming in by the dozens (See Cemetery, Page 13)

Racists

(Continued from Page 2)

along with two of his children of abducting his grandchildren from their North Dakota hometowns in 1994 and 1995. Their mothers are already serving prison terms for kidnapping. A pretrial court appearance was scheduled for Winrod today.

Four of the children have since been reunited with their fathers. But the two oldest — girls 14 and 16 — have refused to go and

were taken to area hospitals for counseling.

Authorities fear the Winrod case will attract attention from other affiliated groups.

"There are groups like this all over the country, people who maybe aren't closely affiliated with one another but who share similar beliefs, and they decide they want to come and get involved in these situations," said Elmore, the highway patrol sergeant. "We don't want that to happen this time."

Minority

(Continued from Page 1)

ingly black casts. The rest of the week, their schedules are aimed largely at young whites — a reality that comedian Steve Harvey, who is black, lampooned last week when the WB introduced a series of rail-thin white actors from its casts to advertisers.

"I'm Steve Harvey," he deadpanned. "I'm a white teen-ager."

He made a serious point, though, about the industry's tendency to assume only blacks would be interested in his show. Harvey said he wants to appeal to everyone.

"We wish the media would get on board with this and stop labeling us," he said. "We don't want to be a 'black show.'"

Although CBS touted its diversity record,

it was criticized by the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, which said the broadcast networks in general did a poor job in casting Latinos. The group singled out CBS for not scheduling "American Family," a pilot drama about a middle-class Hispanic family.

Moonves said "American Family" simply didn't fit in CBS' schedule in a year the network developed strong dramas.

He said he took the unusual step of allowing the show's producers to pitch the CBS-developed series to other networks, but none of them included it on their schedules, either.

CBS hasn't decided whether "American Family" has a future there, Moonves said.

Jazz great to play in inaugural golf classic

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Harvey Mason of the jazz group "Fourplay" will play celebrity host for the 1st Celebrity Golf Classic June 8-9 at the Mirage Resort and Las Vegas National Golf Club.



Two non-profit organizations — Nevada Minority Purchasing Council and the Harvey Mason Foundation, which promotes music and the arts for disadvantaged children — have teamed for the event which will include live entertainment, celebrity guests, a silent auction, golf contests, and an awards BBQ ceremony.

"I am so pleased to be the host of the 1st Annual Celebrity Golf Classic," Harvey Mason said. "It has long been my dream to support young people that want to pursue music as a career and art form, as well as supporting minority business development, two things that are very important to me personally."

A musician, producer and composer, he began his entertainment career in the 60's while performing with Duke Ellington and Erroll Garner. Over 30 years as a professional drummer, Mason, has been involved musically with artist such as Herbie Hancock and the Headhunters, Seal, Barbara Streisand, Wynton Marsalis, Kenny "G", Mariah Carey, Celine Dion, Frank Sinatra, Johnny Mathis, Stanley Clark, and Quincy Jones to name a few.

"Funk in a Mason Jar" and "Ratamacue" are some of his solo projects. "Fourplay," "Between the Sheets," "Elixir," "Best of Fourplay," and "Four" were recorded with his group Fourplay, formed in 1991. He has performed for the Grammys, Emmys, and Academy Awards and has more than 150 motion picture scores under his belt.

Those interested can call 894-4477.

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