

## Dogcatchers' gathering draws old, new members

John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

The Dogcatchers Youth Foundation first Dogcatchers Family Reunion over the weekend at Doolittle Park held fun for old, new and future dogcatchers.

More than 150 children and their families came out for an afternoon of free food and entertainment sponsored by the youth organization.

"I love the brother and I love what he is doing," said DJ Ronnie "O," who provided the music.

"Hen-Hen is the best coach to have," 16-year-old Stacy Taylor said of Henry D Thorns. "Dogcatchers is #1...They're good people."

The Dogcatcher's was created to sports as a youth alternative for destructive behavior. Offered are basketball, football, baseball, soccer and a variety of other sports. Education is highly stressed. The group caters to youth ages 5 to 17.

"I like basketball because of Michael Jordan," said 6-year-old Shawn Davis.

"Hen-Hen goes out his way for the kids," said Frank Barnes, coach and parent of a 10-year-old dogcatcher. "He does everything for the kids ... that's what I like."

"Kids need a lot of help because of the way the world is going." Coach Reggie Dunlap said. "They need special attention and guidance."

"He's (Hen-Hen) doing good for the community," said Dogcatcher's coach Robert Lewis. "He can't do it by himself."

The group receives \$20,000 in funding from the city of Las Vegas, \$15,000 from Clark County and \$5,000 from the city of North Las Vegas. The group has no corporate sponsors for its 38 basketball teams.

"What do I have to do to get more help...tell me," Hen-Hen said. "We'll do anything to get more help other than change the name from Dogcatchers."

The Dogcatcher moniker is a tribute to Thorns father who got the nickname because of his love of dogs.

## MGM

(Continued from Page 1) plan, assisting small businesses, create a major shopping mall, and design an infrastructure and beautification plan.

Also included were suggestions to finance a business center that would serve as an outreach office to recruit workers, a manufacturing company that would employ welfare to work employees to supply goods to the hotel and gaming industry, and create a cultural center to serve as a tourist destination. As well as support for different organizations with annual \$25,000 contributions.

Tony Gladney, MGM Grand vice president community affairs, commended Collins' work and said he will review the plan. However, no commitments were made.

"We fully recognize our responsibility as the leading the company in the gaming industry," Gladney said.

The MGM Grand will hold an "Opportunity Fair" targeted for minority businesses July 31. Other minority organizations, including the Urban Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Opportunity Board's Micro Business Program and the Nevada Minority Purchasing Council, will

help identify participants in the fair.

Heaster Wheeler, executive director of the Detroit branch of the NAACP, came to town to support Collins' plan. He discussed similarities between Las Vegas and Detroit, which also has an MGM Grand property. Regarding Detroit's black businesses and their relationship with the MGM Grand, Wheeler said they are "far from where we ought to be in discussions." Several groups have joined NAACP efforts in both cities to address the spending disparities.

"(We have) Formed coalitions with several community based organizations, the Urban League, the ACLC, and New Detroit to monitor their activities," Wheeler said.

The Urban Chamber and the National Association of Minority Contractors-Southern Nevada have joined the cause. Collins has set a five-day deadline with the MGM Grand in responding to the plan.

"We will not move the line on," he said, adding that those things the MGM Grand can do, it should, and that it will be given time to accomplish long-term goals.

## Golden Rainbow event educates, entertains

Tammy D. McMahan  
Sentinel-Voice

Golden Rainbow's Ribbon of Life 2000 show offered entertainment for the soul with two concert spectacles held on June 17 and 18 at Bally's Jubilee Theater.

Golden Rainbow is a non-profit organization providing housing and financial assistance to persons with AIDS. The Ribbon of Life benefit, which has been held annually for 14 years, is the organization's major fundraiser.

Attendees got the most for their money — a high-quality song and dance production and goodwill — help for AIDS-afflicted individuals.

Golden Rainbow officials and more than 300 local entertainers and stage technicians volunteered their time and talents to participate in the program which featured musical numbers by Strip notables and scene reenactments from noted Broadway plays.

The show began with the Blue Man Group, now per-

forming at the Luxor. The enigmatic, clever, cerulean-skinned trio played a patriotic tune on a contraption that was part overgrown bagpipe, part streamer thrower and heaven knows what else.

Strip favorites Sheena Easton and Clint Holmes charmed the audience with song. Musician Lance Burton, performers from Footloose, a musical which can be seen at the Rio, two Radio City Rockettes and Las Vegas Review-Journal gossip columnist Norm! were among the surprise guest stars.

Cast members from various Strip productions including Cirque du Soleil, Jubilee, EFX, Notre Dame du Paris and Splash and local theater performers performed scenes from a number of lauded musicals including Rent, Titanic, Falsettoland, Havana, West Side Story, Electric Breakin' Beat Street Boogaloo, Jekyll & Hyde and Aspects of Love.

Judy Garland impersonator Mickey Sullivan also par-



CLINT HOLMES

icipated in the show.

When the actual Judy Garland sang about the peace, joy and hope that she was sure she would find "over the rainbow" in the classic film The Wizard of Oz, the modern day plague of AIDS had not yet appeared.

Although a cure has not been found for the disease, persons with AIDS aren't without hope. They can look to a "rainbow," in the form of Golden Rainbow, for help.

Golden Rainbow was formed in 1986 in response to the death of a Strip performer who was afflicted with

AIDS. Broke with no other place to go, the performer died in a relative's garage.

The first Ribbon of Life benefit was held in 1987 to raise funds for the AIDS-afflicted. The Las Vegas entertainment community lent its support then and continues to do so.

The nonprofit group offers financial relief to men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS by providing housing and assisting with rent, mortgages, utilities, health-related costs, groceries, childcare, transportation and more.

Group administrators expressed that the organization is open to anyone who deals with the trials of AIDS.

"AIDS is sometimes mischaracterized as a gay man's disease. It's not. It's a disease that crosses sexual orientation, racial, gender, class and age lines," said executive director Candy Mizzoni. "There's more heterosexuals, women, minorities and children becoming

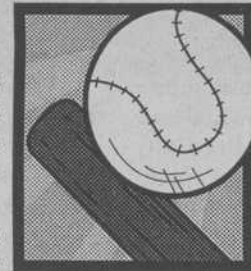
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## Tournament to decide local baseball champions

John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

Community Little League, which has been bringing America's favorite pastime to West Las Vegas, will send its all-star team to compete in the valley's district Minor League Tournament 8 p.m. Friday.

"We take the best of our little league to compete with the best of other little leagues," said league vice president Fred Haron who anticipates approximately 21 little league teams will be vying for the district title. "Community Little League all-stars — the best of each



team in our league."

The baseball tournament is for nine- and 10-year-olds.

The Las Vegas district champions will play a northern Nevada team for the state title.

"It (baseball) teaches the players how to become team orientated," league president Ricky Towers said. "(It also teaches youth) how to respect others and self-discipline — these are the key factors to teach you how to succeed in life."

The league started in 1993. More than 3,500 boys and girls have played baseball.

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