



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Arthur Moore, center, taught Joseph Sayles (left), Gregory Hall (right) and other children about creative expression during a recent visual arts camp.

Art camp nears closure with final production

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The West Las Vegas Arts Center's Performing and Visual Arts Camp is planning its grand finale with a stage presentation addressing the issues facing youths. The finale will also broach solutions to problems and identifying how choices can improve or destroy their lives.

"The Turning Point: What Cha Gonna Do?" will be performed free, at the West Las Vegas Library Theatre, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. The show is set for 2 p.m. Saturday. There will be a free reception at the adjacent West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

The summer camp catered to children ages 10 to 15 and used the arts to teach life skills.

Since June 11, boys and girls have been taking day-long classes featuring dance, music, theatre and stage, arts and craft, film production and visual arts, all of which had an emphasis on traditional morals and principles of African-American life.

Talent, record showcase to promote peace

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Rappers, singing groups, dancers, comedians and other entertainers will be showcasing their talents at a community performance free to the public. S.T.E.P.S.'s (Supervision, Training, Education, Parenting, and Services) Second Annual Talent Show & Record Industry Showcase is set to go off Thursday, August 9, from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Library Theatre, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

Clark County Family and Youth Services sponsors the S.T.E.P.S. program, which was founded in 1999 and has helped nearly 200 children, ages 9 to 18. Title V; O. J. J. D. P. (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention), and the (Edward) Byrne Grant—specializing in programs to prevent gang violence—pump more than \$600,000 into this operation, which also receives matching funds from the county.

It is "a youth diversion program for first or second-time offenders," said Coordinator David Wallace, that



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David Wallace, director of Clark County's Supervision, Training, Education, Parenting and Services (S.T.E.P.S.) program assists Jerry McCloud in producing music for the show.

attempts to "direct them from getting in the juvenile court system."

The S.T.E.P.S. program is three to twelve months long and it gives youths a chance to correct criminal offenses they have made by signing up for this life skills course. Juveniles are exposed to jails, the coroner's office and the homeless, in an effort to turn their lives around.

"We do crisis

intervention...it shows you made a mistake," Wallace said. "It's an in-your-face approach, a real wake-up call. After the program, the judge will dismiss the charges. It gives the youth a clean slate."

Under the banner, "Stop The Violence, Keep The Peace," will be special guest performances by Tha Bonafide, Leon Ireland & Friends, Safiya & Serena Henry, Brian Wiltshire and

many others. "Power 88" radio personality Galaxy Glen will host this night of phenomenal talent.

Darryl E. Ross, an industry official who's worked with talents such as Vanessa Williams, Shante Moore, Jill Scott and Michael Jackson, and collaborated on the soundtrack for Scary Movie II, will be on hand to scout new talent and offer advice

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Awards banquet provides scholarships for brighter futures

By John T. Stephens III
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Mokae Resource Scholarship Foundation (MRSF) is hosting a banquet, the "Annual Scholarship Awards

Banquet for Aging Out Foster Teens," which is awarding foster children about to turn eighteen scholarships to attend college. On Saturday, August 4, at the Treasure Is-

land Ballroom, 3300 S. Las Vegas Blvd., the foundation's fourth \$1,000 scholarship will be given in this, it's third year of operation.

The foundation was established "as a gift to honor my husband's 65th birthday," said Madelyn Mokae, wife of the famous South African actor Zakes Mokae. Mokae has received a Tony for "Mas-

ter Harold and the Boys," nominated for an Oscar for "Dry White Season" and played in films, "Serpent and the Rainbow" and "A Vampire in Brooklyn." "It was his dream to open a school in South Africa for underprivileged and disadvantaged children. Unfortunately circumstances could not permit us to do this at this time ... in

lieu we established this foundation."

MRSF's goal is to help foster children make the transition from being in the foster system to being adults. GED certification, job interviewing, grooming, resume preparation, money management and other life skills are taught to legal adults who can now leave the foster system.

"These young adults leave foster care with a brighter future and have less of a bitter feeling about being in the system," said Madelyn, aka "Mandy," who, with her husband has fostered 21 children in their six years as foster parents. "Youths were leaving the system with no plans for their future, nor did they

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Strategic

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ten percent of the state's population." The figures reflect ongoing "warehousing" of African-American students, which black educators have been complaining about for years.

Making matters worse, W.A.A.K.-U.P. thinks some of the damage is self-inflicted.

"The black teachers are going along with this program because they're afraid for their jobs. They're sending our kids into alternative and special education in large numbers also," said Lewis.

W.A.A.K.-U.P. is also very skeptical of the methods by which students are admitted to local magnet schools, where intense focus is directed toward specific disciplines and a premium placed on high achievement. The group will condemn admissions procedures being used by these schools, including lotteries, which Lewis contends have been "very unfair."

The organization has concerns far beyond grades K through 8, and is calling for improvement in students' preparation for post-secondary education. Regarding predominately black schools, Lewis stated: "We have documentation that shows African-American students perform worse on the SAT and ACT (college entrance examinations) than any other ethnic group, including the Native Americans."

"I personally talked with Garcia for about an hour-and-a-half," she said, recalling their meeting six weeks ago and its failure to produce satisfactory results, saying that "is what's bringing on this meeting. We're going to tell him that he can't just come in here and expect people to accept anything he says at face value."

Saturday's meeting is expected to be followed, "in about a week," according to Lewis, by "a public forum to plan action," which could, she said, result in "a protest and boycott of Edison schools and of some of the magnet schools."

Promising copious information to substantiate her allegations, Lewis said, "I'm going to have copies so they can take them home, look over this information, and talk about it at the forum."

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671-0013



720 S. 4th Street • Suite 301-A

(3 blocks from courthouse)

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