

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

The Men of Valor are having its monthly meeting beginning at 6 p.m. at Community Baptist Church, 245 East Foster Avenue in Henderson. All men welcome. For more information call 565-0071... **Why Home School?** Come question, listen. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. West Charleston Library (between Jones & Torrey Pines). Need more info call 877-2438.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Classical magic "A Symphony of Sorcery and Sound" to benefit the friends of Southern Nevada Libraries. Straight from the stages of New York City, Jarrett & Raja's Classical Magic is presented at Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd and Saturday, September 15 at Summerlin Library, 1771 Inner Circle Drive to benefit the Friends of Southern Nevada Libraries. A hosted win reception begins at 7 p.m. and the performances at 8 p.m. for both nights. Admission is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 13 and under. Tickets is available through tickets.com or call 1-888-464-2468... **Founder's Day Celebration and 37th Church Anniversary** will be held at Vegas View C.O.G.I.C., 1906 Glider Street, at 7:30 p.m. There will be a reception following the services.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Founder's Day Celebration and 37th Church Anniversary will hold a Banquet at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall, 2219 W. Washington Ave. Tickets are \$10. For more information please call 399-1520... **Did you drop out?** Do you want to get your high school diploma? Do you need answers to your questions? Get back on track to success! Come join us for FREE information. Refreshments offer. Help available from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Ranch High School Cafeteria, 1900 East Owens. Call Kathleen Hanselmann at 633-1070 for more information... **6th Annual eXtreme Thing Amateur Skateboard, Juline and BMX Competition**, Desert Breeze Skate Park, 8425 Spring Mountain Rd., 455-8200, Call for event and performance times. This event will feature four to six national acts (bands TBD); world-class break dancers, professional skaters and BMX riders. Tickets will be \$5.00. Competitions will be limited to the first 40 enrolled. Trophies and prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners in each category.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

The LVMPD will hold a community meeting to discuss the impact of AB500, the racial profiling bill. LVMPD officials will discuss the department's plan for meeting requirements of the new state law. The meeting will be from 6-8 p.m., in the Clark County Commission Chambers, 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Celebrity Golf Classic... A special VIP celebrity reception and auction will be held at the MGM Grand. The public is invited to attend for a fee of \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Golf will begin at the Wild Horse Country Club on Friday morning 7 a.m. Following the tournament will be an Awards ceremony and BBQ. Entrees are still being accepted for the tournament, which includes VIP Celebrity Reception tickets, Golf Green fees, cart, tee prizes, awards, and BBQ for a fee of \$200 per person. For further information please contact Dianne Fontes at 894-4477.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

The Cultural and Community Affairs Division of the City of Las Vegas Department of Leisure Services presents Nevada Ballet Theatre in a special performance, "Handel Celebration and Napoli," on At 8:00 p.m., at the Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza in Lorenzi Park. Tickets are \$12 at the gate, \$10 advance. Major credit cards are accepted. Call 229-6383... **Tabernacle of Faith Church** presents its 2nd Annual Men's Conference. Theme: "Men of Worship, Men of Praise," Pastor J. Wayne Arnold will be the conference teacher/lecture. This conference will expound on the areas of praise, worship and prayer. Everyone is invited to attend. Couples will be eternally blessed. 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, 2030 Yale Street, North Las Vegas. For additional information contact Rev. Fredrick A Johnson 631-0169/657-2024 or Rev. J. W. Arnold 655-1600... **Rockin' Blues and Q's Festival**, Desert Breeze Skate Park, 8425 Spring Mountain Rd., 455-0300 for ticket information. 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. Don't miss out on this day of live rockin' blues music and the best tasting ribs in town. Pets and coolers are not permitted.

ONGOING

The Southern Nevada Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America Inc. meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month inside the Sunrise Hospital doctors' conference room, 3187 S. Maryland Parkway, from 7-9 p.m. Participants will discuss a variety of subjects about lupus in an effort to educate and support lupus sufferers. Call 566-1425 for additional details... **The West Las Vegas Arts Center**, 947 West Lake Mead Blvd., invites the community members to share the history, traditions and customs during the monthly "Voices of the African Diaspora," at 6 p.m. The host will be Hasani Kefing Palacio. Participants are encouraged to participate in a discussion of pertinent, contemporary issues experienced by African Americans. "Voices of the African Diaspora" is a free presentation by the Cultural and Community Affairs Division of the City of Las Vegas Department of Leisure Services. This program is provided to the community every first Tuesday of each month. Call 229-4800 for additional details regarding this event.

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.

Report: Race affects mental health care

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Discrimination, stigma and poverty often contribute to minorities not receiving treatment for mental disorders, according to a report presented by U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher.

In a supplement to his first-ever report on mental health in 1999, Satcher emphasized that blacks, Hispanics, Asians/Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaskan Natives face the greatest challenges, partially because so many within those communities have gone without treatment or have been given substandard care.

"The failure to address these disparities is playing out in human and economic terms across the nation - in our streets, in the homeless shelters, public health institutions, foster care systems, in our prisons and in our jails," Satcher said Sunday at a meeting of the American Psychological Association in San Francisco.

The 200-page report, "Mental Health: Culture, Race and Ethnicity," cites poverty and lack of insurance as key factors why many

minorities do not receive proper mental health care. It found that racial and ethnic minorities are less likely than whites to have access to treatment, and those who do often receive a lesser quality of care.

"Cost and stigma are two major barriers that we must overcome," Satcher said. "Many insurance plans do not cover the cost of mental health care, and few people can afford to pay for those services out of their pockets."

Satcher urged mental health workers to use such factors as language, religion and folk healing to reach out to patients, or at least to understand and appreciate their cultural differences.

In addition to research, Satcher also said more education and work is needed on the "front lines" with primary care providers and social workers. He said their knowledge of mental illness should be boosted to educate minorities about disorders and to help patients receive the right care.

"While we cannot change the past, we certainly can help to shape a better future,"

Satcher said. "This report offers a vision for overcoming these disparities."

The study found 22 percent of black families are living in poverty, and about 25 percent are uninsured. And while the rate of mental illness among blacks is not higher than whites overall, mental disorders are more prevalent among blacks in vulnerable populations such as the homeless, the incarcerated and children in foster care.

Hispanics also share a similar rate of mental disorder with whites, but Hispanic youth suffer a higher chance of suffering from depression and anxiety. In addition, about 40 percent of the Hispanic population in America reported they do not speak English well.

The rate of uninsured patients is highest among Hispanics, at 37 percent - double that of whites.

Overall, minorities share the same prevalence of mental disorders as whites, the study reports.

That rate excludes high-risk groups such as those who are homeless, incarcerated or

institutionalized.

The overall annual prevalence of mental disorders nationwide is about 21 percent of adults and children.

The report found that sparse research made it even harder to predict the level of need within smaller groups such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians and Pacific Islanders.

American Indians and Alaska Natives are 1.5 times more likely to commit suicide than the overall population, Satcher said. Asian-Americans have the lowest rate of utilization of mental health services of all groups, and those who do seek help are usually those with very severe conditions.

More minorities working in the mental health field could help minorities feel more comfortable seeking help, Satcher said.

"We cannot wait until we have enough African-American psychologists or American Indian or Hispanic psychiatrists," Satcher said. "We must today find a way to make our system more relevant to the need of these populations."

Children

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ban league affiliates, local businesses, churches, the national PTA, and other community organizations. We're being helped, too, by the national Baptist convention, the largest African-American religious organization in the country, and the national newspaper publishers association, the trade association of more than 200 black-owned newspapers.

"Read & Rise" can also be retrieved from both the urban leagues' website at www.nul.org/readandrise, and scholastic's website, www.scholastic.com/readandrise.

Dick Robinson, the chairman, president and CEO of scholastic, said, "significant change often comes through grassroots efforts. When parents and communities are equipped with information and tools through resources such as 'read & rise,' there's no limit to what our children can achieve."

His words convey the sense of urgency we all must have about the task at hand, because academic failure isn't an option in the information age. There's only one choice: to prepare our children for a lifetime of success.

Education

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should. Colleges and universities are giving remedial (high school) courses to more and more freshmen because of what they didn't learn in high school.

That's why the time is ripe now for our leaders and organizations to make a frontal attack on the failure of the system to equalize the delivery of education to our children.

One part of the attack should be to establish a legal basis for the equal delivery of education; that's a long haul but so were the legal steps that finally resulted in the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision that outlawed legal racial discrimination.

It would be good if Howard University's law school would take the lead in developing and implementing that strategy with the help of some of our good legal minds across this country. That would take some time, but it is worth it.

The NAACP ought to take the lead in a nation-wide "Close the Gap" program.

The NAACP is the right choice because of its history and its potential to have tentacles that reach into every city and hamlet with Black residents and into every Black home, no matter its economic or social status.

One aspect of that program could be a nationwide program of examining and questioning every action to

improve local schools to ascertain whether the action would contribute to closing the academic performance gap or widening it.

For example, in some localities the gains from reducing class sizes was negated by school districts having to hire so many new teachers, some with full credentials and some without. And the result was that schools in our areas ended up with smaller classes, poorer teachers, and more substitutes.

In those cases, the overall results were negative. However, that could have been changed by the district equally distributing new teachers and uncredentialed teachers among a district's schools.

Local awareness and local pressure could have made that happen.

If we don't form a focused program to close that academic achievement gap between us and Whites and Asians, our future as a force in this country looks dim indeed.

That's why it was hard to understand Kweisi Mfume's focus on getting another Black face or so on network TV. That is, it was hard until the news came out.

Until recently, he was angling for a network Oprah-type show on NBC, the same network he has been blasting for lack of diversity. In that, he's joined Jesse Jackson in using our plight to hustle for self, kith or kin.

Maddox

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day to Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor and House Speaker Tom Murphy saying the plan is "driven by greed and lust for power" because its main aim is to help the Democratic party, which has held the governor's office and both houses of the Legislature since Reconstruction.

"It's saying, 'We want to go back to the old style and take care of ourselves,'" he said.

The House Rules committee was to consider the bill Tuesday. Maddox gained notoriety after chasing blacks from his Atlanta chicken restaurant in the 1960s. A conservative Democrat, he was elected governor by the Legislature in 1966 when no candidate won a majority in the general election. Although he preached segregation in his campaign, Maddox charted a moderate course for the state. He served one term, from 1967 to 1971, and then was lieutenant governor under Jimmy Carter.