

## NEWS BRIEFS

### BLACK HISTORY EVENT TO BENEFIT AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Academy of African American Studies is hosting "It Takes a Village," a Black History Month cultural event benefitting the nonprofit academy, which provides afterschool programming for students kindergarten through high school. Included in the event will be a dinner and an awards ceremony honoring Clark County School Board Trustee Shirley Barber, Kit Carson Elementary Principal Linda Gipson and Las Vegas Fire and Rescue Chief David Washington. The ceremony is set for 6:30 p.m., Saturday at Fitzgerald's Casino in downtown Las Vegas. The academy plans to move into a permanent facility in the near future. Land has been purchased in West Las Vegas. The initial phase will include 7,000 square feet with five classrooms, a technology room, outdoor teaching areas and administrative and staff areas.

### VEGAS DRIVE-OWENS AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UNDERWAY

An \$11.6 million road and storm drain improvement project is underway on Vegas Drive-Owens Avenue between Interstate 15 and Rancho Drive. The city's Public Works Department is widening the street to two travel lanes in each direction between I-15 and Rancho and, among other things, is installing a regional storm drainage system along with traffic signals on Vegas Drive at Tonopah Drive and Simmons Street. Completion is set for early 2004. For the next 12 months, traffic lane restrictions can be expected in work zones along this 2.5-mile stretch. Most of the work will take place Monday through Friday during daytime hours and traffic delays and disruptions can be expected. Lake Mead Boulevard and Washington Avenue are suggested as alternate routes.

### REPORT: SNIPER CASE POLICE CHIEF GETS BOOK DEAL

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP) - Charles Moose, the Montgomery County Police Chief who led the D.C.-area sniper investigation, plans to announce a deal for a book and possibly a movie about him, according to a published report. New York literary agent David Vigliano told The Washington Post about the deal for a story in Saturday's editions, but would not identify the buyer or disclose the price. He said Moose would officially announce the deal Tuesday. One publisher who was approached by the agent described the project as a blow-by-blow account of the investigation, interspersed with Moose's personal story of growing up poor and rising to the position of police chief. Local officials have warned Moose that profiting from the deal could land him on the wrong side of Montgomery's strict ethics provisions, which bar police commanders from accepting even nominal fees for speaking publicly about the sniper shootings. But County Executive Douglas Duncan, who hired Moose in 1999, said he believes the chief warrants an exception, given his central role in an investigation that riveted the nation.

### BOXER LAILA ALI PROMOTING HIV/AIDS AWARENESS

Laila Ali, supermiddleweight boxing champion and daughter of boxing legend Muhammad Ali, will lend her support to the third annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, to be held on Feb. 7. Ali will be joined by other prominent African-American leaders, including nationally syndicated radio personality Doug Banks and Rep. Donna Christensen, D-Virgin Islands, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus' Health Brain Trust, which advocates for minority health issues. African-Americans comprise 13 percent of the U.S. population but represent 38 percent of total AIDS cases. Seventy-two African-Americans are diagnosed with HIV every day. "This is an important issue, especially for the youth in our community," Ali says. "I hope that my involvement will make people more aware of HIV/AIDS so that they can take care of themselves." On Feb. 7, more than 150 local HIV/AIDS organizations and civic groups across the nation will conduct education and outreach programs. Activities will include free HIV testing, town hall forums and youth rallies. "We are united in the fight for our lives," Christensen says. "The HIV/AIDS epidemic has reached a state of emergency in the African-American community."

## Johnson cameos in HIV medical ads

NEW YORK (AP) - As competition among makers of AIDS drugs increases, GlaxoSmithKline is using perhaps America's best-known HIV carrier to spread awareness among urban blacks of treatment methods and the company's products.

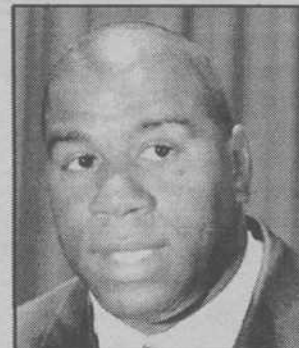
Magic Johnson's image is being splashed on billboards, subway posters and full-page ads in newspapers and magazines.

The ads include photos of a robust-looking Johnson and feature messages such as, "Staying healthy is about a few basic things: A positive attitude, partnering with my doctor, taking my medicine every day."

The market leader in HIV treatments with its drug Combivir, GlaxoSmithKline said its campaign is being conducted in cities with the highest rates of HIV/AIDS

*"Staying healthy is about a few basic things: A positive attitude, partnering with my doctor, taking my medicine every day."*

— Magic Johnson



infection among blacks, including New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Philadelphia, Houston, Atlanta and Newark, N.J.

The campaign also includes educational ads and a speaking tour by Johnson. It is similar to campaigns that have used athletes, movie stars and other celebrities to promote awareness about and specific drugs for arthritis,

depression and other conditions.

But the GlaxoSmithKline campaign is the first of its kind for HIV, which has created particularly sensitive issues of price and profit for the pharmaceutical industry.

"The new wave of this disease is moving toward minorities, specifically African-Americans," said Peter Hare, vice president of GlaxoSmithKline's HIV

business unit. "More African-Americans are dying from AIDS than white people. So, from a business perspective, if you want more patients, you have to focus on the African-American community."

Johnson, diagnosed with HIV 11 years ago, does not have full-blown AIDS. To maintain his health, the basketball Hall of Famer takes a combination of GlaxoSmithKline and non-GlaxoSmithKline drugs, including Combivir, the most commonly prescribed HIV drug and one of GlaxoSmithKline's best sellers.

New alternatives, including generics, are turning what was once a limited market into one of fierce competition. Products such as Crixivan and Stocrin made

(See Magic, Page 5)

## USDA agrees to pay \$6.6 million to black farmer

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Agriculture Department will pay a black farmer \$6.6 million for discriminating against him, officials said Friday.

Department officials had been considering for a month whether to appeal a judge's decision which ordered the agency to pay Will Sylvester Warren, of Southampton County, Va., for 17 years of discrimination.

Alisa Harrison, a department spokeswoman, confirmed the agency will pay Warren the large sum, but added that officials are reviewing other aspects of Judge Constance T.

O'Bryant's decision to ensure it "does not violate any of the laws under USDA authority." Harrison declined to elaborate.

Warren did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment. However, the 77-year-old farmer felt strongly about his case and his trade. Records show he told a federal investigator in 1997: "I will die to save my farm."

Black farmer groups said the agency's decision to pay Warren gives them hope that the department - along with the judges, adjudicators and arbitrators who hear their cases - will be more sym-

thetic.

"I think this opens up the door to give all of those people a fair trial," said John Boyd, head of the National Black Farmers Association.

Thousands of black farmers across the country alleged in a class action lawsuit, Pigford vs. Glickman, that they routinely were denied loans because of their race. As part of a settlement for the 1997 court case, the department agreed to allow farmers to seek a \$50,000 settlement in cases where the government determined discrimination happened. So far, it has paid \$634 million in 12,690 cases but denied 8,540 cases.

Warren opted out and sought a judgment.

Most black farmers are upset with the results of the 1997 agreement, arguing the agency didn't discipline the loan agents blamed for discrimination and unfairly rejected thousands of cases. Tom Burrell, president of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalist Association, said he wants the Bush administration to throw out the settlement and start anew.

Citing the judgment in the Warren case, he said: "If that's not a basis for someone to revisit this decision of this lawsuit called Pigford, I don't know what is."

## MLK Jr. scholars program to offer summer internships

### Special to Sentinel-Voice

To help recognize the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., the U.S. Department of Education will again conduct its Martin Luther King Jr. Scholars Program by offering as many as 10 summer internships at the Education Department's headquarters in Washington.

This marks the second year of the program, unveiled last year by President Bush to pay tribute to the slain civil rights leader's life's work of promoting equality for all.

"We are proud to again offer this opportunity announced last year by President Bush as a means to honor the myriad contributions that Dr. King made to our world," said U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige.

As many as 10 outstand-

ing undergraduate or graduate students with an interest in education policy or public policy and administration will be chosen to participate in the internships this summer.

Selected students will be designated Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholars and receive temporary federal appointments in the excepted service for an eight-week period from June 16 to Aug. 8. The scholars will be assigned to the Office of the Secretary and the immediate offices of the assistant secretaries of education at the department's D.C. headquarters. They will assist with a variety of projects designed to offer developmental experiences and exposure to government and public policy in a cabinet-level department.

The program is open to

continuing juniors, seniors and graduate students. Students must be enrolled on a full-time basis in an accredited undergraduate or graduate degree program and have plans to register for the fall semester. Graduating baccala-

ureate, master's, or doctoral students not enrolled or continuing their education in the academic semester following the summer internship are ineligible.

To apply, visit the official (See Interns, Page 5)

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