

# Celebration to commemorate slaves' release in Texas

By John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

The Juneteenth Festival, to commemorate the day slaves were freed in Texas, is slated for 3 to 9 p.m. Saturday June 14, at the Sammy Davis Jr. Plaza at Lorenzi Park on Washington Avenue. The festival will raise funds for the Academy of African

American Studies, whose teach children life skills via their programs.

"We had over 1,200 people... (and) we are very happy about that excellent crowd," said Diane Hughes, president of the board of trustees for the academy.

Juneteenth, sometimes referred to as the "Teenth", recognizes the month the day in

June of 1865 when slaves in Galveston, Texas learned that slavery had ended. Union forces marched into town led by Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger and told bewildered slaves that Gen. Lee had surrendered and that the Civil War was over.

"It's a part of our past... we

weren't around in 1865 but it effects us all," Hughes said. "We're letting our children know (that) it's (slavery) an economical condition or situation. There was slavery all around the world—we just happen to be slaves in the U.S."

Activists also use

Juneteenth to dispel the myth that the Civil War was about slavery. Rather, it was about state's rights and the ability to make laws and regulations with little interference from the federal government. Hughes encourages people to research the history of the Civil War. Slavery, she says,

was "a money thing."

The festival will have food, art, live entertainment, vendors, booths and an essay contest. "Our goal is to make it better and bigger each year," Hughes said. "We want everybody to come out."

Those interested can call 255-6659.

## Reno council continues talks on racial profiling problems

RENO, Nev. (AP) - The Reno City Council has agreed to continue discussions on whether a study on racial profiling by police should be scrapped.

But Councilman Dave Aiuzzi said Wednesday that if the study is renewed, he wants a consensus among various groups on how it will be conducted and the results interpreted.

"There were a lot of groups represented here," Aiuzzi said after the meeting. "I want to make sure if we go ahead and do

something, we get buy-in on the results."

Last month, Reno police announced plans to scrap the study because of the \$42,000 cost to hire a consultant.

Police argue that asking officers to record the race of people they pull over would discourage them from making traffic stops.

The also said no matter what the study's findings, groups like the American Civil Liberties Union would remain critical.

The council agreed to take up the issue at its June 11 meeting.

## Powell

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the intelligence and as I prepared myself for the (Feb. 5) briefing ... that the evidence was overwhelming that they had continued to develop these programs," he added.

Powell noted that the CIA and the Pentagon last week said they had concluded that two truck-trailers found in Iraq could only have been mobile biological weapons factories, although no trace of biological weapons was found in either.

The U.S. failure to find Iraqi biological or chemical weapons has triggered suggestions from former U.S. officials that U.S. intelligence may have been skewed to buttress the case for war, something the Bush administra-

tion has denied.

Powell told reporters as he flew to Egypt he chose not to cite intelligence suggesting Iraq tried to buy "yellow cake" uranium from Niger — quoted by other U.S. officials but later found by the International Atomic Energy Agency to be based partly on forged documents — because he felt there was insufficient substantiation.

"Not that I thought it was untrue, it's just that I didn't think it was solid enough for the kind of presentation I had to give," Powell said.

"It turned out to be untrue. That happens a lot in the intelligence business."

## Arson

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people have been working on the investigation in the past five days."

Citing the ongoing investigation, fire officials refused to release additional information on the blaze and wouldn't answer questions about the fire's point of origin, motives or if there are any suspects.

Investigators are asking anyone with information relating to the fire to call Las Vegas Fire & Rescue at 383-2888 or Crimestoppers at 385-5555.

## Fire

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the property and planned to reopen the casino on its 50th anniversary.

The long-closed property has had a string of owners and renovation plans — and has long been a focus of preservationists. This month, it was listed among 11 Nevada historic places in danger of being lost to development and other pressures.

Firefighters arrived at the building north of downtown at shortly after 1 a.m. to find the roof engulfed in flames. The building was gutted.

Resident Martin Gutierrez, 51, said he woke to see smoke coming out of a vent from the casino kitchen.

"I grabbed the phone and called 911," he said. "My roommate saw the flames go whoosh."

A damage estimate was not immediately available, and the cause of the fire was being investigated.



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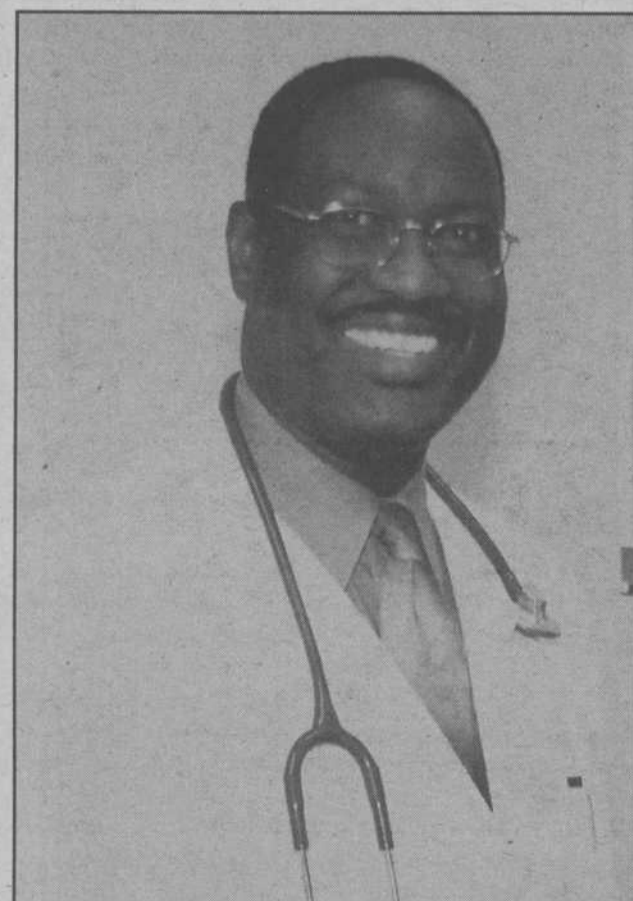


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