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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

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Thousands gather downtown for King

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

Thousands of Las Vegas gathered on 4th Avenue downtown on Saturday to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the 23rd Annual MLK Parade.

The Grand Marshals for the MLK Parade were Dr. Anthony Pollard and Diane Pollard, longtime activists in Las Vegas who contribute time and talents to several organizations, working to improve the quality of life for all Las Vegas.

The parade featured more than 110 entrants from various backgrounds, including entrees from the city of Las Vegas, Henderson, and North Las Vegas.

More than two dozen combined elementary, middle, high schools churches, drill teams and bands marched in the parade, which also included police, firefighters and a myriad of groups and individuals.

Isaac Henderson watched the parade.

"Martin Luther King Jr. marched for all of us to be equal," Henderson said. "By



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

And The Winner Is ... H.P. Fitzgerald Elementary. Well, at least in the Best School Float category. The school's creative float was among dozens that paraded down 4th Street Saturday during the 23rd annual Martin Luther King Day Parade.

God's law, King said, equality and justice is for every American citizen. Slavery, even to this day, has caused the Black man to suffer mentally, physically and mon-

etarily to which America must apologize. King said the Black man did not create sla-

very. It was a form of injustice done to the Black man and America must now pay

for its actions."

Metro Police reported the parade was mostly incident free. There were minor skirmishes at the end of the parade with young people fighting and jumping over barricades, police said.

The Parade lasted 4 hours, 15 minutes, eclipsing last year's 3 hours, 45 minutes. At times there were gaps between marchers ranging from one to two blocks. Exhibition before grandstand judges averaged two to four minutes per act.

Nevada Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams, chair and founder of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, shared his perspective.

"Over the past 23 years this has been an event that has grown and will continue to grow," Williams said. "There were four parades that started when this one began in 1981 and they all fell by the wayside. We continued to go on and now are the largest parade in the state."

The Annual MLK Jr. Committee Awards Banquet was held at the Flamingo (See MLK Parade, Page 7)

Monitoring officer misconduct challenging for Black police

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — DeLacy Davis leads marches against police brutality. He embraces victims' family members and shouts through megaphones for justice and peace. And he testifies in courtrooms against rogue cops and holds seminars to teach people what to do when stopped by the police.

DeLacy Davis is no ordinary activist. In fact, he would be the last person expected to be involved in these activities. That's because Davis is a police officer. Twelve years ago, he decided he would stop tolerating unprovoked beat-



David Hicks, a Richmond, Va. prosecutor, has taken heat for prosecuting cops accused in brutalizing citizens.

ings and abuse of criminal suspects by police when he established Black Cops Against Police Brutality (B-CAP).

"Those kinds of practices shamed me. I wasn't a party to any of it. But as I traveled and moved around the coun-

try, I was seeing this as a pattern in law enforcement. And what I found shameful was that I, as a Black man, did not have the courage to publicly speak out about it," says Davis, a sergeant in the East Orange, N.J. (See Brutality, Page 15)

Exhibit depicts separation in Jim Crow-era Las Vegas

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

A historical photo exhibit, depicting the evolution of the West Side of Las Vegas, was reintroduced with a reception Friday at the Winchester Cultural Center.

The exhibit, courtesy of the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, was assembled by the late Frank Wright and titled "Eastside/Westside: Overcoming a Segregated Environment 1940-1960."

The photo exhibit features an era when Black entertainers who performed at various Las Vegas hotels and casinos were denied accommodations. They were forced to seek refuge in a community that was segregated and lacked essential public services. Also, suffering during this time were Black workers at Basic Magnesium during WWII. They endured negative living conditions but managed to build a vibrant religious and social life in this community.

"We're having an opening reception for an exhibit that originally was exhibited at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in 1994," said Diane Bush, cultural program

supervisor for Clark County Department of Parks & Community Services. "It is on display this month in celebration of Black History Month and was put together by the late Frank Wright, who was one of Nevada's most popular and significant historians."

"It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase the African-American community, their past and their history," Bush said. "One positive aspect of the exhibit is that it leaves you hungry and wanting more about the history of African Americans in Las Vegas. That is the gift of the show."

Eastside/Westside will be on display at the Winchester Cultural Center, 3130 S. McLeod Dr., through from Feb. 28.

Enos Baker and Bernice Wright-Baker came out to view the historical exhibit.

"Some of the comments about the history I found to be enlightening," Mr. Baker said. "I've lived here 13 years and there's a lot of history that you don't hear about. There are some interesting facts here that are rather surprising. In terms of Blacks being south of Fremont and being forced to move by revok-

(See Art, Page 3)