



Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice

Retiring Matt Kelley Elementary Vice Principal Mel Beech has been an educational mainstay in two states.

Beech's educational legacy spans West

By Dianna Saffold
Sentinel-Voice

Matt Kelly Elementary School, sitting in the heart of the West Las Vegas community, bid farewell to Dr. Mel Beech, a neighborhood legacy.

Beech, a vice principal, will be missed not because his candy jar was always full and not because a display of nobility would certainly be accorded him. He will be missed because he stood for excellence, good grooming, dignity and above all – discipline.

Beech officially retires at the end of this school year. Recently students, faculty, parents and community members dedicated a permanently anchored bench, complete with a gold plate to be placed in the school courtyard. The architecturally designed courtyard, enhanced by beautiful palm trees, rock gardens and space to hold those who bring class outside, was one of the many projects initiated by Beech.

The life of Dr. Mel Beech reads like a fairytale whose moral is to recognize your power of choice and use it. Beech is one of those ordinary people that did extraordinary things. He chose to manifest his greatness by taking

(See Beech, Page 5)

Group plans African investing summit

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

Members from Atlantic Resorts LLC met recently to discuss their latest venture and announce plans to host an "African Summit" this summer in Las Vegas.

The summit is scheduled for Aug. 22-29 at Fitzgeralds Hotel & Casino, 301 Fremont St. The African Summit will focus on people from Africa and descendants living in the United States coming together to learn about investment opportunities on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

"A commitment has been made by the State Department to place information in their literature that they distribute to the different embassies about the summit along with providing contact information with the media," said Irene Cole, chief executive officer of Atlantic Resorts. "Secondly they will be sending representatives to the summit and speak on economic infrastructures for the countries involved and foreign affairs.

"The problems that we are having as Africans is that we are not addressing the financial issues that we should be addressing," Cole said.

"We have people from other countries who just take advantage of the situation and exploit us. So we have to keep in mind that whatever we're doing now we're also doing it for the growth of our brothers and sisters, for the nation, and the African continent as a whole."

This summit has taken on



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Members of Atlantic Resorts LLC have organized an investing summit for Africans and people of African descent. Members pictured (l to r): Jeff Walker of the U.S., Oumar Faye (Senegal), Florence Carter (Nigeria), Mohamed A. Timbo (Sierra Leone), Wegessa Chacha (Tanzania), Teshager Kelkay (Ethiopia), Irene Cole (Nigeria) and Sarah Nyamuswa (Zimbabwe).

the distinction of "bridging the gap" between African and U.S. business, social welfare, culture, tourism, and trade. This will be an opportunity for participants in the summit to meet with local, national and international bankers and financiers, who reportedly will be ready to fund lucrative ventures.

Since Las Vegas is known as the fastest-growing city for tourism in the world, it was essential that the summit be

held here. One focus of the summit will be to introduce international leaders, businessmen and women to meet and speak to individuals who will share their insights on "how to achieve the American Dream," as found in the book "To Achieve the American Dream" by Ernest M. Fountain.

Another focus of the summit will be to share the capitalistic approach to financial freedom and information on

what to do to get grants and/or loans for various projects to invest in Africa. Participants are being recruited from throughout Africa, including Cameroon, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, D.R.C., Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Senegal, Tanzania, Kenya, Erythrea, Zimbabwe, and South Africa.

Cole also reflected past scams that have mainly originated in Nigeria.

"We have to address this (See Summit, Page 4)

100 Black Men receives \$63,000

Chapter expands outreach to Nevada Partners

By Albert C. Jones
Sentinel-Voice

The mentoring program of 100 Black Men of Las Vegas has expanded to include Nevada Partners Inc.

The collaboration with Nevada Partners brings to five the number of schools that the local chapter of 100 Black Men of America Inc. has established mentoring programs, including four in the Clark County School District. "For the first time, we will be working with young adults in a mentoring capacity," said Larry J. Mosley, president of 100 Black Men of Las Vegas. "We realize that not everyone is going to go to college. With the young adults at Nevada Partners, we want to help them to develop self-esteem and develop cognitive skills that will enable them to be successfully involved."

100 Black Men of Las Vegas are currently mentoring 120 students at Wendell P. Williams Elementary School, H.P. Fitzgerald Elementary School and Andre Agassi Preparatory Academy, Mosley said.

Nevada Partners is a non-profit agency.

The agency's Web site says, "We focus on a "comprehensive training approach to unemployment and underemployment. We offer programs that prepare individuals to successfully meet challenges in the Las Vegas business community."

Throughout nearly a decade of operations, Nevada Partners has processed some 13,000 cases. The collaboration with Nevada Partners, announced on Saturday, May 15, follows the recent announcement that the local chapter was awarded a \$63,000, one-year grant from Caesars Entertainment to help fund the local chapter's participation in the Wimberly Initiative."

Caesars Entertainment is committed to supporting programs that bring lasting value to the people of the communities in which we work and live," said Caesars Executive Vice President Steven F. Bell.

"The Wimberly Initiative of 100 Black Men of Las Vegas represents the best kind of community service, because its benefits literally will last a lifetime," added Paul Jones, (See 100 Black Men, Page 6)

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