

Third Annual Taste & Tunes Festival set for weekend

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Sentinel-Voice

North Las Vegas will hold its award-winning Third Annual Taste & Tunes Festival this weekend starting on Friday at 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

It will be located at 2200 Civic Center Drive in front of North Las Vegas City Hall. Admission is free to the public on both days.

According to Tracey Elikan, recreation programmer for the City of North Las Vegas, the event is focused on families enjoying the event together.

Supporting the theme that Taste & Tunes will provide fun for every member of the family, the festival will include plenty of activities for young children and a diverse lineup of musical entertainment targeted to all age groups.

"The [festival] celebrates the diverse cuisine, music and culture of the residents of North Las Vegas. This year's event showcases numerous family-friendly activities highlighted by a wide variety of musical entertainment on two stages, USA-sanctioned boxing bouts featuring athletes from all dif-

ferent age and weight classes, and a carnival with rides for the entire family," Elikan explained.

The festival has always brought together a wide variety of music, cuisine and activities, for which it won 2004 Program of the Year in the State of Nevada. This award, presented by the Nevada Recreation and Park Society, is the highest form of recognition given by the association in the area of recreation programming.

"Food vendors scheduled for the event include: Tommy Boy Sausage, Dippin' Dots Ice Cream, R & C Thai Chi-

nese BBQ, Las Vegas Kettle Korn, Del's Lemonade, Red Apple Grill, Acadie Crepes, Red Rock Grill (cheese steak sandwiches), Snowie (snow cones), Krispy Kreme, Holland Dog Express (roasted corn), Martino's Mexican Grill, Soul 2 Soul, Silver Nugget (chicken), and Greathouse of Ribs," said Elikan.

There will also be a variety of craft vendors participating in the event this year.

"Marketplace items for sale include: decorative plates, jewelry, pet tables, fruit breeze drinks, cosmetics, candles, pillows, sun-

glasses, plastic canvas, crochets, T-shirts, wood carvings, hats, fragrance oils, blankets, incense, children's toys, salt-water taffy and gift baskets," said Elikan.

"The craft marketplace will feature face painters and other crafts for sale geared toward small children. Additionally, the carnival features rides ranging from delightful to the extreme — sure to please even the smallest festival-goer," Elikan added.

The carnival, boxing, craft displays and food vendors will run continuously throughout the festival.

The live entertainment at

the event in past years has been as varied as the festival cuisine. This year is no exception.

The top-notch lineup for Saturday includes the 1990s R&B group Xscape; 1970s sensation, TheBar-Kays; Johnny V.; Purple Reign, A Prince Tribute; and Caravan-serai, a Santana Tribute.

Friday night's schedule includes Veronica Lopez; Los Cadetes; Los Dos Grandes and Los Baby's.

For more information, visit the website for the City of North Las Vegas at www.ci.north-las-vegas.nv.us or call 633-2418.

Mfume

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Mfume states that his resignation had nothing to do with Speaks' charges.

"My contract was up there [at the NAACP] on October 24. It was really time for me to move on and do something else," he said on the National Public Radio program "News & Notes with Ed Gordon." He explained, "What that something else was, as I said at my press conference, could have been business, it could have involved politics, it could have involved writing, or it could have involved spending more time with my youngest son, but it was time for me to move on. I'm the kind of person that is motivated by challenge and I needed a new challenge."

According to the *Washington Post*, which broke the story, the memo stated, "The impression [was] created that a woman must provide sexual favors to Mr. Mfume or his associates in order to receive favorable treatment in the workplace."

In the NPR interview, Mfume told Ed Gordon, "These are all unproven and unsubstantiated accusations. That's the interesting thing about all of this, and why someone would take that information to the *Washington Post* in the middle of the night and leave it in the very early stages of this campaign is very interesting and I can't really react to that. I believe, however, that it's clearly an effort to kill the campaign, to discredit me, to dry up donations and to put questions in the mind of potential voters here in Maryland and that's unfortunate."

Mfume, who is unmarried, served as president and CEO of the NAACP for nine years. He acknowledges that he dated one female employee of the NAACP. He said he adopted that woman's



Former NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume.

young son.

"I did date someone there for about three months back in 1997, although nothing came of that. It was a very short series of lunches and dinners. I fell in love with her son who was fatherless, very withdrawn, four years of age and just the kind of child that for me, as a member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters for the last 25 years, it was the right thing to do," he said on the broadcast.

This is not the first time an NAACP executive has come under fire for having personal relationships with female employees. Former Executive Director, Ben Chavis, who was replaced by Mfume, left the organization tarnished and several million dollars in debt after the NAACP made a secret \$350,000 settlement with a female staffer. Chavis, who was married, was sued by the woman and that led to the out-of-court settlement.

"I am a little bit surprised that the organization did not lay down some rules of etiquette after the Ben Chavis affair," said Walters, the political science professor.

"From my understanding, once something like that happens, it is the board's responsibility to delegate a set of rules or procedures that es-

tablishes the way the office ought to be managed. They didn't do that apparently. The person coming in should know what the boards expectations are in terms of dating personnel. Some of this really is on the NAACP."

Attempts to reach Board Chairman, Julian Bond were unsuccessful.

Mfume said he is confident that this will not hurt his run for the U.S. Senate. "People here in Maryland will make decisions based on facts and what they believe... you can look someone in the eye and tell when they're lying to you and when they're telling the truth... it will be interesting to see what happens as we go through this campaign," he said.

Walters isn't convinced the matter will go away.

"If these charges are credible, I think it's going to damage his campaign because we're in an environment where the whole question of morality is linked to politics, and I wouldn't, for example, put it past Republicans to comment on this from that standpoint, to try to damage whoever the Democratic nominee is going to be.

"[Mfume] is going to have to put this to rest in order to satisfy the public. He's going to have to do more than just

say it didn't happen. He's going to have to prove it to somebody. Again, you talk about credibility of the document/charges. He's going to have to dismiss these charges in some credible way."

Mfume says there are limitations on how he can react.

"I can't stop people from making unproven allegations, but I can state the facts. The fact is, I really believe in and have all my life


worked for the hiring and promotion of qualified women as a goal organizations and business should take seriously — and my record reflects that. I believe that too many women in this society are prejudged everyday by the assumption that they only got where they were because of their body and not their brain. And that kind of thinking is an insult to all women; but as a man, I can tell you that it's despi-

cable," he told Gordon.

He added, "As I've said all along, that's not the kind of ship I run, and most people that know me, know that's not the case. If I was doing all this after 10 years at the NAACP, 10 years in Congress and seven years in the City Council, it's interesting that this would only come about now as an accusation while I'm running for the United States Senate in Maryland."


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