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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Academy fulfills family's dream

West Las Vegas charter school result of vision, grit and years of work



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Dr. Anthony Pollard, founder of Rainbow Medical Centers, speaks during groundbreaking ceremonies for the Rainbow Dreams Academy, a West Las Vegas charter school he and wife Diane have championed.

By Tasha Pope
Sentinel-Voice

With ceremony, dirt was tossed from shovels dressed with red ribbons tied on the handles. The official ground breaking for the Rainbow Dreams Academy was held last week on West Lake Mead Boulevard, across from the West Las Vegas Library.

The ground breaking was an emotional event. Now just an empty lot, the air of promise was very real because children's lives will soon be shaped at the academy site in the

city's predominantly Black Historic West Side neighborhood.

Some presenters struggled to keep their composure as they expressed from the podium what this project means for them, children's futures, and what its founders Dr. Anthony L. Pollard and Diane Hughes Pollard have done for the community.

Rainbow Dreams Academy is a planned charter school that specializes in full-day kindergarten through second grade. The curriculum will focus on developing

children's reading, writing and technical skills. It will be a 12,000-square-foot facility designed to hold 350 students.

Pollard and his wife have made tremendous contributions to families and youth for years. In addition to operating several Rainbow Medical Center sites, they created the Anthony L. Pollard Foundation about 14 years ago and have been aiding at-risk and underprivileged students ever since.

The Pollards offer a wide range of support and resources through

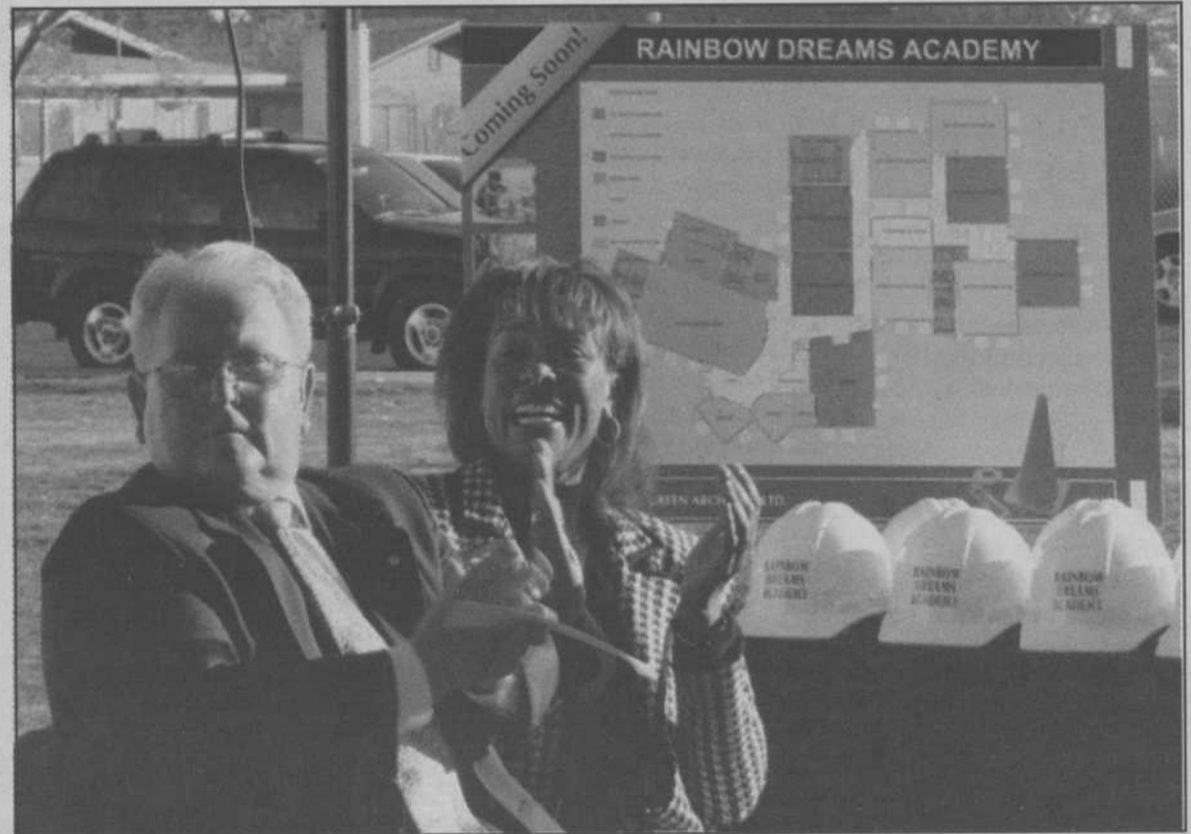
the foundation, including scholarships and refurbished computers, for students who would otherwise go without. Now, in the newest challenge, the couple has decided to tackle the task of opening a charter school to service the youngest children considered at-risk for learning problems.

"We believe problems start in the pre-development stages," Dr. Pollard said. "The only way kids can succeed is through the educational process. That's the only way they can better themselves," he con-

tinued.

"It's called [Rainbow Dreams Academy] because we want all children of color to be welcomed that are at risk," he explained. Pollard said he believes the academy can identify and "reprogram" early learning problems in young students so they are better equipped when they enter society.

Councilmen Lawrence Weekly, State Senator Steven Horsford and Las Vegas Mayor Oscar B. Goodman were among the present-
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Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Larry Woodruff, president of Bank West of Nevada, left, and Diane Pollard, clap during the ceremony.

Domestic spying leads to talk of impeachment

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - President Bush's authorization of a secret domestic spying program — and his fierce defense of his action — is leading to talk of possible impeachment.

"In my opinion, the President has violated the law, and the House and Senate must pursue their inquiries into this illegal program... George W. Bush is the president. He is not a king. He is not above the law," stated U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., in a release last week. "I look forward to further inquiry in the House and Senate on

these matters. The American people deserve the truth. We must gather the facts and determine once and for all whether the law was violated. There is no question that the U.S. Congress has impeached presidents for lesser offenses."

Lewis continues, "This executive order takes us back to the dark past when our government spied on civil rights leaders and Vietnam War protestors. Without obtaining the judicial authorization required to wiretap American citizens, the American people have no protection against the misuse of this program for illegal or vin-
(See Spying, Page 11)

Group: Racial bias mars post-hurricane renting

DALLAS (AP) - A fair-housing watchdog has accused five apartment complexes in Texas, Florida and Alabama of discriminating against Hurricane Katrina evacuees who are Black. The complaints filed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development were based on a telephone survey by the National Fair Housing Alliance.

The group said White callers posing as hurricane vic-

tims were treated more favorably than Black applicants in 66 percent of its inquiries. NFHA president Shanna Smith said the organization used linguistic profiling to choose its testers, saying the test makes the race of the caller "pretty clear."

The report, released last week, said Blacks were less frequently told about available apartments, didn't have phone messages returned as promptly and generally had a more difficult time getting information

from agents.

The complaints against three apartment complexes in Dallas, one in Birmingham, Ala., and one in Gainesville, Fla., also ranged from Whites receiving lower rates to apartment agents informing Black callers of no availability, moments after telling White callers that units were available.

Complaints against two
(See Katrina, Page 3)