

Bailey school honors its namesake

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

An enthusiastic crowd of hundreds of friends, family, school staff, district staff, and students gathered at the official tribute giving recognition to Dr. William H. "Bob" Bailey after naming a new middle school in his honor. Bailey Middle School opened on August 29, 2005, in the Northeastern Region of the Clark County School District, located at 2500 North Hollywood and has a student population of 1,480 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders.

The mission statement of the school aims to "promote life-long learning to students, who will achieve and significantly contribute to our diverse society as creative, ethical, and problem-solving citizens."

Their motto: "Soaring above the rest, striving to be the best."

The school has a strong academic focus along with



Civic and business pioneer Dr. William "Bob" Bailey, center, is surrounded by admirers during tribute to his namesake Bailey Middle School. Pictured from left to right: Charles Tureaud, daughter Kimberly Bailey-Tureaud, principal Karen Paquette, Bailey's wife Anna, 7th grader Jimyah White, Kyla Adkins and Bailey's grandson, Brandon Tureaud, middle.

music and arts. The cost to construct Bailey MS was approximately 33 million dollars.

Namesake Bailey is noted

for his career that spanned decades in music, television, civil rights, politics and business.

He came to Las Vegas in

the 1950s and was a part of the success of the then-thriving Moulin Rouge Hotel and Casino located on the Historic Westside.

From there, Bailey ventured into television broadcasting, newspaper writing, and he became an advocate for social change. He worked for improvement of employment for African-Americans and others, and to this day remains focused on endearing his life to the betterment of students and their academic and social development.

Reflecting on the significance of the dedication ceremony, John Robert Bailey, son of "Bob" Bailey, stated: "Well, it means everything to our family, because it's a recognition of the life's work that my father has been able to accomplish." He added, "of course, with my mother's great assistance."

He continued, "It's a tremendous tribute whenever people within the community, in this case the Clark County community, recognizes those contributions and goes forward to name an edu-

ational facility like this beautiful middle school. This is the greatest accolade and award that I can remember my father receiving in many, many years, and this will be a legacy for him for many, many years to come because it's about education, something that speaks to his life along with civil rights."

Others that commented about the life of Bailey included the school Principal Dr. Karen Paquette; Clark County school board Vice President, Sheila Moulton; Northeast Region Superintendent Marsha Irvin; City Councilman Lawrence Weekly; Marsha Washington State Board of Education; Clark County Commissioners Yvonne Atkinson-Gates and Lynette Boggs-McDonald; and Bailey's daughter, Kimberly Ann Bailey-Tureaud.

Proclamations were received by the City Council of (See Bailey, Page 4)

PUSH

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Reverend Leonard B. Jackson is spearheading the efforts to organize a local chapter of the Rainbow/PUSH in Las Vegas.

Rev. Leonard B. Jackson (no relation to Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.) stated: "The requirements of establishing a chapter in Las Vegas starts with filing papers in Chicago to express an interest... electing a board to oversee the organizing efforts, and establishing a bank account to move forward. We have established our agenda and identified three issues that are of concern to us..."

He named the three areas of local focus: treatment of inmates and employees at the local prisons, the immigration policy conflict, and the plight of EOB/KCEP radio station. Jackson stated that there was no particular monetary requirement or specific number of members needed to begin the efforts to establishing a local chapter."

He added, "If we only have five people interested in getting this chapter started, consider it done."

More than 100 attended the meeting where the organization's founder, Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. spoke:

"Over the next several months we plan on implementing our agenda through some timeline or benchmark, along with pulling our people together [using this established] umbrella organization

to educate our people, motivate our people, in terms of voting rights, employment, etc. —to empower our people and make a difference."

The Honorable Judge Karen Bennett-Heron addressed the audience and indicated that the time is right in getting organized. She said, "We are in dire need of restoration. We did not get to this state overnight, and we will need to work together over the long haul because we easily get excited and then we go away. We have to be committed and have faith to fight these issues."

Addressing the plight of EOB/KCEP radio station, Councilman Lawrence Weekly advised the audience: "Over the past forty years the EOB has been an integral part of this community providing childcare and jobs to the residents."

He continued, "We have recently raised \$12,000 through our fundraising effort, and we have identified property that we can sell, and we guarantee that by the second week in June, we will have raised \$3 million dollars. So we're back."

Mary S. Hester spoke about the abuses of inmates and employees by the Nevada Department of Corrections: "We are picketing each and every Saturday at the Women's Prison about the mistreatment of the inmates and will continue to do so



Judge Karen Bennett-Heron speaks at Rainbow/PUSH.

until the matter is resolved. Employees like myself, who have spoken out about these conditions, have been terminated. So we need to get together and support one another."

J. T. Williams, of the Culinary Union spoke about the plight of the union and immigration: "About four or five years ago the union began the freedom ride movement taking buses across the country, picking up members along the way, heading to Washington, D.C., to take our issues directly to our leaders. On May 1, we had a lot of immigrants decide that they weren't going to work. We put together a petition in five languages that we took to the hotels and casinos and explained to the workers that this was the best way to address this issue. Around 55,000 employees signed the

petition that we then sent to Washington with a delegation of 10 individuals to be given to our lobbyists and Nevada representatives."

Williams spoke about an upcoming planned action: "On May 19, we are establishing a phone bank at every hotel and casino so that any employee can contact their representative and voice their concerns. From there, we will organize an active voter registration effort."

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson corralled the audience in his usual style of rhythmic chants and metaphorical phrases and, as usual, invigorating the call to action.

He said, "We can no longer be trapped under one party with two negatives. We cannot allow one to take us for granted and the other to write us off. We cannot be trapped on dry land in our

boats. There must be some way out."

Speaking about the conditions existing at our local prisons, Jackson stated,

"We have received letters and phone calls about the mistreatment of inmates and we plan to go visit them tomorrow [Wednesday] to see for ourselves what is going on."

Jackson then indicated that the group would be meeting with representative from the Mirage Hotel & Casino to discuss some basic organizational principles later that day.

He told the audience that Nevada was important to establishing a link to other locations and setting up a local chapter in other places in the West, like Denver, Los Angeles and Phoenix. He reminded the audience that we have the highest-ranking Democratic Senator in our midst and must work to get our lives in order and protect those whose backs are against the wall.

Jackson added, "There is a moral imperative if you

want to get to the kingdom. I was hungry and you fed me, or not. I was naked and you clothed me, or not. I was imprisoned and you visited me, or not."

Speaking about the elections process in New Orleans, Jackson said, "If you were [here] from Iraq, you were able to vote by satellite in the recent elections from America to Baghdad and Falujah. If you are a [New Orleans survivor but relocated to Nevada], you can't vote from here or New York or elsewhere by satellite. Why does democracy provide for Iraq to have onsite registration the day of the election, and not provide a list of the candidates in the election in Louisiana, with the federal government giving the power of the vote back to the state, who decided that satellite voting would not be allowed due to their callous, neglectful acts? We offered those individuals living on top of their roofs a handout in September, but no parity of the vote to exercise their right to liberty in May."

CORRECTION

In last weeks issue (Volume 27, Issue 1), the wrong photograph was used to identify Dr. Adam Clayton Powell IV.

