

# CCSD wants memorabilia for time capsule

By Debbie Hall  
Sentinel-Voice

September is Memorabilia Month in the Clark County School District and marks the kickoff of its ongoing public search for pieces of history representing current locals or former residents that have made historic contributions to the district. As part of CCSD's 50th Anniversary Celebration, an archive committee is collecting and preserving significant local artifacts, papers and other collectibles as part of the memorabilia project. A time capsule displaying the array of items will be open for public view.

Today, local families are educated by CCSD, and as one of the fastest growing school districts in the country, CCSD employs thousands. Now the district's founders, pioneers and more recent contributors will have their work recognized — through memorabilia.

Jamie Lee, Public Information Specialist for CCSD, said the district welcomes everyone throughout the community with anything to contribute to the archive to contact the memorabilia committee. Lee emphasizes that the search is for the entire community and organiz-



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

CCSD support staffer, Jackie Robinson, reviews class yearbooks to be added to the memorabilia collection and placed in the 50th anniversary time capsule.

ers want it to be as inclusive as possible.

She added that the committee's fundraising is underway for the special display cases needed in order to protect the materials that are donated for the permanent, above-ground, time capsule exhibit opening sometime in spring.

Lee described some things people have donated so far: "While we have a

yearbook collection, we are missing the older yearbooks and many people have donated those. We have collected historical photos, high school diplomas that are from the namesakes of schools, enrollment cards, even handkerchiefs made in the 1940s and given to teachers. We are looking for significant historical pieces from our school district."

While visitors see Las

Vegas as a place to lose themselves in gaming, fine dining and shopping, what many don't realize is that Las Vegas held promise of a new beginning for people of color. And despite the ensuing struggles of African-Americans after they arrived in the desert, many have been a part of the establishment and growth of the local school district. Their contributions and experience are part of the historical record of the school district.

More than 30 volunteer anniversary committee members have a collective 250 years of service to the school district, noted one of the coordinators. The committee consists of former administrators, teachers, namesakes, community representatives and current district staff.

They have been working hard to help create awareness of the district's accomplishments and unique role in Southern Nevada over the past five decades.

The 50-year celebration

kickoff in March was the start of a yearlong series of events and activities aimed at preserving and highlighting the history of the CCSD and the memorabilia drive kickoff event was held earlier this month. The coordinators are optimistic about the community response.

Rick Watson, who serves as an archivist, retired in 2000 after working 36 years as both a teacher and principal. He said he got involved because his major in college was history. "History was my favorite subject as well as nostalgia. I was raised here, and the whole project is a way to remember and relive the memories. These photographs were never organized into an archive or well protected. It would cost money and CCSD didn't have the budget, but this needed to be done. We have been working on this for the past two years and decided to do something for the 50th anniversary..."

Watson added, "Many photos are of general interest to historians including aerial shots, which show vast expanses of the valley. We are all excited about this project."

Shirley Barber, serving her fourth term as a school board trustee, said, "I support anything positive about our school district. This is great for the kids to see what has happened in the past." Barber has worked in the CCSD for 40 years as a teacher, principal and administrator. Barber continued, "I have seen some growth but we still have a lot to do. However, this is a great program."

Committee member Thalia Dondero, wife of school namesake and CCSD historian, the late Harvey N. Dondero, said she hopes the group can lend support in celebrating the past 50 years for the district, teachers and

parents. "This gives us an opportunity to celebrate the wonderful things that education has done and is doing in our communities," said Dondero.

Wayne Tanaka, a 30-year district veteran, says the strictly volunteer committee is "pleased to be able to come together" and work toward preserving and promoting the history of the CCSD.

"We feel our work on the committee fulfills a sense of obligation to the district and the community, that our history is important," said Tanaka, who in 2004 became namesake of an elementary school. "It's not self-glorification. The history defines who we are and what we have come through."

This is what prompted Tanaka and longtime CCSD colleagues Ralph Cadwallader and Michael Kinnaird to head a subcommittee to encourage schools throughout the district to research their own history. According to Kinnaird, the idea is to try and "connect each entity of the district with the 50-year celebration."

"Hopefully, we can provide the schools the opportunity to do some research about their legacy and see people who came from meager backgrounds and achieved success in college and their lives," he said. "It's important to show that each school has contributed and, then, to put the faces and names to the stories of those who have made significant contributions," he explained.

The committee says researching the history is fun, too. There is a little-known reason why the word "memorial" is part of the official name of Cimarron-Memorial High School. There's also a strange twist to naming the "Chargers" as the official (See CCSD, Page 3)

## Contenders in public debate Ariola, Gillespie vie for sheriff

By Debbie Hall  
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Two candidates vying for sheriff — Jerry M. Ariola and Douglas C. Gillespie — will debate in a forum co-hosted by CAAN, The Caucus of African American Nevadans. The event is free to the public and will be held at the Plaza Hotel and Casino Showroom at One Main Street, located at the head of Fremont Street downtown.

Ariola and Gillespie received 21.83 percent and 31.99 percent of the vote, respectively, in the primary election, resulting in a two-candidate run-off race in the general election in November. Ariola owns a multimillion dollar helicopter company and Gillespie is the current undersheriff in the Metropolitan Police Department currently headed by outgoing Sheriff Bill Young.

The debate will begin at 7:30 p.m. with an opening statement by both candidates, followed by panelists' ques-

tions. The candidates are allowed to direct one question or more to his opponent. The 60- to 90-minute debate period will be preceded by a reception hosted by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Xi Chapter.

Brian Ayala, board member, will represent the other debate co-host organization — IMPACTO, The Latin Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee — on the panel.

Rose McKinney James, PAC subcommittee chair, will represent CAAN.

Other scheduled panelists include media representatives: Ramon Savoy, *Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice* newspaper publisher and editor-in-chief; Patricia Cunningham, KCEP 88.1 FM talk-show host and commentator; Xavier Rivas, KRLV 1340 AM; and Eddie Escobedo, *El Mundo* newspaper.

McKinney James stated: "This is an historic occasion since this is the first debate

presented by CAAN. We have held political forums before but never a debate. What I think is important is that the sheriff's race affects all of our citizens and, especially, all the minorities of our community. This debate will allow the minorities to have an understanding of this race and present a great opportunity to understand the issues of law enforcement. We also want to make sure that these candidates recognize how their office affects Hispanic and Black people and the unique issues in urban settings."

Cunningham commented: "Voters can get a chance to see what kind of leader the candidates will be and there are some key issues that have been on the back burner that many people have chosen not to speak about [openly in] public but [talk about] around the proverbial water cooler."

She emphasized, "One of (See Sheriff, Page 4)

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