

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice



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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Lower charge in Jena 6 case

JENA, La. (AP) - Prosecutors on Tuesday reduced the attempted murder charges against two more teenagers among the "Jena Six," a group of Black high school students who were arrested following an altercation with a White schoolmate.

Five of the teens were originally charged with attempted second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder, carrying sentences of up to 80 years in prison. The sixth faces undisclosed juvenile charges.

Civil rights advocates have decried the charges as unfairly harsh. On Tuesday, charges against Carwin Jones and Theo Shaw were reduced to aggravated second-degree battery and conspiracy. That same reduction was made earlier for Mychal Bell, who was tried and found guilty and could be sentenced to 22 1/2 years at a hearing Sept. 20. Also awaiting trial are Robert Bailey Jr. and Bryant Purvis, who still face attempted murder charges, and the unidentified juvenile.

What some are calling an attack on Justin Barker, 18, came amid tense race relations in Jena, a mostly White town of 3,000 in north-central Louisiana where racial tensions have grown since incidents that started last school year at Jena High. After a Black student sat under a tree on the school campus where White students traditionally congregated, three nooses were hung in the tree.

Students accused of placing the nooses were suspended from school for a short period.

The six Black students were accused of beating and kicking Barker on Dec. 4. A motive was never established. Barker was treated at a hospital emergency room and released after about three hours. He later that night attended a social event.

Shaw's attorney, George Tucker, said Tuesday that he still doesn't believe his client will get a fair trial in Jena.

Shaw himself has dreams of attending Grambling State University. "Just drop all the charges and let us go on with our lives," the teenager said in a televised interview.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

"A Healthier U.S. Starts Here," a nationwide tour, recently stopped through the Martin Luther King Senior Center.

## Tour eyes healthier lives

Medicare resources for disease prevention and wellness

By Lés Pierres Streater  
Sentinel-Voice

A nationwide event entitled "A Healthier U.S. Starts Here" made its last stops in Nevada on its 48 contiguous states tour.

More than 100 residents from Las Vegas and North Las Vegas attended the recent health fair held at the Martin

Luther King Senior Center at 2420 N. MLK Blvd. at Carey Ave., one of the last four sites in the state to host the free community health awareness and screenings event.

The program seeks to encourage beneficiaries of Medicare to prevent chronic diseases and illnesses.

The health fair featured

no-cost vision and hearing screenings, blood pressure checks, stress-level evaluations and massage therapy for all attendees. It also included the information booths of numerous local health organizations to educate the public about Medicare Part D, a source of confusion for many seniors in

recent years.

Beneficiaries were encouraged to take control of their health by talking to their healthcare providers about preventative services available to them through Medicare.

Ida Davis, director of the MLK Senior Center, welcomed attendees. (See Health Fair, Page 2)

## Jakes: Controversies shouldn't deter marriage

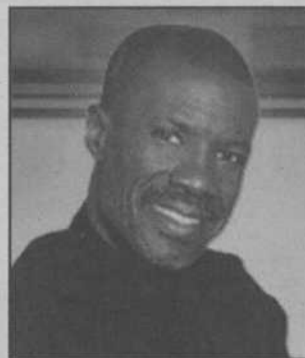
By Hazel Trice Edney  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Bishop T. D. Jakes, preparing for yet another women's conference — "For Ladies Only" — next month, says he is hoping recent separation and divorce announcements of Christian power couples, including the hotel parking lot beating of Prophetess Juanita Bynum-Weeks by her minister husband, won't deter marriages.

"I don't want to comment on their specific cases because I am counseling them and that would not be professional. But to make a general

statement about women who are going through divorce, divorce does not have to be the end of your life," said Jakes in an interview with the NNPA News Service.

"It is a tragedy. The Bible says that God hates divorce and I believe that it is God's will that we walk together and keep our vows. But your life doesn't have to end because your marriage did. And to those women who are dealing with domestic violence, I think the first thing to do is to put you and your children in a safe environment and then begin to work out a resolution."



"Sex does not have enough strength to keep a marriage together."

— Noel Jones  
Los Angeles Bishop

As for those who may be intimidated after hearing about or witnessing violence between lovers, there is no need to lose heart, Jakes says.

"When they see a neighbor or a cousin or a friend or

even a leader going through those problems, then they start giving up on marriage," said Jakes, who has been married to his wife, Serita, for 25 years.

"They fail to look at those

thousands and thousands of couples who have been married for years and years and have enjoyed their marriages and have enjoyed their lives together. Things may not have been perfect, but they still have enjoyed a prolonged loving relationship with another person. Don't give up on love. Love works."

Bynum, a televangelist with a national following, pressed charges against her estranged husband, Bishop Thomas Weeks, after she was badly bruised in a confrontation with him during an Aug. 22 meeting to reconcile at an

Atlanta hotel, police said.

Bishop Thomas W. Weeks III, founder of Global Destiny churches, was charged with aggravated assault and terrorist threats. He was set to appear in court this week.

News of the Bynum-Weeks charges was compounded by the subsequent announcement by Paula White of Paula White Ministries and her husband Randy that they, too, are planning to divorce. Their separation appears to be amicable. Both women could be considered daughters of the Jakes ministry, having met at a 2002 meeting to reconcile at an

(See Love, Page 4)