

Homework

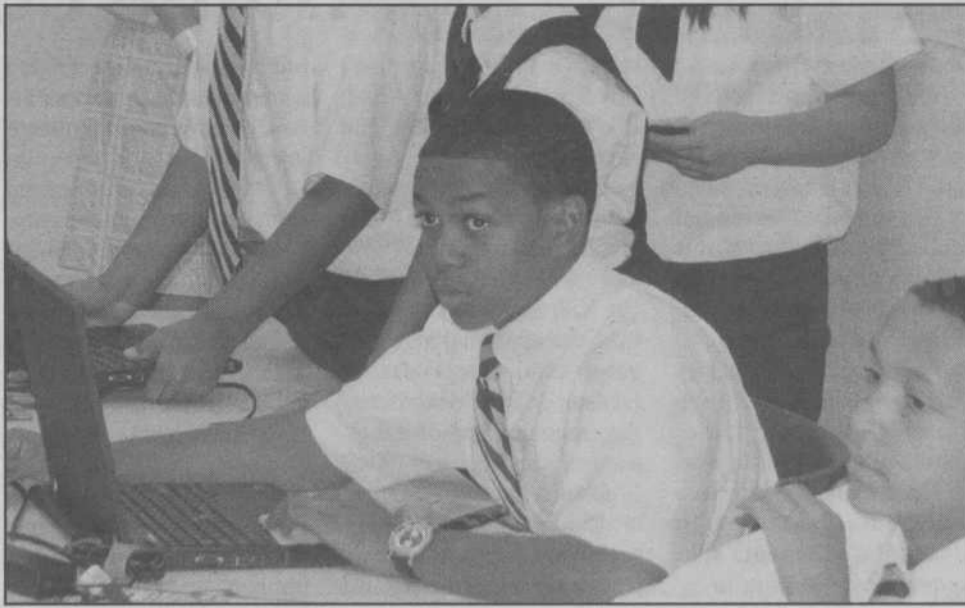
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tween the library and school districts, according to Verlia Hoggard, chair of the library district's board of trustees, and LVCCLD Deputy Director Robb Morss.

The student help center model was a collection of ideas from the LVCCLD executive staff visiting libraries around the country and the sharing of "best practices."

Hoggard, stated, "The demographic makeup of this area has changed since I moved here over 35 years ago. It used to be predominantly Black; now the neighborhood has Hispanics and Whites," as well. I watch the children as they go by to the [Mabel Hoggard Elementary] school across from my house. Also, if you observe the people using the library, you will notice the diversity, which is reflective of the neighborhood."

Hoggard added, "this neighborhood Library and Homework Help Center services an underprivileged area of our city and was really needed in order to continue



Josh Poole, a ninth-grader at the House of Knowledge Christian Academy, intently listens.

to enhance the resources that are available to our youth in this community."

Support for the center came from the Nevada Legislature in the amount of \$200,000 and \$100,000 from a Nevada State Library and Technology Act, as well as from the LVCCLD Capital Projects and Collection Development budgets.

West Las Vegas Library Branch Manager Nancy

Hutchinson said, "The center will be a very important place for our youth to come and enjoy and take advantage of an area that has a 'dedicated quiet-area.'"

Hutchinson added, "This area has extra resources that widen their [children's] options for gathering information. Our library is always busy and packed, especially after school with children and their parents. I am very

excited about this center and the service that it is bringing to the community."

Andre Agassi Academy student, Ontranique Taylor, and The 100 Academy student, Juan Calderon, both acknowledged the helpfulness of the center.

Calderon said, "my family is very poor and cannot afford a computer at home, so being able to come here has helped me to do my homework faster and research things. I am doing a science research project on plant and animal cells."

Taylor was playing a game called "Pig Toss" on the computers, it teaches height and distance. Taylor said she has gone "from a C to a B average in math" from learning about distance via the computer.

For parents that are not necessarily "tech-savvy," coordinators say the center has The Parents' Corner that offers information on how to use online programs at the center to help children with their homework. The program also helps parents learn about reference resources, useful databases, writing and citing tips, science project

ideas and more.

The two districts' collaboration also helps high school students prepare for the Proficiency Exam. The school district has organized a group of teachers to come and provide tutoring for students at the center.

Tutoring for the Proficiency Exam will be available from October 7-24 on Sundays from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. and Mondays through Thursdays 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

According to Morss, additional centers will be open in the district. The next one is planned for the Centennial Hills.

Abuse

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lence, obesity, responsible sexual behavior, environmental quality, access to health care, tobacco use, mental health and immunization.

"Right now we also have an HIV/AIDS workshop scheduled for Oct 27 at the same location," Williams said.

For more information contact the West Sahara Library at (702) 507-3631 or e-mail zhope@lasvegazetas.com.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded in 1920 in Washington, D.C., by five African-American women called the Five Pearls, on the belief that the social nature of sorority life should not overshadow the real mission of progressive organizations: to address societal mores, ills, prejudices, poverty and health concerns of the day. There are 800 chapters in the U.S. and abroad and more than 100,000 members and affiliates. For more information on Zeta Phi Beta's Z-HOPE program, visit www.zphib1920.org.

March

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parked at a local gas station to rest and pick up snacks before hitting the city limits.

"We don't mean no harm to y'all," said the White female cashier. "Likewise ma'am. This is strictly business. We are not going to spend one dollar with the businesses in Jena. You are fortunate to be a beneficiary of our goodwill," said Monica Wimbley, from Summerville, S.C.

As the sun peaked above a clear blue sky, a sea of Black men and women, dressed in Black attire greeted each other in peace.

"Where are you from?" participants kept asking one another. Hugs, Black power signs and daps were evident throughout the crowd. Representatives from the Nation of Islam called the athan, a call to prayer and welcomed the participants. Christian ministers prayed and gave their blessings for a righteous day.

The one-lane traffic into town was backed up for miles. By 10 a.m., 40,000 Black people swept into the town like a quiet hurricane driven by the force of their collective will. The yard of the courthouse could only hold a couple of thousand. People were everywhere.

A clear message was sent to the local authorities to stop

the injustices against Blacks.

Sharpton took the podium to address the crowd while chants were developing from pockets of silence. "There may be some provocateurs in the crowd to distract you but don't get caught up in their madness. Let's stay focused." Sharpton outlined the march indicating it would travel to the high school where the infamous tree, on which three White students tied three nooses as a Jim Crow symbol to the Black students, stood prior to its uprooting.

Justin Barker, the alleged victim of the Jena Six, swept by the crowd undetected as he rode by in a green open-air ambulance vehicle driven by an older man. Wearing a white T-shirt and jeans, Barker seemed flushed in the face.

The march continued around the school and gathered at a park about a half mile away for another assembly. Dozens of buses were stationed in the park to escort participants to several other activities. After the second rally, the crowd began to disperse to meet the next group of participants just arriving.

"White power!" yelled one White man from a crowd of people on a porch. Like a call to salute, the crowd turned in unison, aimed their cameras, cell phones, micro-

phones to record his next move.

"I think you better get inside," said a White lady on the porch. "You're drunk." As the first wave of marchers reached the courthouse square, the endless crowd of participants kept coming. Traffic could not move in any direction. The city was deadlocked.

Minnie McConnell, 77, walked slowly through the crowd. Marchers hugged and praised her for participating. She traveled by car with her daughter, Lyn Sigman from Indianapolis, Ind., who saw it on CNN the day before. "I had no clue this was happening. But when I saw it and told my mother. She said we must continue to fight for our people," Sigman said.


A third rally at city hall in Alexandria about one hour away from Jena was the next gathering point. Marchers seemed eager to hear more messages from Black leaders. By 6 p.m. the march was over. The last radio broadcast concluded.

The town's worst fears of attacks by angry mobs were nothing but specters of their own imagination. As the caravan of buses left in the twilight, whether there was a clear victory was unsure.

Valencia Mohammed writes for the Afro-American Newspapers.

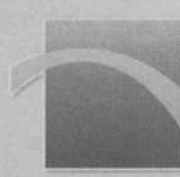
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