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AACP hosting fundraiser

By Shirley Savage-Hampton Sentinel-Voice

The local branch of the NAACP is holding its annual Freedom Fund Banquet Weekend starting on Thursday, Oct. 18 through Saturday, and the theme is "Let's Not Wait 'til 2008."

Guest speaker, Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee of Houston, Texas, will keynote the dinner and awards banquet on Saturday evening at the Rio All Suite Hotel and Casino.

Entertainment will be provided by comedian George Wallace, Phil Flowers and his band, along with jazz vocalist Genevieve. Special performances by students of the Performing Visual Arts Center and several surprise guest appearances are scheduled.

Mark Mellow-D spins for the dance and cha-cha contest with prizes for the best

The 2007 Freedom Fund Champions honorees are Eva Simmons, the Mary McLeod Bethune Education award; E. Louie Overstreet, the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights award, and Steve Schorr, the Ed Bradley Humanitarian award.

"I appreciate being acknowledged for the decade of work and service that I have given to the City of Las Vegas," said Overstreet.

Dean Ishman, branch president, says the organization has been focused on building up the membership of the organization, currently at about 700.

"I would like to see it us at a least 1,000 by year's end or before," he said.

Membership is primarily sought through church outreach and personal relationships, according to Ishman.

"The things that keep this organization floating are the members and corporate sponsors, said Ishman. The banquet is our main and major fund raiser. ... Some of our corporate sponsors are Harrah's, MGM, Stations Casino, Boyd Gaming, the Venetian, Cox Communications and Southwest Gas," Ishman said.

"On October 18 we will be having our first annual scholarship Golf Classic. The scholarship will be awarded to a college student aspiring to be an attorney in the area of civil rights and criminal law," he continued.

"We are also trying to attract a legal redress committee of attorneys and re-estab-(See NAACP, Page 3)

Students, parents focus of leadership conference

By Shirley Savage-Hampton Sentinel-Voice

Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League hosts their first African-American Student Leadership Conference on Saturday from 8 to 5 p.m. on the campus of UNLV. The focus of the conference is to help students explore aspects of life after graduating.

Registration and check-in begins at 8 a.m.

The event is informational and local companies and employment services and job opportunities will be explored from 8 to 1 p.m.

The seminars are being presented by LVCC Urban League's auxiliary network, the National Urban League Professionals. Young NULYP members across the country identify and help other young professionals to improve their communities. The group acquires members with a dedication to giving back through financial, professional and personal ef-

The organization is partnering with State Senator

Steven Horsford, UNLV Graduate Recruitment and State Farm Insurance.

Participants must register and space is limited. The conference will offer more than 20 workshops, special plenary sessions, an information fair and entertainment to the first 500 students to register. The morning parent seminars are open to the first 100 parents to register.

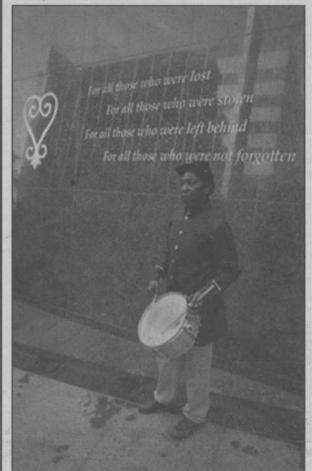
Horsford, State Farm Insurance and the Daisy Miller Charitable Foundation will also sponsor scholarships for the conference.

"Preparing students for education and life beyond high school is more important now than it has ever been. This conference is a great example of how parents, community organizations and higher education should and must work together to support our young people during this critical time in their lives," said Horsford.

Registration forms and scholarship applications are available through campus counselors and at the Urban League's office at 930 W. Owens Ave.

Student workshops will explore how to choose a major, pursuing a vocational career versus a college degree, Greek life, entrepreneurship, as well as other relevant training subjects.

There are several special parent workshops that cover (See Conference, Page 4)



Newman T. Baker, a drummer, stands with his drum beneath a memorial inscription at the African Burial Ground National Monument in New York on Friday.

Event celebrates slaves' sacrifice

NEW YORK (AP) - It was a day that had been a long time coming, and for the community leaders who gathered to dedicate a memorial at the once-forgotten grave site of thousands of African slaves, it was also a day of

"Forgive us for disregarding your precious gifts to this world," Rev. James A. Forbes Jr. said to the longdead slaves and free Blacks who were interred beneath lower Manhattan, then forgotten for decades as the city sprouted skyward above their remains.

Many speakers at the African Burial Ground memorial lamented the lack of recognition those buried there had experienced in life and after death, and vowed to make the memorial a permanent reminder of their sacri-

Sixteen years after the remains were rediscovered, onlookers lined two city blocks for a chance to file through "The Door of Return." The entryway is named in contrast to the door of no return, the title once given to departure points where slaves were stolen away from their African homelands.

Walking through the narrow, reflective-granite structure, the memorial's first visitors stepped out into a sunken court engraved with a map of the lands and waters that once supported the slave trade, as well as the identifying details of some of the women, men and children buried nearby.

"Bid 'em in," poet Maya Angelou sang to the crowd assembled for the dedication, telling the story of the auctioning of a young girl, stripped nude on the block.

"All of us are being 'bidded in' according to how we (See Burial, Page 4)



BREEZY BLUES

Bobby Womack sings and exhorts the crowd on Saturday during the Diamond in the Desert blues festival in Summerlin. The crowd enjoyed an afternoon of outdoor blues.