

King memorial gets \$3 million

WASHINGTON (AP) - The W.K. Kellogg Foundation is giving \$3 million to help build the long-delayed memorial to Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on the National Mall.

With fundraising and help from lenders and banks, the memorial has enough money to begin construction this spring, its previous target, said Harry Johnson, president of the King memorial foundation overseeing the project.

"We want to push ourselves, and we want to stay on track," Johnson said. "We're very pleased that we're pretty close."

The gift brings the memorial's fundraising to \$90 million of the \$100 million needed to complete the memorial.

Building the 4-acre memorial plaza will take 18 to 20 months.

A ceremonial groundbreaking was held in November 2006 with the goal of a 2008 opening.

Delays with the design and building permits pushed back the completion date, and Johnson also said fundraising was sluggish at times because of the 2001 terrorist attacks, the South Asia tsunami and Hurricane Katrina.

Starting construction in April or May would keep the schedule on target, but federal agencies that must approve final designs say the schedule still may be overly ambitious.

"As soon as we get the proper clearances ...we're ready to start building," Johnson said recently. "We are very ambitious with what we're planning and our timeline."

The memorial will sit along the edge of the Tidal Basin, between the Jefferson Memorial and Lincoln Memorial, where the civil rights pioneer delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963.

It will feature a large stone sculpture by a Chinese artist of King emerging from a block of granite and stone walls engraved with quotes from King.

The Kellogg Foundation, started by the breakfast cereal pioneer in 1930, has recently focused its resources on vulnerable children who face poverty and discrimination.

Officials said that while it does not typically fund construction projects, the King memorial stood out.

"The larger issue here isn't monuments or memorials, it is building a stronger democracy and achieving racial equity," said Sterling Speirn, president of the foundation, based in Battle Creek, Mich.

Some of the money already raised has been spent on administrative costs, and the memorial project officials declined to say how much they have in the bank.

Johnson said administrative costs amounted to less than \$6 million over seven years, but he declined to be more specific.

The National Park Service requires that the memorial foundation have at least \$85.5 million for building and maintenance costs before the start of construction.

Montel

(Continued from Page 1)
gan in 1992 and has since arranged for hundreds of people to attend psychological counseling sessions, weight-loss and eating disorder programs, and drug rehabilitation centers after they appear on the show.

Williams says the show has taken him around the world, including visits to the Middle East, a post-Katrina New Orleans and Ground Zero in New York City. He says: "[I] talked with over 30,000 guests and over a half million studio audience

members."

CBS Television Distribution, the syndicated show's producer and distributor, is offering the compilation series "Best of Montel" for fall, which includes 52 weeks of highlight episodes from the show.

"We have been honored to have Montel as a part of our family for the past 17 years, and we're very excited that Montel will live on through these 'best of' episodes," said John Nogawski, president and COO of CBS TV Distribution.

Business pros to school teens

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Clark County government is currently recruiting 100 students to participate in its annual Summer Business Institute. A partnership between the county, the Clark County School District and more than 80 area businesses, the 13-year-old program offers teenagers employment in a variety of fields, including law, medicine, architecture, education and communications.

To qualify, students must be juniors or seniors in the school district or entering college freshmen by fall 2008. Requirements include, but are not limited to, grade point average, volunteerism and personal motivation.

Participants will be eligible for college scholarships at the close of the eight-week



"The Summer Business Institute has proven to be the epitome of career development for our youth."

— Lawrence Weekly
Clark County Commissioner

program. By exposing inner-city and suburban youth to career fields that they might otherwise not access or envision, the program helps enhance life skills and encourages civic engagement. To ensure inner-city youth are involved in the program, a select number of jobs have been reserved for teens liv-

ing in the Enterprise Community neighborhoods. County Commissioner Lawrence Weekly is an avid supporter of the program.

"The Summer Business Institute has proven to be the epitome of career development for our youth," he said.

"This program provides extensive training in finan-

cial management and life skills to prepare them for real world experiences. The public and private sector have continued to support this program, and together we open up the door to the future for our youth."

Applications are available at the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, 5th Floor; KCEP Radio Station, 330 W. Washington Ave., as well as through the high school Job Banks.

The application deadline is Feb. 22.

For more information on the institute, contact Maurice L. Reid, SBI coordinator, or Kaveida Allen, SBI assistant coordinator, Clark County Community Resources Management Division, at 455-2426 or www.co.clark.nv.us

Death of Black New York officer mysterious

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) - Investigators have questioned 76 witnesses, studied videotape and examined preliminary autopsy results — but may never make sense of an off-duty policeman's killing by other officers.

Mount Vernon Officer Christopher Ridley, who chanced upon a violent street fight in White Plains recently, was shot and killed by Westchester County police as he tried to subdue a suspect. Several witnesses say he did not obey commands to drop his gun, but no one seems to know why.

White Plains police were still looking for witnesses earlier in the week and awaiting the final autopsy and ballistics reports on the five guns involved in the shooting.

Gov. Eliot Spitzer visited privately with Ridley's parents and grandfather at Grace Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, where a funeral is scheduled this Friday.

"This is a tragedy of proportions that makes your blood run cold as a parent, to think what they have gone through," the governor said afterward. "We are all feeling for them and praying for them."

At a ceremony where Ridley was posthumously promoted to detective, his cousin, Danielle Scholar, read a statement declaring that the promotion proved "that Christopher acted properly and above and beyond the call of duty."

The killing occurred at

about 5 p.m. Friday, a time when the booming city of 60,000, 22 miles north of New York, transforms into an entertainment and dining center.

Ridley, 23, a two-year police veteran who was not in uniform, ran into a government office building, called out for help, then struggled with Anthony Jacobs, a homeless man who had allegedly been beating another man.

Police believe a shot rang out at some point, perhaps when Jacobs tried to grab Ridley's 9 mm handgun or when it hit the ground. Four county officers surrounded

Ridley and Jacobs.

The four officers, who may not have known Ridley was a policeman, have not yet given their accounts, said Deputy Commissioner Daniel. But several witnesses told reporters the county officers repeatedly shouted to Ridley to drop his gun.

"They told him to drop the gun three times," Cathy Schipper told the *Daily News* of New York City. "He never said, 'I'm a cop' or 'I've got a badge.'"

If Ridley heard them — at least one witness said he may not have — he did not react. The officers fired an estimated 9 or 10 shots, hitting

Ridley about four times. He died immediately.

Before the incident, none of the county officers had ever fired a gun in the line of duty. One of the men is Black, one is White, and two are Hispanic. The dead officer was Black.

Ridley's pastor called the killing "an outrageous execution of a young African-American," and Rev. Al Sharpton asked whether Ridley would have been shot if he were White. But there was no apparent rancor at a City Council ceremony in which the dead officer's gold shield was presented to his mother.

(See Officer, Page 3)



STERLING SUPREME

Steven Horsford, chief executive of Nevada Partners, displays his dancing skills at the expanded culinary training facility in North Las Vegas with vocalist Mary Wilson at 'The Sterling Affair' fundraiser honoring the chairman of the board Felix Rappaport.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Marty Frierson