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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

SBI developing youth in Valley

By Martine Ramos
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Southern Nevada Enterprise Community project paved the pathway for the Clark County Summer Business Institute program that has provided hundreds of Las Vegas Valley youth the opportunity to secure summer employment and life skills.

Established in 1996, the Summer Business Institute is designed to expose disadvantaged, inner-city youth to career fields such as law, medicine, architecture, education, communications and other businesses—career fields they might not otherwise access. The program is designated for students entering their junior and senior years in high school and freshman year of college.

While SBI is a Clark County-sponsored program, it began with special funding allotted through the Clinton administration. In 1994, President Bill Clinton designated nine census tracts in the urban core of the Las Vegas Valley to be classified as an "enterprise community." This designation was accompanied by an award of \$2.5 million in funds for projects relating to economic development and infrastructure improvements in this community, predominantly comprised of the Historic Westside of Las Vegas.

"In our first year we had eight students; we now have 110," said Douglas Bell, director of the Clark County
(See SBI, Page 2)

New Black Miss USA crowned

By Odell B. Ruffin
Special to Sentinel-Voice
LAS VEGAS (NNPA) —

Kristen Elizabeth White of Georgia has been crowned Miss Black USA. Receiving the crown following a seven-day competition between 50 women in Las Vegas on June 23, she remained hunched over praying as people handed her flowers. Among the dozens of elegant women, her beauty, poise, grace, talent and the full support of her family gave her the edge.

"Oh my God, I'm just so humbled. I was in this competition with some of the most prolific outstanding women I have ever encountered in my 27 years on this earth. And so I'm definitely honored; I look forward to taking this crown and representing my sisters well," said White.

She, no doubt, looked forward to taking off her heels



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lafayette Barnes
Former Miss Black USA Kalilah Allen Harris, left, and the new Miss Black USA Elizabeth White pose to celebrate the passing of the crown in Las Vegas last week.

and relaxing after the long and stringent process.

The 21st annual event took place at The Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas in front of family members and supporters. "As a young girl, I often read the works of great Black she-roes and was inspired by their courage, strength and resiliency. I had a dream to create a national platform for young minority women," said founder Karen Arrington with a soul full of pride for her contestants.

All 50 contestants started the show in unity with an exciting Broadway-style dance. Then, the top 15 contestants wowed the audience with their talent and beauty in the fitness, evening gown, talent and critical question and answers competitions.

Celebrity co-host Lamman Rucker from the films "Meet the Browns" and "Why Did I Get Married?"
(See USA, Page 5)

Jail guards probed in Maryland inmate's death

Special to Sentinel-Voice

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. — A man arrested in the hit-and-run death of a police officer was found strangled in his cell, and investigators focused on guards at the suburban Maryland jail, which has a history of security lapses.

As state police took over the investigation, an attorney for inmate Ronnie L. White's family said the young man's attackers "took it upon themselves to be both the judge, the jury and the executioner."

White's death shocked and angered officials in Prince George's County, including County Executive Jack Johnson, who likened it to "vigilante justice."

Investigators from the FBI and state police joined the case after the state medical examiner concluded that White had been strangled.

White, 19, was arrested on charges of ramming a stolen pickup truck into police Cpl. Richard Findley. Findley had



RONNIE WHITE

gotten out of his police cruiser while trying to conduct a traffic stop on the truck. White allegedly struck him and dragged him for a short distance in the community of Laurel.

Johnson immediately moved to curb speculation that White's death was the result of police officers seeking revenge, saying the slaying was "unrelated to any act" by police.

Attorney Bobby G. Henry Jr., who represented White's family, urged the U.S. De-



Prince George's County executive Jack Johnson, left, talks about the death of Ronnie White during a press conference at the county administration building on Monday in Maryland. Public Safety Director Vernon Herron looks on.

partment of Justice to join the investigation.

"Something is dreadfully wrong with our system," he said.

County State's Attorney Glenn Ivey said his office would convene a grand jury to review evidence in the case. He said investigators were scrutinizing seven correctional officers who had access to White, who was being held separately from other inmates. Ivey also said other workers at the county jail and inmates would be questioned.

"We'll follow the evidence wherever it leads," he said.

Rich Wolf, an FBI spokesman in Baltimore, confirmed that the agency had opened a civil rights case, but he would not comment on the investigation. Calls to state police were not immediately returned.

White's death is the latest in a series of security lapses at the jail, which is 20 miles

outside Washington in one of Maryland's largest counties. Last month, the county's corrections director was fired after guns vanished from the armory. In February, a former police official convicted of second-degree murder was found with a handcuff key.

A corrections officer suspected of being a gang member was charged in March with bringing cell phones to inmates who were members of the Bloods street gang. And earlier this year, two female officers were suspended for allegedly having sexual contact with inmates.

More than 450 guards work at the 20-year-old facility, which had an average daily population of 1,489 prisoners during the 2007 fiscal year. White was being held in a cell by himself, to protect him from other prisoners, because of the high profile of his alleged crime.

"This shouldn't happen," Johnson said. "Every citizen
(See Jail, Page 2)