

Group aims at breast cancer

By Martine Ramos
Special to Sentinel-Voice

In commemoration of October as breast cancer awareness month, Sisters Network Inc., Las Vegas Chapter, is pushing to stop the silence about breast cancer.

Sisters Network Inc. is the nation's only African-American breast cancer survivors' organization. The purpose of the organization is to save lives and provide a broader scope of knowledge that addresses the breast cancer survivorship crisis affecting African-American women around the country.

Sisters Network Inc. is committed to increasing local and national attention on the devastating impact that breast cancer has in the African-American community. The organization has more than 40 survivor-run affiliate chapters nationwide, comprising more than 3,000 members and associate members since its inception in 1994. The Las Vegas chapter has about 38 active members.

"Our organization is made up primarily of breast cancer survivors, family members and supporters... anybody is welcome to join," said Jeannie Beatty, a two-time breast cancer survivor who has been president of the Las Vegas chapter since 1999.

Beatty said the group aims to educate, empower, encourage and mobilize African-American women about the importance of early detection.

"We offer support in many different areas, because each breast cancer patient is different," she said. "We inform women about specific questions to ask the doctors, what to expect from different treatments, doctor visits, surgeries and all types of follow-up therapy."

Breast cancer forms in tissues of the breast, usually the ducts (tubes that carry milk to the nipple) and lobules (glands that make milk). It occurs in both men and women. (See *Cancer*, Page 11)

Suspect troubled in past

Special to Sentinel-Voice

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The convicted felon suspected in the slayings of Oscar-winner Jennifer Hudson's mother, brother and nephew was arrested after police allegedly found crack cocaine in his car in June, but authorities declined to return him to prison on a parole violation, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

A judge dismissed the charge for lack of probable cause in July, but under the strict rules of the state's parole program, William Balfour could have gone back to prison just for the arrest.

No one has been charged in the shooting deaths of Hudson's mother, Darnell Donerson, her brother, Jason Hudson, and 7-year-old nephew Julian King, but Balfour has been named as a suspect. Chicago Police Superintendent Jody Weis said Tuesday he is confident the case will be solved.

Balfour — Julian's stepfather and the estranged husband of Hudson's sister — served seven years for attempted murder and vehicular hijacking. Court records



Jeffery Wilder passes a makeshift memorial on Tuesday outside the Chicago home of Darnell Donerson, who along with her son, Jason Hudson, were found shot to death inside the home on Friday. On Monday, Donerson's grandson, Julian King, was found shot to death in an SUV on the city's west side.

show that in 1998 Balfour stole a Chevrolet Suburban and, with the vehicle's owner clinging to the top, intentionally rammed it into a light pole, fence and iron gate.

According to a Chicago police report, officers pulled Balfour over June 19 after hearing gunshots and seeing his car moving at a high rate of speed. Inside the vehicle,

police said, they found a rock of cocaine with a street value of about \$100 on the driver's seat.

Balfour's parole history (See *Hudson*, Page 7)

Blacks expected to lead as millions head to polls

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — For the first time in American history, millions of voters will cast their ballots on Tuesday in an election in which an African-American is the nominee of a major political party, fulfilling the long-held dreams of civil rights veterans.

"I've always hoped so and I've also worked for this idea," said 96-year-old Dr. Dorothy Height, president emerita of the National Council of Negro Women. "I think this will help the whole country, people of all backgrounds... I know historically, African-Americans will feel good about it, but, I think everybody across the country will have the realization that there are people in all groups who have the ca-

pability to be president."

That hope which has risen in the race between Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain has translated into massive voter registration numbers nationwide in the contentious and historic race.

"We're seeing that voting is becoming a true family affair, a true community affair all over this country," said Melanie Campbell, executive director and CEO of the National Coalition for Black Civic Participation. "We want the people to enjoy the process of making history."

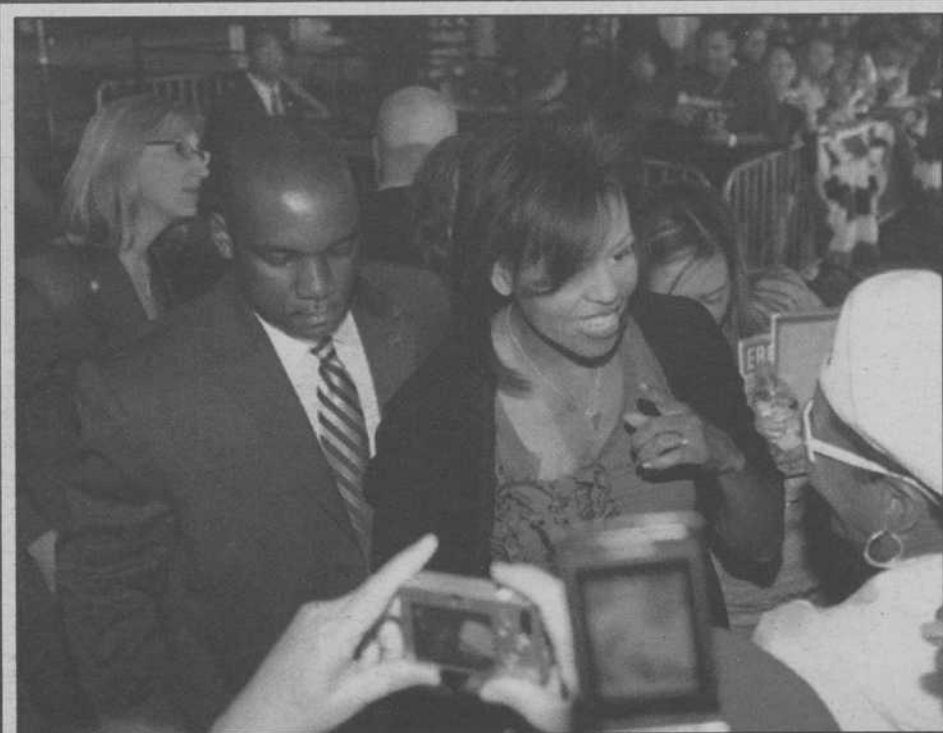
Campbell says while a 60 percent turnout has been considered good in the past, this year, a record-breaking 70 to 80 percent is expected in some communities. "And African-Americans are going to be leading the way," she

said. "People feel like they are a part of the process. This is part of the definition of what a movement is. People are taking their neighbors to go vote. This movement for a change is also a change in removing apathy and we'll have to build on that."

In the close race, election officials are also hopeful that few glitches will occur.

"We really are confident that this is going to be a good election," said Donetta Davidson, vice chair of the Federal Election Assistance Commission. "The election community has really been working very hard, and the election officials, to make sure that this election runs as smoothly as possible," Davidson said. "Will there be a hiccup some place? Possibly. That's because there's a

(See *Vote*, Page 3)



FUTURE FIRST LADY?

Michelle Obama works the crowd after speaking on behalf of her husband, Democratic candidate Sen. Barack Obama, at the Dolittle Park on Monday. Hundreds attended.

Sentinel-Voice photos by Marty Frierson