

LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 34

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

December 18, 2008

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Blagojevich riled by Jackson

CHICAGO (AP) — Shortly after his 2002 election, Gov. Rod Blagojevich told Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. he didn't appoint the congressman's wife for lottery director because he had refused to make a \$25,000 donation to the governor's campaign, a person familiar with the conversation told The Associated Press.

"That's why she's not getting the job," the person quoted Blagojevich as saying. The person, a Jackson associate who was interviewed recently by the AP, spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing federal investigation.

Jackson's name has played prominently ever since Blagojevich was ar-

rested recently on corruption charges, including allegations that the governor tried to sell or trade President-elect Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat for personal gain.

Jackson has been identified as one of the candidates Blagojevich was considering for the seat, and a criminal complaint said his supporters were willing to raise \$1.5 million for the governor if he picked the congressman.

The complaint quotes Blagojevich as saying on federal wiretaps that an associate of the candidate offered to raise money for him if he made the Jackson appointment happen.

Jackson spokesman Kenneth Edmonds declined to comment on the account of

the exchange shortly after Blagojevich's 2002 election but said the Democratic congressman, the son of civil rights activist Jesse Jackson, has approached federal investigators to discuss the governor and others for years.

"He has shared information with federal prosecutors about public corruption during the past several years, including information about Blagojevich and others," Edmonds said.

Randall Samborn, spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Chicago, declined to comment, as did Blagojevich spokesman Lucio Guerrero.

Jackson has openly sought the Senate position

but denies initiating or authorizing anyone to promise anything to Blagojevich on his behalf. The congressman has said federal prosecutors told him he is not a target of their investigation.

The Jackson associate interviewed by the AP did not know whether Jackson's wife, Sandi had asked for the state lottery job. At the time, Blagojevich was the first incoming Democratic governor after years of Republican rule and had scores of state jobs to fill.

"The governor had kind of penciled Sandi in as lottery director and then asked for contributions from the congressman," the person said.

Sandi Jackson, who has since been elected to the Chicago City Council, did not return a call to her office seeking comment.

In April, the *Chicago Tribune* reported that an examination of campaign donations to Blagojevich showed that three in four donors who gave exactly \$25,000 received administration favors, such as state board appointments or contracts.

It's also the same amount of money that figured prominently in the testimony of a government witness in the political corruption trial this summer of political (See Jackson, Page 3)



Obama is Time's person for 2008

Special to Sentinel-Voice

NEW YORK — *Time* magazine named U.S. President-elect Barack Obama the Person of the Year in 2008 after he became the first African-American to win the White House, but the real contest may have been for the runners up.

The other finalists were U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, Re-

publican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin and Chinese director Zhang Yimou, *Time* said in its announcement.

"In one of the craziest elections in American history, he overcame a lack of experience, a 'funny name,' two candidates who are political institutions and the racial divide to become the 44th president of the United States," the magazine said.

Homeless, poor subjected to rough societal stigmas

By Steven Malik Shelton
Special to Sentinel-Voice

DETROIT (NNPA) — They are often stigmatized as worthless and parasitical, almost on a level with vermin.

Although the homeless are usually portrayed as strange people whose addictions, idiosyncrasies and mental health issues are the cornerstone of their adverse condition, detailed research paints a different picture. National surveys conducted by Toro Warren in 1999 show that 6

to 8 percent of Americans have been homeless and 9 to 15 percent of children between the ages of 12 and 17 have experienced homelessness. And according to the U.S. Census Bureau, between the years 2000 and 2001 the poverty level escalated to 11.7 percent within an underclass population of 32.9 million. And America's Second Harvest in America (2001) report indicated that 23.3 million people sought and received emer-

gency hunger relief from their charities in 2001.

Moreover, a large percentage of the homeless are veterans of the armed services. Many are sick or disabled, and some are single women.

Violence Against the Homeless

Two 14-year-olds in Pontiac were recently arrested and charged with the beating deaths of two homeless men. It is alleged that the teens were involved in a (See Homeless, Page 3)



SANTA'S LITTLE ANGEL

Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Niya Justice tells Santa Claus what she wants on Saturday during the annual toy drive organized by KCEP FM 88.1. The radio station donated hundreds of toys to needy children throughout the Las Vegas Valley. On-air personalities appealed to community members to help make Christmas brighter for deserving youth.