

West Valley View

The community newspaper of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park & Tolleson, AZ ♦ Phone (623) 535-8439

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February 14, 2013

2/8/2013

EMCC celebrates Black History Month

Rachel Trott
staff writer

Throughout February, Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale will be hosting numerous events in honor of Black History Month.

The community college has been organizing events to help celebrate black culture, history and heritage for the past 15 years, committee chairwoman Linda Cutright explained.

Before that, Cutright worked with the city of Avondale to help plan cultural activities, so she has been able to see Black History Month celebrations grow in the West Valley.

"I love seeing it grow and I love seeing people involved in it, not just African Americans, but all people," she said. "It's a wonderful thing because we celebrate African American culture, the contributions that we've made that have affected the whole American culture."

One event Cutright is particularly excited about is the college's second annual student conference, which was started by Herschel Jackson, EMCC's director of Student Life and Athletics.

"I was so excited about the conference, I kind of shed some tears because it meant so much to me to see students discuss and help celebrate black history," she said.

Another event Cutright is looking forward to is the play "Black Women Walking," which will show the history of influence black women have had throughout history.

"All the black women who were instrumental in contributing strength to the African American culture will be depicted. I wish the whole community will come out and see it, it's going to be great."

Rachel Trott can be reached by email at rtrott@westvalleyview.com or on Twitter @byracheltrrott.

Black History Month events

Feb. 9: From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Ceremonial Plaza, the Southwest Black History Community Celebration will highlight black culture and heritage in Avondale and the Southwest Valley. The celebration will feature ethnic foods; crafts; vendor booths; a tribute to Whitney Houston sung by Candice Chavez; and performances by artists Deneysia Johnson, Foresight and 8919 productions, the New Sons of Zion, Flava Rangers Dance Team, South Mountain High School and the Motown Review.

From 6 to 8 p.m., in the Plaza Galley, a theatrical performance of "Black Women Walking" will highlight the lives and accomplishments of black women such as Rosa Parks, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Mary McLeod Bethune, Bessie Coleman and Zora Neale Hurston.

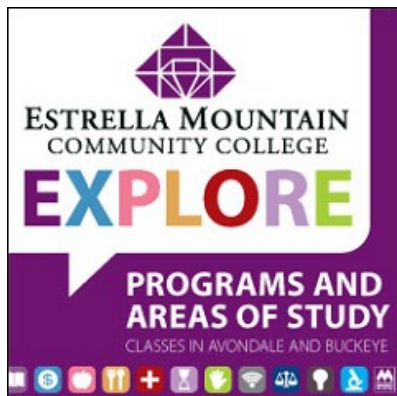
Feb. 20: At noon, in the Estrella Hall North Community Room, a luncheon will commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults and can be

AND WORK OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TICKETS ARE \$5 FOR STUDENTS AND \$10 FOR ADULTS AND CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE STUDENT LIFE OFFICE. FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT HERSCHEL JACKSON AT 623-935-8910.

Feb. 27: From 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Estrella Hall North Community Room, the second annual black history conference will educate college and high school students about the various aspects of black history. Workshops include the history and philanthropic contributions of historically black colleges, universities, fraternities and sororities. Other sessions will focus on the history of hip-hop and other cultural topics.

Feb. 28: From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., community leaders from education, politics and religious organizations will meet to discuss the issues for African American leaders and how to prepare them for community leadership.

All events will be held at Estrella Mountain Community College, 3000 N. Dysart Road in Avondale. They are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.



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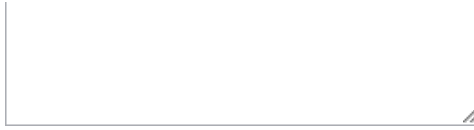
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