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PROJECT 150 HIGH SCHOOL IS TOUCH ENOUGH

1988

ASK LILLIE (PARENTING ADVISOR)

Lawrence Weekly From Foster Care to Clark County Commissioner

Black Card Gifts

PUBLISHER: FAMILY ARTS @WHALER'S CREATION

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TRAINEES

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: TRAINEES

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Commissioner Lawrence Weekly Amazing Story

Interview by: Shante Willis Written By Emi Kremer

Clark County commissioner, former city councilman, radio show host, and the chair for multiple Las Vegas boards, Lawrence Weekly is a shining example of a man who not only earned a life of success, but did so despite the obstacles he faced – namely, growing up as a former foster child in a low-class neighborhood.

Born into foster care, Weekly was adopted as a child and lived in Reno for four short years before being relocated to Las Vegas. At seven years old, his adoptive parents Hawthorn, Nevada before moving again, and finally settling in one of the lower-class areas of Henderson, While he was aware of his low-class status, he never felt that way at all; he enjoyed his childhood and spent most of it having fun and being a kid.



The one thing that did make him feel a little strange, though, was the fact that he was adopted. He understood that he was different from most children his age, but he refused to let that aspect of his life consume him. Instead, Weekly became an extremely popular and disciplined student at Western High School.

He was voted into Student Council and went out of his way to get involved with people outside of his social circle. He never got involved with drugs or gang activity and instead spent his nights playing cards, music, or board games with his friends.

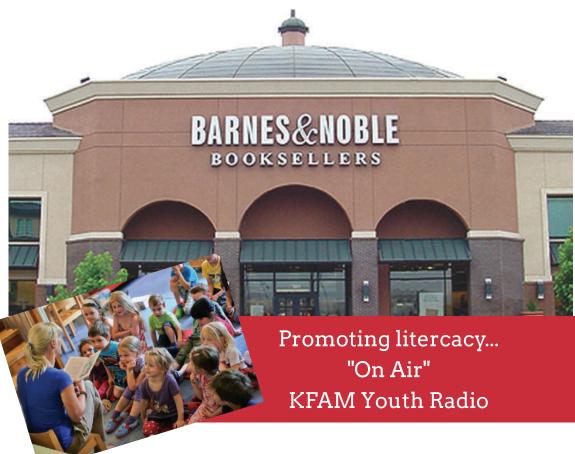
Once he graduated from high school, Weekly wasn't sure where he wanted to take his life. For a while, he stayed at home and attended the College of Southern Nevada while writing letters to his friends who had left to attend college in other states. One of them ended up sending him an application for the Grambling State University of Louisiana, and with help from his friend's parents - who had adopted him as their godson - he applied and was accepted.

Attending college in another state proved to be very difficult for him. Weekly was homesick and constantly tried to return home; he even pretended to be gravely ill at one point. His resident assistant urged him to get involved with extracurricular activities in order to become more independent. His decision to get more involved – both on and off campus – was ultimately how he discovered his love for

media and the start of his career as a radio personality.

When Weekly graduated from college, he did so as the senior class president. He started work at Neiman Marcus and then a bus company, but found his way to KCEP, a radio station. He got his big break when his high school principal hired him as his assistant. The position afforded him multiple opportunities to sit in during community meetings, where he met top executives and elected officials. With countless resources at his fingertips, Weekly delved into the world of politics and has since continued to strive for bigger challenges and achievements.

Commissioner Weekly's story is an inspiring one that attests to the power of hard work and a can-do attitude. As a way to reach out to youth, Weekly founded Camp Brother. He urges youth to surround themselves with positive, upright people who will motivate them to be involved with the world. He hopes that the story of his life with its plethora of successes and failures - can help teach today's children and teens that they can do anything they put their minds to.



KFAM Youth Radio



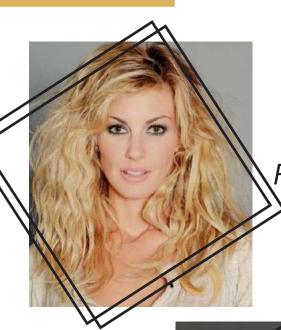
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THE CHILDREN'S ATTORNEYS PROJECT "CAP" Voices For The Voiceless

A passionate group of attorneys dedicate their time to advocate for Las Vegas's most vulnerable youth.

By Emi Kremer

As a young girl is successfully adopted into a family, her younger brother, who suffers from a physical disability, is left behind. Another foster child, who is a rape victim, is put into a mental facility and receives upped dosages of her medication as her only treatment. Both are heartbreaking scenarios, and worse, they're not considered a rarity. In these and many other similar cases, children in the adoption and foster care system are subjected to unfair treatment. Stripped of their voices, they are rendered powerless as decisions are made for them, leaving them feeling trapped, unloved, and disheartened.

The Children's Attorneys Project, or the CAP Project, is an organization under the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada that represents neglected children in the adoption and foster care system. Supported by over 20 attorneys, their mission is to give these children voices and a chance to fight for themselves. Created in 1999, the CAP Project has been headed by Janice Wolf since 2005, who joined the organization when it had only five lawyers as its sole members. The project is aimed to help children aged from infancy to 21 years old, and its members act as their attorneys by being active and devoted advocates.

With the knowledge that youth in the adoption system and under foster care are the most susceptible to becoming homeless or engaging in criminal activity, the CAP Project understands how imperative it is to make them feel validated, supported, and confident in order to become positive contributors to society.

Although representing these children is an honorable pursuit, it can be long and grueling work. To Wolf, however, the CAP Project's biggest challenge lies in its size. She believes that the bigger the project gets, the more of a chance its members might lose sight of their original duty to serve and protect Las Vegas's children. Passion, she says, will always remain a key factor to the success of the organization.

The members of the Children's Attorney Project are always looking for passionate and caring volunteers to join them on their mission to help voiceless children within the adoption and foster care system. Volunteers will receive a background check as well as training to become familiar with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Call (702) 386-1070 to speak with a volunteer advocate today.

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Project 150 High School Is Tough Enough

In 2011, a small group of people discovered there were 150 homeless students attending Rancho High School in Las Vegas, Nevada. The students were in need of food, clothing, and school supplies. As they helped the students at Rancho, they discovered there were homeless children attending schools all over Las Vegas. With the goal of helping those students as well, the tiny group knew they'd need to expand. Thus, Project 150 went into development.

Project 150 is a non-profit organization that works with homeless high school students. Today, the organization serves more than 6,000 low-income high school students. Approximately 3,300 of the students it helps are registered as homeless and the other 3,100 are displaced and disadvantaged students in Title 1 schools. Since 2011, Project 150 has massively impacted 58 high schools all over Southern Nevada. Although its primary focus is aiding high school students, it has begun taking middle schools into consideration and is planning to expand in the future.

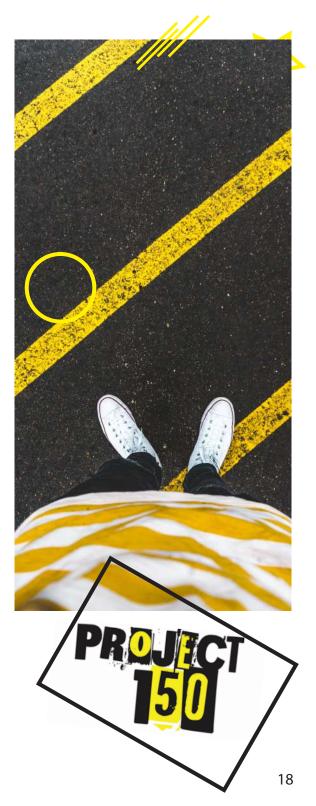
In addition to providing food and clothing to homeless students, the organization also helps graduating students purchase caps and gowns. Additionally, a back-to-school drive is held each year with the goal of filling every student's backpack with food, school supplies, and personal hygiene products. Project 150 occasionally hosts a scholarship dinner and soccer tournament to help raise funds and both events are well-attended and continue to grow.

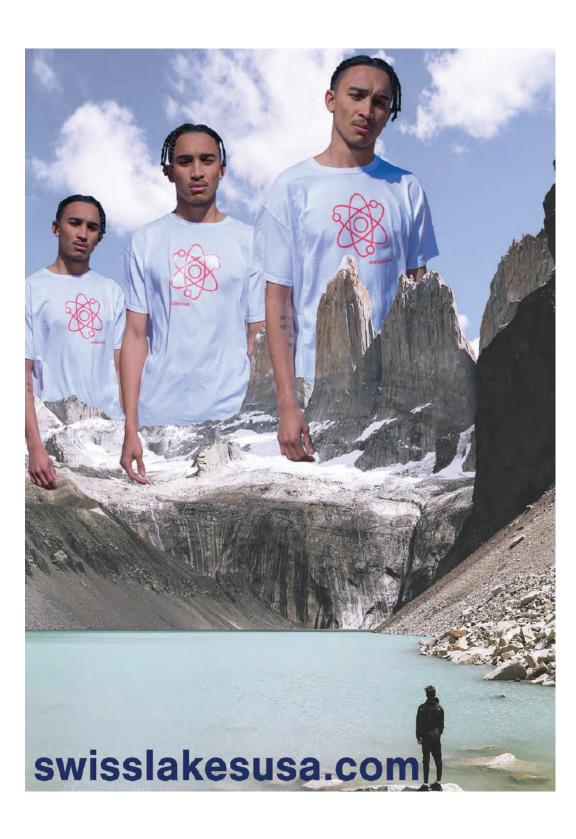
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Volunteer opportunities at Project 150 have always been a major aspect of the organization. Project 150 began as a volunteer group and continues to hire people through its volunteer program. In fact, all its staff members started out as volunteers! High school students can volunteer in Project 150's warehouse for community service hours, giving them a chance to give back and learn new skills. Adult volunteers can sign up to help fundraise, work in the office or warehouse, help plan events, and donate produces.

Project 150's dream is to see less students in need of food, shelter, and supplies, but the harsh reality is that the number of homeless students is increasing. Like all non-profit organizations, Project 150's greatest need is financial support, but help of any kind is always needed, appreciated, and really makes an impact.

Project 150 Brady 3600 N. Rancho Drive Las Vegas, NV 89130 Mon - Fri 9am to 5pm (702) 721-7150 Donations are accepted at the Project 150 Brady Caipa Volunteer Center Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:00AM-5:00PM.











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Words of Wisdom

Dear Lillie,

I am in love with someone who thinks of us as just being friends. I am torn because I value him as a dear friend, but I want to fall in his arms and tell him how I really feel about him. Should I tell him or just continue being his friend? Linda

Hello Linda, your problem it's really a problem. First is he available, is he involved with someone else. How long have you been friends? I know you don't want to lose a friend but at the same time you don't want to be stuck in one place If he is available open up a little, if he is interested in you he will let you know. If not, now you know.

Dear Lillie,

I want to be a cheery giver to my church but sometime I don't have it to give and I feel bad about not giving. What should I do? Jacob

Hello Jacob, There are many ways you can give to something you believe in. Consider giving in other ways not just monetary. You can give your time and volunteer or help out in other ways. I would ask someone how you can get more involved in your church and give in other ways as well.

Dear Lillie,

The first day of school as I was walking my son to his classroom, my son's teacher from last year said to another teacher, "Oh no, here he comes again". Should-confront this teacher? I have been so upset with her. Natalie

Hello Natalie, I would not worry about that statement too much. She may not have been talking about your son. Let's not jump to conclusion. If you are not already involved in your son's classroom get involved. Be an active parent with your son's school. Get to know his teacher(s). If they have a negative opinion about your son, help to reshape their thoughts about him. It's hard not to smile when someone is smiling at you.

Ask Lillie is a Parenting and Youth advise column. The advise and comments are the sole opinions of Lillie, a mother of four, 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grand children. Her no-nonsense advise is based on her opinion and decades of advocating for the safety and well being of children.

Lillie's views may not reflect the views and or opinion(s) of FAMILY Arts. If you have a parenting question send them in to:

Ask Lillie: lillie@whalers-creation.us



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