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Eager youth tackle Black History Quiz Bowl

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Staff photo by Paige Rentz

Eager youth tackle Black History Quiz Bowl

Jerry Sellier, 12, left, and Kendall Lowe, 13, compete in Saturday's Black History Quiz Bowl.

Posted: Saturday, March 7, 2015 8:42 pm | Updated: 8:17 am, Sun Mar 8, 2015.

By Paige Rentz Staff writer

A weather-related date change may have slowed turnout for Saturday's 12th annual Black History Quiz Bowl.

But it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the two youngsters who showed up to compete at the event sponsored by GOTDAD Inc. at True Vine Ministries on Morganton Road.

And since Jerry Sellier, 12, and Kendall Lowe, 13, were in different age groups, they didn't even have to compete against each other, either. They were each named the winner of their division, but they did give attendees a demonstration of their knowledge, buzzing in during a round of questions and answers.

Jerry was still doing some last-minute studying for the competition Saturday morning, dancing as he answered questions from his step-mother before he found out he had automatically won.

Among the things Jerry, a student at Reid Ross Classical, was most interested to learn was the history of the "Divine Nine" - the historically black fraternities and sororities that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

Kendall, an eighth-grader at Alpha Academy in Fayetteville, said not competing was "disappointing a little bit because I studied so hard, but it's also rewarding because we get the trophy and \$100."

Studying for the quiz bowl, she said she was surprised to learn that President Obama is a Grammy winner for best spoken word album for the audio versions of his books "Dreams from My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope."

Kendall said she wished more people, especially from the black community, had come to support and participate in the event.

"That would have meant a lot because we support other things," she said, "but when it comes down to academics ... it's just we blank out, and that's kind of sad."

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Dozens of students between the ages of 10 and 18 had initially signed up to compete before the quiz bowl was postponed Feb. 21 due to winter weather.

McGee said the study packet for the quiz bowl, and thus the questions, are about more than black history. They also include topics such as economics, finance and political science.

Despite the low turnout for the quiz bowl, members of the community, including some motorcycle clubs, showed up for the Ride 2 Freedom, this year commemorating the 50th anniversary of the march from Selma to Montgomery. The ride left True Vine and traveled to the North Carolina Veterans Park to honor the milestone moment.

Democracy North Carolina was also on hand to register attendees to vote, as a nod to the fact that the Selma march provided an impetus for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The president of the Kingz Motorcycle Club, who goes by Blaze, said his members were riding to support the community and the cause of freedom.

Freedom, he said, represents "Martin Luther King and everything he stood for, and we're still trying to bridge that gap to this day, so I think even in small numbers, if it's for a good cause and represents the true meaning of freedom, it's worth it."

Staff writer Paige Rentz can be reached at rentzp@fayobserver.com or 486-2728.

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- No. I don't think we're at risk any more than other communities.
- No, but I always have worried that we are targets in a military town.
- Yes, the shootings have made me fear more for my

safety and security.

Yes, but I have full confidence in Fort Bragg and local authorities to keep us safe.

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