

MLK Day observances planned today

The Free Press

Today the Martin Luther King Jr.

Commemorative Board will hold its annual Pathfinder Awards ceremony to honor individuals, youth and businesses honoring the spirit of the late civil rights leader's work.

Minnesota State University administrator Avra Johnson, Mankato East High School student Adam Osman and The Free Press are this year's award recipients.

The event starts at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour at the Rosa Parks Elementary School gymnasium. The formal program will begin at 6:15 p.m. with presentation of the Pathfinder Awards and Scholarships followed by a performance by Trena Bolden, whose one-woman show depicts the lives of Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, Ida B. Wells and Diane Nash.

Tickets, which are \$10, are available in advance at the Greater Mankato Diversity Council offices, on the third floor of the Intergovernmental Center. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

Also on Monday, Gustavus Adolphus College will host a lecture by Rev. Bernard Lafayette Jr., a contemporary of Martin Luther King.

Lafayette played a significant role in the civil rights activism of the 1960s, and helped pressure the U.S. government to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He also founded the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, led many influential sit-ins and was present for the famed Freedom Rides of 1961.

The lecture will be at 10:20 a.m.

today in Gustavus' Christ Chapel.

There also will be a performance of "African America" by Mixed Blood Theatre at 7 p.m. in Alumni