Atchison remembers MLK; students learn of related history

(KAIR)--As many institutions are closed Monday, in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday, the City of Atchison is set to commemorate the slain Civil Rights leader with a variety of related events.

That includes two marches, with the first, the Walk for Racial Justice, beginning Monday afternoon at 1:00 at LFM Park, as sponsored by local community groups, including Atchison United and the Atchison Ministerial Alliance.

The walk will end at Atchison's Fox Theater, located at 612 Commercial Street, where the award winning documentary film, "The Evers," will be shown. The Emmy award winning director, Loki Mulholland, will be present, along with his mother, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, one of the original Freedom Riders during the Civil Rights Movement and a friend of Medgar Evers, whose story is shown in the film. A question and answer will be held following the screening.

The story of Trumpauer Mulholland, and adjacent civil rights history, have been studied at the Atchison Public Schools, in advance of Trumpauer Mulholland's return visit to Atchison.

That includes 8th grade students Leyla Crittendon, Celine Healy, and Mya Smith.

Students at Atchison High are also learning the history of the Civil Rights Movement, and the role Trumpauer Mulholland played.

Those students, junior Ja'Ziah Williams and seniors, Cynthia Hysten, Zoe Boldridge, and Gracie Peuker shared what they've learned with MSC Radio News. The interviews can be heard below.

A second march, beginning at 5:30 at the Atchison County Courthouse, is sponsored by Benedictine College.

Beginning outside the courthouse, at the Abraham Lincoln Memorial, the march will make its way to the college campus, ending at the St. John Paul II Student Center.

The march will immediately be followed by an address in the O'Malley-McAllister Auditorium by Dr. Jacqueline C. Rivers, Executive Director of the Seymour Institute on Black Church and Policy Studies.

The talk is free and open to the public.

