

RENO HAPPENINGS

Transients benefiting on grant funds

CARSON CITY—Transients passing through the state this year may have been the primary beneficiaries of Community Service Block Grants funds originally intended to help ease poverty among Nevada residents, a legislative subcommittee was told Monday.

The lawmakers were also told of anticipated cuts in grants awards made to the state and disputes between Washoe County and rural areas considering how those funds should be allocated.

The rural areas and Washoe County are particularly hard hit by transients, witnesses testifying before the subcommittee said Monday.

Shooting suspect surrenders in LV

A man being sought by Washoe County sheriff's deputies in the slaying of a member of a Bay Area motorcycle club in a barroom shooting north of Reno has turned himself in to Las Vegas police.

Ronald Elmore, 47, of Reno, surrendered Monday on murder charges in the death of Charles Conway, 38, of Oakland.

Deputies said Conway is part of the Ravens motorcycle group and he and Elmore apparently got into an argument over a motorcycle pin Conway was wearing.

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Disabled vets' commander raps Reagan

RENO—The national commander of the Disabled American Veterans criticized the Reagan administration and Congress on Sunday, saying they have "turned their backs" on disabled vets in their quest to balance the budget.

Albert H. Linden, a Vietnam War veteran who lost a leg to enemy fire, accused the White House and Congress of reneging on its "moral duties" by trying to further cut veterans' benefits.

"We're in jeopardy because a nation's promise to its veterans is going unfulfilled," Linden said. "And men and women in Congress and the White House are dismissing the duty they swore to discharge."

In the keynote address at the DAV's annual convention here, Linden sharply criticized the Gramm-Rudman balanced budget law and praised the Supreme

Court's recent decision striking down key provisions of it.

The law contained "heartless provisions" that would have led to cuts in future cost-of-living adjustments for disabled vets, Linden said.

"Instead of making hard fiscal decisions, they passed a law that put their duty to America on an accountant's automatic pilot," Linden said. "The highest court in the land has reminded Congress that the Constitution doesn't tolerate book-keeping excuses over moral duties."

Linden also criticized Congress and the Reagan administration for cutting other benefits, including burial allowances for survivors of disabled vets and training allowances for dependents of deceased vets.

"These are breaches of faith yet to be resolved," he said.

GOP committeeman named

CARSON CITY—Las Vegas real estate developer Tom Wiesner has been named a Republican national committeeman, replacing Ed Fike, who quit after reports up to \$2 million was diverted from accounts of his title company.

Wiesner was named at a state Republican Central Committee meeting over the weekend to complete the two years left in Fike's term.

State Republican Chairman Bob Cashell said Wiesner, a former Clark County commissioner, would be "a strong force" in achieving party unity.

Fike resigned last month and his Lawyers Title of Las Vegas company was placed under direct control of its parent organization after Fike's escrow and title insurance license was suspended.

The state Insurance Division suspended the license and began auditing Fike's company because of claims the former Nevada lieutenant governor might have diverted up to \$2 million from his personal accounts with the title company.

Prime California ranch land snapped up in Reno auction

RENO—More than half of a block of prime California ranch land totaling 2,476 acres just west of Bordertown was sold at a land auction here Saturday.

Four of eight parcels of the old Lindquist Ranch about 16 miles north of Reno were sold, said auctioneer Jim Des Roches. The four parcels total about 1,364 acres.

"The auction was about average," Des Roches said. "A great auction would have been selling it all. A bad auction would have been selling nothing. We were in between."

The land sale, which was held at the Eldorado Hotel-Casino, was one of the largest in Reno in recent

years. The parcels ranged in size from 111 to 722 acres, and featured prime forest and meadow land.

Four of eight parcels failed to attract minimum bids and went unsold, Des Roches said. Minimum prices for the parcels ranged from \$80,000 to \$1 million, with the owners providing the financing.

Des Roches said he expects no problems closing deals on the four parcels that attracted sufficient bids.

The highest bid of the day was \$1 million for a 175-acre parcel featuring a 4,100-square-foot custom home and a reservoir. The home was built at a cost of \$775,000.

Sales increase 6.4 percent

CARSON CITY—Nevada merchants sold \$757.2 million in goods during May for a 6.4 percent gain over the same month a year earlier, the state Taxation Department said Monday.

The sales brought the total for the fiscal year to date to nearly \$1.27 billion, an increase of 7.9 percent over the same period in the prior fiscal year.

In the Las Vegas area, the

May sales totaled \$429.3 million, a gain of 6.3 percent. That included a 7 percent increase in sales by bars and restaurants that are considered good gauges of tourist traffic.

In the Reno area, the May sales totaled \$177.8 million, up 3.9 percent from the same month a year earlier. However, sales by bars and restaurants in the Reno area were down 5.7 percent.



Delores Feemster, Reno Sentinel-Voice General Manager. For news, weekly locations of paper and advertising information, contact her at 323-3677.

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