HAPPY THANKSGIVING NAARPR REPORT: TO BE EQUAL: "THE TWO-TRACK SOLUTION TO URBAN ILLS" FROM THE STAFF OF THE "THE 2 BILLION DOLLAR BOONDOGGLE" LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE By James S. Tate, Jr., M.D. **SEE PAGE 3** By John E. Jacob **SEE PAGE 2** OVER 30,000 READERS BULK RATE U.S. Postage PAID Las Vegas, NV Permit No.1178 NEVADA'S ONLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER LAS PEGAS VOLUME 14, ISSUE 31 BROWN PUBLISHING COMPANY'S AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER **NOVEMBER 25, 1993** "THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

BLACK ALCOHOL/DRUG SERVICE INFORMATION CENTER (BASIC) SCHEDULES WORLD-WIDE CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS **DEC. 5-8**

which were primarily noted for there

propensity to explode rather than there

By Victor S. Ingram

Alcohol and Substance abuse among African Americans has reached chronic proportions. Statistics showing African American levels of alcoholism and drug abuse have shown alarming patterns of escalation within the past five years. Drug abuse has been directly linked to the desolation of the family unit and the primary funding source of gang activity, which also has a direct link to alcohol and substance abuse. Police record correlations between an escalation in drug arrests and gang activity.

As the primary source of funding,

drugs have pro-

vided for sophis-

ticated weap-

onry, which often-

times leave po-

lice vulnerable for

a lack of fire-

power. Once lim-

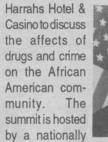
ited to cheap .38



accuracy at hitting the target, gangs have developed a sophisticated arsenal fueled by the rewards of the drug trade. Nevada, which has one of the highest rates of incarceration for African

Americans as a result of drug infractions, has provided few workable solutions that have provided tangible results towards curing the problem. In early November Congress passed a sweeping crime bill designed to place 50,000 more police officers on city streets and develop several new prisons, yet marginally addressed treatment and preventative measures. Locally, critics say the bill lacked focus on causal factors and merely contributed to funding an already billion dollar strong anti-crime infrastructure.

Dr. Lee P. Brown, National Director of the Office of Drug Control Policy (Drug Czar), will be in Las Vegas during a world summit on December 5-8 at



recognized anti- DR. LEE P. BROWN substance abuse program known as the Black Alcohol/Drug Service Information Center (BASIC). The program has been heralded for its grass-roots approach to persons of color in dealing with issues of substance abuse. Program founder and CEO, Oval L. Miller, spoke to the Sentinel-Voice during a phone interview about the upcoming summit.

Miller said the summit is a united effort from the world wide community to (See Basic, Page 22)

ES STATE CR

K HIGH SCHOOL

The Clark Chargers defeated northern Nevada's McQueen High School 7-3 to win the 1993 AAA State Championship. Photo by Bill Lee **SEE STORY PAGE 18**

caliber pistols OVAL L. MILLER **COMMUNITY FOOD** FOOD DRIVE TO FEED THE HOMELESS

The holidays . . . a time for caring and sharing. From now until Christmas the Community Food Bank of Clark County is hosting a food drive to help feed the homeless.

The food bank has placed receptacles for non-perishable food and paper goods donations at the two area Payless Cashways building materials stores located at 3775 E. Sahara and 4330 S.

The Las Vegas Chapter of Delta

Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is hosting it's

17th Annual Sepia Fashion Revue

featuring the Vogue-Esquire models of

Chicago, Illinois. This exciting traveling

fashion show will benefit the local Delta

Scholar Program which provides schol-

arships for aspiring college students.

The 1993-94 presentation, "The Ro-

mantic Look 93," will show the mood of

American and European designers.

This affair will be held at the Hartland

Mansion on Saturday, December 4,

1993. No host cocktails will begin at 6

p.m. and will be followed by dinner and

the Fashion Revue. Entertainment will

be provided by Ghalib-Ghallab. For

ticket information, please call 647-0667.

Decatur.

Together the Community Food Bank and Payless Cashways hope to raise not only food for the needy, but also the level of awareness that this is an ongoing need and that every donation does make a difference.

Don't miss your chance to help the homeless. For more information, call 873-5333.

By Victor S. Ingram Gerson Park, for years it had been

known as a haven for gangs and drugs. Recently, however, this perception has changed. Located off of Martin Luther King and Lake Mead, this change becomes overwhelmingly present when one observes the infamous "wall" which boarders the low rental apartment complex's community center. The wall was once the assembly area for neighborhood thugs who would sit and drink their 40-ounce beers or exchange their crack cocaine for money. Many a driveby victim has been immortalized-martyred by an assailants bullet. The change is that the wall has become less populated due to the infusion of people into the community center. The center, which recently reopened after nearly 3 years of being closed, has become a community oasis where few bright opportunities existed.

The center reopened through the efforts of organizations like Community Peace of Las Vegas. The Las Vegas Housing Authority under the direction of Deputy Director Thomas Gholson participated in the reopening. Debbie Calhon from the local Federal Bureau of Investigation provided enormous technical and financial support to the project. Councilman Frank Hawkins also provided assistance in the project.



Councilman Frank Hawkins (R) participates in the 1st Annual Domino Tournament at Gerson Park Community Center.

BEGINNING AS IT MEETS COMMUNIT

Last week the community center sponsored its first open competitive The tournament was additionally spectacular because it was produced and coordinated by the members of the center, who purchased trophies and provided all of the judging and selection of winners.

The center strives to meet the needs of the community. From providing recreational services to teens to meeting educational needs of grade school children with a full service tutorial program. the center's two full time staff members admit they have a handful of responsibility. Center director, Lee Hal, says

Photo by Victor Ingram

he's more than prepared to meet the demands of the community. "We try to domino, pool, table tennis tournament. offer an alternative to negative behavior," said Hal when asked about the center's purpose. Hal adds that the community's response to the center has been phenomenal. "Parents come by and volunteer their time tutoring or just anyplace their needed," said Hal.

Lee continued to say the neighborhood was in a state of need prior to the center's reopening. "When I was growing up we had neighborhood clubs, and it really helped in my coming up," said Hal. He said a direct trace can be made to the escalation of gang activity and (See Gerson, Page 5)



SEE RELATED STORY, PAGE 5