

NEWS CLIPS

GOP PRECINCT MEETINGS SET

The Clark County Republican Party is holding meetings at all 68 voting precincts Tuesday. Delegates to the county GOP convention will be chosen at the meetings. The county convention will be held March 29-30 at the Showboat. At the county convention, delegates will be picked for the state convention in Reno, to be held May 3-5. Jerry Winkler, county Republican chairman, told the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* the party welcomes "this opportunity to open our party to new members and to bring new people with fresh ideas into the fold."

URBAN CHAMBER STARTS OPERATIONS

The Urban Chamber of Commerce will start its operations Saturday with a round table workshop at 11 a.m. at the Community College of Southern Nevada's Cheyenne campus. An interim board of directors will be selected. Limited seating is available. For further information, contact John Gardner at 895-0408.

RAPPER QUEEN LATIFAH ARRESTED

LOS ANGELES — Rapper and actress Queen Latifah was arrested Feb. 3 for allegedly carrying a loaded pistol and possessing marijuana, authorities said. Latifah, whose real name is Dana Owens, was stopped for speeding around 6:30 a.m. as she headed west on Interstate 10, said Officer Garry Goldenberg of the California Highway Patrol. CHP officers asked Owens if she had a gun or marijuana in her BMW, and she allegedly said yes to both questions, Goldenberg said. Owens was booked on gun and marijuana possession charges, and cited for speeding. She was later released and ordered to appear in court Feb. 28, police said.

DR. KING'S FAMILY TO MARKET IMAGE

ATLANTA — The family of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said it will approve the licensing of merchandise bearing King's words and image. The change comes after years of zealously guarding his image. King's youngest son Dexter Scott King said the change came from an explosion of King merchandise sold without the family's approval. "We have a legal right to protect what is ours, but whether it's morally right, some people would question," Dexter King said in the *Los Angeles Sentinel*. "I think it's both." King's heirs have already authorized a line of figurines depicting the civil rights leader's life, a limited edition statuette and a line of personal checks. Other products are being developed.

HAITIAN AID TO CONTINUE AS TROOPS LEAVE

WASHINGTON — The State Department said the Clinton administration has decided to continue \$13 million in aid to Haiti as U.S. troops preserving order are leaving. The department said the decision was made despite the fact Haiti has failed to qualify for aid under restrictions Congress set in response to political violence there. Phyllis Young, a department spokeswoman, said the Clinton administration decided to grant a waiver in order to avoid any troop withdrawal delay. Most U.S. troops are scheduled to leave Haiti by April 15. Much of the aid, however, could be held up by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-North Carolina, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Helms is blocking release of the money because he believes former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide harbored suspected assassins.

NINE DIE IN HAITIAN PLANE CRASH

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — At least nine passengers on a Haiti Air Express plane, were killed Monday while taking off. The plane, and Australian-made Nomad twin-turboprop, crashed just outside the Port-au-Prince International airport shortly after noon. Local press reported there were nine deaths and five serious injuries. One Haiti Air Express, who asked not to be identified, said there were a total of 12 passengers and two European pilots on the downed plane.

FARRAKHAN VISITS IRAN, MARKS REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

TEHRAN, Iran — Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan on Saturday denounced the U.S. Congress' decision to allocated \$20 million for covert operations in Iran. He also said any attempt to destabilize the Islamic republic would fail. "Instead of allocating a budget to plot conspiracies against the Islamic system in Iran, the United States would do better to use the money to help homeless people in that country," Farrakhan told the Associated Press. Farrakhan visited Tehran to attend celebrations commemorating the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran. Under the auspices of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the pro-Western Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was overthrown during that revolution.

SOUTH AFRICAN FLOODS KILL 19

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — At least 19 people have died in the wake of heavy flooding in South Africa and forecasters predict more rain is yet to come. The floods have devastated the region, according to published reports. Mudslides have buried victims inside collapsed homes. Vehicles were swept off the road. Police were searching for 17 passengers of a bus that plunged into the Crocodile River from a cliff Monday. The river is located about 100 east of Johannesburg.

WEED AND SEED

(Continued from Page 1)
program," Rickman said.

Auditors also praised FBI Special Agent in Charge Bobby Siller, calling him "a key stakeholder and potentially an important player."

Although law enforcement is integral to the weeding portion of the program, it's highly unusual to have them involved in the seeding portion of the program.

Siller is an exception, the auditors said.

"This is a unique situation, because he is intimately involved with the seeding activity. He's very committed and he's invested in, in terms of community development and community involvement," said Leslie Nesbitt, national program manager. Finally, auditors praised Franklin Simpson, the program's director.

"I think Franklin brings a level of energy and intensity to the leadership that makes the difference," Rickman said.

The next stage for the six-month-old program is to improve coordination between the two Weed and Seed community centers and communication between community groups, who provide the actual services.

"You have operationalized two potential hub sites that can serve as magnets for at-risk youth into a social service delivery network. I'm talking about your two safe havens:



Stephen Rickman (right), director of the Crime Act Support division, along with Program Director Leslie Nesbitt made a visit to Las Vegas to review the status of the local Weed and Seed Program.

Photos by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Doolittle Community Center and Stupak Community Center. They have to be fully developed," Rickman said.

"What you have to do learn how to do is take the different program components and tie them to the sub-sites."

Simpson said: "It's kind of like taking what's been known as the recreational facility like Doolittle and playin' hoops has been pretty much the deal and making it pretty much full circle, fully compatible with the computers."

Las Vegas is one of 36 fully-funded Weed and Seed

communities. Over the next three years, the Justice Department will allocate \$1.5 million to further efforts.

Auditors said the monies are

not entitlement funds and will not continue indefinitely.

"The goal was to give them enough money to get started," Rickman said.

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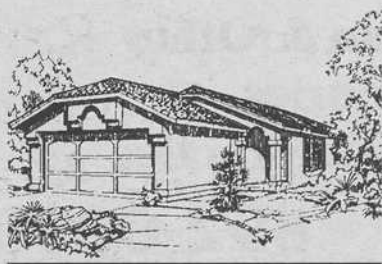
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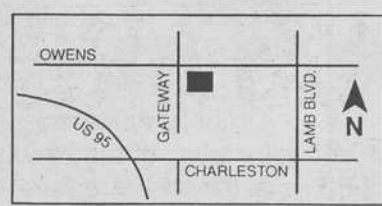


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