



ELECTION '96

Black turnout low in primary election

Special to the Sentinel-Voice

In Tuesday's primary election, voter turnout was again disappointingly low as several local black incumbent candidates still fared well as did several newcomers who mounted strong challenges.

District Judge Lee Gates, his wife Clark County Commission Chairwoman Yvonne Atkinson Gates and state Senator Joe Neal all won their respective primary races each claiming more than 65 percent of the vote.

The two black Assemblymen incumbents, Morse Arberry Jr. and Wendell Williams, also won their primary races. Arberry now faces a November general election showdown with Republican contender and local community organizer, the Rev. Chester Richardson. Arberry, a 6-term veteran of the Legislature and chairman of the Ways and Means committee, also faces the task of repairing his reputation that was marred by negative political mailers circulated during the campaign season.

Arberry said he was not surprised that more voters (1,265 total, split between challengers, the Rev. Marion Bennett and Louise Banks) voted against him than voted for him, (1,105).

"If you send out a lot of negatives, you turn people against you," he said Wednesday. "Some people believed some of those negatives that were sent out. But the people that know me and support me know that this is an election year and look past that. They know that I work for them every day."

Challenger Banks said she "was appalled" by the derogatory mailers. But, "a lot of people voted for Arberry because he was the first black to be appointed to a chairmanship. What I will do is watch how Arberry votes in the next session."

Bennett is still convinced that Assembly District



Judge Lee Gates jokes with campaign workers Tuesday night at a post-election party hosted by Gates and his wife, Yvonne Atkinson Gates who is also running for re-election to the County Commission. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

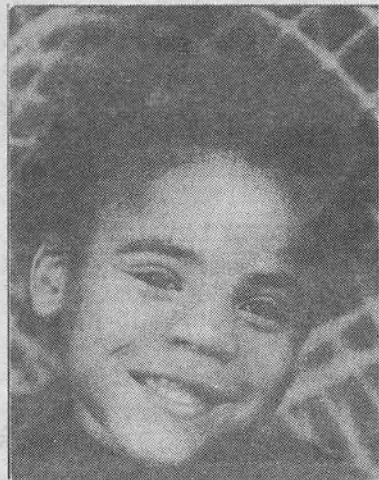
7 needs a new representative. "I know (Arberry) didn't do his job. More people are against him that are for him, but that happens in big races like that. Moose lives in another district and he really represents the area that he lives in, District 2, really well. People just don't understand, eventually they will," Bennett said.

Arberry's Assembly counterpart Wendell Williams also faced a tough campaign against local fireman Anyika Kamal. The results, "were not a surprise," said Kamal who is also the son of activist Marzette Lewis. "We were an unknown

running against an incumbent who's running off name recognition.

"(Williams) really didn't get the votes he should have," he said of Williams' 73.3 percent of the vote to his own 26.7 percent. "Last time he won by 3,000 votes. This time only 1,500 (voters) came out. It's kind of telling us that people didn't really want Wendell. And because they didn't know my name, they didn't come out.

Kamal still takes issue with Williams' past personal problems. "It's kind of sad that the people (See Election, Page 13)



TONY BAGLEY

Murders still unsolved

By Nichole Davis Sentinel-Voice

As the agony continues for the friends and family of three high-profile but unsolved murder cases involving blacks, police said, leads in the cases have all but dried up.

Martin Luther King Jr. Committee operations manager Belinda Thompson was taking a well-needed vacation this past Aug. 19, the 6-month anniversary of her best friend's murder.

She remembers former University Medical Center social worker Barbara Turner-Elliot as "a strong woman who did everything with dignity." Turner-Elliot was compassionate but real.

"She could sit and tell you off so tough, you would be walking down the street and around the corner before you asked, 'Wait a minute. What did she say to me?'" Thompson laughed.

But the laughter ended abruptly when her best friend of 18 years disappeared Feb. 19 after picking up a prescription at Lucky's at Rainbow Boulevard and Sahara Avenue.

(See Unsolved, Page 7)



TARA CLEVELAND

Kid's Cafe celebrates 2nd year

By Nichole Davis Sentinel-Voice

Ruby Hinton carried her infant nephew close to her hip last week as she weaved around the tables at the St. Paul Church of God in Christ, which were overflowing with noisy, excited West Las Vegas youth.

Hinton, a 15-year-old Garside Jr. High School student, was chatting as she ate the last of a free roast beef dinner she enjoyed courtesy of the Kid's Cafe, a daily nutritional program which feeds West Las Vegas youth at the church.

Normally when she's done eating, the program regular boards the so-called Kid's Cafe bus and rides back to her home in the Gerson apartment complex, a nearby Las Vegas Housing Authority project.

But Aug. 28 she and more than 200 kids were



From left, housing Director Frederick Brown joined Harrah's executives Thom Hall and Dan Comiskey to help serve a recent cafe meal. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

treated to a choir performance, speeches and backpacks filled with school supplies during a 1-hour-long back-to-school celebration for the program.

The 2-year-old program was the dream child of one Harrah's Las Vegas casino employee who was on hand last week to serve food and coordinate news media interviews.

Cameron Andrews, Harrah's advertising and communications manager, saw a story about another Kid's Cafe on the evening news several years ago.

He in turn brought the idea to his supervisors, who felt the feeding program would tangibly demonstrate the company's commitment to (See Cafe, Page 2)