



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

In an effort to jump start fund-raising activities for gubernatorial candidate North Las Vegas Sen. Joe Neal, Jerry Linsday, spokesman for the Nevada Black American Business Group, held a press conference last week at the West Las Vegas Library Theater to announce a campaign to raise \$2 million dollars before the September primary

Joe Neal injured in crash, spokesman announces bid

By Deborah Kohlen
Sentinel-Voice

Democratic state senator Joe Neal was injured in a car accident last Wednesday, the night before he was to hold a press conference at the West Las Vegas Library Theater to announce his candidacy for governor.

Though not life-threatening, his bruised ribs were painful enough to confine him to bed for a few days. His supporters met the press, reading and distributing a speech Neal prepared.

The speech formally announced Neal's candidacy and informed the public that a political action committee

called the Nevada Black American Business Group will be handling Neal's campaign in southern Nevada.

Neal's official campaign manager, Andrew Barbano, is operating out of Reno. Neal, a 25-year state senator, kicked off his campaign efforts in northern Nevada a month ago.

Neal's campaign slogan, "A fair deal for Nevada," reflects his concern that the gaming industry isn't paying its fair share in taxes.

Neal's tax-the-casinos bent has shut him off from the gaming lobby's lucrative campaign coffers.

According to a spokesman at the conference, gubernatorial

candidates Jan Laverty Jones and Kenny Guinn are receiving huge contributions from the casinos.

Neal's spokesman said the North Las Vegas Democrat will canvas workers and unions for financial support, theorizing that small contributions from a large pool of people can help build his war chest.

National fund raising efforts are also planned.

His campaign managers hope to raise \$2 million in the next 40 days, a paltry amount compared to the accounts of his opponents.

Neal will open up a Las Vegas headquarters soon.

Educator, ambassador to reveal Egypt through tour

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Clark County School District official Al Gourrier will team up with Rebekah Morse, honorary Goodwill Ambassador for the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism, to present Egypt Night at the West Las Vegas Cultural Arts Center Tuesday, July 21 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

The presentation will include a lecture on Egyptians and their cultural history, followed by information about an upcoming cultural tour of the country.

Gourrier, resource coordinator for the Clark County School District, and Morse will host the 15-day Cultural Heritage and Pilgrimage to Egypt,

which begins on Sept. 18 and ends Oct. 2.

The tour will focus on people of African heritage in the Nile valley from ancient to modern times, with special emphasis on the Nubian people, explore Christian, Islamic and Jewish religions in Egypt and culminate in a visit to "Sinai and the land of Moses," according to Morse.

Gourrier will lead a pre-dawn hike or camel ride up the 3750 Steps of Repentance of Mt. Sinai.

Once at the top, Gourrier will lead a sunrise prayer for world peace and unity among the people of the world.

A former principal of Lois Craig Elementary School and founder of

"Sankofa Communiversity," Gourrier also served as former president of the African American Summit and taught African history to children and teachers along with classes on multicultural education at UNLV and the University of New Orleans.

He has also lectured at and presided over numerous national multicultural conferences and is listed in the Multicultural Directory.

An Egyptologist and president of Classic Destinations/U.S.A. and Solara Travel/Egypt, Morse has traveled extensively throughout Egypt, claiming it as her second country and "the home of her heart."



AL GOURRIER

Morse said the tour will be more comprehensive and rewarding than any other tour of the land of the Pharaohs.

She and Gourrier hope to make the tour an annual event.

The price includes international airfare, domestic transfers, transportation in Egypt, deluxe accommodations, half board or full meals and a Nile cruise.

Field trips to see the pyramids, the Sphinx, the Valley of the Kings and Queens, Mt. Sinai and the Egyptian Museum are also part of the package.

Those interested in reserving a seat at Tuesday's presentation can call Classic Destinations at 737-1799.

Advocate incident among several unsolved bombing cases

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Jackson, MISSISSIPPI — More than six months after the domestic terrorist attack against the Jackson Advocate newspaper, no motives or suspects have been publicly identified by law enforcement officials. However, the bombing of the Advocate is not the first time bombs have been linked to Black-owned businesses in Jackson.

On March 5, and again on March 7, 1997, a total of three unexploded homemade bombing devices were found at All Elegance Nails, a salon in the Bellinger Building in northeast Jackson.

According to the March 8, 1997 Clarion Ledger, then-captain Vernon Hughes of the Jackson Fire Department said that officials responded to the call and found "two bottles filled with flammable liquid."

Police had no suspects, "but the bombs are believed to have been planted by the same person or persons," Hughes was quoted as saying.

He said the bottles and liquid had been sent to the crime labs for analysis. None of the devices contained timing mechanisms, so they would have had to be detonated on site.

"These devices were capable of doing some damage to the building, more fire damage than explosion," Hughes said.

More than a year later, however, no suspects have been identified by the Jackson fire department's arson division, nor the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) or Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) agencies.

The Jan. 26, 1998 firebombs which gutted the Advocate's administrative offices were also described by Hughes as "an incendiary device known as a Molotov cocktail." Gasoline was the flammable liquid used to create the extensive fire damage to the Advocate.

The unsolved Advocate firebombing and the discovery of bombs found at the nail salon have stark similarities.

• Both investigating teams consist of fire department arson chief Vernon Hughes, ATF agent Michael McDuffy, and

"retiring" FBI special agent James (Jim) Frier.

- Both bombs were of the Molotov cocktail-type.
- In both cases there have been no arrests, motives, nor suspects publicly identified.

What is also perplexing is that tried and true investigative methods were not used to solve these two particular terrorist assaults against African-American-owned businesses by law enforcement authorities.

On March 8, 1997, Theta Hudson, former owner of All Elegance Nails, began writing local and federal law enforcement officials, as well as Mississippi's congressional offices, pleading with them to look at the possible connection between the recently discovered bombs found in her former place of business that week and the bombs found on her ex-boyfriend Tony L. Hodges in 1994.

Hodges was arrested, pleaded guilty and was sentenced in March 1995 for aggravated assault against Hudson, but was

never charged with having explosives (homemade bombs) in his possession.

"On May 6, 1997, ATF interviewed Mr. Hodges, who denied knowledge of the devices recovered in the Bellinger building in March 1997," stated ATF director John W. Magaw.

Meanwhile, Hudson and Stephanie Parker Weaver of the (See Bombing, Page 11)

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