

ELECTION '98

Attorney says modernization needed

By John T. Stephens III
Special to Sentinel-Voice
Tami Bass wants to bring the county clerk's office into the 21st century.



TAMI BASS

Among other things the 36-year-old attorney would automate functions.

Born in Los Angeles, Bass was reared in Las Vegas and went to Eldorado High School. She graduated from Tennessee State University where she received a bachelor's degree in government and public affairs and did a double minor in communication and English. She earned a juris doctrine degree in law from the University of San Diego. She's a single mother of two. The county clerk handles

the litigation and legal documents - passports, marriage licenses, civil, domestic, criminal filings — of the District Court and the Family Court and must attend all county commission meetings. The clerkship is a four-year commitment. Clerks earn \$70,000 a year.

"The vision I have for the

County Clerk's office is one that will bring it into the 21st century. One that will reflect Clark County as one of the fastest growing counties in the country," Bass said.

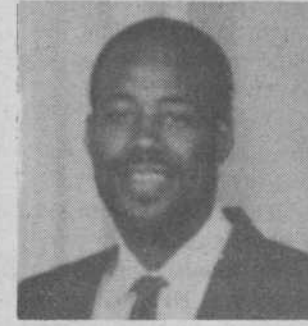
Besides automating functions, Bass would make work schedules more flexible so the office could have longer operating hours. She would also bring in interpreters to assist non-English speaking patrons.

"I'm not about working harder. I'm about working smarter," Bass said, a Republican.

Bass belongs to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and is a member of the National Black Republican (See Bass, Page 20)

Goynes targeting increased efficiency

By John T. Stephens III
Special to Sentinel-Voice



BYRON GOYNES

Byron Goynes, the 37-year-old son of a North Las Vegas political luminary, hopes he can fashion as stellar a political career as his father Theron Goynes. He wants to begin as county clerk.

Goynes said the county clerk is the backbone of the Eighth Judicial Court which handles scheduling, creates calendars for the other courts, issues marriage licenses and acts as the marriage commission, certifies notary republics and passports and files fictitious firm names from the Business License Department.

"I want to come in and bring a new wheel," Goynes said.

in jail waiting for records and files to be processed.

"I would like to automate the court process," Goynes said.

Goynes and his wife have a daughter named Joi. He was born in Los Angeles, received a bachelor's in business administration from Prairie View A & M and coordinates computer training for the school district's food service division.

He ensures elementary and middle-school children receive a six-digit number to obtain a school lunch. The number tells the food handler the pupils pay for lunch.

County clerks serve four-year terms and earn \$70,000 (See Goynes, Page 20)

Interim constable wants job full-time

John T. Stephens III
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Herb Brown, a retired assistant chief of police and former U.S. marshal with 26 years of law enforcement experience, wants to be North Las Vegas Constable.

Brown wants the seat he was appointed to May 5 by the Clark County Commission. The former constable, Lou Tabat, retired earlier this year.

"I'm an experienced person in law enforcement," Brown said. "The person who is to serve as constable should have law enforcement experience."

The constable's office processes paperwork for the North Las Vegas Justice Court and serves eviction notices, garnishments and other legal

"I'm committed to a higher level of service for North Las Vegas."

documents to citizens. The constable has a chief deputy and three office employees.

Brown worked with the North Las Vegas Police Department for 22 years before retiring. Later, U.S. Sen. Harry Reid nominated him to serve as a U.S. marshal; he was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and commissioned by President Clinton.

The North Las Vegas Constable used to be a salaried employee, but now is paid

commensurate with the work done. The constable can earn a maximum of \$53,000 a year.

"I love the fact that I am a working constable," Brown said. "I like to be involved in the process."

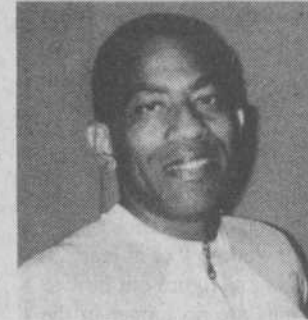
Brown has been married for 34 years and has two adult sons and five grandchildren. Originally from Jackson, Miss., he has lived in Las Vegas for 34 years.

He faces one opponent in the primary and one opponent in the general. Constables are elected every four years.

"I'm committed to a higher level of service for the citizens of North Las Vegas," Brown said. "I will restore integrity to the office of the constable and be accountable."

Detective gunning for sheriff's office

By John T. Stephens III
Special to Sentinel-Voice



DIRK THOMAS

As a child, Dirk Thomas dreamed of becoming a police officer.

Now the 10-year law enforcement veteran wants to call the shots.

"I'm running for office because I feel that the police department is not reaching its full potential," said Thomas, a sexual assault detective with the Metropolitan Police Department. He joined the force in 1987 and has been a patrolman and member of the department's problem solvers and a recruiters.

"The most powerful individual in local politics is the sheriff," said Thomas,

Valley, Laughlin and Indian Springs.

Thomas would focus on two key goals: boosting the department's poor perception among residents and increasing its community involvement. He also favors aggressive recruitment of minorities.

"When was the last time you saw police officers go into black and Hispanic communities to recruit officers?" he asked. "They don't do it."

Thomas would make sure more minorities, especially minority youth in high school and college, take advantage of the police programs such as police cadets and police (See Thomas, Page 18)

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