

## Insurance

(Continued from Page 7) championed the program in 1997 after the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services allotted funds for special needs programs.

Check Up will have access to \$4 billion in funding over the next nine years.

Applications are available in English and Spanish at more than 250 locations statewide.

Some of the locations with bilingual applications includes the State of Nevada Welfare District Offices, all of the local schools and school district offices, the Head Start programs, the Family Resource Centers, the Boys and Girls Clubs, Inter-Tribal Council Offices, child care facilities and from community organizations.

Those interested can call Nevada Check Up at 1-800 360-6044.

# State gets \$5.6 million for class-size reduction

Nevada will receive more than \$5.6 million from the U.S. Department of Education to hire new teachers and reduce class sizes. Funds will be available to school districts by July 1, 1999.

The funding is the first phase of the federal government's commitment to hire 100,000 new teachers nationally to reduce class size in early grades to 18 students per teacher.

Last year President Clinton signed into law the first installment of his seven-year, \$12.4 billion proposal to hire 100,000 teachers. During the first year, \$1.2

billion will go to local school districts to hire 30,000 new teachers.

The Nevada grant is enough to hire 145 new teachers with a starting salary of \$35,000 per year. Any leftover money will be used for professional development and teacher testing programs.

"We're definitely going to need some new teachers," School Board Trustee Shirley Barber said. "We're facing a shortage even though we're hiring 1,000 new teachers annually now."

The long-time educator said that class size makes a difference in the quality of teaching and learning.

| Nevada's largest school districts will receive: |             |
|---|-------------|
| CLARK COUNTY                                    | \$3,878,083 |
| WASHOE COUNTY                                   | \$ 899,559  |
| ELKO COUNTY                                     | \$ 137,018  |
| CARSON CITY                                     | \$ 131,757  |
| LYON COUNTY                                     | \$ 105,376  |
| NYE COUNTY                                      | \$ 99,407   |
| DOUGLAS COUNTY                                  | \$ 91,098   |
| CHURCHILL COUNTY                                | \$ 75,871   |
| HUMBOLDT COUNTY                                 | \$ 59,135   |
| WHITE PINE COUNTY                               | \$ 39,822   |

"When there are 15 to 18 students in a class, the teacher can spend time with each child and know exactly what each one will need," she said. "It's like going to the doctor and having a prescription written based on your particular diagnosis. The

teacher can be a more effective doctor and prescribe exactly what the child needs."

"Class size reduction got its start in Nevada thanks to Governor Bob Miller and the state Legislature, who realized that our children need room to learn," Sen. Harry

Reid said. "Now our Nevada program is the model for the nation."

Reid said the Senate has denied Nevada politicians a vote on critical education issues, thus Nevadans need to support efforts to get funding.

"As many of our communities, especially in Southern Nevada, continue to grow at a staggering pace, our schools are becoming more and more crowded," Sen. Richard Bryan said. "While this is only the first step in a proposed seven-year plan, it will begin the process of reducing many of our most overcrowded classrooms."

## Mortality

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between blacks and whites," said Dr. Richard David, associate professor in the College of Medicine at the University of Illinois. "We can't have these disparities," said Dr. Diane Rowley with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "The only question is, are we willing to do what it's going to take to not lose these children?" David said preliminary research seems to show factors like environmental toxins, living in high-

violence areas, feeling discriminated against at work or at school can all go toward children being born with low birth weights. Rowley said the medical world needs to focus more on how to determine the impact of stress on the body, but that it was difficult to figure out.

The conference was organized by the Northern New Jersey Maternal Child Health Consortium, which came out with a report in September 1997 that said stress most likely factored into black infant mortality.

## Embassy

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in 90 days and that grass will be planted on the site, which the United States leased in 1980.

"We have a 99-year lease, and the terms of the lease remain valid," Scharf said. We would like to develop this area as a kind of memorial to all those who died in the bomb blast."

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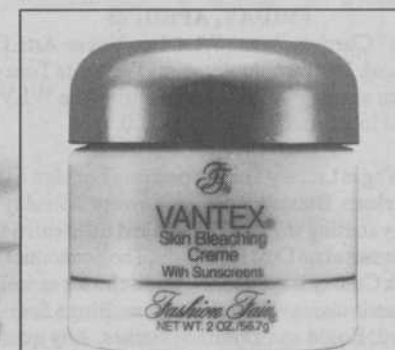
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