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North Las Vegas candidates address the issues

Madeline Beckwith
Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice continues to let the candidates speak out for the 1999 elections focusing on the North Las Vegas City Council Elections this week:

The common strains between most of the candidates for office in North Las Vegas were: a desire to promote "good growth" in the city by helping to build parks and recreation facilities and controlling the growth of the city to direct it in a positive direction.

Implementing and expanding senior programs are also a big issue on most of the candidates' platforms.

Another reoccurring theme is creating a positive image for the city, although, many disagreed on how to do it. Many candidates also wanted to redirect some attention to the "mature area" or older section of North Las Vegas.

Marcia Blake (department store manager)-I'm the only candidate in this race that signed the Intent to Recall Paula Brown. The citizens all have a right to know about the things that are going on in the government. We have the highest property taxes yet the fewest amenities.

Until our city becomes fiscally responsible we will not be able to afford things like parks and libraries which

our community needs.

Paula L. Brown (Incumbent)-I've been involved with our youth through programs such as the school to work program and the smart grad program sponsored by the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.

I'm a grandmother of 5, which is why I focus my energies on helping youth become good leaders. Fiscal responsibility is high on my priority list. We can't spend the money if we don't have it.

Shari Buck (Substitute Teacher)- I'm a lifelong resident of North Las Vegas. I know the city of North Las Vegas and its problems intimately.

I grew up in the older part of town, so I'm aware of the problems that need to be solved down there.

I will provide good ethics as a councilwoman with honesty, hard work, and above all, a desire to see my hometown become the great city that it can be.

Bob Campagna (Games Dealer)- We need to have more accountability. We need to take the open checkbooks away from the police department, the fire department, parks and recreation etc., and put it back into the city councils' hands so that someone is accountable for the money. Anyone who wants to learn

more about me can contact my website at www.bobcampagna.com

If elected I will keep this site up at no cost to the taxpayers.

Dave Cienega (DARE officer, Metro Police Department)- My professional background has given me the leadership, the character and the integrity to take on a task and get it done.

I'm running for City Council to really make a difference for the Las Vegas families. All elected officials should have the best interest of the people at heart. I cannot be borrowed and I cannot be bought. That is the dedication I will bring to City Council.

Linda Hinson (former City Manager)- I'm running to be of service to the residents in the community. I've had work experience in the city of North Las Vegas for 19 years.

I've been involved in all the aspects that it takes to run a municipality from building construction to public works and parks and recreation. I want to be able to work with the citizens to address their needs.

Ron Long (landscaping business partner)- I have been involved in politics in North Las Vegas for 8 years.

I'm concerned about the relationship between the (See Candidates, Page 11)

Guinn receives federal help on child welfare system

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Gov. Kenny Guinn received commitment last week from the federal government for financial aid and technical assistance in solving problems associated with the automated child support and public welfare system known as NOMADS. The agreement stemmed from a meeting Guinn attended in San Francisco with federal representatives and system specialists.

"We still have significant hurdles to clear and a lot of work still needs to be done, but we had a very productive meeting and we left with a commitment to resolve the NOMADS crisis," Guinn said. "The federal government is demanding a high level of accountability in exchange for their cooperation and any further

funding, so I look forward to working with IBM and the Nevada Legislature on long-term solutions."

The plan of action includes:

The immediate release to Nevada of \$700,000 previously withheld by the federal government; a meeting with federal representatives for an expedited review of previously withheld federal funds and deployment of a technical transfer team to develop an immediate strategic planning effort for conversion to NOMADS.

Guinn will also initiate a proposal to secure state funds for assisting Nevada's counties in dealing with NOMADS' implementation and conversion.

"Gov. Guinn's leadership has allowed the

state to secure immediate release of funds and put the state on track to funding a permanent solution," said state welfare administrator Myla Florence, who attended the San Francisco summit.

A federal mandate ordered in 1988 required states to develop a computer network that would store information on child support cases and interface with the federal government.

Nevada, which has already spent more than \$95 million on NOMADS—\$70 million of which was provided by the federal government—could also face millions of dollars in fines because of missed deadlines established by the federal government in 1995 and 1997 for the program's completion.

"The officials we met with expressed their commitment to protecting the federal government's investment in this system and they understand that Nevada needs immediate financial relief," said Marlene Lockard, director of the Department of Information Technology. "I feel very confident that Nevada can meet the federal government's accountability standards and that we are on our way to a permanent solution to the NOMADS problems."

"The longer this crisis goes unresolved, the more potential harm to the children and families in Nevada who are supposed to benefit," Guinn said. "This situation has been a burden to Nevada for too long and it's time for a real solution."

Bill insuring contraceptive prescriptions passes Assembly

Sandra Douglass
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Assembly Bill 60 would make insurance companies responsible for providing coverage for prescription contraceptives.

Assemblywoman Chris Giunchigliani said that the bill is an equity issue. AB 60 also requires insurance companies to offer coverage for any type of drug or contraceptive device. Fertility drugs are not included in this bill.

"Women pay 68 percent more in out of pocket money than men, and half of the 68 percent is spent on reproductive health," said Alison Gauden, a Planned Parenthood MarMonte lobbyist and associate vice president of public affairs.

Insurance companies cover Rogaine and Viagra, but not women's prescriptive reproductive drugs such as

birth control pills, Depovera, Norplant, and diaphragms. For more information on AB 60. Visit the legislative website at www.leg.nv.state.us

Stricter Juvenile Driving Laws accepted

The Assembly barely approved AB 552 which increases the amount of supervised driving for Nevada teens by a vote of 24 to 18.

The bill's main purpose is to cut down the amount of teenage car accidents and deaths. AB 552 would force students to undergo an instructional permit period with 50 hours of supervised driving, at least 10 hours must be at night.

Once the teen has completed the six-month period for the instructional permit, a provisional license will be issued for one year.

Along with the increased

training, driving hours will be diminished during the provisional period.

First-time drivers under age 18 will not be able to drive from 10 to 5 p.m. unless escorted by a licensed driver over 21. This rule will only apply during the driver's first year.

If a teenage driver is caught with a teenage passenger during the provisional period, a \$35 fine will be levied along with 8 to 16 hours of public service.

If the teen-ager commits a second offense, the fine will be increased to \$50.

Cameras will not enforce traffic laws

Senators told government to keep its eyes to itself by passing Senate Bill 381.

This bill would ban the use of cameras to enforce traffic laws unless the camera is used in conjunction with a stop by a police officer.

The bill will be voted on in the Assembly within the next week.

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