



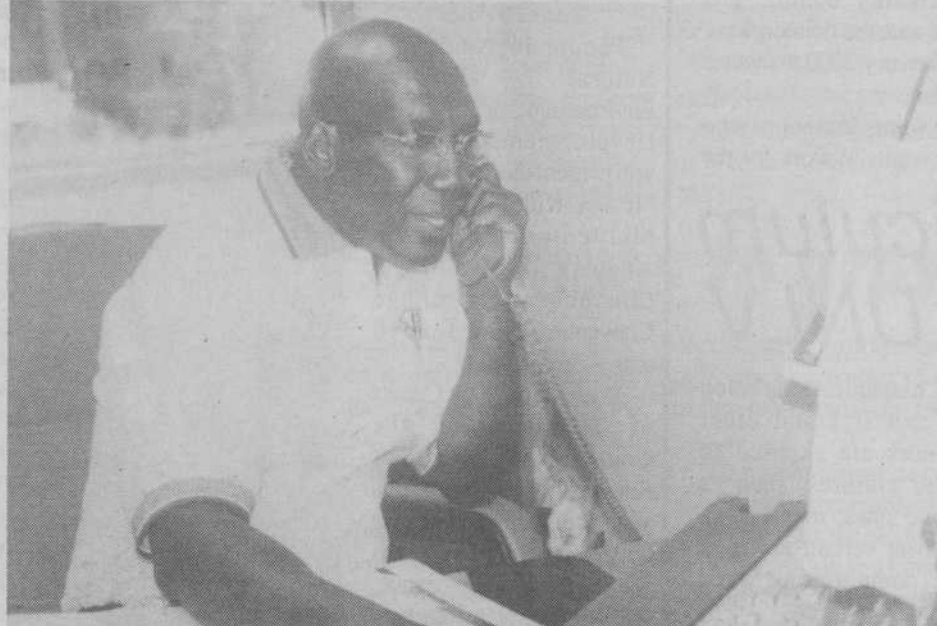
Set quotas for DBEs nixed

Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

In March, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued new guidelines that eliminated set quotas for traditionally disadvantaged businesses in contracting jobs involving federal monies.

The changes will impact firms that deal with McCarran Airport, the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), which all receive millions of dollars in federal Department of Transportation money.

The revised rules, 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 26, takes away the fixed ten percent standard that the federal government set intending to remedy past and current discrimination against



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Determined to get the word out, Stan Wilkerson, marketing manager for the Regional Transportation Commission, is working diligently so the agency can improve on the number of DBEs participating in the program.

disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs), typically firms owned by women, the poor, blacks, hispanics and native americans.

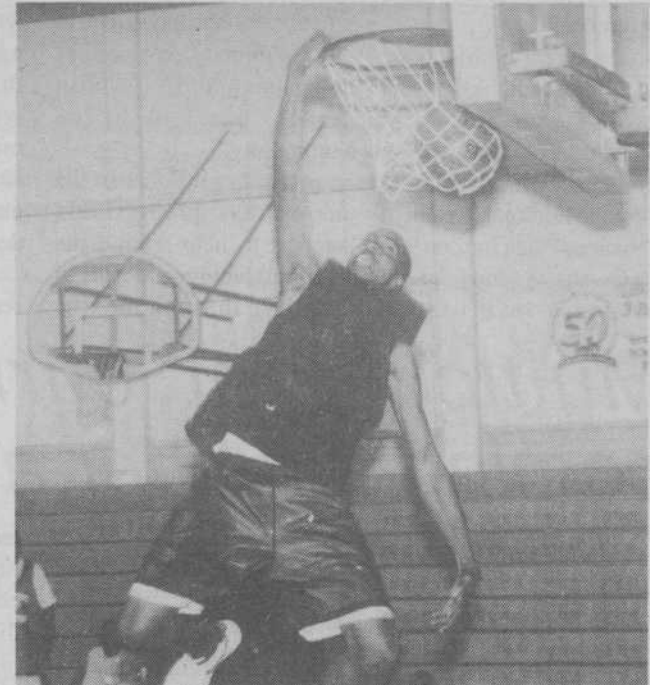
DBE certification does not

denote an inferior business operation. DBE firms must meet the same criteria as other businesses, but the qualification identifies that the companies historically

have not had access to the people who make decisions on who gets the big dollars.

"The new regulations stipulate that the goal to be

(See DBEs, Page 3)



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Last Friday Justin Jefferson was flying high as he exhibited one of his hook jams during the slam dunk contest held at the Doolittle Community Center.

All-Stars shine at Doolittle

Late night hoops complete 7th season

Lee Brown

Special to Sentinel-Voice

For years, the long, hot summer months have meant trouble for many local youth, mostly because they are out of school and don't have many constructive activities to do to occupy their free time. But thanks to a local sports program, that has changed.

For the seventh year, "Late Night Hoops," a basketball league for those between the ages of 16 and 25, has completed another successful season, keeping these young adults busy during their summer vacation.

The league, designed to keep area youth off the streets during the evening hours where they have traditionally been involved in negative activities, kicked off its 1999 campaign in mid-June at the Doolittle Community Center. This year, play consisted of eight 10-men teams — each team having at least 8 teens — with games played between the hours of 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. The six week, 12-game season, which was free to participants, wrapped up with a championship game on August 4.

Late Night Hoops was hosted by the City of Las Vegas Municipal Sports Unit and sponsored by the city's Neighborhood Services Department, which was responsible for awarding Community Development Block Grants to fund the program this year. The Municipal Sports Unit monies also helped fund the league.

"The goal was to give the kids something to do during their free time this summer that would keep them occupied and in a safe area," said Edrick Dinkins, Recreation Leader with the City of Las Vegas Department of Leisure Services and league coordinator. "We choose these hours because they are the hours most vulnerable to the kids where they have nothing else to do."

Dinkins was a player himself the first two seasons of Late Night Hoops and for the last six years he has been associated with the running of the league, with the exception of last year when the program was postponed due to lack of funding. Since its inception, Late Night Hoops had been funded by the Las Vegas Housing Authority, which pulled its backing last year.

"Over the years the talent has definitely increased incredibly (See Hoops, Page 20)

Daycare center advocate takes back neighborhood

Tanya Dotson
Sentinel-Voice

Toni Mims, executive director of the Westside Jumpstart program and the woman behind the initiative to build a daycare center at the Madison Terrace housing projects, threw a "Take Back The Neighborhood" block party at the apartments on Saturday.

The event gave residents a chance to show that they care about their environment and are willing to take a positive stand despite the bad press about the area around 908 W. Monroe on Las Vegas' Westside. The party included good music, great food, games, backpacks full of school supplies for winners of competitions, and party favor bags with condoms, finger condoms and flavored lubricating oils.

Mims said that the point of the block party was to overcome the negative views that have been projected

about the historically black Westside and Madison Terrace.

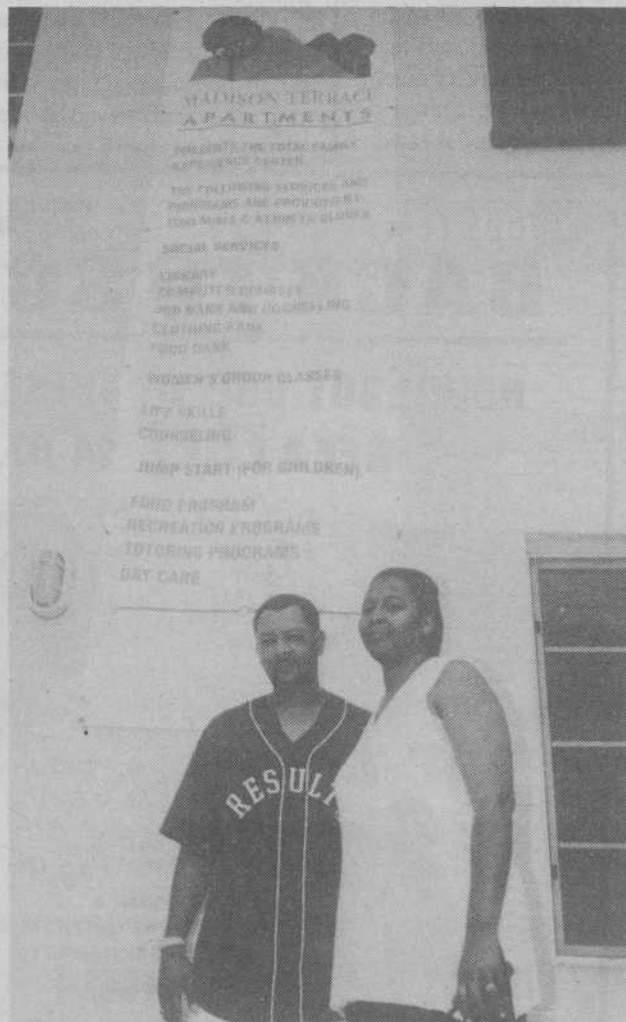
"My purpose is to bring the community, politicians, city and county together, to voice their opinions and feelings about their community," she said.

It also gave residents the chance to address concerns about the proposed day care center.

"It was great, a good idea," said Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson-Gates, who attended the event. "We need to get everyone to take the neighborhood back and avoid drugs and crime in the community."

Block party-goers Kywon Johnson and Bobby Smith expressed their opinions of the event.

"Everything was cool," said Johnson. "The cause was good except for the attitude and harassment of the (See Madison, Page 20)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Founders of the Jumpstart program, Clifton and Toni Mims, stand against all obstacles in their fight to establish a day care center in the Madison Terrace apartments.