



New homes first in slate for Vegas Heights

Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

Habitat for Humanity Las Vegas unveiled two new homes in Vegas Heights during a dedication ceremony recently.

The Las Vegas branch of the national homebuilding program — which uses corporate funding, donations and volunteer labor to build houses for low-income individuals and families — plans to build 10 new homes for Vegas Heights, Habitat representatives said.

Jim Evans, executive director of the Las Vegas Habitat organization, presided over the ceremony, and joined elected officials in sharing excitement over the project in which both the

city and county donated land. Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates welcomed the families, Angela Conway and her two children, and the Yacons.

"This is the fourth (such) project in West Las Vegas," Atkinson Gates said. "There is a home on Van Buren (Street), one on Ivy (Street) and now these two on Hassell (Street). We are truly building a better community."

Atkinson Gates said the new homes give families a chance to invest in their own communities through homeownership. Clark County has committed \$150,000 to defray the costs of building five new homes in the neighborhood.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Angela Conway relaxes with son Patrick and daughter Patrice (not pictured) in her new home.

The families, referred to as "partners," can qualify for a Habitat for Humanity home if they earn 50 percent or less of the median income in Clark County. They must spend 450 hours helping to build their own homes and the homes of other partners. They're also required to make a one percent down payment on the cost of the house and monthly payments on a no-interest mortgage provided by the organization.

Conway and her two twin children, Patrice and Patrick Russum, will move a few weeks after the concrete walkways are in.

"We did everything," Conway said. "We've been out here everyday. I helped put every part of the house

together, except the roof. I'm not climbing up on nobody's roof, not even mine!"

"I carried everything," said Patrick Russum.

Patrice Russum joked that all she did was swim while everyone else worked.

Bank of America, Household Bank, The Meadows School, Norwest Bank, Home Depot, the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors, the Clark County Bar Association and the Allstate Foundation sponsored the construction of the first two houses.

Steve Linder, who represented Household Bank and also serves on the board of directors for LISC, Local (See *Habitat*, Page 2)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Anchored In Faith sports management agency aims to refine athletes off the field. Pictured left to right: Rickie Breaux, Donnie B. Ellison, Jacques Hill, Robert Smith, Marvin McKennery Sr. and Aubrey Branch.

Sports agency anchors clients

Dianna Saffold
Sentinel-Voice

Friendship, faith and the desire to assist young men get to the next level brought six men together to form "Anchored In Faith," a local sports management agency that has been in operation since 1997. The next level, as agency owners say, is an ongoing process beginning at the junior-high level.

"Make sure you focus, keep your grades up, have a good attitude, a dedication in

the classroom and on the field; that is the key to going to the next level," said team member Marvin McKennery Sr., a professional football & basketball scout. "Getting local kids exposed, the biggest thing is the exposure, just getting that chance."

Anchored In Faith assists with media training and preparation, contracts, financial budgeting, community involvement and all that it takes to go to the next level. Those interested

can call 655-3550.

Anchor In Faith eschews the "show me the money" focus some say characterized today's athlete, instead educating athletes on the rewards and risks that come with money.

Robert Smith, who played professional basketball in the NBA and overseas, and Jacques Hill, a former NBA Chicago Bulls draft pick, have unique knowledge of player evaluation.

(See *Anchored*, Page 5)

Basketball great Chamberlain dies

W.G. Ramirez
Sentinel-Voice

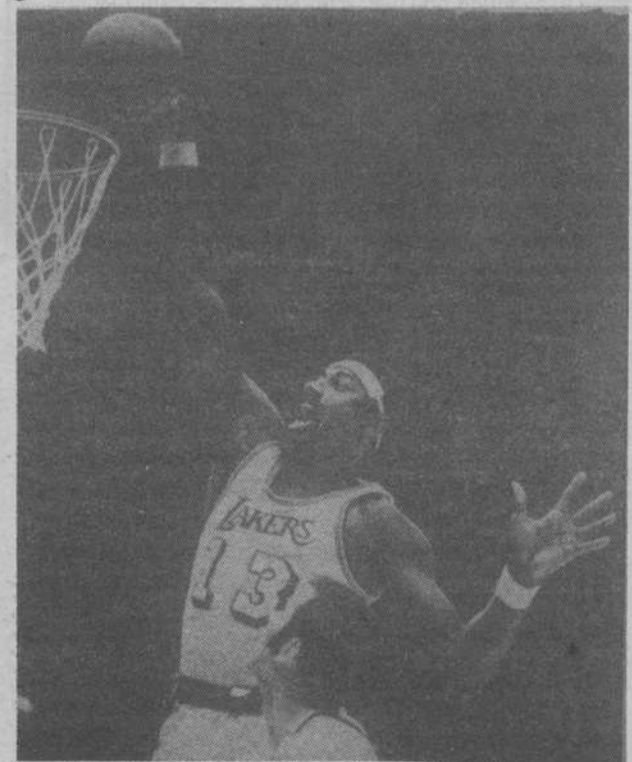
While the death of Wilt Chamberlain shocked the nation, it also touched home for several people with local ties.

"I used to watch him play all the time, not so much in person as I did on TV," said former UNLV assistant coach Keith Starr, who played with the Chicago Bulls in 1976 and 77. "My father used to teach me by watching (Chamberlain) on TV."

Starr, who grew up in Pittsburgh but now resides with his wife and children in Las Vegas, said he always considered Chamberlain a hometown hero — and idol — during his younger days.

Former UNLV coach Jerry Tarkanian, a legend himself, said he and Chamberlain became friends after serving as celebrity beauty-contest judges in Newport Beach, Calif.

"I was really happy to get the chance to meet him because I always read about him," Tarkanian said Wednesday in a phone interview from Fresno, Calif. "What impressed me



was how down to earth he was. I was surprised how friendly and cordial he was."

From there, Tarkanian said he and Chamberlain would have dinner together whenever they were in the same area.

"I really enjoyed meeting him," he said. "Everything about him was fabulous."

Chamberlain, extremely agile for his size, ran cross-country in high school and was an outstanding high

jumper and shot-putter at Kansas. Tarkanian also recalled Chamberlain being touted as a decathlete-candidate for the Olympics.

The 7-foot-1 Hall of Famer remained active after his NBA career and was considered an outstanding volleyball player.

In fact, Durango high School boys' basketball (See *Chamberlain*, Pg 5)