

# COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

**Detroit Connection** presents a fun-filled picnic at Lorenzo Park on Washington and Rancho in area 'C' from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The picnic includes refreshments, entertainment and raffles. For additional information contact Ted Irvin at 431-6852. This is a free event.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

The **West Las Vegas Arts Center** presents "Soulful Search," a dynamic selection of drawings and paintings that represent the scope of the artists explorations. This art exhibit features the selected works of Vicki Richardson from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

The **North Las Vegas Library** presents an Internet Class for all ages at 6:00 p.m. and every first Wednesday of each month at the same time. This class will be held at the North Las Vegas Library located at 2300 Civic Center Drive. Contact Kathleen Hanselmann at 633-1070 for more information.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

**Steve McKenzie's TAH-DA Productions, Inc.** presents "Indigo Blues" a jazz fable to be reviewed inside Nicholas J. Horn Theater at the CCSN Cheyenne Campus. "Indigo Blues will be aired at 8:00 p.m. starting on September 7 to September 10. Tickets for this event are \$15 adults, \$12 Seniors, \$10 students with ID, and \$20 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Larry's Sight and Sound, 1000 North Martin Luther King Boulevard and at the Gye Nyame Wellness Centre, 310 East Lake Mead Boulevard Ste. #L. For more information contact Steve McKenzie at 320-0808 or fax 320-0812.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

The **Youth Division of Holy Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church** announce their Youth Revival at Holy Trinity A.M.E. located at 5243 W. Charleston Blvd. at 7:00 p.m. This program features the Rev. Cornelius V. Taylor III from Sacramento, CA.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

**True Vine Missionary Baptist Church**, located at 500 Jackson Street (at the corner of 'E' Street and Jackson Street), presents its Ninth Annual Church Anniversary. This event starts at 3:00 p.m. at invites the whole community. For additional information call 648-6700.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

**Derfelt Senior Center** in cooperation with **Cultural and Community Affairs/Art Reach** presents their 8th Annual Blue Moon Ball "Visions of Greece," at the Samy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, inside Lorenzo Park, West Washington and Twin Lakes Drive, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Be entertained by dance music provided by DJ Larry Taylor. Refreshments will be available. Tickets are \$5 per person. call 229-6602 for further information regarding this event.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

**Candlelighters Childhood Cancer of Southern Nevada Foundation** is hosting a Candlelighters Cancer Awareness Hawaiian picnic to promote the awareness of childhood cancer, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Aloha Park, on the corner of Buffalo and Cheyenne. Wear your Hawaiian attire. This event will include food, music, games, awards, entertainment and much more. Please RSVP by Monday, September 11 by calling the Candlelight office at 737-1919.

## ONGOING

**The Professional Black Women's Alliance**, general membership meetings 10 am the second Saturday of the month. H & H Barbecue Restaurant, 910 N. Martin L. King Blvd. Call Lillian McMorris, president, to answer your questions at 631-0000, fax 313-5255 or email mslill@aol.com... **Nevada Partners** is offering free computer and Internet classes. Daily classes use the latest Microsoft Word and Excel applications. Evening classes offer Internet training that focuses on general usage, opening an Internet account, and designing a Web Page. For more info, call 399-5627... **The Urban Chamber of Commerce** hosts a business luncheon the fourth Friday of each month from 11:30 am-1 pm at the Main Street Station. For more information please call (702) 648-6222... **Champions of Organ Sharing**, an organ transplant support group, invites you to their meetings every third Wednesday of the month at Sunrise Hospital Auditorium at 7 pm. For more information, call Doris Doss at 894-9729 or Joe Novak 365-8138.

The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice accepts Community Billboard announcements for non-profit and church organizations. Send notices: 900 E. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89104 or fax to (702) 380-8102.

**www.BlackFacesLV.com**

An Urban website for and about African-Americans

CD's • Health • Fashion • Churches • Information

## Morse

(Continued from Page 15) nities are finally getting some attention from those outside who care.

And while noble intentions are often attached to efforts to address this phenomenon, leadership is not buying into trends that generate excitement when they are new and then fade into distant memory. Leadership—real leadership—has a distinctive strategic quality to it that creates a lasting impact because it deals with larger issues and problems that simply by attention, have a profound effect on those less able to meet the test of time.

And so, when we speak of "strategic leadership" when it comes to technology transfer to urban communities, we can't just talk about putting computers in schools, creating access and then thinking when that goal is achieved we can all go home and celebrate. The critical questions requiring strategic leadership and vision in this new "knowledge economy" are deeper than just computers in the classroom.

First, how will urban communities reshape the value paradigm so that respect for achievement, respect for property" and respect for human life are raised as guiding principles such that the conditions for technology to exist can be fostered?

Second, in sight of stiff resistance from institutions controlling public learning environments, can education really be transformed so that its quality, with the assistance of technology, is equal to more affluent delivery systems?

Third, will technology providers like the major software development companies, Internet service firms, broadcast, broadband, entertainment behemoths and telecommunications giants alike—all of whom will ultimately extract huge amounts of revenue from urban center—embrace "strategic mentoring models" for urban entrepreneurs to create businesses, jobs and real economic empowerment or will they continue to rely on the "donation to schools" model as the cover for being a good corporate citizen?

Fourth, will there be leadership to facilitate the delivery of interest from private capital sources, lessening reliance on government and stimulating technology growth through entrepreneurs in the same way it occurs in other areas?

## Leadership — real leadership — has a distinctive strategic quality

Finally, will real leadership infrastructure be built in urban communities as part of strategic succession that is less concerned about personal celebrity and more focused on profoundly changing the conditions of those that call cities their home, mostly African-American and Latino? The answers to these questions will also determine whether or not previously economically isolated communities will enjoy the bounty of a newly emerging

global paradigm or remain deprived.

"Reaction," as a leadership behavior, could be labeled a consistent style of the last century. But with such a high level of turbulence and change all around us, the challenge of this new time requires a new vision for the future, a kind of "strategic progressivism," i.e., treasuring and building upon past achievements but clearly looking forward with clarity. This new era, being defined

by the rapid proliferation of technology, is transforming our lives.

Leadership must meet the challenges it presents, lest "the divide" between cities and suburbs widen and "urbanites" get left behind for good.

Professor Morse is president and CEO of The Institute For Strategic Thinking And Technology Development (Isttd) and is also an Adjunct Professor at National University's Los Angeles Campus, where he teaches Leadership in a Global Environment and Strategic Technology Management in the Graduate MBA Program.

## The gaming tax game

By Andrew Barbano

Whenever Joe Neal's opponent says his campaign is about anything other than the gaming tax, you can be sure of one thing: his campaign is all about the gaming tax.

Sen. Neal wants to raise it. The gambling industry prefers to continue sticking the average citizen with the costs of growth. Hence the casino campaign to unseat Sen. Neal.

Actually, knocking Sen. Neal out of office is only a secondary aim.

The primary goal is extending the election into November — keep Joe Neal defending himself against vicious attacks rather than working on his initiative petition to raise the world's lowest gross gaming tax.

Should any candidate exceed 50% next Tuesday, the election is over with no November runoff. Sen. Neal would be free to spend the next ten weeks gathering gaming tax initiative signatures.

With all the billions the gambling industry can place at lawyer Uri Lahajj Clinton's disposal, why isn't he on TV every 10 minutes?

Because his campaign is not about Senate District 4, it's about the gaming tax. The gambling industry wants neither man to win outright on Sept. 5. Mr. Clinton has thus not been allowed a TV budget, at least not yet.

In May, about a week before the candidate filing period closed, the 27 year-old lawyer for non-union construction companies invited Sen. Neal to breakfast. Mr. Clinton announced that he would not be a candidate. On the last day to file, he left a message on Sen. Neal's answering machine reversing his word.

What changed in a few days? Perhaps the answer came in a June 5 article by veteran reporter Ken Ward in the Las Vegas Business Press: "According to one widely circulated report, unnamed casino interests promised Clinton he 'would never have to work again' if he topples Neal. Clinton doesn't deny the story."

Ambition can turn family against family. More than 20 years ago, Mr. Clinton's mother came to Sen. Neal asking his help to secure her California unemployment insurance benefits which had not been forthcoming. Sen. Neal took her case and obtained the money she needed to help support her family, including a little boy named Uri. Such is the character of Joe Neal.

Mr. Clinton points out the needs of North Las Vegas and West Las Vegas. However, he suggests no funding and offers no program other than removing Sen. Neal. Solutions cost money and the Nevada well will soon run dry. Growth-weary cities and counties all over the state are proposing tax increases.

When growth stopped paying for itself several years ago, only Sen. Neal was willing to say that gaming is both the problem and the solution.

A recent state study backs him up. It points the finger at the creation of low-wage casino jobs as the reason Nevada cannot fund the needs of its people. The research is available at either website, below, or from the Nevada Commission on Economic Development.

On the Aug. 28 Las Vegas One "POV Vegas" program, Mr. Clinton called Sen. Neal's gaming tax petition a "scheme totally different from a legitimate gaming tax." A strange use of untrue words.

Either lawyer Clinton doesn't know the issue or has been instructed to read a keyword script generated by pollsters and consultants. In fact, Sen. Neal's proposal would continue to tax gaming on gross revenue, the way it has long been done in Nevada and just about every jurisdiction worldwide.

I find it particularly repugnant that Mr. Clinton and his handlers employ the Nixonian tactic of attributing to Sen. Neal positions which he has never taken. Mr. Clinton would even have voters believe that Sen. Neal would intentionally endanger public safety.

Uri Lahajj Clinton was eight years old in 1981 when Sen. Neal single-handedly took on the ever-stingy gaming industry to give Nevada the strongest high-rise fire safety law in the world. Despite more than 80 deaths at the MGM Grand, casino interests had ordered the legislature to no action.

Joe Neal fought the industry and won. High-rise fires are now quickly extinguished by sprinkler systems mandated under Sen. Neal's law.

Untold hundreds of lives have been saved. If that's a scheme, it's a worthy one.

The alternative to a gaming tax increase is a sales tax on services covering everything from haircuts to dry cleaning to auto repair. That's a scheme Sen. Neal opposes.

The casino bosses backing Clinton have been placing people in fear all over the state. They have warned workers of retaliation against anyone caught signing Neal's petition. The voting booth is different. Your vote is secret. No one can find out how you vote.

Before you cast your ballot, remember one thing: it's about the gaming tax.

I urge you to vote for my old friend, Sen. Joseph M. Neal, Jr.

Andrew Barbano is a former Las Vegas who now lives in Reno. He has worked as a Culinary Union member and organizer and is now a member of the Communications Workers Union. He writes an opinion column for several northern Nevada newspapers and is editor of NevadaLabor.com and Sen. Neal's website, JoeNeal.org. E-mail barbano@frontpage.reno.nv.us.

Space for this commentary paid for as a political advertisement by Sen. Neal.