



Ron Current, leader of the Las Vegas Black Panther Party, announced the group's plans for a Labor Day march on the Strip. Current is upset over what he claims has been a lukewarm response by elected officials to improving living conditions in West Las Vegas.

Sentinel-Voice photo by John Stephens III

Panthers target Labor Day for march on Strip

Leader threatens protest if demand for redevelopment summit ignored

Al Triche
Sentinel-Voice

Local Black Panthers this week issued an "Economic Development Proposal" for revitalizing West Las Vegas, and re-issued their threat to conduct a protest march on the Las Vegas Strip if the area's needs are not addressed. They say the march is now planned for Labor Day weekend.

"The march, as of Saturday, has been reactivated," said Las Vegas Black Panther leader Ron Current following a Monday press conference at the West Las Vegas Library. "It was made

official," he said.

The organization had just introduced its proposal, with Current calling it "very, very feasible" but giving few details. Their plan calls for investing millions of dollars in public and private funds to stimulate business growth in the predominately black community.

An announcement read, in part: "What is needed in our community is more black owned businesses to serve as incubators for training the youths and providing jobs."

The group wants a conference of local government heads and providers of social

services to set an agenda for westside redevelopment, and details of the economic plan are expected then. The Panthers insist it be held within the next three weeks.

While Mayor Oscar Goodman indicated last week he was willing to participate, he feels less cooperative now that a march has been called. Yesterday, Goodman asked, sarcastically, "Why doesn't he do it July fourth, why wait? One of the things that sets off an alarm is when somebody gives me an ultimatum."

Meanwhile the Panthers await a response from the (See Panthers, Page 3)

Churches showcased on Internet

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Visitors to Las Vegas are famous for exclaiming, "I can't believe anyone lives here," let alone believing that anyone worships in a city dubbed "sinful," but one person is out to change all that.

Duana R. Heard, an enterprising webmaster, has placed on the net a non-profit Christian-based website that lists all the various faiths in southern Nevada and offers links to other helpful and useful websites.

"It was implanted in my spirit," Heard said of www.churchesinlasvegas.com, which she created with her partner, Carlton Malone of C-Me Productions, Inc. "I got to do this, I saw the need."

According to the 29-year-old from Detroit, there was nothing on the net featuring all the various religious denominations in Las Vegas. So, she quit her job as a web designer for the water district and started her own Internet website business and a non-profit



Duana R. Heard and Carlton Malone created a web site, www.churchesinlasvegas.com, as a resource for churches.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

webpage under the umbrella, Ministers Alliance Association of Southern Nevada.

"I always knew I would be in computers, since I was eight," she said of her own

internet business, Smart Multi-Media Services, which was copyrighted in 1998. Heard has 20 years of experience in computers, (See Churches, Page 2)

Administrator tabbed for NAACP

By Nancy Watson
Sentinel-Voice

In an effort to usher in a new era for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Las Vegas, Lonnie Wright, first vice-president of the NAACP Tri-State Conference, called for an end to "civil rights pimping."

Wright opened the first general membership meeting of the now unchartered Branch of the Las Vegas (See Administrator, Page 2)



Nelson Rivers III, director NAACP's National Field Operations, was in town Tuesday to announce Frank Humphrey's appointment as administrator for the Las Vegas NAACP.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy



MUST BE DESTINY

R&B trio Destiny's Child pose for a brief picture during the red carpet celebrity arrivals prior to the inaugural Black Entertainment Television Awards show Tuesday at the Paris hotel-casino. The group took home the BET award for Best Female Group. (See related story and pictures, page 11)

Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard