

Library district opens storefront

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The North Las Vegas Library District (NLVLD) has finally broken down and expanded its service to the northwest area of the city. Located at 4528 W. Craig, Suite 110, near San Mateo Dr. and Craig Rd., will be a 4,000 square foot satellite library with 10,000 books, newspapers and magazines as well as a reference desk.

"While the North Las Vegas population has tripled in the past twenty years, there is still one facility serving its residents," said Anita Laruy, NLVLD Director. "The new satellite facility brings basic library services to the northwest area of town. It will begin to fulfill some of the needs of that part of the city."

The first library in NLV was established in 1966 and expanded in 1986 to include a community room. In the 1990s it was modified to meet standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act and is now an 18,000 square foot facility with a literary collection of 95,000 items.

The satellite library sits on the property of library booster Stan Wasserkrug, who paid for all the improvements, construction of some furniture and signs for the storefront.

"Mr Wasserkrug was generous enough to go beyond just recognizing a need for additional library services," Laruy said. "He paid for just about everything, enabling the city to bring this facility to life."

The library district has plans to open a new full-service library on donated property at Martin Luther King and Alexander.

Hours of operation are Wednesday and Thursday from 10:30 a.m. until 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Scholarship banquet rewards academics

By Tracy Crittenden
Sentinel-Voice

The first Annual "Black 2 the Future Scholarship Banquet" was held last Saturday at the H & H Barbeque Restaurant. The scholarship program was designed to support college students and to honor their achievements.

The event was hosted by Nevada Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams, D-Dist. 6, and Las Vegas City Councilman Lawrence Weekly. "It's really an honor and pleasure to be able to work with the students," said Weekly.

The five students honored were Maurice Rutledge, William Covington, Belinda Harris, Joseph Thrower and Kimiko Walton, who was

not present.

Covington is a senior at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. majoring in marketing who wants to start programs to encourage youths to become entrepreneurs.

Thrower is a senior majoring in biology at Xavier University in New Orleans. Rutledge, also a marketing major, is in his junior year at UNLV.

Harris is a 2001 graduate of Howard University, also in Washington, who plans to attend law school at American University.

All of the students have plans to come back to the Las Vegas community after graduating and give back to the community through the knowledge they have gained.

Paying tickets over Net prevents waiting in line

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Now, whenever you get a parking ticket you can go online to pay it instead of standing in line all day. Thanks to the City of Las Vegas Information Technologies Department, officials have a method that will allow anyone to pay City of Las Vegas parking fines electronically.

Anyone who has a computer has the pleasure of using the system to his or her advantage. All one has to do is log on to the city's Internet site at <http://ci.lasvegas.nv.us/payticket>. With a VISA or MasterCard, parking violators can pay their fines and go about their business, resting assured that the transactions are private, encrypted for security.

Once the process is complete, a hard copy receipt can be generated from one's own printer.

Nation watches Va. redistricting case

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - Virginia's redrawn congressional map has set off a fiery dispute over black voting strength that is expected to influence how other states - especially those in the South - handle race during redistricting.

Virginia Democrats say the GOP - which won control of the state in the 1990s - "packed" minority voters into a black district to make adjoining districts whiter and more Republican, thereby violating federal law protecting black voting rights.

The reapportionment plan was signed last week by Gov. Jim Gilmore. It now goes to the Justice Department. Redistricting plans in nine Southern and Southwestern states and parts of seven others are subject to Justice Department approval because of their history of discrimination.

Black lawmakers have already promised a court challenge.

"This is the first congressional redistricting plan that really gets into the teeth of the Voting Rights Act," said

Tim Storey, who specializes in redistricting for the National Conference of State Legislatures in Denver.

"Virginia is so early out of the gate on this that there's not yet enough of a precedent to guide partisans on either side, so all the other states will watch this very carefully. It's the first test of the 2001 round of redistricting."

Virginia and New Jersey are the only states holding legislative and gubernatorial elections this fall, so they are the first to wade into the issue of race-based redistricting.

There are no congressional elections until next year.

In New Jersey, an independent commission took the opposite approach from Virginia in reworking state legislative boundaries: Three districts with large black populations were "unpacked," leaving four new districts with sufficient minority influence to elect black candidates. The plan was upheld by a panel of three federal judges.

In Virginia's case, the Justice Department must determine (See Redistricting, Page 14)

United States heading to U.N. racism talks

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Unlike the lone stances it staked out at gatherings on global warming and weapons control, the Bush administration has found allies ahead of the U.N. conference on racism.

Washington wants slavery reparations and Zionism off the agenda, a position shared by its European allies and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who thinks the conference should be forward-looking and deal with con-

temporary issues.

The stakes are high.

If those items remain on the agenda, the United States says it will not attend the weeklong conference in Durban, South Africa, which starts Aug. 31.

"It's very important for this conference to be successful," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Friday. "It's also important to send a signal to the freedom-loving nations of the world that we will not stand by if

the world tries to describe Zionism as racism. That is as wrong as wrong can be."

On Monday, U.S. diplomats will sit down in Geneva with representatives from at least 180 other countries for a final round of pre-conference talks.

The Bush administration will send a delegation headed by Lorne Craner, assistant secretary of the State Department's democracy, human rights and labor bureau.

The United States sat out the last two U.N. racism conferences specifically because they felt the gatherings were a forum for anti-Semitism. For 16 years, the United Nations had a resolution on the books that equated Zionism - the movement that led to the creation of Israel - with racism. It was repealed in 1991.

Arab states want to revisit whether Zionism is racist and whether the term Holocaust should refer specifically to (See Racism, Page 14)

Municipalities to recruit more firefighters

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Cities of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas are preparing to collaborate in the recruitment of candidates for Firefighter Trainee positions beginning early next year. Those interested in these jobs must possess an Emergency

Medical Technician- Basic (EMT-B) Certification, a valid driver's license and a high school diploma or equivalent; be 18 years old or older, and must meet current physical condition requirements on the date of their appointments.

"In order to apply for this position, you must be certified, which is a process that takes 16 weeks. That is the reason why we let people know this ahead of time that the recruitment is coming up," said Claudette Enus, City of Las Vegas Human Re-


source Director.

A community information seminar will be held on Saturday, August 18, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Las Vegas Fire Training Center, 633 N. Mojave Rd.

For more information, call 392-2774.

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