



Perseverance pays off for new city fire chief

By Nancy Watson
Sentinel-Voice

It's safe to say that Dave Washington did not think he would be commanding the Las Vegas Fire Department the day he was kicked out of high school for truancy.

He was just a kid, a kid who grew up in a project known as "The Circle," behind Nucleus Plaza, and he hated English class. He hated it so much he would miss it, then he'd miss the drafting class that followed it.

Instead of going to school, he worked, drove his car around and smoked pot with his buddies.

"We never harmed anyone," he said of his days as teenager.

His story is not atypical. He came from a broken home in a poor section of town. His family moved frequently. He remembers the names of several schools he attended. He remembers wishing that his parents would get back together.

But mostly, he remembers the strong positive influences that both of his parents had on him. They were wise and his father taught him discipline. His mother he describes as a "firecracker." Both parents actively participated



DAVID WASHINGTON
in his life even though they divorced.

Washington prides himself on his humble beginnings and counts himself as "one of those who lived in the community and managed to step up." Some of those people include Attorney Dave Phillips, Frank Hawkins and Dr. William Pierce.

"I knew I was going to be somebody," he said.

He made a conscious decision to turn his life around after he was kicked out of school, he said.

He completed and passed the test for his GED in October of 1970, just a few months after he

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No consensus on Yucca

Blacks disagree over merits of nuke dump

By Al Triche
Sentinel-Voice

The effort to make Nevada the country's nuclear waste repository, and opposition to it, have intensified. As the political end game begins to unfold at least two distinct perspectives are emerging, with African-American civic and business leaders on either side of the debate.

One prominent black Nevada legislator, who says he's been involved in debate over the issue for nearly two decades now, believes a decision about where to store the radioactive waste from nuclear reactors throughout the U.S. could come early next year. Some Nevadans now believe selection of Yucca Mountain, about 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas, is a foregone conclusion, while a hard core of opposition continues to fight the designation.

Fatalists say the decision to locate a nuclear dump here is a given, but insist there are benefits that would come with it, and now's the time to negotiate for the best deal possible. Never-say-die opponents of the repository believe the move can still be prevented, and to negotiate benefits concedes defeat in a

battle they don't think the state can afford to lose.

State Senator Joe Neal (D-Dist. 4) says the issue dates back to around 1982, when concern about the storage of nuclear waste led to creation of the Waste Policy Act. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) had until 1998 to establish a repository, but missed its deadline because proper data was not collected in time and a site had not been found, he said.

Approximately 84 sites in 35 states currently store nuclear waste, according to Neal, who says according to the law, when those sites become full the reactors must be shut down. "My position is, that's not going to happen, not with people dependent on electricity," he said. The nation has to have a central storage site, and to Neal, it appears Nevada will be it. Therefore, he says, "We should try to negotiate for benefits."

The opinion resonates, to some extent, among black businesspeople as well.

"With most of the land in Nevada belonging to the federal government, it pretty much gives them the freedom in decision-making matters," said Hannah Brown, presi-

dent of the Urban Chamber of Commerce. "I really almost have resigned myself that we're going to have that nuclear material here."

Quickly, however, she echoed Neal. "I really do feel that we need to benefit from it," said Brown, "a direct monetary benefit."

The idea of designating Yucca Mountain as the nation's nuclear waste dump was an unpopular one, particularly among Nevadans concerned about its geological stability, the environmental consequences of storing radioactive material there, and methods proposed for transporting that material within the state.

Local civil rights activist Dr. James Tate, a physician at University Medical Center for years, was a candidate in the 2000 democratic primary for a seat on the Clark County Commission and brings health as well as political perspectives to the debate.

Imagining a Yucca Mountain nuclear dumpsite, he remarked, "The state of Nevada now becomes the garbage dump for the whole country. It's a bad idea."

To begin with, Dr. Tate has no confidence in the reputed geological stability of the site, observing

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Boxing trainer Futch succumbs at 90

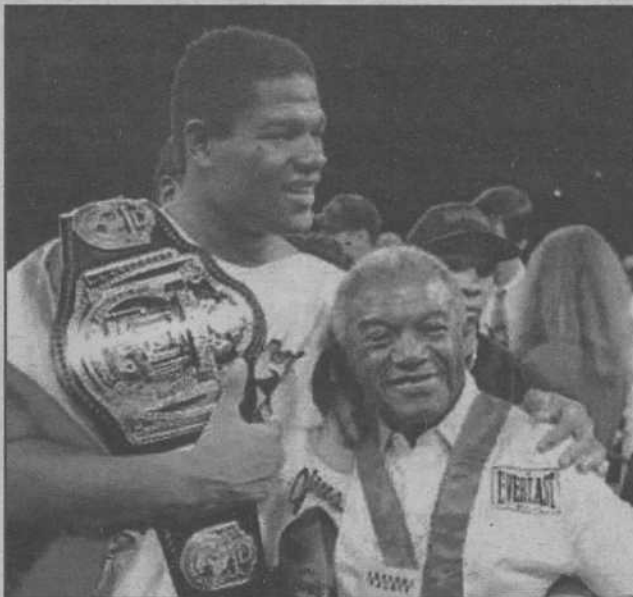
Legendary boxing trainer Eddie Futch, who worked with 20 world champions including five heavyweight title holders during a career that spanned seven decades, has died.

He was 90.

Futch, a member of the International Boxing Hall of Fame who was once a sparring partner for the great Joe Louis, died Wednesday morning in Las Vegas, according to the Clark County coroner's office, which has not yet released a cause of death.

The venerable trainer, who retired only four years ago, worked the corner for heavyweight champions Joe Frazier, Larry Holmes, Trevor Berbick, Michael Spinks and Riddick Bowe, who gave Futch the nickname

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Legendary boxing trainer Eddie Futch, right, died Oct. 10, in Las Vegas at the age of 90. Futch, a member of the International Boxing Hall of Fame, worked with 20 world champions including five heavyweight titleholders during a career that spanned seven decades. Futch, shown here in this file photo with Riddick Bowe, left, after Bowe's victory over Evander Holyfield Nov. 4, 1995 at Caesars Palace hotel-casino in Las Vegas.



THE RACE IS ON

Las Vegas City Councilwoman Lynette Boggs McDonald, second from right, looks on as Serena Henry sings during a Friday event at Doolittle Community Center celebrating her candidacy for the 1st Congressional District seat held presently by Rep. Shelley Berkley, D-Nev. Flanking Boggs McDonald, right, is fellow Republican Jon Porter.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy