



New police substation opens

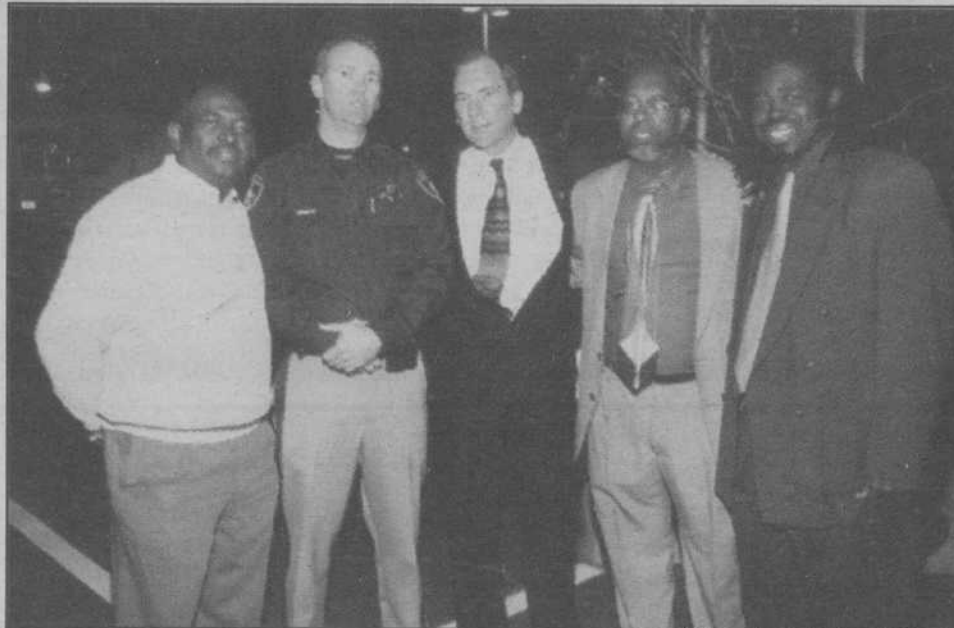
Special to Sentinel Voice

A moderate crowd turned out to support the Dec. 3 community-wide "First Tuesday" grand opening event at the new Larry C. Bolden Area Command Substation operated by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

Only about 150 people trickled through despite efforts by police and Clark County Neighborhood Services to promote the event with more than 5,000 fliers. Public service announcements also were aired on valley radio stations. Despite poor attendance, Bolden Substation Capt. James Owens is optimistic that residents in the area will forge great working relationships with the officers and welcome them into the neighborhoods.

Owens called the substation a great addition to the community that was overdue. He said he was sure residents would eventually work closely with police and help them assist residents in the area with maintaining safer neighborhoods.

Prior to the event, Owens talked briefly about the Bolden Substation Citizen's Advisory Council recently formed by Metro Commander Cliff Davis, under whose jurisdiction the sub-



Sentinel-Voice photo by Isadore Washington

Metro held its inaugural "First Tuesday" event at the Bolden substation. First Tuesday is designed help Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department connect with citizens. From left to right are businessman Louis Connor, substation commander James Owens, Sheriff-elect Bill Young, political guru Bill McCurdy and activist Kawiim Kawee.

station falls. The Council consists of business owners, ministers, educators, city and county staff, and several others who have pledged to work together to identify programs and solutions that will enhance the quality of life in the area.

The facility officially opened Nov. 12 with a VIP dedication ceremony attended by Sheriff Jerry Keller and Sheriff-elect Bill Young, as well as Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson-

Gates and Las Vegas City Councilman Lawrence Weekly. Approximately 109 officers are assigned to the Bolden Substation and patrol the area from Cheyenne Avenue to Desert Inn Road and Interstate 15 to Jones Boulevard. The new state-of-the-art facility is open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with staff ready to take reports or hear residents' concerns.

Clark County Juvenile Justice Services, Commissioner Gates, the police de-

partment and City of Las Vegas, and Lois Ellie Bolden, wife of the late Larry C. Bolden, combined efforts to organize and fund the substation's inaugural First Tuesday event.

On the first Tuesday of every month, the police department will host informational meetings at 7 p.m. at substations throughout the valley. December 3 marked the first one for the new Bolden substation, at 1851 (See First Tuesday, Page 6)

Scores still lag

Officials are concerned

By Al Triche
Sentinel-Voice

Standards aside, roughly half of third and fifth grade students in Nevada were not proficient in reading nor math last year. Their mediocre performance on a state-wide exam was revealed last week by the Nevada Department of Education.

According to its report, barely half of the state's 2001-2002 third graders, 51 percent, and well under half of fifth graders, 47 percent, were proficient in reading. Again, in math, just over half of the third graders, 51 percent, met the proficiency standard, as did half of the fifth graders — albeit exactly half, 50 percent.

There's been significant confusion about the test itself. And, it should be noted, in this state the concept of proficiency is still a work-in-progress. As regards the test, the curriculum-based Nevada Criterion Referenced Examination, a Clark County School District spokesperson emphasizes its purpose was "to determine (students') mastery of the curriculum."

This so-called "State CRT," or, "criterion test," however, should not be confused with a proficiency test administered nationwide and which, here, replaced the TerraNova exam this academic year. That one is the Iowa Basic Skills Test (IBST).

As for confusion about the state's report, Clark County School District (CCSD) Assistant Superintendent Dr. Augustin Orci said, "When we first got these results, a lot of people thought this was the Iowa test."

Context notwithstanding, the only African-American member of the State Board of Education said this week of the results, "I certainly am not pleased."

To provide context, at least for current discussion of proficiency, state officials point out that the curriculum-based test the children took last spring measured them against state curriculum standards. An exam like the TerraNova, which was given in the fourth, seventh and tenth grades, "compares our students with how a national

(See Education, Page 2)



KICKING THE TIRES

Las Vegas Fire Chief David Washington compares the old 1917 Ford firetruck with new fire equipment delivered last week. The new equipment was on display at City Hall.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Serene White

Blacks: Lott apology not enough

WASHINGTON (AP) — Black lawmakers said Tuesday that Senate Republican leader Trent Lott did not go far enough in apologizing for remarks he made praising the 1948 presidential run of then-segregationist Strom Thurmond.

Democrats should not be too quick to drop the matter either, one black House Democrat said.

Separately, the NAACP said Lott, who will be Senate majority leader in the next Congress, should resign from his leadership position. "Hateful bigotry" has no place in Congress, said NAACP President Kweisi

(See Lott, Page 4)



Newly elected Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., talks to reporters concerning Senate Republican leader Trent Lott's comments on Capitol Hill Tuesday. At left, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Tex., the outgoing chairperson.