

LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 15

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

August 14, 2003

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Fire guts popular H&H Barbecue eatery

Wednesday morning blaze causes huge damage—owners, patrons mourn

By Kathi Overstreet
Sentinel-Voice

After serving great barbecue hot links, chicken and ribs to the community for four years, Hank Black stood motionless, disgusted and virtually speechless Wednesday staring at the gutted, charred remains of his business.

At 5:25 a.m. Las Vegas Fire Department crews rushed to H & H Barbecue at 910 N. Martin L. King Blvd in the Heritage Square Shopping Plaza. For more than one hour, 75 firefighters battled the rapidly growing three-alarm blaze.

The fire, started by a stove burner left on in H & H's kitchen, was ruled accidental and the damage initially was estimated at \$250,000. By the end of the day, the entire complex was condemned. No one was injured, said Las Vegas Fire Department spokesman Tim Szymanski. The stove, where the fire broke out, had

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UP IN SMOKE

Fanned by blasts of pressurized water from fire engines, smoke and flames flicker into the morning air as Las Vegas firefighters battle a blaze ripping through H&H Barbecue on Washington Avenue and Martin Luther King Boulevard. The Wednesday morning fire caused damage estimated at several hundred thousand dollars. In its four-year existence, H&H has become the place to go for succulent soul food dispensed in a relaxing, comfortable atmosphere. News of the fire touched many loyal patrons, including several politicians who frequently lunched there.

Photo special to Sentinel-Voice
by G. Donovan Chambers

Las Vegas honor 20 years of group's crusade on crime

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

More than 1,000 people gathered at Freedom Park, one of three locations in Las Vegas, to celebrate the 20th-annual National Night Out.

Held in August, National Night Out (NNO) is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch to promote crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support and participation in anti-crime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

NNO also seeks to send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Spearheading recognition of NNO for the Northeast Area Command and Downtown Area Command of the Las Vegas Metro Police Department was spokes-

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Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Las Vegas police officer Nick Noques stands with Bart the Dog of Metro's highly respected K-9 Unit.

Excitement building for first Las Vegas Football Classic

By Monica Verley
Sentinel-Voice

The new game on the block will be dressed in blue and gold and is preparing to make a flashy first impression.

And though it may not have a track record yet, the square off between the Jaguars of Southern University and the North Carolina A&T Aggies does have potential and, indeed, the expectations of many to become the next "great" black college football classic. Colors for both teams are blue and gold.

"Our African-American kids don't have many culturally based events here in Nevada," said Jonathan Simon, executive director of the Las Vegas Football Classic (LVFC). Simon spoke recently at a news conference introducing key players in the event.

"This game will supersede any other black cultural events by far," Simon said. The weekend-long party begins Thursday, Sept. 11th.

"We welcome the classic to our city," said Dr. Louie Overstreet, executive director of the Urban Chamber of Commerce and an advisory board member to the LVFC. "With this event, organizers have made a conscious effort to reach out to our community here in Las Vegas and will no doubt leave some

money with our community."

Tom Grabowski, president and CEO of Urban Sports and Entertainment Group, the classic's promoter, agrees that Las Vegas is an ideal town for a classic. "You have the best party city in the world, opening its arms and embracing this event," he said.

"Not only will the Las Vegas Football Classic expose young people to a black culture mostly foreign to them, but there will also be tremendous opportunity for black businesses and entrepreneurs," said Simon.

The LVFC weekend guarantees something for everyone. The "Battle of the Bands" will be held Friday, Sept. 12th, featuring a "Drumline" showdown with a pyrotechnic display. Legendary entertainer Gladys Knight is scheduled to sing the national anthem before the Battle of the Bands.

Steve Harvey is scheduled to perform a comedy show immediately following the Battle of the Bands at the Thomas & Mack Center. For all you HBCU (Historically Black College and University) Greeks out there, there will be a step show on Friday. Fraternities and sororities will compete for \$5,000 in prizes.

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