

LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice



VOLUME 26, ISSUE 21

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

September 22, 2005

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Preparedness month points to need to plan

By Parker Philpot
Sentinel-Voice

With the collective disasters of Gulf Region floods, Hurricane Katrina, and now, Rita, the second rare Category 5 hurricane to touch the U.S. in a month, the coincidence of September being National Preparedness Month can serve the public well if citizens heed the advice, according to officials and agencies in the interest of public safety and security.

Add to natural disasters the ever-present awareness of terrorism, and personal, family and workplace safety is more of a concern than ever. With the possible disaster scenarios, some residents are frightened of the imaginable emergencies that could occur, and some want to know what can be done in the areas of prevention and protection.

The goal of the annual National Preparedness Month, even though it falls eerily close to one of the greatest U.S. disasters, is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies —

the probable and the unthinkable — and to implore individuals to take action.

The action word and the theme of the month is "plan."

In particular, the core concept is "plan for three day's" survival needs.

There is much that can be done, and the community is being urged to become more informed and empowered through knowledge of what to do ahead of time.

Beyond awareness, individual and community collective proactivity is enabled by a long list of suggestions and a quick-to-do immediate action plan.

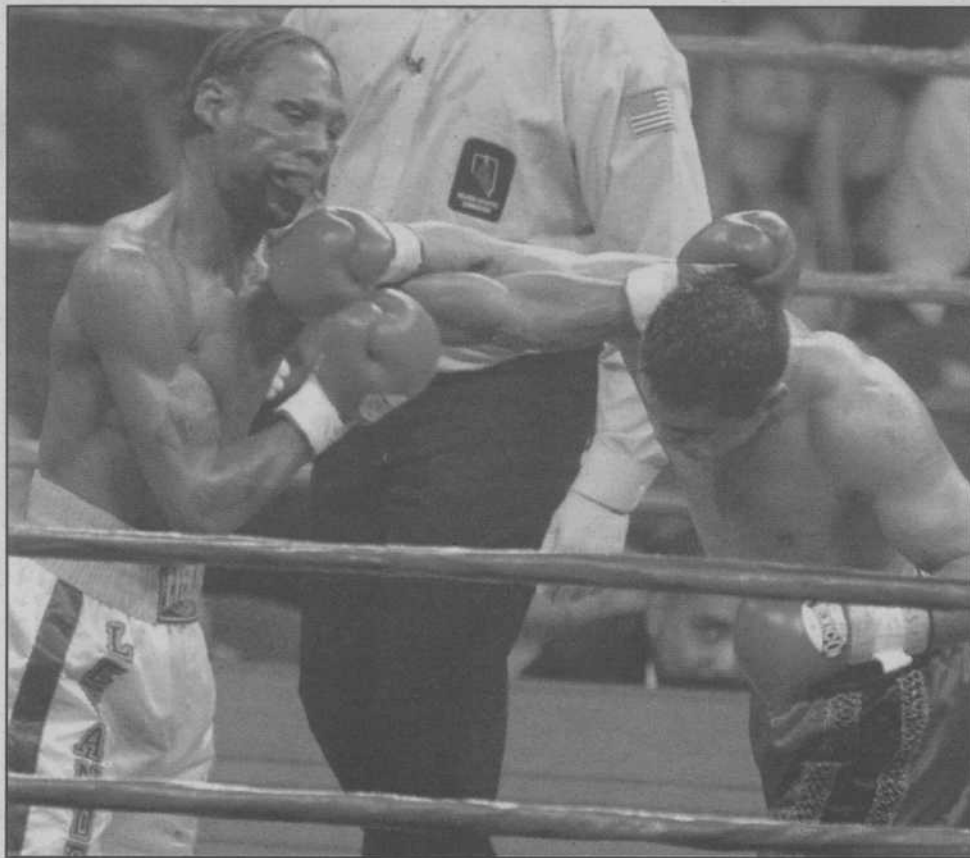
During September, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the American Red Cross, local health agencies and more than 200 coalition member groups nationwide ask all Americans to take some simple steps to prepare for emergencies, including getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, being informed about different threats and getting involved in preparing their communities, according to

www.ready.gov the official information website.

Clark County Health District

Locally, in a grant-funded, half-million dollar initiative to support the month's preparedness theme, Clark County Health District designed and implemented the highly visible "Can It, Southern Nevada" campaign. Bilingual, English-Spanish, fluorescent green brochures called "The Readiness Guide" were circulated in the district's effort to inform and spur citizens to be proactive in preparation for emergencies.

The reference guide mentions possible health-related alerts—"a bioterrorism event," and a "wide-spread public health emergency"—then gives a quick guide to the recommended items to have on hand in the event of emergencies — of any kind: water; food; first aid kit; special needs for babies, the elderly and pets; prescription medications; clothing; bedding; tools; area maps and supplies, especially batteries (See Preparedness, Page 2)



Sentinel-Voice photo by C.J. Canler

Leavander Johnson was taken to the hospital after passing out after his fight on Saturday.

Boxer Johnson undergoes brain surgery after losing

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Veteran boxer Leavander Johnson underwent brain surgery Saturday night after collapsing in his dressing room following his IBF light-weight title loss against challenger Jesus Chavez.

Johnson's promoter said doctors told him the fighter's

brain swelled during surgery and they were inducing a coma to try and control it.

"He's not in good shape," Lou DiBella said.

Johnson left the ring on his own accord but passed out in his dressing room after being stopped by Jesus Chavez in the 11th round of

their title fight at the MGM Grand Hotel-Casino. DiBella said he was revived but passed out again in the ambulance on the way to the hospital after complaining of (See Johnson, Page 16)

Reid plans to oppose Roberts' nomination

WASHINGTON (AP) - Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid said Tuesday he would oppose confirmation of Chief Justice-nominee John Roberts, questioning Roberts' commitment to civil rights and accusing the Bush administration of stonewalling requests for documents that might shed light on his views.

At the same time, Reid readily predicted Roberts will win Senate confirmation, coupling the forecast with a warning of sorts to President Bush as he considers candidates for a second

vacancy on the Supreme Court. "No one should think that just automatically they're all going to be easy like this one," he said.

Reid is one of four senators invited to a White House meeting with Bush on Wednesday to discuss the vacancy created by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's decision to retire.

The Nevada senator made his comments as Democrats began taking sides in advance of next week's confirmation vote. President Bush named Roberts, a 50-year- (See Reid, Page 12)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Marty Frierson

SKY'S THE LIMIT

Winners of the V108 talent showcase held Wednesday at the Fitzgerald. (From left to right) Bigg Lex, Amanda Williams, Vegas Heat Skaters Mekka and Gemini and John Beasley will be performing for Tom Joyner's Sky Show, scheduled for Thursday evening at Cashman Theatre. Babyface and Yolanda Adams will headline the event.