

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Mixed reactions on smoking ban

By Frank Armand Albano  
Sentinel-Voice

There has been foretelling of supposed dire consequences for bars and restaurants that say they are poised to have mass layoffs because of voters' resounding approval for ballot Question 5, banning smoking in public places where food is served and minors are allowed.

It has not yet materialized, but the new law won't take effect until March of 2007.

Meanwhile, reactions and responses to the imminent enactment of the law are a mixed bag.

Some owners don't know the law and may need legal counsel.

Some have stated they would have to close their food service in fear of losing smoking customers and revenues.

Others have fully accepted the new law without reservations, while others have protested aloud.

Whatever negative results, if any, the law will have on customers, revenue, layoffs and the tourist trade, remains to be seen.

But owners are not sitting idly by waiting for March 2007. Many have become proactive in finding ways to comply with the new law, and some say they are willing to do whatever is necessary. However, the effects of the pending law will not make a rosy picture, according to some opponents.

How are entrepreneurs coping with the new law? Seven Seas, which features Sunday Night Jazz in a lounge-type setting, and the University Patio Bar and Grill, which is a non-gaming eatery, are two different types of businesses, but both prepare and serve food, and that is where the law affects both.

Restaurant and bar owner have complained that bar trade, where food is also served will be hurt by the smoking ban. Gamblers can drink alcoholic beverages and smoke without restriction under the incoming law, provided no food is served there.

Seven Seas not only has a bar where food is served, but also has a dining room. While the new law affects the dining area, the bar area cannot serve food there while allowing customers to smoke in that area.

Louis Connors, owner of Seven Seas, located on W. Lake Mead Blvd. just west of I-15, said, "My bar busi-  
(See Smoking, Page 2)

## Brown had storied life

By Parker Philpot  
Sentinel-Voice

The music world has lost a legendary jazz, blues and R&B artist, and Nevada has lost a beloved community member and friend to many, pioneer singer Ruth Brown. She died Friday at age 78 after a short hospitalization in Henderson due to advanced complications following a stroke she suffered several years ago and a heart attack, according to family members.

She was a longtime resident of Las Vegas and performed here countless times in various venues. She was known best for her gutsy style of storytelling in blues fashion, but could not be categorized so easily due to her versatility. She was an actress and appeared in television sitcoms, documentaries and stage plays. Her awards include a Tony for "Black and Blue" and a Grammy for her "Blues on Broadway" album. Her autobiography, "Miss Rhythm," was an award-winning glimpse into her life and the challenges she saw artists face during her 50-plus years in the industry.

She helped create the Rhythm and Blues Foundation in Philadelphia in 1988, and its primary goal was to



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Ruth Brown dazzles guests who attended her 78th birthday celebration in January at the Bootlegger Restaurant, where she performed regularly.

aid artists that had been denied compensation and royalties for their work. She personally helped more than a dozen performers recover money due them. The foundation also provides other forms of assistance to longtime artists and honors many of the top entertainers with awards.

In her early career, she helped build the foundation for Atlantic Records, often referred to as "The House that Ruth Built," with her hits, including "(Mama) He Treats Your Daughter Mean" and "Teardrops in My Eyes." She was inducted into the

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1993.

Those closest to her knew of the hardships she endured—physical injury, illness and industry trend shifts, which led to her economic hardships in the 1960s—and she even escaped a building  
(See Ruth Brown, Page 7)

## Vegas NAACP holds elections

By Frank Armand Albano  
Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas Branch of the NAACP, held its biannual election of officers Saturday at the West LV Library. More than 70 voters had cast their ballots as of the last 20 minutes of voting, according to the chapter's elections officer.

However, as the workers began to break down the voting machines, members were still arriving to cast their ballots.

The results were not immediately available but are expected to be announced this week, according to Paul Hunt, chair of the Supervi-

*"I hope with the political shift in Congress... it's time for a change."*

— Dean Ishman  
NAACP Chapter President



sory Committee.

Winners of the election "will take office January 1, 2007," said Hunt.

Officers serve a two-year term.

On the slate, is the current

Branch President Dean William Ishman.

Ishman is running for reelection and said, "The NAACP continues to rebuild."

His opponent, Mujahid

Ramadan, was unavailable for comment.

The NAACP local branch, No. 1111, has been established in Las Vegas for more than 25 years and the national office was established nearly a century ago.

Paul Hunt said the focus of the local NAACP is "civil rights." But he added, "The NAACP is open to all races." He added that the organization is concerned about "the civil rights of all people."

"Some people might think that because of its historic name, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, it's only for  
(See NAACP, Page 10)



### DAM LIGHT

The March of Dimes had designated November as Prematurity Awareness Month. To get the public's attention of the more than 4,500 babies born premature in Nevada each year, the Hoover Dam was lite up pink and blue as a reminder to these startling numbers.