

Election

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worked for Lawrence Weekly."

When asked what he plans to do to beat Truesdell in the General Election, Barlow said, "Going out and engaging the residents, and to gain their confidence."

Barlow responded about his three main issues — crime, traffic and graffiti.

On crime, he said, "I'm endorsed by the PPA (Police Manager's Association), and I'm a member of Gang Task Force. I go on the street and talk with gang members. I tell them they have options, such as apprenticeship programs."

On traffic issues, Barlow said how he would approach it: "Work with public works and NDOT to create a true plan on how do we keep traffic cutting through the commu-

nity and keep traffic on the main thoroughfares."

Barlow plans to take on graffiti. "Strengthen laws and ordinances. Desecrating private property is destroying the American dream is a true crime. There needs to be stiffer penalties."

Barlow said, "I have a good working relationship with Ward 1 Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian. I will sit down with her and staff for a solid plan for our mutual boundaries."

The Ward 1 council member Tarkanian, won her re-election bid solidly against two contenders, including Laurie Pink Bisch, former candidate for sheriff of Clark County.

One of the field of 10 Ward 5 contenders, Shondra Summers Armstrong when asked if she surprised by the vote, said, "I'm not sur-

prised. The two top vote getters... getting face time in front of the populace."

Asked if she intends to be an activist in the future, said, "Absolutely. I will meet and formulate a plan with the other candidates and agree what's to be done."

Another Ward 5 contender, Katherine "Katie" Duncan, said on election night during the tally: "I still have a chance to win."

Contender Rev. Marion Bennett reflected on the election.

"I will continue to serve and rebuild the community through strength and good health. The community must come together," he said about the contest. "We must educate the community. Somebody has to step in as a leader for the sake of the future, so we are not at the mercy of the policy makers."



Stacie Truesdell emerged from the Ward 5 primary. She faces Ricki Barlow on June 5.

Robinson

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Blanco said in a statement. "Generations of Louisianans will forever benefit from coach Robinson's fight for equality."

Grambling first gained national attention in 1949 when running back Paul "Tank" Younger signed with the Los Angeles Rams and became the first player from

an all-Black college to enter the NFL. Suddenly, pro scouts learned how to find the little school 65 miles east of Shreveport near the Arkansas border.

Robinson sent over 200 players to the NFL, including seven first-round draft choices and Williams, who succeeded Robinson as Grambling's coach in 1998.

Others went to the Canadian Football League and the now-defunct USFL.

Robinson's pro stars included Willie Davis, James Harris, Ernie Ladd, Buck Buchanan, Sammy White, Cliff McNeil, Willie Brown, Roosevelt Taylor, Charlie Joiner and Willie Williams.

Jerry Izenberg, the sports columnist emeritus at the

Star-Ledger of Newark and a close friend of Robinson since 1963, said the coach was an inspiration in the Deep South.

"People look at Black pride in America and sports' impact on it," Izenberg said. "In the major cities it took off the first time Jackie Robinson stole home. In the Deep South, it started with Eddie Robinson, who took a small college in northern Louisiana with little or no funds and sent the first Black to the pros and made everyone look at him and Grambling."

Robinson said he was inspired to become a football coach when a high school team visited the elementary school he attended.

"The other kids wanted to be players, but I wanted to be like that coach," Robinson said. "I liked the way he talked to the team, the way he could make us laugh. I liked the way they all respected him."

Robinson was forced to retire after the 1997 season, after the program fell on tough times. His final three years on the sidelines brought consecutive losing seasons for the first time, an NCAA investigation of re-

cruiting violations and four players charged with rape.

"I don't think coach lost touch with the players, I think the players lost touch with him," former NFL and Grambling cornerback Everson Walls said. "I think the young guys lost touch with coach Rob's vision. They didn't appreciate that they were living history with him."

As pressure mounted for him to step aside, even then-Gov. Mike Foster campaigned to give him one last season so he could try to go out a winner. But that final season produced only three wins for the second straight year.

Robinson's teams had only eight losing seasons and won 17 Southwestern Athletic Conference titles and nine national Black college championships. He was inducted into every hall of fame for which he was eligible, and received honorary degrees from several universities, including Yale.

In 1968, refusing to be tied to a tiny home stadium on a hard-to-reach campus, Robinson put Grambling's football show on the road, playing at some very famous addresses, including Yankee

Stadium. That same year, when Howard Cosell and Izenberg produced a documentary, "Grambling College: 100 Yards to Glory," Robinson became vice president of the NAIA and all three major television networks carried special programming on Grambling football. A year later, Grambling played before 277,209 paying customers in 11 games, despite the home field that seated just 13,000.

When he began his career, Robinson had no paid assistants, no groundskeepers, no trainers and little in the way of equipment. He had to line the field himself and fix lunchmeat sandwiches for road trips because the players could not eat in the "Whites only" restaurants of the South.

He was not bitter, however. "The best way to enjoy life in America is to first be an American, and I don't think you have to be White to do so," Robinson said. "Blacks have had a hard time, but not many Americans haven't."

Robinson is survived by his wife, son Eddie Robinson Jr., daughter Lillian Rose Robinson, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Members of the Tuskegee Airmen listen as their heroic exploits are recounted.

Tuskegee

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"Yet, with all of the discrimination and oppression, you never lost sight of the goal," said retired Army Gen. Colin Powell, also the nation's first Black Secretary of State. "The only reason I am able to stand proudly before you today is because you stood proudly before America 60 years ... You deserve our highest tribute."

Russell Davis, president of the Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated says the actual Gold Medal, awarded to the original airmen, will be housed at the Smithsonian Institution.

The more than 200 airmen who participated in the ceremony received free replicas, he said.

Davis says because no one has ever been able to count the exact number of Tuskegee Airmen, it is unknown how

many more there are. AirforceTimes.com, the online newspaper of the U.S. Air Force, reports that more than 1,000 Black men were trained at Tuskegee during the war, of which 450 were deployed and engaged in combat over North Africa, Sicily and Europe.

Sixty-six of the airmen died in combat and another 33 were shot down and captured, according to Congress.

"Because of our great record and our persistence, we inspired revolutionary reform which led to integration in the armed forces in 1948," said Roscoe Brown, a former commander of the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Groups, speaking on behalf of the Tuskegee Airmen.

"As the president said, this provided a symbol for America that all people can contribute to this country and be treated fairly."

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