

Election

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tion officials, voter turnout was at 12 percent, with early voting recording most voter activity.

At one point, the announced votes for Barlow and Truesdell were equal at 1,750. At the Truesdell election-night party, during the nail-biting, close count, the effervescently optimistic Truesdell said, "I'm just waiting for the rest to come in," as she repeatedly thanked her campaign workers and supporters. She said, "It's been a learning experience."

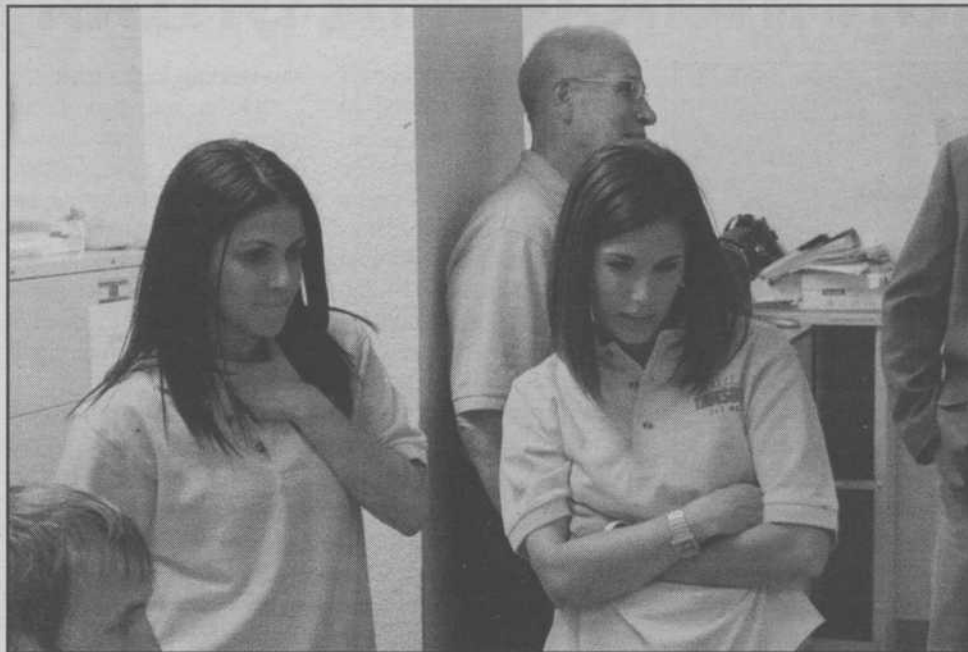
After the results were known, she conceded and stated: "This is not the last you've seen of Stacie Truesdell," emphasizing her commitment to the area. "Ward 5 is my home, and it's going to continue to be my home, and I'm going to be involved in the community I live in."

Barlow and Truesdell topped a 10-candidate slate on the April primary ballot, placing the two in a general election run-off.

Barlow will serve a four-year term since Weekly was up for re-election this year. Barlow will be sworn in by Mayor Oscar Goodman at the June 20 regular council meeting.

Weekly did not endorse his former aide Barlow or Truesdell, daughter of Rick Truesdell who sits on the City of Las Vegas Planning Board. However, both Barlow and Truesdell sought the mayor's nod. Neither got it; although Goodman's likeness is highly visible on campaign materials of both candidates.

One of the points of contention in the Barlow-



Stacie Truesdell, right, surveys election results from her headquarters on Tuesday. Truesdell ran a spirited if controversial campaign and came within 401 votes of winning the election.

Truesdell race was what many onlookers called "mud slinging." Some of Barlow's supporters offered unflattering opinions of the way the Truesdell's camp handled the campaign.

"It was when some nasty things were said that people started to say, 'Hey, wait a minute,'" Rancho Home Owners Association Officer Bill Stojac complained.

Others pointed an accusing finger at Gary Gray, head of Gray and Associates, Truesdell's campaign consultant.

At the election night party at Truesdell's headquarters, speaking to the crowd, Gray said she had a good showing for "somebody that started at a young age," adding "she certainly has shown that people want a change." He, too, said, "This isn't the last you'll see of Stacie Truesdell."

Barlow's candidacy was publicly opposed by some in

the ward, including resident Beatrice Turner who called a press conference as spokesperson and, along with others,

denounced Barlow, 35, for a near decade-old domestic violence complaint filed due to a physical altercation

Obama

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ganizing force in the Jan. 19 Nevada caucuses, and its endorsement is highly sought.

On Friday, Obama railed against increasing executive pay and said companies are leaving U.S. workers out of their success.

"All we're asking for is that they share the burden and benefit of this new global economy and share evenly across the board," Obama said.

He also touched on immigration reform, a top issue in a union where roughly 45 percent of members are immigrants.

Obama said he opposed portions of the immigration bill in Congress.

He said he opposes pro-



Obama supporters chat during a Silverado High address.

visions governing a temporary worker program, in part, because he said the program would create a class of workers unable to unionize.

The Illinois senator also said he hoped to change provisions in the bill that create a point system for immigrants entering the country based partly on education and job skills.

"The people who came through Ellis Island ...nobody was testing them to see whether or not they were, you know, Ph.D.s in physics. The priority was were they willing to work and work hard to build the next generation," he said, arguing the system would undermine the current family reunification-based system and favor immigrants from wealthier countries.

New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton hit similar notes at a campaign stop at the Culinary union hall earlier this week. Former vice presidential nominee John Edwards was scheduled to

between him and his then-wife. Court documents show Barlow was arrested in 1998, but, according to him, the charge was thrown out. Turner could not be reached for comment following Barlow's victory.

Attending the Truesdell election wrap-up gathering, along with Turner and others, was Ward 5 resident, Gene Collins, one of the eight contenders eliminated during the primary, said he had "no comment" when asked to reflect on the election.

During the wait for final results, Truesdell, turning 27 this week, said that through the campaign, "I've grown a lot as a person." She replied, "Not at all," when asked if she would have done anything differently.

During the campaign, issues of crime, business development and graffiti took

center stage.

One issue that has plagued the Ward 5 community and remains of high interest to residents in a section known as the Historic Westside, is the ongoing struggle to acquire a full-service grocery store replacement for a major grocer that closed two years ago, leaving thousands in need.

Several developers have offered proposals to build and develop on the designated site on about 10 acres at the Enterprise Park Project, located on the southwest corner at W. Lake Mead and Martin Luther King. City officials are mulling over the pitches, but it will be up to Barlow to give a thumbs up or down in choosing one developer over the rest.

"I'll meet with the developers and see what they have to offer," Barlow said.

when you get eight miles a gallon," he said.

Obama wants to force automakers to meet higher fuel economy standards and produce more fuel efficient vehicles. He's proposed 4 percent yearly increases in fuel efficiency standards, but also wants to allow the government to freeze the increases under some circumstances.

The senator later addressed a large rally of more than 2,500 at Silverado High School gymnasium, where he stuck closely to regular stump speech themes. He promised to engage disillusioned Americans, offered healthcare reform within his first term in office and highlighted his early opposition to the war in Iraq.

Answering questions from reporters after the rally, Obama said he considered Nevada key to his nomination strategy and said he would "actively compete" in the state.



HELPING FIGHT HUNGER

After thanking sponsors and volunteers who feed the homeless and less fortunate, Bessie Braggs, executive director of the Community Food Bank of Clark County, treated them to lunch during the annual Hunger Awareness Day on Tuesday. Prizes and entertainment by Linwood Peel, right, topped off the afternoon's festivities.

Sentinel-Voice by Ramon Savoy

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