

Jobs

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doldrums have taken a toll on Nevada's generally resilient economy, pushing unemployment higher than it's been in years. According to the State of Nevada Department of Employment and Training Rehabilitation, the unemployment rate for Las Vegas was 6.8 percent or 68,600 people, an increase of 39.4 percent over July 2007, when 49,200 were jobless.

Carina Best, the first person in line for an interview, came because she was determined to get a job. "I slept in my car overnight, and the police showed up to see if I was loitering on the property," she said. "I've been unemployed for about four months and I have a four-year-old daughter to care for and I'm not depending on welfare to provide for me and my family. I need a job, so that's why I'm here today."

The second person in line, Syanannah Taylor, said she's been jobless for 18 months and would like to work in customer service, as it fits with her supervisory experience. A job at Buy Low would be convenient.

Buy Low's vice president of human resources, Bonnie Stokes, interviewed Leon Harrington for a management position. Harrington previously managed hair salons in Atlanta, Detroit and New York, he said, "dealing with customers and meeting their needs, marketing products and overseeing my staff helps me in my desire to obtain a management position with Buy Low Market." Unemployed for 18 months, Harrington credits the city-sponsored EVOLVE ex-felon reentry program with preparing him for the workaday world.

Las Vegas City Councilman Ricki Barlow, whose Ward 5 encompasses West Las Vegas, said more than 1,000 people attended the job fair. He credited the collaborative public and private-sector efforts with bringing Buy Low to West Las Vegas after several failed attempts to lure another big-box grocery store to the area. Food 4 Less



Sentinel-Voice photo by Les Pierre Streater

Trying to snag one of 100 new positions with the new Buy Low Market grocery store, Leon Harrington, who has managed salons in other cities, interviews for managerial position.

showed initial interest but decided not to pursue expansion due to economic pressures. Local ownership was also considered before Buy Low's success.

"Things are looking good here today," he said. "I'm elated about the way we were able to pull together employees at this job fair and provide opportunities for those individuals who are unemployed and looking for a chance to be hired, and become a productive citizen of this community." Barlow indicated that two hundred-ninety eight individuals had participated in a jobs workshop over the past two weeks, and this job fair would lead to a better investment for businesses to support this community with employment opportunities.

John Edmonds, proprietor of Edmonds Town Center, led the efforts to lure Buy Low Market to West Las Vegas.

"I think today is one great day for this community. Many of the people attending this job fair today will look forward to obtaining employment, and it is a credit that Buy Low Market has an understanding of what they can provide to this community."

Edmonds said several grocery companies wanted to establish superstores, but that

the facility was too small. With Buy Low now as the anchor tenant, he thinks other retailers will be more willing to establish businesses here, including Footlocker, Citibank, Radio Shack, all companies that signed agree-

ments prior to Vons' departure.

Edmonds Town Center opened in 2002 with 60,000 square feet of building space. It now has 150,000 square feet, nearly 80,000 of which are currently being leased.

Mistrial in Tenn. lawsuit on speech

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A teenager's free-speech lawsuit against a school dress code that banned Confederate flag clothing ended in a mistrial when a jury in federal court failed to reach a verdict. The panel of five women and three men deliberated about 13 hours over three days before telling U.S. District Judge Tom Varlan they couldn't reach a unanimous decision in the case of Tommy DeFoe, 18.

Lawyers for DeFoe and for the Anderson County School Board both claimed victory.

DeFoe's attorneys felt they convinced at least some jurors of the rightness of their claims. The school board's attorney said the result leaves the ban against the Confederate flag in place.

Varlan dismissed the jury without polling it and told lawyers he would hold a hearing in the next few weeks to "talk about where we go from here." Both sides suggested a second trial was more likely than a settlement.

"I am up for a new trial. I am ready. This ain't over yet," DeFoe, who wore a belt buckle with a Confederate battle flag every day of the five-day trial, said outside the courthouse.

DeFoe's lawsuit, the latest in a string of similar claims from Texas to South Carolina since the 1990s, argued the teen's rights to free speech, due process and equal protection were violated by a dress code in Anderson County, near Knoxville, that bars the Confederate symbol from student clothing.

The flag is considered a symbol of racism and intolerance by some, while others, like DeFoe, consider it an emblem of their Southern heritage.

Your Horoscope Says... August 21-27

ARIES

Be open and honest in your dealings with a co-worker. Deception will double back on you, if you try it. This is a bad week for being sly. Your true intentions show on your face. Be thorough; don't cut corners.

Soul Affirmation: I let my words reveal the not-so-hidden truth about my being.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 29, 30

TAURUS

The boss is depending on you at work this week. The reward is buried in the gifts you give to whoever crosses your path. Don't look for payment for the good you do. Time will send it surging out at you.

Soul Affirmation: I give thanks for the chance to give.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 26, 3

GEMINI

You've always had the ability to take the slow and easy route to getting things done. This week is an excellent week for practicing that method to the maximum. Friends are not going to help you with the problem you face, but go slow and easy and you can handle it alone.

Soul Affirmation: Slow and easy is the best way for me to travel this week.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 24, 31

CANCER

Use your tried and true formula for a successful week. Remember the things that worked for you in the past. Now is not the time to try anything new. Forget about a minor irritation that comes from someone you love.

Soul Affirmation: I find comfort in the familiar.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 26, 29

LEO

Give yourself a chance to grow, and not by eating more. Eating good is alright but for true growth expand your horizons. Look at life a little bit differently. Take a walk on the other side of the question.

Soul Affirmation: I look to distant horizons to find truth this week.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 23, 31

VIRGO

Just start talking. What you need to say next will come to you. You've got some explaining to do and silence will get you nowhere. Love can be yours at this time but you're going to have to use your gift for gab to get it.

Soul Affirmation: Charm is my middle name this week.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 26, 29

LIBRA

This is just the kind of time you like so enjoy it. Family members are not busy. You can get into their heads and see what's going on. Open up your own head and let someone in. You are at your best, socially, so have some fun. A romantic bond becomes stronger.

Soul Affirmation: I love charming, positive head games.

Lucky Numbers: 33, 43, 52

SCORPIO

Spend some time thinking about mutual needs. Just because it's what you want, it may not be your lover's fond desire. Give a little to get something that you need right now — someone to be with. Save the self-importance for another week.

Soul Affirmation: I enlarge my happiness by forgetting about myself this week.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 29, 30

SAGITTARIUS

Take the lead, especially in romantic matters. Throw modesty out the window. Be in shameless pursuit. You know that your need is great this week. Seek to satisfy it. Your lover might be surprised, but you can make the surprise a pleasant one.

Soul Affirmation: I hunt for love in all the right places.

Lucky Numbers: 29, 34, 51

CAPRICORN

Heads or tails! Go or stay! What to do? This week you'll find yourself pulled in two exactly opposite directions. There is no way to satisfy both pulls. Let your friends decide. Take whatever suggestion comes first.

Soul Affirmation: I let my friendships guide my way.

Lucky Numbers: 41, 47, 50

AQUARIUS

Don't waste time thinking about the past. Sure they were wrong, but what does it matter now. Enjoy the present. Find something good to do for the rest of the week. Avoid conflict. Nothing is so important that it needs to be resolved this week.

Soul Affirmation: This week I forgive myself for everything that has happened.

Lucky Numbers: 23, 28, 49

PISCES

Stop thinking about work. Sure there are pressing matters, but they'll wait. Tap into the fun side of your personality. Get deep into that side and stay there. Don't keep pulling back to think about things that need to be fixed.

Soul Affirmation: I give my mind a big vacation this week.

Lucky Numbers: 30, 37, 42

Taser

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Winnfield in 2002 and 2006, said Pikes' death reinforces his view that abuse of power is a persistent problem in the city.

"This has been going on for a while," said Spikes, who is Black. "It's not just Blacks being abused. It's Whites being abused, too."

On Monday, the mother of Pikes' 4-year-old son filed a wrongful-death suit in federal court against city officials, Nugent and Taser International. The suit accuses city officials of civil rights violations in Pikes' death.