

SUN Metro

Gaming / Local / Politics

LV pen gun factory raided; four arrested

By PENNY LEVIN
SUN Staff Writer

A pen gun manufacturing center in Las Vegas was raided late Wednesday night and four persons were arrested in a joint venture between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Metro

Police, as suspects were making the weapons.

John Rice, resident agent in charge of the local ATF office, said 50 of the deadly weapons were completed and the parts for making 1,000 more were confiscated when agents descended upon

Cardinal Industrial Products at 2873 Oquendo Road and found the contraband.

Rice said Cardinal was not involved in the manufacturing of the weapons, as the guns were made during evening hours when the tool company is closed.

Arrested in connection with the incident are: Fatmir (Frank) Hamzal, 32, 140 Siddall Ave., operator of the Eagle's Nest Lounge; Daniel Bergmooser, 50, unemployed; Robert Fend, 46, a machinist at Cardinal and Steven Dionne, 20, a laborer at Cardinal, all of 3650 Stober Blvd., number 111.

The men were booked for violation of the Federal Firearms Act.

Rice said the suspects were using the plant facilities after hours and using their own materials. Cardinal Industries management was not aware of the operation, he said.

He said the pen guns, which use .22 or .32 caliber ammunition, are frequently used by street gangs and are often identified as weapons used in homicides when gang violence erupts.

The guns, some looking like black marker pens and others a silvery-lead color, can be worn in coat pockets, carried in purses or any other place where one could carry a regular-size pen.

Rice said agents have worked on the case for two months and, as a result, more than 500 to 1,000 completed weapons were removed from potential sales and the flow of illegal weapons throughout the nation.

The weapons sell for approximately \$75 to \$100 apiece.



Pen guns nabbed in Las Vegas

SUNPHOTO BY DAVID BROWN

John Rice, resident agent-in-charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Las Vegas, examines some of the more than 500 deadly pen guns seized by ATF agents late Wednesday after a two-month investigation resulted in the arrest of five Las Vegas men.



Paul Price

DATELINE: LAS VEGAS



Lt. Gov. Myron Leavitt hitched a ride on the political bandwagon and fell flat on his butt.

Or maybe he landed on his head. That would account for what many assess as the most idiotic campaign statement of the season.

"If I am elected governor, I'll take steps to get an elected state Gaming Control Board."

Leavitt was capitalizing on allegations that Gov. Bob List used pressure on the board to assure Wayne Newton would be unanimously licensed as a partner in the Aladdin Hotel.

The governor was aghast. "Goodness gracious, no!" he expostulated.

That's where matters now stand. Leavitt still charges. List continues to expostulate and by this time tomorrow it will all be political trash.

Except for Leavitt's remarkable statement.

Any reasoning individual would recognize the disaster inherent in having control board members elected instead of being appointed by the governor.

That would place a very sensitive, all-powerful position squarely in the political arena. They would not necessarily be filled with persons of integrity, established reputations and certain expertise, but often with opportunistic bidders in the open market.

Money will be the guideline, not character, ability and reputation.

Consider the deplorable situation prevalent during the current primary campaigns for state and county jobs. There is a disheartening paucity of qualified, dedicated, able persons in certain races.

Worthy people won't run because they know their opponent will overwhelm them with money. The race is not to the swift but the wealthy.

There is no more powerful agency in Nevada than the Gaming Control Board. It regulates all phases of gaming, as well as recommends who gets issued the coveted licenses for individuals, casinos and nickel slot operators.

The Control Board conducts personal investigations for all hopeful licensees, holds hearings that involve everything from cheating, money controls and management, to counting the bankroll in casino cages as well as maintaining surveillance in all gaming areas.

The state cannot tolerate a condition where the chairman and control board members bid for the position in the open market.

A 12-year-old can catch the evil. Somebody will be out to buy somebody and that would sabotage Nevada's gaming reputation.

That wasn't the first stumble of the week for our lieutenant governor. He estranged some potential supporters with what may be one of the fastest flip-flops in Nevada history.

Approximately two weeks ago, Leavitt sent a letter to various individuals and organizations requesting financial support for his campaign. There were some healthy responses.

Almost immediately, however, Leavitt announced that he would not accept funds from casinos or other areas of the gaming business. He returned the checks to some surprised and disgruntled donors.

"How come I was good enough to solicit two weeks ago but now he doesn't want my 'tainted' money?" asked one contributor. It's called politics, friend.

Perhaps it was too harsh to label Leavitt's control board remark an "idiotic campaign statement." That honor must rest with lawyer Mahlon Brown, who wants to be attorney general and stated:

"The FBI does not wear black hats, I think the FBI wears white hats. I don't fault what the FBI has done here. I promote it. We, as Nevadans, ought to applaud the FBI, not say anything negative about it."

Brown could be our next attorney general. Does that shake you a little?

Durable old Delwin Potter, one of Henderson's most notorious criminals and former justice of the peace, is back in the running.

He wants to be JP again. How's that for gall? The ex-felon took a fall in 1975 after copping "no contest" to a federal tax evasion charge.

He made another statement for posterity: "Having the IRS after you is a badge of honor, isn't it?"

If the people of Henderson vote for this guy they will know what they are getting.

Becker files lawsuit to run for JP again

By BOB PALM
SUN Staff Writer

Failing in state courts, former Las Vegas Justice of Peace Alfred Becker filed a motion Thursday in U.S. District Court for a preliminary and permanent injunction requiring his name to be placed on the Sept. 14 primary election ballot for the same position.

Becker charged Judge Earle White, who replaced Becker as Justice of the Peace of the Las Vegas Township, Clark County Registrar of Voters George Ullom and Chief Deputy District Attorney Bill Curran "conspired with each other and with persons presently unknown" to take his name off the primary election ballot.

His complaint further alleges that Curran "solicited and urged" justice of the peace candidates Robert Wolf and Gerald Bongiovoni to file a civil action attempting to remove Becker from the ballot.

Curran was out of town Thursday and could not be reached for comment. White refused to comment because the matter is in litigation.

Ullom said late Wednesday he had given all of the legal papers to his attorney for review as quickly as possible so they can go into

court Friday and oppose any stay order.

"I never let personalities enter into business," Ullom said. "The main thing is that this would be interfering in the election process. We begin voting in this county tomorrow on the absentee ballots.

So we have to oppose any stay order."

U.S. District Judge Harry E. Claiborne denied Becker's motion for a temporary restraining order Thursday but set an 8:30 a.m. Monday hearing on the motion for a preliminary injunction.

Becker said he wants a speedy hearing so his name can be placed on the ballot "until the court can decide the merits of this action."

Becker filed his declaration of candidacy July 21 a few minutes before the closing of filing for candidates.

State Environmental Commission delays approval on LV wastewater

By MARY MANNING
SUN Staff Writer

The state Environmental Commission Thursday delayed approval of water-quality standards for Lake Mead and Las Vegas Wash after a heated debate erupted when Las Vegas asked for more time.

Angered when city representatives balked, the commissioners tried in a series of votes to force Chicago attorney Joseph Karaganis, representing Las Vegas, to state the city's worries then and there.

Vice Chairman Tom Ballou explained the commission was short of travel funds and wanted to hear what Karaganis had to say at the meeting, rather than call a special meeting at another date.

After a break for lunch, Karaganis came up with a proposition: "I'll make a recommendation to the City Commission that they pay per diem and travel expenses for the entire commission," he said.

The Environmental Commission turned him down.

Karaganis said he had to call four or five expert

witnesses to present the city's terms for state water-quality standards and welcomed a delay.

Commissioners Bill Becker and Peter Morros noted the city seemed to know the commission would delay the decision. "Everybody else here knew there was going to be a delay, except the commission," Morros said. A special hearing has been set for 9 a.m. Sept. 9 in Las Vegas.

The Commission must appear before the Legislative Interim Finance Committee to request the extra money for the special meeting.

"There's been too many shenanigans behind the scenes and it's got to stop," Morros added, shaking his finger as Karaganis stood at the podium.

Karaganis claimed he had an agreement to get the hearing continued from state Environmental Protection Division Administrator Lewis Dodgion during closed-door negotiating sessions over a city-county-state consent decree.

But Dodgion flatly denied he had orchestrated the delay, or made promises to suspend action by the commission.

Peale to appear at positive thinking seminar

By PETE PETERS
SUN Staff Writer

Joe Batten knows how to get the most out of people.

No, he's not a slave-driver.

But Batten is an expert in management who has won worldwide acclaim through his best-selling book, "Tough-Minded Management."

Batten will expound some of his theories next Thursday during the Las Vegas SUN-sponsored Power of Positive Thinking seminar at the Showboat Hotel.

The seminar is part of the American Renewal Series, with Las Vegas being among 22 stops on a national tour.

Batten and Zig Ziglar will conduct the workshops and the evening rally will feature Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, Dr. Denis Waitley and Douglas Snarr.

Batten's management workshop will be held from 9-12 a.m. while Ziglar's sales skills workshop will be held from 1-4 p.m.

Peale, the "Father of Positive Thinking," will begin his rally at 6:20 p.m. Waitley, an expert on scientific breakthroughs in high performance thinking, will start his rally at 7:30 p.m. and Snarr will demonstrate how persistence can build victory from "unthinkable" ideas when his rally begins at 8:45 p.m.

Tickets for the workshops, to be held in the Showboat's conference rooms, are priced at \$40 each. The rallies, slated for the Showboat's Pavilion, are priced at \$20 per person and \$30 per couple. Tickets may be purchased at the Showboat or at the American Renewal Series office at the Rancho Business Center, 333 Rancho Drive, Suite 650.

Because Batten's a former boxer, people expect a laymaker from him. But as one workshop participant said in Salt Lake City, "He doesn't come across like a bully. You soon find his arm around you, telling you that he loves you, and then he begins offering advice on management."

Batten, in essence, is a firm believer in the use of expective management principles.

Expective management is the principle through which a manager expects the best from those he works with," Batten explained.

"To be more precise, expective management is when a manager realizes that the greatest resource any company has is his personnel and their strength," he pointed out.

"If one emphasizes their strength and draws upon this strength, weaknesses of a company takes care of itself.

"Anybody can order people around," Batten declared, "but it takes a real man to lead people."

About 80 percent of the Fortune 500 companies have used Batten's management secrets. Among them are Bristol-Myers, IBM, Standard Oil, RCA, Eastman Kodak, General Electric, Coca-Cola and many more.