

# MESQUITE LOCAL NEWS

THE WEEK OF JAN. 4, 2018

Vol. 14, No. 12

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Visitor stats up for November  
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## PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL

# Nevada Desert Dogs select roster

By Lou Martin  
MLN

The new Nevada Desert Dog team in the North American Premier Basketball League (NAPB) held tryouts on Dec. 28-30 in St. George, Utah, to choose their opening day roster for the upcoming season.

Twenty one hopefuls showed up with dreams to fill a 12 spot roster plus three spots on a practice squad. Thursday's opening tryouts were intense as players showed their athleticism and skills under the watchful eye of head coach Paul Mokeski and his staff.

After shuffling of players amongst three teams, Mokeski overruled scrimmages for three hours testing the individual skills of each player. Many of the players have competed in the past at a high level on North and South American, European and Asian continent professional teams.

The team will change their practice venue to Las Vegas the week of Jan. 1-6. The initial roster mix includes three point guards, two shooting guards, three centers and a group of small and power forwards.

The Dogs guards are quick and very athletic led by former Oregon player Jonathon Lloyd, who has the distinction of being the only Pac 12 player to play for a championship

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Nevada Desert Dogs head coach Paul Mokeski instructs basketball hopefuls during tryouts in St. George (Utah). Mokeski, brings a wealth of experience (NBA 12 years) to the new league.

Lou Martin

## VVWD



Linda Faas

Trade West awarded contract for phase 2 completion of Well 27A on Pioneer Boulevard.

# VVWD audit shows solid financials

By Linda Faas  
MLN

Wes Smith, financial manager of the Virgin Valley Water District presented his final report for fiscal year 2017, ending June 30, to the board of directors at its Jan. 2 meeting. The report is an annual requirement for the \$27 million in bonds owed by VVWD. The report shows significant financial improvements made by the district over the past year.

VVWD was forced to take on debt in the early 2000s and raise its metered user rates dramatically in 2014-2015 to meet pressures of the 2008 recession downturn and financial fraud within the district. The FY2017 annual audit shows a return to financial strength.

Smith pointed out to the board that the district has far exceeded its expectations in attaining a 3.12 cover-

age of its revenue to debt obligation ratio in the past year. Coming from a deficit position of 0.85 in 2014, the district hoped to attain a 1.25 position by 2015, and has now attained nearly three times that position. This strong stance gives the district fiscal leverage that adds to its bottom line in the form of higher earnings on its savings.

The 8,950 connected metered water users of the district are the backbone of the financial recovery of the district, having shouldered dramatically higher water rates and a \$10 per month debt service fee that put the district back on the road to solvency in 2015. The rate payers will see that monthly debt service fee reduced by .70 cents in April 2018, due to Smith's renegotiation of the terms of district's debt.

> See VVWD, Page 5A

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS BENEFIT

# 'Polar Plunge' scheduled for first time in Mesquite

By Teri Nehrenz  
MLN

You can plunge yourself into chilly waters any day of the year and receive a number of health benefits but when you plunge into the icy waters at the Mesquite Recreation Center Outdoor Pool on Jan. 20, you'll be doing it for a very special, fundraising reason.

The money raised will help to provide sports training and competition opportunities to the Special Olympics athletes currently served, right here in Mesquite.

From as far back as the 1920s Canadian residents have flocked to Vancouver, BC, where they plunge into the icy cold waters of the English Bay to celebrate the New Year. Americans have adapted that tradition as a means of fundraising; many events are held annually across the United States.

The largest Polar Plunge fundraising event, the "Plugapalooza," which raises money for Special Olympics, is held at Sandy Point State Park in Maryland where they've had participants numbering 12,000 or better.

For the privilege of experiencing that icy blast right here on Jan. 20, you'll need to raise a minimum of \$125, but you don't have to stop there; in this case, more is always better.

Raise the minimum and you'll receive an official Feel the Thrill of the Chill long sleeve Polar Plunge t-shirt and a barbecue lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers with all the fixings.

While enjoying lunch, you can take in the post plunge festivities including awards presentations for tops fundraisers and best costumes. Oh yeah; costumes are encouraged and add to the fun.

Watch the Mesquite Police team, once again, compete against the Mesquite Fire and Rescue team as they race blocks of ice down the pool for bragging rights as the "coolest" team in town.

Guests can join you for the barbecue lunch for \$5 per person.

If you really want to make a "splashy" entrance, for an additional \$10 donation, you can slip into the pool from the slide.

If you don't want to feel the thrill of the chill you can still get sponsors and give; just register as a chicken. You'll be excused from plunging but still enjoy all the festivities and

> See PLUNGE, Page 5A



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# Desert Dogs

continued from Page 1A

squad in both basketball and football. "I played both in Germany and China," Lloyd said. "The league should be a huge success because most of us would rather play in the states." The two other point guards are Anthony Strickland and Tyree Murray. Strickland played last year in the Canada Basketball League and averaged more than 16 points per game. Murray played at Cal State- San Marcos. Former Montana State-Billings player Leon Sutton, a former No. 1 draft pick in the Canadian League, brings stability and drive from his guard position. The three centers vying for starting jobs, Luke Cochrane, Joel Feigler and "Slim" McGee bring a variety of upside to the paint. Cochrane is bulky (6-foot-

10) and takes up a lot of room in the paint. Feigler (6-10) is smooth around the basket and can also play power forward. McGee, who played pro ball in El Salvador, is 6-11, thin with a huge arm span and blocking abilities. Human dynamo Spencer Mathis, who played at Las Vegas's Valley High School, Northern Colorado and pro ball in Argentina, should be a crowd favorite with his enthusiasm on the court. Forward Larry Johnson Jr. has a great pedigree being the son of former UNLV great Larry Johnson. He is 6-6, smooth and could be a swing player. Other players making the squad are forwards Jarvon Johnson, Jordan Hill, J.J. Mina and Dominic Shuler. Guards Jamal Peterson and Leonard Mitchell will be battling to make the final cut. Mokeski and his staff will have only two weeks to mold a team before tip-off against the Vancouver Knights on Jan. 12 in the Rising Star gym.

# Mesquite visitor counts increase in November

By Barbara Ellestad  
MLN

Visitor volumes showed a positive gain in November when 110,894 people came to Mesquite contributing to percentage increases in all categories of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) monthly report. The total visitor count was up 1.4 percent from November 2016.

Las Vegas visitor volume declined 3.7 percent with LVCVA explaining it as "part of a reduction in room inventory vs. last year" rather than any after-effect of the Oct. 1 mass shooting at a music concert. Laughlin's visitor count showed the largest percentage gain from a year ago at 7.6 percent.

Total occupancy at Mesquite hotels and motels increased 6.1 percent to 75.8 percent. That compares to Laughlin's total occupancy rate of 60.8 percent that increased by 5.4 percent. Las Vegas city-wide occupancy rate fell 2.0 percent to 84.5 percent.

Mesquite's average daily room rate (ADR) also increased 7.6 percent to \$60.46 from last year's rate of \$56.20. Laughlin's ADR fell 1.6 percent to \$41.72 while Las Vegas's ADR decreased 4.1 percent to an average \$119.66.

Revenue per available room (RevPAR) for Mesquite jumped 17.0 percent to \$45.83 compared to November 2016's rate of \$39.17.

RevPAR is calculated by taking the total revenue for the month and dividing by the number of rooms rented for the month. It measures revenue from hotel room rates only and does not include other sources of revenue like alcohol or gaming. It's commonly used in the hospitality industry to measure the financial performance of and health among hotel operators.

RevPAR for Laughlin's hotels and motels increased 8.0 percent to \$25.37. RevPAR in Las Vegas declined 6.3 percent with downtown RevPAR coming in

**Total occupancy at Mesquite hotels and motels increased 6.1 percent to 75.8 percent. That compares to Laughlin's occupancy rate of 60.8 percent that increased by 5.4 percent.**

at \$50.92 and the Strip RevPAR registering at \$110.66.

Total room nights occupied in Mesquite increased 8.8 percent to 43,320 in November. That compares to a 9.7 increase in Laughlin's room nights and Las Vegas's 3.9 percent decrease.

Mesquite had the largest percentage increase in gross gaming revenues with an 8.8 percent rise in a year-over-year comparison. Gaming outlets took in \$10.755 million during the month in Mesquite.

Laughlin had a 4.9 percent increase in gross gaming revenues. The Las Vegas Strip had a 6.0 percent decrease in gross gaming revenues, downtown Las Vegas had a 6.8 percent increase and the Boulder Strip had a slight 0.1 percent increase.

Overall, gross gaming revenues in all of Clark County declined 3.2 percent. The LVCVA attributed the drop to "decreases in hold from baccarat and twenty-one."

Average daily auto traffic on I-15 at the Nevada Arizona border jumped 8.0 percent to 28,360 vehicles compared to 26,259 per day last November. That compares to a 0.1 percent decrease on I-15 at the Nevada California border and an 0.6 percent rise on all major highways leading into southern Nevada.

The average daily auto traffic on Highway 163 into Laughlin increased 7.0 percent to 4,641 vehicles. Airplane arrivals and departures in Laughlin rose a healthy 12.4 percent to 23,360 passengers.



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# POLICE BLOTTER

# ARREST REPORT

**Editor's note:** The following was taken from the pages of the Mesquite Police Department blotter from Dec. 24-30.

## DEC. 24

**Stolen vehicle:** Officer took a report of a stolen vehicle.

**Theft from vehicle:** Officer responded to a report of theft from a motor vehicle. Obtained a statement and photos and a report was generated.

**DUI:** Officers responded to an East Pioneer Boulevard casino reference an intoxicated male. A DUI investigation was conducted and the male was arrested for DUI alcohol.

**Domestic trouble:** Officers responded to a residence reference a past domestic. An information report was completed.

**Suicidal person:** Officers responded to a suicidal subject on Moss Drive. Upon arrival the individual was intoxicated, distraught and stated she wanted to be taken to the hospital because she wanted to harm herself. The individual was transported to Mesa View hospital.

## DEC. 25

**Domestic violence:** Officers responded to a West Mesquite Boulevard casino for a report of a domestic battery. After an investigation, one male subject was arrested for domestic battery.

**Animal Pick up:** Responded to a complaint of dog at large on East Old Mill Road. RP signed citation on violator.

**Traffic stop:** Officer observed a vehicle traveling in and out of the travel lane. Upon conducting a traffic stop it was discovered the driver was DUI.

## DEC. 26

**Disorderly conduct:** Officers responded to a breach of peace call at a Mesa Boulevard hotel. The offender refused to comply with instructions. The offender was arrested and transported to jail.

**Traffic accident W/O injury:** Responded to a two car collision. One citation issued.

**Reckless driver:** An officer conducted a traffic stop for a reported reckless driver. The officer observed traffic violations and the vehicle was impounded.

**Theft:** Officer took a report of theft from an East Pioneer Boulevard casino.

**Burglary:** Officer responded to a Tuscan Circle residence for a burglary. A report was taken and an investigation is

ongoing.

## DEC. 27

**Property damage, non-vandalism:** Officer responded to a report of graffiti at an Old Mill Road city park. Officer documented the graffiti and it was removed by city employees. Investigation is ongoing.

**Domestic trouble:** Officer responded to a report of a domestic disturbance at a North Sandhill Boulevard hotel. At the conclusion of the investigation one male was arrested for domestic battery.

**Traffic accident W/O injury:** Officers responded to an accident on a public street with no injuries. Drivers exchanged information and officers completed a report.

**Trespassing:** Officers contacted two subjects at a Mesa Boulevard casino. One female adult was issued a citation for trespassing.

**Theft:** A female adult attempted theft from a West Pioneer Boulevard grocery store. The female was confronted by a store employee and left the area without the items.

**Phone Harassment:** Officers were dispatched to a First South Street residence, in reference to harassment.

## DEC. 28

**Theft:** An officer was dispatched to an East Pioneer Boulevard casino, in reference to a theft. An adult male subject was taken into custody for grand larceny.

**Property damage, non-vandalism:** Officer responded to a Riverside Road apartment complex for a report of graffiti. Officer documented the graffiti and investigation is ongoing.

**Graffiti:** Officer located graffiti in a Second South Street city park. Graffiti was documented and investigation is ongoing.

**Hit & Run:** Officers responded to a hit and run accident on private property. No injuries were reported and the investigation is still ongoing.

**Trespassing:** A Sienna Lane resident returned home and observed someone had broken into her house. Detectives processed the scene and the investigation is ongoing.

## DEC. 29

**Domestic violence:** Officers were dispatched to a West Mesquite Drive residence, in reference to a domestic disturbance in progress. An adult male sub-

> See BLOTTER, Page 5A

## DEC. 24-30

Statistics supplied by Mesquite Police Department. Disclaimer: These names were reported in the Mesquite Police Department's arrest report released Jan. 1, 2018. Persons should be presumed innocent until convicted in a court of law.

**Alger, Jason K**  
Scenic, AZ  
12/27/17  
Contempt of court

**Bruce, James W**  
Littlefield, AZ  
12/24/17  
Jail housing agreement

**Dahlberg, Kyle A**  
Beaver Dam, AZ  
12/24/17  
Jail housing agreement

**Dennis, Paul T**  
Fridona, UT  
12/30/17  
Failure to appear

**Ermeling, Charles C**  
Overton  
12/28/17  
Conspiracy to commit larceny

**Male juvenile offender**  
Mesquite  
12/29/17  
Possession of drug paraphernalia

**Galindo, Jocelyn M**  
Provo, UT  
12/30/17  
Minor in gambling

**Gambetta, Erik A**  
Littlefield, AZ  
12/28/17  
Jail housing agreement

**Garcia, Arliandro**  
Cedar City, UT  
12/24/17  
DUI  
No proof of insurance  
Open container of alcohol in vehicle  
Driver's license suspended

**Gordilla, Cynthia Y**  
Medero, CA  
12/30/17  
Jail housing agreement

**Gunter, Sheryl L**  
Kemmerer, WY  
12/26/17  
Failure to maintain travel lane  
No proof of insurance  
DUI

**Heistan, Joshua R**  
Mesquite  
12/27/17  
Domestic Battery

**Houlden, Dorothy M**  
Sparks  
12/30/17  
Jail housing agreement

**Jackson, Paisha S**  
North Las Vegas  
12/27/17  
Contempt of court  
Petit larceny, Shoplifting

**James, Anthony M**  
Mesquite  
12/26/17  
Disturbing the peace

**Jones, Jordan A**  
Beaver Dam, AZ  
12/30/17  
Possession of drug paraphernalia

> See ARREST, Page 5A

## POLICE CALLS

Many calls that the Police Department receives are not always included in the blotter, as they are under investigation or a synopsis is not received. To show the amount of work our PD does do, we are including a weekly roster of stats. This week, there were 153 total incidents in the blotter:

- Agency assistance 5
- Alarm 8
- Animal pick up 1
- Attempt to locate 1
- Burglary 1
- Citizen assists 5
- Civil dispute 1
- Civil matter 2
- Controlled substance problem 1
- Court order 1
- Dead body 1
- Disorderly conduct 2
- Domestic trouble 3
- Domestic violence 5
- DUI 3
- Graffiti 1
- Hit & Run 2
- Intoxicated person 3
- Juvenile problem 2

- K9 search 2
- Minor gambling 1
- Miscellaneous CAD call record 8
- Missing person 3
- Noise disturbance 4
- Parking problem 3
- Past disturbance 1
- Person on foot 2
- Phone harassment 4
- Property damage, non-vandalism 5
- Reckless driver 5
- Recovered stolen vehicle 2
- Robbery alarm 3
- Stolen vehicle 1
- Suicidal person 1
- Suspicious person 13
- Suspicious vehicle 5
- Theft 5
- Theft from vehicle 1
- Threatening 3
- Traffic accident w/o injury 6
- Traffic problem 1
- Traffic stop 5
- Trespassing 2
- Unknown problem 8
- Verbal disturbance 1
- VIN number inspection 3
- Weapon offense 1
- Welfare check 6

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# OPINION

## BLM moving forward with fire prevention effort

The Bureau of Land Management posted on the Federal Register a couple of weeks ago a notice that it is beginning the tedious paperwork process to finally do something to prevent the devastating wildfires that have plagued the Great Basin region in recent years.

The notice states the BLM will create two Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)— one will analyze the effects of constructing fuel breaks that clear flammable material along a swath of land to curb the spread of wildfire and another to study the effectiveness of restoring rangeland to counteract the spread of invasive species such as cheatgrass and conifers that burn too easily. The states involved include portions of Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, California, Utah and Washington.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, wildfires consumed nearly 10 million acres in 2017.

In September Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, whose responsibilities include the

BLM, promised, “This Administration will take a serious turn from the past and will proactively work to prevent forest fires through aggressive and scientific fuels reduction management to save lives, homes, and wildlife habitat. It is well settled that the steady accumulation and thickening of vegetation in areas that have historically burned at frequent intervals exacerbates fuel conditions and often leads to larger and higher-intensity fires.”

The EISs, which are required by federal law, mark the beginning of fulfilling that promise. Comments may be submitted in writing until Feb. 20. Those comments may be submitted via:

\* Website: <https://go.usa.gov/xnQcG>.

\* Email: [GRSG\\_PEIS@blm.gov](mailto:GRSG_PEIS@blm.gov).

\* Fax: 208-373-3805.

\* Mail: Jonathan Beck, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709

Meetings to discuss the proposed fire prevention efforts will be scheduled throughout the region and will be announced 15 days in advance in the local

media and on the BLM website.

One of the reasons for the current initiative, according to the Federal Register notice, is that wildfires tend to increase the risk of still more wildfires — a positive feedback loop.

“In warm, dry settings, sagebrush-steppe usually takes, at a minimum, many decades to recover, even where invasive annual grasses or other invasive plant species do not become dominant,” the notice states. “Invasive species and conifer encroachment can be exacerbated as a result of wildfires in sagebrush ecosystems, resulting in an increased risk of wildfires ...”

Among the concerns that will need to be addressed and evaluated during the comment period and subsequent meetings is that fuel breaks and the accompanying road improvements, by their very nature, improve access for firefighters but also for the general public, which might lead to an increase in the number of human-caused fires. Also, such breaks

reduce the cover for small wildlife to avoid predators.

The Associated Press quoted Matt Germino, a research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, as saying fuel breaks are a bit of a paradox. “Fires, especially large fires, are so unambiguously damaging to wildlife habitat in general — that is the motivating factor for getting these fuel breaks out,” he said. “At this point, it’s really difficult to predict which animal species will benefit and which ones won’t. Sometimes you have to just act in light of the uncertainty.”

That cautionary note aside, we strongly endorse this effort by the current administration to protect not only the environment but also those who earn their living from the land by ranching, farming, logging and mining and those who use the public lands for hunting and recreation. We encourage our readers to submit comments and attend meetings to counter the likely resistance by self-styled environmentalists. — TM

## POLITICAL TWEETS

### DEAN HELLER

Jan. 3

As a strong supporter of fighting #humantrafficking, I'm pleased @POTUS has designated January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. We should be doing everything in our power to prevent and stop this vile crime.

Dec. 30

My staff was honored to attend yesterday's ceremony at the Clark County Armory where Pvt. William Grant was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service during World War II. Grant served in Europe & was in numerous combat operations including the beach landings in Normandy.

Dec. 29

This is exactly what the American people sent us to do – to deliver results – and that's why I look forward to working with my colleagues in the New Year to maintain this pace and fill the numerous judicial vacancies. (2/2) Read more: <http://bit.ly/2lpVPhz>

### SEN. CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO

Dec. 21

My vote on the CR tonight was a vote for Nevada's priorities. And I will not stop fighting until we pass the #DreamAct and pass government funding legislation that prioritizes the long-term needs of Americans.

Dec. 21

As of today, 13,006 #DACA recipients have lost their protection - and now liv-

ing in fear of deportation and being torn apart from their families. This is a crisis happening right now.

The GOP must step up to protect #Dreamers, who make our communities stronger. #DreamActNow

Dec. 21

My office has received 1,085 calls & 15,271 letters on the #GOPTaxScam. @SenateGOP @HouseGOP if you're curious where Nevadans stand on your bill for the top 1% & big corporations - the numbers speak for themselves:

9.6% in favor

90.4% are OPPOSED

No doubt. This bill is a scam

### REP. RUBEN KIHUEN

Dec. 21

It's disappointing that @HouseGOP chose to end 2017 toasting to the #GOPTaxScam that will hurt working families instead of working on real solutions. Today, I was proud to vote against the reckless funding bill and stand with #Dreamers and Nevada's children.

### ADAM LAXALT

Jan. 3

Sanctuary cities undermine the rule of law and make Nevada less safe. I'm fighting to end them. Stand with me -->

Dec. 29

Nevada's Legislature, sheriffs and municipalities have wisely rejected nonsensical sanctuary city policies, but Nevadans should not be the victims of such policies in other states:

## WEB COMMENTS POLICY

The Mesquite Local News website has established a policy for commenting

All comments posted to articles published on the MesquiteLocalNews.com website must contain real names and email addresses.

“We do not accept anonymous posts to articles on the site,” MLN publisher Kirk Kern said. “All email addresses and names will be verified before comments are approved for publication.

“We appreciate and encourage all comments and opinions on our website but will hold individuals accountable and responsible for their words. Individuals' real names will be published in conjunction with their comments.”

The MLN staff reserves the right not to publish comments that contain inappropriate language, insults and name calling.

## Why Nevada must hit the brakes on taxes

It's called voting with your feet. A remarkable number of well-heeled Americans are doing just that, and it should serve as a warning to Nevada voters and candidates as we enter an election year. Though Republican governors in recent years have shepherded through the Legislature record-high tax increases, Nevada still fares fairly well in comparison to other states when it comes to the tax burden borne by citizens of the Silver State.

According to the Tax Foundation's analysis of state and local tax burdens per capita for fiscal year 2012 — which is after Gov. Kenny Guinn's billion-dollar tax hike but before the \$1.5 billion tax hike pushed by Gov. Brian Sandoval — Nevada ranked 43rd lowest in the nation, while neighboring Taxafornia ranked sixth highest.

Nevada tax collectors grabbed 8.1 percent of the state income through state and local taxes or \$3,349 per capita. Meanwhile, California snatched 11 percent of state income or \$5,237 per capita.

Perhaps that explains why, according to Internal Revenue Service data on taxpayer migration, from 2014 to 2015 about 10,500 Nevada taxpayers moved to California, while 17,700 California taxpayers moved to Nevada. Even more telling is the fact that the Californians fleeing to lower-taxed Nevada averaged \$91,000 in gross adjusted income, while the Nevadans heading to California averaged only \$47,400 in adjusted gross income.

It seems people with higher income have a tendency to find ways to keep more of it for themselves.

From 2014 to 2015 Nevada netted an increase in total adjusted gross income reported to the IRS of \$1.43 billion. Of that, \$1.1 billion came due to the influx of Californians changing residencies.

An analysis of a sampling of that IRS data shows the California-Nevada migration pattern is no anomaly.

In that one year, the state of New York, which has the highest state and local tax burden of any state at 12.7 percent of income and \$6,993 per capita, lost \$4.4 billion in income.

No. 2 highest Connecticut lost \$1.3 billion in income. No. 3 highest New Jersey lost \$2.46 billion. No. 5 Illinois lost \$3.47 billion. No. 6 California lost \$2.09 billion.

Meanwhile, state income tax-free Texas, ranked 46th lowest, added \$3.61 billion, and state income tax-free Florida, though only 34th lowest, added \$11.65 billion. The latter might have something to do with weather as well, since \$2.62 billion of that came in from former New Yorkers, \$1.49 billion from former New Jersey residents and \$1.47 billion from former



THOMAS MITCHELL  
COMMENTARY

Illinoisans.

The New Jersey residents who moved to Florida had an average income of \$121,000, while Floridians moving to New Jersey averaged \$72,500.

This is hardly surprising nor a new phenomenon. In an article in The Wall Street Journal in 2009 under the headline, “Soak the Rich, Lose the Rich,” economist Arthur Laffer and WSJ economics writer Stephen Moore updated previous studies and found that from 1998 to 2007, more than 1,100 people every day of the year relocated from the nine highest income-tax states — such as California, New Jersey, New York and Ohio — mostly to the nine tax-haven states with no income tax — including Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire and Texas.

Laffer and Moore determined that over that period of time the no-income tax states created 89 percent more jobs and had 32 percent faster personal income growth than the high-tax states.

“Did the greater prosperity in low-tax states happen by chance? Is it coincidence that the two highest tax-rate states in the nation, California and New York, have the biggest fiscal holes to repair?” they asked. “No. Dozens of academic studies — old and new — have found clear and irrefutable statistical evidence that high state and local taxes repel jobs and businesses.”

A recent WSJ editorial noted that billions in income are still flowing out of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut and into Florida.

“As these state laboratories of Democratic governance show, dunning the rich ultimately hurts people of all incomes by repressing the growth needed to create jobs, boost wages and raise government revenues that fund public services,” the editorial concluded.

Voting with the feet is sure to increase since the recent tax reform limits federal income tax deductions for state and local taxes.

Let this be a lesson for Nevada. Chase the rich, they'll run away.

Thomas Mitchell is a longtime Nevada newspaper columnist. You may email him at [thomasmnv@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasmnv@yahoo.com). He also blogs at <http://4thst8.wordpress.com/>.

## MESQUITE LOCAL NEWS

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**Linda Faas** (Virgin Valley Water District)  
**Lou Martin** (Sports)  
**Teri Nehrenz** (Calendar/office manager)  
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# VVWD

continued from Page 1A

In 2017, VVWD took incremental steps to keep financial pace with inflation and infrastructure needs by instituting a stepped 2 per cent increase in metered user fees in FY2018-2019, and has increased the standard development charge (SDC) for new development units to \$2500, raising that fee for the first time in 20 years.

## TRADE WEST WINS BID TO EQUIP WELL 27A

When Virgin Valley Water District finished drilling well 27A in early 2017, it was expected to go online before end of the year. Then the blessing of abundance kicked in. The well, located near the intersection of Pioneer and Oasis boulevards, proved up at almost 2,000 gallons per minute (gpm), outstripping the 1,200 gpm capacity of a pump purchased to repair former well 27. That well eventually failed and had to be abandoned.

The unexpectedly high flow of the replacement well required a larger pump and revision of the budget allocated for completion of the well. The VVWD board voted in August to purchase a higher capacity pump and the completion date for bringing the well online was pushed back.

Two companies, Trade West and Eagle View Contractors, submitted bids for the project. The VVWD board voting unanimously, 5-0, on a motion by board member Ben Davis to accept Trade West's lower bid of \$1,413,305.50 to outfit the well with pump and motor, pump house, surrounding wall and piping to bring Well 27A online. Work is expected to be completed in about six months.

Bowen, Collins, and Associates, a frequent engineering contractor for VVWD, was hired at a fee of \$69,000 to manage the well 27A project comple-

**The unexpectedly high flow of the replacement well required a larger pump and revision of the budget allocated for completion of the well. The VVWD board voted in August to purchase a higher capacity pump and the completion date for bringing the well online was pushed back.**

tion. Hydrologist Aaron Bunker recommended outsourcing the project management due to shortage of VVWD staff to handle that job.

Board member Barb Ellestad asked that future hiring of a staff engineer be considered during the FY2019 budget hearings to compare cost of handling project management work in house. With that understanding, board member Travis Anderson moved to hire Bowen, Collins. The motion passed 5-0.

In other business, the board approved expenditures for general manager Kevin Brown, Bunker, and up to three board members to attend upcoming training meetings of the Nevada Rural Water Association in Las Vegas and Rural Water Association of Utah in St George.

Reporting on the long-pending application with the BLM for access to the rain gauge on Virgin Mountain and infrastructure access to Nickel Spring, Bunker said that the BLM office is

looking at amending VVWD's original application rather than replacing it.

Brown reported that the Flat Top water tank replacement is progressing, but a delay in fabrication of the new tank will set the anticipated finish date back about one week to April 13. He also noted that pipe replacements on Marilyn Parkway, upper Mesa Boulevard and Aztec Court are in progress.

# Plunge

continued from Page 1A

incentive rewards that the plungers receive.

Don't fool yourself though, plunging into icy cold water may have some health benefits for the already healthy but if you aren't in tip top shape, you may want to consider the risks.

The "Releasees" refer to the sponsors and volunteers running the event. Chil-

dren under the age of 18 must bring of copy of the waiver, available through the web site, signed by a parent or guardian.

So get some sponsors, raise \$125 or more and take that "special" icy plunge on Jan. 20. Registration opens at 10 a.m. The costume contest will be at 11:30 a.m. and the plunge is at noon.

For complete information, rules and waiver forms, visit their web site at: <https://specialolympics.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=601>.

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# Blotter

continued from Page 3A

ject was taken into custody for breach of peace and possession of a controlled substance.

**Court order:** Officer responded to a North Arrowhead Drive residence reference a TPO violator. Upon arrival, officer located the suspect and placed him into custody.

**Property damage, non-vandalism:** Officer responded to a North Sandhill Boulevard commercial store for a report of graffiti. Officer documented the graffiti, investigation is ongoing.

**Theft:** A local citizen had her rear license plate stolen while she was at work. Dispatch entered the license plate into NCIC as stolen. The investigation is ongoing.

**Property damage, non-vandalism:** Officers observed property damage to a resident's Mesa Boulevard home. The investigation is ongoing.

**Controlled substance problem:** An officer conducted a traffic stop for a viola-

tion. The driver was issued a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia.

## DEC. 30

**Minor gambling:** An officer was dispatched to a West Mesquite Boulevard casino, in reference to an ID check. An adult female, under 21 years old, was cited and released for minor gambling.

**Theft:** Officers responded to an East Pioneer Boulevard casino for a report of a theft. A report was taken and an investigation is ongoing.

**Traffic accident W/O injury:** Officers responded to a two vehicle accident on a public roadway. No reported injuries from the accident.

**Dead body:** Officers responded to Chianti Way residence reference a deceased person. Medical was on scene upon arrival and advised the person was in fact deceased.

**Domestic trouble:** An officer stopped to check on a suspicious vehicle, which was stopped in an intersection. After an investigation, an adult male subject was taken into custody for domestic battery (1st offense).

**Parker, Daniel E**  
Littlefield, AZ  
12/30/17  
Jail housing agreement

**Patton, Michael**  
Fresno, CA  
12/30/17  
Jail housing agreement

**Quezada, Sirena A**  
Mesquite  
12/27/17  
Trespassing

**Renteria, Ernesto**  
Scenic, AZ  
12/28/17  
Jail housing agreement

**Romero, Juan S**  
Mesquite  
12/29/17  
Violation of Temporary Protection

**Timpson, Dexter F**  
St. George, UT  
12/28/17  
Contempt of court

# Arrest

continued from Page 3A

**McCoy, Leonard C**  
Mesquite  
12/30/17  
Domestic battery

**Molina, Tustin J**  
Littlefield, AZ  
12/30/17  
Jail housing agreement

**Mounteer, Tammella J**  
Hurricane, UT  
12/26/17  
Defrauding an Innkeeper

**Nealis, Brian C**  
Mesquite  
12/25/17  
Domestic battery

**Ortega, Paul**  
Mesquite  
12/28/17  
Disturbing the peace/Fighting  
Possession of controlled substance

**College of Southern Nevada**  
Spring 18 - Course Schedule  
Mesquite Campus  
140 N. Yucca St. Mesquite, NV 89027  
Phone: 702-346-2485 www.csn.edu/Mesquite

	Title	Time	Dates	Instructor
<b>Monday</b>				
PSY 101	23643 General Psychology	6:00pm-8:50pm	1/22-5/7	Glen Horlacher
<b>Tuesday</b>				
COM 101	29389 Oral Communication	6:00pm-8:50pm	1/16-5/8	Aurora Galeana
CRJ 104	29335 Intro to Admin of Justice	6:00pm-8:50pm	1/16-5/8	Richard Vaccaro
<b>Wednesday</b>				
CLS 152	24361 Applied Phlebotomy	3:00pm-6:50pm	1/17-3/7	Kathy Knight
CLS 153	24364 Phlebotomy Clinical	TBD	3/14-5/9	Kathy Knight
MATH 95	30336 Elementary Algebra	6:00pm-8:50pm	1/17-5/9	Ron Crossman
<b>Thursday</b>				
NURS 130	25314 Nursing Assistant Lab	6:00pm-9:05pm	1/18-5/10	Kip Ferris
PSC 101	30338 Intro to American Politics	5:30pm-9:20pm	1/18-5/10	Rachel Dahl
<b>Friday</b>				
NURS 130	25311 Nursing Assistant Clinical	2:00pm-8:50pm	1/19-5/11	Kip Ferris

\* Contact CSN Mesquite staff for details on CLS & NURS lecture information

**Moapa Valley Campus**  
2400 S. Joseph St. Logandale, NV 89021  
Phone: 702-398-7545 www.csn.edu/Moapa

	Title	Time	Dates	Instructor
<b>Daytime</b>				
<b>Monday &amp; Wednesday</b>				
MUS 125	30403 History of Rock Music	7:00am-8:25am	1/17-5/9	Vernon Robison
<b>Tuesday &amp; Thursday</b>				
ENG 102	24292 Composition II	7:00am-8:25am	1/16-5/10	Sherri McConnell
<b>Evening</b>				
<b>Tuesday</b>				
PSY 101	29281 General Psychology	6:00pm-8:50pm	1/16-5/8	Greg Winzenried

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Mary Shurtleff and Mo Hembree of Coyote Willows presenting the funds to Beaver Dam and Bunkerville/ Mesquite Schools. The money was divided between all the schools after the arrears were paid at each school and was a nice Merry Christmas for the kids and their parents.

## Ugly sweater scramble raises funds for schools

MLN

Coyote Willows Golf Course would like to thank all the sponsors, golfers, and volunteers who made our Coyote Ugly Sweater Scramble on December 17th a success.

Coyote Willows Golf Course was able to raise \$2,211, after expenses, for the six schools in the local area of Beaver Dam, Mesquite and Bunkerville. The money paid off the arrears of all students at each school and also set up a cushion reserve plan for those students who need help with school lunches but don't qualify for the Title One Programs.

For the golf scramble, prizes were donated by local businesses: Ace Hardware, Wedgies, Los Lupes, Mesquite Gaming, Eureka Casino, Falcon Ridge Golf, City Shoppes Embroidery, Walgreens, Mesquite Auto Service, Ready Golf, Anne Stewart, Tim Lee, and Gemini Jewelers. Food was donated by Smith's Grocery. Don Sands worked hard helping us get donations and View On Magazine shared the course's story.

Final Details helped with signage. Their work was timely and beautifully done.

To raise additional money hole were sponsor by Tiffany Jacobs of Keller

Williams, Bella's Pizza, Iron Mountain Cleaners, Odessey Landscaping, Merlin Hafen of Desert Gold Realty, Geno Withelder of Premier Properties, Franon and Bojo, LLC, Court and Barbara Brailey, Beaver Dam Lodge and Golf, Mesquite Tile, Bill Mitchell of Farmers Insurance, Elk Lodge No. 2811, Dottie Evans, Bill and Marge Clare, Ron Darling, Mike and Carol Neilsen, Monta and Gary Hafen, Don and Nancy Sands, Pat and Stewart Childs, Bob and Pat Bauer, Jeff Powell, Ralph and Sandy Darling, James and Patty Banks, Joe Beauchamp, and CW Investment Group, LLC of Coyote Willows Golf Course.

Winners and prize recipients of the Coyote Ugly Sweater Golf Scramble were: 1st Place Team—Kathy Jo Bullard, Tom Bullard, Deena Neal, Jim Neal 2nd Place Team—Mike Fornengo, Julie Fornengo, Linda Nelson, Allen Nelson 3rd Place Team—Sylvia Thomas, Carole Nielsen, Mike Nielsen, and Ray Plumb KP (closest to the pin on a 3 par) for Men—Stewart Childs KP for Women—Karen Parkinson Long Drive Men—Ray Plumb

Long Drive Women—Kathy Jo Bullard Ugly Sweater 1st Place—Larry Pontuti | Most Glamorous—Susan Forsberg Most Humorous—Valerie Eccles.



Submitted photo

Coyote Willows Golf Course was able to raise \$2,211, after expenses, for the six schools in the local area of Beaver Dam, Mesquite and Bunkerville.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

## Virgin Valley goes 1-4 in Tri-State Holiday Invitational

By Lou Martin  
MLN

The Virgin Valley High School boys basketball team continued its learning process in Las Vegas Dec. 27 through 29 in the Tri-State Holiday Invitational basketball tournament against top notch opponents.

The Bulldogs finished the tourney with a 1-4 record. Their only win was 50-46 over 2A Lincoln County on Dec. 28. The Dawgs opened the tournament on Dec. 27 with a 61-53 loss to Cibola (Yuma, Arizona) High School. The Bulldogs were led by Jayden Perkins and Riley Waite with 15 and 12 points, respectively.

The Bulldogs continued their play that afternoon against a strong 4A opponent, Desert Oasis. The Dawgs came out on the short end of an 81-40 score. The Diamondbacks jumped on the Dawgs early and led 35-12 after one period and 52-20 at the break. Perkins again led the Dawgs with 18 points.

The Bulldogs continued tournament play Dec. 28 against 4A Basic, which

smothered the Dawgs with a strong defense limiting the Dawgs to only 19 points for the game and a final score of 55-19. Will Barnum had 7 points to lead the Dawgs.

The Bulldogs ended the day on a high note as they defeated 2A Lincoln County for the second time this season behind 14 points from Cade Anderson and 10 points from point guard Koden Tietjen. The Dawgs led 36-23 after three periods and held off a furious Lynx rally to win 50-46. The Lynx, coached by former Bulldog coach Sean FitzSimons, get one more chance at the Dawgs on Jan. 13 in Mesquite.

The Dawgs finished tournament play on Dec. 29 with a 56-34 loss at the hands of 4A Rancho High School. Jayson Brooks had 13 points to lead the Dawgs offense. The loss dropped the Bulldogs season record to 3-13 and 0-4 in 3A Sunrise League play.

The Dawgs open 2018 play at Pahrana-gat Valley on Jan. 4 before continuing Sunrise League play on Jan.10 hosting Sky Pointe.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Lady Dawgs finish 2017 1-3 at Gator Winter Classic

By Lou Martin  
MLN

The Virgin Valley High School girls basketball team opened the Gator Winter Classic at Green Valley High School in Henderson on Wednesday, Dec.27, against one of the top basketball squads in Nevada and came away with a re-sounding 62-15 loss to Spring Valley.

The Grizzlies led 31-6 after one period and cruised to the victory. Alexis Boatwright led the Dawgs with 6 points.

The Lady Bulldogs finished opening day play with a big win over Las Vegas High School. Taylor Barnum's 16 points led the Dawgs to a 50-21 blowout.

The Bulldogs continued tourney play

on Thursday losing to Casteel (Queen Creek, Arizona) 64-39.

The Bulldogs led by Barnum's 14 points could not stay with the Arizona squad despite two good scoring quarters.

The Bulldogs ended tournament play on Friday, Dec. 29, with a 63-52 loss to 3A Chaparral High School. Barnum had another strong game with 18 points followed by 12 points from Boatwright.

The Bulldogs start the New Year at Sky-Pointe on Wednesday, Jan. 10, and Chaparral on Friday, Jan. 12, before hosting Lincoln County on Saturday, Jan.13.

The Bulldogs ended 2017 with a 6-8 overall record and 3-1 in Sunrise League play.

### KOKOPELLI LANDSCAPING'S ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



#### Taylor Barnum

Our first Kokopelli Landscaping Athlete of the Week for 2018 is senior Taylor Barnum. Despite losing three games at the Gator Classic basketball tournament, Barnum led the Dawgs in scoring with three double digit games. Barnum is averaging 7.1 in points per game and rebounding at 7.2. Congrats to Barnum for a good weeks effort.

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# YOUR SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
						
<b>64/39</b>	<b>64/45</b>	<b>62/42</b>	<b>62/39</b>	<b>62/41</b>	<b>63/37</b>	<b>57/37</b>

## PET OF THE WEEK

### CHARLIE

WCFA's featured pet is Charlie: Charlie is about 15 months old. He is big gentle guy and loves to have his chin rubbed. Charlie is altered and current on vaccines. He is an affectionate cat and enjoys attention.

If you are interested in any of our pets, please go to [www.wecareforanimals.org](http://www.wecareforanimals.org) where you can see all of our adoptable pets and you can complete an adoption application. For more information call us at 702-346-3326 (voicemail), call Karen at 435-862-9574 or Linda at 702-376-1642. Next pet adoption is Jan. 13, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (please note we have switched to fall/winter hours) at Suite 1, 150 N. Yucca. Questions? Email us at [wcfanv@gmail.com](mailto:wcfanv@gmail.com). Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/wecareforanimalsmesquitenv](https://www.facebook.com/wecareforanimalsmesquitenv). Please call us to schedule a visit with our pets at a mutually convenient time.



### OTHER AVAILABLE PETS:

**CATS**—Toby is about 20 months old, neutered and current on his vaccines. He is declawed in front and micro chipped. Toby is now in a foster home with two other cats. He has not shared a home with dogs or small children. Toby has beautiful, large eyes and is a very handsome young feline. He is shy but is starting to come around.

Annalisa (formerly Angel) is about 6 months old, current on all vaccines and has been altered. She has small tufts on her ears and has a little goatee (beard). She is friendly and purrs easily. Annalisa has an outgoing personality and enjoys competing with Tessa for a special spot on the cat condo.

Tessa is about 15 weeks old. Tessa is current on vaccines, altered and micro chipped. She is a sweet girl, a little on the shy side at first. Tessa enjoys hanging out on the cat condo and likes playing with toys. She and Annalisa are now good friends.

**DOGS**—Casey: Casey's owner found that she wasn't spending enough time with him and wanted him to have a more active home. Not sure what breed Casey is; he has a shih tzu face but also some terrier, could be part havanese, maltese, westie. He is a super fun little guy who would make a great addition to any home! Casey is 5-6 years old, weighs 19 lbs., has soft, curly, non-shedding fur and a curly tail. He is house-trained, loves to go for walk and, rides well in the car. Casey loves everyone, kids, other dogs and cats. He is neutered, current on his shots and microchipped. You must have a fenced yard to adopt Casey. He will need to be groomed on a regular basis.

Mr. Bean (Bean) came into WCFA's foster program when his elderly owner passed. His whole life has been turned upside down and it takes Bean time to feel comfortable in new surroundings. Bean is in the process of losing the extra weight he gained in his former home. He was fed people food and was not exercised. In foster care, he receives daily walks and is losing weight. He now has about 5 lbs to lose. He loves riding in a car and enjoys his walks. Once Bean is comfortable in his new surroundings, he is a sweet and awesome dog who will love to be with his person. Bean is 8-1/2 years, house-trained with a dog door, neutered, current on his vaccines, microchipped and is in very good health.

## Balloon pilots seeking volunteers for morning balloon launches

Mesquite Gaming, owner of Casablanca Resort and Virgin River Hotel, will host the seventh annual Mesquite Balloon Festival Friday, Jan. 26, through Sunday, Jan. 28.

From wonderous hot air balloon launches each morning to impressive night glows, the Balloon Festival is fun for the entire family all weekend long. The event is in need of volunteers to assist the balloon pilots with their morning launches.

To register as a volunteer or for more information including a complete schedule of events visit [casablancaresort.com](http://casablancaresort.com).

"Mesquite Balloon Festival is not just for fun for the spectators but for all involved and we work hard to ensure everyone has a memorable experience," said Christian Adderson, corporate sales manager for Mesquite Gaming. "Each year, we see more and more balloons and increased attendance and we look forward to our continued growth with another great event this month."

The Mesquite Balloon Festival kicks off at 7:30 a.m. each morning with a balloon launch at the Oasis parking lot.

The event also features "candlestick glows" nightly at 6 p.m. where the balloons create an extraordinary light show and includes a champagne tasting inside the Casablanca Resort's Skydome Lounge on Saturday at 4 p.m.

Mesquite Gaming is seeking volunteers to assist with the morning balloon launches. Volunteers are essential to the successful operation of the event.

Volunteers are needed Friday, Jan. 26 through Sunday, Jan. 28 and volunteer opportunities include Friday, Saturday or Sunday morning launches or all three days. Volunteers must wear jeans, closed-toed shoes and warm clothes and, while pilots do their best to provide rides for volunteers, rides are not guaranteed.

For more information, questions or to register as a volunteer, call 888-711-4653, email [sales@mesquitegaming.com](mailto:sales@mesquitegaming.com) or register online at [casablancaresort.com](http://casablancaresort.com).

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**Jan. 4, 1911:** Alfred Frehner is building a very neat two room house here. It will be built of lumber. There are now twenty families in and close to Littlefield.

**Jan. 6, 1909:** Washington County News: The flood came down the Fort Pierce Wash at the same time exceeded in volume the flood in the Virgin River, and the roaring could be distinctly heard five miles away. Big as the combined water from the Virgin River, Santa Clara Creek and the Fort pierce Wash was, yet it was exceeded by the volume by the flood that came down the Beaverdam wash so the river assumed a terrible aspect by the time it reached Littlefield, Bunkerville and Mesquite and other

down river settlements doing a great amount of damage.

**Jan. 7, 1916:** Mrs. Henry Frehner spent the holidays in Bunkerville.

**Jan. 12, 1912:** Mr. Torsen was here during the fore part of the week, representing a company that expects to build a dam up in the "narrows" of the Virgin near Littlefield AZ. If the plan works there will be thousands of acres of land to to be got and will be a good place for home seekers.

**Jan. 12, 1916:** Our school is closed on account of the teacher being on the sick list. Farmers are busy cleaning and plowing land getting ready for spring. The mountains are covered with snow and the river is very high.

## SENIOR CENTER MENU

**Thursday, Jan. 4:** BBQ chicken, potato salad, spinach, corn-on-the-cob w/ margarine, bread w/ apple butter, banana

**Friday, Jan. 5:** Fish & Chips, coleslaw, three bean salad, blueberry scones

**Monday, Jan. 8:** Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables,

peaches

**Tuesday, Jan. 9:** Chicken & vegetable noodle soup, homemade roll w/margarine, salad, fruit yogurt

**Wednesday, Jan. 10:** Sweet-n-sour pork, brown rice pilaf, steamed cauliflower, salad, WW bread w/margarine, peaches



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Submitted photo

The Mesquite-Toes Tap Team has scheduled classes beginning Jan. 8.

## Mesquite-Toes tapping into 2018

MLN

After finishing 2017 with a successful Christmas Benefit Show, the Mesquite-Toes Tap Team is poised to improve upon their show with new classes and dances. The Christmas Benefit Show raised more than \$2,000 for each of the local charities, which were “Shop with a Cop” program and Mesquite Cancer Help Society.

Starting on Monday, Jan. 8, classes for all four tap teams plus a tap technical steps instruction, two clogging teams, two jazz teams, and the musical theater group will begin. The experienced Mesquite-Toes instructors are able to teach anyone whether you are male or female or you have experience or not. New this year is a clogging technical steps instruc-

tional class presented by our certified instructor, Debbie Miller

To check for a class schedule for times please refer to the web site [www.mesquitetoestapteam.com](http://www.mesquitetoestapteam.com). All classes are held at the studio, which is located at the Mesquite Campus Room No. 35 on 150 N. Yucca St. and the cost is minimal. Any new dancer can participate without having to purchase shoes since the studio has many to use if needed or you can dance in your socks!

All of these spring classes are working toward a fantastic annual Dance Spectacular. The Dance Spectacular performances are Friday, April 20, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 21, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. All performances will be at the Mesquite Community Theater, located at 150 N. Yucca St.

## Rare lunar eclipse coming

By Dave Maxwell  
Lincoln County Record

People throughout the United States were excited to see the total eclipse of the sun in 2017.

And while the U.S. won't be getting as good a look at that again until 2024, parts of the country will be able to see a rare lunar eclipse in 2018, and it happens in Nevada during the month of January — Jan. 31 to be exact.

Early that morning, about 3:45 a.m., a total eclipse of the moon will occur.

What makes this eclipse so special according to astronomers writing in Space.com, is that it will happen during a Blue Moon, or the second full moon of the month. Two full moons in a given month is noteworthy in itself. But this Blue Moon coupled with the lunar eclipse has not happened visible over the U.S. since 1866 and the next one will not occur until 2028.

Space.com reports that not everyone in the United States will get to see it in full, but Alaska, Hawaii and northwest Canada will, weather permitting. In Nevada, residents should see at least part of the eclipse, again depending on weather conditions that morning. More eastern parts of North and Central America will have a shorter show. The eclipse begins at 3:48 a.m.

The first full moon of the month happened Jan. 2.

As reported in many well-known encyclopedias a lunar eclipse can occur only the night of a full moon. The type and length of an eclipse depend upon the Moon's location relative to its orbital nodes.

A total lunar eclipse has the direct sunlight completely blocked by the earth's shadow. The only light seen is refracted through the earth's shadow. This light looks red for the same reason that the sunset looks red, due to rayleigh scattering of the more blue light. Because of its reddish color, a total lunar eclipse is sometimes called a blood moon.

Christopher Columbus is said to once have used the prediction of a total lunar eclipse on February 29, 1504, to frighten the natives of Jamaica where he and his crew had landed and had taken the liberty of eating a great deal of the inhabitants' food and the natives refused to give them any more.

Columbus, with his advanced knowledge of lunar patterns, threatened to take the moon away if his demands were not met. During the eclipse, the natives begged Columbus to bring the moon back in its full form, and he agreed if food would be provided for his crew. The next day, the inhabitants gave Columbus and his crew the food they desired.

## Don't let timeshare become a trap

Timeshares are an extremely common form of property ownership in Nevada, which is not surprising given how important tourism and vacations are to Nevada's economy.

For some people, timeshares can be an excellent vacation option; however, for others they can become a major financial pitfall.

Knowing legally what a timeshare is, and what your obligations are going to be once you purchase a timeshare, can help you decide whether a timeshare is right for you.

First and foremost, a timeshare is a form of real estate ownership whereby many different people own portions of a property, usually divided up by weekly rights of occupancy.

These ownership rights are called “fractional” interests. Thus, when you purchase a timeshare you will receive (once you've paid off any mortgage on your timeshare) a deed of ownership just like you would for any other real estate.

If you borrow money to purchase your timeshare interest you will likely enter into a mortgage agreement whereby the lender will take a deed of trust on your timeshare until you pay it off in full.

So far so good; however, as is often the case, the devil is often in the details for a timeshare.

First, your timeshare may have an owner's association which, like any other owner's association may charge maintenance fees which you will have to pay as long as you own your timeshare.

Second, because a timeshare is a fractional ownership interest, unlike normal property, it can be very difficult to sell a timeshare.



CLIFF GRAVETT  
ON FINANCE

Often the only way to get out from under annual timeshare maintenance fees is to give the timeshare away.

The final and most important thing to know about timeshares is that since they are not a primary residence (i.e., the place you live most of the time), if you default on the mortgage used to pay for the timeshare, in addition to losing your timeshare, you may also be subject to a deficiency judgment for the unpaid amount on your mortgage.

Because Nevada's anti-deficiency statute only protects people from deficiencies connected to mortgages on a primary residence, there is no protection if you are unable to pay off the loan on your timeshare.

My advice to clients considering a purchase of a timeshare is that they approach it with the same seriousness and consideration they would approach any other real estate purchase.

It may be the right thing for your family, but oftentimes it isn't. You wouldn't buy a house from someone just because they bought you a free steak dinner would you?

The same should go for timeshare purchases.

Clifford Gravett lives in Mesquite and is an attorney with Bingham Snow & Caldwell. He is licensed to practice in Nevada, Arizona and Utah. He can be reached at (702) 346-7300, [cliff@binghamsnow.com](mailto:cliff@binghamsnow.com), or 840 Pinnacle Court, Suite 202 in Mesquite.



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### VIRGIN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Directors of the Virgin Valley Water District (District) held a Public Hearing on proposed increases to water rates and System Development Charges (formally known as impact fees) at the District's regular meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2017.



The Board approved the increases unanimously with Nephi Julien, Barbara Ellestad and Ben Davis voting for the increases. Board members Richard Bowler and Travis Anderson were absent.

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# Remove the rubbish: A New Year's Resolution

The cheetah is the fastest animal on earth. It literally reaches speeds of 70 MPH. But it has a problem; it can't sustain that speed for long. That's because of its disproportionately small heart. If it doesn't catch its prey in the first burst of speed, it will abandon the chase.

Many people take the cheetah approach to life. They enter into marriage, parenting, careers, friendships, even faith and the church with great energy and exhilaration. What happens, however, is that they lack the heart to sustain the effort necessary to the end.

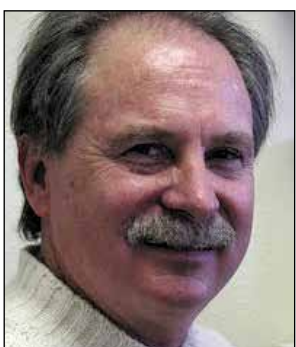
When the children of Israel were rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem, it says half-way through the effort they became discouraged and were ready to quit. The reason: too much rubbish.

"The people in Judah said, 'The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.'" (Nehemiah 4:10)

When the Babylonians defeated Jerusalem they tore down the wall so no one would ever be able to build or defend the city. And so they had a huge trash heap to deal with, and half way through the project, when they looked at the pile of rubbish, in their eyes it really hadn't diminished one bit.

We have a similar rubbish problem today. We begin with great expectations, but after a while the problems and difficulties seem to be more than when we started. And if we don't remove the rubbish and get down to the foundation stone of life, then the walls of our lives will come tumbling down.

This rubbish represents things like unre-



**DENNIS LEE**  
RELIGION

alistic expectations, hatred, jealousy, bitterness, deceit, and pride, to name a few. And whatever we build on top of these will eventually fall. So what's needed is a thorough cleaning.

Such a cleaning only comes through confession and repentance. So this New Year let's resolve not to work harder, but rather to start cleaning up the rubbish in our lives.

### HAVE A GREAT NEW YEAR

As you start out this New Year, here are two verses to help start it out right.

"Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:18-19)

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11).

Have a Great New Year. God Bless  
If you can use the second please do, but if not enough room no problems.  
Have a great day and great new year

# CALENDAR

The **Bureau of Land Management requests public input** for a Revised Draft Southern Nevada District Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.

The BLM has determined that a Revised Draft RMP/EIS should be developed and an opportunity for public input is needed to gather additional information on the areas of renewable energy, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, lands with wilderness characteristics, land tenure adjustments (land disposals), Gold Butte National Monument, and socio-economics.

Opportunity to provide input is offered to Mesquite residents on Wednesday, Jan. 10, at Mesquite City Hall.

During this period, the BLM will conduct a public meeting to present information and provide for the opportunity for public input. The Revised Draft RMP/EIS will incorporate substantive comments received from the initial Draft RMP/EIS and information received from the public input period and meetings.

The public information meetings will be held from 5 - 8 p.m. on the day of each scheduled meeting. The meetings will begin with an open house format where participants can ask questions and visit various resource stations, with formal presentations at 5:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. The public will be able to verbally provide information beginning at 7 p.m. with a three-minute time limit. Court reporters will be available to record verbally-provided information.

In addition to the public meetings, you may provide information through one of the methods listed below:

- E-mail: [sndo\\_rmp\\_revision@blm.gov](mailto:sndo_rmp_revision@blm.gov)
- Fax: (702) 515-5023
- Mail: BLM Southern Nevada District Office, Southern Nevada District RMP Revision, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130

Updated information on the Revised Draft RMP will be available at <https://go.usa.gov/xnBqm>.

Remember to send all of your 2018 activities to [terin.bbm@gmail.com](mailto:terin.bbm@gmail.com) so we can let the community know what you've got going on. Please put "Community Calendar" in the subject line so your event notice doesn't get lost in cyberspace.

### THURSDAY, JAN. 4

**Sunrise Rotary Club**  
Where: Scotty's Restaurant, 1024 Normandy Ln.  
When: 7:15-8:15 a.m.  
Info: [maryc@ntcnv.com](mailto:maryc@ntcnv.com)  
**Kids Steam**  
Where: Mesquite Library, 121 W. First North St.  
When: 4 p.m.  
Info: 702-346-5224

### FRIDAY, JAN. 5

**Story Time 0-5 year olds**  
Where: Mesquite Library, 121 W. First North St.  
When: 11 a.m.-noon  
**Teen Scene**  
Where: Mesquite Library, 121 W. First North St.  
When: 3:30 p.m.  
Info: 702-346-5224

### SATURDAY, JAN. 6

**Adult Movie Matinee**  
Where: Mesquite Library, 121 W. First North St.  
When: noon  
Info: 702-346-5224

### MONDAY, JAN. 8

**AARP Driver's Safety Course**  
Where: Mesquite Senior Center, 102 W. Old Mill Road  
When: 12:30-4:30 p.m.  
Info: 702-346-8732  
**Adult Coloring Club**  
Where: Mesquite Library, 121 W. First North St.  
When: 1-2 p.m.  
Info: 702-346-5224  
**Bereavement Group**  
Where: Mesquite Library, 121 W. First North St.  
When: 5-6:30 p.m.  
Info: 702-346-5224

### TUESDAY, JAN. 9

**Toddler Story Time**  
Where: Mesquite Library, 121 W. First North St.  
When: 10 a.m.  
Info: 702-346-5224  
**Mystery Book Club**  
Where: Mesquite Library, 121 W. First North St.  
When: 11 a.m.  
Info: 702-346-5224  
**Rotary Club**  
Where: Nevada Bank and Trust, 599 W. Mesquite Blvd.  
When: noon  
Info: 702-346-5762  
**E-Book Download Class**  
Where: Mesquite Library, 121 W. First North St.  
When: 1-2:30 p.m.  
Info: 702-346-5224  
**Caregiver's Support Group**  
Where: Mesquite Library, 121 W. First North St.  
When: 2 p.m.  
Info: 702-346-5224  
**4-H for Kids**  
Where: Mesquite Library, 121 W. First North St.  
When: 4 p.m.  
Info: 702-346-5224  
**City Council Meeting**  
Where: City Hall, 10 E. Mesquite Blvd.  
When: 5-7 p.m.  
Info: [www.mesquitenv.gov](http://www.mesquitenv.gov)

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10

**Preschool Story Time**  
Where: Mesquite Library, 121 W. First North St.  
When: 10 a.m.  
Info: 702-346-5224  
**Computer Basics Class**  
Where: Mesquite Library, 121 W. First North St.  
When: 1-2:30 p.m.  
Info: 702-346-5224  
**BLM Public Input Forum**  
Where: City Hall, 10 E. Mesquite Blvd.  
When: 5-8 p.m.  
Info: 702-515-5046  
**Mesquite Republican Women**  
Where: Mesquite Veteran's Center, 840 Hafan Ln.  
When: 5:30-7 p.m.  
Info: 702-346-3804

**Service Times**  
Sunday Morning 10 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 6 p.m.

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## Mesquite Lutheran Church

450 Turtleback Rd. • 702-346-5811 • [MesquiteLutheran.org](http://MesquiteLutheran.org)

### Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m.

An LCMS Congregation. Learn more at [www.lcms.org/belief-and-practice](http://www.lcms.org/belief-and-practice)

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## Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Pastor Travis E. Lauterbach

**Worship Service** Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
*The Lord's Supper is celebrated the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month*

**Bible Study** Tuesday 4:00 p.m.

**Women of Life** Thursday 10:00 a.m.

**Bible Study** Thursday 3:00 p.m.

The mission of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is to preach, teach, and witness the Gospel of Jesus Christ, administer the Sacraments, and give glory and honor to the Triune God.

**350 Falcon Ridge Pkwy, Bldg 600**  
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## BLESSINGS TO ALL IN 2018

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