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Your Local Source For Mesquite Business, People & News

FEBRUARY 2024 | VOL. 4, NO. 9

FREE

Getting Around



Dustin Berg's new book gives readers a view of what Mesquite has to offer, and how it got that way. SEE STORY, PAGE 12

INSIDE: Mayor's Column, PAGE 6 | Senior Games, PAGE 10

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MESQUITE MONTHLY

Your Local Source
For Mesquite Business,
People & News

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NEWS AND NOTES

MEETING COMBINES POLITICS AND VALENTINE'S

This Valentine's Day, forget the roses and chocolates (well, actually, keep the chocolates!) and head over to the Mesquite Veterans Center for a hilariously unconventional Mesquite Republicans Women's Club meeting, "Love and Politics"!

Doors open at 5 p.m. on Feb. 14 at 840 Hafen Lane, Mesquite. This event is open to all the lovebirds and lone eagles of the Republican community. Whether you're single and ready to debate or a couple who bonds over bills and ballots, this is the place for you on Valentine's Day.

And who better to host our political parody of the "Newlywed Game" than Chuck Muth, the man behind Citizen Outreach Foundation and the notorious Pig Pen Project, known for cleaning up Nevada's voter rolls.

Muth's wit and wisdom will guide

our contestants through a series of hilariously revealing political questions. It's like a first date interrogation but with more laughs and less awkward silence.

But wait, there's more! Along with our game show shenanigans, enjoy wine, drinks, cheese, and yes, those aforementioned chocolates. It's a chance for Mesquite's Republicans to mingle, chuckle, and maybe even learn a thing or two about each other's political prowess. "Love & Politics" isn't just a Valentine's Day party; it's a celebration of our shared love for politics and good, clean fun.

So, whether you're flying solo or with your conservative counterpart, join us for an evening where love, laughter, and a little bit of political leg-pulling come together in the most entertaining way possible!

PS The winners will take home a trophy and maybe even some prizes

20TH ANNUAL HEART WALK SLATED FOR FEB. 9

Healthy Heart month is February, let's make up for some lost time. The City of Mesquite Athletics & Leisure Services Department and Mesa View Regional Hospital invite you to join us for the 20th Annual "Mesquite Heart Walk."

The 5K (3.2 miles) walk begins at the Mesquite Recreation Center West field at 9 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 9. Registration begins at 8 a.m. at the Mesquite Recreation Center West Field. From 8 a.m. until a few minutes before the walk, we will have registration and a small warm up for the participants, sponsored by the Life Long Program outside on the field depending on registration levels.

The walk ends at the main entrance to Mesa View Regional Hos-

> See **BRIEFS**, Page 4



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Briefs

continued from Page 3

pital where there will be nutritious and hydrating snacks, valuable educational materials on heart health and heart attack signs and symptoms!

Everyone is invited and there is no cost to participants, donations are welcome.

Transportation back to the Mesquite Recreation Center will be provided by the Silver Rider Bus Company at no charge. Rides back will begin at 9:45 a.m. and will run until 11:30 a.m.

For more information about the heart walk please call the City of Mesquite Leisure Services Department 702-346-8732 or Rob Fuller from Mesa View Regional Hospital at 702-345-4244.

For more information about this event and other programs please download the app, it's available for iOS or Android devices at <http://tour.mesquitenv.gov/>. Download it today and discover more of Mesquite!

MAMMOVAN SLATED TO VISIT MESQUITE LIBRARY ON FEB. 12

The Nevada Health Center's Mammovan will visit Mesquite on Feb. 12 between 7:40 a.m. and 3:20 p.m. at the Mesquite Library's Learning Center, 121 W. First North St.

The Mammovan is a not-for-profit mobile imaging unit that has been offering state-of-the-art mammograms all across the State of Nevada for over 22 years.

Women age 40 and over may have a screening mammogram without a physician referral. Women 39 and under, and men of all ages, must provide a physician referral at the time of service.

The Mammovan accepts most major commercial insurances (patients should verify prior to scheduling to assure the Mammovan is in Network), Medicaid, Medicare, Women's Health Connection (WHC) for women 50+ (must provide a physician referral at the time of service). Patients with no insurance, may qualify for a no-cost screening

through the generosity of private donors, Corporate Sponsors and Foundations who support our Mission in the fight against breast cancer.

The Mammovan is a certified mobile imaging facility, and like your PCP visits, patients are required to bring the following at the time of their appointment:

Must provide proof of State of Nevada residency: Current & valid government issued photo ID i.e. Nevada drivers license/Passport

Utility bills with patients name
Payroll voucher

If patient lives out of state, but medical insurance is issued through a Nevada employer, they can be screened on the Mammovan

Current insurance card, if applicable

Name, phone number, and fax number of their Primary Care Physician (PCP)

Patients must arrive 15 minutes prior to scheduled appointment

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Visit the website <https://www.nevadahealthcenters.org/mammography> for more information.

LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION UNDER WAY AT REC CENTER

Registration for Little League baseball and softball runs through Feb. 24.

Cost is \$70 for first child and \$5 off for any additional children in the family. Age groups run from 8-14 for baseball and softball. Financial assistance is also available by contacting kidsforsportsfoundation.org.

Skills day is Feb. 24 at Hunter Sports Park, 500 E. Mesquite Blvd. For registration questions, please contact the Rec Center at 702-346-8732.

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FROM THE MAYOR

Dream of homeownership these days requires creativity

By Al Litman

A few weeks ago, I had several guests from Nevada Rural Housing Authority on my Monday morning video that I do weekly. I brought them on because without a local television station, or radio, or for that matter, a local newspaper that is exclusive to Mesquite, it's really difficult to get important information out to the public.



I avoid social media for that purpose, especially Facebook for obvious reasons. There are so many programs offered by this agency that could benefit many of our residents or those wishing to move here, that I thought I would brief you on one this month, and more later on.

Home ownership has become just a dream for so many. With rising prices and interest rates, so many of our young, working people are priced out of the housing market. They may have decent earnings, but the down payment is nearly impossible to obtain.

With the average home price in Mesquite at around \$350,000, a

normal down payment would be \$70,000, and an additional nearly ten per cent in closing costs.

In fact I just read that 71 percent of millennials have saved zero towards a down payment of a home. When I look back, I recall nearly every one I knew was able to gather the down payment and closing costs for a home. It wasn't easy, but certainly not impossible, and we, and our friends were not financially well off.

However, there are programs available to assist prospective buyers in Nevada, and one of them is called, Home At Last. The program has helped thousands of families of all ages since it started in 2006. It allows a generous income maximum, no first time buyer requirement, and customizable loan options.

Now, you may hear about loan programs that are not on the up and up, as the expression goes, but this is not one of them. It's the real thing. I won't go into details, but they offer FHA loans with 3.5% down, and others with zero down.

Of course, all borrowers must meet normal loan underwriting requirements for the type of financing being used to purchase the home. Down payment assistance provided by the Home At Last program can

> See **MAYOR**, Page 11



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Search & Rescue fund-raiser to take place in Mesquite

By Breven Honda

In the last decade, the Mohave County Sheriff's Department's Search and Rescue group has grown and elevated themselves to have over 100 volunteers and reach non-profit status in northwest Arizona.

Now they are looking to take the step, hoping to increase their community outreach, including in nearby Mesquite, which is one of their four strip units that extends to the surrounding areas outside of Mohave County.

On March 9, the SAR Mesquite strip unit will hold a private event fund-raisers called, "Search for Gold Auction & Dinner," at the Mesquite Elks Lodge to help build awareness to the community and upgrade resources in order to save those in a time of crisis.

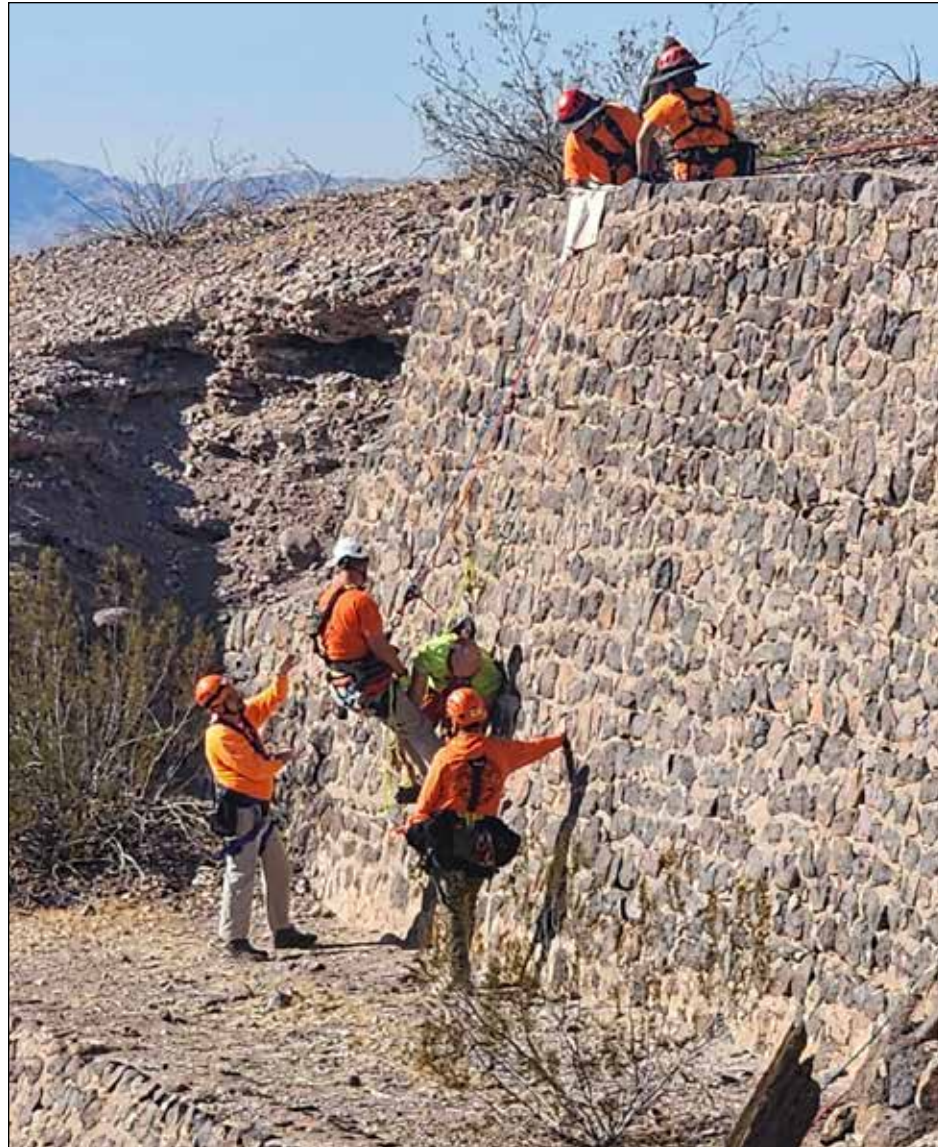
"We want to present a program so this will be an educational event as well," said Ellen Middleton, who is serving on the fund-raising committee. "We have a powerful video of some actual rescues and training. This really highlights the need for the proper training and equipment so that our unit can safely rescue and respond."

The planning, which started in October, has had to be in a fast-paced mode because the committee only has five months to prepare the fund-raiser, compared to having a desired 12 months.

As a result, Middleton said her team has needed to adapt to the pressure of not having an extra seven months to prepare.

Part of the planning of the event will also include search and rescue volunteers in attendance to continue the awareness of what goes into the process of saving victims, whether it is through the swift water rescues from rivers or flash floods, or even their rescues in the air or technical rescues with ropes.

The event registration is currently online for \$50 tickets that will feature a plated tri-tip dinner and only



available to 84 total seats. The festivities, which begin at 5 p.m. with the doors opening, will include a raffle as well as both a live and silent auction.

Middleton said having less than 100 tickets for the event allows the planning committee to be able to expand on this event in years to come.

"Since it's grassroots, we want to keep it small because they want to get it right and we do plan to grow the event for the future," Middleton said.

Every dollar that is donated that night will go directly to the Mohave County Search and Rescue Strip for necessary equipment and supplies.

In addition to the search and res-

cue volunteers helping out with the event, members from the Mesquite community will also be in attendance and have a role in the fund-raiser. Mesquite Mayor Al Litman will be the Master of Ceremonies and the Mesquite Café Blues Band will provide entertainment. Litman will also hold the live auction aspect and the Mesquite Show Girls will be selling raffle tickets.

Middleton and the committee are also reaching out to local businesses to support the fund-raiser with potential prizes for the raffle and auctions.

Some of the donations the fund-raising committee has received for the raffle and auctions include art-

work, theatre tickets, golf packages to various local courses, gift certificates to local salons and restaurants, RZR rentals from Virgin River Adventure as well as hotel giveaways.

Having the community involvement for the fund-raiser has been a huge part in building the foundation of the success to organize the festivities.

"It's so wonderful to know that our community has a heart to serve," Middleton said. "I moved here in 2020 and I have a volunteer heart for fund-raising events to benefit others. Fortunately, I've made some wonderful connections and friendships since we moved here, and these wonderful people have all answered the call to help join the committee.

"Their expertise is really driving this."

Middleton's husband, John, recently joined the Strip Unit in Mesquite in December after being a member of the Snohomish County Search and Rescue group in Everett, Wash.

That is how Middleton heard about the fund-raiser and her path to helping out in the coordination of the event.

Middleton realized how much support these helpers need to do their part to be as prepared as possible when crisis does arise.

"I found out the command center's right here at the Mesquite airport and that is completely 100% volunteers, their funding, their own training, their own equipment," Middleton said. "It's really an amazing group.

"They can minimize suffering and save lives. That is why we're standing to support them."

Mohave County is the fifth largest county in the mainland United States as the Search and Rescue units cover a combined 200,000 square miles of diverse terrain from forested mountains, dry deserts, canyons and rivers, including the Colorado River, with the potential for extreme temperatures throughout the year.



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Mesquite Senior Games preparing for '24 spring slate

By Breven Honda

The spring schedule for the 2024 Mesquite Senior Games begins next month with events lined up and registration open for participants.

There are more than a dozen sports and events that the Mesquite Senior Games Board of Directors is preparing this spring, which begins on March 2 with Table Tennis.

As planning is ongoing, Mesquite Senior Games President Sandy Tudor said she is hoping the spring games will run smoothly and a lot of people will compete and attend each event, including those making their first appearance.

"I expect them to go really well," Tudor said on Jan. 25. "I expect a lot of participants and I really think we'll get a lot of first-time participants."

Registration opened on Jan. 22 and after two hours, there were nearly 50 spots that had been filled, including about half of those spots taken up between the target pistol and shotgun sports event.

This is the first year Tudor does not have the interim tag to her presidency, however it is also the first year the five new board members are contributing as board members to the spring games since joining last June.

Tudor said the planning for this year's spring games between the newer board members with the more experienced ones has been smooth as they are stepping up.

"It's been awesome. (Marge Mongolo) is going to be the director for table tennis," Tudor said. "(Kara Myers) has been sitting at our storage for the last two days taking the old ribbons off and getting ready

to put the new ribbons on (for the medals). It's huge that somebody has the time to do that. (Jim Armstrong) is the event director for target pistol and shotgun sports. He went and met with the venues and worked everything out with them."

Joining Mongolo and Armstrong as an event director among the new board members also includes Krista Kilpatrick, who will be leading the basketball skills event.

As a result of new personnel stepping up into event director roles, it has opened the time for Tudor and Sports Director Shaun Edwards to tackle any other possible problems that may pop up, including within their own events that they are both leading.

Tudor is the event director for softball while Edwards is leading poker, pickleball, golf and cornhole.

"He works directly with the event directors at each event," Tudor said of Edwards' proactiveness. "He's what keeps me sane because he handles the actual sport, making sure we have what we need, you know, ordering ping pong balls and that kind of stuff, so that we've got the equipment that we need for all of the events."

This spring, there are some new things to the schedule while other events are making their return.

One of those events making their return to the spring schedule include having a tennis skills challenge for the first time in a few years, which will be led by Mongolo and Duane Catania.

"We haven't had it in the last four years, but we have tennis now," Tudor said of tennis making its

> See BOWLING, Page 11



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2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Table Tennis	March 2	History Tour	March 25
Bowling	March 9-10	Golf Events	April 2
Fitness Hike #1	March 12	Shotgun & Target Pistol	April 5
Poker	March 12	Softball Women's 50, 55, 60	April 6-7
Pickleball	March 13-15	Softball Women's 65+	April 9-10
Basketball Skills	March 16	Fitness Hike #2	April 12
Tennis Senior Challenge	March 18-22	Cornhole	April 20
Track & Field	March 23	Bocce	April 22-25



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Complete Spring Season information available on our website.
Please visit our website for additional information on volunteer opportunities.

Scan to visit our website for more details

*Dates are subject to change.
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Games

continued from Page 8

return. “It’s going to be at the Hafen tennis courts. It’s a four-day event but you only play when you want. (Catania) has done this quite a bit in the past and he runs a format where you sign up to play three, four or five matches, and then it is scored at the end.”

In addition to having tennis, there will be not one, but two fitness hikes this year.

The fitness hikes, which are led by Clint Bostwick, gives an increased opportunity for participants to go on a four-mile walk that will showcase the scenery of both the desert and canyon areas in Mesquite while getting in some exercise.

“Clint, who runs our fitness hikes, said he wants to showcase Mesquite more and he thinks if we do it on two different days, we’ll have more people,” Tudor said.

As registration is ongoing this month and leading into each event, the Mesquite Senior Games are also looking for volunteers for each sport.

Tudor said the event directors need the assistance from the volunteers in order to have a success-

ful event, even for the smallest of things.

Whether it is keeping score for each game within an event or even checking people off as they arrive, the volunteers play a vital role.

“It’s critical. Beth Caplinger, who is our volunteer coordinator, does a fabulous job of finding people who want to help with the game,” Tudor said. “What we’re trying to do is make sure we get the word out there. All of our flyers has a little blurb on the bottom. It’s even on the schedule of events that says we’re always looking for volunteers, and you can go to the website and there’s a place on there to sign up as a volunteer.”

As the month February progresses and people continue to sign up, Tudor understands the community support Mesquite provides to center its vision for the upcoming games, whether it is the Virgin River Lanes for the bowling event or the city’s recreation center for the table tennis, basketball skills and cornhole events.

“Our mission is to provide healthy activities to the seniors and that’s those 50 and above in the City of Mesquite and to provide some economic impact to the city as well,” Tudor said.

Mayor

continued from Page 6

be used to cover all or a portion of the down payment required for your loan, and even for closing costs.

Yes, there are program details such as income limits, debt to income ratio, minimum credit score, but no requirement to be a current Nevada resident to qualify for the program, but you must occupy the home as your primary residence within 60 days of closing.

Nevada rural housing has other programs to offer that I will bring up in the coming months. Nevada

Rural Housing Authority will soon be opening up their Hafen Village Apartments. I have previewed them, and they are beautiful and with many amenities for their residents.

Financially, you have to qualify for these units, and if you contact the Nevada Rural Housing Authority you can get the details. Drive by the complex located just past the Mesquite Veterans Center on Hafen Lane, and you can get the needed contact numbers from the posted signage.

Al Litman is mayor of the city of Mesquite.



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Book dives into Mesquite history for readers to learn and enjoy

By Breven Honda

The town of Mesquite is home to a lot of history long before Nevada became a state in 1864.

Flash forward nearly 160 years later, Dustin Berg was able to encapsulate the town into a nearly 200-page book, from its growing population to the evolution of the terrain for those to explore on a normal day either during the week or on the weekend.

In November, “All Around Mesquite: History, Trails & Destinations,” was published and provides a “comprehensive guide” to the area.

“I really wanted something that summarizes all the various things that are happening here outdoors and even in the community, as far as events and history,” Berg said on Jan. 26.

Berg arrived in Mesquite in 2019 after moving from the Pacific Northwest after having a background in graphic design and marketing.

He had ideas of opening up a restaurant or a brew pub until that was scratched due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

As a result, Berg had time and options as to where he was going to pivot.

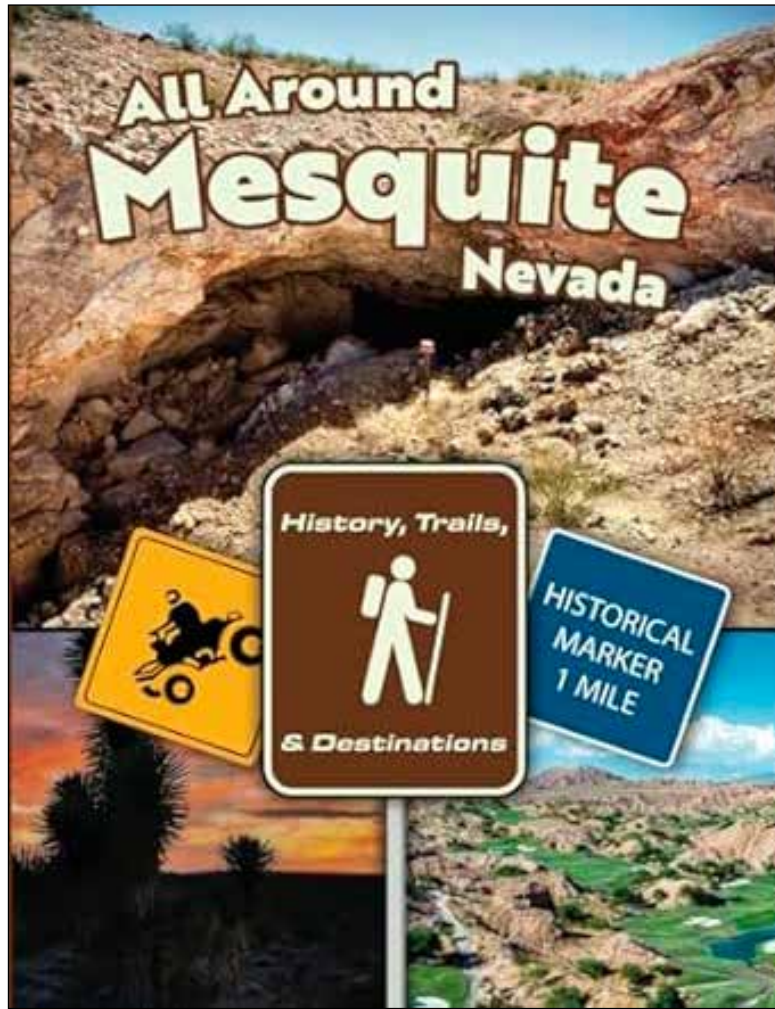
During the time of the pandemic, he still had the vision of opening a business with the history of Mesquite until he was able to deepen his understanding of the town and had a realization, shifting that mentality.

“It just occurred to me that somebody should write about all this stuff because I’d hear stories and it’s like, ‘Wow, that really happened here,’” Berg said. “Some of its bizarre, some of its really cool, some of its controversial. I thought it would be really valuable for somebody that is relatively new to the area to learn about the history but also there’s people that have lived here a long time and unless you get out and explore, you still don’t really know what’s out there.”

That was the moment he realized he wanted to write the book and for a 12-month period, he discovered Mesquite and the surrounding areas to the town, including Clark County, the tri-state area of Utah and Arizona as well as cities of Moapa Valley and St. George of how those cities effected Mesquite.

As result of traveling the city and discovering information, Berg said he was blown away by how the region was shaped.

“I learned a lot,” Berg said of his findings. “It’s also just really, really rich in the history and the ruggedness of the settlers that really



developed this area. It’s amazing that only a few generations ago, they were living out here in the desert, without air conditioning and working all day in the heat.

“I read a story of one of the old settler families. They wouldn’t wear shoes outside of the summer and their feet were as rough as leather and it’s amazing that we’ve come a long way from that. I don’t want to lose sight of what struggles they had to go through to develop this area into what it is today.”

He was able to discover not only the glitz and glam of the town, but also the challenges people faced in Mesquite and the surrounding areas, such as high temperatures in the desert.

“As you go back through history, you see that ‘OK, they dealt with flooding and they dealt with sanitary issues and they dealt with heat and diet, dehydration,’” Berg said. “A lot of people died to this region, and it’s a really beautiful region. It’s rewarding, but it takes a lot of hard work to live here.”

Being able to explore the region was Berg’s

favorite part during the writing process as he was able to dive into the endless history in southeastern Nevada, especially during his numerous trips down to the heritage museum.

However, some of the more difficult moments for Berg also included the need for accuracy of the information, both in receiving it and passing it along to his eventual readers.

“Definitely the biggest challenge is trying to keep things organized, focused and factual,” he said. “I mean, there’s so many pieces of information and rumors and a lot of it can’t be verified. It’s anecdotal because families have passed on, so a lot of this history doesn’t really have eyewitness accounts or anything like that. So, trying to keep it all organized was definitely a struggle.”

Since the book was released in November, it was also an opportunity to be a holiday gift during December and into the new year for potential birthday gifts as well.

Berg has also received a lot of encouraging feedback, including positive reactions to going out and exploring Mesquite even more as

it even garnered No. 1 bestseller recognition on Amazon.

“A lot of people are excited. I’ve got a Facebook group that’s growing very big, and people are free to share pictures and stories on there,” Berg said. “It’s been overwhelmingly positive. People are excited to learn about what’s out there. They’re like, ‘Wow, I didn’t know all this was out there. Maybe I should go.’”

He has some new ideas on what his next book could be about, but the business aspect is not a foregone conclusion with opportunities there as well. There are many avenues Berg can go do for his next step.

Ultimately, Berg said it has been a privilege being able to put the book together for those learning about Mesquite for the first time or even the locals to understand more about the city they live in.

“I just appreciate the chance to talk about it,” Berg said. “I’m grateful to the community for the feedback I’ve gotten and just happy to be here.”

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To have your event listed in this calendar, please email mesquitemonthly@gmail.com or call 775-316-2335.

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS

Ages 0-5 Storytime: 10 a.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. A wide variety of books, songs and participatory activities will be shared for young children and their parents. Music will be a strong component. 702-346-5224. Library closed on Feb. 19

Coloring for Adults: 1-2 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Join for a relaxing session of coloring intricate and meditative designs of various artists. Info: 702-346-5224. Library closed on Feb. 19

Homework Help: 3:30 - 5 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Info: 702-346-5224. Library closed on Feb. 19

Sign Language Group: 4:30-5:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Explore the world of American Sign Language with an inclusive class, open to all skill levels. Info: 702-346-5224. Library closed on Feb. 19

TUESDAYS

Ages 0-3 Toddler Storytime: 10-10:30 a.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Babies and toddlers enjoy songs, nursery rhymes, stories and finger plays with their favorite adult. This program introduces kids and parents to language-enrichment activities and emerging literacy skills. Call 702-346-5224.

Rotary Club: noon, Mesquite

Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Email questions to Jake Noll, 916-813-9451.

Homework Help: 3:30 - 5 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Info: 702-346-5224.

WEDNESDAYS

Ages 3-5 Preschool Storytime: 10-10:30 a.m. Includes stories, songs and more to build literacy skills and help children develop a love for books. Activities also include Kindergarten Readiness skills such as cutting, tracing, and doing worksheets. Call 702-346-5224.

Homework Help: 3:30 - 5 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Info: 702-346-5224.

THURSDAYS

Sunrise Rotary: 7:30 a.m. Meets every Thursday at CSN. Room 1. For more information, contact Deb Parsley at 702-420-4494.

Toastmasters: noon - 1 p.m., First Baptist Church, 830 E. Hafen Lane. Toastmasters meet each Thursday at noon. Contact Mike Young at mkyoung@ix.netcom.com for details.

Coloring for Adults: 2:30-3:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Join for a relaxing session of coloring intricate and meditative designs of various artists. Info: 702-346-5224.

Teen Crafternoon: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Teen program operate under the principles of HOMAGO: Hanging Out, Messing Around, Geeking Out.

Refers to spaces and learning activities that allow for flexible, hands-on experimentation, collaboration and tinkering in areas of professional interest. All supplies provided. Call 702-346-5224.

Homework Help: 3:30 - 5 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Info: 702-346-5224.

STEAM Activities for Kids: 4-5 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Participate each week in fun, hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art or Math activity. Info: 702-346-5224

FRIDAYS

Family Storytime : 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. A wide variety of books, songs and participatory activities will be shared for young children and their parents. Call 702-346-5224.

Bereavement Group: 3:30-4:30 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Learning Center Building. This is a group headed by Mesa View/Virgin Valley Hospice. For more information, call 702-346-5224.

SUNDAYS

Al-Anon Family Group: 3 p.m., Mesquite Veterinary Clinic, 371 Riverside Drive, Suite A. Al-Anon Family Group is back with weekly meetings.

THURSDAY, FEB. 8

Mesquite Mystery Book Club: 11 a.m. - noon. Mesquite Library, 160

W. 1st N. St. Pick up this month's selection from the customer service desk and read it prior to the meeting. Then join in the discussion. Call 702-346-5224.

Teen Gay-Straight Alliance: 4:45-5:45 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Join LGBTQIA+ teens and allies who are having fun, being supportive, learning about local resources and striving to make the community stronger. Call 702-346-5224.

Virtual Author Series: 5-6 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Join a chat with Tessa Bailey, the No. 1 New York Times bestselling author as she talks about the launch of her new super hot sports romance duology. Call 702-346-5224.

Republican Presidential Caucus: 5 - 7:30 p.m. Mesquite and Bunkerville vote at Virgin Valley High School.

FRIDAY, FEB. 9

Mesquite Art Walk: 8:30 a.m., Mesquite Recreation Center, 100 W. Old Mill Road. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. with 3.38 mile walk beginning at 9 a.m., ending at Mesa View Regional Hospital. Free and open to all ages,

Card Making for Adults: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Take a class in card making at the library. Info: 702-346-5224.

> See **CALENDAR**, Page 15



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Question of the Month:



What's your "hidden gem" in the Mesquite area?



Come on folks. It's the people!!!!!!

— *Melanie Sorensen*

Mesquite Senior Games. So much to do.

— *Sandy Tudor*



The Mesquite Community Theater!

— *Joy Craig*

The Mesquite Recreation Center.

— *JAmy E Magee Bradshaw*



Softball fields off the highway

— *Ralph Reuber*

Blooming Finances: Spring tax planning ideas for a financially fresh start

By *Ronald Bird*

As winter starts to fade away and nature awakens, it's not just the perfect time to tend to your garden; it's also an opportune moment to nurture your financial landscape. Soon, Spring will be here, and with it comes the ideal season to spruce up your tax planning strategies. Here are some ideas to help you cultivate a financially fresh start.



1. SPRING CLEAN YOUR DEDUCTIONS:

Much like decluttering your living space, take a close look at your deductions. Review your expenses and identify any overlooked deductions that could reduce your taxable income. From charitable contributions to home office expenses, ensuring you claim all eligible deductions can significantly impact your tax liability.

2. MAXIMIZE RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS:

Spring is the season of growth, and your retirement savings should be no exception. Consider maximizing your contributions to retirement accounts such as 401(k)s and IRAs. The earlier you contribute, the more time your investments will have to blossom and grow. It's a proactive step toward building a robust financial future.

3. CAPITALIZE ON TAX-EFFICIENT INVESTMENTS:

Explore tax-efficient investment strategies to minimize the impact of taxes on your returns. Consider investments with favorable tax treatment, such as index funds or tax-managed funds. This approach allows you to let your investments flourish while keeping tax consequences in check.

4. PLANT SEEDS FOR EDUCATION SAVINGS:

If you have children or grandchildren, consider contributing to a 529 plan for their education. Spring is the perfect time to start or boost these savings, ensuring that educational expenses are met with financial ease when the time comes. Plus, many states offer tax benefits for 529 plan contributions.

5. ASSESS YOUR WITHHOLDING:

Use the season of renewal to review your tax withholding. If you received a sizable refund last year, you might want to adjust your withholding to have more money available throughout the year. On the flip side, if you owed taxes, consider increasing your withholding to avoid any surprises come tax season.

6. GO DIGITAL FOR ORGANIZATION:

Embrace the digital age and utilize technology to streamline your tax preparation. Consider using apps and software to organize receipts, track expenses, and stay on top of important tax deadlines. Going digital not only saves time but also ensures accuracy in your financial records.

7. CONSULT WITH A TAX PROFESSIONAL:

If the complexities of tax planning seem overwhelming, seek the expertise of a tax professional. A tax advisor can provide personalized guidance based on your financial situation, helping you navigate the tax code and uncover additional opportunities for savings.

As you enjoy the blossoming surroundings of spring, let your financial garden flourish as well. By implementing these tax planning ideas, you can sow the seeds for a financially rewarding year ahead. Remember, just like a garden, financial success requires thoughtful planning and regular care.

Ronald Bird is an Advisor and owner of Financial Concepts Retirement Planning, LLC and can be reached at 702-346-7025

Calendar

continued from Page 13

Palatte and Pour Party “Valentine’s Gnome”: 5-7 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Center, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Enjoy an evening with friends while creating your own work of art. Step-by-step creative guidance. Call 702-346-1338.

Haboob in the Hoodoo: 7 p.m., Mesquite Community Theatre, 150 N. Yucca Drive. The Virgin Valley Theatre Group presents its fifth annual original musical melodrama of how a big wind from the desert saved Lizard. Call 702-345-4499.

SATURDAY, FEB. 10

Get Smart with Art: 10-11:45 a.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. A free program for children ages 8-14. Instructor Char Lang will explore branch weaving. Each weaving will be created using yarn and fibers along with buttons, feathers, rings, etc. Visit www.mesquitefineartscenter.com for details.

Family Craft: 11 a.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Join us for an artful craft or project that incorporates dexterity, imagination, and fun! Info: 702-346-5224.

Writer’s Group: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Learning Center Building. Come and discuss your craft with other local writers. Info: 702-346-5224.

Haboob in the Hoodoo: 2 p.m., Mesquite Community Theatre, 150 N. Yucca Drive. The Virgin Valley Theatre Group presents its fifth annual original musical melodrama of how a big wind from the desert saved Lizard. Call 702-345-4499.

Apple iPhone: 3-4 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Learning Center Building. Get to know the ins and outs of your Apple iPhone. Info: 702-346-5224.

SUNDAY, FEB. 11

Movie Matinee: 1 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. This week’s feature film is “What Happens Later.” Call 702-346-5224.

HOMEWORK HELP



The Mesquite Library offers homework help Mondays through Thursdays from 3:30 - 5 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 12

NHC Mammovan: 7:40 a.m. - 3:20 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. The Mammovan is a not-for-profit mobile imaging unit that has been offering state-of-the-art mammograms all across Nevada for over 22 years. To make an appointment: Call 877-581-6266, Option 1.

Blood Drive: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Schedule at www.donors.vitalant.com or call 877-256-4825.

Virgin Valley Amateur Radio Club: 6 p.m. Fire Station No. 3. The club meets on the second Monday of each month. For more information, please go to our website at: www.vvarc.net

TUESDAY, FEB. 13

City Council meeting: 5 p.m., City Hall, 10 E. Mesquite Blvd. Regular meetings of the Mesquite City Council.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

Writer’s Group: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Learning Center Building. Come and discuss your craft with other lo-

cal writers. Info: 702-346-5224.

Chamber luncheon: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Lunch and learn for members to review the features of chamber membership. Members \$30 and nonmembers \$40. Call 702-346-2902.

Book Bingo: 1:30-2:30 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Play bingo, win books! Info: 702-346-5224.

Adult 3D Pen Coloring: 3 - 4:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Learning Center Building. Come learn about 3D pen coloring. Info: 702-346-5224.

Teen Paint Your Pride Craft-ernoon: 4:30-5:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Teen programs operate under the principles of HOMAGO. The term, which stands for “Hanging Out, Messing Around, Geeking Out,” refers to spaces and learning activities that allow for flexibility, hands-on experimentation, collaboration, and tinkering in areas of personal interest. Teen Crafternoon offers a place for creativity, socialization, gaming, crafting, and lounging for grades 6-12 (ages 12-17). Info: 702-346-5224.

Kids Artsy Craft Club: 4:30-5:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Explore fun and different ways to create art. Info: 702-346-5224.

Republican Women’s Club (for men & women): Doors open at 5 p.m., Meeting 5:30-7 p.m., Mesquite Veteran’s Center, 840 Hafan Lane, Meetings the second Wednesday of each month. Guest is Chuck Muth. For information: call 560-966-5363, email hrbsue@yahoo.com.

Denim and Diamonds Valentine’s Dance: 6-9 p.m., Eureka Casino Resort. Tickets re \$85 donation as a fund-raiser for Mesquite Showgirls. Dinner, live music provided by Mike Rye. Call 801-699-9947 or 702-420-4494.

THURSDAY, FEB. 15

Artists Reception: 2-4 p.m., Mesquite Art Gallery, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Open house reception and exhibition awards announced for the Southwest Style exhibit. Visit www.mesquitefineartscenter.com for details.

Writer’s Group: 5-6:45 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Learning Center Building. Come and discuss your craft with other local writers. Info: 702-346-5224.

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

Blood Drive: noon - 5 p.m., Mesquite Recreation Center, 100 W. Old Mill Road. Schedule through www.redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

Movie Matinee: 1 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. Featured movie is “My Sailor, My Love.” Call 702-346-5224.

Cricut Craft Club: 3-4:30 p.m. - noon. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Join for a fun project using the library’s Cricut Joy, Cricut Maker and EasyPress. Call 702-346-5224.

SUNDAY, FEB. 18

Movie Matinee: 1 p.m. Mesquite

> See CALENDAR, Page 17



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Connecting Our Community With Christ

Sunday School All Ages	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	6:00 p.m.

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Mesquite United Methodist Church
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Sunday Worship	10:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
Ash Wednesday February 14	4:00 p.m.

Pastor Wendy Swanson

420 W. Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite 702-346-4663 umcmesquite.org


Mesquite Lutheran Church

BIBLE STUDY Sunday 8:30 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 a.m. <i>Weekly Communion</i>
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For more info: Marty Pecoraro 702-344-5448, or Dave Johnson 1-360-775-5787

How great a salvation

By Christopher Wall

Salvation is "preservation or deliverance from harm, ruin, or loss." You and I were born in a state of ruin. The Bible makes this very clear in passages like Psalm 51:5, which states, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." Or Ephesians 2:1 "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins." These verses are but a small sampling of what Scripture teaches, as a whole, on the reality of our sinfulness and our deadness to it.



Some have a view of salvation that they illustrate as like a person drowning, having a lifesaver thrown out to them, and grabbing hold of it, thereby being rescued (saved). However, considering the above-mentioned biblical data, I do not see this as the correct way of viewing salvation.

To use the above-mentioned illustration, salvation is like you being dead at the bottom of the sea, covered in seaweed, and the Holy Spirit gloriously, miraculously bringing you to life. You were not reaching out for help; remember, you were dead.

The salvation of a soul can be

described only as a miracle. It is utterly unmerited on the part of the sinner (God's grace) and yet applied to the one who believes.

Believes what? You rightly ask. They believe what the Bible teaches. That you are a sinner who is incapable of saving yourself; they believe that, just as Jesus said, He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). Jesus is not a savior; He is THE Savior. Jesus is not a way; He is THE Way.

Salvation is so wonderful because it is the perfect work of the Triune Godhead played out in real-time in the hearts of men. Salvation is not something we can perform in and of ourselves; it is solely the gracious gift of God.

I invite you to consider where you stand concerning this great salvation today. Do you know Christ as Lord and Savior? Are you trusting His life, death, and resurrection as your only hope for righteousness before God? Trust Him today and experience this wonderful gift of salvation!

Chris Wall is the pastor of Mesquite Baptist Church located at 742 W. Pioneer Blvd. Suite A.

Additional resources can be found on their website "MesquiteBaptistChurchNV.com," Facebook "Mesquite Baptist Church NV" and YouTube "@Mesquite Baptist Church NV"

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or email mesquitemonthly@gmail.com for details.

Calendar

continued from Page 15

Library, 160 W. 1st N St. Featured movie is "My Sailor, My Love." Call 702-346-5224.

MONDAY, FEB. 19

Library Closed: for President's Day

Virgin Valley Artists Association General Meeting: 11 a.m. - noon, Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd.

TUESDAY, FEB. 20

Virtual Author Series: 1-2 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Join a chat with Jason Mott about his recent novel, "Hell of a Book," a New York Times bestseller. Info: 702-346-5224.

City Technical Review meeting: 2:30 p.m., City Hall, 10 E. Mesquite Blvd. Regular meetings of the Mesquite City Council.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21

Kids Artsy Craft Club: 4:30-5:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Explore fun and different ways to create art. Info: 702-346-5224.

FRIDAY, FEB. 23

DIY Adult Craft: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. It's an amazing feeling to make something unique and creative, so going for a fun experience. There is a different craft each month and all supplies are included. Attendance is limited, so call or register at the customer service desk. Info: 702-346-5224.

SATURDAY, FEB. 24

Writer's Group: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Learning Center Building. Come and discuss your craft with other local writers. Info: 702-346-5224.

Children's Movie: 3 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Come out for a movie geared toward children ages 0-17 and their caregivers. Call 702-346-5224.

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

Children's Sensory Sensitive Movie: 3 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Come out for a movie geared toward children ages 0-17 and their caregivers. Call 702-346-5224.

MONDAY, FEB. 26

Book Bingo: 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Play bingo, win books! Info: 702-346-5224.

TUESDAY, FEB. 27

City Council meeting: 5 p.m., City Hall, 10 E. Mesquite Blvd. Regular meetings of the Mesquite City Council.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28

Virtual Author Series: 11 a.m. - noon, Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Join in a chat with Kim Scott, New York Times best-selling author of "Radical Candor: Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity." Call 702-346-5224.

Writer's Group: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Learning Center Building. Come and discuss your craft with other local writers. Info: 702-346-5224.

International Cinema (Film Discussion Group): 2-3 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Join to discuss (in English) a different film each month. Pick up a copy of the month's selection at the Customer

Service Desk. Call 702-346-5224.

Kids Artsy Craft Club: 4:30-5:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Explore fun and different ways to create art. Info: 702-346-5224.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Brown Bag Lecture: noon - 1 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Floyd Johnson will talk about making a living from art. Free to the public, reservations recommended. Call 702-346-1338.

Arts Council Meeting: 5:30-6:30 p.m., Mesquite Arts Council Office, 150 N. Yucca St. Monthly board meeting of the Mesquite Arts Council. The public is welcome to attend. Call Gwen Olson at 702-346-2787 or email cgolsen47@yahoo.com

Mesquite Patriots Meeting: 2 p.m. (doors open at 1:45 p.m.), meetings held at the Veterans Center, 840 E. Hafen Lane. Program TBD. Special Guest Speaker on Rank Choice Voting is Nathan Duell, Southwest Regional Coordinator (Heritage Action for America). Duell comes from Phoenix. Please contact Janis to be added to the email list or with any questions. Phone: 725-208-2661 or email MesquitePatriots@yahoo.com

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