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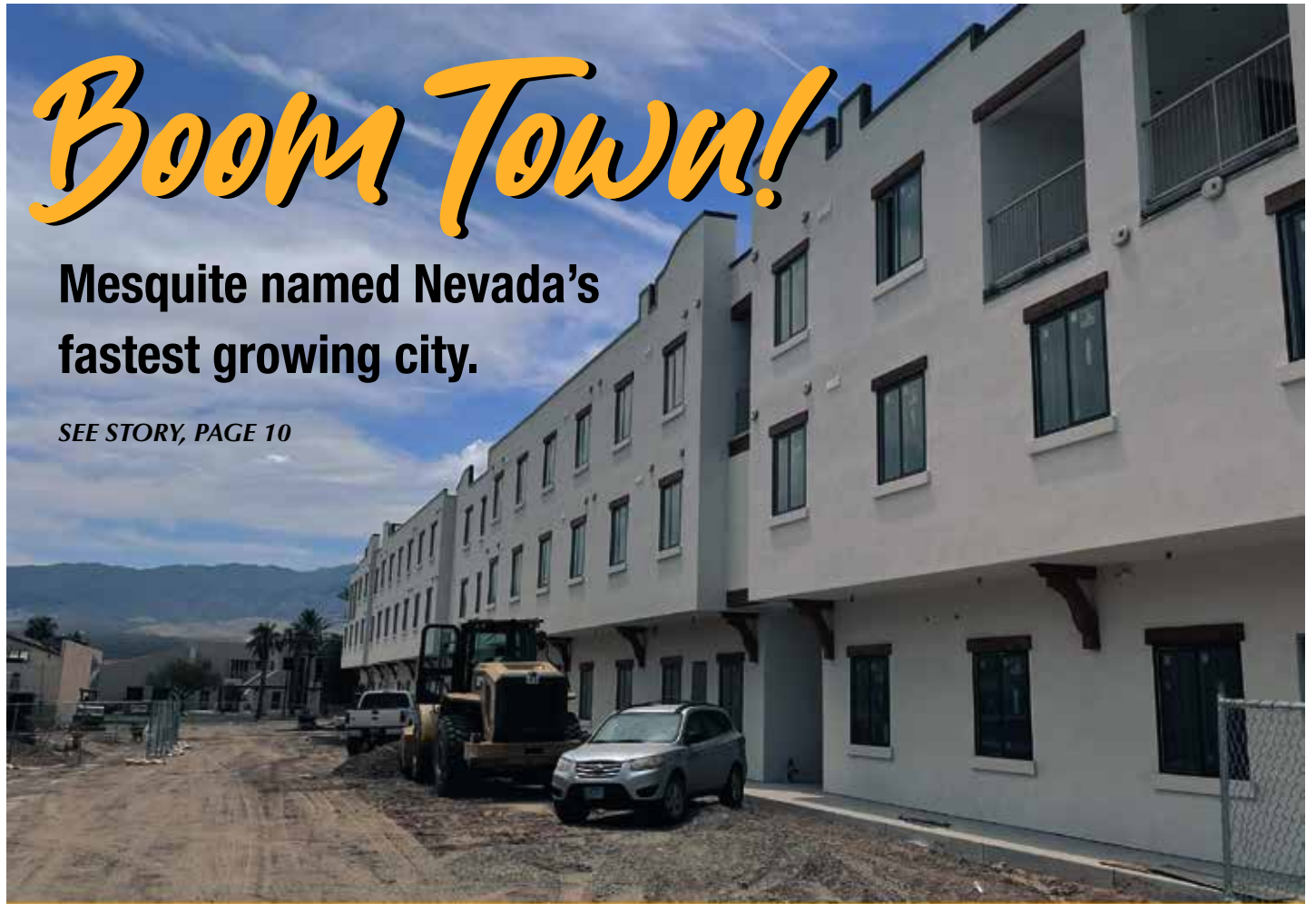
AUGUST 2024 | VOL. 4, No. 15

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Boom Town!

Mesquite named Nevada's
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SEE STORY, PAGE 10



INSIDE: Mayor's Column, PAGE 6 | Community Calendar, PAGE 17

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NEWS AND NOTES

FUNDRAISING PROGRAM SET FOR NEW FIRE STATION STATUE

The Mesquite Fire Department has started a fund-raising campaign called "Bricks for the Brave" to honor firefighters who serve and protect and in memory of those lost in the line of duty.

A 9-foot "Never Forgotten" statue crafted by artist Austin Weishel will be installed at the new Fire Station No. 1 on Mesquite Boulevard, serving as a beautiful and meaningful addition to the landscape of our city.

To fund this statue, the Mesquite Fire Department is selling personalized bricks that will pave a path around the statue.

There are two options for bricks. The first is a 4x8 inch brick for \$500 that will include three lines of text with 20 characters per line. The second is an 8x8 inch brick that can have six lines of text.

For additional information regarding our engraved brick campaign please contact Maryann Mainero at mwilson@mesquitenv.gov.

COUNTRY WESTERN JAMBOREE TO BENEFIT AREA VETERANS

The Fifth Annual Veterans Party "A Country Western Jamboree," is scheduled Nov. 9 as a fundraiser for the Mesquite Veterans Center. It is organized by the Virgin Valley Chapter, Daughters of the America Revolution and the Mesquite Poker Boys. It is hosted by Mesquite Gaming and will be held at the Virgin River Event Tent from 2 to 5:30 p.m.

Last year's event, themed "Soldiers and Bobbie Soxers" dance, raised more than \$22,000 for the Veteran's Center.

This year's event will offer even more for those attending with the addition of an afternoon buffet and two cash bars. Included at the Vet-

erans Party are Mayor Al Litman as Master of Ceremonies and Veterans Center President, Steve Reynolds with opening remarks. The Virgin Valley Honor Guard will present the nation's colors and young solo artist, Alana Davis, will sing the National Anthem. A medley of armed forces theme songs and veterans photo session will complete the opening ceremony with photography provided by members of the Mesquite Fine Arts Center Photographic Society.

There will also be a raffle and two local bands, Dealt A Straight and Rolling Joe & the Tumbleweeds.

Its mission to raise money for the Mesquite Veteran Center will benefit the about 3,000 retired military veterans in our area. At the center, volunteers assist veterans to receive military benefits through the VA and provide transportation for those needing medical services either here or out of the area.



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Mesquite Rotary prepping for 10th year of 'Mudd'!!

Mesquite Monthly

The Mesquite Rotary Club's popular Mudd Volleyball Tournament, held behind the Eureka Casino Resort, will take place on Sept. 21. For the 10th year, area teams will compete for a chance to win a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place trophy.

Team sign-in will begin at 8 a.m. The Mesquite PD and Fire Rescue teams will start the fun at 9 a.m. as they vie for the "Studds of The Mudd" title for 2024-25! Team play will follow right after.

Teams of six players cost \$240 and include a unique "Mudd" t-shirt for each player. One alternate player is allowed for an additional \$40. The money raised will provide scholarships for graduating seniors, the Children's Story Walk, food pantries, and several community improvements, to name a few.

"The tournament has become an annual event that is very popular with players and spectators alike," said organizer Linda Gault. "We put a lot of hard work and love into making it a fun event for everyone."

Teams are encouraged to come in costume and vie for the "Best Team Costume" prize. Three judges will review all costumed teams and vote in these categories: Best Theme, Creativity/Originality, Attention to Detail, Most Humorous, and Effort. So have some fun, use your imagination, and come up with the best costume and win!

There are opportunities for businesses to get involved at various levels of sponsorship. A food truck sponsorship includes two teams, promotional booth at the event,

banner at the food truck, logo on t-shirts and all tournament materials. Other opportunities include being a drink truck sponsor, a t-shirt or sign sponsor.

These include acknowledgment and logo on tournament materials. For more information on sponsorship levels and team registration please go to the sites listed below.

Well-known local DJ #1Juan will keep everyone jammin' with great tunes, adding to the fun. This year, food trucks and the very popular Fixxology flavored drink truck will be present, and plenty of water will be available courtesy of Reliance Connects.

Spectators should come prepared with shade structures, lawn chairs, and personal items for a fun day in the sun! We don't want anyone becoming overheated or sunburned!

Rotary is a worldwide member organization whose mission is to provide community service at the local level and improve lives where needed worldwide. Programs have been established to provide clean drinking water, improve sanitation conditions, and provide daily survival needs after natural disasters. Rotary also encourages members to assist doctors in foreign countries with programs such as cleft palate repair and administering polio vaccines in its quest to end polio worldwide.

For more information on this great event, contact us at RotaryMesquiteEvents@gmail.com.

To sign up to play, please visit: <https://bit.ly/MUDDReg>

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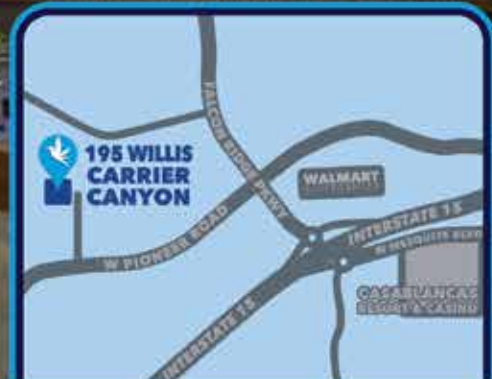
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FROM THE MAYOR

There's still room for growth while keeping small town feel

By Al Litman

Sometimes it's hard to come up with a topic to write about that is interesting to the majority of readers, but as luck would have it, I was interviewed a short time ago by Channel 5 Fox News, about growth in Mesquite.



As you may know, Mesquite is the fastest growing city in the state; at least by percentage. According to the state demographers, we are growing at about 3.9 percent yearly.

Our current population is 23,810, give or take a few. Most of the population growth is from people moving here from out of state. Our birth rate here is quite small.

As soon as the interview came out, social media was full of comments that we are too big or we are out of or will soon, run out of water.

A number of people, although rather small, have commented that they will move away, as they expected Mesquite to remain small. We are small, and even if the prediction came true that we will double in population, we would still be considered a small city.

Nearly everyday, I get comments that we need another supermarket, or a large restaurant, or a major shopping center. None of this will happen until we reach a size that support these businesses.

As an example, we will be getting a small center on Falcon Ridge Parkway, located on five acres that will, hopefully, be able to sustain several eating establishments, and possibly some retail businesses.

There is no room for a major market for a number of reasons. Supermarkets want to locate where there are

already available large buildings, as well as a large parking lot.

Some communities have empty K-marts, or other anchor stores that have gone out of business. They are usually part of a large shopping complex, and that's exactly what a supermarket site selector is seeking. Especially needed is parking.

However, before any of this is considered, there must be a workforce to staff it. Speaking with several longtime employees of Smiths the other day, they tell me they can't staff their current store, and they pay pretty good.

This is true all over Mesquite because we have a large number of retired folks who are not interested in working, and not a lot of young people. We graduate under 200 youth a year from our only high school, and will probably do so into the future.

What I'm trying to convey with this article, is if we were to stop growth in Mesquite, our population would continue to get older where we would reach a point where they would be literally no one here to provide the services that so many want, and seem to need.

Yes, we have a serious issue with a lack of affordable housing for our workers, but any place that is a desirable place to live has the same problem. I don't want Mesquite to become another St. George, and it won't. Recently someone wrote that I said I wanted Mesquite to be the next Palm Springs.

I never said that. I don't like anything about Palm Springs and never did. We are Mesquite. Yes, we are growing, but at a very controlled pace, and will into the future. Of course, there could be interruptions due to changes in the economy. It's been stated by many before, a city that is not growing is dying, and we don't need that for this beautiful city.

Al Litman is mayor of the city of Mesquite.



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1880 Rock House preservation project continues

Mesquite Monthly

The Mesquite Historical Society's recently provided photos of its effort to restore and preserve the 1880 Rock House and the Mesquite Relief Society House on Willow Street.

The historical society pointed out that this progress wouldn't be possible without help from the community through fund-raising efforts and volunteer work at the building site.

There is now a secure fence around the property and power in the building. Next up is to resume interior renovations in the fall.

To keep track of this project and to help, please follow the Mesquite Historical Society's Facebook page.



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Mesquite named fastest growing city in Nevada

By Breven Honda

“I think the secret’s out.”

Those were the words from Mesquite City Councilwoman Karen Fielding when she heard that Mesquite was named the fastest growing city in Nevada.

In July, the U.S. Census Bureau announced the news of Mesquite’s growth. That expansion also translates to the population doubling over the next two decades, according to the forecasts.

Although the U.S. Census Bureau has not officially announced Mesquite’s updated population, Fielding is anxious to hear where the numbers stand.

“I can’t wait to find out exactly what our population is because that’s been speculated,” Fielding said. “Are we 22,000? Are we over 25,000? I think it’s amazing for Mesquite. It just puts us on the map one more time.”

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Mesquite’s population as of July 1, 2023, was at 22,786, which is an 11.3% increase from April 1, 2020. The percentage increase is almost five times higher than the growth of nearby Las Vegas (2.5%) in the same time period.

The current population growth in town is about 3.9% per year.

Fielding said the big part to the uptick in numbers is due to the work that has been done in the past.

“I think if we get much busier, we’re going to have to look at that infrastructure again,” Fielding said. “Several years ago, when they started the Master Plan and the infrastructure, I think the city did an amazing job doing that. I think they did that with the mindset that we were going to get busy, you know, we were going to grow.”

There are many reasons why the population has risen in Mesquite.

However, one of the main factors is because of the more stress-free lifestyle.

“A lot of people move here because, you know the weather, the



The Virgin Valley heritage Park retail and apartment complex, currently under construction on Mesquite Boulevard across from City Hall, will provide important housing options as Mesquite continues to grow. The non-profit Dixie and Ann Leavit Foundation is developing the project.

(Kirk Kern photo)

no taxes, they’re retired. It’s a smaller town,” said Fielding as 44.8% of Mesquite’s population consists of those older than 65. “There’s sun 365 days a year. They don’t have to shovel snow. I think that people are happy to come here and see our small, little town.”

This also comes after Mesquite was named the safest city in the state of Nevada back in April.

On the flip side to the newcomers, the longtime residents have their perspective, like Fielding, who has

been in Mesquite since 1995 when the population was 3,270.

She said the residents who have been in Mesquite have to find the balance of keeping their city low key but also to the point where the city continues to flourish.

“It’s kind of on the side of, ‘Yes, we need growth to get more businesses, more box stores, things that we need in Mesquite,’” she said. “And on the other side, we want to keep it as small as we can. So, it kind of works both ways.”

There are also people that come to Mesquite for specific events, whether it is local events or public sporting events, like the World Long Drive Championships, which brings together the longest hitters in the game of golf.

“We have people who come to town for tournaments all the time, that travel from Utah and California and Oregon,” Fielding said. “Last year, people were traveling from all

> See GROWTH, Page 11



Stout earns 'Best of Badge'

Mesquite Monthly

Sgt. Jaime Stout is the June 2024 recipient of the Best of the Badge from the Mesquite Police Department.

Stout has been a valuable member of the department's patrol division for close to 10 years, and promoted to sergeant in 2019. For the last five years Stout has led his graveyard teams to be proactive in patrolling the city and keeping the community safe.

He recently moved to day shift, and in the first couple of shifts he received information regarding a newborn infant that was in need of medical care due to drug abuse.

Stout, alongside his patrol and detective crew, led his team's extensive investigation, which ultimately led to finding the days old baby. The baby was in need of medical attention and was flown by life flight to a nearby hospital. Medical staff reported the baby would not have survived another night if the police did not get involved to get him immediate medical attention.

Stout's efforts led to this child's road to recovery, and the investigation and follow-up continues. The departments wants to recognize Stout and all the officers, detectives and dispatchers who aided in this incident.

Growth

continued from Page 10

the way around the country to come to the tournament here. We had the long drive here. People come from around the country for that as well.

"So, our secrets out."

Even for the Mesquite Senior Games, they have also recognized the city's growth.

They have noticed an increase through the numbers in their events, either in the spring or the fall.

"Our participation has increased," said Mesquite Senior Games President Sandy Tudor, who has been in town for about a decade. "I think that's because there are more people here. Some of our events, we get a lot of people from Las Vegas and St. George. Bocce and pickleball, those people come from St. George a lot because they have active pickleball clubs and stuff there, in addition to our local pickleball clubs."

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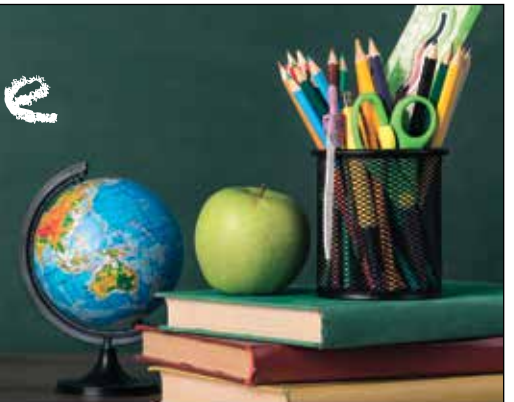


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Senior Games continues prep for fall season



By Breven Honda

The ongoing planning of the fall slate of events continued as the Mesquite Senior Games gets set for five sports beginning in October.

Bocce kicks off the month before men's softball, pickleball, an 18-hole golf tournament and the year-end holiday bowling event.

Mesquite Senior Games President Sandy Tudor, who is the event director for the men's softball event, said teams are starting to sign up as registration begins to open for each event.

"We've got registration open for softball and I've got like 11 teams signed up already," Tudor said on July 25. "We're getting ready to open the registration for the fall events. We'll open that probably the beginning of August."

For men's softball, the hotel registration deadline is set for Sept. 3 at either the Virgin River or CasaBlanca hotels.

To register an entire team, it is \$425 while an individual player can sign up for \$5.

The schedule of the brackets, based on age range, is also designed as an opportunity to prepare for the Huntsman World Senior Games.

"Our tournament is called the Huntsman tune up. We look at when the games are being played in St. George, and we have our event before it," Tudor said. "So, like the 65s, I think, play here on Thursday, Friday and then play in St George on Monday, Tuesday. So, it gives them a couple days to play here and then a day off, or maybe not. We always align ours to right before the Huntsman. The Huntsman publishes their dates years in advance, so it's pretty easy for us to do the same."

> See GAMES, Page 15



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MSG makes community impact to four local organizations

By Breven Honda

In addition to the planning for the fall season, the Mesquite Senior Games made its community donations, which are made every year.

Mesquite Senior Games President Sandy Tudor said it's important to be able to give back to the Mesquite community as a non-profit organization in town.

"We try to make sure that we give back, not only some of the money, but give back locally," Tudor said.

As an example, the Mesquite Senior Games provided the ice makers at Pioneer Park and Old Mill Park.

The Mesquite Senior Games' first of four donations or opportunity was donating \$500 to the Senior Center Respite Program to assist caregivers.

"Our mission statement is to

promote the health and activity of seniors 50 and over, and promote tourism in the city," Tudor said. "We realized that not all of our seniors here in town are able to participate in our games.

"If you are a caregiver, you can bring the person you're giving care to, to their program for a day, for part of a day, for a couple hours. That gives you, as the caregiver, the opportunity to have what they call respite, and do things that you need to do. They use it for, oh, they do activities and games, and I think they even feed the meal."

The second \$500 contribution went to the residents of Highland Manor and Beehive Homes through their annual Christmas in July event, coordinated by Colonial Property Management. The goal for the Christmas in July event is to add the items that are lost throughout the year, where

it is food that is eaten or supplies that are used up.

The third contribution was to the Virgin Valley High School track and field team. They help out when the Mesquite Senior Games holds its track and field events on campus. So, they got the track team a pushcart to easily transport different items, especially the starting blocks, which can be heavy.

The fourth contribution was to the local historical society in the amount of \$1,000 to their restoration project. The historical society, which leads the history tour events that take place in the spring, is working on restoring the Women's Relief House and the Rock House. Both buildings, which are two of the 18 historic markers in town, were in rough shape.

When the Mesquite Senior

Games went by both places during the history tours last spring, the participants were unable to get to close to the Women's Relief House and the Rock House as a result of being vandalized.

Currently, both have fences around them. As a result, the Mesquite Senior Games stepped up in hopes of playing a part.

"We gave \$1,000 to them for the restoration of those two buildings," Tudor said. "While that doesn't really qualify as helping seniors, I believe, and the board believes, that having a vibrant Historic District will help promote tourism. That's why we gave it to them."

Both donations to the Mesquite Historical Society and the Senior Respite Center Program were presented during the Mesquite City

> See DONATIONS, Page 15

Tell the Town About "Dream Golf" in Mesquite



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Question of the Month:



Are you excited that Mesquite is the fastest growing city in Nevada?



Yes! More opportunities for all!

— *Riley Jo Hunzeker*

Not particularly!!
— *Celia Hansen*



As long as our first responders and community resources keeps up with the growth. The cost of housing needs to be affordable for first time homebuyers. The layout of Mesquite can handle growing

— *Siobhan Kraus*



Nope. Like it just as is.
— *Randy Long*



Not at all!

— *Robyn Jones*

No it only brings more crime and homelessness to what we already have.

— *Terry Fitzgerald*



Not even!!

— *Danna Thomas*

As I understand it, this is percentage growth. Since our city is relatively small, any growth makes a big difference.

— *Susan Zachodni Wolfe*



nope

— *Mike Belnap*

No

— *Ken Blackmon*



Donation

continued from Page 13

Council meeting on July 23.

Overall, the board got together to decide as a whole as to how the Mesquite Senior Games shall have an impact on the community and the city.

“In March, when we had our track meet, we talked to (VVHS track and field head coach Gary Hartman) and said, ‘What do you guys need?’” Tudor said.

Games

continued from Page 12

As a result, Tudor and the Mesquite Senior Games expect teams to come from throughout the United States, in addition to the locals from Mesquite.

For the other four events – bocce, pickleball, golf and bowling – the Mesquite Senior Games is putting the final touches before registration opens.

The primary thing is where each event will take place.

“We’ve made sure we had all of the venues set up,” Tudor said. “There’s a form that we have to fill out for the city to register for their locations and their venues, and then get with the golf course.

“We’re having our golf event at Coyote Willows, so we had to get with them and make sure that everybody was on board for what we’re doing, although that one is not until the end of October.”

As the Mesquite Senior Games prepares for the fall season, they continued their summer work outside of their sports planning.

They welcomed two new board members. Dodie Melendez, who has worked for the City of Mesquite as an accountant, will serve as treasurer and take over the daily bookkeeping and accounting needs for the Mesquite Senior Games.

In addition, Tudor and the Mes-

“Because we always want to give them something for all their help. We feed them lunch, but that’s hardly enough. (Hartman) told us in March that the cart would be a good thing for them.

“For the rest of them, we just sat as a board and talked about where we would best be served, where the community would best be served with our donations. So, it was just a consensus.”

quite Senior Games welcomed Linda Vandervolgen. Vandervolgen will be eased into a specific role on the board. However, she will start by helping fellow board member Vicki Fikani with the medals that are given after each event.

“We have to keep track of the medals that we have, the ones that we’re going to give out and then get ordered,” Tudor said. “It’s not so much in the fall, because we’ve only got the (five) events. But in the spring, there’s a lot that goes into keeping the medals straight, knowing how many to have at the event, and making sure we have enough on hand.”

Tudor added it is not only keeping account of the participation medals, but also the performance medals in bocce and cornhole.

“We have two specialty medals. One for cornhole if you get what’s called a four-bagger, if you get all four bags in on one turn,” Tudor said. “Then on bocce, which we do have in the fall, there’s one for, it’s called a casino, and that’s if you end up with all four of your balls closest to the white ball then you get four points. So, we give a specialty medal for that as well.”

This is a perfect time for Vandervolgen and Melendez to learn about what goes into planning for a Mesquite Senior Games season on a smaller note, before the longer, spring slate.



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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Taxes - Are they going up?

By Ron Bird

The Trump tax cuts, formally known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017, are poised to sunset in 2026, resulting in significant changes to the current tax landscape.



These cuts, championed by the Trump administration, brought about extensive revisions to the tax code, impacting individuals, businesses and the overall economy.

When the TCJA was enacted, it aimed to spur economic growth by reducing tax rates for both individuals and corporations.

For individuals, the law lowered income tax rates across most brackets, nearly doubled the standard deduction, and increased the child tax credit.

For corporations, the TCJA slashed the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%, making it one of the most substantial corporate tax cuts in U.S. history.

However, the individual tax cuts are set to expire after Dec. 31, unless Congress acts to extend them.

If allowed to sunset, the tax landscape for individuals will revert to pre-2018 rules. This means higher tax rates across most brackets, a reduction in the standard deduction, and the return of personal exemptions. The child tax credit will also

decrease, potentially increasing the tax burden for families.

The sunset of the TCJA will have wide-ranging implications. For many middle-income families, the rollback could mean a noticeable increase in tax liabilities, which might affect disposable income and consumer spending.

High-income earners may also see a significant rise in their tax bills due to the restoration of higher rates and the phase-out of the alternative minimum tax (AMT) adjustments.

Businesses could face uncertainty as well. While the corporate tax cuts under the TCJA are permanent, any changes in individual tax rates could impact pass-through entities like S-corporations and partnerships, affecting small business owners.

As the 2026 deadline approaches, lawmakers will be under pressure to decide whether to extend the tax cuts or let them expire. The outcome will shape the fiscal policy landscape and have profound effects on economic growth, federal revenues, and the financial planning strategies of millions of Americans.

Financial advisors and taxpayers alike should closely monitor developments to understand how potential changes may impact their finances and adjust their strategies accordingly.

This article is for informational purposes only and is not for specific tax or legal advice.

Ron Bird is an owner of Financial Concepts Retirement Planning and can be reached at 702-346-7025.




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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To have your event listed in this calendar, please e-mail 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. 702-346-5224. Library closed on Feb. 19

Homework Help Available by Request for the Summer

TUESDAYS

Ages 0-3 Toddler Story-

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

Kids' Artsy Craft Club: 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., A new art technique is taught every week, Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St., 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.

Al-Anon Family Group: 10:30 a.m., 150 Yucca St, Suite 35A. Al-Anon Family Group is back with weekly meetings.

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. 702-346-5224.

Teen Crafternoon: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Teen programs operate under the principles of HOMAGO: Hanging Out, Messing Around, Geeking Out. Refers to spaces and learning activi-

ties that allow for flexible, hands-on experimentation, collaboration and tinkering in areas of professional interest. All supplies provided. 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. 702-346-5224

Homework Help Available by Request for the Summer

FRIDAYS

Bilingual Family Time: 10 a.m. and 3:00 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. 702-346-5224.

Bereavement Group: 3:30-4:30 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. This is a group headed by Mesa

> See CALENDAR, Page 19

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Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Pastor Malakai Pahulu

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Mesquite Lutheran Church

BIBLE STUDY Sunday 8:30 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 a.m. <i>Weekly Communion</i>
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Putting division in its place

By Pastor David Constien

With division defining our country and politics these days, the Bible gives us good news for our life in a divided world, a promise to hold on to and live by. Addressing division within the church at Ephesus, the Apostle Paul reminded the Ephesians (Ephesians 2:12-17) that they were at one time living without hope and without God in the world. But that all changed when those who were "far off" were "brought near" by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. There, Paul says, Jesus made us one (with God, and in faith, with one another) and broke down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility. He reconciled us all to God in one body through the cross, killing the hostility.



There really is nothing new under the sun, as King Solomon says. Tensions among the various tribes, nations, languages, and tongues have been around since the beginning of time. The Apostle Paul reminds us that what humans of all types need to affirm and confess is that no matter how divided we may be, we are all united in bearing the effects and separation of sin in ourselves. It may be cliché, but there really is only one race by God's creation and that is the human race. We're all ultimately from the same Hand and became infected with the same sin that separated us from our Creator and from one another.

But the good news is that the continuous fragmentation that was the hallmark of history began to be reversed by the profound love of God in Jesus Christ. Jesus took all the divisions, all the separations, and all the alienations into His own flesh and He destroyed them there! The hatred in the world is what killed Jesus, but somehow, in God's Plan, that hatred that killed Jesus is precisely what Jesus took into His body and there He killed it! He killed the hostility! Jesus is our peace!

We can believe and cling to this promise – that Jesus has torn down the things that divide, the hostility is over! And through faith in him, God has begun to recreate one new humanity, to be complete when he comes again. We may not see this now with our physical eyes, but all are invited to know this reality by faith - that Jesus is our peace. The answer for our divisions already exists!

So, when the divisions start to rise, when the hatred and hostility start to come, with faith we take it and put it back into the

wounds of Jesus! Leave it where it belongs - in the body of Jesus, and where He left it behind – in the empty tomb!

Yes, life in this divided world means challenges will come, divisions rise, and peace will sometimes seem far away. It's a world that still requires a lot of care until Jesus returns. He is our peace. Peace and unity that can seem so fragile actually exist because of what God has done in Jesus.

Living in light of this, we must remember that we're not just people on the opposite sides of an issue or conviction. We must not demonize the other. The muckraking, personal attacks, speaking in extremes and exaggerations, the misrepresentations and half-truths we see and hear around us only feed on conflict and strengthen polarization. It only makes it increasingly difficult to see each other's humanity, to hear God's call to peace, and to heed his commission to love.

We need to listen and strive for understanding as we work toward our common good. We need to slow down, take a deep breath, and put the hostility back where it belongs – in the wounds of Jesus, and where he left it behind - in his empty tomb! May God grant it in our lives, our country, and in this world.

Rev. David Constien, Pastor of Mesquite Lutheran Church, proclaims the Word of God in its truth and purity in worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and in Bible studies on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. Visit: mesquite-lutheran.org, Facebook: @mesquiteLCC, (702) 346-5811 for more information. Mesquite Lutheran Childcare Center is available at (702) 346-3954.

Calendar

continued from Page 17

View/Virgin Valley Hospice. 702-346-5224.

Celebrate Recovery: 5-8:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 830 E. Hafen Lane. Adult support recovery program for all your hurts, habits and hangups. 5 p.m. dinner; 6 p.m., meeting; and 7 p.m., sharing time. For information call, Dave at 847-997-6868.

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, AUG. 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.

FRIDAY, AUG. 9

Cardmaking: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Exercise your creativity by making two unique greeting cards. Call 702-346-5224.

Palette & Pour Party: Shh I'm Thinking: 5-7:30 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. \$35. Registration required. Call Rita K. Fulmer at 574-315-0120 or email ritakfulmer@

gmail.com.

Casapooloza, Fan Halen: 7 - 10:30 p.m., CasaBlanca Resort pool, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. 21-and-older event. Free. Doors open at 7 p.m., band starts at 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUG. 10

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

Casapooloza, Yellow Brick Road: 7 - 10:30 p.m., CasaBlanca Resort pool, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. 21-and-older event. Free. Doors open at 7 p.m., band starts at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUG. 11

Movie Matinee: 1 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Featured movie is "Mean Girls." Call 702-346-5224.

MONDAY, AUG. 12

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, AUG. 13

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

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14

Dr. Kate DiCamillo - Vir-

tual Author Talk Series: 11 a.m. - noon. Newbery Medal winning author Kate DiCamillo of the Mercy Watson Series. It's an interview for the whole family. Call 702-346-5224.

Writer's Group: 11 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Learning Center Building. Come and discuss your craft with other local writers. Info: 702-346-5224.

Mesquite Chamber Monthly Luncheon: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Cucina Italiana Restaurant, 471 W. Mesquite Blvd. Guest speaker is Kelly Adams, CEO of Mesa View Regional Hospitals. Chamber members \$30, non-members \$40. Call 702-346-2902.

Book Bingo: 1:30-3:30 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.

Republican Women's Club (for men & women): Doors open at 5 p.m., Meeting 5:30-7 p.m., Mesquite Veteran's Center, 840 Hafen Lane, Meetings the second Wednesday of each month. For information: call 530-966-5363, email hrbsue@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY, AUG. 15

Irena Smith - Virtual Author Talk Series: 11 a.m. - noon. Smith is a former Stanford Admissions Officer who will talk about the college application process. Call 702-346-5224.

Blood Drive: 2-6 p.m., Mesquite Recreation Center, 100 W. Old Mill Road. Schedule at www.donors.vitalant.org with code 89027. Call 877-256-4825.

Artists Reception: 4-6 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. \$35. Desert Moods exhibition winners announced. Free to the public.

FRIDAY, AUG. 16

Desert Doodles Drop-In Group: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Bring out your inner weirdness with this free group (limited to 15 participants). Call or email Joyce Redweik at 951-805-3759 or joyceredweik@gmail.com.


Cricut Design Spaces: 11 a.m. - noon, Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Leaning Resource Center. Come out and create some crafts with cricut. 702-346-5224.

Red Cross Blood Drive: noon - 5 p.m., Mesquite Recreation Center. Schedule at www.redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

SATURDAY, AUG. 17

Virgin Valley History: 11 a.m. - noon., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. In partnership with the Virgin Valley Heritage Museum, explore different historical aspects of the local area. 702-346-5224.

Movie Matinee: 1 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N. St. Featured > See **CALENDAR**, Page 20



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Calendar

continued from Page 19

movie is "The Long Game." Call 702-346-5224.

Cricut Craft Club: 10:30 a.m.-noon, Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st St. Leaning Resource Center. Come out and create some crafts with cricut. 702-346-5224.

SUNDAY, AUG. 18

Movie Matinee: 1 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. Featured movie is "The Long Game." Call 702-346-5224.

MONDAY, AUG. 19

Lola's New York City Landscape: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Workshop hosted by Christine P Picior. 20 spots available. Cost is \$50 for members, \$70 for non-members. Call or email Picior at 435-229-9964 or christinepicior@gmail.com

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

Travel Workshop: 3-4 p.m., Mesquite Library Learning Center,

160 W. 1st. St. Go through the process of planning your trip and what you'll need each step of the way. 702-346-5224.

TUESDAY, AUG. 20

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

AARP Driver's Safety Class: 11 a.m., Mesquite Senior Center, 102 Old Mill Road. \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Call 702-346-5290.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21

Shelby Van Pelt - Virtual Author Talk Series: 11 a.m. - noon. Join a chat with New York Times bestselling author Shelby Van Pelt about her novel Remarkably Bright Creatures. Call 702-346-5224.

THURSDAY, AUG. 22

DIY Craft for Adults: 10:15-11:15 a.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st St. Come out and make something unique and creative. 702-346-5224.

FRIDAY, AUG. 23

Palette & Pour Party: Poppy's: 5-7:30 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gal-

lery classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. \$35. Registration required. Call Rita K. Fulmer at 574-315-0120 or email ritakfulmer@gmail.com

SATURDAY, AUG. 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, AUG. 25

Sensory Sensitive Children's Movie: 1 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, AUG. 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, AUG. 27

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

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28

Digital Memories Preservation LabWorkshop: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Mesquite Library learning center, 160 W. 1st N St. Learn how to digitize your old memories. Free and open to the public. Call 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.

FRIDAY, AUG. 30

Palette & Pour Party: Shiva Moon: 5-7:30 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. \$35. Registration required. Call Rita K. Fulmer at 574-315-0120 or email ritakfulmer@gmail.com

SUNDAY, SEPT. 1

Movie Matinee: 1 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. Featured movie is TBA. Call 702-346-5224.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 3

Android Phone Class: 10 - 11

> See CALENDAR, Page 21

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Calendar

continued from Page 20

a.m., Mesquite Library Learning Center, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Review basic settings (Wi-Fi, sound, screen brightness), how to block unwanted calls, texting and more. Free and open to the public. Call 702-346-5224.

Mesquite 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.

Brown Bag Cultural Series: noon - 1 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Center, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Lynn Craven will discuss "The Magic of Pyrography...A Yearning to be Burning Art." Free to the public.

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

Arts Council Meeting: 5:30 -

6:30 p.m., Mesquite Arts Council Office, 150 N. Yucca St., Room 23. Monthly meeting of the Mesquite Arts Council. The public is welcome. 702-346-2787.

Mesquite Nevada Patriots: 5:30 p.m., Veteran's Center, 840 Hafén Lane. Doors open at 5 p.m. Guest Speakers are Mayoral Candidate Jesse Whipple & City Council Candidates Ronald Shackelford and Wes Boger.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4

Watercolor Intermediate: 9 - 11:30 a.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Char Lange watercolor class, limited to 20 participants. Cost is \$10 per classroom, pay at the class. Call 702-346-1338.

Watercolor Beginners: 1-3 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Char Lange watercolor class, limited to 20 participants. Cost is \$10 per classroom, pay at the class. Call 702-346-1338.

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THEME: THINGS WITH BUTTONS

ACROSS

1. Genoa or storm jib
5. Pouch
8. Support for #1 Across
12. Gaelic language
13. Big-ticket _____
14. Flowerbed cover
15. Western Samoan money
16. Agrippina's slayer
17. Literature class homework
18. *"The Curious Case of _____ Button"
20. God of thunder
21. Tight or rigid
22. Blunder
23. *_____ control
26. *Alarm clock delay
29. Edible tuber
30. Racecourses
33. Crew propellers
35. Often follows dark or back
37. _____-Town, or Chicago
38. Friend, south of the border
39. Singular of #25 Down
40. Containing uranium
42. Rip off
43. Sleeping sickness vector
45. Che Guevara's hat, pl.
47. Roman road
48. "And Then _____ Were None"
50. Hillside, in Scotland
52. *Home ringer
55. Raccoon's South American cousin
56. Debate side
57. Spring in a mattress
59. Ar, atomic number 18
60. Black-tie occasion
61. Golfer's aim
62. Group with pressure
63. Stallone
64. Semiprecious variety of agate

DOWN

1. Collector's goal
2. Kuwaiti, e.g.
3. _____ of Man
4. Shanty
5. Flower trunks
6. American Eagle's intimates brand
7. "Oh, _____!"
8. *Edible button
9. "The Sun _____ Rises"
10. "The Lion King" villain

CROSSWORD

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11. Olden day "your"
13. More asinine
14. City area
19. Bulwark
22. Ems follower
23. Aimless walk
24. "Bravo! Bravo!", e.g.
25. Pall _____ and _____ of America
26. Largest organ of human body
27. Mobutu Sese Seko's nation
28. Cereal killer
31. Land measure
32. _____-cha-cha
34. Wails
36. *Tall building people-mover on top
38. Of sour taste
40. All 50 states
41. Spanish airline
44. Make a logical connection (2 words)
46. Repeat an echo
48. Opposite of atonal
49. In a heated manner
50. Dull one
51. Angry display
52. Entertainingly eccentric people, Down Under
53. "On Golden Pond" bird
54. _____ of the valley
55. *A baseball one has a button
58. Lexington airport code

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L	E	O	H			A	V	A	G		N	O	G	A
L	I	O	C			I	A	N	V		I	A	O	C
		L	L			B	R	O	O		D	A	E	B
						R	E	R	E		T	H	E	R
S	T	S	E	R		B	E	R	E		S	E	T	S
R	O	B				C	N	V	R	U	R	L	L	M
O	G	I	A			M	A		C	H	I	Y	E	A
S			O	A		R	S		K	A	C	T	R	O
			E	Z		O	O		N	S		T	E	R
						R	R		E	R		E	S	E
						O	R		T	H	O		N	I
Y						S	S		E	S		R	O	N
H						M	U		L	C		H		E
A						S	T		M	A		S		A

1	6	4	5	2	6	8	3	7
2	9	8	7	4	3	6	5	1
5	7	3	8	1	9	6	2	4
8	4	7	2	9	1	5	9	3
9	2	9	3	5	4	7	1	8
3	1	5	9	7	8	2	4	6
6	8	9	4	3	2	1	7	5
7	3	1	9	6	5	4	8	2
4	5	2	1	8	7	3	6	9



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