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MESQUITE MONTHLY

Your Local Source For Mesquite Business, People & News

DECEMBER 2024 | VOL. 4, NO. 19

FREE



Any Mesquite business is eligible to win this honor and the results will be published in the middle of March. So pick up this issue or the two issues in January and fill out at least 15 categories and drop it off at the ballot box located in the UPS Store at 550 W. Pioneer Blvd., Suite 140.

Fill out your ballot for the annual Best of Mesquite Reader's Poll. Each year, Mesquite Monthly publishes its annual Best of Mesquite special section, which is the only "Best of" contest voted on by anyone who picks up the paper between now and the end of January.

THE CONTEST WHERE YOU CHOOSE WHICH BUSINESSES ARE THE BEST OF MESQUITE!

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

SEE BALLOT PAGE 10

IN THIS ISSUE: Mayor's Final Column PAGE 4 | Community Calendar PAGE 17

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NEWS AND NOTES

CASABLANCA, VIRGIN RIVER HOSTING NEW YEARS FESTIVITIES

CasaBlanca Resort & Casino and Virgin River Hotel & Casino invite guests to enjoy an experience this New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31, 2024, that they won't find anywhere else. These sister properties will celebrate the occasion with live entertainment, special Seafood Buffets, Tribute Artist Rock Stars, a free champagne toast at midnight, and cap it all off with a concert by million-selling hard rock band Buckcherry in the recently remodeled CasaBlanca Showroom.

At CasaBlanca Resort & Casino, award-winning Katherine's Steakhouse will feature Singer-Guitarist Drew Baker, and the evening peaks with a free champagne toast and a concert starring Buckcherry and opening act, Otherwise — a local Las Vegas-based band.

Virgin River Hotel & Casino also will deliver a day of festivities including a free New Year's Eve performance by the Gregg Peterson Band inside the Virgin River Event Center Tent with a free champagne toast at midnight. Guests will mingle with Tribute Artist Rock Stars, enjoy the #1-rated table games in Mesquite, a wide range of dining options, pet-friendly rooms, and a state-of-the-art Bowling Center and Arcade.

Tickets for the New Year's Eve concert are on sale now and may be purchased online at BuckcherryNYE.com. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. Must be 21 or older to attend either concert.

ELKS HOOP SHOOT CONTEST SLATED FOR DEC. 14

The Elks Hoop Shoot free throw shooting contest is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Dec. 14.

The hoop shoot will take place at

the Mesquite Recreation Center, 100 W. Old Mill Road and is hosted by Mesquite Elks Lodge No. 2811.

Registration time is 9 a.m. and the contest starts at 10 a.m. The event is free for boys and girls in the following divisions: 8-9, 10-11 and 12-14.

Winners will move to district, state and then national finals, slated for April 24-27 at the Wintrust Arena in Chicago.

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST SLATED

Mesquite's holiday decorating contest judging will take place Dec. 14-15.

The contest is limited to the first 50 participants, with applications accepted until Dec. 13.

Register online at mesquitenv. activityreg.com or in person at the recreation center at 100 W. Old Mill Road. Those interested can also call 702-348-8732.

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FROM THE MAYOR

Time to sign off after quite a ride as Mesquite mayor

By Al Litman

This will be my last time writing for the Mesquite

Monthly. It's been my pleasure to submit a monthly article that I have, hopefully, provided useful information to the residents of Mesquite.



Being the mayor has been a most interesting experience for me. When we moved here 20 years ago, it was the furthest thing from my mind, and here I am all these years later saying goodbye to another adventure in my life, but looking forward to many more.

Over the past few years writing this column, I talked about numerous subjects that related to business, housing, and where Mesquite is, and where it's going.

The future is bright for this small city. I stressed the need for controlled growth, and that's where it's been over the last years since the recession of 2008.

I'm not envious of cities around us. St. George is a traffic mess, with infrastructure designed for a much smaller city, and to boot, not enough water for the future. Mesquite has excellent infrastructure and, I believe, enough water to carry us well into the future.

Over the past few years I have also tried to explain how local government works, at least; government in Mesquite. Nearly every city is different in some respects.

The mayor in Mesquite does not make the decisions. He or she, conducts the meetings, and

develops the needed relationships with others throughout the state. The mayor is the official spokesperson, but not a whole lot more.

So who runs the city? The city manager.

The mayor does not hire or fire, does not control the budget, or make the many ordinances that we operate under. The city council does with a majority vote.

I also talked a lot about site selectors and how business comes to Mesquite. As much as we might like certain companies to locate here, certain demographics must be in place. Are we getting Trader Joes?

The answer is no. However, Smiths and Lowes are looking at opening a superstore here. It would be nice, but when I see them moving earth, I'll believe it. The other day, I heard about Costco coming here. Just another unfounded rumor.

When we hit around 200,000 residents, Mesquite will be a different place.

I don't think any of us here today, nor your children, nor their children will see 200,000 residents. We can support around 50,000 residents, but not much more.

Another thing I have tried to do with my articles is to dispel all the rumors we read about when we look at social media.

All I can say is think carefully before you believe everything you read on social media sites. So, with these last words, thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my thoughts and opinions over these past few years.

It's time to sign off. It's been quite a ride!

Al Litman is the outgoing mayor of the city of Mesquite.

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Bulldog football reaches state tourney, loses in the semis

By Breven Honda

For the first time since 2021, the Virgin Valley High School football team returned to the 3A State tournament after taking down Moapa Valley in the 3A South semifinals.

The 2024 season wrapped up in the state semifinals losing at Truckee, the top seed from the 3A North, 41-27.

“That was our goal to make state,” Virgin Valley head coach Matt Woods said. “We had kind of a hiccup at Truckee, where we gave up a few big plays, but whenever you get that close, it’s always a good thing.

“I think we’ve been doing this for six years, and we’ve made it to the semis twice, state once and quarters twice. So, it’s always good to get past that in the semis and but you’re that close makes it even rougher when you don’t get there.”

Virgin Valley and Truckee were tied at 21 after the Bulldogs got a touchdown and a two-point conversion in the third quarter. However, Truckee scored 20 unanswered points in the fourth quarter before the Bulldogs were able to answer.

In the state semifinal game, Bulldogs junior quarterback Koby Perry completed 15 of 26 passes for 226 yards with a touchdown and an interception. He also ran the ball six times for 25 yards and a touchdown.

In addition, sophomore Drew Dixon, who was the third running back on the depth entering the season, had 13 carries for 85 yards and a touchdown as well as two receptions for 20 yards to eclipse 100 yards from scrimmage.

Senior wide receiver Mason Montoya caught five passes for a game-high 105 yards.

“The biggest challenges is just travel when you got to drive 10 hours,” Woods said of making the trip from Mesquite to northern Ne-

vada and into California. “I loved the environment. Truckee was an awesome place to play. They were very respectful. The fans were great. We had a ton of fans there. So, it was a great game. I would love to get another crack at them. It’s a challenge when you go play a northern team.”

In order to reach the state semifinals, Virgin Valley had to defeat No. 2 Moapa Valley in the 3A South League semifinals as the No. 3 seed.

Moapa earned the bye from quarterfinals while the Bulldogs defeated No. 6 Democracy Prep, 34-6, which was highlighted by Montoya catching two of Perry’s three touchdowns.

The Bulldogs lost to Moapa Valley two weeks prior to end the regular season, giving them the motivation to change the outcome in the league semifinals. With the game tied at seven entering the fourth quarter, Virgin Valley got the decisive touchdown to defeat the Pirates 13-6.

“Moapa is a very good team, a very well-coached team,” Woods said. “I don’t think the week before, it wasn’t we didn’t play our best. I mean, we didn’t play great, and they had a great game. I wasn’t shocked by us beating them at all. In my mind, I thought we were the better team. But when we play Moapa, it’s always good.

“I’m glad we got one on their field like they got one on our field.”

Virgin Valley ended the 2024 campaign going 9-4, including 4-2 in league play.

Overall, Woods said the biggest strength for the team was the leadership from his players.

“We have some great captains, some senior leadership that stood up,” Woods said. “Alex Valle, Mason Montoya, Decker Lee, they just stood up, made everybody follow like ‘This is what we’re going to do,

> See **BULLDOGS**, Page 8



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The charter bus takes off to take the Virgin Valley High football team to travel 10 hours to face Truckee in the state semifinals. The Bulldogs lost, 41-27. (Mesquite Athletics & Leisure Services)

Bulldogs

continued from Page 6

and this is how we're going to do it.' Everybody kind of got in line and followed their leadership. We had a really good, tight knit group of kids, and liked playing together.

"We were pretty good both ways, on offense and defense. So, it complimented each other pretty well defensively."

Perry ranked third in the league with 1,676 passing yards but had a better completion percentage than the two players above him. In addition, Dixon led the league with 1,454 rushing yards. That mark was also the third best in the state.

Woods said having both of them returning goes a long way to attempt another run at the state title.

"Those guys are to be very good next year," he said. "Those two guys – Drew and Koby – and then Jayden Healy, who is one of our best line-

men as a junior, they all work their butts off, that's going to make a ton. They should be coming in ready to go. It won't be hard to get to where we're at next year because those guys are already proven."

For every returning player, the offseason has officially begun trying to get better.

Woods said that work begins as soon as the team begins their lift sessions in a couple months.

"Last year, we started lifting in February with the guys that weren't doing sports and we went all the way through November. There's guys there that didn't miss a day," Woods said. "We had guys that was there every single day from Feb. 9 through November to our last day.

"That was dedication. You play a lot of those big schools in Vegas and have dudes that run 4.5 (40s) and hit like monsters, you got to put in some time in the offseason to be able to absorb that."

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Best of Mesquite 2025 Official Rules

Ballots WILL NOT be accepted by fax or email. Ballots MAY NOT be photocopied. All ballots must be from the original newspaper. NO EXCEPTIONS. No purchase necessary. All businesses nominated must hold a Mesquite, NV business license and must be written in by their 'proper' name (example: For Best Restaurant - list is as Gregory's - not just Eureka or Katherine's - not just CasaBlanca.) Entries/Votes that are not specific will not be counted. This is to ensure that votes are placed properly. One valid entry ballot per person over the age of 13 at the time of contest. Multiple ballots submitted with identical or similar choices or handwriting will be disqualified. To qualify, you must provide your name and contact info and write in your votes on at least 15 categories. Any ballots received with less than 15 categories voted for will be disqualified. Mesquite Monthly reserves the right to contact voters to verify their vote and information if necessary. Any false information given during registration will void that ballot. Mesquite Monthly reserves the right to change the rules at any time. This contest is officially sponsored by Mesquite Monthly.

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Your voice, your choice. In this annual tradition, we call out the businesses, services, and local establishments that have contributed to making our city truly unique. Our readers cast their votes to recognize and appreciate the best of what our city has to offer.



Senior Games wraps up fall season, year with optimism

By: Breven Honda

The fall season of the Mesquite Senior Games came to an end in October.

Four sports culminated the fall slate from bocce, softball, pickleball and golf.

"It was a great fall season, and we'll do it again," Mesquite Senior Games President Sandy Tudor said of the fall slate.

The golf tournament capped off the four-event schedule on Oct. 30 at Coyote Willows.

One of the unique things about this event, unlike most of the other events Mesquite Senior Games holds throughout the year, is that there were no age or gender requirements.

There were no five-year age gaps to separate competitors and men and women, alike, could play on the same best ball team.

"Everybody had a really good time with that, and it wasn't limited to playing with somebody your own age," Tudor said. "The golf course did great things for us. They had a couple of raffle prizes, they had discounts at the golf shop. Everybody was pretty happy with it."

In addition, another thing that stuck out about the tournament was more on a sentimental level. Carol Wainman and her son signed up for the golf tournament to play in honor of Carol's husband, Dick, who passed away in October.

Carol has participated in multiple MSG events, including Bridge and the golf long drive events. Dick was also a participant in the golf events as well.

As a result, when Tudor found out about Dick's passing from Carol, she knew she wanted to do something.

Dina Gorlick, who is a dear friend of Carol's, wanted to pay for her registration fee. However,

> See GAMES, Page 15



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MSG prepares for holiday bowling event with the theme 'Santa's Helper'

By: Breven Honda

The final event of 2024 Mesquite Senior Games is the Holiday bowling event on Dec. 7 at the Virgin River Lanes.

Registration opened on Oct. 15 and not even before Halloween arrived, all of the slots to play were filled up.

This year, there are 102 players participating in the bowling event, which has been planned since June.

Toni Gans, who is the event director for both events in the Spring and Winter, is once again at the helm to coordinate this year's event.

"Toni is the most organized planner I've ever met," Tudor said. "She just handed me some paper and said, 'Here, this is all that needs to be done, and it's stuff that can't be done till the very end.' The average is verified for the bowlers, and everything's done."

The 9-pin no tap tournament features each player participating in three games across gender and age-related divisions.

There are nine different age brackets, ranging from the 50-54 age group all the way to 90 years and older.

In addition, every year, this particular bowling event has a theme. Last year, the theme paid homage to the late Jimmy Buffet with a

beach Christmas theme.

This year, theme is focused on giving back with the theme being, "Santa's Helper."

"Normally, we give a swag bag to all of the participants, and that's in every event," Tudor said "Most of these people have played in previous games, if nothing else, they played in previous bowling. So rather than being redundant and giving them another swag bag, we are taking what we would have spent on swag bag, and we are making a donation to four different charity organizations here in town."

The four charity organizations that will be receiving a donation will be announced at the beginning of the bowling event, prior to the first frame being completed.

Tudor said it is important not only for the players to enjoy themselves but to also have that community involvement by returning the favor.

"One of the things that people always ask is, 'So, what do you do with all your money?'" Tudor said. "Well, we don't have all that much money, but we try to make sure that we do give back to the community. There are organizations here in town that do great things for people. We feel it important to give back to the community other than just seniors."

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Games

continued from Page 12

when people register, they have to pay at that moment.

It was ultimately decided that the MSG Board of Directors and Gorlick were going to do a hole sponsor in Dick's honor.

The last obstacle was to get Carol's approval of the hole sponsor to make sure she was okay with it.

"I called her, and she said, 'Dick would be smiling as he looked down from heaven on being a whole sponsor at your golf tournament,'" Tudor said. "So, we did a plaque, gave it to her, made him a whole sponsor at the golf tournament."

This marked the first golf tournament in two years after one was not done due to the Mesquite Geezers, the local senior softball organization, wanting to do their own tournament last year in honor of former MSG President Herb Calhoun, who passed away.

With the one-year layoff from hosting a golf tournament, Tudor said more tournaments will be on the way with better communication.

"We need a little a little better clarification on how the scoring is going to work," Tudor said. "We had people very confused and thinking that they had to play with their own age group and their own gender, either male or female. So, we need to be a little clearer in our information, when we send it out to them."

In addition to the golf tournament, the pickleball event was held the week prior. As players competed on the courts, the heat was still in play with triple-digit temperatures.

Despite the heat playing a factor, everyone had a great as the MSG had its concession stand, including its popular breakfast sandwiches for sale.

However, if there is a change that the MSG will implement for pickleball, is to lower the number games each day.

"We are going to look in the future at limiting the number of games we had," Tudor said. "We had them play too many games. Some of them played up to eight games in a day, and that's just too many, even when it's not 105 (degrees)."

The MSG men's softball event was held before the pickleball event. The teams that participate also use it to prepare for the Huntsman World Senior Games.

More than 30 teams participated in the eight-age bracket event.

One of the changes that Tudor will be making next year are the dates because Huntsman will be changing their age groups, which directly affects Tudor and the MSG.

"Our tournament dates and age grouping will change dramatically if there's does, because we have to do the same thing," said Tudor, who is the tournament director for softball. "But everybody had a great time. The games went well. We didn't have any issues. We always run the 50/50 raffle at softball. We did really well this year."

The new box truck was in attendance for golf and pickleball and will also be at the bowling event this month.

Tudor said new front seat covers were installed. After the bowling event on Dec. 7, Tudor said work will be done to the inside of the truck to ensure it is ready for spring.

"We need to take everything out, and we need to do a thorough cleaning of the bed in the back so that we can and we need to store things in a more organized manner right now," she said.

As the year ends with the bowling event still to be completed this month, Tudor said the 2024 campaign was a successful one with more optimism heading into 2025.

"It was an awesome year," she said. "We had a couple new venues that worked out really well. We were looking at adding a couple of venues and events for next year. But 2024 was a very successful year for the Senior Games."

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Course Schedule Spring 2025

Mesquite Campus

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	Course Title	Time	Instructor
Monday			
AC 103B	29906 HVAC Mechanical Theory & Applications	5:00 pm – 7:30 pm	1/21 – 5/14 Paul Chandler
CLS 155	30092 Phlebotomy	5:30 pm – 7:50 pm	1/21 – 5/14 Sulinda Myers
ENG 231	30249 World Literature I	5:30 pm – 7:50 pm	1/21 5/14 LeAnn Campbell
MA 104B	29833 Intro to Medical Assisting	1:00 pm – 2:50 pm	3/24 – 5/14 Cheryce Campbell
MATH 120E ²	26398 Fundamentals of College Math – Web Remote	5:00 pm – 6:50 pm	1/21 – 5/14 Carol Dobson
Tuesday			
AC 122B	29908 HVAC Install & Commissioning Techniques	5:00 pm – 7:30 pm	1/22 – 5/15 Bill Ennis
ENG 101 ¹	30083 Composition I	5:30 pm – 7:50 pm	1/22 – 5/13 LeAnn Campbell
NURS 130	23109 Nursing Assistant Lab	4:00 pm – 7:30 pm	1/22 – 5/13 Sue Hale
Wednesday			
AC 103B	29906 HVAC Mechanical Theory & Applications	5:00 pm – 7:30 pm	1/21 – 5/14 Paul Chandler
CLS 155	30093 Phlebotomy	5:30 pm – 7:50 pm	1/23 – 5/14 Sulinda Myers
MA 104B	29833 Intro to Medical Assisting	1:00 pm – 2:50 pm	3/24 – 5/14 Cheryce Campbell
MATH 120E ²	26398 Fundamentals of College Math	5:00 pm – 7:50 pm	1/21 – 5/14 Carol Dobson
NURS 130	23108 Nursing Assistant Clinical	4:00 pm – 7:45 pm	1/23 – 5/14 Donna Seifert
Thursday			
AC 122B	29908 HVAC Install & Commissioning Techniques	5:00 pm – 7:30 pm	1/22 – 5/15 Bill Ennis
COM 101	29341 Oral Communication	5:30 pm – 8:20 pm	1/24 – 5/15 LeAnn Campbell
NURS 130	23108 Nursing Assistant Clinical	4:00 pm – 7:45 pm	1/17 – 5/15 Donna Seifert
Friday			
AC 119B	29907 HVAC Professionals in Customer Service	5:00 pm – 9:00 pm	2/21 – 3/14 Bill Ennis
Online			
CLS 155	30091 Phlebotomy Lecture	Online	1/21 – 5/18 TBA
NURS 130	TBA Nursing Assistant Lecture	Online	1/21 – 5/18 TBA

¹ This class will be taught at the CSN Mesquite Center and shared with the CSN Nellis Center utilizing video conferencing equipment.

² This class will be taught at the CSN Nellis Center and shared with the CSN Mesquite Center utilizing video conferencing equipment.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

End-of-year financial planning: A key to starting strong in 2025

By Ron Bird

As the year comes to a close, it's time to evaluate your financial health and take advantage of opportunities to optimize your finances. End-of-year planning helps you wrap up 2024 on a strong note and sets the stage for a successful 2025. Here are some key steps to consider.



appreciated assets like stocks to maximize tax benefits.

Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs): Use any remaining funds in your FSA, as most plans don't allow rollovers. Eligible expenses include medical costs, eyeglasses, and prescription medications.

4. EVALUATE YOUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

Review your portfolio to ensure it aligns with your risk tolerance and financial goals. Rebalancing can help maintain your desired asset allocation, especially if market fluctuations have caused your portfolio to drift.

1. REVIEW YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS

Reflect on the goals you set at the beginning of the year. Did you hit your targets for savings, debt repayment, or investments? Identify areas where you fell short and understand why. Use these insights to adjust your goals for the coming year.

2. MAXIMIZE RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for contributing to employer-sponsored retirement accounts like 401(k)s is December 31. Contributing the maximum amount not only boosts your retirement savings but also lowers your taxable income. For traditional IRAs, you have until April 15, 2025, but contributing before year-end ensures your funds start growing sooner.

3. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TAX-SAVING STRATEGIES

Harvest Tax Losses: If you have under performing investments in taxable accounts, consider selling them to offset capital gains and reduce your taxable income.

Charitable Contributions: Donations to qualified charities can lower your tax bill if you itemize deductions. Consider donating

5. PLAN FOR BIG EXPENSES

Anticipate any major financial needs for 2025, such as home improvements, tuition, or vacations. Start saving now to avoid reliance on credit or dipping into emergency funds.

6. REVIEW INSURANCE COVERAGE

Check your health, auto, home, and life insurance policies to ensure you have adequate coverage. Open enrollment for health insurance often occurs in late fall, making this an ideal time for adjustments.

7. ORGANIZE FINANCIAL RECORDS

Prepare for tax season by gathering necessary documents like W-2s, 1099s, and receipts for deductible expenses. Staying organized will save you time and stress come April.

By taking these steps, you'll close out 2024 with confidence and be well-positioned to achieve your financial goals in the new year.

This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended to give specific investment or legal advice. Ron Bird is an Advisor/Owner of Financial Concepts Inc, and can be reached at 702-346-1335.



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SPIRIT OF GIVING



After Mesquite Gaming distributed more than 800 free turkeys to its dedicated employees to observe Thanksgiving 2024, many team members in turn donated more than 200 of those to deserving community organizations in and around Mesquite. Groups receiving these holiday gifts include the Utah Food Bank in St. George, Highland Manor (assisted living center for the elderly) in Mesquite, the City of Mesquite Senior Center, the Mesquite Veterans Center and the Salvation Army. (Submitted photo)

Mesquite police increases enforcement as part of joining forces campaign

The Mesquite Police Department was recently awarded a grant from the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, to support MPD's participation in the Joining Forces traffic safety campaign. From

October 2024 through September 2025, the Joining Forces events combine 30 law enforcement agencies across the state to focus on critical driving safety issues such as impaired driving, distracted driving, seatbelt violations, pedestrian safety, and speeding.

The Mesquite Police Department is currently participating in the "Click-it-or-Ticket" campaign through November 30, and extra police officers will be specifically dedicated to heighten enforcement and awareness of seatbelt violations.

Wearing a seatbelt while driving or riding in a car greatly increases chances of survival in a major collision. The goal of this increased enforcement is to keep all motorists safe with the upcoming increased holiday traffic.

Please remember to buckle up and ensure all your passengers are buckled in correctly, especially children. Double check all booster seats, child safety seats and harnesses, and never use a child seat beyond the manufacturer's expiration date or after a vehicle collision. Taking just a few extra moments before your trip can be a lifesaver.

The Joining Forces program is a high visibility, statewide effort to save lives by increasing public awareness about the dangers of making poor choices while driving.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To have your event listed in this calendar, please e-mail mesquite-monthly@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.

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.

Tyler's Drawing and Creativity Class: 2-4 p.m. Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. \$10. Every Tuesday, bring your creative side and join Tyler Roynance and friends for a good drawing experience. No need to sign up, just show up. Call 702-346-1338.

Homework Help Available 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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 fingerplays with their favorite adult. This program introduces kids and parents to language-enrichment activities and emerging literacy skills. 702-346-5224.

Homework Help Available 3:00-5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

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.

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.

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.

Kids' Artsy Craft Club: 4:30 p.m., A new art technique is taught every week, Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St., 702-346-5224.

Homework Help Available 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Mesquite Rotary: 5:30 p.m. Meets every Wednesday at the Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. For more information, call 725-253-0288 or email Rotary-ClubofMesquiteNV@gmail.com

THURSDAYS

Al-Anon Family Groups: 10:30-3:30 a.m., 150 N. 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 activities that allow for flexible, hands-on experimentation, collaboration and tinkering in areas of professional interest.

> See **CALENDAR**, Page 19



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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 Lutheran Church

BIBLE STUDY Sunday 8:30 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 a.m. <i>Weekly Communion</i>
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Mesquite United Methodist Church

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Pastor Malakai Pahulu
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Join us for these special MUMC Christmas Events:

MUMC Choir presents a Christmas Cantata
'This is Christmas'
Sunday, Dec. 15 at 4:00 p.m.

Blue Christmas Service
Sunday, Dec. 22 at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, Dec. 24 at 4:00 p.m.



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The first but not the last

By Christopher Wall

This time of year brings the joy of Advent. Although Christmas has become over-commercialized in so many ways, we would be lying to ourselves if we did not admit that there is something wonderful and joyous about the lights, the candy canes, the ribbons, and the sense of exuberant joy that permeates the atmosphere (or the fact that, here in Mesquite, we don't need to worry about snow).



Of course, the entire purpose of the season—though this is lost on many, if not in knowledge then certainly in expression—is the celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the greatest gift the world has ever received or will ever receive.

His incarnation (a theological term simply explaining that Jesus, while being fully God, became fully human like you and me) is the most wonderful and glorious mystery imaginable.

Why the Creator of the universe would step into His own creation, be despised and rejected by it, and still be willing to give His life so that all who place their faith in Him

would be saved is, to put it lightly, confounding to the human mind. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

Here's the thing, though: although we think so much about Christ's first coming—and rightly so at this time of year—I think we often fail to consider His second coming. The second coming of Christ will be markedly different from His first coming. In His first coming, He was a babe in a manger; in His second, He will be the conquering King (Revelation 19:11-16). In His first coming, He was meek and lowly; in His second, He will be authoritative and mighty—not to say He wasn't in His first, but that was not the main emphasis and expression at His first coming.

As we gather around the table and the tree this Christmas season, our minds will be thinking of many things: family, food, gifts—but we would do well to think about our relationship with Christ. Not an idea of Christ as a cute baby, but Christ who has come to save us.

Jesus came to save all those who place their faith in Him. It is not a difficult concept, but it is one that requires a difficult thing: humility. We must be willing to admit that we are in the wrong (sinners) and that we need saving (which only Jesus can provide). As Scripture reminds us, "For all have sinned and fall

> See WALL, Page 21



Get Reconnected With Jesus

Sundays 12:00 p.m.

Mesquite Episcopal-Lutheran (ELCA) Community Church
350 Falcon Ridge Parkway, Suite 702
at the Valley Presbyterian Church

A project of the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada and the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

All are invited and all are welcome. This congregation is open to everyone.

Calendar

continued from Page 17

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 3:00-5:00 p.m.

FRIDAYS

Family 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. 702-346-5224.

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

Celebrate Recovery Group: Dinner 5 p.m., Group 6 p.m., 830 Haven Lane (First Baptist Church). Celebrate Recovery can help you find peace in your life. It's a safe place with no judgement. Call Dave at 847-997-6868 or visit www.crmesquite.com

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.

FRIDAY, DEC. 6

Holiday Letter Prep: 11 a.m. - noon, Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Leaning Resource Center. Get instruction on writing that holiday letter. 702-346-5224.

Mesquite Toes Tis the Season Christmas Show: 1 p.m., Mesquite Community Theatre, 150 N. Yucca St. Tis the Season is presented by the Mesquite Toes Dance Troupe. General admission \$20. Tickets available at the MCT box office and online at mct-nv.com

Battle of the Books Club: 4:15 - 5:15 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. . Young adults book club. Info: 702-346-5224.

Palette & Pour Party, Wintery Cranberries: 5-7:30 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. \$35. Registration required. Call Dottie Golden at 831-246-0226 or email dottiegolden112@gmail.com

Parade of Lights: 5:30 p.m., parade route down Mesquite Boulevard between Arrowhead Lane and Willow Street. Theme is Winter Wonderland.

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

Healthy Reading Book Club: 11 a.m. - noon, Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Join in a lively discussion of the monthly selection. Ask at the customer service desk. Call 702-346-5224.

Movie Matinee: 1 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. Fea-

tured movie is the original "Blue Christmas." Call 702-346-5224.

Mesquite Toes Tis the Season Christmas Show: 1 p.m., Mesquite Community Theatre, 150 N. Yucca St. Tis the Season is presented by the Mesquite Toes Dance Troupe. General admission \$20. Tickets available at the MCT box office and online at mct-nv.com

Holiday Cricut Club: 3-4:30 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Leaning Center. Join for a fun holiday project. 702-346-5224.

SUNDAY, DEC. 8

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

Live Concert: 3 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. Come out and listen to Teddy and Dueling Pianos. Call 702-346-5224.

MONDAY, DEC. 9

Blood Drive: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Schedule an appointment at www.bloodhero.com and enter code MESQUITELIBLV.COM or call 877-258-4825.

Christmas Bingo for Kids: 4 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Bingo for kids with a holiday theme. Info: 702-346-5224.

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, DEC. 10

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

Warrior Women: 5:30-6:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Group discussion for those affected by cancer. Call 702-346-5224.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11

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.

3D Pen Club: 4-4:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Join for a fun event drawing I 3D. Free and open to the public. 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, DEC. 12

What's Happening Mesquite: 8-9:30 a.m., Cinnamon Cafe, 533 Highland Drive. If you want to be "in the know" about

> See CALENDAR, Page 20



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Calendar

continued from Page 19

what's happening in Mesquite, visit this Mesquite Chamber of Commerce event. Cost is \$15 and includes breakfast.

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, DEC. 13

Card Making: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Get together for a class in card making. 702-346-5224.

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

Mingle and Jingle Holiday Luncheon: noon - 2 p.m., Casa Blanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Cost is \$45 per person. RSVP at 702-346-2902.

Palette & Pour Party, Frosty and Friends: 5-7:30 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery

classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. \$35. Registration required. Call Dottie Golden at 831-246-0226 or email dottiegolden112@gmail.com

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

Get Smart with Art: 10 a.m. - noon. Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. A free class for ages 8-14. Explore different elements of art, mediums, applications and techniques. Call Wendy Douglas at 435-230-4748 or email redsaltedough@yahoo.com

Family Holiday Craft Buffet: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Learning Center Building. Holiday craft making for the whole family. Info: 702-346-5224.

Fused Glass Snowflake Workshop: 1:30-4:30 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery glass studio classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Must have fused glass experience or bin the beginners class. \$50 cash or Venmo at the door. Included instruction, kiln use, all materials and equipment.

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

Movie Matinee: 1 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St.

Featured movie is the original "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice." Call 702-346-5224.

MONDAY, DEC. 16

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

TUESDAY, DEC. 17

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

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18

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

THURSDAY, DEC. 19

DIY Craft: 10:15-11:15 a.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. A different craft each month. Sign up required. 702-346-5224

FRIDAY, DEC. 20

Desert Doodler Drop In Group: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Mesquite Fine arts Gallery, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Share your flare. Discuss areas of problems, discover new tools. Call Joyce Redweik at 951-805-3759 or email joyceredweik@gmail.com.

Palette & Pour Party, Polar Friends: 5-7:30 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. \$35. Registration required. Call Dottie M. Golden at 831-246-0226 or email dottiegolden112@gmail.com

SATURDAY, DEC. 21

Kids in Clay Program: 9 a.m. - noon, Pottery studio, Bldg. D, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd., For ages 8-12. Registration required. \$5 fee. For details, call Kathleen Birkholz at

> See **CALENDAR**, Page 21

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Calendar

continued from Page 20

702-443-4878.

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 movie is "All Happy Families." Call 702-346-5224.

Yellow Brick Road: 8 p.m. - 1 a.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Yellow Brick Road has been brining rock music to the "lounge scene" since 1997. 21 and older. Free admission.

SUNDAY, DEC. 22

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

TUESDAY, DEC. 24

Library closed

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

Ron of Ages: 6-10 p.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Come out for this high-energy band that plays a variety of hits from the Doobie Brothers, The Police, Journey, the Beatles, Eagles, Bryan Adams and more. 21 and older. Free admission.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25

Library closed

Ron of Ages: 6-10 p.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Come out for this high-energy band that plays a variety of hits from the Doobie Brothers, The Police, Journey, the Beatles, Eagles, Bryan Adams and more. 21 and older. Free admission.

THURSDAY, DEC. 26

Molina Medicare: 1-2 p.m.,

Mesquite Library Learning Center, 160 W. 1st. St. Find the best plan for you and discover extra benefits and savings 702-346-5224

FRIDAY, DEC. 27

Palette & Pour Party, Snowflakes: 5-7:30 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. \$35. Registration required. Call Dottie M. Golden at 831-246-0226 or email dottiegolden112@gmail.com

SATURDAY, DEC. 28

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, DEC. 29

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, DEC. 30

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

TUESDAY, DEC. 31

Library closes at 5 p.m.

Book Swap Club: 1-2:30 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Info: 702-346-5224.

New Years Eve with Buckcherry: Doors open at 8:30 p.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Rock in the New Year with hard rock band Buckcherry and Otherwise. Reserved seats are \$150-\$65 (tax included). Tickets only available online at casablancaresort.com or by phone at 800-514-3849.

Wall

continued from Page 18

short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Yet, we have the glorious promise: "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

I pray that as you enjoy this Advent season, you would do serious reflection not only about Jesus' first

coming but also His second, for He is indeed coming again.

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

Chris Wall is the Pastor of Mesquite Baptist Church (750 W. Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite, NV, 89027)—Additional resources can be found at "mesquitebaptistchurchnv.com" and on YouTube and Instagram at "mesquitebaptistchurchnv"

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PUZZLES

THEME: SPORTS

ACROSS

1. Combat vehicle
5. Semi
8. *Biathlon gear, sing.
11. Keiko of "Free Willy"
12. *Ashi Waza and jugodi sport
13. Audience's approval
15. Tandoori bread
16. Ned Stark's daughter, "Game of Thrones"
17. R`ntgen beams
18. *Warning track sport
20. Monetary "thank you," pl.
21. Indigo dye shrubs
22. "Arabian Nights" bird
23. Destroyer
26. Danced to certain Polish music
30. Crematorium container
31. One without magic powers in Harry Potter stories
34. Largest volcano in Europe
35. Do nothing (2 words)
37. Singer Yoko
38. Be at the helm
39. Tropical tuber
40. *Player who delivers in a crucial sports moment
42. Recipe qty.
43. Display proudly (2 words)
45. Smells
47. Lake, in France
48. Clean a spill (2 words)
50. #8 Across, pl.
52. *Cornerback and direct snap sport

55. Russian pancake
56. Pasta option
57. Go cold turkey
59. *Reward for multiple sports championships, pl.
60. "Breaking Bad" victim
61. The Beehive State
62. King Kong, e.g.
63. Type of lightbulb, acr.
64. Spooky

DOWN

1. Boatload
2. Riyadh native
3. *Collegiate sports grp.
4. Topeka native
5. Not urban
6. Short poems of pastoral life
7. *Hockey score

CROSSWORD

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8. *Powerful shot in hockey sport
9. 11th letter of Roman alphabet, pl.
10. Elvis' "____ Now or Never"
12. White and black stork
13. Glorify
14. *Gully and deep mid wicket sport
19. Foe
22. Fish eggs
23. Corrodes
24. Heep of "David Copperfield"
25. Preface
26. Scheme
27. Mr. T's TV show "The ____"
28. Olden days constipation treatment
29. *Bag of nails and baby ton
32. *Eagle and mulligan sport
33. African migrator
36. *Turkey and split sport
38. Woody perennial
40. Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr.
41. He gets a flag?
44. Reprieve in a desert
46. Not light-transmitting
48. Dots and dashes code
49. Did like goo
50. Women's underskirt
51. Plural of cow, arch.
52. *Sports transgression
53. Plucked string instrument
54. Pinocchio, e.g.
55. Type of undergarment
58. Olden day "your"

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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8	3	9	1	5	9	7	4	2
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✓ Your local Legal Kiosk is available at the Mesquite Library Adult Learning Center: 121 W. 1st North St. For more information, visit: legalkiosks.com/projects/nevada

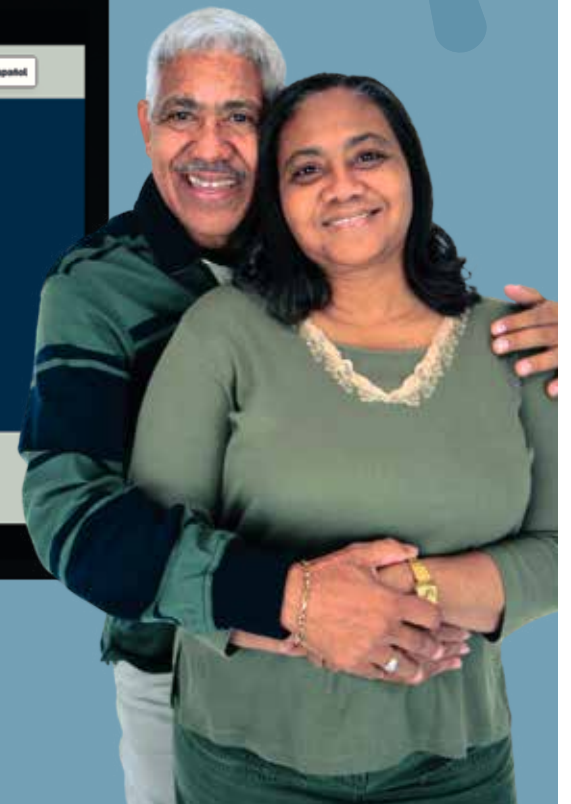
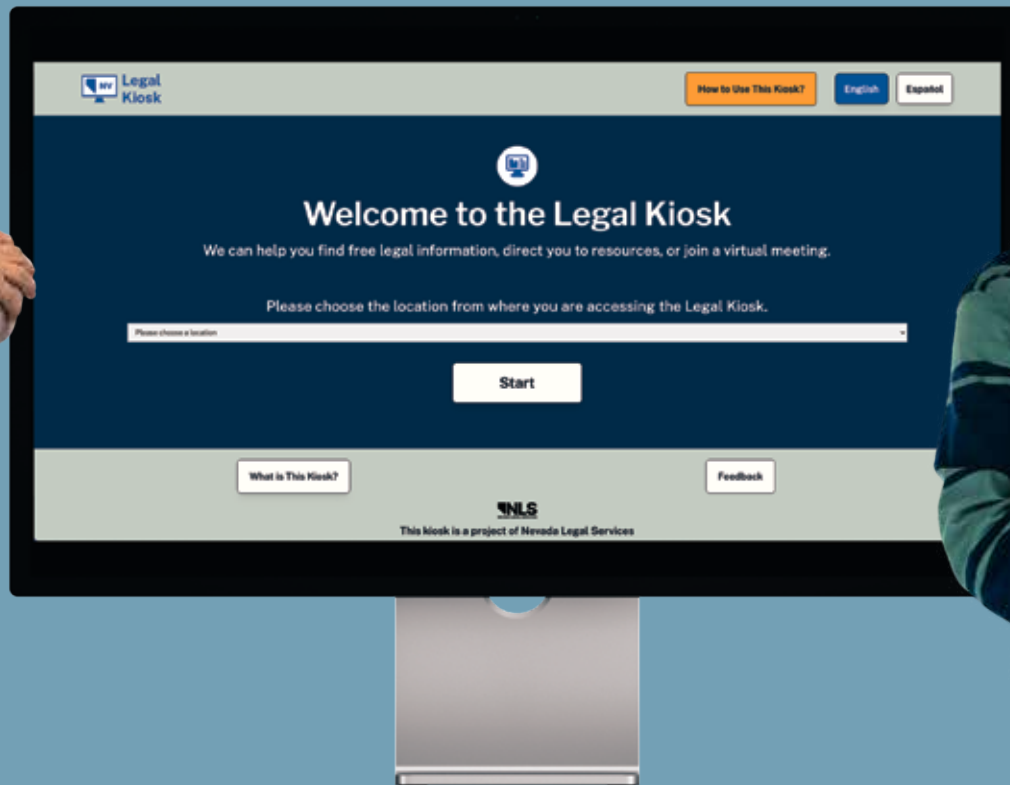
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