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# MESQUITE MONTHLY

Your Local Source For Mesquite Business, People & News

AUGUST 2025 | VOL. 5, No. 8

FREE

## ON THE RISE

A new Holiday Inn has opened in Mesquite at the site of the former Rising Star Resort, at 333 N. Sandhill Blvd. SEE STORY PAGE 8



VVHS Football Preview, PAGE 6 | Mesquite Senior Games, PAGE 10

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## NEWS AND NOTES

### SIGNUPS UNDER WAY FOR VVES SAFEKEY PROGRAM

Registration is now open for the Virgin Valley Elementary School SafeKey program, an after-school program that provides a safe, monitored environment for children in kindergarten through fifth grade.

The staff will assist with homework, offer fun learning activities, a snack and time to socialize and have fun.

In-person registration is available at the Mesquite Recreation Center, 100 W. Old Mill Road. Children must be registered and have a parent information form completed prior to attending SafeKey, regardless of previous registration or attendance.

SafeKey will begin after school in the VVES lunchroom and conclude at 6:15 p.m.

There are two payment options: a 20-day punch pass for \$100 or a

10-day punch pass for \$50. School starts on Aug. 11.

Those interested can call 702-346-8732, extension 4013 or email Janeece Noel at JNoel@mesquitenv.gov.

### MESQUITE TO OFFER FIRE ACADEMY IN 2026

Ready to answer the call? Here's how to become a firefighter in the Mesquite region.

**Start with an EMT course:** A new class kicks off soon at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) here in Mesquite.

**Enroll in a Fire Academy:** Mesquite Fire Rescue is planning one in 2026 (dates coming soon).

Apply for open positions in your area to gain hands-on experience.

Whether you're just starting or looking to level up, now's the time to gear up. Contact CSN for information about the EMT class at 702-651-4979, and check back on the

Mesquite Fire Rescue Facebook page for updates on the 2026 fire academy.

### YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL SEASON SIGNUPS SLATED

The Mesquite Athletics and Leisure Services Department will offer a youth flag football league in September.

Registration deadline is Aug. 18.

Games will be played Tuesday and Thursday evenings between Sept. 4-30.

For the 4-5 year old division, games will be played at 5:15 or 6 p.m.; for ages 6-8, games will be at 6 or 6:45 p.m.; and for ages 9-11, games will take place at 7:30 p.m.

Cost is \$55 for members and \$60 for non-members.

To register, visit the Mesquite Recreation Center at 100 W. Old Mill Road. Those interested can also call 702-346-8732.

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# VVHS principal ready to begin 2025-26 with strong aspirations, school renovations

By Breven Honda

For every high school principal, a new school year provides new beginnings with a lot of pride.

For Virgin Valley High School Principal Stephen Waite, he cannot wait for the 2025-26 school year to begin.

"Very excited," Waite said. "We have a lot of veteran teachers that I think are quite good. We go back Aug. 11."

Waite, who is entering his second year as principal, bleeds green as he also graduated from Virgin Valley High School in 1994.

"Virgin Valley, it's home," Waite said. "I actually wonder, I not sure this is accurate, if I might have spent more time on Virgin Valley campus than any human being on this planet, between time as a high school student and time as a teacher.

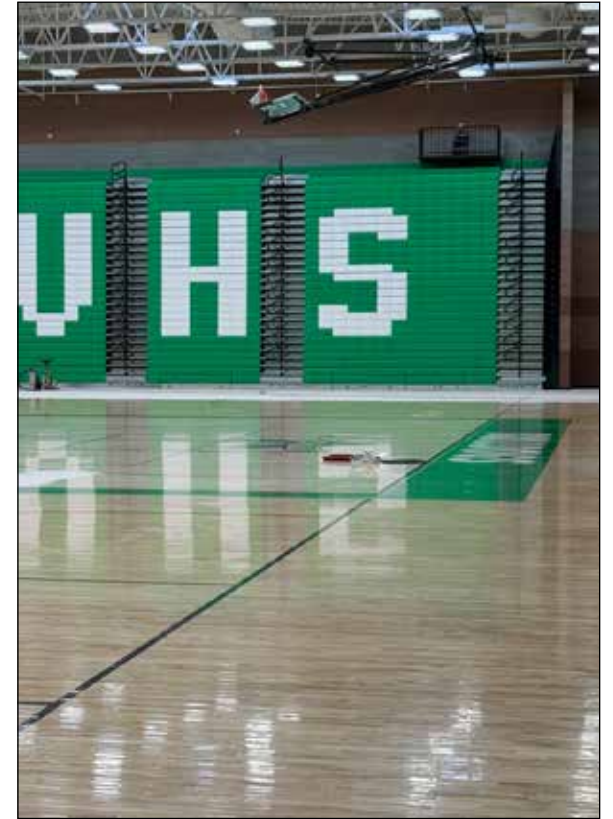
"It's like Disneyland for me. I love that place."

As Waite begins his second year as principal, he learned a lot from last year.

He said the biggest thing he took away from last school year was the relationship between students and teachers.

"Something I knew before, but was re-emphasized, and that just the importance of people, both the student and the teacher, front office," Waite said. "So, far and away, the most important thing on any campus are the human beings on that campus. That's teachers being in the right mindset and the right place to teach kids who need to be in the right place in the mindset.

"There's a lot of distraction with both of those. Kids can come with struggles and of course, teachers have their own ups and downs. But no question about it, if you can take care of a person, that person has the best chance to be educated."



As a result, Waite ensures he has a strong mental health program.

"We've put a lot of money into our mental health therapist, Glen Horlacher, who is like just salt of the earth type person, great individual," Waite said. "I relearned the power of helping people be emotionally strong and take on the ups and downs of not only being like a teacher, educator, student, but also being like a human being."

While focusing on having the right mentality, Waite is also focusing on academics. He is aiming for students to have higher ACT test scores as well as aiming for a higher Star Rating, given by the Clark County School District.

He said getting a higher star rating is a sign of a well-rounded successful academic school.

"Every school has given up to a five-star ranking," Waite said. "A year ago, Virgin Valley was a three. We've done a

> See VVHS, Page 11

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# Bulldog football ready for 2025 with youth, strong schedule

By Breven Honda

The Virgin Valley High School football team is primed and ready for the 2025 season.

Despite players graduating at some key positions, head coach Matt Woods has the opportunity for returning players to seize those roles for the upcoming season.

"It's always fun to see who's going to step up and take that," Woods said on July 23. "We told them when we started practicing the summer, 'Pretty much every position is open this year.'

"We made it a competition like, 'Who wants it? Who's going to earn it? Who's going to show up in the summer.' We've got a pretty good response for it. It still might slightly change the next few weeks, going into the first game. We have a few spots that we still haven't decided 100% who's going to be in that spot."

There are three roles that are pretty much set in stone in senior quarterback Koby Perry, junior running back Drew Dixon and senior offensive and defensive lineman Jayden Healey.

Last year, Healey was team's leading sack leader among the underclassmen. In addition, Perry and Dixon were top performers in the 3A Southern League at their respective positions.

Perry ranked third in the league with 1,676 passing yards and 20 touchdowns. Dixon was second in the entire Division 3A with 1,454 rushing yards with 18 touchdowns and no fumbles.

"Kobe and Drew will be very good," Woods said. "Drew led the league in rushing last year. Kobe was right up there in passing. They are only going to improve this year. Up front, we're going to be really good. We got probably the best lineman in the state in Jayden Healey up front coming back as the offense/defensive lineman. He's always in the weight room. He's going to be a stud."

Woods has some returning players that are also looking to make a difference in a bigger role. Senior Dallin

## Schedule

**Aug. 15** @ Hurricane (UT) 7 p.m.

**Aug. 22** vs. SLMHS 7 p.m.

**Aug. 29** @ MAELV 7 p.m.

**Sept. 5** vs. Spring Creek 7 p.m.

**Sept. 12** vs. Cimarron-Memorial 7 p.m.

**Sept. 19** BYE/OPEN

**Sept. 26** @ Pahrump Valley\* 7 p.m.

**Oct. 3** @ The Meadows School\* 7 p.m.

**Oct. 10** vs. DPAC\* 7 p.m.

**Oct. 17** vs. Boulder City\* 7 p.m.

**Oct. 24** @ Moapa Valley\* 7 p.m.

(\*Denotes 3A Southern League game)

Moeai can play both sides of the ball at tight end and linebacker. Another senior in Parker Jensen can spell Dixon if he needs a break and also play linebacker.

A third senior Woods expect to lead the way in the receiving room is senior Elian Pinto.

"In order for us to be successful, him and junior Harvey Hurtado all got to have big years catching the ball for us," the Bulldogs head coach said. "Our success is going to be up front. If we can figure out blocking and figure out running the ball, that's going to open up the passing. We got some guys that can make plays on the outside too, if they get in open space."

As the players began their first practice on July 28, the first kickoff to the new season will be right around the corner. Virgin Valley has five non-league games, with the hopes of preparing them for a difficult league schedule.

The Bulldogs begin the season taking on Hurricane High of Utah, a team that Woods believe is at their best for the first time in 10 years. Virgin Valley also takes on three teams from the 4A Division, including last year's 3A state champions, Sports Leadership and Management in Henderson, who

> See **FOOTBALL**, Page 9

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# Holiday Inn Resort keeps family-friendly mindset

By Breven Honda

Keeping a family-friendly hotel in Mesquite was always the goal for the Holiday Inn Resort, which took over for The Rising Star hotel.

Since mid-April, the Holiday Inn has opened its doors with a primary focus to tourists and residents alike in the Mesquite community as well as families and kids' sports teams.

"Our main goal is to be a positive addition to the city of Mesquite, to be able to offer something to our local people that are around us, and to offer, people traveling into Mesquite, a different option for their lodging needs," said Becky Boyack, the general manager of the Holiday Inn Resort. "We're family friendly, we're 100% non-smoking, and we're not a casino. I think a lot of people in Mesquite would like having that kind of an option at a world known brand."

The Rising Star hotel was previously owned by the Eureka before the Holiday Inn Resort, managed by the Intercontinental Hotel Group, took over early this year.

As a result of taking over, Boyack and the hotel have been in the midst of its renovation process.

"The transition has been awesome," Boyack said. "We're bringing life to a building that hadn't had a lot of life to it. It was built in 1998 so we're breathing new life into it. It's exciting to see all the new stuff that we're doing, from entire room renovations to all the common areas and revamping the restaurant."

The transition process has had its ups and downs during the transition, including being a countrywide chain and not a local hotel.

"It's an older building. So, we are working with a lot of older pieces of the property that we're trying to improve," Boyack said of the challenges. "Also just being known as the Holiday Inn Resort versus the Rising Star, that's been a transition for people to kind of wrap their heads around right, because Rising Star was here for a while, but now we're a branded national hotel."

As that transition continues, it gives



people of all ages the opportunity to be in a great atmosphere.

Some of the amenities that target the youth, include a swimming pool, an arcade room and a children's center.

"We definitely cater to big groups and families," Boyack said. "We still have 30 rooms that have the bunk beds. So, it's a good place for those sports teams to come and be able to accommodate all of them, you know, plus our amenities here at the property."

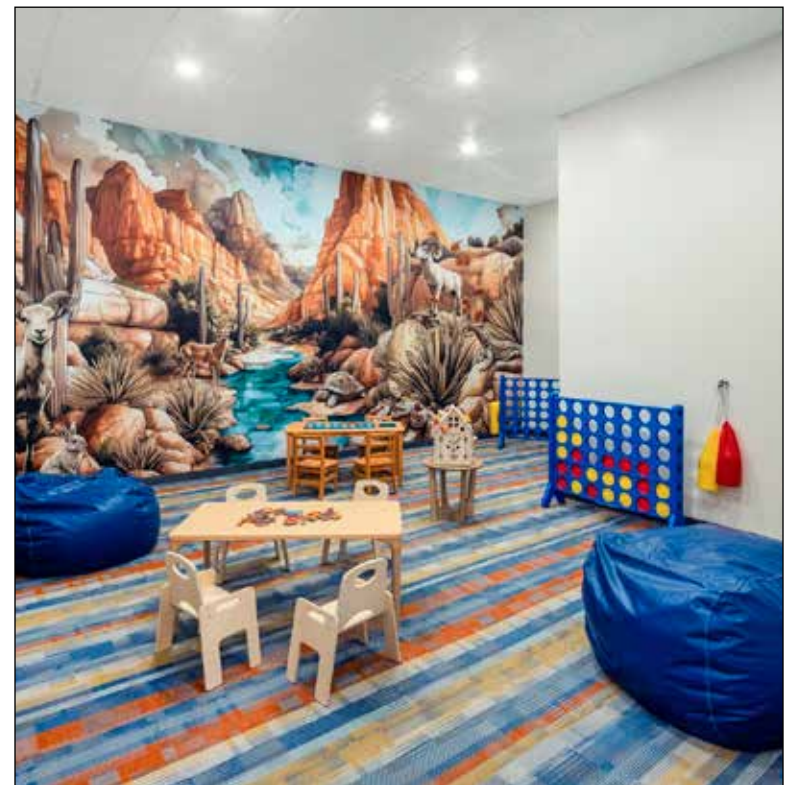
"So, we're definitely family-friendly."

Other amenities the Holiday Inn kept from the Rising Star included the basketball and pickleball courts.

Boyack said it was necessary to keep those with hopes of expanding on its amenities for new and returning clientele.

"It's absolutely important that we keep those because we are a Holiday Inn Resort," she said. "So with the resort, we get to offer more amenities than a regular Holiday Inn."

"For future improvements, we are actually putting in a water park for our guests to enjoy that will include a lazy river and a couple water slides."



# Football

continued from Page 6

were in the same league as the Bulldogs.

Woods also scheduled a team from the 3A Northern Division in Spring Creek, who will be coming to Mesquite on Sept. 5. In the fourth game of the season, that will give Woods and the rest of the team the opportunity to see where they are at against similar competition.

“Our goal is to schedule teams that are going to push us,” Woods said of the non-league slate. “They’re going to make us better. I don’t want to play a team that we might beat by 40, because it does us no good. I want to play a team that that’s going to be a coin toss and who shows up and who wins.

“We want teams that are going to make us better, even in a loss. A tough team will make you better than beating a team by 50, in my opinion. I like that competition. It will make us better, and we need

that with our young group.”

Virgin Valley’s 3A South league schedule begins with two league games at Pahrump Valley and at the Meadows School on Sept. 26 and Oct. 3, respectively.

Woods said those will be two tough games as it will be in middle of a span of 27 days without a home game.

“Anytime you travel to Pahrump, it’s like different world. It’s always tough playing Pahrump. Pahrump is as good this year as they’ve been in a long time. Some people are picking Pahrump to win the 3A this year. So it’s going to be a tough game.”

As the season begins this month, the opportunity to have a good season will be there as long as the players buy in and are able to maximize their roles.

“I think it’ll be a fun season. I’m excited about it,” Woods said. “I’m excited about the kids we got. I’m excited about our physicality. We have an opportunity, and it’s going to be fun to watch it play out.”

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# MSG looks for board members, continues prep for fall season

By Breven Honda

The Mesquite Senior Games is always looking for volunteers to ensure the success of their events. Now, the non-profit organization is searching for new board members.

President Sandy Tudor has lost five members in the last four months.

"We now have some openings on the board, that it is 100% volunteer position, but we welcome all inquiries into being a member of the board," Tudor said. "We're looking for like-minded people to help as a member of the board."

Tudor and the rest of the cabinet are looking for members to round out their Board that will be active and present for events.

"Board meetings are scheduled and determined by the board, generally monthly, but at least quarterly," Tudor said. "They're generally involved in all of the events, either serving as a volunteer if they choose, or if they choose to be an event director."

They have been reaching out in different ways to potentially acquire new board members. Tudor is putting a letter for the help wanted section in the chamber newsletter, needing board members as well as volunteers.

As the Mesquite Senior Games remains on the hunt for help, they are also in the midst of preparing for the fall season in men's softball, golf and bowling.

The men's softball event, which is slated for October 4-14, will be broken down by age brackets, per usual. The tournament will be played at Pioneer Park and depending on the number of teams, it could also take place at Hunter.

Going into the final week of July, a dozen teams have signed up with registration remaining open through this month and in September.



One of the unique things about this event is that teams and players come from all over the country and North America to Mesquite because they are also preparing for the Huntsman World Senior Games.

"It's awesome. I've got three Alaskan teams," Tudor said. "The same thing happens in Canada. I always try to make sure that they're not playing the team they play every other week."

"We've only got one local team now. We've got a couple (teams) that always come up from Las Vegas. Then, there's one men's team in St. George that generally comes down."

As a result, that makes the Mesquite Senior Games' softball event a nationwide event for teams to compete in one of the fastest growing cities in Nevada.

As softball is being planned, the golf tournament is also being organized. Outside the final logistical needs, the event has pretty much been planned out.

The golf event is scheduled for Nov. 5 at Coyote Willows Golf Course. The format is a two-man best ball event. Each team of two will play the course twice to get 18 holes of fun.

It is a co-ed tournament, and the handicap will come in with the tee boxes, depending on age. The players aged 50-59 will hit from the blue tees, 60-69 from white, 70-79 from gold and those 80+ and all ladies will hit from the red tees.

"They love the fact that they can play mixed doubles," Tudor said. "It's hard to explain but they each keep their own

score. We have a lot of couples that play together in this, which is nice."

Registration has opened and event director Shawn Edwards can accept up to 72 players, or 36 teams.

There is also a long drive hole and a closest to the pin contest. Because each player will play the same hole twice, players have a redemption opportunity for each event with a \$5 donation.

"Sometimes they don't participate in the extra game on the first round, but they will on the second one. So that's always fun," Tudor said. "Then we do lunch on the turn as they come past the clubhouse to play their second round. We give them sandwich, chips and a drink."

As the days gets closer and closer to softball and golf, Tudor expects a lot of participants in both events.

"We, I expect to be full for golf. I have no doubt that that will fill all spots," Tudor said. "And I'm sure I'll be fine on softball."



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# VVHS

continued from Page 4

lot of work to become a four, but one of the challenges is to become a five. And the five, I think, is within our reach, if you're looking at all of the areas that we have to and they're all student-based successes and teacher-like focus.

"It's a challenge in the fact that, I don't know if we've ever been a five-star school. All the nuances and the smaller goals that are needed to reach such a goal are so positive, like fighting against chronic absenteeism, or improve ACT scores or ensure that there's engagement with community in the school."

Virgin Valley remained a 3-star school in 2023-24 as it improved its total index score 45 points to 635 points. The school also saw a 15% improvement in 2023-24 in English Language Arts proficiency as well as small increases of about 2% in math and sciences proficiencies, respectively.

The school also saw its chronic absenteeism rate drop from 31.4 to 29.4 in 2023-24, showing that students are remaining in the classroom and not having unex-

cused absences.

The star ratings from the 2024-25 school year has not been unveiled.

On the extracurricular side, Waite is hoping for more success in athletics, robotics and the arts.

"Athletics are a fun part of high school, so I would love to see multiple state championships," he said. "My theater department, I got down to the final two to win what would be considered State Theater. It's effective in the fact that it helps kids perform better in classes because GPAs have to be high and those teachers require a lot.

"We have a robotics class I'd like to see expand. I think our student council does a phenomenal job. I expect they'll do exceptionally well this year. They maintain a very high standard for student council."

Over the summer, the Virgin Valley High School gymnasium earned some renovations, refinishing the gym floors.

As a result, it made the court and floors look brand new in a project that was completed by the Clark County School

District.

"Clark County School District goes above and beyond when it comes to the gym floors. We redid the floor. We didn't re-decal the floor. We just resealed the floor," Waite said. "We are having CCSD come in, and they are reassessing the bleachers because we're having problems. Sometimes, the East Side pulls out in front of the west side, and they kind of collapse, so they're going to redo the bleachers. We are doing a new shot clock this year for basketball. So that required some wiring and some electrical work.

"There was also a deep clean of the foyer. This is minor, but you step into the bathrooms now, and it's a recoated bathroom, so it looks clean all the time, as opposed to something that might have looked dirty. That's a shout out to our custodian crew."

Although it has been eight years since the gym was originally renovated, it now looks as if the gym was new. The foyer has also added an athletic wall, honoring different awards, such as state cham-

pionships, like on the athletic side.

"If you're a step in the gym and look at it, a lot of ways, it is the same floor, but obviously it looks shiny and new, and it'll be fun," Waite said. "If you go in the main hall of the foyer, there's a new academic state championship wall, which I like. We want to win athletic championships, but it is wonderful when our athletes not only perform on the field but nail the classroom as well."

As the school year arrives this month with the first day on Aug. 11, Waite hopes that students will go to class and learn something with respect.

"If you're going to come and go into class, you might as well learn something," he said. "So, the simplicity of why we're there is like, 'Go learn.'"

"I would also say that every Bulldog is welcome. It doesn't matter who you are, what you love, as long as you're good, kind and respectful, you're 100% welcome on that campus, and we'll do everything we can to make sure you have a place, a classroom, an extracurricular spot you can go."

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By Ron Bird

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Every so often, something comes out of Washington that really does make us stop and say, “Okay, this could actually change a few things.”



The recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill Act is one of those rare pieces of legislation that could have a direct impact on your tax situation and by extension, your investment portfolio.

I’ve been reading through the updates and running a few “what if” scenarios for clients, and I thought I’d share a quick breakdown of what matters, what’s just noise, and what might be worth acting on before the end of the year.

### A QUICK LOOK AT WHAT’S CHANGED

Here are a few highlights from the bill that might affect your financial life:

**SALT Deduction Cap Raised (Temporarily)**

- The cap on state and local tax (SALT) deductions was increased from \$10,000 to \$40,000 for joint filers through 2029.

- This is a big win for folks in high-tax states or anyone who has significant property or income tax payments.

**Why it matters:** If you’re someone who itemizes your deductions (or could under this new cap), you may see a noticeable tax benefit. That could mean more cash flow in retirement, or extra funds to invest, gift, or travel with.

### ESTATE PLANNING DOOR STILL WIDE OPEN (FOR NOW)

- The federal estate tax exemption remains very high—over \$13 million per person.

- While this isn’t new, the bill didn’t lower it (yet), which many expected.

**What you can do:** This creates a continued window to shift wealth to future generations using trusts, gifting strategies, or family business transfers without tripping the estate tax wire.

### QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESS STOCK STAYS ATTRACTIVE

If you’re a business owner or investing in one, this bill preserves special treatment for qualified small business stock, meaning gains could still be partially or completely excluded from taxes under the right conditions.

Even if this doesn’t affect you today, it’s something to keep in mind when planning exit strategies or investing in local startups.

### BONUS DEPRECIATION EXTENDED (GOOD NEWS)

The bill allows for continued bonus depreciation, making it easier for business owners to deduct the full cost of certain assets upfront.

**Why it matters:** If you own a small business, or even a side hustle, there may be new opportunities to reduce your taxable income significantly by investing in equipment, technology, or improvements.

### SO, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUR PORTFOLIO?

All these updates circle back to one important question: How does this affect the way we manage your investments and financial plan?

Here are a few scenarios to consider:

You might have more after-tax income this year.

> See **BIRD**, Page 17

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To have your event listed in this calendar, please e-mail [mesquite-monthly@gmail.com](mailto: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. No class the first two weeks of August. 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.

### 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. No class the first two weeks of August. 702-346-5224.

**Tyler's Drawing and Creativity Class:** 2-4 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd., Classroom 1, Building B. Bring your creative side and join Tyler and friends for a good drawing experience. No need to sign up. Just show up. Cost is \$10 per class. Call 702-346-1338.

### 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.

**Preschool "Ready for Kindergarten" 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. No class the first two weeks of August. 702-346-5224.

**Mesquite Rotary:** 5:30 p.m. Meets every Wednesday at 150 N Yucca Street - Building 7, Suite 26. (Willow Street side). For more information, call 725-253-0288 or email [RotaryClubofMesquiteNV@gmail.com](mailto:RotaryClubofMesquiteNV@gmail.com)

### THURSDAYS

**A Gathering of Artists:** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. A group of artists who enjoy spending time with each other. All art forms and meeting of like-minded people. Tamara S. Reese, 808-489-1171 or [cptweese@yahoo.com](mailto:cptweese@yahoo.com).

**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](mailto: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. All supplies provided. No class the first two weeks of August. 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. No class the first two weeks of August. 702-346-5224

### 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. No class the first two weeks of August. 702-346-5224.

**Fused Glass Drop In Group:** 1-4 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery glass studio classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Open to class students and experienced fused glass crafters. Group size limited to 10 participants. Walk-ins only. \$10.

**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.

**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 Hafen 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](http://www.crmesquite.com)

## THURSDAY, AUG. 7

**Author T.K. Banner:** 10:15 a.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. Terri K. Fitzsimmons (AKA T.K. Banner) is the author of seven books. She will answer questions and sign books. Call

> See **CALENDAR**, Page 15

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**Pastor Bruce Whisenhunt**  
*A Southern Baptist Fellowship*

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

**Nursery and Children's Church Available**

702-346-2698 | WWW.CCCMESQUITE.ORG | 233 NORTH SANDHILL BLVD., MESQUITE

## Mesquite Lutheran Church

<b>BIBLE STUDY</b> Sunday 8:30 a.m.	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> 10:00 a.m. <i>Weekly Communion</i>
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450 Turtleback Rd. • 702-346-5811  
[MesquiteLutheran.org](http://MesquiteLutheran.org)

**Pastor David Constien**  
An LCMS Congregation. Learn more at [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)

[facebook.com/MesquiteLCC](https://facebook.com/MesquiteLCC)

## Mesquite United Methodist Church

*Open Hearts... Open Minds... Open Doors*



**Sunday Worship** 10:00 a.m.  
**Sunday School** 8:30 a.m.

Pastor Malakai Pahulu

420 W. Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite 702-346-4663 [umcmesquite.org](http://umcmesquite.org)

## NON-DENOMINATIONAL HOME CHURCH SERVICES

We meet every Saturday from 10-11:30 a.m.  
If interested or have further questions  
please email: [davidbrusk@yahoo.com](mailto:davidbrusk@yahoo.com)



# Gospel doesn't leave us the same

By Christopher Wall

Few stories of transformation are as staggering and undeniable as that of John Newton. Born in 1725, Newton lived a life marked by rebellion, profanity and cruelty.



As a young man, he abandoned every semblance of decency—even earning the reputation among sailors as “the great blasphemer.” He mocked religion, scoffed at Scripture, and immersed himself in the wickedness of the slave trade, profiting from the sale and suffering of human beings. He was, by his own admission, a wretch.

But everything began to change on a storm-tossed ship in 1748. When the vessel seemed certain to sink, Newton cried out to God for mercy. That desperate plea, born out of fear, became the first spark of a sovereign and saving grace.

Though his transformation wasn't instantaneous, God began a deep and radical work in him. Newton would later go on to become a pastor, mentor to William Wilberforce, a key voice in the abolitionist movement, and the author of the world's most well-known hymn: Amazing Grace.

He never forgot who he had been. On his tombstone are these words:

“Once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned,

and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy.”

That story could also describe one of the most famous figures in the Bible—the apostle Paul. Before Paul, there was Saul: a man who hated the church with a level of vehemence that's hard to fathom. He carried an almost petty vendetta against believers. He would go out of his way to find Christians and bring them before the Sanhedrin in order to have them killed or persecuted in some fashion.

But we read in Acts 9 how everything changed. Then, in Galatians 2, we see how the church in Judea heard that the very man who had once made it his life's mission to destroy the church was now in full service of it. In other words, he was not the same.

One of the most beautiful things about the gospel is that it does not leave us the same. We come broken and sinful, and the gospel makes us new and restored. God transforms our hearts to make us more like the image of His perfect Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

May I encourage you today: if you desire a change of life, a new direction, seriously investigate the claims of the Christian faith. Place your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

I assure you—you will not be the same!

*Chris Wall is the Pastor of Mesquite Baptist Church (750 W. Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite, NV, 89027)—Additional resources can be found at “[mesquitebaptistchurchnv.com](http://mesquitebaptistchurchnv.com)” and on YouTube and Instagram at “[mesquitebaptistchurchnv](https://www.instagram.com/mesquitebaptistchurchnv)”*



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# Calendar

continued from Page 13

702-346-5224.

**Genealogy Workshop:** 11 a.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. Learning Resource Center. Come out to learn about genealogy. 702-346-5224.

**Back to School Night:** 5-7 p.m. Virgin Valley High School, 820 Valley View Drive.. Get ready for back to school. School starts Monday, Aug. 11

**Bonkers Comedy Series:** 7-8:30 p.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Show features David Yates, a Los Angeles-based writer, comedian and actor. Must be 21 or older Free admission.

## FRIDAY, AUG. 8

**Canyonlands Healthcare:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Canyonlands Healthcare Community Healthcare Workers offers resources, information and support. Info: 702-346-5224.

**Cricut Design Club:** 10:30 a.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. Learning Resource Center. Learn more about how to use your Cricut and Cricut Design Space. Free and open to the public. 702-346-5224.

**Sam Riddle:** 8 p.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Sam Riddle is an American country music artist who has opened for Luke Bryan, Hank Williams Jr. and Dwight Yoakam. Must be 21 or older Free admission.

## SATURDAY, AUG. 9

**Apple iPhone:** 3 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Learning Center Building. Come and learn the tricks to using your iPhone. Info: 702-346-5224.

**Great White:** 8 p.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Great White has sold more than 10 million records with hits like 'Once Bitten, Twice Shy.' Must be 21 or older. Tickets

start at \$46.76.

## SUNDAY, AUG. 10

**Fused Glass Drop-in Group:** 1-4 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts, Classroom 2, Bldg. E, 156 W. Mesquite Blvd. Open to class students and experienced fused glass crafters. Group size limited to 10 participants. Walk-ins only. \$10 fee. Call Pam Jacobson at 303-910-4542.

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

## MONDAY, AUG. 11

**iPhone Photography:** 10:30 a.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Learning Center Building. Come and learn the tricks to using your iPhone camera. 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](http://www.vvarc.net)

## TUESDAY, AUG. 12

**Techsmart Tuesdays:** 11:15 a.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Lean a different technology topic each month. Class is a partnership with Ben Crenshaw, head of Cyber & AI Education at Work ED. Info: 702-346-5224.

**Warrior Women of Mesquite:** 4 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. St. Learning Center Building. Group discussion for those affected by cancer. Info: 702-346-5224.

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

## WEDNESDAY, AUG. 13

**Chamber of Commerce Luncheon:** 11:30 a.m., Cucina Italiana, 471 W. Mesquite Blvd. Speaker is Dr. Stacy Klippenstein, president of the College of Southern Nevada. Members \$40,

non-members \$50. RSVP at 702-346-2902.

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

**Intermediate Fused Glass Class:** 5-8 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Center, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd., Classroom 2, Building E. Second of four-week class. Participant must have taken the beginner class or have prior fused glass experience. Cost is \$200 and includes instruction, use of tool and equipment. Call 702-346-1338

## THURSDAY, AUG. 14

**Open Mic and Open Read:** 10 a.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Join for original poetry, stories, music and more. Sign ups at the door. Info: 702-346-5224.

**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.

**Bonkers Comedy Series:** 7-8:30 p.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Show features Richard Weiss from Amazon Prime, Tubi and Comedy Time TV with Donna Maine. Must be 21 or older Free admission.

## FRIDAY, AUG. 15

**Desert Doodlers:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Center, 15. W. Mesquite Blvd., Share your flare for doodling. Walk-ins only, bring your own supplies. Contact Joyce Redweik at 951-805-3759 or [joyceredweik@gmail.com](mailto:joyceredweik@gmail.com).

**Fused Glass Drop-in Group:** 1-4 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts, Classroom 2, Bldg. E, 156 W. Mesquite Blvd. Open to class students and experienced fused glass crafters. Group size limited to 10 participants. Walk-ins only. \$10 fee. Call Pam Jacobson at 303-910-4542.

**Palette and Pour Party:** 5-7:30 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Center, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Theme is "Ant Band." Cost is \$35. Contact Christine Picior at 435-229-9964 or [chrstinepicior@gmail.com](mailto:chrstinepicior@gmail.com)

**An Evening with Rodney Carrington:** 8 p.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Rodney Carrington is a multi-talented comedian, actor, singer and writer who has sold out shows around the world. Must be 21 or older. Tickets start at \$57.66.

## SATURDAY, AUG. 16

**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 "The Friend." Call 702-346-5224.

**Lego Challenge:** 3 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. Kids will get a theme and 30 minutes to build. Then there will be a vote for the favorite. Ages 5-12. This is a timed event. Call 702-346-5224.

**Franky and the All Nighters:** 7-8:30 p.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Experience the hottest cover band. Must be 21 or older Free admission.

## SUNDAY, AUG. 17

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

## MONDAY, AUG. 18

**Virgin Valley Artists General Meeting:** 11 a.m. - noon, Mesquite Fine Arts Center classroom, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. The public is invited to attend.

**Travel Workshop:** 3-4 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St.

> See CALENDAR, Page 16

# Calendar

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Learning Resource Center. Want to plan a trip? Come out and get some tips on how to get it done. 702-346-5224.

## TUESDAY, AUG. 19

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

**Frit Slurry Flower Workshop:** 1-4 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Center, Classroom 2, Building E. Learn how to make colorful flowers that can be displayed inside and or out. Participants must have taken the beginner's class or have prior fused glass experience. Cost is \$40 and includes instruction, use of tools and equipment and firing fees. Call 702-346-1338

## WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20

**3D Pen Coloring:** 3-4:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Learning Resource Center. Join for a fun evening of drawing in 3D. A 3D pen extrudes heated warm plastic from the nozzle. Free. Info: 702-346-5224.

**Virtual Author Series:** 4 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. Join in a discussion with New York Times best-selling author Casey McQuiston and her latest romantic comedy, The Pairing. Info: 702-346-5224.

**Intermediate Fused Glass Class:** 5-8 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Center, 15 W. Mesquite

Blvd., Classroom 2, Building E. Third of four-week class. Participant must have taken the beginner class or have prior fused glass experience. Cost is \$200 and includes instruction, use of tool and equipment. Call 702-346-1338

## THURSDAY, AUG. 21

**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.

**Awards Ceremony:** 4-6 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Open house reception. Call 702-346-1338

**Bonkers Comedy Series:** 7-8:30 p.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Show features Chris Cope, star of his own Dry Bar Comedy Special and seen on The Conan O'Brien Show and more, with Josh Giordano. Must be 21 or older Free admission.

## FRIDAY, AUG. 22

**Canyonlands Healthcare:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Canyonlands Healthcare Community Healthcare Workers offers resources, information and support. Info: 702-346-5224.

**Stained Glass Drop-in:** 1-4 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Center, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd., Classroom 2, Building E. Open to students and experienced glass crafters. You must know cutting and sol-

dering to participate. \$10 per session. Call 702-346-1338

**Palette and Pour Party:** 5-7:30 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Center, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Theme is "Here Birdie Birdie." Cost is \$35. Contact Christine Picior at 435-229-9964 or christinepicior@gmail.com

**Rock Star Karaoke:** 8 p.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Rock Star Karaoke allows you to live out your Rock & Roll fantasies and sing your favorite hits with a real, live rock band. Must be 21 or older Free admission.

## SATURDAY, AUG. 23

**Cricut Craft Club:** 3-4:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. Learning Resource Center. Join once a month for a fun project. All supplies provided. Registration required. 702-346-5224.

**Learn and Play:** 3 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. Families with children of all ages are welcome to join in a fun story time including books, songs and rhymes followed by play time in a hands-on learning environment. Call 702-346-5224.

**Yellow Brick Road:** 8 p.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Yellow Brick Road is a must-see act for those who love classic rock. Must be 21 or older Free admission.

**King of Queens Live:** 8 p.m., Virgin River Events Center, 100

E. Pioneer Blvd. One of the top rated Queen Tributes that has been selling out venues nationwide. Tickets start at \$47.85. Must be 21 or older.

## SUNDAY, AUG. 24

**Fused Glass Drop-in Group:** 1-4 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Center, Classroom 2, Bldg. E, 156 W. Mesquite Blvd. Open to class students and experienced fused glass crafters. Group size limited to 10 participants. Walk-ins only. \$10 fee. Call Pam Jacobson at 303-910-4542.

**Children's Sensory Sensitive Movie:** 1 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. For ages 0-17 and their caregivers.. 702-346-5224.

## MONDAY, AUG. 25

**Book Bingo:** 2:30-4 p.m. Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. Play bingo, win books! Info: 702-346-5224.

## TUESDAY, AUG. 26

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

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

## WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27

**Digital Memories Preservation Lab Workshop:** 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st.

> See CALENDAR, Page 17

# SERVICE DIRECTORY



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# Calendar

continued from Page 16

N. St. Learning Center Building. Learn how to digitize your old memories. Free and open to the public. Info: 702-346-5224.

**Anne Martin Memorial Plaque Unveiling:** 5 p.m., Women's History and Culture Center, 225 N. Willow. Recognize Martin's leadership in getting Nevada women the right to vote before the 19th Amendment was passed.

**Intermediate Fused Glass Class:** 5-8 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Center, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd., Classroom 2, Building E. Fourth of four-week class. Participant must have taken the beginner class or have prior fused glass experience. Cost is \$200 and includes instruction, use of tool and equipment. Call 702-346-1338.

## THURSDAY, AUG. 28

**Virtual Author Series:** 4 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. Learn how to master the daily grind and become shatterproof in a tumultuous world with key insights by Dr. Tasha Eurich as she talks about her newest book, Shatterproof. Info: 702-346-5224.

## FRIDAY, AUG. 29

**Create and Connect:** 11 a.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st. N. St. This free Makerspace program invites adults to join and

connect and create. Learn a new skill while having a blast at the library. Info: 702-346-5224.

**Fused Glass Drop-in Group:** 1-4 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts, Classroom 2, Bldg. E, 156 W. Mesquite Blvd. Open to class students and experienced fused glass crafters. Group size limited to 10 participants. Walk-ins only. \$10 fee. Call Pam Jacobson at 303-910-4542.

**Y.A. for A:** 4:30 p.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st N St. YA for A is the library's newest adult book club, made especially for those looking to read something new or who already enjoys reading young adult books. Info: 702-346-5224.

**Palette and Pour Party:** 5-7:30 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Center, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. Theme is "Peek-A-Boo-Moo." Cost is \$35. Contact Christine Picior at 435-229-9964 or [christinepicior@gmail.com](mailto:christinepicior@gmail.com)

**Bonkers Comedy Series:** 7-8:30 p.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Show features Gibbs Saad, AKA Gibbs the Comegian! From The Powder Keg Mountain Festival, with James Coleman. Must be 21 or older Free admission.

## SATURDAY, AUG. 30

**Art Drop Off:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery, 15 W. Mesquite Blvd., Classroom 1, Building B. Art drop off for the

"Invitational" exhibition. 702-346-1338

**CasaPoolooza Featuring Carol-Lyn's All Stars:** 8 p.m., CasaBlanca Pool, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Bring all your 90s hits back to life at the CasaBlanca pool. Must be 21 and older. Free admission..

## SUNDAY, AUG. 31

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

**Sam Riddle:** 8 p.m., CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Sam Riddle is an American country music artist who has opened for Luke Bryan, Hank Williams Jr. and Dwight Yoakam. Must be 21 or older Free admission.

## TUESDAY, SEPT. 2

**Mesquite Book Club:** 10 a.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st St. Ask for the current book club selection at the Customer Service Desk and read it prior to the meeting. Call 702-346-5224.

**Android Phone Class:** 10:15-11:15 a.m., Mesquite Library, 160 W. 1st St. Learning Resource Center. Get the most out of your Android phone. Call 702-346-5224.

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

# Bird

continued from Page 12

If that's the case, should we direct that into more tax-efficient investments, shore up your emergency fund, or increase charitable giving?

If your tax bracket shifts down, Roth conversions may be more attractive.

This could be a sweet spot to move some funds strategically from tax-deferred accounts into Roth IRAs, especially before required minimum distributions (RMDs) begin.

Your estate plan may need updating to make the most of the current exemptions.

Don't assume your old trust still does the job. Laws, strategies, and your goals may have changed since it was drafted.

The truth is, tax law changes come and go. But the people who benefit the most from them are the ones who pause, take a look, and make intentional decisions when opportunities arise.

If you're wondering how these updates affect your situation, your income, your retirement plan, your business, your legacy, that's exactly the kind of conversation we should be having.

Sometimes, beautiful things come in legislative packages. Let's make sure they work in your favor.

*This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended to give specific legal advice. Ron Bird is an Owner/Agent of Financial Concepts Retirement Planning, LLC and can be reached at 702-346-7025.*



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# PUZZLES

## THEME: THE CIRCUS

### ACROSS

1. \*Jumbo The Elephant or Sirius in space  
 5. "But I heard him exclaim ' \_\_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight"  
 8. Young salmon  
 12. Blood component  
 13. What Lizzie Borden did  
 14. Leather razor sharpener  
 15. "The Famous Five" author \_\_\_\_\_ Blyton  
 16. Back of the neck  
 17. Letter-shaped girder  
 18. \*Feats-of-strength circus performer  
 20. Indian restaurant bread  
 21. In need of a muffler  
 22. Away's partner  
 23. Backward  
 26. Same as ruin  
 30. Greek R  
 31. Net sales minus cost of goods sold  
 34. Europe/Asia mountain divide  
 35. Approximately, as in date  
 37. Overnight lodging  
 38. Inflicted a blow  
 39. Celestial bear  
 40. Goose egg  
 42. \_\_\_\_\_-AFTRA  
 43. Frying pan  
 45. Eating establishment  
 47. Type of English crs.  
 48. Traffic accident  
 50. Wading bird  
 52. \*Sara Gruen's novel "Water for \_\_\_\_\_"  
 56. \*Lion tamer's tool or counter seat  
 57. Justice's garb  
 58. Hit it on the head  
 59. Run off, as in couple  
 60. Was in the hole  
 61. Japanese zither  
 62. Something \_\_\_\_\_  
 63. Movie "Saturday Night" subject matter, acr.  
 64. FedEx, verb

### DOWN

1. Tom Jones' " \_\_\_\_\_ a Lady"  
 2. \*Big Top  
 3. Gulf V.I.P.  
 4. Remodeled

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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5. Tests  
 6. Settle a debt  
 7. Biblical place of bliss  
 8. \*"The Greatest Showman" protagonist  
 9. Equals length times width  
 10. Multicolored horse  
 11. Dashboard acronym  
 13. Type of heart pain  
 14. Moses' mountain  
 19. Hollywood legend \_\_\_\_\_ Shearer  
 22. \*Like circus audience's experience, hopefully  
 23. Bow-like structure  
 24. Dodge  
 25. Trunks  
 26. \*Three-\_\_\_\_\_ circus  
 27. What phoenix did  
 28. Batu Khan's people  
 29. JD Vance's "Hillbilly \_\_\_\_\_"  
 32. Civil disorder  
 33. African grazer  
 36. \*Sound of circus  
 38. Money under mattress, e.g.  
 40. \*Aerialist's bouncy safety device  
 41. Piled  
 44. Twisted cotton thread  
 46. Give it generously  
 48. \*Funny one  
 49. James Dean's famous role  
 50. It will  
 51. \*Unwelcome reception, pl.  
 52. Cupid, to the Greeks  
 53. Sodium hydroxide  
 54. \_\_\_\_\_caca, South American lake  
 55. Trough stuff  
 56. Witness

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**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*















