

THE VIRGIN VALLEY VOICE



Issue No. 2 — September 2026

News, Stories and Events from Mesquite, Bunkerville & The Arizona Strip

Published monthly by Annie Black — Mesquite, NV

A NOTE FROM ANNIE

Submitted by Annie Black

First, THANK YOU! Nearly 500 people have signed up for The Virgin Valley Voice since we started in August. Every day we're climbing closer to 20,000 people receiving it. Will we reach actual newspaper status someday? Who knows. For now, this is fun... and also a smidge stressful.

On that note, if you have experience writing, working at a newspaper or publication, or running a news or events site, I'd love to meet you. I know there's a lot to learn.

My vision is that this newsletter be written BY the people & FOR the people - of the Virgin Valley. If you have a story, opinion, gripe, accolade, review, news, skill to teach or anything else worth sharing, write it up and submit it on our website, www.VirginValleyVoice.com. No writing experience needed. Just send something in. We'll love it!

The events calendar is another HUGE part of this. We want it packed with every event happening around the valley - but we need you to tell us what's going on. So please submit your events on the website, www.VirginValleyVoice.com, too.

And because I know many of you aren't on social media or online much, we're mailing and emailing this on purpose. If submitting something online feels overwhelming, PLEASE don't let that stop you. Call me and we'll help. My personal cell is 702-872-2222.

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There Are Several Ways to Get The Virgin Valley Voice

You can read it online any time at www.VirginValleyVoice.com, have it delivered straight to your email inbox, receive it in your mailbox, or pick up a print copy in person at Annie's, 220 E Mesquite Blvd, Mesquite, NV.

You can sign up to receive the Virgin Valley Voice right in your email box. Go to www.VirginValleyVoice.com and sign up. We add info daily, so check back often.

Help us fill this newsletter! Submit stories, news, articles, kudos, gripes, events etc on our website too.

MARKET SNAPSHOT

A quick look at properties that have sold in the last 30 days

Mesquite

- Homes Sold: 60
- Price Range: \$135,000 – \$1,097,000
- Median Sale Price: \$397,500
- Avg. Days on Market: 142
- Homes Currently For Sale: 364

The Arizona Strip

- Homes Sold: 4
- Price Range: \$125,000 – \$3,190,000
- Median Sale Price: \$1,147,500
- Avg. Days on Market: 356
- Homes Currently For Sale: 69

Wondering what your home might be worth? Give us a call 702-872-2222.

THE MAGNUS MINUTE

Submitted by Magnus Title Company

Real estate sales in both Nevada and Arizona are typically closed by a Title/Escrow Company licensed and regulated by the State & these transactions have a few things in common regardless of state. They all include: 1. A contract with Earnest Money Deposit 2. A Title Search with Title Insurance issued. 3. An Escrow Accounting of all monies involved with the transaction along with paperwork that is compliant with state and federal guidelines.

Trust your licensed realtor as they will be using a contract that is approved by regulators & ensure all the required disclosures are obtained. The earnest money deposit is typically 1% to 3% of the purchase price & is deposited by the buyer with the Title Company within a few days of the Contract being accepted & is eventually credited towards the buyer's down payment. In the following months we'll review the Title Search and Title Insurance along with the Escrow Process.

Magnus Title Co. — 754 W Pioneer Blvd #101, Mesquite — (702) 659-6090

THE FINE PRINT

This newsletter is paid for and put together by Annie Black and the team at Annie's Estates. We sell real estate, stage houses and do estate sales throughout Mesquite, the Arizona Strip and Utah.

Our office is inside that BIG white building on the corner of Sandhill and Mesquite - the place everyone just calls Annie's - where we host a free weekly event with community, coffee, music, fun and local businesses every Wednesday from 10am-12pm.

We want Annie's to feel like home. Come on in without knocking. Help yourself to whatever's in the fridge. Consider Annie's home. And whenever you or someone you know needs real estate, staging, or estate sale help - we hope you'll think of us.

Ann Black, REALTOR® | eXp Realty | 702-872-2222 | Operations@AnnieBlack.com | 220 E Mesquite Blvd, Mesquite, NV 89027 | Lic. NV S.0172716, AZ SA711464000, UT 13500535-SA00

THE SUN'LL COME OUT: MCT PRESENTS ANNIE

Mesquite Community Theatre has been bringing live, local theater to the valley for years, staffed almost entirely by volunteers who love the stage as much as the audience does. Housed at 150 N Yucca St, MCT puts on several productions each season, all at ticket prices families can actually afford.

This month, get ready for orphans, curly red hair, and one very lucky dog: MCT's production of Annie runs September 18–26, with tickets \$10–\$25. Tickets are available at the box office, by phone at 702-345-4499, by email at boxoffice@mctnv.com or online at www.mctnv.com The theater is located at 150 N Yucca St, Mesquite, NV 89027

SIDE HUSTLE IS OPEN FOR BIZ

Side Hustle Vintage Thrift and New Trends is back open after a short summer break. They carry clothing, accessories, fun gifts, collectible toys, action figures, Hot Wheels, blind boxes, plushies and more! Located at 660 Hardy Way, Unit 43, Mesquite and open Thurs-Sat, 11a-5p

Mark your calendar: Side Hustle is hosting a FREE community event on September 18th at 6pm featuring Mike Bara — author, lecturer, screenwriter, and TV personality from Ancient

Aliens. Mike will give a presentation on “The History of Ufology & the Politics of Disclosure,” followed by a Q&A and book signing. Bring your curiosity and an open mind!

CALLING BALLS AND STRIKES

Submitted by Dean Gallo

My name is Dean Gallo, a ten-year resident of Mesquite who has not made a habit of speaking at Mesquite City Council meetings, until Tuesday. Politics is not my arena; supporting my wife, Councilwoman Pattie Gallo, and her efforts to bring executive-level competence and progress to this city is. I have always stood up when I see injustice. Years ago, as a thoroughbred horse trainer, I confronted fraud in the racing industry, filed suit, and won, creating case law that changed industry standards for the better. I call balls and strikes. That is why I am here now.

Mesquite Police Captains Quinn Averett and Jordan Bundy lied under penalty of perjury in an affidavit and in civil depositions. They accused me of following an intoxicated Councilman Paul Wanlass at the direction of former Chief Chesley. That claim is pure fabrication. I have never been asked to follow anyone, and I never have. When I learned of their statements I filed a formal complaint for false report and perjury with City Manager Becca Schrupp and City Attorney Adam Anderson. I deliberately avoided new Chief Tracy Fails because of his close personal ties to those captains and because I possess information suggesting his own involvement in the misconduct.

The city manager refused to handle the complaint and referred me back to Chief Fails. The city attorney did the same. I objected that the police department should not investigate its own executives. Within days of that complaint I was pulled over then cited for not wearing a seatbelt, when I was wearing one. I fought the ticket and won; the case was dismissed. I had not been stopped by police in forty years. The timing was no coincidence. It was clear retaliation.

I stood before this Council to ask a simple question: Why will the city manager not accept a complaint against high-ranking officers of the Mesquite Police Department? Must I take this higher to Metro, the Department of Justice, the FBI? I am giving the city manager and this Council every opportunity to do the right thing and order an independent investigation. I care about Mesquite. I support my wife's work to improve it. A just and fair government cannot exist when certain individuals are allowed to act corruptly without accountability. I will keep this body and the public informed as this matter proceeds.

WALLETS

Submitted by Leo Black, DC

A big thick wallet in a man's back pocket may be a sign of prosperity. To me, it's job security. Sitting on something on one side distorts the pelvis and stresses the sacro-iliac joint. This stress can lead to a pelvic distortion, inflammation, swelling, and pressure on the sciatic nerve. Over time, this can lead to compromised joint function and chronic pain. In short, it can be a pain in the butt...and back...and leg. It can be excruciating.

Most men who have made long car trips have noticed pain or tiredness in their low back and bottom. Many have figured out that if they remove their wallet from their back pocket, this pain is alleviated.

Solutions: Get rich enough to have an overstuffed wallet in both back pockets. Get rid of all the old girlfriends' numbers and ten years of old hunting licenses you've been carrying around. Or better still, do the former and trim all your important stuff down to a package you can fit in a money clip and carry it in your front pocket. Do anything but don't sit on your wallet!

Another suggestion would be to carry a purse. Most of my cowboy friends have objected to this. It's probably not a good idea anyway because we males would soon be carrying around a floor jack, some tent poles, a set of tools, an anvil, steak knives etc.

Professionally I like the idea because I'm tired of treating low backs and this way I could treat necks and shoulders. Scratch that, I already do that for women who carry crock-pots, pharmacies, bicycles and encyclopedias in theirs.

Also, when you are driving a long distance (a moot point 'cause if you bought gas, you don't have a thick wallet) take advantage of the rest stops. Your wife and family will appreciate your abrogation of the usual male imperative to "get there" and you can walk around a bit to get the circulation going.

You can also use a lumbar support. Many that come in cars are in the right place but some aren't. I recommend a small towel or something you can roll up a small pad. Place this at the base of your spine about 2 inches up or lower from the bottom of your seat.

This will tilt your pelvis forward slightly changing the biomechanics enough, so you automatically maintain the curve in your low back. Counter intuitively, supporting that curve with some lumbar supports will make the problem worse in many cases.

Experiment though. One size does not fit all and some of those supports are good for some people and not for others. If you choose to use the towel method, vary the thickness to find what works best for you. If you start to get “back tired” with either, change the setting and see if that helps.

Of course, there is no substitute for good spinal health (shameless plug) so see your chiropractor if you are having low back problems. Starting out with your physical equipment in good working order will make your trip more enjoyable. It may also make me able to carry two wallets.

Legal Department: Never, ever, EVER change a course of treatment or start a new one without consulting your own medical or health advisor.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Recurring, all month

- Wednesdays — Wednesday @ Annie's, 10am–12pm every Wednesday, 220 E Mesquite Blvd. Free coffee, music and fun
- 1st & 3rd Mondays — Mohave County Board of Supervisors Meeting, 9:30am. Watch online at youtube.com/user/mohavecountys
- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays — Mesquite City Council Meeting, 5:00pm. Watch online at www.mesquitenv.gov/meetings-agendas
- 3rd Tuesday — American Legion Meeting, 6:00pm, Veteran's Center, 840 W Hafen Lane, Mesquite
- Tuesdays — Meet & Greet for Seniors, 10–11am, 102 N Willow St, Room 26, Mesquite
- Tuesdays & Thursdays — Rotary Club Book Sale, 10am–2pm, 150 N Yucca St Unit #26, Mesquite. \$1 a book — proceeds stay in Mesquite for scholarships and community outreach
- 2nd Thursday — Littlefield Unified School District Board Meeting, work session ~3:30pm, regular meeting 5:00pm, 3490 E Rio Virgin Rd, Littlefield, AZ

September Dates

- Sept. 1 — Mesquite Conservatives Meeting, 3–4pm, Veteran's Center, 840 W. Hafen Lane. Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month. The GOP campaign office at Annie's reopens in September, exact date TBD. Contact Janis Garrett, 725-208-2661.
- Sept. 8 — Conservative Club, 10–11am, Mesquite Veteran's Center, 840 W Hafen Lane.
- Sept. 8 — Hearts of Hope Cancer Peer Support, 4–5:30pm, 100 W Old Mill Rd. Contact Beth Caplinger 702-205-7091

- Sept. 8 — Wednesday Night Bowling League Meeting, 6:00pm, Veteran's Center, 840 W Hafen Lane, Mesquite
- Sept. 10 — Mesquite Caregivers Support Group, 2–3pm, Mesquite Library, 160 W 1st N St. Info: 702-346-7277.
- Sept. 14 — Desert Dames Bunco, 1–3pm, First Baptist Church of Mesquite, 830 W Hafen Ln. Info: 702-344-4037.
- Sept. 18–20 — Super Run 2026: Mesquite Car Show, 8am–5pm daily, CasaBlanca Resort, Casino, Golf & Spa. A classic car show open to all types, years, makes & models.
- Sept. 18–26 — Annie, Mesquite Community Theatre, 150 N Yucca St. \$10–\$25. Tickets: 702-345-4499 or www.mctnv.com
- Sept. 18 — Side Hustle Vintage & Thrift, 660 Hardy Way, 6pm: FREE community event with Mike Bara — author, lecturer, screenwriter, and TV personality from Ancient Aliens — presenting “The History of Ufology & the Politics of Disclosure,” with Q&A and book signing to follow. Bring your curiosity & open mind!
- Sept. 19 — Ms. Senior Mesquite Pageant Bingo Fundraiser, doors 10am, game 11am–1pm, 333 N Sandhill Blvd. \$25/ticket.
- Sept. 23 — Kids for Sports Wine Fest, 5–9pm, 403 Paradise Pkwy. 21+; wear your favorite team jersey. Benefits the Kids for Sports Foundation.
- Sept. 25 — Mesquite Health Fair, 10am–2pm, Virgin River Event Center/Tent, 100 E Pioneer Blvd. Free health screenings, resources, vendor booths, and prizes — free to the public.
- Sept. 26 — 12th Annual Rotary MUDD Volleyball Tournament, 8am–3pm, Virgin River Casino and Lodge, 100 E Pioneer Blvd. Register at www.mesquitenv.gov; contact RotaryMesquiteEvents@gmail.com or 725-253-0288.

Got an event to promote? Send your name, contact info and all event details to Operations@AnnieBlack.com by the 14th of the preceding month.

There Are Several Ways to Get The Virgin Valley Voice

You can read it online any time at www.VirginValleyVoice.com, have it delivered straight to your email inbox, receive it in your mailbox, or pick up a print copy in person at Annie's, 220 E Mesquite Blvd, Mesquite, NV.

You can sign up to receive the Virgin Valley Voice right in your email box. Go to www.VirginValleyVoice.com and sign up. We add info daily, so check back often.

Help us fill this newsletter! Submit stories, news, articles, kudos, gripes, events etc on our website too.

MOHAVE COUNTY SCHOOL UPDATE

Submitted by Mark Cobb, Board President, Littlefield Unified School District #9

This year brings some exciting changes to Littlefield Unified School District #9. We have a new elementary school principal, Lael Carlton, while last year's principal has moved into a mental health and counselor role, and we've hired Dr. Rob as our new reading coach. With this trio working together, we're excited to bring our test scores to the next level as we kick off the 2026/27 school year.

We've also launched a new fundraiser to help support our school lunch program so no child goes without — please consider sharing or donating at allforlunch.org. So far the effort has raised \$1,339.64 toward a \$7,000 goal, all aimed at taking some of that burden off parents just trying to get by. On the governance side, we're now holding open work sessions so the board can have real dialogue with the community about local concerns — something regular board meetings don't always allow room for.

We'd love to see you there. The Governing Board holds regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. (doors open at 4:45 p.m.) at the Administrative Services Site, 3490 East Rio Virgin Road in Beaver Dam — work sessions, when scheduled, typically start around 3:30 p.m. Agendas are posted at least 24 hours in advance at local schools, the Beaver Dam Post Office, and online at www.lusd9.com/board-of-education and public comment is always welcome. Thank you for your support this year.

MESQUITE SOURDOUGH

Submitted by Scott and Zach, Batch 702

Batch 702 is excited to bring the distinctive flavor and tradition of handcrafted sourdough to Mesquite.

Founded by Scott and Zach Knight, Batch 702 began after the couple moved from Louisville, Kentucky, where they owned and operated several successful businesses—including a sourdough pizzeria. Their decision to return to the West was deeply personal: They wanted to be closer to their children and spend less time flying back and forth during their shared-custody schedule. They sold their restaurants, packed up their prized sourdough starter, and brought their passion for baking to Mesquite.

From the beginning, Scott and Zach wanted Batch 702 to be more than a business. With a genuine heart for the community, they began sharing complimentary sourdough with local first responders, hospital staff, and others who help make Mesquite the town we all know and love.

What started as a small cottage bakery quickly grew as more people discovered Batch 702's breads and baked goods. Before long, the business had outgrown their home kitchen—and now, Batch 702 Café is preparing to open its doors to the public!

The new café will feature the handcrafted sourdough Mesquite has come to love, along with coffee, tea, sodas, sandwiches, salads, and much more. More importantly, Scott and Zach envision Batch 702 Café as a welcoming gathering place where neighbors can connect, relax, and enjoy time together.

With regular café hours planned from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., the space will also be available in the evenings for sourdough classes, community gatherings, game nights, and other special events. Come enjoy something fresh, something local, and something made with heart.

Batch 702 is at 570 W Pioneer Blvd Ste 102, Mesquite, NV 89027. Order online at www.Batch702.com

WORDS I KEEP CLOSE

By Rilo Weisner

There are a few quotes that live in my home. Quotes I did not write but love. I hope you find them as inspirational as I do.

As the Dawn Breaks

As the Dawn breaks let us give thanks for all we hold dear; our health, our family and our friends. Let us release grudges, our anger and our pain, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways. The God Conscious Way. Keep the faith. Amen.

Life Was Never Meant to Move in a Straight Line

Life was never meant to move in a straight line. Like a river, it follows its own intelligence. The twists are not mistakes. The bends are not delays. The collisions with rock are not punishment. Each obstacle shapes depth, strength, and direction.

You are not behind. You are not broken. You are not lost. You are learning how to flow without forcing.

And as long as you keep moving with trust, life will carry you somewhere wiser, deeper and more beautiful than the path you first imagined.

Avoiding Some People

Avoiding some people to protect your emotional and mental health is not a weakness. It is Wisdom. Does it need to be said? Is it kind?

Exactly Everything Is Going to Work Out

Exactly everything is going to work out... exactly how and when it should. There is no need to stress and worry. Be present and enjoy as much as you can. Don't rush anywhere, slow down and choose to see life through the lens of gratitude. Flow. You are blessed. All is well.

Worry Makes You Suffer Twice

Worry makes you suffer twice. Once in your mind and again in life. It drains your energy before anything happens and steals your peace without changing the outcome.

Save your strength for what is real. Meet life when it happens, not before.

Life Is Not a Straight Line

Life is not a straight line. It rises and falls like the ocean. There are seasons of ease and moments of challenge. Moments of joy that lift you, and moments of difficulty that test your strength.

Trying to control every change only creates more struggle. Wisdom comes from learning to move with what arrives, to stay balanced in both highs and lows.

Nothing stays forever, not pain, not success, not even the storm. Peace comes when you stop fighting the waves and learn to flow with them.

PLAY DAYS INDOOR PLAYROOM

Submitted by Kelsey Brown

I grew up in Mesquite and always had a special connection to this community. After moving away, I found my way back home in 2019, this time with my four-year-old daughter. Coming back as a parent gave me a new perspective on the community, and I quickly realized there weren't many places in Mesquite specifically designed for young children to play, explore and have fun indoors. Now, as a mom of two daughters, that feeling has only grown stronger. I've seen firsthand how important it is for little ones to have places where they can play, learn, socialize and simply be kids.

That's where the idea for Play Days began. I shared my vision with my husband Aaron, and he immediately encouraged me to dream bigger. He helped add to the idea, supported me every step of the way and turned that dream into a reality. What started as a simple thought about wanting more for the children in our community has grown into something we are incredibly excited to bring to Mesquite. Play Days is more than just an indoor playroom. We want to

create a welcoming, fun and safe space where children can play, make memories and let their imaginations run wild, while parents can feel comfortable and connected.

As someone who grew up here, moved away and returned home to raise my own family, it means so much to create something for the community I love. We are excited to bring Play Days to Mesquite and hope it becomes a place families come together, make memories and feel at home.

Play Days is at 312 W Mesquite Blvd STE 114, Mesquite, 702-344-5331

USC FOOTBALL WATCH PARTIES

For the fourth year running, we'll be meeting at the Eureka Casino Sportsbook for Trojan football watch parties — and you don't have to be a USC alum or fan to join in the fun. This year's host is alumnus Steve Haugh; call 760-608-1616 for game dates and details.

Show up 30 minutes before kickoff, sign the roster and grab food and drinks (your own tab). Halftime raffles for donated gifts, and every time USC scores, drop a quarter in the football piggy bank — all of it goes to the Moapa Valley Food Bank (over \$250 last year alone). Wear your colors, bring a friend, and fight on!

GOOD NEWS FOR FOODIES

By Gordie Shepherd

Wedgies Sports Bar is under new management, and its menu now has Prime Rib on Mondays, Fish & Chips on Fridays & snack menu items priced at \$10.00. Service has improved, too! 796 W Pioneer Blvd, Mesquite, NV 89027

The Grille Room at the Oasis Golf Club is under new, old management (Mathew John), and its breakfast and lunch menus are a welcome change. The “secret sauce” salad dressing is a must have! 100 Palmer Ln, Mesquite, NV 89027

Mad Mike's Bar and Grill has been remodeled and is looking and tasting better than ever. 551 W Mesquite Blvd, Mesquite, NV 89027

UNDERDOG NO MORE

Submitted by Cuauhtemoc Fisher-Venegas, Owner, Underdog Boxing Gym

My name is Cuauhtemoc Fisher-Venegas, owner of Underdog Boxing Gym. I grew up here in Mesquite, Nevada most of my life. Boxing has been a big part of me, helping me develop on the principles of respect, leadership, honesty, kindness, work ethic and much more. This sport has broken me down and built me back up both physically and mentally — it's what really made me appreciate this sport being part of my life.

I started boxing at the age of 13. My uncle was a boxer in the old boxing gym and took me in to start training, and I trained there until it later closed down. I took the sport competitively when I was in the military, competing in military bouts and tournaments and winning the Brigade tournament. When I left the military and came back to Mesquite, I realized there was still no boxing gym in town, so I traveled around Utah to train. The drives became draining and expensive — weight management, work, injuries, not being able to train full time. So I decided to start my own here in town, so kids and adults wouldn't have to travel just to train in a sport with the community's support behind them.

My vision is to develop a positive culture for everyone who walks through the doors. A boxing gym isn't just a place to train and compete — most times it's a sanctuary for people battling mental health struggles, addiction, or family issues. I want everyone from all walks of life to feel welcome and get their restart in life. On the competitive side, I want to develop homegrown fighters, win titles, and show that Mesquite has the potential and the community support to back boxers who do great things in and out of the ring. My dream? Have a boxer win Mesquite's first national title.

Located at 440 Riverside Rd, Mesquite. Open Mon–Fri 7–11a and 2–7p. Contact Cuauhtemoc at 931-919-9628 or underdogboxinggymllc@gmail.com

BUSINESS BANKING & LENDING

WaFd Bank, located at 81 W Mesquite Blvd, can take care of your business banking and lending needs. Laurie Gable, Branch Manager, and her team would love to talk with you about how they could help make your business even more successful. Call (702) 346-5271 or email Laurie.gable@wafd.com

MESQUITE VETERAN'S CENTER

Submitted by Bill Ennis, Mesquite City Councilman

The Mesquite Veterans Center is organized exclusively for charitable purposes and provides goods and services intended to support the religious, physical, social, educational, financial, civic, cultural, recreational, and psychological needs of veterans and their families. The Center's mission is to promote the well-being, dignity, independence, security, fulfillment, and sense of purpose of those who have served. To advance this mission, the Center assists veterans in connecting with VA medical care, mental-health services, and other healthcare providers; offers community and recreational meetings, activities, events, and social opportunities; and refers veterans experiencing crisis or requiring specialized assistance to appropriate organizations. A full-time Veterans Service Officer is available to assist veterans with applications for VA benefits and disability benefits through the VA system.

In summary, the Mesquite Veterans Center supports veterans by facilitating access to benefits, providing assistance, fostering connections with fellow veterans, and helping them transition successfully into civilian and community life.

The Center serves as the home for the Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and the Virgin Valley Honor Guard. Each organization conducts fundraising, identifies needs among veterans and members of the community, and provides assistance where appropriate.

Visitors are welcome at 840 W Hafen Lane, Mesquite, NV 89027. The Center is open Mon - Fri from 9a-1p. For more info call 702-346-2735

VETERANS CLINIC

The Mesquite Veterans Clinic is located at 550 W. Pioneer Blvd, Suite 102 (left of the DMV office), Mesquite, NV — open Mondays and Tuesdays, with appointments by calling 702-625-0022. This contracted, private healthcare center accepts Tricare/Veterans insurance, Medicare, and advantage plans, offering primary medical care (routine physicals, check-ups, and health assessments overseen by a Nurse Practitioner), on-site mental health and psychiatric consultation, lab work and basic diagnostic testing, and outpatient IV infusions and immunity boosts.

FROM WATER SPOTS TO WHITE GLOVE

Submitted by Lucio Flores Jr., Owner/Operator, White Glove Auto Spa

My name is Lucio Flores Jr., owner and operator of White Glove Auto Spa. I've lived in Mesquite since 1998, when my family moved here from Southern California — a familiar story around here these days. I'm a Virgin Valley High School grad, met my wife there, and we now have two sons, both in their first year of school.

White Glove Auto Spa started almost by accident in 2017, not long after I bought my first car — a rear-wheel-drive coupe, the classic young-guy mistake (a truck would've made more sense out here). I rinsed off the desert dust, and woke up the next day to a car covered in water spots that wouldn't come off no matter how many times I washed it. What I called “Project Spots-B-Gone” turned into a crash course in paint correction, and by the time I was done, the car had a deeper shine than the day I bought it. That's what launched my detailing journey — and eventually, this business.

These days, our focus is ceramic coatings — one of the most popular long-term paint protection options, lasting years instead of the weeks or months you get from traditional wax. They lock in shine, repel water, and make washing easier while keeping that just-waxed look. It won't stop a rock chip on the interstate, but if you hold onto your vehicles for years and like a slick, high-gloss look, it might be worth a look.

Questions? Call (702) 843-4417, visit www.whitegloveauto.com/ceramic-coatings or email inquiry@whitegloveauto.com

WHAT IS WELLNESS?

Submitted by Charlene Shales

For me here in Mesquite, it's slow mornings, coffee in hand, watching the starlit sky give way to a new day filled with hope and new adventures. Greeting neighbors and exchanging smiles as they walk their pups. The quiet contemplation of how and what I plan and hope to do that day.

It wasn't always this way. For so long I was there for everyone all the time. Yes, I did my meal prep, meditation, workouts, yoga, and even running. In time, everything got squeezed into very early mornings with limited time and became another “thing” I did and accomplished—yup, another check mark on my list. I forgot to pause, hear, and truly listen to what I needed for me, my body, my mind, and spirit.

Eventually, I learned the hard way. Yet, I still felt like Mikey from the Life Cereal commercial—you know, “just give it to Mikey, he eats anything!”

Yes, being there for others is important to me, but I was blind to how I wasn't providing myself undivided time, attention, support, love, and grace. The pause my spirit so desperately wanted.

Nowadays it's about slow mornings and evenings filled with quiet reflections, meaningful conversations that inspire and bring hope to each other, asking myself and my body “What can I do for you? What do you need to feel supported?” And when the answer comes, I'm reminded of the Nike commercial, “Just Do It!”

Where are you forgetting to pause? What can you let go of or put on hold that will allow you the space to fully enjoy your wellness journey? Life will always keep us busy, moving from here to there, doing this or that, chasing one thing or another. Why not chase yourself? You might be surprised at what you find.

GIVE US YOUR 2¢

The Virgin Valley Voice

This is your community — and we want your 2¢. Starting with this issue, we'll use this paper (and www.virginvalleyvoice.com/2-cents) to ask questions, run polls, and share surveys about what's happening around town and what matters to you. So go ahead. Put in your 2¢ right now: “What Health Services Does the AZ Strip Need?” Mohave County Public Health wants to bring more resources to Beaver Dam, Littlefield, Scenic and the Arizona Strip — but first they need to know what you want.

The survey takes just a few minutes, no sign-in required, and you don't have to give your name or contact info unless you want to. One response per person — we'll share the results with Mohave County Public Health so they can plan around what our community actually needs.

Take the survey online: www.VirginValleyVoice.com/2-Cents

THE BEAVER DAM FOOD PANTRY

The Beaver Dam food pantry has been operating since the early 2000's. It's provided a supplemental and supportive food source for families in Beaver Dam and the surrounding communities. But what has been the norm in past years for the food pantry is no longer

acceptable today. Why? Making it in this economy is getting tougher for a family today. The Beaver Dam food pantry is no longer a supplemental resource for families, it is a necessity, it is a must have for families to make it today. The Beaver Dam food pantry serves approximately 300+ individuals every month with approximately 90 pounds of items for each family. According to government records, there are 3,260 residents in our combined communities, 19% of which fall into the low-income category — that is 619 residents living below the poverty line. There are 399 children under the age of 18 and 1,215 adults over 70, obviously the two most vulnerable groups in our society. The USDA categorizes our area as a “geographic food desert,” considering our distance from the closest grocery store, with no access to public transportation. The Beaver Dam food pantry is an absolute necessity.

Because of the rising needs in the community, the Beaver Dam food pantry must change quickly and efficiently, planning for a better tomorrow in the community. In past years, the individuals running the pantry were involved in the physical, day-to-day operation of the food pantry, but the fundraising, the seeking of grants, and developing relationships with food providers, farmers, and other suppliers was neglected. The newly formed board at the Beaver Dam food pantry has one main objective — to provide the best, nutritious and wholesome food products for the community on a consistent and constant basis, defeating hunger. The new board has three paths to meet that objective: income (grant writing, fundraisers and donations); providing the best products available (new sources of food products, local farmers and providers, retailers, and consistent supply chain partners); and building community relationships with businesses, retailers, government agencies, and other non-profits that give the community new hope and a sense of pride.

It is obvious we need help in order to achieve our goals. We need individuals who will share ideas, knowledge and resources; we also need volunteers in our operation to make our plans come true in reality. Please contact the Beaver Dam food pantry at 518-578-9654.

IRON CACTUS MEMORIAL PROJECT

Submitted by Thomas Stark, Volunteer Project Director, Mesquite Iron Cactus Memorial Project

The Mesquite Iron Cactus Memorial Project continues to grow—one golf club, one volunteer and one community partnership at a time.

These one-of-a-kind sculptures are made from donated golf clubs and built to last more than 100 years. The goal is to place them throughout Mesquite, creating something residents and visitors will recognize as uniquely ours.

Four Memorials—and More on the Way

Memorial #1 — Mesquite City Hall: The first Iron Cactus Memorial stands in front of Mesquite City Hall, where it has become a visible symbol of the project and the community effort behind it.

Memorial #2 — Mesquite Elks Lodge: The second memorial was recently unveiled in front of the Mesquite Elks Lodge on Riverside Road. The ceremony brought together Elks Lodge members, volunteers and community supporters who helped make the unveiling a success.

Memorial #3 — Justice Building: The third memorial is being installed on Hillside Drive in front of the Justice Building, directly across from Veterans Memorial Park. This highly visible location will be seen by residents visiting the nearby parks and golfers traveling toward The Palms Golf Course. A special thank-you goes to volunteer Dave Hubbard for helping coordinate the installation.

Memorial #4 — Recreation Center and Pickleball Courts: The Mesquite City Council has approved the location for the fourth memorial. It will be installed across from the Mesquite Community Recreation Center near the driveway entrance to the pickleball courts. With easy parking nearby, organizers believe it will become a popular place for residents and visitors to stop and take pictures.

Plans for Memorial #5 are already underway. The location will be announced once the details are finalized.

Take a Picture With an Iron Cactus

When you visit one of the memorials, take a picture with it! Bring your family, your friends—or even that neighbor who claims he hates having his picture taken.

Text your photos to Media Chair Irene Johnson at 909-498-6955. Selected pictures may be featured on the project's Facebook page, Instagram account or website. Every photograph helps introduce more people to this homegrown Mesquite project.

Local Businesses Can Help

The Corporate Donor Team, led by Rich Sorem and Rick McIntire, has presented sponsorship opportunities to several large Mesquite businesses and the owners of the community's six golf courses.

The Iron Cactus Memorial Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and qualifying contributions may be tax-deductible. The project's 300-plus Iron Cactus Ambassadors can help by introducing the team to business owners, corporate executives, golf industry contacts,

community organizations, and others who may want to support the project. Sometimes a personal introduction opens a door that a letter cannot.

For corporate donation information: Rich Sorem 971-570-5960

Thank You, Eureka Casino Resort

The project recently received a generous donation from Eureka Casino Resort. That support will help fund the construction and installation of additional Iron Cactus Memorials throughout Mesquite. Special thanks go to Andre Carrier and Gerri Chasko for their support of the project.

Iron Cactus Merchandise Needs a Home

The project is looking for a local brick-and-mortar business willing to display Iron Cactus merchandise. Those making a \$25 donation may choose a thank-you gift featuring the Iron Cactus logo: a logo hat, T-shirt, engraved coaster set, or engraved hot-and-cold tumbler.

For merchandise or display information: Jana Levine 661-713-0340

Residents may also spot one of approximately 12 small Golden Cactus donation banks at businesses around Mesquite. Drop in a little spare change if you can. A pocketful of coins may not look like much, but enough pockets can build a cactus.

Donor Appreciation Memorial Coming Soon

Sculptor and artist Mike Beals is putting the finishing touches on a special Donor Appreciation Iron Cactus Memorial. The group is working toward approval to install the sculpture at the Mesquite Welcome Center, hopefully in early September. The memorial will stand more than 12 feet tall and feature personalized brass nameplates mounted on many of its golf clubs. Individuals making a \$200 donation may place their own name—or the name of a loved one—on the memorial.

For Donor Appreciation Memorial information: Ginny Sorem 971-570-5980

More Than 4,000 Golf Clubs Still Needed

Yes, you read that correctly. The project still needs more than 4,000 used golf clubs to build future memorials. To donate clubs or arrange pickup, contact Thomas Stark through the project website. Clubs may also be dropped off in the large collection bucket at Thomas's home.

Special thanks also go to Blade and Limb Landscaping for its continued assistance with the professional installation of the memorials.

Most importantly, thank you to the more than 300 Iron Cactus Ambassadors who continue telling the story, sharing photographs, finding old golf clubs and introducing the project to

potential supporters. Every donated club matters. Every introduction helps. Every conversation gives the Iron Cactus a little more room to grow.

Visit MesquiteIronCactusMemorial.com to learn more.

There Are Several Ways to Get The Virgin Valley Voice

You can read it online any time at www.VirginValleyVoice.com, have it delivered straight to your email inbox, receive it in your mailbox, or pick up a print copy in person at Annie's, 220 E Mesquite Blvd, Mesquite, NV.

You can sign up to receive the Virgin Valley Voice right in your email box. Go to www.VirginValleyVoice.com and sign up. We add info daily, so check back often.

Help us fill this newsletter! Submit stories, news, articles, kudos, gripes, events etc on our website too.

MESQUITE CANCER HELP SOCIETY

Submitted by Papa Moose Moorhead

Cancer is a dreaded word that nobody wants to hear. Unfortunately, there are none among us who have not been touched by this horrible disease. If not us, our spouse, our children, our family, neighbor or friend. When you are told that you have this nightmare, it feels like someone dropped a bomb upon your shoulders. Frankly, you have a thousand questions and no idea what to expect next or where to go.

I am a cancer survivor and I hope that my words can offer some help. Right here in Mesquite, Nevada we have the Mesquite Cancer Help Society. These wonderful people helped my wife and I go through some of the most difficult and darkest times of my life. If any of you have cancer or know of someone with cancer they need to know about this wonderful society. Help is there and available on multiple levels. I cannot even begin to list all the wonderful things that they offer.

Please contact them at (702)-346-0622, 150 North Yucca #36, Mesquite, Nevada 89027.

CELEBRATE ENTREPRENEURS - MAKE BUSINESS EASY FOR EVERYONE

By Wes Boger, Former Mesquite City Councilman

A recent article on the front page of The Progress featured a 15-year-old Mesquite resident who saw a need in the community and started a trash-can cleaning business.

That kind of initiative deserves praise. We should want young people spending their summers working, solving problems and learning how to build something of their own.

This is not about attacking a teenager. He had a good idea, took action and provided a service people wanted.

But the story does raise a fair question about how Mesquite handles small businesses.

This young entrepreneur is the child of Mesquite's City Manager - the person responsible for overseeing city operations. According to records provided by the City in response to a public records request, no city business license was identified for this operation.

Other trash-can cleaning businesses in Mesquite have obtained licenses, paid the required fees and gone through the City's process. Their time, effort and investment deserve recognition, too.

That leaves us with a reasonable policy question: If a teenager's small summer business does not need to go through the full licensing process, should other teenagers and every small business receive the same opportunity? And if a license is required, shouldn't city leadership set the example by helping ensure the rules are understood and followed?

The young man is not the problem. The real issue is whether Mesquite's business rules are clear, reasonable and applied consistently - regardless of someone's family, position or connections.

We live in a small town, and we all know our choices for services are limited. Why not make it easier for ALL people to start and operate businesses here? More local businesses mean more services for our community, more choices for customers and more of our money staying right here in Mesquite.

Perhaps this is an opportunity for the City to create a simple and inexpensive youth or micro-business permit for:

- A teenager mowing lawns or cleaning trash cans
- A retiree offering occasional handyman services
- A parent starting a home-based business
- Any resident trying to earn an honest dollar by providing a useful service

The answer should not be to discourage this young man. It should be to encourage more people like him—and make sure the same path is open to everyone.

Congratulations to this young entrepreneur for recognizing a need and taking the initiative to fill it. Now city leaders and elected officials should use this moment to make Mesquite a place where good ideas are welcomed, honest work is encouraged, local businesses can grow and the rules apply fairly to everyone.