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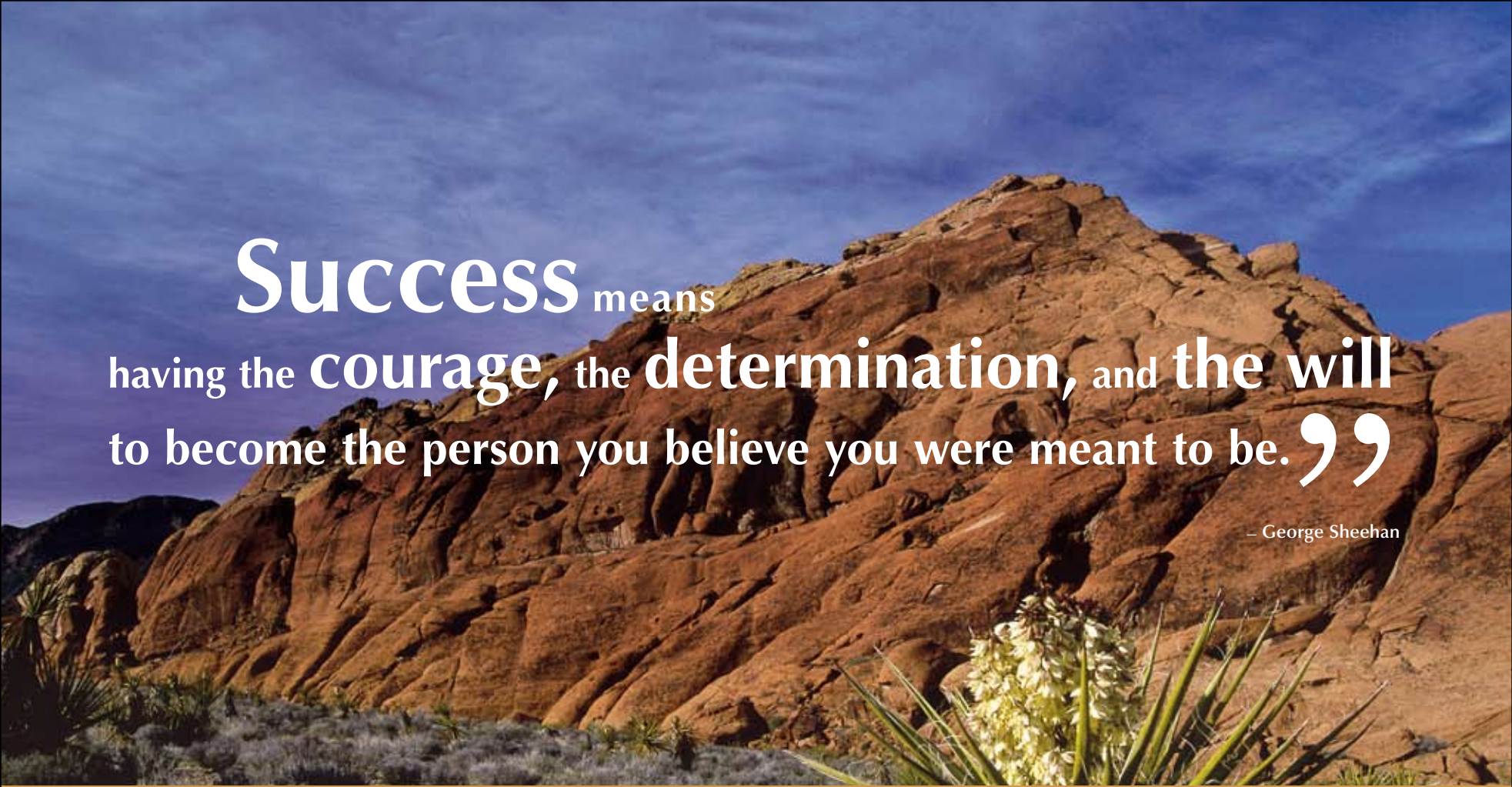
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INFLUENCE

THE MEN & WOMEN WHO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN



From the Editor

Our annual Influence publication is a wrap — let the discussions and debates begin.

It was just a year ago that we broke the mold on our traditional “most influential” sections. We had published those for five years, but decided that change was necessary. That’s when we introduced “Influence.”

In this section, we have again identified a large group of industries/occupations/jobs. This allows us to represent the full gamut — from Accounting to Vocational Training and a whole lot in between. In each category, we’ve identified one male and one female as a person of Influence. If you grasp the premise that everyone carries influence or clout to at least some degree, then you are headed in the same direction we are. Each of the 90-plus honorees — an index can be found at right — carries a degree of “juice” in their respective industries.

This year you’ll find 41 job-related categories, plus the “Power Couple,” “Power Siblings,” “Power Brothers” and “Power Family.” The selection process was intense. We searched far and wide to choose strong people in each of these categories. When it was all said and done, a group of men and women who stand tall in their industries were identified.

And a little reminder: A list of our past honorees is on page 6, however none of those people were eligible to be selected again.

I would also like to thank our sponsors for the 2006 Influence publication. It’s great to be associated with companies such as Corsa Collections, Pardee Homes, InsurCorp, the law firm of Snell & Wilmer and Bank of Nevada, each certainly influential in their own right.

Rob Langrell

Editor of Special Publications

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Bob Broadbent	Bruce Langson	A. Allan Stipe	Lou E. Emmert	Emily Nielson
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FROM THE SPONSORS

Dear In Business Las Vegas readers,

Bank of Nevada is proud to sponsor the 2006 issue of Influence. We recognize that our dynamic and vibrant community is a direct result of the energy and professionalism of its workforce — and in particular, the men and women who are considered leaders within the Southern Nevada business community and who have earned a well-deserved spot in this special publication of In Business.

Bank of Nevada, like those honored this year, is all about business. At the end of each day, our goal is to meet the financial needs of the local business, professional, real estate and nonprofit organizations with a broad array of services designed to take the guesswork out of achieving financial goals. Our highly experienced and professional staff, like those who lead our burgeoning business community, is empowered to make immediate decisions that benefit our clients. After all, our business is helping others to manage and grow

their financial resources.

At Bank of Nevada, we understand the value of growing a business. Since the Bank started 12 years ago, we have become the fourth-largest bank in the state with more than 500 employees, 15 statewide offices and assets of more than \$2.8 billion. In addition, our company, Western Alliance Bancorporation, is one of the largest Las Vegas-based public non-gaming companies. By year-end, we will open yet another office in Summerlin, a 36,000-square-foot operations center near McCarran International Airport, and a second Reno office is under devel-



opment. This growth has been made possible by Southern Nevada's strong business climate that continues to nurture and feed our enviable local economy.

We salute the men and women who comprise this year's impressive list of Influence, as well as all those who have made previous lists. They, along with the next generation of up-and-coming go-getters, will continue to influence, shape and direct the Southern Nevada business community for years to come. As you read about their impressive accomplishments, may you be inspired to extend your own sphere of influence through hard work, integrity, perseverance and a long-range plan to achieve your own goals.

Robert Sarver
President & CEO, Bank of Nevada
Chairman & CEO, Western Alliance Bancorporation

Dear In Business Las Vegas readers,

As a lifelong Nevadan and one who has spent my professional life watching the strength and vitality of Las Vegas grow day by day, I know all too well that its vibrancy derives from its people and their individual spirit. It is always true that a unique and special place needs up and coming unique and special leaders to push it into an even more vibrant future. Standing out where talent and vision have become the standard is a tremendous achievement that deserves our recognition and respect.

We at Snell & Wilmer would like to add our congratulations and warm recognition to these influential leaders chosen by In Business as this year's collection of Most Influential honorees. We are especially pleased that our own Cynthia LeVasseur was selected this year and we are proud to have her included among those chosen to represent our community and its professionals.

It is no small task to select the few each year that represent the best of our community and we commend the editorial staff at In Business for their ability to gracefully manage this difficult task. Once again, they have chosen honorees that epitomize what makes Las Vegas a diverse, vibrant and progressive example to the rest of the state.

We congratulate you all and look for even more from you in the future. On to greater influence! Warmest congratulations and best wishes from all of us at Snell & Wilmer!

Sam McMullen
Partner, Snell & Wilmer



Dear In Business Las Vegas readers,

Insurcorp is honored to sponsor In Business Las Vegas' People of Influence in Southern Nevada. It is their professional and charitable efforts that have contributed to making this a dynamic and prosperous community.

It is Insurcorp's mission to provide the decision makers in our community with sound employee benefit consulting and advice. Being one of the largest independent insurance consultant companies in the state of Nevada specializing in employee benefits, property and casualty products and comprehensive financial planning, it is our goal to keep the influential men and women of our community and its employees informed and insured.

Insurcorp and its senior-level representatives congratulate the 2006 honorees and thank them for their hard work and dedication to the Southern Nevada community.

Steve Polott
Senior Vice President, Insurcorp



Dear In Business Las Vegas readers,

Pardee Homes is proud to be a sponsor for In Business Las Vegas' Influence publication for 2006.

Pardee Homes has been building homes and communities in the Las Vegas Valley since 1952. Over these past five decades, we've remained committed to creating communities where housing works in concert with other critical elements including parks and schools. Pardee is also recognized as a national leader in environmentally responsible development and was the nation's first multi-regional builder to embrace the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star® program.

As we look to the end of 2006 and the beginning of 2007, Pardee is embarking on its largest project to date in Southern Nevada as the master residential developer for Coyote Springs, a 43,000-acre master-planned town approximately 55 miles north of Las Vegas. We are excited to be a part of both the past and future in Clark County through the development of master-planned communities including Spring Valley, Eldorado and now Coyote Springs.

Congratulations to those honored in this publication. The influence of these men and women can be credited with making our community a better place to live — now and for future generations.

Klif Andrews
Southern Nevada Division President, Pardee Homes



Dear In Business Las Vegas readers,

The Borsack family and Corsa Collections are proud to be a sponsor for In Business Las Vegas' Influence publication for 2006. Since the inaugural event in 2000, our family has been honored to participate in this event annually.

The men and women receiving these awards represent a diverse and inspiring group of individuals. Through their enthusiasm and leadership, they have made a major contribution to the extraordinary growth of the Valley. We are all made better through their example and involvement in our community.

At Corsa Collections, we strive to deliver the best in customer service. We showcase major handbag, jewelry and travel brands from around the world. From top fashion handbag brands such as Marc Jacobs, Bottega Veneta and Yves Saint Laurent to leading brands of luggage such as Tumi, Brics and Zero Halliburton, Corsa has what it takes to satisfy your business and travel needs as well as your fashion desires.

The Borsack family and the entire staff at Corsa congratulates the 2006 honorees and thanks In Business for establishing and perpetuating this event.

Donny Borsack
Corsa Collections, A Division of Borsack Enterprise



CONSTRUCTION



Al Barber

**President and Chief Executive Officer,
TBL Construction Inc.**

The Las Vegas Valley has been good for Al Barber.

He moved his firm, TBL Construction, from California to Las Vegas in 1997 in order to better take advantage of the area's growing opportunities.

That growth has allowed him to achieve increasingly higher monetary licensing limits with the Nevada State Contractors Board. His firm grew from a license with a \$50,000 limit to the unlimited license he currently has.

Barber hopes that the success he's achieved in Las Vegas will be attainable by other minority contractors in the Las Vegas Valley and nationwide. Barber is the national president of the National Association of Minority Contractors as well as president of the Las Vegas Chapter.

The group, which boasts 5,000 members nationally and about 175 members locally, allows members to network among themselves as well as with larger contractors and corporations. In addition to that, the group works to prepare individuals for construction-related union apprenticeship programs.

— Alana Roberts



Cynthia LeVasseur

Partner, Snell & Wilmer

Cynthia LeVasseur has taken a leadership role in two industries that are typically considered to be male-dominated.

But women in both the legal and construction fields are finding more growth opportunities, she said. LeVasseur has quickly shot up the legal ranks during her eight-year career and earlier this year she was elected partner with her firm.

As a lawyer specializing in commercial litigation, construction and real estate law, she helps construction-related firms navigate potentially risky legal terrain. She said although she is a litigator, she also works on preventing litigation.

Also, she recently finished a second term on the board of the National Association of Women in Construction's Las Vegas Chapter. She said the group allows women in the field to network and offers programs aimed at attracting young women to the field.

— A.R.

SPORTS



Natalie Gulbis

Professional golfer, LPGA Tour

Natalie Gulbis is hot and she knows it. Whether you're eyeing her golf chops or her swimsuit calendar, there's no question this Lake Las Vegas resident knows the game of golf and the game of marketing as well.

Currently, Gulbis is in the top 15 on the LPGA money list and hopes to break the top 10 this year.

Not bad for a gamer who admits to being hooked on golf at the age of four when she tagged along with her father on Sacramento courses. By the time she turned seven she won her first tournament and at ten she was breaking par.

With her intense focus on the game and building her image as an athlete, it's safe to say Gulbis is on par with success.

— Brian Sodoma



Lon Kruger

Head Coach, UNLV men's basketball

He coached in the NBA, led a college team to a national championship, and now makes his home in Las Vegas as the Runnin' Rebels' men's basketball coach.

Lon Kruger, known for turning around basketball programs, also likens his situation to being a CEO of a company. Simply put, "This is a process, not an event," he said of the rebuilding process and getting the most out of the talent on his teams.

Beyond the court, Kruger puts in substantial time with a marketing team to seek out avenues for new audiences, while also involving himself in decisions about the entertainment aspect of the game as well.

"The unique thing about college basketball is that members of the community, spirit groups, fans in the stands and the student body can have an impact on what happens on the court. It is all tied together," he said.

— B.S.

HOME BUILDERS



Klif Andrews

President- Southern Nevada Division, Pardee Homes

In the nine years Klif Andrews has worked for Pardee Homes he has seen the number of annual home sales double. This year Pardee expects more than 1,600 closings, and part of that success is due to Andrews' influence.

Andrews, who began his career in the home building industry two decades ago, has played an integral role in Pardee's land acquisition program, capped off by Coyote Springs, the largest acquisition in Pardee's history. Pardee is the master residential developer for the 42,000-acre master-planned golf course community north of Las Vegas.

Recently honored by the North Las Vegas Rotary as its 2006 Distinguished Citizen of the Year, Andrews is active in the community. He was recently elected president of HomeAid Southern Nevada, a non-profit organization that partners with the building industry to construct and renovate shelters for temporarily homeless men, women and children.

— Deborah Roush



Mary Connelly

President, Nevada Region, William Lyon Homes

Mary Connelly knows her home building. A decade ago she took the helm as president of the Nevada region of William Lyon Homes, which has experienced nothing but success under her watch.

Connelly, who has extensive experience in residential development in California and other Western states, has worked as a real estate executive for more than 30 years.

She was formerly a managing partner of Gateway Development, and as vice president for the San Diego division of The Presley Companies she directed its financial affairs. She formerly held several management positions at The Irvine Co. in California and in Boston she was employed as the executive vice president of sales and marketing for Commonwealth Mortgage Co.

Connelly attended the University of California, Los Angeles, and has a bachelor's degree in business from California State University, Fullerton and a master's degree in business administration from the University of California, Irvine. Connelly also is a licensed General Contractor in California and Nevada.

ENTERTAINMENT



Kim Flowers

Owner, John Robert Powers Acting & Modeling School

Kim Flowers has been singing, dancing, modeling and acting most of her life, and as owner of the local franchise of John Robert Powers Acting & Modeling School, she has the opportunity to help develop the performance skills and professional prowess of young entertainers.

The first African-American to run a John Robert Powers franchise — and the recipient of numerous awards from the company's corporate headquarters — Flowers, who founded the Las Vegas outlet in 1995, serves as a personal manager for A.J. Trauth from The Disney Channel's "Even Stevens;" Conner Rayburn, who appears in the television show "According to Jim;" and Ella Rae Zanders, who has appeared in Little Debbie Snacks commercials.

With a passion for performing and an appreciation for proper training, Flowers recently founded Kim Flowers Management, a national talent management firm that represents about 30 youth and adult clients.

— Danielle Birkin

Marty Mahoney

Owner, Mahoney's Entertainment

Marty Mahoney's lifelong immersion in the music industry, coupled with broad-spectrum business savvy, has allowed him to pursue professional opportunities in a field about which he is passionate.

The drummer and jazz aficionado is the president of Mahoney's Entertainment, a 17-year-old company that specializes in providing live bands for weddings, corporate functions, conventions and other events, bringing in some \$500,000 per year for the acts it books. The company also supplies showgirls, dancers, celebrity look-a-likes, magicians and other professional entertainers, and organizes concerts and music festivals.

Also the vice president of the local location of Studio Instrument Rentals — a musical equipment rental and production facility — Mahoney used to perform with Redd Foxx, and spent his boyhood helping out at the family business, Mahoney Pro Music and Drum Shop.

One fond childhood memory? Sitting on Louis Armstrong's lap while the famed trumpeter sang the "Three Little Fishes."

— D.B.

PHILANTHROPY



Bret Bicoy

President, Nevada Community Foundation

Bret Bicoy believes it is remarkably rewarding to work with munificent individuals and businesses, and in his post as president of the Nevada Community Foundation, there is no shortage of opportunities for such gratification.

Founded in 1988, the foundation serves in a philanthropic advisement capacity for its donors, individual families and corporations who Bicoy said are reaching out to assist others in a way that embodies the best of the human spirit. Last year, just less than \$21 million came into the Nevada Community Foundation from its family of donors, with nearly \$18 million contributed to charitable work, a record for the organization by a large margin.

Bicoy, who has served as president since 2004, brings considerable applicable experience to his position, having served as president and CEO of the Marietta Community Foundation in Ohio and as the senior foundation officer of the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation in Wisconsin.

— D.B.



Robyn Clayton

Co-Chair, Nevada Gives

Back in the days when Las Vegas was still a small town, Robyn Clayton said philanthropy took care of itself.

But as the city grew and new businesses flocked here, it became a challenge to create a culture of giving, as companies that wanted to support the community did not know how or where to distribute charitable funds. To that end, Clayton co-founded the Web site Nevada-Gives.org in 2003 to address those issues.

The site, an initiative of the Business Community Investment Council and the Nevada Community Foundation, serves as a one-stop shop providing the information, tools and resources to help donors and businesses to develop personal giving strategies and create meaningful corporate giving programs.

Clayton also manages the corporate communications department at Southwest Gas Corp., and directs the company's community relations programs. In 1998, she helped establish the Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada, and was appointed by Gov. Guinn to the Nevada Commission for National and Community Service in 1999.

— D.B.

AUTOMOTIVE

Sarah Lee Marks

Corporate Fleet Sales Manager, Integrity Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Let's face it. Everyone walks into an auto showroom with at least a little bit of trepidation. Integrity Chrysler Jeep Dodge Corporate Fleet Sales Manager Sarah Lee Marks understands that, so much so in fact that she's earned a reputation as a staunch consumer advocate, particularly for women.

Marks is the author of several books on car buying, including *The Complete Internet Car Buying Guide* and *The Smart Girls Guide to Everything Cars: How to Buy, Sell and Live With Your Car*. She's known for helping customers assess how much they can legitimately afford and she's also been known to share her views on conspiracy theories within the automotive industry, a move that's won her points with leery consumers.

In addition to public speaking on the topic, Marks' web site, www.mycarlady.com, cuts to the car buying chase in a straightforward manner, offering tips for "making your best deal without the trauma, BS and attitude of most car salesmen." Marks celebrates her 20th year in the industry this year.

— Lisa McQuerrey

Cliff Findlay


Owner, Findlay Toyota

The name "Findlay" is, of course, synonymous with Las Vegas car sales, though thanks to the generosity of Findlay Toyota owner Cliff Findlay, the name could well become linked with the term "youth advocacy."

The Findlay Automotive Group of dealerships was founded more than 40 years ago by Pete Findlay. Son Cliff, who got his start at his father's Oldsmobile dealership in 1963, now oversees operations in Utah, Nevada and Arizona.

In addition to the notable achievements the company has made throughout the years — Findlay was honored by Time Magazine in 1994 with the Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award, and is a 14-time recipient of the Oldsmobile Elite Dealer Award — Findlay has established the Las Vegas Baseball Academy, which offers free baseball instruction and scholarships to local youth. He also contributed \$1 million to the launch of the Findlay College Preparatory Pilots basketball program earlier this year. The program has been referred to as a "safe haven" for players with troubled academic backgrounds.

— L.M.



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PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Renee Ryan-Thrailkill

Principal and Broker, Millennium Commercial Real Estate

Renee Ryan-Thrailkill, CREC, is principal and broker of Millennium Commercial Real Estate, a full-service commercial real estate brokerage and property management firm she founded in 1999 based on the premise that all business owners deserve viable commercial representation, regardless of size.

Having been immersed in the commercial brokerage arena since 1978, Ryan-

Thrailkill operates Millennium with integrated services, functioning in a sense as an asset manager with a global perspective which allows her to better serve her clients, which include entrepreneurial investors with office, retail or industrial properties in the 10,000 square-foot to 80,000 square-foot range.

The growing company, which Ryan-Thrailkill founded as a solo operation,

has doubled its portfolio each of the last three years, and also offers commercial association management services for the common interest portions of group-owned commercial properties.

She also owns two Internet businesses — National Novelties and the Fudge Factor.

— D.B.

Michael Saltman

President, The Vista Group

As president of The Vista Group, a developer and manager of commercial real estate in Southern Nevada and the southwest U.S., Michael Saltman is responsible for a team of nearly two dozen employees managing more than 20 properties and 1.8 million square feet of space.

Founded in 1978, The Vista Group has developed retail, office, industrial, multifamily and single-family projects, with current activities centered on leasing, managing and expanding its existing commercial portfolio and offering its asset management expertise.

Available properties include Renaissance West, a neighborhood shopping center; Renaissance Office Park, a single-story business center; and Winchester Plaza, a garden-style office community.

Saltman was nominated to the UNLV Foundation board of trustees in 1986 and serves on the board's real estate committee. Saltman and his wife also helped to establish and continue to support the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution at UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law.

— D.B.



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PUBLIC RELATIONS



Solveig Thorsrud-Allen

President, The Firm Public Relations & Marketing

You can credit Solveig Thorsrud-Allen's success in the Las Vegas Valley's public relations industry to her skill, tenacity and creativity. But don't call it luck.

Thorsrud-Allen has more than 20 years of public relations experience. She founded The Firm in 1993 and prior to that she held various positions within the area's public relations industry. She worked previously for R&R Partners managing the firm's high-profile accounts and as director of advertising and publicity for Sahara Resorts.

She is a founding member of PR Consultants Group, a network of public relations specialists nationwide, who serve the needs of national accounts in local markets. Furthermore, she is an active member of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, the Public Relations Society of America and the American Marketing Association. Her firm has also been invited to join the worldwide affiliate network of Manning Selvage & Lee Public Relations.

— A.R.



Alberto Lopez

Corporate Director of Strategic Communications, Harrah's Entertainment Inc.

Alberto Lopez is a public relations professional with a flair for technology. That talent has allowed him to help incorporate technology into the company's communications efforts. That, in turn, helped the company to more quickly get its messages out to journalists and customers worldwide.

Lopez started with the company in the summer of 2005. He has extensive public relations experience, including 10 years of working in senior level communications positions for Motorola Inc. Those positions included communications director for the company's Europe, Middle East and Africa operations and director of communications technology and media relations.

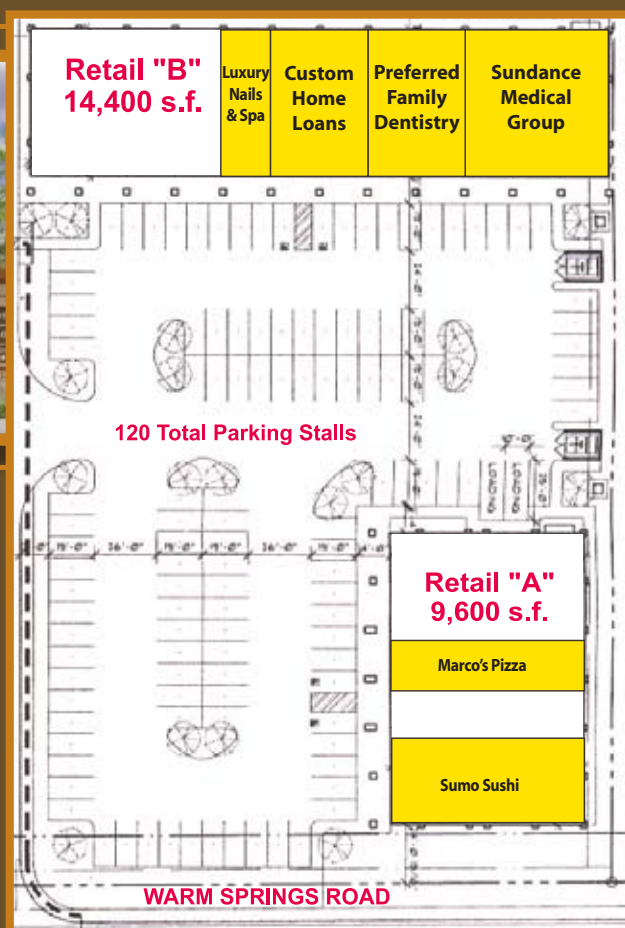
Prior to that he worked for AC Nielsen and a number of other firms.

Harrah's recruited him because of his experience working in communications around the world. He said his work at Harrah's is the most demanding because of the round-the-clock nature of the casino industry. But he said it's the most exciting position he has had in his 25-year public relations career.

— A.R.

Rhodes Ranch Plaza

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ENVIRONMENT



Julia Frehner

President, NU Equipment Inc.

As the president of a company whose primary line of work comes from demolition projects, Julia Frehner's business, NU Equipment Inc., undoubtedly kicks up its share of dust in the valley.

But now one of the group's growing arms of business is dust palliative work, which seems to grow hand-in-hand with its demolition projects, many of which need dust control work as well. NU Equipment has also been called upon to help keep dust at bay along transportation routes in North Las Vegas and campgrounds in Red Rock Canyon.

Frehner, a longtime resident of Las Vegas, is now head of the company she and her late husband, Jeff, formed with one employee and an office which consisted of a desk located in a small space under a set of stairs in their home in 1993. NU Equipment now employs 50 people and has its own office on a six-acre land parcel in North Las Vegas.

— B.S.



Jerry Stanley

President, Soil-Tech

Jerry Stanley is a developer's best friend.

With EPA standards getting stricter for air quality in the valley and builders coming under fire for damaging the desert's natural landscape, Stanley's company, Soil-Tech Inc., has answers that keep all parties involved happy.

With its business booming since the start of the decade, Soil-Tech is considered one of the largest dust mitigation and soil stabilization companies in the U.S. Even more, Stanley's soil-restoration business has blossomed as well, helping builders restore natural landscapes after altering land to build out homes and commercial centers.

The company has been used on projects in Lake Las Vegas, Summerlin, Anthem, and the Hoover Dam Bypass, among others.

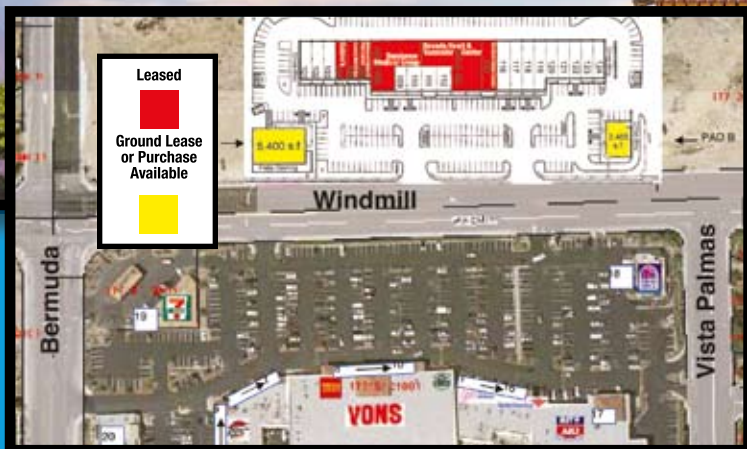
Stanley has also started Native Resources, a branch of Soil-Tech that restores native plants. Native Resources' work can be found on golf courses, detention basins and power line areas throughout the Southwest.

— B.S.

Windmill Lane Plaza

Another Omni Group Development

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ACCOUNTING



David Chavez

**CEO, Chavez & Koch,
Business Consultants & CPAs**

Certified Public Accountant David Chavez has a knack for helping individuals launch and develop businesses, and also facilitating their understanding regarding the myriad ways financial information and accounting practices can benefit business owners when it comes to operations, strategic issues and customer service.

As CEO of Chavez & Koch, which was founded in 1996 and now has 12 employees, Chavez provides accounting and business advisory services to companies of all sizes, and has the proven ability to explain the complexities of accounting practices in terms his clients can easily grasp.

Previously employed with Arthur Andersen working with tax and audit, Chavez takes an integrated and personal approach to assisting clients, which allowed Chavez & Koch to grow more than 100 percent annually in revenue during its first five years. Having recently sold its San Diego office, the firm is now focused solely on growing its Southern Nevada practice.

— D.B.



Kathy Zeller

**Vice President of Planning
and Analysis, Las Vegas Hilton**

Kathy Zeller has an inherent love of numbers that she readily applies to her position as vice president of planning and analysis at the Las Vegas Hilton, a post she has held since late 2005.

Previously a math teacher whose former husband transferred frequently for job-related reasons, Zeller realized the challenges of getting certified to teach from state-to-state, so she elected to return to school and study accounting, which seemed a natural progression. Zeller worked in public accounting for a national firm for 12 years, and also served as assistant controller, operations, at Caesars Entertainment.

In her position with the Las Vegas Hilton, Zeller is responsible for analysis, budgets and Sarbanes-Oxley compliance, and enjoys the interaction that stems from working with various departments in the hotel and casino. She was appointed by Gov. Guinn to the Nevada State Board of Accountancy, and serves as its president.

— D.B.

ARTS

Cindy Funkhauser

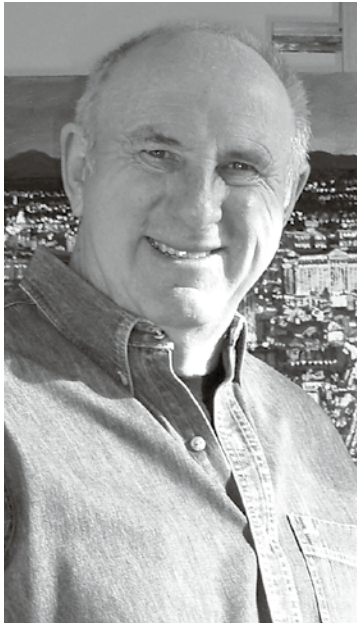
Founder, First Friday, Owner, The Funk House

Quite clearly a non-conformist, Cindy Funkhauser tells it like it is. Her Whirlygig website snarkily details some of the many hats she wears as she describes herself as, "... president and owner of The Funk House antique store, founder of First Friday and longtime downtown supporter/resident who is to be avoided around the twentieth of the month when her PMS kicks into overdrive."

It's that kind of attitude that has helped shape the Downtown Arts District into the burgeoning mecca for artistic talent and a bohemian-esque culture that was, until recently, nearly non-existent in Southern Nevada. Over the past four years First Friday has grown from 300 to 3,000 people each month, incorporating art gallery openings, good food, live music and artistic displays.

Whirlygig is another Funkhauser venture, a non-profit arts organization dedicated to presenting events that help to educate and develop art and artists in the Las Vegas community. Funkhauser's unending passion for arts promotion has won her numerous accolades community-wide.

— L.M.



Jerry Blank

Partner, Bluestone Art Gallery

Vibrant streetscapes rich with bold brush strokes and stunning color palates...

International landscapes capturing the finite details of European landscapes...

Modern day Las Vegas landmarks with a nostalgic look and feel...

Each of these describes the artistic work of Jerry Blank, a partner in Bluestone Art Gallery and creative director and principal at Bluestone Studio, a graphic communications firm. Those who appreciate his fine artistry in impressionist-style painting in oils, acrylics and watercolors may be surprised to learn that in addition to being featured in galleries in New York, San Jose and Houston, Blank is also a prolific graphic artist, a commercial illustrator who excels at editorial, advertising and display illustration. His work has been used by Fortune 500 companies throughout the country.

An artist for more than 30 years, Blank shares his talents in many educational venues. He has received numerous national awards for his work.

— L.M.

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HOSPITALS



Ingrid Whipple

**Chief Executive Officer,
Montevista Hospital**

In a city with such a large transient community, keeping up with mental health issues is an almost overwhelming challenge. Meeting that challenge head on is Montevista Hospital's Ingrid Whipple.

With 180 employees, about 3,500 admissions per year, 80 beds at its main campus and an additional 21 beds at its Red Rock geriatric hospital, Montevista receives between 1,100 and 1,300 crisis calls per month from the community and assesses about 800 people — at no charge — 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

After spending many years in various administrative positions at medical hospitals in the Detroit area, Whipple became an administrator of a psychiatric hospital in Sacramento, Calif. Three years ago she took the top job at Montevista.

Montevista has provided care to those with mental illness and addiction diseases for more than 20 years and is the longest serving free-standing psychiatric facility in Las Vegas providing inpatient and outpatient services.

— D.R.



Dr. John Fildes

**Director of the Level-One Trauma
Center, University Medical Center**

As the director of the state's only level-one trauma center at University Medical Center, Dr. John Fildes influences decisions about the delivery of healthcare affecting our Valley and the nation.

Fildes is the national chairman for the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma where part of his responsibilities include working to improve the care of injured and critically ill patients before, en route to and during hospitalization.

This spring Fildes was named Physician of the Year by the Nevada State Medical Association.

Fildes is a professor of surgery at the University of Nevada School of Medicine where he oversees the trauma and critical care fellowship programs. He has participated as principal investigator and co-investigator of more than 30 research studies, including a variety of research in trauma, emergency medical services and safety. He has published close to 100 books, chapters, articles and opinions in a variety of medical and health journals, magazines and bulletins.

— D.R.

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Hannah Brown
for her achievements. *¡Felicidades!*



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RESTAURANTS



Heather West

Senior Chef, Terra Rossa
(Red Rock Station)

Unlike some winners of reality television shows, Heather West has accepted the grand prize of the second season of Hell's Kitchen. The show's first-year winner declined that year's prize.

She has now moved to Las Vegas and is exhibiting her culinary flair nightly for guests in the open kitchen of Terra Rossa, an upscale Italian restaurant at Red Rock Casino, Resort and Spa.

West withstood the tough tutelage of Chef Gordon Ramsay, the show's star, and now she has an opportunity to work in one of the world's most vibrant culinary markets. West, 26, previously worked as a sous chef at Almondito's in the Hamptons and graduated from the Culinary Institute of America in 2003.

West, who was a fan of the show during its first season, has said she was reared with a strong emphasis on cooking. That impacted her decision to go into the male-dominated field.

— A.R.



Mike Mills

Founder and Partner, Memphis
Championship Barbecue

Mike Mills is not humble about the appeal of his barbecue. A glance at a letter the Barbecue wiz has posted on the Memphis Championship Barbecue Web site indicates the confidence he has in the quality of his recipes and the meals served in his restaurants.

That confidence isn't unwarranted. The area's three Memphis Championship Barbecue restaurants are popular dining spots. Mills also owns two 17th Street Bar & Grill restaurants in Southern Illinois and is a partner of Blue Smoke restaurant in New York.

In barbecue circles Mills is known as "The legend." He was co-captain of the Apple City Barbecue Team, an award-winning crew that competed from 1988 to 1994. He has the distinction of being the only three-time World Champion winner at the Memphis World Championship Barbecue Cooking Contest. Mills attributes his flair in the kitchen to an upbringing that emphasized a love of Barbecue cooking.

— A.R.

MALLS



Scott Muelrath

General Manager, Galleria at Sunset

Scott Muelrath has been in the property management and real estate development industry since 1993, successfully applying the research and writing skills he honed as a history major to his current post as general manager of Galleria at Sunset. The 10-year-old pedestrian mall encompasses 1 million square feet of gross space available for lease.

Muelrath previously worked for Great American Capital, a local real estate developer, before assuming his current post in 2004. As general manager of Galleria, he oversees the operations, security, marketing, administration and portions of the leasing departments, and has helped to precipitate a 20 percent increase in sales per square foot for the mall in the past two years.

He also worked closely with the City of Henderson to develop and open the first police Community Relations Office in a retail setting in Nevada, and co-authored a coffee table photo book on flyfishing the world.

— D.B.



Cynthia Stanley-Lee

General Manager, Meadows Mall

Cynthia Stanley-Lee, CMD, CSM, loves to shop, but the general manager of Meadows Mall rarely has the time.

Instead, her days are consumed with the operations, marketing, leasing, business development, accounting, tenant and customer relations and security for Meadows — a 28-year-old pedestrian retail center that encompasses 950,000 square feet of gross space available for lease.

Appointed general manager in early 2005, Stanley-Lee has been immersed in the business of mall management and marketing for more than a decade, and also previously worked in corporate marketing and advertising for Time Warner Inc.

Although her original career plans focused on teaching, Stanley-Lee obtained a position as marketing director for a Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, shopping center during a summer break, and never looked back. Driven by the daily excitement and challenges of her position, she is now committed to building the success of Meadows while staying in tune with its customer base.

— D.B.

FOOD & BEVERAGE



Ray Norvell

Executive Vice President, DeLuca Liquor & Wine/Coors of Las Vegas

Ray Norvell is the executive vice president of DeLuca Liquor & Wine. In 1977, the Wirtz Corp. began doing business in Las Vegas under the name DeLuca, and also owns Coors of Las Vegas, Silver State Liquor & Wine Inc. and Nevada Wine Agents.

The company's mission statement focuses on being the leader in the wholesale distribution of beverages, and to continually improve sales and service to meet suppliers' and customers' needs. DeLuca sells only premium and regional brands through its specially trained sales staff and marketing organization.

In 2005, *Forbes* magazine ranked Wirtz Corp. among the 300 largest privately held companies in the U.S., with estimated profits of \$86 million on revenue of \$1.15 billion and 2,200 employees.

In 2006, Norvell received the Las Vegas Food & Beverage Directors Association's Auturi Award, and announced that DeLuca would pledge \$50,000 to the association's scholarship fund.

— D.B.



Michele Polci

Director of Catering Sales, Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

Michele Polci believes that individuals in the casino hospitality business can be roughly separated into two categories: those who have a penchant for selling to people and those who excel at taking care of people.

As director of catering sales for the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino, Polci, who holds the Certified Professional Catering Executive designation, has the opportunity to do both. Previously employed in various capacities at the San Diego Marriott Mission Valley, Polci joined the Rio in 1997 and is now responsible for catering sales of more than 150,000 square feet of meeting space, with an emphasis on events for the local market.

Polci is also the president of the local chapter of the National Association of Catering Executives, and was honored with the organization's On Premise Catered Event Award and the Best Themed Food and Beverage Event of the Year in 2004.

— D.B.

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GAMING



William Paulos

Principal, Cannery Casino Resorts LLC

Building the hottest gaming address in North Las Vegas may not sound like a huge claim to fame. But if you ask anyone who knows William Paulos and understands the success of the Cannery Hotel and Casino, they will tell you Paulos' influence on the property's design and operations is key to its success.

Paulos made a name for himself when he worked with Circus Circus Enterprises, later known as Mandalay Resort Group, when he helped design and build the Excalibur Hotel-Casino and later the Luxor. He also helped design and develop the New York-New York hotel and casino on the Strip.

With a knack for unique projects and the establishment of the Cannery in 2003, Paulos now has his eyes on a second Cannery project on Boulder Highway in 2008 while entering new gaming jurisdictions in Pennsylvania and other states.

Paulos was also a member of the first UNLV hotel administration graduating class.

— B.S.



Renee West

President and COO, Excalibur Hotel & Casino

Renee West knows how to get things done. Coming on board as the chief operating officer at the Excalibur meant West was walking directly into a huge property renovation and re-branding campaign, which she has enthusiastically embraced.

West will help usher in Dick's Last Resort, a national restaurant chain, oversee the renovation of more than 1,000 hotel rooms and an expansion of the hotel's pool facility. She is also an avid supporter of MGM Mirage's diversity initiative and was one of the first executives to take diversity training to front-line employees.

Prior to coming on board at Excalibur, West held senior positions at Caesars Palace and Station Casinos, and most recently, served as the COO at MGM Mirage's Primm Valley casino resorts.

West holds an honorary doctorate degree in business from Southern Utah University.

— B.S.

NONPROFIT



Erin Cornelius

CEO, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada

Erin Cornelius always knew she'd be helping kids. But the turnaround she has initiated in her short time with Southern Nevada's chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters is absolutely stunning.

Prior to her arrival in 2005, the average wait for a child to come into contact with a volunteer would be 720 days, which is now reduced to 34 days. The agency has also gone from just under 200 children served to over 900, and is hoping to eclipse 1,500 by next year.

"I grew up in a single parent home and saw the need for programs like this. I felt that with my personal experience and education I could make a difference," Cornelius said.

Prior to joining Big Brothers Big Sisters, she worked for the group's Yuma office, where the office saw a 450 percent increase in youths served under her leadership.

— B.S.



Dan Goulet

CEO, United Way of Southern Nevada

Dan Goulet is no stranger to the United Way way.

With over 30 years of experience with the group, Goulet brought his years of dedication to the Southern Nevada chapter in 2002. Prior to coming to Las Vegas, Goulet helped develop a \$25 million campaign for United Way of Dade County, Florida.

Throughout his career, Goulet has focused on increasing financial and volunteer resources for the agencies he has run. As a part of that commitment, he created a community needs assessment for United Way of Southern Nevada in 2004 and will have an updated assessment in 2007.

These assessments have helped initiate programs like Kids and Cops, health care and education programs for disadvantaged youth and a host of other resources for Southern Nevadans in need of social services.

Goulet holds a masters of business administration from the University of Miami – Coral Gables.

— B.S.

POWER BROTHERS



Michael Nigro

President, Nigro Construction Inc.

Michael and Todd Nigro grew up around construction. So it's no coincidence that they now run one of the most respected development companies in the Valley.

The brothers form the second-generation tandem that runs Nigro Development LLC, a locally based firm with numerous residential and commercial projects to its name, including Rhodes Ranch Town Center, Desert Canyon Business Park and Siena Town Center.

Both brothers, graduates from the University of Southern California School of Business, gained valuable experience helping their father, Edward, run his company through the years. Most recently, prior to taking over the family business, Michael was director of construction while Todd was CFO. Edward started Nigro Associates in 1979.

Todd Nigro

President, Nigro Development LLC

Since taking over in 2000, Michael and Todd have built 1,600 single-family homes, but are currently focusing their efforts primarily on commercial projects.

One of their current projects is the \$25 million Place at Seven Hills, a retail center located at the entrance to the Seven Hills master planned community in Henderson. Todd Nigro calls the 30,000-square-foot center a "gathering place," and more importantly "not a power center" with large anchor tenants. Instead, The Place will focus on bringing smaller shops that provide needed services to the area, with easy access for local residents.

Todd added: "We want it to be upscale, so people feel comfortable going there with their families on the weekends."

— B.S.



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POWER SIBLINGS

Stacy Rocheleau

Paula Yakubik

Laurie Yakubik-Romero

Joey Yakubik

There’s always a rising star in the family. A go-getter. An over-achiever. One who hits the ground running after college and never looks back.

In the Yakubik clan, there’s not one, not two, not three.... but four of these A-type personalities, siblings who have earned stellar reputations launching their own successful business ventures from very young ages.

Stacy (Yakubik) Rocheleau is co-founder and senior partner of Adams & Rocheleau LLP. The law firm has a focus on business, real estate and family law. Prior to forming the firm Stacy was in private practice. She’s earned a reputation for her work in litigating disputed transactions, settlement negotiation, structuring business entities and representing clients in the area of family law matters.

Paula Yakubik is the founder and majority shareholder of MassMedia. With more than 13 years experience in the public relations arena, Paula serves as managing partner. In 2000, Paula was named Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the Small Business Administration (SBA). In addition to her professional accomplishments, Paula is heavily involved in the local community. Perhaps most notably, she recently founded the Southern Nevada Child Abuse Prevention Center, a non-profit organization committed to breaking the generational cycle of child abuse.

Laurie Yakubik-Romero is president of the Yakubik-Romero Agency, an affiliate of Farmer’s Insurance. Laurie educates clients about insurance and prides herself on building personal relationships with each customer. She’s also an active member of the Alianza Hispana, where she uses her insurance industry skills to help protect members of the local Hispanic community.

Joey Yakubik is the owner and president of Vegas Water Sports, a boat dealership, service department



and water sports pro shop he established at the age of 26. He recently announced the opening of a new, \$2.5 million, 16,000-square-foot facility in Henderson. Joey had two goals when he opened his business in 2004 - to provide exceptional customer

service and build a “family standard” within water sports in Southern Nevada.

— L.M.

POWER COUPLE



Dee and Ken Ladd

Both of their lives involve responsibility for vast sums of money... though for very different purposes.

Dee Ladd is the founding president/CEO of Sunrise Children’s Foundation. With a foundation budget in excess of \$3 million, Dee is credited with creating countless partnerships with non-profit and business communities that assist in addressing the early childhood development needs of hundreds of Nevada children and their parents.

If you’ve ever seen a teenager walking around strapped to an “electronic baby” for a day, that was Dee’s doing. She’s fostered partnerships with schools across the state in presenting an educational curriculum titled, “Baby? Think It Over!” The program reaches more than 10,000 middle and high school students and is credited with Nevada’s declining teen pregnancy rate. Are you a HIPPY? You are if you’re using Dee’s Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters program, an early intervention program that helps parents engage in learning activities with their children at home.

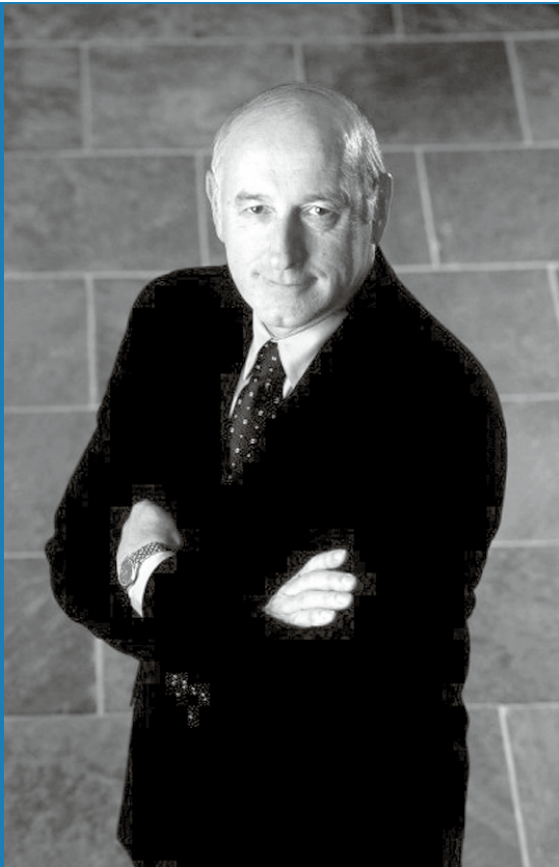
Having obtained a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Dee has been instrumental in securing funding for a number of other programs at Sunrise,

including the Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC) and Parents as Teachers (PAT). Additional programs address prenatal care, smoking prevention and nutrition.

With a slight overlap in their professional lives, Ken Ladd serves as a director on the board of Sunrise Hospital Children’s Foundation. Knowing a thing or two about money himself, Ken is president of U.S. Bank Nevada and regional president for U.S. Bank’s Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Washington commercial banking groups. He has more than 30 years banking experience and an impressive background that includes commercial lending, credit administration, gaming finance, branch management and bank operations.

Besides the role he plays at Sunrise, Ken is chairman of the Nevada Development Authority, co-chair of the Desert Research Institute Foundation and a director with United Way Services, Inc. A 1983 graduate of the Pacific Coast Banking School, Ladd earned his MBA from the University of Utah and his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Weber State University.

— L.M.



Leo Brennan, THE Man

**Also known as THE
“Most beloved guy around the office.”**

On behalf of the 1,200 employees of Cox Communications, we congratulate our Region Vice President and General Manager – **THE** Leo Brennan – graduate of **THE** Ohio State University – on being honored as one of **THE** most influential figures in **THE** industry by **THE** business publication, *In Business Las Vegas*.

For more than 30 years, Cox Communications has been **THE** leader in providing residential and business communication services in Southern Nevada. We're proud of our legacy and proud to have **THE** Leo Brennan at **THE** helm.



POWER FAMILY



Slade Development

The low lighting and bright colors contrasting with heavy doses of black on the walls make the place look hip. But behind the look of Slade Development's Henderson office, it's all about family.

When Virgil Slade started his masonry company in the early 1950s, the focus was on commercial work, and Slade had his hand in plenty of projects that symbolize the growth and evolution of Las Vegas. Slade built high schools, airplane hangars and warehouses at McCarran International Airport and other retail and office buildings throughout the valley – even KFCs.

But when Stacy Slade, his son, joined forces with him about 25 years ago, a new arm of Slade was formed – custom homes. With over 100 custom homes to his credit Stacy Slade is now participating in a new evolution for Slade Development – Vantage Lofts, a Henderson “modernist-styled” project that has already sold out its first 110-unit phase.

Skeptical at first, Stacy gave in to his son Justin's vision for Vantage, even though it is a radical departure from Slade's previous work.

With both of Stacy's sons, Chad and Justin, on board, Justin, who has an architecture background, focuses on the vision for Slade's future, while Chad, a former stockbroker, is CFO. Stacy monitors construction.

With a full in-house team of architects, designers, managers and superintendents, Slade Development is poised for another successful 50 years.

“We've been building houses in town for 20 years. My kids will be building for 20 years. We're not going anywhere,” added Chad Slade.

— B.S.

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INVESTMENTS



Steve Brockman

President, Builder's Capital Inc.

In a city known for record real estate growth, the influence Steve Brockman has had in the lending community is far reaching.

Brockman founded Builder's Capital Inc. in 1999 to provide short-term land and construction loans to local builders and developers. Since then the company has recorded nearly \$976 million in loan transactions.

The reason for Brockman's success is simple: He believes in earning business from his clients, his firm employs advanced mortgage technology and his staff builds long-term relationships with clients.

Just this year Brockman decided to expand his influence, opening a Builder's Capital office in Phoenix.

With a bachelor's degree in business administration from California State University, Chico, Brockman has worked in the commercial loan business in Nevada since 1987, when he joined Interstate Bank.

— D.R.



Becky Takeda

Principal, Merchants Billing Services Inc.

As the only female owner of a JP Morgan Chase/CMS sponsored sales and service organization, Becky Takeda is a member of the industry's Electronic Transactions Association and an active member of and guest speaker for Financial DNA, an organization that ties the investment community to the non-cash payments industry.

Takeda is a founder of Merchants Billing Services Inc., a business-to-business, non-cash payment processing firm established in 2002 that provides merchants with electronic check services and debit card processing worldwide. She manages a portfolio of more than 4,000 merchants producing \$500 million in annual sales. She successfully expanded sales efforts into Asia and Europe and was awarded the Guam Government contract to fulfill its non-cash payment processing needs.

Takeda has also directed worldwide operations for Digital Courier Technologies, Inc. (DCTI), a publicly held e-payment services company and has served as vice president of worldwide marketing for SMART Modular Technologies, a global manufacturer of memory subsystem modules. She also was a partner for Sterling Ventures, a private equity firm.

— D.R.

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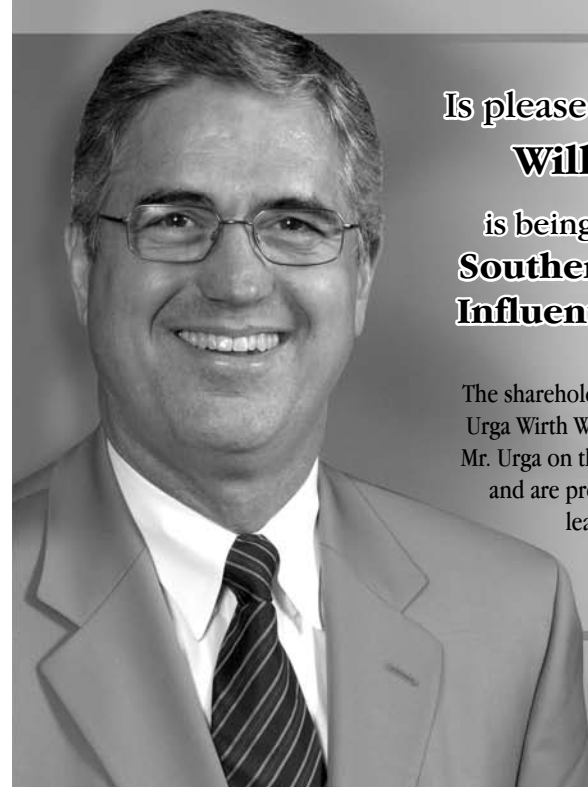
Alice Martz

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MEDIA



Leo Brennan

Region Vice President and General Manager, Cox Communications-Las Vegas

As an executive for Cox Communications, Leo Brennan has helped expand the way residents of the Las Vegas Valley communicate.

Brennan, who has been in Southern Nevada for almost two years, has played a major role in bringing Cox Digital Telephone to the area. In his role he oversees all area operations of the company's traditional analog and digital video programming, high speed Internet service, commercial data services and in-room guest technology services for the area's hospitality industry.

Prior to coming to Las Vegas, Brennan led Cox's Orange County system for nearly 15 years and before that he served as vice president for Times Mirror Cable Television's Northeast Region in Cheshire, Conn., before it merged with Cox.

He is also involved in the Las Vegas Valley community and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the YMCA of Southern Nevada and is a trustee member of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.

— A.R.



Alicia Gibbs

President, ID.Media

Alicia Gibbs has found her niche online with her VegasEVibe.com online magazine.

The magazine serves as a go-to place for information about events and individuals that are of interest to Las Vegas' multi-cultural community.

She first arrived in Las Vegas in 2001, and since then left a career in corporate America to start her own company. Her corporate background includes positions in sales management and marketing.

As head of ID.Media, a two-year-old Las Vegas-based community and public relations firm, she works to increase the visibility of a multi-cultural client base. Her clients include University Medical Center, Harrah's Entertainment Inc., Fitzgeralds Casino-Hotel, MGM MIRAGE and Nevada Power Co.

She is also involved with the I Have a Dream Foundation serving on the group's Executive Advisory Council and leading the Dream Huddle, a girls' mentoring program. She also serves as chair of the communications committee of the Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League.

— A.R.

ARCHITECTURE/DESIGN



Leslie Parraguirre

President, Colours Inc.

Leslie Parraguirre believes anyone can decorate a room. But to be a successful interior designer, one must possess knowledge, training and business acumen that exceed the ability to pick out cute window treatments or throw pillows.

Parraguirre is president of Colours Inc., an interior design firm she founded in 1988. With an inherent sense of style, Parraguirre has successfully parlayed the business into an award-winning company that has completed a plethora of high-profile projects around the valley, including SoHo Lofts, Urban Village and Park Towers, in addition to pro bono work for Child Haven and Agassi Charter School, and was recently hired as the interior designer for Coyote Springs PGA golf club house.

The Foundation for Interior Design Education Research-accredited Parraguirre also recently launched LGP Design Consulting, a company that will act as an owners' representative on projects where developers have to work with other design firms.

— D.B.



Edward Vance

President and Design Principal, JMA

In the ninth grade, Edward Vance wrote a career paper on engineering and architecture. That assignment, coupled with his passion to draw and build things, shaped his professional path.

Vance, AIA, is now among the visionaries guiding the growth and development of JMA, Southern Nevada's largest architecture firm, which Vance joined in 1989 as a designer. He was named president earlier this year and continues to promote JMA's elevation into an integrated design firm.

Established in 1945, JMA has a professional staff of 200, including 25 registered architects. The company has evolved into six studios that specialize in hospitality, commercial, health-care, public and education, interiors and graphic design.

Vance received the American Institute of Architects' 1998 Nevada Young Architect Citation as well as its 2006 Silver Medal, and has been instrumental in the expansion of JMA, which has three local offices as well as outlets in San Diego and Sacramento.

— D.B.

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT



Peggy Chandler

**Sr. Vice President of Community Development,
Howard Hughes Corp.**

A Howard Hughes employee since 1981, Peggy Chandler can lay claim to helping initiate one of the most successful master-planned communities in the nation.

In 1989, Chandler oversaw the sale of the first few land parcels in Summerlin, and the rest, as some would say, is history. Today she is responsible for all land sales in Summerlin, including residential, commercial, as well as those used for public uses.

One of its longest-tenured employees, Chandler has personally overseen transactions totaling nearly \$2 billion during her time with the Howard Hughes Corp. Chandler has also been involved in vacant land disposition of several parcels around the Las Vegas Valley owned by Howard Hughes Corp., which the group decided not to develop.

— B.S.

David Inman

Principal and Founder, Investment Equity Builders

Investment Equity Builders recently moved into its third decade of operation in Southern Nevada.

Founder David Inman's company currently boasts projects such as Stone Canyon Professional Park and Spanish Trail Business Park, among others. Investment Equity also has three projects going up in North Las Vegas and contracts for work in Arizona as well.

Forming Investment Equity in 1984, Inman, now a 36-year Las Vegas resident, was previously a member of the board of directors of Capital Pacific Holdings Inc., one of the largest homebuilders in the country. As a commercial developer, Inman acquires, plans, designs and develops his projects. He has also handled property management through an affiliated company.

He is also a member of the National Association of Industrial and Office Parks and the International Council of Shopping Centers.

— B.S.

RETAIL



Meital Grantz

Founder, Talulah G Boutiques

Meital Grantz strives to bring a little of the East Village and SOHO to Las Vegas with her Talulah G boutiques.

She said the fashion offerings of the Las Vegas Valley paled to those of the designer boutiques in New York, her previous residence. So she decided to do something about it. After moving to Las Vegas in 2001, she opened her first Talulah G boutique in the Arts District.

Las Vegas has grown as a fashion destination, and so has Talulah G. Grantz later moved that first store to Fashion Show Mall and eventually opened three more stores, the latest of which is at Red Rock Casino, Resort Spa.

Grantz moved to the United States from Israel when she was 10. She later graduated from Boston University with a degree in business and hotel management in 1996.

— A.R.



Cliff Miller

**Managing Partner, President and CEO,
M.J. Christensen Diamond Centers**

Cliff Miller joined M.J. Christensen in 2000 because he was drawn to the rich reputation of the long-time family jeweler.

The firm began its existence in 1939 in a store on Fremont Street and has been passed on to four generations of Christensen family members. The firm now has five diamond centers throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

The company's leaders recruited Miller as it sought to bolster its brand. Known as the "Ace of Diamonds," the firm is able to market Miller's expertise in spotting quality diamonds to the benefit of customers.

Miller's more than 30-year career began as a stock boy for Augusta, Ga.-based A.A. Friedman Co., where he learned all facets of the industry and eventually became president. He later launched another firm, Four Points Corp. in Louisville, Ky. before joining M.J. Christensen.

— A.R.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Rob Ryan

**Manager, Henderson
Redevelopment Agency**

After helping with redevelopment efforts in Phoenix and San Jose, Rob Ryan made his way to Henderson about four years ago, taking on a project not as large as some of his previous efforts, but one that is not short on excitement and creativity.

"We're seeing a lot of interest down here (Water Street redevelopment) as projects are coming out of the ground," Ryan said. "All of sudden people are saying, 'this is really happening.'"

One of Ryan's responsibilities so far has been to not only drum up interest for downtown redevelopment, but to leverage resources for the city. Ryan has used \$17 million in redevelopment agency funding to create \$309 million in developer equity and bank financing for projects downtown. With Ryan's guidance and expertise, the city of Henderson will see a dramatically different Water Street in only a few years.

Ryan also belongs to the Urban Land Institute (ULI), the California Redevelopment Association (CRA).

— B.S.



Terri Sheridan

**Economic Development Coordinator,
City of North Las Vegas**

Even though she's only been on the job less than a year, Terri Sheridan is still no stranger to the inner workings of North Las Vegas economic development.

During her three-and-a-half year tenure at the Nevada Development Authority, Sheridan was instrumental in helping Qualcomm establish a presence in the growing city. With that experience and others under her belt, making the transition to the economic development group at the City of North Las Vegas was a natural next career step.

"It has been my pleasure to work with companies during their site selection process and to have been able to facilitate their location plans to Southern Nevada and North Las Vegas. I look forward to the future success of North Las Vegas," she added.

Sheridan holds a bachelor of science degree in Business Administration Management from Western New England College in Springfield, Mass.

— B.S.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS



Kirk V. Clausen

**Regional President/Nevada,
Wells Fargo Bank**

It wouldn't be surprising to see Kirk Clausen pulling up to any one of the many charity functions he supports driving a stagecoach emblazoned with the Wells Fargo logo. Clausen started his career in the baking industry in 1975 at Norwest Bank, which is now Wells Fargo & Co. As regional president/Nevada, Clausen is directly responsible for the more than 110 Wells Fargo operations in Nevada.

Clausen is heavily involved in the community and will serve as the next chairman of United Way of Southern Nevada. He chaired UW's 2004-2005 fundraising campaign, and under his leadership, the organization raised nearly \$10.5 million, a nearly nine percent increase from the previous year.

A board member of the Clark County Public Education Foundation and the University of Nevada Reno Foundation, Clausen also serves as an honorary board member of the Nevada Public Education Foundation. He devotes his time and talent to a number of other local and state non-profits.

— L.M.



Diane Whitaker

**President/CEO, Ensign Federal
Credit Union**

Twenty-three years ago she was working as a part-time typist for Ensign Federal Credit Union. Today she's leading the company as president and CEO.

During the course of her career, Diane Whitaker has served Ensign as a teller, book-keeper, marketing manager and human resources manager. She spent five years as chief operations officer before the board appointment her to her current position as president/CEO. Under Whitaker's leadership, Ensign Federal Credit Union has experienced significant growth and development, increasing its asset base to \$125 million, opening its first branch offices and maturing into a financial staple within the local community. The organization has evolved from a single facility to a multi-branch operation, now operating four locations in Southern Nevada with a fifth in planning.

Whitaker is known among her colleagues as an optimist who believes all who try can succeed. She supports self-improvement and educational opportunities within her staff and provides free community seminars to educate the general public about financial services issues.

— L.M.

ADVERTISING



Darcy Neighbors

Founder and CEO, Consultants in Marketing Inc.

Darcy Neighbors founded Consultants in Marketing in 1996 as a home-based solo operation, and has witnessed the steady 25 percent annual growth of the advertising, public relations and marketing firm.

With an emphasis on the professional services arena, which includes legal, finance and real estate, Neighbors has found a niche that has allowed Consul-

tants in Marketing to emerge as one of the largest advertising and PR firms in the Valley.

A former business analyst at the Kennedy Space Center who also worked as director of business and marketing for a local law firm, Neighbors realized early in her career that helping companies grow was her true passion, despite working in a field where tangible results are

tantamount to continued retainers.

Neighbors is an author and driving force behind DJs for PJs annual charity event, and was recently named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.

— D.B.

John Schadler

Managing Partner, Schadler Kramer Group Advertising

As an art major in college, John Schadler aspired to become a sculptor.



In a sense, he realized his dream, although instead of shaping clay, Schadler now molds the clients of one of the fastest-growing advertising agencies in the Valley, Schadler Kramer

Group Advertising.

Bit by the entrepreneurial bug after working for 15 years for Steve Wynn, perhaps most notably as vice president of advertising for Mirage Resorts, Schadler co-founded the company with business partner Jerry Kramer in 1999.

In its seven years, the agency has grown from eight employees to more than 140 advertising, public relations and interactive marketing professionals, boasts annual capitalized billings of more than \$109 million, and has emerged as a leading brand specialist in the fields of hospitality, leisure and lifestyle marketing, with clients such as Palms Place, Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group, MGM Mirage and Pinnacle Entertainment.

— D.B.



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TECHNOLOGY



Shelly Rounds

Co-founder, Uptime

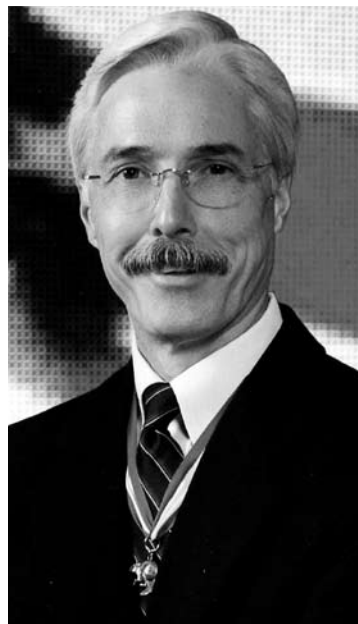
The information technology firm Shelly Rounds help found just five years ago is on target to experience triple digit percentage growth this year.

But with 20 years of business management and marketing experience in a cross-section of industries, she's taking it all in stride.

Uptime specializes in network and computer sales, installation, system design, consulting and monthly maintenance of clients' systems. It also is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner with Microsoft designated competencies in network solutions, advanced infrastructure solutions and security solutions. In a recent Microsoft customer satisfaction survey, Uptime ranked in the top 25 percent of Microsoft Certified Partners in the United States.

The company, under Rounds' leadership, has grown 85 percent in the last four years and is expecting growth of 144 percent in 2006.

— D.R.



John Williams

Vice President and Division Manager, Young Electric Sign Co.

John Williams knows about lighting. He also knows about technology. And he's very knowledgeable about growth.

That's because he has managed the Las Vegas division of the Young Electric Sign Co. (YESCO) for the last 14 years and the division has more than quadrupled in size and volume of business.

Under Williams' watch, in the last 10 years the division started two branches with new lines of business adding to the existing service and exterior sign branches. The interior gaming sign branch specializes in interior slot, venue and way-finding signs, and the electronics branch focuses on large-format LED video screens. Both branches have enjoyed unprecedented growth and market acceptance.

Prior to joining YESCO Williams was the president of JW&W Associates, a commercial and industrial lighting sales agency, and Northwest Standards Inc., a lighting standards manufacturing firm.

— D.R.



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EDUCATION



Dr. Fred Maryanski

President, Nevada State College

Since Dr. Fred Maryanski assumed leadership of Nevada State College (NSC) in early 2005, some amazing things have happened: The enrollment, faculty and budget of the institution doubled. The Nevada Legislature funded the college's first permanent building. The institution received accreditation approval candidacy for its financial aid office. The college established a second site in downtown

Henderson and the Board of Regents approved NSC's first master's degree program.

And perhaps most impressive, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities granted Nevada State College accreditation candidacy status.

When it opened in 2002, NSC had just 177 students. It anticipates more than 2,000 students for the 2006/2007 school year. The

college was established to provide degrees in fields that are currently underserved in Nevada - nursing and education - as well as in other disciplines in the arts and sciences.

Before assuming his role as president of Nevada State College, Maryanski served as interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Connecticut.

— L.M.

Ann Taylor

Food Science and Chemistry Instructor, Silverado High School

If you've ever enjoyed a fabulous dinner at Bellagio's Olives or had to-die-for pastry from the Mirage, it could be Ann Taylor had something to do with it.



A food science and chemistry instructor at Silverado High School, Taylor was the runner up in the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation 2006 ProStart® Teacher Ex-

cellence Awards. The highest achieving instructor from Southern Nevada, Taylor was recognized for building Silverado's program from the ground up. The school boasts commercial-grade equipment, a restaurant and catering service and the opportunity for students to handle every aspect of the business, from making menus to purchasing, receiving, storage, preparation, service, safety and sanitation. Students frequently use their talent to support fundraisers, with proceeds going to local charities.

To date, Taylor, her students and programs have garnered numerous national awards. She is also amassing a long list of students who have earned scholarships, attained national recognition and are employed at top-notch restaurants.

— L.M.

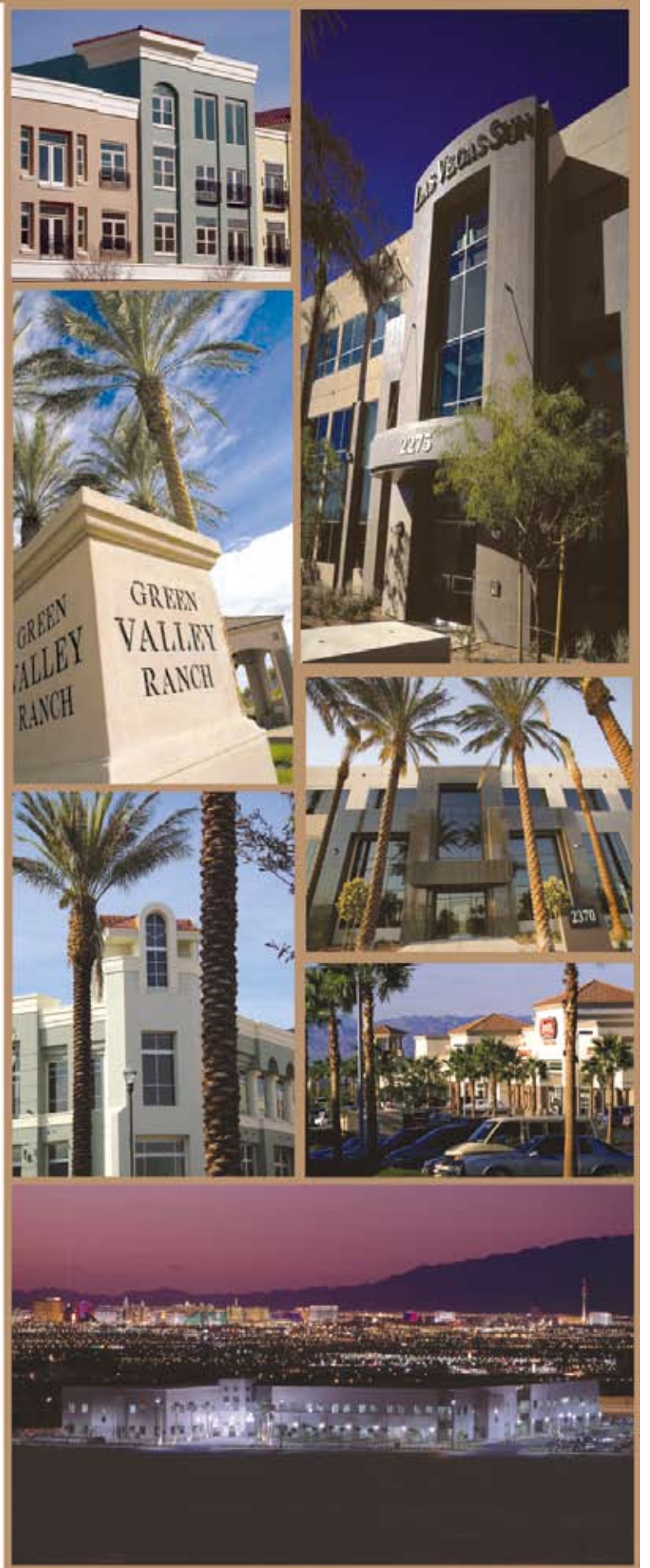
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MANUFACTURING



Socorro Campisi

Co-Owner, West Best Foods

If there's one reason Socorro Campisi is being recognized for her influence in the manufacturing industry, it's for her hard work.

It was in the early 1980s that Socorro—a native of Mexico—and her husband, Mario, who was from Italy, decided to take the traditional food they grew up with to the mass marketplace. They established West Best Foods, a manufacturing operation that grew quickly from selling to a few select companies to some of the largest casinos in the world.

Though her husband passed away seven years ago, Campisi still proudly runs the operation with her two sons and more than 20 employees. Every burrito is hand-rolled and each lasagna, shell, manicotti and bell pepper is hand stuffed. It's the home-made touch, asserts Campisi, which has made the company as successful.

Today, business is as brisk as ever. "It's fantastic," she says.

— D.R.



Richard Hadrill

President, Chief Executive Officer and Director, Bally Technologies Inc.

Richard Hadrill is used to having influence. Before stepping into his position at the helm of Bally Technologies in 2004 Hadrill spent five years as the chief executive officer of Manhattan Associates Inc., a leader in software solutions to the supply chain industry throughout the world. During his tenure the company expanded its product offering and market share, more than tripled revenues to almost \$200 million and increased its share price more than eight fold.

In the late 1990s Hadrill served as president and CEO for Powerhouse Technologies Inc., a technology and gaming company.

Bally Technologies Inc., which changed its name from Alliance Gaming Corp. in March, is a diversified, worldwide gaming company that designs, manufactures, operates and distributes slot and video machines to a global gaming industry.

— D.R.

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MINORITY LEADERSHIP



Hannah Brown

President, Urban Chamber of Commerce

Hannah Brown has seen many changes within the Las Vegas Valley. Although she wasn't born in Las Vegas, she was brought here as a 6-year-old during a time when the area was still segregated. She has watched how civil rights have gradually changed the area. Brown has also had an opportunity to see the area grow.

Her 27-year airline career took her to various cities around the country, so she has been able to compare the area's progress to other areas. So far, the area's culture has come a long way toward achieving parity for minorities in the community, and that has helped minority businesses, she said. But, she said there's still more to do.

Her role with the Urban Chamber is to work with other groups and corporate America to create opportunities for minority business owners.

— A.R.



Robert Gomez

Chairman of Business Development Committee, Latin Chamber of Commerce

Robert Gomez is part of a legacy of leadership within the Las Vegas Valley's Hispanic business community. His mother, Ophelia Gomez, served as president of the Latin Chamber of Commerce from 1989 to 1990.

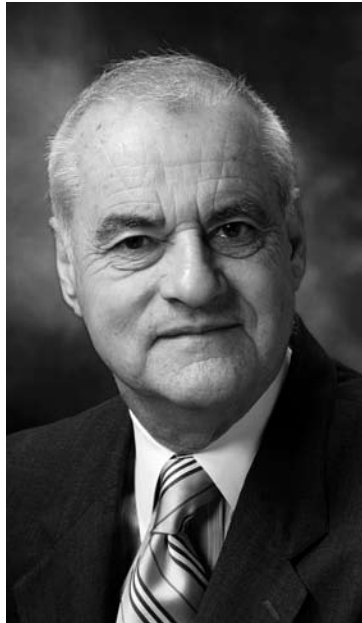
Gomez served in several leadership roles within the group before his election as chair. He has worked on the chamber's executive board as secretary treasurer and vice president and has chaired the group's Business Development Committee.

Furthermore, as the owner of Magic Brite Janitorial, Gomez is able to identify with the needs and challenges faced by the chamber's 1,300 members. He has been instrumental in creating several programs aimed at addressing member's business needs.

As chair of the Business Development Committee he helped form the La Oportunidad Business Expo, started a bank loan program, and worked in partnership with the Nevada Minority Business Council to help chamber members get their businesses certified as minority owned.

— A.R.

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE



Jack Christie

Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Trump International Hotel & Tower Las Vegas

Jack Christie's name is associated with not only one of the biggest names in real estate, but one of few condo-hotel success stories on the Strip.

While condo-hotels seem to be a better fit for Strip high-rise projects, they are still far from a safe bet, as many developers are learning the hard way. But for Christie, who oversees sales at Trump, spotting a successful project before it breaks ground seems to be in his DNA.

Christie has also sold nearly 400 custom home sites at Lake Las Vegas; sold more than 360 custom home sites in Seven Hills and Green Valley Ranch; and helped establish the "Street of Dreams" luxury home showcase in Southern Nevada, which now sees upward of 50,000 attendees each year.

Christie has also sold custom home sites in Arkansas and Virginia, and held senior management positions with the Melrose Company in Hilton Head, S.C., and Aspen, Colo.

— B.S.

Kolleen Kelley

Executive Vice President, Liberty Realty

As second in charge of one of the state's most successful real estate companies, Liberty Realty, Kolleen Kelley is a leader in Nevada real estate as much as she is a broker and sales expert.

With more than 2,200 agents on board, Liberty has grown exponentially since Richard Bell opened its doors in 1988. With Kelley's expertise, the company is poised for continued growth.

A member of the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors' Women's Council of Realtors, Kelley was also one of the first realtors in Las Vegas to receive the Risk Reduction Graduate (RRG) designation, which requires 44 hours of advanced real estate education.

Kelley also serves on numerous GLVAR committees and is a member of the Reno Sparks Association of Realtors, where she also serves as a designated realtor. She is also a member of the Awards and Nominating Committee for the Nevada Association of Realtors.

— B.S.



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ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS



Alice Martz

Chief executive officer, Henderson Chamber of Commerce

Judging from the variety of jobs Alice Martz has held, she is an enterprising woman. Martz worked for 20 years as a dental hygienist, she owned her own gift shop in Alabama and started a library from scratch for the U.S. Air Force. She achieved that last task while her husband was stationed at a quadranational base in Decimannu, Italy.

But for the past 18 years Martz has worked for the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, first as an executive assistant and then in 1996 she became chief executive officer. Under her leadership the chamber has transformed from what she calls an, "event chamber," to one that actively works to address the needs of its 1,500 members.

The chamber now offers its members a health insurance program, industry roundtable events, a growing legislative presence and internship programs for students.

— A.R.



Otto Merida

President and chief executive officer, Latin Chamber of Commerce

Otto Merida has been a staple within business and minority business circles in the Las Vegas Valley since 1978. That's the year Merida helped launch the Latin Chamber of Commerce and when he became the group's executive director. His title has changed slightly since then, although his role within the chamber is as important as ever as the group's top non-elected leader.

Merida began his time in this country in 1961, where he arrived as child refugee of Cuba. He graduated high school in Wilmington, Del., and went on in 1969 to graduate with a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Florida in Gainesville.

He first arrived in Las Vegas in 1974 and worked for the Nevada Department of Education and Comprehensive Employment and Training Program. He then began work helping to organize the Latin Chamber of Commerce in 1976.

— A.R.

CONVENTIONS



Leslie Bruno

CEO, Pro-Tect Security

Don't let her petite frame or soft-spoken manner fool you. With a name like Bruno, you know she's gotta be one tough cookie.

Pro-Tect Security CEO Leslie Bruno entered the highly competitive male-dominated industry at the urging of her mother, who helped build the company into a premier security corporation serving the valley for more than 27 years. With numerous divisions and more than 500 guards assisting a wide range of clients with varied security needs, Pro-Tect provides services for clients ranging from convention attendees to mega super-stars and high rollers. Employees are former police officers, special forces members, weapons experts and private investigators.

Recognizing the changing security needs of her clients, Bruno is now taking her business into the high-tech arena. She recently added to her offerings bomb-sniffing dogs and high-level security monitoring and surveillance systems.

— L.M.



Bruce Merrin

Founder, Bruce Merrin Celebrity Speakers and Entertainment Bureau

If Johnny Carson offered you show-biz career advice, you'd probably have been wise to take it.

In 1973, Bruce Merrin booked one of his PR firm's celebrity clients — Michael Landon — on the "Tonight Show." Over dinner later that evening, Carson suggested Merrin create a celebrity speakers bureau. Landon offered to be the first client, Carson the second. Thus was born the Bruce Merrin Celebrity Speakers and Entertainment Bureau.

Today, Bruce Merrin Public Relations is among the most experienced and elite publicity companies worldwide, boasting numerous awards and powerful media connections. The firm has handled the likes of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis, Jr. Bruce Merrin's Celebrity Speakers & Entertainment Bureau is equally as impressive.

During the past 32 years the agency has listed among its speakers presidents, astronauts, super-stars, sports icons and international newsmakers. Clients have included a number of Fortune 500 companies, including Microsoft and Federal Express.

— L.M.

HEALTH



Dr. Trina Wiggins

**Pediatrician and founder
of Fit Kidz Club**

Dr. Trina Wiggins is the epitome of a multi-tasker.

She's a respected pediatrician, fitness competitor, wife and mother to twins. And if that was not enough, this energetic Las Vegas has taken on another challenge: teaching children preventative medicine by adopting a healthier lifestyle with her Fit Kidz Club.

Fit Kidz Club teaches children to make better lifestyle choices through fun activities like timed obstacle courses and creative movement that incorporates flexibility, strength and cardiovascular fitness. There are nutritional games and discussions along with taste testing of healthy foods.

For Wiggins, the club is a way to help the rising number of obese and overweight children she sees in her practice.

And she's certainly an expert when it comes to fitness. Wiggins, 45, began competing three years ago in fitness competitions and placed 8th in the 2006 Ms. Fitness USA competition and 16th in the Ms. Fitness World competition last month.

— D.R.



Dr. K. Warren Volker

**Managing partner, Women's Specialty
Care, President, Volker Medical Research.**

As managing partner of the largest OB/GYN private practice in Las Vegas and president of a medical research firm, Dr. K. Warren Volker is paving the way in women's health.

In addition to his M.D., Volker holds a master's degree and Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology and a BBA in finance management.

He is the chairman of the OB/GYN department in Summerlin Medical Center and sits on the board of directors of the Specialty Surgical Center, LLC.

Volker has collaborated with the National Institute of Health and researched metabolic mechanisms and genetics in the development of breast cancer and he consults with local and national media providing recommendations in the latest treatment in women's health.

He also has been featured on episodes of The Discovery Channel and The Learning Channel and is a physician for the Professional Golf Association and the U.S. Olympics.

— D.R.

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EMPLOYMENT



Jennifer Lyon

**Client Services Manager,
The Eastridge Group**

For Jennifer Lyon, it's never been about simply filling a position and walking away. As client services manager and corporate recruiter for Eplica, Inc. and The Eastridge Group of Staffing Companies (Eastridge), Lyon is credited with developing long-term partnerships with several local staffing companies, which in turn has assisted several companies in achieving their staffing goals.

Employed with Eastridge since 2002, Lyon has held positions including business development representative and area operations manager. She utilizes her expertise in the employment and recruiting arena through her involvement on the board of directors of the Nevada Staffing Association and her membership on the Nevada Development Authority Recruitment Committee.

The Eastridge Group is the largest privately-held staffing firm in Nevada and Southern California and Nevada. The company is the employer of record for approximately 3,000 contractors and temporary employees weekly in general and professional positions.

— L.M.



Doug Geinzer

**Founder and President,
Recruiting Nevada**

Skilled nurses and qualified teachers. They're both in short supply in Southern Nevada, though if Recruiting Nevada Founder & President Doug Geinzer has his way, it won't stay that way for long.

Geinzer has made it his mission to use his successful employment agency as a resource tool for bringing more of these much-needed professionals to the valley. Recruiting Nevada features not only general purpose job boards, but industry-specific career portals and career centers for professional associations.

Numerous healthcare organizations use Geinzer's recruitment media company, including Valley Health Systems, Nevada Cancer Institute and the Nevada Hospital Association, which credits Geinzer with helping increase Nevada's nurse-to-population ratio over the last four years from 520 to 547 per 100,000. Geinzer is also a long-time supporter of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce WE CARE program, which pairs business professionals with prospective teacher candidates from across the country to encourage relocation.

— L.M.

LEGAL



William Urga

**Co-Founder and Senior Shareholder,
Jolley Urga Wirth Woodbury & Standish**

During his 36-year career, a wide-range of clients have relied on William Urga's legal expertise.

He is a well-respected hometown lawyer who is comfortable practicing in a variety of legal areas. Those areas are business and real estate litigation as well as commercial, administrative, employment and gaming law.

He switches from representing the interests of businesses to representing the interests of celebrities like Dennis Rodman. His administrative law experience includes a six-year stint as a gaming commissioner for the Nevada State Gaming Commission. He serves as chair of the MGM Mirage Compliance Committee and is an arbitrator for the NASD.

He has also held leadership positions with organizations like the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Nevada, the Inns of Court and the Hastings College of Law Alumni Association.

— A.R.



Linda Bullen

Associate, Lionel Sawyer & Collins

As a litigator who practices environmental law, Linda Bullen, considers herself an environmentalist.

As a part of her commitment to the environment Bullen tries to incorporate environmentally-conscious practices into her daily lifestyle. That includes taking public transportation to and from work as often as possible.

She now represents businesses on environmental issues, but has government experience, which has given her insight into how to help businesses avoid breaking the law.

Bullen has worked as a lawyer for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago, and has also been an assistant attorney general in Minnesota where she prosecuted environmental crimes. Further, she has worked for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota Department of Transportation.

In addition to Nevada, Bullen is a member of the state bars of Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin, where she graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1982.

— A.R.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING



Dr. Renee Coffman

Dean of College of Pharmacy,
University of Southern Nevada

For Dr. Renee Coffman, teaching pharmaceutical sciences comes naturally. That's because not only does she hold a Ph.D. in industrial and physical pharmacy, but she has been a pharmacist in both the community and hospital settings.

At Purdue University, where she obtained her Ph.D., Coffman received the Kienle Award for excellence in teaching and the Jenkins-Knevel Award for outstanding graduate research.

Following her tenure at Purdue, Coffman became a founding member of the faculty at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, Calif. In 1999 she moved to Las Vegas, working in community pharmacy while helping to establish the Nevada College of Pharmacy, where she is currently professor of pharmaceutical sciences and associate dean. She also is a professor of pharmaceutical sciences and dean of the College of Pharmacy at the University of Southern Nevada.

— D.R.

Richard Arguello

Principal, Southern Nevada Vocational
Technical Center

Richard Arguello is not only successful in his job as principal of one of the top public high schools in Clark County, he's happy.

Arguello said the Southern Nevada Vocational Technical Center is a positive environment for students with one of the highest graduation rates, highest attendance rates and lowest drop-out rates in the county.

Additionally, Vo-Tech is a comprehensive, which will celebrate its 40th anniversary later this year, is a four-year high school like any other, except that when students graduate they may do so with a career or technical certification.

Arguello worked his way up through the Clark County school system — teaching science and working as a dean of students — before being named to his current position.

"It's a wonderful place to work," he said. "We've got great kids and a great staff. I've been here six years but I feel like it's six weeks."

— D.R.

UTILITIES



Dianna Fyke

Regional Sales Operation Manager-West, Embarq

Since Dianna Fyke graduated from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas with her Master's Degree in Business Administration she has been influential in business and the community.

Fyke is the western regional sales manager for Embarq, which provides communications services including local and long distance voice, data, high speed internet, wireless and entertainment services. The company has 20,000 employees and operates in 18 states.

Outside of work Fyke's is equally impressive. She is past president and director of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce's board of directors and is currently a trustee on the Chamber's Foundation and Legislative Committee. She is a past recipient of the Chamber's Ambassador of the Year award and prestigious Outstanding Chamber Member of the Year award.

Fyke is a graduate of the Leadership Henderson program and now serves on its steering committee. She is active in the Henderson Rotary Club, the Boys and Girls Club of Henderson and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

— D.R.

Arnold Lopez III

Economic Development Executive, Nevada Power

When you're in the business of selling Las Vegas to those considering moving multi-million dollar companies to Las Vegas, you have to be familiar with the area.

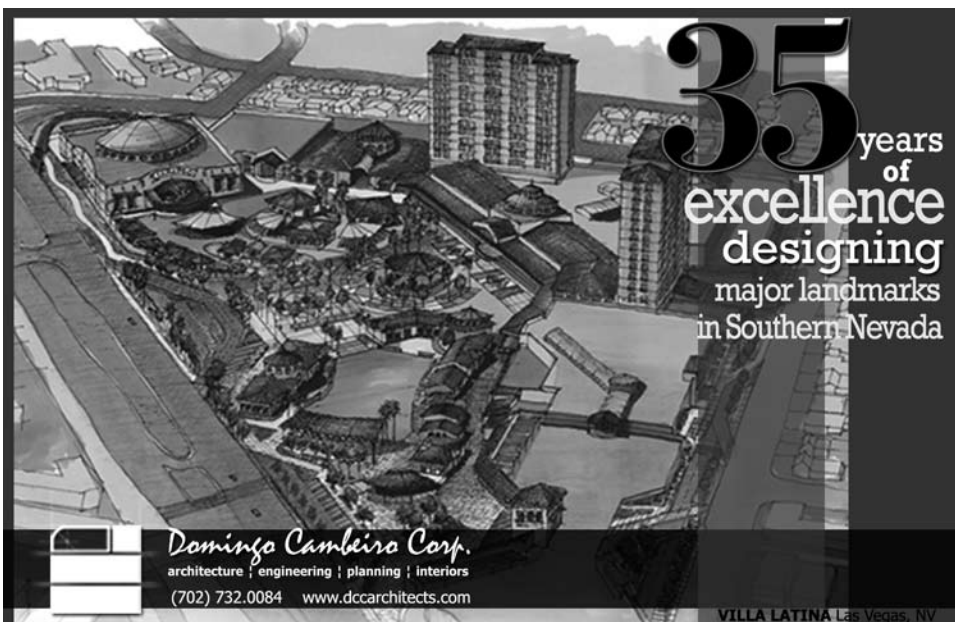
That's why nobody is better for the job than Arnold Lopez III, Nevada Power Company's economic development executive. He has lived in Southern Nevada since 1968 and graduated from the University of Nevada Las Vegas in 1986.

In his 18 years with Nevada Power he has held various technical and managerial positions. In his current job, Arnold works directly with both economic development and redevelopment agencies attracting new businesses and rebuilding aging neighborhoods in Southern Nevada.

Lopez is a 2002 Leadership Henderson graduate, a member of the Nevada Development Authority Government Liaison Committee and a member of Nevada Power Company's Volunteer Council.

He and his wife are proudly raising their six native Nevadans.

— D.R.



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INSURANCE



Diane Prater-Kelly

Principal, GLB Insurance Group of Nevada

As the only female partner at one of the city's leading insurance firms, Diane Prater-Kelly defines an influential woman and business leader.

Prater-Kelly, a principal with GLB Insurance Group, got her start in the Las Vegas insurance industry 30 years ago as an underwriting secretary and worked her way up the corporate ladder.

Not only has Prater-Kelly been an educator in the insurance program at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, but she is one of only three women to have held the position of president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Southern Nevada.

For Prater-Kelly, insurance is in her blood. Her father owned Atkin & Prater and following his retirement she and her brother assumed ownership of the agency. In 2004 they merged their firm with George L. Brown Insurance Agency to form GLB Insurance Group of Nevada.

— D.R.



Brian Cruden

President, Insurcorp

Brian Cruden is an innovator in the insurance industry.

As president of Insurcorp, Cruden manages his company with the philosophy that his firm functions as an auxiliary division of its clients' companies.

That plan has worked for the more than 1,000 clients — from individuals to large firms — Insurcorp has served since Cruden started the company in 1992.

Cruden has built a customer-centered agency by employing the structure of having the people who write the policies also service the policies, a practice that has helped Insurcorp report a client retention record that surpasses industry standards.

Besides his work with Insurcorp, Cruden is one of the founders of Silver State bank and sits on its board of directors. The community bank was started in 1996 with a minimum capital investment and has grown to more than \$800 million in assets.

— D.R.

TRAVEL

Lynn Minard

Manager and Travel Agent, Desert Travel

Lynn Minard created her first travel brochure — which included photos, facts and a proposed itinerary for a trip to Greece — for an elementary school project.

That led to her eventually attending "travel school" to hone her skills and develop her knowledge of ticketing policies, airline computer systems, lingo, coding and other relevant aspects of the industry.

Minard has been in the business for 22 years, focusing on both leisure and corporate travel, and joined Desert Travel in 2003, on year after it opened in Las Vegas.

With six employees and 14 independent contractors, Desert Travel is a full-service IATA endorsed company whose agents are committed to securing the right product for its customers, whether it's business or pleasure, a weekend escape or a month-long excursion. Undeterred by the infiltration of the Internet into her field, Minard emphasizes old fashioned customer service and consultation in response to her clients' travel needs.

— D.B.

Jack Owens

General Manager, Yellow-Checker-Star
Transportation

As general manager of Southern Nevada's largest cab company, Jack Owens is in the business of conveying customers safely to their destinations.

But in his two dozen years with Yellow-Checker-Star — he joined as a consultant and went on to be promoted to controller and director of operations before assuming his current position — he has also made it his mission to help improve air quality in the valley, spearheading the company's clean-air efforts and continually striving to improve the transportation industry with environmentally friendly and fiscally sound policies.

To that end, Yellow-Checker-Star has run its entire fleet of more than 500 taxicabs on clean-burning propane since 1981. Owens is also a member of the board of directors for the Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition, and helped launch Star Trans and Star Limousine, two divisions of Yellow-Checker-Star that provide bus, shuttle, limousine and town car transportation services.

— D.B.

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COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE



Suzette LaGrange

Vice President, Colliers
International – Las Vegas

Consider: 6.5 million square feet of office/industrial lease transactions, 3 million square feet of building sales and 300 acres of land sales. That's the 10-year professional scorecard for Colliers International –Las Vegas vice president Suzette La Grange.

LaGrange recently joined Colliers following a decade-long career with CB Richard Ellis. A go-getter from the get-go, La Grange started her career in commercial real estate in 1995 while still attending college. The majority of La Grange's real estate experience is in landlord and tenant representation, though she also has extensive experience with office and industrial developments.

LaGrange has earned many accolades during the course of her career, including 2005 Industrial Broker of the Year by NAIOP Southern Nevada Chapter and "Top Business People Under 40" in 2002 by In Business Las Vegas. She also devotes a good deal of time to the Lied Institute for Real Estate Studies.

— L.M.



Ron McMenemy

CEO, Broker and Partner,
NAI Horizon-NV

You don't usually hear the word "passion" associated with the term "commercial real estate," but perhaps that's what puts NAI Horizon CEO-broker-owner Ron McMenemy in a class by himself.

A commercial real estate professional for more than 20 years, McMenemy has gained a reputation for creating, maintaining and successfully leveraging key long-term business relationships throughout his career. He got his start two decades ago with The Ribeiro Corp. and went on to be named general manager of Americana Commercial Group, a position he held for several years before purchasing NAI Horizon in 2001. The company is currently the fourth ranked commercial brokerage firm in the Las Vegas Valley.

McMenemy focuses primarily on second and third generation rehab projects and disposition. He's involved with a number of professional and community organizations.

— L.M.

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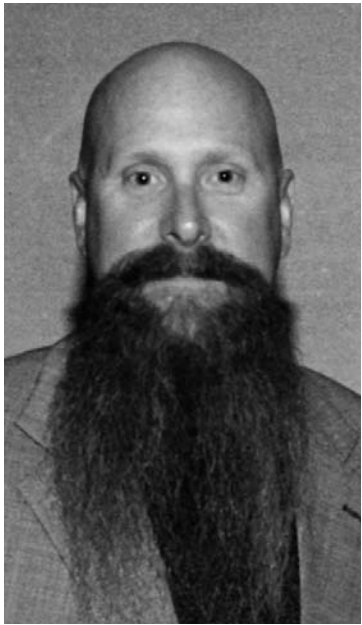
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David McCune

President, Laborers Union Local 872

The nearly 5,000 members of the Laborers Union Local 872 work in a variety of job sites, many of which can be dangerous. David McCune, the union's president, wants to find ways to keep all of those workplaces safe.

McCune was instrumental in lobbying members of the Nevada Legislature during the 2003 session to pass Lezlee's law. The law doubles the penalties for reckless driving in construction work zones whether or not workers are visible and whether or not the site is clearly marked as a construction zone.

The law was passed in memory of Lezlee Johnson, a construction site flagger and a member of the union, who was killed by a careless driver while on the job in 2002.

McCune said his lobbying efforts on behalf of the union has taught him that working through the political process can impact the work place in very important ways.

— A.R.



Pilar Weiss

Political Director, Culinary Union Local 226

Whether she's encouraging members of the Culinary Union to get out the vote or wheeling and dealing with Nevada's political elite, Pilar Weiss has influence on a wide variety of individuals.

As the union's political director, Weiss supports local, state and national issues and candidates that benefit the union's 60,000 members.

Weiss has worked for the union locally since 2002. Before taking the reigns as political director in early 2005, she worked as a researcher and prior to that she worked for the union's parent Unite Here in Washington, D.C.

Weiss, who has a master's degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley, has always had an interest in the health issues of workers. She said her role with the union allows her to address that along with a wide spectrum of other quality of life issues members have.

— A.R.

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Arnold Lopez
Economic Development Executive,
Nevada Power Company

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