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Lifestyle Magazine for the MacDonald Highlands Community



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Credit: Komo Golf **See page 12 for full story.**



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The Highlander Magazine is published quarterly by DragonRidge Country Club, and printed by Beckwith Printing. It is designed solely for the residents of MacDonald Highlands and members of DragonRidge Country Club. The magazine is mailed to all residences each quarter with information about MacDonald Highlands activities, health & fitness, travel and many other topics. We hope you will become acquainted with our preferred advertisers and find the magazine to be a valuable neighborhood resource. All rights reserved.



AN AZURE AND LUXUS DEVELOPMENT

Four Seasons Private
Residences Las Vegas: A
Landmark Year with Record
Sales in Henderson, NV

The Four Seasons Private
Residences Las Vegas has
marked an extraordinary
milestone this year,
achieving an impressive
\$550 million in sales. With this
accomplishment, the project
has earned the distinction of
selling the highest number of
units across the entire Four
Seasons brand globally in
2024.

The project is advancing toward its next phase, with construction preparations in full swing. The site has been mobilized, and contractors are now on-site, preparing to begin at the start of the year. In the coming months, you can expect to see cranes rise into the skyline, signaling the arrival of this highly anticipated development.

As Four Seasons Private
Residences Las Vegas
continues to set benchmarks
in luxury real estate, 2024
was a year of unprecedented
achievement. With the vision
for this iconic development
coming to life, the team is
excited for the progression in
2025.

We would like to extend an invitation to visit our new Four Seasons Discovery Studio within MacDonald Highlands showcasing exciting new features and updates.

We would like to extend an invitation to visit our new Four Seasons Discovery Studio within MacDonald Highlands showcasing exciting new features and updates.



SCAN TO DISCOVER MORE!









FROM THE DEVELOPER

Richard C. MacDonald

These are the special days of the year. Spending time with family and friends underscores the real sweetness of life; and it was especially sweetened by seeing our club members enjoying life with their friends and families. That is one of the real rewards I have received from developing this community. Frankly, I have always been amazed by how many wonderful people our community has attracted.

I am also excited by the eminent end of infrastructure construction in MacDonald Highlands. The final paving of Phase 5, on the mountain (top of mountain) will occur in December, while Phase 3 will be paved in January. Home construction will, of course, take place for the next 3 – 4 years and that dovetails nicely with the completion of the Four Seasons Towers, which is scheduled to be completed at about the same time.

Most of the clubhouse construction is complete. Now our task is to implement programs for all of us to enjoy. I look forward to seeing all of you enjoying yourselves at the club and visiting with you. I believe we are ready to end the year on a good, positive note. I plan to spend the end of the year making arrangements to help those less fortunate than ourselves. I invite all of you to join me in this.

Best Regards.

-Ruhal Zwall

Richard C. MacDonald



"ACT AS IF WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE... IT DOES."

William James

10TH ANNUAL DRAGONRIDGE TURKEY TROT: A COLORFUL MILESTONE!

Ashley Powell

The 10th Annual DragonRidge Turkey Trot on November 28, 2024, was a colorful and energetic start to Thanksgiving! Over 170 participants ran the scenic course, with Cooper Thompson finishing first overall at 18:20.0 and Charlotte Kieft leading the females at 23:06.0.

From kids to seasoned runners, every participant brought joy and spirit to this milestone event. Notable winners included Mia Ybarra (28:54.0) and Marcus Prater (32:29.0).

Thank you to all runners, volunteers, and sponsors for making it a success! View the full race results scan the QR code below. See you next year!





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HOA LETTER

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

The outcome of the 2024 Annual and Election Meeting

Dori Sampson

Dear MacDonald Highlands residents,

We hope you enjoyed the Holiday season! We wanted to let you know that outcome of the 2024 Annual and Election Meeting of the Members that was held on October 23, 2024. There were four homeowners running for the one open position. Incumbent Member Gene Raper received the highest vote count and was duly elected to the Executive Board of Directors to serve a 2-year term. We would like to thank the other Association Members that ran, Harry Brandise, Robert Eisen and Jim Stroh. We appreciate your interest in the community.

You should have received the 2025 budget packet in the mail or via email, depending on what service you are signed up for through the Association. There will be no increase in assessments for the Master Association. There will be an increase for the Dragon Glen, Dragon Ridge, Lairmont, Liege and The Retreat Neighborhoods. The budget was ratified at the Budget Ratification Meeting held on November 25, 2024. If you have not received your payment couponbook, please contact Management at 702-933-7764 or dsampson@rpmginc.com.

The 2025 Board of Directors Meeting schedule is available and was included with the 2025 budget packet. You can obtain the schedule online through your Assessment account portal at www.rpmginc.com, or you can contact the management office to have it mailed, emailed or faxed to you.

Stay safe and healthy!



Home Owners Association

The community association is led by a five person Board of Directors which protects and enhances MacDonald Highlands. Its duties include many responsibilities, such as maintenance of community assets and the operation of the community itself, creation of annual budgets and design review implementation and construction oversite.

HOA Board Members

- Paul Bykowski, President
- Rich MacDonald, Vice President
- Gene Raper, Secretary
- Jeff Spivack, Treasurer
- Nancy Storey, Director

RPMG, Inc. assists the HOA Board in its quarterly meetings. The Architectural Review Committee assists homeowners in remodeling their homes. Any changes to existing homes must be approved by the Design Review Committee.

For any other forms or documents you may need, visit: www.rpmginc.com.



SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Meghann Trager, Assistant General Manager

KEN & LUCIA PARKS THRIVING IN THE DESERT AND BEYOND

Ken and Lucia Parks are the kind of people who bring warmth, intellect, and a touch of adventure to every room they enter. Successful in their respective careers, they now split their time between the East Coast and our vibrant desert community of MacDonald Highlands, embracing a lifestyle that's equal parts relaxation and exploration. Since joining DragonRidge Country Club two years ago, they've established themselves as active and engaged members, adding a dynamic energy to our community.

For many years, the Parks called Bedford, New York, home. Their property in Westchester County, just 45 minutes outside New York City, offers a charming retreat where they still spend time. "I love wingshooting, and upstate New York offers some of the best upland bird hunting in the country," Ken shared. "We go back for Thanksgiving, and I still love the changing leaves in the fall." Lucia added, "New York City during the holidays is magical. There's something about the winter there that's hard to replicate. And the Bedford

property is a great place for our children and extended family to gather with us for the holidays."

The Parks appreciate the duality of their two homes— New York's timeless beauty and rich culture, balanced by the serene desert landscape of Nevada. "It couldn't be more different here, and that's what makes it so interesting," Lucia noted. "Both places have their own unique charm."

For Lucia, life before the move west was defined by high-stakes contracts and the courtroom. "I was an attorney working in subsea fiber optics—our company designed and installed massive cable systems," she explained. "I drafted and negotiated contracts to make those projects happen. And yes, there were plenty of arguments!" Lucia also found time to teach at her alma mater, Fordham University. "I loved teaching law. It was challenging, but fun," she said with a smile. After stepping back in 2024, Lucia traded her spreadsheets and legal briefs for desert sunrises and scenic hikes.

Ken, on the other hand, has spent his career at the intersection of media and technology. "I was part of the original team that built and launched Spotify in 2008," he shared, almost casually, though the impact of that work is anything but ordinary. "The life of a startup is thrilling—it's a unique rush to accelerate a business from 0 to 100 miles per hour. After a decade as Chief Content Officer of Spotify, I chaired Pluto TV, the free internet TV service which we sold to Viacom. Now, I run the family office and invest in interesting projects ranging from drones to London real estate, but I'm also taking time to enjoy the fruits of a few decades of hard work."

The Parks duo balances each other perfectly. "Ken's the gas, and I'm the brakes," Lucia laughed. "He has this wanderlust and loves exploring. I'm more of a planner, but because of him, I've been nudged out of my comfort zone and experienced incredible things."

Their decision to move to Las Vegas was a bit of a leap. "We actually bought our home in MacDonald Highlands sight unseen during the pandemic," Ken admitted. "It was slightly reckless, but I thought, 'What's the worst that could happen?' It turned out to be one of the best decisions we've ever made."

Ken and Lucia adore the natural beauty of the desert and everything that comes with DragonRidge. "We've fallen in love with this community—the Master Plan, the club, the people. It's just fantastic," said Ken. Lucia added, "I'll never get tired of saying, 'Let's just go to the club.' It's such a great option, and Chef Duane and Papi are phenomenal."

When they're not enjoying sushi at the club or taking in the sunrise from their MacDonald Highlands home, you might find them exploring nearby national parks, attending a UFC fight, or catching a live show. "We just saw The Killers and Tears for Fears, both were amazing experiences," Ken said.

Looking ahead, Ken may be contemplating his "third act." "After spending so much time in tech, I'd love to try something totally different. Maybe brewing beer or something food-related. I've done some home brewing, and I loved the Double Dragon Porter collab at the club. Who knows...maybe there's a brewery in my future."

For now, the Parks are fully embracing life in MacDonald Highlands. "This place is unique," Ken said. "It's not just a community; it's a lifestyle. We're so happy to be here."

If you see Ken and Lucia Parks around the club, please say hello. We're thrilled to have them as part of our DragonRidge family!

HIGHLANDER RESIDENTS LUBEN AND JO RABCHEV PROUDLY ANNOUNCE:

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MACDONALD HIGHLANDS LUXURY REAL ESTATE MARKET REPORT WINTER 2024

Kristen Routh-Silberman, MacDonald Highlands Master Listing Agent

Let's face it, Las Vegas isn't as affordable as it once was. This is the reason why the growth in real estate has slowed down over the past year. I think this is a healthy thing as it gives real buyers time to accumulate enough and prevents speculative bubbles in the market. If the affordability issue keeps increasing, we may see the demand further cooling down in the future.

That said the Las Vegas market is not in a state of bubble either. We are not going to see any dramatic price drops anytime soon. Over the next year, I believe the market will experience a small correction in the beginning followed by slow and steady growth.

If you are planning to buy, don't try to time the market perfectly, but instead look at houses that you really like, and are in your comfortable price range. If you are planning to sell, make sure to list your house in an attractive way, and be prepared for more competition.

Minor Dip in Early 2025: Zillow predicts a slight drop of 0.7% in Las Vegas home values between November 2024 and January 2025. This suggests that the market might experience a small correction as we head into the new year.

Moderate Growth by Late 2025: However, the forecast for the rest of 2025 is more positive. Las Vegas is expected to see an overall increase of 1.1% in home values

between November 2024 and October 2025. This suggests the market will slowly recover in the latter half of the year.

Okay, the big question: Will home prices drop in Las Vegas? Or even crash? the short answer is: a dramatic crash is unlikely. While we might see a slight dip in the beginning of 2025, followed by modest growth, I don't foresee a major downturn.

HERE'S MY RATIONALE:

- No Signs of a Bubble: The rapid price increas es we saw during the pandemic were unsustainable. The current cooling off is a correction, not a market collapse. There has also been a significant rise in the quality of buyers. Most new buyers are well qualified and are not over-leveraged.
- Limited Supply: Even though more houses might be entering the market, the existing supply is not enough to trigger a huge price drop.
- Strong Underlying Economy: The Las Vegas economy seems fairly robust at this time. And if it continues to grow, it will support the housing market.

TOP 10 HOME SALES OF 2024							
SF	BED	ватн	CAR	YEAR	SOLD PRICE	COMMUNITY	
11,427	4	7	6	2017	35,000,000	Summit Club	
10,094	7	10	3	2021	29,250,000	Summit Club	
10,295	7	8	4	2019	22,000,000	Summit Club	
9,827	9	9	6	2021	19,700,000	Summit Club	
7,908	4	5	4	2020	19,000,000	Summit Club	
5,770	5	7	3	2020	15,700,000	Summit Club	
10,067	7	8	4	2021	15,000,000	MacDonald Highlands	
10,346	5	8	6	2009	12,500,000	The Ridges	
7,249	7	8	7	2015	11,250,000	The Ridges	
8,780	5	7	4	2024	11,000,000	Ascaya	
	11,427 10,094 10,295 9,827 7,908 5,770 10,067 10,346 7,249	SF BED 11,427 4 10,094 7 10,295 7 9,827 9 7,908 4 5,770 5 10,067 7 10,346 5 7,249 7	SF BED BATH 11,427 4 7 10,094 7 10 10,295 7 8 9,827 9 9 7,908 4 5 5,770 5 7 10,067 7 8 10,346 5 8 7,249 7 8	SF BED BATH CAR 11,427 4 7 6 10,094 7 10 3 10,295 7 8 4 9,827 9 9 6 7,908 4 5 4 5,770 5 7 3 10,067 7 8 4 10,346 5 8 6 7,249 7 8 7	SF BED BATH CAR YEAR 11,427 4 7 6 2017 10,094 7 10 3 2021 10,295 7 8 4 2019 9,827 9 9 6 2021 7,908 4 5 4 2020 5,770 5 7 3 2020 10,067 7 8 4 2021 10,346 5 8 6 2009 7,249 7 8 7 2015	SF BED BATH CAR YEAR SOLD PRICE 11,427 4 7 6 2017 35,000,000 10,094 7 10 3 2021 29,250,000 10,295 7 8 4 2019 22,000,000 9,827 9 9 6 2021 19,700,000 7,908 4 5 4 2020 19,000,000 5,770 5 7 3 2020 15,700,000 10,067 7 8 4 2021 15,000,000 10,346 5 8 6 2009 12,500,000 7,249 7 8 7 2015 11,250,000	

*MacDonald Highlands Properties Highlighted

TOP 10 RESIDENTIAL LOT SALES 2024						
ADDRESS	ACRES	SOLD PRICE	COMMUNITY			
11408 Canyon Pass Dr	1.01	15,500,000	Summit Club			
10861 Stardust Dr	1.29	14,000,000	Summit Club			
527 Magma Rock Ct	1.340	4,450,000	MacDonald Highlands			
1709 Enclave Ct	1.43	3,900,000	Country Club Hills			
576 Magma Rock Ct	1.01	3,754,365	MacDonald Highlands			
643 Alpine Summit	.87	3,407,850	MacDonald Highlands			
70 Sun Glow Ln	.65	3,300,000	The Ridges			
1 Heavens Edge	1.69	3,003,000	Ascaya			
12 Twisted Rock Ct	1.37	2,900,000	Ascaya			
32 High Knoll Ct	.91	2,720,000	Ascaya			
*MacDonald Highlands Properties Highlighted						



Kristen Routh-Silberman, MBA, REALTOR #1 Las Vegas, #1 Nevada, #39 Nationally Real Trends 2024

MacDonald Highlands Real Estate Director 552 S. Stephanie Street, Henderson, NV 89012 (702) 614-9100 Office (702) 467-7100 Cell/Text KristenRouth@gmail.com



DRE# S.0074661



And of course, the exciting developments in Las Vegas, including the transformative Brightline West high-speed rail project and the much-anticipated Las Vegas A's ballpark, both set to enhance our city's vibrant appeal.

For both buyers and sellers, it's essential to stay informed, consult with professionals, and make informed decisions based on your individual situation. And remember, real estate is a long-term game. So, don't get swayed by short-term fluctuations.

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME AT MACDONALD HIGHLANDS

We have released ALL remaining developer lots For Sale.

We only have 15 developer lots left in MacDonald Highlands left for sale and then the MacDonald Highlands will be SOLD-OUT. Make it your new Year's resolution to come to the sales office and go look at lots and realize your goal to build your Dream House!

The MacDonald Highlands sales team would love to show you the Finest LOTS and VIEWS in Las Vegas! The real estate sales office is located in the Country Club, next to the Pro-Shop and is open Tues-Sun 10am-5pm. No Need for an appointment. Drop in anytime.

I wish each and every one of you a happy holiday season filled with peace, joy, love and wonderful memories with family and friends.



Meghann Trager, Assistant General Manager

The DragonRidge Spa is now under new management, offering members a refreshed and inviting space to relax and recharge. Every detail has been thoughtfully designed, from the soothing neutral tones to the carefully curated treatment rooms. Whether you're seeking a revitalizing facial, a soothing massage, or just a moment of peace, the spa is the perfect place to focus on your well-being.

Our team of skilled professionals is dedicated to providing exceptional care. Danielle Panaro, our experienced aesthetician with over 20 years in the skincare industry, brings a holistic approach to beauty and wellness. Danielle believes in caring for your skin from the inside out and has created the SmoothSkin Firming line to address a range of skincare needs. Alongside this, we proudly offer Epicutis, a natural and non-toxic skincare line from Japan, as well as iS Clinical, known for its science-driven and effective products. These products are not only available for treatments but also for purchase, so you can extend the benefits of your spa visit to your daily routine.

On the massage side, Kristie Edelman joins us with an impressive background, including time at the Wynn Las Vegas. She offers a range of massage techniques, including Swedish, deep tissue, and prenatal, tailoring each session to fit your individual needs. Her goal is to help you feel completely renewed and free from tension.

Our treatment menu has been thoughtfully crafted to address a wide range of skincare and wellness goals. The Signature Dragon Glow Facial is a favorite, providing deep cleansing, exfoliation, and hydration for a radiant and refreshed appearance. For those looking to target specific concerns, we offer options such as the Epicutis Anti-Aging and Collagen Facial, which improves elasticity and smoothness, and the Fire & Ice Facial, which combines warming and cooling treatments for a glowing complexion. Men's skincare needs are also well addressed with our Gentleman's Facial, tailored to

tackle irritation, dryness, and clogged pores.

If relaxation is what you need, our massage services provide the perfect solution. Kristie's ability to adjust pressure and techniques ensures that each session is as therapeutic as it is relaxing. To enhance any service, consider adding options like microdermabrasion, LED light therapy, or a collagen mask for a truly customized experience.

Your visit to the DragonRidge Spa isn't just about the treatments. The amenities are designed to elevate your time with us. Members can enjoy access to the beautifully appointed locker rooms, complete with a steam room, sauna, and jacuzzi. Soft robes, slippers, and all the essentials are provided to make your visit as comfortable as possible. Whether you want to unwind before your treatment or linger a bit longer afterward, these facilities add an extra touch of indulgence.

We take pride in offering a spa experience that goes beyond the ordinary. Danielle emphasizes the importance of daily skin care, particularly in our desert climate, where hydration and sun protection are essential. With the professional products we offer, you can take home the tools to maintain healthy, glowing skin year-round.

The DragonRidge Spa is continually evolving to meet the needs of our members. Plans are already underway to expand the space with a relaxing lounge area and to introduce additional treatments in the future. To celebrate this exciting new chapter, we will host a Grand Opening event in the new year, where members can enjoy special promotions and explore all that the spa has to offer.

We are excited to welcome you to this beautiful space designed exclusively for our members. Whether you're here for a quick pick-me-up or a more indulgent day of self-care, the DragonRidge Spa is ready to help you look and feel your best.



NOW OPEN

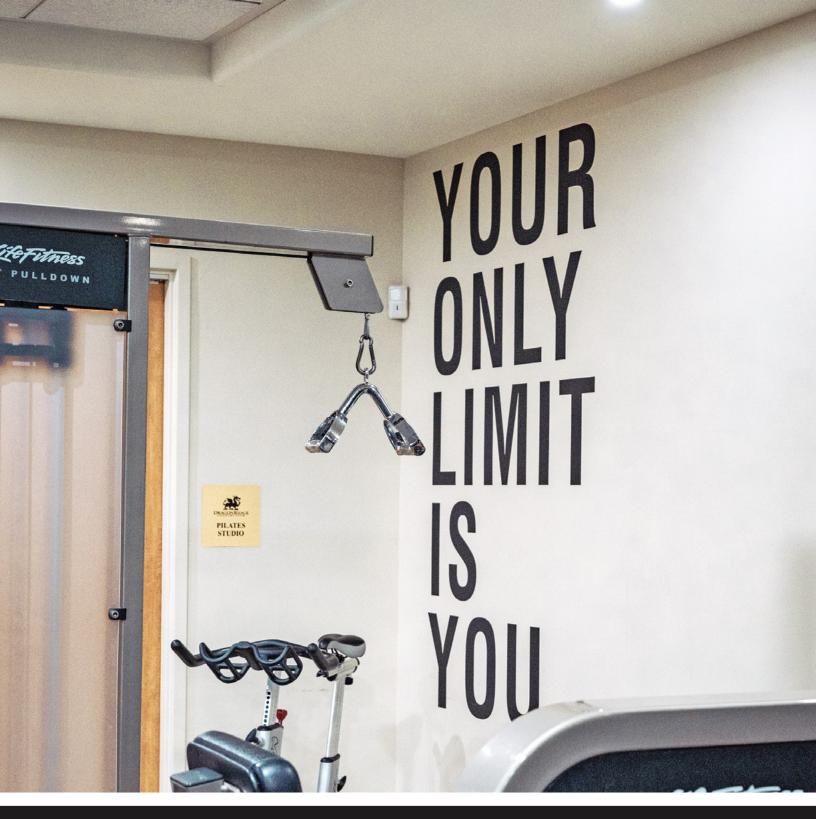
Massage & Spa

The Spa at DragonRidge is now open and ready for you to treat yourself! Experience elevated luxury with our rejuvenating treatments.

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START 2025 STRONG:
TRANSFORM YOUR FITNESS AND
WELLNESS GOALS WITH DRAGONRIDGE'S
PERSONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Ashley Powell

As the new year begins, many of us are focused on achieving better health, weight loss, and overall wellness. At DragonRidge Country Club, we're committed to helping you turn those aspirations into accomplishments with personalized support and expert guidance through our dynamic personal training program.

Our program offers a tailored approach to fitness, designed to meet your unique needs and lifestyle. Whether you're aiming to shed pounds, build muscle, or embrace a healthier routine, Dragon-Ridge has classes and workouts to keep you motivated and on track. With state-of-the-art facilities and options for one-on-one sessions or small group workouts, the perfect environment for your fitness journey awaits.

"It's inspiring to work with people who want to improve their mental and physical well-being"

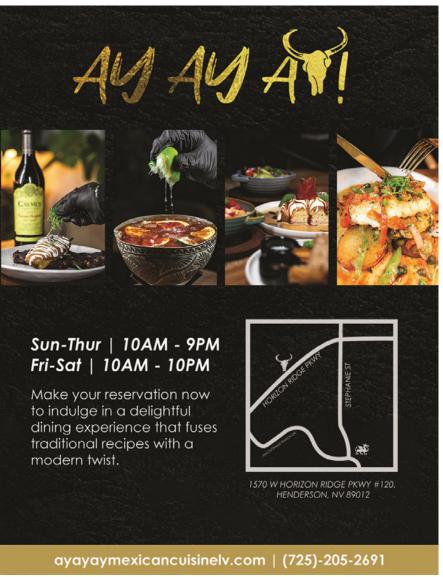
Meet Raegan Gladd:

DragonRidge is excited to welcome Raegan Gladd to the team as one of our personal trainers. Many of you may already recognize Raegan from the Tennis & Athletic Center, where her passion for fitness and wellness has already made a positive impact on our community.

Raegan discovered her love for fitness at an early age, beginning her journey at 14 and falling in love with the transformative process of exercise and proper nutrition. Certified for a year, Raegan's goal is to help others experience the same empowerment and confidence she's found through health and fitness.

"It's inspiring to work with people who want to improve their mental and physical well-being," Raegan shares. "I'm grateful to guide them along their journey."







A Holistic Approach to Fitness

Raegan brings a balanced and thoughtful approach to personal training, ensuring that clients experience growth in more ways than one. Her expertise includes:

Weight Loss: Combining strength training, cardio, and nutritional guidance to help clients meet their goals.

Strength & Conditioning: Building lean muscle and improving endurance with targeted exercises.

Holistic Wellness: Incorporating mindfulness, flexibility, and healthy lifestyle habits to improve overall well-being.

Raegan believes wellness is about balance and sustainability. "The 80/20 rule—focusing on nutrient-dense foods 80% of the time and enjoying treats 20%—helps create long-term success without burnout," she advises.

Your Fitness Journey Awaits

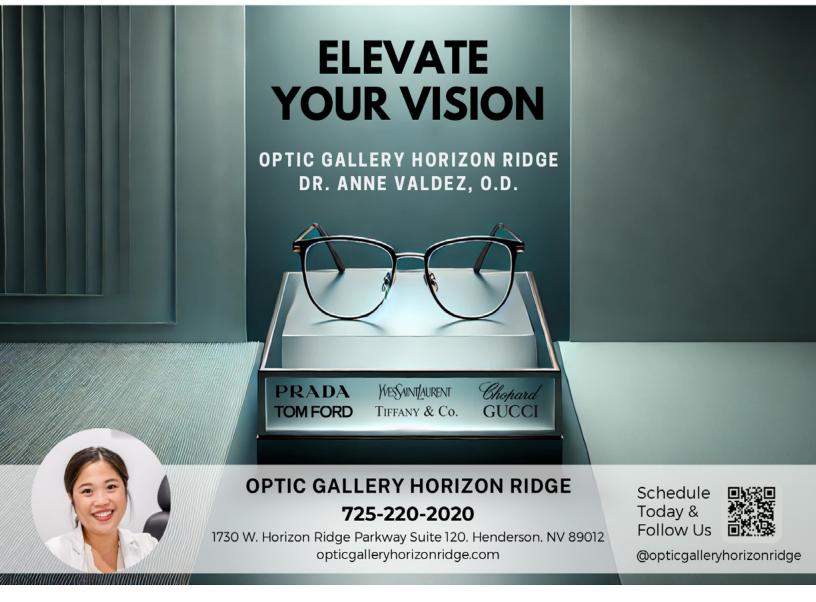
Raegan is dedicated to making fitness accessible and enjoyable for everyone. She helps clients overcome challenges like busy schedules by developing structured routines and offering flexible sessions to fit their needs. Her advice for consistency? "Stay disciplined, not just motivated, and always remind yourself why you started." Whether you're a seasoned athlete or new to fitness, DragonRidge's personal training program—along with trainers like Raegan—offers the tools, support, and encouragement to help you succeed.

START **YOUR** JOURNEY TODAY AND DISCOVER

HOW FITNESS CAN TRANSFORM NOT JUST YOUR BODY, BUT YOUR LIFE.



JOIN THE SIX WEEK FITNESS CHALLENGE BEGINNING ON MONDAY JANUARY 6, 2025. CALL 702-407-0045 TO JOIN







TEEING OFF INTO 2025 2024 GOLF HIGHLIGHTS AND WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE NEW YEAR

Brian Sanders

We hope this newsletter finds our members refreshed after a wonderful holiday season and looking forward to the year ahead. We often refer to the fall golf season in Las Vegas as a "sprint" to the holidays, and this year was no different. The courses reopened from our annual overseed in excellent condition, the weather was great, and our members were eager to get back on the course!

The fall season began with the Fall Invitational Men's Member-Guest event on the fourth weekend of October. A record 60 teams competed over two days in a better-ball format, with only three teams remaining at the end of the second day. Congratulations to member Mike Schrade and his guest, Rush Waghorne, for being crowned the 2024 Fall Invitational Champions.

Brand new to the club this year was the Hall Pass Couples Member-Member, where two couples teamed up in teams of four to compete in a shamble format with a twist. This exciting one-day event was well received by the membership and will continue to be a staple moving forward. Congratulations to our inaugural champions, Robert and Maggie Buckenmayer, and Sean and Jeanine Evenden.

The year and tournament season ended with the annual Santa Shootout on December 7th. Dubbed the 'Winter Waltz,' this format is a fan favorite. The team of Chuck Hazzard, Brian Wedderspoon, Alan Carducci, and Greg Murphy came away victorious this year. While they may have won the golf contest, the gourmet hot chocolate and festive outfits worn by the participants made everyone feel like a winner!

The DragonRidge Women's Golf Association concluded the calendar year with the new Ace of the Year contest. Ladies who earned Ace of the Month awards throughout the year were eligible for the finale. Congratulations to Wendi Hawk for becoming the Net Ace of the Year, and to Stephanie Raper for becoming the Gross Ace of the Year.

As we look ahead to the 2025 calendar season, January kicks off with the Serpent Tournament, open to all golf members. This exciting snake-draft style event is one you won't want to miss. February features both the Sweetheart and Super Bowl Scrambles, with March hosting the first major of the year, the Ladies Member-Member. For the complete 2025 tournament calendar and more information, please refer to the Golf Calendar on the member website.

Also new to 2025 is the addition of the Cap Patrol handicap monitoring service. This software uses a series of proprietary and sophisticated data points to provide a more accurate player index, while also monitoring players' home, away, and tournament scores. Look for more information about Cap Patrol coming soon.

Thank you to everyone who joined us on December 10th for the Golf Shop Holiday Sale. Champagne was flowing, music was playing, and the shop was filled with members taking advantage of great prices and raffle prizes. If you were unable to attend this year, be sure not to miss this event in 2025!

Lastly, January is typically the coldest month here in Las Vegas, and frost delays become a regular occurrence at this time of year. Please understand that the course maintenance team does its best to balance protecting the course while getting members out to play during these frosts. The golf shop staff is in daily communication with the course maintenance team and now emails members the expected first tee time, rather than a TBD or estimated delay. We believe this will give members more lead time to plan their arrival to the Club.

We look forward to building on the momentum of 2024 and carrying it into 2025. My door is always open should you have any thoughts or concerns, and I look forward to seeing you around the Club.





PROFESSIONAL POOL SERVICE









Keep your swimming pool clean and safe with professional pool cleaning services in Las Vegas. Our experienced team takes pride in our ability to provide superior service and customer satisfaction in all maintenance and repair areas.

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WELCOME ADAM BARR YOUR TENNIS DIRECTOR

Ashley Powell

We are excited to introduce our Tennis Director, Adam Barr, whose passion for tennis and dedication to the community have brought an unmatched energy to our tennis program. With a background as a national-level junior player and extensive experience coaching and managing tennis programs, Adam is committed to creating a welcoming and dynamic environment for players of all ages and skill levels.

Tennis has been a lifelong passion for Adam, inspired by the sport's unique combination of mental and physical challenges. As a junior player, he competed nationally, achieving memorable victories, including winning an open men's tournament at just 15 years old. These experiences shaped his deep connection to the game and his philosophy as a coach: "Players must first enjoy what they're doing—learning comes second."

Adam's tennis journey has taken him across the globe, including a memorable chapter in Australia, where he lived, coached, and (as he jokingly says) "tried to train kangaroos to improve their volleys." While the kangaroos might still need some work, his time Down Under gave him a fresh perspective on coaching and a deeper passion for building vibrant tennis communities.

As Tennis Director, Adam's role is both diverse and rewarding, from designing inclusive programs to running clinics and mentoring players. He takes pride in creating opportunities for everyone to enjoy the game, whether through beginner programs, junior initiatives, or customized lessons for advanced players. "Tennis can be a blast no matter your level," he emphasizes.

Off the court, Adam is a dog lover with two "legendary" pups, Chewy and Gizmo, and a proud speaker of Japanese. He's also an advocate for enjoying life's little indulgences—like a Pink Box cronut after a hard-fought match!

Adam is here to support and inspire the community. Whether you're looking to improve your game, join a clinic, or simply share your love for tennis, he's always ready to connect. Stop by his office or book a private lesson and discover how tennis can become your favorite way to stay active and have fun.









Located at the DragonRidge Main Tennis Courts

Rising Dragons

- Red Ball
- Tuesday/Thursday
- 4:30pm-5:30pm

Future Dragons

- Orange Ball
- Tuesday/Thursday
- 4:30pm-5:30pm

Dragon All-Stars

- Green Ball
- Tuesday/Thursday
- 4:30pm-5:30pm

The Dragons

- Yellow Ball
- Monday/Wednesday
- 4:00pm-5:30pm



A DESTINATION TRAVEL CRUISE WAVE SEASON IS HERE

Paige MacDonald

If you've been dreaming of setting sail on a luxurious cruise but aren't sure where to start, Wave Season is the perfect time to make your dream a reality. A Destination Travel, Nevada's only Virtuoso agency, is here to help you every step of the way.

During Wave Season, cruise lines offer some of their best deals, perks, and promotions, aiming to entice travelers to book early for upcoming sailings. It typically runs from January to March, but some cruise lines have already started their promotions. For cruise lovers, this is the time to book your dream vacation at a great price, secure your preferred cabin, and lock in exclusive offers that won't be available later in the year.

For A Destination Travel clients, Wave Season means more than just great deals—it's an opportunity to work with a dedicated travel advisor who understands your personal travel needs and desires. As part of the prestigious Virtuoso network, we have access to exclusive offers that you won't find anywhere else. From onboard credits and upgrades to special shore excursions and VIP treatment, we provide unparalleled access to the best cruise options available.

When you book through A Destination Travel during Wave Season, you can expect a range of promotions that will make your cruise even more enjoyable. Some of the most common offers we secure for our clients include:

Discounted Cruise Fares: Wave Season often brings significant discounts off regular cruise prices, which means you can set sail on a luxurious voyage for less.

Onboard Credits: Many cruise lines offer onboard credits that can be used for excursions, dining, spa treatments, and more. These credits add tremendous value to your cruise experience.

Free Perks: From complimentary drink packages to free Wi-Fi, shore excursion credits, or gratuities, these added perks elevate your cruise without adding to your budget.

Upgrades: As part of our exclusive Virtuoso perks, we can often secure upgrades to better cabins or suites, ensuring that your cruise experience is as luxurious as possible.

Special Itineraries and Access: Through our connections in the Virtuoso network, we can offer access to unique itineraries and private shore excursions that are unavailable to the general public.

DREAM CRUISE DESTINATIONS TO EXPLORE DURING WAVE SEASON

We're not just about booking your cruise—we're about curating unforgettable experiences. With Wave Season offering unbeatable deals, now is the perfect time to explore a variety of incredible destinations. Here are just a few of the world-class cruise destinations to consider booking during Wave Season:

The Caribbean: The Caribbean remains one of the most popular cruise destinations year-round, and for good reason. From the white sandy beaches of the Bahamas to the lush landscapes of St. Lucia and the vibrant culture of Jamaica, the Caribbean is a tropical paradise for sun-seekers and adventure lovers alike. During Wave Season, expect enticing offers to islands like Barbados, Aruba, and the British Virgin Islands, with many itineraries offering private island stops, snorkel excursions, and luxury spa experiences.

Mediterranean: The Mediterranean offers a rich mix of culture, history, and stunning coastlines, making it a bucket-list destination for many cruisers. Visit iconic cities like Rome, Barcelona, and Athens, or explore less-crowded gems like Dubrovnik, Santorini, or the Amalfi Coast. Mediterranean cruises offer everything from UNESCO World Heritage sites to beautiful vineyards, and Wave Season deals can give you access to exclusive itineraries and Mediterranean luxury.

Alaska: For those seeking dramatic landscapes and wildlife encounters, Alaskan cruises are a must. Picturesque glaciers, towering mountains, and the possibility of seeing whales, bears, and eagles in their natural



habitat. Whether you're cruising through the Inside Passage, exploring Denali National Park, or stopping at charming towns like Juneau and Skagway, we will ensure you get the best offers on these awe-inspiring adventures.

Northern Europe & Scandinavia: For history buffs and nature lovers, Northern Europe offers one of the most scenic cruising experiences in the world. Visit the stunning fjords of Norway, the vibrant cities of Copenhagen and Stockholm, or the medieval castles of Scotland. During Wave Season, we can help you book unique Scandinavian voyages, including rare itineraries that take you to the Arctic Circle or the spectacular Northern Lights.

Asia & Southeast Asia: Explore the fascinating cultures and landscapes of Asia with a cruise that takes you from Japan's cherry blossoms to Thailand's golden temples. Southeast Asia is home to bustling cities like Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City, while Japan offers serene gardens, historic castles, and the opportunity to see Mount Fuji. With Wave Season deals, you can access exclusive itineraries that explore these fascinating regions in style.

South Pacific & Australia: The South Pacific and Australia offer a completely different cruising experience with their laid-back vibe and stunning natural beauty. Cruise to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, explore the tropical islands of Fiji, or visit New Zealand's dramatic landscapes. During Wave Season, we can help you book incredible voyages that take you to these exotic destinations, including special excursions like snorkeling with manta rays or exploring the Outback.

South America & Antarctica: For an adventure like no other, a cruise to South America or even Antarctica is an experience that few travelers will ever forget. From the glaciers of Patagonia and the bustling streets of Buenos Aires to the towering icebergs of Antarctica, these cruises offer unparalleled beauty and remoteness. Whether you're looking to explore the Amazon River or take a once-in-a-lifetime expedition to the "end of the world," we can secure exclusive access and deals for these once-ina-lifetime vovaaes.

Hawaii: Hawaii offers idyllic landscapes, volcanoes, beaches, and rich Polynesian culture. A cruise to Hawaii lets you explore several islands without constantly repacking or booking new hotels. Experience the beauty of Oahu, Maui, and the Big Island while enjoying the luxury of a floating resort. During Wave Season, take advantage of special itineraries that offer deep discounts and unique shore excursions like volcano tours and traditional Hawaiian luaus.

RIVER CRUISES: A UNIQUE WAY TO EXPLORE THE WORLD

If you're looking for a more intimate and immersive cruising experience, river cruising is an excellent option—and Wave Season brings incredible deals to explore the world's most famous rivers. River cruises offer the opportunity to explore regions from a whole new perspective, providing access to charming towns, scenic landscapes, and fascinating cultures along the banks of the world's rivers.

Europe's Legendary Rivers: Explore iconic European cities like Vienna, Budapest, and Amsterdam along



UPCOMING TRAVEL DATES

JANUARY 6, 2025
19-Night Grand Australia
and New Zealand Tauck
Tour Home/airport
roundtrip transfers

APRIL 18, 2025
14-Night Southeast Asia
and Hong Kong Viking on
the Orion \$100 per person
shipboard credit

MAY 24, 2025

7-Night Impressions on the Seine and Paris Cruise Ama Waterways on the AmaDante \$75 per person shipboard credit



Paige MacDonald, paige@adestinationtravel.com 702-606-0993 www.adestinationtravel.com





the Danube, Rhine, or Seine Rivers. River cruises through Europe provide a leisurely pace, stopping at picturesque villages, medieval castles, and historic landmarks. Whether you're cruising through the vineyards of Bordeaux or experiencing the romantic charm of Paris, river cruising offers the perfect way to explore Europe's cultural heritage in style.

The Nile in Egypt: For history enthusiasts, a river cruise along the Nile offers unparalleled access to the ancient wonders of Egypt. Imagine floating past the temples of Luxor, seeing the Great Pyramids of Giza, and exploring the Valley of the Kings—all while enjoying luxury accommodations and expert-guided excursions. River cruises on the Nile provide a perfect blend of culture, history, and relaxation.

The Mekong River in Southeast Asia: Cruising the Mekong River takes you through the heart of Southeast Asia, offering a unique opportunity to explore rural villages, ancient temples, and vibrant local markets in Cambodia and Vietnam. River cruises on the Mekong often include intimate visits to UNESCO World Heritage sites, plus the chance to interact with local communities and learn about the region's rich traditions.

The Amazon River: For the ultimate adventure, consider cruising the Amazon River in Brazil, one of the world's most biodiverse regions. Navigate through the jungle, spot wildlife, and learn about indigenous cultures while enjoying the comforts of a luxury river cruise. This is a trip for those looking for an off-the-beaten-path experience like no other.

To ensure that you're getting the most out of Wave Season, here's how you can make the most of our expertise:

Book Early: The best deals and cabins tend to go quickly, so booking early with A Destination Travel during Wave Season increases your chances of securing your ideal cruise and getting the best offers.

Know Your Preferences: Whether you're seeking adventure or relaxation, we'll help you find the right cruise line and itinerary for your preferences. The more specific you can be about your desires, the more personalized your experience will be.

Let Us Handle the Details: As experts in luxury and experiential travel, we take care of all the details—from finding the right cruise to managing your flights, transfers and excursions. We also handle any changes or updates to your booking, saving you time and stress.

Look Beyond the Price: While discounts are important, don't forget to consider the value-added benefits, such as room upgrades, onboard credits, and special excursions. We ensure you get the best overall value, not just the lowest price.

Wave Season is an exciting time to book your next luxurious ocean cruise or an intimate river voyage. A Destination Travel is here to help you take full advantage of this golden opportunity. Whether you're dreaming of a tropical escape, an Alaskan adventure, a European river cruise, or an immersive cultural journey, we'll help you find the best deal and make your cruise vacation unforgettable. As a Virtuoso agency, we offer more than just great prices—we offer exclusive access to special perks, personalized service, and expert advice to make sure you embark on a cruise that is perfectly suited to your needs. So, don't wait—contact us today to start planning your perfect cruise during Wave Season



MEET LUKE HEADLEY

DRAGONRIDGE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

Since I was 14 years old, I have wanted to be a Golf Course Superintendent. I was blessed to have a high school biology teacher who recognized my love for the game of golf and the science involved in it. I started working in the golf industry at a small municipal golf course, working both on the outside operations staff and the agronomy staff. What started as a dream turned into my everyday life during college.

I received my Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture with an emphasis in Turfgrass Management and a second emphasis in Horticulture from Western Kentucky University (WKU). During my time at WKU, I overseeded Augusta National in 2013 and 2015, interned at Valhala Golf Club for the 2013 PGA Championship, interned at Victoria National, helping them host the Big Ten Championship and Korn Ferry Tournaments, and grew in The Loop with Tom Doak, which was voted the best new build in 2017 in Golf Digest.

After college, I moved to Phoenix, where I was an Assistant Superintendent at Desert Mountain Club. In 2019, I joined the TPC Network at TPC Sawgrass as the 1st Assistant Superintendent. From 2019-2020 I was at TPC Sawgrass, 2020-2021 at TPC Las Vegas, and 2021-2024 at TPC Summerlin. I spent three years at TPC Summerlin, where we hosted the Shriners Children's Open, underwent a full regrassing renovation in 2022, and completed numerous water-saving projects. To date, I have hosted 2 major championships and 15 other PGA Tour events thus far in my career.

I met the love of my life, Hannah Headley, in 2019, and we got married in January of 2022. We became parents in 2023 to our daughter Vivienne, and we are expecting again in June of this year!

I have a 3-year-old Australian Shepherd, Finley, who is by my side every day and is in charge of pest control on property. She has worked on the golf course since she was about 12 weeks old.

I am thrilled to be joining the DragonRidge team!



LUKE HEADLEY Golf Course Superintendent Office: 702-263-6457 lheadley@dragonridgecc.com



RICH AND CLAIRE MACDONALD HONORED AS AMBASSADORS OF THE YEAR BY NCCF

Ashley Powell

The Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation (NCCF) recently celebrated the extraordinary contributions of Rich and Claire MacDonald by naming them Ambassadors of the Year during their annual gala. This prestigious recognition honors the couple's unwavering commitment to supporting children and families battling pediatric cancer and other life-threatening conditions in Nevada. For years, Rich and Claire MacDonald have been pillars of hope and support in their community. Their

dedication to NCCF goes beyond generosity—they have actively worked to provide resources, raise awareness, and inspire others to join the fight against childhood cancer.

The MacDonalds have made a profound impact through their multifaceted involvement with the NCCF. From spearheading successful fundraising initiatives to volunteering their time and talents, their contributions have touched the lives of countless families.

"Rich and Claire embody what it means to be advocates for change," said Jeff Gordon, President and CEO of NCCF. "Their generosity and passion have transformed lives, and we are honored to recognize them for their outstanding contributions."

The MacDonalds' hands-on approach to advocacy highlights their deep connection to NCCF's mission. They have not only provided critical financial support but also played an instrumental role in fostering a sense of hope and community among the families served by the foundation.

The Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for children and families navigating the challenges of pediatric cancer and chronic illnesses. Through educational services, counseling programs, and medical support, NCCF serves as a lifeline during some of life's most difficult moments.

Advocates like Rich and Claire MacDonald have been pivotal in enabling the foundation to expand its reach. Their efforts have helped NCCF deliver comprehensive care, ensuring that no family faces their journey alone. "We're so grateful for the MacDonalds' vision and dedication," said Gordon. "Their example reminds us that everyone has the power to make a difference. It starts with one act of kindness, and together, those acts can change the world."

In honor of Rich and Claire MacDonald's legacy, the NCCF invites the community to join the fight against childhood cancer. Whether through donations, volunteering, or attending NCCF events, there are countless ways to contribute to this vital cause.

The MacDonalds' story is a reminder that each of us has the ability to make a meaningful impact. Their unwavering commitment serves as an inspiration to all who strive to create a brighter future for children and families in need.

For more information about the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation and how you can get involved, visit **nvccf.org/volunteer** or contact their office directly. Together, we can continue building a community where hope thrives and every child has the chance to live a full and happy life.

JOIN THE MISSION AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY.





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Jason A. Frederico

CFP®, ChFC®, RICP®, CLTC®, CLU® FINANCIAL ADVISOR

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: TIFFANY COUTURE CLEANERS

Elevating Garment Care in Las Vegas

Ashley Powell



At Tiffany Couture Cleaners, every garment tells a story, and their mission is to preserve it. Specializing in couture-level care, Tiffany Couture Cleaners has become the trusted name for intricate and delicate pieces, partnering with high-end retailers, Las Vegas Strip shows, and discerning clients who value exceptional service. With a unique door-to-door delivery model, clients can enjoy unparalleled garment care without ever leaving their homes.

This veteran-owned and managed business operates on the principles of Integrity, Service, and Quality. The team prides itself on doing the right thing the first time, ensuring each garment is treated with meticulous care. Their expertise extends beyond couture pieces, offering the same level of precision for everyday garments while prioritizing eco-friendly practices as members of the Green Business Bureau.

Tiffany Couture Cleaners boasts an impressive team of over 27 employees with a combined 175 years of experience in dry cleaning. This collective expertise has earned them accolades such as being featured on Netflix's Worn Stories and being recognized as one of America's Best Cleaners. They are also proud winners of Best of Las Vegas awards year after year.

Looking ahead, Tiffany Couture Cleaners aims to expand its reach with additional pick-up and delivery routes in the Las Vegas area. However, their biggest challenge remains educating clients on the value of professional garment care. With a commitment to quality and customer satisfaction, they invite you to experience the difference firsthand.

Whether it's preserving couture pieces or extending the life of your favorite everyday garments, Tiffany Couture Cleaners ensures that your wardrobe receives care that's truly unmatched.

For more information, visit Tiffany Couture Cleaners and discover the pinnacle of garment care in Las Vegas.



When Only the Best Will Do!

Over 54 Years of Impeccable Dry-Cleaning Service

All Garment Types
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Tiffany
Couture Cleaners

As our way of saying thank you for being part of our community, just mention your MacDonald Highlands residency and enjoy a 10% discount when you sign up for pick-up and delivery service.



702-735-0186 tiffanycouturecleaners.com 4205 S. Grand Canyon Dr., Suite #1 Las Vegas, NV 89147









3 WEEK COURSE

INTRO TO RACQUET SPORTS

THURSDAYS, 9:00–10:30 AM | 3-WEEK SERIES

STARTING APRIL 24TH | ON THE DRAGONRIDGE TENNIS COURTS

Get started with Red Ball Tennis and Pickleball in this fun, beginner-friendly program designed to build your confidence on the court! Over three weeks, you'll learn guided strategy, foundational skills, and movement for both sports—all in a supportive, active environment.

Perfect for beginners or anyone looking to get back into the game.

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THE

Good Times

DragonRidge Country Club Event Highlights

































LIFE WELL PLANNED.

Your financial goals, aspirations and investment needs are just that – yours. And your financial plan should reflect that. So rather than ask you to settle for an off-the-shelf investment program, we're here to provide you with personalized financial planning based on your goals, your time frame and your particular tolerance for risk. We can provide you with just the right combination of financial services, support and guidance that make the most sense for you. We'll also be there to help you each step of the way in the pursuit of your personal financial goals.

PERSONALIZED PLANNING FOR YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS

RAYMOND JAMES

Raymond James Office is conveniently located outside the Valle Verde gate on Horizon Ridge. Free consultation for MacDonald Highlands Residents. To schedule a consultation or learn more about our team, please scan the QR code to fill out the following form or call us. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC.
Investment Advisory services offered through Rayond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc.



Good Times

















COMMUNITY FAMILY FREE FUN DAY!

Join us at DragonRidge Country Club for a funfilled community Day, featuring exciting tennis and pickleball activities! Enjoy quality time with loved ones and make unforgettable memories together! This event is for kids AND adults.



JANUARY 11, 2025 STARTS AT 9:00AM

1400 Foothills Village Dr. Henderson, NV 89012

ABARR@DRAGONRIDGECC.COM OR 702-407-0045





RSVPBY JAN. 6TH!

GIVE YOUR BUSINESS THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES! WHEN YOU ADVERTISE WITH US. HIGHLANDER HIGHLANDERHIGHLANDER HIGHLANDER Lifestyle Magazine for the MacDonald Highlands Community For All Inquiries, Please Email apowell@dragonridgecc.com

DragonRidge **EVENTS**

JANUARY

- 6 Six Week Fitness Challenge Begins
- 8 Ladies' Books & Bottles Book Club
- 11 Manners Matter Child Etiquette Course
- 14 Paint your pet
- 15 Sake Happy Hour
- 16 Hiking Club
- 17 New Member Social
- 19 Senior Sunday Funday
- 22 Ladies Tennis Bootcamp & Luncheon
- 23 The Serpent Draw Party
- 24 Australian Open Tennis Mixer
- 25 The Serpent Golf Tournament
- 28 Travel Night
- 30 Wine Class Series Dinner

FEBRUARY

- 1 Lunar New Year Happy Hour
- 5 Ladies' Books & Bottles Book Club
- 6 Galentine's Night
- 9 SuperBowl Watch Party
- 10 Couples Yoga
- 13 Sweetheart Tennis Mixer
- 14 Valentine's Dinner
- 15 Sweetheart Scramble
- 20 Hiking Club
- 28 Whistle Pig Whiskey Hoedown

MARCH

- 4 Mardi Gras Happy Hour
- 5 Ladies' Books & Bottles Book Club
- 9 Themed Happy Hour
- 11 Farm to Table Dinner
- 14 St. Patrick's Day Happy Hour
- 16 St. Patrick's Day Tennis Mixer
- 17-21 Camp Dragon Spring Break
- 18 St Pattys Yappy Hour
- 20 Hiking Club
- 26-27 Ladies' Member Member

SAVE THE DATES!

*Please note that all events are subject to change without notice.

NUMBERS & INFORMATION

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Dori Sampson

Community Manager RPMG, Inc. 702-933-7764 dsampson@rpmginc.com

Nicole MacDonald

MacDonald Highlands Realty 702-963-2911 nicole.macdonald@sbcglobal.net

Valle Verde Main Gate

702-614-9330

Stephanie Gate

702-434-4169

DragonRidge Country Club

Main Clubhouse Reception 702-614-4444 reception@dragonridgecc.com

Tennis & Athletic Center

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Bobby Dandy

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Duane Jose

Executive Chef 702-835-8142 djose1@dragonridgecc.com

Luke Headley

Golf Course Superintendent 702-263-6457 Iheadley@dragonridgecc.com

CLUBHOUSE HOURS

Clubhouse Closed Mondays

Dragon Grille

Tuesday - Sunday 7:00 am - 8:00 pm Breakfast 7:00 am - 2:00 pm Lunch 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Dinner 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Log onto the app to order takeout.

Red Dragon Sushi Bar

Tuesday - Thursday 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Friday - Sunday 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Onyx Bar & Lounge

Tuesday – Thursday 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Friday – Saturday 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm Sundays 9:30 am – 8:00 pm

Beverage Service

Tuesday – Thursday 4:00 pm - Close Friday – Saturday 12:00 pm - Close

Happy Hour

Wednesday & Friday 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Montrose

Wednesday - Friday 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm 702-614-4444 Reservations Required

Golf Shop Hours

Tuesday - Sunday 7:00 am - 6:00 PM Closed Mondays Tee Times Availableon the app starting at 7:00 am.

Tennis & Athletic Center

Monday - Friday 5:30am - 8pm Saturday - Sunday 7am - 6pm

Tennis Courts

Monday - Sunday 6:00 am - 10:00 pm Reservations Required 702-407-0045

Center Court Café

Tuesday - Sunday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Pickleball Courts

Open Daily, Sunrise - Sunset Reservations Required 702-407-0045

The Spa at DragonRldge

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook

@DragonRidgeCC@DragonRidge Country ClubWeddings

Instagram

@DragonRidgeCountryClub@DragonRidgeEvents@DragonRidgeGolfShop

WEB

DragonRidge.com MacDonaldHighlands.com

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency 911

St. Rose Medical 702-564-2622

Henderson Police Department 702-267-5000

Henderson Utilities 702-267-5900

Cox Cable 702-966-2290

City of Henderson 702-267-2323

Animal Control RIDGE

Chamber of Commerce LUB 702-565-8951

HOW TRUMPS' EDUCATION AGENDA

Could Reshape Nevada's Schools

Anahit Baghshetsyan

Donald Trump prepares to return to the White House for another term in January setting the stage for major changes in the nation's educational policy. Throughout his campaign, the former president has continuously pledged to have "real education in America." But what would this mean for Nevada – a state that is a high spender and a low performer when it comes to public education?

SCHOOL CHOICE

The Trump administration is expected to enact a universal school choice program, enabling parents nationwide to choose the best school for their children whether it be a private, public, religious or charter school.

In a recent education opportunity survey conducted by 50CAN, Nevadan parents reported the lowest satisfaction rate in the nation with their children's schools. Furthermore, only 45% of mid- to high-income parents and 58% of low-income parents stated that they would send their child to the school they go to today if they had a different option – once again, the lowest percentage in the nation. When asked if they feel like they have a choice in what school their child attends, on average nearly half of the parents said that they do not, underscoring Nevada's urgent need for school choice.

Hence, a federally enacted universal school choice program could bring Nevada closer to improving both parental satisfaction and educational outcomes. Empowering parents with school choice would pay off in increased graduation rates, improved academic outcomes, and increased parental satisfaction.

TEACHER PAY AND TENURE

The Trump campaign's official policy agenda-Agenda47--also proposes to make reforms in teacher pay systems nationwide. His campaign has repeatedly stated plans to abolish the teacher tenure laws, and implement merit pay for teachers with best-performing students.

Nevada Policy has long advocated for the best teachers to be paid at rates rivaling top performers in other industries. Currently, teacher pay structures are not aligned with factors that influence student achievement. Pay schedules reward teachers for pursuing advanced degrees in non-technical fields, which have minimal effect on the educational outcomes of the schoolchildren. Strong evidence suggests that rewarding top 5% of educators can dramatically improve student performance.

The average teacher pay in Clark County School District is \$87,444, discounting the benefit advantages, which is well above the national average of \$69,544. Yet

many of these teachers may not be the most effective, as tenure laws protect them and grant longevity pay increases while job performance factors little into the pay schedule. Eliminating tenure laws and rewarding teachers based on performance will encourage schools to retain the most efficient teachers in the classroom while easing turnover for less effective ones.

INCREASED PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Many of the educational reforms outlined in Trump's education agenda emphasize the expansion of parental rights and involvement in their children's education. He has stated that he will support parental elections of school principals as well as parental participation on school boards to ensure that only the most skilled principals stay in American schools. This reform will be especially relevant in Nevada where parent trigger laws still don't exist.

During the 2013 legislative session, three separate proposals would have established a parent trigger law. These proposals - AB254, SB195, and SB311 - would have allowed a majority of parents to force major changes within an underperforming school, such as replacing the principal or converting from a district to a charter school. While these largely Democrat-sponsored proposals failed to secure passage, Trump's approach of allowing parents to participate on school boards and elect school principals might be a reasonable compromise.

Furthermore, parents are expected to have more transparency into the classrooms of their children, to be made aware of changing academic standards, acts of violence, and to know if a school employee is working to address bullying or mental health concerns.

These changes could be highly impactful in Nevada. Parents here have complained of many issues resulting from a lack of communication. These include: delayed notification of learning disabilities, lawsuits for mistreatment of children receiving special education, and "explicit and inappropriate" materials for homework.

Nevadan students deserve more than the status quo. Implementing universal school choice, eliminating tenure, and increasing parental involvement in decision-making are all essential steps of improving Nevada's education system. Step by step, these reforms have the potential to elevate the quality of Nevada classrooms, ensuring better academic outcomes for children and redefining what's possible in Nevada schools.





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