



LAS VEGAS
REVIEW-JOURNAL

NEVADA & THE WEST

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Sunday
December 17, 2023
reviewjournal.com

NLV Council changes School Board pick **2B** POLL Latino voters voice top concerns **3B**

More staffing urged

Shelter records detail rise in injuries, animal deaths

By Mark Credico
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Henderson animal shelter volunteers recently called upon city officials to provide more staffing, and newly provided records show that workplace injuries, animal

deaths and euthanizations all increased in the past two years.

There were 30 total documented workplace injuries at Henderson Animal Care and Control in the past three years. Five of those injuries occurred in 2021, 11 in 2022

and 14 of them happened this year.

Animal bites were the most common injury each year, and there have been 13 total since 2021. Six of those bites resulted in the worker or volunteer seeking medical attention.

Kenni Burdette, a volunteer at the shelter, said one of the bite incidents last year resulted in the deaths of two dogs and gave her multiple wounds on her hands. She said a large pit bull named

See **SHELTER 3B**



Ellen Schmidt Las Vegas Review-Journal @ellenschmidt
Julia Wang, 10, left, faces Timi Guo, 8, in a chess game Nov. 28 before their weekly lesson at Bridgeopolis in Las Vegas.

Chess on rise in Vegas

Scene rebounds after pandemic; city regular host to tournaments

By Peter S. Levitt
Las Vegas Review-Journal

TUCKED into an office complex on West Tropicana Avenue sits a plain, sparsely furnished room. Metal folding tables topped with chess pieces and chess boards are spaced evenly throughout the in-

terior. The walls are bare, except for a poster of a red-haired woman staring over a chess board.

The poster's caption reads: "The Queen's Gambit."
The sign on the door reads: "Bridgeopolis."

See **CHESS 8B**

Chess is like life. When you move without thinking, you make mistakes.

Andranik Matikozyan
Chess coach

Trailblazing Henderson police detective dies

Solved cold case a career highlight

By Ricardo Torres-Cortez
Las Vegas Review-Journal

John Trouble Williams Sr. would regularly drop by the grave site of a teenage slaying victim only known for

four decades as "Jane Arroyo Grande Doe."

The Henderson police homicide detective and his wife, Jackie, even raised funds for a headstone the couple would visit and decorate with

flowers several times a year.

At the site, the veteran officer would utter a promise: "One day or another, they will find out who did this," the couple's daughter, Joan Williams, said this week. John Williams died on Nov. 17, nearly two years after he attended a press

conference in which police officials named the Jane Doe as 17-year-old Tammy Corrine Terrell of Roswell, New Mexico.

He was 73. Jackie Williams, his wife of 50 years, died one year and

See **WILLIAMS 7B**

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On Dec. 26, Las Vegas will host the 33rd annual North American Open. An estimated 1,000 chess players are expected to participate in this year's tournament.

► CHESS

Continued from Page 1B

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, chess was the last thing on Marvin Raab's mind. Instead, Raab, 59, started Bridgeopolis as an online club for bridge players seeking to connect with similarly isolated souls during the lockdown.

But in 2022 — as COVID restrictions waned and local interest in bridge dropped — Raab acquired the brick-and-mortar space on West Tropicana. He then turned Bridgeopolis into an official chess club and local affiliate of the United States Chess Federation.

"Bridge is a dying game, much like Latin is a dying language," Raab said. When the former president of Nevada Chess (the official state affiliate) suggested he start an in-person chess club, Raab promptly added chess to the Bridgeopolis foundation.

Unlike bridge, chess is booming in Las Vegas. The last time Raab checked Bridgeopolis' mailing list, he had over 300 names, from ages 6 to 80. Many are members of the national federation and can play in the official chess tournaments hosted at Bridgeopolis each year.

But on a weekday afternoon in late November, Bridgeopolis is devoted to chess instruction, not tournaments. Raab looks over several pairings of middle and high school students who move their chess pieces with gusto.

Walking between the chess boards is Andranik Matkozyan, an Armenian-born chess coach based in Las Vegas. Every few seconds, he stops next to a pair of students, points out a weak move or whispers a suggested improvement that can be made. He



Julia Wang, left, and Timi Guo play chess last month at Bridgeopolis, which started as an online club during the pandemic. Ellen Schmidt Las Vegas Review-Journal @ellenschmidt

then moves on to another pairing. Matkozyan, 44, is an international master, the second-highest class of chess players behind only the grandmasters. Having taught chess for 25 years, he sees it as not just a game, but as a template for living. "Chess is like life," Matkozyan says. "When you move without thinking, you make mistakes," he adds, as if thinking aloud.

A local outpost for the national chess scene

On Dec. 26, Las Vegas will host the 33rd annual North American Open. It is one of the four biggest tournaments on the national chess calendar, with the National Open (also in Las Vegas) and two tournaments in Chicago and Philadelphia.

An estimated 1,000 chess players are expected to participate in this year's tournament. The top-ranked "open" section will feature grandmasters, international masters and other strong players from around the country. Each player will play nine matches, with one point awarded

for a win, a half-point for a draw and none for a loss. Cash prizes are awarded to the top finishers.

Eight lower sections will also be up for grabs. In these sections, players are grouped according to their official chess ratings. The lowest-rated players generally occupy the lowest section, but they can voluntarily "play up" into a section containing players stronger than they are.

Daniel Lucas, senior director of strategic communication of the national chess federation, notes Las Vegas' history as a host city for chess. The North American Open "is a major event on the (national) tournament calendar. It carries the designation Heritage Event and American Classic, both of which celebrate its

See CHESS 9B

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- Important business information
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In partnership with the Las Vegas Review-Journal, this magazine is available to RJ readers/subscribers!

Readers can access the magazine on or after Dec. 24, 2023 by:

Scanning the QR code	OR	Visiting lvjr.com/tcob to receive the monthly publication delivered right to your email	OR	Viewing the magazine in next Sunday's eEdition
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VEGAS CHAMBER **LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL**

LOOK FOR IT NEXT SUNDAY!

► CHESS

Continued from Page 8B

longevity, size, and importance," Lucas says.

"Las Vegas has long been a regular part of the United States Chess tournament scene," says Lucas, adding that national tournaments have been held here since "at least back to the 1960s."

So chess tournaments have been in Las Vegas decades before the Aces, Golden Knights or Raiders showed up.

Post-COVID demand for over-the-board matches

Participation in the North American Open — an "over-the-board" tournament where players sit across from each other and play under strict time limits — has trended upward for years. Discounting the COVID-canceled tournament in 2020 (when an online version still drew 531 players), in-person participation in the North American Open has risen every year from 2014 (664 players) to 2021 (891), to last year's record 985 players.

Tom Brownscombe — a Las Vegas-based grandmaster and current senior champion for Nevada — offers several explanations for this growth. Pointing to the poster of "The Queen's Gambit," Brownscombe suggests that this popular 2020 Netflix series explains part of the recent chess boom.

Brownscombe also points to online streaming services. "A few years ago, you hardly saw anybody streaming chess," he said. "Now, you go to a streaming service and see grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura streaming chess, you see (the highly rated Alexandra Botez and her sister) streaming chess, and each of them have more than a million followers."

Brownscombe also thinks the loosening of COVID restrictions played a role in the local chess resurgence.

"We had COVID and a lot of tournaments got canceled," he says. "As soon as (over-the-board) tournaments started up again, they were bigger. We think there was a lot of pent-up demand. People couldn't do the stuff they wanted to do and suddenly, when the vaccine became available and it was considered safe to have hundreds of people all in the same room again, there were some big tournaments right after COVID."



Youth: The future of Las Vegas chess

Back at Bridgeopolis, the schoolchildren play on, under the watchful eyes of their parents. The North American Open is not on their minds — instead, they play the matches in front of them with care and concentration.

Timi Guo, 8, is being watched by his mother and twin sister, Tina. Timi started playing chess when he was 6. He joined Bridgeopolis a year later, when he started taking lessons with Matikozyan.

To prepare for tournament play, Timi doesn't do anything special. "I just do a little puzzle or a one-minute game," he says with a smile.

Julia Wang, 10, takes a similar approach. She wants chess to be fun but says that when she plays the white pieces, she likes to play the Fried Liver Attack, which can trick an unwary black player into a quick defeat.

Julia is in sixth grade at Noble Collegiate Academy, where her mother Min, 47, is the principal. Min, standing behind her daughter, proudly says that Julia skipped first grade and now plays in the school's chess club.

That chess club contains 25

players, most of whom are boys. "I thought boys would think it was too nerdy," Julia notes with surprise. Then she smiles. "The girls are better than the boys," Julia says with finality.

Andranik Matikozyan instructs his students during a chess lesson Nov. 28 at Bridgeopolis. The Armenian-born chess coach is an international master.

Ellen Schmidt / Las Vegas Review-Journal



Clark County is currently taking applications for the following:

Town Advisory Board Areas:
Mt. Charleston
Searchlight
Winchester

These Town Advisory Boards (TAB) have vacancies. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy will serve for the remainder of a two-year term ending January 8, 2025.

TABs hold regular, public meetings throughout the year. Applicants must be eligible to vote, live within the area encompassed by the TAB, and attend annual training.

At the regular, public meetings, TABs are informed of matters pertaining to their respective town or area, provide input regarding various matters, forward the concerns of residents to the Commission, assist in long-term planning, and disseminate information of interest to the residents of the town or area.

Please submit applications by 5:30pm on January 16, 2024.

Applications are available from your TAB secretary, the Clark County Department of Administrative Services at AdministrativeServices@ClarkCountyNV.gov, or on the Clark County website at www.clarkcountynv.gov.

NOTICE OF MEETING CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Clark County Board of Equalization will meet on January 31, 2024, at the hour of 8:00 a.m., in the Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, First Floor, 500 South Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106, and shall continue in session and hold such number of meetings as may be necessary to care for the business of equalization on or before the 29th day of February 2024. Said meetings are held for the purpose of equalizing assessments, and all parties who desire to appear and contest the accuracy of the assessment to the Board have until January 16, 2024, to file a complaint or petition to the Clark County Assessor's Office, 500 South Grand Central Parkway, Second Floor, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106.

DATED this 17th day of December 2023.
/ s / Lynn Marie Goya
LYNN MARIE GOYA, COUNTY CLERK

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