

Neal Morton  
ON EDUCATION



## Breakup of CCSD baffling to voters

Depending on which candidate you ask, Southern Nevada voters are terrified of a recently approved plan to reorganize the Clark County School District.

Or they love it and can't wait for it to happen as soon as possible.

Or they have no idea what you're talking about.

It's unclear whether the general election will register any blowback from the recent approval of the reorganization plan, what with no pro- or anti-candidate campaigns having yet emerged. Still, voters have shared a wide range of emotions with candidates who knock on their door.

Deanna Wright said she's heard everything from fear and anxiety to confusion and uncertainty from principals, school staff and parents.

She's running for a third and final four-year term to District A on the Clark County School Board. Her southeast district includes Henderson, which provided some of the most vocal proponents of a reorganization. The final plan, which goes into effect August 2017, strips power from the district's central administration and shifts control to individual communities.

"Principals are afraid they'll get the same few parents they get volunteering for everything," Wright said.

Meanwhile, "a lot of people are very concerned about principals going rogue," she added. "Some of these people out here think they won't have to teach sex (education) anymore."

That's certainly not the case, but to Wright, the misconception suggests communities that fought for more local control might be disappointed in the final result.

Exhibit A: Moapa Valley, where families long have clamored for a clean split from the sprawling district.

State lawmakers made it clear more than a year ago that wouldn't happen. Still, they handed rural residents an olive branch by allowing local government authorities to appoint a representative to a hiring committee that selects superintendents who oversee up to 25 schools each.

Cities such as Henderson and Las Vegas likely will exercise that power. But Clark County commissioners, fearing they would "politicize" the hiring process, voted unanimously to abdicate that responsibility.

Their decision effectively prevents residents in rural and unincorporated communities from having a say in who supervises their neighborhood schools.

"They were very much for the reorganization because they want as much autonomy as they can get," said Mark Newburn, District 4 incumbent on the State Board of Education.

He seeks a second term to represent constituents in eight counties, including Moapa Valley and most of northern Clark County.

"They've become really frustrated with the Clark County School District, and they're really distrustful," Newburn said.

Patrice Tew, who represents the northwest District E on the local school board, indicated a small minority of voters actually care about the reorganization.

She said it's probably too early for the overhaul — which cleared a final legal hurdle Sept. 9 — to have an impact on education races in Southern Nevada.

"This is going to be very much a dynamic, growing, changing organism," Tew said, "because there's just so many unanswered questions."

On Education appears every other Saturday. Contact Neal Morton at nmorton@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-0279. Follow @nealmorton on Twitter.

## BRIGHT IDEAS

# Neon Museum lays out plans for growth spurt

### Attraction to add store, relocate staff as part of expansion

By **BUCK WARGO**

SPECIAL TO THE LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

The Neon Museum on Friday unveiled the first stage of its expansion plans that includes a partnership with Las Vegas-based Marshall Retail Group to build a retail store.

The museum announced that construction will begin Nov. 1 on converting existing administration office space into retail. MRG, which

has 16 gift shops in Las Vegas, including at McCarran International Airport, will invest more than \$300,000 in the project, said Rob McCoy, president and chief executive officer of the Neon Museum. It's expected to open by the end of the year.

The museum staff will relocate to office space at the old Las Vegas City Hall annex, across from Zappos' headquarters, McCoy said. The

museum has outgrown its existing retail and administrative space inside the former La Concha Motel lobby that serves as the museum visitor's center, 770 Las Vegas Blvd. North.

As part of its community partnership initiative, Zappos is funding the cost of the lease, which also includes exhibition space that will

► See **NEON**, Page 4B



## Four-Legged Therapy



KEITH ROGERS/LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Gulf War veteran Ben Hernandez stands alongside Pablo, a mustang, at Spirit Therapies in northwest Las Vegas on Sept. 30. Pablo is one of the horses used in a therapeutic horsemanship program designed to help veterans cope with war stress anxiety. Black Labrador retriever Wasabi, top photo, also provides comfort and assistance to Hernandez.

## Dogs, horses help afflicted veterans repel stress

By **KEITH ROGERS**

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

A dog and now a horse have made a huge difference for Ben Hernandez in his battle with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Gulf War veteran says the calming influence of a black Labrador retriever named Wasabi over the past six years has recently been enhanced by Pablo, a mustang he's been working with through a therapeutic horsemanship program aimed at helping military vets conquer the mental demons spawned by their service.

"I enjoy being around the

surrounding," Hernandez said of the Spirit Therapies corral in the northwest Las Vegas Valley, where the program is held, stroking Pablo's coat as he talked. "I don't have to be afraid or anything like that, or too anxious."

Hernandez, 48, is among four veterans with PTSD and anger-management issues who are taking the innovative course funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which uses horses like Pablo in a metaphoric healing program.

Hernandez traces his PTSD to the early days of the Gulf War, when he was a member of the Army's 101st Airborne Division's 502nd Infantry Regiment. After

being targeted in an accidental friendly fire attack and then subjected to an enemy artillery bombardment in early 1991, he and his fellow soldiers were exposed to a horrific scene: the burned bodies of Iraqi soldiers strewn along what later became known as the Highway of Death, leading from Kuwait into Iraq.

"We did a low flight through there, and you could see the figures of charcoal bodies. It was a massacre. All that basically got into my head," he said.

After leaving the service and returning stateside, Hernandez was diagnosed with PTSD

► See **VETERANS**, Page 6B

## Motive in killing of grandmother remains unknown

By **RACHEL CROSBY**

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL



Bradley Christian Francis

Though police have not named a motive in the shooting death of a Las Vegas grandmother Tuesday, an arrest report details the moments that led up to the crime, including a neighbor's attempt to help

the woman before she was killed.

The neighbor who tried to intervene had just pulled into her garage about 4:30 p.m. across the street from the grandmother's home in the 2100 block of Henniker Way, near Lake Mead and Rampart boulevards, when she saw Marilyn Guidry, 86,

walking out of her garage and down her driveway.

Guidry had blood on her face, the neighbor told police.

Detectives are still investigating whether an altercation happened inside the home before Guidry

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# Obituaries

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The Las Vegas Review-Journal will edit  
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CRAWFORD, ELIZABETH  
DOUMANI, EDWARD  
MAURICE, PASTOR DONALD



**ELIZABETH CRAWFORD**  
Elizabeth Ann “Lisa” Crawford, 58, passed away Sept. 29, 2016, at home, with her family beside her. She was born Oct. 19, 1957, in El Paso, Texas, to Robert and Mary Odening. She graduated from Hoover High School in 1974 in San Diego. Her first career was as an allergy technician. She later became the kindergarten teacher at Calvary Chapel Green Valley Christian Academy. Lisa will be remembered for her radiant smile, warm personality, love for Jesus and great compassion for others. She was deeply loved and will be greatly missed by her family and many friends. Lisa is survived by her husband, of 29 years, Steve Crawford; children, David Campbell, Joseph Crawford and Mary Crawford; daughter-in-law, Amanda Crawford; grandchildren, Adrian Gutierrez, Nadia Campbell, Melina Crawford and Joseph Crawford; mother-in-law, Freida Crawford; brother, Gene Odening; and sister, Janet Francis. There will be a memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at Calvary Chapel Spring Valley, 7175 W. Oquendo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89113.

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**EDWARD DOUMANI**  
1936-2016 Edward Doumani passed away Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2016, in Las Vegas, succumbing to ocular melanoma (cancer) after a nearly two-year battle. Born Edward Malick Doumani May 30, 1936, in Los Angeles, he graduated from USC with a law degree in 1959. By 1960, he had relocated to Las Vegas, building (with his father M. K. and brother, Fred) the iconic Paul Williams’ designed La Concha (opened in 1961) and El Morocco (1964) on the Las Vegas Strip. Edward was also instrumental in the Golden Nugget, purchasing the property with a group headed by Steve Wynn in the late 1960’s, where he was influential in adding a hotel component to the then gambling hall. In the mid-1970’s, he and his brother, Fred, purchased the Tropicana Hotel, where Edward designed and completely renovated the property before selling it to Ramada in 1977. Doumani, a Las Vegas stalwart for more than 50 years, was married to Eleo Doumani, who lost her own battle with cancer earlier this year. He is survived by their three children, Lorenzo Doumani, Dahlia Merhi and Dominique Doumani; and seven grandchildren, Sophia, Dylan and Tyler Doumani, Carina, Daniel and Kyla Merhi, and Cole Doumani. There will be a celebration of Edward’s life 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Neon Museum (which is the original La Concha Motel lobby), 770 N. Las Vegas Blvd. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Edward’s name to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Sign guestbook at [www.reviewjournal.com/obituaries](http://www.reviewjournal.com/obituaries)

DAVIS FUNERAL HOME  
MEMORIAL PARK



**PASTOR DONALD MAURICE**  
Pastor Donald Dee Maurice, 84, peacefully went home Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016, to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Don leaves his wife; two daughters; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Don loved to spend time with his family and friends and had great enjoyment in travel, golf and other sports. Most importantly, Pastor Don wanted to make sure that people he met knew how much Jesus loved them. Don’s memorial service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12, at Calvary Chapel Green Valley, 2618 W. Horizon Ridge Parkway.

Sign guestbook at [www.reviewjournal.com/obituaries](http://www.reviewjournal.com/obituaries)

Time is a  
physician  
that heals  
Every Grief.

~Diphilus~



Parts of an old Golden Nugget sign are displayed in the North Gallery at the Neon Museum, 770 Las Vegas Blvd. North, on Sept. 2.

## ► NEON

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be co-curated by the Neon Museum, Zappos and the Contemporary Arts Center, McCoy said.

“These strategic partnerships mark the beginning of an exciting time for the Neon Museum as we strive to serve the public in new and greater ways,” McCoy said.

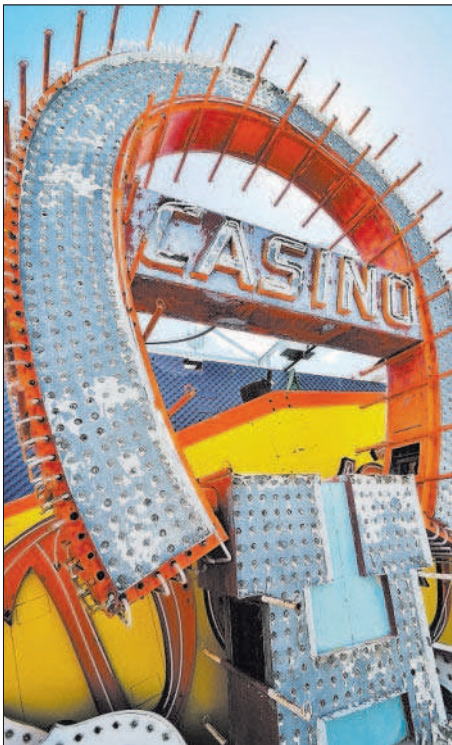
Paco Alvarez, art curator and Z’Boutique Buyer for Zappos, said working with the Neon Museum in creating a new art space is exciting and complements Zappos’ ongoing commitment to the cultural arts downtown.

Following completion of the new store, merchandise will be displayed in the 1,300-square-foot area directly behind the reception area, McCoy said. The new retail area will offer apparel, drinkware, books and souvenirs along with other neon-branded items. Grab-and-go food and beverage with patio seating also will be part of the expanded offerings.

In association with the new retail partnership, MRG will develop Neon Museum merchandise which also will be available at the company’s 16 Welcome to Las Vegas stores city-wide, which McCoy said would add significantly to the museum’s reach and visibility.

Michael Wilkins, chief executive officer of MRG, said the partnership is the first of its kind for the retailer.

“To say we’re excited to share in the expansion of the Neon Museum



Parts of a Binion’s Horseshoe sign are displayed in the North Gallery of the Neon Museum.

is an understatement,” Wilkins said. “It’s the perfect fit for us and we’re looking forward to a long association.”

Museum staff is expected to occupy the temporary administrative space, which has been re-christened NE10, the chemical and atomic number for neon, for one year after which it will move into new permanent museum offices, McCoy said.

The museum this year is expected to announce plans not only for of-

fice space but to build indoor gallery where visitors can see a display of documents and other artifacts. That would include a working neon fabrication area where visitors can see how neon is made and fabricated.

“It’s a dying art, and lot of folks go to LCDs (liquid crystal displays),” McCoy said. “They’re cheaper and more easily and quickly changed, but neon is an art and we’re starting to lose that. It’s incumbent on us to make sure we do everything we can to preserve it as an art form well into the future.”

The museum last month announced it expects to set a visitation record and surpass 100,000 a year by the end of June 2017. The museum, which opened in October 2012, recently added a self-guided weekday tour in addition to its regular guided tour.

McCoy said he would like to boost local visitation from its 10 percent mark. It’s a local attraction Las Vegas residents need to be a part of, he said, but because they have lived it, they don’t view it the same as visitors.

“(Tourists) have seen it in film over the last 50 to 60 years,” McCoy said. “They know what Las Vegas 40 to 50 to 60 years ago looked like, and they are very much interested in it.”

The museum has a collection of more than 500 signs, which includes full signs and parts of signs. About 70 percent are from casinos, 20 percent from motels and 10 percent from businesses. Many are from the 1940s through 1970s.

# USS Arizona survivor dies, will be interred with crewmates

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** — The memories of bombs falling on the battleship USS Arizona were too painful for Raymond Haerry to ever return to Pearl Harbor, while he lived.

But that’s precisely where he wants to be laid to rest.

Haerry was one of the last living crew members on the Arizona during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He died Sept. 27 in Rhode Island at age of 94, said his son, Raymond Haerry Jr. He was one of six remaining Arizona survivors.

Hundreds of sailors and Marines are entombed in the ship’s sunken hull.

“As he was getting closer to the end, I think he felt that if there’s any place that he’d like to be at rest, it would be with his crewmates, the people who suffered and died on that day,” Haerry Jr. told The Associated Press on Friday.

Haerry Jr. said his father never wanted to talk about what happened on Dec. 7, 1941. But after 50 years of asking questions, Haerry Jr. said he pieced together the narrative.

His father, then 19 years old, ran to an anti-aircraft gun after the first explosions, but the ammunition was in storage.

He tried to get ammunition, but a large bomb detonated first, igniting fuel and powder magazines. Most of the bow was instantly separated, and the ship was lifted out of the water.

Haerry Jr. said his father swam through flaming waters, sweeping his arms in front of him to push the flames away. He shot at Japanese



STEVE SZYDLOWSKI/PROVIDENCE JOURNAL VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Raymond Haerry is photographed April 20 at West View Nursing & Rehabilitation in West Warwick, R.I. Haerry, who was one of the last living survivors of the USS Arizona, which was sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, died Sept. 27 at 94.

planes from shore. Later, he helped retrieve corpses from the harbor.

The ship lost 1,177 men, nearly four-fifths of its crew.

Documentary filmmaker Tim Gray recently interviewed Haerry for “Remember Pearl Harbor,” a film for this year’s 75th anniversary of the attack.

“He struggled toward the end of his life to speak, but you could tell by looking into his eyes that he remembered everything about that morning,” Gray said.

Anytime a World War II veteran dies, Gray said, a piece of history is lost.

Haerry served for 25 years in the

Navy, retiring as a master chief. He lived with his wife of 70 years, Evelyn, at a nursing home in West Warwick, Rhode Island. Evelyn Haerry is 95 years old.

Haerry Jr. cried as he recounted his father’s story.

“It had to be a nightmare,” he said. “Even though war hadn’t been declared yet, he was one of the first American heroes of World War II and I’ll always be proud of him, what he did and how he acted.”

Only USS Arizona survivors can be interred on the ship. Haerry Jr. said he will take his father’s ashes there when he can afford the trip.