

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING OF: APRIL 27, 2016

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING**DIRECTOR:****TOM PERRIGO****HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER:****COURTNEY MOONEY**☐ Action
☒ Report**SUBJECT:**

Report by Department of Planning regarding historic and archaeological resources in local media, All Wards

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

During the Historic Preservation Commission meeting held on March 23, 2016, staff was asked to inquire whether or not the articles included with this report and their links could be posted on the City of Las Vegas' website.

The City of Las Vegas launched their new website on Monday, April 4, 2016. This new format no longer has the live news feed that was seen on the previous home screen for the city. Instead, the city has created a "Latest News" page within the new website with an email address, socialmedia@lasvegasnevada.gov. Staff and HPC members may send article links to this address for possible publication on any one of the city's social media sites including Twitter and Facebook. The city's Social Media team will then review the submitted information and post articles at their discretion. Articles must be appropriate for public consumption and related to historic preservation within the city limits.

FINDINGS:

The City connects with the public through five social media outlets including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and Tumbler. In the future, staff will email the city's Social Media Team at socialmedia@lasvegasnevada.gov the links to the articles included with this report each month for possible publication on any one of the City's social media websites. Please enjoy this month's attached articles.

RECOMMENDATION:

No Action Required

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

- "Bridger Building sold to Las Vegas casino owner," www.fox5vegas.com, 03/015/16
- "Escape urban bustle at Floyd Lamb Park" www.reviewjournal.com, 03/19/16
- "Event celebrates historic day in Las Vegas race relations," www.lasvegassun.com, 03/26/16
- "Iconic Las Vegas sign showing signs of wear and tear," www.reviewjournal.com, 03/15/16
- "North Las Vegas gears up for Kiel Ranch debut," www.reviewjournal.com, 03/10/16
- "Old Mormon Fort preserves birthplace of Las Vegas," www.reviewjournal.com, 03/12/16
- "The Gold Spike Transformed From Casino Dive to Downtown Party Spot," www.lasvegasweekly.com, 03/17/16

The City of Las Vegas social media webpages can be found at:

- <http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/portal/faces/home/social/facebook>
- <http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/portal/faces/home/social/twitter>
- <http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/portal/faces/home/social/youtube>
- <http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/portal/faces/home/social/instagram>
- <http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/portal/faces/home/social/tumbler>

The above links to the different social media websites are also available on the City of Las Vegas “*Latest News*” webpage at:

http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/portal/faces/home/connect/c-latest-news?_adf.ctrl-state=1hvogfr4n_77&_afLoop=41236563761042

Bridger Building sold to Las Vegas casino owner

Posted: Mar 15, 2016 7:50 PM PDT

Updated: Mar 15, 2016 10:45 PM PDT

Written by Brenda Yahm

CONNECT

LAS VEGAS (FOX5) - The Bridger Building in downtown Las Vegas has a new owner.

Casino, and hotel owner Derek Stevens purchased the building in a public auction Tuesday.

Stevens purchased the property for \$2.75 million, he was the only person to make a bid.

Stevens and his brother own The D, and other properties in downtown Las Vegas.

Stevens did not immediately disclose plans for the property.

The Bridger Building was used by Clark County until 1995.

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The Bridger Building is shown on March 15, 2016. (Ryan Whittaker/FOX5)

March 19, 2016 - 4:56pm | Updated March 20, 2016 - 9:08am

Escape urban bustle at Floyd Lamb Park



A lake at Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs is shown in this file photo (Las Vegas Review-Journal)

By MARGO BARTLETT PESEK
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

A survivor of the last ice age, Tule Springs in the northern part of the Las Vegas Valley became a vital oasis as the climate grew hotter and drier and lush wetlands turned to desert. The water and vegetation would attract wildlife and scattered bands of native hunter-gatherers. Over time the oasis was variously used as a livestock ranch and farm, a stage line stop, a railroad watering stop, and a divorce resort. The historic ranch is now at the heart of a popular city park in rapidly growing Las Vegas. Officially named Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs, it is widely known simply as Tule Springs.

The rugged Sheep Mountains form a beautiful backdrop for the park, which lies adjacent to the new Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument. Created in 2014, the national monument protects the remains of ice age animals drawn to the ancient

Las Vegas and information about the surrounding areas. Her column appears Sunday in Travel/Living.

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but hikers and horseback riders may access the area from Las Vegas and North Las Vegas streets around the park and east of it. The chalky soil of the former wetlands is evident along some park access roads and trails through washes and open desert.

To reach Tule Springs, drive north on U.S. Highway 95 and turn right at exit 93 onto Durango Drive. Follow Durango through the light at Grand Teton Drive. Continue north to Brent Avenue. Turn right to reach the park access road and the fee booth at the entrance. Fees for the day-use area are \$6 per car or \$1 for those entering on foot, on bikes or on horseback. Frequent visitors should inquire at the booth about money-saving annual fees, especially the bargain annual fee for senior citizens.

The park attracts more than 200,000 visitors a year who come for picnics, birding, fishing, biking, hiking, horseback riding and photography. Once located far from downtown, it is now an open-air island in a sea of development. Tule Springs offers visitors respite from city traffic, bustle and noise. The park is open daily, though its hours of operation change with the seasons. From September through April, hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. From May through August, it is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Check the city's parks website to reserve a picnic site on busy upcoming holidays like Easter and Mother's Day.

From the entrance, follow the meandering road to parking areas near family and group picnic shelters and four ponds stocked with fish. Anglers must have Nevada licenses. Ducks, geese and peacocks wander near the water and on lawns surrounding white-painted ranch buildings and fences. Shade trees, fruit trees and shrubbery break up the open acreage.

The trails through the washes and desert area east of the ranch and lakes may also be reached by turning on Racel, a side street about a mile south of the park entrance where there is some parking. Desert wildflowers are starting to reward hikers using the trail network, which has scattered bench seating with shade structures. Bring drinking water, dress in layers and wear sunblock and a hat.

The water at Tule Springs made it possible for native people to grow their small patches of corn, beans and squash. One of a string of owners, early settler John Herbert Nay bought the land and water rights at Tule Springs in 1916 and farmed there until 1928. Prosper Goumond of Las Vegas then bought the property for a ranch and family retreat in 1941. He soon took advantage of Nevada's liberal divorce laws to turn the site into a resort where guests waited out the state's six-week residency requirement in a comfortable Western setting.

Facing the threat of development in 1964, Tule Springs was saved when the city of Las Vegas purchased the land and turned it into a park. But it proved difficult for the city to maintain, and in 1977 the land was acquired by the state and renamed Floyd Lamb State Park. Decades later, after urban growth crowded the oasis, it was deemed better suited as a city park. The city reacquired the area in 2007 and it was renamed Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs.

Margo Bartlett Pesek's Trip of the Week column appears on Sundays.

Event celebrates historic day in Las Vegas race relations



Attendees say the Pledge of Allegiance during the Las Vegas Peace Festival 2016 event to commemorate the anniversary of "The Moulin Rouge Agreement" at the Universal Peace Federation on Saturday, March 26, 2016.

By Chris Kudialis (contact)

Saturday, March 26, 2016 | 7:15 p.m.

Fifty-six years ago, Las Vegas took a major step toward shaking its nickname as "the Mississippi of the West," with a historic protest at the Moulin Rouge.

On Saturday, nearly 150 Las Vegas civil rights activists, politicians, religious leaders and citizens filled the International Peace Education Center, 6590 Bermuda Road, to exchange roses, embraces and dialogue in celebration of the event's anniversary.

"To end segregation, each individual has to end it in his or her heart," said emcee Katherine Duncan, chairwoman of the Universal Peace Federation.

"Our community can only develop and flourish in

a peaceful environment.”

Dubbed a day of “reconciliation and healing” in Las Vegas by Mayor Carolyn Goodman, the two-hour event featured a five-person question-and-answer style panel with local community leaders and a symbolic Bridge of Peace gesture, hosted by the Women’s Federation for World Peace.

The panel, featuring NAACP Las Vegas President Roxann McCoy, Congress of Racial Equality spokesman Niger Innis, Las Vegas attorney Mary Perry, businesswoman Janie Greenspun-Gale and Universal Peace Federation President Richard de Sena, answered questions on the current state of race relations in Las Vegas and a future of reaching equality. Greenspun-Gale is the sister of Las Vegas Sun owner and publisher Brian Greenspun.

McCoy, also a local entrepreneur and business consultant, said that although Las Vegas has made progress since 1960, reconciliation with the past is needed to “build bridges for the future.”

“There has been progress made, but, almost parallel to it, we go backward at the same time,” McCoy said. “Some things are changing and some things are staying the same.”

Innis instead focused on the opportunities provided by the historic agreement, and how racial equality has progressed since the 1960s.

“If we were to go back to the Moulin Rouge compact and tell them there was going to be a black president of the United States by 2008, they would have thought we were crazy.

“To keep fighting the same old battles as if nothing has changed is an absurdity,” he added.

De Sena, who leads UPF’s interfaith and peace-building efforts in North America, said fighting racism starts in the family.

“The family is a school of love and peace,” de Sena said. “We need to teach and raise our kids to love one another.”

On March 25, 1960, hotel and business owners, elected officials and local NAACP members gathered in a room at the then-closed central valley hotel to protest racial barriers that prevented people of color — even entertainers — from staying in hotels on the Las Vegas Strip.

The Moulin Rouge, first opened in 1955, was once the only major Las Vegas hotel allowing racial integration. It was a popular hangout spot for black performers like Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis Jr. and Dorothy Dandridge, who for years were barred from partying or staying at hotels on the Las Vegas Strip, even where they performed. As a result of the discrimination, white performers and celebrities like Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Shecky Green became frequent partygoers at the Moulin Rouge.

If protesters’ demands were ignored, the NAACP had planned a major march down the Strip, promising to generate negative international attention to a city that relied on tourism.

The event resulted in what then-NAACP local branch president Dr. James McMillan called “a red-letter day in Las Vegas.”

“We have received assurances from the majority of downtown and Strip businesses that the policy of racial discrimination in Las Vegas has ended,” he announced that day.

March 15, 2016 - 12:04pm | Updated March 15, 2016 - 10:42pm

Iconic Las Vegas sign showing signs of wear and tear



Alfredo Sanchez, from left, with his wife and daughter both named Rosalba, tourists visiting from San Diego, pose in front of the Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas sign on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, in Las Vegas. Erik Verduzco/Las Vegas Review-Journal Follow @Erik_Verduzco

By BETHANY BARNES · LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

If a picture is worth a thousand words, the nation's libraries would be hard-pressed to find space for the words of all the millions of photos snapped at the iconic Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas sign.

Just marrieds. Snap.

Sorority sisters. Snap

Visiting dignitaries. Snap.

Retirees on a rendezvous. Snap.

The diamond-shaped sign at the south end of Las Vegas Boulevard is a popular photo op, to say the least.

But at a recent event, posing for a photo, Clark County Commissioner Steve Sisolak noticed the sign's fabulousness fading. There was a crack and chipped paint. So at Tuesday's Clark County Commission meeting he decided to have a chat with his colleagues about the sign's upkeep.

"As important as this sign is, I think it's incumbent upon us to do our due diligence and take care of it," Sisolak said. "We have millions of pictures taken at this sign each year."

Why the County Commission is concerned and not the Las Vegas City Council stems from a little-known jurisdictional fact.

Although people like to say the camera doesn't lie, the sign in all those photos isn't exactly telling the truth. Posing tourists aren't technically standing in Las Vegas. A more accurate sign might welcome them to unincorporated Clark County.

The county leases the sign from the Young Electric Sign Co. Sisolak's concerns were quickly addressed by a representative from the company, who said the sign would be touched up soon without much disruption by having work done in off-hours.

The sign was designed by Betty Willis in 1959. It's status increased in 2009 when it landed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"The sign has been not only an important symbol for our community, but a magnet for untold thousands who have had their pictures taken in front of it," then-County Commissioner Rory Reid said at the time of the designation.

Contact Bethany Barnes at bbarnes@reviewjournal.com or 702-477-3861. Find her on Twitter: [@betsbarnes](https://twitter.com/betsbarnes)

March 10, 2016 - 7:45am | Updated March 11, 2016 - 11:29am

North Las Vegas gears up for Kiel Ranch debut



Clint Fujii, construction manager for Kiel Ranch Historic Park, which is under construction, gives a tour Feb. 27. Erik Verduzco/View Follow @Erik_Verduzco on Twitter

By SANDY LOPEZ



VIEW STAFF WRITER

After a few decades of pushing it to the side, North Las Vegas officials are reviving one of the first settled spots in the Las Vegas area with a planned grand opening in mid-June.

City officials are pouring in approximately \$2 million to restore Kiel Ranch Historic Park — or what is left of it.

“This site is of huge historical significance to not just the city of North Las Vegas, but to Southern Nevada,” said Jeffrey Alpert, a North Las Vegas community activist who has taken the lead of researching the ranch’s historical significance. “The site was lucky enough to have water, support farming and ranching, and it’s plagued with historical stories about murder, adventures and Indian history. The sad part of the ranch is that very little of the original structures and the important pieces are left.”

The 7-acre park, located on the northeast corner of Commerce Street and Carey Avenue, is the last remnant of the original 240-acre homestead settled by Conrad Kiel in the mid-1800s, Alpert said.

Dubbed a historical treasure, it is home to one of the state’s oldest buildings known as the Adobe (circa 1880s to 1900) and an active artesian spring.

The spring habitat was first documented to have been used by the Southern Paiute. Later, Mormon settlers established a site around the local springs known as the Indian Farm from 1855-58.

Once they left, the ranch was purchased by Kiel, who owned it from 1868-94. It became one of two major ranches in the area.

“The ranch has a bad reputation because he let seedy characters stay there or the ‘undesirables,’ ” Alpert said. “A couple of murders occurred on the ranch, including the murder of Archival Stewert and of Kiel’s two sons.”

In 1903, the Kiel heirs sold the 240-acre ranch to the Utah, Nevada and California Railroad, which subsequently routed an interstate rail line through both Kiel Ranch and the Las Vegas Ranch.

With the railroad in place, town sites emerged in the Las Vegas Valley. Again, the location of the spring was influential, as the railroads needed water at these outposts, according to city officials.

Fast-forward to 1911, and the Park family took ownership of the ranch and built one of the remaining historical structures — the White House — as their residence. It was during this era that the ranch began to shed its Wild West image and became a part of Las Vegas high society until 1939.

Later that year, the ranch was leased to Edwin Losee, who would later purchase it, and it became known as the Boulderado Ranch. Until 1958, it was used as a divorce ranch by out-of-state people seeking to gain residency and utilize Nevada’s liberal divorce laws.

Many cottages were added to the grounds to accommodate the demand. However, as the new casino industry pulled clientele away, the Losee family slowly began to sell the 330 acres of the Boulderado Ranch parcel by parcel, according to city officials.

The North Las Vegas Bicentennial Committee purchased the remaining 25.59 acres for preservation in 1974.

The committee donated 27 acres of Kiel Ranch to North Las Vegas in 1976, and the city made plans to develop the area into a historic park.

The John S. Park Mansion, the William Park home and several outbuildings from the Boulderado Dude Ranch era were still standing. Also on the site was a historic cemetery, according to an October 2005 article by the Preservation Association of Clark County.

The article went on to state, “But barely seven months went by after the creation of the Advisory Board for Kiel Ranch that Councilwomen Brenda Price and Mary Kincaid proposed to the City Council that Kiel Ranch should be sold in order to procure funds to build Walker Pool. ... Although Kiel Ranch was spared for a while, Price and Kincaid’s proposal opened the floodgates for the city to consider Kiel Ranch as a cash cow rather than a valued historic site in spite of strong protest from the community. By 1988, 22 acres were sold to Ray Vega of Vegas Foods, who built the Kiel Ranch Industrial Park.”

“It was just a lack of interest in the city’s behalf. They couldn’t agree what to do with it,” Alpert said. “Unfortunately, because of the city’s neglect in the ‘70s, ‘80s and ‘90s, squatters started hanging out at the ranch, and the city and other people began using the area as a dump.”

Eventually, in August 1992, the historic White House caught fire and was destroyed, Alpert added.

Since then, several design concepts have been developed and left due to a lack of funding or interest, but because of the city’s past attempts to restore the park, current construction is a continuation of previous studies built on decades of design and public outreach.

It may be hard to imagine what the park will look like with all of the overgrown weeds and pieces of debris currently there, but North Las Vegas Director of Neighborhood and Leisure Services Cass Palmer is optimistic about the direction the park is heading.

The park’s main highlights will be the restoration of the spring wetland habitat and of its two remaining historical structures: the Adobe building and the Doll House, which is an old cottage from the divorce ranch era, he said.

The adobe structure is set to be surrounded by a history walk, with interpretive nodes relating to each of the ranch's eras. Group ramadas, restrooms, kiosks and picnic areas are also planned.

North of the Doll House, a small orchard is planned, showcasing historic fruit trees planted during the Kiel era.

Construction of the park is divided into four phases, with phase one expected to be complete in June in time for the grand opening celebration. It includes restoring the historic site, including the Adobe security and access, Park family plaza, and the orchard and open space. The rest of the phases will concentrate on the springs restoration, access and general overlook.

Construction funding was made possible in part by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act and from Land and Water Conservation Fund grants totaling more than \$2 million.

The project is estimated to be completed in 2017.

"Once completed, it's going to be a great way for the community to experience historical aspects of the ranch," said Tracey Farage, recreation coordinator of North Las Vegas. "Families will be able to learn about a vital part of North Las Vegas."

"It's a huge historical preservation of our history — not only of North Las Vegas, but of the Southern Nevada Valley," Palmer said. "It reminds us of our origins and why the settlers came here. The city is responsible for preserving our historical culture and reminding citizens of their early beginnings."

To reach North View reporter Sandy Lopez, email slopez@viewnews.com or call 702-383-4686. Find her on Twitter:

March 12, 2016 - 1:40pm | Updated March 13, 2016 - 12:03pm

Old Mormon Fort preserves birthplace of Las Vegas



Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historical Park preserves the oldest structure in the city, an adobe remnant of the first permanent settlement in the Las Vegas Valley built by Mormon colonizers in 1855. (JERRY HENKEL/LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL)

By MARGO BARTLETT PESEK
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

The birthplace of Nevada's largest city, the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historical Park stands just a few blocks north of Las Vegas' busy downtown near the corner of Las Vegas Boulevard and Washington Avenue.

This attractive park preserves the oldest structure in the city, an adobe remnant of the first permanent settlement in the Las Vegas Valley built by Mormon colonizers in 1855. The park provides a quiet excursion into the past, when Las Vegas was just a welcome stopping point along a difficult and dangerous trail through the Mojave Desert to the California coast.

Margo Bartlett Pesek

writes about day trips from Las Vegas and information about the surrounding areas. Her column appears Sunday in Travel/Living.

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Open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays year-round, the Old Mormon Fort is a bargain with an entrance fee of just \$1 for visitors older than 12. For information, call 702-486-3511.

From the parking area off Washington Avenue, enter through the visitor center to the re-created fort, the original adobe and grounds. Take time to enjoy the visitor center's imaginative exhibits and browse through the books, gifts and souvenirs in the museum store. Inquire at the information desk about ranger-led tours and special events planned for this spring.

From the courtyard with its statue of early rancher Helen J. Stewart, known as "the first lady of Las Vegas," follow paths to explore the rest of the park. The historic adobe now houses artifacts and room settings furnished in period style. The reconstruction of the fort walls creates an open parade ground used for special events, such as frontier military re-enactments. The creek that flowed through the original fort and later ranch has been re-created. The park's plantings of native trees and vegetation attract birds and even a few desert creatures. A pioneer garden features the kinds of fruits, vegetables and flowers early settlers would have nurtured.

Settlement of the Las Vegas area began when Mormon officials in Utah sent a party of 30 missionaries from Salt Lake to the oasis called Las Vegas in late spring 1855. The group traveled 35 days on the overland route variously known as the Old Spanish Trail, the Arrowhead Trail or the Mormon Trail.

The group arrived in mid-June and immediately started to build an enclosure measuring 150 feet on each of four sides with fortified bastions on two corners. They laid out a square stone foundation and started making adobe bricks. Soon they were laying thick high walls. The colonist families were at first housed in their wagons, but

soon more substantial shelters were erected against the walls. The Mormons were prepared for trouble but never had to defend themselves.

The enterprising group also started various crops irrigated by creek water from large warm springs. They planted fruit trees, seeded vegetable gardens and pastured their livestock in the natural meadows. By late summer they were harvesting food. Scouting parties located resources such as timber and minerals in the mountains surrounding the valley. They began mining lead deposits in the Potosi area and started the process of smelting the ore. After two years of laboring, they were recalled to Utah, leaving the fort abandoned.

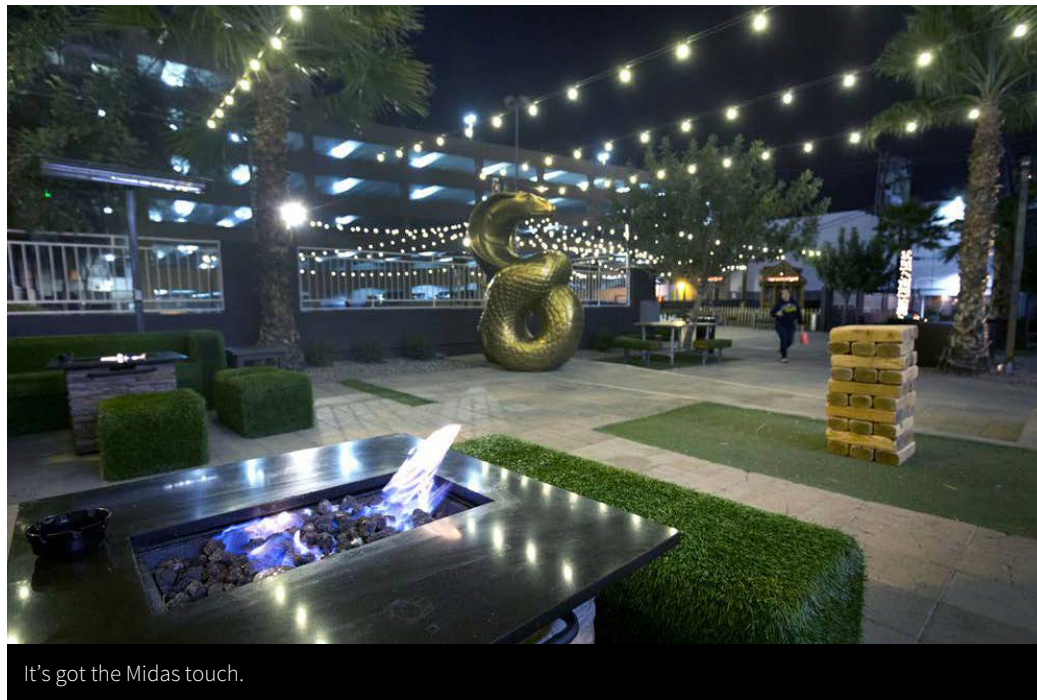
The property was acquired in 1865 by Octavius Gass, a miner in Eldorado Canyon along the Colorado River. Gass developed the property into a ranch, building house and outbuildings using materials scavenged from the fort. He made a living from livestock and services provided to miners and travelers on the trail.

In 1881, Gass defaulted on a large loan, losing the ranch to Archibald and Helen Stewart, who continued ranching and raising their young family near the old fort. In 1884, when Archibald was murdered at a neighboring ranch, Helen was left to continue running the Las Vegas Ranch.

With the help of her father and local Paiutes, she successfully carried on the enterprise until 1902 when she sold the acreage to the San Pedro, Salt Lake City and Los Angeles Railroad (later known as the Union Pacific). The railroad reached the valley in 1905, creating the city of Las Vegas with the auction of lots in the downtown area. Helen J. Stewart remained a prominent citizen of the emerging town, encouraging polite society and civilizing elements such as women's clubs, schools and churches.

Margo Bartlett Pesek's Trip of the Week column appears on Sundays.

THE GOLD SPIKE TRANSFORMED FROM CASINO DIVE TO DOWNTOWN PARTY SPOT



It's got the Midas touch.

Leslie Ventura

Thu, Mar 17, 2016 (12:01 a.m.)

In April of 2013, the Tony Hsieh-backed Downtown Project bought and renovated the old Gold Spike, previously known for cheap drinks and hotel rooms but mostly for its slot machines. After just a few weeks of work, the Gold Spike reopened with an updated bar and hangout spot—and without a single slot machine.

In a highly unlikely transformation, a struggling Downtown Las Vegas casino was flipped into a hip 24-hour hot spot, seemingly overnight. The move away from gaming was addition by subtraction.

“The vision for when we purchased the Gold Spike was to have a co-working environment,” says assistant general

manager Kristine Reynolds. With multiple bars, a casual eatery, free Wi-Fi, DJs spinning nightly, traditional games like billiards in the “living room” and oversized games like beer pong and Jenga in the breezy-cool backyard space, the Gold Spike doubles as a casual hang for the laptop set by day and a magnetic party spot at night. “Our thing is to be either first, unique or best. There are other bars here, but what we offer is something beyond having just a dance party and a bar,” Reynolds says.

Since the Gold Spike has attracted the college-age crowd to Downtown Vegas, it was a natural fit when MTV went hunting for sites to film the 31st season of *The Real World*, which debuts on March 17. After the hotel’s top floor was renovated as a stylish penthouse suite, the latest crew of strangers moved in for a 70-day shoot between October and December. “They’ve filmed a couple times in Vegas, and it’s always been at unique venues,” Reynolds says. While she can’t share exactly what she saw during filming, she’ll admit it was a fun time. “You’ll see when you start watching.” *Gold Spike, 217 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 702-476-1082, 24/7.*