

The Scarlet & Gray

Shooting at The Degree party, suspect at large

By Jimmy Romo
News Editor

At The Degree Housing Complex, there was a party hosted on the fifth floor that left a victim shot in the hallway of the student apartment complex around midnight where University Police Services (UPD) and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) responded.

UNLV students were alerted over text at around 12:30 a.m. that there was a shooting on campus at The Degree on the fifth floor. A suspect was identified as a Black male wearing black clothing, but remains at large escaping in a white vehicle. The shelter-in-place lasted until 2 a.m. where officers believed there was no longer an imminent threat.

When officers arrived at the scene, they found a victim that had suffered a gunshot wound



The Degree Housing Complex located on Cottage Grove Ave. and Maryland Parkway. Photo by Jimmy Romo

deemed non-life-threatening. They were transported to the hospital. According to witnesses, the suspect and victim are not UNLV students.

Students and parents took to Twitter to repost the alert UPD tweeted that left a few concerned,

including a father of a student and UNLV alumni, Scott Gulbransen initially tweeting, “Real nice getting a text from your son at #UNLV about a shooting on the floor of his on-campus student apartment... no media in Vegas is reporting. Amazing how

universities keep incidents like this hush-hush. Relieved he’s OK.”

The Scarlet & Gray Free Press reached out to Gulbransen for a statement, “As a father of a student who lives at The Degree it’s troubling as of 1 p.m. Sunday we still have not heard anything from management or UNLV. A shooting inside a university apartment is beyond troubling and clearly no one at UNLV cares to communicate with families.”

This is still an open investigation that UPD and LVMPD are working on where no arrests have been made. UPD has yet to respond to the Scarlet & Gray Free Press, but for any tips on identifying or locating the suspect, please contact 702-895-3668.

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MORE INSIDE

NEWS

- Quarantine Protocol
- Omicron Risks

OPINION

- Returning to Campus Amid Pandemic
- Virtual Parking Permit

SPORTS

- Baseball Upcoming Season
- Runnin’ Rebels Overcome San Jose State 70-62

A&E

- Healthy Food Options
- LA Comic Con



Rebel Bradley Golant (3) faces off with Arizona Wildcat Christopher Fritz to steal possession of the puck. Photo by Isis Goode /// Rebel Hockey

Listen up: Podcasting on and off campus

By Stephanie Overton
Staff Writer

While sitting in Ben Morse’s Digital and Social Media class last semester discussing podcasts, Diego Escobar started thinking about what it would be like to host one.

“It’s growing, and there could possibly be a way to get money in it one day, maybe not

right away,” Escobar said.

Escobar started thinking about what he knew and what he could cover, and came to the perfect conclusion: sports! He knows all about sports, the ins and outs of the games, the details about players, the whole nine yards.

Coincidentally, his friend Barry Sabine

Jr. reached out to him around this time to see if he wanted to start a podcast together. And that’s how Blow the Whistle was born.

Blow the Whistle is a podcast run by UNLV students as part of the Rebel Report. It is co-hosted by Escobar and Sabine and covers weekly NFL Matchups. The podcast has been uploaded weekly since

week 3 of the 2021-22 Football season. Each episode covers recaps of the games, Escobar and Sabine’s thoughts, and predictions for the upcoming week.

Escobar and Sabine write, record, edit, and post the episodes themselves to the Rebel Report, a student-run sports broadcast and social media

SEE PODCASTS on pg. 14

Hockey improves win streak to 16

By Kayla Faasse
Sports Editor

The Skatin’ Rebels took on the Arizona Wildcats for the second time this season, sweeping them over the weekend to improve their winning streak to 16 games.

“I think it was a big confidence builder for us to go in there and

beat the team that’s beaten us before,” assistant coach Nick Robone said. “It felt like a little bit of revenge. Especially beating them on their home ice twice in a row.”

This marked the first series Rebel goaltender Vince Benedetto started in both games. He ended the weekend with 44 total saves.

Game One, Jan. 21

UNLV hit the ice Friday night face-paced and ready to go, keeping high momentum throughout the game to win 4-3 in overtime.

Jaedin Ness played his second game as a Rebel after joining the team halfway through last semester. He scored his first goal early in the night,

assisted by Jayson Dimizio to put UNLV on the board at 2:40.

Shortly after the goal, Arizona tied it up with Ben Jones scoring, assisted by Aidan Ciffrino.

The on-ice tension grew late in the period, as both teams started to get called for penalties. Brenden Fehlig

SEE HOCKEY on pg. 12

INDEX
NEWS.....3
OPINION.....7
SPORTS.....9
A&E.....14

WEATHER

Mon 65 / 41	Tues 63 / 40	Wed 60 / 36	Thurs 66 / 36	Fri 64 / 38

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The Scarlet & Gray

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UNLV changes quarantine protocols



The drive-thru line to get a COVID-19 vaccine and testing clinics when it was at the UNLV Paradise Campus. Photo by Jimmy Romo

By Mark Credico
Staff Writer

Over the winter break, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance for isolation and quarantine for those who test positive for COVID-19, and UNLV changed its guidelines to match the CDC.

The CDC now recommends a five day quarantine period followed by five days of strictly wearing a well-fitting mask when in the presence of others. This applies to those with cases who are asymptomatic or whose symptoms resolve within the first five days. Although, if a fever persists, it is recommended to stay home until the fever resolves.

“The CDC has shortened the isolation period, but not how people think,” a UNLV assistant professor and principal investigator of UNLV’s COVID-19 contact tracing team, Brain Labus said.

Quarantine went from 10 days to five days, and that is actually a misunderstanding of what they did. According to Labus, the CDC said it is still 10 days, but if you’re feeling better at day five and your fever has been gone for 24 hours and your symptoms are better, than the risk of you spreading the disease goes way down.

Those who meet the criteria can leave isolation after those five days, but Labus mentions that they still need to wear a mask when they are around other people for that entire 10 day period. He explains it just allows people who have recovered a chance to get back to their lives a little sooner, but it does not mean that everybody just waits five days instead of 10. That has really been a big misunderstanding.

A new set of guidelines have also been changed for people who come into contact with someone who has contracted COVID-19 are based on vaccination status.

If someone is fully vaccinated within the last six months via a two shot mRNA vaccine series, fully vaccinated within the last two months with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or fully vaccinated with a booster shot, the CDC only recommends to wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days, stay home if symptoms arise and test at day five if possible.

If fully vaccinated for longer than six months, or two months for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or unvaccinated, the CDC recommends the same quarantine protocol as a positive test, while also testing on day five if possible.

“When it comes to quar-

antine, we’ve had to change things based on our vaccination,” Labus said. “Before it was if you were vaccinated, you didn’t need to quarantine after exposure. Now, there’s some more nuance based on how long it’s been since you were vaccinated.”

“So boosters have worked into the equation. If you’re boosted, you don’t need to quarantine. But if you’re vaccinated and not boosted, it depends on if it’s been five months or more or not. So it kind of depends where you are in your immune response as to what you need to do.”

The changes in quarantine guidelines come as the CDC begins to better understand the COVID-19 virus and as the more contagious Omicron variant continues to dominate in the United States. COVID-19 is now known to be most contagious one to two days before symptoms arise and the three to five days after they first appear. The recommendation for continued mask use after the first five days is to continue to still maintain a layer of protection until it is certain that you are no longer contagious.

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Events This Week!

Monday

January 24
Undergraduate Experiential Learning at UNLV: Tell Me More
11:30am - 12:30pm
CBC C120

Monday: Come to a free panel where the audience can hear about the benefits and opportunities for getting involved in research, study abroad, and internships at UNLV.

Tuesday: Students can meet the members of CSUN, have free food, win raffle prizes and meet congresswoman Susie Lee. All UNLV students are encouraged to come.

Wednesday: UNLV students will have the opportunity to meet and learn about all the registered student organizations, departments, and non-profit community organizations from campus and around the Las Vegas area.

Thursday: Enjoy some sweets, games, and prizes. Learn how to become involved with LEAD Team, UNLVolunteers, and Alternative Break Trips!

Friday: The Museum will be open late as they say goodbye to the I Am Here and Human Resource Exploitation: A Family Album exhibits. This will be one of the last times to experience the exhibits at the Barrick Museum.

Tuesday

January 25
CSUN Welcome Back!
4pm - 7pm
Pida Plaza

Wednesday

January 26
Involvement Fair
10am - 2pm
Student Union, Pida Plaza, Alumni Amphitheater, Academic Mall

Thursday

January 27
Get in the Mix Social
12pm - 1:30pm
Student Union

Friday

January 28
Late Night at the Barrick Museum
5pm - 8pm
Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art

Omicron variant poses a risk to students who are returning to campus

By **Mark Credico**
Staff Writer

UNLV students return to partially in-person lectures for the spring semester, yet the omicron variant still spreads at record levels in Nevada, exposing students to a greater risk of contracting the virus as they return to classes.

According to Nevada Health Response, Clark county has 3,044 new daily confirmed COVID-19 cases and 93 new daily probable cases as of Jan. 20. Nevada has 3,962 new daily confirmed cases and 187 new daily probable cases.

“With omicron, we’re concerned about a greater ability of the virus to spread from person to person,” a UNLV assistant professor and principal investigator of UNLV’s COVID-19 contact tracing team, Brain Labus said. “So you add that into the mix, that means all the things that we’re doing may not be as effective in preventing transmission of the virus.”

The current spike in cases is largely due to the relatively new omicron variant of COVID-19, which is many times transmissible than the previous mutation of the virus, delta. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that as of Dec. 25, 2021, Omicron made up just a quarter of Nevada’s confirmed

COVID-19 cases. Now multiple sources report that as of Jan. 5, Omicron is the dominant variant of COVID-19 in Nevada.

Multiple sources report that early analysis from South Africa, where the Omicron variant was first detected, and the United Kingdom may indicate that this variant of COVID-19 is less deadly than its predecessors.

“We know that it’s definitely more mild in people who are vaccinated. For people who are vaccinated, it tends to be a shorter duration, the symptoms aren’t as severe,” Labus said. “We know the vaccine is still excellent at preventing hospitalization and death, even if it can’t prevent the infection in the first place.”

Labus recommends booster shots for those who were vaccinated five months ago or longer. The CDC also recommends an earlier booster for those who had the Johnsons & Johnson vaccine, after two months of receiving a dose.

“When you’re exposed to something, your body develops an immune memory,” Labus said, “You fight off that pathogen, and you have antibodies now that are circulating with the ability to protect your body if you’re exposed again.”

“Over time, that sort of wears out, kind of like a balloon de-

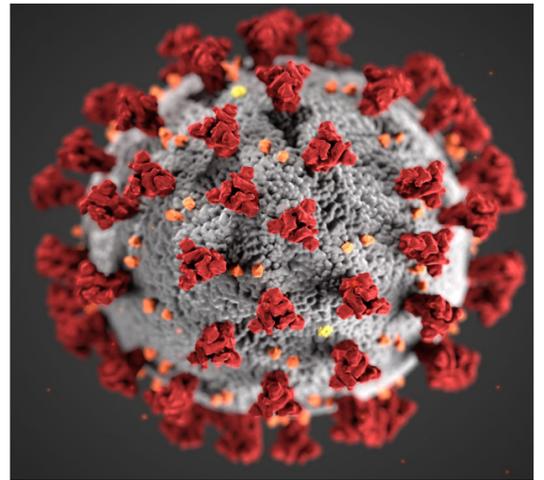
flating a little bit, it loses a bit of the air and you don’t have that same immune response over time. So a few months later, we give you a booster basically to refill that balloon, it gives you that stronger response, you have more antibodies, which means if you are exposed, you’re better prepared to fight it off.”

Labus also advocates that an improvement in masks is also necessary for protection from the new variant.

“We’re encouraging people to use better masks,” Labus said. “So multiple layers of fabric, or the KN-95 masks or 95 masks, those higher quality masks that reduce the risk of transmission if you are exposed to somebody.”

In a recent statement from the UNLV executive vice president and provost, Chris Heavey lets students know that they can pick up a KN95 mask at the information desk inside of the Student Union.

Along with the boosters to ensure immunity and masks to protect from COVID-19 spread, Labus had one more recommendation to fight against the Omicron variant:



common sense.

“Just be smart about your surroundings and the people you’re around,” he said. “Spread out if you can. Don’t sit on top of somebody else, sit further away if that’s possible. I know that’s not always possible in classrooms, but it is once you leave class.”

“If you go to the Student Union, think, are you going to sit by that crowded table of people or are you going to sit somewhere off more by yourself where there’s less risk as you sit there and eat your lunch. Kind of look at the world as, unfortunately, a way to get infected and think about just little things you can do to put some distance between yourselves and others. That’s going to help reduce your risk.”

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Bike lock program to combat theft on campus



A bike within the UNLV Bike Shop on campus in the REC Center. Photo courtesy of UNLV Bike Shop

By **Vanessa Marie Booth**
Managing Editor

In an effort to combat the rise of bike theft on UNLV’s campus, University Police Services (UPD) recently introduced a bike lock program that partners with the on campus bike shop located inside the SRWC.

Two lead members of the program, associate director for recreation programs, Mike Conley, and executive assistant for

UPD, Arian Renick, piloted this program back in late 2021 after seeing an increase in campus theft of bicycles.

Through the funding of UNLV Student Services, university students can now receive free U-locks by visiting the UNLV Bike Shop and registering for the UPD bike registration program. By registering with UPD, students will not only qualify for the free lock, but make it easier for UPD to return stolen bicycles in the event where a bike is stolen if found.

Conley, told the Scarlet & Gray Free Press that he hopes this program can keep their property safe and better serve students on campus when it comes to maintaining their bikes.

Students can register their bicycles’ serial number with the UPD either online or via the UNLV Rebel Safe App.

“One of the greatest parts about this opportunity was being able to work with various units across campus and collaboratively with students to make UNLV more safe,” Renick said.

According to the UPD crime logs preliminary data, it was reported that 17 bikes were stolen in the past six months.

A user on UNLV’s reddit posted in Oct. 2020, “My bike was stolen at about 4 a.m. on Oct. 4 (Friday) from my apartment building around UNLV. It was caught on surveillance camera, but nothing really can be seen. Three other bikes were stolen along with it. I had it on a U-lock, but they managed to take it off anyway.”

“Everything was taken, including the U-lock. I know it sounds silly, but my bike is my best friend. I would do anything to get it back. It carries a sentimental value to me. I am offering a reward to anyone who knows about it.”

Other resources that the UNLV Bike Shop offers are repairs to keep bicycles in shape and workshops that teach the basics of bike mechanics each year. The shop is open two hours a day on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, of each week. In addition to bike consultations the shop also rents mountain bikes to students.

In the upcoming months Conley and Renick hope to expand the program and are looking forward to the possible arrival of bike cages in the upcoming months; another project in the works to bring more safety to bikes on campus.

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Different perspectives on transitioning out of active duty military

By Christopher Clark
Student Admission

For a military member, transitioning from being active duty to civilian is a daunting task. Going from a structured lifestyle to an unpredictable one challenges the mindset a military member has known.

Separation leads to this transition. A myriad of reasons separation occurs includes retirements or military members not wanting to do the 20 plus years of service.

Alexandra Schroeder currently holds a team lead position at the Military and Veteran Services Center and served as active duty in the Air Force, while her husband currently still is. For Schroeder, going from military to civilian provided a welcome change. Certain rules and restrictions in the Air Force prevent airmen from looking a particular way, although rules have recently changed such as the wear of hair now allowing females to put their hair in ponytails.

Less restrictions meant Schroeder had excitement towards civilian life.

“I was able to like get back to myself and how I was before,” Schroeder said. “Being able to dye my hair, paint my nails, the more materialistic stuff.”

Schroeder also wanted to pursue a new career. Although the Air Force has a variety of career fields available, switching jobs proves an extensive process while being active duty. The world has opportunities for a military member who goes civilian, both a bonus and a challenge. For Schroeder, she knew she wanted to pursue being a dietician upon leaving the Air Force, an unrealistic expectation had she stayed in.

“Ultimately, what led me to get out was the fact I wanted to go to

school to be a dietician and that wasn’t an option for me when I was in the military,” Schroeder said. “The dietetics field is very like really tight knit and really hard to get into and it’s such a small field that they’re not flexible with class times.”

The military does provide positives though. Schroeder does have some things that she misses. As a former mechanic, Schroeder had an extremely active lifestyle and did her job outside for most of the day.

Schroeder now lives the student life, which means sitting at desks and on computers in a stagnant position for hours during the day. Schroeder also misses the sense of comradery the Air Force brought.

“I feel like I don’t have that common connection that you find with your coworkers in the military,” Schroeder said. “It’s really hard to make those connections with civilian people in my opinion.”

The military includes soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines, but also their families who are part of the journey.

Melissa Barber, associate director of Certifying Operations at the MVSC served as a spouse of a now retired marine. She knows the challenges transitioning to civilian life brings. Typically, the spouse will follow their husband or wife wherever they go, but Barber had more freedom of choice once her husband retired in California, although the Barbers still had to compromise over where they wanted to go.

“After spending so many years following someone else’s career, he ended up following me to try to build a career for myself,” Barber said. “We were looking to stay somewhere where my husband’s retirement would not be taxed.”

The Barbers looked to move to a state with no income tax. Nevada



The SSCA building housing the veterans services, cashier, and financial aid office. Photo by Christopher Clark

seemed a perfect fit. They also considered Texas, but did not want to move back East just yet to the likes of Florida. The journey to Nevada led them to Las Vegas and Barber began to work at UNLV and the MVSC. Prior to working at the MVSC, Barber experienced working with the veteran community, so this career path fit well.

“The job I held which was working with the transition program and I was volunteering with the Navy relief society and the unit,” Barber said. “It kind of became a natural progression to move into yet another job that assisted veterans.”

Some members of the military family have no choice in what happens.

Noah Maye also works at the MVSC. As a dependent to his father who retired from the Coast Guard in 2017, Maye followed his father throughout his military career. Young at the time of his father’s service and when his separation occurred, Maye had no say in where his family went. However, he said he was happy to see the relief of stress that leaving the military had on his father.

There were negatives in moving to Las Vegas though.

“Having to move again, having to leave everything I set up in Hawaii,” Maye said. “I was contemplating, cos I did have

some transferred GI Bill from him, I was contemplating staying in Hawaii for a little bit.”

Maye’s father convinced him to follow the family to Las Vegas because of high living expenses in Hawaii. The decision worked out for Maye in the long run. Maye will complete his bachelor’s degree in anthropology in 2022 and has a job he likes. However, the perks of his father being active Maye misses. In particular, the free health care system the military provides, known as Tricare.

“The biggest thing like as a dependent I feel is kind of figuring out college and figuring out keeping Tricare and stuff,” Maye said. “I’ve had to do a lot of paperwork and get new IDs and stuff just to be able to keep going to the doctor.”

Different viewpoints clearly exist when it comes to separating from the military. A scary change comes when going from a structured life to one of uncertainty. Those who serve become directly affected by their lives completely changing, but the service member’s families also feel that change.

This is a student submission, not associated with the paper.

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Returning to another semester of classes amid a pandemic

By Lauren Dominguez
Staff Writer

UNLV students are back on campus for yet another semester during the pandemic. This is officially the start of college student's fourth full semester since we first went into lockdown during spring break of 2020, and it's been a wild ride.

While we prepare, both mentally and physically, for these next few months, we should take a few moments to remember a few things.

It's okay that things don't feel normal right now, because they aren't normal. However, for our freshmen and sophomores, this actually is the "normal" college experience.

Many have never taken a class in-person, met up for study groups or even had to think about graduating high school virtually. So where does this leave us now?

On the first day of the semester, Jan. 18, 2022, Clark County was up to 458K total cases. To be a tad alarmist, which is earned due to these last few years, this doesn't seem to bode well for classes staying in-person for the rest of the semester.

To put this number into perspective, the second highest spike (behind this one as our number one spot) was in the second week of 2021, averaging about 2,000

cases. With the new omicron variant making numbers rise rapidly again comes the possibility of classes being switched to remote learning. Whether this is a good or a bad thing is merely an opinion, but for students who thrive in-person, it is definitely a bad thing.

It's easy to spiral in the face of the seemingly unending pit of despair that is a pandemic. It's depressing and lonely, living in constant fear for our family and friends, and the only thing that we can do is to just push onward. We have to keep moving forward and dealing with the blows as they come, which sounds a bit apathetic, but it's been a hard few years.

We should take some time to recommit not only to our individual safety, but the safety of our fellow students and faculty. On our first day back, there have already been two Clery Act notices for known individuals with COVID-19, urging for even more caution to be taken among students.

The fact is, with this insane spike in cases due to the omicron variant, it is possible we are



Nathalie Gomez and Flynn Pimentel enjoying the first Friday of the spring semester outside. Photo by Jordan Anderson-McClain.

headed into another potential lockdown. The daily average of infected persons is sitting around 4,000 people right now, compared to around 1,400 in the last week of December.

If this trend continues, a lockdown is very possible, even though it's safe to guess that there are many out there trying to put that possibility off as long as possible.

We should note that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. It's a fair assumption that COVID-19 will never go away, but if COVID-19 becomes endemic, then we could once again begin to live "normally."

When a virus becomes endemic, it still spreads, but due to natural immunity through past

infections, the mortality and infection rate drastically decreases. Chicken pox is considered an endemic disease. It is always around, but since vaccinations became required to go to school, cases dropped.

If we all do our part and get vaccinated, wear our masks, social distance as much as possible and sanitize often, we can reach an endemic stage of the pandemic and once again can go back to business as usual, and for some, really start living the full college experience.

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Is free tuition a must for colleges in the USA?



Flag poles on Harmon Ave and Maryland Pkwy. Photo by Jimmy Romo

By Josh Herron
Student Submission

Over the years, college tuition costs have gone up at an exponential rate. According to a report from CNBC, costs increased by roughly 25.3% at private colleges and about 29.8% at public colleges.

Students pay for college to cover their tuition and other college services that are useful to them. Lots of students use loans to pay for their costs. This results in rising college debt that can take years to pay off. As a result,

multiple states in America have introduced programs that help students get on the right path.

Free tuition means students apply for college through a program and they do not have to pay any money for their tuition. Free tuition gives students more freedom to explore different majors that they might like and boost the current American economy.

Programs like the Nevada Promise scholarship will reduce the risk of students going into debt. Free tuition can help build more jobs because our economy is dependent on many industries in the United States.

College helps students develop skills that are necessary for the professional work field; however, David Deming from the Harvard Kennedy school makes it clear that "students and their families may not be able to afford college." Deming also adds the economic impacts of these policies "should not just be measured in terms of increased attendance, but also persistence and degree

completion."

College is important because it helps students get the jobs that they want to support the economy. The evidence suggests that free tuition is a big piece to help boost our current economy.

In a normal world, students would usually pay the costs with scholarships and grants. The Nevada Promise is available in CSN, Western Nevada College, Great Basin College, and Truckee Meadows Community College.

"I was always afraid to pay off my education with my own money, so this scholarship really helped me out," said Trey White, a freshman at CSN. "I feel more comfortable hanging out with my Intervarsity buddies knowing I can not only support myself, but my friends too."

Other than the Nevada Promise, Nevada's designated free tuition scholarship, the state of Tennessee has a similar program called the Tennessee Promise. According to Hieu Nguyen, free tuition programs typically have

less rigorous academic requirements.

The unfairness issue can get to some students primarily because of their different financial statuses. College costs should not become a discrimination factor when deciding who should be eligible for free tuition.

Free tuition is the key to granting new students diversity, accessibility, and new jobs. The Nevada Promise scholarship is one part of the growing trends to keep our students out of debt.

If our state government does not address the growing rate of college costs, then the declining trends of job growth and enrollment will continue. The exponential rate of college tuition costs can only go down if new students enroll with free tuition.

This is a student submission, not associated with the paper.

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Reinstate the COVID-19 vaccine mandate to keep on-campus learning afloat for students

By **Meridith Schmaldinst**
Staff Writer

Many of us remember the fateful moment in March of 2020 when government agencies made the call. All non-essential activities were put on hold indefinitely, and everything that could be done remotely, had to be done remotely.

Since the initial lockdowns early in the pandemic, attempts to return to normal have been a tense and problematic battle, especially for school systems.

The most recent uptick of COVID-19 cases, caused by the omicron variant and low rates of youth vaccinations, prompted schools in both Atlanta and Cleveland to halt in-person learning in favor of remote schooling again. More locally, the Clark County School District (CCSD) instituted a five-day “pause” on returning to in-person learning in response to the growing cases.

Public health and medical experts have repeatedly communicated that the best and most effective strategy for ending the pandemic involves a layered approach, including vaccinations,

masking, ventilation, testing and social distancing.

Despite this, the vaccine requirement for Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) students has expired before even going into effect this semester, leaving students and staff scrambling to adjust once again.

On Dec. 21, the 12-person Nevada Interim Legislative Commission voted along political party lines on the vaccine requirement for college students, resulting in a tie. Without the majority support of the members, the mandate failed to pass.

Without utilizing the full spectrum of the “layering” approach recommended by health officials and experts, UNLV is vulnerable to the possibility of another shift back to full online learning.

According to the 2021 report “How America Pays for College,” only 17% of students said they would prefer to study online only, and 75% of respondents said they were “eager to return to campus in the fall.”

Coupled with the research showing that remote learning resulted in decreased learning and performance outcomes, we can

conclude that the availability to conduct in-person learning is paramount for facilitating education to most students.

For UNLV specifically, the optics of being a research institution that essentially does not follow what the research indicates is far from ideal. How can we, as an institution, say that we value education and research, science and progress, but not vaccination when these concepts are inextricably linked?

Most members of the NSHE Board of Regents seem to agree. Last week, the regents voted 9-4 in favor of sending a letter to the Nevada State Board of Health, Gov. Sisolak’s office, and the Nevada Legislative Commission in support of reinstating the vaccine mandate for students.

Presidents of both UNLV and UNR attended the session and voiced their support of the vaccine mandate.

“I think I do speak for our students, faculty and staff when I say that we fully support the letter,” Brian Sandoval, president of UNR and former governor of Nevada said, at the meeting on Jan. 14.

According to chief counsel for NSHE, Joseph Reynolds, the Nevada Board of Health has the authority to enact a vaccine mandate for all college students.

Our educational institutions have a responsibility to the public to take a stand on important matters that impact the lives of not only students, faculty and employees, but the Las Vegas community at large.

The vaccine mandate will allow our university to continue reopening and recovery efforts by providing students with the protection only vaccines can provide. Moreover, supporting research-backed scientific development is inherently part of UNLV’s values, and we need to act in accordance with those values.

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UNLV’s new virtual parking permit system

By **Jacquelin Kittredge**
Staff Writer

If the enriching act of ripping off the parking sticker from your car windshield has not already taken place, then this is your sign to do so.

UNLV Parking and Transportation Services are developing virtual parking permits in an effort to make parking at UNLV a breeze, as opposed to the hassle of ordering and then waiting for your permit to arrive by mail.

The quick arrival of spring semester left students with scarce preparation, with many scrambling to solidify classes and pay fees. Consequently, the lingering pressure to buy a parking permit is often the cherry on top of an abundant to-do list.

Not to worry, the new parking permit system will allow students, staff, faculty and residents to obtain a permit easier than before.

“I feel like this will speed up the parking process and create a more organized system,” UNLV student Juliana Isaziga said.

The Parking and Transportation Services replaced the physical copy of a parking permit with a digital permit using license plate



Parking citations being put on cars whose vehicles aren’t registered with the new virtual parking permits around campus. Photo by Jordan Anders-McClain

recognition (LPR) technology that identifies license plates in order to match students’ cars to the permits.

The virtual pass is good for annual, semester, nine-month, hourly or daily parking. As of right now, the virtual pass excludes weekly and monthly permits, which must be bought in person at Claude I. Howard public safety building and be displayed on the car.

All students must do is register or login to the parking permit

portal to ensure that car descriptions and license plates are updated and accurate. Inputting the correct license plate number of the car(s) is of high importance because that is essentially your pass. Keep in mind that having multiple cars registered under one parking permit is available as long as only one car is parked at a time.

“I always find myself having to park at the meters and having to wait to find a parking spot. I know some people dread going to

class because of how far the walk is,” Isaziga said.

Parking at UNLV is evidently stress-inducing. Filled parking lots and the draining commute to class is enough to deal with on its own, and while the virtual pass will not entirely eliminate that stress, it is a start in the right direction.

“I do think it’s very smart how they came up with this because many times, problems don’t get solved and taking the initiative to find an end to the issues is always a start. If this doesn’t work out, it’s always nice to learn and improve in the future,” Isaziga said.

Parking and Transportation Services are making the effort to modify the permit system in order to ease students, faculty, staff and residents. Nonetheless, the new virtual passes will likely be an efficient, stress-free way to park at UNLV.

For more information regarding parking permits contact 702-895-1300 or parking@unlv.edu with questions.

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Can the economy handle omicron-induced shipping delays?



Empty shelves at a local Smiths Center. Photo by Allister Davis

By Allister Dias
Staff Writer

Just as the world was overcoming the delta variant, late last year, the Centers for Disease Control announced that a new rapidly spreading variant of COVID-19 had been recently detected: the omicron variant.

As post-delta variant tensions began to ease, the world was yet again plunged back into fear as citizens and businesses alike braced for rising cases and subsequent health-related public safety measures.

With businesses being backlogged with shipping delays, what could this mean for the economy and the future of national markets?

“If there’s a labor shortage in

another place, that we rely on, it could spill over here,” said Dr. Andrew Bibler, an assistant professor of economics at UNLV.

“But I think, as far as I know, there seems to be some mismatch between the labor here and excess demand in labor markets here, including in the supply chain,” Bibler continued on his thoughts on what the virus could do to the economy.

Bibler went on to further say that because the virus’ outreach influence seems to impact every sector of the business world. The significant loss of labor as a result indicates that world markets are ill-prepared for such future health conditions.

As seen with the original COVID-19 strain, stores and businesses have struggled to maintain a healthy labor force and

keep up with customer demand. Empty shelves line the grocery stores, showing a visible disaster in the lack of maintaining viable employees.

As of January 2022, Capital Economics, a research group based on macroeconomic analysis, estimated that more than five million Americans are currently under quarantine and unable to return to their source of employment. With workers in such low quantity, companies and businesses have been forced to increase hours on existing workers in hopes of recovering lost profits due to labor shortages.

With state and local economies in omicron’s crosshairs, the food and resource shortage observed during March 2020 could potentially drive grocery stores to halt their business operations to make up for lost resources due to shipping problems.

As less and less items become available to people on the consumer market, the state and local economies has seen a drastic decline in overall gross income as overall sales have plunged due to a shortage of available products. On that basis, both economies and business together would see a collective loss in income, which could heavily drag down tax income from sold goods and required capital to keep stores in business.

It’s no secret that even e-com-

merce conglomerates like Amazon have felt the symptoms of backlogged shipping due to omicron’s impact. Compal, an Amazon technology supplier based in Taiwan, was forced to temporarily shut down due to rapid increases in omicron cases, delaying Amazon delivery functionality across the globe.

With such a predicament, online retailers would have to limit how many orders can be placed, as backlogging orders could present insurmountable delivery issues for shipping services unable to handle the sudden loss of labor due to the omicron spread.

With limits on order placement and delivery times, e-commerce services could see a sharp dip in both profits and customer reception.

Overall, with omicron halting shipping and causing several delays, it’s pivotal that governments and businesses alike learn to create safe work environments for all its employees during these sensitive times and maintain a labor force effective enough to combat backlogging delays.

Authoritative entities have the obligation to not only meet certain quotas, but to do so with employee health and safety in mind.

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UNLV Baseball eager for upcoming season



Eric Bigani (50) and Edarian Williams (2) celebrate a home run during their sweep over Fresno State during the 2021 season. Photo by Kayla Faasse

By DJ Villegas
Staff Writer

With UNLV students back on campus, the weather beginning to warm up, and the smell of clean cut grass is in the air, it means that UNLV baseball is back.

The UNLV Rebels were cut short of a regular season last year due to COVID protocols. There were a total of eleven games canceled, including a stretch of seven consecutive games canceled in April.

Despite the cancellations, the Rebels still finished last season with a 20-13 record which placed them in third in the Mountain West Conference.

They showed why it kills to play at home as they held a 17-3 record, dominating teams that entered the Earl E. Wilson Stadium.

With high hopes of a full season in 2022, the Rebels can not be more excited to start this year and finish what they started.

“I’m very confident in our team,” head coach Stan Stotle said. “Especially with the older kids- very confident about the older leadership with what they’ve been through and the success they’ve had. They know what we have to do to get over the hump this year.”

“I think we improved our pitching which has kind of been our downfall the last couple years advancing deeper into the season

and I like where we are at. I love the kids on the team, we are all going in the right direction and we will be ready to go.”

The Rebel’s opening series will be against the Michigan State Spartans, in Las Vegas on Feb. 18 with first pitch at 6:05 p.m.

UNLV has not faced the Spartans since 2004 and now they start their season with four straight games against them.

There are a few changes to the Rebels roster as there are 18 new faces joining the team.

They range from freshman to transfers but the camaraderie is still there. As how the catcher Eric Bigani states about his teammates.

“For the most part I feel like our team as a group are pretty close and I feel like that will go a long way with us,” senior Eric Bigani said. “From being here the past couple years, I feel like this is one of the closest teams we’ve had. I feel like that will take us pretty deep in the season.”

UNLV also went on to sign nine incoming freshmen for the 2023 season in hopes to replace the eight seniors they currently have.

This is some big news for the Rebels as five of the nine signees are ranked in their state. Four of them are Nevada’s very own and the other is from California.

UNLV’s highest recruit comes from Nevada, Chase Ditmar, as he ranked #6 in the state while also being the top-ranked third basemen.

With these highly recruited players signing here at UNLV, there is aspiration of this trend to continue in the future.

The anticipation of the upcoming season can not come fast enough, as everyone apart of the Rebel baseball program is looking forward to an amazing year.

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REBELS BASEBALL

AWAY

MICH. ST. MICH. ST. MICH. ST.

FEBRUARY 18 6:05 PM FEBRUARY 19 1:05 PM FEBRUARY 19 ---

MICH. ST. DIXIE ST. U OF SAN DIEGO

FEBRUARY 20 12:05 PM FEBRUARY 22 2:05 PM FEBRUARY 25 6:00 PM

U OF HAWAII U OF SAN DIEGO U OF UTAH

FEBRUARY 26 1:00 PM FEBRUARY 27 1:00 PM MARCH 1 2:05 PM

CAL POLY CAL POLY CAL POLY

MARCH 4 6:05 PM MARCH 5 1:05 PM MARCH 6 12:05 PM

UTAH VALLEY UTAH VALLEY SDSU

MARCH 7 6:05 PM MARCH 8 2:05 PM MARCH 11 6:00 PM



SCHEDULE

SPORTS THIS WEEK



JAN 23 Sunday	JAN 24 Monday	JAN 25 Tuesday	JAN 26 Wednesday	JAN 27 Thursday	JAN 28 Friday	JAN 29 Saturday
X	<p>MGOLF vs North Ranch Country Club Westlake Village, California</p> <p>MBB at San Diego State San Diego, CA 6 pm PT</p>	<p>MGOLF vs North Ranch Country Club Westlake Village, California</p>	<p>MGOLF vs North Ranch Country Club Westlake Village, California</p>	<p>WBB vs New Mexico Cox Pavilion 6 pm PT</p>	<p>SWIM vs Wyoming Las Vegas 4 pm & 10 am</p> <p>MBB at Colorado State Fort Collins, CO 6 pm PT</p>	<p>SWIM vs Wyoming Las Vegas 4 pm & 10 am</p> <p>MTEN vs New Mexico State Las Vegas 10 am PT</p>
					<p>SWIM vs Hawaii Las Vegas 4 pm & 10 am</p> <p>MTEN vs Hawaii Las Vegas 11 am PT</p>	<p>WBB vs Air Force Cox Pavilion 2 pm PT</p> <p>SWIM vs Hawaii Las Vegas 4 pm & 10 am</p> <p>MTEN vs UC Riverside Las Vegas 2 pm PT</p>

Runnin' Rebels hold off San Jose State 70-62

By Christopher Clark
Staff Writer

The UNLV Runnin' Rebels fought off a second half surge from the San Jose State Spartans to earn a 70-62 win. The win improves the Runnin' Rebels record to 3-3 in conference play.

Prior to the start of the game, the Runnin' Rebels found out they would be without star guard Donovan Williams due to an undisclosed injury. Freshman guard Keshon Gilbert started for the first time for the Runnin' Rebels, replacing the injured Williams.

Bryce Hamilton once again led the Runnin' Rebels in scoring, finishing with 30 points for his second straight game of 30 or more points.

Gilbert had a balanced game, finishing with seven points, five rebounds and four assists. Royce Hamm Jr. added a stellar rebounding performance with 14 rebounds.

"I'm just ecstatic and proud of how the guys just continue to fight no matter what's going on," head coach Kevin Kruger said. "Learning that Donovan [Williams] was going to be out 15 minutes before the game, we adapted and adjusted knowing



Guard Mike Nuga driving to the basket past a San Jose State defender during the Runnin' Rebels 70-62 win over the Spartans. Photo by Jordan Anders-McClain

that San Jose State was going to fight and compete and not be the same team that we played Monday."

The Runnin' Rebels started the game strong, opening with a 9-4 run. Royce Hamm Jr. started fast with five of those points.

Jordan McCabe continued the charge for the Runnin' Rebels with two three-pointers, increasing the lead to 22-10.

The Spartans got contributions in the first half from their leading scorer Omari Moore who scored eight points and guard Trey Smith who scored two 3-pointers for six points.

Hamilton scored a spectacular buzzer beating three-pointer

to end the first half. He led all scorers at the half with 14 points. The first half ended with a score of 38-24 with the Runnin' Rebels leading.

The second half proved to be a different story. The Runnin' Rebels shot only 37.5% in the second half compared to 62.5% in the first half. It seemed there might be a repeat of the Runnin' Rebels collapse on Jan. 20 against the Air Force.

UNLV started fast with Mike Nuga scoring an early layup to make it 40-24. Hamm Jr. had several key hustle plays, including a block on Moore and a saved loose ball that he kicked out to Hamilton for a crucial 3-pointer.

As the game wore on, the Runnin' Rebels collapsed following a switch to zone defense by the Spartans. San Jose State went on an 8-0 run leading up to the final minute of the game to close the gap to 64-60.

McCabe committed a crucial turnover which gave the Spartans a chance to cut the lead even further with 59 seconds to go.

Moore turned the ball over on the next possession for the Spartans to make it a free throw contest from then on.

The Runnin' Rebels scored all six of their remaining free throws in the game. The Spartans outscored the Runnin' Rebels 38-32 in the second half, but it was not enough.

Trey Anderson finished with 19 points for the Spartans and Moore added 17 points.

Up Next

It is a quick turnaround next for the Runnin' Rebels who travel to Southern California to take on the San Diego State Aztecs on Jan. 24. The Aztecs defeated the Runnin' Rebels on Jan. 1, 62-55.

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Men's soccer welcomes BJ Craig as new head coach



Graphic Courtesy of UNLV Athletics

By Kayla Faasse
Sports Editor

BJ Craig has been named the new head coach of the men's soccer program at UNLV, Director of Athletics Erick Harper announced early in the new year.

Craig was thrilled to be able to accept the position and become a Rebel as he made the transition to Las Vegas.

"For me there were three things that were important to me," Craig said about his decision to come to Vegas. "One was I wanted to be at a place that could compete for championships. Number two I wanted to be at a place where the student athletes had everything available

to them to develop as a person, as a player, and as a competitor to have all the support systems in place."

"The third piece would just be a great fit for a fan. I think the fan environment is always key and working in that type of environment... Resources are better than what Power Fives have to be honest."

Craig comes to Las Vegas after coaching as Oregon State's associate head coach for the past four seasons. Prior to OSU, he held positions as assistant and associate head coach at Notre Dame over a 10-year span (2008-18), assistant coach at Louisville in 2007, and head coach for four years (2003-06) at Saint Francis University.

Craig also brings some NCAA Tournament experience to the Rebel program. He helped guide the Beavers to the tournament three times, the Irish made nine tournament appearances while the Cardinals had one trip.

He was on the coaching staff when Oregon State made a run to the Elite Eight as the overall No. 1 seed in 2021 along with helping to coach Notre Dame when it won the 2013 national title.

Along with coaching teams to national success, Craig's squads have come out on top of their conference a combined five times - the most recent being the Beavers' first-ever outright Pac-12 Championship this past season. Additionally, his Irish teams hoisted four conference trophies.

Under his leadership, Craig's former players have developed into some of the best in the country. He coached a MAC Hermann Trophy winner, three All-Americans, one Pac-12 Freshman of the Year and 20 All-Pac 12 selections in Corvallis, as well as 24 MLS draft picks, 10 All-Americans and 40 all-conference honorees in South Bend.

"When you look at the opportunity for a student athlete," Craig said, "and you're seeing this is what's in front of me right now- the USR team and possibly

a MLS team in your backyard and what we're going to do at UNLV correlate very closely."

"If they are not a pro on the soccer field, they have a great opportunity to become a pro in life with all the job opportunities they are going to get with a degree. That's the only thing I can get [my athletes], is a degree."

Among the most notable former players to train with Craig at his previous coaching stops are five-time MLS All-Star and 2012 MLS Defender of the Year Matt Besler and 2012 All-Star Justin Morrow. The duo has also earned caps with the United States Senior National Team.

Craig graduated with his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Gordon College in 1993 and later earned his master's degree in education from UMass Lowell in 1997.

"My main goal is simple. I want to make it the best place in the country to play college soccer," Craig said. "I want it to be a place that inspires others. The program will inspire other people so that's my main goal. Our focus will be to build the program the right way."

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Rebel Volleyball ends 2021 fall season on a high note



Head coach Dawn Sullivan discussing with her team during pregame before the Rebels home match on Oct. 9 against Fresno State. Photo by Jordan Anders-McClain

By Kayla Faasse
Sports Editor

UNLV volleyball finished strong to end its 2021 fall season winning the National Invitational Volleyball Championship (NIVC) for the first time in the postseason tournament.

The Rebels finished the season with a 28-9 overall record, entering the final match of the Mountain West (MW) Volleyball Championships off a seven-match win streak where they fell 3-1 to Boise State.

UNLV's 28 victories in 2021 mark the best single-season record in program history.

"I thought you know we started the season pretty strong," head coach Dawn Sullivan said. "Then we hit conference and I think we got shaken a little bit- meaning we lost our first conference game."

"Those last few weeks are where I really saw so much growth within this team and the group that we have and the willingness to step up and like we're gonna keep learning everyday."

The Rebels came off a record-breaking season during the spring that saw the Rebels go undefeated in regular-season play (12-0) and advance to the second

round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Rebels ended the season with a 13-1 overall record, falling to eventual national champion Kentucky.

UNLV looks forward to continuing its strong momentum as preparations for next season take place. Sullivan looks to add on to the culture within the team with the team chemistry and valuing hard work on and off the court.

"I want to stay on top of this conference, obviously one or two always- I would love to continue to make it into the post season and into the NIVC tournament," Sullivan said. "I would love to be a top 25 program. That would be the next step of where I would want to go and I think we are taking those steps to get there but we gotta keep climbing, gotta keep working."

The next step in building a great program is recruiting great athletes to continue the momentum.

UNLV volleyball looks for athletes who have great character and are willing to put in the extra work for the team.

"In order to reach the top level you have to sacrifice some things," Sullivan said. "You have to be willing to put in the work and I think every player that we

to tie it at 19-19 to end the first quarter.

The Lady Rebels, unable to get ahead, would ultimately hand the lead back to Nevada. In the second quarter the Wolfpack was able to get their lead up to eight before guard Justice Ethridge and forward Khayla Rooks closed the gap before halftime.

Early in the third, UNLV went down by 12 before center Desi-Rae Young and guard Essence Booker began to get the Rebels' offense started again. The Lady Rebels went on an 11-4 run to get within two-possession of Nevada heading into the final quarter.

Still down, Ethridge would score 14 of her 16 points in the second-half to spark the comeback. Midway through the final



OVERALL: 28-9 CONFERENCE: 12-6

9/23	AT	SAN JOSE STATE	_____	L 0-3
9/25	AT	UNR	_____	W 3-0
9/30	VS	AIR FORCE	_____	W 3-1
10/2	VS	NEW MEXICO	_____	W 3-1
10/5	AT	SAN DIEGO STATE	_____	W 3-0
10/9	VS	FRESNO STATE	_____	W 3-0
10/14	AT	UTAH STATE	_____	L 2-3
10/16	AT	BOISE STATE	_____	L 2-3
10/21	VS	WYOMING	_____	W 3-2
10/23	AT	COLORADO STATE	_____	L 0-3
10/28	VS	BOISE STATE	_____	L 2-3
10/30	VS	UTAH STATE	_____	W 3-0
11/1	VS	SAN DIEGO STATE	_____	L 2-3
11/4	AT	FRESNO STATE	_____	W 3-1
11/11	AT	NEW MEXICO	_____	W 3-1
11/13	AT	AIR FORCE	_____	W 3-1
11/18	VS	SAN JOSE STATE	_____	W 3-0
11/20	VS	UNR	_____	W 3-0

have right now in our roster absolutely does that. You have to be very intentional and very focused. Do they have the ability to do that? Do they have the mindset to be great and then positive?" The Rebels anticipate more

great seasons to come, looking to do better each year.

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Lady Rebels defeat Wolf Pack to keep win streak

By Jordan Anders-McClain
Staff Writer

The Lady Rebels extend their win streak to five, after rallying a second-half comeback to defeat Silver State rivals, the Nevada Wolf Pack 78-75.

Heading into the match-up, Nevada had a seven-game home winning streak and three straight wins against UNLV in Reno. UNLV, with the win, not only extended their winning streak but handed Nevada its first defeat in conference play.

The Wolf Pack got to scoring early, jumping to a 7-4 lead, which set the tone for nearly the entire game. They would hold the lead the entire first quarter before the Rebels made a late 7-3 run

quarter when Ethridge made a crucial three-point jumper to tie the game at 63.

UNLV took the lead for the first time in the game at 66-65, when guard Kiara Jackson knocked down a free throw. The Lady Rebels stepped on the gas to extend their lead to six.

Nevada attempted to battle back, even getting within one-possession with 30 seconds left, but a made layup by Nneka Obiazor would seal the victory for the Rebels.

Young led all scorers with 19 points, shooting 8-of-11 from the field. Booker and Ethridge combined for 33 points and eight rebounds. The Lady Rebels also outrebounded their opponent 45-27 and now hold a 39-13 all-time series lead over Nevada.

The Lady Rebels now stand second in the Mountain West with a 15-4 overall record and a 7-1 record in conference play.

Up Next

Catch the Lady Rebels at Cox Pavilion for back-to-back home games, first on Jan. 27 when they take on the New Mexico Lobos at 6 p.m., who are in first place in the Mountain West standings, for student appreciation night. Then, on Jan. 29 they will host Air Force at 2 p.m. as part of National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

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REBEL HOCKEY

Skatin' Rebels defeat Arizona Wildcats for a weekend sweep

Continued from pg 1

was first in the box for tripping. Five minutes later, Dimizio was ejected from the game for major-boarding with a game misconduct after hitting Wildcat Christopher Fritz.

Wildcat Matthew Marquis earned himself two penalties for roughing.

With one second remaining in the period, team captain Jared Erickson gave the Rebels a 2-1 lead, assisted by Hunter Muzzillo and Alec Johnson.

Despite leading on the scoreboard, UNLV ended the period being outshot by Arizona 7-6.

In the second period, Brendan Manning was the only player able to score a goal, assisted by Paxton Malone and Muzzillo for a 3-1 lead.

Both teams picked up the pace in the second period, with UNLV gaining more control of the puck. Despite only scoring one goal, the Rebels held possession of the puck for more time than the Wildcats managed to have.

Entering the third period, the physicality on both sides started to increase with 16 total penalties called throughout the period.

At 9:34 in the period, Michael Boutousov was sent to the penalty box for tripping and unsportsmanlike conduct, giving Arizona a much needed power-play.

With only 30 seconds remaining on the power-play, Matthew Hohl snuck the puck past Benedetto for a goal, assisted by Alex Johanson for a new score of 3-2.

Arizona's Cameron Teamor enters the penalty box at 17:22 of the period for slashing, putting the Rebels on a power-play of their own.

Despite a UNLV power-play, Arizona's Brody Selman managed to score an unassisted goal to tie the game at 3.

The Rebels fought hard to break the tie in the last minute and a half of the game, but were unsuccessful as both teams head-



Rebel goaltender Vince Benedetto (1) protects the net with the help of defenseman Alec Johnson (22) and Sean Plonski (28). UNLV went on to win the game 5-3 against Arizona on Jan. 22, 2022. Photo by Isis Goode /// Rebel Hockey

ed into overtime.

Not long into the overtime, Max Johnson had a clean shot against Arizona goaltender Anthony Ciurro, scoring the winning shot with assists coming from Bradley Golant and Alec Johnson for a final score of 4-3.

UNLV outshot Arizona 34-27 throughout the night.

The Rebels ended the night with 12 total penalties compared to Arizona's 11 penalties.

"The staff, coach Greener and I were pretty upset with the boys after the first night's disciplinary response to some adversity," Robone said. "I think it was important for us to get back to what we do best and the number one thing being staying out of the penalty box to play 5-on-5 hockey."

Three Stars of the Night

Max Johnson claimed the first star of the night with his overtime goal to secure the Rebel victory.

Benedetto earned second star with his 24 saves.

The third star was given to Ness for scoring his first goal as a Rebel.

Game Two, Jan. 22

The Skatin' Rebels returned to Tucson Convention Center

was then called on a penalty for tripping, giving the Rebels their last power-play of the night.

This time, Max Johnson sent the puck into the net for a second power play goal in a row for the Rebels. The shot was assisted by Golant and Alec Johnson for a 5-3 victory.

For the remainder of the night, UNLV managed to hold Arizona back, outshooting them 34-23 to earn the second win of the weekend.

Three Stars of the Night

The first star of the night was awarded to Golant with his one goal and two assists of the night.

Estrada claimed second star of the night with his one goal and one assist.

Dimizio earned the third star of the night with one goal and one assist from the game.

Up Next

UNLV Skatin' Rebels prepare to hit the road once again as they take on Liberty next weekend, Jan. 28-29. Puck drop for the first game will be at 7 p.m. EST while the second game will have an 11:59 p.m. EST puck drop.

"After winning 16 in a row, we know we have a confident team that can compete with anyone in any barn or any away arena," Robone said. "I think going into Liberty our confidence is high but at the same time there's a lot of urgency out there knowing these are important games for us to remain where we are and to climb in the rankings."

Follow Rebel hockey on twitter (@UNLVRebelHockey) for live updates during the series.

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Rebel Hockey UNLV .VS. U OF ARIZONA

Team Scores		1	2	3	OT	T
Game 1	UNLV	2	1	0	1	4
	UARIZ	1	0	2	0	3
Game 2	UNLV	1	2	2	-	5
	UARIZ	1	1	1	-	3

to take on the Wildcats for the second night in a row, defeating them 5-3.

This time around, the Rebels played more disciplined compared to the night prior, with only five total penalties throughout the game.

Arizona kicked off the scoring with George Orfanos sneaking the puck past Benedetto with an assist from Selman.

The Rebels were unable to tie the game until the end of the period with Muzzillo knocking in a goal of his own with assists coming from Cole Wyatt and Golant for 1-1.

Orfanos kept the momentum going starting off the second period just like he did the first, scoring in the first two minutes, this time assisted by Dawson Marshall for a 2-1 lead.

It didn't take long for UNLV to pick up the pace with Ezekiel Estrada scoring, assisted by Dimizio who was able to return to the ice tonight, tying the score once again.

In the last 30 seconds of the period, Dimizio shot the puck past Arizona goaltender Nolan Bivolcic for a goal of his own, assisted by Estrada and Manning to steal the lead 3-2.

Entering the third period, it only took Johanson 19 seconds to get called for checking from behind, sending himself to the penalty box and putting the Rebels on a power-play.

Golant took advantage of the opportunity and scored a goal seconds later, assisted by Max Johnson and Wyatt for a 4-2 lead.

It didn't take long for Arizona to answer back with a goal of their own, scored by Connor Ziegler and assisted by Ryan Fischer.

Wildcat Marshall



Rebel Cole Wyatt (37) crosses in front of the net in attempt to open up for a shot on goal. Photo by Isis Goode /// Rebel Hockey



By Kayla Faasse
Sports Editor

The tightly packed arena was filled with a mix of screaming fans and parents cheering on their young stars. The energy inside of City National Arena increased every period as the UNLV Skatin' Rebels defeated Arizona 3-2.

Brenden Fehlig took his first step onto the ice as a Rebel on Oct. 23, 2022, marking his first time playing in front of a huge home crowd.

"Growing up playing hockey in Vegas, I've never played in front of fans," Fehlig said. "You don't play in front of anybody. We get so many people that come out and support us for a club hockey team so it's pretty cool."

Fehlig's first goal as a Skatin' Rebel came four weeks later during a road game against Grand Canyon University, where he scored early in the second period to give UNLV the lead.

The next night, Fehlig scored once again being the first scarlet and gray player to make the scoreboard. With both of his goals from the series, UNLV swept Grand Canyon to continue their winning streak.

"I've never experienced anything like that," Fehlig said, "so it's pretty nice to score a goal and to hear people actually cheering for you or you know you lay a big hit. We feed off of the fans and it's amazing to hear them get as into the games as we do."

So far through his first season with UNLV, he has scored two goals with two assists for a total of four points

throughout his 10 games.

Being a Vegas native, Fehlig took extra joy in being able to finally play as a UNLV Rebel in front of his home city and his entire family.

"It's kind of crazy the way the cards fell," Fehlig expressed. "I was actually gonna play somewhere else and then COVID hit so that didn't really happen."

"Being a local growing up here, I've known coach Robone and coach Greener for a while now. I would come out when I was still out in the junior leagues and do their Rebel training camp. So I did that for the past two or three years and then this year I kind of just stuck around instead of leaving."

Fehlig was born in Michigan, where his dad grew up playing hockey. His family moved out to Las Vegas when he was two years old. Three years later, Fehlig was following in his dad's footsteps playing hockey in the desert.

For the first few years, Fehlig played under his dad as his coach, learning all of the skills needed to continue playing in higher leagues.

"You're the coach's son, so you kind of get looked at differently but I loved it," Fehlig expressed. "Coaching advice I've gotten from my dad is one of his biggest sayings, 'don't waste a day.'"

Before coming to UNLV, Fehlig played in the North American 3 Hockey League (NA3HL) where he was a part of the Texas Roadrunners during 2019-2020.

During his time with the Roadrunners, he played in 24 games, tallying a total of 14 goals

with 12 assists for 26 total points.

After the Roadrunners, Fehlig went to Wisconsin to play for the Coulee Region Chill, earning four goals and 11 assists during his time there.

Fehlig has played hockey for a total of 17 years, with his favorite Golden Knight player being Mark Stone as he tries to style his game after Stones'.

Since becoming a Rebel, Fehlig has been able to improve on his first three steps with the help of competing and playing with quicker-paced guys.

"That's my biggest flaw in my game is my first three steps, so I think playing with faster guys and better competition kind of drives me to get a little bit quicker. I still don't think I'm quite there but I think I've improved since the beginning of the year."

The Skatin' Rebels are on

a 16-game winning streak, as they prepare to take on Liberty in the next series.

Fans can watch Fehlig hit the ice in his black and red Rebel uniform through a live stream link on Youtube as UNLV takes on Liberty in Virginia with puck drop at 7 p.m. EST on Jan. 28 and 11:59 p.m. EST on Jan. 29.

"Just the feeling it's like- that's my stress reliever. That's what I do when I'm feeling anxious or stressed out from school like everything just turns off and it's just hockey so it's fun... I want to play as long as I can. It's always been the goal. Ride it till it ends."

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Brenden Fehlig **PLAYER STATS**

GAMES PLAYED	10
GOALS	2
ASSISTS	2
TOTAL POINTS	4

Listen up: Podcasts

Continued from pg 1

platform that's housed in the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies at UNLV.

Another podcast originating from UNLV's campus is The Brunch Club. Breanna Brown, Ashleigh Liebig, Chris Johnson, Jalen Hamilton, and Eric Garcia make up the fun cast of this podcast, spending each week talking about relatable stories such as bad relationships and being a college student. The episodes vary in time, but currently run at about 30 minutes.

"I am a very big social butterfly and I love talking and having random conversations with people," Brown, one of the show's hosts, said. Breanna Brown. "Podcasting for me is a way to express that side of myself to whoever would want to listen."

Brown is a sophomore at UNLV, majoring in journalism with a concentration in audio and podcasting. She hopes to get into a long term podcasting career, and The Brunch Club is just her first step in that direction.

"It makes me really happy and I don't really see myself doing anything else," Brown said.

Season 2 of The Brunch

Club returns to Spotify and other streaming services on Sunday, Jan. 30.

In 2021, there were over 850,000 active podcasts, with over 48 million episodes in total, according to nealschaffer.com. If you are looking for a podcast to start listening to, all you really need to do is look up something you're interested in and there are tons of options. Here are just a few of the many, many podcasts that are available.

If you're looking for a fun, entertaining way to keep up with the news, Some More News is the podcast for you. Comedian Cody Johnson hosts this podcast, with new episodes every Wednesday, keeping you informed with up-to-date, well-researched news.

More interested in historical news rather than current events? Check out You're Wrong About. Sarah Marshall (previously joined by Michael Hobbes before his exit from the show in 2021) is a journalist obsessed with the past. She talks about the misconceptions surrounding certain events, persons, or phenomena hoping to set the record straight.

Looking for more of a story based podcast? Bridgewater is a supernatural drama story following Folklore professor Jeremy Bradshaw (voiced by Misha



The Brunch Club takes a group photo after recording one of their podcast episodes. From Left to right: Raylee Pay, Jalen Hamilton, Ashleigh Liebig, Breanna Brown, and Chris Johnson. Photo by Ashleigh Liebig

Collins) as he uncovers the 40 year mystery of his missing father when strange and unexplainable events begin to once again happen in the area known as The Bridgewater Triangle. All of season 1 is currently available and fans are anxiously awaiting season 2.

Possibly the most popular genre of podcast is also one of the most saturated across streaming services: true crime. There are hundreds of true crime podcasts waiting for you to sink your teeth into. Whether it is Crime Junkies, Morbid, or Small Town Murders, there is a true crime podcast for

everyone!

Podcasting is quickly becoming one of the more popular ways for people to consume news and media. Podcasts are more mobile compared to traditional media and can be downloaded or listened to wherever you are, even in areas with no internet connection.

Could podcasting ever replace traditional media? We will just have to listen to find out.

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Must try healthy eating options in Las Vegas



Sweet Poke located on Eastern Ave and the 215 in Las Vegas, NV. Photo by Jordan Anders-McClain

By Jaklyn Kittredge
Staff Writer

Whether it be a New Year's resolution or a continuation of your own healthy habits, it can be difficult to find healthy food that is fulfilling and appetizing.

Enjoying a meal should not be sacrificed in an attempt to eat healthier. Eating healthy in the Vegas valley is made easier with these hotspots to try.

Sweet Poke is a Las Vegas favorite with three locations throughout the valley. It features your choice of a bowl or burrito style poke. The breakdown is simple; pick a base, add a protein, and finish with toppings and sauce.

The variety of toppings offer

a colorful meal packed with flavor and nutrition. Rice, salad, mangoes, seaweed, spicy mayo, salmon, tofu and an array of other ingredients that represent main food groups.

Quick service and the build-your-own style assembly line

invites a variety of tasty combinations for you to choose from. Sweet Poke is available for delivery on Chownow, DoorDash and Uber Eats.

This next restaurant is a safe haven for vegans and vegetarians who love sushi. Chikyu serves 100% vegan and mostly gluten-free Japanese cuisine in Henderson. Their popular "Desert Gold" roll is made with tempura fried tofu with negi, microgreens, sesame and their secret sauce.

"I love Chikyu because I'm comfortable eating there with my shellfish allergy," UNLV student Joy Rohloff said. "They accommodate me in any way they can and always make sure I feel comfortable eating there."

Chikyu is a safe place for people who have severe food allergies, but want to indulge in Japanese flavors.

Vegenation achieves a positive atmosphere while serving 100% vegan dishes. Experience Vegenation in Henderson or at their Carson Street location downtown.

Their mission is to serve creative plant-based meals in a welcoming environment. From meat to ice cream, their ingredients are entirely planet-friendly.

A must-try is their "Muchas Gracias" which is a delectable sweet potato and black bean quesadilla topped with chipotle sauce. Beans for protein and sweet potatoes for vitamins and fiber.

Yes, that is consuming fiber and protein without eating an ordinary protein bar. You can hardly believe that the food is vegan.

Keep in mind dessert. Vegenation's popular "Crazy Good Molten Lava Cake," speaks for itself. Bananas, vanilla, cherries and candied walnuts bring in even more protein, potassium and vitamin C while indulging warm bites of chocolate and ice cream.

Summerlin's most hip restaurant, Flower Child has become a hotspot in the past two years. The

build-your-own meals introduce sauteed vegetables alongside your choice of steak, salmon, chicken, shrimp or tofu.

The sides to choose from are roasted butternut squash, smashed gold potatoes, quinoa, sweet corn, carrots and brussels sprouts just to name a few. Flower Child's "Gluten Free Mac & Cheese" is a wholesome side that satisfies savory cravings.

The list of restaurants offer more than just necessary vitamins and minerals to properly fuel your body. Openness, creativity and innovation are concepts that are embedded in these businesses.

They understand that it is simple to feel degraded while thinking about healthy foods. These restaurants provide nourishing meals without the calorie counting and shame people feel when trying to eat healthy. Enjoy hardy meals that are flavorful, nutrient rich and in the convenience of your own city.

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Venture off The Strip for a night in Downtown Summerlin

By Maddie Platt
A&E Editor

As students prepare for their spring return to campus and all events that come with it, many new to the area look for new and exciting places to spend their evenings and free time.

Those with the means to drive should venture about twenty five minutes from campus to Downtown Summerlin for new restaurants and shopping experiences.

From retail options and movie theaters, Downtown Summerlin offers something for every crowd. One of the most popular activities is the Las Vegas Ballpark.

The Las Vegas Aviators is the minor league baseball team that plays out of Summerlin. The ballpark offers locals the major league experience for minor league prices.

Downtown Summerlin is also home to many local events held throughout the year including the incoming Lunar New Parade on Feb. 1 as well as every Saturday a local farmer's market.

The lawn on Downtown

Summerlin also offers lots of different classes and events alongside the farmer's markets. Things such as yoga and meditation allows for attendees to make Summerlin their one stop shop for their weekend.

Alongside these events, Summerlin is home to some of the most versatile hiking trails for beginners as well as the more experienced outdoorsmen.

With more than a 150 miles of trailhead, Summerlin trails even connect back to the Red Rock National Conservation Area.

For those looking for something more of the relaxing side of things, those over 21 might consider Corks n Crafts.

This is a DIY bar serving glasses of wine along with classes led in multiple mediums for craft projects. From wooden laser cut signs to painting projects, Corks n Crafts has something for everyone to do and drink.

Those looking for a casual option for lunch or dinner Public School 702 in the downtown area offers just that. Their traditional school



Food offered at Public School 702 in Downtown Summerlin. Photo by Maddie Platt

themed menu and bar offers guests with options that will bring them right back to their childhood, but with a twist.

From tater tots to Buffalo cauliflower on a new level, Public School 702 will remind you of those hot lunches in school, but the adult version.

True Food Kitchen is another dining option for those looking for lighter seasonal fare. Their menu is completely seasonal, offering vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, and other options for those with stricter dietary needs.

One of the biggest perks of the area is the Summerlin Experience Pass. This allows pass holders exclusive deals

on retail, dining as well as the Las Vegas Ballpark.

Venturing away from campus and away from the more advertised spots in Las Vegas can offer students who are new to the area a more local experience.

When moving to a college area in such a big city it can be hard to find community and feel a part of more than just the campus. But exploring areas such as Summerlin allows for students and locals to enjoy what all the valley has to offer.

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The growing trend of drinking Hard Seltzer's

By Jarenz Abara
Staff Writer

When drinking alcohol, the usual options of Heineken, Corona, or Bud Light comes to mind. However, a new beverage is taking over and it may already be the top alcoholic beverage to drink right now.

It is the hard seltzer, also known as a spiked seltzer or hard sparkling water.

The drink is a blend of carbonated water and alcohol with added fruit flavors. Some common flavors include lemonade, strawberry, mango, watermelon and pineapple.

The alcohol by volume in these drinks is between four and six percent. Popular brands like White Claw and Truly come in at five percent alcohol by volume (ABV) which is the same for a standard beer like Heineken.

Despite this, popularity rose

due to it being a healthy alternative to beer. Hard seltzer's are lower in calories, carbohydrates and sugars than its counterpart.

In an article published by Classic-Brands Budweiser, "What Are the Differences Between Hard Seltzer and Beer?" the beer distributor explains how the sugars are eventually turned into alcohol, hence the low sugar content.

The reason behind this is manufacturers for hard seltzers use cane sugar that is then fermented into alcohol while beer uses malted grains like barley or wheat which makes for a lingering sweetness.

Also, this means that hard seltzer's are found to be gluten-free and are considered vegan-friendly.

Millennials are leading the way as the trend of hard seltzer's grows rapidly. College students here at UNLV have heard of the drink and some have tried it.

"I would say it tastes just like

soda but with just alcohol," UNLV student John Nguyen said. "I like it mainly because of the fruit flavors."

UNLV student Adrian Ramos mentioned that he discovered the drink from his cousin during a party.

"It was a Truly and I have liked them ever since then... My family and I buy a case of it for whenever we have a barbecue," Ramos said.

Hard seltzer's can be seen a lot in grocery stores these days and expect them to be at parties more than ever.

The boom in popularity and sales started in 2019. This was during the time sparkling water became popular and the eventual emergence of the popular White Claw brand.

The pandemic also saw a significant increase in people changing their alcohol drinking habits with the hard seltzer trend.

A research report made by

Grand View Research saw more consumers reducing their alcohol consumption. Using a survey from the IWSR, Grand View Research reported 52% of alcohol consumers were trying to reduce consumption as of 2019.

For sales, according to a marketing research report made by IMARC, the global hard seltzer market reached a value of \$5.5 billion in 2021. This number is expected to reach \$11.9 billion by 2027.

The rise of hard seltzer's came out of nowhere but it seems like sales have shown that will not stop it from growing immensely.

With the projected growth of sales in years to come, a considerably healthier drink than beer and in a world where despite a pandemic is still going on, it is safe to say that hard seltzer's will continue to be sought after.

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LA Comic Con: The first convention back

By *Stephanie Overton*
Staff Writer

Last December, LA Comic Con made its return amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This convention is one of the closest to Las Vegas and is easy for UNLV students to travel to.

The December convention was LA Comic Con's first time back since Oct. 2019.

LA Comic Con saw 94,900 fans show up over the Dec. 3-5 weekend, which was a decline compared to the numbers from 2019, which show a turn out of 123,000.

Even with the decline in attendance, the convention was a huge success. The showrunners had safety protocols in place: masks were worn throughout the entire convention, and proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test from within 72 hours of the event was required to enter.

According to the numbers, the bulk of the attendance decline came from kids age 2-11, which does make sense, given the fact that vaccines are not yet available for that age group. The decline for that age group was about 74%, almost 21,000 fewer.

"There was a sense of joyous relief among fans, exhibitors and talent to be back," Chris DeMoulin, CEO at Comikaze Entertainment, L.A. Comic Con's parent company, told LA Comic Con Press on Dec. 10. "We couldn't be more thrilled that nearly 95,000 fans were able to join us this past weekend."

The weekends were filled with panels, cosplays, shopping, and plenty of exhibits for anyone who attended. One of the main



Rider Strong and Will Friedle at the LA Comic Con panel. Photo by Stephanie Overton

exhibits over the weekend was The Star Trek Experience. Over 35,000-square feet of exhibit space was dedicated to all-things Star Trek. More than 20 cast members from across all of Trek attended.

The West Hall of the Convention Center featured eSports, gaming, and anime, with a focus on Twitch streaming.

Many attended a few of the numerous panels that the convention offered over the weekend. Rob Liefeld, the creator of Deadpool, recorded an episode of Robobservations, his long-running podcast, where he talked about cosplays and how important cosplay has become to the fandom experience. He even brought a group of Deadpool cosplayers up on stage with him.

Zachary Levi (who appeared in Shazam!, Chuck, Tangled) took to the stage for a Q&A session with the audience. Many saw him speak in depth about Disney

Parks, Chuck, and who would win in a fight between his character Shazam and Henry Cavill's Superman.

During his panel, Levi took time in the middle of his Q&A to remind everyone how important it is to take care of yourself mentally.

"Mental health is like dental health, take care of yourself regularly," Levi said.

Actors taking such initiative to combat or bring awareness to such serious things as mental health issues is always great to see, especially by such a big name with a lot of influence.

Another panel that many enjoyed over the weekend was the Boy Meets World panel. Rider Strong (who played Shawn), Will Friedle (Eric), and William Daniels (Mr. Feeny) came to talk to fans about the hit show which ended 20 years ago. They spent the half-hour panel reminiscing about the show, with Strong

calling it a kind of "schizophrenic show, both funny and serious."

According to Friedle, the show had a professional air on set, which not a lot of kids' shows have had in the past. What really worked about the show and made it so successful was the "idea that the show took itself seriously and had so much heart," Friedle noted.

Strong commented that at the heart of the show was a very important message about a found or chosen family, and the (at the time) new idea that if you have a bad home life, friendship can almost replace your parents. He said you can always find someone who will have your back and become your family.

Overall, with the safety precautions in place, the convention was considered by attendees to be a success. DeMoulin notes that 98% of attendees came with proof of vaccination or a negative test, and of the 2% who were provided free tests on site, only 7 tested positive and were immediately sent home.

"Only three attendees were made to leave because they refused to remain masked once inside the show," DeMoulin said.

Exhibitors reported meeting their sales goals, and over one-third re-booked to come back to LA Comic Con in 2022, according to LA Comic Con Press. With the West Coast helping lead the way for the return of conventions, Las Vegas can be expected to have many events return in the near future.

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