

Go time: Early voting underway

By **Ricardo Torres-Cortez**
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Nevada voters fed up with the barrage of TV ads and mailers can finally have their say before Election Day on Nov. 3. Ballots should be in mailboxes by now, and two weeks of early voting for the midterm election begin Saturday. Secretary of State Francisco

Mail ballots started shipping last week

Aguilar's advice is to get it out of the way as soon as possible. "There are a lot of issues that Nevadans care about, and they should be concerned," the state's chief election officer told the Las Vegas Review-Journal. "But the only way to have your voice heard is to show up and vote;



Francisco Aguilar

hold elected officials accountable for the work that they did do or didn't do." On Wednesday, Aguilar attended a civic engagement event with veterans in Las Vegas, where he offered election information. Meanwhile, Clark County

election workers were preparing to staff dozens of early voting sites across the Las Vegas Valley through Oct. 30. Hours vary by location. A complete list of early voting sites and ballot drop-off locations can be found online at clarkcountynv.gov/elections or with the official sample ballot See **VOTING 2B**



Benjamin Hager Las Vegas Review-Journal
Mitchell Fairbarn, top left, breaks down while testifying during his trial on Friday at the Regional Justice Center.

30, 40 beers, suspect says

Canadian accused of torturing flamingo testifies at trial

By **Akiya Leggio**
Las Vegas Review-Journal

The Canadian man accused of stealing and mistreating a Flamingo resort bird testified Friday that he drank 30 to 40 beers leading up to the incident. "I believe it's a realistic estimate," Mitchell Fairbarn told his defense attorney, Joshua Tomsheck. "It sounds crazy." Fairbarn, who faces two counts of animal cruelty, is accused of

taking the bird, named Peachy, from its habitat at the Flamingo and bringing it to his hotel room and torturing it. The 34-year-old contractor was in Las Vegas to speak at a construction convention. He and his friends arrived a day early, on March 2, and they "let loose," Fairbarn said. "We grabbed beers up and down the Strip," Fairbarn said, adding that he bought a beer whenever he could.

By the early morning of March 3, he said, he was drunk. His group had returned to the Flamingo and while two of his friends slept in their room, he roamed the casino. He said he then entered the enclosure and picked up the bird. Tomsheck asked Fairbarn what he was thinking at the time. "It's a question that I ask myself now," Fairbarn testified. "I See **FAIRBARN 2B**

Former reporter's son gets money

Experts disagree if Lobato gift an issue

By **Noble Brigham**
Las Vegas Review-Journal

After Kirstin "Blaise" Lobato was declared innocent in a 2001 murder and received a \$29.5 million settlement, a former reporter who had covered the case said Lobato gave money to her 4-year-old son. The gift to the child of ex-KVVU-TV, Channel 5 journalist Cyndi Lundeborg was met with mostly positive feedback when she posted about it publicly on social media, but journalistic ethics experts offered mixed reactions. Edward Wasserman, a journalism professor and former dean of the journalism graduate school at UC Berkeley, said he did not see direct harm, but worried about the precedent set. "I don't think that the possibility of a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow is something that should be understood to be out there by reporters or by their sources," he said. Lundeborg became defensive when she spoke about the gift and emphasized that she did not take money for herself, though she said she signed paperwork for her son's account. "I never wanted money. I still don't want money from her. I want her to have a happy life and that's all that I ever wanted," said Lundeborg, whose Instagram bio promises "Outfits, opinions & questionable decisions."



Kirstin "Blaise" Lobato

See **LOBATO 2B**

RJ columnist receives two awards for editorial writing

By **Devan Patel**
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Las Vegas Review-Journal opinion writer Victor Joecks won two prestigious national awards for his columns and editorials, recognizing his rebuke of Clark County for withholding of public records and his opposition to the expansion of a film in-

dustrial tax credit in Nevada. Joecks won third place in the Focused Editorials category of the Carmage Walls Commentary Writing Prize competition for an editorial about the county's lack of records transparency ("Clark County's shameless cover up") and another about a District Court ruling that found the county violated

the Nevada Public Records Act and ordered the records' release ("Court ruling hits county over aversion to transparency"). "The Review-Journal's strong editorial leadership demonstrated the newspaper's unwavering commitment to fighting for transparency in government," America's Newspapers

Foundation, which presented the awards, said in a post on its website. "It also showed other local officials that hiding public records would be a futile endeavor." Joecks' editorials were spurred by a conflict-of-interest investigation by Review-Journal reporter Mary Hynes, who uncovered that Clark County had awarded

a \$10 million construction management contract to Diversified Consulting Services, which subcontracted at least \$1.5 million in services to Rock Solid Project Solutions, a firm owned by Raquel Floyd. Her husband, Jimmy Floyd, was the head of construction manage- See **JOECKS 4B**



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ALAN MANDELL | 1927-2026

Acclaimed actor, Beckett interpreter dies

Inspired San Quentin prisoners to perform

By Anthony Solorzano
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Alan Mandell, an acclaimed classical actor and one of the foremost interpreters of playwright Samuel Beckett’s work, died Tuesday at his home in Westwood. He was 98.

Representatives for Mandell’s family confirmed his death to The Los Angeles Times.

Mandell started his theater career in the early 1950s as the artistic director of Theater ’49 in Toronto.

While visiting his sister in 1954, he started to work with the San Francisco Actor’s Workshop. During his time with the theater group, his collaboration with co-founders Jules Irving and



Rich Polk Tribune News Service
Noted actor Alan Mandell appears onstage at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles on May 20, 2017.

Herbert Blau helped transform the workshop into one of the first regional theater companies in the United States.

“My one-week vacation turned into a 12-year stay,” Mandell told The Times in 1992 about what was meant to be a short trip.

During an Actor’s Workshop production of Beckett’s absurdist play “Waiting for Godot” in San Quentin Prison, his portrayal of Lucky inspired the prisoners and led to the creation of the San Quentin Drama Workshop with inmate Rick Cluchey. The troupe operated from 1958 through 1965, making it the first extended prison theater program in the U.S. launched by prisoners.

John N. Apostol, then supervisor of recreation at San Quentin, told Recreation Magazine in 1963 that the group served a twofold purpose.

“Not only does it provide an excellent creative outlet for the men, along with serving as a leisure-time activity, but the group has proven to be a splendid emotional outlet with marked therapeutic values,” he said. “The men learn to work together and accept a responsibility toward the show they are doing and toward one another.”

Irving and Blau were later selected to run the Repertory Theatre at Lincoln Center in New York and asked Mandell to come onboard as the company’s manager.

He later moved to California to join the Los Angeles Actors’ Theatre, which became the Los Angeles Theatre Center, where he served as a consulting director and actor, and helped develop the poetry/literary series.

Mandell was born Albert Mandell in Toronto, on Dec. 27, 1927, to Bella Grossman and Louis Mandell. He officially changed his name in 1968.

He was married to Elizabeth Heller until her death on June 16, 1997. She was 65.

Aside from his stage work, Mandell appeared in several films, where he played understated characters grounded in his work in the theater of the absurd. His credits include Peter Bogdanovich’s 1988 romcom “Illegally Yours,” the 1993 action thriller “Midnight Witness,” the 2006 comedy “Shortbus,” as Rabbi Marshak in the Coen brothers’ 2009 film “A Serious Man” and as Vetril Dease in Dan Gilroy’s 2019 satirical comedy “Velvet Buzzsaw.”

Throughout his career, Mandell also made guest appearances on

television, including episodes of the PBS anthology series “Great Performances,” CBS’ “Cannon,” ABC’s “The Six Million Dollar Man” and ABC’s “Grey’s Anatomy” — the latter of which was his last TV appearance.

At the tail end of his career, Mandell lent his voice to several serialized podcast productions, including “Romeo and Juliet” in which he voiced Friar Laurence, “Anthem: Homunculus” and “A Voice From Darkness.”

Fame from his film and television appearances was never his primary goal. His main ambition was to perform on the stage, a place where he felt most alive, but his dad didn’t see it as a job.

“He thought this was some kind of hobby and then you did something serious with your life,” Mandell told The Times in 2015. “Obviously, having gone through the Depression, you didn’t become an actor. You became a lawyer or doctor, the usual choices of any good Jewish boy.”

The famed stage actor, who performed late into his life, didn’t shy away from challenging roles. In 2007, at the ripe age of 80, Mandell played a cantankerous, aging Nuremberg judge in a two-character production of “Trying.” The role required memorizing lengthy dialogue loaded with dates and names.

“It was agonizing and just felt to learn this is beyond me,” Mandell told The Times in 2007. “I was just very fearful of getting out there and not knowing it. I was not happy at all.”

In 2012, Mandell joined actor Barry McGovern in his 400th performance as Vladimir in Beckett’s “Waiting for Godot” at the Mark Taper Forum. It was the first time the two actors had paired up for a production of the playwright’s work.

Michael Arabian was initially intimidated by the thought of directing Mandell, who had previously worked on the play with the author.

“I had to really come to the table with a lot of research, so that I could be very knowledgeable and very clear with my interpretation, and then they could say, ‘OK, he knows what he’s doing,’” Arabian told The Times.

Mandell described Beckett as a conductor rather than a director. “He didn’t sit around talking about who was this character, what life did he have before this. It was about rhythm.

OBITUARIES



Obituaries

**BARNSON, KATHRYN LOUIS
CARLSTROM, JON
RAHAMAN, QUINT A.**



KATHRYN LOUIS BARNSON
Kathryn Louise “Kathy” Barnson lived a life filled with love, laughter, adventure, and an extraordinary gift for family and friendship. She had a remarkable way of bringing people together, nurturing relationships, and making everyone feel special. Kathy passed away on October 10, 2026, at the age of 83, leaving behind a beautiful legacy of a life enthusiastically lived.

Born in Beeville, Texas, Kathy attended Southwest Texas State University before moving to Las Vegas to teach at Clark High School. There, she met handsome football coach Larry Barnson, beginning a beautiful love story spanning more than 53 years.

Together, they raised daughters Lezlie and Ginnie in a home filled with love, laughter, and cherished traditions. To her daughters, Kathy was their closest confidante, greatest encourager, and treasured friend. She welcomed Lezlie’s husband, John, as the son she never had and delighted in being “Naani” to grandchildren Abby and Brady, creating special memories and traditions with each.

A beloved English teacher at Clark and Bonanza High Schools, Kathy touched the lives of thousands of students. Her generous spirit extended to Assistance League, Trinity United Methodist Church, and the Red Hat Society.

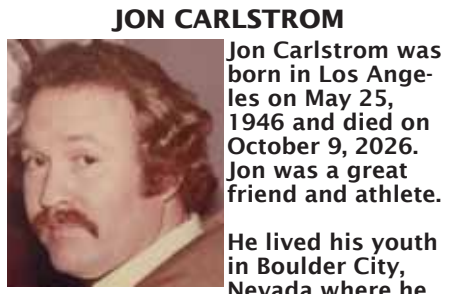
Beautiful inside and out, Kathy had an unmistakable sense of style and an adventurous spirit. She loved traveling, creating memorable experiences, and embracing every opportunity life offered.

Perhaps Kathy’s greatest gift was her ability not only to make friends, but to keep them. She treasured friendships spanning decades, bringing people together through lunches, gatherings, adventures, and countless thoughtful gestures.

Kathy was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Larry, and parents, Gina and Skid Wyrick. She is survived by daughters Lezlie Barnson-DeNardin (John) and Ginnie Barnson; grandchildren Abby and Brady DeNardin; extended family; and countless dear friends.

What a wonderful life she lived. And what a beautiful gift it was to be part of it.

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



JON CARLSTROM
Jon Carlstrom was born in Los Angeles on May 25, 1946 and died on October 9, 2026. Jon was a great friend and athlete.

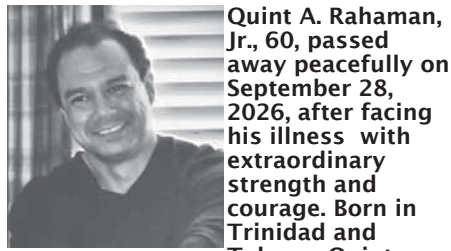
He lived his youth in Boulder City, Nevada where he was a talented and popular football player for Boulder City High School. His brother, Lundy, also loved football. Jon won a football scholarship to Dixie College in St. George, Utah. He also boxed for the University of Reno, Nevada.

Most of Jon’s working career was spent as a casino bartender in Reno and the Henderson area. Working at the Rainbow Club in Henderson in the 1980’s Jon met the love of his life, Rocquelle. It was forty years later that they became a couple.

There will be a no host memorial at PT’s at 1331 South Boulder Highway Henderson, Nevada 89015 on October 21, 2026 between 6 P.M. and 8 P.M.

Sign guestbook at www.reviewjournal.com/obituaries

**QUINT A. RAHAMAN, JR.
February 9, 1966 –
September 28, 2026**



Quint A. Rahaman, Jr., 60, passed away peacefully on September 28, 2026, after facing his illness with extraordinary strength and courage. Born in Trinidad and Tobago, Quint immigrated to the United States at the age of 14 with his family. His parents, Aminoor and Maureen Rahaman, chose to bring their sons here because they believed deeply in the limitless opportunities this country offered: that hard work, education, resilience, and dedication would lead to success, regardless of where you started. They instilled that conviction in their sons, and Quint carried it with him throughout his life. As the eldest of four boys, Quint carried those convictions forward and set an example for his younger brothers. He was preceded in death by Aminoor and Maureen, whose courage in leaving their homeland to build a new life for their family, and whose unwavering belief in what their sons could achieve, became an enduring part of who Quint was. Quint had a remarkable mind and a lifelong desire to learn. He was a voracious reader who could become absorbed in almost any subject and was rarely intimidated by a difficult question or unfamiliar problem. A 1984 graduate of Las Vegas High School, he went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Southern California and an MBA in Corporate Strategy and Finance from the University of Michigan, followed by a successful career with Ford Motor Company and Visteon Corporation. Yet those accomplishments were never the most important measure of Quint. What mattered more was the way he approached life: with curiosity, determination, high expectations, and a deeply held belief that difficult things could be figured out. He was always learning, always thinking, and always willing to challenge an assumption. And for someone whose mind was so often occupied by serious ideas, Quint also appreciated one of life’s simpler pleasures—finding a new restaurant and enjoying a good meal somewhere he had never tried before. To his brothers, Quint was much more than an older sibling. He was the one who went first. His achievements made possibilities seem real, and his example gave his younger brothers confidence that they, too, could choose ambitious paths for their lives without fear. He did not need to lecture them about perseverance or hard work because they watched him live those values. He could be demanding and his expectations were high, but behind those expectations was a genuine belief in what the people he loved were capable of becoming. Quint believed that obstacles were meant to be overcome, not accepted as limits. That belief—first given to him by his parents and then demonstrated through his own life—became one of the most meaningful gifts he passed on to his brothers and family. Quint is survived by his brothers Darvi Rahaman and his wife, Jodene, and their sons, Clay and Wade; Darren Rahaman and his wife, Denise, their son, Ray, and his daughters, Irie and Sofia; and Darius Rahaman and his wife, Ashley, and their children, Violet and Grayson. For those who loved him, Quint’s absence will be felt in ways that cannot be captured by degrees, job titles, or professional accomplishments. He will be missed as a brother, an uncle, a mentor, and a familiar presence in the lives of his family and friends. But the example he set—the importance of learning, the dignity of hard work, the courage to take on difficult things, the enduring optimism that challenges could be overcome, and the determination to keep moving forward without surrender—will remain. In that way, the path Quint began continues through the family he loved and the lives he helped shape.



Sam Morris Las Vegas Review-Journal
RJ columnist Victor Joecks, left, sits with with his Carmage Walls Commentary Writing awards and RJ Executive Editor Glenn Cook on Wednesday in Las Vegas.

► JOECKS

Continued from Page 1B

ment for Clark County. He was fired in August.

After a judge sided with the Review-Journal and granted the news organization access to records, one judge said of the editorial, “At a time when governments, especially state governments, are pulling back with exemptions to public records laws and a lot of things are being hidden, this is such an important win for the First Amendment. That in itself is a really powerful argument for why it deserves merit.”

Joecks also won second place in the Signed Political and Social Commentary category of the competition for his series of columns on problems with film tax credit programs (“Film tax credits are for the suckers at the table,” “Gov. Lombardo flirts with a film tax flip-flop,” and “Why the film tax credit legislation failed”).

“His research and knowledge of Nevada’s economic development history showed the practical problems with this plan,” the foundation said on its website. “His courageous stand against the state’s most powerful politicians and interest groups helped spearhead citizen outrage over this giveaway. In the end, the proposal failed — by a single vote.

These columns helped save Nevada taxpayers around \$1.5 billion over 15 years.”

Keith Moyer, publisher and editor of the Review-Journal, praised Joecks for his principled writing.

“Victor is a powerful voice for accountability in government and the public interest,” Moyer said. “He is very deserving of this recognition.”

Joecks thanked the foundation for recognizing opinion writers and him for their craft.

“It was an honor to receive Carmage Walls awards for both my columns and editorial writing,” Joecks said. “I appreciate all that John Kerr and the RJ’s great editors do to help improve my columns and editorials.”

He also added that the Review-Journal was “blessed to have so many smart and engaged readers.”

“Thank you for your readership and feedback — positive and negative,” Joecks said. “I hope my writing helps our community gain a better understanding of Nevada politics and the implications of proposed policies.”

Joecks won first place in editorial writing in last year’s Carmage Walls competition for his criticism of the city of Las Vegas’ handling of the Badlands golf course dispute.

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