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Whippersnapper

A business, less than 10 years old, in the first generation of succession with expectations for future generations to run the company.



Kathy & Mike Hope

Ron & Shelley Bishop

Mike Pash, Sandi Dickens,
Juli Appleyard, Tom Appleyard

M&K Heating & Cooling Services

Owner(s): Mike & Kathy Hope
Founded by: Mike & Kathy Hope
Year Established: 2007 | 4 years

M & K Heating and Cooling Services began four years ago with the intent to provide quality service at a reasonable price. The company began when one of the founders, Mike Hope, got tired of working for someone else. He wanted the ability to run a company using integrity and customer service as core principles. Working together, Mike and Kathy built M & K Heating and Cooling from the ground up as a way to leave a lasting imprint for their children, Shawn and Kevin, whom they hope will join them in the business. Both Shawn and Kevin are currently serving in the military and have expressed an interest in joining the family business when they return.

The legacy that Mike and Kathy hope to leave to their children is one that values people over profit. They feel that their company, while young, has been successful because they stick to what they know best: honesty, quality and integrity. Their customers agree, crediting M & K with those values and praising Mike and Kathy for sticking to them, even in a tough economy.

National Technical Institute

Owner(s): Ron & Shelley Bishop
Founded by: Ron Bishop
Year Established: 2002 | 9 years

While owning and operating a heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) company for 10 years, it became clear to Ron Bishop that there was a need in this community for qualified HVAC technicians. Recalling that the HVAC trade school he attended while serving in the Air Force had closed, Ron created a curriculum, became licensed by the Nevada Post Secondary Education division and a school was born.

Today, National Technical Institute offers training for those seeking a career in technical fields. The school currently offers four programs: three HVAC training programs and a facilities engineer training program. Ron and Shelley run the school, along with another business, and know the intricacies involved in helping students get hired in the fields they've chosen. They credit the success of the school to that knowledge as well as their continued adaptability and understanding of the changing needs of the market. They hope to one day leave their businesses to their young sons, Aaron and Adam.

Tiger Communications, LLC

Owner(s): Sandra Dickens
Founded by: Sandra Dickens
Year Established: 2003 | 8 years

Tiger Communications may seem like an unusual name for a telecommunications company but owner and founder Sandra Dickens thinks of it as a tribute and reminder of her young son, Travis. The company was, in fact, named after Tiger Woods who played a significant role in Travis' life. Travis sustained a critical closed head injury and doctors didn't expect him to pull through. He had come out of his coma but wasn't showing much response until the US Open came on television and Travis' favorite golfer had an amazing round. Every time Tiger made a put, Travis' eyes lit up. That was when Sandra knew her son would be fine; it was also what gave her the inspiration for the name of her new company.

Eight years later, Tiger Communications is now a full service voice data and services company serving the Las Vegas Valley. Sandra credits her success to her employees whom she views as family. One of whom, Tom Appleyard, has three children working for the family business and has worked with Sandra since she moved here in 1984. Sandra's nephew Mike Pash also works for the business.

Don't Forget to Share

A business that has made significant contributions to the community and prides itself on giving back.



Murray & Cheri Hickman



Jerrad, Bonnie, Frank & Guy Martin



Larry Alterwitz & Deanne
Alterwitz-Straiser

Diversified Communications Solutions

Owner(s): Cheri & Murray Hickman

Founded by: Murray Hickman

Year Established: 1988 | 23 years

In 1988, Murray Hickman, who had been working in the telecommunications industry for 14 years, decided it was time to build a legacy for his family in Las Vegas. He began Diversified Communications Solutions and watched his family and his business grow. In 1996, his wife Cheri came to work for the company full time. An outgoing personality, Cheri began to get involved in networking opportunities and became aware of a need in the community. She aligns herself and the company with organizations that give back and actively participates and assists in those organizations.

Today, Cheri is very involved with NAWIC's Block Kids and CAD Drafting for high school students. She also participates in the Santa Run and Opportunity Village's Magical Forest, among others. She tries to spend a few hours each week on community service projects and has made giving back a priority at Diversified Communications Solutions. Cheri feels it's important to give back so there is a balance to life. She believes in service above self and continues to live her life and help Murray run their company with that attitude in mind.

Martin Harris Construction

Owner(s): Frank Martin

Founded by: Frank Martin & Frank Harris

Year Established: 1976 | 35 years

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of whom they will ask all the more." – Luke 12:48

When asked why giving back to the community is important, Frank Martin responds that the reasons are simple and quotes either the verse above or a similar one. For him giving back is personal and it's a requirement, not an option. Frank began Martin Harris Construction with his former partner, Frank Harris, 35 years ago. Today, Frank Martin is the sole owner of the company and shares his success with his sons, Jerrad and Frank Guy Martin, who also work for the firm.

As a general contractor, the company has seen major ups and downs but Frank has remained steadfast to his vision and to giving back. He's chosen Opportunity Village as his charity of choice and is an ardent supporter of the organization for the work they do. Frank has seen the benefits of that work first-hand through his wife's uncle Lavell who has been deeply impacted by Opportunity Village and the assistance they provide. Because he's seen the rewards that it brings, Frank continues to give back and encourages those in his organization to do the same.

Walker Furniture

Owner(s): Deanne Alterwitz-Straiser

Founded by: Deanne & Oscar Alterwitz

Year Established: 1960 | 51 years

Walker Furniture is a name well known in the Las Vegas Valley. The company began in Gary, Indiana as United Factory Furniture. In 1973, Ruth and George Walker, who owned United Factory, decided they wanted to retire. They sold the business to the Alterwitz family who renamed it Walker Furniture, moved it to Las Vegas and watched as the Valley welcomed them and their new furniture business. From that time, the Alterwitz family and Walker Furniture have been immersed in the community they call home.

Today, in addition to Deanne and Oscar, several of the Alterwitz's work for the family business and continue to see it grow. The family makes it a priority to give back to the community that has been so good to them and actively supports several community organizations including HELP of Southern Nevada, Habitat for Humanity, the Clark County School District and Goodwill, among others. Why? Because, according to the Alterwitz's, "it's the right thing to do."

When the Going Gets Tough...

A business that foresaw the economic downturn and made changes to adapt to what was sure to be tough times.



Frank Gatski



Gavin, Piper (front), Wendy & Kade Carlson



Bridget Richards & Jason Lesley

Gatski Commercial Real Estate Services

Owner(s): Frank Gatski, CPM, CCIM

Founded by: Frank Gatski

Year Established: 1993 | 18 years

The Jock Shop

Owner(s): Ron, Connie, Kris & Wendy Carlson

Founded by: Dean Weible

Year Established: 1980 | 31 years

New Growth Commercial Real Estate Company

Owner(s): Bridget Richards & Jason T. Lesley

Founded by: Bridget Richards & Jason T. Lesley

Year Established: 2007 | 4 years

Frank Gatski knows a thing or two about change. He had been managing Nevada properties for a California partnership's portfolio when they offered him the opportunity to purchase their Nevada holdings and, Gatski Commercial Real Estate was born. What started as a property management company has expanded to include brokerage and landscaping among other services. Since the beginning of the recession, Frank has kept his company nimble by opening a tax appeal division and a cost segregation division to help his clients in commercial real estate who were harder hit than most in the recession.

Since the start of the tough times, Frank has had to learn how to provide more services with less resources and he maintains a positive attitude. "Through every difficulty, there's opportunity," he said, acknowledging that sometimes success depends on your outlook. For now, Gatski Commercial is taking advantage of a down market by maximizing relationships and in that respect, Frank has been very successful. In fact, twelve years after becoming a business owner, Frank still manages the properties for the California partnership that started it all.

Is it possible for a business to feel like another member of the family? It is for Kris and Ron Carlson who purchased The Jock Shop in 1993 as a way for Kris to spend more time with his family. Since then, The Jock Shop has truly become a family business with grandkids Gavin, Kade and Piper coming in during school breaks to help out and every adult member of the family having a stake in its future.

Since the downturn, The Jock Shop has seen difficult times like just about every other business. However, they take their business to heart and get through it with a lot of teamwork, some classic cheerleading pep and as many home runs as they can make. Ron and Kris both took reductions in their salaries and Connie stopped taking a salary all together so the company's employees wouldn't have to see a reduction in wages. They credit their continued success to loyal customers and staff and are determined to keep all the members of their family (company and employees included) in their running shoes.

It's not easy to start a company at the beginning of a tough recession. To start a real estate company at that time seems like pure madness. Somehow, however, Bridget Richards and Jason Lesley have managed to make it work. Bridget and Jason were both working at large brokerage companies at the end of 2006 when Bridget noticed that commercial real estate was on the verge of a change. They had both become tired of waiting for red-tape and development deals from the larger companies when they knew they could be more flexible on their own. They teamed up to create New Growth Commercial Real Estate and together, have managed to provide a blend of owner-user and investment brokerage.

Since it began right before the recession, New Growth has always been able to operate leaner than other commercial real estate firms. Bridget and Jason took a look at where the wind was blowing commercial real estate and began a firm that was as flexible as the changing market. The partners have structured the company so that its team members do well during a down economy and the company is well positioned for when the market turns around.

Protector

A business that has made significant efforts to go green within their organization and to reduce the company's carbon footprint.



Scott Stolberg



MaryKaye Cashman



Cindy, Scott & Nick McCombs and
Chris & Kealy Bush

AAEQ Manufacturers & Recyclers

Owner(s): Scott & William Stolberg
Founded by: Aaron & Alex Stolberg
Year Established: 1949 | 62 years

Behind every cloud is a silver lining. Brothers, Aaron and Alex Stolberg found that silver lining after World War II by remanufacturing and selling engine and transmission cores. They founded AAEQ which has since expanded to include vehicle processing and scrap metal purchasing and processing. In 1992, the company expanded even further and a branch moved to Las Vegas. Knowing the value, both financially and environmentally, of recycling and remanufacturing, AAEQ focused its Las Vegas division on reducing its, and other businesses', carbon footprint.

Today, the business is run by Aaron's sons, Scott and William. Additionally, Sandra, Scott's wife, and Christine, William's wife, work for the family business as do their children at various times. The family is focused on helping businesses, particularly contractors, utilities and landowners, protect the environment by re-using as much material as possible. By preserving renewable and non-renewable resources as much as possible, AAEQ and the Stolberg family are doing their part to ensure a greener future.

Cashman Equipment Company

Owner(s): MaryKaye Cashman
Founded by: Big Jim Cashman
Year Established: 1931 | 80 years

So much history comes from Nevada's Hoover Dam. One of Nevada's most well-known companies is part of that history. Cashman Equipment was established by Big Jim Cashman in 1931 while the dam was being constructed. Big Jim realized that tractors would make the project go faster and became a Caterpillar dealer. His commitment to helping Las Vegas grow became a large part of helping to complete one of the Silver State's most memorable landmarks. Today, Cashman Equipment carries on that commitment, but has added its own twist, preserving the environment.

Under the leadership of MaryKaye Cashman, who was married to Big Jim's late grandson, it has become a priority for Cashman Equipment to lead the charge in green practices. The company's new facility is Gold certified by the U.S. Green Building Council and employees are daily encouraged to recycle and conserve energy. MaryKaye hopes that eventually, through a collaborated effort to preserve and protect, the nation will reap the benefits of energy self-sufficiency.

Realm of Design, Inc.

Owner(s): Scott & Cindy McCombs
Founded by: Scott & Cindy McCombs
Year Established: 1991 | 20 years

Realm of Design has been in business since February of 1991. The phrase, "if you want something done right, do it yourself" sums-up the founding of the company. Unable to get the columns required to finish a project, Scott, along with his wife Cindy, decided to make them. Realm of Design was born and with it, a commitment to creating beautiful architecture while utilizing recycled materials. One such material, often overlooked in Nevada's tourist cities, is glass. When thinking about the amount of glass used on the Strip alone, Scott and Cindy found a way to put that glass back in the columns and cornices of the hotels through the creation of a material known as Green Stone. Today, Green Stone is a large part of their business; they even used it extensively in their own manufacturing facility.

Realm of Design is committed to making recycling easy for their customers and as such don't charge extra when they use Green Stone in a project. Also working for the company are several of Cindy and Scott's family including their children, their children's spouses and various nephews and cousins throughout the years.

Swimming Upstream

A business that is owned by a minority or woman owned.



Karly Urata



**Laura Jane Spina, Robert
& Jane Fielden**



**Russ Kashka, Mark, Steve
& Arlene Lipkin**

K & K Construction Supply, Inc.

Owner(s): Karly & Kelly Urata
Founded by: Karly & Kelly Urata
Year Established: 2006 | 5 years

For the last five years, sisters, Karly and Kelly Urata have managed to succeed in the predominately male field of construction. They began K & K Construction supply in 2006 and have shifted their business into selling air filters to survive in the down economy. They work with their cousin Tracy Loveland and have locations in both Nevada and California. In fact, the majority of their employees are women and they prove time and again that they can do anything their male counterparts can.

Karly and Kelly see only good things for the future of K & K Construction. They believe that the only way to overcome the challenges presented by being women owned in the construction industry is by staying on top of their game, continuing expansion and proving themselves as many times as it takes. As Karly and Kelly say, "Girls DO rock!"

RAFI: Planning, Architecture & Urban Design

Owner(s): Robert & Jane Fielden
& Laura Jane Spina
Founded by: Robert & Jane Fielden
Year Established: 1985 | 26 years

When asked how RAFI: Planning, Architecture and Urban Design began, Laura Jane Spina, daughter of the company's founders Robert and Jane Fielden, replies, "that it all started in the backseat of a '54 Chevy." That backseat led to the successful partnership of Robert and Jane. They began the company together and ran it until their daughter joined the family business. Now the woman-owned business is successful in a highly competitive field.

Today, the company also has an off-shoot business entitled Fielden & Partners Space Planning and Interior Design. They credit their success as a woman owned business to the organizations they partner with and the fact that they genuinely enjoy working together as a family. Having been in the Southern Nevada market for over two and a half decades, they pride themselves on knowing their community and surrounding environment and adapting as it adapts.

Sky Top Vending, Inc.

Owner(s): Arlene, Steve & Mark Lipkin
& Russ Kashka
Founded by: Gilbert Lipkin
Year Established: 1977 | 34 years

In 1977, Gilbert and Arlene Lipkin moved from the San Fernando Valley to Las Vegas and purchased a small vending machine business that they grew through the many changing trends of snack foods and drinks. Today, Arlene and Gilbert's sons Steve and Mark as well as Russ Kashka, who grew up with the family, work together to bring Sky Top Vending to new heights. Also working for the company are Mark's three sons, Aaron, Chris and Jon Lipkin.

The family is closely bonded and the company is run by Arlene with each of the other owners having their specific roles and responsibilities. They maintain that closeness and fill in for each other as needed, keeping everyday management flowing. They are proud that they are completely family owned and because they all work together, successfully overcome any challenges they face.

It's Good to Be on Top

A business that is at the top of its game, doing better than ever.



Justin & Nathan Findlay

Debra Shwetz & Dena Tripp

**Back: Deangelo Penn, Michael Di Asio,
Deonte Penn & Richard Floyd
Front: Jacqueline Di Asio & Shantia Floyd,**

Findlay Automotive Group

Owner(s): Clifford Findlay
Founded by: Pete Findlay
Year Established: 1961 | 50 years

Founded by Pete Findlay in 1961, Findlay Automotive Group is one of the most recognized names in Southern Nevada's automotive industry. The company began as Findlay Oldsmobile in 1961. Cliff, Pete's son, took over in 1978 and continued to grow the company. In 1990, Cliff added a second dealership, Saturn of West Sahara. Today, through his efforts, the company has 24 dealerships in four different states.

In the last five years, Findlay Automotive Group has experienced a 42 percent increase in business, adding seven dealerships. At a time when many car companies are failing and dealerships are struggling to survive, the Findlay's have managed to stay on top and keep ahead of the game. Also working for the family business are Cliff's sons, Justin, Nathan and Robert Findlay. Cliff has instilled in them one principle that has helped make the company so successful: provide excellent customer service.

Nothing Bundt Cakes

Owner(s): Debra Shwetz & Dena Tripp
Founded by: Debra Shwetz & Dena Tripp
Year Established: 1997 | 14 years

Debra Shwetz and Dena Tripp aren't your average best friends. Fourteen years ago, at a family dinner, they combined Dena's chocolate chip bundt cake with Debra's cream cheese and butter frosting and a dynasty was born. Today, Nothing Bundt Cakes is almost a household name and there isn't a business executive in Southern Nevada that doesn't hope to receive one as a gift. When starting their company, Dena and Debra made a commitment to always value their friendship over business and that commitment has served them well. With members of both their families helping out, including Dena's husband Blaine and her son Sean, as well as Debra's daughter Jenna Barber, they've grown exponentially over the years.

In 2006, Debra and Dena decided to take the company to the next level and franchise Nothing Bundt Cakes. It's paid off. Over the last five years, the company has increased in sales by 500 percent. Debra and Dena's plan is to continue growing by as many as 30 stores a year.

Visiting Angels

Owner(s): Jacqueline & Michael DiAsio
Founded by: Bonnie & Steven Robbins
Year Established: 2000 | 11 years

Jacqueline DiAsio began working as the office administrator for the national franchise, Visiting Angels, in 2006. At the time, Bonnie and Steven Robbins owned the company and were considering retirement. Through Jacqueline, the Robbins came to know Michael, who was working as a senior vice president with Wells Fargo. When the Robbins were looking to retire in 2010, they asked the DiAsio's to take over the company for them. Jacqueline and Michael did so with a vengeance. Working with them are Jacqueline's children, DeAngelo, Deonte, Shantia and Richard.

The DiAsio's see the value and rewards in senior care and it becomes increasingly important to them as their own parent's age. Visiting Angels is a home care service and has grown by 62 percent since the DiAsio's took over the company in 2010. They've added 40 additional employees to their already 140, and now assist approximately 400 seniors every day.

Outside The Box

A business that offers a unique product or service to Nevadans.



Ron & Shelley Bishop



Steve Jones, Tom Isola & Tyler Jones



Karen Alexander, Gary & Isabelle Holman

Bishop Air Service

Owner(s): Ron & Shelley Bishop
Founded by: Ron Bishop
Year Established: 1992 | 19 years

Ron Bishop founded Bishop Air Service in 1992 with \$2,000 and a dream of being a business owner. Having been in the Air Force up until then, he wasn't afraid of a little hard work. He later met his wife, Shelley, and they started the National Technical Institute, running both companies together.

Bishop Air Service is unique in the HVAC field because of its ability to be creative and address the customer's needs. One example of this is a blind couple for whom the Bishops installed a talking air conditioning system which verbally tells them when the air temperature changes. One substantial benefit to being able to adapt to customer's needs is the energy savings they can build in through creativity. Today, Bishop Air Service provides a number of services including building automation and solar energy.

Blue Heron Design Build

Owner(s): Tyler & Steve Jones & Thomas Isola, II
Founded by: Tyler & Steve Jones & Thomas Isola, II
Year Established: 2004 | 7 years

The custom home market in Las Vegas has seen both ups and downs since Blue Heron Design Build was founded in 2004. Even in a challenging economy, Blue Heron has managed to maintain its edge through a unique approach to home building. The company began when Steve Jones combined his son Tyler's architectural abilities and Tyler's best friend Thomas' financial abilities with his own custom home experience to create a company that combines architectural design with the cost savings of energy efficiency in home building.

Today, while most home building companies are seeing falling market prices and decreases in new home building, Blue Heron is continuing to create high-end custom homes. In fact, the company recently opened a new community, Marquis Seven Hills and has plans to continue opening new communities, regardless of what the market brings.

Holman Security Corporation

Owner(s): Gary Holman
Founded by: Gary Holman
Year Established: 1982 | 29 years

Gary Holman founded Holman Security Corporation in 1982 and is incredibly knowledgeable in the security field. He has spent 15 years with the Las Vegas Police Department and graduated from the Police Academy twice. When the company was founded, Holman contracted with the airport to create the first pre-board screening operation and introduced the first X-ray scanning equipment, making McCarran Airport a showplace for airlines to see what was, at the time, the most advanced equipment available. Holman Security Corporation is unique in the security world partially because of the work Gary did with McCarran Airport.

Today Gary works with his wife Isabelle, daughter Karen Alexander and his grandson Jonathon Murphy. They plan to continue growing the business and pride themselves on personally supervising every aspect of security for their customers thereby ensuring that they are as safe as possible.

Wave of the Future

A business that has made the most of technology and utilizes it daily to be more efficient and successful.



**Allison Dampier, Sandy Gamba
& Pam Dion**

**Debbie Creel, Allan G. Creel, Lisa
Weakland, Steve Barry, Christy Creel,
Allan Creel & Kristine Creel**

Dennis & Jennifer Sponer

Advantages Online Private School

Owner(s): Allison Dampier, Pam Dion
& Sandy Gamba

Founded by: Allison Dampier, Pam Dion
& Sandy Gamba

Year Established: 2007 | 4 years

Started by three friends, two of whom are sisters, Advantages Online Private School began as a way for students everywhere to have the same access to accredited curriculum, no matter what was going on in their personal lives. Allison Dampier and Pam Dion were both teachers when they, along with Sandy Gamba who had been a dean at Denver University, got the idea for an online K-12 school. Today, the school exists in the pages of the internet and serves anywhere from 80 to 100 students as a private school and from 500 to 1,000 students in partnership with their existing school.

The studies are highly personalized and give students the opportunity to get a quality high school education that's accredited and accepted at any university, all at their own pace. It's particularly effective for those that have a hard time learning in a traditional classroom. Allison, Pam and Sandy plan to continue growing the school across the nation and helping kids graduate.

Creel Printing Company

Owner(s): Allan Creel

Founded by: Eugene Creel

Year Established: 1953 | 58 years

Eugene Creel, who founded Creel Printing Company moved here in 1953 from Southern California. He had managed a printing facility there and had been asked to facilitate the printing company that would be a part of the racetrack set to open in Las Vegas. When the racetrack later closed, he decided to stay and began Silver State Printing which he grew into what is today known as Creel Printing with three facilities and over 450 employees.

In order to maintain the quality necessary to be competitive in the printing world, Creel Printing strive to constantly stay ahead of the technology curve. Creel has put time and money into automated front end solutions that help their customers become more efficient in developing products and campaigns internally, a necessary trait in today's changing economy. Today the company is run by Eugene's grandson Allan Creel and working alongside him are his family members, Debbie, Christy, Heidi and Kristine.

ScripNet, Inc.

Owner(s): Dennis & Jennifer (Jae) Sponer

Founded by: Dennis & Jennifer (Jae) Sponer

Year Established: 1997 | 14 years

When they saw workers' compensation insurance companies paying increasing costs for prescriptions, the Sponer's got the idea to create a company than can make the pharmacy end of insurance more cost efficient and effective. Dennis and Jae Sponer were both working for a local managed care company when they moved over to create their own business. ScripNet, Inc. has emerged as a technologically advanced company serving the entire nation.

Today, Jae is in charge of the technology side of the company and helped develop ScripStar, an Oracle based system that connects pharmacies to insurance carriers. ScripNet's most recent addition to their pharmaceutical technologies is the ScripNet Access Point which allows the company's clients to access their data in real time on the web. ScripNet creates all of their data in-house and as such, it remains customizable and fits in-line with customers' needs.

Change Is Good

A business that has moved on to the second generation, or further, and has successfully utilized the younger generation's ideas.



Colleen & Kevin Aiken



Crystal Dieleman & Benjamin Johnson



Joseph Vassallo & Joseph Vassallo Jr.

Colleen's Classic Consignment

Owner(s): Colleen & Kevin Aiken

Founded by: Colleen Aiken

Year Established: 1995 | 16 years

Colleen Aiken had a vision for consignment stores and brought that vision to life in 1995 with the creation of Colleen's Classic Consignment. Originally begun as a franchise named Terri's, Colleen put her own twist on consignment and has been doing so ever since. Today, Kevin Aiken, Colleen's son, runs the business and his mom acts as president. His uncle, Joe Saccheri, also runs one of the store locations.

Kevin's career centered around the world of travel, working at both Mandalay Bay and Travelocity, before he decided to step in and help with the family business. Today, he has modernized procedures and helped brand Colleen's in the Las Vegas market as the place to go for high-end consignment items. Colleen and Kevin enjoy working together and feel lucky that they are able to do so. Kevin hopes to continue taking his mom's brand to the next level thereby ensuring that their company becomes a legacy.

Jake's Crane

Owner(s): Robert Dieleman

Founded by: Jake Dieleman

Year Established: 1946 | 65 years

Jake Dieleman came to Southern Nevada to help construct Hoover Dam. He stayed here and married Ruth, who was a school teacher in Searchlight. They took the skills Jake learned working on the dam and put them to good use by purchasing a 10-ton crane to service the growing city of Las Vegas. Today, Jake's Crane is run by Jake's son Robert Dieleman, along with his wife Kathleen, his daughter Crystal and her husband Ben Johnson.

Robert started working for the family business when he was nine, and was essentially raised in the crane business. Crystal also grew up in the family business and they hope to keep the company in the family name for years to come. Since its inception, just about every member of the Dieleman family has worked for Jake's Crane and their legacy continues to grow.

Paragon Pools

Owner(s): Joseph Vassallo

Founded by: Joseph Vassallo

Year Established: 2001 | 10 years

Paragon Pools was established in 2001 by Joseph Vassallo. As a young man, Joseph wanted to become an architect. He practically fell into the pool-building business when he decided to design a pool for his own home. The rest is history. He began designing pools and eventually his son, Joey came to work for him at Paragon Pools. Today, both father and son are actively involved in the business and sit on a National Builder's Education Committee in Washington.

Joseph says his son's inborn abilities, talent and personable demeanor make him the perfect successor to the family business. They both value the ability to work closely together and are proud of the footprint they've left on the Southern Nevada community through the pools they've designed over the years.

Wisdom of Age

A business that has been around for over 20 years.



**Emilia Andrade, Max Jacobson-Fried,
Joni Fried, David Jacobson-Fried
& Sarah Fried**

Freed's Boulevard Bakery, Inc.

Owner(s): Joan Fried
Founded by: Milton & Esther Fried
Year Established: 1959 | 52 years

Established in 1959, Freed's Bakery has since become a by-word for brides throughout Las Vegas. The Fried's originally moved to Las Vegas so Milton could work here as a musician. He and his wife, Esther, began selling a single tray of donuts out of a snack bar in the Panorama Market. Those were such a success, they soon added danish pastries and breads, making a lasting impression on Southern Nevada.

Today, Milton and Esther's daughter Joni runs the company, 33 years after she started working for her parents. Freed's Bakery is now well known in Southern Nevada and prides itself on quality ingredients mixed with great customer service. Also working for the family business are Joni's nephews, Max and David Jacobson-Fried and the Fried family legacy continues on. Passed from one family member to the next, the Fried's have created a legacy in Southern Nevada.

**Debbie Walker, John West Walker,
Shelley Walker-Johnson
& Darcy Walker-Fitch**

Johnnie Walker RVs

Owner(s): John Walker
Founded by: John H. Walker, Sr.
Year Established: 1963 | 48 years

John H. Walker purchased Lemay's Trailer Sales in 1963. At the time, the company dealt primarily in mobile home type trailers. Seeing the potential for RV sales at a time when everyone wanted to get out and explore the nation, John changed the name and by 1966 began exclusively selling travel trailers, motor homes and 5th wheels.

Determined to be successful, John H. and his son John L. maintained a conservative business attitude and strove to treat every employee as though they were family. This legacy has been passed on through the generations. Today, John H.'s grandchildren and great grandchildren also work for the company: John "West", Shelley, Darcy, Michael, Chasen, Andrew and Shawna. The family tradition continues on and they hope to have Johnnie Walker RVs headed by a Walker for years to come.

**Dixon, Josh, Wade, Rod
& Jeric Leavitt**

Leavitt Insurance Agency

Owner(s): Rod, Wade & Jeric Leavitt
Founded by: Dixie & Bert Leavitt
Year Established: 1959 | 52 years

Dixie Leavitt was running a successful, Southern Utah insurance agency when he invited his older brother, Bert, to partner with him and run a Las Vegas branch of the company. From there Leavitt Insurance boomed. With Dixie remaining in Utah and Bert handling business in Southern Nevada, both brothers were able to successfully grow their branches of the family company.

Today, Bert's sons and grandkids, Rod, Wade and Jeric, have taken over the business. Also working with them are six cousins in the Utah branch and Bert's grandchildren, Josh, Dixon and Jordan Leavitt. The company prides itself on funding growth internally and being patient and fair with family, employees and customers. Rod, Wade and Jeric have been given stewardship of the business. "The opportunity was presented to us by our father and uncle with a charge to work hard, be honest and share our success with others," they said.

[Thank You!]

Nevada Business Magazine would like to thank our distinguished panel of judges and partners for helping make the 2011 Family Owned Business event possible.

A special thanks to our corporate sponsor, Fair, Anderson & Langerman, who has come alongside us to help ensure this year's event is a success.

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