

AMPLIFYING LGBTQ+ VOICES SINCE 1978



MARCH 26-APRIL 1, 2025



CARROT TOP!
THE KING OF
PROPS TURNS 60
40 YEARS OF COMEDY,
CHAOS & VEGAS LEGACY

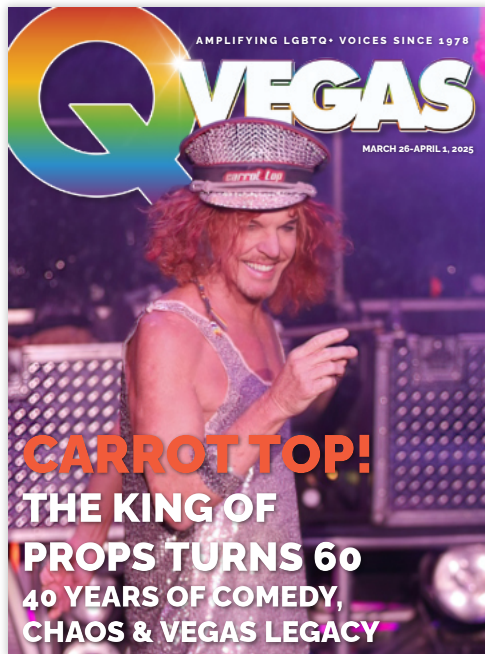


Photo: FotoBob.com

Whether you're a local or tourist, we always feature our favorite spots along with all the new and exciting things our city has to offer.

This week we feature comedy icon Carrot Top as he celebrates 40 years on stage and his 60th birthday with QVegas. From prop comedy origins to a legendary Las Vegas residency, he reflects on fame, creativity, and staying fresh while sharing laughs, memories, and inspiration.

Former Henderson Mayor Debra March shares her vision for inclusive community building, DEI leadership, and developing future civic leaders through empathy, proactive engagement, and sustainable, people-centered urban planning.

Raquel Brooks' DMV experience highlights the ongoing challenges trans people face. On TDOV 2025, we celebrate her resilience and the visibility that empowers trans communities to demand dignity and justice.



Russ White & Garrett Pattiani
Publishers, QVegas & QLife Media



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View this week's horoscopes at qvegas.com/horoscopes-are-a-drag.

CAPRICORN

MARCH 2025



Honey, gather 'round and listen up because Mama's got a tale to tell! Picture this: the most fabulous show you've ever seen. Sparkles everywhere, wigs stacked higher than the Empire State, and heels so sharp they could cut glass. We're serving sass with a side of glam, darlings! Every move is fierce, every wink is a command. Hearts are racing, and darling, the stage is our kingdom. Remember, in this world, too much is just enough!



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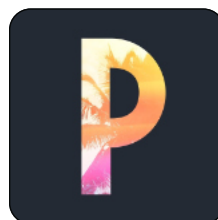
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VIRGIN HOTELS
LAS VEGAS



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PALMS
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Hotels

These hotels have a current HRC Corporate Equality Index score of 100.

CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT
caesars.com

Caesars Palace
The Cromwell
Flamingo
Harrah's
Horseshoe (formerly Bally's)
The LINQ
Paris
Planet Hollywood

THE VENETIAN RESORT LAS VEGAS
venetianlasvegas.com

These hotels have actively demonstrated support for the LGBTQ+ community but do not have a current HRC CEI of 100

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The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas
Delano
Excalibur
Luxor
Mandalay Bay
MGM Grand
New York New York
Park MGM
Vdara

WYNN RESORTS
wynnlasvegas.com

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& SAT MARCH 29**



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SAT MARCH 29

BODY HEAT

PERFORMANCE AT 11:30 PM | MGG AT 12:30 AM | DJ SET AT 12 AM

DANI TORO

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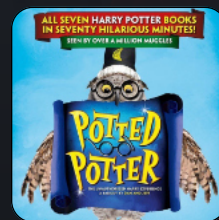
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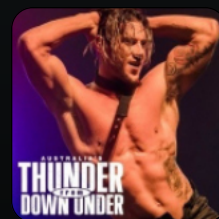
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When you purchase tickets from our website or app you help keep QVegas free. QVegas may earn a commission on your purchase.



DEBRA MARCH

Former Mayor of Henderson, Nevada

For over three decades, Debra March has been at the forefront of shaping Southern Nevada. From her early days as a planning commissioner to her tenure as mayor of Henderson (2017–2023), and now as the president of Debra March Ventures, she has never wavered in her dedication to building communities of lasting value.

Today, March leads active ventures through her consulting firm and continues her public service through nonprofit leadership. She sits on the boards of Boystown, Human Good, and the Lion Initiative, which champions education in Nevada. But perhaps one of her most impactful roles is as Chair of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) for Nevada, an organization she has been part of for more than 30 years.

"ULI is the oldest and largest network of cross-disciplinary real estate and land use experts in the world," March explains. "We focus on placemaking and how to build communities that are inclusive, dynamic, and centered around quality of life."

Under her leadership, ULI Nevada hosted the national conference in Las Vegas last fall, drawing over 10,000 attendees. Globally, ULI represents more than 50,000 professionals. "We are shaping the future of

the built environment," she says. "That means thinking holistically about transportation, housing, community design, and ensuring everyone feels welcome."

March's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is evident in her record. When she took office as mayor in 2017, Henderson's Municipal Equality Index (MEI) score was a modest 56. By the end of her term, it had reached a perfect 100.

"It was a priority," she affirms. "We wanted Henderson to be a place where everyone felt safe, seen, and valued."

That transformation wasn't accidental. Her administration implemented more inclusive hiring practices across city departments, including police and fire, which were historically less diverse. Programming was redesigned to reflect the city's growing cultural and social diversity, and partnerships with organizations like The LGBTQ+ Center of Southern Nevada helped guide the city's outreach and support efforts.

"We didn't just change policies," March emphasizes. "We changed culture."

Still, March is keenly aware of the current political climate, where DEI has become a lightning rod for controversy. "The current administration has weaponized the term

DEI AND THE ROAD AHEAD

AN EXCLUSIVE SERIES
BY QVEGAS

DEI," she says. "But if you break it down—diversity, equity, inclusion—who would argue against any of those principles?"

"Maybe we need to relabel it, or maybe it's just about how we treat one another," she muses. "At its core, it's about kindness, thoughtfulness, and building communities that welcome everyone—LGBTQ people, women, people with disabilities, communities of color."

Through her work at ULI, March is creating what she calls a "playbook for inclusive placemaking." That means ensuring every facet of community design—from housing and transportation to public spaces and employment opportunities—takes into account the needs of all residents.

"We're talking about building communities with big arms," she says. "Places that embrace everyone."

Looking forward, March sees both opportunities and threats for DEI in Nevada. She worries about federal funding cuts and policies that quietly erase the contributions of marginalized communities, including veterans, and persons of color. "That erasure is deeply troubling," she says. "These are people who served their communities and country and deserve to be recognized and remembered."

She also sees a potential backlash at the ballot box. "A lot of people sat out the last election," she notes. "I don't think that'll happen again. People are watching with concern and waking up. They're realizing how much is at stake."

As a lifelong Democrat, March doesn't shy away from critiquing the political establishment. "The machine used to serve us," she says. "But it's gotten so self-serving. It's about feeding itself. We need real leadership now, not just candidates the party can control."

She believes the path forward involves cultivating new voices—people from all walks of life with lived experience,

On Sunday, March 30th, the City of Henderson will be honored with the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in Baltimore, recognizing its excellence in innovation, performance, and organizational leadership. This distinguished award is the highest national honor for quality and performance excellence across business, healthcare, education, and government. Henderson's selection highlights its commitment to continuous improvement, community engagement, and data-driven decision-making. Initiated under the watch of former Mayor March, this award stands a shining example of effective municipal governance. Henderson sets a national standard for delivering exceptional public service while fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and resident-focused innovation.

empathy, and a vision for the future. "We should be mentoring future leaders, not being threatened by them," she insists. "Let's help them serve their communities with integrity."

That vision includes more than just political ambition. March is a strong proponent of leadership development across sectors. "We need to focus on growing the next generation of civic and community leaders. That starts with giving people opportunities to serve."

She sees potential for collaboration between nonprofits, chambers of commerce, and municipalities to create programs that train future civic leaders. "There's too much armchair commentary these days," she says. "People criticize decisions without understanding the process or the law involved with decision making. We need people to get involved, learn, and lead."

Her own journey is proof of that philosophy. Before becoming mayor, March served as a planning commissioner for six years and as a city councilwoman beginning in 2009. She also directed UNLV's Real Estate Institute for 16 years.

"Understanding land use, budgets, and community engagement—it all helped prepare me for office," she says. "Good leaders are proactive. They listen. They collaborate."

Even in the private sector, March remains a voice for public service. While she doesn't currently plan to run for office again, she hasn't ruled it out. "I enjoy the flexibility I have now," she says. "But I'll always be committed to building vibrant and inclusive communities. That's the legacy I want to leave."

Asked what advice she would give someone considering public office, March is clear: "Volunteer. Get on a board or commission. Show up. Learn how government works. Sit down with leaders and ask questions. And when you disagree, do it with respect."

She also wants current elected officials to reconnect with their constituents. "I know our federal leadership is diverse and

supportive," she says, "but they need to come home. They need to engage with the people—in the west side, in Henderson, in every corner of the state. We need more of that," she insists. "The people are smarter and more engaged than ever. Let's treat them with respect and listen to what they have to say. Then let's craft a vision that includes communities and residents."

For March, the current political moment demands more than just maintaining the status quo. It requires a recommitment to the foundational values of public service—transparency, accountability, compassion, and inclusion. She warns that cuts across agencies and careless policy changes can destabilize communities, affecting junior employees, underrepresented populations, and essential services.

"We've seen it before. When we went through the economic downturn from 2008 to 2013 we were surgical. We looked for ways to reduce impact on residents. We had empathy. That's what's missing now."

March sees a worrying trend of communities being treated like business transactions instead of living systems. "There's more to leadership than spreadsheets and headlines. It's about listening to people's needs and responding with heart and strategy."

She's also deeply involved in tackling housing affordability. "If you work in Henderson, you should be able to live in Henderson," she says. "It's not enough to bring in development—we need to ensure it brings good jobs, fair wages, and housing people can afford."

That's why she remains committed to her work with ULI, where she is helping shape the future of Nevada's built environment. "We're at the table for these conversations," she says. "This is how we create sustainable communities that actually serve the people who live in them."

In every aspect of her work—from planning to policy to advocacy—Debra March continues to be a powerful voice for building a better Nevada. Her message is clear: "Communities of lasting value don't happen by accident. We build them—with empathy, with vision, and with open arms."

Henderson's MEI Score Drops in 2024: A Call to Renew the Commitment to LGBTQ+ Equality

In 2023, Henderson, Nevada proudly earned a perfect score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index (MEI), a national benchmark that evaluates how inclusive city laws, policies, and services are for LGBTQ+ residents. However, in 2024, that score dropped to 91—a 9% decline that highlights how maintaining equality is an ongoing and active process, not a one-time achievement.

The MEI measures five key areas: non-discrimination laws, the city as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement, and city leadership. Henderson's decline was primarily due to losses in three of those categories—particularly in the city's performance as an employer and in LGBTQ+-focused municipal services.

Most notably, Henderson lost 6 points in the "Municipality as Employer" category. The city also received 0 points for its contractor non-discrimination ordinance, a drop from the 3 points earned in 2023. Additional point losses came from the removal of local employment protections at the municipal level and a reduction in pro-equality policy efforts by city leadership.

Flex points, awarded for areas of excellence not uniformly accessible to all cities, also fell from 12 to 8, due to the city no longer receiving credit for providing services to LGBTQ+ older adults and the transgender community, nor having openly LGBTQ+ leadership.

While some core areas remained strong—like law enforcement engagement and the presence of an LGBTQ+ liaison in the executive office—this year's report clearly illustrates how even a single year of administrative transition can result in significant setbacks. It is a reminder that equality requires continuous action, investment, and prioritization.

The path back to 100 is within reach, and it begins with a renewed focus on inclusion, policy updates, and visible leadership that champions LGBTQ+ rights. The new city leaders are in a pivotal position to restore Henderson's standing by 2025 and show the community that equity and representation are not optional—they are essential.

The call is clear: recommit, rebuild, and rise back to 100. Henderson's LGBTQ+ residents deserve nothing less.



40 Years of Carrot Top

Red Hair, Big Props, and Bigger Laughs

Ladies and gentlemen, get ready to laugh, because today we have a true comedy legend in the house! He's the King of Props, the master of high-energy humor, and a Las Vegas icon who has been making audiences roar with laughter for an incredible 40 years. You know him from his jaw-dropping performances at the Luxor, his unforgettable late-night appearances, and of course, his signature fiery red hair.

As he celebrates both his 40th anniversary in comedy and his 60th birthday, we're sitting down with none other than Carrot Top! We'll dive into his incredible journey from hauling two trunks of props on the road to headlining one of the most beloved residencies on the Strip. Plus, we'll hear about his wildest moments, favorite celebrity encounters, and how he keeps the laughs fresh after all these years.

So buckle up, because this is going to be a fun ride—Carrot Top, welcome to QVegas!

From his humble beginnings performing Joan Rivers jokes in front of a single woman at an open mic night, to headlining one of the most beloved residencies on the Las Vegas Strip, Carrot Top has seen and done it all—and somehow keeps it all fresh.

The Journey: From Bank Courier to King of Props

Carrot Top didn't start with props, fog machines, or a video wall. He started, like many comics, with nerves, borrowed jokes, and the pure adrenaline of a mic in his hand.

"I was a bank courier in West Palm Beach," he recalls. "I was driving back and forth listening to comedy on the radio, and one day I decided to try open mic night. Terrifying. I stood there in front of just one lady who told me to do my act. I think I did

some Joan Rivers and George Carlin jokes. She laughed, but then she asked if they were mine. I told her no, and she said, 'You need your own jokes.' I was like—what? That sucks!"

It was a spark that ignited an evolution. From early self-deprecating jokes about his hair—"I looked like the Wendy's girl"—to the first prop he ever used (a stolen Neighborhood Crime Watch sign that killed onstage), Carrot Top carved out a niche that was 100% his own.

"That sign bit worked," he laughs. "So I just started stealing more signs. It turned into a slideshow of road signs everyone recognized. I'd point to one that said 'Slow Children at Play'—it's a stick figure with no feet. I'd go, 'No wonder they're slow—they don't have any feet.'"

Evolving with Technology (and Humor)

While Carrot Top has built a reputation around physical props and high-energy antics, he's also a savvy showman who's kept pace with technology.

"I was a marketing major, so I always thought I should have something behind me onstage," he says. "First it was just a big wall with 'Carrot Top' written on it. Then we made it move. One day my lighting guy asked, 'Why don't you put visuals up on that screen?' Now, every joke has something behind me—images, videos, sound effects."

It's become part of the rhythm of his show, adding a multimedia punch that no other comic offers. "Sometimes the punchline is just the picture. Like, when Delta had that plane flip upside down, I said, 'I don't want to name the airline,' and boom—Delta's logo pops up. The audience dies."

Even with tech, he never strays far from the handmade silliness fans adore. For

NASCAR weekend, he recently pulled out an old favorite: a hat with toy racecars circling his head. "It took NASA engineering—literally, my dad worked at NASA—but it still works."

High Energy, Night After Night

With a residency at the Luxor that's spanned years, people often ask Carrot Top how he maintains such explosive energy night after night.

"It just builds," he says. "As soon as I see the Luxor coming toward me, I know—it's showtime. The music, the crew, the fog, the lights. It all kicks in. I don't even think about it. I'm just ready to go."

His style has remained singular. No one else in comedy blends stagecraft, music, lighting, props, and punchlines quite like Carrot Top. As he puts it, "No one else has a fog machine, strobe lights, and a video wall—and I love that."

Fame, Friends, and Queen

Over four decades, Carrot Top has had his share of celebrity encounters, both bizarre and beautiful.

"One night Queen came to the show. I thought they meant royalty, but they meant the band Queen," he laughs. "They came backstage, told me they loved the show—I was like a little kid. It blew my mind."

His fanbase includes everyone from rock legends to Las Vegas locals. And he still gets starstruck.

"Elton John says he's coming, and if he does, I'll be paranoid. Sting's been here, Queen's been here—if Elton walks in, I might lose my mind."

He's also no stranger to pop culture references. "John Oliver just mentioned me last week, talking about Trump's finance



guy, and said it's like hiring Carrot Top to run the economy. Not an insult—just funny. If you're the punchline and people laugh, it works."

Comedy for the Long Haul

After 40 years, Carrot Top has found peace in being a comic with staying power.

"People ask where the next Carrot Top is. I say, 'There doesn't want to be one!' It's a tough road. I took a lot of hits early on, but now people respect it. If you've done it for 40 years, you've earned your seat at the table."

He's seen his act referenced in everything from cartoons to stand-up sets, and while he hasn't seen many prop comics follow in his footsteps, he's glad he carved his own path.

"From the beginning, I just wanted to be different. And I still am."

The Fitness Factor

Carrot Top's muscular build has long been a topic of conversation—sometimes jokes, sometimes admiration.

"I work out every day, but I'm not as crazy about it as I was 20 years ago," he says. "But I still have to carry my hate mail, so I stay in shape."

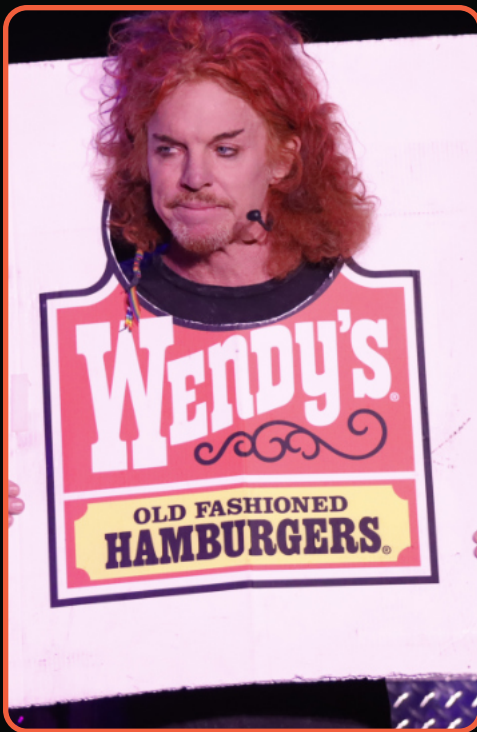
And while he once sparked controversy for his physique, he now embraces it with humor. "People always ask, 'Why do you wear makeup?' I say, 'Because I'm in show business!' Same reason I still wear women's panties. Just kidding... maybe."

A Quiet Life Offstage

Despite the high-octane stage persona, offstage Carrot Top is surprisingly mellow.

"I'm a homebody," he says. "I go for runs, eat lunch, maybe jot down some ideas, then hit the gym and go to work. Groundhog Day-style."

He rarely goes out at night and prefers the



serenity of home. "If someone says they saw me at a club, it wasn't me. Unless it was Piranha or Gipsy—then maybe. But it's been years."

When asked if he's seen the new Gipsy, he lit up: "Not yet—but I hear it's gorgeous. I drive by and go, 'Whoa.' I'd love to check it out."

Vegas, the Ultimate Stage

Carrot Top's love for Las Vegas is palpable. He considers it both home and haven.

"We've got mountains, hiking, the Strip, amazing restaurants—and we're so central. Want to go to the beach? Boom, LA's right there. It's beautiful here almost year-round. And for someone in entertainment? It's the capital."

But it's the locals who've kept him grounded.

"Locals are everything. I thank them in every show. They've let me have my dumb face on billboards for years. That's love."

Road Stories and Springfield Confusion

Though his touring days are less frequent, Carrot Top still has legendary road stories.

"We once drove to the wrong Springfield. We were supposed to be in Illinois and ended up in Indiana. The driver realized it way too late. We lost our day off backtracking. Now every time we see that driver, we just say, 'How's Springfield?'"

He laughs like it happened yesterday.

A Message to the LGBTQ+ Community

As QVegas is an LGBTQ+ publication, we asked Carrot Top what he'd say to queer folks thinking about comedy.

"Do it. Comedy needs you," he said. "LGBTQ+ comics are brilliant. They don't mess around. I've seen drag hosts that work a room better than any comic I know. The sharpest, funniest people."



He reflects on the vibrant LGBTQ+ comedy scenes in places like LA and Orlando and encourages young performers to own their voice.

"Also, you get to wear makeup and wigs. That's why I got into comedy too!"

Pop Culture and Payphones

Many remember Carrot Top from his iconic 1-800-CALL-ATT commercials, a moment that launched him into mainstream fame.

"Those commercials were wild. Overnight, I was famous. People knew me from that but didn't realize I was a comic. They'd ask if my live show was about phones! I'd say, 'Yeah, we have a payphone on stage and teach people how to use it.'"

What's Next?

Even at 60, Carrot Top isn't slowing down.

"We're working on a documentary, maybe a podcast—people ask me to do one, so we'll see. There's always something in the works."

He continues to tweak his show constantly to keep it current, topical, and hilarious.

"The best compliment I get is, 'Your show is always fresh.' That makes me work harder. I write every day. Just walking around, flying, going to lunch—you see things, and that's comedy."

Still the Same Red-Headed Rebel

Carrot Top has defied the odds, dodged the critics, and built a decades-long career that's both celebrated and singular.

"Yeah, I'm an old bitch," he jokes. "But I'm still doing it. Still loving it. Still having a blast."

And Las Vegas wouldn't have it any other way.

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Claiming My Name: Raquel Brooks Takes on the DMV and Wins

"Tits up, tits out, full face of makeup" — that's how Raquel Brooks, also known on stage as Roxy Brooks, arrived at the Nevada DMV to finalize her gender marker and name change. But what should have been a celebratory and affirming final step in her legal transition turned into a stark reminder of the challenges transgender individuals continue to face, even in seemingly progressive states.

Raquel's story is not just about bureaucracy and red tape. It's a story about resilience, resourcefulness, and the power of standing your ground. It's also a stark illustration of how systems can be weaponized against marginalized people, and how community and legal advocacy can make all the difference.

The First Step: Seeking Legal Support

"I reached out to Garrett Pattiani about wanting to find a lawyer to help me with my name and gender marker change," Raquel said. That introduction led her to Nevada Legal Services (NLS), a nonprofit legal organization committed to helping low-income Nevadans access justice.

While NLS typically holds clinics at LGBTQ+ centers, Raquel's first visit coincided with an off-week. Still, she was handed a pamphlet and encouraged to call. That call kicked off a months-long legal journey. Through pro bono representation, she secured a court order changing her name and gender marker. The judge signed off, the paperwork was filed, and the legal process began to move forward.

Changing her Social Security card was, as she describes, "easy breezy." But the state of North Carolina, where she was born, proved more difficult. After months of mailing documentation, proving residency, and submitting letters from medical professionals, Raquel hit an unexpected wall. Despite receiving confirmation her documents were received and in process, suddenly North Carolina claimed they had nothing on file.

"It felt like my documents were being held hostage," Raquel said. "I had sent everything by certified mail. I had receipts. I had proof. But suddenly, it was like they disappeared."

Calling in Reinforcements

At her wit's end, Raquel shared her frustrations with her clinic director, who suggested reaching out to the office of U.S. Senator Jackie Rosen. With support from the Senator's team and a referral back to NLS, Raquel found new momentum. NLS even identified a lawyer able to practice in North Carolina.

"The day after that phone call, I got a letter saying my application had been processed. It was like magic," Raquel laughed. "Suddenly, they had found the documents that had been 'lost.'"

With a corrected birth certificate finally in hand, Raquel headed to the Nevada DMV to update her license.

A DMV Visit Turns Ugly

Walking into the DMV, Raquel expected to leave with a new ID and a renewed sense

of identity. Instead, she was met with a jarring experience of transphobia.

"They call you now by your first name and the last four of your phone number. So my dead name was broadcast across the waiting area," she recalled. "It was humiliating. But I told myself, 'Let's just get through this. It's almost done.'"

The desk clerk Raquel was assigned to immediately misgendered her.

"She greeted me with, 'Hello sir, how can I help you?' I said, 'My name is Raquel, and my pronouns are she/her.' Her response? 'Well, not yet they're not.'"

Raquel stood her ground. "I told her again, I am Raquel, and I use she/her. When she wouldn't stop, I started misgendering her back. When she protested, I said, 'How does it feel?' That stopped her in her tracks."

Despite having all the documents Nevada Legal Services and the DMV previously told her she needed, the clerk refused to process Raquel's license, claiming she needed her original, unamended birth certificate.

"I told her the word 'amended' means changed. That's the point. The old one doesn't exist anymore. But she wouldn't listen."

Raquel then asked to speak to the highest-ranking person in the building. "Not your supervisor," she said. "Your superior. The person in charge. I'll wait."

A Turn Toward Justice

After an hour of waiting and refusing to be dismissed, a manager arrived. The same clerk tried to misrepresent Raquel again: "*HE* doesn't have the right documentation..."

But the manager interrupted her. "I'm so sorry, ma'am, for this hassle. You have more than enough documentation. You will be getting your license today."

Raquel smiled. "Thank you. Yes, I will."

Though vindicated, the clerk continued to be difficult. She incorrectly entered Raquel's hair color and weight, trying to be petty in small ways. "She said I was over 200 pounds. I told her, 'I weigh 160, thank you.' And my hair is clearly red, not blonde."

It was a final act of resistance, but Raquel stayed composed. "She was trying to make it unpleasant, but I didn't give her that power."

A Flash of Solidarity

There was a bright spot when Raquel went to take her new ID photo. The woman behind the camera lit up.

"She was like, 'Yes girl, work! You look amazing!' It was so affirming. And then the manager circled back and thanked me again for my patience."

As she left, the original clerk offered a final comment: "By the way, I watch RuPaul too."

Raquel's response? "Apparently not closely enough."

Power Through Performance

When asked if being a drag performer helped her in that moment, Raquel didn't hesitate.

"Absolutely. Drag queens have presence. We have voice, posture, and command. If I were more soft-spoken or unsure of myself, it would've been a lot harder to stand my ground. Not everyone can do that."

That's what worries Raquel the most. She knows not every trans person has the same level of confidence or access to legal support.

"If I didn't have Nevada Legal Services or Senator Rosen's office backing me, I don't know how I would've gotten through it. They gave me the language, the power, the reassurance."

She emphasizes how important it is for trans people in Nevada to know about NLS and other resources.

"Their outreach isn't as strong as it could be. A lot of people don't know they exist. I want to change that."

The Work Ahead

Raquel's final legal task is applying for a new passport. Although she's cautious, she's hopeful.

"Now that all my documents say 'Raquel' and 'female,' it should be straightforward. But we'll see."

She hasn't logged into the Social Security website yet to verify the changes, but she was surprised to learn she could.

"I didn't even know I could see that online. I'll check when we hang up."

Despite everything, Raquel is thankful for how Nevada has supported her overall.

"This is a blue state. Even though we have challenges, most of the laws here are affirming, and a lot of people in government are allies. That's made a difference."

Representation Matters

Perhaps the most unexpectedly beautiful moment came at the very beginning of her DMV visit. The security guard at the door, Raquel recalls, was an older trans woman herself.

"She had gray hair, big boobs, probably in her late 60s. She was like, 'Welcome to the DMV!' I thought, 'Yes girl!' That gave me hope. Seeing someone like me, working for the government, out and proud — that meant a lot."

Raquel Brooks' journey through the system is one that many transgender individuals face. But her story also serves as a reminder: Know your rights, demand your dignity, and never underestimate the power of your voice—or your heels.

MARCH 31

TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

Each year on March 31st, the world comes together for Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) — a day to celebrate transgender and nonbinary people while raising awareness of the work still needed to achieve full equality. In 2025, TDOV is more important than ever, as the fight for trans rights continues across the nation.

TDOV isn't a memorial — it's a celebration. Unlike Transgender Day of Remembrance, which honors lives lost to anti-trans violence, TDOV shines a light on living trans voices, stories, and achievements. It's a day to be seen, be heard, and be proud.

A Moment of Power in a Time of Resistance

From elected officials and healthcare advocates to drag performers, educators, and youth leaders, transgender individuals are shifting the culture and rewriting the rules — all by simply existing authentically and publicly.

Representation matters. When trans individuals are visible in media, politics, healthcare, and education, it sends a clear message: we belong here. That message is especially important for trans youth, who are growing up in an era where their identities are often politicized or erased. Seeing successful, confident trans adults can be life-changing for young people questioning their place in the world.

Las Vegas is no exception. While some legacy organizations like Trans Pride and Gender Justice Nevada have sunsetted, new grassroots efforts and community leaders are stepping up. Local advocates and artists are creating events and platforms to uplift trans voices. Whether it's a TDOV showcase, drag performance, or storytelling panel, these moments foster belonging and visibility in a vibrant, supportive way.

In addition to public events, some local businesses and organizations are using this day to implement more inclusive practices. This includes updating internal policies to respect gender identity, creating safe spaces for staff and clients, and supporting trans-led initiatives through sponsorship and advocacy.

Rights Are Won — and Still Threatened

Nevada remains one of the most protective states for LGBTQ+ individuals, offering nondiscrimination laws and gender-affirming healthcare access. Legal name and gender marker changes are accessible, and public programs offer support — including through organizations like Nevada Legal Services, which has been instrumental in assisting trans residents navigate legal systems.

But while local progress is undeniable, it exists against a backdrop of rising anti-trans legislation in other states. In recent years, hundreds of bills have been introduced across the country targeting trans youth, restricting access to healthcare, banning participation in sports, and even criminalizing drag performance. These efforts are often based in misinformation and fear, rather than facts or empathy.

That's why TDOV is not just celebratory — it's also a political act. It's a stand against erasure. A declaration that trans lives matter, trans rights are human rights, and that no one should have to fight for the right to exist.

Ways to Show Up This TDOV

Whether you're trans, nonbinary, questioning, or an ally, TDOV is an opportunity to act:

- Celebrate out loud: Attend an event, share stories, or post your own journey with the #TDOV2025 hashtag.
- Support trans-led initiatives: Donate to groups providing housing, healthcare, legal help, and safety for trans Nevadans.
- Speak out: Challenge anti-trans rhetoric and policies in your community and online spaces.
- Educate yourself and others — real visibility comes from recognition and understanding.
- Vote with purpose: Support candidates and policies that prioritize equality and justice for LGBTQ+ people.

Our Stories Matter

Visibility is more than showing up — it's being acknowledged, respected, and empowered. On Transgender Day of Visibility 2025, we honor the courage it takes to live openly and the power of every person who dares to be fully themselves in a world that too often demands conformity.

Trans people are not just visible — we're vibrant, valuable, and vital. Our stories shape culture. Our resilience inspires movements. And our presence paves the way for future generations to live without fear.

To our trans siblings: we see you, we celebrate you, and we commit to standing beside you — today and every day.



We're here for all of your **sexual health** needs

Whether it's testing, treatment, or prevention,
the Arlene Cooper Community Health Center
inside The Center has you covered.



Walk in or schedule an
appointment today.

**[thecenterlv.org/
health-center](https://thecenterlv.org/health-center)**

401 S Maryland Pkwy
702-802-5432



LGBTQ+ Resources

THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
thecenterlv.org

ACLU
aclunv.org

ADL
lasvegas.adl.org

ALCOHOLICS TOGETHER
alcoholicstogetherlasvegas.com

BEARS LAS VEGAS
bears.lv.org

COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
cccfsn.org

HENDERSON PRIDE
hhendersonpride.org

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
hrc.org

IMPERIAL ROYALE SOVEREIGN COURT OF THE DESERT EMPIRE
irscdei.org

LAMBDA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
lambdalv.com

LAS VEGAS MEN'S CHORUS
lvmenschorus.org

LAS VEGAS PRIME TIMERS
lasvegasprimetimers.com

LEATHER UNIFORM CLUB OF LAS VEGAS (LUC OF LV)
lucoflv.com

LEGACY COUNSELING
legacycounselingandworkforceconnections.com

MAMA DRAGONS
mamadragons.org

NEVADA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION
ngra.com

THE PRIDE TREE
thepridetree.lv.com

SILVER STATE EQUALITY
silverstateequality.org

SOUTHERN NEVADA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER QUEER SOCIETY
snapiqs.org

YOUNG: EQUAL
youngequal.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS



TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY EVENT

Honoring the strength, resilience, & joy of our trans community

FREE EVENT FEATURING

A march, live entertainment, awards, food, music, and more!

SUNDAY, 3/30

3:00 - 8:00 PM

401 S. MARYLAND PKWY

Let's stand together, celebrate, and uplift trans voices. All are welcome!



Email info@qvegas.com to add your organization to our directory.



HIV Resources

AID FOR AIDS OF NEVADA (AFAN)
afanlv.org

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
aidshealth.org

FARABI WELLNESS CENTER
hpvlv.com

GOLDEN RAINBOW
goldenrainbow.org

HORIZON RIDGE WELLNESS CLINIC
hrc.lv.org

SIN SITY SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE
sinsitysisters.org



STI Testing

THE ARLENE COOPER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
thecenterlv.org

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
aidshealth.org

FARABI WELLNESS CENTER
hpvlv.com

HUNTRIDGE FAMILY CLINIC
huntridgefamilyclinic.org

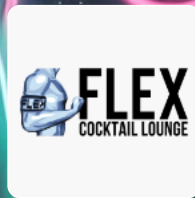
SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT
southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

UMC
umcsn.com



Q VEGAS BAR & NIGHTCLUB GUIDE

Download on the
App Store



MONDAYS

SURRENDER

HOSTED BY LACHERRY WILD
\$100 CASH HOT BODY CONTEST • SHOWTIME @ 7 AM
BY 11:00 (SHOWTIME) • FREE BUCKET BUCKETS 10 PM TO 5 AM
NO COVER

FRIDAY MARCH 28

Piranha NIGHTCLUB PRESENTS

JIMBO

WINNER OF RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE ALL STARS 8
CANADA'S DRAG RACE S1
+ UK VS. THE WORLD S1

SHOWTIME
1:30 AM MAIN ROOM

MEET & GREET
12:30 AT GIPSY

DOORS OPEN AT 10 PM

FRIDAYS

FETISH

HOSTED BY DEMI 007 + ALEXIS MATEO
SHOWTIME AT 12 AM FRONT ROOM + 1:30 AM MAIN ROOM
NO COVER

TUESDAYS

VAQUERO VAQUERO

HOSTED BY PALOMA MAKARY
SHOWTIME 8:00 PM TO 12:00 AM
BY 11:00 (SHOWTIME) • FREE BUCKET BUCKETS 10 PM TO 5 AM
NO COVER

SATURDAY MARCH 29

Piranha NIGHTCLUB

HEATWAVE

SHOWTIMES
12 AM IN THE FRONT ROOM
1:30 AM IN THE MAIN ROOM

DOORS OPEN AT 10 PM

FRIDAYS + SATURDAYS

Piranha NIGHTCLUB PRESENTS

LATIN CALIENTE

PALOMA MAKARY
BY GIV
2 AM IN THE OCEAN LOUNGE
FREE BUCKET OF BEER W/ PURCHASE OF BUCHANAN'S BOTTLE

WEDNESDAYS

WET

HOSTED BY SAGE DHARA ANDREWS
SHOWTIME 8:00 PM TO 12:00 AM
BY 11:00 (SHOWTIME) • FREE BUCKET BUCKETS 10 PM TO 5 AM
NO COVER

SATURDAY MAR 29

Piranha NIGHTCLUB

SUZIE TOOT

FROM RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE SEASON 17

SHOWTIME
1:30 AM MAIN ROOM

MEET & GREET
12:30 AT GIPSY

DOORS OPEN AT 10 PM

SUNDAY MAR 30

Piranha NIGHTCLUB

HEATWAVE

SHOWTIME
1:00 AM IN THE FRONT ROOM

THURSDAYS

Piranha NIGHTCLUB

REPLAY

HOSTED BY ROMAN VAQUERO + ADAM HOGG ANDREWS
SHOWTIME 8:00 PM TO 12:00 AM
BY 11:00 (SHOWTIME) • FREE BUCKET BUCKETS 10 PM TO 5 AM
NO COVER

SUNDAYS

Piranha NIGHTCLUB PRESENTS

LATIN SUNDAYS

PALOMA MAKARY
BY GIV
1:30 AM IN THE BACK ROOM
\$20 DOMESTIC + \$25 IMPORT BUCKETS 10 PM TO CLOSE