

# In Business Las Vegas February 19-25, 2010

Feb. 19-25, 2010

IN BUSINESS LAS VEGAS

Page 17

## Bush visits Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center

By **Richard N. Velotta**  
Staff Writer

When former President George W. Bush said he was interested in the progress of the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas, he wasn't kidding.

Bush stopped Feb. 10 at the Frank Gehry-designed center in downtown's Union Park and was given a tour by Keep Memory Alive foundation founder Larry Ruvo, who said Bush and his family have been longtime supporters of the clinic that opened in July.

"He was very interested in how the Cleveland Clinic was doing for us," Ruvo said in an interview Feb. 12. "He thinks very highly of the Cleveland Clinic and visited it during his presidency."

Ruvo said when he met last year with Bush at a luncheon in Reno, the president inquired about the Las Vegas center's progress.

"I told him the building was open and that Cleveland Clinic continues to underpromise and overdeliver," he said.

Ruvo said organizers expected to see about 3,000 patients in the first year, but that number will be "north of 12,000."

Ruvo, who has known the Bush family for decades, promised the then-president and first lady Laura Bush at a White House meeting years ago that he would keep them up to date on the clinic's progress.

With the doors open, Bush decided it was time to have a look.

When he called and asked for a tour, Ruvo

asked if he would mind meeting with some employees and volunteers at the clinic.

"To have the 43rd president of the U.S. here, they were all excited and very pleased," Ruvo said. "Whether you're Republican or Democrat, you respect the office."

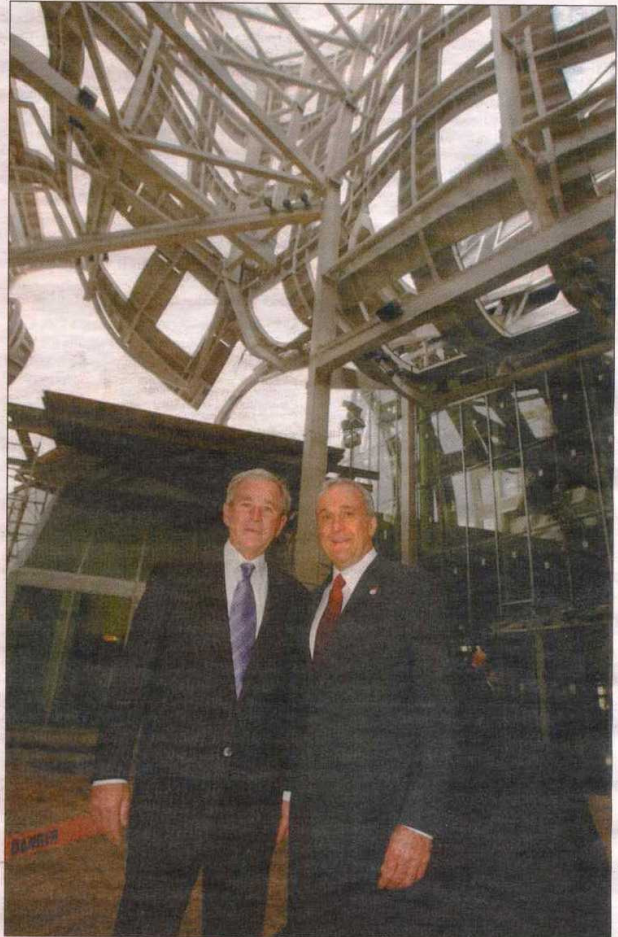
Bush was particularly impressed by the clinic's combination of patient care and research, Ruvo said.

One example of the clinic's research efforts was the Leon Thal Symposium 2009 in October. The annual think tank brings together many leading researchers on Alzheimer's disease with an emphasis on prevention. The symposium commemorates the late Dr. Leon Thal, a leading researcher into the cause, prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's, who died in 2007.

Many elements of the Alzheimer's research plan developed at the 2008 symposium were incorporated into the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2009 passed by Congress, which doubles funding for Alzheimer's research by the National Institutes of Health by fiscal year 2010.

Larry Ruvo is a well-known Las Vegas philanthropist whose father, Lou, suffered from Alzheimer's. Larry Ruvo has raised millions of dollars for the cause.

**Richard N. Velotta covers tourism, technology and small business for In Business Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Sun. He can be reached at 259-4061 or at rick.velotta@lasvegassun.com.**



COURTESY PHOTO

**On tour:** Former President George W. Bush appears with Keep Memory Alive foundation founder Larry Ruvo for a tour of the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas.

## Women to Watch



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SPICKLER / SPECIAL TO IN BUSINESS

**Guests of honor:** *In Business Las Vegas* honored 17 local business executives and owners as "Women to Watch 2010," a special publication published Jan. 29. Above, the honorees and their guests attend a breakfast at Dos Caminos Mexican Restaurant & Lounge at the Palazzo. Speaking at the event are, at left, honoree Marilyn Burrows, senior vice president and general manager at Cox Communications in Las Vegas; and, below, Starla Lacy, environmental health and safety executive at NV Energy.



## Henderson Entrepreneur Fair to assist small businesses

By **Buck Wargo**  
Staff Writer

Henderson and Democrat Assemblywoman Ellen Spiegel are teaming up to help small businesses grow and to assist people who want to launch a business.

The Henderson Entrepreneur Fair will be 6-7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Henderson Multigenerational Center, 250 S. Green Valley Parkway.

Bob Cooper, Henderson's economic development manager, said the impetus for the fair came from Spiegel, who wanted to find out what could be done to create opportunities for those who were laid off and to help existing businesses stay viable and grow during the recession.

"There are a lot of people suffering because of this poor economy and are thinking about how they can support their families and are considering starting their own businesses,"

Cooper said.

The fair will feature representatives from the Nevada Small Business Development Center, Nevada Economic Development Commission and SCORE, retired executives who are counselors to small businesses. The experts will talk about how people can get funding for their businesses, how to write a business plan and other advice such as how to sell to the government.

"We are providing them assistance and knowledge to help them," Cooper said. "People have been thrust into finding jobs and existing businesses are suffering at the same time. They need advice on how to grow and stay afloat."

**Buck Wargo covers real estate and retail for In Business Las Vegas and its sister publication, the Las Vegas Sun. He can be reached at 259-4011 or at wargo@lasvegassun.com.**