

# Blockchain setting a trend in Nevada

By Anne Knowles  
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Blockchain technology, officially recognized in Nevada since a law passed in 2017, has attracted about \$300 million in investments statewide, according to Blockchains LLC.

Four more bills, all sponsored this session by Sen. Ben Kieckhefer, R-Reno, who sponsored the earlier legislation, will further lay the groundwork for the technology, said Matthew Digesti, vice president, Government Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, at the Sparks-based startup.

The four bills — Senate Bills 161 through 164 — would, among other things, define a virtual currency and allow businesses to maintain certain records via blockchain technology.

Digesti and Stephanie Sciarani, Blockchains vice president, operations, provided a primer on the technology and where it's headed at the Northern Nevada Development Authority breakfast held Wednesday at the

Casino Fandango convention center.

"We'll attempt to demystify blockchain technology for you," said Digesti.

Digesti said the technology essentially eliminates the middleman in many everyday transactions and saves time and money.

"Blockchain is a ledger in its purest form," said Digesti.

It's distributed across a network of peers. A transaction generates a hash, which if approved by all peers on the network, turns into a block, and multiple blocks in the transaction form a chain. Cryptography protects the data.

Sciarani gave examples of applications, including smart contracts which can be created, executed and disputed outside the already overburdened court system.

"So Matt agrees to buy my car on May 1. On May 1, the money is automatically deducted from his account, the title is automatically changed. It builds in a dispute resolution mechanism," said Sciarani. "We can keep those breach of contract cases

out of court."

She talked about medication tracing from a company called FarmaTrust, medical record tracking and access from MedRec, and Titan Seal, which uses blockchain technology for government records and is currently working with Clark and Elko counties.

Even voting can be done using blockchain technology. Sciarani said West Virginia successfully tested a system from Voatz with 144 voters in the military who were stationed outside the country.

Blockchains LLC has several revenue streams, Digesti said in response to a question from the audience. It plans to build bunkers in which people can store their personal data, to incubate other startups, and to build a smart city in Painted Rock east of Sparks.

That project will also include a 1,000-acre blockchain campus. Digesti said the company is now working with Storey County on the master plan and hopes to break ground on the campus in the first half of 2020.

## Bella Vita Bistro to open for lunch

Nevada Appeal staff report

Bella Vita Bistro isn't calling it quits after all.

The restaurant in the Carson Mall has been closed since early April after its owner announced she planned to sell the eatery. But plans now are to reopen May 1 for lunch only.

"Hold on to your hats, we are not closing the Bistro," reads a recent post at the Bella Vita Bistro Facebook page. "We don't want to bore you with the details but it was crazy how we came to this decision. We are super excited to be staying and

we truly believe that things happen for a reason."

Starting May 1, the restaurant will be open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and available in the evening to rent for private events as well as special events such as music night and wine tastings.

Bella Vita also does catering and farmers markets, and is opening small cafes in three local venues, including the recently opened Carson Tahoe Care Center on Mountain Street.

Bella Vita Bistro is located at 1304 S. Stewart St., in the Carson Mall.

## Carson City Chamber of Commerce offering Hometown Health to members

Nevada Appeal staff report

The Carson City Chamber of Commerce is offering Hometown Health health insurance to its members.

In 2018, the federal government revised regulations to allow associations to offer health insurance to their member businesses. These new association health plans allow small businesses to band together to obtain health care coverage as if they were a single large employer, according to the Department of Labor's website.

"The Carson City Chamber is pleased to be able to offer its business members the opportunity to

purchase great health insurance at an affordable price," said Ronni Hannaman, executive director. "What makes this partnership so important is that we can offer health insurance for the sole proprietor who usually is unable to obtain group health."

The plan with Hometown Health is available for Chamber members through Chamber member brokers only. A list of brokers is available at the Chamber website at [http://www.carsoncitychamber.com/spotlight/details/chamber\\_health\\_insurance](http://www.carsoncitychamber.com/spotlight/details/chamber_health_insurance).

Hometown Health coverage is available starting May 1.

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