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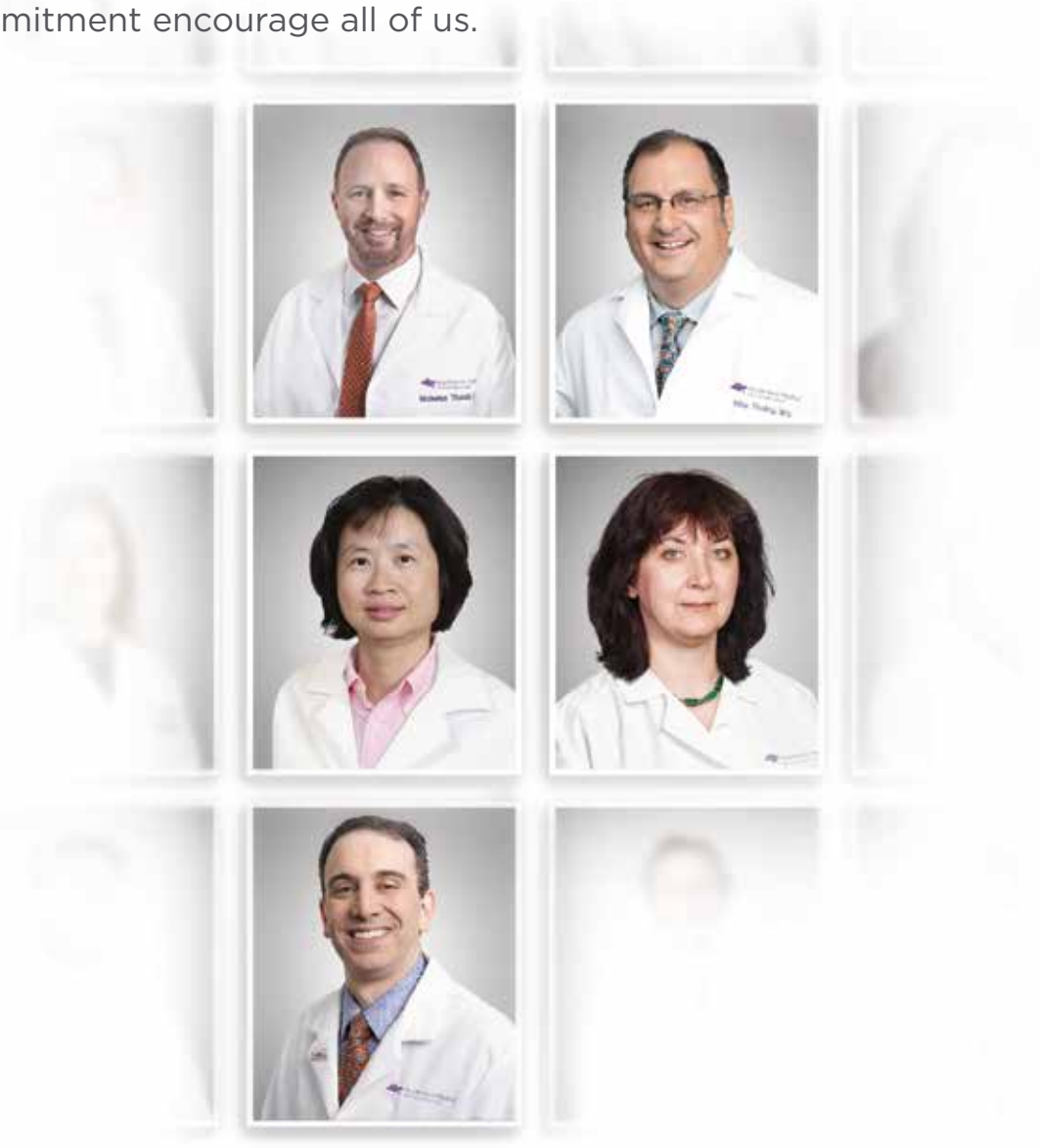

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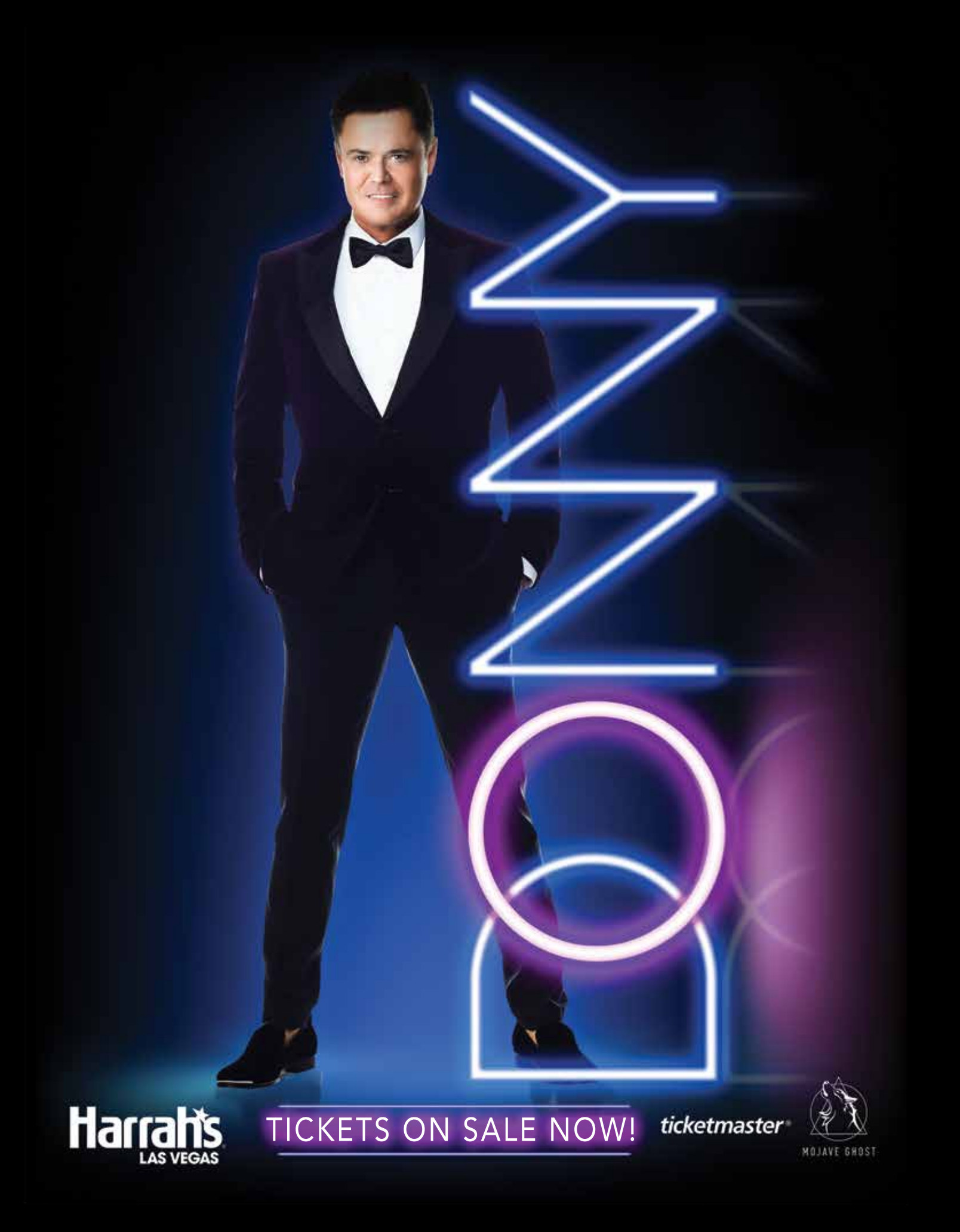
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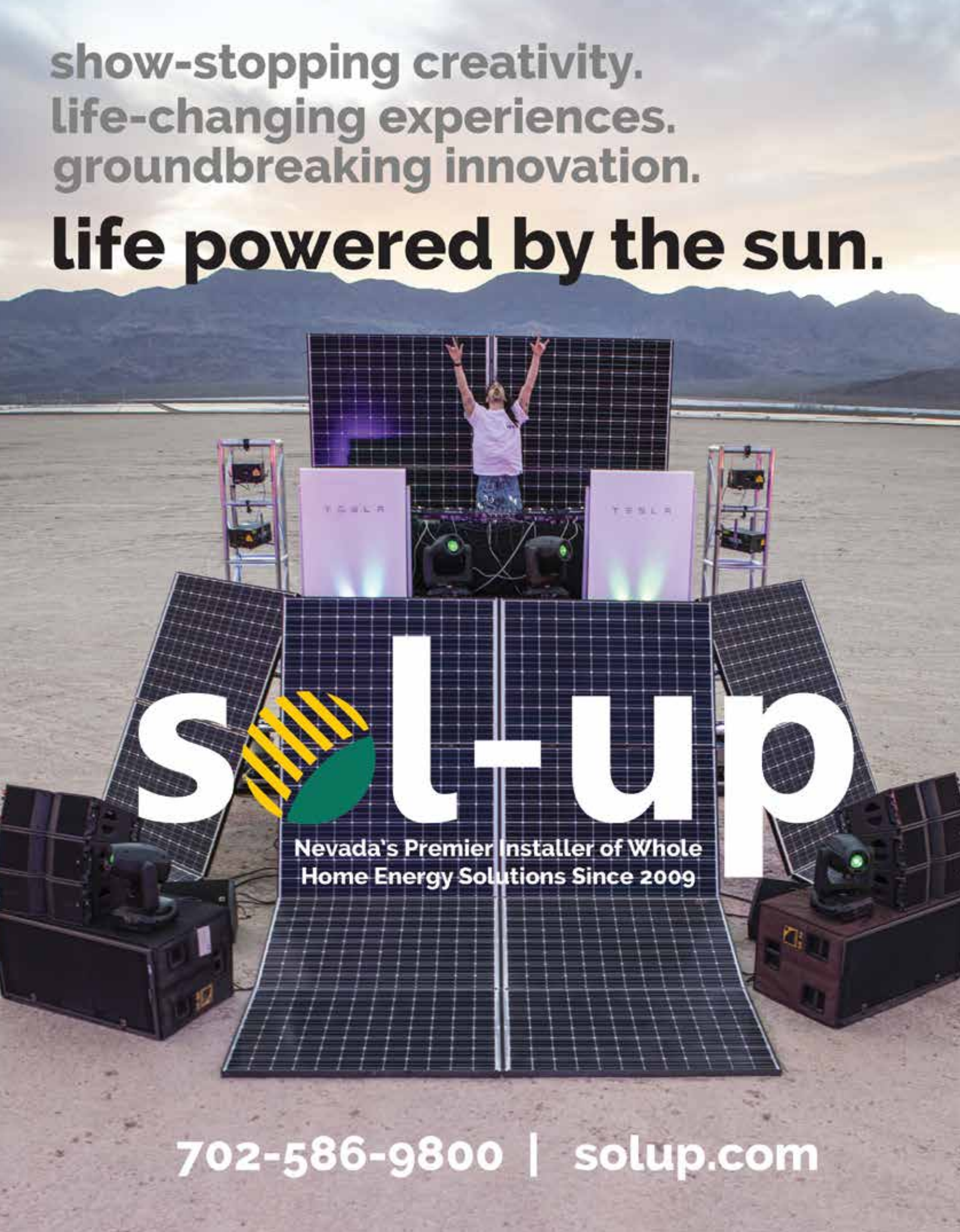

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Fall '21



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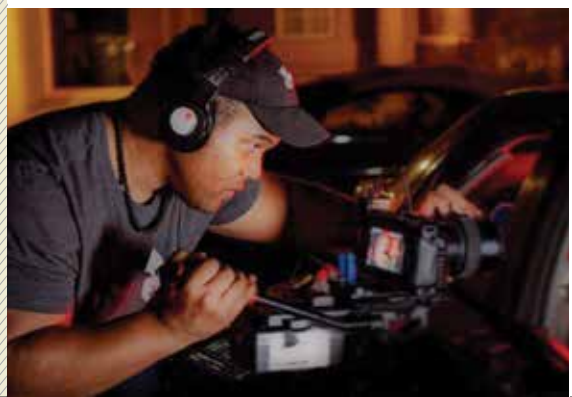

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Editor's Note

HEARTS AND CULTURE

Lest I trigger some cataclysmic, late-game jinx upon Las Vegas as we tentatively scooch toward something resembling recovery (or post-COVID detente? or the New Abnormal? or the Third Second Wave?), I won't spend too much of Editor's Note celebrating the triumphant return of live arts, culture, and events. The best way for *you* to celebrate is to bail on my introductory bloviating and flip immediately to our Fall Culture Guide, happily gravid with a season's worth of exhibits, concerts, festivals, plays, readings, and more. The nimble comeback of the valley's cultural venues and institutions — from waking giants like the Smith Center to small gems such as Core Contemporary Gallery — speaks not just to their resilience, but to the strength of their enduring commitment to enlivening our city with art.

It's fitting, too, that our fall issue of *Desert Companion* includes our Top Doctors and Top Dentists lists, celebrating a more literal definition of community health. For a glimpse of future medical excellence in the valley, check out our story, "Making the Grade," in which Heidi Kyser and I had open-ended, eye-opening conversations with recent medical and nursing school graduates about their academic experiences, their hopes, concerns, and career aspirations. It might be too early to predict a full recovery for Las Vegas, but if this issue represents any kind of health checkup, the city's prognosis looks promising indeed.

Andrew Kiraly
EDITOR

OH, YEAH, ALSO

1. So, how'd your pandemic shutdown go? Did you master sourdough? Learn to code? Writer Jason Scavone's got, well, nothin':

What did I learn? Nothing. Not a damn thing. Like a teenage drunk driver with a rich daddy, there were no lessons learned. There were no lessons even attempted. There was no breadmaking. There was no meditating. No yoga classes, no mindfulness, no soul-searching.

No language learning, no musical instrument uptake, no journaling, no reaching out to old friends, no sad attempts to wear real clothes in a pathetic attempt to feel "normal," no catching up on the mountain of unread books threatening to envelop my bedroom, no fitness regimen beyond the occasional walk when it wasn't boiling out. Thankfully, only one sadsack Zoom party, locked in rictus horror for the duration of the call while everyone played social chicken at being the first to quit the thing. …

Read his complete essay in our Fifth Street newsletter at desertcompanion.com

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3. FIFTH STREET

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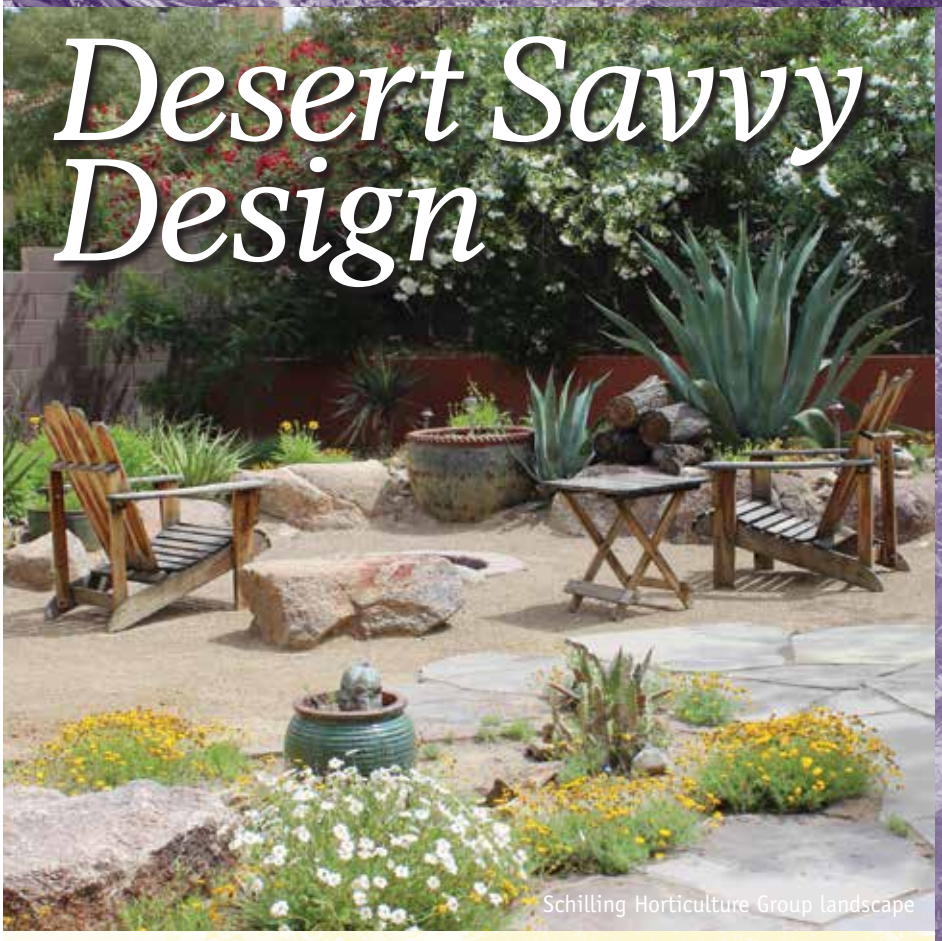

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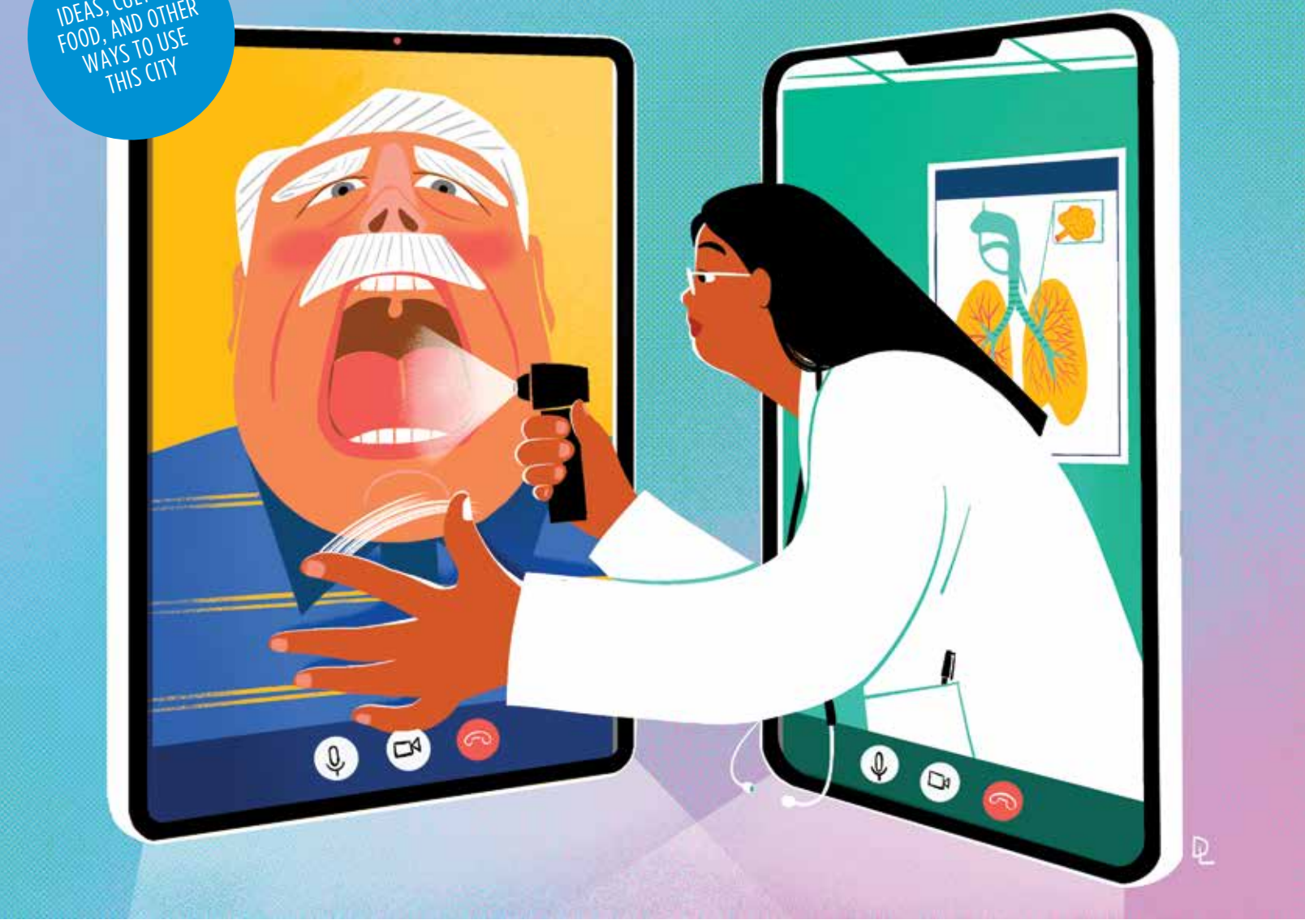

The Doctor Will Skype You Now

Telemedicine made its main-stage debut at the height of the pandemic. It's here to stay — if insurers play along

BY ***Paul Szydelko***

From his desktop computer with two 27-inch monitors in his Downtown Las Vegas office, Dr. Dylan Wint recently logged onto a telemedicine visit with an elderly female patient from the Lake Tahoe area. She had asked to see Wint about her memory problems and panic attacks. She was sitting with her back to a window, her face in heavy shadow, so she carried her laptop to another spot in her home.

As she found better light, Wint noticed how slowly she moved and how her facial expressions seemed to go flat. When she confirmed that she had experienced shaking, he asked her to quickly tap her thumb and index finger onscreen to test her speed and amplitude of rhythmic movement. After the 30-minute virtual

ILLUSTRATION ***Delphine Lee***

visit, Wint ordered a specific imaging test the woman was able to get in her area that confirmed she has Parkinson's disease — something she was told had been ruled out with previous tests.

Like so many other patients, because of COVID-19 concerns and the time and expense involved in seeing a doctor in person, the woman was unlikely to travel to actually step into an examination room with Wint, a neurologist and psychiatrist who is director of the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.

"Our telemedicine program made its debut around the same time we started seeing patients in person in 2009," Wint says. "We had a dramatic increase in virtual visits — seeing patients wherever they are, through their own online devices —during the COVID lockdown, shifting about 90 percent of our in-person volume to online platforms."

Telemedicine use surged during the pandemic, permitting safer, more convenient, more timely access to health care. While the pandemic continues to create uncertainty, telemedicine is undoubtedly here to stay. How popular it remains, however, still depends on the vagaries of the country's health system. But the pandemic's effect and long-term repercussions on healthcare delivery cannot be overstated.

"The pandemic was as dramatic an impact on American society as World War II. And the telehealth change is as dramatic as World War II for the nature of healthcare delivery. It really is a major culture change," says Dr. Jerry Reeves, a trustee and chair of the membership committee of Clark County Medical Society, and medical director of Comagine Health and the Nevada Telehealth Alliance.

Telemedicine has certainly faced hurdles: reluctance among doctors to make some diagnoses remotely; an initial shortage of webcams and video-enabled computers; inevitable forgotten or missed appointments; fragile or fussy wi-fi connections; and a learning curve for both providers and patients.

"It's not like all of the doctors and clinics knew how to do this," Reeves says. "Certainly the patients, especially the seniors, who don't necessarily feel that comfortable with smartphones and computers, they didn't get it particularly well, either. So there was a huge ramp-up in just developing the competence and the skills both as a patient and as a healthcare provider to do this well, and to do it safely."

Forty-nine percent of Americans used telehealth during the pandemic, compared to only 25 percent pre-pandemic, according to a *Time*/Harris poll published in June. Older patients reported the largest increases, with those 55-64 years showing a 230 percent increase, and those 65 and older a 211 percent increase. Reeves says that surge is sustaining for nonsurgical and nonprocedural specialties in behavioral health, mental health, substance use disorders, and services for the elderly and frail with multiple, chronic conditions. "The health care professionals that deliver those health services are living a completely different life from what they were before," he says.

FLIPPING THE SCRIPT

TELEMEDICINE'S TENTATIVE TROT became a full gallop during the pandemic for Corie Nieto, director of telehealth services for Nevada Health Centers. At the pandemic's peak, 50 percent of all patient encounters in her 17-center nonprofit organization were virtual with the patient at home. Now it's about 15 percent, she says. Improving the experience and sustaining the momentum of a telemedicine program that started in March 2020 are among her goals.

The script has been flipped, she says. Before the pandemic, telemedicine visits were confined to about 10 conditions that doctors felt they could effectively treat. Now it's more like 10 conditions for which patients *can't* be seen from home. Chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and skin problems that are basically under control can easily be handled remotely. In a way, Nevada's rural character makes our state an ideal telemedicine test subject. "Rural areas often skew older and, intuitively, we thought they would not want to try telehealth," Nieto says, "but our FB analytics show it *is* the older population that is utilizing telehealth."

Insurance, as always, drives how fast healthcare delivery moves in new directions. Nevada Assembly Bill 292, signed into law in 2015, mandates that insurance companies pay for telemedicine at the same rate as they would an in-person appointment and guides Medicaid and commercial insurance payers. And on a federal level, Medicare provided waivers to pay for virtual care during the pandemic. But self-funded insurance plans don't fall under state guidelines and can choose whether to cover telemedicine visits. And whether Medicare extends waivers, rewrites policies, or falls back to not covering telemedicine comprehensively is uncertain. "Our hope is that they all choose to cover it in the future," Nieto says.

Also subject to the whims of insurance practices are more in-home tools such as blood-pressure cuffs, blood-glucose monitors, and more sophisticated devices that patients can use to provide real-time information to clinicians. "We're in this weird space right now where we needed the adoption to get to that," Nieto says, "but we are looking at home kits that have the ability to give us heart and lung sounds or look in an ear or a mouth, that are both reasonably priced and easily supported, so we can enhance our virtual visits, in the patient's home."

Cost is among the factors that make widespread adoption impractical in the short term, but it's not too far down the road, says Dr. Marc Kahn, dean of the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV, who anticipates more even more elaborate devices becoming routine.

"As we move forward very quickly, telehealth is going to include remote physical diagnosis with ultrasound probes and stethoscopes that are wired to transmit sounds over the internet, and even electrocardiograms and simple pathology specimens that can all be transmitted over the internet," Kahn says. Strides in haptic technology will permit Kahn, an internist, to feel a patient's spleen from thousands of miles away.

'CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY'

IN THE MEANTIME, Kahn is working to ensure students experience telemedicine in the curriculum. Because Nevada is primarily a rural state with a chronic shortage of doctors, there is a huge need for more telemedicine, Kahn says. Nevada ranks 45th among states in active doctors per capita. Eighteen of the 50 graduates in the School of Medicine's inaugural graduating class in May say they plan to stay in the state for their residencies. Kahn says he is also advocating for telemedicine "from a policy perspective, to make sure lawmakers realize how important telehealth is for caring for our community."

Students will need not just technical know-how, but a shift in mindset as well. Brainstorming with colleagues over Zoom or Skype during the pandemic was one thing, but telling a doctor about a health condition in a telemedicine encounter can be more difficult. Training staff and doctors to make the healthcare experience in that realm more efficient and effective is essential.

"There's a difference between a doctor-pa-

tient relationship in-person versus one that's totally virtual," Kahn says. "We don't read emotion as well. We don't interact with each other as well. We don't joke around as much in the different interactions. But the combination of telemedicine and in-person medicine is really what we're going to see."

Depending on the specialty, telemedicine follow-ups after an initial in-person appointment can be just as good, Wint says — and a crucial tool in covering "gaps in care" that patients may experience between live appointments. Telemedicine visits can encourage a patient to better manage their medications or their blood pressure, to schedule that mammogram or colonoscopy.

"There are some subtleties about doing telemedicine that are still difficult," Wint says. "One is just the timing. There's a little bit of delay, and watching folks' reactions, how quickly they can answer a question, what their reactions are to what their caregivers are saying, what their caregivers' reaction is to what the patient is saying. That's all information that I gather in the background. And I do feel a little bit of that void when I'm doing telemedicine appointments and the connection isn't good and I can't see both their faces."

While technology always evolves, delivery of healthcare moves in fits and starts, often at the mercy of insurance imperatives. Whether there's a regression, Reeves says, "largely depends on whether telehealth is more complicated and administratively burdensome and less compensated than in-person care delivery. ... If it's easier, faster, cheaper for the patients to get it through telehealth, that's what they're going to do. If it's easier, faster, cheaper for the docs to deliver it that way, that's what they're going to do." ✦

FILM

Risky Family Business

Director Hisonni Mustafa on his new crime drama *Take Out Girl* — and its commentary on the immigrant experience

BY ***Josh Bell***

Over the past year or so, Las Vegas-based filmmaker Hisonni Mustafa's feature *Take Out Girl* has played in more than 40 film festivals (both virtual and in person), racking up awards for Mustafa and the movie's co-writer/star, Hedy Wong. Inspired in part by Wong's life, *Take Out Girl* tells the story of Tera (Wong), who starts a side business delivering drugs out of her family's Chinese restaurant and ends up in over her head with some local criminals.

Set in LA but shot almost entirely in Las Vegas, *Take Out Girl* is a prime example of indie film ingenuity, with Mustafa, Wong, and Mustafa's filmmaking partner Alberto Triana (also a Vegas local) taking on numerous roles in the crew, from director to visual effects supervisor. The movie is now available on VOD, and played at the virtual Nevada Women's Film Festival June 21-27. Mustafa spoke to *Desert Companion* about *Take Out Girl* and his filmmaking experience.

How did you get involved in *Take Out Girl?*

Hedy Wong, the film's lead actress, co-writer and executive producer, had a first draft and the concept already. I met her, and she had a great premise, but it was just her personality and who she was that struck





SPECIAL DELIVERY
Left, Hisonni Mustafa; below, Hedy Wong and J. Teddy Garces in *Take Out Girl*.

me as interesting. From there, I wrote my draft, which was kind of bits and pieces of her draft, and then calling her on the phone to get more information about her life, and then I implemented that. Of course, because I'm writing, there's a lot of things that came from my prism as well, little elements of my life and whatnot.

What was the collaborative process like between you and Hedy?

That process was really easy. We didn't expect it to happen. When we thought about the goals for the film, it looked a little strange on paper having an African American male tell the story of an Asian American female. But when we looked it at in terms of the basic needs of every human being, things started to look a little bit more clear. As our relationship grew, I realized that she was essentially making this film to thank her mother, to show her mother she was going to make something of herself. For me, everything I do is to tell my mom she did a good job.

My mom didn't have the same opportunities, nor did Hedy's, because her mother is an immigrant. My mother is Black in America and grew up in systemic poverty like I did. My mother had to make some really serious choices really quickly in her life. She didn't necessarily fulfill her potential, and I felt like it was my job to do that. We realized how much we both loved our moms. We wrote a character and a story that is essentially about a child's love for their mother.

How do you balance all of your different crew positions on the film?

They complement one another. For example, when it comes to my contribution to cinematography, if the shot size, composition, lighting, color, and clarity don't complement the performance, then I'm doing something wrong. If the performance is inappropriate for all of those things I just named, then they're doing something wrong, or my direction is wrong, or the lighting needs to be adjusted. I look at it as like owning a butter factory right next to a popcorn company. All of these skills make me better at what I truly want people to see.

What was your strategy for convincingly shooting a movie in Vegas that's set in LA?

Cheating locations, that's kind of Hollywood's dirty little secret. They're always doing that. For me, I figure if Hollywood has to do that for budgetary reasons, then it's a no-brainer that I have to. Cheating Las Vegas for LA was much easier than people think, because there's a lot of different LAs. Once I realized where I could set the film, then I could just do the legwork, drive around Las Vegas, ride my bike around Las Vegas, take pictures, until I found something where I knew it approximated that area in LA that I was trying to convey.

Do you feel like the movie is especially timely with everything happening in the world right now?

I think not only is it coming at the right time now, but in general. The entire process of making this film and immersing myself in the culture of another race and the nuances of the family dynamics of another race has just made me not only respect Chinese culture a lot more and Chinese Americans a lot more, but it also made me realize how alike we are. And that's what this film is going to do. ✦

MUSTAFA, *TAKE OUT GIRL* STILL: COURTESY





ENTHUSIASMS

HEAD IN THE CLOUDS

Look, up in the sky! It's a cumulonimbus — click! *Why I can't stop taking photos of clouds*

BY SCOTT DICKENSHEETS

I could probably fill the sky with photos I've taken of the sky. I've saved dozens, deleted maybe three times that. Sunsets and sunrises, sure, a few, but mostly I shoot clouds and contrails. Wisps of cirrus, bulwarks of cumulus, threads of jet vapor trails, and lots of formations that defy easy categorization — is that, uh, cumulo-cheese-grater? It's not just me, either; it's a whole thing, complete with trite nickname — cloud porn — and 24 million posts on the associated hashtag (though many have nothing to do with clouds). I prefer *skyroglyphics*, because constantly craning my eyes toward the heavens has imparted to me a loopy grandiosity.

My cloud snaps began as an offshoot of a fascination with landscapes, and are entirely enabled by the cheapness, disposability, and low expectations of cell-cam photos. Back when I lugged around an old-school film camera, I never thought to burn frames on airborne water vapor. A silly waste of resources, that. Somewhere around here I have a digital SLR, but its zoom-lensed weight and implication of *serious photographic equipment* somehow, in my mind, forestall its use for something as mundane as shooting clouds. But when I noticed that the landscapes I clicked most often with my phone usually featured some serious cloud action, I didn't think twice about firing off extra shots of the sky.

Sometimes I just document weird-looking formations. More often I'm drawn to clouds compositionally, thanks to their endless, shapeshifting varieties of form, texture, density — an abstract minimalism of the sky, one-time-only arrangements of blue, white, and the occasional hint of gray. It's rarely a matter of pareidolia — the perceptual trick of seeing familiar features in random visual information ("That cloud looks like Danny DeVito!") — and more about unusual presentations, compelling cloud fields, contrasting forms (mounds vs. wisps), and the antics of slanting light. Now, throw in the piercing line of a jet contrail, or, better yet, four or five of them crossing in hieroglyphic patterns, and suddenly the neighbors are wondering why I'm arching backward in the street, aiming my phone at the sky.

But I also enjoy clouds as fluffy philosophical prompts — especially at a time when their effortless free-sailing contrasts so pointedly with the fungal stasis of my not-yet-post-pandemic life. Deceptively weightless, they bring together a lot of heavy stuff: a critical role in the mechanics of climate change; implausible politics and danger, whether you're legitimate downwinder or a chemtrail zealot (now and then I post photos of contrails with mocking captions about chemtrails: *They're spraying aerosolized gun control!*). All of which makes clouds fun and useful to snap and think about.

Humans only register change at certain speeds and scales; anything too micro or macro requires the work of a scientist or social-media mansplainer to understand. But, as any hillside daydreamer knows, passing clouds are real-time thesis statements about the ongoingness of change. So each cloud photo captured and stored in my Google Photos — *on the cloud*, heh heh — reminds me of that obvious and complex truth: I'll never see anything exactly like that again. I wish I'd shot that Danny DeVito cloud when I had the chance. ✦

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Scott Dickensheets***

COMMUNITY

Twenty-first Century Gals

Building both mind and body, a new charter school aims to close the gender gap

BY ***Heidi Kyser***





On a Monday afternoon in May, a few dozen tweenage girls tumbled out of five rooms ringing the open central area of the John D. "Jackie" Gaughan Boys and Girls Club and sat cross-legged on Xs taped to the carpet. After a day of taking standardized assessment tests, they were chatty and restless.

With their pink backpacks and poufy ponytails, they looked like typical girls their age, but they were also part of something novel: a program that's shown success in other regions and has now come to Southern Nevada. It's an all-girls, tuition-free, charter middle school designed to help close the gender gap, that quaint phrase used to describe everything from the dearth of female scientists running labs to women making 82 cents, on average, to a man's dollar. Called the Girls Athletic Leadership School, or GALS, it opened a year ago.

"Last reminder!" shouted a young woman in a T-shirt, sweatpants, and sneakers, standing at the front of the room. "If you haven't turned in your laptop yet, we need it now!"

"We're just finishing up the SBACs (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium)," Jennifer McCloskey explained, over the din. "It determines the star rating. It will be interesting to see how many stars we get."

McCloskey is the executive director of the 501(c)3 behind GALS. For the school's first, incubator year, she struck a deal with the Gaughan Club to hold classes in the building between its before- and after-school recreation hours. But when the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the club's community service, GALS became its sole occupant.

It was an affordable place for the school to get its legs under it, McCloskey said, noting her gratitude. GALS' charter allows it to have up to 400 students. For its first year, it had just over 100 — five classes of 20 students each — half of whom opted to attend in-person and half online. But this fall, classes resumed in a bigger building several blocks to the east, on Maryland Parkway, where it can grow to its full capacity. McCloskey was expecting 160 students starting August 9.

They rotate among language arts, math, science, social studies, and GALS classes. That last one helps to define the school, beyond its focus on teaching girls. The "GALS" class is, essentially, the social-emotional component of a model meant to teach not just academics, but also physical and mental well-being: mind, body, heart.

Educational entrepreneur Liz Wolfson developed the GALS model about a decade ago based on her conviction that gender-based instruction could give girls the edge they need to live to their full potential once they're out of school. Wolfson's first school was in Denver, and there's now an affiliate in Los Angeles, in addition to the Vegas site. The basic idea is to provide girls, at a critical time in their development, with a supportive environment where they can figure out who they are. The hope is that they'll gain confidence in themselves, becoming strong self-advocates who make choices based on their needs, rather than others' expectations.

Kenneth Jones says this is what happened with his daughter, Heaven, whom he describes as a sweet, sensitive girl who had trouble making friends before going to GALS. "She's really come out of her shell," he says. "She stands up for herself more. She'll question things ... I love it."

Next year, Heaven will go to seventh grade at the zoned school in her mother's Summerlin neighborhood, Jones says, but he's glad she got a year at GALS. "I know she's going to do excellent in her classes. She's focused, and her confidence is so much higher."

How does this happen? McCloskey says it's because of the curriculum, which she describes by ticking off each letter of the acronym. "G" is for the focus on "girls," which means fewer distractions and more individual attention. "A," "athletic," may suggest sport but is actually more about wellness and the connection between physical movement and good cognitive function. GALS Las Vegas begins each day with 40 minutes of yoga, calisthenics, sprinting — a variety of activities, allowing girls to find what they enjoy and feels good — and movement is incorporated into lessons and breaks. Lastly, the "L" is for "leadership," a catch-all for the social-emotional component, teaching a range of soft skills, from coping with stress to effective communication.

... Which sounds great, but raises questions. For starters: How do you define "girl" (or take public funding for education if you're discriminating based on gender)? McCloskey says, "We are an open school, and we would absolutely enroll a boy if they wanted to attend. No boy has applied, but if one did, we would explain to their parents that we specialize in and cater to the needs of adolescent girls. If that works for them, then it works for us as well." She adds that other GALS schools have had both boys and transgender kids.

Another question: Is it a disservice to girls, socially, to teach them coping skills in such

PHOTOS COURTESY GALS LAS VEGAS



PULLING TOGETHER The GALS learning model aims to move students' bodies and minds.





a carefully controlled — and thus, unrealistic — environment? McCloskey says GALS probably isn't the right school for someone who believes that. In any case, the benefits of gender-focused education outweigh the risks.

To illustrate why, she gives the personal examples of her own middle school-aged daughter, who was bullied and harassed by boys in her accelerated science classes. "They basically told her that her place was in the kitchen," McCloskey says. "The only thing I can think of is that these boys were threatened by her intelligence and wanted to hold her back."

She says her daughter "muscled through the oppression," but not every girl can do that, and none should have to.







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Twelve-year-old Jamya, whose last name we were asked not to use, says GALS was her mother's idea, but she was happy about it. "All the schools I've gone to are boys and girls," Jamya says. "The boys are the problem. I've been bullied from them for two years in a row." Krista Yarberry, GALS' head of school (their term for "principal"), adds that harassment is sometimes physical, too.

A 30-year educator, Yarberry says her favorite part of the job is the community GALS serves. In the heart of the 89119 zip code, the school's student body comprises 85 percent children from surrounding neighborhoods and is more than 90 percent Black, Indigenous and other people of color. She describes the school's administration, staff, and families as a tight-knit group. She knows every student by name. Parents have her personal mobile phone number and use it. It's intense, she says, but some of the pressure should let up with the larger building and waning COVID restrictions.

"I do not recommend opening a school during a pandemic," she deadpans. "It's stressful. But it's worth it."

McCloskey agrees. A few years ago, after being diagnosed with cancer, she left her job as a Bureau of Reclamation deputy regional director. She found she couldn't care for herself and two daughters as well as she wanted to with such a demanding career in a stressful environment. As her health situation improved, she decided opening a school was something she could do to make a difference.

"I look at my mom's experiences," she says. "I look at my life. I look at my daughters and how frustrated they've been with gender issues and discrimination. And I felt like, I've got to do something. I've got to break the mold. My legacy has to be doing something about this."✦



PROFILE

High Adventure

Cannabis is legal. Dungeons & Dragons is making a comeback. Brandon McClenahan combined the two in a popular streaming show

BY ***Jason Harris***

This single-story home looks normal enough from the street. It's an older, ranch-style house, the kind built in this area decades ago, long before strips malls and subdivisions came to dominate northwest Las Vegas.

But around the back of the house is a set of industrial trailers. Inside one of them on a recent Saturday morning, a band of adventurers with names such as Rial Othrevan and Tynna Smoothhands is locked in battle with a powerful undead creature named Aeromastus. It's just one fantastic fight in the adventurers' ultimate quest to defeat the Lord of Shadows, Sithesis, who threatens to destroy the human realm entirely.

Don't worry. Fortunately for us living in the human realm, it's not real. It's a live-streamed game of Dungeons & Dragons organized by local actor Brandon Alan McClenahan that he calls "WeeDnD," produced from one of the backyard trailers in his northwest compound.

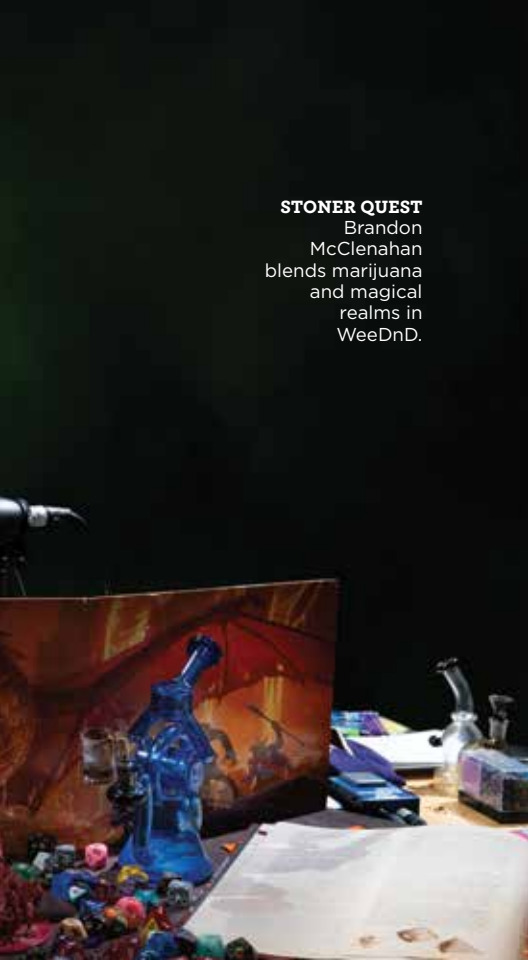
"WeeDnD is a cannabis-positive, collaborative storytelling experience," says McClenahan, who serves as the game master — that is, the narrator and referee. "It's a completely original show every week. It stars a cast of some of the finest entertainers from around Las Vegas. It's a party."

Pot? D&D? This makes McClenahan sound like a slacker, but he's actually an entrepreneur. Last year, he combined his two favorite pastimes and launched what's become a popular weekly Twitch stream in which costumed players get high, slay monsters, and grab treasure.

On this Saturday, Jake Taylor, Brenna Folger, Drew Yonemori and Abby Dandy — all local actors, too — are the intrepid adventurers, connected via webcams, rolling

FARGAS; AP IMAGES

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Bronson Loftin***



STONER QUEST Brandon McClenahan blends marijuana and magical realms in WeeDnD.

dice and taking bong hits as they vanquish creatures and puzzle over riddles. High or not, they've had an epic journey. In the story so far — narrated by McClenahan in his booming voice — they've slain a gorgon and used her blood to lift a deadly curse; they've obtained the powerful, wish-granting Luck Blade, only to have it stolen by a criminal outfit called The Syndicate; they've defended Kris Kringle's toy workshop against a rampaging Krampus; they've even had a psychedelic dream-battle with a villain bearing the unpleasant name Oobrey The Calloused. Much of this session is spent trying to solve a nonsensical riddle delivered by a creature named Glorp: "When the cat wears his pajamas, where does the dog dance?" ("Down the stairs, of course," Taylor guesses — correctly — and gets to advance.)

It's all as silly, freewheeling, and fun as it sounds. But McClenahan's vision is serious. Before the pandemic, he had ambitions to develop WeeDnD as "part of this first wave of green entertainment," he says, envisioning a live event that would tour dispensaries and game conventions. He had to pivot with the pandemic.

"We rerouted the entire show as a digital production. Can we do something different in those spaces? Can we bring the love of theatrical storytelling that we've fostered through doing community theater for 15 years in this digital space?"

So far the answer is yes. The weekly episodes attract up to 600 viewers on Twitch and up to 300 on YouTube. "For a show our size, that's virtually unheard of. We're monetizing in a real way. We're able to cover the cost of running the studio with the show itself and we're only doing four shows a month right now."

WeeDnD isn't the only show to turn old-school fantasy role-playing games into thoroughly modern entertainment. Countless D&D streams, podcasts, and websites have popped up in recent years as the game has not only made a comeback, but

THE ONE-QUESTION INTERVIEW: NIKKI FARGAS

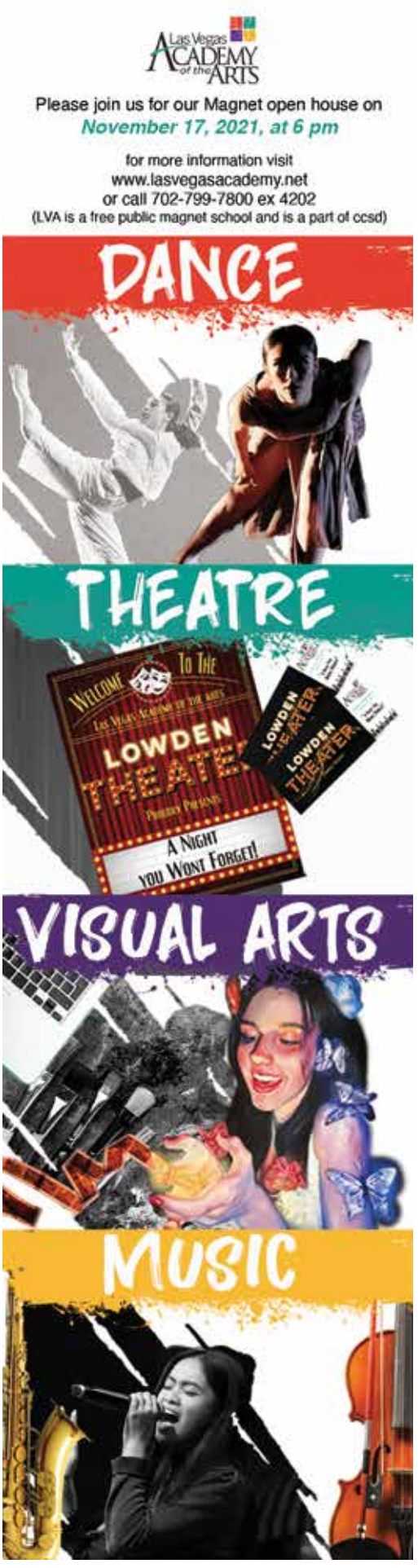
What's changed the most about basketball since you played?

Social media and fan engagement. We were so pushing for fans to come to the games. I worked (as an analyst in the mid-1990s) for Fox Sports Net, and we were the one entity that was covering one women's basketball game a week. To see now those television contracts, those advertisement dollars parlayed into sponsorship revenue! That's allowed the women's game to be more competitive as far as the resources that you're able to provide for student-athletes. That's where the technology, the business analytics, and intelligence come in.

When you think about social media, you have so many different channels to tell the story, to engage your fans where they know you and feel like they can follow you because now you're giving them the content. Now these athletes are sharing themselves with us in a more intimate way. That is a vehicle that we will continue to explore — how we can connect and reach younger fans where they are at. ***Paul Szydelko***



Nikki Fargas, 49, became president of the WNBA's Las Vegas Aces in May. Fargas played under legendary coach Pat Summitt at the University of Tennessee, helping the Lady Vols win the 1991 NCAA championship. Read the full interview with Fargas in our Fifth Street newsletter at desertcompanion.com.



broken into the mainstream. The internet made D&D easy to learn.

"The main thing that stopped people from playing Dungeons & Dragons is that they didn't know how," McClenahan says. "And it's hard to learn how to play if you can't just see somebody do it. Now, because of YouTube, you can watch people do it. Once you see it, it looks fun and you want to do it with your friends. It's like, 'Oh yeah. That looks fun as shit.' Who doesn't want to be a dwarf and throw a bottle at a dragon? Come on."

And as for that outdated stereotype that games such as D&D are the province of pimply-faced nerds — well, McClenahan points out, nerds are the hero of this story.

"The stigma of nerds is gone now, too," he says. "Nerds are cool. *Lord of the Rings*, Harry Potter, it's all mainstream. Nerds won the culture war. We won. Everybody's favorite movies right now are comic book movies. People love magic again." And with legal cannabis becoming more widespread and acceptable, McClenahan sees plenty of high adventure ahead. ✦



CULTURE

Art Action

Native artivists draw on a long tradition of speaking truth to power. For KNPR's *Native Nevada* podcast, a few of them talked about the messages of their predecessors and their own work

BY ***Heidi Kyser***

JEAN LAMARR

Jean LaMarr told the *Nevada Appeal* in 2003, "The concerns of my life manifest in my art, which is about racism, stereotypes, wars, and the destruction of Mother Earth." Great Basin Native Artists founder and curator Melissa Melero-Moose told KNPR about seeing LaMarr's work when she was a student at the Institute of American Indian Art in the early '90s: "My mind exploded. ... She has a great story to tell about activism and going to school at (UC) Berkeley in the '70s. I mean, she's telling the story of women being exploited so badly over the years and stereotypes and just the sexism that was involved in not just females in history, but specifically Indigenous females. So, it spoke directly to me."

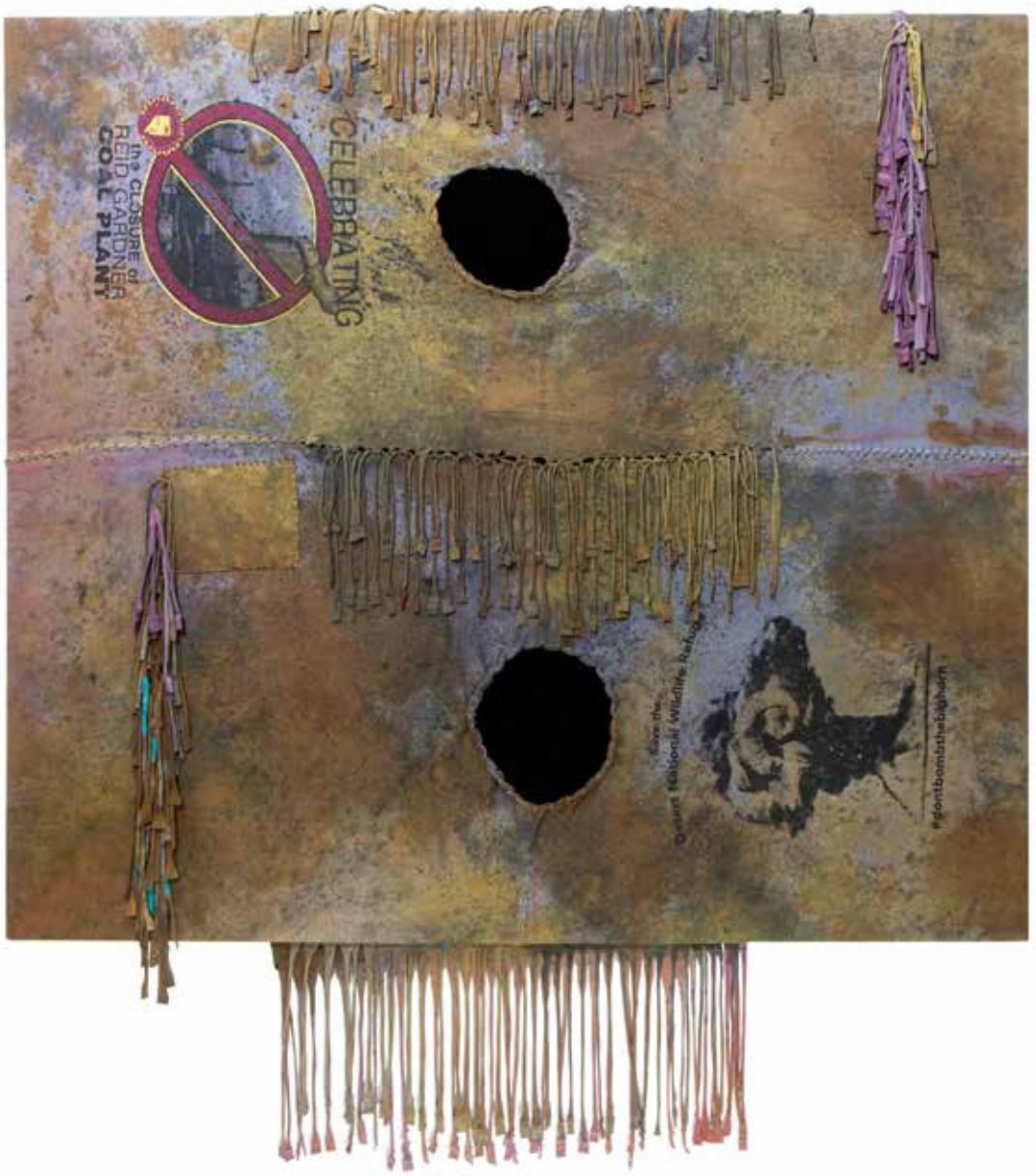
SANA SANA

Reno-based artivist Sana Sana works in many different media — drawing, painting, poetry, music — but always with a message. Here's how he described it for *Native Nevada*: "What I'm attempting to do with my art is to have these conversations with people and have people feel what I feel, or feel what my community feels, or even feel things that maybe they weren't aware that they were feeling as well. ... I want to draw people back into a space to where we can understand our connection and our relationships to the earth, to the water, to the air, and to ourselves and each other."





WE DANCED, WE SANG COURTESY OF NEVADA ART MUSEUM; SANA SANA: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST; FAWN DOUGLAS: CHRISTOPHER SMITH



FAWN DOUGLAS

"I like my art to project something, you know, to be able to change a mind and to educate those that see it on subjects they weren't even aware of," says Fawn Douglas, a Las Vegas-based artist, activist, and educator. "I've taken some old T-shirts from different protests … and repurposed them and given them more meaning … I wanted to be able to keep those shirts, but I also wanted to be able to reuse something, too. And so with that, it has that message of not creating more waste and also telling the story of what was going on within those traditional lands."



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FOOD + DRINK



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PHOTOGRAPHY ***Sabin Orr***

DINING

A Talent for Taste

Vegas' new generation of food and beverage professionals focuses on craft, quality, and niche appeal

BY *Greg Thilmont*



Mariana Alvarado

Even before the pandemic, the Vegas food and beverage world was a challenging place to excel. Today, it's arguably one of the toughest business arenas in which to build a lasting career. That's what makes this diverse group of talented professionals particularly special: Dedicated to their particular passion — whether it's artisanal corn or craft beer — they've patiently hustled for years to emerge as respected industry leaders.

CORN IS QUEEN

MARIANA ALVARADO
FOUNDER, MASAZUL

WITH GENERATIONS OF family heritage behind her, Mariana Alvarado is changing the face of Latin American cuisine in Las Vegas, one tortilla at a time. And, notably, many of those corn wrappers are blue.

"We nixtamalize fresh masa," says Alvarado, the founder of Masazul. Nixtamalize refers to the ancient process of using alkaline water to process maize kernels to remove their husks and release nutrients and the resulting soft dough. The company's marquee masa is made with indigo-hued, stone-ground heirloom corn from Oaxaca, Mexico.

Alvarado, who hails from Mexico City, arrived in 2008 and graduated in culinary arts from UNLV. She first entered the local food and beverage industry with a nearly decade-long stretch at a Las Vegas Strip classic: Spago.

Masazul launched recently, but its roots are deep. "We started last year in April," Alvarado says. "I got divorced, and I didn't want to work for anybody else. I'm a chef and always specialized in traditional Mexican cuisine. I learned from grandmas in old towns where my dad is from — 5,000 people. I literally went to their kitchens and learned techniques that they're preserving, but they're not writing down."

Alvarado is doing her part to spread that knowledge; her operations now include food preparation, wholesaling to high-profile ¡VIVA! by chef Ray Garcia in Resorts World, as well as selling retail wares at farmers markets and beyond. "We're bringing the real corn to Las Vegas."

TOAST THE UNDERDOG

MICHAEL SNODGRASS
PRESIDENT & PARTNER, WEST COAST BEVERAGES



MILLIONS OF PEOPLE say "cheers" every year in Las Vegas, and Michael Snodgrass has been behind countless glass-clinkings throughout his eventful beverage career, something that led him to join forces with West Coast Beverages almost two years ago.

Snodgrass moved to Las Vegas with his family as a youth, and has been a part of the food and beverage industry for most of his life. His resumé lists top-notch restaurants such as RM Seafood, Border Grill, Spago, Bouchon, and Herringbone. For a significant stretch, he was a sommelier and wine manager at OTTO in the Venetian, and was later on teams at Eataly and Breakthru Beverage, all of which paved the way to West Coast Beverages.

Assuming control of a modest portfolio

PORTRAIT *Christopher Smith*

of wines and other hard drinks, he and his team have greatly expanded the company's footprint in a notoriously crowded field of giant wholesalers with big wallets and vast staff. "We're in Esther's (Kitchen), we're in Main Street Provisions," Snodgrass says. "We're starting to grow and be in a lot of the bigger accounts."

The Nevada trade in adult beverages is dominated by gargantuan conglomerates, something Snodgrass believes gives his much smaller team a competitive edge in the marketplace. "We're able to pick up the ball where they can't," he says. "We're able to offer better service, be more aggressive. We really bring products to the market that don't have means for distribution with the larger companies," he says. Beyond being a business leader, Snodgrass also teaches wine certification classes and is finishing an undergraduate degree in business communications at UNLV.

TIRAMISU FOR ALL



KERIS KUWANA
CORPORATE PASTRY CHEF, LEV GROUP

IF YOU'VE PICKED up a hearty chocolate chip cookie at a local Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf location or you've forked into the delicate tiramisu at Al Solito Posto in Tivoli Village, you've tasted the sweetness of Keris Kuwana's team at LEV Group. "Anything you can think of pastry-wise, that's me," Kuwana says.

Kuwana, corporate pastry chef for the restaurant management company, oversees a lean staff that supplies a citywide network of eateries from a surprisingly compact kitchen in Downtown Las Vegas.

"We have 60 locations, different restaurants," says Kuwana, who grew up in Hawaii. Making her way to Southern Nevada after college, Kuwana studied kitchen arts with an emphasis in pastry at the former Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Summerlin.

Her work in the epicurean world first blended her tropical island upbringing with the neon-lit Mojave Desert at the lauded Roy's Hawaiian Fusion Cuisine. From there, she went on to work in galleys at famed Aureole, Bachi Burger, Alex Stratta at the Wynn, and Chocolate & Spice Bakery. Eventually, she joined 50 Eggs Hospitality Group, the Miami-based restaurant concern that owns Yardbird Southern Table and Chica. Understandably, it was a significant change in mindset to move from huge casino kitchens to a much more snug space at LEV Group.

"I am learning a lot more about the to-go aspect," says Kuwana, who was much more used to filling enormous convention banquet orders than suburban takeouts. "It's been a learning curve ... but a lot of fun."

BREWING UP A SCENE



ROSE SIGNOR
OWNER, THE SILVER STAMP BAR

ARE YOU A fan of fine beers? Chances are Rose Signor has filled a frosty pint glass or two for you over the years.

"I went to college in Albany (New York) called Saint Rose, majoring in broadcast journalism," says Signor of the winding path that led to recently opening the Silver Stamp bar in Downtown's Gateway District. "I did three years there and realized that wasn't what I wanted to do, so I moved out to Vegas."

It was the perfect destination. She had spent significant vacation time here as a youth; loves the desert climate; and wanted to forge a career in the food and beverage world.

That career began at Buffalo Wild Wings. From there, it was slinging suds at gaming bars such as Bounty Hunters where she honed her skills in spirits. A yearlong break to rainy Seattle opened her eyes to the possibilities of craft beers. Following her return to Las Vegas, she took on notable management roles at the Bunkhouse Saloon and Atomic Liquors, both renowned Downtown watering holes.

Finally, after a lengthy international backpacking trip with her partner, Andrew Smith, the two decided to open their own palace of suds. But it was a bumpy ride in opening the Silver Stamp's front door: SBA loans were nonexistent, even for a woman-owned business; and contractor troubles resulted in an unworkable first buildout.

However, Signor and Smith persevered. The two learned the construction plans inside and out, and leaned in (with power tools), resulting in a perfect rendition of a vintage Americana neighborhood bar featuring some of the tastiest pours in town.

"I'm very much a believer in 'if there's a will there's a way,'" she says, "and I don't really let people tell me 'no' a lot."

PASTRY PERFECTION



FLORENT CHEVEAU
OWNER, BURGUNDY BAKERY & CAFE

WALK INTO CHEF Florent Cheveau's lovely Burgundy Cafe & Bakery in Village Square and an eye-popping array of quiches, macarons, croissants, and beyond will transport you in spirit to France. Having grown up in a small town in his restaurant's namesake region, Cheveau entered the bakery and confectionery profession at an early age, common in France. "I started when I was 15 years old," Cheveau says. "I knew I wanted to be a baker."

He was ambitious. "I was obsessed with MOF," he says of the Meilleur Ouvrier de France, a prestigious competition that includes numerous aspects of the overall service industry.

This led to four years of working early shifts and practicing his craft in pastries and chocolates until late at night, day in, day out. This in turn led him to the Bellagio in 2007, where MOF-winner Jean-Philippe Maury once reigned over the pastry program. Thus began his American career, starting with almost eight years at the once-famed Jean Philippe Patisserie. After that, he oversaw a team of bakers as executive pastry chef at the MGM Grand.

Always goal-oriented, Cheveau had a dual plan from his earliest shifts at the Bellagio: compete as a world-class chocolatier and eventually open his own shop. He did both. In 2018, he was named the USA champion in the World Chocolate Masters competition. And, in the fall of 2020, he welcomed the public inside his supremely Gallic culinary *atelier*. Once working behind the scenes at a megaresort, now he's front and center as a shop owner. "I enjoy it so much," he says. ✦

SNODGRASS: JOSE DeELMONT; KUWANA, SIGNOR, CHEVEAU: COURTESY



OH SHELL YEAH Aromi's warm fregola salad with sautéed Manila clams in a white wine sauce

DINING

Italian Renaissance

As the pandemic ravaged the dining scene, small Italian eateries quietly thrived with bold flavors and daring menus

BY ***Greg Thilmont***

Tomato sauce must be in Southern Nevada's DNA. As a growing Las Vegas began to stretch beyond Downtown and the Strip, Italian restaurants popped up like ragù-red roses across the valley, including ever-popular stalwarts such as Casa di Amore, Nora's Italian Cuisine, and Pasta Shop Ristorante. Even more, in recent years there's been a flowering of high-profile eateries opening beyond casino corridors: Esther's Kitchen in the Arts District and its Tivoli Village siblings Al Solito Posto and Ada's Wine Bar; La Strega in Summerlin; Locale on Blue Diamond Highway; Monzú Italian Oven + Bar in Spring Valley; and Osteria Fiorella in Red Rock Resort. Pasta is surely a perennial crowd-pleaser here in the Mojave Desert.

Beyond these fine destinations, though, there's a surprising number of additional Italian restaurants that have bloomed across the valley. Here's a delectable selection of some (but certainly not all) of our current favorites that might have gone beneath your epicurean radar. *Mangia*!

AROMI ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Newest on the scene, **Aromi Italian Restaurant** (2110 N. Rampart Blvd., aromilv.com) has created a buzz with its

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Sabin Orr***

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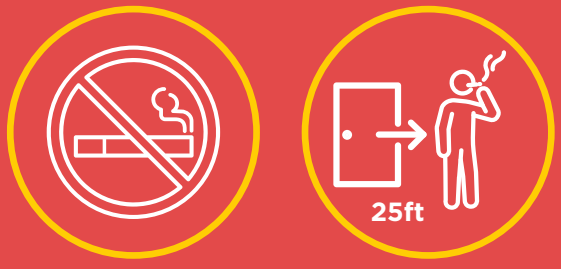

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array of cicchetti (the Italian take on tapas originating in Venice). The restaurant's snack-sized plates range from Kobe beef meatballs in zesty Amatriciana sauce and tuna tartare with green olive tapenade to an exquisite fregola salad (pearl-like semolina noodles reminiscent of Israeli-style couscous) with Manila clams. It also offers a three-course lunch menu, something uncommon in Italian establishments. On the dinner menu, fragrant cioppino brimming with seafood — including lobster and branzino — is a startlingly good stew.

D'AGOSTINO'S TRATTORIA

Chef Dan and Brandi Thompson helm **D'Agostino's Trattoria** (4155 S. Buffalo Dr., dagostinoslv.com), a cozy westside spot. It's filled with family-style friendliness to match the 120-year-old Southern Italian recipes that Dan inherited from his great-grandfather. The open galley specializes in a wide variety of stuffed pasta with an emphasis on seasonal ravioli in exuberant varieties such as wild mushrooms in sherry cream and three cheeses in pink vodka sauce. Dinner plate standouts include lively chicken piccata and a satisfying eggplant Parmigiana. To finish, a towering slice of cheesecake with an espresso makes for a *perfetto* combo at this dining gem.

SPAGHETTY WESTERN

Mosey on down to **Spaghetty Western** (10690 Southern Highlands Parkway, spaghettywestern.com) for one of the liveliest pasta parlors in the Las Vegas Valley. Filled with cool Sergio Leone-esqe movie posters and dark Wild West wood tones, it doesn't look a bit like your nonna's favorite spot back in New Jersey. Handcrafted dishes such as orecchiette with sausage and broccoli rabe; baked mostaccioli; and veal saltimbocca, however, reflect Old Country culinary cred. The bar also has one of the most advanced and adventurous mixology programs to be found in the thirsty Vegas hinterlands, including the Coop's Corner, an Italianate take of the Old Fashioned in which rye whiskey meets an herbal amaro and chocolate bitters.

SPAGHETTO ITALIAN KITCHEN

Located in the bustling Park Place shopping center in Henderson, **Spaghetto Italian Kitchen** (9570 S. Eastern Ave., spaghettokitchen.com) is a welcome surprise. Inside, it looks nothing like its strip mall exterior might suggest. A high-vaulted roof and an airy, stylish room accented with vintage black-and-white photo tones make for a welcome oasis from the glaring, hyper-colored suburban hubbub outside. Of course, spaghetti is the house specialty, and the house-crafted strings are made with egg for an extra-firm bite and are bronze-cut to make for sauce-absorbing texture. A great introduction is the spaghetti pomodoro with its sautéed fresh tomato chunks, onion, basil, and olive oil — simple but totally pleasing (especially with a little grated Parmesan cheese for a finish). Beyond pasta, the menu is replete with choices from crispy calamari with marinara dipping sauce for an appetizer to fragrant risotto topped with scampi for an entrée. For a sweet end to a meal, the eatery's tiramisu and cannoli are beautiful delights.

CHEF PIERO'S ROMA KITCHEN

Chef Piero Broglia has been cultivating upscale Italian cuisine in Las Vegas for four decades at numerous restaurants. Now, with Peggy, his charismatic wife, running front-of-house operations, his name is glowing on the marquee at **Chef Piero's Roma Kitchen** (1550 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., chefpierosromakitchen.com) in a quiet but posh slice of Henderson close to MacDonald Ranch and sky-high Ascaya. The comfortable eatery is framed with big windows, and favors light-toned table settings throughout the bright dining room filled with flower arrangements and indoor greenery. The menu is rich with classic recipes such as lemony orange roughy francese and alluring chicken marsala. Lasagna Bolognese — the house magnum opus — is worth a reservation alone. Plus maybe some pistachio gelato and an espresso for an end-of-dinner flourish. ✦



PASTA PARDNER Spaghetty Western's orechiette with sausage and broccoli rabe



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PROFILE

I Would Die for Brew

Chris Jacobs started Beer Zombies as an Instagram page. Five locations and four festivals later, he's the high priest of a Vegas craft-beer cult

BY MIKE PREVATT

What compels people to line up to buy beer? We're not talking about standing four deep at a Hakkasan bar on a Saturday night. We're referring to the 100 or so ale-heads in their cars on a June morning in 2020, waiting to roll up to the Beer Zombies draft room and bottle shop for their curbside purchase of the new Axe Brews Vengeance brew. Vengeance was the de-facto sequel beer to April's dankly delicious Here's Zombie! And if social media posts for Here's Zombie! were any indication, these sun-baked beer fans would be eagerly adding this latest brew to their collection — especially since the lovingly illustrated labels for both Axe Brews and Here's Zombie! paid glorious undead homage to *The Shining*.

Those idling sweatily in their cars that toasty morning were bonded by their passion for independent craft beer — and the local brew guru serving it to them. Over the course of eight years, Chris Jacobs' Beer Zombies has become a veritable brew empire that reaches as far as the East Coast with a straight-outta-Vegas lifestyle brand.

It's an empire built on a fervent rejection of Big Beer. Nowhere in its three draft/bottle rooms in the west side of the valley — including the new one at Downtown Summerlin, a boozy daycare where husbands hang while their wives shop (there are also BZ locations in Salt Lake City and Dallas) — will you find anything distributed by a corporation or macrobrewery. However, it takes more than great indie suds to make a beer scene — something Jacobs has learned working in restaurants and bars for 30 years.

"You can't have good beer and just be a total prick," says Jacobs, whose serene warmth — and scraggly, salt-and-pepper beard — gives off favorite-uncle vibes. "Back in the '90s, the thing is like, oh, we make good beer, we don't worry about anything else. That's not how it is anymore. You have to have good beer. You have to have good people working for you. You have to have good leadership. You have to have good hospitality. If not, there's a million places to spend money and (they'll) go somewhere else."

Writer Bob Barnes, who has been covering the Las Vegas beer industry since 1998, says having bad-ass zombies for branding has certainly helped the company stand out. But ultimately, he says, "It's the independent-only commitment. A lot of the local beer community are about that. And he (gives) huge support to local breweries. People care about that, too."

And to think it all started on the Internet. Back in 2013, Chris Jacobs — whose love for indie beer began by stealing his dad's bottles of Sierra Nevada, the local beer of his native Chico, California — was slinging drinks at the former Blue Ribbon inside the Cosmopolitan while hustling as a commercial artist. As a creative outlet, he merged his love for both ales and zombies onto an Instagram page he essentially used as a scratch pad and for hyping his new favorite indie brews. The posts captured the curiosity of followers, and Jacobs' new icon — a zombie with a long hopcone beard — soon found its way on glasses and T-shirts, which he started selling at beer fests. He then produced his own events and began collaborating with breweries on beers. The bottle shops soon followed.

UNLV Associate Professor of Sociology Michael Ian Borer — whose book *Vegas Brews* credits the birth of the local beer industry with the city's growing sense of civic pride — calls Jacobs an "aesthetic entrepreneur" who uses nostalgia-stoking artwork, must-have merchandise, and the trendiest beer varieties to woo beer drinkers of all stripes.

With Beer Zombies, craft beer is no longer the sole domain of gatekeeping hipsters. "That's what makes a scene a scene — it's expressive, voluntary and public," Borer says. "People are able to come in and out of it pretty easily because the boundaries are porous."

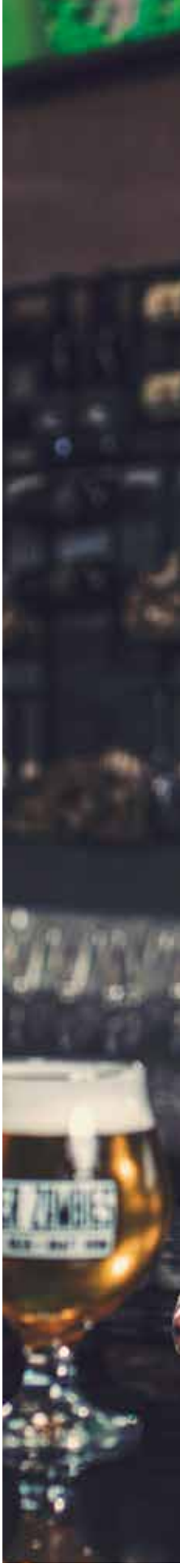
One way Jacobs connects his evangelism for beer, his well-honed geniality, and his desire for an inclusive subculture is bottle-sharing, a practice pioneered locally at Khoury's Fine Wine and Spirits in Henderson. Once Jacobs opened his watering holes, he established a policy in which patrons can bring whatever beer they've been waiting to open to drink, share, or trade. "It shows that beer can be both social lubricant and social glue," Borer says. "And the membership is very simple: Do you like craft beer or not? People are willing to give out the goods, so to speak, and take part with one another. It's a sharing-is-caring mentality."

Jacobs also helped unite beer lovers through events. He'd host shares and tastings at restaurants, often pairing beers with food. "I did vegan beer dinners," he says. "I did anything that I could to show people it doesn't have to be just a snooty society of beer people." In 2017, he produced the first Beer Zombies Craft Beer Festival for 200 people. In four years, it grew to 3,500 attendees.

"I've been to 100 beer festivals, and (Beer Zombies') is one of the best I've been to," says Barnes, who notes that Jacobs handpicks and pays for the featured beers, and then flies the brewers in to talk them up. "Normally you don't get that at a local beer fest. I was very impressed by that."

Like a record store clerk who will pore over the bins to find your new favorite band, Jacobs will pull as many taps as needed to find your new favorite beer. His ultimate customer? The unjaded one who is willing to be caught by surprise.

"I love it when someone comes in, and I'll say, 'We have this new sour,' and (they say), 'Oh, I don't like sours.' Nah! You don't not like sours," Jacobs says. "You just haven't found the one you like yet. And usually, I can find something that people will like, and they're like, 'Wow, I would have never guessed.' That's the fun part." As Jacobs' smile widens, so does the collective beer palette of Las Vegas. ✦





GET CRAFTY

A primer on where to sip true craft brews

Brewery: For the purist who wants to go straight to the source. Tenaya Creek Brewing in the Historic Westside is a standard-bearer. And HUDL Brewing Company is one of the fresher faces on the newly established Brewery Row in Downtown's Arts District (more on that below).

Brewpub: Simply a restaurant and brewery combo. Scenic Brewing Company and Big Dog's rate higher than most. But sometimes it gets creative. To wit: Brewery Row's Able Baker Brewing has a separate food operation called Arts District Kitchen, brought to you by the folks from 595 Craft & Kitchen.

Restaurants with craft beer: 595 has been one of the city's leading examples since it opened. Ditto Aces & Ales' two spots and Pub 365 inside the Tuscany (the latter inducing maximum enthusiast lather with its Unicorn List bottle/can rarities).

Bottle shops: Yes, Total Wine is a technically a bottle shop. You could say the same for Speedee Mart, which dedicates one full refrigerator to regional independent beer per location. But at a place like Khoury's Fine Wine & Spirits near Henderson, you're encouraged to drink the beer you just bought, or share or trade one you brought. You can also order a pint from one of Khoury's 20 taps.

Tap/draft room: It's a bar, but it's not. The ethos of a draftroom is usually based on savoring beer, not getting tanked. CraftHaus Arts District and Hop Nuts Tivoli Village are true taprooms. Some have longnecks and pop tops on offer — most famously, Beer Zombies' three locations and SerVehZah off Main Street.

Districts: For barhopping efficiency. Henderson's industrial-park Booze District claims three true-blue breweries (CraftHaus, Big Beat, Astronomy Aleworks). Nine breweries and taprooms populate the more urban Brewery Row. Honorable mention: Water Street District's neighboring brewery duo, Lovelady and Mojave. ***—Mike Prevatt***

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Christopher Smith***



PROFILE

SELF-DRAWN MAN

At every step of his wandering life, artist and Indigenous activist Jack Malotte has refused every definition but his own

BY ***John M. Glionna***

DUCKWATER, NEVADA

One night not long ago, artist Jack Malotte was awakened by the sound of a woman's laughter. At age 67, the Native American elder has for decades inhabited a remote reservation redoubt amid central Nevada's vast Great Basin. Other than the wind or the howl of a coyote, rural nights are peaceful. Women don't laugh out here in a community of 192 people — at least not at this hour, not this close.

But Malotte wasn't dreaming; Chad, his Australian Shepherd, had heard the noise, too. Malotte got up, walked out the front door, and fired off a few rounds from his .22-caliber rifle. He did the same thing out back.

Who knows what he heard. Perhaps it was the shadowy figure Malotte calls "the spirit that follows me," one that appears in much of his work, art whose subjects range from the spirituality of his Western Shoshone and Washoe ancestors to the injustices nonnative culture has perpetrated upon these sacred lands — US Army massacres, atomic testing, military bombing trials, open-pit mining, and massive water-diversion projects.

He takes the episode in stride, admitting that this place and its history are both violent and mysterious. "My motto is that Duckwater is where the pavement ends and the fun begins," he says, "the place where the real meets the surreal."

Born on Northern Nevada's South Fork Reservation but raised in Reno, Malotte has spent his life and career not being boxed in. He's not content to be defined as just a silk-screener, or a painter, or even an activist who expresses his political views through line drawings or sweeping Western landscapes. Over the decades he has done all of that and more, capturing vital Indigenous causes in paint, pencil, and ink, and having his work shown worldwide, from European galleries to the Smithsonian. He's also worked such diverse jobs as a newspaper graphic artist and US Forest Service firefighter, all while lending his artist's eye to Nevada's Indigenous protest movement. He's worked beside Mary and Carrie Dann, the Western Shoshone sisters, who in the 1970s challenged the federal government's use of their tribe's traditional lands, a case that went all the way to the US Supreme Court.

Throughout Malotte's career, marijuana has been his muse. Getting stoned helps con-

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Randi Lynn Beach***

nect him to an abstract world that combines the modern and the ancient, making the invisible visible. His paintings depict mythical renderings of ghostlike whirlwinds and geometric cones that hover over an electrical storm moving across the high desert at night. There are commentaries on such challenges as toxic dumping on tribal lands, alcoholism within Indigenous communities, or a scene of US Air Force bombers strafing revered mountains rendered in yellow and purple. In Malotte's paintings, the mountain ranges and basin valleys come alive with color.

For much of his life he was on the move, each new place more isolated than the next. He married three times, had a daughter, but always felt the press of partners trying to make him something he wasn't. He lived on people's couches, becoming more solitary, the "spirit that follows me" always on his trail. As he dispensed with cell phones and official addresses, friends had to contact his mother to learn of his whereabouts. In 1999, Malotte arrived in Duckwater to produce a mural for the high school gym; he fell in love with activist Virginia Sanchez, who would become his fourth wife, and never left.

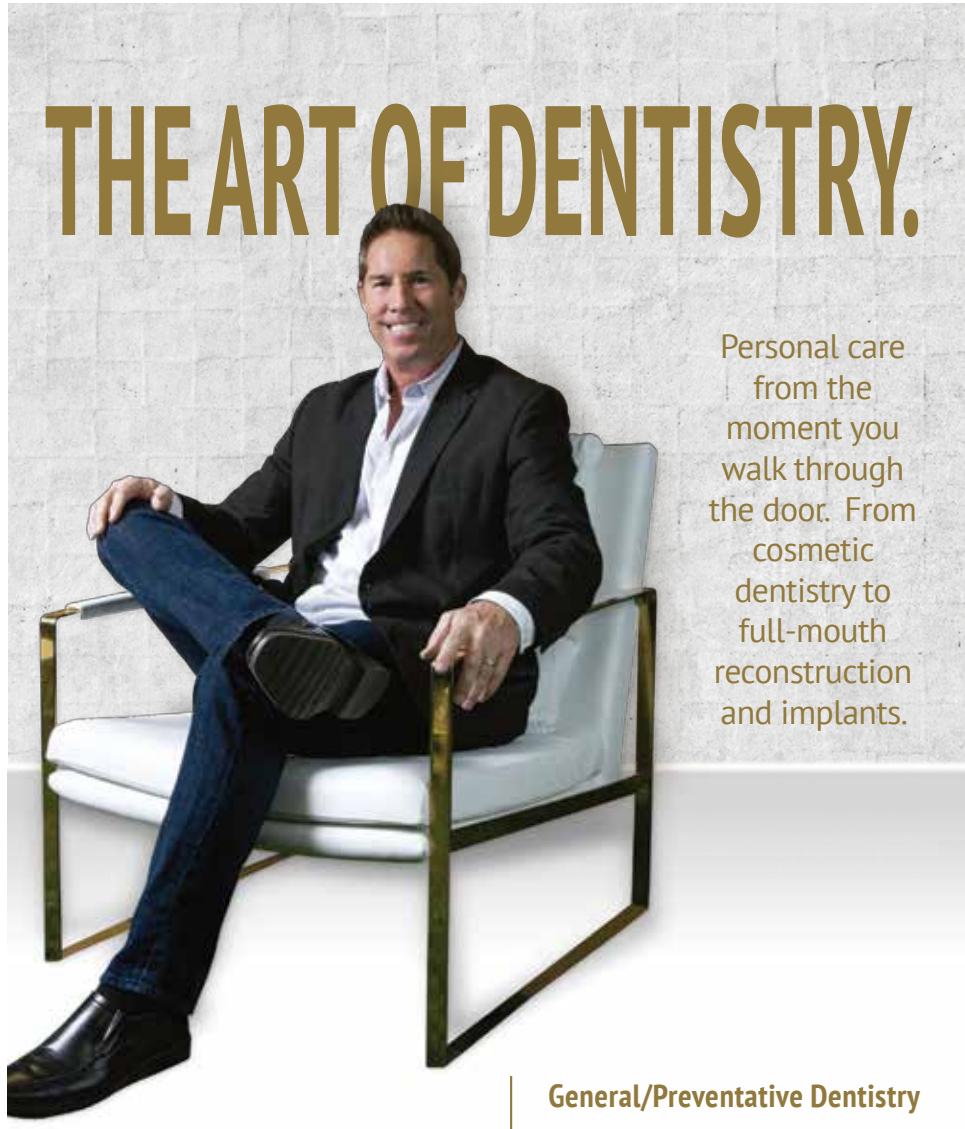
Duckwater, an hour west of Ely, now serves as his base, where he works in a trailer-turned studio, situated off a dust-swirled dirt track, the property line marked by a forlorn white truck. When he moved out here, he jokes, people thought he'd died. But it is just such isolation that fuels Malotte's creativity, allowing him the space to create. It took him a full two years to get used to the quiet and endless space. But now when he hears the city's car horns and shouting, he longs for the tranquility of the reservation.

He takes long, wandering rides in his Toyota Tacoma pickup to find promising landscapes, such as Diamond Peak, creating images of the mountaintop reflecting ethereal light after a recent snowfall.

When he converted the old trailer into his art studio four years ago, he had, for the first time in his life, a place to store his art. He recalls visiting folks across the West to collect pieces he'd left behind on loan. He'd meet with old friends, spot a long-ago piece of his hanging on the wall, and ask, "Geez, where'd ya get that?"

In person, Malotte is quiet and quirky. He uses leftover paint to create unorthodox designs on his studio's inner doors. He's like a stoner who takes a hit and stares at the stars. Yet his body of work, while lush, is always pointed and always speaks loudly.

"Jack gives Nevada's issues a global relevance," says Ann Wolfe, curator at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, which in



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DESERT UNIVERSE
Jack Malotte has spent decades capturing vital Indigenous causes in paint, pencil, and ink, and has exhibited his work worldwide, from European galleries to the Smithsonian.

Clockwise from top, three works from the collection of the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno:

The End, 1983, Watercolor and ink on paper, 22 x 29 3/4 inches

Water For Life, 1981, Poster, 25 x 18 inches

Screaming Eagle Blues, 1989, Offset lithograph, 21 x 30 inches

2019 hosted an exhibit of Malotte's work. "He depicts events from open-pit mining to experiments at the Nevada Test Site that have a huge influence worldwide. His work shows a world that's out of the way, in the margins, out of sight, out of mind, the places people don't get to see but are still so important."

Malotte says his artistic stance in any given work depends on how he feels the day he faces the blank canvas. But one thing he's adamant about: He is *not* a Native American artist. "I'm an artist who happens to be Indian," he says. "Michelangelo didn't sign his work as an Italian, to define himself in that way, so why should we?"

❊ ❊ ❊ ❊ ❊

MALOTTE SITS IN his trailer studio and talks about the past. Soon to be a great-grandfather, he exudes a youthful energy, his silver hair shaved close at the sides, the back gathered into a ponytail. He wears bib overalls and laughs a lot.

As a boy on the reservation, he fished and swam in the South Fork of the Humboldt River and did small crafts when the mood struck him. He encountered his first serious visual artist at his grandmother's kitchen table, as he sat across his uncle Bobby, a draftsman for the local power company who drew cartoon caricatures in pencil.

The boy marveled at the flow of creativity and wanted that outlet for himself. He took drafting classes in high school. When he wasn't playing football, he was drawing — figures of animals and Native American spirits.

"My high school art teacher and my mother pushed me into art school," Malotte recalls. "I didn't think I wanted to go. I was just dumb at that point. I was 17."

He attended what is now called the California College of the Arts in Oakland, where trips to local record stores influenced his developing style. Album covers were their own art form, and he would buy records for the messages on the cover, most times without ever having heard the music. Aubrey Beardsley, Maxfield Parrish, and even Walt Disney are among his other influences.

While he didn't graduate, Malotte's college training made both his art and his worldview more disciplined. Even as his instructors discouraged him, Malotte incorporated Native American culture and commentary into his work, which included a portrait of the Lakota leader Sitting Bull, and another of US Army officer George Custer, with blood drops sprayed across the paper.

After leaving the Bay Area, Malotte began his peripatetic life, never living in one place for long. He learned to dislike the assembly-line drudgery of what it took to sell his paintings in galleries, redoing the same images if they became popular, like a singer with one hit song. Malotte decided that his best audience was Jack Malotte.

"It was kind of trippy," he says. "I came from a place where, when it came to the arts, anything goes, so when I went to the art galleries in Arizona and an owner gave me the lowdown of what sells, it stopped me. He said, 'I like this one and that one, give me 10 like this and 10 like that.' I did two and it got boring, so I quit."

He experimented with silk-screening, drawing, drafting, and painting. He became partial to T-shapes and triangles in his work, always trying to loosen up, stretch himself, using a base in geometry to develop his own free-flowing style.

By 1978, Malotte was back in Reno. "I was an easygoing pot smoker who used to party like hell," he says. "In the 1970s, you made a lot of friends when you walked around town with a garbage bag full of weed."

THE END: COLLECTION OF THE NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART, GIFT OF WILLIAM AND JANET ABERNATHY © JACK MALOTTE
SCREAMING EAGLE BLUES COLLECTION OF THE NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART, GIFT OF THE BRANDYWINE WORKSHOP AND ARCHIVES, PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA © JACK MALOTTE
POSTER: COLLECTION OF THE NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART, CENTER FOR ART + ENVIRONMENT COLLECTIONS, PURCHASED WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY ORCHARD HOUSE FOUNDATION © JACK MALOTTE

One day, while getting high, a friend turned to him and said, "Jack, we gotta get you a job." He picked up the newspaper classified ads and pointed to one: "Artist Wanted." Malotte soon began working as a pasteup and editorial artist for what is now the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, illustrating news articles and advertisements. Since then, he's always been open to assigned work, but his heart had always been in his own art.

In the 1980s, Malotte began designing posters, pamphlets, murals, and publicity materials for Native American activists and environmental groups, including the Western Shoshone Sacred Lands Association, which was pressuring the US government to return traditional native lands. That's when he met the Dann sisters, two tribal leaders who were making headlines as activists. He found out he was related to the pair, who told him about his ancestors. Malotte's father and mother are both descended from the Te-Moak Band of Western Shoshone.

"I'm an artist who happens to be Indian," Malotte says. "Michelangelo didn't sign his work as an Italian, to define himself in that way, so why should we?"

While Mary Dann was reserved, Carrie stayed in your face. "I'd meet them for breakfast, and Carrie would give me advice," he says. "It was like she was yelling, bawling at me to come see them more often, and to get more political." But Malotte shied away from the front lines. "I knew I wasn't a speechmaker," he says. "I wasn't out there yelling and shaking my fist. As an artist, people came to me like a hired gun. That wasn't my thing."

His wife Virginia agrees. "Jack got pulled into situations," she says. "He likes choices. As he gets older, he's just as political, but probably more wise."

Lately, Malotte's activism has mellowed, though the military jets still hawk the landscape in many pieces. He's also at work on a large painting about little-known US Army massacres of tribes in central Nevada. The political edge remains. He gives his silk-screened T-shirts such design names as Indian Uprising, Sagebrush Heathen, Pesky Redskins, and Wretched Savages, playing off the derogatory phrases often applied to Native Americans. "They're little political jabs," he says.

In one recent work titled "Shot in the Heart," he depicts the controversy surrounding Cave Rock, a formation on the shore of Lake Tahoe that has long been sacred to the Washoe tribe. Now the cave had been taken over by rock climbers, the rock pierced by two tunnels used by gamblers and tourists. The Washoe see the move as cultural theft. Malotte's piece shows blood seeping from the tunnels; above, mysterious figures rise and flee from the lake, representing the loss of its spiritual powers.

Such work satisfies him. Yet every time Malotte creates art on commission, he ends up asking himself why. Like the time a woman wanted her late husband's ashes mixed in with the paint. Malotte politely declined; that would be messing with the spirits.

Or the time he painted a boardroom mural for a Reno executive. The customer was a pilot and wanted a scene of jets flying on the horizon, so like he always does, Malotte painted his mountains in technicolor.

The man wasn't pleased. He wanted his mountains to be a realistic drab brown. So



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the artist went back to work, mixing up a color he likened to baby poop.

"Okay!" the man said when the work was done. "That's what I want!"

Malotte sighs. "I didn't like it," he says, "but he was the boss."

* * * * *

MALOTTE STILL TAKES long drives in his white pickup, looking for inspiration for his next work. But after two decades, he has to scout hard for new images, absorbing all he can, joking that at least the trips have shown him where to find all the good firewood in the valley.

"I look for drama, the changing colors, the light through the clouds," he says. "In Duckwater, all you have is a lot of horizon."

Much of Malotte's artistic vision comes from memories. Once, while climbing a cliff as a boy, he looked up to see an eagle soaring directly above him, hovering in the wind. Before it flew off, the bird looked down at the boy. "I'll always remember those eyes," Malotte says. Now, when he draws eagles, the eyes always come first. It's the same thing with mountain lions or wolves. He's spotted both in the wild, their yellow orbs burned into his cortex.

His renderings of nighttime desert downpours come from moments as a child when he sat in an outhouse, keeping the door open, so he could watch the electrical storms move across the darkened landscape, lightning flashing on a far horizon.

And he will always remember the time when his young daughter, Cora, discovered a coyote resting beneath the family car. Malotte had never seen a coyote that close up, but the girl wasn't afraid and neither was the coyote, and for the longest time she squatted there, talking to it.

"In Shoshone culture, the coyote is like our father, the person who brought us here," Malotte says. "People say the coyote must have been someone we know, whose spirit had come back to talk to us."

These days, Malotte still communes with wild animals. Not long ago, he and Virginia began feeding four feral cats that turned up on the property. Pretty soon, several skunks and ravens also found the food and began showing up at mealtime.

"So we feed them, too," Malotte says. "I say they're all part of my tribe now."

Meanwhile, Malotte continues to make new art. Surrounded by cherished works of the past, he might smoke a joint to get to that creative place in his mind. Then he sits down to produce. "I'm trying to do as much as I can before the end comes," he says. "Sooner than later, the 'spirit that follows me' is finally going to catch up." ✦

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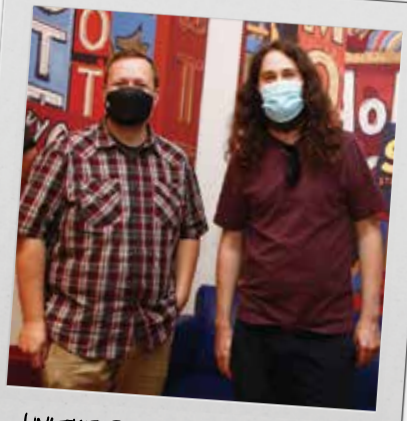

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MAKING THE GRADE

Recent medical and nursing school graduates reflect on their education, their new careers, and their future aspirations

BY ***Heidi Kyser and Andrew Kiraly***



The Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine graduated its charter class in May, bestowing MD degrees on 50 newly minted medical professionals. Meanwhile, other valley medical education institutions, from Roseman University to the CSN School of Nursing, graduated new classes as well. We spoke to a handful of recent graduates about their sometimes-winding paths in pursuit of healthcare careers, the highs and lows of their academic experience, and their advice to future nursing and medical students.

Their stories are unique, and yet they share some interesting commonalities, the most striking of which is how life often took them on several detours before they finally found their career groove. These interviews have been edited for length and clarity.

EMMANUEL VERGARA, PHARMD

DOCTORATE IN PHARMACY, ROSEMAN UNIVERSITY

Graduated May 2021

The seed of Emmanuel Vergara's dream to be a pharmacist was planted at Rancho High School, where he took a pharmacy elective in the school's medical magnet program. The Las Vegas native grew up acting as a Spanish-English translator for his immigrant parents and knew the value of this skill in situations like paying bills — and talking to healthcare providers.

I had to get my prerequisites for Roseman at UNLV, and I applied for a pharmacy technician job at CVS. That's when I realized it's something I really enjoyed. Perhaps the moment that made me realize this is my calling was an instance where the pharmacist was counseling a Spanish-speaking father on how to give his daughter antibiotics. Two to three bottles was supposed to last her 10 days. The pharmacist asked him if he understood. I saw that he kind of didn't, so I offered to the pharmacist, "Is it okay if I help you translate?" She said, "Sure, we can always use an extra helping hand." So, I asked him before translating if he understood what the pharmacist meant. He said, "Yeah, I give my daughter a bottle a day, right?" And I'm like, "No, no, no." And I explained the correct directions to him with the pharmacist's help.

Roseman's accelerated pharmacy program is intense — cramming what normally takes four years into three — but Vergara said the school balances this with a social, supportive environment.

What helped us get through it is that they also assigned us to teams. Your exam is broken up into two parts: the first part is individual; the second part you take as a team. So, one of the cornerstones is collaborative effort. In healthcare, you're gonna be working with people constantly. You're gonna be working with nurses, you're going to be communicating with doctors' offices. In my very first year, my team that I was assigned with was my support group. They were my closest friends. I still get in touch with them till this day. We go everywhere with each other.

The pandemic robbed Vergara of much more than just the in-person aspect of his education. Last year, he did a clinical rotation in a hospital ICU.

In the ICU, we had so many COVID patients, so it was a scary environment. However, I'm mostly in community pharmacy, which is what people typically know, but you also have pharmacies in the hospital, and I thought that would be a unique perspective to help me. And I did learn a lot there. A few months after my rotation, my grandfather had to be admitted to the ICU at a different hospital with COVID. One of my cousins was the point of contact

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Christopher Smith***



Emmanuel Vergara, PharmD

between the family and the hospital. There was a miscommunication, and I said, you know what, I'm going to be the point of contact to help translate the information from the hospital to my family. And I asked the hospital, "What are my grandfather's ventilation settings? What medications is he taking? What side effects is he having?" And I was able to relay that information to my family and answer any questions they had. I was very fortunate to have had the rotation at the ICU, so I could help with my grandfather. He was our No. 1 supporter. Unfortunately, he passed three months before my graduation. He went to my high school and college graduation and was just short of seeing me be the first person in our family to earn a doctorate degree.

Vergara is looking forward to a future of building relationships with his patients.

I can't wait to be that trusted pharmacist in the community, wherever I'm at. I can't wait to get to know my team. During my experiences as a technician, my pharmacy manager at the time, she would always talk to the patients one-on-one, help them with their personal issues. And I really admire





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that. To do that with my Spanish-speaking patients — I just can't wait, so I can help the health of my community as a whole. *HK*


Faun Botor, MD

FAUN BOTOR, MD

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE,
KIRK KERKORIAN SCHOOL
OF MEDICINE
Graduated May 2021

From an early age, Faun Botor knew she wanted to work in healthcare — but she didn't know exactly what she wanted to do. It took her some time to devise a career path that could account for her interest in maternal health, addiction issues, and mental wellness in the disability community. The answer: psychiatry. She began her residency at UMC and the Rawson-Neal Psychiatric Hospital in July.

I figured out I wanted to be a doctor when I was in my early teen years. My mom was in the hospital due to complications from alcoholism. And I loved being in the hospital! I loved being around the nurses and listening to the doctors talk, even the smell of the hospital and the hospital food, which sounds weird, because everyone hates it. I just loved it. So I knew I wanted to be a doctor. I worked toward that in high school, graduating valedictorian, things like that. And then once I got to college, I kind of fell off that path.

But then later on, I became an ultrasound tech. I did ultrasound for six years. I did high-risk pregnancies and fetal echoes. And then my first son, in 2014, he had to have surgery at 18 months old. I remember just being so afraid as a parent — my first kid going in for his first surgery, so nervous even though it was a small procedure. His surgeon came and sat down on the gurney with us and explained everything, and made me feel so calm and so confident in her abilities to take care of my son, that I was like, "That's what I want to do." Not that I want to be a surgeon, but I want to be there for my patients and be able to do what she did for me for others. That reignited my desire to go to medical school.

It wasn't until she was doing clinical rotations as a student that she realized that psychiatry was her calling.

Originally, I wanted to go into obstetrics; just because of my background in ultrasound, I have a lot of knowledge in OB. Then I did my first rotation in OB, and I hated it. You only got to see patients for a few minutes. Even with laboring patients, you were only in and out of the room really quickly. There wasn't that good connection that I wanted, there wasn't that time to spend with them that I wanted. So when I went searching for a specialty that would give that to me, I found that in psychiatry. You spend a lot of time with your patients. I mean, it's all talking, really. And I really enjoyed that.

I feel like it's kind of been a long time coming. So, both my parents died from addiction. My oldest son has autism. So I've been part of the disability world and the neuro/psych world for a while, and just things like that, that kind of drew me later on to psychiatry.

But even her brief tenure working in OB influenced her specific psychiatric focus.

It's early in my career, but I'm thinking about doing a combination of maternal mental health — coming from that OB world, I do still enjoy those patients. We have a lot of addiction issues and things like that in that population. I'm also interested in child and adolescent psychiatry. So I want to be able to help the autism community, even if it's just getting kids diagnosed and into services earlier, because we have a really long waitlist for kids to just even see a physician that can diagnose them.

Her advice to aspiring doctors and nurses: It's okay — and perhaps even advantageous — to be a nontraditional student.

I came from a background that was very different from a lot of my cohort. Both my parents died from addiction; we were very poor. I was very lucky that my aunt adopted me as a teenager and gave me some opportunities. But, you know, I paid my own way through undergrad with scholarships, and working sometimes three jobs at a time. So I would tell people who come from disadvantaged backgrounds not to give up on that journey or that pursuit of medicine. There are universities such as UNLV that really do take into account life experiences and other qualities that you can bring to the table other than just, say, a high MCAT score, or a 4.0 GPA in your undergrad. I would say, don't

give up, do your best, and search out medical schools that will appreciate what you bring to the table in your own unique way.

Finally: New doctors, consider staying in Nevada.

I plan on staying in Las Vegas. As my career goes forward, and as I practice medicine, that was important to me. UNLV starting the medical school was a big step — but also offering quality residency positions in Las Vegas is also a big thing. That's important to keeping physicians in the Las Vegas Valley going forward. *AK*

MONISHA WILSON, RN
ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN NURSING, CSN NURSING PROGRAM
Graduated May 2021

Monisha Wilson gave birth to twin girls in September 2015, two months ahead of her due date. While her newborns were being cared for in the Summerlin Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Wilson's medical education began: In casual conversations, the Summerlin NICU nurses encouraged Wilson to rekindle her ambition to become a nurse. You see, Wilson had had a few false starts before ...

When I was in high school back in Maryland — where I'm originally from — I joined the LPN (licensed practical nurse) program, just because my friend was doing it. I'm like, okay, you know, I'll try it. To be honest, I wasn't very passionate about it back then. Because I was just doing it because my friend wanted to do it. And so back then, I tried to do the science classes — we had to do biology 101, and microbiology and anatomy and physiology and all that. And I didn't even get to the first test! I was so scared. I didn't believe in myself. Again, I wasn't really doing it for me.

In 2015, when my twins were in the NICU because I had them two months early, I was around those nurses at Summerlin Hospital all the time. I was supposed to be on bed rest for two months, but I ended up delivering them after a week on bed rest. But it was almost a blessing in disguise, because since they were in the NICU, I was able to be around these nurses, and I told them my story about how I want to do nursing because I love caring for people, I'm a people person, I love the variety, the flexibility of the career. And so the nurses said, "Why don't you just go for it? Don't be scared of the science classes!" Because of those nurses, and also just watching them take care of my kids, that really pushed me.

When Wilson enrolled in CSN's nursing program, she returned to school with a renewed focus, serious intent — and a positive attitude.

Having a positive attitude and mindset is key. My husband jokes that it's cliché, but this is really how I live my life. I have a vision board where I write out my goals, and it's really amazing. It's not magic by any means. But when you focus on what you want, and you write it down, and you read that board every day — because of that, I made a plan. So I would say to anybody that's thinking about medical school or nursing school, believe in yourself!




Dustin Johnson, RN

In the harried, high-pressure environment of nursing school, Wilson discovered that being able to ask for help is as valuable as hard work.

I'm not like the typical nursing or medical student where they're super smart, straight As, had a great college career because their parents put them in the best schools. I went to a regular public school, I got As, Bs, and Cs. And I always tell people about that because I still got into the program. It's very competitive to get in CSN. We joke that CSN is the Harvard of nursing schools! Just the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) alone is competitive. But I still made it, and that's because of my mindset. And I put in the work with sciences. I knew that wasn't my strongest suit. So I did tutoring, I did study groups, I did whatever I had to do to make it through even when I got in the nursing program.

If you see the smartest kid in the class, reach out! I actually did that. I saw a student who was getting straight As all the time, and I said, "Can I study with you?"

Her determination paid off. After graduation, Wilson received a job offer in the nursing float pool at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. She accepted and began work July 1.

I'm just like, "Oh my God, little old me?! I got a job at Johns Hopkins?" They're the No. 3 hospital in the world! And a normal person like me got in. One thing I was discouraged about (in the nursing program) was that I had to work, so I couldn't do extracurriculars, I couldn't do Student Nurses Association, or any of the other extra stuff. And I still got into a prestigious job. I like to think that's because of my drive and my determination, and because I really did try my best.

One issue that concerns Wilson in the healthcare landscape is maintaining a reasonable ratio of nurses to patients for optimal care. She dealt with that issue while working as a certified nursing assistant in Nevada hospitals.

The ratios are something that concerns me. For example, the nurses that work medical/surgical (assignment) in Nevada hospitals, they can have upward of six to seven patients each. I've heard that at some of the HCA Healthcare hospitals like Sunrise, they could have up to nine patients each. When you think about it, as a nurse, you have to do a lot of charting on those patients. You have to watch them and make sure they're okay, you've got to give out their medications or change their wound dressings. That's a lot of patients. In comparison, when I go to Johns Hopkins, their medical/surgical nurse-to-patient ratio is one to four. So to go from one to seven, or maybe nine, to one to four — I'm like, wow, that is doable. I can really take care of my patients, I can get to know them. That's not any fault of Nevada. I hear about that all over about the ratios. I guess we have to churn out more nurses from the nursing schools! *AK*

DUSTIN JOHNSON, RN

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING, NEVADA STATE COLLEGE
Graduated May 2021

Inspiration can strike in unusual places. Dustin Johnson got his first brush with a career in healthcare when he was an Eldorado High School student working at a valley Kmart. One of Johnson's fellow Kmart employees worked a second job as a nurse at what was then Lake Mead Hospital (now North Vista); Johnson was intrigued. It wasn't long before Johnson was volunteering at the hospital and then taking certified nursing assistant courses at CSN.

In my sophomore year of high school, I went through some mental-health issues, and that co-worker at Kmart was really that mentor who took me under his wing. He said, "Why don't you look at nursing? It's really rewarding." That was the big push for me.

I'm very much an interactive person. I always try to make the room smile. I wouldn't say I'm a jokester, but when somebody is hurting, physically, emotionally, whatever it may be, I tend to have a knack for breaking the ice, getting them to talk, and kind of take the pressure off them a little bit. It's always been a little niche of mine. I love conversing with people, I love helping people, I love being there for the families, understanding the pathophysiology of stuff and explaining it to people.

But life is what happens when you're making other plans. After graduating high school, Johnson got married, had a child, joined the Marines, got divorced, and worked as a corrections officer and credit analyst.

However, he hadn't let go of his medical career aspirations. In 2017, at the age of 39, the Marine Corps veteran enrolled in Nevada State College's School of Nursing. He recently accepted a job in the cardiac medical/surgical unit at MountainView Hospital — where his wife is also an RN. Johnson hopes to hold on to the sense of engaged compassion that stirred his early aspirations.

That's very much a quality I feel is missing in a lot of nursing. My wife's been a nurse for 20 some-odd years. And when her and I

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first met, she kind of had a hardcore attitude; she worked in the ER, she worked in the pediatric intensive care unit as well. I had to tell her, "Hey, have some compassion, have some understanding." Working in that type of environment for so long, and dealing with some of the patients that you deal with can kind of break you down a bit. I think sometimes we just gotta step back and remember that we do this for a reason. I hope that throughout my years in nursing I can keep that in the forefront and keep that part of my day-to-day routine.

If he had to do his nursing education all over again, he'd ask for some small improvements to the experience.

One thing I would like to see — and this isn't so much in the hands of the program and more in the hands of the hospitals — is improved clinical rotations. The first three semesters when we go to our clinical rotations, a lot of the times we're just kind of used as extra hands, not really being taught anything, changing beds, cleaning people up, bed/bath type of things, when it should really be a learning experience. I feel a lot of people missed out because of that.

Advice for future students: Take it easy once in a while.

Our school is very big on self-care — you know, taking time for your mental well-being. That's not something I really did a lot of during nursing school. I'm the person who's always, "Let's study, study, study!" And if I'm out doing something I enjoy, I feel guilty! My words of wisdom would be to give yourself some self-care. Form those friendships, those bonds with your peers, and have an outlet to let some of the anger, the sadness, the depression out. *AK*

ALLISON BOYNTON, DO

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE, TOURO UNIVERSITY

Graduated May 2021

A week before sitting down to talk to Desert Companion*, Allison Boynton became an ER resident physician at Sunrise Hospital, completing her long-held plan to become a doctor and help people. And already, she was thinking about her next goal, inspired by volunteer work she and other Touro students did during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

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Isolation and Quarantine Complex at Cashman Center kind of sparked some additional interests, disaster medicine being one of them. And then taking a couple of short courses, it's kind of furthered my interest in this area of, how do we approach disasters — like a pandemic or a mass shooting or natural disasters — from the medical standpoint. In the hospital, how do we prepare for those situations, react, and respond? That's somewhere I could see myself going in the future. Right now, as a first-year resident, I'm just focused on learning the ER, and how to take care of patients there. But that's kind of a direction I could see myself going in the future.

She picked emergency medicine as her specialty because of the work's pace and diversity. But there's a story she wants to hold onto as her career progresses, a reminder of how scary the ER is for people who don't work there.

While I was on my rotation at MountainView Hospital, auditioning for their residency program, we had this patient in the waiting room. This is, again, in the middle of COVID, so visitors aren't allowed back in the ER; patients had to come back on their own. And so, this woman was in the waiting room, and she was really upset. We're trying to get her to come back, and she is just refusing. She's freaking out. She doesn't want to come back unless her daughter can come with her. And she starts having a panic attack, essentially. As the medical student, I had a little more time than the resident physicians, so I just spent some time with her. I talked to her, tried to figure out why she was scared. And it turned out she'd had a bad experience with a doctor there before. I just sat and listened to what she was scared about, reassured her, walked back physically with her through the whole process, and helped make sure that she actually ended up getting seen and cared for. She ended up being fine. She was discharged home.

Boynton was relieved to complete the process of getting a residency, which she describes as extremely intense and expensive. And she got her first choice in Las Vegas, a place the Richland, Washington, native has grown to love. But with the stress of it all still fresh in her mind, she has some ideas about how to improve American medical education — starting with the cost.

Medical school is extremely expensive. People have kind of accepted that because we know, as doctors, we're going to make a decent salary. But before we can get there, we come out of school with $300,000, $400,000 worth of student loans. Most people don't have any sort of help in medical school. So, 100 percent of that is typically loans. It takes a lot of time to make that up, even on a good salary. It can be very discouraging, and you really have to want to go into medicine to get past that. And I think it kind of ties into the whole healthcare system, too, the need to find a balance there. There's a lot of talk right now about universal health care for all, free health care. And in order to do that, we also need to revamp the medical education process, and make that more affordable.

I'm happy with where I'm at. I wouldn't change any of my choices, but I think there's a lot we could do to make it better. *HK* ✦



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Kent L. Wellish, MD • Eissa Hanna, MD • K.C. McCandless, OD, FAAO

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NEVADA EYE PHYSICIANS

Nevada Eye Physicians, formerly known as Nevada Eye and Ear, is a comprehensive eye care facility with locations across Southern Nevada including Mesquite and Pahrump. For over 20 years, our priority has been to deliver the highest quality personalized eye care to patients of all ages using the latest advances in technology.

In addition to routine annual eye exams and vision screenings, our highly trained physicians offer a full spectrum of treatment options for a wide array of eye conditions. At Nevada Eye Physicians, we keep up with the latest advances in eyecare and vision-saving techniques. We are proud to offer laser-assisted cataract surgery, along with premium lens implants that help patients enjoy the best possible vision to suit their unique lifestyle. For those with glaucoma, where the pressure inside the eye is too high, our doctors help manage the condition to preserve vision and maintain their quality of life. In addition, we work with patients who have diabetes, which can adversely affect the eyes if not consistently monitored. Whether for routine eyecare, or a more serious medical condition, our physicians have the skills to help you see your world more clearly.

Our optical shops offer the latest styles of eyeglass frames, from designers like Gucci and Tiffany, to lightweight Silhouettes. Our opticians will help find the style that best suits you, along with the lenses that give you the vision and eye protection you need. Like wearing contact lenses more than glasses? We have you covered there too. And if you're ready to reduce your reliance on corrective eyewear or contacts, we offer laser vision correction procedures that can lead to life-changing vision improvement.

At Nevada Eye Physicians, we respect the unique needs of each patient, spending time to learn about concerns and answering questions about the health of their eyes and the quality of their vision. It is not uncommon for our patients to stay with us for decades because they know we care and are so committed to their health. From the front desk to the surgery center, we work as a team to ensure each patient feels comfortable and relaxed in our state-of-the-art facilities. We understand the importance of eye health and proper vision care, which is why we make it a priority to provide exceptional results for our patients to allow them improved sight and an enhanced quality of life.

NEVADA EYE PHYSICIANS

HENDERSON
1505 WIGWAM PARKWAY
SUITE 100
HENDERSON, NV 89074

LAS VEGAS
2020 WELLNESS WAY, SUITE 401
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89106

SOUTHWEST
9100 W. POST ROAD
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89148

BOULDER CITY
1627 NEVADA HIGHWAY
BOULDER CITY, NV 89005

CENTENNIAL
6850 NORTH DURANGO DRIVE
SUITE 404
LAS VEGAS, NV 89149

WWW.NEVADAEYEPHYSICIANS.COM
702. 896.6043

NEVADA EYE PHYSICIANS
Formerly Nevada Eye and Ear



PINE PLAZA DENTAL

Dr. Jabran Alemi, a prosthodontist at Pine Plaza Dental, is proud to be providing advanced dental care to the communities of Las Vegas since 2012. His passion for dentistry began at an early age, and by 19, he was teaching a class on Topics in Dentistry, while in undergraduate studies.

His excellence in math, science and dream of a profession in oral healthcare was rewarded by a rare early acceptance into the prestigious UCSF School of Dentistry. He is one of only a very few graduates to have earned their BS, and DDS degrees from UCSF. After graduating with the Senior Dental Student Award, and practicing general dentistry for 3 years, under the mentorship and guidance of his brother, Dr. Hamed Alemi, in San Diego, California, his continued passion and hunger for knowledge, led him to completing a 3 year residency in Graduate Prosthodontics at the one and only University of Michigan.

Specializing in Prosthodontics, Dr. Alemi and his team commit themselves to providing the highest standards of oral health care. His award-winning dentistry utilizes a unique combination of science and artistry to give each client a remarkable experience, and an unbelievable result. His expertise covers a broad range of dental treatments, from same day dental implants and teeth, to smile makeovers and full mouth reconstructions with crowns and veneers.

Dr. Alemi continues to expand his knowledge thru continuing education courses throughout the world, professional affiliations with the American College of Prosthodontists (ACP), and Academy of Osseointegration (AO).

PINE PLAZA DENTAL

DR. JABRAN ALEMI

PINE PLAZA DENTAL
6015 S FORT APACHE ROAD, SUITE 130
LAS VEGAS, NV 89148
702-473-1444
PINEPLAZADENTAL.COM



SHEPHERD EYE CENTER

Shepherd Eye Center has been proud to serve the communities of Las Vegas and Henderson since 1968. What started as one physician, Dr. John Shepherd, in one location, has grown to a practice of 18 doctors providing care in 5 offices across the valley. Early on, Dr. Shepherd pioneered new techniques and instrumentation that would improve the way cataract surgery would be performed. Today Shepherd Eye Center continues to provide care using the latest medical techniques and technology.

With the breadth of talent and experience of the doctors of Shepherd Eye Center, care is provided to patients of all ages. Services include routine eye exams as well as the treatment of eye diseases, including surgical options. The physicians at Shepherd Eye Center treat a wide range of conditions from glaucoma to diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, muscle imbalance, cataracts and corneal conditions. Specialists trained in pediatric ophthalmology, oculoplastic surgery, and refractive surgery round out the comprehensive ophthalmology team at Shepherd Eye Center.

Whether it's the front desk staff or the employees assisting the doctors, our staff is given opportunities to gain certifications in order to provide the highest level of care for our patients including: Certified Patient Service Specialist, Certified Ophthalmic Technicians, and Certified Ophthalmic Assistants. Each of the five offices have an optical shop stocked with glasses, and staffed with experienced opticians ready to help you find a pair to compliment your style.

The Shepherd Eye Surgicenter consists of 2 operating rooms and performs more cataract surgeries than any other eye practice in the state of Nevada. The surgery center is staffed with highly qualified registered nurses, scrub techs and support staff, and is state-licensed, Medicare-approved, and accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc.

"We are lucky to have had a leader like Dr. Shepherd that set the tone for the practice when it began," says Steven O. Hansen, MD, FACS, and president of Shepherd Eye Center. "By keeping his vision of always putting the patient first, we have been able to embrace the challenges and opportunities that have presented themselves over the last 50+ years and provide compassionate eye care for the whole family."

SHEPHERD EYE CENTER

HENDERSON
2475 W. HORIZON RIDGE PKWY.
SUITE 120
HENDERSON, NV 89052

LAS VEGAS
3575 PECOS-MCLEOD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89121

SOUTHWEST
9100 W. POST RD.
LAS VEGAS, NV 89148

SUMMERLIN
2100 N. RAMPART BLVD.
LAS VEGAS, NV 89128

CENTENNIAL
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SUITE 404
LAS VEGAS, NV 89149

WWW.SHEPHERDEYE.COM
702.731.2088

Shepherd Eye Center
Since 1968



DR. CARLOS LETELIER

THE CENTER FOR ORAL SURGERY OF LAS VEGAS

Dr. Carlos Letelier has a passion for dental and medical excellence that's exemplified through his distinguished background and his education credentials. His dentistry studies began in Chile where he earned his DDS degree. He then went to Boston, where he enrolled in Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a DMD degree.

After that, Dr. Letelier went on to complete his surgical residency and graduate from UCLA Medical School with both an MD and an OMFS degree. In addition to becoming board certified in both oral and maxillofacial and cosmetic surgery, Dr. Letelier has taught in the OMFS residency program at Fresno University Medical Center. His expertise covers a broad range of oral surgery, from wisdom tooth extraction and dental implants to facial and dental trauma. He is a trusted oral surgeon in Las Vegas, NV as he's highly regarded for his treatment of patients with severe bone loss and missing teeth. Even today, Dr. Letelier continues to expand his knowledge by participating in specialty courses throughout the world. Additionally, he is a highly sought-after lecturer by his colleagues throughout the USA and other global locations.

THE CENTER FOR ORAL SURGERY OF LAS VEGAS

10115 W TWAIN AVE.
SUITE 100,
LAS VEGAS, NV 89147
702.367.6666
WWW.LASVEGASOMS.COM

THE CENTER FOR ORAL SURGERY OF LAS VEGAS



CENTER FOR SEXUAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

JORDAN SOPER, PSYD, CST

The Center for Sexual Health and Wellness (CSHAW) is a specialty mental health practice in Henderson, Nevada owned by Licensed Psychologist and AASECT Certified Sex Therapist Dr. Jordan Soper. Research on sexuality and mental health is a growing field, and the CSHAW emphasizes therapeutic techniques for addressing these concerns using evidence-based and informed treatments. Individual, couples, and group psychotherapy ("talk therapy") services are available with providers who are expertly trained in the field of psychology and psychotherapy using both in-person and telehealth modalities. Major concerns treated include worry, social anxiety, panic, OCD, phobias, trauma/PTSD, and sexual difficulties including desire/interest, orgasm, performance, satisfaction, pain, pleasure, sexual identity, sexual communication, and sex education for adults, parents, and children.

CENTER FOR SEXUAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

880 SEVEN HILLS DRIVE
SUITE 250
HENDERSON, NV 89052
702.587.1573

CENTENNIAL HILLS DENTAL CARE



At Centennial Hills Dental Care, we are committed to providing quality dentistry with a gentle touch in a relaxed, caring atmosphere. We understand that going to the dentist can be scary, and we will do our best to set you at ease by listening to your concerns, explaining your treatment options thoroughly, and making sure you're comfortable and cared for every step of the way.

With 20 years of combined experience, Dr. Jay Denton and Dr. Luke Simonis offer expert care for all of your dental needs, including cosmetic crowns and veneers, dentures and partials, implants, and family dental care.

Dr. Jay Denton grew up in the Houston area and obtained his bachelor's degree in computer engineering from Brigham Young University. In 2011, he graduated from the University of Texas dental school in San Antonio and then completed a residency in Advanced Education in General Dentistry. He and his wife, Lindsay, have three children, and they love living in sunny Las Vegas. Dr. Denton enjoys spending time with family, gardening, hiking, and running.

Dr. Luke graduated from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry in 2012. Since that time, he has practiced dentistry in Las Vegas and New Zealand. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, traveling, water sports, and spending time with his wife Amy and their three daughters.

As a patient at Centennial Hills Dental Care, you can feel confident that you will receive the highest quality of dentistry. We are committed to respecting your time, recommending only treatment that is necessary, and treating you and your family with the same care we use with our own families.

Give us a call today, we look forward to seeing you and your family..

CENTENNIAL HILLS DENTAL CARE

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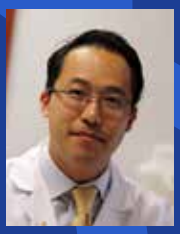

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Comprehensive Cancer Centers congratulates all of **Desert Companion's Top Doctors**, including the 27 physicians from our practice. Thank you to all of this year's honorees for your commitment to healthcare in Southern Nevada. While you come from many different specialties and backgrounds, together you are creating a higher standard of care and better quality of life for patients and families across our community.

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desert COMPANION

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Top Doctors + Dentists

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How the Top Doctors Are Selected

Castle Connolly Top Doctors is a healthcare research company and the official source for Top Doctors for the past 25 years. Castle Connolly's established nomination survey, research, screening, and selection process, under the direction of an MD, involves many hundreds of thousands of physicians as well as academic medical centers, specialty hospitals, and regional and community hospitals all across the nation.

The online nominations process — located at castleconnolly.com/nominations — is open to all licensed physicians in the US who are able to nominate physicians in any medical specialty and in any part of the country, as well as indicate whether the nominated physicians is, in their opinion, among the best in their region in their medical specialty or among the best in the nation in their medical specialty. Once nominated, Castle Connolly's physician-led team of researchers follow a rigorous screening process to select top doctors on both the national and regional levels.

Careful screening of doctors' educational and professional experience is essential before final selection is made among those physicians most highly regarded by their peers. The result — we identify the top doctors in America and provide you, the consumer, with detailed information about their education, training, and special expertise in our paperback guides, national and regional magazine "Top Doctors" features and online directories.

Doctors do not and cannot pay to be selected and profiled as Castle Connolly Top Doctors.

Physicians selected for inclusion in this magazine's "Top Doctors" feature also appear online at castleconnolly.com, or in conjunction with other Castle Connolly Top Doctors databases online on other sites and/or in print.

Castle Connolly was acquired by Everyday Health Group (EHG), one of the world's most prominent digital healthcare companies, in late 2018. EHG, a recognized leader in patient and provider education, attracts an engaged audience of over 53 million health consumers and more than 780,000 U.S. practicing physicians and clinicians to its premier health and wellness websites. EHG combines social listening data and analytics expertise to deliver highly personalized healthcare consumer content and effective patient engagement solutions. EHG's vision is to drive better clinical and health outcomes through decision-making informed by highly relevant data and analytics. Healthcare professionals and consumers are empowered with trusted content and services through the Everyday Health Group's flagship brands including Everyday Health®, What to Expect®, MedPage Today®, Health eCareers®, PRIME® Education and our exclusive partnership with MayoClinic.org® and The Mayo Clinic Diet.® Everyday Health Group is a division of J2 Global Inc. (NASDAQ: JCOM), and is headquartered in New York City.



How to Use This Guide
Medical specialties are listed alphabetically. Doctors are listed alphabetically beneath those specialty areas, with subspecialties below that. Note that some physicians may require referrals.

ALLERGY & IMMUNOLOGY

JIM CHRISTENSEN, MD
OptumCare Network of Nevada
Lung & Allergy Care
4750 West Oakey Boulevard, Suite 1A
(702) 724-8844
Asthma & Allergy, Urticaria, Pediatric Allergy & Immunology

VICTOR A. ESTRADA, MD
Southern Nevada Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
2821 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite 100
(702) 735-1556
Allergy-Adult & Pediatric, Food Allergy, Nasal Allergy, Skin Allergies

JOEL KATZ, MD
Allergy & Asthma Center
2625 Box Canyon Drive
(702) 360-6100
Food Allergy, Immunotherapy, Insect Allergy, Asthma

A. SEAN MCKNIGHT, MD
Allergy Partners of Nevada
2485 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite 100
(702) 212-5889
Allergy, Asthma, Immune Deficiency

BOB K. MIYAKE, MD
Allergy Partners of Nevada
2485 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite 100
(702) 212-5889
Asthma

DAVID H. TOTTORI, MD
Tottori Allergy & Asthma Associates
4000 East Charleston Boulevard, Suite 100
(702) 240-4233
Asthma & Allergy, Food Allergy, Eczema

SANDY YIP, MD
Southern Nevada Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
2821 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite 100
(702) 735-1556
Allergy-Adult & Pediatric, Food Allergy, Nasal Allergy, Skin Allergies

CARDIAC ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY

ROBERT L. BAKER, MD
Nevada Cardiology Associates
3121 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 512
(702) 796-7150
Sudden Death Prevention, Radiofrequency Ablation, Atrial Fibrillation

ARJUN V. GURURAJ, MD
Nevada Heart & Vascular Center
401 North Buffalo Drive, Suite 100
(702) 240-6482
Arrhythmias, Catheter Ablation, Heart Failure, Atrial Fibrillation

NIUTON KOIDE, MD
Las Vegas Heart Associates
9260 West Sunset Road, Suite 207
(702) 962-0020
Arrhythmias

FOAD MOAZEZ, MD
Nevada Cardiology Associates
3150 North Tenaya Way, Suite 460
(702) 233-1000
Arrhythmias, Pacemakers/Defibrillators

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

SEAN S. AMELI, MD
Ameli-Dadourian Heart Center
400 South Rampart Boulevard, Suite 240
(702) 906-1100
Cholesterol/Lipid Disorders, Echocardiography-Transesophageal, Preventive Cardiology, Hypertension

KESHAV CHANDER, MD
Smart Heart Care
8970 West Tropicana Avenue, Suite 6
(702) 473-5333
Cardiac CT Angiography, Echocardiography

RICHARD CHEN, MD
Nevada Cardiology Associates
3121 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 512
(702) 796-7150

Coronary Artery Disease, Interventional Cardiology, Angioplasty & Stent Placement, Echocardiography-Transesophageal

BERGE J. DADOURIAN, MD
Ameli-Dadourian Heart Center
400 South Rampart Boulevard, Suite 240
(702) 906-1100
Peripheral Vascular Disease, Interventional Cardiology

VANESSA GASTWIRTH, MD
Nevada Cardiology Associates
3150 North Tenaya Way, Suite 460
(702) 233-1000

SAMUEL E. GREEN, MD
Nevada Cardiology Associates
3150 North Tenaya Way, Suite 460
(702) 233-1000
Nuclear Cardiology, Echocardiography-Transesophageal

THOMAS L. LAMBERT, MD
Cardiology Specialists of Nevada
3150 North Tenaya Way, Suite 135
(702) 598-3999
Interventional Cardiology, Heart Failure

CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

DEBORA A. BARNEY, MD
Center for Emotional Health
6284 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 110
(702) 257-0140
Autism Spectrum Disorders, Depression, Anxiety Disorders, Mood Disorders

CHILD NEUROLOGY

MONICA M. CHACON, MD
Neurology Center of Nevada
2380 West Horizon Ridge Parkway
(702) 247-9994
Neurophysiology, Epilepsy

COLON & RECTAL SURGERY

OVUNC BARDAKCIOGLU, MD
UNLV Medicine Department of Surgery
1707 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 160
(702) 671-5150
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Colon & Rectal Cancer, Robotic Surgery, Hemorrhoids

LESLIE K. BROWDER, MD
Women's Cancer Center of Nevada
3131 La Canada Street, Suite 241
(702) 693-6870
Microsurgery, Pelvic Floor Disorders, Diverticulitis, Crohn's Disease

DERMATOLOGY

MIRIAM BETTENCOURT, MD
Advanced Dermatology & Cosmetic Surgery
861 Coronado Center Drive, Suite 100
(702) 257-7546
Melanoma, Mohs Surgery

MICHAEL G. BRYAN, MD
Las Vegas Skin & Cancer Clinics
880 Seven Hills Drive, Suite 260
(702) 588-6730
Hair & Nail Disorders, Mohs Surgery, Skin Cancer

VICTORIA G. FARLEY, MD
Vivida Dermatology
2110 East Flamingo Road, Suite 213
(702) 255-6647
Cosmetic Dermatology, Dermatologic Surgery, Acne & Rosacea, *Psoriasis*

DOUGLAS FIFE, MD
Vivida Dermatology
6460 Medical Center Street, Suite 350
(702) 255-6647
Mohs Surgery

LIONEL J. HANDLER, MD
Strimling Dermatology, Laser & Vein Institute
10105 Banburry Cross Drive, Suite 350
(702) 243-6400
Pediatric Dermatology, Laser Surgery, Cosmetic Surgery

MAC L. MACHAN, MD
Vivida Dermatology
6460 Medical Center Street, Suite 200 & 350
(702) 255-6647
Mohs Surgery, Reconstructive Surgery, Skin Cancer Surgery

ROBERT B. STRIMLING, MD
Strimling Dermatology, Laser & Vein Institute
10105 Banburry Cross Drive, Suite 350
(702) 243-6400
Mohs Surgery, Laser Surgery, Cosmetic Dermatology, Varicose Veins

CANDACE THORNTON SPANN, MD
Couture Dermatology & Plastic Surgery
2615 Box Canyon Drive
(702) 998-9001
Hair Loss in Women, Acne, Facial Rejuvenation, Botox

DEVELOPMENTAL-BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS

MARIO J. GASPAR DE ALBA, MD
UNLV Medicine Ackerman Autism Center
630 South Rancho Drive, Suite A
(702) 998-9505
Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADD/ADHD

DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY

RAJNEESH AGRAWAL, MD
Desert Radiology
2020 Palomino Lane, Suite 100
(702) 759-8600
Neuroradiology, Interventional Radiology

ASHOK GUPTA, MD
Desert Radiology
2020 Palomino Lane, Suite 100
(702) 759-8600
Abdominal Imaging

DIANNE MAZZU, MD
Desert Radiology
2020 Palomino Lane, Suite 100
(702) 759-8600
Body Imaging, Mammography, Ultrasound, CT Scan

RAJASHREE C. VYAS, MD
Desert Radiology
2020 Palomino Lane, Suite 100
(702) 759-8600
Pediatric Radiology, Musculoskeletal Imaging

ALAN WEISSMAN, MD
Desert Radiology
2020 Palomino Lane, Suite 100
(702) 759-8600
Cancer Imaging, Musculoskeletal Imaging, Nuclear Medicine

LISA K. WONG, MD
Desert Radiology
2020 Palomino Lane, Suite 100
(702) 759-8600
Pediatric Radiology

ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES & METABOLISM

BRIAN BERELOWITZ, MD
653 North Town Center Drive
(702) 804-9486
Diabetes

KENNETH IZUORA, MD
UNLV Medicine Department of Endocrinology
1707 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 290
(702) 671-6469
Diabetes

W. REID LITCHFIELD, MD
Desert Endocrinology
2415 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite 100
(702) 434-8400
Diabetes, Thyroid Disorders

QUANG T. NGUYEN, DO
Las Vegas Endocrinology
229 North Pecos Road, Suite 100
(702) 605-5750
Hypertension, Metabolic Syndrome, Nutrition & Obesity

FAMILY MEDICINE

KIMBERLY ADAMS, MD
Total Wellness Family Medicine
5225 South Durango Drive
(702) 253-9355
AIDS/HIV, Adolescent Medicine, Sports Medicine, Chronic Illness

HERVE BEZARD, MD
Family Doctors of Boulder City
895 Adams Boulevard
(702) 293-0406

NANCY C. CHU, MD
Siena Hills Primary Care
2789 Sunridge Heights Parkway, Suite 100
(702) 614-0850
Telemedicine

MICHAEL GUNTER, MD
Canyon Trails Family Practice
7455 West Washington Avenue, Suite 445
(702) 804-5138
Primary Care Sports Medicine

JENNY C. HA, MD
Siena Hills Primary Care
2789 Sunridge Heights Parkway, Suite 100
(702) 614-0850
Telemedicine

SUNGWOOK S. KIM, MD
Brighton Family Medicine
1720 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite 140
(702) 566-5445

SHARI KLEIN, DO
8571 West Lake Mead Boulevard, Suite 100
(702) 545-0283
Concierge Medicine

DARREN RAHAMAN, MD
Nevada Health Centers
1799 Mount Mariah Drive
(702) 383-1961

LARA WENNER, MD
Intermountain Healthcare
3960 West Craig Road, Suite 101
(702) 473-8380

GASTROENTEROLOGY

TAREK AMMAR, MD
Comprehensive Digestive Institute of Nevada
8530 West Sunset Road, Suite 230
(702) 483-4483
Endoscopic Ultrasound, Pancreatic & Biliary Disease, Colon & Rectal Cancer, Digestive Disorders

GARY CHEN, MD
Comprehensive Digestive Institute of Nevada
9260 West Sunset Road, Suite 306
(702) 483-4483
Digestive Disorders, Barrett's Esophagus, Celiac Disease, Colonoscopy

VISHAL GANDOTRA, MD
Vegas Gastroenterology
5701 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 201
(702) 750-0313
Colonoscopy, Endoscopy

ANDREW I. KIM, MD
Comprehensive Digestive Institute of Nevada
9260 West Sunset Road, Suite 306
(702) 483-4483
Colonoscopy & Polypectomy, Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD), Barrett's Esophagus, Swallowing Disorders

GREGORY M. KWOK, MD
Gastroenterology Associates
6950 South Cimarron Road, Suite 200
(702) 796-0231
Gastrointestinal Functional Disorders, Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)

WAI LI MA, MD
GI Excellence
9260 West Sunset Road, Suite 203
(702) 476-2822

FRANK J. NEMEC, MD
Gastroenterology Associates
6950 South Cimarron Road, Suite 200
(702) 796-0231
Gastrointestinal Functional Disorders, Digestive Disorders

DAVID QUAN SHIH, MD
Comprehensive Digestive Institute of Nevada
9260 West Sunset Road, Suite 306
(702) 483-4483
Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD), Barrett's Esophagus, Peptic Ulcer Disease, Irritable Bowel Syndrome

CHRISTIAN STONE, MD
Comprehensive Digestive Institute of Nevada
9260 West Sunset Road, Suite 306
(702) 483-4483
Inflammatory Bowel Disease/Crohn's, Colitis, Digestive Disorders, Colon & Rectal Cancer

NICHOLAS A. TIBALDI, MD
Southwest Medical Associates
4750 West Oakey Boulevard
(702) 877-5199
Hemorrhoids, Crohn's Disease, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Ulcerative Colitis

GERIATRIC MEDICINE

ESTEBAN HENNINGS, MD
Humanitas Primary Care
3201 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 414
(702) 685-7700

HAND SURGERY

ANDREW J. BRONSTEIN, MD
Bronstein Hand Center
10135 West Twain Avenue, Suite 100
(702) 458-4263
Wrist Reconstruction, Elbow Surgery, Pediatric Hand Surgery, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

DAVID FADELL, DO
Hand Surgery Specialists of Nevada
9321 West Sunset Road
(702) 645-7800
Trauma, Arthritis, Elbow Surgery, Shoulder Surgery

JAMES VAHEY, MD
Hand Center of Nevada
8585 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 100
(702) 798-8585
Hand & Upper Extremity Surgery

HEMATOLOGY

RUSSELL GOLLARD, MD
OptumCare Network of Nevada Cancer Care
3175 St. Rose Parkway, Suite 200
(702) 724-8787

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

FADI EL-SALIBI, MD
825 North Gibson Road, Suite 311
(702) 776-8300
HIV/AIDS

BRIAN J. LIPMAN, MD
10001 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 307
(702) 909-7170
AIDS/HIV, Pneumonia

RONALD A. SHOCKLEY, MD
Infectious Disease Partners
3483 South Eastern Avenue, Floor 2
(702) 309-2311
AIDS/HIV

CHUKWUDUM UCHE, MD
Infectious Disease Associates & Travel Medicine Clinic
6088 South Durango Drive, Suite 100
(702) 380-4242
HIV, Hepatitis, Travel Medicine

INTERNAL MEDICINE

VALERIA ASIMENIOS, MD
Southwest Medical Associates
4835 South Durango Drive
(702) 877-5199

LAWRENCE S. COPELAND, MD
653 Town Center Drive, Suite 101
(702) 485-2791
Concierge Medicine

RAMA HAROUNI, MD
Harouni Concierge Care
8960 West Tropicana Avenue, Suite 100
(702) 385-9505
Preventive Medicine, Concierge Medicine

REZA MOJTABAVI, MD
Avencia Medical Center
3150 North Tenaya Way, Suite 240
(702) 445-7770

MOHAMMED NAJMI, MD
Medical Group at Sun City
2440 Professional Center, Suite 110
(702) 240-8155
Chronic Illness, Eating Disorders, Nutrition

RUSSELL N. NEIBAUR, MD
Concierge Care Physicians
2450 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite 150
(702) 990-0622

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UNLV Medicine Department of Internal Medicine
1707 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 100
(702) 671-5060

CANDICE H. TUNG, MD
Jerry Schwartz & Associates
7395 South Pecos Road, Suite 102
(702) 737-8657
Concierge Medicine, Diabetes

JOHN A. VARRAS, MD
UNLV Medicine Department of Internal Medicine
1707 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 230
(702) 671-5060
Weight Management, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Preventive Medicine

RAJI VENKAT, MD
Dignity Health Medical Group
10001 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 101
(702) 616-5801

SANDHYA WAHI GURURAJ, MD
UNLV Medicine Department of Internal Medicine
1707 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 230
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Preventive Medicine, Hypertension

INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGY

JOHN B. BEDOTTO, MD
Intermountain Healthcare
9280 West Sunset Road, Suite 320
(702) 534-5464

NAVID KAZEMI, MD
Nevada Cardiology Associates
3201 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 400
(702) 796-7150
Arrhythmias, Coronary Artery Disease, Heart Failure

JAMES A. LALLY, MD
Heart Center of Nevada
700 Shadow Lane, Suite 240
(702) 384-0022
Arrhythmias

SANJAY MALHOTRA, MD
Nevada Heart & Vascular Center
4275 Burnham Avenue, Suite 100
(702) 240-6482

CRES P. MIRANDA, MD
Nevada Heart & Vascular Center
401 North Buffalo Drive, Suite 100
(702) 240-6482
Coronary Angioplasty/Stents, Preventive Cardiology

JANMEJAY J. PATEL, MD
Intermountain Healthcare
9280 West Sunset Road, Suite 320
(702) 933-9400

MATERNAL & FETAL MEDICINE

LAUREN E. GIACOBBE, MD
High Risk Pregnancy Center
2011 Pinto Lane, Suite 200
(702) 382-3200
Pregnancy-High Risk, Ultrasound

WILSON H. HUANG, MD
High Risk Pregnancy Center
2845 Siena Heights Drive, Suite 350
(702) 382-3200
Prematurity/Low Birth Weight Infants, Ultrasound

BRIAN K. IRIYE, MD
High Risk Pregnancy Center
2011 Pinto Lane, Suite 200
(702) 382-3200
Prenatal Diagnosis, Ultrasound, Diabetes in Pregnancy, Multiple Gestation

MANIJEH KAMYAR, MD
High Risk Pregnancy Center
2011 Pinto Lane, Suite 200
(702) 382-3200
Pregnancy-High Risk

PATRICIA PIERCE, MD
High Risk Pregnancy Center
2011 Pinto Lane, Suite 200
(702) 382-3200
Pregnancy-High Risk, Ultrasound

STEPHEN M. WOLD, MD
High Risk Pregnancy Center
2011 Pinto Lane, Suite 200
(702) 382-3200
Pregnancy-High Risk

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

FADI S. BRAITEH, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
3730 South Eastern Avenue
(702) 952-3400
Gastrointestinal Cancer, Lung Cancer, Breast Cancer, Colon & Rectal Cancer

STEPHANI CHRISTENSEN, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
1505 Wigwam Parkway, Suite 130
(702) 856-1400

KHOI M. DAO, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
10001 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 108
(702) 952-3444
Hematologic Malignancies, Colon Cancer, Lung Cancer

OSCAR B. GOODMAN, MD/PHD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
9280 West Sunset Road, Suite 100
(702) 952-1251
Genitourinary Cancer, Prostate Cancer, Bladder Cancer

LIAWATY HO, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
3730 South Eastern Avenue
(702) 952-3400
Breast Cancer, Lung Cancer, Lymphoma

REGAN HOLDRIDGE, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
1505 Wigwam Parkway, Suite 130
(702) 856-1400
Breast Cancer, Lung Cancer, Colon Cancer

KAREN S. JACKS, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
9280 West Sunset Road, Suite 100
(702) 952-1251
Breast Cancer, Gynecologic Cancers, Hematology

CLARK S. JEAN, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
7445 Peak Drive
(702) 952-2140
Hematologic Malignancies, Leukemia & Lymphoma

H. KESHAVA-PRASAD, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
3730 South Eastern Avenue
(702) 952-3400
Leukemia & Lymphoma, Lung Cancer, Palliative Care

EDWIN KINGSLEY, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
3730 South Eastern Avenue
(702) 952-3400
Hematologic Malignancies

ANTHONY V. NGUYEN, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada

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(702) 856-1400
Gastrointestinal Cancer, Lung Cancer, Anemias & Red Blood Cell Disorders

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(702) 952-3444
Hematology

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(702) 952-1251
Melanoma, Sarcoma, Kidney Cancer, Merkel Cell Carcinoma

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(702) 952-1251
Hematology

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Leukemia & Lymphoma, Lung Cancer

ANURADHA THUMMALA, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
7445 Peak Drive
(702) 952-2140

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Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
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(702) 952-3400
Prostate Cancer, Mesothelioma, Kidney Cancer, Genitourinary Cancer

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(702) 749-3700
Breast Cancer, Lymphoma, Lung Cancer,

STEVEN W. YATES, MD
Intermountain Healthcare
3006 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 205
(702) 735-7154

NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE

ELMER S. DAVID, MD
A Las Vegas Medical Group
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(702) 733-0744
Neonatal Nutrition

NEPHROLOGY

ADIN BOLDUR, MD
Kidney Specialists of Southern Nevada
500 South Rancho Drive, Suite 12
(702) 877-1887
Hypertension, Kidney Failure

JAY K. CHU, MD
Kidney Specialists of Southern Nevada
500 South Rancho Drive, Suite 12
(702) 877-1887

RADHIKA R. JANGA, MD
Nevada Kidney Disease & Hypertension Centers
5815 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 110
(702) 732-1586

SAMUEL A. KANTOR, MD
Nevada Kidney Disease & Hypertension Centers
1581 Mount Mariah Drive, Suite 150
(702) 851-7766
Kidney Disease

BINDU KHANNA, MD
Kidney Specialists of Southern Nevada
500 South Rancho Drive, Suite 12
(702) 877-1887
Fluid/Electrolyte Balance, Glomerulonephritis

LAWRENCE M. LEHRNER, MD
Kidney Specialists of Southern Nevada
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(702) 877-1887
Kidney Disease-Chronic

DEEPAK NANDIKANTI, MD
Kidney Specialists of Southern Nevada
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(702) 877-1887

CHIDI C. OKAFOR, MD
Kidney Specialists of Southern Nevada
500 South Rancho Drive, Suite 12
(702) 877-1887
Hypertension, Dialysis Care, Dialysis-Peritoneal

SYED I. SHAH, MD
Kidney Specialists of Southern Nevada
500 South Rancho Drive, Suite 12
(702) 877-1887
Transplant Medicine-Kidney

MARWAN TAKIEDDINE, MD
Nevada Kidney Disease & Hypertension Centers
2450 Fire Mesa Street, Suite 110
(702) 853-0090
Hypertension, Cholesterol/Lipid Disorders

VINCENT YANG, MD
Kidney Specialists of Southern Nevada
7316 West Cheyenne Avenue
(702) 877-1887
Diabetes, Hypertension, Kidney Disease-Chronic, Kidney Stones

NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

DEREK A. DUKE, MD
The Spine & Brain Institute
861 Coronado Center Drive, Suite 200
(702) 896-0940
Brain & Spinal Surgery, Spinal Surgery

JASON E. GARBER, MD
Las Vegas Neurosurgical Institute
3012 South Durango Drive
(702) 835-0088
Spinal Surgery, Minimally Invasive Spinal Surgery, Spinal Surgery-Complex, Peripheral Nerve Surgery

MICHAEL E. SEIFF, MD
The Spine & Brain Institute
8530 West Sunset Road, Suite 250
(702) 851-0792
Brain & Spinal Surgery, Chiari Malformations, Minimally Invasive Surgery

SAMIR BANGALORE, MD
Nevada Neurosciences Institute
3006 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 765
(702) 961-7310
Epilepsy

SHANKER N. DIXIT, MD
Neurology Center of Las Vegas
2480 Professional Court
(702) 405-7100
Clinical Neurophysiology, Stroke, Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders, Headache

ERIC FARBMAN, MD
Roseman Medical Group
5380 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 120
(702) 463-4040
Parkinson's Disease/ *Movement Disorders, Huntington's Disease, Deep Brain Stimulation, Alzheimer's Disease*

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Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health
888 West Bonneville Avenue
(702) 483-6000
Multiple Sclerosis, Neuro-Immunology

ZOLTAN MARI, MD
Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health
888 West Bonneville Avenue
(702) 483-6000
Movement Disorders, Parkinson's Disease

CHRISTOPHER MILFORD, MD
Silver State Neurology
2585 Montessouri Street, Suite 100
(702) 272-0694
Clinical Neurophysiology, Electromyography (EMG)

ABRAHAM J. NAGY, MD
Nevada Headache Institute
400 South Rampart Boulevard, Suite 295
(702) 432-3224
Headache

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(702) 483-6000
Alzheimer's Disease, Memory Disorders

DYLAN P. WINT, MD
Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health
888 West Bonneville Avenue
(702) 483-6000
Neurodegenerative Disorders, Neuro-Psychiatry, Cognitive Impairment-Mild, Behavioral Neurology

NUCLEAR MEDICINE

BHARAT MOCHERLA, MD
Las Vegas Medical Research
8530 West Sunset Road, Suite 300
(702) 750-0222
PET Imaging, CT Scan

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

NADIA A. GOMEZ, MD
UNLV Medicine Women's Healthcare, OB/GYN
3196 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 209
(702) 944-2888
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Robotic Surgery, Tubal Ligation Reversal, Pain-Pelvic

JOHN V. MARTIN, MD
Women's Health Associates of Southern Nevada
2880 North Tenaya Way, Suite 420
(702) 255-2022
Pregnancy

STACI L. MCHALE, MD
New Beginnings OB-GYN
8850 West Sunset Road, Suite 110
(702) 740-0500
Pregnancy-High Risk

DONNA M. MILLER, MD
For Women OB/GYN
861 Coronado Center Drive, Suite 131
(725) 777-0414
Pregnancy-High Risk, Pap Smear Abnormalities, Menopause Problems

EDMOND E. PACK, MD
Women's Health Associates of Southern Nevada
2580 St. Rose Parkway, Suite 140
(702) 862-8862
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Endometriosis, Gynecologic Surgery, Robotic Surgery

TAMMY REYNOLDS, MD
Women's Health Associates of Southern Nevada
2880 North Tenaya Way, Suite 420
(702) 255-2022

K. WARREN VOLKER, MD/PHD
Intermountain Healthcare
2880 North Tenaya Way
(702) 255-3547
Gynecology Only, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Pelvic Surgery

OPHTHALMOLOGY

BRIAN ALDER, MD
Shepherd Eye Center
6850 North Durango Drive, Suite 404
(702) 766-4590
Corneal Disease

JOYCE CASSEN, MD/PHD
Shepherd Eye Center
6850 North Durango Drive, Suite 404
(702) 766-0173

CAROLYN ANN CRUVANT, MD
Shepherd Eye Center
6850 North Durango Drive, Suite 404
(702) 766-4590

MARK DOUBRAVA, MD
Eye Care for Nevada
The Lakes Business Park
9011 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 101
(702) 794-2020

LASIK-Refractive Surgery, Cataract Surgery, Corneal Disease & Surgery, Cornea Transplant

JEFFREY HART, MD
Center For Sight
5871 West Craig Road
(702) 724-2020

RODNEY HOLLIFIELD, MD
Retina Consultants of Nevada
653 North Town Center Drive, Suite 518
(702) 369-0200
Retina/Vitreous Surgery

JUDY C. LIU, MD
Retina Consultants of Nevada
3006 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 710
(702) 369-0200
Retinal Disorders, Macular Degeneration, Diabetic Eye Disease/Retinopathy, Retinal Vascular Diseases

JAY K. MATTHEIS, MD
Wellish Vision Institute
2110 East Flamingo Road, Suite 211
(702) 733-2020
Glaucoma, Cataract Surgery, Cornea Transplant, Dry Eye Syndrome

WILLIAM N. MAY, MD
Wellish Vision Institute
10424 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 100
(702) 733-2020
Cataract Surgery, Dry Eye Syndrome, *LASIK-Refractive Surgery, Cornea & External Eye Disease*

KEVIN N. MILLER, MD
Shepherd Eye Center
6850 North Durango Drive, Suite 404
(702) 766-4590

STEVEN N. MONTGOMERY, MD
Shepherd Eye Center
3575 Pecos-McLeod Interconnect
(702) 731-2088

TIMOTHY PEROZEK, MD
See Right Now
653 North Town Center Drive, Suite 212
(702) 982-1360
Glaucoma, Diabetic Eye Disease/Retinopathy, Intraocular Lens Replacement

HELGA F. PIZIO, MD
New Eyes
2020 Wellness Way, Suite 402
(702) 485-5000
Cataract Surgery

TUSHINA A. REDDY, MD
Shepherd Eye Center
6850 North Durango Drive, Suite 404
(702) 766-4590

RAVINDRANATH REDDY, MD
Shepherd Eye Center
6850 North Durango Drive, Suite 404
(702) 766-4590
Eyelid Surgery/Blepharoplasty

ADAM J. ROVIT, MD
Shepherd Eye Center
6850 North Durango Drive, Suite 404
(702) 766-0173

GRACE S. SHIN, MD
Ideal EyeCare
6028 South Fort Apache Road, Suite 101
(702) 896-2020
Pediatric Ophthalmology, *Cataract Surgery, Glaucoma, Macular Disease/Degeneration*

SURJEET SINGH, MD
Nevada Eye Physicians
1505 Wigwam Parkway
(702) 896-6043
Cataract Surgery, LASIK-Refractive Surgery, PRK-Refractive Surgery

MATTHEW SWANIC, MD
Las Vegas Eye Institute
9555 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 260
(702) 816-2525
Cataract Surgery, Corneal Disease, Glaucoma, LASIK-Refractive Surgery

ROBERT B. TAYLOR, MD
Shepherd Eye Center
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Retina/Vitreous Surgery

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Shepherd Eye Center
6850 North Durango Drive, Suite 404
(702) 766-4590

TIMOTHY H. TWEITO, MD
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6980 Smoke Ranch Road, Suite 110
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Diabetic Eye Disease/Retinopathy, Retina/Vitreous Surgery, Retinal Disorders

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Corneal Disease & Surgery, LASIK-Refractive Surgery, Cataract Surgery, Dry Eye Syndrome

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Retina/Vitreous Surgery, Macular Degeneration, Trauma

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2980 South Jones Boulevard, Suite A
(702) 362-3937
Corneal Disease & Surgery, LASIK-Refractive Surgery, Cornea Transplant

MEHER YEPREMYAN, MD
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(702) 369-0200
Retinal Disorders, Retina/Vitreous Surgery

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

HUGH BASSEWITZ, MD
Desert Orthopaedic Center
2800 East Desert Inn Road, Suite 100
(702) 731-4088
Spinal Surgery, Spinal Disc Replacement, Scoliosis

GREGORY T. BIGLER, MD
Knee & Shoulder Institute
9499 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 200
(702) 933-9393
Shoulder & Knee Surgery, Arthroscopic Surgery, Arthritis, Sports Medicine

ANDREW CASH, MD
Desert Institute of Spine Care
9339 West Sunset Road, Suite 100
(702) 630-3472
Spinal Surgery, Minimally Invasive Spinal Surgery

ROBERT J. GRONDEL, MD
Orthopaedic Institute of Henderson
10561 Jeffreys Street, Suite 230
(702) 565-6565
Arthroscopic Surgery-Shoulder, Sports Medicine, Cartilage Damage & Transplant, Shoulder Surgery

STEVEN R. HOER, MD
Orthopaedic Institute of Henderson
10561 Jeffreys Street, Suite 230
(702) 565-6565
Joint Replacement, Shoulder Surgery, Knee Surgery, Hip Surgery

ERIK N. KUBIAK, MD
OptumCare Network of Nevada Orthopaedics and Spine
4750 West Oakey Boulevard, Suite 1A
(702) 724-8877
Reconstructive Surgery

MICHAEL MIAO, MD
Desert Orthopaedic Center
2800 East Desert Inn Road, Suite 100
(702) 731-4088
Arthroscopic Surgery-Shoulder, Arthroscopic Surgery-Knee, Sports Medicine,Reconstructive Surgery

JASON H. NIELSON, MD
Children's Bone & Spine Surgery
1525 East Windmill Lane, Suite 201
(702) 434-6920
Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery, Pediatric Sports Medicine, Dance Medicine, Arthroscopic Surgery-Hip

BERNARD C. ONG, MD
8551 West Lake Mead Boulevard, Suite 251
(702) 796-7979
Joint Replacement, Sports Medicine, Fractures, Knee Reconstruction

DEIRDRE D. RYAN, MD
Children's Bone & Spine Surgery
9050 West Cheyenne Avenue, Suite 110
(702) 998-5200
Neuromuscular Disorders, Trauma, Foot Deformities

ROMAN SIBEL, MD
Orthopedic Foot & Ankle Institute
3175 St. Rose Parkway, Suite 320
(702) 997-9833
Foot & Ankle Deformities, Charcot Foot, Clubfoot, Diabetic Leg/Foot

DAVID G. STEWART, MD
Children's Bone & Spine Surgery
1525 East Windmill Lane, Suite 201
(702) 434-6920
Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery, Scoliosis, Fractures-Complex & Non Union

MICHAEL D. THOMAS, MD
Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center
7455 West Washington Avenue, Suite 160
(702) 258-3773
Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery, Scoliosis, Spinal Deformity

TROY S. WATSON, MD
Desert Orthopaedic Center
2800 East Desert Inn Road, Suite 100
(702) 731-4088
Foot & Ankle Surgery

JOSEPH YU, MD
Total Sports Medicine & Orthopedics
10105 Banburry Cross Drive, Suite 445
(702) 475-4390
Sports Medicine, Joint Replacement, Shoulder & Knee Surgery, Cartilage Damage

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

CHRISTINE MIRABAL, MD
Ear, Nose & Throat Consultants of Nevada
3195 St. Rose Parkway, Suite 210
(702) 792-6700
Ear Disorders, Nasal & Sinus Disorders, Throat Disorders

MATTHEW NG, MD
UNLV Medicine Ear Nose & Throat (ENT) Clinic
5320 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 250
(702) 992-6828
Neuro-Otology, Skull Base Surgery, Otology, Acoustic Neuroma/Schwannoma

SEAN D. PALACIOS, MD
Nevada Ear & Sinus Institute
3692 East Sunset Road
(702) 735-7668
Neuro-Otology, Hearing & Balance Disorders, Skull Base Tumors, Sinus Disorders/Surgery

WALTER W. SCHROEDER, MD
Ear, Nose & Throat Consultants of Nevada
3195 St. Rose Parkway, Suite 210
(702) 792-6700
Head & Neck Surgery, Nasal Surgery, Throat Disorders

ROBERT C. WANG, MD
UNLV Medicine Ear Nose & Throat (ENT) Clinic
5320 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 250
(702) 671-6480
Head & Neck Surgery

RANDALL T. WEINGARTEN, MD
Southern Nevada ENT
10410 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 110
(702) 617-9599

Head & Neck Surgery, Thyroid & Parathyroid Surgery, Sinus Disorders/Surgery

LARRY YU, MD
Ear, Nose & Throat Consultants of Nevada
3195 St. Rose Parkway, Suite 210
(702) 792-6700
Nasal & Sinus Disorders

OTOLARYNGOLOGY/ FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY

SINA NASRI-CHENIJANI, MD
Lubritz & Nasri Physicians
3150 North Tenaya Way, Suite 340
(702) 732-4491
Head & Neck Surgery, Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Voice Disorders, Thyroid & Parathyroid Surgery

ROBERT J. TROELL, MD
Beauty By Design
5375 S. Fort Apache Road, Suite 101
(702) 242-6488
Facial Plastic Surgery, *Eyelid Surgery/ Blepharoplasty, Rhinoplasty, Reconstructive Plastic Surgery*

PAIN MEDICINE

DANIEL L. BURKHEAD, MD
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9920 West Cheyenne Avenue, Suite 110
(702) 684-7246
Pain-Chronic, Pain-Interventional Techniques, Sciatica

HO VIET DZUNG, MD
Innovative Pain Care Center
9920 West Cheyenne Avenue, Suite 110
(702) 684-7246
Pain-Back & Neck

ANTHONY RUGGEROLI, MD
Ruggeroli & Helmi Pain Specialists
6070 South Fort Apache Road, Suite 100
(702) 307-7700
Pain-Musculoskeletal, Pain-Interventional Techniques

KATHERINE D. TRAVNICEK, MD
Pain Institute of Nevada
7435 West Azure Drive, Suite 190
(702) 878-8252
Pain Management

PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY

RUBEN J. ACHERMAN, MD
Children's Heart Center Nevada
3006 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 690
(702) 732-1290
Neonatal Cardiology, Arrhythmias, Fetal Echocardiography

WILLIAM J. CASTILLO, MD
Children's Heart Center Nevada
3006 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 690
(702) 732-1290
Fetal Cardiology, Echocardiography

WILLIAM N. EVANS, MD
Children's Heart Center Nevada
3006 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 690
(702) 732-1290

ALVARO GALINDO, MD
Children's Heart Center Nevada
3006 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 690
(702) 732-1290
Interventional Cardiology, Cardiac Catheterization

GARY A. MAYMAN, MD
Children's Heart Center Nevada
3006 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 690
(702) 732-1290
Fetal Echocardiography

ABRAHAM ROTHMAN, MD
Children's Heart Center Nevada
3006 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 690
(702) 732-1290
Interventional Cardiology

PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY

HOWARD I BARON, MD
Pediatric Gastroenterology & Nutrition Associates
3196 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 309
(702) 791-0477
Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Eosinophilic Esophagitis, Gastrointestinal Motility Disorders

ELIZABETH MILETI, DO
Pediatric Gastroenterology & Nutrition Associates
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(702) 791-0477

REBECCA L. SCHERR, MD
UNLV Medicine Pediatric Clinic
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Nutrition

PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY-ONCOLOGY

ALAN IKEDA, MD
Cure 4 The Kids Foundation
1 Breakthrough Way
(702) 732-1493
Bone Marrow Transplant, Sickle Cell Disease, Gene Therapy, Stem Cell Transplant

PEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASE

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1524 Pinto Lane, Floor 3
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Vaccines, Travel Medicine

PEDIATRIC NEPHROLOGY

MICHAEL O. AIGBE, MD
Children's Nephrology Clinic
7271 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 110
(702) 639-1700
Kidney Disease, Kidney Failure, Hypertension

PEDIATRIC PULMONOLOGY

CRAIG T. NAKAMURA, MD
Children's Lung Specialists
3006 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 315
(702) 598-4411
Asthma, Lung Disease, Sleep Disorders/Apnea, Cystic Fibrosis

DAVID P. PARKS, MD
UNLV Medicine Pediatric Clinic
1524 Pinto Lane, Floor 3
(702) 660-8658
Lung Disease, Cystic Fibrosis, Pneumonia

PEDIATRIC SURGERY

NICHOLAS F. FIORE, MD
Pediatric Surgery Associates
653 North Town Center Drive, Suite 412
(702) 233-8101

MICHAEL SCHEIDLER, MD
UNLV Medicine Department of Pediatric Surgery
3121 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 400
(702) 650-2500
Trauma

PEDIATRIC UROLOGY

JESSICA T. CASEY, MD
Children's Urology Associates of Las Vegas
6670 South Tenaya Way, Suite 180
(702) 369-4999
Reconstructive Surgery, Hypospadias, Vesicoureteral Reflux (VUR), Robotic Surgery

CLARE CLOSE, MD
Close Pediatric Urology
2653 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite 100
(702) 220-4006
Congenital Anomalies-*Genitourinary, Fetal Urology, Hypospadias, Undescended Testis*

ANDREW H. HWANG, MD
Las Vegas Pediatric Urology
653 North Town Center Drive, Suite 407
(702) 728-5686
Transplant-Kidney

JAMES C. PLAIRE, MD
Children's Urology Associates of Las Vegas
6670 South Tenaya Way, Suite 180
(702) 369-4999
Undescended Testis, Incontinence, Congenital Anomalies-Genitourinary

PEDIATRICS

JAMES A. BAKERINK, MD
Wee Care Pediatrics
4785 South Durango Drive, Suite 101
(702) 889-8444
Newborn Care, Preventive Medicine, Adolescent Medicine, ADD/ADHD

DOUGLAS H. BARLOW, MD
Anthem Hills Pediatrics
871 Coronado Center Drive, Suite 141
(702) 566-2400

BLAIR DUDDY, MD
Southwest Medical Associates
2704 North Tenaya Way, Suite 1500
(702) 877-5199
Diabetes, Nutrition

DIANE S. GOEBEL, MD
St. Rose Pediatrics
8980 West Cheyenne Avenue
(702) 564-8556

PAMELA GREENSPON, MD
Desert Valley Pediatrics
10105 Banburry Cross, Suite 406
(702) 260-4525
Nutrition, Newborn Care

HEATH H. HODAPP, MD
St. Rose Pediatrics
2350 West Horizon Ridge Parkway
(702) 564-8556

MARGARET M. HWANG, MD
Southwest Medical Associates
2704 North Tenaya Way, Suite 1500
(702) 877-5199

HENRY KY, MD
Desert Valley Pediatrics
10105 Banburry Cross, Suite 370
(702) 260-4525

KIM M. LAMOTTE-MALONE, MD
Anthem Hills Pediatrics
871 Coronado Center Drive, Suite 141
(702) 566-2400

KAMI LARSEN, MD
Nevada Health Centers
98 East Lake Mead Parkway, Suite 103
(702) 868-0327

BEVERLY NEYLAND, MD
UNLV Medicine Pediatric Clinic
1524 Pinto Lane, Floor 3
(702) 944-2828

RYAN M. NISHIHARA, MD
Meadows Pediatrics
9030 West Cheyenne Avenue, Suite 120
(702) 436-7337
Adolescent Medicine

FATEHALI G. PEERA, MD
UNLV Medicine Pediatric Clinic
1524 Pinto Lane, Floor 3
(702) 944-2828

WESLEY ROBERTSON, MD
Sunshine Valley Pediatrics
7455 West Washington Avenue, Suite 300
(702) 363-3000

DODDS P. SIMANGAN, DO
UNLV Medicine Pediatric Clinic
1524 Pinto Lane, Floor 3
(702) 944-2828

LAURA H. WEIDENFELD, MD
Sunshine Valley Pediatrics
9091 West Post Road
(702) 363-3000

RABBI ZIA, MD
Desert Valley Pediatrics
10105 Banburry Cross, Suite 370
(702) 260-4525

PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION

BEVINS K. CHUE, MD
Rehabilitation Specialists of Henderson

CASTLE CONNOLLY TOP DOCTORS

1669 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite 100
(702) 386-1041
Arthritis, Musculoskeletal Disorders, Neuromuscular Disorders

ANDREW B. KIM, DO
Desert Orthopaedic Center
2800 East Desert Inn Road, Suite 100
(702) 731-4088
Musculoskeletal Injuries, Musculoskeletal Disorders, Pain Management

NIANJUN TANG, MD
Centennial Medical Group
4454 North Decatur Boulevard
(702) 839-1203
Pain Management

PLASTIC SURGERY

RICHARD C. BAYNOSA, MD
UNLV Medicine Plastic Surgery Clinic
1707 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 190
(702) 671-5110
Breast Cosmetic & Reconstructive Surgery

HAYLEY BROWN, MD
Desert Hills Plastic Surgery Center
10001 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 406
(702) 260-7707
Botox, Facelift, Liposuction, Blepharoplasty

ARTHUR CAMBEIRO, MD
SurgiSpa
2370 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite 130
(702) 566-8300
Facelift, Liposuction & *Body Contouring, CoolSculpting, Breast Augmentation*

CHRISTOPHER R. COSTA, MD
Platinum Plastic Surgery
870 Seven Hills Drive, Suite 101
(725) 223-9916
Facelift, Rhinoplasty, Fillers & Injectables, Brow Lift

MICHAEL C. EDWARDS, MD
Plastic Surgery Vegas
8530 West Sunset Road, Suite 130
(702) 822-2100
Breast Reconstruction & *Augmentation*

W. TRACY HANKINS, MD
Hankins & Sohn Plastic Surgery Associates
60 North Pecos Road
(702) 948-7595
Cosmetic Surgery-Face & Breast, Liposuction & Body Contouring

TERRENCE B. HIGGINS, MD
Plastic Surgery Vegas
8530 West Sunset Road, Suite 130
(702) 822-2100
Microsurgery

CHRISTOPHER KHORSANDI, MD
VIP Plastic Surgery
2779 Sunridge Heights Parkway, Suite 100
(702) 608-1318
Cosmetic Surgery, Breast Augmentation, Hand Surgery

JOHN M. MENEZES, MD
UNLV Medicine Plastic Surgery Clinic
1707 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 190
(702) 671-5110
Craniofacial Surgery, Cosmetic & Reconstructive Surgery

STEPHEN M. MILLER, MD
8435 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 100
(702) 369-1001
Cosmetic Surgery-Face & Breast, Liposuction & Body Contouring, Hair Restoration/Transplant

JOHN J. MINOLI, MD
Smith Plastic Surgery
7650 West Sahara Avenue
(702) 838-2455
Facial Plastic *Surgery, Rhinoplasty, Eyelid Surgery/ Blepharoplasty, Botox*

BRANDON REYNOLDS, MD
Reynolds Plastic Surgery
5550 Painted Mirage Road, Suite 217
(702) 410-9800
Breast Cosmetic & Reconstructive Surgery, Breast Reduction, Cosmetic Surgery-Face & Body, Skin Cancer Reconstruction

JEFFREY J. ROTH, MD
Las Vegas Plastic Surgery
6140 South Fort Apache Road, Suite 100
(702) 450-0777
Botox, Breast Augmentation, Breast Cosmetic Surgery, CoolSculpting

LANE SMITH, MD
Smith Plastic Surgery
7650 West Sahara Avenue
(702) 838-2455
Breast Augmentation, *Facelift, Liposuction & Body Contouring, CoolSculpting*

SAMUEL SOHN, MD
Hankins & Sohn Plastic Surgery Associates
60 North Pecos Road
(702) 948-7595
Cosmetic Surgery-Breast, Body Contouring after Weight Loss, Cosmetic & Reconstructive Surgery, Botox

PSYCHIATRY

ALISON NETSKI, MD
UNLV Medicine Mojave Counseling
6375 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite A-100
(702) 671-6475
Psychosomatic Disorders, Geriatric Psychiatry, ADD/ADHD, Psychiatry in Physical Illness

PULMONARY DISEASE

JOHN B. COLLIER, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
3150 North Tenaya Way, Suite 125
(702) 869-0855
Critical Care, Lung Disease, Sleep Disorders/Apnea

JOAQUIM TAVARES, MD
United Critical Care
6040 South Fort Apache Road, Suite 100
(702) 476-4900
Asthma, Emphysema, Critical Care, Lung Cancer

GEORGE S. TU, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
3150 North Tenaya Way, Suite 125
(702) 869-0855
Sleep Disorders/Apnea, Emphysema, Pulmonary Fibrosis

RADIATION ONCOLOGY

MICHAEL J. ANDERSON, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
10001 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 108
(702) 952-3399
Head & Neck Cancer, Prostate Cancer, Brachytherapy, Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT)

ANDREW M. COHEN, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
7445 Peak Drive
(702) 952-2140
Breast Cancer, Lung Cancer, Prostate Cancer, Image Guided Radiotherapy (IGRT)

DAN LEE CURTIS, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
655 North Town Center Drive
(702) 233-2200
Prostate Cancer, Brachytherapy, Head & Neck Cancer, Skin Cancer

GREG A. DEAN, MD
Radiation Oncology Centers of Nevada
3980 South Eastern Avenue
(702) 463-9100

FARZANEH FARZIN, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
3730 South Eastern Avenue
(702) 952-3366
Breast Cancer, Intensity *Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT), Stereotactic Radiosurgery*

CARLOS A. LOPEZ, MD
Radiation Oncology Centers of Nevada
624 South Tonopah Drive
(702) 463-9100
Intensity Modulated *Radiotherapy (IMRT), StereotacticRadiosurgery*

RAUL T. MEOZ, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
9280 West Sunset Road, Suite 100
(702) 952-1251
Brachytherapy, Stereotactic Radiosurgery

SUSAN A. REISINGER, MD
GenesisCare
3006 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 100
(702) 894-5100
Breast Cancer, Stereotactic Radiosurgery, Brain Tumors, Prostate Cancer

MICHAEL SINOPOLI, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
7445 Peak Drive
(702) 952-2140
Prostate Cancer, Lung Cancer, Breast Cancer, StereotacticRadiosurgery

RITCHIE STEVENS, MD
Radiation Oncology Centers of Nevada
3980 South Eastern Avenue
(702) 463-9100
Brachytherapy, Prostate Cancer, Gynecologic Cancers

BEAU JAMES W. TOY, MD
Radiation Oncology Centers of Nevada
624 South Tonopah Drive
(702) 463-9100
Stereotactic Body *Radiotherapy, Image Guided Radiotherapy (IGRT)*

PAUL TREADWELL, MD
GenesisCare
3006 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 100
(702) 990-4761
Pediatric Cancers, Breast Cancer, Gynecologic Cancers, Hodgkin's Lymphoma

REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY/ INFERTILITY

JEFFREY FISCH, MD
Green Valley Fertility Partners
2510 Wigwam Parkway, Suite 201
(702) 722-2229
Infertility-IVF, Menstrual Disorders

EVA D. LITTMAN, MD
Red Rock Fertility Center
9120 West Russell Road, Suite 200
(702) 262-0079
Infertility-IVF, *Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis, Egg & Embryo Freezing, LGBT Family Building/ Planning*

BRUCE S. SHAPIRO, MD/PHD
Fertility Center of Las Vegas
8851 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 100
(702) 254-1777
Infertility-IVF

RHEUMATOLOGY

NEIL BRAUNSTEIN, MD
Southwest Medical Associates
4750 West Oakey Boulevard
(702) 251-3670
Autoimmune Disease, Fibromyalgia

MICHAEL E. CLIFFORD, MD
7151 Cascade Valley Court, Suite 103
(702) 944-5444
Fibromyalgia, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Lupus/SLE, Osteoporosis

JOHNSON C. KAY, DO
UNLV Medicine Department of Internal Medicine
1707 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 230
(702) 671-6469
Autoimmune Disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Lupus/SLE, Sjogren's Syndrome

EWA OLECH, MD
7200 Cathedral Rock Drive, Suite 110
(702) 489-4838
Rheumatoid Arthritis

SPORTS MEDICINE

BRIAN A. DAVIS, MD
Intermountain Healthcare
9280 West Sunset Road, Suite 426
(702) 968-3240
Sports Injuries, PRP (Platelet Rich Plasma)

TIMOTHY J. TRAINOR, MD
Advanced Orthopedics & Sports Medicine
7195 Advanced Way
(702) 740-5327
Arthroscopic Surgery, Shoulder & Knee Surgery, Shoulder Arthroscopic Surgery, Fractures

RANDALL E. YEE, DO
Advanced Orthopedics & Sports Medicine
7195 Advanced Way
(702) 740-5327
Arthroscopic Surgery, Cartilage Damage & Transplant, Knee Surgery

SURGERY

JAMES D. ATKINSON, MD
Surgical Weight Control Center
3802 Meadows Lane
(702) 313-8446
Bariatric/Obesity Surgery, *Laparoscopic Surgery-Advanced, Minimally Invasive Surgery*

ANNABEL BARBER, MD
UNLV Medicine Department of General Surgery
1780 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 160
(702) 671-5150
Robotic Surgery, Colon & Rectal Cancer & Surgery, Gastrointestinal Surgery, Endocrine Surgery

JENNIFER BAYNOSA, MD
UNLV Medicine Department of Surgery
1707 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 160
(702) 671-5150
Breast Cancer & Surgery

PANKAJ BHATNAGAR, MD
Advanced Laparoscopic & General Surgery
6240 North Durango Drive, Suite 120
(702) 791-7855
Laparoscopic Surgery-Advanced

PETER A. CARAVELLA, MD
Las Vegas Surgical Associates
8930 West Sunset Road, Suite 300
(702) 258-7788

SEAN D. DORT, MD
Southern Nevada Surgery Specialists
10001 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 201
(702) 914-2420

SOUZAN EL-EID, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
9280 West Sunset Road, Suite 100
(702) 255-1133
Breast Cancer & Surgery, Cancer Surgery

DANIEL KIRGAN, MD
UNLV Medicine Department of Surgery
1707 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 160
(702) 671-5150
Cancer Surgery, Breast Cancer & Surgery, Melanoma, Sarcoma

DEBORAH KUHLS, MD
UNLV Medicine Department of Surgery
1707 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 160
(702) 671-5150
Trauma, Critical Care

PAMELA KURTZHALS, MD
OptumCare Network of Nevada
Cancer Care
2300 West Charleston Boulevard
(702) 877-8300
Breast Surgery, Breast Cancer, Breast Reconstruction

ALLAN DAVID MACINTYRE, DO
Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center
Burn and Reconstructive Center
3186 South Maryland Parkway
(702) 961-7552
Burn Care, Wound Care

FIKRE A. MENGISTU, MD
Southern Nevada Surgery Specialists
10001 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 201
(702) 914-2420

IRWIN B. SIMON, MD
Vegas Valley Vein Institute
2450 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite 100
(702) 341-7608
Minimally Invasive Vascular Surgery, Vein Disorders, Varicose Veins, Hair Restoration/ Transplant

DARREN W. SOONG, MD
Surgical Weight Control Center
3802 Meadows Lane
(702) 313-8446
Bariatric/Obesity Surgery, Laparoscopic Surgery-Advanced, Minimally Invasive Surgery

CHARLES R. ST. HILL, MD
UNLV Medicine Department of Surgery
1707 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 160
(702) 671-5150
Cancer Surgery, Gallbladder Surgery, Hernia

FRANCIS W. TENG, MD
Advanced Surgical Care
3150 North Tenaya Way, Suite 508
(702) 838-5888
Bariatric/Obesity Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Laparoscopic Surgery, Robotic Surgery

MARGARET TERHAR, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
3006 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 270
(702) 369-6008
Breast Disease, Breast Surgery

TIMOTHY W. TOLLESTRUP, MD
3035 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite 120
(702) 666-0463
Peripheral Nerve Surgery

THORACIC & CARDIAC SURGERY

ARNOLD D. CHUNG, MD
MountainView Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery
3150 North Tenaya Way, Suite 260
(702) 962-5920
Esophageal Cancer, Esophageal Surgery, Lung Cancer, Lung Surgery

NEEL V. DHUDSHIA, MD
Cardiovascular Surgery of Southern Nevada
5320 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 282
(702) 737-3808
Cardiothoracic Surgery

QUYNH FEIKES, MD
Cardiovascular Surgery of Southern Nevada
5320 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 282
(702) 737-3808
Cardiothoracic Surgery, Endovascular Surgery, Esophageal Surgery

JUAN E. MARTIN, MD
Cardiovascular Surgery of Southern Nevada
5320 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 282
(702) 737-3808
Cardiac Surgery, Heart Valve Surgery-Aortic, Minimally Invasive Surgery

DEMETRIOS K. MAVROIDIS, MD
Cardiovascular Surgery of Southern Nevada
5320 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 282
(702) 737-3808
Cardiothoracic Surgery

MICHAEL G. WOOD, MD
MountainView Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery
3150 North Tenaya Way, Suite 260
(702) 962-5920
Cardiac Surgery-Adult, Heart Valve Surgery, Thoracic Aortic Surgery, Heart Valve Surgery-Mitral

UROGYNECOLOGY/ FEMALE PELVIC MEDICINE & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

GEOFFREY C. HSIEH, MD
Women's Cancer Center of Nevada
3131 La Canada Street, Suite 241
(702) 693-6870
Urogynecology, Pelvic Reconstruction,Incontinence-Urinary, Pelvic Organ Prolapse Repair

UROLOGY

SCOTT BARANOFF, MD
Las Vegas Urology
9053 South Pecos Road, Suite 2900
(702) 735-8000
Impotence, *Incontinence, Urologic Cancer, Kidney Stones*

JOSEPH V. CANDELA, MD
Las Vegas Urology
7500 Smoke Ranch Road, Suite 200
(702) 233-0727
Urology-Female, *Urologic Cancer*

SHELDON J. FREEDMAN, MD
653 North Town Center Drive, Suite 308
(702) 732-0282
Erectile Dysfunction, *Vasectomy-No Scalpel, Kidney Stones, Prostate Cancer*

VIJAY GOLI, MD
Las Vegas Urology
7500 Smoke Ranch Road, Suite 200
(702) 233-0727
Kidney Stones, *Incontinence-Male & Female, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Prostate Cancer-Cryosurgery*

O. ALEX LESANI, MD
Las Vegas Urology
7150 West Sunset Road, Suite 200
(702) 233-0727
Reconstructive Surgery, *Robotic Surgery, Urinary Reconstruction*

LAWRENCE H. NEWMAN, MD
Las Vegas Urology
7150 West Sunset Road, Suite 201
(702) 316-1616
Bladder Surgery, Prostate Benign Disease (BPH), Erectile Dysfunction, Kidney Stones

SARAH RYAN, MD
Urology Specialists of Nevada
2010 Wellness Way, Suite 200
(702) 877-0814
Urology-Female, Incontinence

MICHAEL P. VERNI, MD
Urology Center
653 North Town Center Drive, Suite 302
(702) 212-3428
Pediatric Urology, *Endourology*

JEFFREY R. WILSON, MD
Urology Specialists of Nevada
2010 Wellness Way, Suite 200
(702) 877-0814
Robotic Surgery, Kidney Stones

JASON ZOMMICK, MD
Urology Specialists of Nevada
58 North Pecos Road
(702) 877-0814
Prostate Benign Disease *(BPH), Vasectomy & Vasectomy Reversal*

VASCULAR & INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY

STEVEN H. DAVIS, MD
Red Rock Radiology Endovascular Clinic
7130 Smoke Ranch Road, Suite 101
(702) 304-8135
Angioplasty & Stent Placement,Chemoembolization & Tumor Ablation, Radiofrequency Tumor Ablation

AARON PETERSON, MD
Red Rock Radiology Endovascular Clinic
7130 Smoke Ranch Road, Suite 101
(702) 304-8135

VASCULAR SURGERY

EARL COTTRELL, MD
General Vascular Specialists
7200 West Cathedral Rock Drive, Suite 130
(702) 228-8600
Endovascular Surgery, Varicose Veins

BRUCE HIRSCHFELD, MD
General Vascular Specialists
7200 West Cathedral Rock Drive, Suite 130
(702) 228-8600
Endovascular Surgery, Varicose Veins

topDENTISTS™

How the Top Dentists Were Chosen

This list is excerpted from the 2021 topDentists™ list, a database which includes listings for almost 150 dentists and specialists in Southern Nevada. The Las Vegas area list is based on thousands of detailed evaluations of dentists and professionals by their peers. The complete database is available at www.usatopdentists.com. For more information call 706-364-0853; write PO Box 970, Augusta, GA 30903; email info@usatopdentists.com or visit www.usatopdentists.com.

SELECTION PROCESS

"If you had a patient in need of a dentist, which dentist would you refer them to?"

This is the question we've asked thousands of dentists to help us determine who the topDentists should be. Dentists and specialists are asked to take into consideration years of experience, continuing education, manner with patients, use of new techniques and technologies and of course physical results.

The nomination pool of dentists consists of dentists listed online with the American Dental Association as well as all dentists listed online with their local/regional dental societies, thus allowing virtually every dentist the opportunity to participate. Dentists are also given the opportunity to nominate other dentists that they feel should be included in our list. Respondents are asked to put aside any personal bias or political motivations and to use only their knowledge of their peer's work when evaluating the other nominees.

Voters are asked to individually evaluate the practitioners on their ballot whose work they are familiar with. Once the balloting is completed, the scores are compiled and then averaged. The numerical average required for inclusion varies depending on the average for all the nominees within the specialty and the geographic area. Borderline cases are given a careful consideration by the top Dentist editors. Voting characteristics and comments are taken into consideration while making decisions. Past awards a dentist has received and status in various dental academies can play a factor in our decision.

Once the decisions have been finalized, the included dentists are checked against state dental boards for disciplinary actions to make sure they have an active license and are in good standing with the board. Then letters of congratulations are sent to all the listed dentists.

Of course, there are many fine dentists who are not included in this representative list. It is intended as a sampling of the great body of talent in the field of dentistry in Nevada. A dentist's inclusion on our list is based on the subjective judgments of his or her fellow dentists. While it is true that the lists may at times disproportionately reward visibility or popularity, we remain confident that our polling methodology largely corrects for any biases and that these lists continue to represent the most reliable, accurate, and useful list of dentists available anywhere.

DISCLAIMER

This list is excerpted from the 2021 topDentists™ list, which includes listings for almost 150 dentists and specialists in Southern Nevada. For more information call 706-364-0853 or email (info@usatopdentists.com) or visit www.usatopdentists.com. topDentists has used its best efforts in assembling material for this list but does not warrant that the information contained herein is complete or accurate, and does not assume, and hereby disclaims, any liability to any person for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions herein whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident, or any other cause. Copyright 2008-2021 by topDentists, Augusta, Ga. All rights reserved. This list, or parts thereof, must not be reproduced in any form without permission. No commercial use of the information in this list may be made without permission of topDentists. No fees may be charged, directly or indirectly, for the use of the information in this list without permission.



ENDODONTICS

BENJAMIN J. BARBORKA*
Las Vegas Endodontics
6655 West Sahara Avenue, Suite A-106
702-876-5800
lvendo.com

KRISTEN BELING*
Sunset Endodontics
54 North Pecos Road
702-436-4300
sunsetendo.com

W. SCOTT BIGGS*
Micro Endodontics of Las Vegas
4450 North Tenaya Way, Suite 240
702-463-5000
lasvegasendo.com

WILLIAM D. BRIZZEE*
Las Vegas Endodontics
6655 West Sahara Avenue, Suite A-106
702-876-5800
lvendo.com

MATTHEW O. COX*
8460 South Eastern Avenue, Suite B
702-492-6688
coxendo.com

WILLIAM J. DOUGHERTY, JR.*
Sunset Endodontics
54 North Pecos Road, Suite B
702-436-4300
sunsetendo.com

JOHN Q. DUONG*
Lakeview Dental
2291 South Fort Apache Road, Suite 104
702-869-0001

DAVID C. FIFE*
Fife & Steffen Endodontics
1975 Village Center Circle, Suite 110
702-360-2122
drdavidfife.com

*denotes cosmetic dentistry services

ADAM GATAN
Seven Hills Endodontics & Microsurgery Center
2810 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite 200
702-384-0053
lvrootcanal.com

CHAD R. HANSEN
Las Vegas Endodontics
6655 West Sahara Avenue, Suite A-106
702-876-5800
lvendo.com

DARIN K. KAJIOKA
Endodontics of Las Vegas
9750 Covington Cross Drive, Suite 150
702-878-8584
endodonticsoflasvegas.com

RONALD R. LEMON
University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine
1001 Shadow Lane, MS 7422
702-744-2731
unlv.edu/people/ronald-lemon

JASON T. MORRIS
Nevada Endodontics
2510 Wigwam Parkway, Suite 200
702-263-2000
nevadaendodontics.com

KATHLEEN F. OLENDER*
Desert Dental Specialists
7520 West Sahara Avenue
702-384-7200
dds-lv.com

DOUGLAS R. RAKICH
Endodontic Associates
6950 Smoke Ranch Road, Suite 125
702-869-8840

DANIEL I. SHALEV
Nevada Endodontics
2510 Wigwam Parkway, Suite 200
702-263-2000

RYAN C. SHIPP
Shipp Endodontics
9053 South Pecos Road, Suite 3000
702-798-0911
shippendodontics.com

GENERAL DENTISTRY

STANLEY S. ASKEW
Island Dental Center
9750 Covington Cross Drive, Suite 100
702-341-7979
islanddentalcenter.com

STEVEN A. AVENA*
3117 West Charleston Boulevard
702-384-1210
stevenavenadds.com

STACIE BAALBAKY
Elite Family Dental
7835 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 28
702-898-8448
elitefamilydental.com

WILL BAALBAKY
Elite Family Dental
7835 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 28
702-898-8448
elitefamilydental.com

PETER S. BALLE*
Balle & Associates
2801 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 100
702-877-6608
balledds.com

LAURIE S. BLOCH-JOHNSON*
Exceptional Dentistry
9501 Hillwood Drive, Suite A
702-463-8600
drlauriesmiles.com

DERRYL R. BRIAN
Nevada Trails Dental
7575 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 101
702-367-3700
nevadatrailsdental.com

PAMELA G. CAGGIANO*
Excellence In Dentistry
321 North Pecos Road, Suite 100
702-732-7878
pamelacaggianodds.com

COLIN M. CAMPBELL*
St. Rose Family & Cosmetic Dentistry
780 Coronado Center Drive, Suite 110
702-387-5900
strosedental.com

SANDRA CHAN
Moore Family Dentistry
10624 South Eastern Avenue, Suite N
702-407-6700
lvsmiles.com

ASEEM CHAWLA*
Bella Smiles Las Vegas
6040 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite B-2
702-307-7777
bellasmileslv.com

GUY L. CHISTECKOFF*
Island Smiles Cosmetic & Family Dentistry
8940 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 100
702-270-6501
islandsmiles.org

STEPHEN H. CLARK II
2820 East Flamingo Road, Suite B
702-732-2333
stephenclarkddslv.com

KENNETH M. COX
9157 Amber Waves Street
702-824-7660

CHRIS S. COZINE
8579 South Eastern Avenue, Suite A
702-739-8289
cozinedental.com

TODD L. DAVIS
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ARTISTS OF BALLET WEST IN NICOLO FONTE'S *CARMINA BURANA*. PHOTO BY LUKE ISLEY.

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2021

Fall Culture Guide

PLUS

20 ONES TO WATCH

portraits by **BRONSON LOFTIN**

MUSIC

SEPTEMBER 8

A Trio of Talent

The UNLV School of Music is serving up a full slate of shows this fall — and its annual Jazz Concert Series might be the centerpiece. Not that the school didn't keep busy in the depths of the pandemic: It put on a well-received series of livestreamed concerts, including performances by its respected UNLV Honors Jazz Trio, who headline this bill before (woot!) performing at the 64th annual Monterey Jazz Festival later this month. **(AK) Clark County Library Main Theater, 7p, free, *lvccld.org***

ALSO UPCOMING: UNLV Joe Williams Scholarship Combo (October 13), UNLV Jazz Ensemble II and guests (November 10)

SEPTEMBER 17

SOUL CYCLE

Spectrum and Radiance are two of the city's premier soul tribute supergroups, boasting a deep repertoire of Motown and R&B hits. For this comeback show — one of the first to mark the much-awaited reopening of The Smith Center — they'll be joined by the Tex Richardson Las Vegas Pops Ensemble. **(AK) Myron's Cabaret Jazz in The Smith Center, 7p, $35-$49, *thesmithcenter.com***



SEPTEMBER 18

HORNS OF PLENTY

Marvel should make a superhero ensemble movie about the Lon Bronson Band, because I'm convinced they're utterly indestructible. For more than 30 years, our resident funk/soul/rock powerhouse has weathered Vegas' ups and downs to bring their big, brassy, swanky signature sound to lounges and showrooms in every corner of the valley. For this welcome-back show, they'll fire up a feast of Tower of Power, Chicago, Steely Dan, Joe Cocker, James Brown, and more. Then they'll defeat Thanos. **(AK) Myron's Cabaret Jazz in The Smith Center, 7p, tickets start at $29, *thesmithcenter.com***

SEPTEMBER 23

Lunar Gathering

Here's an ideal event for a family cultural outing: The Nevada Chamber Orchestra's Moon Festival Concert, marking the annual Chinese holiday focused on happy reunions, which means putting aside your petty squabbles and coming together with family, friends, or even that particular climate-change-denying Facebook frenemy who's always obnoxiously linkspamming your feed. (Talking to you, Ryan.) In addition to beautiful music, the Lan Tian Cultural Center will be decked out in festive Asian flair. **(AK) Lan Tian Cultural Center, 8668 Spring Mountain Road, #100, 3p, $10, 702-328-9889**

SEPTEMBER 25

Soul to Samba

Sometimes quitters *do* win. More than a decade ago, Caro Pierotto ditched a safe but stale corporate job in Brazil to pursue a music career in Los Angeles. The pivot certainly paid off: Both critics and fans fell in love with Pierotto's precise, expressive vocals layered over her band's fusion blend of samba, forró, reggae, soul, and pop. **(AK) Clark County Library Main Theater, 2p; East Las Vegas Library, 7p, free, *lvccld.org***

OCTOBER 5

ORCHESTRAL MANEUVERS

The UNLV Chamber Orchestra is a motley musical crew, comprising undergraduates and graduate music majors, minors, and even non-music majors. (English Lit *represeeeent*!) And its repertoire is equally diverse: From early Baroque to contemporary classical, the UNLV Chamber Orchestra is sure to hit the right notes for everyone. **(AK) Clark County Library Main Theater, 7p, free, *lvccld.org***

ALSO UPCOMING: Performances on November 2 and December 7

CARO PIEROTTO: DIEGO RUVALCABA; PHILHARMONIC COURTESY OF LAS VEGAS PHILHARMONIC





CLINT HOLMES COURTESY OF THE SMITH CENTER; MARIACHI WINTER FESTIVAL COURTESY LAS VEGAS CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

OCTOBER 13

HOLMES RUN

Don't know about you, but my plan in the New Normalish Fall of 2021 is to make up for lost time by catching as many shows as possible by Vegas' musical icons. Of course, Clint Holmes is near the top of my list. In his show *Possibilities*, our city's quintessential modern showman will perform classics by Lionel Richie, Burt Bacharach, Bruno Mars and more. **(AK) Myron's Cabaret Jazz in The Smith Center, 7p, tickets start at $37, *thesmithcenter.com***

DECEMBER 4

A Vegas Show to Yule Them All

Very Vegas Holiday has deservedly become a seasonal musical tradition, an annual glitz-and-garlands blowout that pairs brand-name belters such as Travis Cloer, Vita Corimbi, Michelle Johnson, and Clint Holmes with the Las Vegas Philharmonic for a night of chestnut-rattling holiday tunes. But don't expect anything staid or stuffy; hosted by Keith Thompson of The Composer Showcase, the show boasts classic Vegas showmanship spiked with Thompson's ribald wit. **(AK) Reynolds Hall in The Smith Center, 2p and 7:30p, visit *thesmithcenter.com* for ticket prices**

DECEMBER 10

MARI(ACHI) CHRISTMAS

Only the best bands from the Clark County School District's mariachi program perform at the Mariachi Winter Festival — think of it as a mariachi battle royale victory party. Not only will these talented musicians blast out some genre classics, but also dish up a few mariachified versions of classic holiday tunes. Quick, someone make a clever portmanteau word out of "arriba" and "ho ho ho"! **(AK) Clark County Library Main Theater, 7p, free, *lvccld.org***



DECEMBER 12

TOP BRASS

The Las Vegas Brass Band has been performing since 1993 (not continuously, though that would be incredible!), which is a credit to their staying power — and an explanation for their seasoned sound. In this concert, the British-style ensemble will apply its industrial horn power to everything from traditional hymns to holiday classics. "Silent Night" is gonna be liiiiiit! **(AK) Clark County Library Main Theater, 2p, free, *lvccld.org***

THEATER & DANCE

SEPTEMBER 9-25

Picnic Blanket Rock

Nothing says post-pandemic celebration like kicking off your sandals and dancing to "Jailhouse Rock" on a huge lawn with hundreds of other people. That's what you can expect at Spring Mountain Ranch, when Super Summer Theatre presents *Smokey Joe's Café*, Broadway's longest-running musical revue, featuring dozens of hits by the songwriting duo Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller. **(HK) Boman Outdoor Pavilion, 7p, $15-25, *supersummertheatre.org***

ALSO UPCOMING:
Viva Las Popera (August 12-21)

SEPTEMBER 10-26

SCIENCE GIRL

A woman disrupts the customs of a prestigious club, presenting an

NOVEMBER 20

BEETHOVEN AND OVER AGAIN

The Las Vegas Philharmonic is emerging from pandemic hibernation with an energetic 2021-22 season that's sure to shake off any lingering lockdown doldrums: The Phil is slated to perform all nine of Beethoven's symphonies, as well as showcase newer classical works by a range of renowned contemporary composers — the orchestra's musical contribution to the broader, ongoing conversation about promoting diversity and dismantling racism. In this season opener, the Philharmonic will perform Beethoven's *Triple Concerto,* his *First Symphony in C Major*, and a piece by composer Missy Mazzoli: her mood-drenched *These Worlds In Us*, a searching orchestral work dedicated to her father, a Vietnam veteran. **(AK) Reynolds Hall in the Smith Center, 7:30p, visit thesmithcenter.com for ticket prices**

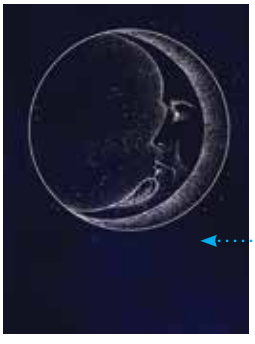
ALSO UPCOMING:
Beethoven and Shaw (Jan. 15), Beethoven and Montgomery (Feb. 12), Beethoven and Frank (March 19)

extraordinary accomplishment as grounds for her admission. Pandemonium ensues. No ... it's not a day at your office. It's *The Explorers Club*, the fictional outfit for which this farce, set in 1879 London, is named. Presented by Las Vegas Little Theatre, it's the first full-length play of Nell Benjamin, who won accolades for writing the score to *Legally Blonde*. **(HK) Las Vegas Little Theatre,8p and 2p, $30, *lvlt.org***

SEPTEMBER 23-26

OUTFOXED, AGAIN

To mark A Public Fit's public return, Ann Marie Pereth brings back the company's first production, Dawn King's *Foxfinder*. The gesture is made even more poignant by the dystopian drama's continued relevance. Food scarcity, tyrannical government, propaganda ... If anything, it all seems even closer now. **(HK) The Space, 7p and 2p, $35-40, *apublicfit.org***



RING ROUND THE MOON COURTESY OF UNLV

OCTOBER 8-17

Rom Complicated

For something lighter, bookmark the Nevada Conservatory Theatre presentation of *Ring Round the Moon*,



O2W ONES TO WATCH 2021

KAT KALLING | *Singer/songwriter*

THIS EMO COWGIRL'S SONGS SOAR HIGH — AND HIT HARD

Okay, so the myth of "Vegas as a city of second chances" may be a mere opiate for this town's strivers and hustlers, but nobody told Kat Marosok. She took it seriously. The singer/songwriter moved to the valley in 2016 from Minneapolis at the urging of her boyfriend. When the relationship imploded, she certainly didn't. She emerged from the fallout with a new persona: Kat Kalling.

"Yeah, the relationship was trash," she says, laughing. "After it ended, I was like, I need a new identity. You know, I've been abused a lot. I've been beaten down. And the idea of catcalling, it's an offensive thing to do, right? But I was like, what if I just reclaimed it? Like, dude, like, *I'm* Kat Kalling now! It's kind of 'ode to feminism.' It's a play on my name. It also just radiates badass energy! Kat Kalling started as a persona, but she's developed into literally who I am." Hard to believe Kat once went by *Katy* — this giddily swearing, heavily tattooed raconteur whose sometimes zany, sometimes harrowing life stories fuel indie pop ballads that soar

WATCH Kat Kalling performs her new single, "Lonely."

high with feeling but still thrum hard with raucous saloon clamor.

She calls herself an "emo cowgirl" and, well, that nails it. Kalling was born and raised in Sheridan, Wyoming, with all the side dishes. "Literally, I was a horseback-riding, gun-shooting rodeo kid, loved country, Chris LeDoux was my idol," she says. "My dad's a f—ing taxidermist! You can't get more Wyoming than that!" She found punk rock and feminist empowerment later on in Minneapolis, and happily let the two worlds collide in her music. "I loved being a horseback rodeo kid. I'm still the hardcore kid, too. Why can't I be both?" Her strenuous, gutsy songs are just that, filled with country yearning, punk indignation, and a smidge of pleasing pop bubblegum.

Harrowing story: She had an ugly car accident almost a year ago while returning to Vegas from Wyoming. "I basically got hit by a semi that was transporting rare meats to China," she says. The accident made her hands chronically numb, which meant she had to switch out her guitar for a mixing board. Her new style — check out the rich remix of her song "GFY" on Spotify, with a cameo by Las Vegas hip-hop artist Ekoh — involves lush production and a sweeter, more distilled pop sensibility. Her friend and producer/engineer Curtis Martin helps her write the songs. "It's an extreme difference, but not a departure from her lyrics or the vibes or the mood," Martin says. "This new stuff is like full-on production, big-band kind of stuff. It's definitely a step up."

"Curtis fills my weaknesses," Kat says. "But the music is still authentic to me. It's just a new side of me stepping into my power and being like, 'Okay, you know what? I'm a f—ing baddie. Let's go!'" *Andrew Kiraly*



CATS COURTESY OF THE SMITH CENTER

OCTOBER 12-17

DECIDEDLY *NOT* CGI

If you saw the 2019 film adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway classic, *Cats* — or even watched clips of it — I'm sorry. Here's a balm to help soothe that scar: the real thing. On a stage. With live actors. (And no CGI cat butts.) **(HK) The Smith Center, Reynolds Hall, 7:30p and 2p, $30 and up, *thesmithcenter.com***

Christopher Fry's adaptation of the original comedy by Jean Anouilh. This fast-paced farce set in pre-World War II Paris revolves around two brothers, one of whom sets a trap to teach the other a lesson about love. **(HK) Judy Bayley Theatre, 7:30p and 2p, $8.50-25, *unlv.edu/nct***

OCTOBER 22-23

EAT YOUR WORDS

You had me at "dark comedy," A Public Fit. But! Your staged reading of Branden Jacob-Jenkins' *Gloria* goes on to strike more of my personal chords: characters who are writers; a sudden, violent shock; cube-farm politics. I'm in. **(HK) Clark County Library, 7p, free, *apublicfit.org***

ALSO UPCOMING: *Skeleton Crew* (Jan. 28-29), *Recent Tragic Events* (Feb. 4-21)

OCTOBER 26-31

Officers Do Have Tattoos!

There's a reason why most adults over the age of 40 can name the two lead actors and quote at least three lines from the Oscar-winning 1982 film *An Officer and a Gentleman.* We went for the romance but stayed for the poor kid's triumph over soul-crushing Navy pilot boot camp. Dick Scanlan's



musical adaption of Douglas Day Stewart's original screenplay includes a score based on '80s pop music like the movie single you can also probably quote-sing, "Up Where We Belong." **(HK) Reynolds Hall, 7:30p and 2p, $30 and up, *thesmithcenter.com***

ALSO UPCOMING:
My Fair Lady (January 25-30), *A Christmas Carol* (November 23-28)

OCTOBER 27

SLEEP TIGHT

Majestic Repertory Theatre, Vegas' theatrical leader of the lockdown resistance, makes a huge return to live performance with the US premiere of *The Sandman* by Richard Oberacker and Robert Taylor (who are assisting on the production). The spooky fantasy musical is based on the 1816 story of the same name by Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffman, the gothic horror writer who also penned *The Nutcracker and The Mouse King*, inspiration for Tchaikovsky's famed ballet. **(HK) Majestic Repertory Theatre, 8p and 5p, $25-35, *majesticrepertory.com***

NOVEMBER 19

INDIAN MOTION

Clark County presents Blue13, the American dance company of first-generation South Asian American Achinta S. McDaniel. McDaniel uses dance as a form of storytelling, upending cultural stereotypes with performances that critics describe as emotional, energetic, and intelligent. **(HK) Clark County Library Main Theater, 7p, Free, *lvccld.org***

ALSO UPCOMING:
Kybele Dance Theater's *Unreveal* (October 16)

DECEMBER 3-12

I'M NOT CRYING, YOU'RE CRYING!

For a sentimental holiday treat,

AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN COURTESY OF THE SMITH CENTER

O2W

ONES TO WATCH 2021

JASON NIOUS | *Performing artist*

HE'S STEPPING BOLDLY INTO THE FUTURE OF DANCE — AND THEATER

"Gimme some mo'!" Jason Nious bellows as he rhythmically stomps, claps, and shouts on the stage, inspiring the audience of kids to spill into the aisles to dance. At this recent Juneteenth show at Discovery Children's Museum, Nious and fellow dancers Danielle Hicks and Khalid Freeman are performing as Molodi, a dynamic dance troupe in which their bodies make the music. Called step dancing, the style has origins in African tribal dance, and continues its legacy in many Black fraternities and sororities.

"The entire body is used to produce intricate rhythms and sounds through a combination of footsteps, handclaps, and spoken word without any music," Nious explains. A former gymnast, Nious has worked as a choreographer, teacher, dancer, and acrobat (you may have seen him in Cirque du Soleil's *KÀ* and *Zarkana*), but now he's making some bold new moves, incorporating rhythmic dance into his other passion — theater.

"My intention is to help usher percussive dance into the theatrical realm as a storytelling vehicle," he says, "to show and share the awesomeness of our human bodies as instruments, and to inspire a sense of unity among all people through rhythm, collaboration, and personal expression."

This fall, Nious will serve as artist-in-residence for the San Francisco-based Museum of Dance, performing in *Roots,* which tells the story of Black dance in America with words, music, and, of course, rhythmic movement. But you can catch his novel mashup of dance and theater right here in town soon enough: Nious is slated to write the choreography and body percussion for Broadway in the Hood's production of *Choir Boy*, which premiers in October. And in January, he'll direct the stage reading of *Skeleton Crew* for A Public Fit Theatre Company. "The plan for (those productions) is to use rhythm-making in an effective way for theater, to use it more like a score to set the tone and feel of the scenes," Nious says. "Instead of a regular musical score with a big band and live music, it's body percussion." Sounds like a moving experience. *Rachel Wilson*

The Rainbow Company Youth Theatre presents *The Velveteen Rabbit*, Janet Allard's story of a sick boy and his beloved plush toy that comes to life, adapted from the children's book by Margery Williams. **(HK) Charleston Heights Arts Center, 7p and 2p, $6, *artslasvegas.org***

ALSO UPCOMING: *The Neverending Story* (October 1-10)

DECEMBER 3-12

Flower Power

Like many companies, Nevada Conservatory Theatre is taking a do-over on canceled presentations — the musical *Little Shop of Horrors*, in this case. Howard Ashman wrote the book and lyrics, and Alan Menken composed the music for this fun homage to B movies involving a flower shop, youthful hormones, and a ravenous plant. **(HK) Judy Bayley Theater, 7:30p and 2p, $8.50-25, *unlv.edu/nct***

ALSO UPCOMING: *The Beaux' Stratagem* (Feb. 11-20), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (April 29-May 8)

VISUAL ARTS

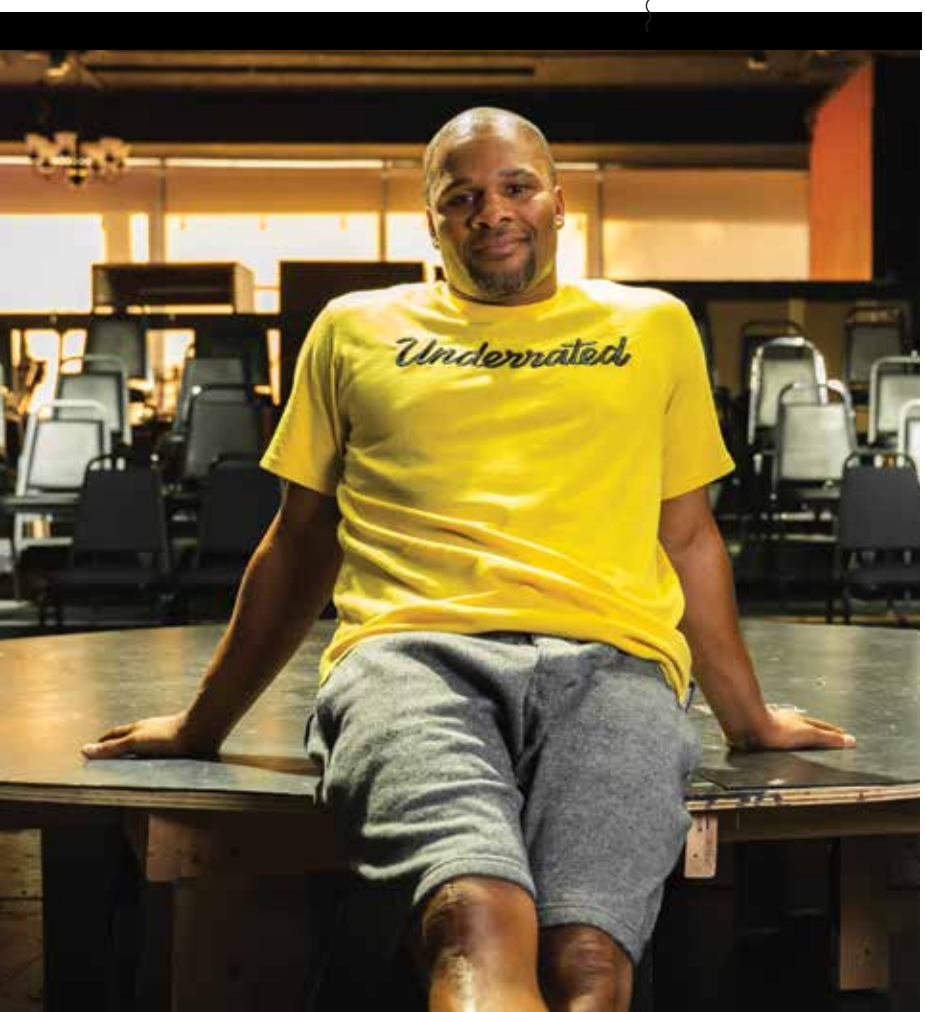
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 12

Who Watches the Watcher? The Art, of Course!

The longer you stare at Hank Schoepp's artworks, the more they stare back at you — quite literally. *Eyescapes* is a series of intricate, often insanely detailed, surreal photo manipulations built around images of eyes that coolly return your gaze. And because the pieces pack the high-def wallop of photography, the effect is all the more intense — gorgeous, self-aware, a bit unnerving. **(SD) East Las Vegas Library, free, *lvccld.org***



HANK SCHOEPP COURTESY LAS VEGAS CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT



AUGUST 5-SEPTEMBER 22

NO MORE FAKE MUSE

Nevada Humanities presents *Wonders of Nevada: Nature as the Artist's Muse*, and, really, who better to mount this show than an organization devoted to merging Nevada's humans and manatees? Get a load of these artists, too: Maria Arango Diener, Tia Flores, Jeff Fulmer, Ahren Hertel, Bobbie Ann Howell, Eunkang Koh, Rossitza Todorova. All great. Get more exhibit pertinents during a Zoom sesh, September 2 at 6p. **(SD) Nevada Humanities Program Gallery, free, *nevadahumanities.org***

AUGUST 12-NOVEMBER 4

Fresh *Fruit*

There are several salutary effects of artist Justin Favela's long-running project to render the world in piñata form: It reminds us of the far-reaching, often unacknowledged influence of Hispanic culture; it urges the rest of us to consider everyday life through a distinctly Hispanic frame; and it celebrates the colorful ephemerality of our breakable culture. For the exhibit *Fruits of Our Labor*, Favela draws on disparate sources — 19th-century Mexican still-life paintings, *Sesame Street*, the novel *The House on Mango Street* — to fashion two- and three-dimensional depictions of fruit. **(SD) Mayor's Gallery, Historic Fifth Street School, free, *artslasvegas.org***



STILL HERE NOW COURTESY OF THE COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA; BLACK WOMEN: SEEING/SEEN COURTESY OF UNLV

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17

You Had Me at "Rootedness," Lost Me at "Anxiety," and Got Me Back with the List of Cool Artists

"Rootedness, permanence, anxiety, and survival" — these are the abiding themes of *Still Here Now,* an exhibit of work by nine artists who were Nevada Arts Council fellows from 2010 to 2014. You probably recognize many of them: Linda Alterwitz, Chris Bauder, Ahren Hertel, Darren Johnson, Orlando Javier Montenegro-Cruz, Elaine Parks, Robin Stark, and Brent Sommerhauser. Their works, while situated in place, transcend landscape art to dig at deeper human concerns. **(SD) CSN Fine Arts Gallery, free, *csn.edu***

SEPTEMBER-JANUARY

THE LIVES OF BLACK WOMEN

Las Vegas scholar, writer, and cultural treasure Erica Vital-Lazare has pulled from many sources — professional photographers, found images, archival material — to curate *Black Women: Seeing/Seen.* It explores the lives of Black women, historical and current, from all walks of life. The point is to reflect "the ways in which the lives of Black women can differ in kind and at the same time reflect a potency born of a shared history, majesty, and hard-earned shaping of future selves." Co-sponsored by the Womxn of Color Arts Festival. **(SD) UNLV's Barrick Museum, free, *unlv.edu/barrickmuseum***



SEPTEMBER 2-NOVEMBER 25

Praising the Dead

In the rituals of Day of the Dead celebrations, an ofrenda is an altar that honors a family's lost members. For *Versiones de Una Ofrenda Familiar/Versions of a Family Ofrenda*, artist Natalie Delgado has selected artists of Hispanic origin to create work on this theme — and it's hard not to wonder how the last year or so will impact what they make. Reception: October 28, 6p. **(SD) Charleston Heights Arts Center, free, *artslasvegas.org***

SEPTEMBER 3-NOVEMBER 27

IN A ROTHKO STATE OF MIND

In the end, it makes a certain sense that Jose Bellver — one of the region's most-talented yet least-known painters — would end up in Mark Rothko territory with his new exhibit, *A Conjugation of Light*. They're color field paintings meant as spatial enhancements, sources of pensive color and light in a room rather than objects of pointed contemplation. Over his long career, Bellver has moved through a boggling range of aesthetics, from sharply realist to angular pop to moody allegory to more flavors of abstraction than we can list, now arriving, late in life, at Rothko's doorstep. At every point, he's demonstrated a deeply searching quality that, in these paintings, manifests as a diffuse, floating spirituality. **(SD) Sahara West Library Studio, free, *lvccld.org***

SEPTEMBER 8-NOVEMBER 20

IF ONLY THERE WERE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS TO LEND THIS SOME TOPICAL RELEVANCE

A tension between passion and control enliven these political

SEPTEMBER-JANUARY

COUNTING THE VICTIMS

This exhibit's title, *Hostile Terrain,* is both conceptual — addressing the contested sociopolitical realities of undocumented immigration at our Southern border — and literal: It's about the Sonoran Desert, the grimly arid landscape into which the Border Patrol funnels migrants, often with fatal consequences. Created by Jason De León, *Hostile Terrain* memorializes the human toll of our border policy through video, augmented reality, and some 3,000 toe tags that will be filled out with information on victims and pinned to a large map of the border. **(SD) UNLV's Barrick Museum, free, *unlv.edu/barrickmuseum***



HOTSTILE TERRAIN COURTESY OF UNLV; JOSEPH WATSON COURTESY LAS VEGAS CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

drawings by Las Vegan Orlando Montenegro-Cruz. The urgent sketchiness of his lines, which suggest a sense of furious engagement, is tempered into clarity by the artist's sure hand: He's got something to say. Look, for example, at his drawing of an official chamber; its nine seats are empty of people but the space is occupied by, yes, nine vultures eyeballing a presumably worried goat. Boom. **(SD) Left of Center Gallery, free, *leftofcenterart.org***

SEPTEMBER 14-NOVEMBER 14

What Are Words for?

Pictorial narrative is Joseph Watson's forte — visual storytelling in an urban key that is **checks paperwork** "equal parts grit and whimsy," lightly sugared with hope. *Stories Without Words* pares the tales down to their collaborative cores: "I want to let each piece speak to you without the distraction of a written narrative," Watson says. "Your interpretation is just as essential as the image itself." Look at you — co-author! **(SD) East Las Vegas Library, free, *lvccld.org***

OCTOBER 1-NOVEMBER 20

REALITY? ILLUSION? WHO CAN TELL THE DIFF ANYMORE?

Artist TeaYoun Kim-Kassor is nothing if not versatile. She's adept at fiber arts, installation, sculpture, performance, and drawing, all of which she uses to explore issues of tension, identity, and connection. With her exhibit *Illusion and Reality*, the South Korea-born, now Los Angeles-dwelling artist says, "I hope to trigger the larger audience by allowing them a reflective moment, which will direct them expectantly toward retracing their history and by leading them to question 'What defines us?'" **(SD) CSN Fine Arts Gallery, free, *csn.edu***

NOVEMBER 1-DECEMBER 10

"PROOF OF A THRIVING CULTURE"

The title of this exhibit, *AH'-WAH-NEE*, indicates "balance" in the language of the Indigenous Southern Paiutes. Curator Fawn Douglas, a well-known Nevada artist and activist, focuses the show on the work of Native women artists: "It offers visual affirmations that we were meant to be here," despite the historical deprivations of Manifest Destiny and cultural marginalization. "We are proof of a thriving culture." That message will be reinforced by a two-day symposium (November 4-5) featuring artist talks, panel discussions, and a performance by Jean LaMarr. **(SD) UNLV's Donna Beam Gallery and various locations, free, *unlv.edu/calendar***



NOVEMBER 5

Walking is Good for Your Art

Assuming climate change scootches the mercury below 100 by November — which feels less certain every year — we'll see you at UNLV's Art Walk, that annual campus-wide saunter through the galleries, studios, and activity spaces of the school's various cultural departments. There will be talks, exhibits, live music, and performances — a sizzle reel of UNLV's artistic energies. Sounds terrific. **(SD) UNLV, 5:30p, free, *unlv.edu/calendar***

DECEMBER 2-JANUARY 21

IF ONLY THERE WERE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS TO LEND THIS SOME TOPICAL RELEVANCE

If you know Shaun T. Griffin primarily as a front-rank Nevada poet, his exhibit *Border Stories* will introduce you to a whole new visual side of the guy. Through paintings and verse, Griffin shows us the hard realities of life on the border. You'll want to dial in to his online gallery talk, too: December 2 at 6p. **(SD) Nevada Humanities Program Gallery, free, *nevadahumanities.org***

BOOK & IDEAS

AUGUST 27

PUTTING THE LIT IN LITERATURE

Neon Lit, UNLV MFA's reading series, kicks off in August. Mingle with Masters of Fine Arts-in-training while sipping on fine wine — think of it as an early toast to some local literary rising stars. **(NB), The Writer's Block, 7p, free, *neonlitlv.com***



SEPTEMBER 7

THE LAND BEFORE TIMESHARES

If you've ever wondered what it was like to walk the Strip without being harangued by a Hakkasan promoter, Lynn Zook is the person to talk to. A historian interested in all things Vegas, Zook will be joining the "Las Vegas Stories" series to talk about the city in the 1950s, a decade that saw meteoric growth on the Strip. Following the talk, Zook will be signing her book, *Gambling on a Dream: The Classic Las Vegas Strip 1930-1955*. **(NB) Clark County Library Main Theater, 7p, free, *lvccld.org***

SEPTEMBER 29

Read It and Sweep

"Essential workers" isn't just a pandemic buzz-



O2W ONES TO WATCH 2021

MELISSA DEL ROSARIO | *Film producer*

MAKING SCRIPTS A REALITY IS A PASSION FOR THIS MASTER OF LOGISTICS

May 2021 was a big month for Melissa Del Rosario: She graduated from UNLV, and her first feature film, *Take Out Girl*, was released nationally on VOD. Those are two unlikely accomplishments to go hand in hand, but Del Rosario has been overachieving in her career as a movie producer for years now. In 2018, she traveled to the Cannes Film Festival with *A Christmas Dinner*, a UNLV short film she produced in just 48 hours.

A native of Riverside, California, Del Rosario was a theater kid in high school, until a friend inspired her to shift her focus to film. "He would tell me it's about the legacy, it's about being able to watch a film over and over and not being able to experience a (live) performance over and over," she says. That friend was murdered when Del Rosario was in high school, and

LYNN ZOOK COURTESY OF LAS VEGAS CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

WATCH Melissa takes you behind the scenes on her new film.

pondering his memory led her to a revelation. "Here I am watching his videos over and over and wishing he was here," she remembers. "I would love to make something that would make that kind of impression."

She's off to a good start with *Take Out Girl*, a crime drama inspired by the life of star Hedy Wong. Wong wrote the script with Las Vegas-based director Hisonni Mustafa (see interview on p. 21), who reached out to Del Rosario about producing when she was at Cannes. "I just remember sitting on the beach for like three hours going back over and over the script and thinking, 'This is going to be made?'" she recalls. "What a powerful story about an Asian American woman, who you rarely see in a leading role, who isn't sexualized, who is just smart and determined and a go-getter."

Although an indie film producer ends up with multiple jobs (Del Rosario served as script supervisor on *Take Out Girl* and even acted in one scene), dealing with logistics is Del Rosario's true filmmaking passion. "I love paperwork," she says with a laugh.

"(Melissa) was so important to the process, and her perspective always helped us keep the film feeling as authentic as possible," says *Take Out Girl* director of photography Alberto Triana.

Del Rosario has several forthcoming projects in various stages of preproduction, and she's pondering grad school in LA Wherever her career takes her, she'll always be grateful for getting her start in Las Vegas. "I feel like Vegas will always be a home for me," she says. "I'd love to stay here and keep making movies if possible." *Josh Bell*

FRAN LEBOWITZ: CYBELE MALINOWSKI



OCTOBER 18-23

PRETEND IT'S A SIN CITY

Fran Lebowitz is this year's keynote speaker at the Las Vegas Book Festival. If you have to leave New York, you might as well stay at New York, New York, Fran. **(NB) Virtual events start Oct. 18, live events start Oct. 23, free, schedule and location details at *lasvegasbookfestival.com***

phrase; they take center stage in Cherie Jones' debut novel *How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps Her House*. Set in her home country of Barbados, Jones' novel explores the often-invisible work and workers behind luxe Caribbean resorts. Jones will be in conversation with local writer Soni Brown via Zoom to discuss race, class, and mythology. **(NB) Zoom, 7p, free, *blackmountain institute.org***

OCTOBER 7

Enter Sands Man

Immerse yourself in the Sands without trailing it home with you. Historian and author David G. Schwartz discusses the iconic Vegas resort in "At the Sands: The Casino that Shaped Classic Las Vegas and Brought the Rat Pack Together" as part of the "Las Vegas Stories" series. **(NB) Clark County Library Main Theater, 7p, free, *lvccld.org***

OCTOBER 12

LAS VEGAS MEANS HOME

It's been almost 50 years since Nigerian writer and Nobel prize winner Wole Soyinka published a novel, but he's back with *Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth*. The earth's median temperature may have changed; Soyinka's talent has not. Soyinka will be joined by writers Ahmed Naji and Jorge Olivera Castillo for *Uncensored Expressions* to celebrate 20 years of City of Asylum, a Black Mountain Institute program that provides residencies to writers who have been persecuted for their literary work. **(NB) Location TBA, 7p, free, *blackmountain institute.org***

OCTOBER 27

Luck be a Lady to Write

Britney Spears' Vegas marriage lasted 55 hours. Find out if 14 of the valley's most in-demand writers fared any better at the book launch for the new anthology *Love in the Dunes: Las Vegas Writers on Passion and Heartache*. This event

is open to readers of all relationship statii. **(NB) Clark County Library Main Theater, 7p, free, *nevadahumanities.org***

NOVEMBER 5

A MESSAGE FROM ABOVE

Mark Synnott has the opposite of acrophobia. Acrophilia? A death wish? Whatever you call it, Synnott is a world-class mountain climber who's scaled some of Earth's most daunting peaks. Synnott will bring you along on his journeys, from the safety of the ground, as he participates in the National Geographic Live series with his talk, "Life on the Vertical." **(NB) The Smith Center, 7:30p, tickets starting at $20, *thesmithcenter.com***

ALSO UPCOMING: Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, "The Inexplicable Universe: Unsolved Mysteries" (March 8)



MARK SYNNOTT: JARED OGDEN

NOVEMBER 6

TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF

If you've ever said, "That's a story for another time," the time might be now! At Las Vegas StorySLAM, locals are welcome to share their own personal stories focused on a theme, this fall's theme being "Best Laid Plans." Plan to be there! **(NB) Charleston Heights Art Center, 7p, pay what you wish, 702-229-ARTS**

JANUARY 6

The Truth, Plane and Simple

For those interested in Howard Hughes who don't have the time to sit through all seven hours of *The Aviator*, I'd suggest an evening with local writer and historian Geoff Schumacher at the "Las Vegas Stories" series. With his talk,

ONES TO WATCH 2021

VERA BLOSSOM | *Writer, editor, audio producer*

HER TIRELESSLY INQUISITIVE MIND OFFERS LESSONS IN THE PRACTICAL MAGIC OF STORYTELLING

Vera Blossom gets bored easily. "That's why, I guess, I am multidisciplinary," she jokes. And given the numerous projects she's juggling at the moment, it's hard to imagine Vera getting bored anytime soon. An essayist, assistant comics editor for *The Believer*, and audio producer on the podcasts *Your Magic* and *Black Mountain Radio*, Vera works to bring a critical eye to the storytelling process, no matter the medium.

"When I was younger, I was always into detective shows," Vera says. "In my head, I'm playing out the fantasy of being a detective. I'm going to ask questions, look around, and just figure out what story there is to tell."

Vera's work has ranged from producing an episode on land acknowledgments for *Black Mountain Radio* to exploring the costuming in Disney's *WandaVision* in *archetypical*, her monthly newsletter on pop culture and horoscopes. Ever inquisitive, Vera enjoys asking seemingly absurd questions that have serious substance, such as "Is Shrek Sexy?" That was the title of a recent essay in which Vera explored beauty standards within queer communities. *Exploring* the question, crucially, is more important than *answering* the question. "I don't say, 'I want this story to be like this,'" Vera says of the process. "Of course, I try to think about things through the lens of critical race theory or a political lens, but I'm not trying to do that inherently within the story."

One subject Vera often returns to is magic — in its artistic sense. "I really feel like (magic) is intuition and intention," Vera says. "Making art is just having an idea and then putting an action to it, and that's what a spell is, really, setting an intention and doing some sort of kinetic action or working towards something."

Whether you call it magic, kismet, or chance, the way Vera became a collaborator on her most recent project reads like an artist's dream. Scouring a Listserv for writers, Vera stumbled upon a cryptic call for writers and editors with an interest in magic. She applied and landed a spot on the production team for *Your Magic*, a Spotify Original podcast that explores the cosmic and mystical. The podcast has also brought Vera into the orbit of Michelle Tea, acclaimed author and host of *Your Magic*. "Vera is amazing because she has this really sharp eye — and ear! — for what works and what doesn't," Tea says. "She's got this practical and technical understanding, but also she is so engaged in culture. She always knows what's going on, and her take, which is filtered through her queerness and her strong sense of humor, is spot on."

On Vera's list of future projects: Video games. "Video games as a medium for fiction are definitely underrated and undervalued," Vera says. There's no doubt she'll find some storytelling magic in that medium as well. *Nick Barnette*

"Howard Hughes & Las Vegas: Separating Fact from Fiction," Schumacher will explore larger-than-life Hughes, whose shadow still looms over the valley. **(NB) Clark County Library Main Theater, 7p, free, *lvccld.org***

JANUARY 21

A DESERT HOME COMPANION

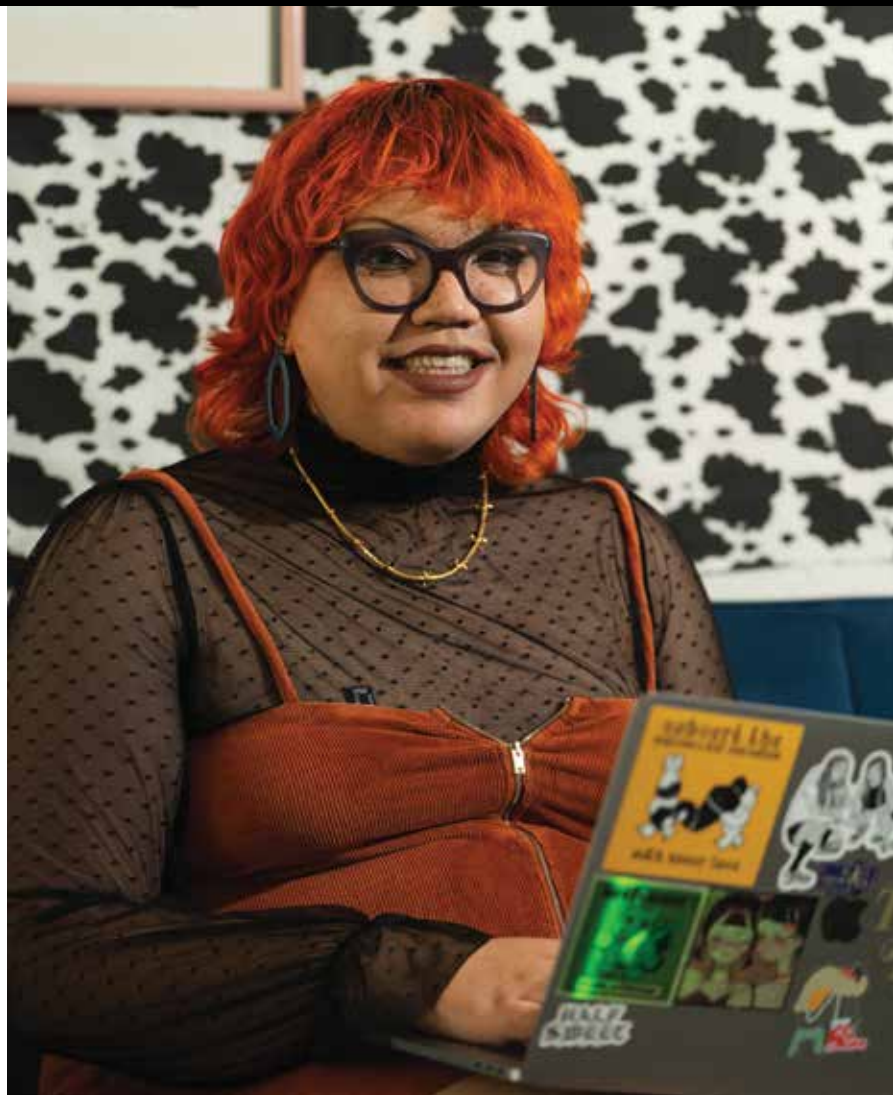
Radio host and raconteur Garrison Keillor brings his understated Midwestern charm to glitzy Downtown Vegas. You may not want a second helping of Minnesota tater tot hotdish, but you'll definitely want an extra dollop of Keillor's signature storytelling as he takes to the Reynolds Hall stage. **(NB) The Smith Center, 7:30p, tickets staring at $29, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 2

POM POMS TO PRIMATES

Mireya Mayor has been called a "female Indiana Jones," and her life and career would make a much better movie than the currently filming *Indiana Jones V: Raiders of the Lost AARP*. A former NFL cheerleader, Mayor is now a leading primatologist and *National Geographic* environmental correspondent. Spend an evening with this Renaissance woman as she shares stories, photos, and videos from the field. **(NB) The Smith Center, 7:30p, tickets starting at $20, *thesmithcenter.com***

CAR COURTESY OF VIVA LAS VEGAS



FAMILY & FESTIVALS

SEPTEMBER 4-5

OONTSA UPON A TIME

The two-day Lost in Dreams festival promises a "transcendental" experience, and you can certainly say the encyclopedic roster transcends easy categorization: The fest's slate of high-octane EDM acts pumping out positive vibes includes the Nintendocore dubstep of Tokyo Machine, the disco soul of Yung Bae, and the smoove night-drive stylings of Moon Boots. **(AK) Downtown Las Vegas Events Center, 5p both days, $60-$110, *lostindreams festival.com***

SEPTEMBER 10-12

IT'S ALL GREEK TO YOU

Don't be afraid to get a little "Greece" on your shirt (sorry, had to!) as you get an authentic taste of the valley's Greek community at this annual event. Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is putting on its 48th annual Greek Food Festival, complete with Greek food, pastries, music, dancing, and more. **(RW) Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, noon-11p, free, *lvgff.com***



SEPTEMBER 9-12

The Higher the Hair ...

With live music and in-person gatherings on tap again, one suspects there'll be extra *billy* in all the *rawk* at the 24th annual Viva Las Vegas Rockabilly Weekend. This rock 'n' roll tornado of pompadours and pinups is back, brash as ever, with all its frenetic festival fun: loud tunes from live bands, classic cars, burlesque contests, fashion shows, bowling tourneys, and more than 100 vendors. **(AK) The Orleans, *vivalasvegas.net***

SEPTEMBER 12

A FEISTY FIESTA

Celebrate Mexican Independence Day at this lively fiesta, featuring Mexican food, crafts, and performances by traditional dance groups and live musical ensembles. It'll certainly be legit — it's put on in part by Federacion Hidalguense of Las Vegas, a promoter of Mexican culture through community events. **(RW) Winchester Dondero Cultural Center. 2p, free, 702-455-7340**

OCTOBER 1-2

Let It Go with a Lantern

The popular lantern-releasing festival, RiSE, returns for another two-night event of standing in a dried-up lake and releasing paper lanterns into the sky for Instagram pics with *Tangled*-inspired captions — this time with live music from Meridian, Magic Giant, JP Saxe, ASCENSiON DJs, and Emmett Fenn. Whether you need to get something off your chest or accomplish a goal, you can do worse than to write it on a paper lantern and send that baby skyward. **(RW) Jean Dry Lake Bed in Sloan, 3p, $119-$139, *risefestival.com***

OCTOBER 9

ROCK STEADY

Still trying to shake the lockdown blahs? You might want to try watching some movies about people hiking mountains and climbing rocks and scaling peaks and performing other inspiring feats. In that case, you won't want to miss the Reel Rock 15



O2W ONES TO WATCH 2021

JENNIFER BATTISTI | *Writer*

TO RECKON WITH HER PAST, SHE STRUCK UPON A NEW FORM OF STORYTELLING

It's time for a new kind of Las Vegas book, and poet Jennifer Battisti has written one. *Off Boulder Highway* (Tolsun Books, $19), her hybrid memoir of growing up here, brims with drug use, but not the cool-zany *Fear and Loathing* kind. Latchkey teens skitter unsupervised across a morally ambiguous cityscape, but it's not *Beautiful Children*, either. We may need a different bookshelf for this one.

About that word "hybrid": Like Vegas itself, Battisti's slim book speed-shifts between wildly different expressive modes — lyrically intense jags of memoir, straight-up poetry, bebop riffs of surreal free writing. You have to give in to its offbeat method, patiently collate its various wavelengths of meaning; don't read it while half-watching *Bridgerton*. The timeline zigzags. The language thickens with metaphor. The first person yields to the second, the *you* she's addressing often an earlier version of herself careening through the brutal particulars of a common Vegas upbringing: Kids running wild in the vacuum left by frazzled parents working swing and graveyard shifts at the

casino ... the family fractures in dysfunction, teen rebellion, addiction, trauma. All the narrative discombobulation is just how this one had to come out.

"It felt more organic, not only to my thinking but also my memory," the Las Vegas native says. "So much of the book is based on trauma, and it kind of mirrors the way trauma gets stuck in our bodies. It's like these little fragmented flashes."

"Vivid, sad, and powerful," former Clark County poet laureate Bruce Isaacson emails about the book. "Her writing re-creates the thrills of abuse and the crucible of pain." In one agonizing scene, her mother tries to retrieve her from a home full of addicts as Battisti hides in a closet. It's a drug-house-mirror inversion of the standard Vegas-bender yarn; Dr. Gonzo has left the building. "There's an emptiness of hopes and values in *Off Boulder Highway*," Isaacson notes. But there's also a poet's faith in the prismatic powers of language and her determination to upcycle a hard past — and not just hers.

"The stories that happen off Boulder Highway, or on the East Side, we don't hear a lot of those voices," Battisti says. "A lot of the people I grew up with are institutionalized or in jail or gone or homeless. Those voices matter, too."

Sober since 2009, she regards her younger self with the forgiving hindsight and clarity imparted by 12-step recovery: "I feel closer to that girl" after writing the book. "It was really sad that she had to go through some of that." But it did bequeath her a rich story, one that now includes her young daughter, family members who are "good sports" about being in the book, and the ongoing lifeline of poetry — indeed, readers of this very magazine voted her Best Local Writer in 2019. Next up: a chapbook of flash fiction.

"I wrote (*Off Boulder Highway*) to have some authority over my story," she says. "The book is a hybrid, but I feel like a hybrid, too. There's a before and an after, the two different parts of my life, and I wanted to find a way to make it more cohesive." *Scott Dickensheets*



FESTIVAL COURTESY OF LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

SEPTEMBER 17-19

LIFE IS BEAUTIFULLY NORMAL AGAIN

Life is Beautiful is back — as sure a sign as any that life in Las Vegas has returned to normal. (Hope we didn't just jinx it.) This three-day music, arts, and culture festival includes performances from 76 musical acts — including marquee names such as Billie Eilish, Green Day, A$AP Rocky, Modest Mouse, and Megan Thee Stallion — as well interactive art exhibits and food from more than 65 restaurants, bars, and food trucks from across the valley. **(RW) Downtown Las Vegas, *lifeisbeautiful.com***

Film Tour. Four short but intense films (*Deep Roots*, *Action Directe*, *First Ascent/Last Ascent*, and *Black Ice*) will tell compelling human stories through the sport of climbing. **(RW) Clark County Library Main Theater, 2p and 6p, *reelrocktour.com***

OCTOBER 9-10

GOOD VIBES

The Reggae Rise Up festival lineup includes a roster of reggae stalwarts and upstarts, including Slightly Stoopid, Soja, Dirty Heads, Pacific Dub, Common Kings, Hirie, plus food and vendor booths. Phew, already got a contact high. **(AK) Downtown Las Vegas Events Center, noon both days, $80-$150, *dlvec.com***

OCTOBER 16

Just Gimme the Brew

Motley Brews is certainly living up to its name with its ninth annual Downtown Brew Festival, boasting more than 200 craft beers from 60 breweries. Add in food and music, and this is a motley event indeed. **(RW) Clark County Amphitheater, 5p, *downtownbrewfestival.com***

NOVEMBER 2

SKULL IS IN SESSION

This Day of the Dead celebration is a family-friendly festival that honors loved ones who've passed away — but there's plenty of fun in store for those of us still among the living: music, children's crafts, vendors, food, face-painting, and an exhibition of altars created by community organizations. **(RW) Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, 720 Twin Lakes Drive, 4p, free, *artslasvegas.org***

NOVEMBER 6

CALLING ALL COMIC FANS

The Vegas Valley Comic Book Festival is back for its 13th year with a day of comics, cosplay, and workshops. Also featuring comic book store booths, crafts, food trucks, lectures, movies, and music — as well as opportunities to meet local comic artists — there's something for Everyone to geek out about. **(RW) Clark County Library, 9a-4p, free, *vegasvalleycomicbookfestival.org***

MEADOWS MALL

Malls are dead. Long live the Meadows Mall

BY ***Geoff Schumacher***

When my daughters were young, we often visited the Meadows Mall. It was a preferred destination for school clothes, pictures with Santa and the Easter bunny, and small bags of carefully selected candies from the Sweet Factory. We dressed up for family portraits at JCPenney.

For me, it was all about Waldenbooks and B. Dalton, the rival bookstores, one on the top floor, one on the bottom, both now absent from the planet. This was before Las Vegas had any big Borders or Barnes & Noble megastores, much less an independent book shop like The Writer's Block. The selection at those mall stores was limited, but you usually could walk out with something worth reading.

For these reasons and others, the Meadows Mall is woven into the fabric of our family's history.

Conventional wisdom holds that the indoor shopping mall is dying, and that the pandemic dealt the final blow to this one-time juggernaut of retail commerce. But professional prognosticators love to paint portraits of impending ruin. They want you to envision piles of crumpled concrete and rusted steel, with flickering Foot Locker and Forever 21 signs jutting from the wreckage.

Reality tends to be more complicated. In fact, many malls are not dying, despite radical changes in the retail world. Rather, they are evolving, adapting to changing conditions. Malls may have lost a step amid competition from Amazon, Walmart and Target, but reports of their death are greatly exaggerated.

Locally, this evolution is perhaps most evident at the Boulevard Mall on Maryland Parkway, with its SeaQuest aquarium and international food court. But a few recent visits to the Meadows Mall suggest that it, too, is responding to the new retail normal.

Meadows once was a regional shopping destination. It was big, clean, safe, and easy to get to, with US 95 exits at both ends. It was considered the suburban mall, believe it or not, a distinction it certainly cannot boast of today.

The days of Meadows' regional supremacy are long over. The Galleria at Sunset conquered the southeast valley, while Downtown Summerlin grabbed the well-heeled west side. Meadows has endured these incursions, in part, by catering to Las Vegas' growing diversity.

That diversity was on brilliant display during my recent mall runs. White, Black, Latino and Asian residents are all amply represented among the customers and employees alike, reflecting the population of surrounding neighborhoods.

What I detected at Meadows is a transition from regional shopping destination to neighborhood retail, entertainment and service complex. While stalwarts Macy's, JCPenney and Spencer's Gifts endure, they have been joined by nontraditional mall businesses: an insurance agency, dentist office, tattoo parlor. It makes sense to incorporate services into this retail environment. Who doesn't want to pair a dental appointment with something fun?

To be sure, Meadows' food court has some vacancies, but there is still variety. The neighborhood, I suspect, will dictate the food court's direction, rather than corporate executives following a formula.

If Meadows fully embraces its trending neighborhood orientation, it has the potential to become a community resource in some fresh and interesting ways. Meadows has lots of space, both inside and in its vast parking lots. In addition to the nontraditional businesses that have already moved in, there are a few other ways Meadows could evolve.

It could lease office space, which would, in turn, bring potential customers to the stores and restaurants. It could host college classes. Much-needed rental housing is yet another option — not in the mall, necessarily, but around it. Malls also are ideal venues for family-oriented entertainers. Santa and the Easter bunny are great for a couple of weeks in the spring and winter, but why not fill the whole year with reasons to take the kids to the mall?

The writer Bill Bryson once said, "We used to build civilizations. Now we build shopping malls." Reimagining malls as community gathering places could contribute to rebuilding our civilization fractured by presidential politics and pummeled by the pandemic.✦

Geoff Schumacher is the author of Sun, Sin & Suburbia: The History of Modern Las Vegas.



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