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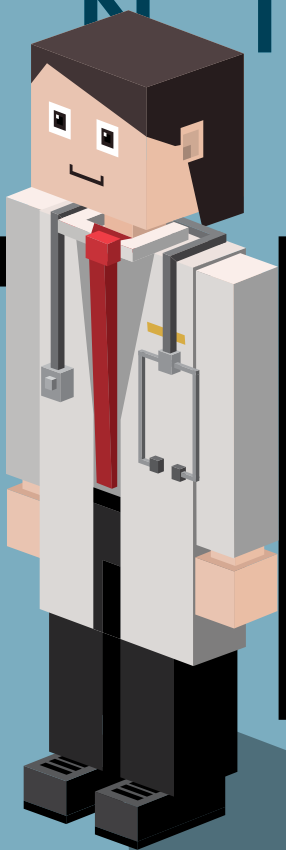

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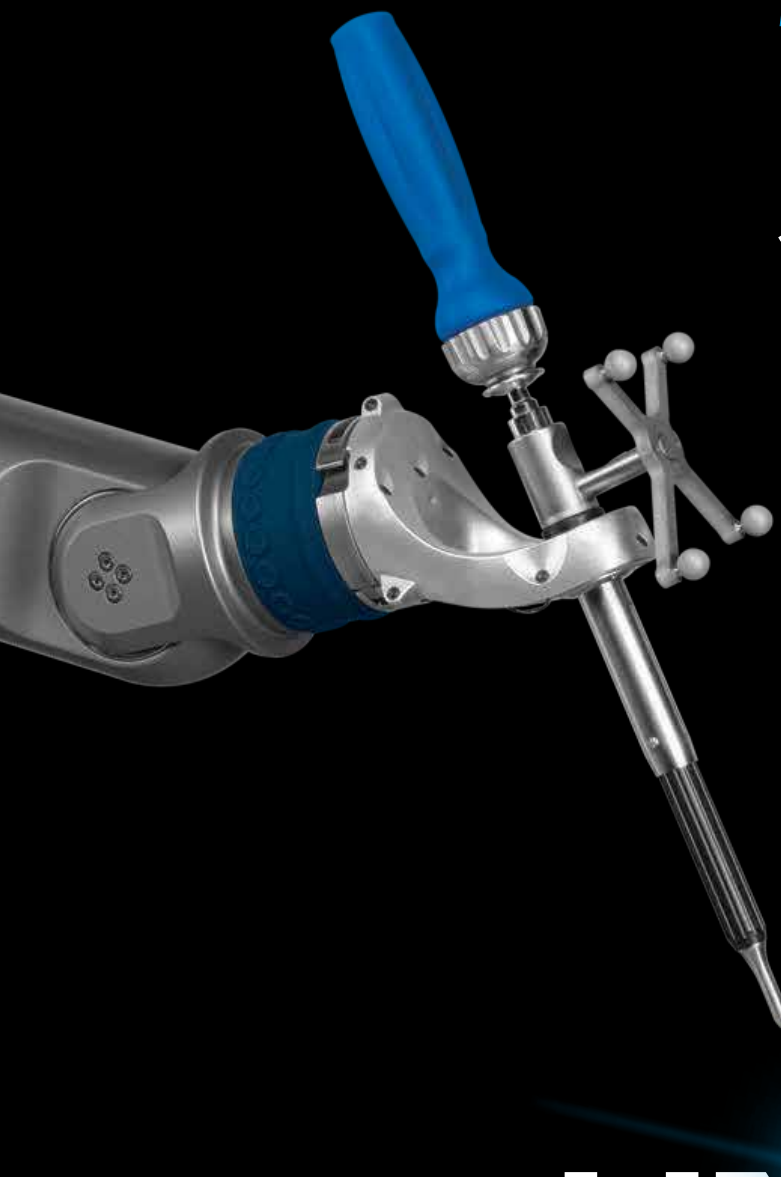

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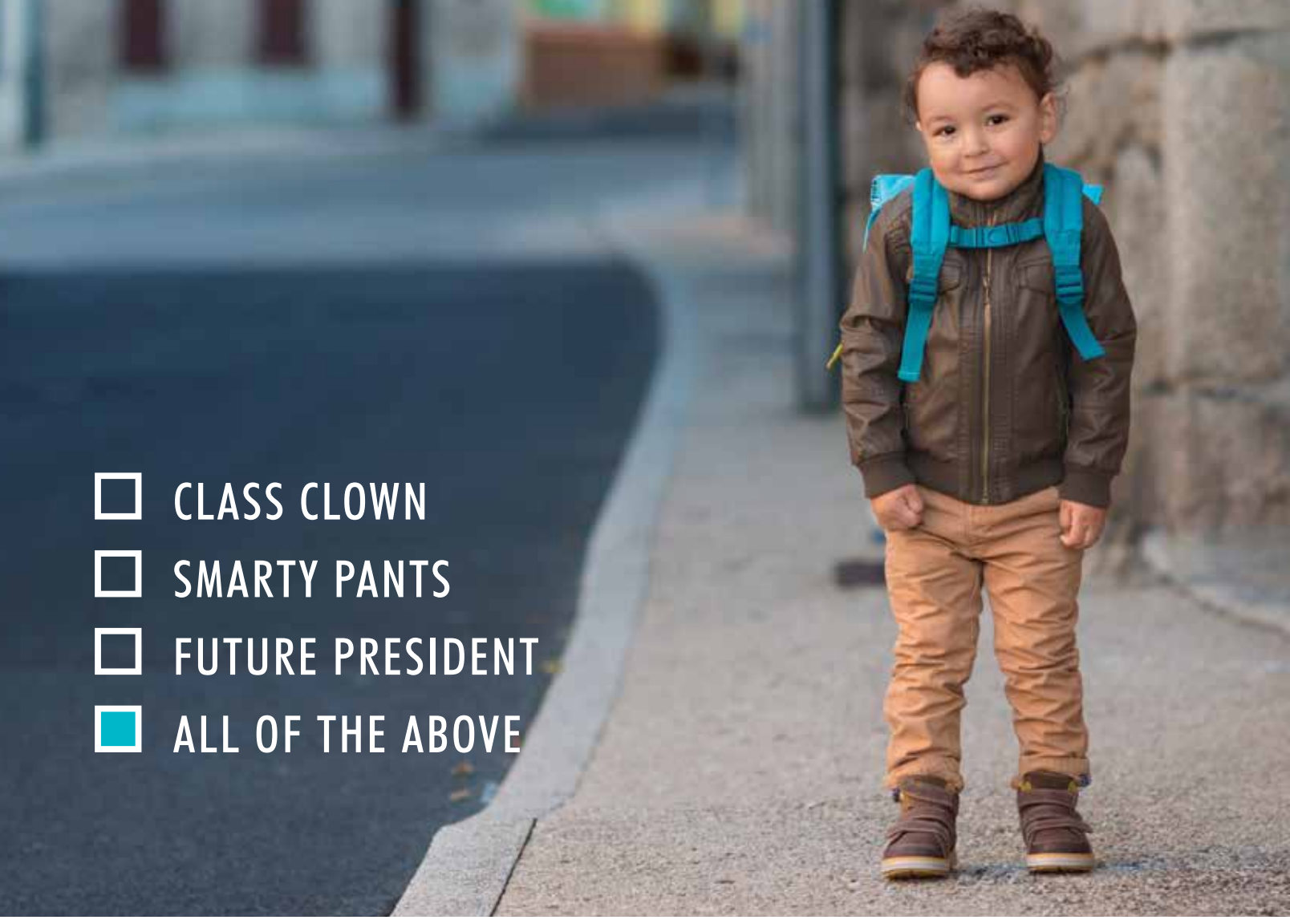

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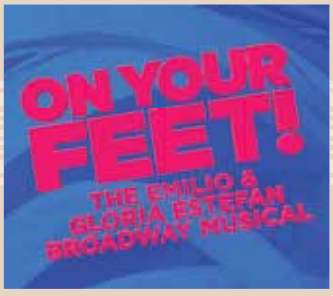

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Editor's note

WHOLE SOULS

One of my daily rituals is going to the Health section of the ScienceDaily website and checking to see if they discovered a food or pill that can make me, like, not die. (No luck so far, but I'll let you know.) Of course, there's more to wellness than obsessively trying to extend your body's shelf life until you've gone total Crypt Keeper. But what are we Americans if not endearingly obsessive? Still, I like to think all the recent research that considers mental, emotional, and physical health as an interwoven whole is nudging us toward a more global way of thinking about our well-being. Take, for example, studies that connect vigorous walking to brain health, or studies that reveal meditation is good for the body as well as the mind.

The subjects of Heidi Kyser's feature on p. 73, "A New Self," are inspiring examples of people embracing and nourishing their whole selves in the wake of tragedy. They have survived war, mass shootings, and sexual assault. In many cases, their physical wounds have healed, but their psyches have not. How do you repair a soul? Closure and "coming to terms" are more hopeful myths than reality; trauma is an earthquake whose shockwaves only diminish, but never disappear. But by deeply engaging their entire selves in pastimes that range from hiking to dance, these survivors find new opportunities to thrive.



Andrew Kiraly
EDITOR

NEXT MONTH Our fall culture guide previews the best in art, music, dance, and theater.

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PUBLISHER Florence M. Rogers
ADVERTISING MANAGER Favian Perez
EDITOR Andrew Kiraly
ART DIRECTOR Christopher Smith
DEPUTY EDITOR Scott Dickensheets
SENIOR DESIGNER Scott Lien
STAFF WRITER Heidi Kyser
GRAPHIC DESIGNER Brent Holmes

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Sharon Clifton, Susan Henry, Jimmy Hoadrea, Kim Treviño, Markus Van't Hul

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COUTURE MARKETING: 145 E 17th Street, Suite B4 New York, NY 10003 • (917) 821-4429 advertising@couturemarketing

MARKETING MANAGER Donovan Resh
PRINT TRAFFIC MANAGER Karen Wong
SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER Tammy Willis
WEB ADMINISTRATOR Danielle Branton
SALES ASSISTANT Crystal Jepson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Cybele, John M. Glionna, Jennifer Henry, Melanie Hope, Jessica Keasling, Veronica Klash, Christie Moeller, Casey Morell, Lissa Townsend Rodgers, Erin Ryan, Paul Szydelko, Greg Thilmont, Stacy J. Willis

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

L.E. Baskow, Bill Hughes, Delphine Lee, Anthony Mair, Sabin Orr

CONTACT

EDITORIAL: Andrew Kiraly, (702) 259-7856; andrew@desertcompanion.vegas
FAX: (702) 258-5646
ADVERTISING: Favian Perez (702) 259-7813; favian@desertcompanion.vegas
SUBSCRIPTIONS: (702) 258-9895; subscriptions@desertcompanion.vegas
WEBSITE: www.desertcompanion.vegas

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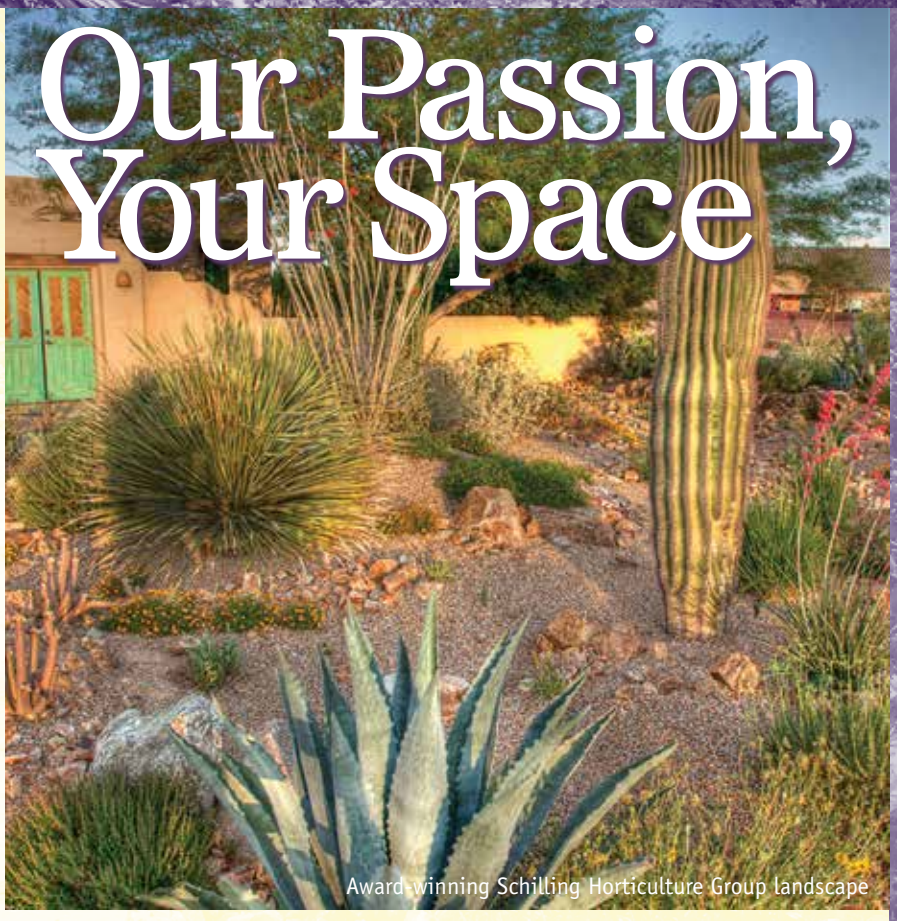

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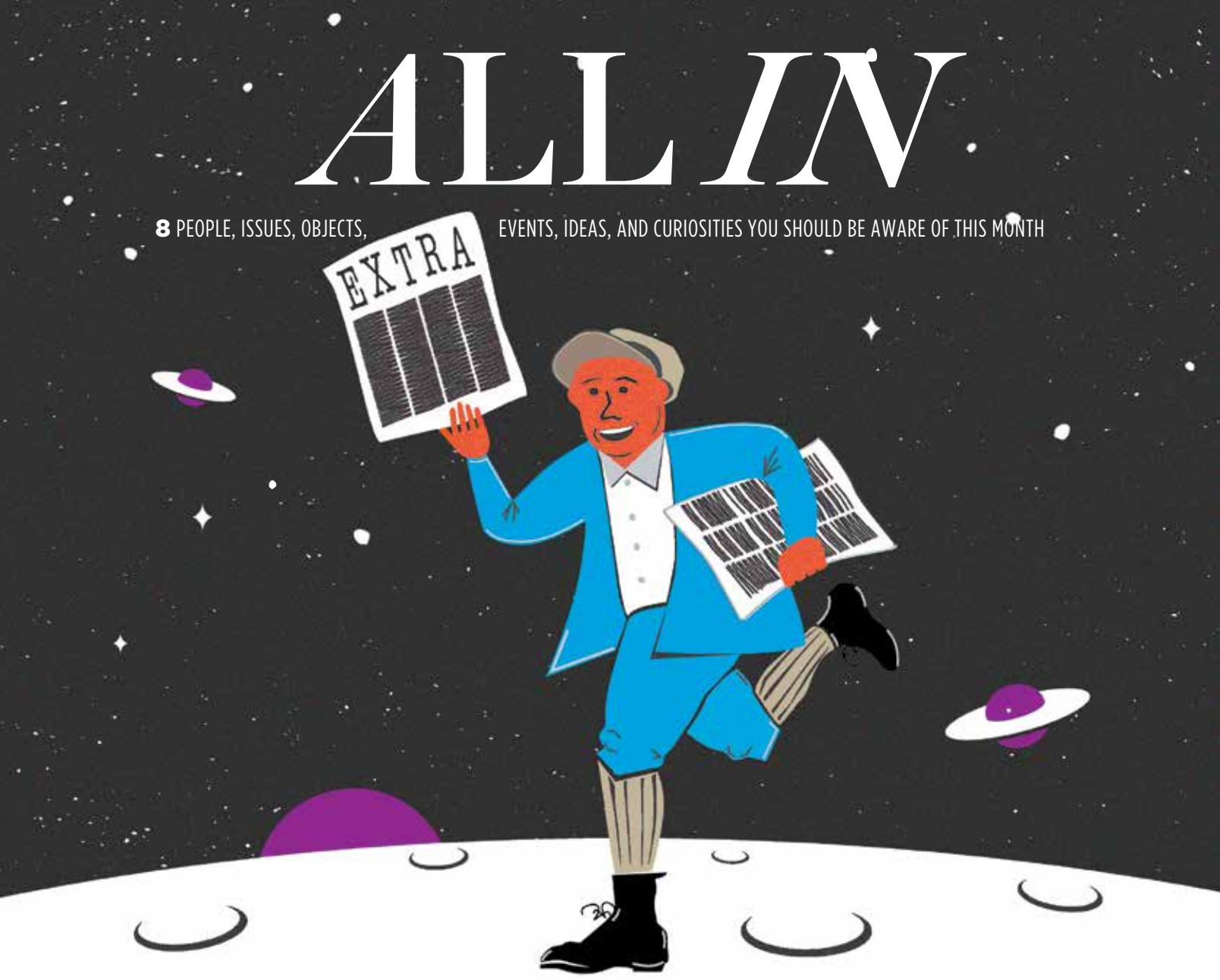
8 PEOPLE, ISSUES, OBJECTS, EVENTS, IDEAS, AND CURIOSITIES YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS MONTH



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ONE | **MEDIA**

Strange News World

Whether through paywalls, charities, or member programs, local news outlets search for a successful model in the digital era

BY ***Andrew Kiraly***

Want an insider's view on the State of Journalism in the age of the internet? Okay: Worry! Confusion! But also excitement, kind of! From publishers to editors to reporters, we don't know what exactly to do. Print seems all but dead. Online advertising is a cruel mirage. Paywalls aren't a cure-all. And does the public even *want* actual journalism, anyway? After all, viral Russian fake news on Facebook helped elect a president! Wail! Gnash!

That's a dramatization, admittedly — but not a complete distortion. It's no secret that the internet has caused great upheaval in the way we produce and consume news. What you might be surprised to learn, though, is the number of organizations, start-ups, think tanks, and media companies trying to formulate a model of economically sustainable journalism in the 21st century — many of which are in our own backyard. Actually, they're kind of a microcosm of what might be called The Great Big Journalism Project.

The latest entry is the Nevada Current (nevadacurrent.com), which launched in June. It's edited by Hugh Jackson, a veteran Vegas journalist, editor, and commentator. (Jackson has written for *Desert Companion*.) With a staff comprising seasoned journalist Dana Gentry and three young reporters, Nevada Current is a blog-style churn of progressive news and opinion that covers everything from homelessness to unions to immigration, all in the context of

economic inequality.

"I've always thought my role in Las Vegas was to kind of explore things the mainstream media doesn't explore with respect to economics and jobs, the texture of the economy, the ways the private sector policies and public sector policies get in the way of people and make life harder than it needs to be for them. That emphasis hasn't been very strongly followed here," says Jackson. "The economics coverage here is all about growth, growth, growth. Very rarely is there much of a discussion of how the benefits of economic growth are distributed."

The Nevada Current is part of a planned network of similar policy-oriented websites directed by Chris Fitzsimon, founder of North Carolina's news website NC Policy Watch. So far, Fitzsimon has launched two of them, the Nevada Current and the Florida Phoenix.

But perhaps the most interesting thing about the Current is how it's funded. There are no ads. You can't pay for a subscription or directly donate money. It's funded through a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit charity called The Hopewell Fund that bankrolls "social-change projects." And who funds Hopewell? Fitzsimon says he doesn't know. Jackson says he only knows the name of one donor, but declines to identify them. However, Jackson says he's been promised complete editorial independence.

"I've asked for transparency from these folks, they decided not to (reveal the funders' identities). I weighed it, and I thought, I don't like it, but I do like the idea of hiring reporters and covering stuff that doesn't get covered from angles that don't get looked at. I will swallow my discomfort, and I will cling bitterly to my editorial independence." It's a compromise he can live with, given the alternative is not to publish. (Hopewell Fund Board Chair Lee Bodner writes in an email, "We leave it up to individual donors to determine whether they want to disclose their role in a particular project.")

Fitzsimon brushes off any concerns about the anonymity of the site's donors. "I think the credibility of the site will be determined by the quality of the reporting by the journalists. In an ideal world, we're hoping this will turn into a thriving, sustainable, Nevada-based, Nevada donor-funded model."

"I don't like it, but I do like the idea of hiring reporters and covering stuff that doesn't get covered from angles that don't get looked at. I will swallow my discomfort, and I will cling bitterly to my editorial independence."

Meanwhile, the Nevada Independent, political pundit Jon Ralston's news site, will be two years old in January. If the Current's donor list is opaque, the Independent is almost obsessively transparent about its funding sources, listing them by name on its website. The Independent is aiming to become sustainable through a membership model similar to public radio's, with big corporate donations and grants atop a broad base of individual donors. At the moment, though, the Independent's revenue mix is top-heavy with corporate donors like Switch ($400,000) and MGM Resorts International ($350,000). Reliance on a few big key donors isn't very stable. What if they pull out?

"Though they could sustain us in the longer term, we don't want to rely on major corporate donors," Ralston says. "We need more sustaining members at the bottom — the $10, $50, $100 people who commit over the long haul." Ralston is hoping to get that membership percentage to 20 to 25 percent, as well as increase revenue from events and grants. "Becoming sustainable with a more balanced revenue package is something we hope to get to by the end of our third year." Another wrinkle of his model is that Ralston, the site's editor, is also the main fundraiser. He's conscious of the perceived conflicts of interest this might cause, but he reasons that his name and reputation as a trusted political reporter is central to the brand, so him fundraising personally is a necessary evil. "There are hints of (concern) here and there in the community, but the only people who really fuel it are campaign trolls who don't like what I've written in the past," he says. "Everything's a tradeoff, but our work ultimately speaks for itself."

Donor/membership models like the Independent's (and — plug — Nevada Public Radio's) seem to hold the most promise for economic sustainability, according to experts.

"But membership should be more about than just asking your audience for money," says Emily Goligoski, research director at the Membership Puzzle Project, a partnership between New York University and Dutch news organization De Correspondent. The project studies journalism funding models and publishes its findings at membershippuzzle.org. "It's important that membership is a social contract, which is rooted in the idea of showing your audience the impact of your work and being clear about the costs

2

TEN THINGS THAT WILL BE RUINED IN YOUR CAR THIS SUMMER

DEODORANT That emergency stick of Degree in case you forget to wear antiperspirant to work? Sorry, it's liquid. ❖ **FOUNTAIN DRINK** So refreshing! Until 15 minutes later, when you have warm Coke water. ❖ **SUNSCREEN** Good to keep on hand. Until you burn yourself with your boiling skincare. ❖ **SUNGLASSES** Maybe you put your sunglasses on your dash to avoid sitting on them. But while you might rebend glasses your butt has crushed, you'll never unwarp them from the dash they've merged with. ❖ **CELL PHONE** Message: "Temperature — iPhone needs to cool down before you can use it." Hope you can find your way to air-conditioning without GPS! ❖ **YOUR THIGHS** Plus: You can skip the gym because you're sweating off some of that leg fat. Minus: That sweat is soaking into your seat. ❖ **CDs**: Wait, you still use CDs? ❖ **CRAYONS** Melted crayons are actually some sort of Pinterest art project. ❖ **LIPSTICK** Who hasn't accidentally baked their favorite shade of lipstick that's also been discontinued? R.I.P. Kittenish Cremesheen ❖ **DEBIT CARD** Better hope you have enough change in that cupholder! ***Jessica Keasling***

©ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/GRESEI

of doing that work. It says this information, analysis, and expertise took time and money — and hopefully collaboration with readers — to bring to publication, and it's a service worth paying for."

"Collaboration with readers" is another piece of the puzzle. Goligoski says news organizations need to expand their idea of donations to include time, energy, and expertise. "We're encouraging platforms to think about accepting these kind of contributions in lieu of money," she says. For instance, The Ferret, an investigative journalism co-op in Scotland, enlists volunteers for fact-checking nights. Other member-based news sites put them to work as comment moderators or data crunchers. "Media platforms today need to create a new continuum for their audience of what it means to participate," she says.

If the membership model has good prospects, the jury's still out on paywalls. The research shows that it works for big names such as *The New York Times* and *The Atlantic*, and focused brands such as *The Wall Street Journal* and *Wired*. But it's less clear whether small, local publications can make it part of their revenue mix.

The Las Vegas Sun put up a paywall in January. It has two tiers, $8.99 a month and $15.99 a month; among other things, the latter includes entry to quarterly networking events with the Greenspun Media Group editors and publishers — another revenue-generating idea news organizations are experimenting with. Publisher Brian Greenspun didn't divulge specific numbers, but writes in an email: "Our paywall is growing, not as fast as we would like, but growing still. The nature of paywalls is such that at some point, the subscription revenues should be able to offset a significant share of the newsroom and editorial costs related to producing the content for the websites. We are not there yet."

Partnerships between media organizations are another part of the answer to sustainability. Working together doesn't just create efficiencies, but it allows both partners to reach new audiences.

Tom Axtell, general manager of Vegas PBS, points to PBS' jointly produced investigations from Frontline and ProPublica. "Partnerships like that give us the power to magnify the impact of stories, and those partnerships are part of a different philosophical approach than you would see at a commercial station."

As media outlets continue to try, fail, tweak, and try again, it all gives new meaning to "breaking news." ✦



THREE | **PROFILE**

Tracy Whitcomb

Recovered neurological patient

BY ***Heidi Kyser***



Walking among the classic cars and vendor booths set up at Sunset Park to raise money for the Injured Police Officers Fund on a cool February afternoon, Tracy Whitcomb felt a surge of gratitude. She squeezed her boyfriend's hand, happy to be with him, a retired officer himself, enjoying the sunny weekend and supporting a community cause.

Less than two years earlier, this moment wouldn't have been possible. Whitcomb's afternoon stroll would've been interrupted by spasms — the result of a malfunctioning device implanted in her brain — that had become so painful and frequent, she stayed home most of the time. She'd left her cherished job in corporate recruiting, and her social life had withered.

"It was very jarring, like I'd just stuck my finger in a light socket," Whitcomb recalls. "It had the sensation of pulling on your brain, which took several minutes to recover from. At the end of day I would feel exhausted, like I'd been through a fight."

The sad irony was, these episodes were caused by a medical device called a deep brain stimulator that Whitcomb had had implanted in her brain to diminish the symptoms of essential tremor, or ET, a genetic disorder that causes uncontrollable shaking.

ET cases like Whitcomb's, which came on hard and fast when she was just 30 years old, are rarer than cases like that of her mother, who wasn't diagnosed until she was in her 80s. The younger Whitcomb couldn't manage her symptoms with medication. Within four years of the first signs, irrepressible trembling had spread to her arms and legs.

"It really was interfering with my daily activities, as well as things as simple as applying makeup, drinking, eating," she says. "You don't feel in control of your body. The more you try to control your movements, the worse it gets. And it's a progressive disorder, so I would wonder, 'Am I not going to be able to feed myself?'"

In other words, for Whitcomb, the potential benefits of surgery outweighed the risks. Still living in California, where she'd moved (from Boulder City) to go to college, she went to Newport Beach's Hoag Health Center to have a tiny electrode — about the size of a one-inch piece of spaghetti — implanted in her brain. Wires ran from the device down the sides of her skull and neck to a

FOUR | **HOW PREPARED ARE YOU FOR MONSOON/FLOOD SEASON?**

Very!

You have Elon Musk's word that he'll save you in his submarine

Your water wings have pontoons wrapped in life-boats tied to an ark containing the Army Corps of Engineers

You installed a bilge pump in your man bun

You started a *Waterworld* LARP Meetup

Your go-to flotation device is a Labradoodle

"Honey, I promise, Elon will be here any minute." **Crosses fingers**

Glub, Glub

PHOTOGRAPH BY ***Anthony Mair***

small box in her chest. The box contained a power source and was programmed to send imperceptible pulses to the part of the brain's motor center short-circuited by ET.

Whitcomb felt better immediately, but the relief was short-lived. Within months, she began experiencing the convulsive electrical surges that she likened to putting a finger in a socket. Over the following decade, she underwent 11 corrective surgeries, including five brain surgeries, to repair frayed and tangled wires, flipped-over control boxes, and other problems. When she moved to Henderson with her mother in 2014, she hoped the problems were behind her, but the shocks soon started again. (A Hoag Health Center spokeswoman didn't return *Desert Companion*'s calls.)

She sought help at the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, and got it from Brent Bluett, a movement disorders specialist who, according to Whitcomb, was the first physician to really listen to her story and show empathy.

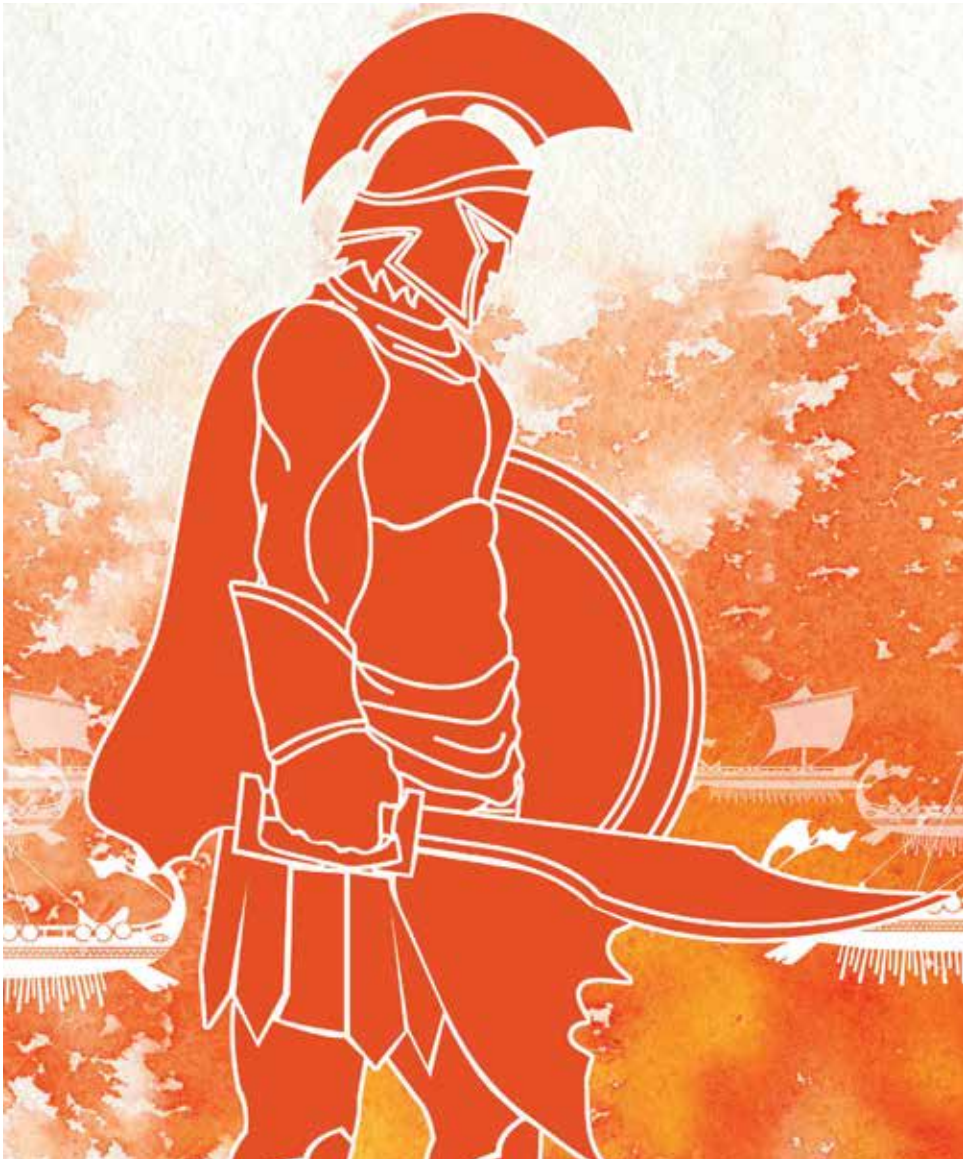
"He said, 'I'm going to be your champion," she says. "I thought, 'Finally, I'm not in this alone.'"

Bluett says he'd never seen a case that had required as many revisions as Whitcomb's. He suggested she take advantage of the center's pipeline to its Cleveland, Ohio, location, where surgeon Andre Machado might be able to solve her problem once and for all.

"I'm very biased," Bluett says, "but I think Dr. Machado is probably the best neurosurgeon in the country for deep brain stimulation." (Machado, who chairs Cleveland Clinic's neurological institute, made news last year when he performed the first DBS surgery to restore movement in a stroke patient.)

After a few months of insurance negotiations and logistical planning, Whitcomb underwent the revision surgery in Cleveland last June. Machado removed the previous device and wiring, and placed new ones in different locations, using different configurations. The new approach has worked. In the intervening year, Whitcomb says, she's had no problems. Her essential tremor is under control, and the device is functioning correctly — no more shocks. Bluett has fine-tuned her device a few times to minimize the impact on her speech. She's back at work, and back in the world.

"Every weekend, I look forward to having a day to wake up early and get out of bed without being held back by physical limitations," she says. "I make plans with my boyfriend. ... Every day feels like a gift." ✦



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NLV to Potrepreneurs: Welcome, Bud

With plenty of grow-worthy facilities and an eye to new revenues, North Las Vegas is embracing the marijuana industry

BY ***Lissa Townsend Rodgers***

As North Las Vegas looks to its future, its focus is less on gaming than on Apex and Amazon — and, increasingly, on the cannabis industry, as a number of cultivations, production facilities, and dispensaries have dotted the city. "We're right up there with the county with the number of licenses," says Alfredo Melesio of the North Las Vegas Land Development & Community Service Department. "We welcome them and are interested in making sure that industries find a home in North Las Vegas." He notes that there are 72 licenses altogether for cultivation, production, and dispensaries — with more to be released later in the year.

But even more crucially, the city of 240,000 has plenty of industrial spaces that meet the requirements for the marijuana industry. In some cases, the spaces came before the businesses, as in how HOPE Cannabis came to open a facility in North Las Vegas. "The simple answer is the children's game of pin the tail on the donkey — my partner and I own a commercial-industrial building in North Las Vegas that turned out to be the donkey," says founder Dr. Howard Rubin. "It was the perfect location, met all of the distance requirements, and we converted our building into a multiple marijuana cultivation and production facility," making vape pens and cannabis-infused coffee.

It's a similar story for Flora Vega cultivators. "My family has had numerous businesses in North Las Vegas for more than 30 years," says general manager Nick Puliz. "Part of the reason we got into the industry to begin with was that we had a bunch of big warehouses that were perfect for indoor growing. We had the connection with the mayor and the city of North Las Vegas because we've been up here so long."

The city, he says, has been "very helpful." Indeed, as the cannabis industry becomes more established, city staff has gotten used to its special requirements. "We know what questions to ask, and we know

ILLUSTRATION BY ***Brent Holmes***



what to expect," Melesio says. "We've gotten used to how they renovate facilities and working with them."

Beyond cultivation and production, a number of dispensaries have made a home in North Las Vegas, where the customer base is somewhat different than is found closer to the Strip. "Our North Las Vegas location is almost all local business, with regulars who come in every couple of days," says Mike Pizzo of Reef Dispensaries. He adds that, "Interestingly enough, North Las Vegas began to allow 24-hour dispensaries before Las Vegas, so Reef NLV was one of the first to be open all night."

It's a distinctly different attitude than Henderson on the opposite side of the valley, which put a six-month moratorium on recreational cannabis licenses and, even now, only has a smattering of dispensaries. It's also different than the atmosphere in Clark County and the City of Las Vegas, where the number of hoops to jump through can feel like a trip through Cirque du Soleil. "We are a lean and agile organization, and I think we can help customers more easily. It's a one-stop shop, we're all right here on the first floor," Melesio says. The revenue generated by these businesses is also welcome in a city where finances have sometimes been a struggle. "At the end of the day, in fees, it's about $700,000 per quarter coming in for North Las Vegas residents," he adds.

And while few businesses are thrilled to pay those bills, Aaron McCrary of Zion Gardens, a cultivator in the area, says it helps to know he's supporting the community. "I grew up in a neighborhood that's very similar, not to where North Las Vegas is headed, but where North Las Vegas has traditionally been. (If) these large revenue streams are flowing, I'd like them to flow to a community where they will have maximum effect."

As those revenue streams continue to flow and grow, the flourishing of the cannabis industry could also bring new growth to North Las Vegas — growth that has made them a welcome and increasingly important part of the community. "We've worked with people through the whole process," Melesio says. "We're definitely open for business, and we're interested in making sure industries find a home in North Las Vegas." ✦

SIX

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Making it easier, and less expensive, for teachers to get school supplies

In the forever-ongoing debate about Nevada's education spending, the cost of school supplies — and the fact that teachers often pay for them out of pocket — has become an often-used data point. But, somewhat below the public radar, the nonprofit Public Education Foundation has, since 2002, used its Teacher Exchange to get classroom supplies into the hands of teachers.

With a $25 donation, public-school teachers receive 500 points to spend as currency at the Exchange, often getting hundreds of dollars in value. They can load up on the generics, such as writing utensils, paper, binders, and tape, or more offbeat things like educational games, playing cards and dice donated by casinos, cleaning supplies, and backpacks. With school about to begin, there's probably a teacher shopping its clean, organized aisles right now. Such as Brooke Blackard, a first-grade teacher at Cambeiro Elementary, says that the supplies she picked up at the Exchange on a recent day would have cost her a lot more at Walmart or Target.

Originally created to be a reuse and repurpose program for teachers, its vision grew when Tim McCubbin took it over in 2011. He quickly began working with the Kids In Need Foundation, a nonprofit working to help students in poverty on a national scale; the Teacher Exchange became one of its 40 resource centers around the country. Through this connection, Target, a large backer of KINF, became a major supporter of the Teacher Exchange, as well. In addition, many casinos have pitched in, including Caesars Foundation and Caesars Entertainment, MGM, Sands properties, Wynn properties, and Station Casinos. Roughly 70 percent of the items passed on to teachers come from large donations from these big names.

Part of the success of the Teacher Exchange is due simply to being in Las Vegas. With so many trade shows and conventions coming through, it's easier to meet people interested in helping out. "No one else in the world has access to that like we do in Las Vegas," McCubbin says. **(continued on page 30)**



For example: During Education Expo 2017, a man from Colorado said he had some supplies he wanted to contribute. A few pallets' worth, he said. It took him most of the year to sort out his business affairs, and when he did, McCubbin and his team were caught by surprise: "a few" pallets turned out to be 47, requiring two freight trucks to bring them all the way from Wahoo, Nebraska, a town that McCubbin says he never knew existed. Both trucks made their way to Las Vegas just before New Year's Day, containing all manner of educational supplies from the traditional staples to exciting learning games. Teachers began helping themselves this summer.

And with Clark County School District spanning 7,910 square miles — a space larger than each of the six smallest states — covering the territory becomes a real challenge. So, in addition to the storefront, located across from UNLV, teachers who sign up can access an online store. And what about schools outside of Las Vegas — in towns like Goodsprings, Sandy Valley, and Moapa? That's where the Teacher Exchange Express van comes in

"We touch approximately 95 percent of the public schools in Southern Nevada," McCubbin says. "While we don't always get to see the end with the student, teachers are really good about sending pictures showing what they do with what they pick up."

Jakub Cernoch

MORE INFORMATION
thepef.org/teacher-exchange

SEVEN | **Q&A**

Inspiration by the Cup

Using tea and talk, Pamela Dylag is creating community for women one serving at a time

BY ***Jessica Keasling***

Pamela Dylag, co-owner of Velveteen Rabbit and facilitator of High Priestess Tea, greets me on a warm Thursday afternoon to talk about the monthly women's gathering. I meet her at the bar, where on the previous Saturday I was welcomed as an attendee by the scent of sage, a choice of delightful teacups, an assortment of teas, and light vegan snacks. I then joined some 25 or so other women on the bar's cozy couches and chairs. After a group meditation, we focused on that month's speaker — stripper/writer Valerie Stunning, who talked about sex and empowerment — listening, engaging, and asking questions.

How Did High Priestess Tea come to be?

I've been thinking about doing some sort of women's collective for the last few years. It seemed like an idea that was going to take a while to get to, so I thought, how could I facilitate this idea? Well, I have a space. I have Velveteen Rabbit. I can utilize that.

Then the idea for tea came to me. I've been reading tarot for a while; High Priestess is a major arcana, in a tarot card. The idea for tea came because I wanted this to happen during the day. I felt like not everyone drinks. Also, when you have events based around alcohol, you can get distracted, and I wanted it to be a productive sort of meeting, a coming together. So, I thought tea would be a nice thing to have, an afternoon tea. Then I thought the name High Priestess Tea because of high tea. It all sort of came together in December. I thought, what a great way to start 2018. Every month I can have a tea.

(Q&A has been edited for length and clarity.)

What do you want women to get out of it?

The ethos is to connect, empower, and inspire women. I want to do all of those things. Topics that we've talked about bring certain women out. Some women come to every tea, and others come to certain topics that are of interest to them. It brings women from all backgrounds.

And I'm not necessarily exclusive toward women. I'm definitely making this for women, but women have brought their



PHOTOGRAPH BY ***Christopher Smith***

partners. I am also completely inclusive to all or any kind of gender identification, basically coming together as a community, learning, growing, understanding each other and just having a nice ritual every month.

At the beginning you do a group meditation. What made you implement that?

It's something I do. I practice meditation every day. I practice yoga. I'm also a reiki practitioner. (But) I don't want this to be geared necessarily for spiritual practices only. Meditation is just to get everyone on the same vibe, so we can be open and receptive to listening to the guest speaker, and really understanding what they are saying. I just think it's a lovely way to start. It gets everyone calm and in a peaceful, open space. So everyone is present and really there.

You have had different themes such as self-care, film, and sex. How do you come up with these themes?

I always ask for suggestions. I have some ideas, but I definitely want the attendees to speak and let me know what they would like to hear about. Its kind of a combination of ideas I've had, and ideas attendees have.

A lot of the speakers I know. Well, actually, all the speakers I know. That was another thing, because I own a bar, I know a lot of people. I thought, I know so many amazing women, and I'm a connector. That's what I do. I connect people all the time. I always want to connect women. People will ask me about something, and I'm, like, "I know the perfect person you need to talk to for this." I want to bring these women together who wouldn't necessarily meet under different circumstances.

What are your future plans with High Priestess Tea?

I've been thinking about that. It's all about balance in my life right now. I would love to grow this thing, but I think for me in order to grow it, I'll need partnerships. I'm kind of letting it grow organically. Right now, I'm trying just to keep it consistent, but I would like to see it grow into whatever that may be. ✦

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EIGHT | **OPEN TOPIC**

Hipster(ish) in Suburbia

That feeling when you live in a place you don't quite belong, but can't quite live in the place you do

BY ***Veronica Klash***

I don't belong in Summerlin. This idyllic suburban setting disturbs me. The silence, while pleasant during the day, unsettles me at night. Every creak and rustle in the dark conjures images of a tiptoeing intruder. I fall asleep with the TV on to mask the eerie quiet.

It's been 11 years since I traded my love of Manhattan for the ease of Las Vegas. When we moved here, it didn't seem as though there was an area that could measure up to the Washington Heights neighborhood we'd left behind. So we stayed close to my in-laws, here in Summerlin, where not a single soul stirs when I walk through manicured parks, unnaturally green — grass should not be this color in the desert. Here in Summerlin, where the sky is uncluttered by buildings or clouds. It stretches on, infinite, from horizon to jagged mountaintops. I feel small. That diminishing is further enforced by homeowners' associations that relish governing through arcane rules decreed in hundred-page tomes. They don't seem to grasp that twinkle lights are pretty year-round, leaves turn brown in the winter, cars sometimes leak oil on the driveway. These are ordinary facts, and should not be punishable with ridiculous fines.

No, my life does not fit into the neat master-planned community. I'm a youngish, tattooed writer who listens to music on vinyl. I post pictures of my food on Instagram. I am married but have no interest in children. The conclusion is obvious: I'm a hipster.

For us hipsters, the residential enclave of choice is fairly clear: Downtown. An array of made-to-look-old restaurants and bars with reclaimed-wood décor, Edison bulbs, and patrons smelling of beard balm is all the proof you need. At Container Park's Oak & Ivy bar, you ingest two shots of earthy whiskey simply by walking in. There is a palpable buzz east of the Fremont Experience that is missing in the suburbs, an excitement born of people like Chef Natalie Young. People creating a community and setting building blocks for a more vibrant future in our city — recalling the home I left behind 11 years ago.

Downtown's housing options also speak to my hipster proclivities, and I've fantasized about them extensively. The renovated bungalows at The Pioneer have clean, contemporary lines and just the right amount of retro charm. Silence would definitely not be a problem in an open-plan apartment at The Ogden. Or perhaps a trendy tiny house in Tony Hsieh's Ferguson's Downtown would better suit me.

ILLUSTRATION ***Delphine Lee***



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PHOTO BY JERRY METELLUS

So what am I still doing in Summerlin, bereft of ironic T-shirts and upturned handlebar mustaches? Why haven't I packed my record player and locally sourced honey and moved into one of those dream homes?

In some ways, the answer is simpler than I'd like to admit. Part of me *likes* Summerlin. Running errands or grocery shopping is effortless and brimming with options. It's actually a pleasure, since on a clear day, the auburns of the landscaping cut into the blues of sky, conceiving a contrast so beautiful no Downtown mural could compete. Going to the bank has never looked this good.

Yes, Downtown features the new and exciting — alongside the derelict and desolate. The two seem to inhabit the same space independent of each other, a dissonance more unsettling for me than the uniformity and conformity of suburbia. Therein lies the complicated part of the answer. If the Downtown of today existed when we first came to Las Vegas, I would have embraced it. But barring the appearance of a time machine in my spacious living room (another perk of suburban living), I'll never be able to test that statement's veracity. Witnessing the onset of evolution can be exhilarating. From the store my husband and I operated for several years in the Arts District, I watched as the area around Fremont changed from a place I considered inhospitable to somewhere interesting and almost inviting.

Almost. Because evolution is also frustrating, as, by definition, it takes generations to accomplish. The me of 2018 just wants to skip to the end, to get to the best version now. Urban pioneering just isn't my cup of boba tea.

What this may mean is that, tattoos notwithstanding, I'm less a true hipster than a hipster hybrid of sorts. A person cobbled together from too many disparate experiences. This sense of geographical ambivalence is a symptom of an identity that, for better or worse, continues to change unexpectedly. The people I prefer to spend my time with aren't hipsters, either, come to think of it. None live Downtown. Even the most artsy-fartsy of the lot chooses a Henderson residence. But I'm also not a suburbanite — I can't think of anything that would make me feel truly at home out here.

My interests and lifestyle may pull me toward Downtown, but comfort and beauty keep me in Summerlin. Maybe I belong in both but feel at home in neither — for now, at least. If you have any suggestions for an area that splits the difference, I might take you up on it. I could use a new place to hang up my slouchy beanie and infinity scarf. ✦

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Bottom of the Ninth

Five things we'll miss about baseball at Cashman

BY ***Paul Szydelko***



DISTINCTIVE LORE

Few, if any, tears will be shed when the last out is recorded at Cashman Field on Monday, September 3. Entering its last month as a venue for minor league baseball after 36 summers, it has been disdained for its lack of amenities and even essential provisions for players. For fans, however, Cashman's very lack of pretense has been an underrated delight since the U.S. Army's Golden Knights parachuted in during its opening in 1983. Here are five things we'll miss about Cashman Field when a new $150 million home for Triple A baseball opens next spring in Downtown Summerlin.

NOSTALGIA IS WOVEN into the sport as tightly as the seams of a baseball. Cashman Field, the first part of a $26 million complex, was responsible for the Pacific Coast League coming to Las Vegas. It opened to great fanfare to house the Las Vegas Stars, sporting brown, gold, and orange-trimmed uniforms as an affiliate of the San Diego Padres.

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Christopher Smith***

Several members of the inaugural team (including league MVP Kevin McReynolds and future Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn, who played only 17 games for the Stars on an injury rehab assignment) became key contributors to the Padres' first World Series appearance in 1984. Catcher Bruce Bochy, who will likely be inducted into the Hall of Fame as a manager, hit the first PCL home run at Cashman.

The Stars won championships in 1986 and 1988, and the Triple-A All-Star game brought national attention to Cashman on July 11, 1990. A record crowd of 15,025 saw Bo Jackson and the Chicago White Sox play the Cubs during the Big League Weekend exhibition on April 3, 1993. The Oakland A's (among the possibilities to become the team's parent club in 2019) played their first six games of the 1996 season at Cashman because Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum renovations were not complete.

In 2001, the team playfully embraced the legendary Area 51 and took on the colors and affiliation of the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Toronto Blue Jays (beginning in 2009) and New York Mets (2013) have also used Las Vegas as the final stop for their player-development systems.

URBAN ETHOS

YOU CAN'T TALK about Cashman Field's legacy without noting its Downtown location. Baseball was born amid the promise and perils of big cities, and Cashman genuflects to those urban roots. No fan-friendly activities are within walking distance, and you can't see the field from the street or parking lot. Once you pass the gates, with a sweet anticipation you walk up the ramps to see that placid expanse of dirt and grass.

SOOTHING FAMILIARITY

WHAT WAS A state-of-the-art venue in the mid-'80s, Cashman is the second-oldest park in the PCL (the oldest, Cheney Stadium in Tacoma, Washington, was built in 1960 and renovated in 2011). Evocative of a smaller, simpler Southern Nevada, its 9,334 seats are easy to navigate. In the later innings on a languid night, who hasn't wandered to get under the misters and a better view than what you paid for?

Cashman's consistency has comforted baseball purists. It opened with a 10-foot outfield wall, and fans could spread blankets on berms beyond it. But home runs were deemed too easy, and the wall was soon raised. Dugout seats behind home plate eliminated some foul territory, but little else has changed. The Party Zone down the left field line and a modestly updated scoreboard have been among the few notable additions in three-and-a-half decades.

EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

JUST $5 GETS you into the parking lot and $11 through the gates, a stark contrast to the major league prices to which we're being introduced these days for the NHL and NFL. Discounts and group deals have been consistently available through the years, as have dollar beer and menu nights. The new park will feature more price points for seating and more choices at the concessions, so expect things to be more expensive next year. But team officials assure fans that minor league baseball will remain an affordable, family-friendly option 70 days and nights a year.

UNDERSTATED CHARACTER

NOT STATELY AND not beloved, Cashman's blandness gives it repose amid the chaos of Downtown Las Vegas. The memories endure: children (and some adults) rolling down the grassy banks from the upper parking lot; sudden appearances of aircraft out of Nellis Air Force Base; wispy clouds over Sunrise Mountain creating majestic sunsets; those daunting 20-foot outfield walls with two decks of advertising; and the air-conditioned comfort and alternate vantage point of the Club Level.

Employee and youth-group outings, frequent giveaways, fireworks nights, and even, likely, beer and menu specials will continue at Las Vegas Ballpark. Nonetheless, without Cashman Field there would be no Triple A baseball in Las Vegas, and for that it deserves our respect, however — in some cases — begrudging. ✦



L.E. BASKOW / LIGHTS FC

... AND THREE THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT SOCCER AT CASHMAN

The atmosphere. The Las Vegas Lights have set up a section just for the "ultras" — the die-hard, hometown fans who bring their trumpets and drums, making noise like there's no tomorrow. With flags a-waving, supporters' groups like the Electric Company make their home behind one of the goals, urging the team to attack — and rewarding everyone by setting off colored smoke devices every time the team scores. Owner Brett Lashbrook has said he wants games at Cashman to feel like those in Europe and South America, and fans like these help make it possible.

The future. Sure, it's a little awkward having games on a baseball field. There's a whole chunk of the outfield that's just dead space. But when the 51s move to the 'burbs, the Lights have carte blanche to make the stadium over. (Added bonus: It's at their expense, not taxpayers'.) Since part of the stadium is already at a right angle, it wouldn't be hard to make Cashman soccer-specific. Maybe those changes could include some sorely needed renovations, too — can we get more concessions and bathrooms, please?

The magnets. See, the Lights do something clever while you're at the game. As you're sipping a beverage and watching the beautiful game, the team has folks go into the parking lot and slap a Lights magnet on your car — gratis. It may take you a little bit of time to find it (depending on how dark it is or how many beverages you've had), but it's a neat memento and a way to show your support for the team. ***Casey Morell***



HOME RUN KING BRYCE HARPER* BY THE NUMBERS

10/12 Home runs/pitches sealing his comeback win in Home Run Derby

23 Season home runs as of All-Star break

102 Strikeouts as of All-Star break

.214 Batting average as of All-Star break

$400 MILLION Rumored potential free-agent contract next year

*ICYMI, he's a Las Vegas guy!





SEA TO BELIEVE
Left, Partage's clever halibut preparation makes it resemble dragon fruit.

DINING | **AT FIRST BITE**

Continental Plates

Mordeo and Partage mix up the Spring Mountain dining scene with European flair

BY ***Greg Thilmont***

When it comes to boundaries, Las Vegas' vibrant Chinatown blurs geographic and culinary lines. It's been steadily expanding along its main drag, Spring Mountain Road, and into arterials like South Jones Boulevard since it arose in the '90s. Of course, there's always been more than Szechuan, Cantonese, and Mandarin cuisine to be found in the Spring Valley neighborhood. This is now especially true with the recent opening of two remarkable eateries, Partage and Mordeo.

In May, Partage took over the site of the abruptly closed Chada Street, a popular upscale Thai restaurant. Created by a trio of restaurateurs (Executive Chef Yuri Szarzewski, Executive Pastry Chef Vincent Pellerin, and Nicolas Kalpokdjian), Partage brings an inventive suite of French gastronomy to Chinatown. Which should come as no surprise: The three are known to many locals for their casual Eatt Gourmet Bistro on West Sahara.

In its sophisticated interior of clean-lined wood and earth tones warmly illuminated by bubble-like chandeliers and tabletop candles, Partage specializes in intricate, eye-popping tasting flights. "It's modern French cuisine," Szarzewski says. "The idea is to import our knowledge from France. We go to farmers in the morning for vegetables to create dishes — something fresh, not too heavy." Szarzewski notes that Partage's location is in a sense central Las Vegas — it's relatively close to westside environs, not too far from Downtown or Henderson, and just a couple of miles from the Strip.

Partage's small plates of note include pillowy salmon croquettes served with luscious avocado mayonnaise and a trompe-l'œil plating of fresh halibut that's been transformed to look like delicate slices of dragonfruit. Other fresh denizens of the deep include oysters, scallops, octopus, and lobster in elaborate presentations. Vegetables are highlighted at Partage, which gets much of its seasonal provisions from Southern Nevada growers. In a nearly architectural presentation, the ratatouille-stuffed tempura squash blossom is balanced on a zucchini puck like an edible Calder mobile. And in a rich, visually arresting assembly, creamy veal sweetbreads are paired with earthy salsify, porcini, tonka bean purée, and crisp wheels of fried lotus root.

Larger entrée plates, designed to be shared, range from mini seasonal vegetables stuffed with vegan "meat" and quinoa, to ginger-crusted duckling breasts with roast peaches and sautéed mushrooms. For sizeable celebrations, look to the 32-ounce Choice beef tomahawk steak smoked with hickory, applewood, or hay. Housemade desserts rotate daily, and can include classic sections like a mini Baked Alaska filled with cloudlike meringue and zingy raspberry coulis or whimsical confections du jour. The wine list is succinct and smartly curated, and the mixology program pushes spirits forward with concoctions like the summery, gin-based Passion Rosemary with herbaceous Aperol.

Partage is extraordinary, but a few caveats are in order. First, its experimental nature is probably not the best match for those with less adventurous palates, something to keep in mind for business gatherings or family in from out of town. Further, staunchly traditional Francophiles won't find bistro fare like escargot, frog legs, or cheese-topped onion soup in the repertoire; an avant-garde disposition comes in handy.

PARTAGE
3839 Spring Mountain Road
702-582-5852
partage.vegas
Hours 5p-1a daily

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Sabin Orr***





SPANISH LESSONS
Top, Mordeo's charcuterie plate; below, clams and mussels with chorizo.

A few blocks west is the newly opened Mordeo, a tapas-inspired gathering place that melds influences from Spain with inspirations from Latin American and Japan. Making its home in a new brick building, the restaurant is the brainchild of one of Chinatown's movers and shakers, Khai Vu of District One Kitchen & Bar. Mordeo is well-lit with picture windows, festive wallpaper, and gleaming marble countertops. While there are a few tabletops, the room is geared toward convivial bar seating, including the chef's table that abuts the open kitchen. For Vu, Chinatown's diversity in restaurants and advantageous location made it the ideal place to open Mordeo. "It's a very central location," he says.

The menu's Iberian origin is on full display with the surf-and-turf mélange of fragrant clams and mussels with chorizo, with crispy fingerling potatoes and pickled Fresno peppers on the side. A spicy Japanese touch elevates dramatic, grilled Nigerian prawns with a sprinkling of *togarashi* powder. And Latin America is at the fore with a selection of snappy ceviches from sea trout to grouper.

Mordeo's blending of Mediterranean, Asian, and New World flavors stems from Vu's trip to Barcelona earlier this year. "I went to Spain, and I looked at tapas. Then I looked at Japanese cuisine. They're very similar," says Vu, noting the Japanese tradition of *izakaya*-style grilled bar food.

Charcuterie is a Mordeo specialty, especially succulent slices of cured Jamón Ibérico de Bellota from pigs raised on acorns. A central, glass-walled meat-aging room and a steampunk-looking Berkel slicer are part of the décor, too. On the dessert menu, caramel flán is a traditional nod.

Mordeo is a lively scene, but its early months came with a bit of a snag — a delayed liquor license. Vu expects it to be in hand in August, just in time for the launch of a craft mixology and sangria program created by co-founder and master sommelier Luis de Santos.

While Partage and Mordeo make for a complementary pair, it's a duo of dining options that adds to the surge that's been transforming Chinatown over the past few years, from the gonzo tropical concoctions of the Golden Tiki to the New American food stylings of Sparrow + Wolf, fellow neighbors on an evolving Spring Mountain Road. ✦

MORDEO
5420 W. Spring Mountain Road
702-545-0771
mordeolv.com
Hours
6-10:30p daily









Eat the North!

From Japanese sweets to Polynesian treats, Street Foodie noms it up at North Decatur Boulevard and the 215

PHOTOGRAPHY & CAPTIONS BY
Brent Holmes



2





3



Street Foodie

LITTLE DUMPLING (1)

Top-notch Chinese food is hard to come by this far from Spring Mountain. These guys do it right — it may not be the flavor explosions you covet from Chinatown, but for a solid plate of the Chi-merican classic General Tsao's chicken, look no further. *6572 N. Decatur Blvd., littledumplingdecatur.com*

SKINNYFATS (2)

Street Foodie eats here as often as time, space, and budget allow. The Wake n' Bacon, with its fluffy eggs, abundant bacon, and spicy dressing, plus a free cup of coffee before 11a, and a side of Chiamisu for "nutritional purposes," is the only way I want to start my day. *6475 N. Decatur Blvd. #180, 702-979-9797*

TOKYO DISCOUNT (3)

Look past the toys, baubles, and bright-eyed cartoon characters to the food aisle. Laden with delicacies such as Calpico chocolate cones, fried seaweed chips, and every imaginable flavor of *Pocky* (Japanese choco-sticks), you'll ask yourself, "Is this heaven — or Osaka?" *6475 N. Decatur Blvd. #120, 702-431-8833*

LULU'S HAWAIIAN BBQ (4)

Street Foodie loves Hawaiian food: fried fish, *lumpia* (yes, he knows it's Filipino), and Spam *misubi* any time day or night. On these New World comfort foods, Lulu's delivers big time. *6512 N. Decatur Blvd., 702-784-0318*

STICKS AND SHAKES (5)

Need more sugar in your life? Milkshakes, piña colada ice, and pastries from Freed's Bakery will satiate your rampaging sweet tooth. *6475 N. Decatur Blvd. #135, 702-888-1786*

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CULTURE | VISUAL ART

Getting Things Done

Las Vegas' women gallerists lead an arts scene surge

BY ***Jennifer Henry***

If there's a local arena in which women have long helped lead the charge, it's the arts. Fifteen years ago, three women — artist-writer-restaurateur Julie Brewer, attorney-gallerist Naomi Erin, and shop owner-curator Cindy Funkhouser — began our longest-standing monthly arts festival, First Friday. Tarissa Tiberti parlayed her success at the Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art to a position as executive director of MGM Resorts Art & Culture, the corporation's multifaceted arts initiative. In off-the-beaten-path North Las Vegas, Vicki Richardson's Left of Center Gallery is the archetype for the sort of community-minded arts center in which the hard work of creation, curation, and education happens daily. With a roster of diverse shows, a permanent African-art collection, and a weekly open house on Saturdays, this is a place to experience art, learn about art, and create art. A working artist, Patricia Fowler also runs her eponymous gallery in Art Square. And add to the list last year's appointment of Ally Haynes-Hamblen to head the City of Las Vegas Office of Cultural Affairs, and new Clark County Parks and Recreation Cultural Supervisor for Public Art Mickey Sprott, and it seems the local arts are built on feminine ingenuity.

CORE VALUES Artist and gallery operator Nancy Good in her sizable space, CORE Contemporary. Above right, Anna Olga Aristova of The One House and Artshop.

The latest: Artist and CORE Contemporary owner Nancy Good came to Las Vegas in 2001 as a musician, but these days she's focused on the visual arts with her new exhibition space, working studio, and community meeting place, just opened in May. Good's own work is a conscious nod to her Burning Man adventures, and relationships from the playa have influenced her undertaking at CORE Contemporary, she says. Inspired by participating in fellow Burner and curator Laura Henkel's annual *12 Inches of Sin* arts festival in the world's most interesting center-city strip mall — New Orleans Square in Commercial Center — Good built out a permanent space on the light-and-bright second floor, just in time to host this year's *12 Inches* juried group exhibit.

"It's so exciting to see how Laura brings together the community, and I knew that

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Brent Holmes***



CORE CONTEMPORARY
900 Karen Ave. # D222
corecontemporary.com

THE ONE HOUSE/ ARTSHOP COMPANY
1 W. Charleston Blvd.

if I created a space here, she would definitely have a place in it," Good says. With two shows to be curated by Henkel on the schedule for later this year, the women's communal spirit is genuine.

Artist Anna Olga Aristova, founder of The One House and Artshop Company, came to Las Vegas from Moscow with an ambition to start an affordable arts movement. Formerly a marketing and branding consultant for everything from fashion labels to political candidates, Aristova believes in the power of accessibility. In The One House, at the corner of Charleston and Main streets, she and partners plan to curate a progressive program of exhibiting artists, experiential installations, and creative events aimed at raising awareness for the Arts District. At Artshop Company, look for her futuristic approach to large-format art printed on pliable fabric with price points that support artists while spurring patronage.

"There are so many amazing artists already here in Las Vegas, but they don't always connect with the greater international community," Aristova says. "With this space and my online presence, social-media initiatives, my marketing, and branding experience, I want to introduce them to the world."

It might sound like a tall order from the lobby of a complex that is still building out exhibition spaces, but if there's anything to be learned from the women arts advocates of Las Vegas, it's that they can get things done. ✦

COMPANIONS IN THE DESERT

Quick LOOK

Pictured is a snip of *Desert Flower Power*, the show by artist Jo Russ now softly occupying the Rotunda Gallery in the Clark County Government Center. (Official opening: August 2.) The installation mimics a pile of boulders — really beanbags — covered by rugs printed with collages of desert flowers and the bodies of local culturistas (photographed during May's First Friday). Go ahead, sit on 'em, selfie it up — and ponder Russ's hopeful vision of humans merged with their desert environment. ***Scott Dickensheets***





DR. CLAUDIA KRISPEL MD, PHD

Dr. Krispel received her subspecialty retina training at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. She earned both her M.D. and Ph.D. Degrees from the University of California, Davis as a member of the Physician Scientist Training Program.

DR. JOHN GUNN, MD



Dr. Gunn is a Board Certified Ophthalmologist and Fellowship trained Retina Surgeon. He received his medical degree from the University of Tennessee, Health Sciences Center and has practiced Ophthalmology locally and internationally and has a wide range of experience in Ophthalmology.

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August 31

ALICE COOPER
The Palms
August 10

PETER FRAMPTON
The Palms
September 2

TOTO
Sunset Station
August 10



ENDURING CLASSICS & TIMELESS FAVORITES



KENNY G
The Smith Center
September 29

JIMMY BUFFETT
MGM Grand
October 20

LIONEL RICHIE
Planet Hollywood
August and October

DRAKE and MIGOS
MGM Grand
October 5-6

JENNIFER LOPEZ
Planet Hollywood
September 1-29



BOYZ II MEN
The Mirage
September 14-30

POP, HIP-HOP & R&B GIANTS



GINUWINE
Boulder Station
October 20

MARIAH CAREY
Caesars
August and September1

SHAKIRA
MGM Grand
September 1

PANIC! AT THE DISCO
T-Mobile Arena
August 18

BACKSTREET BOYS
Planet Hollywood
August 1-11



OZZY OSBOURNE
MGM Grand
October 13

DEF LEPPARD, JOURNEY
T-Mobile Arena
September 8

HEAVY METAL TIME MACHINE

KORN
The Palms
September 15

STRYPER
Cannery North
October 27

WARRANT
Cannery North
October 13

METALLICA
T-Mobile Arena
November 26



WHITESNAKE
Red Rock Resort
Casino and Spa
August 4

LITA FORD
Cannery North
August 25



3 DOORS DOWN, COLLECTIVE SOUL
The Palms
September 7

PAULA ABDUL
Red Rock Resort
Casino and Spa
November 10

SMASHING PUMPKINS
T-Mobile Arena
September 2

THE BREEDERS
Brooklyn Bowl
September 29

ICONS OF THE '80S AND '90S

SIMPLE MINDS
The Palms
October 21



ALANIS MORISSETTE
The Palms
September 29

JIMMY BUFFET: MATT SAYLES/INVISION/AP; BACKSTREET BOYS: CHARLES SYKES/INVISION/AP; GINUWINE: AMY HARRIS/INVISION/AP; FRAMPTON: AUSTIN LORD; ALL OTHERS COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE VENUES

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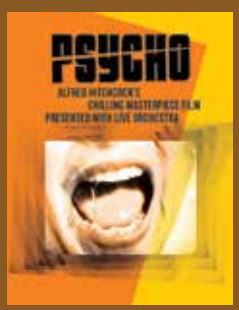

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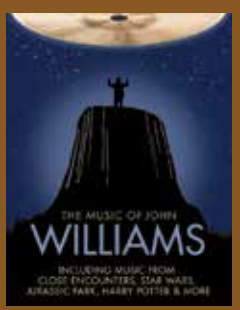

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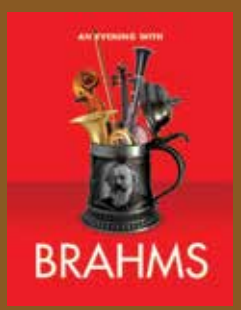

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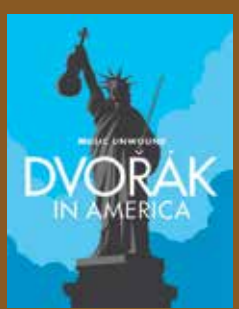

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SHOP

BLANKETS, BOOZE, AND FRESH AIR

Whether it's Super Summer Theatre, a jazz concert in the park, or a family picnic, having the right gear for Vegas summers is key. Here are a few picks for a smooth and stylish evening under the sun — or under the stars.

BY ***Christie Moeller***



PICNIC TIME DUET WINE TOTE
With two interior compartments for wine, this insulated tote ensures the fun keeps flowing. $37.99, Bed Bath & Beyond







HAMPTON SUN SPF 55 CONTINUOUS MIST SUNSCREEN
This oil-free sunscreen has a sheer, silky texture that absorbs instantly, and the signature Privet Bloom scent is pleasing. *$32, Neiman Marcus in the Fashion Show Mall*

GAL MEETS GLAM COLLECTION COURTNEY RIO STRIPE LAWN MAXI DRESS
With delicate ruffles and slender straps, this maxi dress shines with simple sophistication. *$168, Nordstrom in the Fashion Show Mall*



TOPSHOP WEAVE SANDAL
These Grecian-style, tie-up leather woven sandals are a summer classic. *$40, TOPSHOP in the Fashion Show Mall*



ERIC JAVITS CLASSIC SQUISHEE PACKABLE FEDORA This fedora scrunches up into a bag or suitcase to pop into perfect shape. Also: Science says the special fabric blocks 95 percent of UVA/UVB sun rays. *$250, Nordstrom in the Fashion Show Mall*



SUPERGA COTU SNEAKER
These soft but sturdy classic sneakers are perfect for all-day lazing, and the breathable cotton upper keeps your feet cool and happy. *$64.95, Zappos.com*



PICNIC TIME ENGLISH PLAID FOLD UP BLANKET TOTE This blanket tote's water-resistant underside easily brushes off dirt, sand, grass and dew. The soft fleece top is truly nap worthy. *$32.55, Amazon.com*

GEARED UP? Sun and fun beckon at these outdoor summer events

Super Summer Theatre
Peter Pan, Aug. 1-18
Pirates of Penzance, Sept. 6-22
supersummertheatre.org

Las Vegas Greek Food Festival
Sept. 14-16
A celebration of Greek food, culture, music, dance and more.
lvgff.com

Grapes and Hops Festival at The Springs Preserve
Sept. 29
Featuring fine wines, a unique selection of beers and food from Vegas purveyors.
springspreserve.org

Life Is Beautiful
Sept. 21-23
Featuring The Weeknd, Arcade Fire, Santigold, T-Pain, Florence + The Machine and more.
lifeisbeautiful.com

Grapes and Hops Festival at The Springs Preserve
Sept. 29
Featuring fine wines, a unique selection of beers and food from Vegas purveyors.
springspreserve.org

Haunted Harvest at the Springs Preserve
Oct. 12-14, 19-21, 26-28
Features trick or treat stations, carnival games, a petting zoo, crafts, live entertainment, and more
springspreserve.org

Age of Chivalry Renaissance Festival
Oct. 12-14
A celebration of Renaissance arts, crafts, music and, of course, sword-fighting. *lvrenfair.com*

Summerlin Festival of Arts
Oct. 13-14
Featuring more than 100 fine artists, live music, children's activities, and culinary offerings from Downtown Summerlin restaurants.
(summerlin.com)

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ENTERTAINMENT | SITE VISIT

You Monsters!

Creature creator Tom Devlin has concocted a horror haven in placid, unsuspecting Boulder City

BY ***Jessica Keasling***

As you drive along Nevada Highway in Boulder City, perhaps to see Hoover Dam, go antiquing, or check out the park where the bighorn sheep hang out, you'll encounter (*shudder!*) Tom Devlin's Monster Museum. The landmark sign beckons from the road, accompanied by monsters on motorcycles, a mischievous-looking dinosaur, a hearse, and a fearsome version of Spider-man greeting you at the door.

Devlin is a special makeup effects artist whose work has appeared in more than 100 films. He showcased his talents on Season 1 of Syfy's *Face Off* and teaches special makeup effects at the L Makeup Institute. His museum, a time capsule containing all the sleepovers you spent frightened by the horror films your friends compiled on VHS, is home to many creatures, beasts, mutants, and monsters that Devlin has created — including work from *Killjoy*, *Gingerdead Man VS Evil Bong*, and *Puppet Master: Axis Termination*. His mission, he says, is "to preserve the art and history of special makeup effects."

"I've had a career in makeup and monsters for so long, but it was temporary. I spend hours and months making a creature suit, like full body, and then I go apply it three times and it's gone," Devlin says. "So the idea of the museum was, like, man, I put all this effort into this stuff, and I want it to last. I want people to see it and enjoy it."

Walking into his self-guided exhibit, you are greeted by the Crypt Keeper, with a customer-service smile. He inhabits a coffin as he rotates his skull, telling you the rules and to enjoy your stay. Then you are free to sightsee and take plentiful selfies.

Some of the first few characters you might encounter are the classics — Phantom of the Opera, the Creature from the Black Lagoon, Wolfman, and Frankenstein. You soon learn that the full-scale

continued on page 50

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Brent Holmes***



Dance

COLLABORATIVE ARTIST SHOWCASE

WEST LAS VEGAS LIBRARY

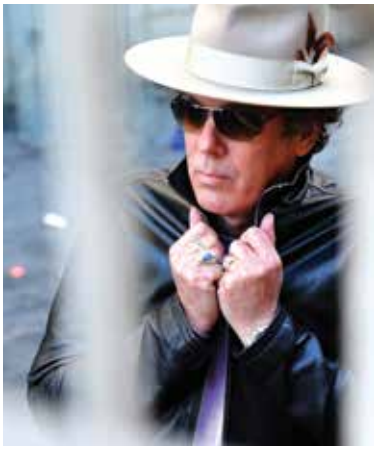
Longtime Las Vegan Bernard Gaddis' dance company, Contemporary West Dance Theatre — as a welcome gesture to the conference of the Western Arts Alliance — hooks up with four other compelling dance orgs (Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Chuthis., Versa-Style Dance Company, and BodyTraffic, from L.A.) to **makes blow-your-mind gesture** **August 29, 4:30p and 7p, free, lvdance.org**

Theater

LOCKED UP: THE MUSICAL

SUMMERLIN LIBRARY

Darius Campo's new musical begins with a curious scenario: the world's greatest violinist enclosed in a prison cell. There's some "inner torture," plus his mother, the warden, the devil — who, apparently, has a thing for fiddlers, amiright Charlie Daniels? — and his girlfriend, who's a mannequin. It is, we are told, a "romantic dark comedy." Well, it would have to be. **August 10, 7:30p, free, lvccld.org**



Folk-Rock

Mark Huff

BUNKHOUSE SALOON

This guy. Long ago, Mr. Huff — slender, Dylanesque, compelling — was a fixture on the Vegas music scene before decamping for Nashville. Now, with his ninth solo album, *Stars for Eyes* (sample hype: "shimmering sonic dreamscape"), in hand, he'll rock the lid off the Bunkhouse. Give him a big Las Vegas welcome back! **August 17, 8p, $8-$10, *bunkhousedowntown.com***

KULTURA. A colorful and energetic dance and folklore extravaganza devoted to the Philippine Islands. **August 12, 5p, $30, UNLV's Ham Hall**

Visual Art

WORKSHOP WITH ARTIST IAN RACOMA

WINCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTER

The exhibit *First Gen* is Racoma's look at the situation experienced by the children of Asian and Pacific Island immigrants, shaped both by the traditions of their parents and the cultural blend-o-rama of modern America. A first-gen Filipino-American himself, Racoma mainly works in oils, but knows his way around other media, so this workshop ought to be culturally and artistically informative. **August 4, 11a, free, 702-455-7340**



Lecture

BOOKS IN THE WORLD OF THINGS

LIED LIBRARY, UNLV

Sure, books are full of good stuff, but how often do you think of books as objects in and of themselves? As director of the University of Edinburgh's Centre for the History of the Book — a very serious bibliophilic institution, as you can tell by the spelling of "centre" — Tom Mole thinks about it all the time. As objects, his website tells us, books "serve as badges of allegiance, signifiers of class, focal points for rituals and festivals, tokens shaping interpersonal relationships, and more." We'll save you a seat next to ours. **August 30, 3p, free, *unlv.edu/calendar***

continued from page 48

displays are not just a tribute to the monsters that reside there, but also to the artists who made them. We're pretty familiar with Frankenstein's monster, as well as Boris Karloff, who played him, but at this place you will find the informational text that makes it a museum rather than just a collection. You'll learn about Jack Pierce, who really created Frankenstein, as well as more about the folks you might already have heard of, such as George Romero, Wes Craven, and other legends in the monster world.

Around each corner dwell more familiar characters, more surprise, more scare. Killer Klowns from Outer Space occupy an area, but if clowns horrify you, then turn the corner, where family-friendly Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles await.

Though some of the location's personalities are a bit terrifying, like Freddie Kruger, Jason Voorhees, and Michael Myers, there's still plenty to laugh about in the museum filled with B-movie characters like Poultriegeist, and The Toxic Avenger, who's dressed in a tutu and carrying his weapon, which is just a mop. These kooky guys assure that you don't have to be a horror nerd to enjoy a short walk through the attraction.

"My favorite horror films are chock-full of comedy, and sometimes its not even a horror film," Devlin says. "Where my favorites lie are like *Monster Squad*, where it's a kids movie with monsters, or *Little Monsters* with Fred Savage. I love the design and the creatures. I grew up on *He-Man* and *Ninja Turtles* and that stuff. It's the monster figure that I was attracted to. Not necessarily being terrified. A lot of the museum encompasses the world in B movies, because that's where my whole career was. So like the *Toxic Avenger*, *Critters*, and that stuff. It's over-the-top and goofy. It's fun, you know."

Boulder City has been home to the Museum and Devlin's family for more than a year now. "Man, I just fell in love with the town. That's what brought us here. It's kind of like a town that time forgot. Everybody knows their neighbors. Kids walk to school. It's cool." ✦

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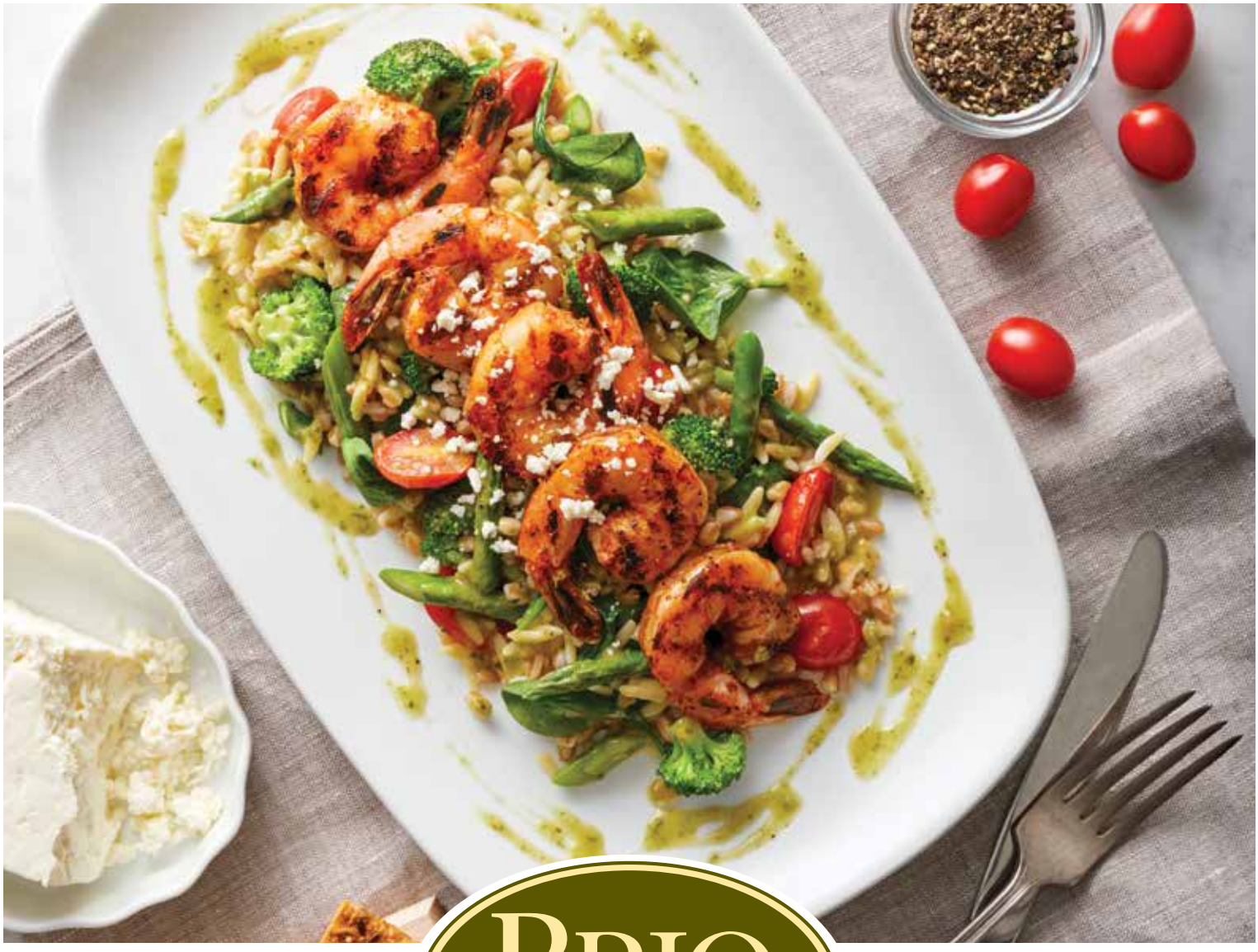

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SCIENCE

YOU ARE THE CURE

As gene science transforms our understanding of disease, the Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine pursues the dream of DNA-based healthcare — and considers the dilemmas

BY **Erin Ryan**



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"What do you think the No. 1 human need is?" Martin Schiller asks me. "I'm always surprised that everyone gets this wrong."

Food?

"Avoidance of pain," he says. "People will do anything to avoid intense pain."

His office in UNLV's White Hall is mostly desk. A hull of ornate wood amid the institutional gray, it looks like the desk of a philosophy professor. Schiller goes on to muse about the particular pain of disease, its physical, emotional and financial ravages that have driven some of medical science's greatest innovations. And he believes that precision medicine — tailored to individual genetic makeup and the impacts of lifestyle and environment — will be as world-changing an innovation as the internet. But he's not merely philosophizing. As a scientist and founding director of the Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine, Schiller is helping lead that transformation.

NIPM launched in early 2015 as a two-person operation with about $6 million in seed funding from UNLV and the Governor's Office of Economic Development. It has since garnered $19 million in grants, including a recent award of $11.4 million from the National Institutes of Health to build a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence. That work will engage NIPM's seven specialized faculty, supported by two adjuncts, five staffers, 21 affiliated faculty, and a cohort of 35 students, postdoctoral fellows and trainees. Tackling human health really does take a village, Schiller says, and NIPM is part of a growing glob-



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GETTING PERSONAL
Martin Schiller believes individually tailored medicine will be as world-changing an innovation as the internet.

al force advancing gene science and its applications.

Perhaps reflecting the complexity of its mission, the institute isn't one specific building. Radiating from Schiller's massive desk, it's a network of labs, offices, and computer clusters touching many disciplines and areas of campus. The core team is Schiller; development officer Jim Timmins; medical geneticist Dr. Michael Nasiak; and active researchers Xiangning Chen, Jingchun Chen (no relation), Mira Han, Edwin Oh, and Qing Wu. They hail from institutions including the Mayo Clinic, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University, Duke, UCLA, and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and their expertise ranges from functional genomics and bioinformatics to molecular diagnostics.

Research is just one pillar. NIPM offers genome-sequencing services to faculty and others in the field, and it is affiliated with the UNLV School of Medicine's Medical Genetics Clinic for patients struggling to identify and address their disorders. The institute's charge includes commercializing discoveries, educating health workers, and acting as a community resource. Three years in, Schiller says, some of the headway made stands up on a national level.

"Our impact isn't very large at this point, but this research and building things take time. ... We're young, obviously, but we are contributing," he says.

What seems like modesty is just as much an appreciation of the immensity of their project — and the remaining barriers to the dream of precision medicine. Schiller has done the math on yet-to-be-parsed puzzle pieces related to the genome's 3.1 billion DNA base pairs, finding they far outnumber all the particles in the universe.

KNOWN UNKNOWNS

THERE ARE MORE than 12,000 human diseases that we know of. The majority of them are rare disorders with associative or causative links to gene mutations. Such links are found in many common afflictions, from cancer and Alzheimer's to diabetes. And gene interactions with treatments can cause adverse reactions or make them more or less effective in certain patients.

So targeted healthcare depends on cataloguing genetic variation, a tall order, considering the thousands of mutations that are possible within each of humanity's roughly 25,000 genes. It's not as simple as pinpointing variants that are pathogenic. Body to body, the same mutation might manifest different expressions or severity of the disease — or nothing at all. Science must sort through layers of variability across individual biology, ethnicity, and environment. That's a lot of needles in a lot of haystacks.

On top of the unknowns, there are only about 1,000 medical geneticists qualified by the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics to interpret sequences. Genetic counselors, who help patients understand the analyses, number only in the thousands.

"We're not at the point where you can sequence someone and predict whether

WHO'S BEING SEQUENCED

NIPM's Sequencing Service Lab is a resource for faculty, their research collaborators, and contract partners. While it's not open to the public, NIPM is working on certification to offer diagnostic tests/interpretation with a doctor's prescription.

"I think the biggest impact of this stuff is in prevention, not just diagnosis. Unfortunately that level of access isn't out there at the moment, but I think it will be in the near future," says NIPM director Martin Schiller, adding that the institute hopes to offer its first test next spring and build a medical genetics staff to counsel patients. For details about volunteering for a clinical trial, email nipm@unlv.edu.

they'll have a disease 20 years later. Probably doing exercise regularly has more predictive power," NIPM researcher Mira Han says. Her background is in genome evolution, but she's working on a signaling system of DNA modification and RNA expression in tissue cells to find primary sites of metastatic cancers.

Cancer is a good example for illustrating the mind-boggling scale of genomic investigation. Consider BRCA1, a tumor-suppressor gene thought to cause breast and ovarian cancer given the presence of certain mutations. It is the most-studied gene, and of its 38,000 possible variants, scientists know 3,000 to 4,000 to be pathogenic and the same number to be benign. Roughly 80 percent have yet to be cracked.

"That's a gene we've been studying for 30 years," Schiller says, adding that complex disorders like cancer can be associated with hundreds of genes.

'EVERYBODY IS A MOSAIC'

WHERE SCHILLER IS placid, NIPM and UNLV School of Medicine faculty member Dr. Michael Nasiak crackles with energy. For years, Nasiak was an internist on the faculty of UNR's School of Medicine, but in 2012 he moved to California to start a fellowship in clinical genetics jointly at UCLA and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. He went on to work in translational genomics at the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute, but he was feeling restless.

"I was scuffing the floor saying, 'I have to decide what I want to do with my career,' and out of the blue I get a telephone call, that moment! My jaw hit the ground. Genomics institute. UNLV. New school of medicine. Really? How wonderful! Nevada so badly needs this," he recalls.

Nasiak oversees the med school's Medical Genetics Clinic, which immediately resonates in the community and public consciousness. He has seen more than 500 patients, referred to him by doctors who suspect a heritable condition is present.

"It takes a referral, and it takes a while to get in," Nasiak says. At any given time there are 100 to 200 patients on the waiting list. Among those seen so far, a new diagnosis has been made for about one in five. "They usually come to me as a last resort, and I get half a telephone book full of notes."

The better we understand the genetic underpinnings of these tough cases, the more therapies can be directed. But blaming genes misses something essential.



No gene is there to cause disease, Nasiak says, paraphrasing science writer Matt Ridley. Every day in every cell at the rate of about a thousand base pairs a second, our genes replicate and repair DNA. This task is constant, and mistakes are usually harmless. But if they happen in the right region of a particular protein-coding gene, there can be deleterious effects.

"These are people minding their own business in life who unfortunately, usually by random fate, contract or have a genetic condition. That's one of the hardest things when you see these patients sometimes, the guilt that they have. It's like, you've done nothing wrong!" Nasiak says."Mutations are happening all the time. ... They keep coming, and they will keep coming."

Precision healthcare depends on cataloguing genetic variation — a tall order, given the thousands of mutations possible within each of our roughly 25,000 genes.

"If you were to take DNA from multiple places in your body and compare them, you'd probably find differences, different somatic mutations that have been acquired throughout your lifetime," Han says. "People are realizing that everybody is actually a mosaic."

Many of the patients Nasiak sees are children. After arriving late to our interview, he says it's because he'd just found a cancer gene in a young patient.

"The mother has it too; that means it needs to be chased," he says. "I found a dysrhythmia issue today in a child. ... I can't promise anything other than being a value add-on to (existing care), but sometimes I'm remarkably fortunate in being able to discover causative reasons in their genome related to their health conditions." Even in those instances, a diagnosis might come with no clinical action to take from there. Still, knowledge is empowering, Nasiak says, adding that breakthroughs are reliably on the horizon. When X-ray technology hit, he says, doctors could finally diagnose pneumonia — but antibiotics to treat it took another 50 years.

"First you have to know a condition exists and understand its phenotype ... and then over time medical science will, and I really mean the word will, find ways to maximize patient outcomes," he says. "The ability to do this degree of sequencing that has all happened within a generation is awe-inspiring. But they were so good at the technical aspect, it has exceeded our current ability to understand it completely. We could have a problem staring us right in the face if you look at the code, but we're not smart enough to know that yet. We're getting there."

WANTED: GENOMES

THE EASIEST PATH forward is sequencing a lot more people, so genetic connections to diseases and spectrum disorders become statistically apparent. That drives the U.K.'s 100,000 Genomes Project and the U.S. VA's Million Veteran Program, the world's largest genomic database at 500,000 and counting.

In May, the NIH made its own call for 1 million or more volunteers for All of Us, a carryover from President Barack Obama's Precision Medicine Initiative intended to gift diverse data to the cause. (Researchers can apply for access, granted at a committee's discretion.) Through such national efforts, smaller trials, clinical care, or commercial avenues, NIPM neurogeneticist Edwin Oh thinks that in 10 to 15 years, 99.9 percent of people in developed countries will have undergone some kind of sequencing.

Cost is the only reason he wavers. Through a certified lab, whole-genome sequencing is $5,000-$7,000, and adding clinical interpretation quadruples the price. Doing just the exome, or the 1.5 percent of the genome coding proteins for growth, development, reproduction and function, is $2,500-$6,000 for sequencing and analysis. And you can't just walk into a lab. A doctor must send you, even if you're paying out of pocket. Insurance covers only a handful of clinical-use cases.



YOU ARE WHAT YOU (SHOULD) EAT

Live Your Code is a platform for diet recommendations based on genetics, created by NIPM director Martin Schiller. Anyone with a file from Ancestry, 23andMe, or its peers can upload to the site for a complimentary, personalized plan for optimizing health through food. It's at foodgenesandme.com.

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If you volunteer for a public research project or private clinical trial, you won't necessarily own or even know the results (unless they're really bad). "Recreational" genetics service 23andMe delivers health and ancestry data for $199, but the level of investigation and insights can't compare.

"The cost of sequencing is easily outweighed by the personnel costs of having the experts on staff to do everything right, and the interpretation is definitely tens to hundreds of man-hours of Ph.D.s and M.D.s that sit down and really try to dig into what's going on. It's like solving a little Sherlock Holmes mystery every single day," says Gabe Rudy, a bioinformaticist with Montana biotech company Golden Helix and member of NIPM's external advisory board. "The quip you hear at conferences is that we've gotten to the $1,000 genome with a $100,000 interpretation."

Progressive health systems Geisinger (Pennsylvania) and Sanford (South Dakota) are testing ways to provide genetic services to subscribers at much lower costs. The *Grand Forks Herald* reported in May that Sanford would roll out a $49 blood test for about 60 disease markers and 30 drug-gene interactions. Earlier that month, *Forbes* reported Geisinger was doing exome sequencing at a few pilot clinics, footing the $300-$500 bill to test the model's cost savings.

"We're going to watch what they do closely and communicate that to our Las Vegas healthcare institutions," NIPM's Jim Timmins said when the Geisinger news broke.

In addition to being a product of MIT's MBA program in tech management, he's one of biotech's early players, holding patents going back to the late '80s. Timmins sees consumers as the market movers, even more so now that the FDA is blessing the use of publicly accessible variant databases to validate sequencing-based services. The intent is to streamline data aggregation, product development, and public access to reliable results.

It's a regulatory win for businesses, one Timmins thinks will help democratize genomics as startups emerge and costs scale. But there are pitfalls to sharing potentially grave information with consumers who may not see the whole picture. In April, when the FDA cleared 23andMe to sell a test for markers of 10 diseases (Alzheimer's and Parkinson's included), *Scientific American* writer Dina Fine Maron observed: "If disease risk news is delivered at home—without a genetic counselor or doctor on hand to offer context—many geneticists fear it can lead to unnecessary stress, confusion, and misunderstandings." In July, a *New York Times* article headlined, "The Online Gene Test Finds a Dangerous Mutation. It May Well Be Wrong," considered the dangers of false positives and negatives when limited test results are uploaded to third-party sites. Commercial outlets, it posited, are not subject to the quality controls of certified labs because they're not making diagnoses. But looking at the website for 23andMe, there is a disconnect between disclaimers about provided data ("it is not intended to diagnose any disease") and insinuations of its marketing ("I truly believe it saved my life.")

TO TELL OR NOT TO TELL?

IT'S OBVIOUS WHY coalitions of experts are discussing the impacts of sharing heavy details they can't fully define, how to counsel frightened patients and care for them if they choose not to know.

Dr. Robert Green is among them. The medical geneticist and physician scientist directs the Genomes to People Research Program in the Division of Genetics at Brigham and Women's Hospital, the Broad Institute, and Harvard Medical School. He's also a board member of the Council for Responsible Genetics and part of prominent oversight boards in the space. Green has done pioneering work on how people react to exploring their genomes.

"Find an otherwise entirely healthy young man with a Long QT Syndrome mutation — increased risk of sudden cardiac death. Do you tell him not to exercise, to get an EKG every six months or year, an implantable defibrillator, or to go home and not worry? We don't know. Right now we have lots of information," he says, "but not always lots of knowledge associated with it."

Because of this, Green says, sequencing healthy people is controversial, especially infants. He explains the notion of the human right to an "open future," to not be saddled with knowledge that could suck the joy out of life. But early detection being the key to prevention, there's an obvious dilemma.

In his patient surveys, Green has found that users of direct-to-consumer genetic testing have "surprisingly good comprehension of the information," and that many of them are interested more in familial conditions they know they have or may have than predicting future disease.

Perhaps the most interesting finding: "Most people did not experience distress even when they were given scary information." Green did indirect studies on consumer behavior after finding a modest risk increase, and his data didn't show panic driving overuse of medical resources. Fewer than 1 percent of respondents stopped or changed medications without consulting a doctor.

Fears are real and relevant, Green says, and thoughtful consideration is going on at high levels. He advises that people using 23andMe have a responsibility to educate themselves. These outlets offer some good information, but you have to read the fine print and follow up with experts to verify actionable findings.

Despite the scarcity of experts such as Nasiak, resources are emerging for consumers who want help reading their genetic files. Green cofounded a telemedicine service called Genome Medical, which will soon be licensed nationwide to advise people on ordering tests and applying results. It's not the only outlet pursuing this concept, though one-on-one services come at a cost.

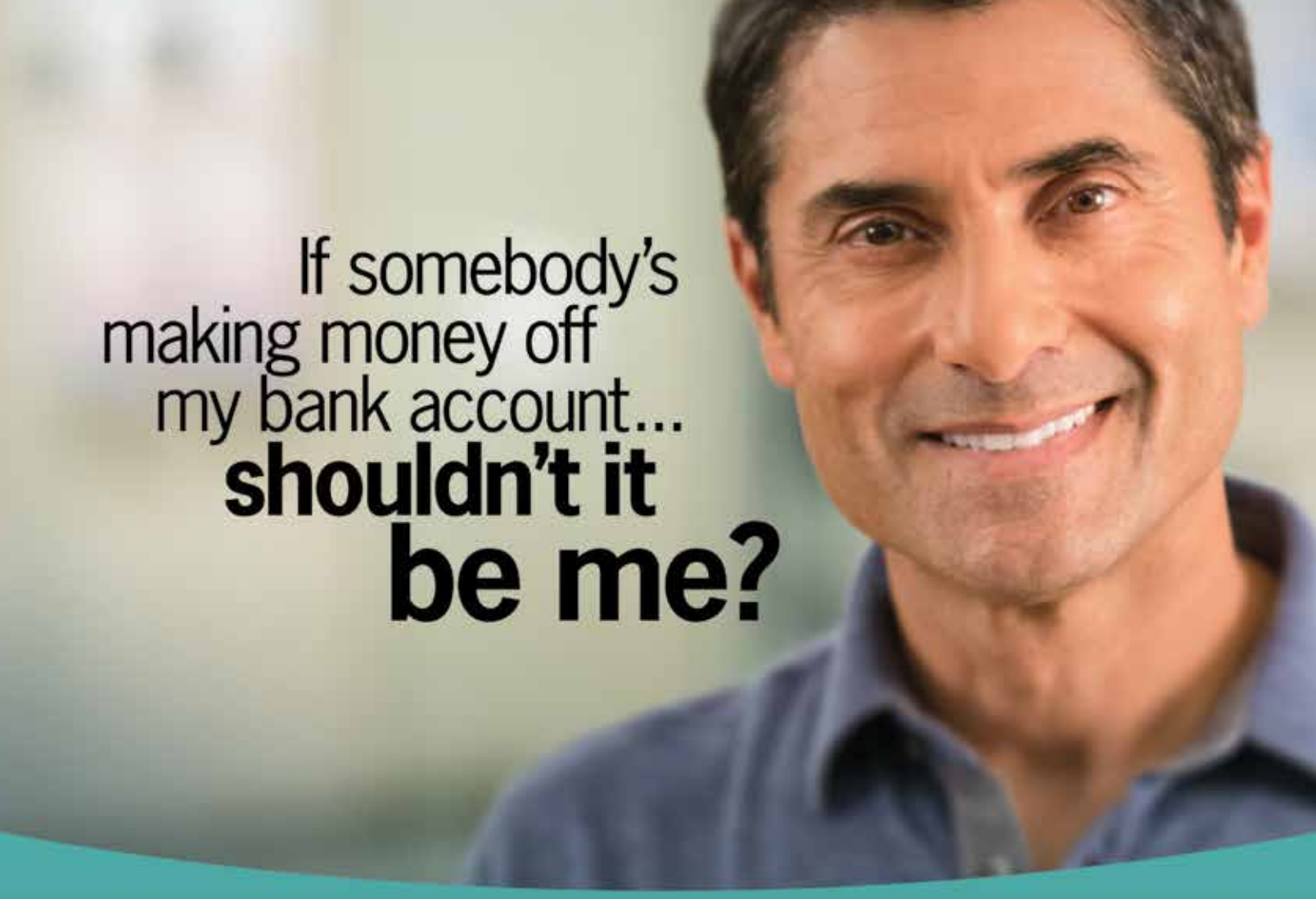
NIPM hopes to fill some gaps for Southern Nevadans with free expertise. During Research Week at UNLV, on October 8, Schiller will host a session on navigating recreational genetics. And he says that by early fall, the institute launch a monthly segment on UNLV TV and KUNV covering topics of general interest within precision medicine. Additionally, the public should watch for a podcast and visit social media channels for dialogue with NIPM.

"UNLV should be the lead on something like this, because where it's happening now is only in major medical centers that have very well-established

SEEKING DNA

All of Us is a National Institutes of Health project recruiting 1 million people to be sequenced to advance precision medicine. It will examine biology, lifestyle and environment. allofus.nih.gov

Healthy Nevada Project is a community population study by Renown Health and the Desert Research Institute. Phase 2 is recruiting 40,000 Nevadans in the Reno/Sparks area and 10 rural sites, whose genomes will be examined along with environmental, socioeconomic and personal health data. healthynv.org



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research units and clinical units," Schiller says. "It's a health disparity based on location. If you're close to an academic health center you have access, and if you're not, you don't, and you don't even know."

'I JUST FOLLOWED THE SCIENCE'

IN ALL MY conversations with Schiller, there was only one time when his surface mellow rippled.

We were talking about the potential of a technology he developed with postdoc Ronald Benjamin Babu, called the GigaAssay. Combining gene editing, molecular barcoding, a reporter assay, and other techniques, it generates all mutations of any gene in isolated cell cultures, then reads out function. If a mutation impedes DNA repair, for example, it's likely a pathogenic change for cancer.

"The business concept is to create that encyclopedia, lock it down, and sell it to (diagnostic) companies like Myriad who can then go and say, 'Whatever you throw at us in terms of your mutation, we're gonna tell you whether it's going to knock down DNA repair or not.' ... So Marty will eliminate, with this system's promise, any variants of unknown significance in any gene," Timmins says. "So we're prioritizing the genes we're going to go after based on commercial impact, mostly cancer genes to start."

Timmins says it accomplishes what traditional gene cloning does, with two people instead of an "army," and in a few months instead of a few years. It's very expensive to run an experiment, and the first one revealed a few kinks. But if the data bear out, the system could be applied to any of the 1,800 genes thought to be associated with all major human disease. The institute recently licensed GigaAssay to Heligenics, a startup jointly owned by Schiller and UNLV.

Sequencing healthy people is controversial in light of the notion of the right to an "open future," the right to not be saddled with knowledge that could suck the joy out of life.

"We're working with StartUp NV on a seed round of investment. ... I'm like, freaking out," Schiller says with a smile. A lot of experimentation and data validation remain, but he says that even if competing intellectual property beats his team to market (Timmins knows of two other research groups using different approaches to achieve the same outcome), contributing to precision medicine feels good.

I ask what drew him to this field, long before it was in the news every day. There is no colorful tale of heartbreaking loss or muse on youthful desire to save humanity.

"I just followed the science," Schiller says.

Asked the same sort of question, Oh gives the same sort of answer.

"Scientists are just ordinary beings interested in a question," he says. "And depending on the opportunities around us, we've either transformed them into something of utility or we haven't. I'd like to think that Las Vegas is a place with opportunities not as many people have the time or background to recognize."

One such opportunity is NIPM's partnership with the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo



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Center for Brain Health. Its ongoing study on degenerative brain disorders in former fighters is rich in data from a diverse cohort. Through the Medical Genetics Clinic, Oh and Nasiak are recruiting patients for a study that will crosscheck variants involved in rare disorders with cases across the globe to better guide therapies.

Public engagement in scientific enterprise is vital to broad, rapid progress in precision medicine, but laws governing genetic discrimination (GINA, HIPAA and the ACA) don't cover every peephole onto our essential biological selves. You can be denied life or disability insurance for genetic reasons, and there are rumblings about the same scenario occurring with health insurance. Police can subpoena your files from commercial sites (Golden State Killer), and the military can use them in determining your service.

Even if you willingly submit to sequencing, your data may end up somewhere you didn't expect if you skip or don't understand the fine print.

"Most of the commercial genomics companies, they don't really advertise it, but they're amalgamating the (anonymized) data from these 10 million people and reselling it to drug companies," Timmins says of Ancestry and 23andMe users, projected to be 100 million within two years. "I think society is going to increasingly want a get-back on that."

In June, genealogy site MyHeritage was hacked. Genetic files for more than 92 million affected users weren't compromised, but the thought sent the media into a frenzy.

Green says that so far, he hasn't seen any widespread examples of eugenic privacy breaches or insurance discrimination. Yet a quarter of the people in one of his research studies cited fear of these things in thinking about participating in scientific enterprise. He mentions that insurance companies have their own fears about public opinion and haven't really used their bandwidth to underwrite on the basis of genetic information.

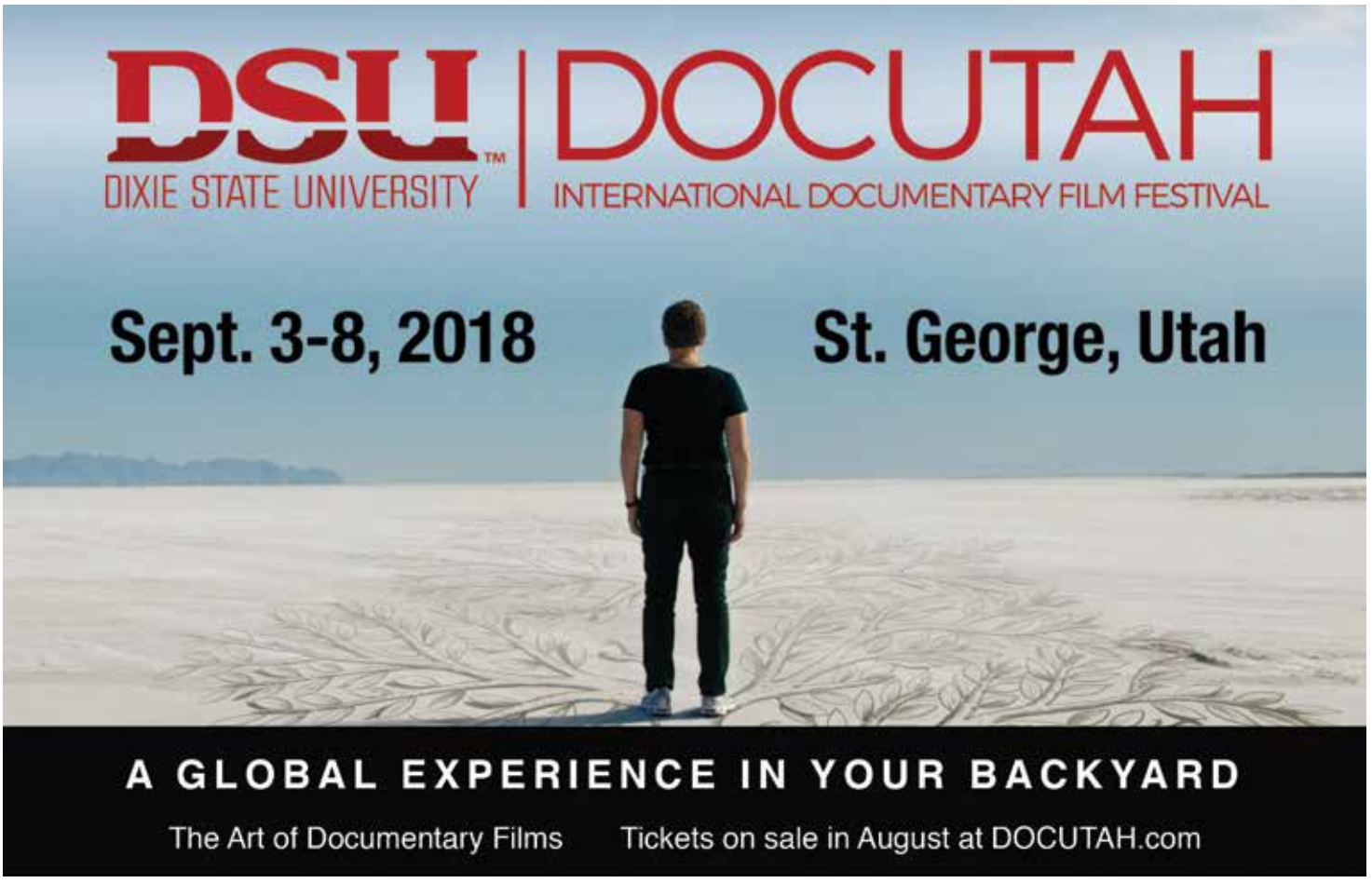
Schiller believes the gains from precision medicine will outweigh direct or indirect downsides. "I don't think it is stoppable. It's the new Wild West," he says. "In a funny way, it will be as reactive as medicine is now, identifying problems and working backward to fix them."

Oh points out the tendency in human history to launch life-changing innovations without having everything figured out.

"These are all great ideas, right? Do they all have the potential to lead to something damaging? Absolutely. So then the question is, what do we do?" he says. "Do we spend a few more years trying to perfect it in the lab ... knowing there are 10 other countries that will just move forward ahead of us? Or do we launch it and be open-minded to the fact that there will need to be new iterations of how we think and act on information?"

Oh's grandfather has Parkinson's. If he knew that would be his fate, he says, he might take steps to prevent it. Might. If preventing it required him to become vegetarian, for instance, he wouldn't do it. "That's a choice — how do you want to live your life?"

Many of us will face a similar choice. It is Schiller's view that one in 10 people will have a genetic condition we can identify now, and that everyone is likely to have three or four once we've unraveled the entire kite string. Variation makes us who we are. We just need to know ourselves better. ✦



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Biological Clock Ticking?

So many women, particularly after getting married, get pestered with perhaps well-meaning but annoying questions about babies and when they are going to have them.

For many people, the time for children may be later, not now. It is solely you and your partner's choice. Financial, medical, lifestyle or a myriad of other factors mean that you and only you are qualified to decide.

Whether you have decided to have children later in life or haven't decided whether or not you want to at all does not mean that you should simply avoid the issue.

Frankly, as women age, particularly into their late 30's, they are up against a biological clock.

Thankfully, fertility preservation can be an option.

Dr. Eva Littman shares her expertise on this personal issue.

"The simplest option is freezing eggs."

According to Dr. Littman, many women can benefit from fertility preservation.

"There are lots of reasons why it makes sense. For example, if someone has a medical condition that makes it dangerous to conceive, but the condition is likely to improve, preservation can be a great idea."

Long term, there is zero evidence that egg retrieval impacts health later in life.

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PROFILE

THUMB DRIVER

Cabbie Andrew Gnatovich became well-known for his tweets about life on the Vegas streets, but October 1 pushed him to his character limit

BY ***John M. Glionna***

Amid his tireless travels across the valley, some places have a more freighted meaning for veteran cab driver Andrew Gnatovich. Like a stretch of Interstate 15 South, near Downtown, where, on a busy weekend shift last fall, three emergency vehicles sped past him, sirens blaring — an ambulance, motorcycle cop, and a taxicab authority officer. He remarked to his two fares that something wasn't right.

It was just after 10 p.m. on October 1, 2017. A night that would challenge his illusions of his own personal safety, and that of his adopted hometown.

A few minutes later, when the passengers jumped out at the Paris, Gnatovich turned off the meter, enabling him to receive an ominous notification from his dispatcher. The message warned drivers to avoid the Strip's southern end, where three active shooters were reportedly on the loose. Before leaving the Paris, Gnatovich snapped a photo of the alert and posted it on his Twitter feed, @LVCabChronicles, under the all-caps header: ATTENTION!

For the next several hours, until he tumbled exhausted into bed at 4 a.m., Gnatovich sent out dozens of tweets based on information gleaned from his police scanner and cab radio reports, as well as his own observations. Before many media outlets began relaying details of the shooting, the taxi driver was chronicling that dreadful night for his 10,000 followers — a diverse group of locals and regular visitors who devour all things Las Vegas.



On this night, however, the narrative was horrifying: Loner Stephen Paddock, a disgruntled 64-year-old retired tax auditor turned casino high-roller, had snapped. From a corner suite on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel, he opened fire on 22,000 fans at the nearby Route 91 Harvest music festival, a calculated urban sniper wielding an arsenal of high-powered weapons. Before it was over, Paddock killed 58 people and injured more than 500 others in the worst mass-shooting in modern American history.

For years, Gnatovich, 39, a Mississippi Valley native, had recounted keenly observed, tongue-in-cheek tales of the strangers who slid onto his cab's grimy back seat — the sick-to-their stomach and simply clueless, arrogant minor celebrities, skinflints, and creepy night crawlers — in 140-character blasts of withering humor.

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Anthony Mair***

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But this night was different. Gnatovich was scared. As the long night wore on, he became a source of information for a shocked city. "I observe news events all the time from my cab. Often, I'm the first person to see them," he said. "With the immediacy of Twitter, I can quickly publish things that a large faction of my followers are interested in."

That night at the Paris, as a German couple hopped into his taxi for a short trip to the Venetian, Gnatovich turned on his two-way radio, something he rarely does, to stay tuned in, like a reporter following his scanner.

Some bulletins were false: Shots fired at the Bellagio and the MGM Grand. A suspicious package delivered to New York-New York, giving the impression that the attacks were spreading. Gnatovich tweeted them all. "They turned out to be inaccurate," he said. "But on a night like that, it was better to be safe than sorry."

One sign of the evening's gravity was the dread he heard in the voices on the two-way radio. There were 500 cabs crawling Las Vegas that night, and many were talking about what they saw. Gnatovich didn't know the drivers by name but recognized many of their voices. "A lot has to happen to put cab drivers on edge," he said. "It was anger more than anything else. And uncertainty."

As the minutes ticked by, Gnatovich kept tweeting. "Cabbies on radio are not painting a good picture," he wrote, followed by, "Mandalay Bay being evacuated now. Cabbie says he has MB doormen in his cab and (they) took off. Shots coming from hotel rooms/tower possibly ..." And moments later: "Mandalay Bay instructed all employees to leave as well ... but there's nowhere to go. Everything locked down by police."

Spellbound Twitter followers responded. "Wow, so tragic and so sad," one wrote, followed by a registered nurse who exclaimed, "Lord have mercy."

Another, worried about the cabbie himself, added: "Stay safe friend."

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GNATOVICH CAME TO Las Vegas to study music. The youngest of four children born to an Illinois dentist, at age 20 he joined UNLV's music program to study guitar. He never graduated, but he liked Vegas. In 2004, after exhausting his savings, he took a part-time job driving taxi for Desert Cab.

"I have always been a good storyteller. I enjoy making people laugh. The more I drove, the more I realized I was in an area to find good material. And I had the ability to tell the tale."

He began writing a blog about his 12-hour graveyard shift, featuring accounts of his battles with greedy hotel doormen who demanded kickbacks, and defending against the frequent knocks on his fellow cab drivers. But those posts took precious time to write. Like many, Gnatovich came to prefer the immediacy of Twitter. He posted while paused at a stoplights or in cab lines, detailing that night's police activity or hubbub surrounding the latest Floyd Mayweather fight. He was telling tales of the city, often in installments.

At 6-feet-3, the 300-pound Gnatovich is a big man who considers himself an introvert — until he's behind the wheel of his cab. Then he's a performer, a professional observer, eyes wide open.

In 2011, he witnessed the explosion of an electrical generator near the Monte Carlo. "Holy Shit fire at monte carlo elec plant," he tweeted. "I was just 100 ft past it on way to nyny and BOOM like a bomb went off. All the lights went out." Local media credited him for breaking the story. "It dawned on me — you see the traction that those tweets get," he said. "People were beginning to see me as a reliable source."

Gnatovich was on the front edge of a social-media trend that has seen unlikely people emerge to command significant followings by describing the city beneath the façade. In Las Vegas, along with LVCabChronicles, there's a casino manager (@AnnoyedPitBoss) and, until recently, a professional call girl (@vegascourtesan), who tweeted about their misadventures behind the scenes, providing a unique glimpse of Sin City's underbelly.

"Twitter has afforded new voices from all walks of life with the opportunity to be heard," said Matt Heinz, president of the Seattle-based Heinz Marketing, which develops social-media platforms. "These people are incredibly dedicated. To be successful, you have to be both a good writer and an interesting person."

That's Gnatovich. "I have always been a good storyteller," he says. "I enjoy making people laugh. The more I drove, the more I realized I was in an area to find good material. And I had the ability to tell the tale."

Like his accounts of the "Cheerios Lady," who occasionally summons him to her home, sliding her credit card through a cracked-open door, and dispatching him for a pack of cigarettes and a box of cereal. He's described how a motorist washed his hands in a bucket of windshield cleaner at a gas station, and how a passenger tried to stiff him for his fare at the airport, forgetting his luggage was in the trunk. "You want to play hardball? You just lost," he told the guy.

Gnatovich also reports on his conversations with interesting fares — doctors, engineers, diplomats. "He loves knowing about new people," said childhood friend Nate Roush. "You're not going to sit in his cab and not have a conversation. Andrew's not gonna let that happen."

"When he was 10," says Gnatovich's mother, Laura Putnam, who lives in Las Vegas, "I was driving him to soccer practice, and he said, 'Mom, I want you to tell me everything you know about banking.' I said 'Banking?' And he said, 'Yes. I want to know everything you know.'"

Even his employers appreciate what he's doing. "He's an intellectual guy, a big giant of a man physically, but not the loud type who goes around the yard talking to everybody," said David Shoemaker, an assistant operations manager at Desert Cab. "That changes when he gets inside his taxi. What he does is good for the industry."

In a strange nexus of cyberspace and reality, Gnatovich's online followers sometimes find their way inside his cab. Laura Kurtyak, a high school teacher from Chicago, is one. She's known the taxi driver for a decade and considers him a friend.

"Andrew is real," she said. "He has an insight your everyday cab driver isn't going to give. He's funny. He can debate. He's a rock star."

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ON THE NIGHT of the massacre, as he waited in the taxi line at the Mirage, Gnatovich inhabited two disparate worlds: He heard gunshots in the radio dispatches delivered by cabbies near the scene as he watched couples walk by hand-in-hand, oblivious to the carnage a few miles away. He wrestled with his own thoughts: Should he go home to his wife and young son or rush to the scene to assist victims, as some cabbies were doing. "My hat's off to them," he says. "In hindsight, I wish I had."

Over the course of the night, Gnatovich got calls from the BBC and National Public Radio, from producers who read his tweets and wanted to put him on air. "It seemed wrong," he recalled. "It wasn't the time to put myself in front of the camera or the microphone. It would have been tone deaf."

Eventually, he drove to a secluded spot


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in the Aria parking lot and tweeted what he knew: The airport was closed. So were all the properties on the Strip. Rooms were scarce, but there were reports that the M and Red Rock still had vacancies and were renting rooms at $25 each.

He included a report from one cabbie at the scene that hundreds of wounded people were lying in the street. "But I took some poetic license. I said *dozens*," he recalled. "I refused to believe that the number was in the hundreds."

He texted his mother: "Mom, I'm OK. Don't worry." He figured she was asleep and would hear the news in the morning. But the beep of his text woke her up. She called.

"What's going on?" she asked.

"Turn on the news," he answered.

He got a call from a regular passenger and Twitter follower. Mark Marciel, a retired firefighter who lives in Hawaii, was just getting to town and had seen the roadblocks but had no idea the shooting was taking place.

"Hey, I'm in Vegas!"

"What are you doing here now?" Gnatovich answered. "It's the worst time!"

"Well, I'm here, and I'm on Sahara. How do I get Downtown?" Gnatovich gave him directions and suggested he go to some hotels that were offering cheap rooms to displaced Strip patrons.

Months later, Marciel still remembers the cabbie's concern. "Here's someone I'd met a half-dozen times and traded insults, barbs, and good tidings. He protected my wife and I that night and got us to safety. That meant a lot to me. He didn't have to answer his phone."

By 11:30 p.m. the shooting was over, and Gnatovich drove to the Mandalay Bay to pick up passengers. The scene was still chaos. He tweeted about how the Strip and walkway bridges were closed. Hotels were not letting people back inside.

He didn't get home until 4 a.m. and went to bed without waking his wife. He almost didn't go to work the next day, worried he would have to relive the night with every fare. But he went in. "You have to carry on. I tweeted about that. People come to Vegas to have a good time, and it's up to us, the people who work here, to carry on."

As time passed, he thought about the people he'd delivered to the concert site in the hours before Paddock began shooting. "The people I took there, I can still see their faces. They're real people to me."

Like the cowboys he'd picked up at the Mandalay Bay. One had called his girlfriend back home. She was pregnant and couldn't come to Vegas. "I miss you guys," she'd said. "I wish I was there." Gnatovich wonders whether that was the last conversation between the two. "Those two cowboys are all I thought about for days," he said. "God, I hope they made it."

After the shooting, Gnatovich also thought about two Mandalay Bay doormen with whom he had feuded. "That's when I told myself I was gonna go squash it. We'd had our beefs, but it seemed wrong to let it carry on in light of what had happened." One night, he rolled up and extended his hand to one of them. "I know we've had our difficulties, but I'm just glad you're all right," he said. The doorman grasped his hand. One small step forward after a city's night of terror.

The cabbie tweeted about that, too. ✦



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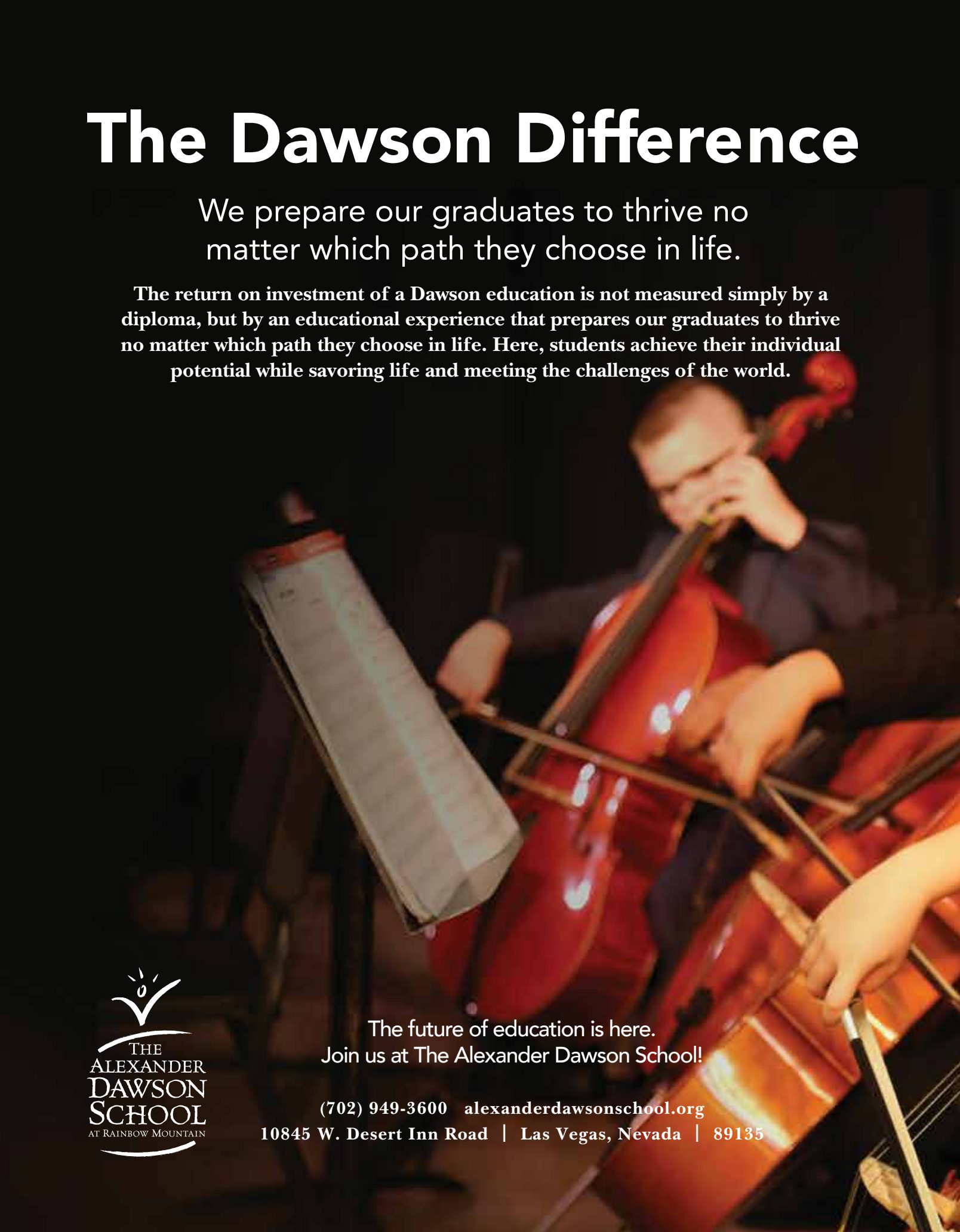

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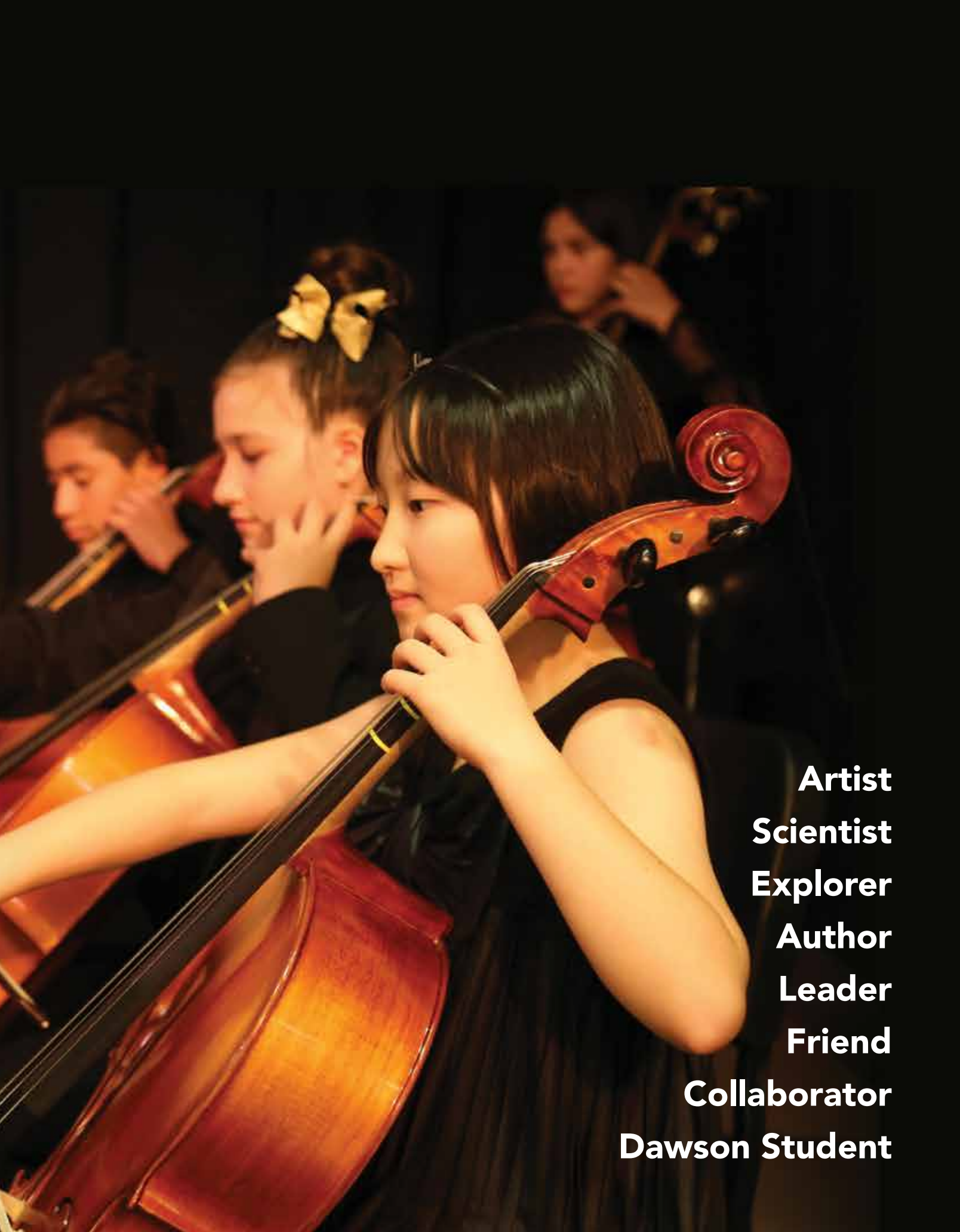
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A New Self

THEY'VE EXPERIENCED TERROR AND TRAGEDY, BUT THEY DIDN'T BREAK. SIX SURVIVORS SHARE HOW THEY COPE, REBUILD, AND FIND NEW PURPOSE IN THE AFTERMATH OF TRAUMA

BY HEIDI KYSER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL HUGHES

Reflecting on the October 1 shooting, Shane "Thom" Mazzier mused that all of Las Vegas had probably suffered collective trauma from it. Mazzier was at the concert the night of the shooting; he's a survivor himself. Yet, as a resident of Kentucky — one who's adopted Las Vegas as his second home — he saw from an outside perspective how such an event wounds the entire community.

He's on to something. Local mental health professionals worry that many Las Vegans are still suffering silently. For each person who's sought help for their hyper-vigilance or nightmares, there are countless others who haven't started experiencing such post-traumatic stress symptoms — yet. Or they *have* experienced them, but haven't gotten help.

"Often, people who have suffered trauma have the unrealistic expectation that they're going to go back to being the person they were before," says Skye Counseling's Jennifer Howe. In a way, they have to become a new self.

Every survivor's unique experience calls for a unique treatment plan. But one consistent prescription is human connection. Counselors urge trauma survivors to reach out to friends, family, and groups, and engage in activities that foster mindfulness and release. Support groups have formed around hobbies ranging from kick-boxing to knitting.

"Doing activities can help trauma survivors find themselves in a new context," Howe says. "Often, during therapy, they see that the trauma has brought out other things they needed to fulfill themselves. It's good to talk about what happened to them, but it's more important to address what's been missing from their lives."

In the following pages, six survivors — among them, October 1 survivors, a combat veteran, and a sex-trafficking victim — share the activities that have helped them cope with post-traumatic stress and find a new sense of purpose. Their remarkable courage in sharing their stories can best be acknowledged by taking them up on the challenge implicit in their determination to heal: "If we did it, you can too."

Joshua Abellera

THIS OCTOBER 1 SURVIVOR FINDS SOLACE AND ESCAPE IN COUNTRY DANCE

Watching Josh Abellera kick and slide in sync with the dozens of other line dancers on Stoney's dance floor one Thursday night in June, it's hard to imagine him being dragged away from the Route 91 concert grounds eight months earlier, unable to walk after a friend hoisted him over a fence and he fell, breaking his leg and dislocating his ankle.

Abellera thinks he and the two friends he was with were among the first to escape the shooting, because they were toward the back of the venue. When he tried to get up after the fall, he felt the most excruciating pain of his life. His friends got him as far as the back (south side) of the Tropicana, where a panicked crowd overtook the three and they were separated. Alone, unsure of what was going on, and unable to move, Abellera hid among some recycled boxes near a dumpster. When another wave of people fleeing the concert came by, he called for help. Strangers moved him to safety inside Tropicana's employee entrance, and cut the jeans and boot from his mangled leg. Kindness and compassion counterbalanced the terror and confusion. A woman he didn't know held his hand as he howled in pain. A friend who'd recognized Abellera sat with him until an ambulance came.

"For me, (the trauma) wasn't from what happened on the main stage," he says. "It was the aftermath … not knowing what was going on, seeing people that had been shot, seeing blood, people running away, people running out of the hotel saying there was another shooter, and being so helpless. That was what stuck with me."

But the counterbalance was always there. Family and friends, including the two he'd lost track of that night, visited Abellera after his surgery. He woke from nightmares to find his father at his side. The Red Cross went to his home to help him apply for Victims of Crime Assistance funds. Clark County's Vegas Strong Resiliency Center set him up with a therapist. UNLV accommodated his need for a semester off.

"Someone's been there for me every step of the way," he says. "It's been amazing."

Abellera was at the concert as part of a Stoney's dance squad that led line dances and the two-step. Amanda Bowler, who headed the squad and escaped the shooting relatively unscathed, says she chose Abellera because he knew his stuff and was a "super happy, bubbly guy." She didn't seem him for a few months after October 1 — he was undergoing surgery and physical rehabilitation — but when he did return to Stoney's, his positive attitude was intact.

"Dancing helps people feel better," Bowler says. "You don't have to worry about anything when you're doing it. It feels good in the moment."

> "I WOULD LEARN THE LINE DANCES, AND I WOULD PICK IT UP SO QUICKLY, MY FRIENDS WOULD SAY, 'YOU'VE ONLY BEEN HERE A WEEK, AND YOU ALREADY KNOW THE DANCES.' SO, I'VE BEEN GOING FOR SEVEN MONTHS ALMOST EVERY WEEK. I LOVE IT."

Music and movement are also in Abellera's blood. As a boy in Hawaii, he sang in the Honolulu Boys' Choir and participated in his mother's Filipino dance group. As a teenager in Las Vegas (his family moved here when he was 10), he sang in his church choir and took dance classes for his required P.E. credits. But it was when he turned 21 and his cousins took him to Stoney's that Abellera says he discovered his passion.

"I feel like I'm in another place," he says. "Like it's just me and no one else in the place."

There was one other person in the place recently who pierced Abellera's trance, though. Less than two weeks after the Vegas Golden Knights lost the 2018 Stanley Cup to the Washington Capitals — in a playoff series that Abellera had followed as religiously as anyone in Las Vegas — Knights forward William Karlsson showed up at Stoney's. In a photo of the two posted on Abellera's Facebook page, he wrote, "Thank you, Will, for taking a picture with me. Thank you to you and the Golden Knights for what you did for the city." ■





JAN GRISCOM

AFTER SURVIVING SEX TRAFFICKING, SHE RECLAIMED HER SENSE OF SELF BY RECLAIMING HER BODY

Jan Griscom was accustomed to having strangers talk to her at the gym. She was a globe-trotting fitness expert with an advanced degree in biomechanical engineering who was frequently on TV and consulted with casino moguls and sporting goods companies on gym and equipment design. But she should have known there was something different about this guy, she'd later think — blaming herself, as many victims do, for not noticing that something was off about him.

In reality, the man was stalking her, determining how compliant a victim she'd be. Satisfied with what he learned, he kidnapped Griscom from her home one night. For the following two years, she says, he beat and raped her repeatedly and forced her to have sex with people for money that he pocketed. Griscom's captor forced her into marriage as a means of stealing her assets, and isolated her from loved ones by lying to and threatening them. By the time she escaped, the former successful businesswoman was friendless and penniless. She spent years in shelters fearing for her life, in the legal system seeking restitution, and at the Rape Crisis Center healing.

You lose friends and relationships that you might need more than ever," Griscom says. "I felt alone in dealing with it. Thankfully, I've always been a person who wants to learn, so I became my own advocate, a researcher looking for any information that would help me understand and find solutions."

Her captor spent four months in jail, but the district attorney's office ultimately dropped all the felony charges against him; he was convicted only of misdemeanors. Griscom became a crusader for justice. "Nevada currently ranks second in the country for murders in domestic violence," she says, "and 47th for prosecuting those cases. The only way to change things for victims is to speak up, and who better to do it than someone who's been through the experience?"

Meanwhile, she was fighting night terrors and other PTSD symptoms. For help, she turned to something familiar: working out. Overcoming the jitters that being back in a gym triggered was therapeutic, and Griscom found comfort in reclaiming her physical body. But whereas she used to focus on speed and endurance, competing in sports like skiing and triathlons, now she's a bodybuilder.

"At 63, I lift heavier weights than I ever have," she says. "To me, it's a suit of armor. If I can be strong and muscular, then I feel maybe I'd have a chance of changing the outcome if it happened again. I started taking self-defense. I learned to fire a gun. I've gone to a shooting range, because I will never find myself in that situation again. I think it's a huge part of me taking back my life."

"I THINK THAT SOMETIMES THE MOST IMPORTANT GIFT A PERSON CAN GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN THROUGH SOMETHING CATASTROPHIC IS SIMPLY LISTENING. WITHOUT GIVING ADVICE OR JUDGING. UNTIL YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THAT, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'D REACT. I'M NOT LOOKING TO HAVE ANYTHING SOLVED; I'M JUST LEARNING TO HAVE A VOICE AGAIN."

The Rape Crisis Center's Daniele Dreitzer says, "Sexual violence is about power and control. In addition to counseling, any activity that helps the survivor regain a sense of empowerment and take back the control in their life can be very beneficial in the healing process."

Griscom has also returned to her pre-trauma habit of volunteering, though now she focuses on raising money for Shade Tree women's shelter and working with victims of human trafficking and domestic violence. She's back on the speaking circuit again, too — as a sex trafficking survivor rather than a fitness expert. After a recent speech at a university, a couple told her about their kidnapped daughter, who was still missing. The mother hugged Griscom, which, she says, made her feel alive for the first time in a long time.

"I used to wake up every single day wondering if that would be the day that he'd kill me," she says. "It takes time for that to go away, even after you're out. So, moments like that are really important, and they're gifts that I wouldn't have gotten if I'd been silent." ■

Noel Huerta

THIS WAR VETERAN NEEDED A SUPPORT NETWORK TO COPE WITH HIS PTSD — SO HE BUILT ONE

Noel Huerta didn't have an easy life to begin with. The son of Mexican immigrants who divorced when he was 3, he grew up in Northern California with a mom who was frequently absent because of work and a dad who constantly urged him to be a doctor or lawyer so he wouldn't have to slave all day for low wages like his parents. But Huerta wasn't cut out for professional life — or at least he didn't think so at the time. Alienated by his parents' expectations, he went his own way.

That way, ironically, included imposing a harsh sentence on himself.

"I went to a recruiter and asked which branch of the military was hardest, and he said the Marines, so I went with that," he says. "I did well on my ASVAB (entrance exam); I could've gone anywhere. But I wanted to do the toughest thing, so I chose the infantry. ... Growing up, I didn't have many friends. It was hard. I was always trying to fit in. That's what led me to the military. I wanted to do something where we'd all be equal. Every person in the platoon gets reborn."

After boot camp and infantry school, Huerta was deployed to Afghanistan and, later, Japan. He was in the Marine unit that was sent in the spring of 2008 to bolster NATO troops during the Helmand Province Campaign of the Afghanistan War, or OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom). The Marines met with stiff, unexpected resistance and suffered high casualties.

"The day I was wounded in Afghanistan, I witnessed three of my fellow Marines get killed in front of me," he says. "I always felt like it was my fault, because we didn't have enough combat medics, and one of them left another guy to try and save me."

His unit was on patrol, sent to clear out a compound. As soon as they got out of their Humvee, they were ambushed. Huerta's scope was blown off his gun through his Kevlar helmet and into the back of his neck below the skull. Though he was bleeding profusely from the head, his wound was nonfatal, something the medic couldn't have known at the time.

"Patrol after patrol after that, I started seeing things," he says. "I started becoming ..." His voice trails off. "It got worse from there. We got blown up a week later."

> "IT UNLOCKS SOMETHING INSIDE YOU THAT GIVES YOU THAT FEELING OF PURPOSE AGAIN. YOU FEEL THAT SUPERHERO FEELING. I KNEW I WAS THERE FOR A NEW PURPOSE. I KNEW I NEEDED TO FIND MY WAY. NOW, I'M A LEADER AND A BENEFICIARY."

Huerta stayed in the Marines for three more years before deciding, with his wife, to leave with an honorable discharge. Outside the military was no better. Although he had a good record and was pursuing a bachelor's degree in computer science, the best job he could get was as a $9-an-hour security guard. He had a wife and daughter to support. His anxiety grew.

"At night, I feel it," he says. "Certain music triggers it. Certain features of that (ambush) scene trigger me. I think of that scene, and I get terrified. It got to where I didn't want to go out of my own house. I took it out on my own family."

Wait times for mental health appointments at the VA were three months or longer, so to cope, Huerta sought out fellow Marines. They drank and gambled, which didn't help. According to a 2015 *New York Times* article, 13 people from Huerta's battalion had committed suicide. He says 39 have done so since 2011, in his unit alone. At times, he considered joining their ranks.

But he didn't. He persisted, finishing his BA and embarking on an MBA. Through sheer grit, he got his foot in the door at a gaming company, watching


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PLAYERS

security monitors, in 2013. Gradually, he worked his way up, eventually becoming an IT executive. That didn't mean that his PTSD went away. As his career blossomed, his mood darkened.

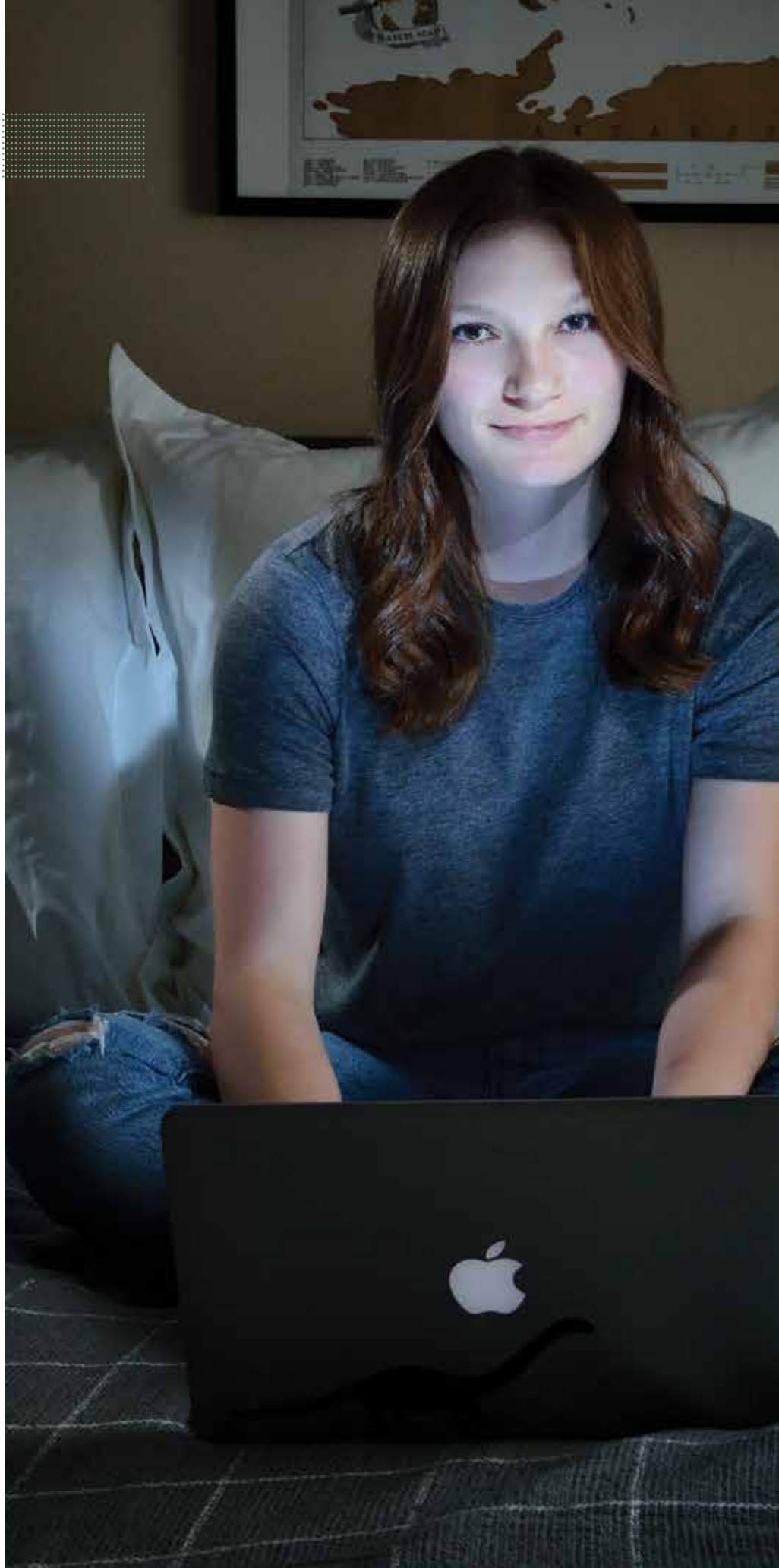
Then, in 2016, something happened. A Marine brother from L.A. told Huerta about a chance encounter, at a homeless shelter, with Nate Boyer, a former Green Beret and NFL hopeful who'd signed, briefly, with the Seattle Seahawks. The two struck up a friendship, talked about the common challenges of transitioning from the military and professional sports to civilian life. What if they brought professional athletes and military vets together to support each other during this transition? They could work out together and then talk in a peer-group setting. Merging Vets and Players, or MVP, was born.

In 2017, Huerta started a Vegas branch of MVP with a handful of guys. Today, it has nearly 200 members (the L.A. group has more than 300). It combines one hour of mixed martial arts workout and one hour of fireside chat every Friday evening. The group has also branched out into community service, partnering with other nonprofits to help people in all kinds of need — homelessness, hunger, and, more recently, October 1 survivors.

Huerta loves the community service aspect of MVP, but the heart of the program is the Friday night get-togethers.

"To be honest, it pushes me, because you have so many people around you," he says. "The veterans and former athletes, they're competitive. ... And then, once we've gotten that out, we've bonded. It makes it a lot easier to open up."

He says he has every member's number saved in his phone. Today, whenever he's down, there are hundreds of people he can call for help. Not bad for a kid who grew up with no friends. ■





Faryn Duncan

AFTER OCTOBER 1, SHE FOUND COMFORT IN THE POWER OF WORDS

Faryn Duncan figures she was 10 feet away from the fence that separated the crowd from the stage when Stephen Paddock began firing on them from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel tower that overlooked the Route 91 concert grounds. Duncan was with a good friend and that friend's mom. They stayed alive by first hiding under the stage, and then following a concert worker who led them to a safe escape route. No one in her party was physically injured, but Duncan instinctively knew that her friend was getting hurt — emotionally, mentally — and her protective reflex kicked in. Since that night, she has cared for the young woman in every way she knows how, checking in regularly, listening, just being there.

Any mental health professional will tell you that you have to put your own oxygen mask on first, though, so to speak. What has Duncan done to take care of herself?

First, she opened up to her parents, her mother here and her dad in Texas.

"When I got home that night, I felt so weird. The whole time it just didn't feel real," she says. "It was afterward that it hit me. ... I talked to my dad for the next couple weeks over the phone every day, and my mom and I, we live together, so we talked every day. It was pretty constant for the following couple of weeks. My parents are amazing."

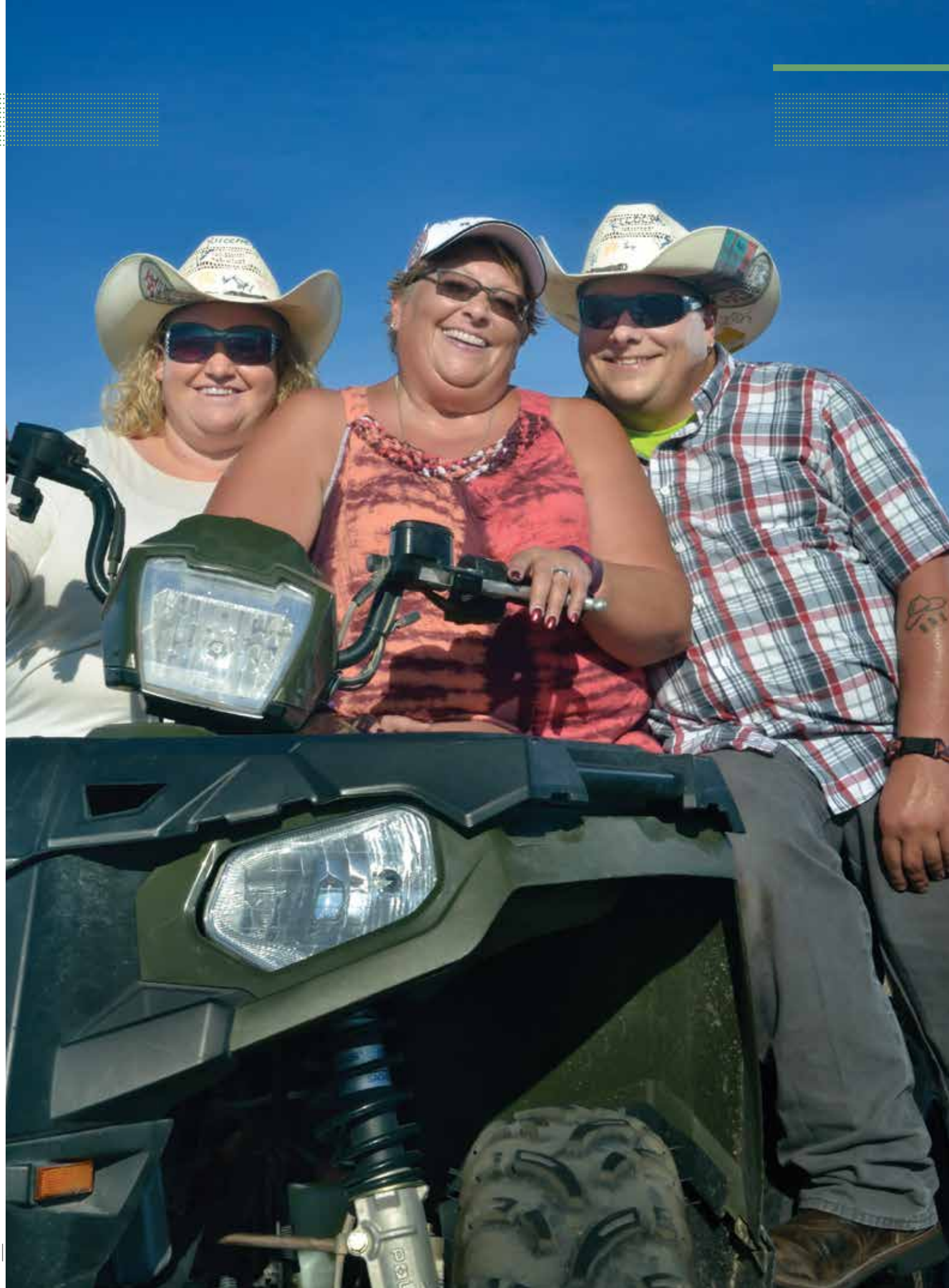
And she wrote — a lot. A journalism major and editor at the UNLV newspaper, *Scarlet & Gray,* Duncan makes sense of things through composition. The morning of October 2, after a restless night, she picked up her phone and spilled her thoughts into her notes app.

"It just kept going and going and going," she says. "After I got it out ... I could talk about it without breaking down and be okay. So, I try to do that whenever I have anything, relationship problems or figuring out what to do with my life. I write about it so I can figure it out."

The piece she wrote about the shooting was published online Monday, October 2, and in print a week later. Duncan continues to write therapeutically about once a week, and strongly encourages others to try it.

"You don't have to be good at it," she says. "It can be embarrassing when you write something down and it doesn't sound good, but it's not about that. Whether it's super poetic or not, it doesn't matter. It's just healing." ■

"WHEN I'M FEELING OVERWHELMED OR ANOTHER SHOOTING HAPPENS, WRITING HELPS ME GET IT OUT AND PROCESS EVERYTHING. INSTEAD OF GOING ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND RANTING LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE DO, I WRITE IT AND TRY TO CONTROL MY THOUGHTS, AND THEN I CAN TALK ABOUT IT RATIONALLY."



Leala Tyree

WHEN OCTOBER 1 MEMORIES LOOM, SHE FINDS PEACE AMID THE DUNES

On Sunday afternoon, October 1, Leala Tyree, her sons Devin and Christian, and their close family friend Heather were sipping cold drinks and talking between Route 91 acts. All well-trained gun owners, they were accustomed to considering the vulnerabilities of public places where they spent time. Surveying the skyline around the concert grounds, one of them — Tyree doesn't remember who exactly — observed that the spot they'd staked out, to the left of the square end of the catwalk extending from the main stage, would be shielded by the stage's overhead structure if an attack came from above.

"We were bored and had nothing else to do," she says.

She never expected that a few hours later their idle speculation would be proven true. When the shooting started, Leala, her sons, and Heather ducked down behind the fence separating the stage from the catwalk, invisible to the shooter. Staying low, they skirted the stage and adjacent vendor booths, ducked out of the southeast side of the venue and into the parking lot, where their truck was parked, uninjured. On their way, however, they encountered another family, a girl who was bleeding heavily from a shot to the arm and her panic-stricken parents. Devin, at 34, the older of Leala's two sons, had taken charge during the escape. After shepherding his loved ones to their truck, he drove back to pick up the second family. Fighting traffic and road closures, and eventually with the help of a police escort, he delivered the girl to UMC, the third Route 91 victim to arrive there that night. She survived and, after multiple surgeries, is regaining use of her arm.

"One thing that haunts me," Leala says, "is that it's my job as a mother to protect my kids. But in that situation, it was my kid (Devin) who protected me."

The three months following Route 91 were a roller coaster for Leala. She had a panic attack at work, which previously had been her refuge from the flashbacks and emotions that overwhelmed her during off hours. In December, her boss let her go, citing low productivity, and she wouldn't have stable employment again until the spring. Meanwhile, the atmosphere at home was strained. Christian and Devin, who live with Leala and her husband Bob (Christian's dad), were affected by the shooting in their own ways. And the family was dealing with pre-existing factors, such as a vision condition slowly robbing Bob of his independence, that complicated their ability to cope with severe trauma.

"IT'S A VERY LIBERATING EXPERIENCE. YOU'RE OUT THERE, AND IT'S JUST YOU AND THE SAND AND THE WIND AND NOTHING ELSE TO WORRY ABOUT BUT RIPPING UP THIS HILLSIDE AND JUMPING OVER THAT SAND DUNE."

"It's a mess," Leala said on the phone one day in June. "I don't know how we're going to get through this."

During the tough times, she's found three consistent sources of refuge. The first is the Facebook group for October 1 survivors, a place where she can go anytime to feel heard and understood. The second is her therapist, who offered free assistance when Leala was out of work, teaching her critical skills to get through panic attacks. And the third is ATVing.

"We are big outdoorsy people,

and I have an amazing set of friends," Leala says. "We go ride four-wheelers all the time out in Logandale, and that has been — some days — just my saving grace. We'll just go out there, and be on the sand and just ride."

Her body language reflects the freedom she says she gets from the sport. Her darting eyes and stiff spine relax as she talks about zipping up hills and jumping over dunes on her Polaris Sportsman 450.

"It's very liberating. You're out there, and it's just you and the sand and the wind and nothing else to worry about," she says. "I was coming down a hill too fast once, and I was turning and caught an edge, and the four-wheeler was going one way, and I went the other. And I was laughing the whole time. It's sand, it's soft — you're not going to get hurt. You can't do that stuff on the street!"

Leala and Devin are planning to put together ATV trips for people from the Facebook group, starting around the one-year anniversary of the shooting.

"The riding itself is relaxing in its own way," Devin says. "You get away from people. You see things you couldn't see otherwise, and if you do it, you're probably spending the night, so you get to enjoy nature out away from other people. It really takes your mind off things. ... If you can replace that memory (of October 1) with a better one, then it really helps."

Leala agrees. She says that October 1 survivors may have differing views on conspiracy theories, gun control, and other controversies, but most would drop what they're doing and race to the side of another who's in need, regardless of his or her beliefs.

"We're all connected by what we've been through," she says. "We're family now." ■

THOM MAZZIER

A PRESCRIPTION FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE NOURISHES HIS MENTAL HEALTH

Legal trouble forced Thom Mazzier into inpatient treatment. His attorney recommended it after Mazzier had a conflict with his ex-wife's attorney during their divorce. But he's glad it happened now. During the six-week program, he learned that he has anxiety, bipolar disorder, and major depression. It helped him understand the emotional struggle that he's been engaged in his whole life — a struggle that culminated in a suicide attempt.

But clarity doesn't equal resolution, and his recovery journey has been complicated.

"I realized that, for me, it's going to take a hodgepodge of different things," he says. "I had electroshock therapy, numerous tests to find out if there's a chemical imbalance in my brain — they came back negative. I've been to inpatient and outpatient. I've been to therapy, group therapy, had several types of medication — I tried Abilify and it did make me feel like gambling! And now, I've discovered hiking, camping, adventurous stuff, and that has been really therapeutic for me, probably my number one treatment."

His passion for the outdoors started when a woman from the over-40 singles Meetup that Mazzier belonged to in his hometown of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, invited him to be her plus-one for a hike to the Red River Gorge.

Mazzier was hooked. He branched out to Meetup groups that focus on hiking, and then looked beyond Kentucky. He developed a passion for natural arches and bridges, leading him West. Using early retirement funds that he'd saved from a factory job, he couch-surfed, used AirBnB, and took advantage of Allegiant flight deals to put together affordable trips. Before he knew it, he had joined 800 Meetups — for outdoor recreation, food, music, photography, and other pursuits — traveling to their events across the U.S.

"There's one back home called bourbon and the Bible," he says. "They set a time at a pub, drink bourbon, and discuss the Bible."

But there's a special place in his heart for Sin City, which he's visited eight times in the last two years for Vegas Hikers Meetup outings. He enjoys gambling and exploring local restaurants while he's here. And he likes outdoor concerts, like Route 91, where he was the night of the shooting.

Mazzier says he still hasn't fully processed what he went through there, but it won't deter him from coming back and seeking refuge on Southern Nevada's beautiful, challenging trails.

"It's therapeutic for me to come here," he says. "Being outdoors, feeling free, looking at nature — it makes you forget reality, in a way. You feel like you're in a different world." ■

"THE VEGAS HIKERS MOVE PRETTY QUICKLY. ... IT WAS A HUGE SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, THAT I COULD HIKE 10 MILES. I SET A LOT OF GOALS. I WANT TO SEE A LOT OF THINGS IN MY LIFE."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702-732-1290

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3006 S. Maryland Parkway #690
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702-944-2828

BEVERLY A. NEYLAND
University Pediatric Center at Lied
1524 Pinto Lane, Third Floor
702-944-2828

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8530 W. Sunset Road #130
702-822-2100

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702-870-0058

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10001 S. Eastern Ave. #203, Henderson
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Pulmonary Associates
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702-384-5101

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700 Shadow Lane #370
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ANNABEL E. BARBER
University of Nevada School of Medicine
Division of Gastrointestinal and Endocrine Surgery
3150 N. Tenaya Way #112
702-671-6480

SOUZAN E. EL-EID
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
9280 W. Sunset Road #100
702-255-1133

JOHN J. FILDES
University of Nevada School of Medicine
Patient Care Center - Las Vegas
Department of Surgery
1707 W. Charleston Blvd. #160
702-671-5150

ARTHUR A. FUSCO
General Surgery Associates
700 Shadow Lane #370
702-382-8222

JOHN HAM
University of Nevada School of Medicine
Patient Care Center - Las Vegas
Department of Surgery
1707 W. Charleston Blvd. #160
702-671-5150

SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

DANIEL M. KIRGAN
University of Nevada School of Medicine
Patient Care Center - Las Vegas, Department of Surgery
1707 W. Charleston Blvd. #160
702-671-5150

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Nevada Health Link has succeeded in reducing the underinsured and uninsured gap by vetting and offering qualified health plans (QHPs) through the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Over 82% of the Exchange's 91,000 consumers receive financial assistance to help pay their monthly premiums, but many Nevadans who qualify for subsidy assistance don't use it. Using innovative and strategic marketing plans, the Exchange aims to educate uninsured Nevadans about low-cost and zero premium plans available. In fact, subsidy-eligible Nevadans pay an average of $151 per month for their premium after subsidies are applied).

Annual growth in enrollment demonstrates the return on investment the Nevada Health Link yields from its efforts. States that rely on the federal government to operate their exchange saw an average decrease in enrollment of 5.5% for plan year 2018 whereas Nevada Health Link saw an increase of 2%. The Nevada Exchange is entirely self-funded and is able to operate successfully while keeping fees lower than the federally facilitated exchange. According to Executive Director, Heather Korbulic: "Through the Exchange's prudent fiscal planning and projections, both Nevada consumers and insurance carriers can have confidence in the operations of the Exchange evidenced by the stability of our rates."

What's Ahead

Nevada Health Link currently operates as a state-based marketplace utilizing HealthCare.gov for eligibility, enrollment, and some consumer assistance services. The fees to use HealthCare.gov are set to increase to a level that will adversely impact the Exchange's continued fiscal solvency. The Exchange has therefore begun to seek private technology and consumer assistance platforms which will offer a net cost savings to Nevada versus continued use of HealthCare.gov's platform. "The Exchange is seeking proven and demonstrated products that will not only offer budget savings, but will also provide an improved user experience for consumers, insurance carriers, brokers, and non-profit partners," said Korbulic.

Despite on-going federal turbulence in the healthcare landscape, the Exchange remains diligently focused. Exchange staff work directly with state-wide partners and other state-based exchanges to gather insight, streamline best practices, and find efficiencies in an effort to continually stabilize health insurance premiums for Nevada Health Link enrollees.

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topDENTISTS™

How the Top Dentists were chosen

A great dentist is someone to smile about. And on the following pages are lots of reasons to smile. Our 2018 topDentists list features more than 160 of the best dental professionals in Southern Nevada.

How did we find the valley's top dental talent? It started with a simple question posed to the local dental community: "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 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 we have missed whom 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 peers' 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 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 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 peers. 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.

This list is excerpted from the 2018 topDentists™ list, a database which includes listings for more than 160 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 usatopdentists.com. For more information, call 706-364-0853; write PO Box 970, Augusta, GA 30903; email info@usatopdentists.com, or visit usatopdentists.com

This list is excerpted from the 2018 topDentists™ list, which includes listings for more than 160 dentists and specialists in Southern Nevada. For more information call 706-364-0853 or email info@usatopdentists.com or visit us at topdentists.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 2008-2017 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.

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ENDODONTICS

W. SCOTT BIGGS
Micro Endodontics of Las Vegas
4450 N. Tenaya Way #240
702-463-5000
lasvegasendo.com

WILLIAM D. BRIZZEE
Las Vegas Endodontics
6655 W. Sahara Ave. #A-106
702-876-5800
lvendo.com

MATTHEW O. COX
8460 S. Eastern Ave. #B
702-492-6688
coxendo.com

WILLIAM J. DOUGHERTY JR.
Sunset Endodontics
54 N. Pecos Road #B, Henderson
702-436-4300
sunsetendo.com

JOHN Q. DUONG
Lakeview Dental
2291 S. Fort Apache Road #104,
702-732-8800
karentrandds.com

DAVID C. FIFE
1975 Village Center Circle #110, 702-360-2122
drdavidfife.com

ADAM GATAN
Seven Hills Endodontics & Microsurgery Center
9550 S. Eastern Ave. #248
702-384-0053
lvrootcanal.com

CHAD R. HANSEN
Las Vegas Endodontics
6655 W. Sahara Ave. #A-106
702-876-5800
lvendo.com

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

RONALD R. LEMON
University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine
4505 S. Maryland Parkway
702-744-2731
unlv.edu/people/ron-ald-lemon

JASON T. MORRIS
2510 Wigwam Parkway #200, Henderson
702-263-2000

KATHLEEN OLENDER*
Desert Dental Specialists
7520 W. Sahara Ave.
702-384-7200
dentalimplants-lv.com

DOUGLAS R. RAKICH
Endodontic Associates
6950 Smoke Ranch Rd #125
702-869-8840
endolv.com

DANIEL I. SHALEV
2510 Wigwam Parkway #200, Henderson
702-263-2000

RYAN C. SHIPP
9053 S. Pecos Road #3000, Henderson
702-798-0911
shippendodontics.com

GENERAL DENTISTRY

CHRISTINE C. ANCAJAS
University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine
1008 Shadow Lane #MS7411
702-774-2522
unlv.edu/dental

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

STEVEN A. AVENA*
3117 W. Charleston Blvd.
702-384-1210
stevenavenadds.com

ERIC AVITIA
Aary Dental
7945 W. Sahara Ave. #101
702-363-0421
aarydental.com

STACIE BAALBAKY
Elite Family Dental
7835 S. Rainbow Blvd. #28
702-898-8448
elitefamilydental.com

WILL BAALBAKY
Elite Family Dental
7835 S. Rainbow Blvd. #28
702-898-8448
elitefamilydental.com

PETER S. BALLE*
Balle & Associates
2801 W. Charleston Blvd. #100
702-877-6608
balledds.com

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

DERRYL R. BRIAN
Nevada Trails Dental
7575 S. Rainbow Blvd. #101
702-367-3700
nevadatrailsdental.com

PAMELA G. CAGGIANO*
Excellence In Dentistry
321 N. Pecos Road #100, Henderson
702-732-7878
pamelacaggianodds.com

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

SANDRA CHAN
Moore Family Dentistry
10624 S. Eastern Ave. #N, Henderson
702-407-6700
lvsmiles.com

ASEEM CHAWLA*
Bella Smiles Las Vegas
6040 S. Rainbow Blvd. #B2
702-307-7777
bellasmileslv.com

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

STEPHEN H. CLARK II
2820 E. Flamingo Road #B
702-732-2333
stephenclarkddslv.com

KENNETH M. COX
6615 S. Eastern Ave. #106
702-735-3506

CHRIS S. COZINE
8579 S. Eastern Ave. #A
702-739-8289
702-739-0157
cozinedental.com

BRADLEY A. DITSWORTH
2458 E. Russell Road #A
702-798-6216
drditsworth.com

MARK DORILAG
Green Valley Dental Group
710 Coronado Center Drive #100, Henderson
702-260-0102
gvdentalgroup.com

JASON L. DOWNEY*
8876 Spanish Ridge Ave. #100
702-871-4903
smileslasvegas.com

MARK D. EDINGTON*
Modern Dental Care
9895 S. Maryland Parkway #A
702-372-4039
moderndentallv.com

DONALD J. FARR
2458 E. Russell Road #B
702-798-4595
702-262-1115
donaldjfarrdds.com

BARTON H. FOUTZ
2510 Wigwam Parkway #100, Henderson
702-792-5929
drfoutz.com

JAMES B. FRANTZ JR.
Green Valley Dental Group
710 Coronado Center Drive #100, Henderson
702-260-0102
GVDentalGroup.com

GLEN GALLIMORE
702Dentist
3455 Cliff Shadows Parkway #130
702-839-0500
702-dentist.com

BENJAMIN GLICK
1070 W. Horizon Ridge Parkway #120, Henderson
702-331-1378
benjaminglickdmd.com

IRWAN T. GOH*
Smiles by Goh
2653 W. Horizon Ridge Parkway #110, Henderson
702-832-5517
smilesbygoh.com

CHAD N. GUBLER
Gubler Dental
11221 S. Eastern Ave. #200, Henderson
702-558-9977
gublerdds.com

STEVEN L. HARDY
Paradise Family Dental
6825 Aliante Parkway, North Las Vegas
702-294-2739
drstevehardy.com

GEORGE HAROUNI*
731 Mall Ring Circle #201, Henderson
702-434-9464
georgeharounidds.com

MICHAEL G. HOLLINGSHEAD*
6392 Spring Mountain Road
702-430-2552
lasvegasnevadasmiles.com

EMILY R. ISHKANIAN
Green Valley Dental Center
275 N. Pecos Road, Henderson
702-896-8933
greenvalleydentalcenter.com

BRIAN R. KARN*
Encore Dentistry
9406 W. Lake Mead #105
702-331-9966
drkarn.com

THOMAS P. KEATING*
Keating Dental
880 Seven Hills Drive #240, Henderson
702-454-8855
702-454-8964
keatingdds.com

JAMES G. KINARD*
2780 W. Horizon Ridge

Parkway #20, Henderson
702-719-4700

WILLIAM P. LEAVITT
University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine
1001 Shadow Lane
#SLC-D 260
702-774-2641
dentalschool.unlv.edu

TON V. LEE
Summerlin Smiles
9525 W. Russell Road
#100
702-579-7645
summerlinsmiles.com

ROBIN D. LOBATO*
9061 W. Sahara Ave. #101
702-877-0500
drlobato.com

NICHOLAS E. LORDS*
Rainbow Park Dental
2950 S. Rainbow Blvd.
#200
702-227-6510

SPENCER LUTH
Luth & Heideman Dental Care
6950 W. Smoke Ranch
Road #150
702-304-1902
lhdentalcare.com

KENT A. LYSGAARD
Lysgaard Dental
2911 N. Tenaya Way #101
702-360-9061
drlysgaard.com

DAVID L. MAHON
Siena Dental
10075 S. Eastern Ave.
#107, Henderson
702-270-8790
sienadental.com

RONALD R. MARSHALL
6891 W. Charleston Blvd.
702-255-6768
rrmsmile.com

GEORGE J. MCALPINE
University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine
1707 W. Charleston Blvd.
#290 MS7424
702-671-5134
unlv.edu/dental

NINA MIRZAYAN
Adaven Children's Dentistry
1701 N. Green Valley
Parkway #8E, Henderson
702-492-1955
adavenkid.com

D. KEVIN MOORE
Moore Family Dentistry
10624 S. Eastern Ave. #N,
Henderson
702-407-6700
lvsmiles.com

E. ORLANDO MORANTES*
3412 N. Buffalo Drive #107
702-794-0820
morantesdds.com

JOHNNY E. NASSAR
Smile Design Center
10120 S. Eastern Ave.
#375, Henderson
702-361-9611
smiledesigncenterlv.com

WILLIAM G. PAPPAS
7884 W. Sahara Ave. #100
702-367-7133

SAM PARTOVI
Desert Smiles
10175 W. Twain Ave. #120
702-202-2300
desertsmilesdental.com

MARIELAINA PERRONE
2551 N. Green Valley
Parkway #A-405,
Henderson
702-458-2929
drperrone.com

JAMES B. POLLEY*
1875 Village Center Circle
#110
702-873-0324
drpolley.com

JOHN M. QUINN
Smiles for Life Family Dentistry
8930 W. Sunset Road
#190
702-832-2857
lvsmilesforlife.com

RICHARD A. RACANELLI
Stunning Smiles of Las Vegas
6410 Medical Center St.
#B
702-736-0016
lvstunningsmiles.com

CRAIG R. ROSE
Rose Family Dentistry
8490 S. Eastern Ave. #C
702-914-0000
rosefamilydentistry.com

STEPHEN C. ROSE*
Rose Cosmetic and Family Dentistry
4230 E. Charleston Blvd.
#A
702-459-8998
702-459-8078
rosecosmeticandfamilydentistry.com

LOUISA SANDERS
22010 Cold Creek Road,
Indian Springs
702-879-6737

DAVID B. SANDQUIST
2650 Lake Sahara Drive
#160
702-734-0776
sandquistdds.com

DOUGLAS D. SANDQUIST*
Sandquist Dentistry
2650 Lake Sahara Drive
#160
702-734-0776
sandquistdds.com

TAMMY SARLES
8650 Spring Mountain
Road
702-869-0032
desertbreezedental.net

NATHAN D. SCHWARTZ
Henderson Family Dentistry
537 S. Boulder Highway,
Henderson
702-564-2526
hendersonfamilydental.com

A. THOMAS SHIELDS
Shields Family Dentistry
653 N. Town Center #508
702-228-8777
702-228-6452
shieldsfamilydentistry.com

PATRICK A. SIMONE*
70 N. Pecos Road #A,
Henderson
702-735-2755
patricksimonedds.com

SUSAN S. SMITH*
8275 S. Eastern Ave. #101
702-967-1700
susansmithdds.com

STEPHEN W. SPELMAN*
Willow Springs Dental
3450 S. Hualapai Way
702-871-6044
stephenspelmandds.com

BRADLEY S. STRONG*
2931 N. Tenaya Way #200
702-242-3800
702-242-9420
bstrongdds.com

RONALD R. TAYLOR
3505 E. Harmon Ave. #A
702-605-1819
minidentalimplantslasvegasnv.com

FRANSON K. S. TOM
4318 S. Eastern Ave.
702-736-6119
drfransontom.com

ARTHUR A. TOMARO*
Exceptional Dentistry
2095 Village Center Circle
#120
702-331-4700
drtomaroexceptionaldentistry.com

MICHAEL TOMITA
Island Dental Center
9750 Covington Cross
Drive #100
702-341-7979
islanddentalcenter.com

KAREN T. TRAN
Lakeview Dental
2291 S. Fort Apache Road
#104
702-869-0001
karentrandds.com

TERRIE X. TRAN
All Smiles Dental
10545 S. Eastern Ave.
#140, Henderson
702-492-9399
allsmilesbydesign.com

MICHELE S. TRATOS
3057 E. Warm Springs
Road #300
702-369-8730
thelasvegasnvdentist.com

JAMES V. WHALEN
Sun Dental Center
9450 Del Webb Blvd.
702-255-2111
sundentalcenterlv.com

JOHNATHAN R. WHITE*
Aesthetic Dentistry
8084 W. Sahara Ave. #G
702-823-3000
jbwhitedds.com

BRAD A. WILBUR
Green Valley Dental Center
275 N. Pecos Road,
Henderson
702-896-8933
gvdentalcenter.com

WENDY S. WOODALL*
University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine
1004 Shadow Lane
#MS7410
702-774-2722

DERREK A. YELTON
2625 S. Rainbow Blvd.
Bldg. 103
702-365-1743

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

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1701 W. Charleston Blvd.
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702-750-9444
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MARK I. DEGEN
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4730 S. Fort Apache Road
#390
702-253-9090
redrockomsc.com

JOHN J. DUDEK
Mountain View Oral Surgery
6970 Smoke Ranch Rd
#150
702-259-6725

JESSE J. FALK
Canyon Oral & Facial Surgery
6200 N. Durango,
Bldg. 12 #100
702-660-5574
canyonofs.com

RYAN GIBSON
Gibson and Leavitt Oral & Maxillofacial & Implant Surgery
2835 Saint Rose Parkway
#100, Henderson
702-685-3700
ryangibsonoralsurgery.com

STEVE J. HUANG
1701 N. Green Valley
Parkway #2E, Henderson
702-270-2999
oralsurgeryhenderson.com

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GREGORY J. HUNTER
Nevada Oral & Facial Surgery
6950 Smoke Ranch Road #200
702-360-8918
nevadaoralandfacialsurgery.com

BRENDAN G. JOHNSON
Nevada Oral & Facial Surgery
6950 Smoke Ranch Road #200
702-360-8918
nevadaoralandfacialsurgery.com

KATHERINE A. KEELEY
2649 Wigwam Parkway #102, Henderson
702-263-9339
drkeeley.net

MATTHEW KIKUCHI
Kikuchi Oral Surgery & Dental Implant Center
5765 Fort Apache Road #110
702-876-6337
omssnv.com

BRYCE LEAVITT
Gibson and Leavitt Oral & Maxillofacial & Implant Surgery
2835 Saint Rose Parkway #100, Henderson
702-685-3700
ryangibsonoralsurgery.com

CARLOS H. LETELIER
The Center for Oral Surgery of Las Vegas
10115 W. Twain Ave. #100
702-367-6666
lasvegasoms.com

PATRICK A. O'CONNOR
O'Connor Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon
630 S. Rancho Drive #B
702-870-2555
drpatrickoconnor.net

DANIEL L. ORR II
Medical Education Building
2040 W. Charleston Blvd. #201
702-383-3711, orrs.org

STEVEN A. SAXE
Advance Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
1570 S. Rainbow Blvd.
702-258-0085
nvjawdoc.com

A. TED TWESME
4544 S. Pecos Road
702-436-0900

ORAL MEDICINE

EDWARD E. HERSCHAFT
University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine
1001 Shadow Lane #SLC-B 214
702-774-2654
702-774-2711
unlv.edu/dental

ORAL PATHOLOGY

VICTORIA L. WOO
University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine
1001 Shadow Lane
702-774-2682
702-774-2721
unlv.edu/dental

ORTHODONTICS

VICTORIA CHEN
Significance Dental Specialists
2430 E. Harmon Ave. #6
702-781-2072
significanceorthodontics.com

DAVID A. CHENIN
Chenin Orthodontics
10730 S. Eastern Ave. #100, Henderson
702-735-1010
cheninortho.com

STEPHEN T. CHENIN
Chenin Orthodontics
10730 S. Eastern Ave. #100, Henderson
702-735-1010
cheninortho.com

ERYN ENCE
Griffiths, Simister, Ence, & Drowley Orthodontics
8710 W. Charleston Blvd. #150
702-256 7846
lasvegasbraces.com

JEDEDIAH M. FELLER
Feller Orthodontics
2871 N. Tenaya Way
702-341-8668
fellerorthodontics.com

STEPHEN N. FLEMING
5320 W. Sahara Ave. #4
702-871-1808

MICHAEL C. GARDNER
Leaver & Gardner Orthodontics
6005 S. Fort Apache #100
702-878-0764
leavergardner.com

JAMES L GIBSON
Gibson Orthodontics
70 E. Horizon Ridge #170, Henderson
702-564-1037
gogibson.com

JOHN C. GRIFFITHS
Griffiths, Simister, Ence, & Drowley Orthodontics
8710 W. Charleston Blvd. #150, 702-256-7846
lasvegasbraces.com

R. CREE HAMILTON
Hamilton & Manuele Orthodontics
401 N. Buffalo Drive #220
702-243-3300
702-243-3354
hamiltonortho.com

BLAINE R. HANSEN
Hansen Orthodontics
3600 N. Buffalo Drive #110
702-568-1600
702-568-1983
hansenortho.com

SCOTT E. LEAVER
Leaver & Gardner Orthodontics
6005 S. Fort Apache #100
702-878-0764
leavergardner.com

JAMES K. MAH
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Dental Medicine
4505 S. Maryland Parkway,
702-774-2535
unlv.edu/dental

JEREMY S. MANUELE
Hamilton & Manuele Orthodontics
401 N. Buffalo Drive #220
702-243-3300
hamiltonortho.com

CAREY B. NOORDA
Noorda Orthodontics
1701 N. Green Valley Parkway #1, Henderson
702-737-5500
drnoorda.com

TIMOTHY REARDON
Cool Smiles
8490 S. Eastern Ave. #A
702-260-8241
vegascoolsmiles.com

ALANA SAXE
Saxe Orthodontics
3555 S. Town Center Drive #104
702-541-7070
saxeortho.com

DOUGLAS K. SIMISTER
Griffiths, Simister, Ence, & Drowley Orthodontics
8710 W. Charleston Blvd. #150
702-256-7846
lasvegasbraces.com

DAVE L. SMITH
5320 W. Sahara Ave. #4
702-871-1808

ROBERT H. THALGOTT
1945 Village Center Circle #110
702-364-5100
thalgott.com

ALFRED A. THRESHER
Thresher Orthodontics
9500 W. Flamingo Rd #102
702-254-4335
thresherortho.com

MARK TRUMAN
Truman Orthodontics
10000 W. Sahara #110
702-500-1112
trumanorthodontics.com

ZACHARY B. TRUMAN
Truman Orthodontics
880 Seven Hills Drive #170, Henderson
702-221-2272
trumanortho.com

FENN WELCH
Welch Orthodontics
8551 W. Lake Mead Blvd. #261
702-240-2300
welchortho.com

LANCE L. WHETTEN
4540 S. Pecos Road
702-436-0999
whettenfellerorthodontics.com

TRACY D. WYATT
Wyatt Orthodontics
7550 W. Lake Mead Blvd. #6, 702-242-9777
wyattorthodontics.com

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

TODD J. BAGGALEY
5705 Centennial Center Blvd. #140
702-998-7100
centennialhillspediatricdentist.com

BRYAN Q. BUI
Cavitybusters
6910 S. Rainbow Blvd. #104
702-362-5437
cavitybusters.org

RYAN S. BYBEE
Kidz Dentistry
1600 W. Sunset Road #B, Henderson
702-733-8341
hendersonkidsdentist.com

ALICE P. CHEN
Red Rock Kids Dental
11700 W. Charleston Blvd. #180
702-242-2436
redrockkidsdental.com

JEFFREY A. COX
Anthem Pediatric Dentistry
10400 S. Eastern Ave., Henderson
702-531-5437
apdkids.com

CHAD W. ELLSWORTH
Anthem Pediatric Dentistry
10400 S. Eastern Ave., Henderson
702-531-5437
apdkids.com

HAROUT V. GOSTANIAN
Centennial Children's Dentistry
7425 W. Azure Drive #120
702-880-5437
safaridentistry.com

ASHLEY E. HOBAN
Summerlin Pediatric Dentistry
635 N. Town Center Drive
702-838-9013
summerlinpediatricdentist.com

DAWN L. MCCLELLAN
Dental Care International
1750 Wheeler Peak Drive
702-272-1100
dcare.org

TODD S. MILNE
Children's Dental Center
2085 Village Center Circle #120

702-240-5437
cdclv.com

MANNY RAPP JR.
Adaven Children's Dentistry
1701 N. Green Valley Parkway #8E, Henderson
702-492-1955
adavenkid.com

GARY D. RICHARDSON
Adventure Smiles
8995 W. Flamingo Rd #100
702-838-5437
adventuresmiles.com

JOSHUA L. SAXE
A Childrens Dentist
8710 W. Charleston Blvd. #100
702-255-0133
achildrensdentist.com

MICHAEL D. SAXE
A Childrens Dentist
8710 W. Charleston Blvd. #100, 702-255-0133
achildrensdentist.com

WILLIAM F. WAGGONER
Pediatric Dental Care Associates
8981 W. Sahara Ave. #110
702-254-4220
pediatricdentalcareassociates.com

PERIODONTICS

DAVID A. ARPIN*
Desert Dental Specialists
7520 W. Sahara Blvd.
702-384-7200
702-384-7593
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2018

MEDICAL & DENTAL PROFILES





DR. JACQUELYN WALTERS, AU.D.

Dr. Jacquelyn Walters graduated with her B.A. in speech and hearing sciences and psychology from the University of Iowa in 2003. She graduated with her doctorate of audiology from the University of Wisconsin in 2008. Dr. Walters has been licensed as a dispensing audiologist since 2009. She is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and holds the Certification of Clinical Competency (CCC-A).

Dr. Walters is trained to work with complex patients suffering from hearing loss and tinnitus. She enjoys helping patients find the best solutions based on each individual's specific needs. Before joining our team she worked as the director of audiology at a busy ear, nose and throat clinic. She is experienced with all brands of hearing aids and has the skills to help each patient hear to their maximum ability. Unlike most audiologists, Dr. Walters can personally empathize on what it is like to live with hearing loss. She has had hearing loss for more than 30 years and has firsthand experience on hearing aid use.

LORI JURMAN. M.S.

Lori Jurman is a highly experienced audiologist and hearing aid specialist with over 35 years in the field of Audiology. She comes to Las Vegas from Long Island, New York where she was a staff audiologist within a 7 doctor ENT practice for many years. She has ample experience working with hearing-impaired individuals as well as those patients suffering from tinnitus and vertigo. Lori's true satisfaction as an audiologist comes from hearing aid dispensing, particularly with the geriatric population. She takes great pride in being able to help her patients choose appropriate amplification, teach them how to use their new devices and then watch them get back into conversations with their families, watch TV and other activities they were not able to do before obtaining amplification. Lori believes that it is her job as an audiologist to show her patients what they have been missing out of life due to their hearing loss and help them get back those "lost" communication skills.

Lori obtained her Master's Degree in Audiology from California State University, Los Angeles and is always gaining more and more knowledge from continuing education credits.

Jacquelyn and Lori are a great addition to our team and we are excited to have their expertise.

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CONSTANTINE GEORGE, M.D.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF EPITOMEDICAL/FOUNDER OF THE VĒDIUS APP

Las Vegas' world-class hospitality is well known among its 42 million annual visitors. Dr. Constantine George, chief medical officer of EPITOMEDICAL and founder of the innovative "doctors on demand" Vēdius app, aims to bridge the gap between healthcare and hospitality to provide high-level service and care to patients in Las Vegas and beyond.

An honors graduate from the University of Las Vegas Nevada (UNLV), Dr. George returned to the valley after receiving his medical degree from the University of Nevada Reno School of Medicine to open his own private practice, becoming the first combined internal medicine and pediatrics clinic of its kind.

In his 15 years of caring for and treating patients, Dr. George noticed a need for quality health care, especially for the growing number of tourists and business travelers coming to Las Vegas seeking medical treatment. As the medical director of tourism services for Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center, he works closely with hospitals, physicians and specialists to continue the development of medical tourism.

Dr. George created the Vēdius app, an innovative platform offering "physicians at your fingertips" and taking the guesswork out of finding quality healthcare. Patients can speak instantly with a board-certified physician through a HIPAA-compliant virtual meeting space and receive same-day appointments.

Unlike other apps on the market, Vēdius delivers concierge physicians, meaning seamless specialist referrals, 24/7 access to internists/pediatricians to treat patients of all ages and onsite treatment either at the patient's hotel room or the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Named a "Top Doc" in 2018 by Las Vegas Sun, Dr. George remains rooted in the local community as a board member for the UNLV School of Medicine and a resource for future generations of medical professionals. Dr. George continues to lead the way for fellow physicians, travelers and locals alike.

EPITOMEDICAL

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VĒDIUS



THE ORTHODONTIC CLINIC AT ROSEMAN UNIVERSITY

The Orthodontic Clinic at Roseman University is committed to providing outstanding orthodontic care without the high cost. The clinic's 30 orthodontic residents are licensed dentists in Nevada and are teamed with board certified or board eligible faculty to provide comprehensive orthodontic care to patients of all ages.

The clinic's state-of-the-art facility in Henderson utilizes cutting-edge technology, such as Cone Beam CT imaging to provide a more accurate diagnosis and ultimately, an optimal treatment plan based on each patient's individual and often unique needs. With 20 chairs and a large number of residents, faculty and clinical staff, the clinic is able to accommodate a large number of patients with little to no wait for appointments.

The clinic offers a variety of treatment options, including traditional braces, clear braces, and Invisalign to treat minor to complex cases. Fees are typically lower than other practices, with all orthodontic appliances and emergency visits included in a patient's treatment plan. Most insurance is accepted and in-house financing with low monthly payments is offered.

The Orthodontic Clinic is the clinical practice of Roseman University College of Dental Medicine's Advanced Education in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics (AEODO/MBA) program. The orthodontic residents and faculty are involved in a variety of research projects to advance the orthodontic profession, and design and test new treatment protocols, materials and appliances. Access to research allows the clinic to offer patients the latest in orthodontic treatment.

Additionally, Roseman University orthodontic residents and faculty volunteer at the Nevada Early Intervention and Craniofacial Clinic. They form part of the only cleft lip/palate craniofacial team in southern Nevada. Those served include children with cleft lip and/or cleft palate and other cranio conditions, craniofacial abnormalities, and congenital anomalies.

The team has initiated a new approach to cleft treatment in conjunction with a plastic surgeon that minimizes the effects of surgery and maximizes the innate growth potential of the children, leading to fewer surgeries over their lifetime. This includes infants who are treated at Roseman University's Orthodontic Clinic with Nasoalveolar Molding (NAM). This presurgical management of a cleft infant is intended to reduce severity of the deformity prior to surgery by expanding the tissues around the nose, producing less scar tissue and better lip and nasal form once the patient undergoes surgery. Additionally, as the infant grows, his/her adult teeth have a better chance of coming in properly.

THE ORTHODONTIC CLINIC AT ROSEMAN UNIVERSITY

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THE ORTHODONTIC CLINIC
ROSEMAN UNIVERSITY

ROSEMAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

It started with a need. In 1999, a shortage of Pharmacists in Nevada was occurring at the very same time that a groundswell of demand for pharmacy education was growing. So, three founders, each coming from healthcare education, contributed $5,000 to start what is now Roseman University of Health Sciences. With this need came a desire to educate and train differently, and to consider the varying learning styles young adults have. The desire resulted in the Roseman Six-Point Mastery Learning Model.

The Six-Point Mastery Learning Model was created to produce graduates that are competent and to provide an educational environment that not only creates and ensures high levels of achievement from all students, but also fosters cooperation and collaboration in the learning process. The Six-Point Mastery Learning Model consists of Block Curriculum, Active and Collaborative Learning, Competency-based Education, Assessment Learning, Early Experiential Learning, and a Classroom Design that facilitates learning. All of these components reinforce one another, and contribute to an unparalleled educational environment.

After graduating, Roseman University graduates go on to exceed standards, get excellent jobs and see a return on their investment. Approaching its 20th anniversary, Roseman has applied this foundation to a broad universe of healthcare education, specializing in training a diverse student body to be exceptional leaders in their chosen fields.

Roseman University was founded in Henderson as a non-profit, private institution. The university's initial class of 38 Doctor of Pharmacy students earned their degrees in 2003. Today, Roseman University has an enrollment of nearly 1,600 students in multiple healthcare-focused programs on three campuses in Henderson and Summerlin (Las Vegas), Nevada and South Jordan, Utah.

The university offers academic programs that address the healthcare needs of communities, including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Accelerated Bachelor of Sciences in Nursing (ABSN), RN to BSN, Veteran to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (VBSN) pathway, Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD), Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) Residency program, Advanced Education in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics (AEODO) Residency program, and an MBA with a healthcare focus. In 2013, Roseman established an MD-granting College of Medicine at its Summerlin campus, which is currently working to achieve accreditation. Additionally, Roseman University faculty conducts basic biomedical science and clinical research in a variety of areas, including cancer, diabetes, and substance abuse and depression.

Roseman University is regionally accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

ROSEMAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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ROSEMAN UNIVERSITY
OF HEALTH SCIENCES





ROSEMAN MEDICAL GROUP

In January 2018, Roseman Medical Group (RMG), the medical practice of Roseman University's College of Medicine, began providing patient care at its first practice site located adjacent to Spring Valley Hospital in Las Vegas. Currently, the practice offers neurology and family medicine, with additional medical services planned for the future.

RMG is a not-for-profit practice that focuses on patient care and education of future health care providers. RMG's physicians practice evidence-based medicine, delivering safe, effective, appropriate, efficient and equitable care to each and every patient.

David Ginsburg, MD leads Roseman Medical Group's neurology services. Dr. Ginsburg and his medical team specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of the nervous system and neuromuscular disorders. Specialized services include EEG (Electroencephalogram), EMG (Electromyography), NCV (Nerve Conduction Velocity, VEP (Visual Evoked Potentials), and Botox injections for chronic migraines, blepharospasm, hemifacial spasm, as well as dystonia and spasticity.

With Dr. Ginsburg serving as medical director, the practice also houses southern Nevada's second clinic serving patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The ALS Clinic at RMG provides evidence-based, multidisciplinary ALS care and services in a supportive atmosphere with an emphasis on hope and quality of life.

Practicing in southern Nevada since 1994, Dr. Ginsburg received his Doctor of Medicine degree from University of Pittsburg in 1988. Later, he completed his residency in neurology and a fellowship in clinical neurophysiology at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center.

In July, with the addition of Elena Garcia, MD, RMG expanded its patient care services to include family medicine. Dr. Garcia's medical team offers preventative care/well visits, sports physicals, women's health, chronic disease management, mental healthcare and sick visits.

Dr. Garcia, a Board Certified Family Physician, received her Doctor of Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She completed her residency program at the University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine Family Practice Residency Program - Las Vegas.

RMG will be expanding its Family Medicine services August, with the arrival of another provider. Pediatric nephrology services will also be added under the guidance of Dr. Bruce Morgenstern, the College of Medicine's Vice Dean for Academic and Clinical Affairs. Dr. Morgenstern has extensive experience in the treatment of children with kidney diseases and hypertension. He was at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for 15 years and then built a highly successful division at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

ROSEMAN MEDICAL GROUP

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R M G
ROSEMAN MEDICAL GROUP



SHEPHERD EYE CENTER

Shepherd Eye Center proudly celebrates 50 years of serving the communities of Las Vegas and Henderson. What Dr. John Shepherd started as a solo clinic a half century ago in 1968 has grown to become the largest ophthalmic practice in Nevada, with 16 doctors, 4 offices, and more than 170 employees.

From the very beginning, Dr. Shepherd pioneered new techniques and instrumentation that would improve the way cataract surgery was performed. Today Shepherd Eye Center remains at the forefront of technological advancement, providing care using the latest medical techniques and industry developments.

The doctors of Shepherd Eye Center have the talent and experience to care for patients of all ages, from children to seniors. Services include routine eye exams as well as the treatment of eye diseases and surgical options for conditions including glaucoma, 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, every member of the Shepherd Eye Center team is given opportunities to gain certifications that help provide the highest level of care for our patients, including Certified Patient Service Specialist, Certified Ophthalmic Technicians, and Certified Ophthalmic Assistants. Each office has an optical shop stocked with glasses and is staffed with experienced opticians and a contact lens specialist ready to help patients find the perfect pair.

The Shepherd Eye Surgicenter consists of two 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 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

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50th Anniversary
Shepherd Eye Center
1968 2018



SHELLEY BERKLEY

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND SENIOR PROVOST TOURO WESTERN DIVISION

As chief executive officer and senior provost for Touro's Western Division, Shelley Berkley serves as the administrative and academic head of the Nevada and northern California campuses of Touro University. In this role, Ms. Berkley oversees two of the fastest-growing medical schools in the western United States, as well as allied health science and education programs with a current total enrollment of more than 3,000 students.

Prior to joining Touro in 2014, Shelley served the State of Nevada in the United States House of Representatives from 1998 to 2013. She was the first woman to serve the District and held the position for seven terms.

Among Shelley's proudest accomplishments during her time in Congress was building the new Veterans Administration medical complex in Southern Nevada to provide quality healthcare to the veterans in our community. She was a vocal supporter of providing more funding for graduate medical education (residencies), and a vocal advocate of reforming our nation's healthcare system.

Shelley also was known as one of the strongest and most outspoken supporters of Israel in Congress. She left her mark on every resolution, legislation, committee markup, and floor debate affecting Israel and the Middle East.

Prior to serving in Congress, Shelley was a practicing attorney. She was an attorney for the Nevada State Commerce Department, in-house counsel for Southwest Gas Corporation, and Vice President for Government and Legal Affairs for the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas.

In spring 2016 Shelley received the Distinguished Nevadan Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents. The award is given to individuals who have made significant achievements that have contributed to the cultural, scientific, or social advancement of Nevada. In 2017, Shelley was also honored with the naming of a new elementary school, the Shelley Berkley Elementary School, by the Clark County School District.

Shelley is married to Dr. Larry Lehrner, a kidney specialist and Touro adjunct faculty member. She is the proud mother of two sons – Max, an attorney and Sam, a sommelier at Southern Wine and Spirits of Nevada, and two step-children – David, a specialist in information technology and Stephanie Lehrner, DO, an osteopathic physician and instructor at Touro University Nevada.

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Touro University Nevada

A MEMBER OF THE TOURO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

RICHARD A. RACANELLI, DMD

STUNNING SMILES OF LAS VEGAS



Richard A. Racanelli, DMD has been practicing cosmetic and family dentistry in Las Vegas for over 6 years. He founded his state of the art dental practice, Stunning Smiles of Las Vegas, after relocating from New York City where he had a private practice in Manhattan.

Dr. Racanelli graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in 2001, after receiving his BS in Biology from Villanova University in 1997. He completed a dual degree accelerated 7 year program between the two schools that allowed him to fulfill his passion to become a dentist, which started in high school under the influence of his orthodontist.

Dr. Racanelli is known for his warm and caring chair side manner and his gentle yet precise manner. His guiding philosophy for dentistry is to get to know his patients as people first and to truly listen to their concerns in order to develop customized dental plans that fit in with their lifestyle, budget and long-term goals for the health and appearance of their mouth. Dr. Racanelli is focused on client service, technology and top notch dentistry and it is his "high tech, high touch" hands on approach to caring for his patients that distinguishes him as a provider.

He is proud to share that has been selected as a Top Dentist for 2016-2018 by his peers in Desert Companion Magazine and listed in usatopdentists.com directory.

Dr. Racanelli and the Stunning Smiles Team are proud to offer their patients the very best in modern dental care in order to deliver transformative dentistry that can restore health, appearance and function. Dr. Racanelli is passionate about life changing cosmetic dentistry. Utilizing the best materials and techniques, he creates a custom smile for his patients with natural looking porcelain veneers, Invisalign Clear Aligner Therapy and Dental Implants. "I love to see the positive transformation that happens when a patient improves their smile. Their confidence increases and there is a sparkle in their eyes that is unmistakable."

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Animal Ark

Wolves, howling coyotes, and big cats growling in the night: Ark at Dark is here! Enjoy a guided flashlight tour and experience nocturnal predators in their natural element, Saturday, August 11, from 7:30-9:45 PM. Suggested ages for this event are seven-years-old and older.

Reserve your tickets early, as space fills up quickly. Prices vary. RSVP at 1-755-970-3431 or Online at: www.animalark.org/events/ark-at-dark/

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Anderson Audiology has been helping people improve the quality of their lives in the Las Vegas Valley since 1975. Our team of Audiologists and support staff are committed to making sure you do not miss any of the precious moments in your life. At Anderson Audiology we believe in a strong patient-provider relationship built on honesty and integrity. Based on your comprehensive diagnostic testing we will provide you with the best hearing solutions available for your specific needs and exceptional follow up care. Let us help you become a part of your world again.

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Phone: 702-933-9102

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Phone: 702-933-9103

Summerlin Office
9430 W Lake Mead Blvd, Suite 11
Las Vegas, NV 89134
Phone: 702-527-6066

Green Valley Office
193 N Pecos Rd, Suite 110
Henderson, NV 89074
Phone: 702-675-4404

Anderson Audiology

The Guide

ART

THROUGH AUG. 12

Les Folies Bergère: Entertaining Las Vegas One Rhinestone at a Time

This photo and costume exhibit explores the beauty, artistry, and extravagance of the legendary show that arrived at the Tropicana in December 1959 from Paris, France. **Free. W. Charleston Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH AUG. 19

Wet is Wild: Water Stories

Jim Atha's abstract photographs encourage viewers to notice the shapes, patterns, and colors found in nature. **Free. Spring Valley Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH AUG. 28

Fading Shadows

Artist David Veliz's black-and-white portrait drawings examine light and personality. **Free. Enterprise Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH AUG. 31

Hearts4 Vegas Touring Exhibition

A traveling, healing exhibition of items collected from friends, family, and loved ones to memorialize the losses from the tragic Oct. 1, 2017 mass shooting. **Free. Durango Hills YMCA, 3521 N. Durango Hills Drive, *artslasvegas.org***

THROUGH SEPT. 30

Microscopic Beauty of Fruits and Vegetables

Local artist Robert Belliveau discovered that microscopic crystals formed in the juices squeezed from fruits and vegetables self-organize into abstract designs. **Free for members or with paid general admission. Origen Museum at Springs Preserve, *springspreserve.org***

THROUGH DEC. 16

VESSEL: Ceramics of Ancient West Mexico

The exhibition is organized by shape; visitors are invited to contemplate how the form of each vessel informs both practical use and communicates ideas of power, identity, and belief. **Free. Barrick Museum of Art at UNLV, *unlv.edu***

THROUGH DEC. 31

Nevada Reflections: The Silver State in Black and White

Photographer Cody Brothers presents a photo essay of many of the water resources within the state of Nevada. **Free for members or with paid general admission. Springs Preserve, *springspreserve.org***

MUSIC

AUG. 4

Andy Hedges: Cowboy Songster

Hedges will present a program of old-time cowboy songs, poetry recitations, storytelling, and traditional folk music. **2P, $12 in advance; $14 concert day. Winchester Cultural Center, 3130 McLeod Drive, *clarkcountynv.gov***

AUG. 5

An Afternoon of Music with the Las Vegas Guitar Trio

Experience passionate classical music from 17th century Baroque to present-day modernism. **3P, free. Performing Arts Center at Summerlin Library, *lvccld.org***

AUG. 9

Ivan Neville's Dumpstaphunk

New Orleans funk at its finest. 18+ only. **7:30P, $22–$25. Brooklyn Bowl at The Linq, *brooklynbowl.com***

AUG. 10

The Struts

L.A.-based punk and old-school

rock meet for a dynamic concert. Special guest: The Regrettes. **18+ only. 7P, $25. Brooklyn Bowl at The Linq, *brooklynbowl.com***

AUG. 11

Kozmic Blues — The Music of Janis Joplin Starring Michelle Rohl

Rohl and her 10-piece band recreate the music of the rock legend. **7P, $20–$35. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

AUG. 12

The All-Togethers in Concert

Get your twang on with some down-home "hillbilly jazz" combined with highbrow cello highlights. **2P, free. Main Theater at Clark County Library, *lvccld.org***

AUG. 12

Catfish John's Garcia Memorial Celebration

In dedication and devotion to the musical adventure of the Grateful Dead, the band brings back their own interpretation of their hits. **6P, free. Brooklyn Bowl at The Linq, *brooklynbowl.com***

AUG. 17

Dispatch

One of the country's most successful indie bands performs, with guests Nahko and Medicine for the People. **18+ only. 6P, $39–$55. Brooklyn Bowl at The Linq, *brooklynbowl.com***

AUG. 17

Zeppelin USA — An American Tribute to Led Zeppelin

A two-hour show featuring the hits of the iconic rock band, complete with fully synchronized lighting, video, and lasers. **7:30P, $24–$69. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

AUG. 19

The Ronnie Foster Trio: Episode 4

The funk and jazz legend returns with guitarist Jake Langley and drummer Jess Gopen. **2P, $19–$35. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

AUG. 19

Pirates, Parents, and Phantoms

Preview Sin City Opera's ninth season with selections from The Pirates of Penzance, Gianni Schicchi, and A Night with The Flying Dutchman. **3P, free. Performing Arts Center at Summerlin Library, *lvccld.org***

AUG. 24

Americas3

Through song, poetry, and narration, this musical/theatrical production beautifully draws you in to how migration, suffering, work, love, sense of place, and celebration are expressed throughout the Americas. **7:30P, free. West Las Vegas Library Theatre, *lvccld.org***

AUG. 24

First Ladies of Disco

A celebration of dance music featuring Martha Wash, Linda Clifford, and former Chic vocalist Norma Jean Wright. **8P, $45–$79. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

AUG. 25

Calle Sur

Hailing from sultry savannas of Colombia and the warm beaches of Panama, Calle Sur performs a large variety of rhythms of Latin America and the Caribbean. **11A, free. Sahara West Library, *lvccld.org***

AUG. 25

Amanda McBroom & Ann Hampton Callaway Star in Divalicious

The singer-songwriters perform pop classics along with their own originals. **8:30P, $35–$55. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

AUG. 31

Ben Hale and Friends

The roots-rock musician throws his official album release party. **7P, $25–$45. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

SEPT. 2

Randal Keith in The Music of Robert Goulet

Keith brings new life to many of Goulet's hits, with his own rich baritone sound. **2P, free. Concert Hall at Whitney Library, *lvccld.org***

THEATER & COMEDY

AUG. 7–12

School of Rock the Musical

The musical based on the hit film features songs by Andrew Lloyd Webber, all the original songs from the movie, and musical theater's first-ever kids rock band, playing live! **Tue–Sun 7:30P; Sat–Sun 2P, $29–$127. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

AUG. 10–12

Locked Up: The Musical

This original story finds the world's greatest violinist all alone in his own prison cell — but what a day lies ahead of him! **Fri–Sat 7:30P; Sun 2P, free. Performing Arts Center at Summerlin Library, *lvccld.org***

AUG. 18

The Waters Family Saga: "Still Waters"

The saga continues as family members and friends prepare for the wedding of Janice Waters in the year 2012. **Sat 6P; Sun 2P, free. West Las Vegas Library Theatre, *lvccld.org***

AUG. 18

Dog Days of Summer with LVIP

The days are long, but our time together flies by! The Las Vegas Improvisational Players make up their fun, kid-friendly show on the spot, based on the audience's suggestions. **7P, $10; $5 kids, seniors, and military. Show Creators Studio, 4455 W. Sunset Road, *lvimprov.com***

SEPT. 4–9

On Your Feet

A musical based on the extraordinary lives and music of Emilio and Gloria Estefan, featuring "Conga," "Get On Your Feet," and other great hits. **Tue–Sun 7:30P, Sat–Sun 2P, $29–$127. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

DANCE

AUG. 1–18

Peter Pan, A Musical Adventure

This faithful new version is a festive adventure featuring music and lyrics by the award-winning duo George Stiles and Anthony Drewe. **Wed–Sat 6P, $15. Super Summer Theatre at Spring Mountain Ranch, *supersummertheatre.org***

AUG. 12

2nd Annual Rise Up and Praise Him

Valley View Community Cares, Inc. and One Body in Christ Christian Church host a community performance for awareness of the freedom of expressing praise in various performing arts. **2P, free. West Las Vegas Library Theatre, *lvccld.org***

DISCUSSIONS & READINGS

AUG. 24

Story SLAM

August's theme is "The heat is on," but don't let the theme get in the way of a good story! Tell or listen to five-minute personal stories. **7:30P, free. The Center for Science & Wonder, 1651 E. Sunset Road, *lasvegasstoryslam@gmail.com***

FAMILY & FESTIVALS

AUG. 3

First Friday

From crafts to food to everything in between, this is the place to celebrate all things artsy. Cockroach Theatre offers 20-minute vignettes, multiple food trucks offer mouth-watering dining, and booths of all sorts offer one-of-a-kind items. **5–11P, free. 1025 First St., *fffLV.org***

AUG. 4

Obon Festival

Celebrate Buddhism and Japanese culture with delicious food, fabulous raffle prizes, and plenty of exhibitors' booths. **10A–4P, free entry. Clark High School, *lasvegasbuddhist.org***

AUG. 10–11

Kumukahi Ukelele & Hula Festival

In its 6th year, this festival brings together acclaimed hÐlau and musicians for a weekend of

music and dance honoring Hawaii's culture and history. **$25–$100. Sam's Town, *kumuka-hi310.com***

AUG. 11

A Touch of Africa

The evening begins with a reception with local vendors and then really kicks off with the Africa Love Fashion Show, followed by entertainment with drums, dance, and artistry from Africa. **6P, $25. Main Theater at Clark County Library, *africalovestore.com***

AUG. 23–26

Tejano Music National Convention

The annual celebration of Tex-Mex music and culture will be celebrating its 15th year with expanded hours and extra days. **$25–$145. Rio casino-hotel, *VegasTejano.com***

AUG. 25

Something Scottish

A cultural celebration the whole family will love, featuring live entertainment, a Wee Bairns Corner for children's activities, and authentic Scottish food for purchase, including sampling the notorious haggis. **10A–3P, free. Windmill Library, *lvccld.org***

AUG. 25

Onam Celebration

Kerala Association of Las Vegas presents a celebration of friendship and cultural exchange with other Indian and American organizations. **3P, free. Main Theater at Clark County Library, *lvccld.org***

FUNDRAISERS

AUG. 6

Mondays Dark — Benefiting Leaders in Training

Mark Shunock gathers stars from Hollywood, the Las Vegas Strip, musical acts, athletes, and celebrity chefs for 90 minutes of entertainment. **7P, $20–$50. The Space, 3460 Cavaretta Court, *mondaysdark.com***

AUG. 19

Best Buddies Talent Show

Best Buddies is dedicated to ending the social, physical, and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. **2:30P, free. Lecture Hall at West Charleston Library, *lvccld.org***

AUG. 20

Mondays Dark — Benefiting Down Syndrome Organization of Southern Nevada

Mark Shunock gathers stars from Hollywood, the Strip, musical acts, athletes, and celebrity chefs for 90 minutes of entertainment. **7P, $20–$50. The Space, 3460 Cavaretta Court, *mondaysdark.com***

AUG. 24

Foreclosed Upon Pets 10th Annual Fundraiser

The event that benefits the rescue of abandoned pets is hosted by Sherry Swensk and includes a dinner buffet, beer and wine bar, live music, raffle, and a silent auction. **5:30P, $35. Opportunity Village, *foreclosedupon-pets.org***



END NOTE

FEEL THE BRRR

In the furnace of a Vegas summer, nothing lets you deny reality like your BFF, the air conditioner

BY ***Stacy J. Willis***

These are delightful times to be alive, to be an American, to feel the growing collaboration and unification of our nation. Civility is at an all-time high. Clear, honest communication is the norm. Information is reliable and unaffected by bots or bullshit. The level of public discourse reflects a pop culture rife with courtesy, quality education, and a natural instinct to love strangers. It's as if we have an irrepressible tendency to elevate one another and care for the environment in which we live.

About that environment: It's August in Las Vegas, and it's a perfect 72 degrees Fahrenheit. I love it, but then, I love everything and everyone. In my world, it is always 72 degrees Fahrenheit. Please don't confuse this with Fahrenheit 451, because it's absolutely nothing like that whatsoever. My climate is not about some dystopian nightmare in which we're watching knowledge go up in propagandist flames on every page. Rather, it's simply about me embracing the religion of air-conditioning.

Of all the possible messiahs, I was a tad surprised to find out that mine would be a Carrier Comfort Series 24ABB3 Air Conditioner with a Silencer System. In retrospect, it's kind of obvious, though, right? Comfort, silence — everything I need from an existential philosophy. To boot, as all air-conditioning aficionados know, it bears the name of the inventor of modern air conditioning, Willis Carrier. (We are related by name and temperate aspirations.)

Thermal salvation is achieved by Willis Carrier's 1902 discovery that "constant dew-point depression provides practically constant relative humidity," which is known by engineers as the "law of constant dew-point depression," and by humans beleaguered by cultural chaos and unimaginable amounts of physical and psychic sweat as "the law of constant depression." After discovering the ability to control this depression, Willis Carrier concocted a device to force air through coils of cold water and *defy reality*.



I embrace this fervently. In fact, as I've progressed in my worship of modern air-conditioning, whilst coincidentally immersed in the new national zeitgeist of perpetual political and ethical disaster, I've developed an ability to ignore everything. This includes, but is not limited to, the possible downsides of A/C, which may have something to do with climate change or chronic rhinitis or some other sanctimonious shibboleths.

Religion demands commitment. Nothing comes between me and my Carrier. I won't entertain thoughts of the A/C industry's mysterious chemicals and abundant electricity use, nor burden myself with long-ago images of a presidential candidate standing at a Carrier plant in Indiana promising to save their jobs and the subsequent layoff of more than 500 Carrier workers. If I can forcibly generate enough inner peace to ignore that, and I do, I'm certainly not shaken when someone says, *Oh, it's too cold in your house*, or, *My goodness, your skin is dry and your eyes are red*, or, *You're killing Mother Earth*. Haters gonna hate.

And so it goes. As we see all over the newsapalooza, this is the summer of love. It's a weird love that feels a little like hellfire and damnation. But I'm getting through it with a cool head and perma-frosty heart. When I think, and I try not to, I think about Willis Carrier defying reality. I think, *I heart my A/C unit*. I would hug it, but it's outside of my 72-degree house, out there in the heat, so, no. May autumn bring me courage. ✦

ILLUSTRATION ***Brent Holmes***

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