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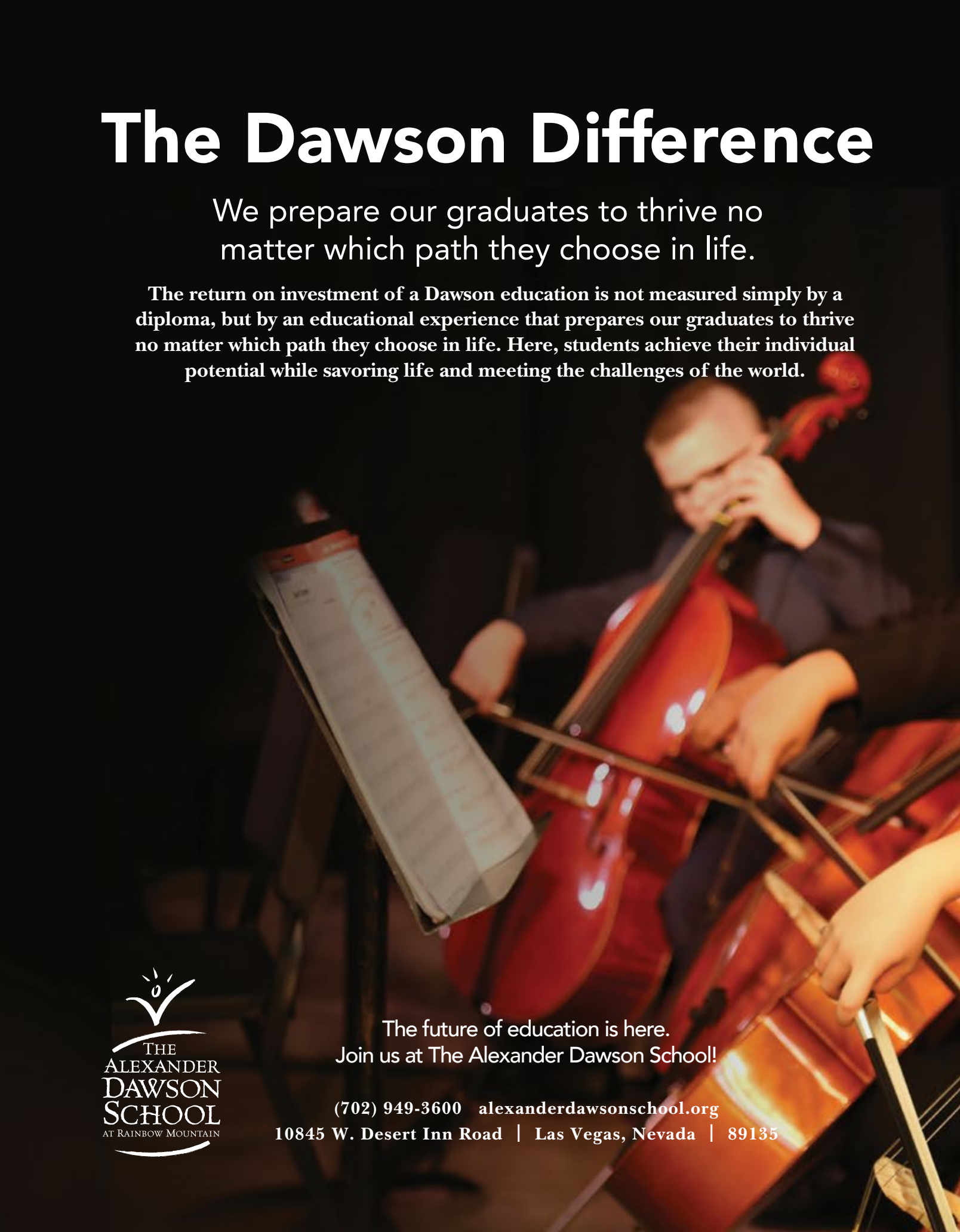

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VOLUME 16 ISSUE 12
DESERTCOMPANION.VEGAS

December



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2018 RESTAURANT AWARDS
Our annual compilation of the valley's top culinary achievements takes a surprising — or perhaps not so surprising — turn away from the Boulevard to celebrate risk-taking and innovation off the Strip

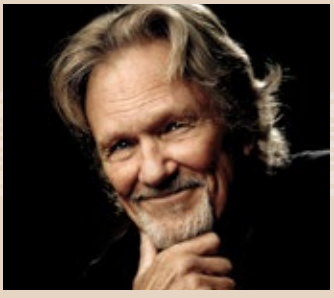
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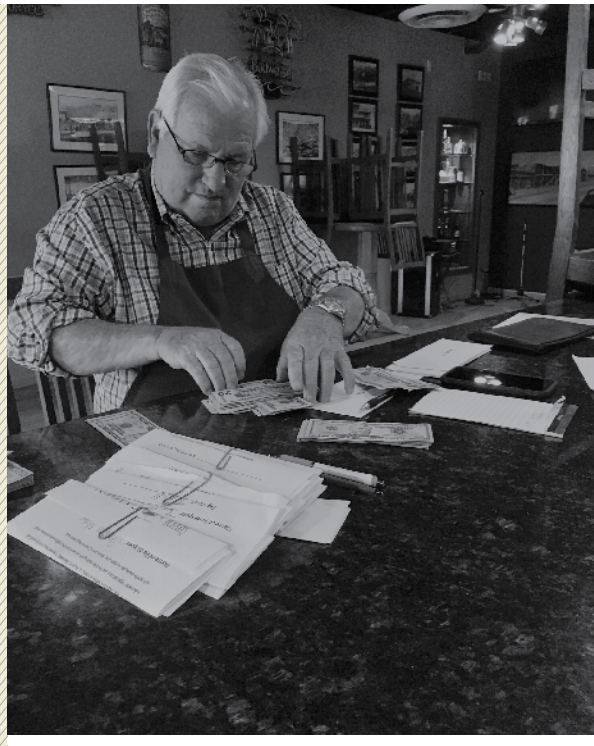
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MAINE LOBSTER SALPICÓN AT EDO
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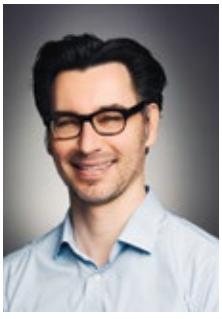
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Editor's Note

TASTERS' CHOICES

The Great Recession is mostly a memory now, blurred in the rocket flame of a newly roaring economy and that persistent cyclonic storm of everyone shouting at each other all the time on the internet. But the recession's effects, visible and invisible, are still with us. One subtle effect it had was to send a seismic psychic ripple through our valley's dining scene. As John Curtas observes in our annual Restaurant Awards (p. 58), in the trailing wake of the economic crisis, many marquee Strip restaurants clung for dear life to profitable predictability. Meanwhile, figuring they had nothing to lose, local chefs and restaurateurs chose not to cower, and instead embraced risk and experimentation. The result: a landmark year for neighborhood eateries and fine-dining restaurants well away from the glow of Las Vegas Boulevard.

And that says something nice about us, the diners. The number and type of restaurants emerging from this happy alchemical fizz — and, yeah, the fact that they're staying in business for, oh, more than six months — perhaps suggest that our palates are maturing and our tastes are getting more adventurous. This year's Restaurant Awards reflect those changes and, hopefully, mark a permanent strata in our city's growth and evolution. Here's to the winners, all of whom never lost their appetite for innovation and excitement.



Andrew Kiraly
EDITOR

NEXT MONTH Take a trip back in time ... to 1989. Like, totally!

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ALL IN

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

ONE | **YEAR IN REVIEW**

Hold on, 2019, We Still Have Feels About ...



Connecting the Dots

In which we sort the high- and lowlights of the frenzied newsapalooza that was 2018

OUR EPIC FAILS

11.6 This blurb space can't contain ex-state Sen. Michael Roberson's fat Year o' Fails. Also lost bid for lieutenant governor

11.6 The fact that ex-CCSD trustee Kevin Child was, like, ever a CCSD trustee.

8.1 Grand jury, DA decline to prosecute Metro cop in choking death of Tashii Brown

11.6 Sheldon Adelson sinks $113M into GOP races, gets **sad trombone warble**

7.13 Proving corporations can have a heart, MGM ... *sues victims of Oct. 1?*

1.8 Prosecutors botch Bundy trial. Cliven acts like freedom-Jesus

5.15 $68M in school budget cuts? Today's spelling lesson: S-C-R-E-W-D

11.6 Rurals elect dead, rapey pimp Dennis Hof to NV Legislature. 21st Century: **smh**

"Mom, how come we live in a bleak and endlessly vast suburban grid with no schools?"

Males that use ostentatious displays to attract females

Nevada's rural/urban divide, explained.

TALES OF THE OUTBACK

7.10 Trump pardons Oregon ranchers whose convictions inspired Bundy-led takeover of bird sanctuary

7.27 Reno man allegedly starts 50K-acre Perry Fire, causing evacuations, costing $2.6 million to contain

10.26 Air Force finalizes plan to take chunk of wildlife refuge north of LV. Rabbits crowdfund bomb shelter.

6.19 Surprise! County agrees to open lots of nearby federal land to development.

8.9 Boulder City bypass of I-11 opens. Earth stops spinning.

8.29 Judge revives sage grouse's proposed "threatened" status; grouse now demand own Bundy takeover

5.15 Nye sheriff leaves pistol in casino bathroom. Under sign reading "Employees must wash guns"?

10.9 With Lake Mead a few liters from rationing, river states FINALLY release drought plan.

Seven?! That's a typical day at Ted Nugent Elementary in Pahrump.

Here's your next binge-worthy Netflix apocalypse-porn series!

THE HEAT, THE KITCHEN

2.6 His #metoo moment here at last, Steve Wynn resigns

9.12 After seven school gun incidents, CCSD considers metal detectors.

11.7 USPS fined $129K for failing to protect workers from spontaneously combusting

9.5 Rape Crisis Center seeks volunteers to help with spike in reports prompted by #metoo

8.1 Reno has hottest July in 125 years, LV its second-hottest. How bad would it be if climate change was a thing?!

7.11 Metro and two suspects careen through Downtown in unreal gun battle caught on dash-cam.

10.11 Students brawl at Western HS after racial dispute; school cops use pepper spray

11.2 Culinary ends banner year, winning contracts, panic buttons for 50K employees

Tarkanian enters hibernation state until eyes flicker open upon sensing open seat on BC Golf Course Green Commission.

OMG — Google the video. Insane!

FAREWELL!

11.6 Adios, Danny Tark! See you at your next concession speech!

9.3 With walk-off homer, 51s play final game at Cashman Field. Upside: soccer takes its place.

5.14 Bye, NV's monopoly on sports betting! SCOTUS lets *everyone* do it now.

4.3 UNLV prez Len Jessup peeve-quits after clash with chancellor. Leave your keys on the counter!

6.10 Goodbye, human mining-truck driver! Barrick Gold tests self-driving equipment

In dystopian alternate future, Bundys develop automoted standoff tech called EntitlementBot 3000.

In another dystopian alternate future, Adelson uploads brain into self-driving Jeepers Creepers truck, achieving final form.

4.13 Aliens lower probes to half mast as Art Bell leaves this dimension

10.2 Lucky Dragon closes. It was barely even open!

8.6 Paul Laxalt, former Nevada gov, U.S. senator, dies.

2018 Was the Year of ...

2018 IN REVIEW

KARMIC BALANCE

When the universe closes one news cycle, it opens another

+ **First woman** appointed to head Gaming Control Board	— **Marilyn Monroe** themed musical opens (and closes) in LV
— **Nevada at** very bottom of national healthcare ranking	+ **But an** impressive *sixth* from bottom in education ranking!
+ **Expressive** new public art on Main Street draws praise	— **Damien Hirst** shark at Palms draws "influencers"
+ **PACs spend** millions in Nevada on political campaigns	— **CCSD budget** cuts lop some 500 jobs
+ **Kristin Lobato** freed from jail	— **Bundy associates** freed from jail





SAY WHAT?!

Match these 2018 newsmakers with their notable quotes

1. "A mind should not be so open that the brains fall out; however, it should not be so closed that whatever gray matter which does reside may not be reached."

2. "I'm not a politician. I'm not a *career* politician."

3. "Most of this stuff is part of the job, and you get pretty thick skin as you go along."

4. "I knew I was strong enough to say, 'You won't whip me, you won't hold me down, and you won't shut me up.'"

5. "I'm fast and loud on purpose. I cram 10 pounds of caviar into an eight-pound pack."

6. "To be honest, I'd rather be designing hotel rooms."

7. "I think the hardest part was getting the whole costume on."

8. "I'm rich. I'm famous. That attracts girls. ... The last thing I would ever do is have to force anybody or coerce anybody to mess around with me."

A. Lise-Lotte Lublin, Las Vegas woman who testified against Bill Cosby in his sexual assault trial. Source: *New York Times*

B. Art Bell, host of paranormal radio show, *Coast to Coast AM*, who died April 13. Source: *New York Times*

C. Elaine Wynn, largest shareholder in Wynn Resorts, on board politics in the wake of Steve Wynn's resignation as CEO. Source: *New York Times*

D. Dennis Hof, brothel owner and accused rapist, who was elected to the Nevada Assembly despite having died. Source: NPR

E. Robin Leach, columnist and host of *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*," who died Aug. 24. Source: *New York Times*

F. Travis Pastrana, stunt rider who recreated three Evel Knievel jumps July 8. Source: *USA Today*

G. Democratic Senator-elect Jacky Rosen, who unseated Sen. Dean Heller Nov. 8. Source: New York Times

H. Pat Skorkowsky, former CCSD superintendent who retired in June, on dealing with frequent criticism from politicians, parents, and media. Source: The Nevada Independent

ANSWERS: 1:B, 2:G, 3:H, 4:A, 5:E, 6:C, 7:F, 8:D

2018 was the year of reckoning — and rebuke — for our skyline billionaires. Sexual misconduct allegations caught up to Steve Wynn. Donald Trump dismissed #metoo and vilified immigrants — then saw Nevada reject his politics, again. For his part, Sheldon Adelson poured money into losing GOP candidates and causes, like a gambler who needs an intervention. Las Vegas may cater to high rollers, but it values respect and tolerance more. ***Daniel Hernandez***

2018 was the year cannabis became a normal part of everyday life. A gram of flower or vape pen could be a staple of the weekend like a frozen pizza or party dress. Everyone from grandma to Fido discovered CBD for sleep issues, anxiety, and pain. Today's cannabis consumer is less like the chicks from *Broad City* hitting a bong than Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, and Dolly Parton unwinding with a joint in *9 to 5*. ***Lissa Townsend Rodgers***

2018 was the year of the dog. A wild coyote took up residence Downtown, displacing the (un)Lucky Dragon. The neighbors went crazy on Facebook, drove the drug dealers and stolen-bike peddlers out of the park where the homeless couple with all the chihuahuas slept. I slept all right, knowing that my Border Collie would keep an eye on the chicken coop. But what to do about the howling from the party houses? ***Heidi Kyser***

See more takes on 2018 on the Desert Companion blog.



TWO | **GOOD WORKS**

Here Come the Heroes

It's a bird, it's a plane — no, it's the heroes of Critical Care Comics, bringing a little relief to hospitalized children

BY ***Summer Thomad***

In the parking lot of the Children's Hospital of Nevada at University Medical Center, Jason Golden is clutching the handle of a wooden cart filled with about 600 comic books, chatting with the Flash, Captain America, Starfire, and Lady Thor as they all await Batman. What mission prompted this unlikely group of heroes to join forces? To transport sick children out of their hospital beds and into the world of superheroes, if only for 28 pages.

In the six years since Golden founded Critical Care Comics, a nonprofit group that delivers comic books to sick children in hospitals — while dressed as superheroes — the team has grown from four to 40 members.

Golden is familiar with the bleak, sterile atmosphere of a hospital ward. At 15, he was diagnosed with acute nonlymphocytic leukemia, and spent more than a year in a hospital bed, receiving high doses of chemo as part of a clinical study. All the while, his mother would drop off stacks of comics to keep his mind off the intensive treatments.

"My first dose of chemo, I know what I was reading. Bone marrow, spinal tap, all that — it's all here," Golden says, gesturing to his brain. "I was getting my treatment, but mentally, I'm hanging out with Spidey and Batman."

Years later, when Golden found himself in a hospital waiting room — with the same old magazines and mind-numbingly dull TV he remembered — he wanted nothing more than a few comics to keep his mind occupied. Suddenly, he was struck with the idea of bringing comic books to patients in critical conditions. Critical Care Comics was born.

Starting with his own collection, Golden began collecting donations from other comic book nerds, encouraging them to part ways with their beloved books in a meaningful way: by passing them on to kids in dire need of an escape.

Though Golden's personal area of interest is the comic books, he wanted to create an *experience*. And who better to deliver a stack of comics than the superheroes themselves? Thirty of the nonprofit's team members are in costume, cosplaying as characters from across Marvel, D.C., and any other comic book universe; all are equipped with knowledge of their characters so as to maintain the integrity of the heroes they're portraying.

"I wanna suspend the belief," Golden says. "I want those kids without a shadow of a doubt knowing that that is Batman, that that's Spider-man, that is Captain America. It helps pull them out.

"At the same time, we vet everyone who wants to get involved, that it's not like, happy fun-time dress-up hour. You never know what situation you might walk into."

THREE | **2018 HOLIDAY CHEER INDEX!**

Cheery!

- Scientists determine "Merry Christmas" and "Happy Holidays" to be particle and wave versions of exact same sentiment
- Sports betting now legal on Isle of Misfit Toys
- Carolers sing, "I Saw Mommy Reporting Santa Claus to HR"
- At last: sustainably harvested, farm-to-table, dolphin-safe candy canes (now with more kale!)
- To receive gifts, you have to sit through Santa's 30-minute presentation on North Pole timeshares
- John Doe, Exene Cervenka protest taking the X out of Xmas
- Two words: eggnog vape
- Turns out Tiny Tim deals meth
- Constipated Mueller indicts stale fruitcake for "obstruction"
- Reindeer caravan stopped at border; Rudolph told to "come here legally"

Less cheery!

Golden confesses that when he started, he wasn't prepared for the weight of what some hospital visits would entail, or the heavy memories of his own illness that would resurface.

"I was just a nerd who wanted to hand out comic books. ... It turned into something much, much more than that. I didn't realize how much a lot of things would affect me, going back into that environment again."

As we make the rounds, the very presence of the superheroes creates a buzz throughout the pediatric wing. Cheyenne Wise, the cosplayer portraying Starfire, wears a magenta wig and reflective purple skirt and top set, and enters each patient's room with a bright, animated enthusiasm that matches her vivid exterior.

"Do you like superheroes?" Wise asks a patient, who nods in agreement. She clutches her chest and lets out a huge sigh of relief: "Good! I don't know what I would've done if you had said no!"

As the heroes make conversation with patients, Golden is outside in the hallway, listening and curating a selection of comic books for the patient based on their interests and favorite characters. As the heroes wrap up their conversation, Golden gingerly makes his way in and passes the personalized stack of comics to one of the heroes, who then hands them to the patient.

"Holy moly ... thank you so much!" one young boy says.

When another patient mentions that his dad is a fan of *Deadpool*, Golden takes note. He leans into the room and hands a three-inch stack of *Deadpool* comics to the patient's mom. "These are for Dad," he whispers.

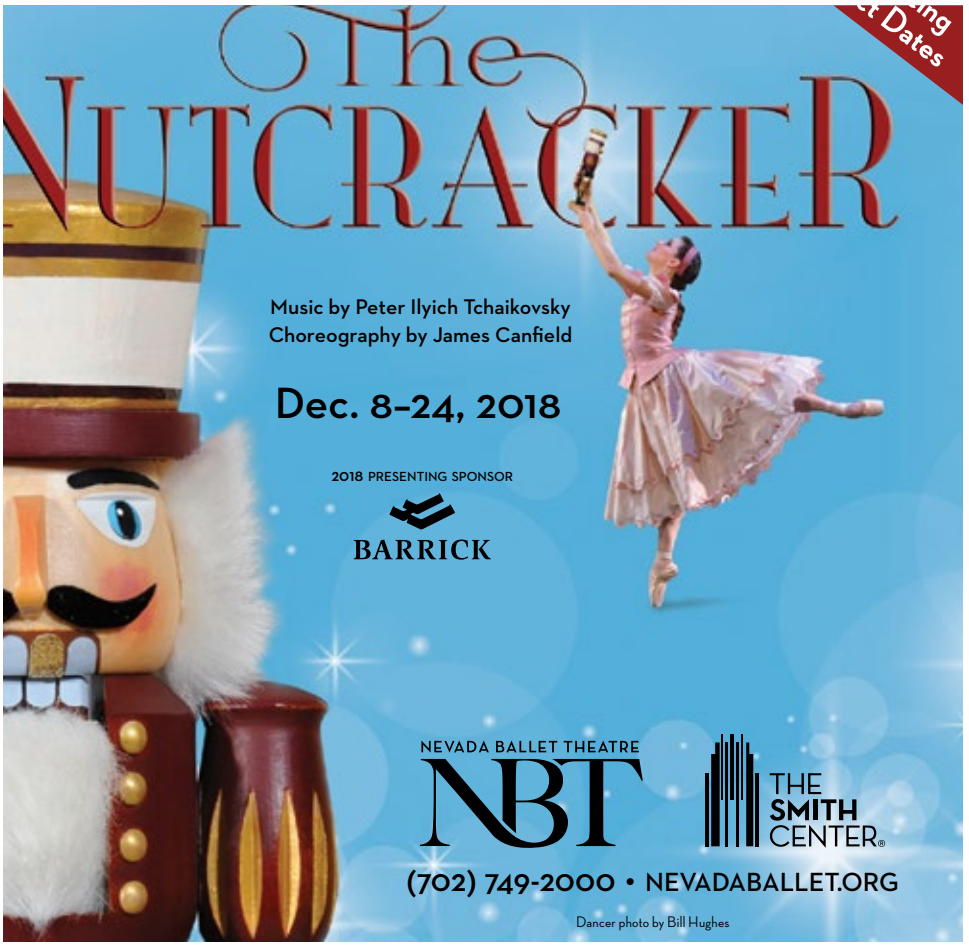
The organization maintains a consistent influx of books with the help of local comic book shops, including Cosmic, Celestial, Cheeseboy, and other local businesses such as Grouchy John's, all of which act as drop-off locations for comic book donations.

"My director of marketing is heading to California this weekend to pick up 60 long boxes of comic books," Golden says. That's enough for nearly an entire year's worth of visits. "If there's one book in the huge stack that I give them that is the one that pulls them out of where they're at, I did good."

As we make our way down the hall, Golden spots a patient reading, already immersed in one of the comic books.

"Yes!" he exclaims. "That right there is the goal." ✦

For more: criticalcarecomics.vegas





FOUR | **TIMELINE**

Blue Diamond Blues

Did the election throw a plot twist into the long saga of Jim Rhodes' attempt to build a city on a hill near Red Rock?

BY ***Heidi Kyser***

It's been more than two years since a developer related to Jim Rhodes proposed its most recent plan to erect a huge housing development on top of Blue Diamond Hill, cheesing off seemingly everyone who loves to recreate in Red Rock. The organized opposition, Save Red Rock, gathered tens of thousands of petition signatures and raised tens of thousands of dollars, enough support to put Gypsum Resources on the defensive and keep the project at bay. Clark County, meanwhile, appeared to take the developer's side, suing the nonprofit to get out of the way and let the process go forward. Since then, the fight has mostly languished in court, but in November that all changed — and in an election year, it got political. Here's what happened, and what's next.

SEPTEMBER 2016: Gypsum Resources revives Rhodes' 2011 plan to build a development on heavily mined land that he bought in the early 2000s. The new plan is for around 5,000 homes — along with schools, stores, and other necessities for a community that size — on 2,000 acres.

OCTOBER 2016: The Clark County Planning Commission votes to recommend that the county commissioners deny the plan.

DECEMBER 2016: Following a contentious public hearing, Clark County files a district court complaint asking a judge to bar Save Red Rock from raising issues related to the 2011 plan and to allow the project to proceed through the approval process.

FEBRUARY 2017: After seven hours of debate and testimony, most of it anti-development, the County Commission votes 5-2 to let the project go forward, based on the premise that Rhodes' 2011 plan is still valid. Commissioner Susan Brager, whose district includes the area in question, and Commission Chair Steve Sisolak are among the five voting for it. Commissioners Chris Giunchigliani and Lawrence Weekly are the two against.

MARCH 16, 2017: Represented pro-bono by former State Senator Justin Jones, Save Red Rock files a countersuit against Clark County and Gypsum Resources.

MARCH 31, 2017: State Assemblyman Steve Yeager introduces a bill to limit private development within five miles of national conservation areas, including Red Rock. The bill passes the Assembly and Senate but is vetoed by Governor Sandoval.

MAY 2017: Judge Jerry Wiese rules against Clark County, allowing Save Red Rock to present its case that the county violated open-meeting laws at the February hearing.

SEPTEMBER 2017: Wiese denies the county's effort to have the case dismissed, ruling that the validity of the 2011 plan is at issue.

JUNE 12, 2018: Sisolak beats Giunchigliani in the Democratic gubernatorial primary, despite Giunchigliani's campaigning on her devotion to public lands protection, particularly Red Rock.

OCTOBER 15, 2018: Jones debates Tisha Black, his opponent in the race for termed-out Brager's County Commission seat. Responding to an audience member's question, Jones says he would try to stop the Blue Diamond project from proceeding during his first 100 days in office.

OCTOBER 26, 2018: Responding to Gypsum Resources' request to have its BLM right-of-way requirement waived, Sisolak says the county should delay hearing or voting on the matter until after the soon-to-be-elected commissioners take office in 2019.



NOVEMBER 6, 2018 Sisolak is elected governor. Yeager is re-elected to the Assembly. Jones is elected to the County Commission.

NOVEMBER 9, 2018 Save Red Rock drops its claims against the county and Gypsum Resources, saying it will focus all its resources on the fight before the commission.

JANUARY 2019 A new commission, including Jones, Weekly, and at least two other people likely to be against the project, will be seated. Sisolak has said he will choose his successor. Jones has said elsewhere in the news media that he does not plan to recuse himself from votes on Gypsum Resources' plan due to a conflict of interest.

DECEMBER 5, 2018 The commission will decide on Gypsum Resources' right-of-way waiver request.



↓ **Read More** *desertcompanion.vegas, search "Gypsum Resources"*

FIVE

One Man's Trash

... Is another's power and water? That's the Green Machine future envisioned by a local nonprofit

BY ***Summer Thomad***



ILLUSTRATION: BRENT HOLMES

If you're like most people, you don't think too much about your food waste. Your stale pizza crusts, apple cores, coffee grounds, or wilting lettuce leaves serve little purpose beyond creating an amalgamation of funky odors at the bottom of your trash bin until your trash is carried far away, never to be thought of again.

Rosalie Bingham, however, sees a brighter future for your food waste — one that might come back to work in your favor. Bingham, a fourth-generation Nevadan and the founder of Regener8tive, a nonprofit that assists environmental projects, recently launched "The Green Machine Initiative," an environmental project to increase renewable energy in Las Vegas by converting organic waste into power and water.

Las Vegas is home to Apex Landfill, the biggest landfill in the nation. According to the Review-Journal, the site averages nearly 300 tons of garbage every hour — enough to make it the nation's largest in tonnage received.

This unfathomably large amount of trash is partially the result of the 40 million tourists who visit annually. Another factor is that our city of two million people has only one waste site, and no incinerators.

"We can no longer sustain the damage our societies have undergone, and we need solutions to actually repair this damage," Bingham says.

Through the Green Machine solution, the hundreds of tons of daily food waste that end up in our landfill would be redirected toward an Anaerobic Digester System (ADS), a technological process by which organic matter such as animal or food waste is broken down to produce power and water. If ADS were implemented in Las Vegas, not only would it substantially reduce the hundreds of tons of waste dumped into our landfills daily, but it would help Nevada move toward energy independence.

Though Apex Landfill encompasses about 2,200 acres, eight one-megawatt anaerobic-digester facilities, each of which would cover about one acre of land, would be able to process approximately 61 tons of solids per unit each day — a substantial amount of waste.

Nevada relies on outside sources for more than 80 percent of the power we consume. As the *Las Vegas Sun* has reported, the state spends $700 million per year on out-of-state fossil fuels to power the flashing lights, gigantic billboards, and air-conditioned casinos."

Bingham has gained the support of numerous businesses and organizations across the valley, including the local power and gas companies, the landfill facility, and the Regional Transportation Commission, which agreed to purchase the gas produced from the digester to fuel local bus fleets.

"It crosses party lines, genders, and cultures, because you're talking about something that benefits everybody," Bingham says. "It can create more collaborative effort instead of competition, which will then create self-reliant communities."

Still, the initiative faces challenges due to a lack of public awareness and funding for the Anaerobic Digester Systems, as well as an increased premium for the new energy source, similar to other green energy producers, such as solar and wind.

Still, Bingham is certain that Las Vegas can eventually become not only self-sustaining, but a leading force in renewable energy production and sustainability: "This is just the beginning of regenerative solutions; there is so much more that we can do together as a collaborative community." ✦

For more: localsparx.com

6
EXPLAINER

TAKING THE INITIATIVES

What's next for the five ballot measures passed — and the one defeated — by voters

BY ***Steve Sebelius***

QUESTION 1
"MARSY'S LAW"

ALSO KNOWN AS a crime victim's bill of rights, this will amend the Nevada Constitution to incorporate a long list of rights for victims, defined as "any person directly and proximately harmed by the commission of a crime" under any state law. The measure was passed by the Legislature in 2015 and again in 2017, after which, like all amendments, it went to the people for review. Now it will be engrossed into the state constitution. Opponents predicted it will create new burdens in the criminal justice system, especially because of provisions that create the right of victims to refuse interview or deposition requests absent a court order, as well as the right to a timely disposition of the case following a suspect's arrest. It's not inconceivable that legal clashes may arise.

QUESTION 2
THE "PINK TAX"

THIS MEASURE, which exempts feminine hygiene products from state and local sales taxes, was placed on the ballot by a bill passed in the 2017 Legislature. State Sen. Yvanna Cancela, D-Las Vegas, sponsored the measure because she and her co-sponsors believe it is unfair to tax a necessity of life that affects women specifically. The change goes effect January 1. A fiscal note attached to the measure estimated the yearly cost to state government at between $5 million and $7.1 million, while local governments stand to lose between $930,000 and $1.3 million annually. (Clark County accounts for between $750,000 and $1 million of those totals, respectively.) Unless there's another vote of the people to continue the exemption, it will expire on December 31, 2028.

QUESTION 3
ENERGY CHOICE

THIS INITIATIVE, which would have amended the constitution to end NV Energy's monopoly control of electricity services in Nevada, was the hardest-fought measure of the election, with millions spent to promote and defeat it. It also represents the largest swing in Nevada initiative history: It won approval on the 2016 ballot with a 72 percent "yes" vote, but was defeated this year by a 67 percent "no" vote. Because constitutional amendments have to be approved by voters in two successive elections, Question 3 is dead. But that doesn't mean the *issue* is dead; most observers expect the idea to return to the 2019 Legislature, with attempts to introduce some form of energy choice by statute. Of course, the reason proponents chose the constitutional route — their inability to get legislation through a gauntlet of NV Energy lobbyists — has not changed and may play out again in 2019.

QUESTION 4
MEDICAL DEVICE TAX EXEMPTION

THIS INITIATIVE, which passed in 2016, and by 67 percent to 33 percent this year, will amend the constitution to require the Legislature to exempt from taxes medical devices such as oxygen tanks and mobility scooters. It's intended to give older and disabled Nevadans relief on devices they need, but which are often out of reach. The amendment won't actually deliver the tax relief until the Legislature passes the exemption and it's signed by the governor. Like Question 2, it will cost the state treasury. But how much is anyone's guess, since the specific nature of the exemption won't be spelled out until the Legislature acts.

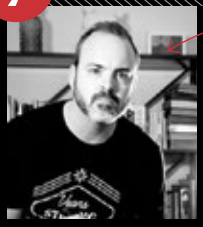
QUESTION 5
AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

THE LEGISLATURE never overturned one of Gov. Brian Sandoval's vetoes, but, in a sense, the people have. Question 5 was originally proposed in an initiative, which went to the Legislature. Lawmakers enacted the policy, which says anyone who applies for a driver's license or state ID card, or who changes an address on one of those documents, will be automatically registered to vote. You'd have to opt-out in writing. Sandoval vetoed the bill, saying people have the right to decide whether to register. It went to the ballot, where voters overrode the governor's veto. Now, the secretary of state, DMV, and county clerks will work to implement a system to store and transmit voter info from the DMV to election authorities.

QUESTION 6
"50 BY 30"

THIS VOTER INITIATIVE would require energy providers to generate 50 percent of the power they sell in Nevada from renewable sources by 2030. Nevada's current standard — set by law, not by the constitution — is 25 percent by 2025. Because this is a constitutional amendment, it must pass again in 2020 to take effect. But proponents are urging the Legislature to take note of its popularity (it passed 59 percent to 41 percent) and implement it sooner. Katie Robbins, campaign manager for the pro-Question 6 effort: "The people of Nevada have made a clear statement about the future they want, and they should not have to wait for it to become a reality." However, even if the 2019 Legislature agrees, the measure will still appear on the 2020 ballot. ✦

7 FUTURE CHRONOLOGY OF MARYLAND PARKWAY



Local filmmaker Pj Perez is making *Parkway of Broken Dreams,* a documentary about the '90s cultural scene on Maryland Parkway *(parkwayofbrokendreams.com).* But that's the past. What does the future hold for this iconic street?

2019 Dotty's takes over Boulevard Mall; cloud of cigarette smoke visible from space

2022 Café reenactors stage mock battle of Roma vs Copioh; hundreds suffer zine-related injuries

2031 Due to climate change, UNLV can no longer irrigate Hey Reb's mustache, changes mascot to dirt

2050 Zombie rampage bogs down in debate over preserving Huntridge Theatre

3000 Elon Musk's third clone swings by Paymon's on way to Mars, taking last of the delicious *fesenjan*

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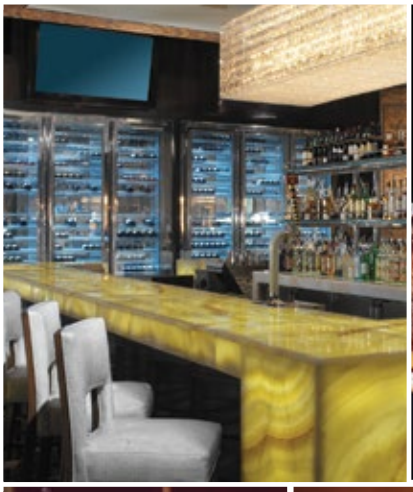
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Day Trip

Nothing Cures a Blah Saturday Like Driving to Pioche and Rooting Around an Old Building Full of History and Junk

BY ***Scott Dickensheets***

1

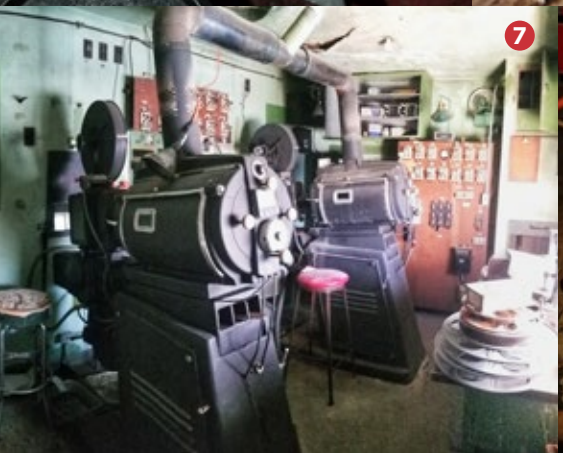
ON SATURDAY, November 10, my wife, Laura, and I load up our dog Aspen for a day trip to Pioche. Google Maps tells you it'll take about three hours, but with the roadwork along the way, and 18-wheelers clogging both lanes of U.S. 93, it takes us closer to four. Most of that time you're surrounded by open desert **(1)**; the few towns mostly seem like first drafts that never got a revision. As with the generations of miners who've come through here, you feel an urge to extract *something* from this bleak (some say austerely beautiful) landscape — a deep meaning or metaphor, perhaps, or some Ozymandias riff as you zoom past the elaborate façade of doomed Coyote Springs, or maybe just a moody, desert-gothic vibe that complements the zeitgeist in some way. I mean, this is Lincoln County, about which the rest of the world is snarking for electing a dead pimp to the state Senate (he got just under 79 percent of the vote here). Existential nitty-gritty should be splatting on my windshield like bugs. But each time I'm about to grok The Meaning of It All, Aspen licks my ear, and it's gone. Dogs, they ground you in the real. We pull into a rest stop near Pahranagat to let her stretch her legs. A few minutes later, as Laura becomes the first person in the history of this rest stop to clean up after a pet, I wander to a fenced-off area, where I have my brush with meaning, in the form of baffling graffiti **(2)** on an outback trash can. I don't know *what* it means, but I know it means something, and maybe that's all you can ask from 2018.

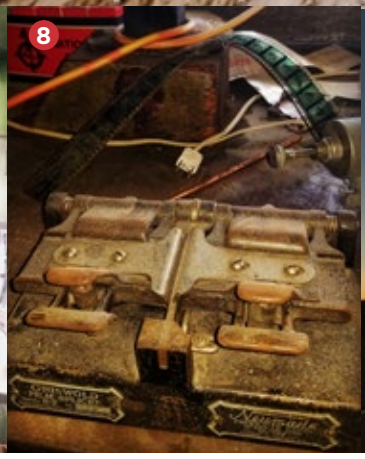
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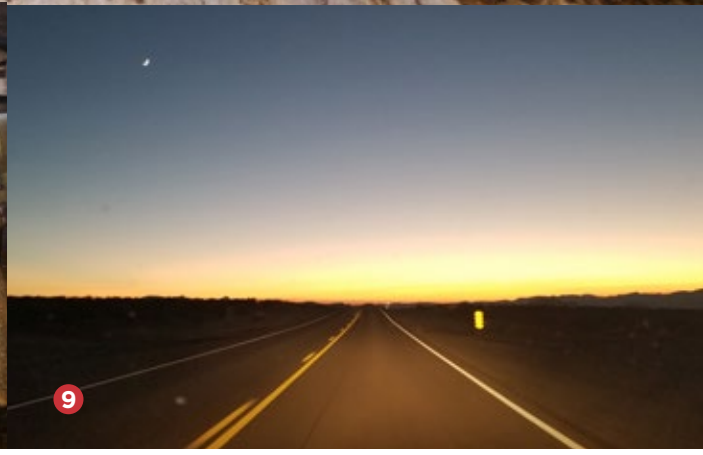
WE'VE COME to Pioche to visit Laura's sister, Michelle, and her husband, Ron Orr, whose family roots in Pioche go











way back. They recently bought Pioche's long-defunct movie house, the Gem, and Michelle **(3)** is determined to restore it as a theater. (Fortunately for them, the building appears to be structurally sound.) That'll be a long, long process involving nonprofit status, grants for historic preservation and rural entrepreneurship, and a whole lotta junk-removal. Thankfully, that's not why we're here. Michelle is giving us a tour of the derelict old building — Laura, in particular, adores ruined old places. Inside, it's like a museum after an earthquake: amazing stuff everywhere. Random piles of marquee letters in the lobby **(4)**, movie posters on the floor **(5)**, equipment squatting in the projection room, ready to roll. "Be careful, it's haunted," Michelle jokes at one point. As I look out over the ghostly theater **(6)**, the empty seats arrayed before a blank screen, 20 years and counting between shows, it seems that if there aren't actual spirits here, the Gem does meet the definition of "haunted" proposed by late cultural critic Marc Fisher: "a staining of place with particularly intense moments of time" — though perhaps "intense" isn't the best word to apply to people watching *The Beautician and the Beast* 21 years ago. Imagining the spirit of Fran Drescher still trapped in that film is scarier than anything haunting these walls.

3

UP THE STAIRS, a right turn at the crying room (into which parents could take their wailing infants and still watch the movie), and we're in the Gem's dusty, strewn projection booth. What a marvel! There's nothing digital, of course; the two big projectors **(7)** — powered, improbably, by welding rods — aim through small windows like cannons on a steampunk airship. There's a dumbwaiter of no obvious use. Ribbons of film and old invoices, slices of preserved ephemera, are everywhere **(8)**. Some of the equipment will eventually be restored to working order — Michelle wants to keep as much of the project as period-appropriate as possible, to offer Pioche a sense of historical continuity — but a lot of what Laura and I are oohing over is just junk Michelle and Ron will have to haul away. But that's for later (they don't yet have a renovation timetable). For now there's a gleeful immersion into a different time of a different place, questions to ponder — why *didn't* they empty the popcorn before closing the theater for good? — and a long, satisfied drive home **(9)**. Google Maps says it will take about three hours, but Google Maps doesn't believe I'll actually go 92 most of the way.✦

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ALL OUT

FOOD, CULTURE, STYLE, AND OTHER PULSE-OF-THE-CITY STUFF



PHOTOGRAPHY *Sabin Orr*

DINING | BUSINESS

A Gastropub on Every Corner

Neighborhood bar chain PT's is upgrading its menu of staples with new dishes and fresh ingredients. Artisanal chicken fingers, anyone?

By Lissa Townsend Rodgers

To many, Las Vegas dining and nightlife conjures images of celebrity-chef restaurants serving exotic dishes or posh clubs with bottle service and star DJs. But for a lot of us, it's more likely to be pizza, pints, and video poker at a PT's. Since 1982, the local franchise has been where many people unwind after work, watch the game, or end a long night with a basket of fries and a game of pool. It's a Vegas institution that inspires great loyalty among some for being a reliable mainstay chain bar, and contempt among others for being, well, a reliable mainstay chain bar.

However, even the old standbys can't rest on their laurels — or wings. With gastropubs and pop-ups giving patrons other bar-and-bite options, PT's is bringing its menu into the 21st century. "Over the years, food has evolved so much in Las Vegas," says Jimmy Wadhams, vice president of Tavern Operations for Golden Entertainment, PT's parent company. "The traditional tavern food like wings and burgers is important, but it's also getting more innovative and creative." PT's new additions include custom burgers and specialty cocktails, but also crab cakes, edamame, and Belgian waffles.

"We've looked at what other taverns are doing, did a lot of research and development ... and we've been taking some guest favorites, things that people have wanted for a long time or have asked for," says Scott Green, culinary director of Tavern Operations at Golden Entertainment. Green is a veteran of opening venues at places like Caesars Palace and the Wynn, but is quite familiar with the neighborhood stalwart. "Up and down the Strip, I've always gone out with everybody after work, and you go to a PT's," he says.

A menu revamp is never a small undertaking, and in the case of PT's, it involves about 60 properties spread over seven brands, with more opening next year. "The menus have kind of been engineered to play off one another. Each brand has a little bit different signature item here and there," Wadhams says, "but now we're in the process of giving each menu its own identity based on the brand."

The franchise began with PT's Pubs — low-key neighborhood joints with pool tables and sofas. Then it expanded to PT's Gold, which are more restaurant-oriented, and more likely to be found among the big-box stores of the suburbs. PT's Ranch plays a Southwestern angle — reclaimed wood paneling and plenty of burrito variations — while Sean Patrick's is their version of an Irish pub, where the St. Patrick's Day garland never comes down, and Jameson's wings and Guinness corned beef potato skins are staples. (They'd better leave those Guinness taters alone — it's one of the most pleasant





REVAMPED RELIABLES
Previous page: Assorted new dishes from Golden Entertainment bars, including calamari and shrimp fry (upper left) and Sriracha bites (lower right) **This Page:** Left, chili cheese slider, Western slider, and fancy slider; above, fajitas



Yayoi Kusama

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Yayoi Kusama, *Aftermath of Obliteration of Eternity*, 2009, Wood, mirror, plastic, acrylic, LED and aluminum installation, 415 x 415 x 287.4 cm, 163 x 163 x 113 in. © YAYOI KUSAMA. Courtesy Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo/Singapore/Shanghai and Victoria Miro, London/Venice.

ways to slip into a food coma.) Sierra Gold is a series of upscale taverns, while PT's Brewing and SG Bar are both one-offs. The former is where they've brewed their proprietary beer for the past three years; the latter is located near corporate HQ and is the most upscale, with Edison bulbs, abstract art, and charcuterie platters.

A longtime PT's skeptic, I sampled some of the new happy hour menu items. It's certainly still bar food, but it's grown up considerably: The sweet, spicy, saucy Sriracha chicken bites are addictive, while the pub burger has a half-pound-heft and a smoky, cheese-drenched flavor that can fuel up at lunch or fill up post-midnight. There's also an array of new cocktails, with variations on the mule and the margarita, as well as the Spark Plug, a blend of vodka, Kahlua, and espresso that supplies sweetness, richness, and a nice boozy kick. The Pubs, Golds, and SG Bar have recently rolled out their new full menus, with the rest to come as 2019 opens.

"I'd say we probably changed about 50 percent of the menu and cleared up the other 50 percent to be more user-friendly, better quality items," Green says. "We want everybody to be able to have the same options, no matter what location they go to. Pizza, flatbreads, burgers, and fries will all essentially be the same." One of the quality moves is making all their chicken fingers in-house: marinating, breading, frying. "Up and down the Strip, a lot of places will just use frozen chicken fingers, and I really wanted to move away from that," Green says. "It gets a little more complicated, rather than just opening a box, (but) it has such a good flavor." The idea, he says, is to balance old favorites with new items, sometimes in the same dish. "We've had a staple pizza in the taverns for a long time called the Gilroy: It's garlic ranch, mozzarella cheese, pepperoni, mushrooms, tomato, and pizza sausage. What we've done is make a burger out of those same options.

"We have a lot of people who have been coming to our taverns for a long, long time, myself included. Everybody who's lived in Las Vegas for any amount of time knows about PT's," Green says. "You go for certain things, so we want to make sure that remains consistent. The additional new items are kind of a play toward people who want something a little different." ✦

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TABLE FOR TWO

‘OMG, a Pool of Grease!’

At veggie joint Tacotarian, that’s a good thing — a testament to its taco authenticity

BY ***Kristy Totten and Heidi Kyser***

Kristy: Okay, well, this might not sound like a compliment, but I mean it as one: This looks like a Mexican-themed nursery, for a little hipster baby. Very Instagram-able.

Heidi: I did notice an elderly woman at the counter, but almost everyone else here is really young. Sometimes I get the feeling that all the rabid vegans are in their 20s.

Kristy: That makes sense. But there seems to be a good mix of people — a few guys who are out to business lunch.

Heidi: I was kind of shocked, pulling into this strip mall, at the number of restaurants here. There’s Stefano’s back there, and something called Munch Box, which I assume is sandwiches for stoners. Or bikini-line waxing.

Kristy: There’s also a foot spa and chiro-yoga. I don’t know what that is.

Heidi: Me neither, and I’m a yoga teacher.

Kristy: Food is here!

Heidi: Oooh … this Baja taco — the beer-battered avocado one — is really good. It’s a flour tortilla, but it’s the flaky kind. That one’s my favorite so far. Also, it’s the only one I’ve tried.

Kristy: It has all the flavors of a fish taco, minus the fish, but I don’t miss it.

Heidi: Because the avocado is beer-battered! I like the jackfruit one, too, but I still get a little of that pungent, sour taste of the jackfruit.

Kristy: It’s supposed to be pork, but it tastes more like chicken.

Heidi: Oh, my God, there’s a pool of grease underneath the barbacoa taco. Can you see this? That’s the funny thing about some vegan food — you think of it as healthy, but there can be a lot of fat in it.



¡SABROSOTARIAN!
Top, a trio of Tacotarian items: Baja taco (beer-battered avocado), dorado taco (deep-fried potato), and barbacoa taco (chili-braised jackfruit). Bottom, asada fries

Kristy: Right. In high school I had so many vegetarian friends who were pizza-and-fries vegetarians. I’m like, Okay, although I eat meat, I also eat more vegetables than you do.

Heidi: Right. I suppose it depends on why people are doing it. If you’re doing it for health reasons, you have to be careful in places like this; but if you’re doing it for ethical reasons, I guess you don’t care about the calories.

Kristy: One thing about vegetarian food and cafés is sometimes the food isn’t very flavorful. And I get it — your taste buds are different, not tainted by animal fats, so you probably have a better sense of taste, actually. But with this, even as a meat-eater, I still find it totally satisfying because it’s really greasy.

Heidi: And salty! I prefer crunchy tacos, and whatever they used for the filling in this Gabacho — I think it’s Beyond Meat — tastes exactly like taco meat made with beef. I could seriously eat five of these. … Okay, so what do you think of the asada fries? It’s turning into a giant blob.

Kristy: Totally. Yeah. It’s its own thing now. Try the meat on its own. It’s sweet, and not like sweeeeet!

Heidi: Yeah, too much sugar in there for me.

Kristy: It would be good enough without the meat, with just the beans and the other toppings.

Heidi: You mean the 19 other things that are on there? Let’s see, jalapeños, guacamole, refried beans, cheese, pico, sour cream …

Kristy: No complaints. I tend to think of asada fries as bad-decision drunken food.

Heidi: Yeah, total Brett-Kavanaugh-at-3 a.m.-on-a-Sunday food.

Kristy: What do you think of this bean-and-cheese taco?

Heidi: I wanted to get it to see how it stacks up against the standard vegetarian taco you can get almost anywhere. It’s better than the ones I make at home. I hate to admit that.

Kristy: The service is good, too. This is totally anecdotal, but a lot of veg places I’ve gone to, the service sucks. … Tacotarian seems on it on multiple levels. It’s satisfying even if you’re not vegetarian. And if you are, who needs pizza and fries when you can have tacos? ✦

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PHOTOGRAPHY ***Brent Holmes***

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ENTERTAINMENT | CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

No Angel?

As Criss Angel brings an updated *Mindfreak* to a new venue, a few thoughts on the Strip's most divisive entertainer

BY ***Mike Weatherford***

One rocks the orange skin and blond comb-over. The other leans toward streaky goth eyeliner, gold chains, and bare chest. But when it comes to divisiveness, Criss Angel is the Donald Trump of Las Vegas entertainment: Love him or hate him, there is no in-between.

Is it the abs?

Haters: *Buy a shirt with sleeves, dude. Or a vest with buttons.*

Lovers: *His new show opens at Planet Hollywood on December 19 — Angel's 51st birthday. Maybe 50 is when those sporting six-packs should begin showing them off, not quit.*

Maybe it's the nu-metal.

Haters: *Nothing says, "Age gracefully and expand your audience" like a blistering dose of Korn or Godsmack (Korn's Johnathan Davis has said he is making musical and visual contributions to Angel's new show).*

Lovers: *Do Metallica apologize for their age? Let him play his greatest hits.*

Longevity should build respect and admiration. But even though scads of shows came and went during Angel's 10 years at Luxor, they were bumpy years. There was the breakup with Holly Madison, the sweetest heart ever to call the Playboy Mansion home (she termed him "explosive," "cripplingly insecure," and even "unintelligent" in a memoir). And the threatening confrontation with *Review-Journal* columnist Norm Clarke after protesting Angel's treatment of a different girlfriend at Trump's Miss USA pageant. (Angel's not overly fond of me, either, for what it's worth.)

And, of course, there's the show itself. Cirque du Soleil could do no wrong until it teamed with Angel for *Believe*, in which the middle ground between the two brands turned out to be dancing bunnies in bondage gear. Within a year of its Halloween 2008 debut, Angel had stripped away most of the Cirque content to put on a more predictable showcase, amid constant talk that the star magician couldn't even get along with the nicest Canadian hippies ever to rule Las Vegas entertainment.

And his in-fighting with other magicians? It's been a while — maybe since the boozy Rat Pack era — since one entertainer has provoked another to declare: "A lot of people want to see you get your ass beat. I'm one of 'em."

That was Brett Daniels, a fellow magician who posted a 2016 video challenging Angel to a mixed-martial-arts cage brawl — for charity, of course — claiming Angel had ripped off a signature illusion.

Daniels now calls the challenge a piece of "WWE-style performance art." One that "hit him back hard, on his own level," because it could have been ripped from Angel's own playbook. Consider the very WWE-like end of the video promo for last summer's road show *Raw*, when Angel leans into the camera with a painted face and guttural growl: "Are you ready? Because I'm comin' to your town! *Rahr-rahr-rahr!*"

The magic community is insular, and — perhaps not surprising for a craft rooted in childhood fascinations — rife with locker-room jealousy. Angel and David Copperfield cannot be in the same room together, and their long-running feud carries over to Angel's new Planet Hollywood venture, *Mindfreak*. Copperfield moved to block a European illusion builder from selling Angel a fighter-jet prop that would materialize very much like the UFO does in Copperfield's show at MGM Grand.

But this is tradecraft. What is it about Angel's larger persona that prompted him to ask those "who might still hate me" to reassess him when he rebooted his Luxor show two years ago? And this around the time he poured his energy into raising money to fight childhood cancer?

After his 2-year-old son was diagnosed with leukemia, Angel threw a benefit concert at Luxor. In its tax return for that year, 2016, the Johnny Christopher Children's Charitable Foundation reported that $720,000 was paid out to charity, $500,000 of it to the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

But even that nice charitable push comes



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with an aesthetic tug-of-war. As part of his continued fundraising, Angel built a cancer-awareness segment into his Luxor show. Admirable, right? But the illusion involved a wheelchair occupied by a cancer patient in bald shower cap — whom we had previously seen as a hot showgirl. Hard not to snicker, even without the extra knowledge that the showgirl, Chloe Crawford, left another Las Vegas magician, Murray Sawchuck, for a relationship with Angel.

"I have respect for his brand, how hard he works," Sawchuck says, echoing a common refrain among detractors. "But a little bit of being humble would go a long way with him."

Maybe the divisiveness stems from never knowing which Criss Angel you're going to get. Unlike, say, Penn & Teller's remarkably consistent personas, "He has three separate characters," says Angel's friend, the Amazing Johnathan (Szeles). "He's got the comedy human side, the *Criss Angel Mindfreak* guy, and then he's got that goth character. He does all three of them, and it works."

Szeles sold Angel some of his old routines and "sat through his show a dozen times with a notebook, writing him stuff and coming up with ideas" to help him lighten up.

But while the new show will have immersive video walls, new pyrotechnics, and, his PR says, some 20 new illusions among the 75 overall, it may dial way back on the comedy, and isn't carrying over Johnathan's former sidekick Penny Wiggins or comic foil Mateo Amieva.

Whatever Angel unveils, Brett Daniels knows the final product will reflect a Donald Trump comparison beyond their divisive appeal: "The undeniable, 100 percent belief that what you're doing is the right thing, and there's no other way.

"And I think it serves him pretty well, to a point," Daniels adds. "It's what gets him there, because he never doubts himself. That's a big parallel with what you see with Trump, this thing where you think that you can do no wrong." ✦

***Criss Angel Mindfreak*, 7p Wed-Sun (plus 9:30p Sat), Planet Hollywood, $69-$139, caesars.com/planet-hollywood**



JACK GAUGHAN: COURTESY NEVADA BALLET THEATRE/DENISE TRUSCELLO

CULTURE | Q&A

Never Boring

Six questions for Jack Gaughan, the man behind the music behind *The Nutcracker*

BY ***Heidi Kyser***

This month, Jack Gaughan will direct the live musical accompaniment to Nevada Ballet Theatre's *Nutcracker* for the sixth time. But his experience with the classic Tchaikovsky score goes back further than that — much further, to age 7, when he performed it at a piano recital. His first time conducting it for a ballet was in the mid-1970s. Is it still special? Yes, Gaughan told *Desert Companion*, for one simple reason: It's beautiful, complicated music.

Why is *The Nutcracker* so enduringly popular?

It has to do with the magic, the fantasy part of the story. It's every kid's dream to be either a princess or Prince Charming, and there's a lot of that element in the show, as well as teapots coming alive. It's the feeling of experiencing magic, more than remembering anything specific about the play. And the music helps. "The Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy," the "Waltz of the Flowers," those tunes are all so familiar that we recognize them in commercials. You can sing them in your head. They're not trite, but they're memorable. If we have a strong, positive memory about a tune, that triggers other good feelings. That's why we tune into it — and why we take our kids. We want them to have that experience, too.

12/08 **THE NUTCRACKER** December 8-24 (full orchestra: December 8,9,15,16), various times, $29-$179, The Smith Center, nevadaballet.org

The score is the score, but are there opportunities to modify it to some degree, to fit a particular production?

In an orchestral concert, you're not constrained by the elements of a ballet, so you can take a few more liberties — with the tempo, mainly — with the aim of making the piece hold together as a concert. When you're conducting it as a ballet, you have to consider the physical production, the steps the dancers are doing, what the court of ballet is doing, all those elements.

Syncing the music and the steps live must be tricky. How do you prepare?

It's a huge collaboration with the choreographer and the ballet mistress and the dancers and everyone involved. ... I have my score in hand and sit with the choreographer and stage manager to coordinate the technical stuff, so that I know ahead of time what our task is, and when we get to the theater there's no time wasted.

What's the most panic-inducing moment you've had?

The first couple years we did this production, because it's so huge, we had some technical issues with the scenery. You can see the Christmas tree going up too fast or not fast enough, and you adjust so you end up where you're supposed to. You stretch a few bars here, quicken a few others there; that's the joy of live performance. That's what keeps it interesting for me — those unexpected things happen at the most unexpected times. You have to pay attention.

How does live accompaniment benefit the audience?

People get used to what music sounds like in their earbuds and headphones, and the reality is that music doesn't really sound like that. A lot of what you experience with a live orchestra is what you're actually feeling, the vibrations in your body. You may not be aware of it, but that does happen, even with classical music. It's a whole different experience.

How do you keep it fresh?

This is what's interesting with pieces like Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and *The Nutcracker*, which musicians play tens of thousands of times over their careers: Those pieces are played so often because they are rich musically. So each time they play they discover something new. That's what keeps it from being stale or rote. This piece, I don't believe, has ever sounded boring. ✦





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KING IBU: BRENT HOLMES

MUSIC | Q&A

Cross-Cultural Joy

With his fusion of world music traditions, Senegalese-born musician King Ibu has become a Las Vegas mainstay

BY ***Jacob Lasky***

Ibrahima "King Ibu" Ba was never supposed to become a musician — at least according to the social norms he grew up with in Senegal.

Ibu was raised in a family that was a part of a noble caste of scholars and intellectuals in Podor, the northernmost town in Senegal. His caste is traditionally entertained by the country's lower griot caste of musicians. Around age 12, Ibu broke tradition by picking up a guitar, and later taught himself how to sing and play other instruments, including bass, keyboards, djembe, and the sabar.

Music eventually brought Ibu to Los Angeles in 1996, and then Las Vegas, where he found success playing in a cover band on the Strip during the early 2000s. Since living in the United States, Ibu has released three solo albums, toured internationally, and has collaborated with world-renowned musicians, including Carlos Santana during his first Vegas residency.

Ibu sings his music in English, French, and ethnic languages intrinsic to Senegal, but he aspires to make his music a universal language to be enjoyed and understood by everyone by fusing traditional Senegalese folk with other contemporary genres, including soul, reggae, and jazz.

Desert Companion spoke to Ibu about honing his eclectic sound, playing music in Senegal, future aspirations, and how he uses his music to break cultural barriers.

How do you describe your sound, besides the industry term "world music"?

The way I look at it is it's a mix of all the styles I've been exposed to, and (am) still exposed to. I just mix them up. I'm an intuitive artist, so I'm self-taught. I never went to school to learn music. I'm more driven by feelings about it, and of course my background and what I bring to the song. It's a mosaic. Instead of it being pictures, it's almost like musical mosaic somewhat.

What were some of your early musical influences while growing up in Senegal?

I would just listen to what everybody else was listening to in the household when I was younger. We listened to so much stuff. First, soul music ... Wilson Pickett. We used to listen to music from Cuba, from Spain, and, of course, American music.

When I started kind of having an idea of what I wanted to do, that's when I started listening to guys like Miles Davis, Wes Montgomery, and, of course, traditional music. Every ritual, every holiday, every ceremony was accompanied by some type of music. Even soccer. When you go to a soccer game you have people drumming and singing.

What was it like stepping out of your caste to pursue music?

I was born in a family where mom was from Mauritania and dad was from Senegal. So, just growing up in different cultures and being surrounded by different languages has made me very

12 5, 14 **KING IBU** December 5, 7:30p, free, UNLV's Barrick Museum, unlv.edu/calendar. December 14, 6p, free, West Las Vegas Library, lvccld.org

comfortable in doing different stuff. At first it wasn't as rebellious as I realize now, but I'm the only one who plays music in my family. My mom was alive then. She was a very cool lady. "Hey, as long as you bring me straight A's, I'm fine with it."

But, of course, I could sense the others ... looking at me with a different eye. But it didn't stop me. The love for it was so strong that I wasn't going to stop.

Are there any challenges with playing world music in Vegas?

Vegas has been very challenging, still is challenging playing the kind of music that I play. When you talk about world music, it's huge in Europe, it's huge in Canada, and certain parts of America, but not Vegas yet.

How I overcome the challenge is when you come to my show or you listen my music ... you'll find there's great effort that I make to reach out and to compromise so that you can understand it. You get the message through the music, even though you don't understand the words I'm saying.

What are your future plans?

The most important thing is gigging more. I think we'll (with collaborator Dirk K) record some more stuff that will ... reflect more on what we do live now. Two guitars and vocals, and just having fun with it. In the end, you start really realizing that less is more as you grow in anything you do. You realize you don't need much. Just the two of us, but we bring in so much sound and so much power, it's amazing.

What do you want people to take away from your music?

What I really pray for people to get from my shows is the moment of happiness and joy that we bring to them, and sharing with them some aspects of Senegalese, or generally African culture and concepts. It's really that opportunity to connect with people without speaking the same language. ✦

(This interview has been edited for length and clarity)

THE Hot Seat

Art

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You have to get close to Etty Yaniv's art. You've gotta get your face all up in its business to see what the Israeli-born artist is doing with her multi-layered collages and assemblages. Marshalling very many pieces of cut paper, plastic, photos, and random whatever, she wrestles meaning out of ephemera and disorder, art out of transient material. A useful skill in our day and age. **Through January 5, free, artslasvegas.org**





Music

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The big drummer boys and girls bust out their own high-amp versions of holiday classics, style-switching among gospel, jazz, Motown, and more, all built on the marching-band traditions of Historically Black Colleges and universities. Put together by the team behind the hit movie *Drumline*. **Saturday, December 29 at 2 and 7:30p, $29-$69, thesmith-**

Literature

AN EVENING WITH DEREK PALACIO AND CLAIRE VAYE WATKINS

THE WRITER'S BLOCK

The married authors wrap their fall fellowships at UNLV's Black Mountain Institute with this cozy lit-night jam sesh: readings, discussion ... who knows what madcap biblio antics might ensue? Watkins is the author of *Battleborn* and *Gold Fame Citrus*; Palacio, of *The Mortifications* — excellent fictions all — so you know they're talented; and they run free writing workshops for kids in Pahrump, so you know they're big-hearted. Ought to be a great night. **December 4, 7p, 1020 E. Fremont St., free, RSVP at blackmountaininstitute.org**

WINTER HIKE AT PINE CREEK. For an early Christmas gift, take the whole family — well, those over 7 — on this relatively easy 2.3-mile hike with an interpretive naturalist. Nothing says ho-ho-ho like an interpretive naturalist! **December 24, Red Rock Canyon, 702-515-5367**



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Art

FLOWER POWER *Abstract* doesn't necessarily mean *up for grabs*, some wild, no-rules splattering and smudging of paint. It's more a process than a visual style. "Abstraction is the filtering or breaking down of visual information," says painter Benjamin Schmitt. "I tend to start with an image and then modify or reconfigure it to suit my composition." Under consideration today: Schmitt's abstractions of flowers, his half of the new two-person exhibit, ***Frozen in Flux***, paired with sculpture by Benjamin Johnsen (December 6-February 10, with 5:30p reception December 6, in the Centennial Hills Library, lvccld.org). "I like to pull from nature, seeing as I'm drawn to organic forms and patterns," he says. Already amorphous, flowers are ideal for a method that involves pooling and dribbling paint — a process open to serendipity and improvisation, "the creative process being equally important as the finished piece." It's about an emotional response, he says. "As an artist, I look for a sense or feel that moves me." ***Scott Dickensheets***

THE Hot Seat



Music

Merry-Achi Christmas

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By the time you read this, the onslaught of overplayed Christmas music will already have unfurled from "The First Noel" to the thousandth; the opening notes of "Jingle Bell Rock" will give you ear-burn; and somewhere, there will surely be an animatronic Bing Crosby dueting with a hologram David Bowie on "Little Drummer Boy." Wanna get away? José Hernández and Mariachi Sol de Mexico will bring a beguiling and joyful cross-cultural flair and international pizzazz to the holiday repertoire. **December 14, 7:30p, $30, *artslasvegas.org***

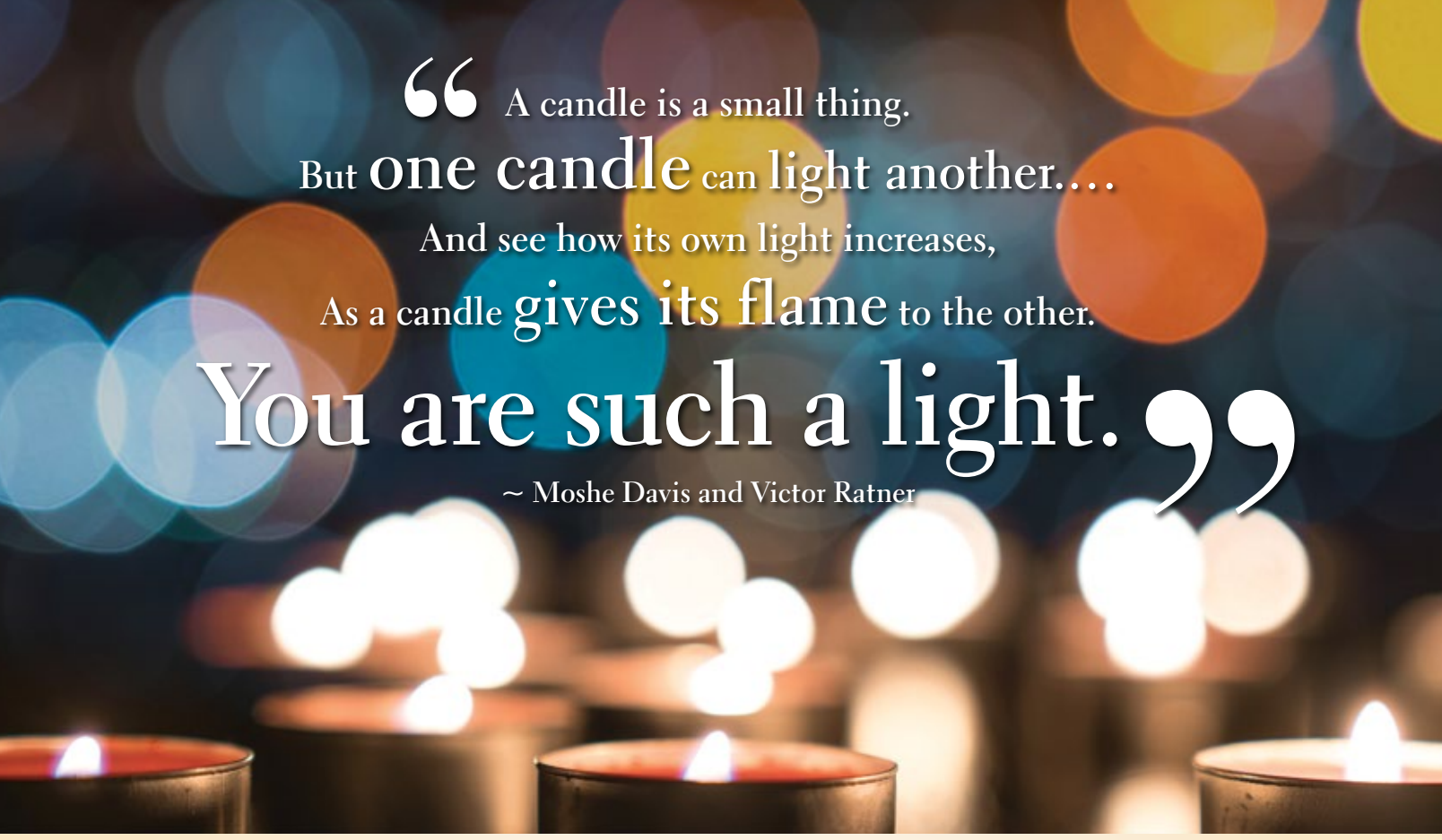
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LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST. You still have time for a warm toddy of Shakespearean romantic comedy, served by Nevada Conservatory Theatre — hie thee to UNLV! **Through December 9, various times, UNLV's Judy Bayley Theatre, $25, unlv.edu/calendar**



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Holidays

NO WRAPPING PAPER NEEDED

Last-minute shoppers can please almost everyone — and avoid the mall — by giving Las Vegas experiences

BY VERONICA KLASH

For the Frustrated Mixologist: Cocktail Classes at Velveteen Rabbit

This Main Street staple — glowing under twinkle lights that crisscross the newly refreshed Main Street — has been serving creative cocktails for years. Now, you and five of your closest friends or adult family members can learn to replicate their most decadent beverages. Drinks with names like Arthur Flanzarelli or Papa Loves Mango. Cocktail classes are taught by owners and overall cool ladies, the Dylag sisters. With their one-on-one attention, even the most culinarily challenged can walk away an educated mixologist, along with some memorable moments. **$60/person (includes three cocktails), 1218 S. Main St., velveteenrabbitlv.com**

For the Anxiety-Ridden Workaholic: Rage Room Session at Sin City Smash

Help those you love who are crushed by the burden of a stressful job or home life. This establishment provides a private room where guests can obliterate inanimate objects, creating a fantastic release. Tired of hearing your cousin complain about how Sheila from accounting never answers her emails? Exhausted from the way your spouse yells at other inept drivers on the road? Sin City Smash is what they need. You might even end up booking a session for yourself. **$35 and up, 2907 Meade Ave., sincitysmash.com**

For the Desert Dwelling Hockey Fan: Skating Lessons at City National Arena

Treat the Vegas Golden Knights super-fan in your life to classes that will bring them closer to the athletes they admire. Literally closer, as City National Arena is where the team practices. Classes are available for all ages and skill levels. You haven't experienced true joy until you've seen a middle-aged man ice-skate for the first time. Hockey has swept up Las Vegas in a magnificent fever. Since it shows no signs of breaking, further education is in order. Be the one who provides it. **$155 for eight lessons, 1550 South Pavilion Center Drive, citynationalarenavegas.com**

For the Grandiose Gourmand: Dinner at É by Jose Andres

In a city known for extravagant dinning, one would have to be truly exceptional to stand out. This is the case with É by Jose Andres, one of The Cosmopolitan's hidden treasures. The intimate chef's-table experience plays jump-rope with the lines between food, art, and performance. A meal reserved for lists, best of and bucket alike. Dinner here will earn you, the tasteful gift-giver, gratitude that may never end. **$275/person, in The Cosmopolitan, ebyjoseandras.com**

For the Fitness and Fresh Air Enthusiast: Annual Pass to Red Rock Canyon

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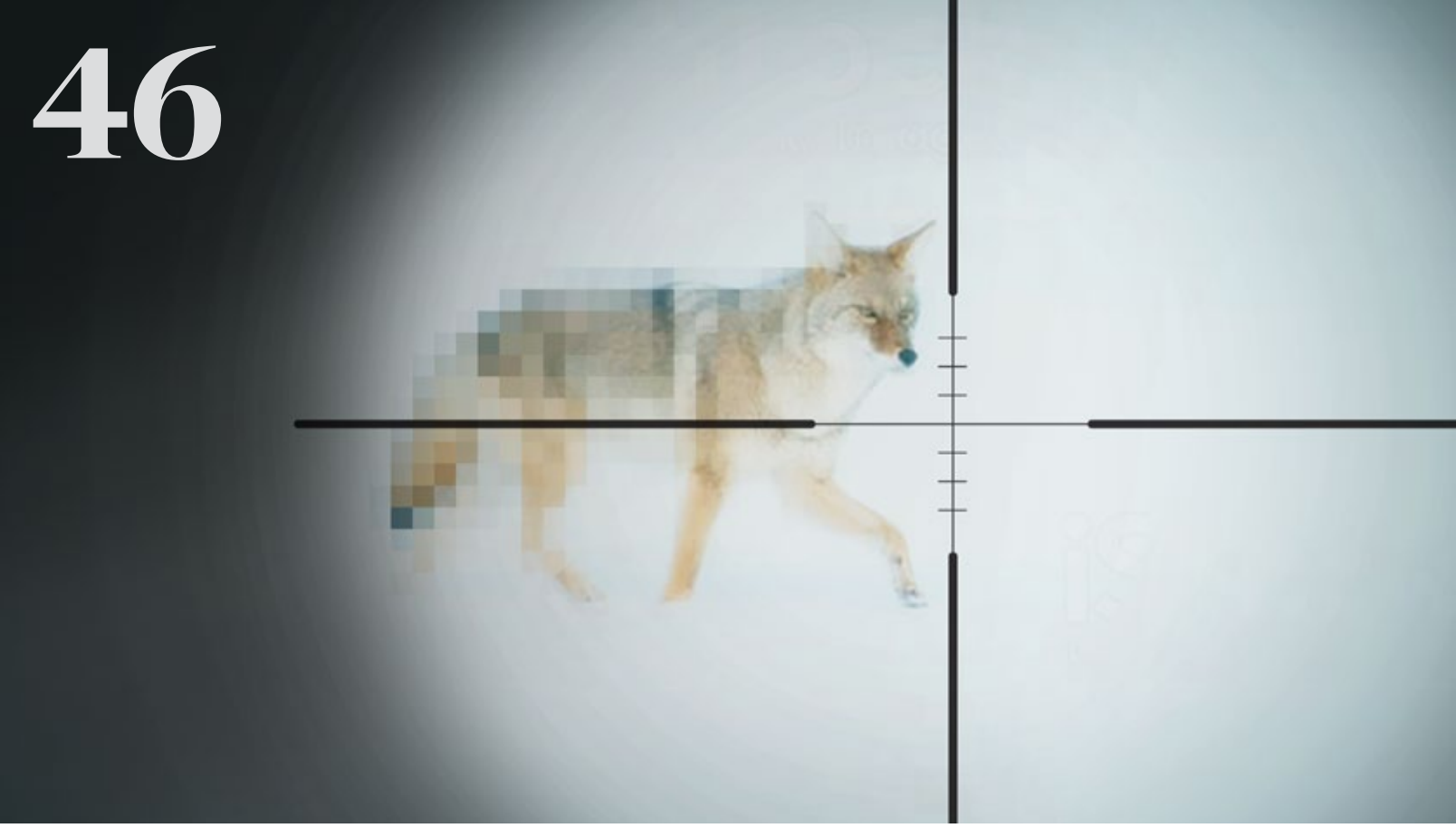
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FIELD NOTES

‘DOGS’

Coyote hunts are a fixture of rural life. Are they economic boons, as the hunters say, or unethical slaughter, as the critics insist? A visit to Austin’s Coyote Derby.

BY ***John M. Glionna***

AUSTIN, NEVADA

Two brothers shot pool on a cool October afternoon in the Silver State Saloon, located along the main drag of this former mining town, just down the street from a sign that reads “Prayer Spoken Here.” The eight-ball matches, waged over laughs and beers, weren’t really about billiards; the men were working on their hand to eye coordination, honing their hunting skills. Jesse Anson and his younger brother, Worth, were preparing for the next day’s contest against several dozen practiced marksmen in an animal-killing event.

Coyotes, to be exact. *Canis latrans.* Kill the most, win some money.

The brothers and their fellow sportsmen have practiced names for the animals: They call them “varmints,” “pests,” or “apex predators run amok.” But when they make their kills and lift their prizes by the tails, they call them “dogs.” Estimates of their population in Nevada run from about 50,000 to several times that.

Jesse, 35, and his brother are from Battle Mountain, 90 miles to the north, another struggling, blue-collar, central Nevada town. They’re miners — Worth, 22, does his job above ground, Jesse below. Their father taught them to hunt when they were kids.

“We’re Nevada boys,” Jesse said, lining up a corner shot. “This is what we do.”

Coyote hunts are a fixture among rural outdoorsmen nationwide, a response to the animals’ perceived threat to livestock. In many states, coyotes are unprotected by wildlife laws, meaning they can be hunted without a license or bag limits. Some states, including Utah, Texas, Colorado, and South Dakota, pay coyote bounties.

As a result, a contest circuit has sprung up in 49 states. The events have names such as the Iowa Coyote Classic, Idaho Varmint Hunters Blast from the Past, and the Park County (Wyoming) Predator Palooza. And, on a recent weekend in Austin, the much-anticipated Coyote Derby, which drew hunters from as far away as Utah and Las Vegas.

Environmentalists and animal-rights groups have petitioned to halt what some call “killing for kicks.” In 2014, California became the first state to ban all wildlife killing contests, and similar efforts are being waged in Vermont, New Mexico, New York, and Oregon. In 2015, critics petitioned Nevada wildlife officials to prohibit the contests. Putting a tally on the number of animals taken in a day, they said, is the very definition of frivolous killing. The Nevada Wildlife Commission voted 7-1 to deny the petition.

Nevada has one of the nation’s most pronounced urban/rural splits, according to the 2010 Census. So the brothers know many urban residents view their activities as a senseless extermination and were re-

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION ***Christopher Smith***

luctant to give detailed answers to questions about their tactics — using calls that mimic injured animals to lure out their prey, again and again, as many times as the daylight will allow — and motivations. "You're calling out a wild animal, but you're also getting out into the country and having fun," Jesse said. "Out there, it's all about good times and great friends."

He was decked out in brown camouflage while Worth wore a black Jack Daniel's T-shirt and blue jeans. At the registration table, a poster advertised an upcoming "Varmint Hunt" in nearby Carvers. Both said they could compete in a coyote-killing contest just about every weekend if they were willing to drive a few hours.

Each time he pulls the trigger in the contest, Jesse said, he's helping the Nevada economy. "Every coyote we kill saves 13 calves a year," he said. "This is ranching country. We're helping save people's livelihoods. All those people who criticize us, we call 'em Californians. Nobody should call this bad until they find out the true facts and go out and try it." He even offered some advice to get started: "Go get yourself a little .22 and start shooting ground squirrels. They're the biggest menace of all. After that, you'll pretty much be hooked."

AUSTIN'S COYOTE DERBY has been held annually for more than 15 years. With its promotional poster showing a howling coyote in the crosshairs of a gunsight, the one-day hunt promised more than $6,000 in prize money. There were "big-dog" and "small-dog" competitions, and a "Calcutta" bracket that allowed teams to bet on each other, adding a wagering incentive similar to playing for "skins" on the golf course.

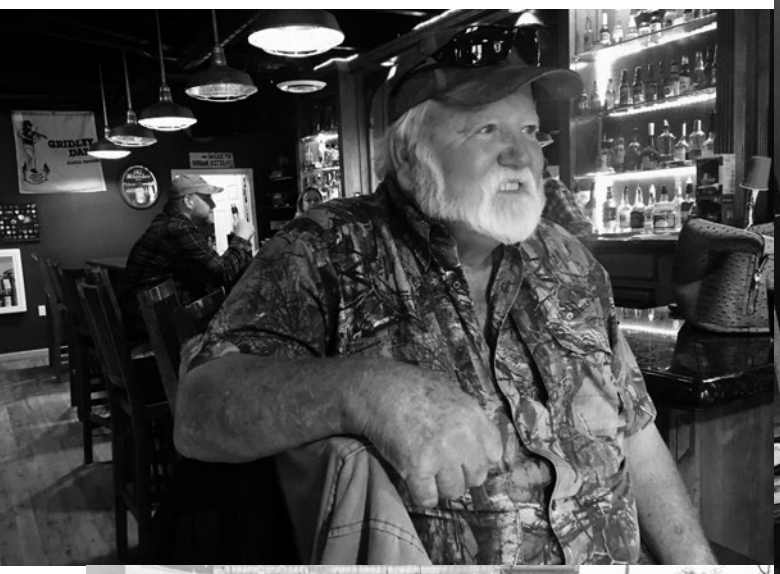
The chief organizer is Phil Marshall, a 65-year-old California construction company owner and rancher who spent much of his childhood in Austin, helping out at a general store his late grandparents ran. "Many of my relatives are buried here," he said. Now Marshall and his family have purchased a half-dozen buildings along the main drag and staked a claim in the future of this community of about 200.

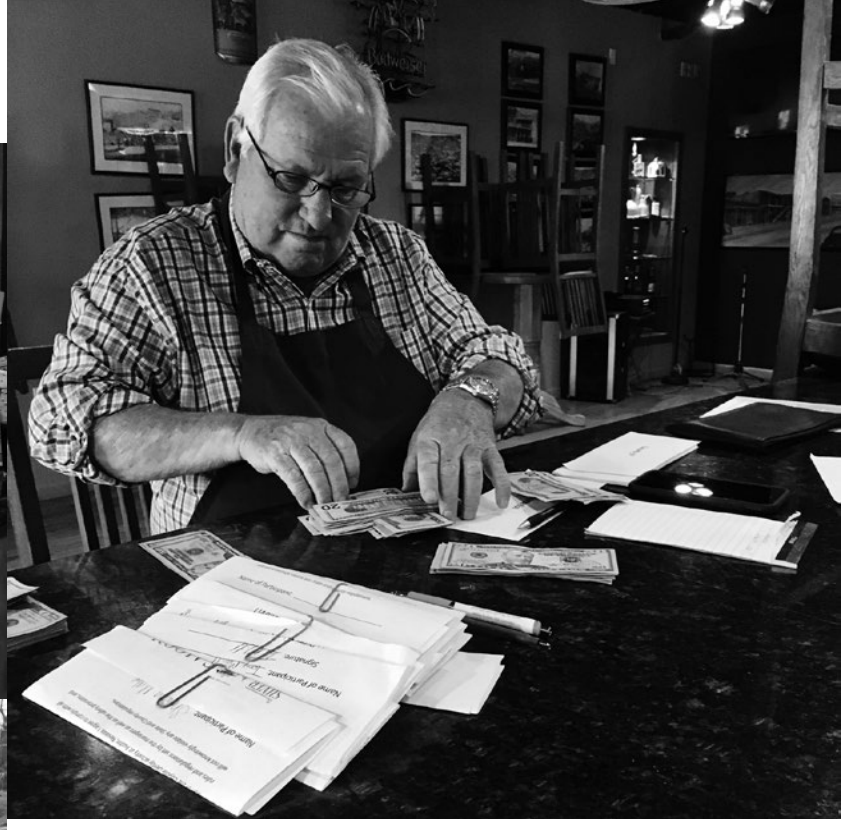
Marshall sees the hunts as a way to inject some energy into Austin's flagging economy. "The purpose of the hunt isn't just to kill a bunch of animals," he said. "The contest brings people and commerce into town. In the slow months here, you might as well lock the doors and wait the winter out."

Coyote contestants need a place to eat, drink, and regale one another before and after the hunt, and Marshall's Silver State











DOG DAY
Kenny Marshall (top left) can tell you all about the guns used by the hunters. His brother Phil (above), organizer of the Coyote Derby, prepares the prize money earned by the hunters, based on the number and weight of their kills.

Saloon and restaurant are there to serve them. A sign at the bar reads: "Beer! Because No Great Story Ever Started with a Salad."

The rules of the hunt are straightforward. Participants must show up at the bar to register on the night before the hunt, and return by 6 p.m. the following day to have their animals assessed and weighed. Hunters can take their prey from any county in Nevada. They can use calls and dogs to flush out the animals. No night hunting, no helicopters, no snowmobiles. Hunters are advised to stay off public land, but that rule is rarely enforced. A few entrants go it alone, some using a shotgun so they're forced to get close to their prey. But most hunt in groups, and the really prolific killers use semi-automatic weapons, which Marshall's older brother Kenny called the "fun gun of the hunt."

Sitting at the bar, he described the various weapons used to take out coyotes. "Most guys use either an AR-15 with a scope or a .204 Ruger bolt-action rifle," he said. "The high-velocity rounds go in real small, tears 'em up on the inside, and exit. They're sure-kill rounds. You don't want those coyotes walking away."

But some hunters prefer to take home their pelts. "In that case, they use the .17 Remington Fireball," Marshall said. "The bullets travel at 4,000 feet per second, and they explode on the inside, but they won't go through."

All Friday afternoon and evening, the pickup trucks, many with jacked-up suspensions, arrived outside the bar, prompting stares from the RV drivers who rolled through on Highway 50. The weekend in Austin came with a dress code: camouflage. Men in green and brown earth-toned uniforms walked the streets, some chomping on cigars, eating in the restaurant, and ordering rounds at the bar.

"We tried conference-calling those coyotes, but they refused to leave the state and relocate to Florida," one hunter said. "So now they're fair game." Another said he was there to drink, not hunt: "I'll shoot any coyote that walks through that bar door."

As the game of pool wrapped up, Jesse talked about the cautious nature of the animal he hunts. "Coyotes are graceful," he said. "They're a dog." His brother hadn't said much, but finally stepped in. "They don't do any good," Worth said. "They eat all your useful food." Jesse nodded. The brothers planned to get started early the next morning. Jesse had a phrase for those minutes just after dawn and just before sunset. "That's shootin' time," he said.

DAWN ARRIVED AT 7,000 feet amid a steady rain and a 40-degree chill that hunters suspected would keep the coyotes in their dens. Phil Marshall was up before the light; he wasn't killing coyotes, but he still had work to do. He perched at the end of the bar, drinking coffee, the stools still upside-down from the previous night's cleanup. He divided several piles of cash and put them in envelopes for the winners in each category, using a calculator to make sure he got his accounting right.

Asked about the motivation to join the coyote hunt, Marshall pointed to a pile of tens, twenties and fifties. "This is the thrill of the chase right here," he said. "You get to do what you love to do and compete for money. Get paid for doing your hobby."

Marshall had flown into Austin on his private plane and had invited some friends from the Bay Area. He allowed some novice hunters to take along guides. "Some of these

COYOTE HUNT PHOTOS: JOHN GLIONNA



old guys couldn't find the back door if they weren't shown it," he said. "If you don't know the area, you don't do very well."

The registration board showed 21 teams, the last entrants arriving after long drives from around the state. Marshall acknowledged that the hunt didn't do much to fill the town's motels, because most hunters sleep in their trucks to get an early start.

Down the street at the International Cafe and Bar, waitress Angel Walker said she wished the coyote hunts would help other businesses than Marshall's bar. "Hunters are like pack animals," said one customer, drinking coffee at the counter. "They all stick together." Walker scoffed. "Last year, I saw them all walking in the street with their bloody kills in their hands," she said. "Nobody came in here."

For Marshall, there wasn't much to do but wait. He and two brothers kept tabs on the contest from hunters who called in.

By 9 a.m., one team had already dispatched five animals. The chase was on.

Last year, the hunt tallied 37 coyotes, but organizers expected more this time. In lean years, all the hunters combined might kill one coyote. The Austin event is small compared to some others. In 2013, for example, the World Coyote Calling championship in Elko claimed more than 300 killed.

The big events bring out many hunters' competitive nature — and for some that





means cheating. A few years ago, Marshall disqualified a team from Fallon after he found that many of the group's coyotes had been killed earlier and stored on ice until hunting day. "If someone brings in a stinky dog, you know that animal is at least a week old," he said. "We told those guys to get out of town and not come back."

Around 2 p.m., when news came in that the U.S. Senate had voted to place Brett Kavanaugh onto the Supreme Court, several hunters celebrated by firing their rifles into the air.

Later, Marshall received another report from the field. One of his Bay Area pals had shot a coyote out near the dump. Then he got the real story: The man had forgotten to load his gun, so the animal got away. Another caller said a group had killed four coyotes outside town. The tally would have been five, but one was wounded and slipped away.

Marshall had one qualm about the coyote hunt: The animals aren't good eating. As the rule goes, he said, you don't eat anything that eats meat. "One year, I was firing up the barbecue for a cookout next to a pile of coyote carcasses, and a guy walked out of the bar and said, 'You know, you can't eat those.' And I told him, 'I know, heck, I know.'"

PATRICK DONNELLY OPPOSES coyote-killing contests for two main reasons. The hunts are based on bad science, he says. And they're unethical. Donnelly, state director for the Center for Biological Diversity, insists that predators such as coyotes, wolves, and mountain lions are essential to healthy ecosystems.

Each kill saves 13 calves? Not true, he said. "The science very clearly shows that killing coyotes, rather than reducing livestock kills, probably increases them. Killing coyotes creates more coyotes, that's been documented scientifically. When too many animals are taken, females will have bigger litters of pups. The killing of coyotes also obstructs the hierarchy of groups so that the more aggressive coyotes are encouraged to fight over territory and potentially kill more livestock to assert their dominance."

Just as troubling, he says, is the arrogance of some hunters. "Many want to kill coyotes so there are more deer for them to hunt, which puts more venison in their freezers," he said. "This is a blood sport, the slaughtering of living animals for a game, and it's antithetical to the compassionate and empathetic society we want to be."

Nevada's wildlife commission, he added, is dominated by hunters and ranchers who have "unlawfully reneged on their responsibilities to manage wildlife." He added: "They're giving in to guys who think it's their right to kill as many animals as they want because they have dominion over the earth."

Brad Johnston, chairman of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, rejected that characterization. "None of the commissioners believes we have the right to kill what we want, any time we want," he said. "We pay close attention to hunting in this state." If you ban coyote-killing contests, he asked, where does it end? "Do we ban fishing derbies for kids?" he asked. "Why is one acceptable and not the other? Where does it stop?"

"Our wildlife belongs to everyone, not just ranchers and farmers," said Michael Sutton, who was president of the California Fish and Game Commission when it voted to outlaw all wild animal hunts. "Just because you have permission to use public land doesn't give you dominion over all the animals who



live there." He called the coyote contests an anachronism. "They should be relegated to the history books. That cowboy mentality to shoot anything that moves, it's outdated. These days, we know a lot more about predator ecology than we did in the Old West. We can no longer keep killing these wild animals just to satisfy some farmer's or rancher's ego."

THE RAIN HAD stopped, and the late-afternoon sun poked through the clouds as the coyote hunters began showing up at the Silver State Saloon. Their trucks were muddied, their kills tagged and piled into the beds of their pickups, coyote jaws cinched tight with plastic straps. Men hovered around the registration board, comparing shots.

John, a rancher who would only give his first name, said the competition wasn't among hunters but between man and animal. "The man who hunts a coyote loves the coyote," he said. "It's a standoff between you and him."

Donnelly balked at this. "The tradition of respect from hunting comes from peoples utilizing the prey for sustenance," he said. "I'm not saying that some hunters don't have a relationship with the animals they hunt, but there is nothing respectful about a coyote-killing contest." Nothing respectful or fair about mimicking prey to dupe the animals into shooting range. "These people slaughter large numbers of animals, and then pile them up for a photo op before tossing the carcasses in a ditch. Where's the respect in that?"

For the weigh-in, the contestants moved outside into an empty parking lot next to a youth center. Some opened the beds of their trucks and showed off their kills. Others threw the bloody corpses onto the ground. Two officials assessed each animal, cutting through a hind leg to hang it from a line attached to a rudimentary scale. One sportsman lamented: "That dog would have weighed more but we shot half his ass off!"

As officials worked, more hunters arrived, providing a running commentary.

"He was on his way to becoming one big bad coyote," one said, "until those guys with camouflage came in."

One contestant produced an animal that weighed in at more than 30 pounds. "That's a wolf right there," one man said. "That's not a coyote." John sized up the big carcass. "Fortunately," he told his friends, "we're above them on the food chain, or we'd be running from them."

Still, he insisted it wasn't all about the kill. "I had a little blue-eyed guy come up in my scope," he said. "He was just a pup, so I didn't shoot. That little bastard has a little more time to live."

When the counting was done, the competition had netted 78 coyotes. A few hunters skinned their kills there in the parking lot. But most took a few photos and walked away. Marshall said that in past years, a man trucked the carcasses to Utah to collect the bounties. Other times, the bodies are dumped outside town. "That way," Marshall said, "the other animals can feed on 'em."

Just before sundown, an older hunter leaned against his pickup and talked about his success with a call that mimicked a wounded rabbit. But his best tactic, he said, was a call that imitated a wounded *coyote*: "The others come in to finish the job." "Well," the old man added, taking a draw off his beer, "that was a fun day. Profitable, too." ✦





TRAVEL

BLEAK BEAUTY

The desolately gorgeous Salton Sea attracts visitors who enjoy moody solitude, outsider art, and amenities with a side of quirk

BY ***Krista Diamond***

Drive south from the poolside bungalows of Palm Springs, and you'll emerge in the dusty Imperial Valley. After stretches of khaki-colored earth punctuated by palm tree farms, you'll spot a flash of dazzling blue on the horizon. Here, at what feels like the edge of the world, is a lake — and not just any lake, but the largest one in California.

At approximately 376 square miles, the Salton Sea is made up of sun-drenched beaches where white pelicans search for fish. The water is ringed by mountains that burn pink at sunset.

It's a beautiful lake. So why are its shorelines deserted? Why are its beach houses rotting in the sun? Why does no one visit the Salton Sea?

Despite the eerie emptiness that looms, the Salton Sea was once a popular vacation spot. Originally the result of flooding from the Colorado River, the Salton Sea eventually became an oasis in the desert for moneyed Californians. The lake was stocked with tilapia, and birds and tourists alike flocked to the area. The 1950s saw the development of yacht clubs, cocktail lounges, marinas, and more than 32,000 beach houses. In true Golden State fashion, even the Beach Boys were known to drop by. But by the 1970s, the Salton Sea began to dry up. Salinity from the soil along with agricultural runoff from nearby farms began to kill the fish, creating a stench that still hovers in the valley today. In no time, the beaches were carpeted with decaying tilapia, and the beachside communities became ghost towns.

Since then, the Salton Sea has continued to shrink at a rate of 3 percent per year, which translates to 800 acres of exposed playa annually. This means that if water transfer prospects do not pan out (a process that's been mired in red tape), the largest lake in California will one day evaporate.

And while most of the people who journey to the Salton Sea today do so out of a morbid desire to see the skeletal remains of homes and the actual skeletons of thousands of fish, there are two other great reasons to explore the oft-overlooked lake. One: It's actually a travel destination in its own right that offers hiking, birdwatching, art, and roadside attractions. Two: It might not be

SALTON SEA: ISTOCK/CHA_DZ

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around for much longer.

Forget the words that are often — and wrongly — associated with the Salton Sea, words like *toxic, polluted,* and *postapocalyptic.* Forget them all and focus on something few people mention when they discuss the Salton: It's an incredible place to discover. Here's how to do just that.







SHORE THINGS
Despite its reputation as desolate, the Salton Sea is home to lots of wildlife, including burrowing owls, left, and the Ridgway's rail, below.

BIRDWATCH

The Salton Sea is a birdwatcher's paradise. Because it sits along the Pacific Flyway, more than 400 species of birds rely on it. In fact, the Salton Sea is home to 70 percent of California's burrowing owl population, 40 percent of the entire endangered Yuma clapper rail population, and 95 percent of the continent's eared grebe population. It's the primary winter habitat for the California brown pelican and the American white pelican. To see these birds along with peregrine falcons, bald eagles, black skimmers, and more, head to the **Sonny Bono Salton Sea Wildlife Refuge** (906 W. Sinclair Road, 760-348-5278) at the southern end of the Salton Sea, and watch an astoundingly diverse array of winged creatures take flight over the water.

HIKE

Nestled in the Mecca Hills Wilderness near the northern tip of the Salton Sea, the **Ladder Canyon/Big Painted Canyon** hike is an approximately five-mile loop that's accessible via a rough but passable dirt road from the blink-and-miss-it town of Mecca. The hike features high narrows and slot features that rival more popular desert locales, plus the curious addition of actual ladders that aid in scaling dry falls. Hikers should avoid this trek in the summer, and be prepared with route information and plenty of water and food, as this adventure — like all adventures around the Salton Sea — is in a remote location.

KAYAK

A few myths about the Salton Sea: the water is poisonous and you shouldn't go near it. The Salton Sea is actually safe to swim in (some locals even swear by its mineral healing powers) and, according to rangers at the Salton Sea Visitor Center, the tilapia that thrive in its waters are safe to eat. The best way, however, to experience the lake itself is to rent a kayak and paddle the water for an hour or so. The Salton Sea Visitor Center rents kayaks for $10 per hour from mid-October through April. It's a small price of entry for the opportunity to experience the enormity of the lake and the mountains that surround it.

EXPLORE

No desert road trip is complete without seeing a few roadside oddities. Luckily, the Salton Sea has more than its fair share of strange. When touring the eastern side, your first stop should be the **International Banana Museum** (in Mecca, 98775 California highway 111, 619-840-1429). This museum features the world's largest collection of banana-related items — more than 20,000 — including a banana slot machine, a banana-shaped record player, and shelves full of figurines. Hours vary by the season, so call ahead.

The next stop is the **Bombay Beach Drive-In** (in Niland). This hauntingly beautiful art installation, situated in the living ghost town of Bombay Beach, features abandoned cars and boats facing an outdoor movie screen. Your last must-see oddity at the Salton Sea is **Salvation Mountain** (on Beal Road, in Calipatria). This 50-foot tall, Technicolor mountain of adobe clay and more than 100,000 gallons of paint was created by the late Leonard Knight, a Korean War veteran from Vermont who christened his monument with the words "God is love." Salvation Mountain sits at the entrance to **Slab City**, a mythical destination of its own. Often referred to as "the last free place in America," this sprawling community of squatters exists on the concrete slabs of an abandoned U.S. Marine Corps base.

SOAK

It's not exactly Old Faithful, but the Salton Sea has its own geothermal features that are reminiscent of Yellowstone (minus the crowds). Head to the southern end of the Salton Sea, and you'll find the **Davis-Schrimpf Seep Field**, where bubbling mud oozes from the ground. The mud pots are the result of carbon dioxide emerging from the earth. For a more hospitable thermal experience, you can spend the night at the **Fountain of Youth Spa RV Resort**

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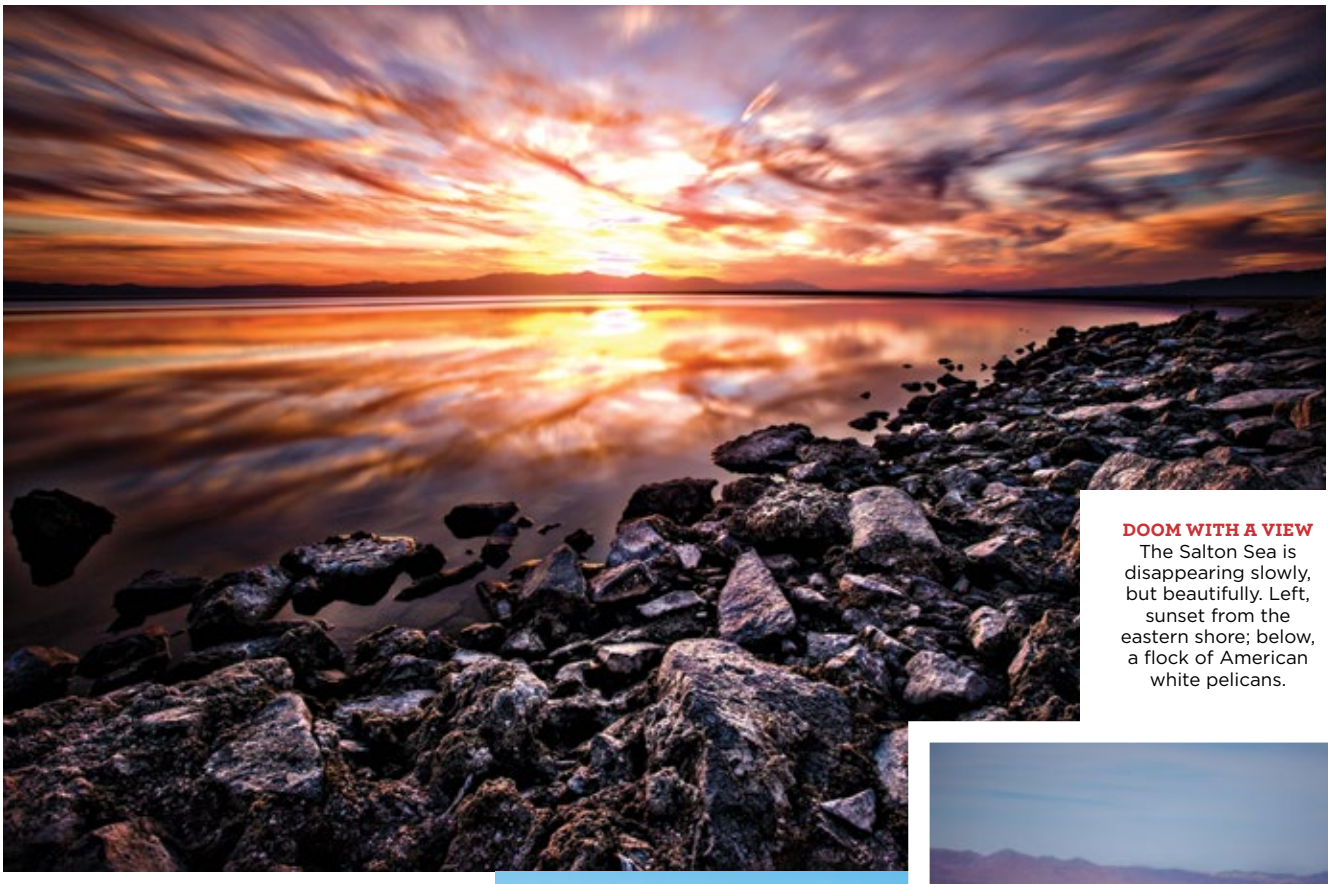
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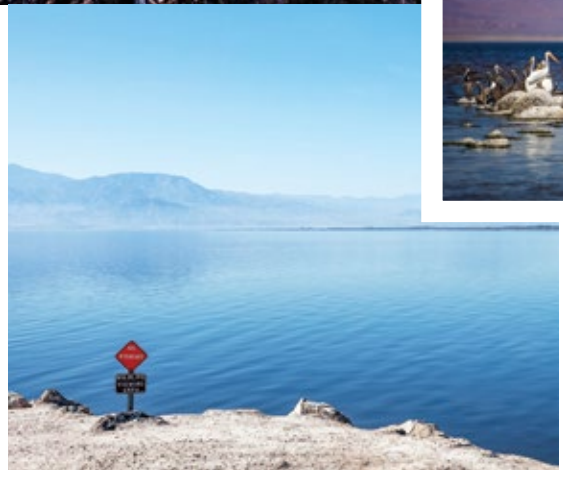
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DOOM WITH A VIEW The Salton Sea is disappearing slowly, but beautifully. Left, sunset from the eastern shore; below, a flock of American white pelicans.

(1500 Spa Road, 888-800-0772). Nestled in the Chocolate Mountains, this RV campground is the site of artesian springs with a mineral content of 4,585 parts per million.

STAY

While it's certainly possible to do the Salton Sea as a day trip from Palm Springs, staying along the shores is a more immersive experience. For those wishing to camp, RV and tent sites are available at the Salton Sea State Recreation Area on the east side of the lake. Sites at Mecca Beach Campground and Corvina Campground range from $20-$30 and allow you to pitch your tent or park your RV at the edge of the water, making for an unparalleled sunset experience.

If you prefer a soft bed to the hard ground, head to **Ray and Carol's Motel By the Sea** (1008 Ontario Ave., 760-394-0062) on the western edge of the Salton Sea in the mostly deserted town of Salton City. This small, family-operated hotel has four rooms. Reserve the Wheel House Room and enjoy your own private deck with sweeping views of the Salton Sea.

EAT

A Salton Sea visitor can't survive on tilapia alone. For the ultimate ghost town experience, have a cocktail and a burger at the **Ski Inn** (9596 Avenue A, 760-354-1285). This Bombay Beach watering hole, which Anthony Bourdain visited for an episode of *No Reservations*, is the lowest bar in the Western hemisphere at 223 feet below sea level. The dimly lit space, wallpapered by dollar bills from transient guests, opens faithfully each day at 6:45 a.m. Bring cash, knock back some cheap beer, and get to know the locals who still call Bombay Beach home.

On the other side of the Salton Sea, there's **Johnson's Landing**. Located within walking distance from Ray and Carol's Motel By the Sea, this is the patio you've always dreamed of sitting at while washing down some fried bar food with a bottle of beer while you gaze out at the ghostly remnants of a terminal lake — that is, if you've ever dreamed of such a thing.

Whether you choose to see the Salton Sea from your car as you drive along its curving shoreline, or spend time wandering the canyons, beaches, and ghost towns that define the desert landscape, you'll find an otherworldly experience. The Salton Sea may be just 300 miles from Las Vegas and only 38 miles from the festival grounds of Coachella, but it's another world entirely. Go now — your chance to see it is disappearing 800 acres at a time. ✦

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The Year that Local Restaurants Outshined the Strip

BY JIM BEGLEY, JOHN CURTAS, GREG THILMONT & MITCHELL WILBURN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SABIN ORR & CHRISTOPHER SMITH



CHANGING TASTES
Clockwise from upper left: Seafood case at Michael Mina; paella at EDO; assorted plates at Sparrow + Wolf; butternut squash soup at Partage; assorted plates at Esther's Kitchen; the bar at Other Mama; caviar parfait at Michael Mina







Let's skip straight to dessert with this spoiler: There's a paradigm shift in the pages ahead. Our 2018 Restaurant Awards capture the year when the scales tipped, when the cosmic balance changed. This is the year that local restaurants snatched the Promethean flame from Las Vegas Boulevard. As marquee Strip brands retreated to safety in a post-recession era of caution, local chefs asked, "What have we got to lose?" The result of such gambles is a testament to noble risk, relentless precision, restless innovation, and a spirit of adventure. 2018 is the year of the local restaurant revolution, and a culinary coup never tasted so good.

HIDDEN GEM OF THE YEAR

Bajamar Seafood & Tacos

This modest Downtown spot serves some of the valley's most vibrant and bold seafood tacos

Tucked away in a parking lot shared by the infamous (and closed) Olympic Garden and the famous (and thankfully open) Luv-It Frozen Custard, Bajamar is not your typical carnitas y asada restaurante. Instead, it offers an almost solely seafood-centric selection. Hints abound about its true colors, from the bright aqua-blue storefront on the northern reaches of the Strip to the surfer-inspired interiors. If The Deuce wasn't passing right by your window, you'd swear you were in SoCal. Menu items include an incredibly tender octopus enchilada, the cheese-smothered shrimp gobernador, and the Lucas, an amalgam of a chile relleno and a taco, along with more traditional rockfish in the eponymous Bajamar fish tacos. There's not an al pastor in sight, but with sharp sauces and fresh garnishes complementing quality ocean proteins atop housemade tortillas, you won't even miss the meats.

Don't worry if tacos aren't your thing. The menu offers hearty soups, spicy ceviches, seafood-laden tostadas, and even fish chicharrones, lightly battered fish chunks served with a spicy chipotle crème. With Bajamar, fresh ocean flavors are just a short drive away. ***Jim Begley***

1615 Las Vegas Blvd. S., bajamarbajastyle.com



2018 • RESTAURANT • AWARDS



RESTAURATEUR OF THE YEAR

Khai Vu

District One, Le Pho, Mordeo

He's building a small empire out of transcendent takes on traditional dishes

Khai Vu had his first big hit with the Vietnamese fusion spot District One Kitchen and Bar after working in the family business, Pho So 1, since he was a teen. District One redefined Vietnamese food in Vegas, introducing diners to ambitious dishes that either tweaked or transcended the old standbys of pho and banh mi, from giant bowls of pho centered around some massive protein (like a one-and-a half-pound lobster or the massive distal end of a cow femur!) to uniquely challenging items like sea snails in lemongrass.

After pairing up with some popular restaurant financiers, Khai opened his second spot, Le Pho. Here, Khai was able to let loose, pulling some deep cuts from Ho Chi Minh City street food. The menu is like stepping into the Ben Thanh market, a place where food vendors have been cooking up regional specialties and imported classics for hundreds of years. In this way, Khai transitioned from being a chef-owner to more of a managing partner — the brains rather than the hands. At his newest place, Mordeo Boutique Wine Bar, he is fully an idea man, bringing in chefs to build a menu that fits his vision. Mordeo is a fusion of Asian, Spanish, and South American culinary styles, along with a world-class bottle list and affordable wines by the glass. Not only is Mordeo the most refined dining experience from Khai, it's also the biggest departure from his repertoire. This kind of gamble, this confidence in his own abilities, is precisely the kind of spirit that local restaurateurs need to succeed — not just for the sake of success, but for the long arc of Las Vegas' ultimate place in global culinary culture. ***Mitchell Wilburn***

Mordeo: 5420 W. Spring Mountain Road, #108, mordeolv.com; Le Pho: 353 E. Bonneville Ave. #115, lephodtlv.com; District One: 3400 S. Jones Blvd. #8, districtonelv.com



DISH OF THE YEAR

Japanese Fried Chicken at Other Mama

It embodies Other Mama's talent for simple dishes that scream perfection

There are numerous reasons to visit Dan Krohmer and his crew at Other Mama: fresh, flavorful sashimi from a chef who cut his teeth under Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto; arguably the valley's best off-Strip steak, drizzled with a rich miso hollandaise sauce and paired with crisp, toga-rashi-dusted waffle fries; and inventive cocktails that morph masterfully depending upon seasonal ingredients. But the best current reason to visit the Durango strip mall where the izakaya-cum-seafood restaurant resides is the irresistible Japanese fried chicken. It's Krohmer's take on traditional izakaya chicken karaage, and it's a destination dish.

Krohmer lets the ingredients speak for themselves, preparing free-range Jidori chicken thighs in a simple marinade, including garlic, ginger, shoyu, and mirin (Japanese rice wine). Breaded in cornstarch and tenderly fried, the chopstick-ready bites are served alongside a daily-prepared housemade remoulade sauce and a lemon wedge for a squeeze of citrus. The result is an epiphany, melding the fowl's savoriness with the remoulade's richness. It's not a fancy dish; it's a simple dish prepared to perfection. ***Jim Begley***

3655 S. Durango Drive #6, othermamalv.com



ASIAN RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Pho So 1

Vietnamese classics get a loving upgrade at this longtime family restaurant

FRIENDS OF PHO
A table of signature dishes at Pho So 1, including bo nhung dam (vinegar hot pot), center; chao tom (grilled shrimp paste), bottom, and roasted chicken with com ga roti (tomato rice), upper right.

There's a lot of Vu in Las Vegas' 2018 restaurant scene. It all started in 1993, when emigrant Viet Vu moved to Las Vegas with his young family — including his son, Khai Vu — to open a branch of Pho So 1, a Vietnamese restaurant mini-empire started in Los Angeles. Back then, there was just a scant handful of Vietnamese eateries in our rapidly growing city, and Chinatown proper had yet to take root on Spring Mountain Road. Decatur Boulevard was on the ragged western edge of Las Vegas, with plenty of undeveloped desert land nearby.

"There was nothing," Viet Vu says, interpreted by Tammy Nguyen, his niece, who also works at Pho So 1. Despite the risk, the restaurant took hold and prospered. It was refurbished inside earlier this year, and its menu was upgraded with higher-quality ingredients, like beef tenderloin replacing flank steak. It's still a fairly plain, wide-open space that prefers to keep the focus on superb food at a reasonable price. For festive gatherings, shared dishes like bo nuong vi (tabletop beef barbecue) and bo nhung dam (vinegar hot pot) are served with vibrantly fresh mounds of herbs and vegetables, especially basil. Other standouts include co bo luc lac (tomato rice with filet mignon) and phan panh hoi (vermicelli noodles with add-ons including charbroiled pork, beef, chicken, shrimp, and meatballs). One of the more surprising treats is chao tom, house-ground shrimp paste that's hand-formed around skewers of sugarcane and then grilled. They're fragrant tropical seafood kebabs. But the all-time favorite that Vu loves to serve is none other than Vietnam's national dish.

"Pho," he says, naming the versatile noodle soup that needs no translation these days. Niece Tammy adds that all the broths served at Pho So 1 — pho and beyond — are made in-house from roasted bones and aromatics.

All the rest of Pho So 1's dishes, like perfectly well-formed spring roll appetizers, are also exceptional renditions of Vietnam's culinary genius. But, perhaps best of all, Pho So 1 is a flavorful exemplar of the American Dream: It shares one family's home-country traditions excellently in their new homeland.
Greg Thilmont

4745 Spring Mountain Road #A, 702-252-3934

2018 • RESTAURANT • AWARDS

PASTRY CHEF OF THE YEAR

Vincent Pellerin

Partage, EATT

His rolling dessert cart is a virtuoso display of classic pastries and contemporary magic

Vincent Pellerin performs something of a magic act nightly at Partage: He creates a dessert program that is very modern, but also a throwback. The old-school part is his rolling dessert cart — presented to every table at meal's end — where you'll find such classics as rhum baba (each with its own alcohol injection tube), flaming baked Alaska, and French macarons so good you'll think you're on the Champs-Élysées. More modern are his caramel, Earl Grey, and chocolate candy bar, kalamansi cheesecake, and a sour apple pie with green apple foam. If those don't leave you awestruck, there are peaches with white chocolate mousse on a lemon crumble, or pumpkin with mandarin/saffron jam. These are not "neighborhood restaurant desserts"; these are Michelin star-worthy creations that would be right at home at any top Strip address, and Pellerin, classically trained in France, churns them out nightly (and seasonally) for two restaurants: Partage and EATT. Pastry chefs may be an endangered species these days, but Pellerin's creations remind us that while dessert may come last, it should hardly be an afterthought. ***John Curtas***

Partage: 3839 Spring Mountain Road, partage.vegas; EATT: 7865 W. Sahara Ave. #104, eattfood.com





COCKTAIL BAR OF THE YEAR

Jammyland Cocktail Bar & Reggae Kitchen

Rum and other spirits come to life at this refined tribute to a musical era

With its inviting patio, vibrant murals, and sophisticated cocktail menu, Jammyland quickly became one of Las Vegas' go-to mixology destinations after it opened in a former auto-repair shop in February. Created by co-owners Allan Katz and Danielle Crouch, the Arts District nightspot's potent concoctions have serious pedigrees. No frozen, slushy sugarbombs here. Rather, fine aged rums come to life with craft flavorings. An expert tweak on a classic, the Damn Close Mai Tai (pictured, left) unites oak-toned Appleton Estate Rare Blend 12-Year Rum from Jamaica with fragrant Clément V.S.O.P. Rhum Agricole Vieux from Martinique. There's more icy rum in the Golden Misfit (pictured, right), a slapshot of fruity J.Wray Jamaica Rum and spicy Golden Falernum liqueur with Liquid Alchemist passionfruit syrup, lime juice, and Angostura bitters. The menu rotates seasonally, and this winter there's even the sweet Pumpkin Colada based on Rittenhouse Straight Rye Whiskey and overproof Plantation O.F.T.D. Jammyland also serves elevated bar food, from succulent jerk chicken wings to Jasmine rice and kidney beans jazzed up with coconut and habanero peppers. Add in stylish décor and classic reggae on the sound system, and there's little wonder why Jammyland has made a splash as much more than a mere reggae-themed novelty spot. It's a destination bar that's quickly become one of the jewels of Main Street. ***Greg Thilmont***

1121 S. Main Street, jammy.land

Nora's Italian Cuisine is a Las Vegas institution, serving classic Italian fare from a Flamingo strip mall since the early '90s. And after a successful run of more than 25 years, the family-run affair was able to move a bit down the road into a standalone spot custom-built to accommodate their continued growth, leaving the original space vacant.

Enter Pizzeria Monzú. Monzú is the labor of love from Giovanni "Gio" Mauro, son of Nora. After opening the successful Old School Pizzeria in North Las Vegas, Mauro returned to his roots in his family's original tenant space. Pizzeria Monzú is both a fitting continuation of a Las Vegas culinary legacy and an ingenious tribute to a classic food form.

Pizza is the star at Monzú, where Mauro eschews commercial yeast for his crust, instead developing his own proprietary starter consisting of two strains: a local one developed from apricots, and a legacy mother strain from Ischia, an island in the Gulf of Naples. The attention to detail is obvious in the nutty, Sicilian-style crust, both thick and inexplicably airy.

NEW RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Pizzeria Monzú

Born of a Las Vegas institution, Monzú is an exciting new chapter in a family culinary legacy

Mauro serves his massive rectangular pies with both classic and contemporary ingredients. The straightforward Simple, topped with crushed tomatoes and basil, is a standard, while the Calabrese combines spice and salinity with salame Calabrese, hot peppers, and black olives. Edgier is the Pork Reigns with a sextet of pig products, including guanciale and pulled pork. But there are no wrong choices on this test.

Highlights are hardly limited to pizza. There's the olives Ascolane (sausage-stuffed, deep-fried olives that are much lighter than you might imagine), along with sweet and savory bacon-wrapped dates. And on the healthier side, an antipasto salad as massive as the pizzas themselves — generously strewn with mozzarella, peppers, and chickpeas — will help offset any carb guilt. We cannot live off pizza alone, but Monzú might convince you otherwise. ***Jim Begley***

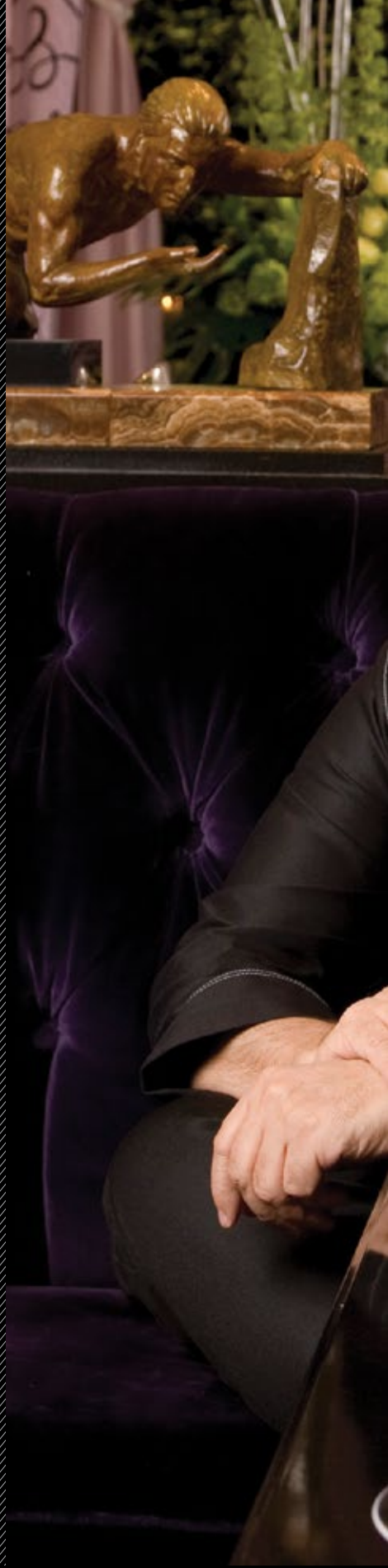
6020 W. Flamingo Road #10, monzulv.com







IN CRUST WE TRUST
Left, the spicy Calabrese pizza; right, olives Ascolane, which are deep-fried and stuffed with sausage.





HALL OF FAME AWARD

Joël Robuchon

Robuchon taught two generations of chefs just how flawless — and yet fun — restaurant cooking can be

Joël Robuchon's coming to Las Vegas in 2005 represented something much bigger than the opening of two restaurants. It stood for legitimacy, validation, and culinary cred. There were great restaurants here before he showed up, and there would be wonderful ones after, but his arrival in the spring of that year got everyone's attention. Food writers from London to Los Angeles suddenly were booking flights to see what his food tasted like on English-speaking soil, and well-heeled Asians, South Americans, Europeans, wine writers, and gourmet gawkers everywhere were agog at the prospect that Las Vegas, the Town That Taste Forgot, had an epicurean scene too prominent to ignore.

We were the first American location of his L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon. And for a while, we were the only place on earth where Robuchon, the "Chef of the Century" in France, had a re-imagined fine dining destination named after him. It was here (not Paris, New York, Hong Kong or Tokyo) where people could see and taste the creative, almost balletically precise food that made him famous before his retirement in 1995.

Soon enough, he opened branches of both around the world, but it was here that he first planted his flag. What did these bona fides mean for Las Vegas? Besides giving high-rollers and the well-financed someplace to sustain themselves, Robuchon's namesake restaurants challenged the competition. No longer could chefs and restaurants be just good enough to satisfy the credulous hordes. Now, they were playing on an international scale, a contest in which discriminating diners of all nationalities would be in our backyard, judging us by the highest standards. Very few restaurants measured up, but no matter what your skill level, if a 1992 Michael Jordan or 1999 Tiger Woods comes to play in your arena, you snap to attention and try harder.

With his L'Ateliers, he made finely tuned food fun, casual, and accessible, and with his dedication to perfection, he taught two generations of chefs just how flawless restaurant cooking can be. But Robuchon's legacy to Las Vegas (and the world) is more significant than the restaurants he leaves behind. He took a dining scene that was merely great and made it world-class. No other chef could have had the impact on the Las Vegas Strip that Joël Robuchon did, and it is doubtful we will ever see a culinary titan of his stature pass this way again.

John Curtas

Joël Robuchon: in the MGM Grand, 702-891-7925; L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon: in the MGM Grand, 702-891-7358

STRIP RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Michael Mina
in Bellagio

To reinvent or return to roots? Michael Mina has managed to do both







FROM LAND AND SEA Michael Mina's reinvention balances innovation and tradition. Left, Egyptian-style rice pudding; above, the grilled shellfish platter.

Restaurants grow old in one of two ways: They either stick with a formula that works or they reinvent themselves. Somehow, the new Michael Mina has managed to do both. It is a testament to Mina as a chef, and his team, that it's been able to do so both seamlessly and swimmingly. In doing so, Michael Mina the chef has returned to his roots, and his restaurant has re-announced itself as our finest seafood emporium.

At first glance, you can be excused for thinking that not a lot has changed. It's always been one of the prettiest restaurants in Las Vegas (thank designer Tony Chi for that) with lighting that flatters both the customers and the food. Mina made his name by treating big hunks of pristine fish like land-locked proteins. He popularized pairing pinot noir wine sauce with salmon, and marrying tuna and foie gras. These sorts of land-sea fusions are everywhere these days, but they were a very big deal in the 1990s, and Mina's Aqua (first in San Francisco, then in Bellagio) was an early trendsetter. Even now, he and his crew see marine proteins as umami-rich sea meat, rather than as delicate swimmers barely to be trifled with. Where the Italians and Greeks dress their seafood with little more than a squeeze of lemon, and the French subtly nap theirs with wine and butter, Mina looks at a fish as something to be celebrated with sauces and spices.

The new Michael Mina has gone large-format, and it's a sight to behold. Every night, six to eight whole fish are displayed before you, each begging to be grilled over applewood, broiled and draped with black beans, or deep-fried and adorned with coconut-green curry. The lighter-fleshed varieties (snapper, sea bass, and striped bass) do well with this spicy coating, while fresh-off-the-boat John Dory and kampachi get dressed in more intense ways. In keeping with the times, things have lightened up a bit — the only French sauce offered is the mustard beurre blanc (with the phyllo-crusted sole), but Mina can't resist coating a strongly-smoked trout with a river of Meyer lemon-caviar cream. If those aren't



filling enough, his old-school (and justifiably famous) lobster pot pie awaits, bathed in a truffled brandy cream sauce.

The only problem is there may now be too many great choices on this menu. Executive Chef Nicholas Sharpe and General Manager Jorge Pagani (who's been with the operation for 17 years) suggest toggling back and forth between Mina's famous dishes and these new fresh fish offerings to build your best meal. Pagani says there would be a revolt among his legions of regulars if certain standards (e.g., the tuna tartare, caviar parfait, that pot pie, or phyllo-wrapped sole) were taken off the menu. And why should they be? They are classics for a reason, and just like this superbly reimagined restaurant, they will never go out of style. ***John Curtas***

In Bellagio, 702-693-7223

2018 • RESTAURANT • AWARDS

CHEF OF THE YEAR

Brian Howard, *Sparrow + Wolf*

As head of the valley's most interesting restaurant, Chef Howard expertly mixes and matches cultures and cuisines

Until Brian Howard had the foresight to place an American gastropub on Spring Mountain Road, this three-mile stretch of "Chinatown" was the exclusive province of all things Asian. Now, it's where gastronauts go for boutique lettuce salads, beet and green apple tartare, and giant steaks served with a dozen side dishes. Those sides are an homage to the Korean banchan available up and down the avenue, and give a strong hint about how Howard loves to mix and match his meal metaphors. While one table is fighting over an Hamachi collar, another may be torn between the lamb neck with herb crêpes, scallop robata, or Chinatown Clams Casino. By making Sparrow + Wolf our most interesting restaurant, Brian Howard did more than just fuse a number of cuisines. He bridged a great divide between our various gastronomic cultures, inspired others (Partage, Mordeo Boutique Wine Bar, EDO Gastro Tapas & Wine) to follow suit, and turned this neighborhood into our number one dining destination. ***John Curtas***

4480 Spring Mountain Road #100, sparrowandwolflv.com



Esther's Kitchen

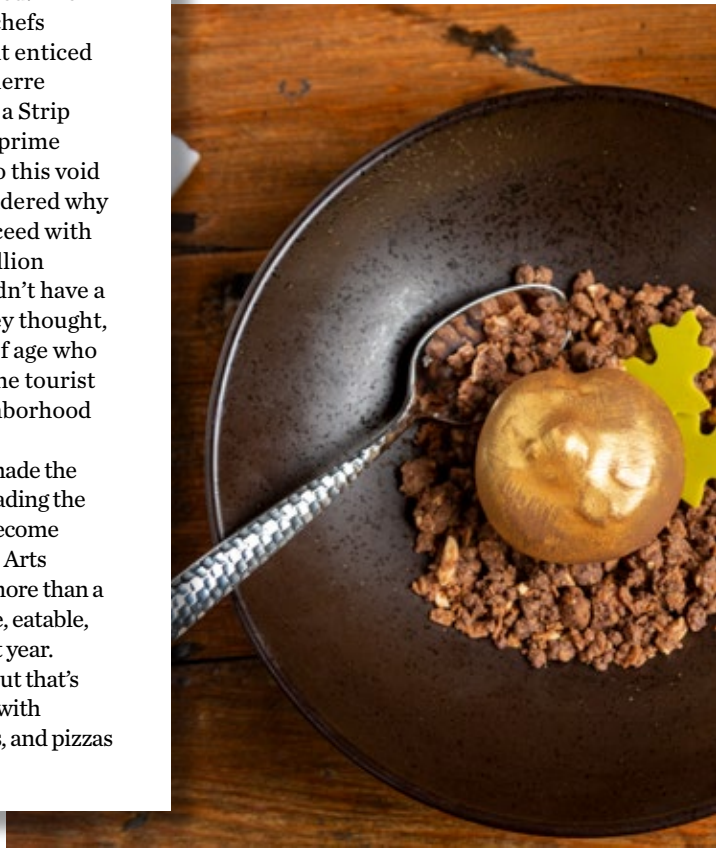
Partage

EDO Gastro Tapas & Wine

Three innovative, uncompromising local restaurants. Three reasons why the next culinary revolution is happening off the Strip.

2018 • RESTAURANT • AWARDS





THREE'S COMPANY Standout dishes from our Restaurants of the Year. Top: Shellfish stew at EDO; bottom; The Nutcracker with mango marmalade and hazelnut and chocolate crumble at Partage; right, pasta and meatballs at Esther's Kitchen.

There couldn't be just one. Not this year. Not in a year that was a watershed for great kitchen talent emerging in the suburbs. For the first time since I can remember (which goes all the way back to 1981), more great restaurants opened off the Strip than on it. And for the first time since our restaurant revolution began in earnest — 20 years ago with the opening of Bellagio — all the serious foodies in town were not heading to a big hotel, but to Chinatown or Downtown — places previously dismissed as unworthy of serious consideration by galloping gastronomes.

It was 10 years in the making, this restaurant renaissance whose roots can be traced to the great recession of 2008, when real estate values nosedived, and countless chefs found themselves out of work. As the recession hung on in Las Vegas, two things happened: The hotels lost their nerve, and young chefs started getting some. The mojo that enticed everyone from Sirio Maccioni to Pierre Gagnaire to come here gave way to a Strip scene reduced to showcasing past-prime celebrities and licensing deals. Into this void stepped a few brave souls who wondered why Strip-quality cooking couldn't succeed with locals. In a town of more than 2 million people, there's no reason we shouldn't have a thriving local restaurant scene, they thought, and with a wave of diners coming of age who wanted the good stuff without all the tourist trappings, it was time for our neighborhood food scene to explode.

In terms of progress, Downtown made the biggest leap with Esther's Kitchen leading the pack. James Trees' ode to Italy has become ground zero for a neighborhood, The Arts District, that went from being little more than a collection of junk shops to a walkable, eatable, and drinkable area all within the past year. Esther's doesn't sound very Italian, but that's exactly what it is — bombarding you with antipasti, *verduras*, handmade pastas, and pizzas









straight from a Roman's playbook. Chef Trees even throws in a fish of the day (always worth it), brick chicken (a crowd favorite), and a thick, porky porchetta for mavens of meat. As good as those are, the pastas and pizzas are where the kitchen really shines. Trees is a veteran of the Los Angeles restaurant scene, and he knows a thing or two about how to grab a diner's attention. The spaghetti pomodoro, chiatarra cacio e pepe (with pecorino cheese and black pepper), bucatini all'amatriciana, and rigatoni carbonara are the pinnacle of pasta porn. All of it amounts to updated Italian comfort food for the 21st century. It may not be like any Roman trattoria I've ever been in, but with a significant cocktail program, and a wine list where everything is $40 (by the bottle, not glass), it is most assuredly a modern American version that seeks to do the same thing: satisfy its customers in a way that will have them returning again and again.

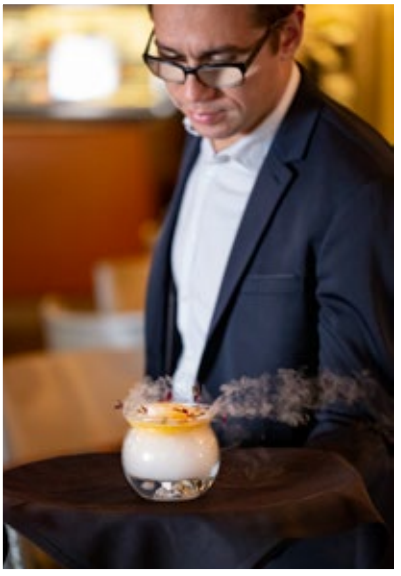
While Downtown came of age in 2018, Chinatown took a European turn. If someone had told me three years ago that this three-mile stretch of pan-Pacific eats would be anchored by a French restaurant at one end and a Spanish one at the other (with an excellent American gastropub, Sparrow + Wolf, in the middle), I would've told them to get their head examined. What Executive Chef Yuri Szarzewski, Pastry Chef Vincent Pellerin, and General Manager Nicolas Kalpokdjian have done at Partage is nothing short of phenomenal: transplant a bit of sophisticated France to an all-Asian plaza with a beautiful dining room and gorgeous food. Partage means "share," and the menu encourages you to do just that. Twenty small-plate options are offered, each amounting to no more than two or three bites of headliners like halibut ceviche (disguised to look like dragon fruit), or a perfect, meaty scallop swimming in a dashi broth with seaweed chutney and steamed leeks. For pure decadence though, nothing beats his oxtail croque monsieur — long-simmered meat, slicked with bone marrow, served between three batons of the world's most luxurious fried bread. The menu varies between small bites and big proteins, with a significant nod given to vegetarians as well. Walking through this door transports you to a place I didn't think could exist in Las Vegas: elevated French dining in a stunning, casual atmosphere, with a great bar and wine list, all served with flair at a fair price. Bon appetit, indeed.

LOCALLY GROWN Clockwise from above: the interior of EDO Gastro Tapas & Wine; meat and cheese board at Esther's Kitchen; butternut squash soup at Partage; interior of Partage; heuvos estrellados at EDO Gastro Tapas & Wine

Our milestone year ended with an olé! From its 40 cozy seats to the giant mural to the rolling gin-and-tonic cart, EDO Gastro Tapas & Wine is a jewel box designed to make you fall in love with it the moment you enter. It arrived at the western end of Spring Mountain in midsummer, and announced its serious intentions from the get-go. Things may look unassuming from the front, but there's quite a pedigree behind that door. Chef/owner Oscar Edo is a Strip veteran, as is partner Roberto Liendo. Between them, they have a strong sense of the food and









service a place like this needs to appeal to gastronauts who demand the new over the tried and true. And while the whole small plates/tapas trend may seem like old hat, they freshen the genre by blending the traditional with more than just a wink and a nod to their Asian surroundings.

When it comes to choosing those tapas, just pick and point. Chunky Maine lobster comes salpicón-style — dressed with "tiger's milk" — which lightens the richness of the crustacean, while croquetas get that Asian spin with kimchi pisto. After those, the hits just keep on coming: pulpo viajero (octopus with tamarind mole), buñelos de bacalao (salt cod fritters with squid ink and lime), and something called "Bikini" — a wafer-thin, crispy compression of sobrasada and Mahon cheese — which might be the last word in tiny toast. You really can't go wrong with any of the plates here; some are just more spectacular than others. One of the more eye-popping ones is huevos estrellados, a riff on a Spanish staple — assembling olive-oil fried eggs, piquillo peppers, and a mélange of mushrooms atop fried potatoes. The menu is nicely balanced between meat and seafood offerings, and the paella is worth a trip all by itself.

By Las Vegas Strip standards, these three gems may seem like small fry, but what they represent for the future of our neighborhoods is a very big deal. Cooking this good, with serious cocktail and wine intentions, was unheard of five years ago outside of Strip hotels. By opening their doors, these operators announced that Italy, France and Spain — the gastronomic capitals of the Western world — have arrived in our backyard. Eating out in local Las Vegas will never be the same, and we have these three to thank.

John Curtas

***Esther's Kitchen**: 1130 S. Casino Center Blvd. #110, esthersly.com; **Partage**: 3839 Spring Mountain Road, partage.vegas; **EDO**: 3400 S. Jones Blvd. #11A, edotapas.com*



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SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION



While "'tis the season for giving" may have joined the ranks of cliché holiday sayings quite some time ago, the concept still resonates loud and clear with many Las Vegas businesses and organizations that work tirelessly to improve the quality of life for the metropolitan area's 2 million-plus residents. Through efforts that range from offering various forms of assistance and support, to programs that empower less-fortunate individuals and families with the capabilities necessary to successfully engage in everyday life, to providing opportunities for educational and career advancement and success, philanthropy surely is alive and well in Las Vegas.

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There are many reasons why Las Vegas is a great place to live. We enjoy a moderate year-round climate; we have access to world-class dining, shopping and entertainment; we have a community rich in cultural offerings thanks to The Smith Center for the Performing Arts and institutions like Nevada Ballet Theatre and the Las Vegas Philharmonic; our community has a new medical school and a law school that is climbing in national rankings; our region boasts abundant natural treasures like Red Rock Canyon, Lake Mead and nearby national parks that encourage a healthy, active lifestyle; our local economy is strong and thriving; professional sports have sparked community unity and pride; and most importantly, community betterment is well supported by a strong network of nonprofits that keep our community #VegasStrong.

The Howard Hughes Corporation® is proud to again sponsor, "In the Spirit of Giving," a testament to the rich tradition of philanthropy in Southern Nevada. Thanks to an abundance of nonprofits and scores of corporate partners, we enjoy a culture of giving in Las Vegas that extends well beyond the holiday season.

For more than four decades, The Howard Hughes Corporation is proud to have played a role in the growth of Southern Nevada, particularly through the development of Summerlin®. As a builder of community, we appreciate the value of access to quality education and healthcare services, a healthy environment, the uplift of culture and arts, and a robust network of social services that improve the lives of all who call our valley home.

ENVIRONMENT

Even before Summerlin began, The Howard Hughes Corporation established a growth and sustainability plan that would develop the community as a partner to the environment, protecting natural habitats and wildlife while building neighborhoods that enhance the natural desert landscape. Our 2018 support of organizations dedicated to protecting the environment includes long-time beneficiaries of The Howard Hughes Corporation – Get Outdoors Nevada and The Nature Conservancy, as well as funding for school farms and gardens at multiple schools in Summerlin through organizations like Green Our Planet and The Garden Farms Foundation.

EDUCATION

Education has long been a focus area for The Howard Hughes Corporation, and we have strived to provide unequaled educational opportunity in Summerlin and do our part to uplift education valley-wide. This year, our support of education initiatives and organizations included ongoing support for the Clark County School District, its School Community Partnership Council, and the UNLV Foundation, in addition to ongoing launch support for Roseman University of Health Sciences which is establishing a campus in Summerlin. And we continue to provide annual college scholarships to deserving students in our community through our own nonprofit, The Summerlin Children's Forum.

CULTURE AND THE ARTS

New this year to our list of supported initiatives is Vegas PBS which brings educational, informational and creative programming directly into the homes of Southern Nevada. Vegas PBS also provides distance job training and emergency services communication to many areas of our state.

COMMUNITY

The Healing Garden, a beautiful tribute to the lives lost on Oct. 1, 2017, was a spontaneous effort created by an outpouring of love in the days immediately following the nation's worst mass shooting. Today, it is a lasting memorial cared for by Get Outdoors Nevada. We were honored and humbled to help sponsor the Journey of Healing dedication of the Garden on Oct. 1, 2018, ensuring it remains a place of hope and respite for our community.

On behalf of The Howard Hughes Corporation, we acknowledge the hard work and success of our community's many nonprofits that are tirelessly dedicated to ensuring our city remains #VegasStrong. As we look to a new year, may we always remember to keep at the forefront the community pride and spirit that has forever united us.

Sincerely,

Kevin T. Orrock
President, Summerlin
The Howard Hughes Corporation

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The Nature Conservancy
Nevada

CONTACT

915 E Bonneville Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89101
702-737-8744
nature.org/nevada

VISION

Across Nevada, The Nature Conservancy protects the beautiful deserts, rivers and sagebrush seas that you love. From safeguarding your drinking water to your favorite outdoor destinations — places like Red Rock Canyon and the Truckee River — we've been working with partners here for more than 30 years, and have conserved 3 million+ acres, and 26 river miles. Our mission is to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends. Join us, and together we can keep Nevada a place where both nature and people can thrive.

GET OUTDOORS NEVADA™

Discover. Experience. Connect.

CONTACT

919 E. Bonneville Ave., Suite 200
Las Vegas, NV 89101
702-997-3350
info@getoutdoorsnevada.org
www.getoutdoorsnevada.org

MISSION

Get Outdoors Nevada connects people of all backgrounds and ages to Nevada's diverse outdoor places through education, service, community engagement and collaboration. We envision a community that discovers, experiences and connects to our state's many natural environments, from wild landscapes and recreational areas to urban trails and parks. To this end, we pursue a three-fold approach of education, service, and community engagement. Many of our programs focus on the needs and lives of families and school children, especially those have limited opportunity to experience the great outdoors. We are also honored to serve as the non-profit partner for the Las Vegas Community Healing Garden.

CCSD
CLARK COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

CONTACT

4601 W. Bonanza Road
Las Vegas, NV 89107
702-799-6560
bmason@interact.ccsd.net
www.partnership.ccsd.net

MISSION

The mission of the School Community Partnership Program is to improve academic achievement, foster successful individuals and enrich student experiences by connecting schools with business and community resources. The program began in 1983, as a pilot program of seven schools partnered with seven businesses.Since that time, it has grown to hundreds of partnerships with programs that range from kindergarten to 12th grade, from tutorial programs 10 scholarships, from science activities to line arts programs. Partnership ventures are designed to support, supplement and complement the curriculum of the Clark County public schools.
For good news about CCSD visit PledgeOfAchievement.com

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CONTACT

702-551-4769
info@gardenfarms.net

703-927-9205
www.greenourplanet.org

MISSION

The Howard Hughes Corporation®, developer of the Summerlin® master-planned community, actively supports the creation of teaching gardens at schools in the community through donations to organizations like Green Our Planet and The Garden Farms Foundation, which provide expertise and know-how to make school gardens a reality. As students care for school gardens and farms, they are learning math, biology and environmental sciences in a hands-on and meaningful way. Plus, the produce yielded from the gardens is invaluable in teaching the benefits of a healthy diet and lifestyle. To date, Hughes has helped to establish gardens at three Summerlin community schools, with more on the way.

UNLV FOUNDATION

CONTACT

4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Box 451006
Las Vegas,NV 89154-1006
702-895-3641
unlvfoundation@unlv.edu
www.unlv.edu/foundation

MISSION

The UNLV Foundation raises and manages private funds for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. These funds help UNLV and its diverse faculty, students, staff and alumni promote community well-being and individual achievement through education, research, scholarship, creative activities and clinical services. In fact, 75-percent of UNLV's 30,000 students rely on some form of financial aid.

We also stimulate economic development and diversification, foster a climate of innovation, promote health and enrich the cultural vitality of the community we serve. Through the UNLV Foundation every charitable dollar UNLV receives has an exponential impact, as it helps us leverage UNLV's most valuable skills – research, teaching and community service – for the benefit of all Nevadans.

ROSEMAN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

CONTACT

10530 Discovery Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89135
702-802-2873
speralta@roseman.edu
medicine.roseman.edu

MISSION

The Roseman University College of Medicine was established to address Nevada's need for primary care and physicians in all specialties. Its mission is to educate a new generation of competent, caring and ethical physicians, conduct biomedical, translational and clinical research that advances solutions to the healthcare challenges in our communities, and provide high-quality, patient-centered care and service to our neighborhoods. A private, not-for-profit institution – not supported by Nevada taxpayers – Roseman University has invested more than $30 million in creating the College of Medicine, helping it take important steps in its development. The College is currently raising $66 million of its $150 million campaign to achieve accreditation.

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CONTACT

10801 W. Charleston Blvd., 3rd Floor,
Las Vegas, Nevada 89135
702-791-4000
Randy.Ecklund@HowardHughes.com
www.summerlin.com

MISSION

The Summerlin® Children's Forum (SCF) is a nonprofit organization established in 1997 by leaders of the Summerlin master-planned community and its developer, The Howard Hughes Corporation®. The organization is dedicated to recognizing academic excellence. Since inception, the Summerlin Children's Forum has provided college scholarships and school enrichment grants totaling nearly $640,000. Today, Summerlin Children's Forum is focused on its annual college scholarship program that is open to all graduating high school seniors who reside in Summerlin.

CONTACT

3050 E. Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89121
702-799-1010
membership@VegasPBS.org
VegasPBS.org

MISSION

Dedicated to enriching lives in Southern Nevada, Vegas PBS uses television and other technologies to educate and empower individuals and to amplify the effectiveness of community organizations. Vegas PBS Channel 10 is one of America's most-watched PBS stations and offers five unique secondary channels: Create, VEGAS PBS KIDS, Worldview, Rewind and Jackpot! Vegas PBS also collaborates with strategic partners to create content that examines current and historic regional issues.

Vegas PBS provides outreach programs to assist students of any age, from childhood through adulthood; professional development services for teachers; literacy and health workshops for families; educational materials for the deaf, hard of hearing, blind or vision impaired; and 24/7 online access to content via an array of devices and media.

CONTACT

919 E. Bonneville Avenue, Suite 200
Las Vegas, NV 89101
702-997-3350
info@getoutdoorsnevada.org
www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/lv-healing-garden/

MISSION

The LV Community Healing Garden in downtown Las Vegas was built in three days by community members and local businesses following the October 1 tragedy at the Route 91 Harvest music festival. The garden features a Remembrance Wall, a grove of 58 trees lining a paved path, shrubs and flowers, all encircling a beautiful oak tree - "the tree of life." The 58 trees signify the 58 lives lost. Painted rocks, flowers, pictures, and other mementos

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IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING 2018

UCF
UNITED CITIZENS FOUNDATION

CONTACT
4485 South Buffalo Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89147
702-888-6300
shari@ucfnv.org
www.ucfnv.org

MISSION
United Citizens Foundation's (UCF) mission is to support, educate, and provide mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse services for students, families, and the community, regardless of economic status. UCF's vision is to improve behavioral and mental health and end the stigma associated with it by providing compassionate care for the people and community we serve. We currently have eight School-Based clinics and two Community-Based locations, and will be starting a Home-Based program soon.

Our services can be accessed by students experiencing a crisis or any students undergoing any mental or behavioral stressors such as: suicidal ideation, behavioral issues, parent/child conflict, bullying, or any negative feeling or emotion. The purpose of the organization is to act responsively and be responsive to the needs of the Nevada community.

Purple W.I.N.G.S. Organization
Women Inspiring Noble Girls Successfully

CONTACT
800 E. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104
sarag@purplewings.org
www.purplewings.org

MISSION
PWs 501c (3), a trauma-informed girls mentoring organization whose acronym stands for Women Inspiring Noble Girls Successfully. PWs is recognized as a leading community based organization providing direct services for victims of commercial sexual exploitation, domestic sex trafficking, and violence. Our Vision is a community in which girls realize their potential to fulfill their dreams and achieve stability despite their circumstances. Our Mission is to empower the lives of individuals who have experienced emotional trauma, sexual/domestic violence, commercial sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, and those who wish to exit the commercial sex-industry. Programming includes Girls Group and 1:1 Trauma Mentoring.

FOUNDATION FOR Positively kids

CONTACT
2780 E Tompkins Ave. Ste. 222
Las Vegas, NV 89121
702-262-0037
www.positivelykids.org

MISSION
The mission of Foundation for Positively Kids is to deliver high quality, integrated behavioral, and primary care services for Southern Nevada children with an emphasis on providing quality of life for medically fragile, medically dependent, and/or developmentally delayed children age birth to 18 and their families.

Foundation for Positively Kids strives to embrace each child's unique needs, while providing the services essential to their well-being. Vital to the success of every program we provide is its ability to help medically fragile children reach their full potential, foster inclusion, promote comfort, and quality of life.

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WELLS FARGO

nevada blind children's foundation

educate. employ. empower.

CONTACT

95 S Arroyo Grande Blvd
Henderson, NV 89012
702-735-6223
info@nvblindchildren.org
www.nvblindchildren.org

MISSION

Nevada is one of seven states that does not have a school for the blind. Nevada Blind Children's Foundation is the only nonprofit organization solely dedicated to helping blind and visually impaired children, ages birth to 22 years, reach their full potential. NBCF's programs are free and take a comprehensive approach to strengthening each child's support network, providing programs in the areas of: education, adaptive recreation, employment & life skills training, family support, advocacy, and health services.

Nevada Blind Children's Foundation's programs and services are provided through the generous support of volunteers and individual, foundation and corporate donors.

afan
Aid for AIDS of Nevada

CONTACT

1120 Almond Tree Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89104
702-382-2326
www.afanlv.org

MISSION

Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) provides support and advocacy for adults and children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in southern Nevada. AFAN works to reduce HIV infection through prevention education to eliminate fear, prejudice and the stigma associated with the disease.

AFAN was founded in 1984 and is the oldest & largest AIDS service organization in Nevada. 2018 is their 34th anniversary of practicing unyielding commitment to the community with programs that offer consistent & comprehensive assistance. This includes direct client services, food programs, prevention, education, and community outreach. These programs assist in enhancing the physical health & psychosocial wellness of the individuals they serve, while promoting dignity and improving the quality of their lives.

United Way
United Way of Southern Nevada

CONTACT

5830 W. Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89103
720-892-2300
info@uwsn.org
www.UWSN.org

MISSION

United Way of Southern Nevada unites our community to improve people's lives. We help children enter school ready to learn, help high school students graduate, and support individuals working to earn a degree or certification, all while creating stability for their families. Together, we step into the ring and invite others to stand with us as a united front to help our community's most vulnerable residents live a good life. We are bold and innovative to solve our toughest problems. Together, we fight for the future of our community – and we will win. Join us at uwsn.org.

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IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING 2018

BABY'S BOUNTY™

"A good start for every baby"

CONTACT

3400 W. Desert Inn Road, #24
Las Vegas, NV 89102
702-485-2229
help@babysbounty.org
www.babysbounty.org

MISSION

Baby's Bounty assists low income families with a newborn by providing a Baby Bundle containing a portable crib, car seat, clean clothes, diapers, hygiene items, and other essential equipment for their health, safety and well-being. Caseworkers at over 175 social service partner agencies refer families to receive a Bundle. Recipients are required to attend a Safe Sleep & Baby Basics class before receiving assistance. We can provide 50 Baby Bundles each month to children born into families recovering from domestic abuse, teen pregnancy, mental health issues, homelessness, unemployment or underemployment. To date, over 5,000 newborns have received a Baby Bundle.

Catholic Charities OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

CONTACT

1501 Las Vegas Boulevard North
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
702.385.2662
info@catholiccharities.com
CatholicCharities.com

MISSION

Since 1941, the mission of Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada has been to serve those in need — the most vulnerable — regardless of race, religion or creed. This leading community resource offers help and hope with dignity as it strives to meet the diverse needs of men, women and children in Southern Nevada. Through the generosity of foundations, grants, organizations and individual donors, Catholic Charities operates 16 programs providing support to more than 4,200 people daily and encompassing four core areas: Family Services, Food Services, Immigration and Refugee Services and Homeless and Housing Services. Catholic Charities also operates the largest Meals on Wheels program and Emergency Shelter Services in Southern Nevada. For additional information, please visit CatholicCharities.com.

TRAUMA INTERVENTION PROGRAM (TIP) OF SOUTHERN NEVADA, INC.

CONTACT

P.O. Box 93203
Las Vegas, NV 89193
702-229-0426
info@tipoflasvegas.org
www.tipoflasvegas.org

MISSION

The Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) of Southern Nevada, Inc.'s mission is to ensure that those who are traumatized in emergency situations receive immediate emotional and practical assistance. To accomplish this goal, TIP partners with emergency response agencies in Clark County (police and fire departments, hospitals, etc.). These agencies request TIP's specially-trained volunteers to respond to emergency scenes where the volunteers are able to assist victims, families, and witness with emotional and practical support during the investigative process. In 2017, volunteers responded to nearly 1,500 scenes and assisted over 10,000 individuals in crisis. This includes the immediate response to the tragic 1 October shooting, where dozens of volunteers provided support to the community and first responders just minutes after the shooting and several weeks to follow.

SPONSORED BY

UnitedHealthcare®

American Cancer Society®

CONTACT

6165 S Rainbow Blvd,
Las Vegas NV 89118
800-227-2345
www.cancer.org

VISION

At the American Cancer Society, we're on a mission to free the world from cancer. Until we do, we'll be funding and conducting research, sharing expert information, supporting patients, and spreading the word about prevention. All so you can live longer — and better.

Our Las Vegas Making Strides Against Breast Cancer engages over 30,000 participants, while our Relay For Life events educate and support communities across Southern Nevada. Our volunteers will brighten the lives of children with Construction vs. Cancer. These dynamic events are organized by local volunteers, supported by professional staff. We have contributed to a 25% decrease in the overall US cancer death rate and we helped avoid nearly 2.1 million cancer deaths. In short, we are attacking cancer from every angle.

HELP
OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
helping people help themselves

CONTACT

1640 E. Flamingo Rd. #100
Las Vegas NV 89119
702-836-2130 direct
aquinn@helpsonv.org
helpsonv.org

MISSION

HELP of Southern Nevada operates nine departments, consists of 120 employees and serves tens of thousands of unduplicated clients each year. The services HELP provides assist low-income families, homeless youth and adults among other individuals, to become more self-sufficient through direct services, trainings and referrals. Programs available include Shannon West Homeless Youth Center, Emergency Resources Services, Framing Hope Warehouse, Weatherization, Work Opportunities Readiness Center, Holiday Assistance and Homeless Services. For more information, call HELP of Southern Nevada at 702.369.4357 or visit www.helpsonv.org. Connect with HELP of Southern Nevada on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

STRAIGHT FROM THE STREETS

CONTACT

Thomas Randle El
1930 Village Center Circle
Las Vegas, NV 89134
702.496.6087
www.facebook.com/SFTStreets/
SFTS702@gmail.com

MISSION

To partner with representatives from private businesses, service organizations and all who are committed to advocating for the rights and needs of homeless persons living on the streets.

Our homeless friends are in need of bus tokens, phone cards, food vouchers, and health services as they deal with their issues of substance abuse, alcoholism, mental illness, physical disabilities and utter despair and depression to name a few.

Currently, the Co-Founder along with two social work students and a team of volunteers work to identify, assist and monitor personal who are found on the streets, supporting them with things they urgently need and hopefully getting them off the streets and on to the path of a new life.

Help us by donating or volunteering!

SPONSORED BY

UnitedHealthcare®

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING 2018

SPRINGS PRESERVE

CONTACT

P.O. Box 98947
Las Vegas, NV 89193
702-822-7700
britt.nwadiashi@springspreserve.org
www.springspreserve.org

MISSION

Our mission is to create a visitor experience that builds culture and community, inspires environmental stewardship and celebrates the vibrant history of the Las Vegas Valley. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1978, the Springs Preserve is a 180-acre cultural institution designed to commemorate Las Vegas' dynamic history and provide a vision for a sustainable future.

The Preserve features museums, galleries, outdoor events, colorful botanical gardens and an interpretive trail system through a scenic wetland habitat.

40TH ANNIVERSARY CANDLELIGHTERS

CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION OF NEVADA

CONTACT

8990 Spanish Ridge Avenue, Suite 100
Las Vegas, NV 89148
702-737-1919
info@candlelightersnv.org
www.CandleLightersNV.org

MISSION

Our mission is to provide emotional support, quality of life programs, and financial assistance for children and their families affected by childhood cancer. We help to alleviate the isolation many families feel at the time their child is diagnosed by offering a variety of unique programs and services which are available at no cost to the families. We are there for the families when they are given the worst news a parent can be given: a childhood cancer diagnosis. Worldwide, a child is diagnosed every two minutes, and 83% of families affected by this devastating disease will face some form of financial hardship. With donations from generous people like you, we can continue to support our families while they bravely fight their battle with cancer.

Please join us in 2018, as we celebrate 40 years of service to our community. We have events happening all year long, so visit our website beginning in January to see how you can honor childhood cancer in our community.

assistance league® Las Vegas

CONTACT

6446 W. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89146
702-870-2002
AssistanceLeagueLV@gmail.com
www.allv.org

WHO WE SERVE

Assistance League Las Vegas has been serving the community for over 40 years by providing goods and services to children in need. As an all-volunteer organization, every donation benefits our programs. Operation School Bell®, our signature program, annually provides 8,000 Clark County School District students with new clothes, shoes, and school supplies, creating an enhanced self-esteem for learning. We are committed to serving and enriching the lives of children in need. You can help with a tax-deductible donation or by shopping at our volunteer staffed Thrift Shop. We are the best Thrift Shop in town.

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HENDERSON LIBRARIES

Imagine | Discover | Connect

CONTACT

280 S. Green Valley Parkway,
Henderson, NV 89012
702-492-7252
Reference@hendersonlibraries.com
www.hendersonlibraries.com

MISSION

The mission of Henderson Libraries is to imagine possibilities, discover opportunities and connect with our community.

Libraries focus on a wide range of populations with particular needs, and endeavor to make all visitors feel welcome. In addition to providing materials, programs and services, today's library increasingly partners with other community organizations to connect people with additional services and help. The library is truly the hub of the community. Yet, civic needs and the requests of visitors are invariably straining available library funds.

With the 75th anniversary of the library district approaching in 2019, Henderson Libraries is proud of past accomplishments but looks forward to a dynamic, diverse and innovative future serving the Henderson Community.

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HENDERSON LIBRARIES

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Adam's Place

A Grief Center for Children and Families

CONTACT

601 S. Rancho Drive
Building C, Suite 19
Las Vegas, NV 89106
702-339-0848
www.adamsplaceforgrieflasvegas.org

MISSION

No child should grieve alone, and this drives our mission of providing education, peer support groups and resources at no charge to Southern Nevada children, teens and families coping with the death of a parent, caregiver or sibling. By empowering them with healthy coping skills, they'll heal, move forward and make positive choices that'll last a lifetime. The first to create an open-ended, ongoing program of this type in Las Vegas, our 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization was established by funds from the Tony and Renee Marlon Charitable Foundation. It continues today through gifts and donations – large and small. Your investment helps add staff, build infrastructure and launch on-site school groups needed to grow our program to capacity, and to meet the current and future needs of Southern Nevada's children.

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IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING 2018

Goodwill Southern Nevada

CONTACT

1280 W Cheyenne Ave.
North Las Vegas, NV 89030
702-604-0823
info@sngoodwill.org
www.Goodwill.Vegas

MISSION

To reduce the impact of poverty on individuals, families, and our community by helping Southern Nevadans get jobs with local employers and with Goodwill of Southern Nevada.

SPONSORED BY

Goodwill Southern Nevada

SERVICES

Goodwill Industries of Southern Nevada Inc. (Goodwill) is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit that offers training services and job placement at Goodwill and other local employers in Southern Nevada. Goodwill operates three Career Centers with community-based programs funded through the support of philanthropic giving, government grants, and by selling donated clothing and household items in Goodwill's 17 thrift stores. Other Goodwill services include a mobile Career Coach who visits Veterans Village locations and The Shade Tree to provide services and training to job seekers onsite. The services provided by Goodwill empower individuals to overcome barriers to employment, no matter how big or small. Services are provided to veterans, older workers, people with disabilities, and other individuals who are unemployed or underemployed. Last year, Goodwill provided job placement services to over 17,000 Southern Nevadans and Goodwill directly placed over 2,700 people into jobs at Goodwill and with local employers. After a job seeker is placed into employment, a Career Coach will provide one-on-one mentorship to ensure the transition is successful for both the person served and the employer. Goodwill also partners with local employers to provide a variety of services such as hosting hiring events, implementing work experience programs, and coordinating employee volunteering or donation drives.

VOLUNTEER

Time is precious and when you choose to give the gift of your time, you are looking for a rewarding experience that makes a positive impact in your community. Goodwill works with you to create a personalized volunteer experience you and/or your group will love. With 17 locations throughout the valley, Goodwill can create a rewarding volunteer experience close to your home or business.

A job is a systemic solution to poverty. Whether you want to share your business experience and advice helping job seekers, or work hands-on with our donation and retail teams, when you volunteer at Goodwill you are helping unemployed and underemployed locals get jobs. Together, we can end unemployment in our community.

GIVING

We believe in giving a hand up, not a hand out. By making a financial contribution to Goodwill, you are helping Goodwill place Southern Nevadans into local jobs, thereby reducing the demand for other taxpayer-funded services. Goodwill helps job seekers remove their barriers to employment and puts them on a customized path to learn new skills, acquire training, and ultimately find a good job. Goodwill's nonprofit thrift stores cover its overhead costs, so 100% of your financial contributions will directly impact job seekers in Southern Nevada. Just a small donation of $25 can provide ten job seekers with transportation assistance until their first paycheck. The best gift to give this holiday season is the gift of a job.

Community partners also give back to Goodwill and help support our nonprofit mission. This year, Goodwill would like to thank our community partners for their continued support. Without gifts from partners like Fuel For Life powered by Southwest Gas, Caesars Foundation, MGM Foundation, State Farm, USAA, US Bank, Bank of the West, Bank of Nevada, the Windsong Trust, and others, people in our community would not have the much-needed resources to find jobs. Make your contributions have an impact this holiday season and give the gift of a job.

FIRST NEVADA

CONTACT

2620 Golfside Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134
702-888-3673
Aquick@FIRSTInspires.org
www.FIRSTNevada.org

MISSION

Our mission is to inspire young people to become science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology).

SPONSORED BY

BARRICK

SERVICES

Since 2005, FIRST Nevada has provided STEAM programs to K-12 students in Nevada with an emphasis on expanding our reach to more at-risk, underserved students. By incorporating hands-on robotic projects with math, science, and engineering principles, we seek to inspire young people to further explore new and developing technologies and develop leadership and communication skills.

Our programs provide hands-on experiences, which put into practice what students learn in the classroom, engaging them and making learning relevant. We incorporate best-practice strategies to engage youth and cultivate interest in STEAM and include a progression of programs to include grades K-12.

Our four programs include: FLL Jr (FIRST LEGO League Jr.), FLL (FIRST LEGO League), FTC (FIRST Tech Challenge), and FRC (FIRST Robotics Competition).

Visit www.FIRSTNevada.org for more information on these exciting educational programs.

VOLUNTEEER

FIRST Nevada uses hundreds of volunteers for our exciting K-12 STEAM events each season. Whether you have a few hours to volunteer or an entire day, there is a volunteer role suited to your unique talents and interest. Event volunteers take on a variety of roles from judging to crowd control; both technical and nontechnical roles. We welcome all talents, skills, and enthusiasm, with no experience required.

Join us as a volunteer and make a difference in the lives of K-12 students in NV. Help kids discover the fun in science and technology; help young people apply real-world math and science concepts; network with like-minded professionals; and help celebrate science and technology. Email l.pavlik@FIRSTNevada.org to learn more.

GIVING

As a nonprofit organization serving the youth of Nevada since 2005, the support of companies, organizations and individuals in the community is vital to our success. All of our supporters are critical to building programs that engage students in meaningful STEAM education, and we are grateful to each one for their unique contributions.

Through the resources they provide, our sponsors are helping FIRST Nevada inspire young people to become the next generation of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) professionals. This support, including financial contributions, in-kind donations, employee volunteerism and mentoring, provides vital resources for FIRST Nevada's organizational growth.

Donations help cover the costs of bringing these valuable, engaging programs to the K-12 students in Nevada. Your support, in any amount, is greatly appreciated.

For more information on FIRST Nevada sponsorship opportunities, email us at Aquick@FIRSTInspires.org.



Photo Credit: FIRST NV/Mary Scodwell

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING 2018

THE SMITH CENTER®

CONTACT

361 Symphony Park Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89106
702-749-2000 (Patron Services & Tickets)
702-749-2358 (Development)
702-749-2012 (Administrative)
www.thesmithcenter.com
members@thesmithcenter.com

MISSION

To provide and preserve a high-quality performing arts center that is embraced by the community and recognized as a vital force by supporting artistic excellence, education and inspiration for all.

SERVICES

As Southern Nevada's Heart of the Arts®, The Smith Center for the Performing Arts presents hundreds of world-class performances each year with a diverse lineup of music, theater and dance in our three theaters. The Smith Center also hosts many community events, meetings and special occasions.

To promote the arts among younger generations, we offer arts education experiences at no cost to students and educators across Southern Nevada throughout the year, including student matinees, in-school performances and professional development for teachers. Local teaching artists engage and inspire students and teachers in The Smith Center's Disney Musicals in Schools program, as well as the Southern Nevada Wolf Trap Early Learning Through the Arts residencies in classrooms throughout the valley. The Smith Center also arranges for professional artists to give master classes on the performing arts, and hosts the annual Heart of Education awards, recognizing outstanding Clark County School District teachers.

VOLUNTEER

There are many opportunities to volunteer and play a direct role with your community's performing arts center. Volunteers engage with staff and patrons to enhance experiences at The Smith Center, and can serve in various capacities, including tour guide or docent, usher or community ambassador. As important members of The Smith Center team, volunteers help us remain financially sustainable and provide numerous services for the community. Please show your support for The Smith Center's mission by gifting your time and unique skills.

GIVING

Thanks to the generous support of our dedicated Founders, Members, Donors and Sponsors, The Smith Center continues to provide a wide variety of services for Southern Nevada residents, including presenting world-class performances, offering accessible ticket prices, providing inspirational Education and Outreach programs for students and teachers, and serving as a unique space to host special events. Now in our sixth year, our nonprofit depends upon public support to fulfill our mission and serve as the Heart of the Arts® in Southern Nevada for many years to come.



SPONSORED BY

arcata

CONTACT

1771 E. Flamingo Rd. Suite 206-B
Las Vegas, NV 89119
702-791-3311
redcross.org

The American Red Cross of Southern Nevada Chapter serves the greater Las Vegas area, as well as Clark, Lincoln, Nye and Esmeralda Counties.

MISSION

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

VISION

The American Red Cross, through its strong network of volunteers, donors and partners, is always there in times of need. We aspire to turn compassion into action so that...

...all people affected by disaster across the country and around the world receive care, shelter and hope;
...our communities are ready and prepared for disasters;
...everyone in our country has access to safe, lifesaving blood and blood products;
...all members of our armed services and their families find support and comfort whenever needed; and
...in an emergency, there are always trained individuals nearby, ready to use their Red Cross skills to save lives.

HOW TO HELP

All American Red Cross services, including disaster relief, are made possible through the generosity and commitment of people like you. For more information about ways to give, volunteer opportunities, local preparedness classes and more, please visit redcross.org or call 702-369-3674.

CONTACT

The Wishing Place
9950 Covington Cross Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89144
702-212-9474
snv.wish.org

Since 1996, Make-A-Wish Southern Nevada has transformed lives by serving medically eligible children and their families in Clark, Nye, Lincoln and Esmeralda counties. To date, Make-A-Wish Southern Nevada has provided healing and magical wishes for more than 1,800 children. Make-A-Wish Southern Nevada hosts wish kids and families, volunteers and community supporters at The Wishing Place, a unique headquarters and inspirational gathering place located on Allegiant's Summerlin campus.

MISSION

Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

VISION

Grant the wish of every eligible child.

HOW TO HELP

Make-A-Wish Southern Nevada is only able to make wishes possible with the support of the community, through sponsorships, special events like Walk for Wishes, individual donations and many volunteer hours. Today, Make-A-Wish Southern Nevada is able to grant 130 wishes annually – each a potential game-changer for a child battling serious medical challenges. With additional support, the number of wishes granted can increase, bringing Make-A-Wish closer to its vision of making every child's wish reality.

To make a donation, become a sponsor, or learn more about volunteer opportunities, please visit snv.wish.org or call 702-212-9474.

SPONSORED BY

allegiant®

CONTACT

One Drop Foundation USA
6775 Edmond Street, Suite 300
Las Vegas, NV 89118
1.844.33.WATER
one.night@onedrop.org

MISSION

One Drop's mission is to provide sustainable access to water, sanitation and hygiene as a transformative force to improve the living conditions of some of the world's most vulnerable communities. It is aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6: ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030.

SERVICES

One Drop™ is an international foundation created by Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberté with the vision of a better world, where all have access to living conditions that allow empowerment and development, today and forever. Our mission is to ensure sustainable access to safe water and sanitation to the most vulnerable communities through innovative partnerships, creativity and the power of art. Together with its partners, One Drop brings its unique Social Art for Behaviour Change™ approach to promote the adoption of healthy practices around water, sanitation and hygiene through locally inspired social art programs, empowering the communities to take ownership of the projects over time. For this to be possible, One Drop puts together novel fundraising initiatives supported by a visionary community of partners and donors. The foundation was recognized by Charity Intelligence as one of the 2018 Top 10 Impact Charities in Canada. To learn more about One Drop, visit www.onedrop.org. Interact with One Drop on Facebook and Twitter at @onedrop, or on Instagram @1dropwater

WHERE WE ARE ACTIVE

Globally, One Drop has a presence in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Locally, One Drop has partnered with Springs Preserve by donating $1.25M to develop the WaterWorks exhibit. To continue its commitment to the local community, One Drop has set its sights on new Las Vegas charitable endeavors by partnering with WaterStart and the DISCOVERY Children's Museum to further its mission of educating the local community on safe water access and ongoing water innovations.

GIVING

From its inception, thanks to the visionary support of its founder, founding partners, corporations and private individual donors, One Drop counts over 10 years of turning water into action with projects that will transform the lives of over 1.4 million beneficiaries around the world. Here are three ways to do your part and help:

- Join us for the 7th edition of One Night for One Drop imagined by Cirque du Soleil, a one-night-only production featuring world-renowned performers alongside Cirque du Soleil artists. Presented by MGM Resorts international, the event will be hosted on Friday March 8, 2019 at Bellagio Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.
- Join us for the Walk for Water for One Drop at Springs Preserve in October 2019
- Donate online at onedrop.org



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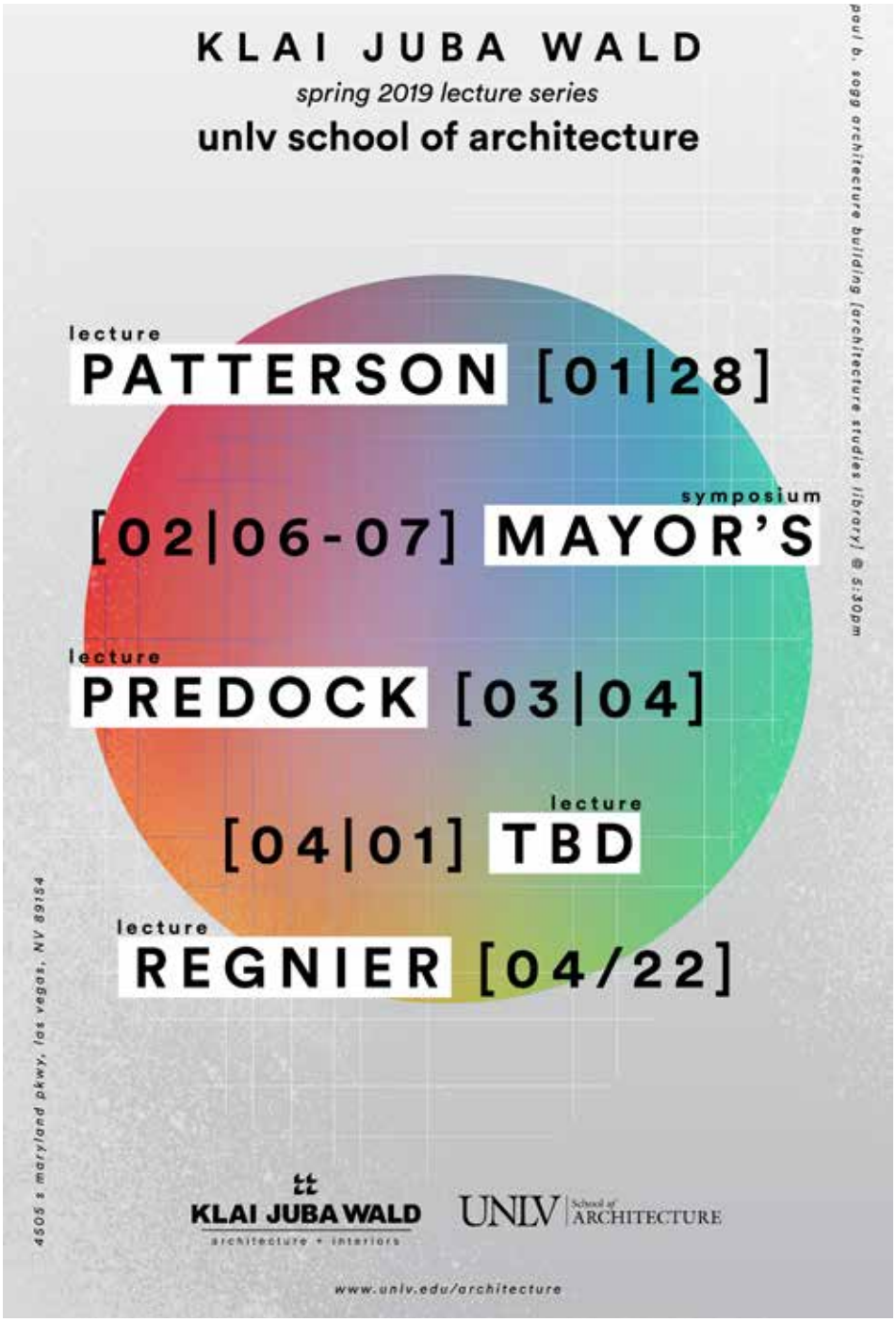
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CONTACT

Prof. Alberto de Salvatierra
702-895-3011
alberto.desalvatierra@unlv.edu

As the firm celebrates its 23rd year since its founding and the addition of our Interiors department this year, Klai Juba Wald Architecture + Interiors is grateful to our loyal and committed employees. We are also thankful to be a formidable colleague in Southern Nevada's design and construction industry, and our Las Vegas community, which continues to evolve and thrive as an international destination. We are honored by our many loyal clients—whether here at home or across the country—who embrace the future with optimism and excitement.

We are equally proud of the bridge we create between local design professionals and students at the UNLV School of Architecture. Our eponymous lecture series, established in 1997, has been instrumental in presenting interdisciplinary leaders in architecture, landscape architecture, and interior design from around the world, while expanding public knowledge and understanding of the practice of architecture and design. Lecturers during its 21+ year history include Dana Cuff, Clare Lyster, Thom Mayne, Glenn Murcutt, Frano Violich, Aaron Betsky, Matthias Sauerbruch of Berlin and Simón Vélez of Columbia. The Spring 2019 lineup features Mic Patterson (Jan. 28), Antoine Predock (Mar. 4), and Victor Regnier (Apr. 22)—with the Mayor's Symposium taking place on Feb. 6 and 7. Stay tuned for timely messaging on Nevada Public Radio's News 88.9 KNPR for the spring offerings.



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Thursday November 1, 2018 – Wednesday, December 26, 2018
Opening reception with the artist November 1, 6 -9 pm
Tuesday-Sunday 12-6pm & by appointment
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Open First Fridays November 2 and December 7, 6 - 11 pm
Priscilla Fowler Gallery is now offering Art Money: a new, easier way to buy art.

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www.priscillafowler.com/

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Advertisment

91 The Guide

ART

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, *codybros.com***

THROUGH APRIL 28

Infinity Mirrored Room — Aftermath of Obliteration of Eternity and Narcissus Garden

Artist Yayoi Kusama's two installations offer unique wonderlands of lights and reflections where guests become part of the artwork. **10A–7:30P, $15. Locals night every Wed 5–7P, $11. Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art, *bellagio.com***

DEC. 1–JAN. 6

Holiday Glamour

The Conservatory and Botanical Garden will be totally transformed into a magical holiday paradise. **24/7, free. Bellagio, *bellagio.com***

MUSIC

DEC. 7

The Official Hooey Party

This round stars Turnpike Troubadours and Corb Lund. **21+ only. 9P, $24. Brooklyn Bowl at The Linq, *brooklynbowl.com***

DEC. 7–9

Song of the Season

A holiday concert presented by Joey Spinella. **Fri 7P; Sun 2P, $10 Starbright Theatre at Sun City Summerlin, *scscai.com***

DEC. 8

Holidays from The Heart with Kristen Hertzenberg & Philip Fortenberry

The duo will perform a delightful selection of seasonal music from their holiday album. **3P, free. Auditorium at Windmill Library, *lvccld.org***

DEC. 8

Gordon Goodwin's Little Phat Band

The Big Phat Band leader presents his virtuoso seven-member band, which spans a number of genres. **6P and 8:30P, $39–$55. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

DEC. 9

Home for the Holidays Starring James D. Gish with Special Guest Susan Anton

Classical-crossover tenor Gish performs classic holiday hits with his special guests. **2P, free. Main Theater at Clark County Library, *lvccld.org***

DEC. 10

Fall Concert

Southern Nevada Homeschool Performing Arts presents their fall concert. **6P, free. Main Theater at Clark County Library, *lvccld.org***

DEC. 10–11

Graham Dechter & Friends

The jazz guitarist has worked with Wynton Marsalis, Michael Bublé, and many other greats. **7P, $39–$59. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

DEC. 12

Jazz Vocal Ensemble I and Jazzmin'

The internationally recognized groups from UNLV Jazz Studies will perform. **7P, free. Main Theater at Clark County Library, *lvccld.org***

DEC. 14

The Official Hooey Party

A concert with Dwight Yoakam and Red Shahan that you won't want to miss. **21+ only. 9P, $30. Brooklyn Bowl at The Linq, brooklynbowl.com**

DEC. 15

Holiday Jubilee ... Las Vegas Stars Tribute to the Holidays

The annual holiday variety show features Vegas performers. **7P, $20. Starbright Theatre at Sun City Summerlin, *scscai.com***

DEC. 16

It's Wonderful to Sing ... For Life

The Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus will perform a parody of the classic movie. **2P and 6P, $15 general, $10 seniors/military/students. Main Theater at Clark County Library, *silverstatesmen-barbershopchorus.com***

DEC. 17

Crystal Lewis Holiday!

The jazz vocalist leads her trio through Christmas classics. **7P, $25–$45. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

DEC. 19

Elton John's Greatest Hits Featuring Brody Dolyniuk

The founder and former vocalist of Yellow Brick Road pays tribute to the Rocket Man. **7P and 9P, $35–$59. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

DEC. 28–29

Bad Girls — The Divas of Disco!

Diedre Thompson from The Color Purple, The Musical and Anika Ellis-Mungin from KC and the Sunshine Band perform the greatest dance hits of the 1970s. **Fri 7P; Sat 2P and 7P, $44. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The**

Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com*

DEC. 29

The Edwards Twins — Cher, Lionel Richie, Dolly Parton, Streisand, & More

The brothers impersonate legendary artists from the '60s to the modern era. **1:30P and 7P, $30. Starbright Theatre at Sun City *Summerlin, scscai.com***

DEC. 29

Drumline Live Holiday Spectacular

The team behind the hit films presents an energetic performance of holiday classics. **2P and 7P, $29–$69. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

JAN. 5

More Music of the Classic Horn Bands with the Lon Bronson Band

Local favorites perform the hits of Chicago, Tower of Power, Steely Dan, and many more. **8P, $19–$37. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

THEATER & COMEDY

THROUGH DEC. 9

Love's Labour's Lost

Nevada Conservatory Theatre presents Shakespeare's hilariously smart and sexy comedy play about the King of Navarre and his three loyal school friends who make the ultimate oath: For three years they will study, fast, and give up sex. **Fri–Sat 7:30P; Sun 2P, $25. Judy Bayley Theatre at UNLV, *unlv.edu***

THROUGH DEC. 16

Incognito

Three interwoven stories delve into the nature of identity and how we are defined by what we remember. **Thu–Sat 7:30; Sun 2P; Dec. 15, 2P, $25–$30. Cockroach Theatre, *cockroachtheatre.com***

THROUGH DEC. 16

The Last Night of Ballyhoo

Alfred Uhry's romantic comedy depicts the Jewish experience in 1939 Atlanta. **Thu–Sat 8P; Sun 2P; Dec. 8, 2P, $22–$25. Las Vegas Little Theatre, *lvlt.org***

DEC. 15

LVIP Holiday Extravaganza!

The Las Vegas Improvisational Players make up the show on the spot, based on the audience's suggestions! **7P, $10; $5 kids/seniors/military. Show Creators Studio, 4455 W. Sunset Road, *lvimprov.com***

DANCE

DEC. 8–24

The Nutcracker

Nevada Ballet Theatre's annual spectacular features the timeless music of Tchaikovsky. **Thu–Sat 7:30P; Sat–Sun 2P; Dec. 24, 2P, $29–$179. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

DEC. 15

The Nutcracker

A smaller production that is perfect for the first-timer. Distilled to the most important scenes, a narrator provides the context. Children and local talent provide all the characters. Production by the Pink Tutu Ballet Company. **7P, free. Town Square, thepinktutuballet.com**

DEC. 22

Winter Dance Recital

The Movement Dance Experience presents its seasonal recital. **2P, $12–$17. Main Theater at Clark County Library, *lvccld.org***

FAMILY & FESTIVALS

THROUGH DEC. 23

Snow in the Square

Enjoy the holiday decorations and experience snow in the desert! **Mon–Thu 7P, free. Town Square, townsquaresanta.com**

THROUGH DEC. 24

Santa at Town Square

Bring the kids for photos with Santa! **10A-9P, $20. Appointment needed. Town Square, *townsquaresanta.com***

THROUGH DEC. 31

Santa Train

This 40-minute ride along the Boulder Branch Line features a toy train exhibit, Santa's sleigh for photos, North Pole mailbox, and depot gift store. **10A–3P Fri–Sun, $5–$10. Nevada State Railroad Museum, 601 Yucca St., Boulder City, *nevadasouthern.com***

THROUGH JAN. 6

Holiday Cactus Garden

More than 500,000 lights will be strung throughout the three-acre garden. Stop inside for a chocolate sample! **5–12P, free. Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Botanical Garden, 2 Cactus Garden Drive, Henderson, *ethelm.com***

THROUGH JAN. 6

Glittering Lights Las Vegas

Nevada's largest drive-through light show, this annual event showcases 1 million LEDs and more than 400 animated displays over 2.5 miles. **Sun–Thu 5:30–9P; Sat and holidays 5–10P. $20–$75 per vehicle (season passes available). Las Vegas Motor Speedway, *glitteringlightslasvegas.com***

DEC. 1–2, 8–9, 15–24

Downtown Summerlin Holiday Parade

With floats, toy soldiers, snowflake princes and princesses, nutcrackers, dancers, drummers, and joyful music, this nondenominational parade is fun for the whole family. **6P, free. Park Center Drive, *downtownsummerlin.com***

DEC. 1–JAN. 6

Holiday Glamour

The Conservatory and Botanical Garden will be completely transformed into a magical holiday paradise. **24/7, free. Bellagio, *bellagio.com***

DEC. 6–16

Stetson Country Christmas Downtown

The 25th anniversary of this mega-shopping event brings many traditions as well as exciting changes and live music. **10A–5P, free. Sands Expo, *countrychrist-***

Celebrate the Holidays

with the

Las Vegas-Clark County

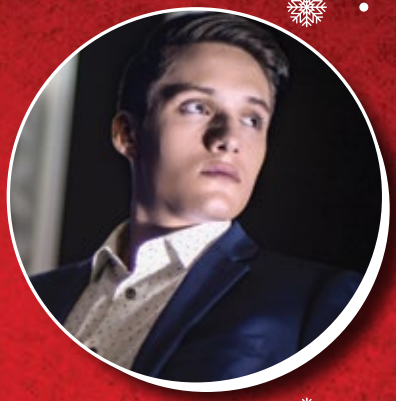
Library District

A Jazzy Holiday Concert
Starring Nik at Nite

Laughlin Library
Wednesday, December 1 | 1 p.m.

Sahara West Library
Thursday, December 13 | 6 p.m.





James D. Gish
Home for the Holidays with Special Guest Susan Anton

Summerlin Library
Friday, December 7 | 7:30 p.m.

Clark County Library
Sunday, December 9 | 2 p.m.

Nostalgic Christmas
Starring Randy Riggle

West Charleston Library
Friday, December 7 | 7:30 p.m.

Whitney Library
Sunday, December 11 | 6 p.m.



24th Annual Shoes for Children
Shoe Drive and Benefit Performances

Admission is one new pair of athletic shoes for teens or children.



We Stay Live
Winter Dance Production

West Las Vegas Library
Friday, December 7 | 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, December 8 | 2 p.m.
Sunday, December 9 | 2 p.m.



Driving Miss Daisy

West Las Vegas Library
Thursday, December 13 | 10:30 a.m.
Friday, December 14 | 7 p.m.
Saturday, December 15 | 3 p.m.
Sunday, December 16 | 3 p.m.



Holidays From The Heart
With Kristen Hertzenberg & Philip Fortenberry

Windmill Library
Saturday, December 8 | 3 p.m.

Rainbow Library
Sunday, December 9 | 3 p.m.

Las Vegas-Clark County
LIBRARY DISTRICT
www.lvccld.org

Free and open to the public.
For more information,
visit LVCCLD.org.



Great Performances: Michael Bublé: Tour Stop 148
Tuesday, December 4 at 8 p.m.



Sinatra In Concert at Royal Festival Hall
Saturday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m.



K.D. Lang – Landmarks Live in Concert: A Great Performances Special
Friday, December 14 at 9 p.m.



Christmas with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir featuring Sutton Foster and Hugh Bonneville
Monday, December 17 at 9 p.m.



Call the Midwife Holiday Special
Tuesday, December 25 at 9 p.m.

VegasPBS.org ▪ 3050 E Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89121 ▪ 702.799.1010

mas.vegas

DEC. 7–9, 14–23

Holiday Express

Embrace the holiday magic with train rides to Santa's magical village and festive activities including photos with Santa, holiday crafts, cookie decorating, holiday stories, a nutcracker display, and more! **Fri-Sun 11A–7:15P, $10 members; $12 non-members; RSVP required. Springs Preserve, *springspreserve.org***

DEC. 7

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., *fffIv.org***

DEC. 12

Winter Wonderland Puppet Show

Bring the kids for a wacky and whimsical winter puppet show. **11:30A, free. Tickets handed out 30 minutes before show. Windmill Library, *lvccld.org***

DEC. 29

Last Friday — Just Add Water Street

A foodie, arts, music, and crafts celebration in the historic downtown Henderson area. **6–10P, free. Henderson Events Plaza, 200 S. Water St., *cityofhenderson.com***

▼

FUNDRAISERS

DEC. 1

Great Santa Run

Registration for this fundraiser includes a full Santa suit, a medal, and the opportunity to be part of the largest gathering of Santas in the world! The race benefits Opportunity Village. **8:00A, $40., Fremont Street, *raceentry.com***

DEC. 22

Murray the Magician's Beggin' For Magic Christmas Spectacular

The famed Strip performer presents his annual benefit for Friends for Life Humane Society, a non-profit No-Kill shelter. **7P, $20. Starbright Theatre at Sun City Summerlin, *scscai.com***

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END NOTE

SO LONG, FACE OF 2018!

Get a last look at the terrifying composite head of the year that was

(Faces: Jessica Williams, serving multiple sentences for killing six teenagers in a 2000 car accident, who sought parole in February; Elaine Wynn, who became the largest shareholder in Wynn Resorts after Steve Wynn's resignation as CEO.; Joël Robuchon, iconic French chef whose restaurants raised Las Vegas' culinary cred, and who died in August; Democratic Rep.-elect Susie Lee, who beat perennial candidate Danny Tarkanian Nov. 6; Lise-Lotte Lublin, the Las Vegas woman who testified against Bill Cosby in the trial that ended with his conviction for sexual assault; a bighorn sheep, one of the animals impacted by the Air Force's plan to expand its training area into the Desert National Wildlife Refuge; Cliven Bundy, Bunkerville rancher whose trial for a 2014 armed standoff was dismissed by a federal judge; Amy Tarkanian, whose angry, rambling "concession speech" upon Danny Tarkanian's loss to Susie Lee for Congress went viral; Dean Heller, who lost his Senate seat to Jacky Rosen Nov. 6; Robin Leach, columnist and host of "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous," who died Aug. 24.)

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION ***Brent Holmes***


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