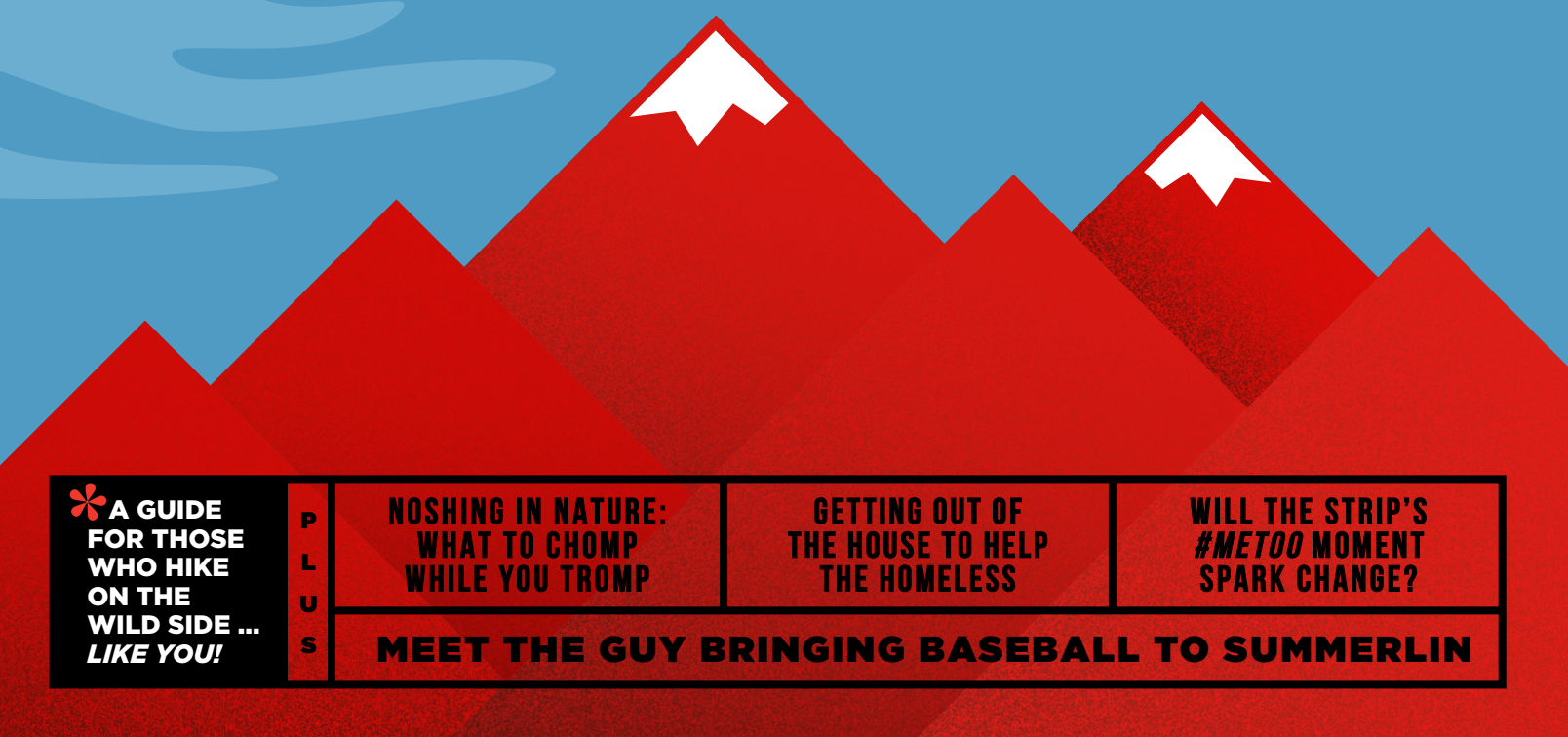
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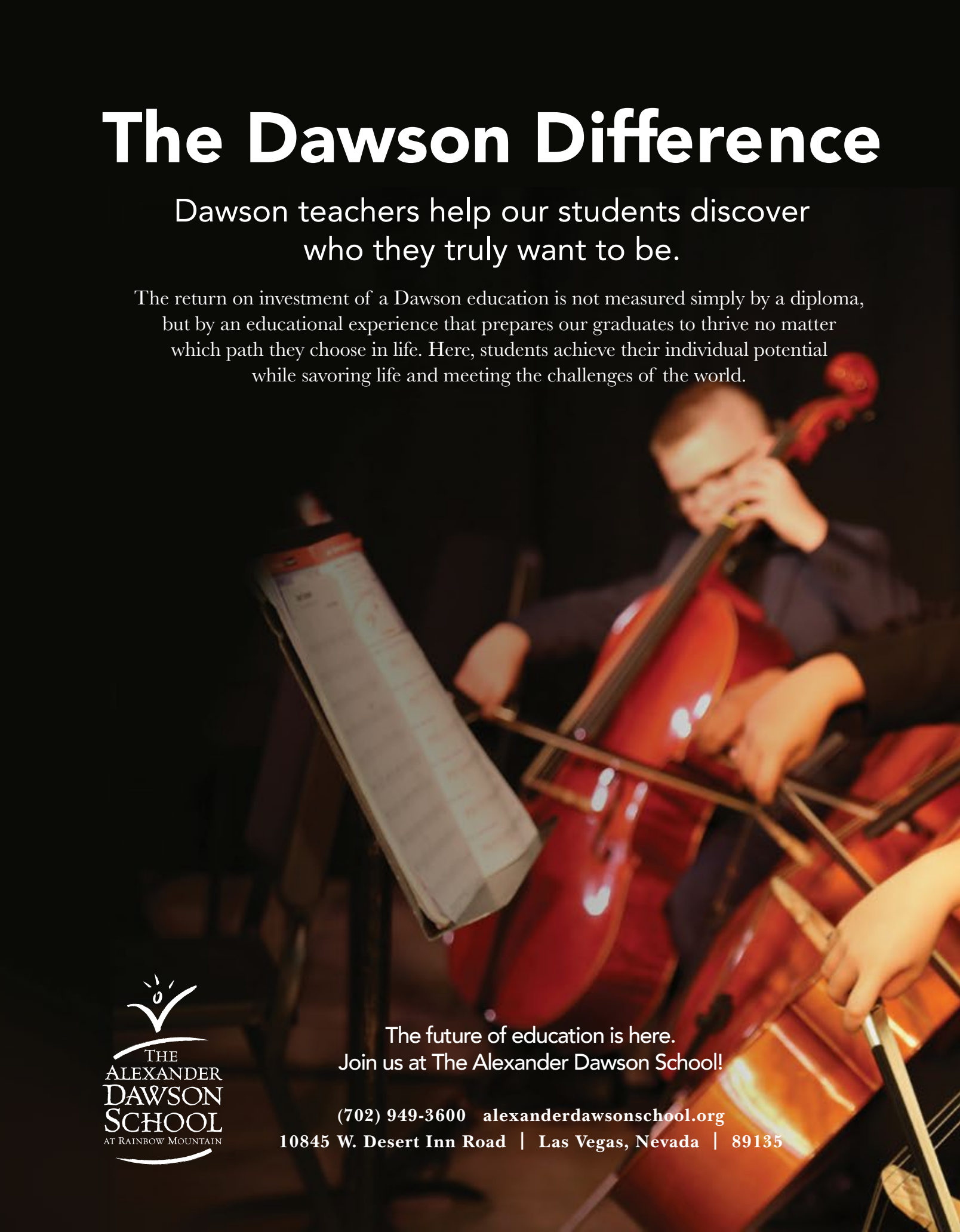
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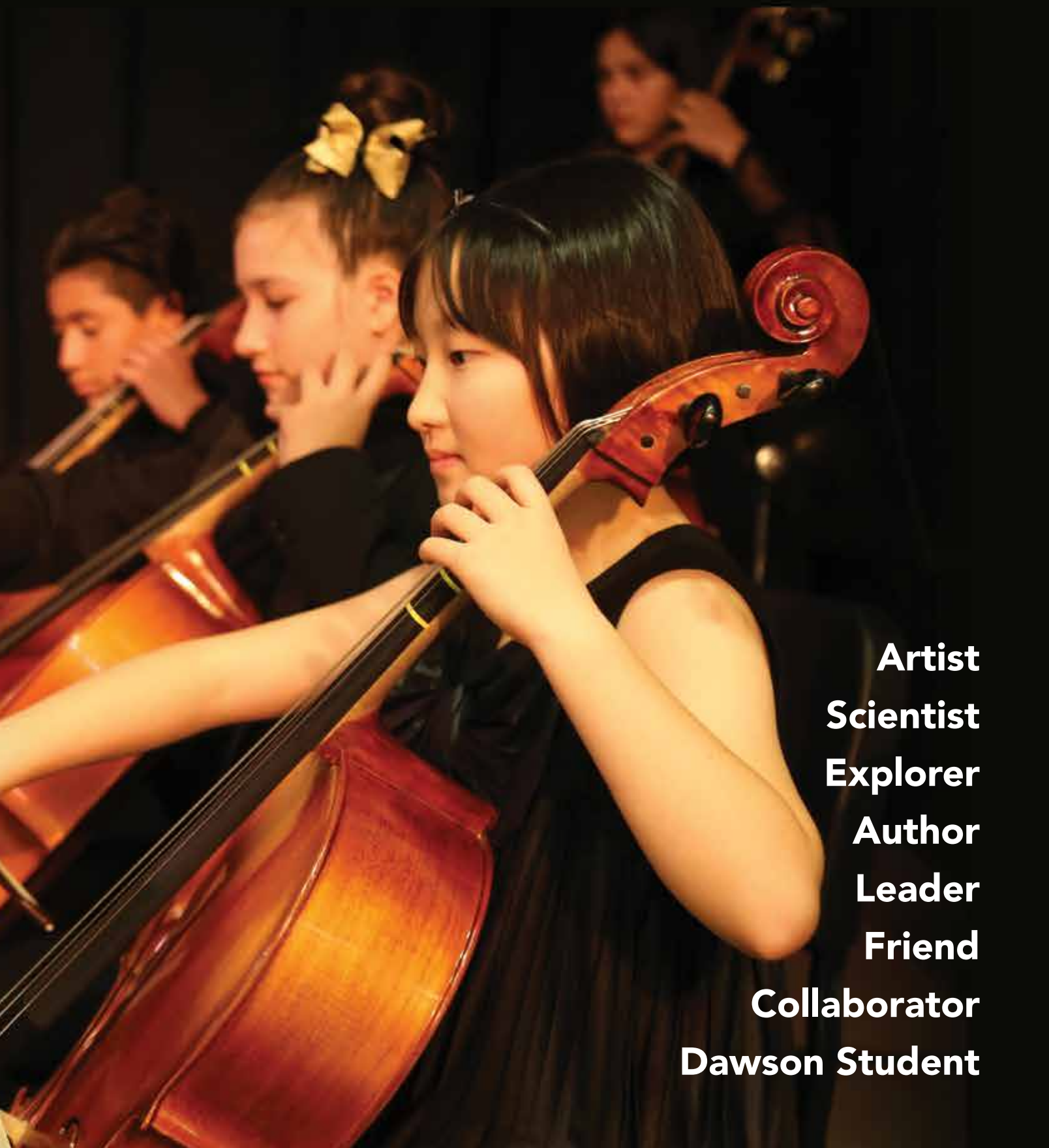
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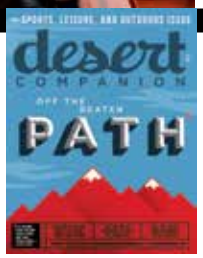
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Editor's note

OUT, OUT AND AWAY

I needed air, sunlight, solitude, the murmur of breezes moving through leaves. So I took a Friday off recently and zipped up to Red Rock for some defrag. I always forget how popular Red Rock National Conservation Area is — and, because of that popularity, how mediated it is these days as an official complex for outdoor recreation, with its ticket gateways, visitors center, and parking lots bookmarking its major attractions. When I rolled up, traffic was already backed to the 159, which gave my day trip a secondary objective: I not only needed to get away, but I'd need to get away from everyone else getting away. I'm no rock-climber or backcountry adventurer who can leave the world behind by dint of superior strength, courage or will; at the end of the easy Pine Creek trail, I simply scrambled a ways up a cliff to wedge myself into an alcove like some creepy monk. In the lull between hikers coming and going, silence settled back in; birds, lizards and butterflies returned to do whatever it is they do when we're not around loudly taking selfies. I zenned out, realized I left my phone in the car, momentarily freaked out about dying alone at the claws of a wendigo, then got over that and zenned out again.

In a world where big cities and techno-sprawl seem to make for an increasingly small planet, our relationship with nature is changing. It's not just a place or a thing. It's a precious resource and a delicate public amenity. With that in mind, our feature story by Alan Gegax and Heidi Kyser, "Off the beaten path" (p. 53), considers that relationship while celebrating lesser-known hikes that are no less incredible than the marquee stars of the map. Best of all, when you get away on one of these trails, it creates a little more breathing room for everyone else out there — hikers, birds and lizards alike.



Andrew Kiraly
EDITOR

NEXT MONTH Beauty on the inside: Step into the homes of stylish Las Vegans.

HOLLA!



FEBRUARY 2017

"I dare you to start reading this and put it down (spoiler alert: you won't)." That's a fairly typical example of the social-media response to **Kristen Peterson's essay** in the February issue, "My Own Alternate Universe." It chronicled her brief, sometimes winsome, sometimes sad tenure clerking in a suburban gas station/convenience store. "I love writing where we get a long, intense glimpse into another life, and a writer who sees drama where other people see nothing," one Las Vegan enthused. Another: "Your voice, your words, your ability to make the mundane beautiful — that's what I want to read." Plenty of readers thought Peterson captured the store's ambiance precisely: "I am awed at your ability to describe it so eloquently," one wrote, while another added, "Life in the authentic lane." One social-media commenter summed it up thusly: "Kristen is one of our best essayists." Word. If you missed the piece in print, catch it online at desertcompanion.vegas.

Also in the February issue, middle-aged writer John Glionna, who'd moved into a senior community, wrote about **coming to terms with getting older**. Local poet and spring chicken Lee Mallory was moved to respond. A few highlights: "John Glionna is fun! Notwithstanding my wife can't get me to join AARP, Glionna presents a persuasive case on the acceptance of aging. As Homer said, 'We are all more beautiful because we are doomed.' … John's cool, moreover, because he writes about culture shock of going to a 20-something's gym, though he may have more stamina than those youngsters." Though he's at least a decade older than Glionna, Mallory says he's "relaxed" about his age: "I'll go with the very late Jack London, who said, 'I'd rather go out like a blazing meteor than a dull, sleepy planet. I will use my time.'"

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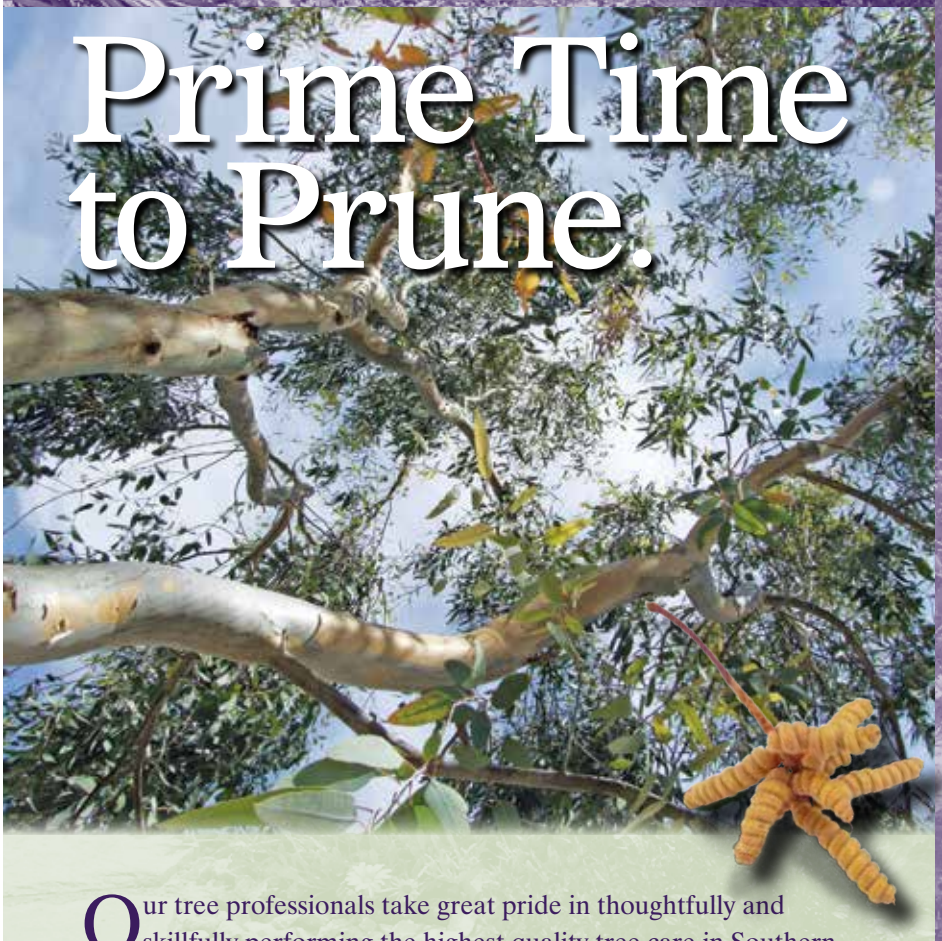
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ALL IN

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



ONE | **THE LAW**

Sudden Scandal, Slow Change

Will the Wynn saga lead to improved protections against sexual harassment in the workplace? One UNLV hospitality professor finds reason for optimism

BY ***Heidi Kyser***

Dana Cotham, a professor in UNLV's hospitality college and employment-law attorney, sat down at Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf in Town Square recently to discuss a topic that she's passionate about: sexual harassment in the workplace. It was February, and the revolting details of casino mogul Steve Wynn's alleged treatment of female employees were still coming to light, so the obvious questions for someone of Cotham's expertise were: How could this have happened, and what, if anything, can Las Vegas' own school for training future casino managers do to prevent it from happening again?

While uncomfortable wading into the abstract swamp of a cultural moment's significance and skeptical of the Wynn scandal's prospects of instigating immediate change, Cotham spoke at length about related laws, betraying an optimism about the power that plaintiffs and their attorneys have to improve legal protection for vulnerable individuals. Consider the Bill Cosby case, Cotham says: "If you think back before Weinstein, and before even Wynn, he ... kind of started it all." What's more, the Cosby case had a significant local impact.

In 2014, Las Vegan Lise Lotte-Lublin was one of dozens of women to accuse Cosby of sexual assault. Seeking his professional guidance, the model and aspiring actress met the famous actor and producer in 1989 at his Hilton suite, where, she says, he convinced her to take two

ILLUSTRATION ***Brent Holmes***

2 **A partial list of the 365 places Kristen Evans visited to spend a year going outdoors (#OptOutside):** Lone Jr. ››› Exploration peak ››› Black mountain ››› Griffith Peak ››› Red Springs ››› Calico Basin ›››

shots of alcohol. Lotte-Lublin, a non-drinker, woke up at home "what felt like several days later," according to her statement on attorney Gloria Allred's website. Buoyed by the wave of fellow survivors speaking out, Lotte-Lublin began advocating for a change to Nevada's statute of limitations on rape reporting. In 2015, Governor Brian Sandoval signed a law extending that limit from four to 20 years. The law also specified that, for victims who file police reports within four years of the alleged incident, there is no limit on the time a prosecutor has to move forward with a case. Allred told the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* at the time that she believed Nevada was the first state to change its law in the wake of the Cosby scandal.

How does this relate to Wynn and workplace sexual harassment? Listening to Cotham rattle off the list of landmark cases and laws that have come about since Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibited employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin, it's tempting to think that every facet of sexual harassment has been legally covered. But the Cosby scandal and ensuing change to Nevada's statute of limitations show, as Cotham put it, that "these creative plaintiffs' lawyers — and I mean that with the utmost respect — find that (thing) that's missing."

The rub is, it's a slow process. Cotham drives home just how slow in her rumination on a half-century's worth of developments: "The other interesting thing about sexual harassment is that you fast-forward into the '80s, and it still had not been challenged — sexual harassment in the workplace had not been officially recognized as actionable, even though the law said (discrimination) based on sex is illegal. I think it was 1980, in fact, that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as the regulatory agency over Title VII recognized sexual harassment as actionable. And then we see the Meritor Savings case in 1986, where the U.S. Supreme Court finally says, yes, it's actionable.

Hear More
knpr.org, search "wynn"

"I have to wrap my brain around (the fact) that it's been illegal since 1964," she continues, "and yet, we don't see major movement until the '80s, which is modern to me. Not the 1920s, when you would semi-expect it. And then you get to the '90s, and you've got the Anita Hill, and we saw how that ended. And then you just see pockets of cases throughout the '80s and '90s."

Cotham began working in human resources in 1991, a year after Hill's testimony in the confirmation hearings of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Cotham passed the bar in 2001, and became an employment-law attorney and HR consultant before joining UNLV in 2009. Over that time, she says, she's heard it all, both in training seminars she's taught in all but four U.S. states, and in her Las Vegas classrooms, which are heavily populated by

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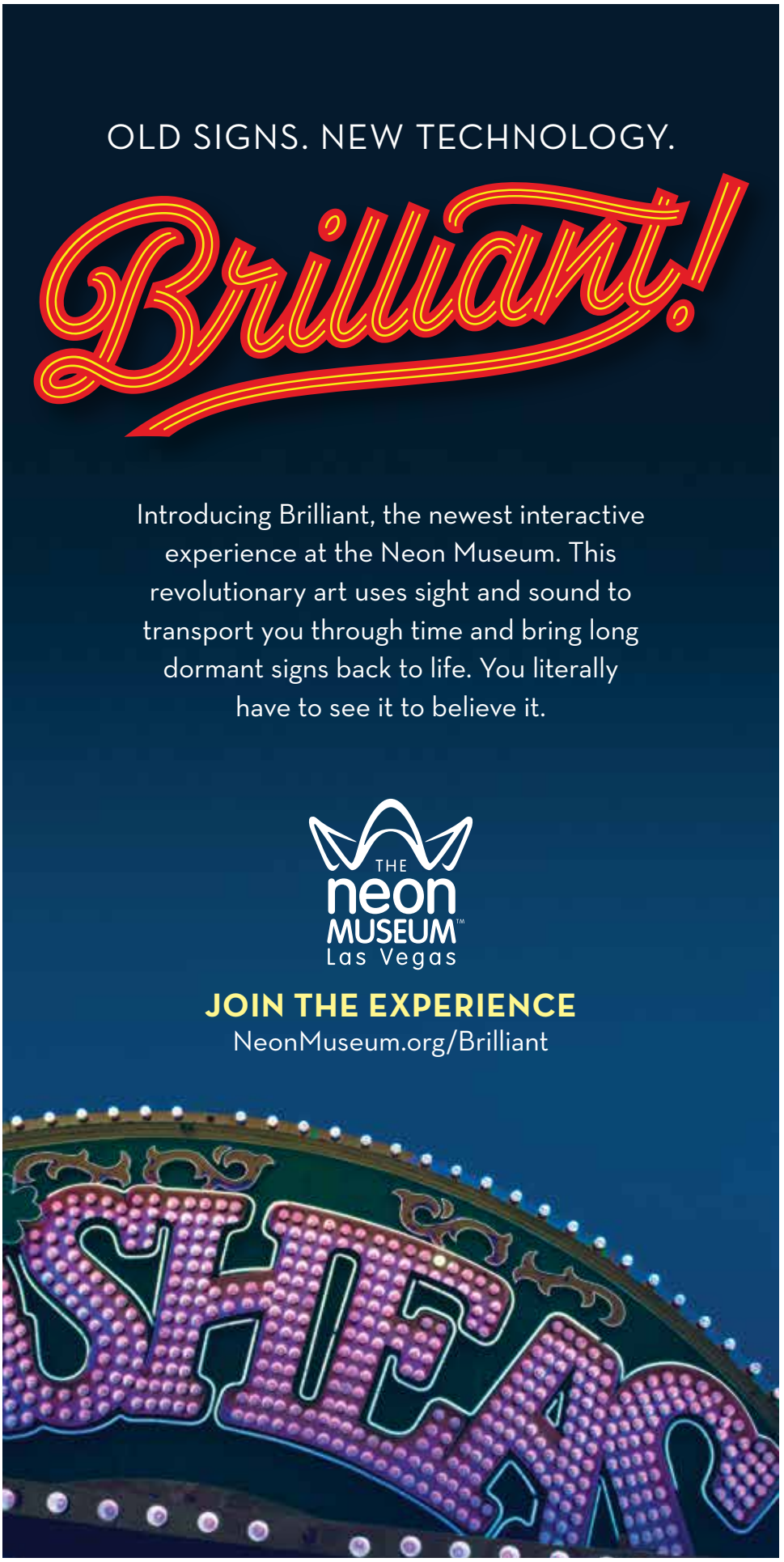
people who are already working on the Strip as everything from concierges to cocktail waitresses. "You could probably make up the worst story you could think of, as far as sexual harassment goes," she says, "and I would say, yes, that it's happened."

Moreover, Cotham's experience indicates that these stories haven't changed — for the better or worse — over the years, and that Las Vegas has no corner on the sexual-harassment market; it's as pervasive as cancer. Still, she concedes that she would like to believe in #MeToo's power to improve workplace conditions for women.

"Personally, I have processed having these older incidents brought to the forefront, and whether they're actionable or not legally, people are talking," she says. "Is this the beginning of a cultural shift? I mean, look back over history — you know, women not able to own property, and then women not respected in the workplace at all, (the mores portrayed in) that *Mad Men* show, and then there's the Civil Rights Act. ... Then you have the (1980) Dolly Parton *9 to 5* movie that depicted sexual harassment. ... The sexiness of the story is not, 'Oh my gosh, I can't believe people are being sexually harassed,' because it's happening. But did they feel safe enough to bring it forward? In any protected class, they always have to balance out staying employed versus coming forward, and it's a very personal choice, and I talk to a lot of people who have really compelling stories, but at the end of the day, they have to make that decision."

For her part, Cotham strives to influence the decision-making of future managers to whom employees will report. She believes that her work as an educator matters, because she gets regular validation from former students, who say her course material takes on critical relevance once they're on the job. And, in any case, she'll keep teaching what she has for a decade now: "One thing I always say in class is that I recommend that employers, and they as managers ... always go above and beyond whatever the legal requirement is, because you're going to get a really great plaintiff lawyer who wants to tweak the law and look at it from a new angle. And there are brilliant attorneys out there."

Attorneys like those who've pursued Bill Cosby, Harvey Weinstein, and Steve Wynn. ✦







3

Man on a Mission

Bypassing traditional aid groups, local man helps the homeless, DIY-style

BY ***Jacob Lasky***

As a cold snap approaches Las Vegas on a Saturday afternoon in January, Josh Ellis clears space in the camper shell of his red Chevy T100. His friend Aaron Archer carries boxes of supplies, including 54 sleeping bags, 20 blue plastic tarps, 50 packets of hot cocoa mix, 48 cups of noodles, hundreds of hand warmers, and a five-gallon hot water dispenser. They are eventually joined by volunteers Guy Griebel and Brandy Glasgow.

"Nobody dies tonight," Ellis tells them.

Since December 30, Ellis has been personally handing out food, sleeping bags, clothes, flashlights, and tampons to Vegas' homeless at least once a week. One of the very few Las Vegans taking this DIY approach to the issue, Ellis operates at a level well below that of more established homeless-outreach groups, and can only reach a fraction of the approximately 25,000 homeless people who, according to a 2017 homeless census by the group Help Hope Home, live here. He and girlfriend Mel Clark spend much of their time organizing care packages, many provided by people they have never met.

Read More
See additional story, page 44

The team heads out. Archer serves as Ellis' copilot, directing him where to lead the three-vehicle caravan. They smoke Pall Malls and talk about their disdain for the city's treatment of the homeless.

"Of every city I've ever been to in the world, this is the meanest to the poor and homeless that I've ever seen," Ellis says, the factors involved ranging from recent gentrification in Downtown, which eliminated some low-income housing, all the way back to the anti-homeless policies pushed by former Mayor Oscar Goodman. (A controversial 2006 ordinance banned people from feeding the homeless in parks. It was ruled unconstitutional in 2007.)

The crew situates itself in a Jack in the

Night Trails ››› Blue Diamond Hill ››› Kraft Boulders ››› City View Trail ››› Lost Creek ››› First Creek ››› Frenchman Mountain ››› Fletcher

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Brent Holmes***

Box parking lot near Flamingo Road and Swenson Street. A pair of homeless people camp next to a power transformer, but five more show up as Ellis' group passes out sleeping bags and comforters.

A woman named Linda asks if Ellis has pants for the woman with her, who's shaking in a short, worn denim skirt and a thin, long-sleeve shirt.

"Are you guys a church or something?" Linda asks.

"Just us," Archer says.

After searching his supplies, Ellis is only able to give them sleeping bags, hand warmers, and cigarettes. No pants. "Sorry we can't do more than this," he says.

"No, what you're doing is phenomenal," Linda says.

Ellis has put some $250 of his own money into this effort, but estimates he's received close to $2,500 worth of donations, largely through an Amazon wish list he shares with his 7,449 Facebook and Twitter followers.

Ellis and friends next drive toward a makeshift camp set up in the Commercial Center District near Maryland Parkway and Sahara Avenue. A sense of urgency is setting in as the temperature hovers near 40 degrees.

"When it gets this cold, people start dying," Archer says.

"Not on our f---ing watch," Ellis replies.

The air smells of campfire smoke and stale urine as they park near Commercial Center, where five shelters made from scrap wood and miscellaneous materials occupy an adjacent dirt lot. A half-dozen people emerge as the team hands out more sleeping bags, hand warmers, and Cup Noodles. Ellis keeps it short so they don't attract unwanted attention from business owners, who've recently sought help from the property manager and the county to remove the vagrants.

While it's not illegal to give food and supplies to the homeless, some local outreach groups discourage the guerrilla approach Ellis has adopted. Deacon Tom Roberts, president and CEO of Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, says that circumventing established organizations brings more harm than good — causing a buildup of waste, creating safety hazards, and deterring people from community resources. Instead, he encourages people to involve themselves with established local groups.

"Let the people who do the work, like us,

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lead the charge with supplying those items, but then come and help us," Roberts says. "There's plenty of need to go around."

Ellis believes those organizations fall short in providing enough food and material. "We're trying to fill in the gaps of what social services won't do, (and) what religious charities won't do," he says. For example, he's floated the idea of distributing clean needles and Narcan, an overdose prevention medication.

Charity is often driven by altruism, and there's certainly an element of that in Ellis' crusade; likewise, some familiar with his outsized and sometimes self-aggrandizing social-media persona perhaps think there's a bit of ego involved, as well. But Ellis says he's primarily motivated by a different emotion. "F---ing rage," he says. "I cannot stand seeing people f---ed with by society."

This isn't his first experience with the homeless. Years ago, for *Las Vegas CityLife*, Ellis and journalist Matthew O'Brien wrote about people who live in the city's storm drains. In 2007, O'Brien published a book about it, *Beneath the Neon*, and later created a charity to help tunnel-dwellers. But the problem persists. "There's still people down there; nothing's really gotten fixed," Ellis says.

The last destination of the day is the so-called Corridor of Hope near Las Vegas Boulevard and Foremaster Lane, an area with a heavy homeless population and multiple resource centers. A smell similar to that of the Commercial Center camp lingers in the air.

The team sets up on a stretch of sidewalk along Foremaster, which is lined with temporary structures, and begins dispersing hot cocoa and Cup Noodles, along with whatever supplies are left. Ellis forgot to bring cups for the hot chocolate, but people supply their own. Within half an hour, the team is out of supplies.

"Nothing we did tonight is going to get these people off the street," Ellis acknowledges. "But while they're there, it's going make them (feel) less awful. And sometimes that's the only thing you can do."

He'll keep doing what he can, he says, and hopes others will, too, here and elsewhere.

"I want everybody to do this everywhere, all the time," Ellis says. "I want people to spend an hour of their week just taking shit to people who are starving in their town." ✦



FOUR | **EXIT INTERVIEW**

Jim Moore

Former Mojave Desert ecologist for The Nature Conservancy

BY ***Heidi Kyser***

UNLV senior Matt Rader, an ecology and evolutionary biology major, sums up what his mentor Jim Moore taught him: "That you can make a living being outdoors and doing what you love ... and that it's possible to make a difference." These must be bittersweet words for Moore, who retired in January as the Nature Conservancy's Mojave Desert ecologist after 27 years. He's come to believe that the world needs activism more than it needs collaboration, that he's reached the limits of what he can accomplish in the current political climate. But he's not giving up the fight — just shifting gears. In a recent conversation, he reflected on the past and what's next.

How did it feel to leave the Nature Conservancy after nearly three decades?

I know the time was right because I've had no regrets. I wasn't sad at all, approaching my end date. I wasn't emotional. It was just, *Job done; time to go*. I've seen people hang on too long, just doing busy work to meet a calendar date, and I didn't want to be that guy. When I found that things were starting to bother me more and more, then I realized I wasn't comfortable where I was, and it was time to move on.

What was bothering you?

I would say primarily this last year, from the change in the presidential administration, and the reversal of so many things that I care deeply about, not only socially, economically, in civil rights, but the reversals in clean air, clean water, environmental protections. Now they're attacking the renewable energy plan that was completed in California after so many years of hard work with multiple interests sitting at the table. That, to me, says the world has changed. And it's changed in a way that I didn't think it was possible:

Whitney Mesa Trail ››› Hidden Falls Park Trails ››› Summerlin Peak ››› Floyd Lamb Park ››› Tule Springs Fossil Canyon ››› Rainbow Vista Trail ››› Kraft Mountain Loop ››› Moenkopi Loop ››› Spring Mountain Ranch State

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Brent Holmes***



going backward. I thought the progress we'd made in these arenas were permanent steps forward. To see it so easily undone really caused me to question how much of what I was doing is durable.

You tell me. What've you done that's durable?

The desert tortoise served as the impetus for much of the drive to protect large swaths of land in Southern Nevada. ... The Nature Conservancy insisted when we joined that process in 1990 with Clark County and the Fish and Wildlife Service and BLM that cattlemen should be paid for their assets. That allowed us to rapidly remove a large amount of acreage from grazing, without any conflict. The cattlemen who participated saw the writing on the wall. They knew raising cattle in the desert was a losing proposition and that regulations associated with the Endangered Species Act were going to continue to chip away at their allotments. If you look south of Boulder City, that entire landscape, to Searchlight and state line, is now cattle-free, at least legally. I'm very proud of that.

How about the Oasis Valley Project in Beatty, where the Nature Conservancy has restored hundreds of thousands of acres of wetlands?

That was really my planting a flag in the soil. It's been such a rewarding, growing experience for me and also for many of the partners who participated in its success. It's taken a long time to be able to look at that and say it's a success, but I measure that by the lack of opposition in the community, in Nye County, and by the participation of private landowners in actions to not only adapt to the presence of the Amargosa toad being in their back yard, but also encouraging it as the town transitions from mining to tourism. The Town Board readily mentions it in a positive light. Regardless of any decision made in Washington, that's not going to change what happens in Beatty.

What remains undone that's important to you?

Coyote Springs Valley. The history of that land was very sketchy, in terms of how it was transferred out of public ownership in the '80s, ostensibly for public safety, national defense issues ... and then it ended up in the hands of a private owner, which was remarkable to me. If the (proposed) jet propulsion facility didn't come to pass, it should have reverted back to public ownership. Righting that wrong in my eyes is kind of like the Holy Grail.

What will you do now?

I think the current administration is hell-bent on undoing anything done during the Obama administration and turning their sights on anything industry wants — oil and gas, banks. None of this is in the public interest, so I think strong legal challenges every step of the way have to be the approach that we take now. While I'm not a lawyer, I certainly can provide scientifically based data and recommendations that will stand up in court. I think that's the approach I'll take. Sooner rather than later.

What's your advice to those getting into conservation now?

Get to know the landscapes, the species, one-on-one on their terms, and then you can speak with expertise, in board rooms, class rooms, public forums, to various land use councils, legislatures. ... Only by protecting all the pieces can we be sure that the whole will adapt to perturbations in the future, whether it's climate change or a massive tsunami or the ice caps melting. It's going to take those people in the field to interpret that for the rest of the populace. ✦

5 Sports Day

ENTITLED TO PLAY

Kelly Woods poked her head into the Paradise Recreation Center gymnasium on February 7 to see how things were going at the basketball clinic she'd organized for National Girls & Women in Sports Day. Some 30 kids (mostly girls, though boys were allowed) stood in lines and responded, boot camp-like, to coach Bill Smith's shouted cues: "Guide on the side!" (Hands darted into place for pantomimed basketball shots.) "Goose neck!" (Releasing imaginary balls.) Smith distributed hand stamps to those responding most promptly. Later, stamps would be exchanged for prizes. • Focus, motivation, and teamwork were among the virtues Woods hoped the clinic would impart. • "I used to play basketball in Michigan," she said. "I also coached for 10 years, so I know that introducing young women to sports has a lot of value." • She played in a post-Title IX world, where federally funded school programs were prevented from discriminating against girls and minorities. In 1986, the Women's Sports Foundation started National Girls & Women in Sports Day. Clark County, Woods' employer, hadn't sponsored a local event, and Woods was happy to change that. • The day's activities included an introduction to sports basics — running, ball-handling — for younger children; for seniors, a movie about famous female athletes; the basketball clinic for 6- to 16-year-olds; and an evening panel discussion about college and professional opportunities, which are expected to be enhanced by the arrival of the Las Vegas Aces WNBA team. • "I like basketball," young Bella Zayas said, "because I get to shoot and play against people, and we always win!" ***Heidi Kyser***

Beds ››› Las Vegas Overlook Trail ››› Arizona Hot Springs ››› White Rock Loop ››› Valley of Fire ››› Fire Park ››› Keystone Thrust Trail ››› Lone Grapevine Trail ››› Sloan Petroglyph Canyon ››› First Creek Trail / First



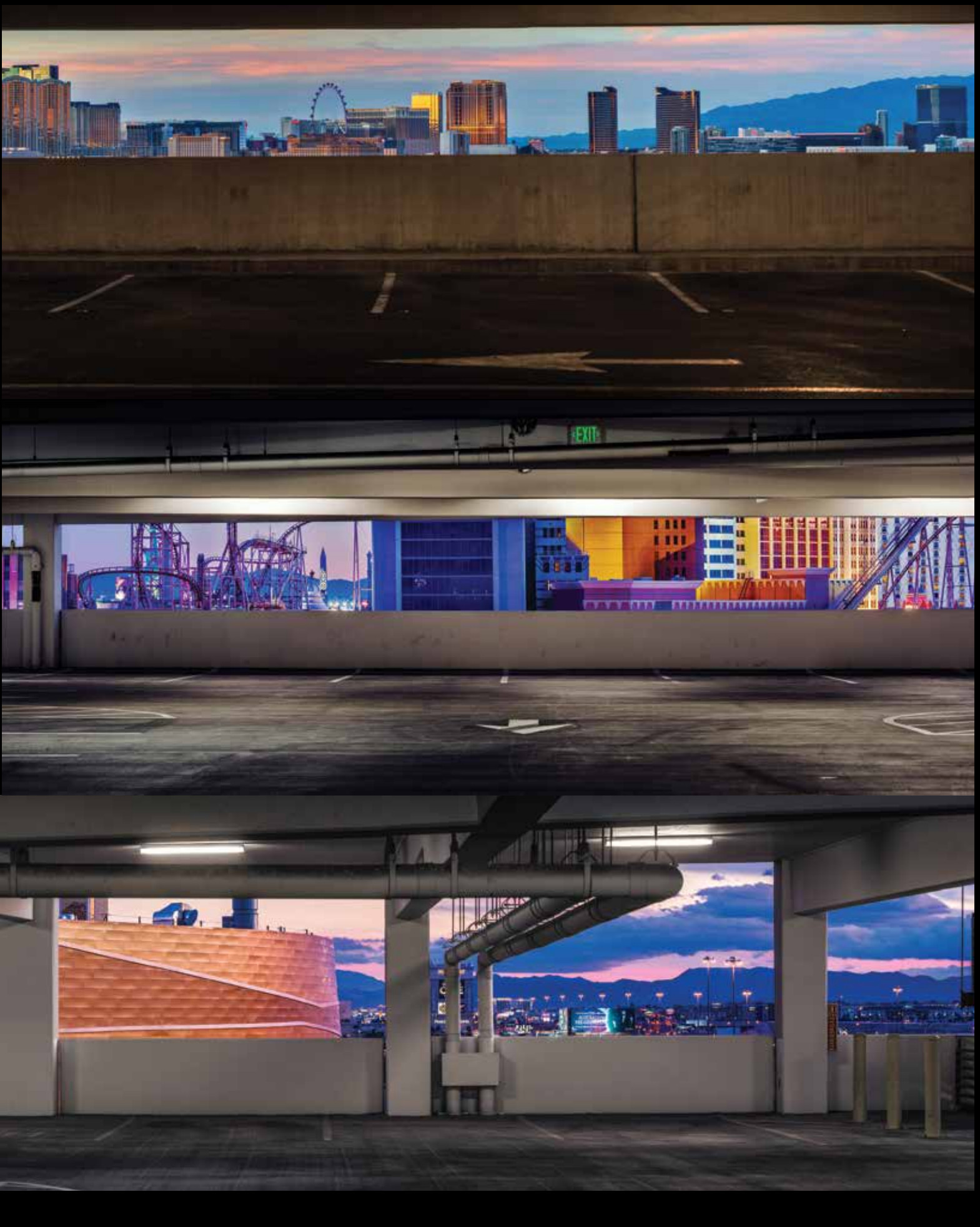
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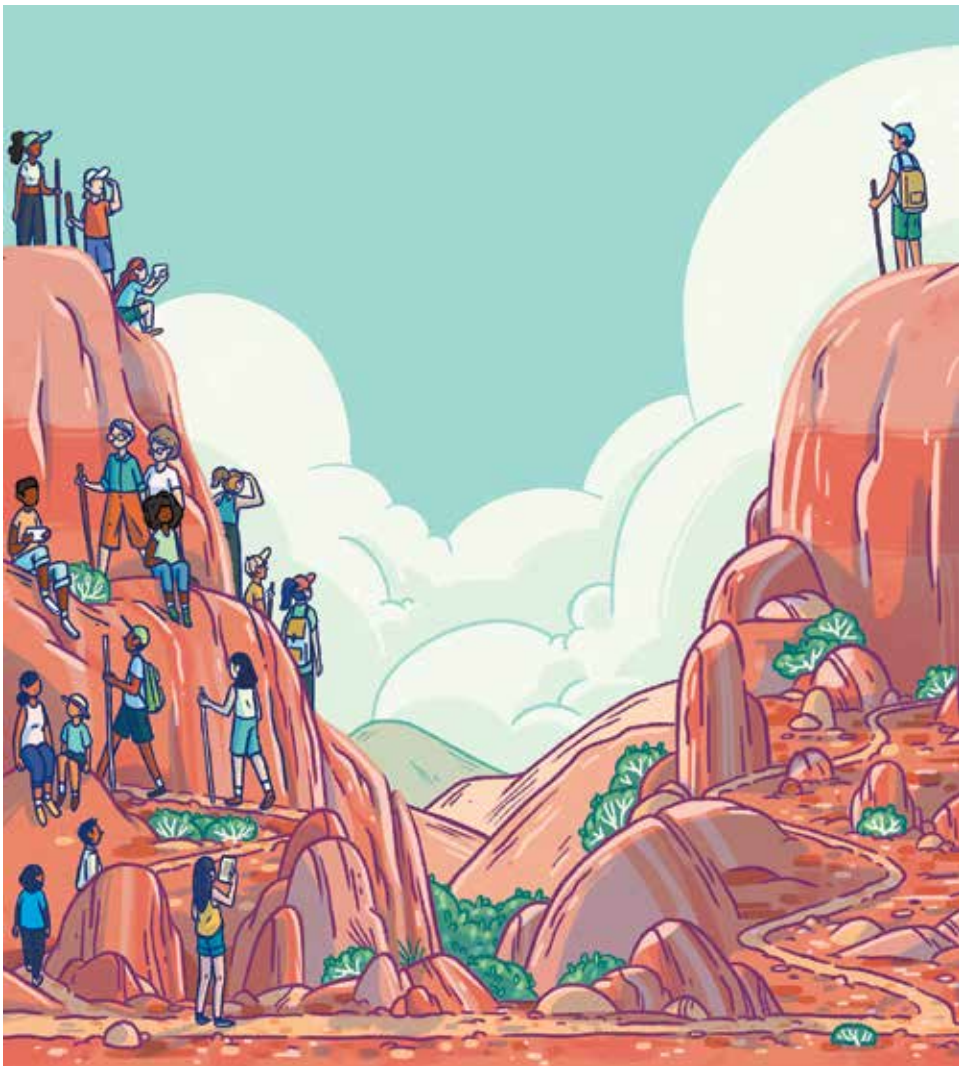
BY ***ANTHONY MAIR***

As a professional photographer who works a lot on the Strip, I visit a different parking garage pretty much every day. One thing always catches my attention: the views. They're like nowhere else in America. The contrast of colors and lights compared to the dull interior is striking. When I saw the view from the parking garage leaving Aria, I knew I had to capture this and begin a small series. I shot everything here as a panoramic, and all at the same focal length. I also threw in an image highlighting the beauty of Red Rock Canyon, switching up the neon glow with a beautiful sunset.

Clockwise from the top of this page, the parking garages: Red Rock Resort Spa and Casino, McCarran International Airport, Aria hotel-casino, Monte Carlo hotel-casino, Hard Rock Hotel




EXIT



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SEVEN | **OUTDOORS**

Hike, Love, Share, Protect

Keeping your favorite "secret" hike a secret might just kill it. Here's why sharing the love is the right thing to do

BY ***Alan Gegax***

First, let me say I'm sorry. In my years of writing about the outdoors for *Desert Companion*, I've spilled the beans about lesser-known destinations in issue after issue — Beaver Dam State Park, Big Falls, Gass Peak, and so on. Some of them, perhaps, were your favorite secret spots. While I'm sorry to have exposed them (as I've exposed my own), it had to be done for the greater good. Here's why.

If you've been inside the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Scenic Loop lately, you know that it's overrun with visitors. On a recent hike to Lost Creek, my wife and I encountered so many other hikers it was actually difficult to move at times. Parking lots within the loop, even those newly expanded, are literally overflowing with folks eager to get out and enjoy some natural beauty. At popular trailheads such as Ice Box Canyon, cars have to parallel park so far down the road it's almost a second hike just to get back to the parking lot.

The land managers at Red Rock have their own plans in place to manage the overflowing visitors to the area. Primary among them: a massive price increase at the fee booth, with rates climbing anywhere from 60 percent (pedestrian access) to 500 percent (motorcycle access). It's a harsh solution, one that hurts poor working families for whom a day outdoors has always been an affordable entertainment option.

But if visitation could be shifted a bit, if people could be steered to trails and parking lots already in place that are a little less crowded, then the Bureau of Land Management might not need such drastic measures. A few more people showing up at your secluded overlook means less traffic and impact on the most popular areas — and that means more families might be able to afford a drive around the Red Rock Scenic Loop.

On days when the entrance to the Scenic Loop has a line of cars a half-mile long, I've gone just across the street, to the Cowboy Trail Rides trailhead on the public portion of Blue Diamond Hill, and hiked eight miles, sharing the trail with nary a soul. My pre-

Creek Waterfall ››› Oak Creek Canyon ››› Ice Box Canyon ››› Red Mountain ››› Top of Rainbow Mountain
Escarpment Trail ››› Amargosa Trail ››› Historic Railroad Tunnels ››› Lovell Canyon ››› Desert National

ILLUSTRATION ***Celia Krampien***



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ferred loop, from Fossil Ridge to Las Vegas Overlook, has phenomenal panoramic views of Red Rock and Las Vegas, and there are amazing fossils underfoot nearly the entire hike.

The trails on Blue Diamond Hill could easily handle hundreds of hikers per day, but rarely do they see more than a few dozen. This is the very hill that is under threat of development by Jim Rhodes, much to the dismay of the activists at Save Red Rock, a conservation group aiming to "keep Red Rock rural."

On Blue Diamond Hill, we have a case study for why I think sharing these destinations is worthwhile. More people hiking on Blue Diamond Hill means fewer people hiking inside the Scenic Loop. That means the demands on the land and the infrastructure inside the loop are eased, lessening the need for new construction, closures, and fee increases. And most importantly, it means more people falling in love with the unique attractions found on Blue Diamond Hill. That love, at least hypothetically, leads to stewardship and activism, which helps to ensure the continued protection of our public lands.

I'm not going to pretend that increased visitation is strictly positive. Every month, I host an adopt-a-trail at some of the most popular hiking spots in Southern Nevada. The things we put in our trash bags are truly disheartening: food wrappers, cigarette butts, dog poop bags, beer cans ... the list is endless. But I've noticed something over the years: Almost all the trash is around the parking lot. Our volunteers pick up more trash within 100 feet of the parking lot than we pick up on an entire three-mile trail. Once on the trail, the volume of litter drops significantly with each passing step, down to almost nothing.

Fortunately, the people who are lazy and apathetic enough to trash the outdoors are also generally too lazy and apathetic to trudge up switchbacks mile after mile. So, if your secret spot is hard to get to in the middle of nowhere, it's probably safe for now. At least, it's probably safe from vandals.

Keeping it safe from the government,

8. LAW REVIEW

CAN I TRY MARY JANE AT MARY JANE FALLS?

Ever wondered if you're legally able to top off a long hike at Mount Charleston with a glass of pinot or puff of a joint? Ever thought it would be fun to visit Red Rock Canyon and pretend you're a cowboy by strapping a revolver to your hip and smoking a pack of Marlboros? If so, here are the regulations regarding alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, and open and concealed-carry firearm policies in some of most popular recreation areas around Las Vegas. ***Jacob Lasky & Scott Dickensheets***

	Alcohol	Tobacco	Marijuana	Firearms
Red Rock National Conservation Area	As long as you're of legal age and don't drink and drive, you're good to shotgun that tall can on the trail; just don't litter	If you want to take a drag after hiking, go ahead. But smoking can be subject to varying regulations when fire restrictions are in place	Just because pot is legal in Nevada doesn't mean you can hotbox in Red Rock's Icebox Canyon. Marijuana use is strictly prohibited in federally regulated areas	Whether you have a derringer or rifle, you can legally open- or concealed-carry a firearm in accordance with state laws.
Sloan Canyon State Park	See above, Drunky McHikington	See above, Joe Camel	See above, hippie	See above, Cliven
Mount Charleston	A lovely Château Marmoset '11 pairs well with relaxed federal regs governing booze in national parks	Allowed. But given the mountain's recent propensity for catastrophic fires, why would you?	Mary Jane Falls is just a name, not permission; no pot allowed	Federal regulations accommodate state gun laws, so tote that roscoe up the trail to impress any random Bundys
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	Drinking is allowed except at end of Approved Road 47 (Nelson Landing) and within a mile of Placer Cove. No glass containers or drinking while piloting boat; passengers can imbibe, however	Allowed. Fun fact: According to science, tossing the butts into the water makes you a bad person	If we're reading these federal regulations correctly, weed and a rapidly depleting water supply don't mix	While you need a permit for concealed carry in Nevada, you don't if you find yourself on the Arizona side of the lake







Wildlife Refuge ››› Bluffs Trail (Lake Mead) ››› Ash Canyon ››› Red Rock Grand Circle ››› Wheeler Camp Peak ››› Cathedral Rock ››› Spooky Canyon ››› Pahranagat Lake ››› Big Falls ››› Keystone Thrust Trail ›››

and from private landholders, is another problem altogether. To understand what happens when we lose our public lands, we need look no further than Anniversary Narrows at Lake Mead, a hike I detailed in the December 2012 issue of *Desert Companion*. Don't bother hiking to it now. Robert Ford, the current owner of the Anniversary Mine, and the land through which the eponymous narrows are reached, has put up a fence, blocking access to the once-popular destination. The reasons for the fence are complicated, but ultimately they come down to a dispute between Ford and the National Park Service about improvement of the access road and liability for visitor safety. The NPS asked Ford to jump through hoops to keep Anniversary Narrows accessible, and the easier solution for Ford was to put up the fence. I can't help but think that if more people had visited the Narrows, had understood their value, public pressure could have led to an equitable agreement that included the public's interest. Instead, the unique, ever-changing, dramatic walls of Anniversary Narrows may as well be erased from the map.

In the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, and in Gold Butte National Monument, we still have a fighting chance against the fences. Both areas are under threat of considerable shrinkage at the discretion of the federal government: Gold Butte in favor of water infrastructure, and the wildlife refuge for an expansion of the Air Force's Nevada Test and Training Range. In Gold Butte, it's easy to imagine a scenario playing out in which lands that are currently protected lose their status. Once reverted, they can be sold by the BLM to, say, a cantankerous rancher who wants a place to graze his cattle. Fences go up, gates get locked, and your favorite wash is now private property, never to be hiked again. I like to think a broad groundswell of public outrage might prevent such a scenario — but that public has to know it, hike it, and love it, first.

The lands we have left, we need to hold on to with all the hands we can get. And that means we have to let people know about our favorite, secret spots, so they can fall in love with them, too. Unless enough of us stand up to preserve our public lands, they'll be lost forever. ✦

Alan Gegax is the organizer of the VegasHikers Meetup group.

Springs ››› Mount Charleston
Pine Creek Canyon ★







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DINING | REVIEW

Changing Tastes

Variety is the spice of Americana's assured, eclectic menu — and the secret to its unlikely buzz

BY ***Lissa Townsend Rodgers***

Situated in the northwest valley, Americana is far from the Strip both geographically and psychically, but tourists are already finding their way to the recently opened restaurant. "I'd say maybe 20, 25 percent are out-of-towners. We get a lot of people coming in from California," says chef Stephen Blandino, who also tries to create a sense of the "new" for repeat local diners. "We're always trying to think of something different, so if you walk in here, it's a different experience." That commitment to variety is served by a weekly harvest menu, as well as a range of holiday dinners, wine tastings, and cooking classes.

HIGH STEAKS Americana's strip steak with chimichurri sauce

It makes sense that the restaurant's buzz can be heard from a distance. Americana is serving some of the most creative food in the valley — dishes that are contemporary without being trendy, and luxurious without being ostentatious. A salad fills tiny red endive leaves with goat cheese to present two common ingredients in a new way — it looks like a plate of rosebuds and tastes what you imagine a rosebud would taste like. Linguine carbonara with house-made pasta is also artfully composed: a briefly poached "golden" egg, dusted with edible gilt powder, is ready to ooze into the buttery, cheesy pasta with the merest poke of your fork. And grilled

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Brent Holmes***



ALL THAT GLITTERS
Linguine carbonara with poached egg dusted with edible gilt powder



SAY CHEESE
Americana's cheesecake offers a delicate but decadent finish.

octopus doesn't try to disguise the main ingredient in marinades and breading as on many menus. Poached and then grilled, it's served with a mixture of sausage and olives that provides hints of salt and brine while adding texture. There are even more subtle contrasts, like the foie gras foam on Americana's butternut squash soup; they're both rich, both smooth, but one is lighter than the other, a contrast enhanced by the waiter pouring the soup at your table.

The cocktails are likewise elegantly crafted: Roosevelt's Smoked Old-Fashioned is a concoction of house-brand Jefferson Reserve bourbon, maple syrup, and bitters that arrives in a glass box full of flavorful smoke that unfurls as you remove your drink, like a ghost or a magic trick. A grapefruit-accented variant on the Moscow Mule and a bourbon smash with so many berries it's practically a dessert will please less exotic tastes.

The setting at Americana is also worth savoring: It sits on the side of a manmade lake, abundant water and lush green lawns making diners forget they are in Vegas. The only glittering lights are those that adorn the small boats drifting around the lagoon. You can even take a stroll before or after your meal — just watch out for the ducks and swans wandering across your path or the occasional oblivious jogger.

One way Americana's menu reflects the seasons, beyond its vast plate-glass windows, is through the weekly harvest dinners: Appetizer, entrée, and dessert, accompanied by unlimited wine pairings. One week a silky, nutty cauliflower soup was adorned with velvety truffle-poached scallops — a smooth taste that contrasted nicely with the spicier entrée of strip steak with a peppery green chimichurri sauce. Peanut butter pie with hazelnut gelato made for a rich, cool finish. Each menu is created around what's seasonal and available. "I call my purveyors, I say, 'What do you guys have coming in that's really good?' They say, 'You should try these purple new potatoes that are coming in,'" Blandino says. "So we try those out, and then we pair them with the meat. Then I match things."

Sunday brunch is another case of the restaurant adapting to repeat customers. "That's absolutely a locals' thing," says Blandino. Although, with an array of small plates — from chorizo and egg tostada to Merlot-poached pear tartare to shrimp-and-grits — it could give some Strip buffets a run for their money.

Both the Sunday brunch and the harvest dinner are $42 (the latter includes unlimited wine pairings), another way that Americana considers its local clientele: Not everyone is here to splurge. You can go big and have a blowout, order sashimi and venison and a side of foie gras — but you can also have $1 oysters on Tuesdays or drop in for happy hour, where a changing array of dishes and drinks are half-price.

On any given weekday, a crowd of loud-laughing blondes and silver-haired gentlemen, couples in Warby Parker glasses, and trios of women in hats cluster around the bar, sipping Manhattans, smiling as another cork is popped. "You've got to keep it fresh and vital, so we're always constantly changing and tweaking stuff," Blandino says. At Americana, the regulars certainly don't want everything to stay the same. ✦

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TABLE FOR TWO | SHOUTY EDITION

To Hell('s Kitchen) and Back

In keeping with Gordon Ramsay's cantankerous TV personality, this review of his new Hell's Kitchen restaurant is presented in SHOUT-O-VISION.

BY ***Andrew Kiraly*** & ***Scott Dickensheets***



Andrew: HOLY F---! IF HELL IS AS BRIGHT, AIRY, AND OPEN AS THIS RESTAURANT DESIGN, SIGN ME UP FOR ETERNAL PERDITION! HOW DO YOU LIKE OUR GODDAMN LOBSTER RISOTTO APPETIZER!

Scott: It's surprisingly restrained for — I MEAN, DAMN IT, IMAGINE MY SHOCK WHEN THE LOBSTER *DIDN'T* CLAW MY FACE OFF IN A RAMSAY-LIKE FRENZY OF INSISTENCE, BUT RATHER OFFERED A SUBTLE AND BALANCED FLAVOR EXPERIENCE!



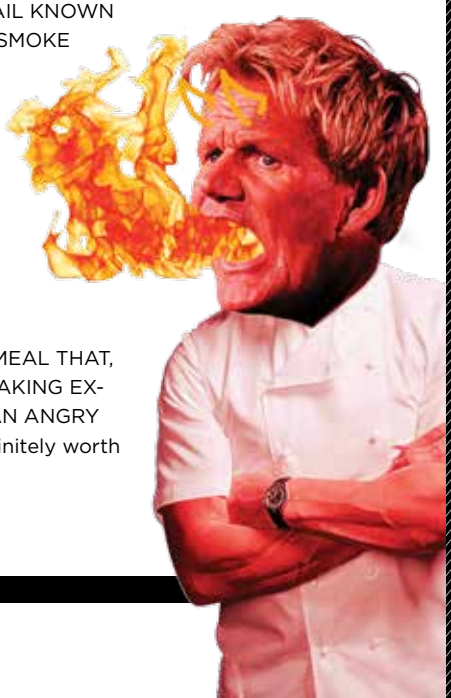
Andrew: THIS HELL'S KITCHEN BURGER IS SURPRISINGLY SATISFYING AND COMPLEX! F--- ME! I WAS SCARED WHEN I READ "GHOST PEPPER JACK CHEESE" AS AN INGREDIENT!

Scott: F---ING AMAZINGLY, THIS BURGER ONLY RATES 1.5 FIERIS ON THE "BOMBASTIC FLAVOR INDEX"! THE SCOVILLE UNITS FLARED MEMORABLY — WHO DOESN'T LOVE SOME HOT F---ING MOUTHFEEL! — BUT DIDN'T OVER-SCORCH THE APPROXIMATELY 150 OTHER INGREDIENTS! *DAMN YUMMY!* WHAT'S YOUR TAKE ON THE EGGS IN PURGATORY, YOU RISOTTO-HOGGING BASTARD?!



Andrew: DAMN YOU! IT'S RICH, SMOKY AND FLAVORFUL — BASICALLY A SOLID RENDITION OF SHAKSHOUKA! WONDERFUL ON THIS CRISPY SOURDOUGH! WHOA! WHAT THE F---- IS THIS S---?

Scott: IT'S A SMALL GLASS BOX FULL OF FRIGGIN' SMOKE! INSIDE IS A RYE WHISKEY COCKTAIL KNOWN AS SMOKE ON THE BLVD. — THE SMOKE INFUSION ADDS A GODDAMN ELEGANT TOP NOTE TO THE SMOOTH BITE OF THE RYE!



Andrew: HOLY S--- THIS PINEAPPLE CARPACCIO IS F---ING BRILLIANT — DELICATE BUT RICH. GET IT OUT OF MY GODDAMN FACE BEFORE I EAT THE ENTIRE F---ING THING MYSELF!

Scott: IT'S A BRIGHT FINISH TO A MEAL THAT, CONTRARY TO OUR MOTHER-FREAKING EXPECTATIONS, *DIDN'T* TASTE LIKE AN ANGRY THROBBING FOREHEAD VEIN! Definitely worth a shout-out.

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FOOD | TRAIL MIX

Eating Out

Hike to eat, eat to hike

BY ***Alan Gegax and Heidi Kyser***

Nothing deflates the elation of arriving at the summit of a challenging hike like tearing open your much-anticipated snack and finding that it tastes like a prune juice-infused pencil eraser. If you must eat while hiking — and you must; according to the Mayo Clinic, a 160-pound person burns 438 calories per hour doing the activity (variables apply!) — eat well. Even functional food can be delicious. Here are our suggestions for tasty nourishment on long (or long-ish) spring treks.



GLACEAU SMARTWATER
There's no such thing as negative ion-infused water. There is, however, electrolyte-enhanced water, which helps your body function optimally during vigorous exercise.

TRADER JOE'S OMEGA TREK MIX
Why TJ's has 100 kinds of trail mix and only, like, five soups is one of the great mysteries of TJ's (another: why the produce is individually wrapped). Still, they have the best trail mix, and this one's the best of the best.





MAMMA CHIA CHIA SQUEEZE
A squeezy snack for adults! Who expend a lot of energy on the trail and need a handy, easily-digestible calorie replenisher! A legit excuse to eat baby food!

BRONZE CAFÉ GUAC & MOLE SANDWICH
with a side of Curried Quinoa Salad Takeout and Snickerdoodle in the car at the trailhead is either a) a great start to a long day-hike or b) effective motivation to get back from a half-dayer in time for lunch.



CLIF MOJO BAR
The Mojo is a perfect compromise between the coagulated oatmeal texture of the original Clif bar and the candied cloy of most other energy bars.



WILD PLANET ALBACORE WILD TUNA
Squeeze this pack of salty protein onto a tortilla with some mayo and relish, and you've got yourself the perfect lunch for a long day hike or overnighter.





MRE MIXED FRUIT
Unless you like eating out of a large plastic envelope (which is possible, but annoying), you'll need a bowl and spoon for this ready-to-eat fruit cocktail.





MRE VEGETARIAN TACO PASTA
The only thing you have to add to this Mexican-flavored meal is heat, which makes it a little heavier than dehydrated meals, but fine for an overnight trip.





NATURE'S PATH BLUEBERRY CINNAMON FLAX INSTANT OATMEAL
For overnight backpacking trips, we like a hot breakfast that's compact and lightweight, yet nutrient-dense. Check, check, check.



TRADER JOE'S SALMON JERKY
This savory snack provides a protein-rich alternative to bars and trail mixes, almost all of which are sweet. And your body will thank you for the salt (see: electrolytes, above).



KID STUFF

Notes on Camp

Summer camps aren't just about kids pranking hapless adult counselors, like in the movies. They offer opportunities for children to stay active, enhance their skills, and maybe learn a little something

BY ***Jakub Cernoch***

It's a venerable tradition: summer camp for the kids. A chance to introduce your littles to new experiences, help them find a passion, push back on the summer doldrums, and get them out of your hair for a dang minute. There are many camps put on by many government and civic entities; here are a few that will keep your kids active, thinking, and creative.

YMCA It's fun to stay at — well, you know. Curriculum-focused camps include sports, science, travel specialty, preschool, and traditional camp. Operating at all four YMCA valley locations. Ages 5-15, 7a-6p, Monday-Friday, May 29-Aug. 10, $155/week, 702-476-6741, lasvegasymca.org

BROADWAY KIDS ACADEMY

Offering a wide variety of performance-skill lessons, this camp — operating in Henderson, Summerlin and Centennial Hills — gives kids a chance to dabble in singing, dancing, and acting. **Operating for much of the summer for several age groups and price ranges; see website for full details.** ***broadwaykidsacademy.com***

BRICKS FOR KIDZ

Kids and Lego bricks at a day camp sounds like a great formula. This camp offers different activities in addition to brick building, such as laser tag, indoor soccer, and more technical STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) option available that utilizes building, coding, and designing. Operating summer camps in five valley locations. **Information at bricks4kidz.com, 225-$375/week, 702-204-5515**



LEE CANYON

Sponsored by Clark County, Lee Canyon will host two overnight camps in June for different age groups, adjusting the itinerary appropriately. Omni Camp (ages 8-12, June 10-15, $550) is a more all-around camp featuring a week of art, science, and outdoor nature activities in log cabins. On the Edge Camp (Ages 13-15, June 17-22, $550) is focused on a deeper outdoor experience that includes a proper tent camp-out under the stars for one night, as well as other outdoor camp athletics like archery, mountain biking, and hiking. 702-455-1911, camplee@clarkcountynv.gov

Discovery Children's Museum From learning code to practicing fine arts to delving into biology, each week of June offers something for kids at the Discovery Children's Museum, on top of an hour of free play in the museum before it opens. Ages 6-9, 9a-2p, Monday-Friday, June 4-29, $220/week, 702-382-0592, discoverykidslv.org

CLARK COUNTY PARKS

These day camps operate at four recreation centers dotting the valley. They include a range of activities from painting and crafts to playing sports to enjoying movies and drama skits with friends. Ages 6-12, 7a-6p, Monday-Friday, May 29-August 10, $18/day or $85/week, Desert Breeze Community Center, Paradise Recreation Center, Hollywood Recreation Center, and Whitney Recreation Center, 702-455-8200, ccparks@clarkcountynv.gov

SPRINGS PRESERVE

With a different theme every week throughout the summer, kids will always be on their toes. Making great use of the locale, in addition to games, projects, and activities, the museum will offer a wonderful Southern Nevada learning experience. Ages 6-12, 9a-4p, Mondays-Fridays, June 4-August 10, $225/week ($200 for Springs Preserve members), 702-822-7700, springspreserve.org/events

Mad Science Whether using its "Brixology" program to build and tinker with Lego bricks or using pulleys and levers to understand how things move, Mad Science promotes STEM in its summer camps. Two weeks offered at the Springs Preserve and one week offered in Henderson. Grades K-6, 225-$300/week, madscience.org (must create an account on website to register)

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GARDENING | PLANT THIS NOW

Pretty Fly

This spring, plant these beauties to attract birds, bees and butterflies to your yard

BY ***Norm Schilling***

Part of the joy of gardening isn't about the plants, it's about the animals — the birds, butterflies and other fauna that find flowers as attractive as you do. Here are some of my favorite plants for luring a little wildlife to your home.

SKY FLOWER

If you have a spot with a bit of shade and are looking to draw hummingbirds and especially butterflies, consider the Sky Flower. This plant grows as a shrub, but can be trained into a small tree, reaching 10 to 15 feet in height and width over time. Thousands of gorgeous purple flowers with a delicate white rim adorn this tree from spring to fall and are followed by small orange berries. Sky Flower is a moderate-water-use evergreen plant that's hardy to about 20-25 degrees. While young plants may be killed by a hard frost, a mature specimen will generally recover from any cold damage.

BAJA FAIRY DUSTER

Thriving in full sun or some shade, the Baja Fairy Duster delivers deep red feather-duster flowers from spring through fall. This drought-tolerant shrub will hold its leaves in mild winter conditions. If it does drop its leaves due to cold temperatures, don't worry. The leaves and the flowers will flush out just as the heat returns. At full size, it can reach 5 feet high and wide, so give this plant room to grow. Want a smaller version? Pink Fairy Duster is very similar in terms of care and form, but stays smaller at about 3 by 3 feet, with pink blossoms.

GLOBE MALLOW

Have you ever noticed those bright orange- to coral-colored cup-shaped flowers blooming out in the wild desert and vacant lots? Globe Mallow loves hot, sunny spots, and it puts on a reliable and spectacular spring flower show that'll draw in both hummingbirds and butterflies. It'll fill in quickly and can grow to 3 feet high and wide. Once the first round of flowers is spent, you can deadhead the shrub to push new blooms. This drought-tolerant plant can reseed itself readily, so get it established and then back off the water.

TECOMA

Tecoma hybrids, like Lydia Bells, Bells of Fire and Sparklette Bells, drive hummingbirds crazy. This family of plants can tolerate the sun very well with regular water, providing a nonstop display of showy flowers from late spring until the cool weather of autumn. They usually drop their leaves in winter and can freeze to the ground in a cold year, but rebound when temperatures warm up. Prune them back in early spring to shape, or prune as needed to maintain attractive form.



CAPE HONEYSUCKLE

A close relative to the hybrids, Cape Honeysuckle is a durable plant that can be kept as a shrub or trained as a vine. Cape Honeysuckle produces a vibrant red-orange flower in the late summer and early fall that provides a stunning pop of color against its rich, dark green foliage. Left on its own, it can reach 6 to 10 feet tall and wide, but it can easily be kept in check with a little hand-pruning.

TEXAS OLIVE

If you're searching for something that will get a little bigger and bring in the wildlife, there are a number of small, drought and heat-tolerant trees that thrive here. Texas Olive is a large shrub left on its own, but can be developed into a striking small tree that will grow from 10 to 15 feet high and wide. The olive-green leaves are unusually large for a desert tree. You and the hummers will enjoy its spring and fall blooms of clusters of white, trumpet-shaped flowers with yellow throats, and a texture reminiscent of crepe paper. This little tree isn't a true olive, but it produces a small fruit that can feed wildlife. It's drought-tolerant and will perform better if you move the water well away from its base after it gets established, within one year.

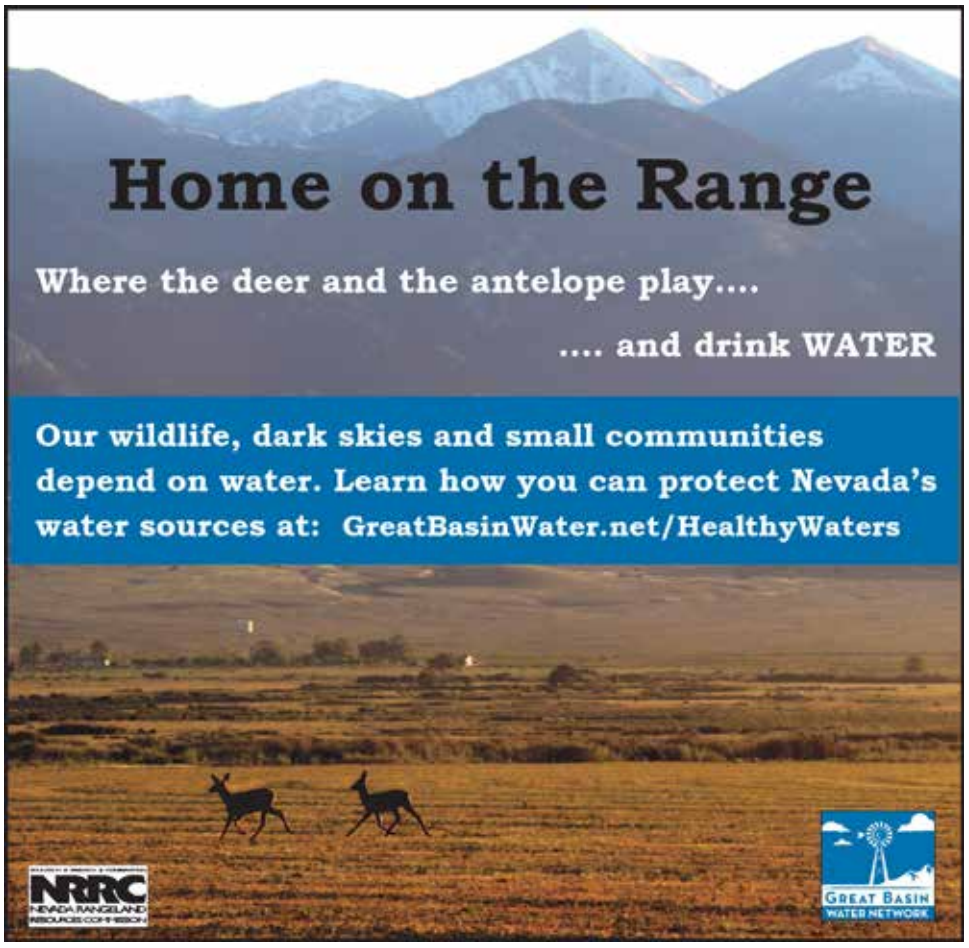
TWISTED ACACIA AND TEXAS EBONY

You may also want to consider trees that can serve as shelter for birds and small mammals. Both Twisted Acacia and Texas Ebony are beautiful trees with exceptional architectural form. Their stiff and somewhat thorny branches protect wildlife and are ideal for bird nests. Even better, both feature spring flowers which are followed by large seedpods that serve as a food source. They're drought-tolerant and like our nutrient-poor soils, so be careful not to over-water; move the drip emitters away from the trunk to at least 4 to 5 feet away after the first summer. Growing to 15 to 25 feet tall and wide, both of these trees can offer you and the wildlife a shady spot to relax. ✦

PLANT PHOTOS: NORM SCHILLING; FAIRY DUSTER: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS; ACACIA: SNWA; HUMMINGBIRD: SHUTTERSTOCK



From left: Sky Flower, Baja Fairy Duster, Globe Mallow, Tecoma, Cape Honeysuckle, Texas Olive and Twisted Acacia





MY SPACE

Robin Penrod

Being taken to this gardener's pleasant shed is no punishment

BY *Jacob Lasky*

Walking through the gates of Robin Penrod's one-acre country-style property near the M Resort, it's easy to forget that you're still near Las Vegas. Her six chickens cluck in the front yard as Gregory Peck — her rooster — stands watch. As we walk past her husband, Sam's, vintage Ford Model A, her English bulldog mix Fenrir and terrier mix Odie chase the chickens, much to the flock's dismay.

Penrod, 61, has always had a green thumb. "I've just always loved nature and plants, and being outside," Penrod says. She grows a variety of edible and nonedible plants, including lemons, artichokes, squashes, flowers, and cactuses.

The root of her growing operation is her 10-by-10 workshed, which she and Sam built themselves five years ago. The shed, which is solar-powered, feels more like a cathedral, with its windows of repurposed French doors and a soaring, 18-foot galvanized-steel ceiling. Besides her succulents and cactuses, her workspace is lined with trinkets and objects that help her personal ecosystem thrive.



1 French Doors "These doors were the whole start of it," she says. They came from a friend's barn down the street. When he moved, she offered to buy the doors, but he gave them to her instead. "I thought, What can we make out of 'em, and that's when we thought, Hey, let's make a greenhouse with them." The doors allow the plants their needed dose of sunlight and can be propped open for airflow.

2 Concrete Gardens "I love making little gardens like this," Penrod says. She occasionally plants succulents in homemade concrete pots lined with color-coordinated stones as gifts.

3 Watering Pots Although these butterfly and elephant watering pots serve more as decorations, the wood rack they hang on holds a more sentimental value. Some 25 years ago, Penrod's daughters Jessica and Kelsey — both in their 30s now — painted their thumbprints on it. "It's really sweet to see their little thumbprints on there," she says. Jessica eventually cofounded Great Basin Permaculture, a nonprofit group that educates people about sustainable gardening in the Mojave Desert.

4 Vents Innovative design touch lets rising hot air escape.

5 Artifact This ancient grinding stone was found by her mother in the desert decades ago. It was her mother, in fact, who spurred Penrod's love for gardening and collecting objects from the desert. "She's somebody who would drag things home and make things ... so she's kind of my inspiration," Penrod says.

6 Seed Collection Among her stockpile are white pumpkin, Moapa squash, and four-o'clock flower seeds. And March is a good time to do something with them. "Pretty soon I'll be potting some of these up," Penrod says.

7 Possible Future Windchimes One man's trash is another woman's art. Penrod and her husband found these rusty barrel hoops while off-roading in the desert. She thinks she could repurpose them into a wind chime, but she isn't sure yet. "Sometimes it takes awhile for inspiration to figure out, What can I do with that?" ✦



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WHAT LIES BENEATH Deep in the DNA of the forthcoming novel *Lords of St. Thomas*, by Vermont writer Jackson Ellis, is its inspiration: an article about St. Thomas, the town (above) submerged under Lake Mead, in the May 2012 issue of *Desert Companion*. 👣👣👣 Later, while visiting the ruins, Ellis recalls, "I thought, 'What would it be like if I were an old man returning to a place he'd been forced to abandon as a young boy? And what if I'd left something behind, under the house, that could be retrieved so many years later, despite the flood? What would that be?' So with my book, I set out to answer that question." Look for it this spring from Green Writers Press.

WORD UP

Where to Be 'Zine Now

Barrick Museum gives orphaned Zine Library a new home for trove of DIY delights

BY ***Jacob Lasky***

After languishing for close to a year-and-a-half in a closet following the closure of The Beat Coffeehouse & Records, the Las Vegas Zine Library has finally found a new home in the UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum.

"I knew that we would find some kind of home — we were just really holding out for something that felt right," says Zine Library custodian Jeff Grindley, who cofounded the library with his girlfriend, Stevie Seiler, in 2010.

Although the museum features only a third of the library's total collection of around 2,000 zines, readers can flip through hundreds of category-based publications, including music, photo, political, poetry, and literary-themed zines.



"There's something for everybody," says the museum's interim director, Alisha Kerlin.

She believes the museum's partnership with the library is important not only for engaging more with UNLV's student and faculty body, but the community as a whole, too.

"The enormous amount of effort with our small and humble staff was to swing the doors open and debunk that attitude that things that happen at the university are elitist," Kerlin says. "The community is welcome."

The museum also plans to host monthly community workshops in which people can contribute their own zines, and making an online database of its current collection. "We're just really grateful and excited to see where it takes us, and excited to promote more zine culture here in Vegas," Grindley says. ✦

THE Hot Seat

Lecture

RACE AND REVENGE

BARRICK MUSEUM

The Confederate statue controversies of 2017 might seem like a hundred controversies ago, but they drew from hard racial realities that have been with us for centuries. In this lecture, Air Force Academy English professor Gregory Laski examines "the appeal of revenge for emancipated slaves and their descendants after the Civil War" — a legacy of African-American anger that remains relevant to this day. **7:30p, March 9, UNLV's Barrick Museum, unlv.edu/calendar**



Music

LAS VEGAS BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

CENTENNIAL HILLS PARK

You bring the *yee*, we'll bring the *haw*, and we'll have us an old-fashioned bluegrassin'. Music, food, crafts, kids activities, and more. Bands include Run Boy Run, from Arizona, the Blue Canyon Boys, and Trout Steak Revival (above), both out of Colorado. **2-8p, March 24, free, Centennial Hills Park, lasvegasnevada.gov**

The Music of 12-Volt Sex. Original singer Matt Gucu gathers a band to relive the heyday of the iconic local outfit 12-Volt Sex. **9p, March 3, $10-$15, bunkhousedowntown.com**



Storytelling

KEVIN KLING

HISTORIC FIFTH STREET SCHOOL

He identifies with weiner dogs, Kevin Kling says, "because they are the best example of a can-do attitude in a can't-do body" — a meaningful notion to this storyteller, who was born with a shortened, wristless, thumbless left arm, and then later lost the use of his right in an accident. Nonetheless, he became an in-demand storyteller and playwright, adept at mixing tragedy with comedy. Nice hat, too. **7p, March 10, $20 adults, $10 kids, lasvegasnevada.gov**

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THE Hot Seat

Literature

JUAN MARTINEZ

BLACK MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE

Please welcome back to the stage Juan Martinez, former Las Vegan and author of the 2017 story collection *Best Worst American*, much praised for its nimble genre-hopping and frisky surrealist groove. He'll read under the rubric of the Black Mountain Institute's Alumni Reading Series. **7p, March 19, UNLV's Rogers Building, room 101, blackmountaininstitute.org**



Visual Art

SEAN SLATTERY

WINCHESTER CULTURAL CENTER

Titled *The First 100 Days*, Slattery's exhibit takes a sly look at the nature of truth, through the unlikely lens of the cartoon character Dilbert. There will be videos of Slattery reading subtly doctored *Dilbert* strips, mock roughs of fake *Dilbert* cartoons, and digital animations. As with politicians, his truth-shading runs "from shameless to subtle," he says. "One could see the show and never see the lies." **Opening reception March 1, through March 30, 702-455-7340**

Fawn Douglas, live art. Watch the Las Vegas Paiute artist create works that draw her cultural heritage into her mixed-media works. **10a to 3p, March 11, Red rock Canyon Visitors Center, redrockcanyonlv.org**

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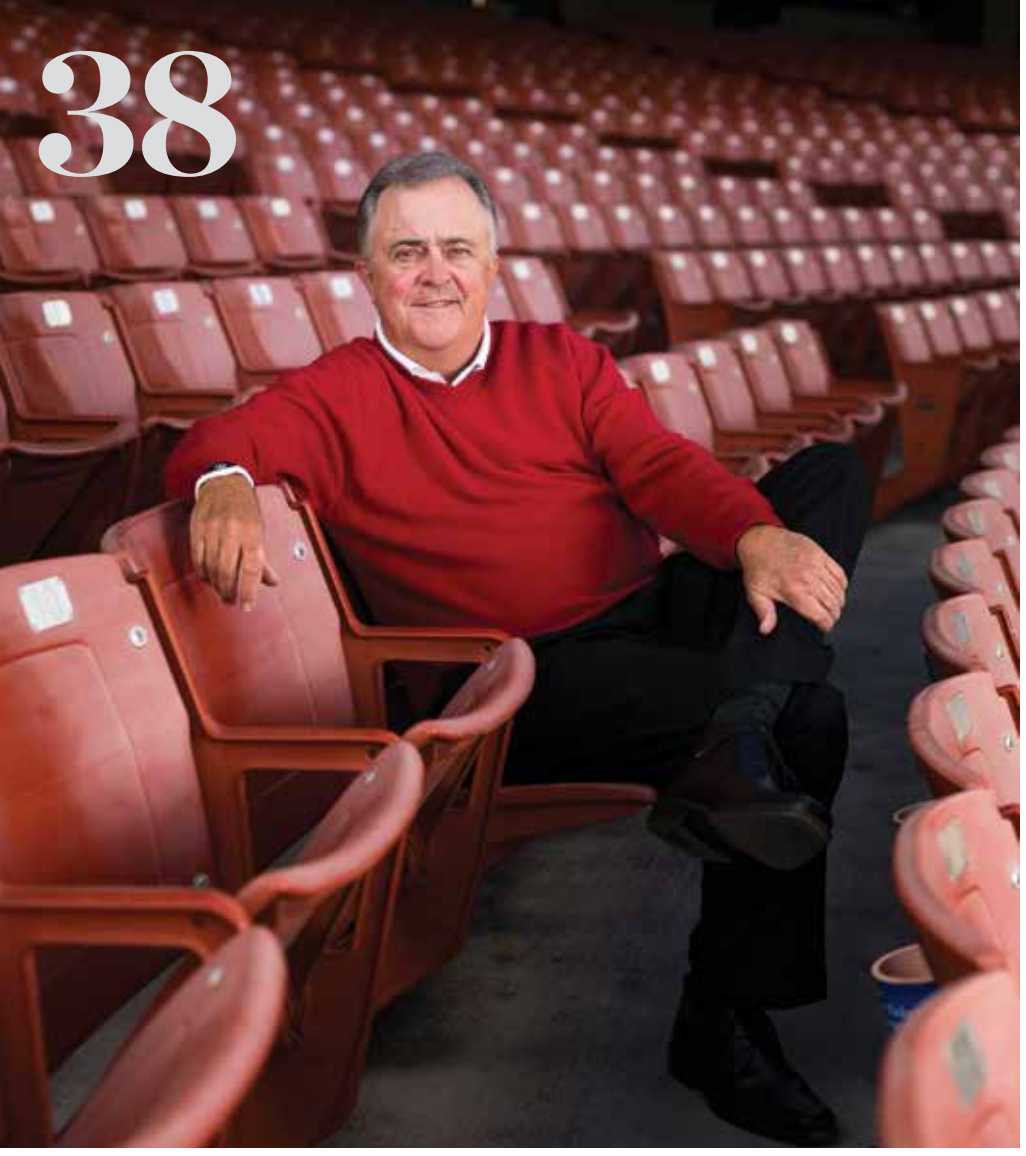




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Q&A

ROUNDING THIRD

The valley's longest-tenured pro sports team is finally getting a new home. What will it mean for the 51s and the community? We ask the team's boss, Don Logan.

BY ***Matt Jacob***

Born in 1982 as the Las Vegas Stars and rebranded at the turn of the century, the Las Vegas 51s are the longest-tenured professional sports franchise in Nevada history — and by a long shot. So it's worth noting (and celebrating) that come April 5, our Triple A baseball franchise will raise the curtain on its 36th season of Pacific Coast League baseball when it hosts the El Paso Chihuahuas. But it's worth noting not because the Chihuahuas were the PCL's runner-up in 2017, or because it's the first Dollar Beer Night of the season, or even because it marks the start of the 51s' final season as the New York Mets' Triple A affiliate.

BASES LOADED 51s President Don Logan is taking the team to a new home in Summerlin.

Rather, it's significant for this reason: If all goes according to plan, it will be the last opening day at Cashman Field, the Downtown ballpark that has served as the home team's home base since its inception.

Lost amid the local sports euphoria generated by the amazing inaugural season of the NHL's Golden Knights, and the impending arrival of the NFL's Raiders, the WNBA's Aces, and the United Soccer League's Lights, is the fact our baseball team is finally getting fancy new digs. After years of fits and starts, the 51s announced late last year that they're relocating to a state-of-the-art, 10,000-seat stadium in Summerlin.

Las Vegas Ballpark — dubbed as such after the team reached a 20-year, $80 million naming rights deal with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority — will feature all of the amenities fans have come to expect from a 21st century stadium, and then some. There will be upgraded food and beverage options, wide concourses, adequate restroom facilities, more shade, fancy luxury suites, a party deck, an adult zone with beer pong and cornhole games, a kids zone with splash pads, and, just beyond the wall in right-center field, a little Vegas flair: a swimming pool.

While half of the $150 million ballpark — designed by noted ballpark architecture firm HOK — will be financed by the LVCVA deal, the rest of the tab belongs to The Howard Hughes Corp., which is entering its fourth season as the 51s' primary owner (and second as its sole owner). Built on Hughes-owned land just east of Downtown Summerlin and west of the Golden Knights' practice facility, the stadium broke ground late last month and is expected to be open for business in time for the start of the 2019 season.

We recently visited the Cashman Field offices to chat with 51s President Don Logan, who began his career with the team in 1984 as an account executive, and who for years led the charge for a new stadium. In addition to excitedly sharing blueprints and renderings, Logan talked about why the 51s need Las Vegas Ballpark, why it took so long to come to fruition, the impact it will have on the community, and the likelihood of Vegas landing a Major League Baseball team.

What's the latest on the construction? Is the move-in date still spring of 2019?

Everything was moving along fine, and then all of a sudden, we ran into caliche, so we had to drill down and blast it in order to move the dirt. That, of course, required getting blasting and dust permits, and the (Las Vegas Valley) Water District had to do an inspection to make sure we didn't hit a

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Sabin Orr***

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WED 3/14 **DONAVON FRANKENREITER** with MATT GRUNDY

THU 3/15 **HIPPIE SABOTAGE** with MELVV + AZIZI GIBSON

FRI 3/23 **LIL XAN** with $TEVEN CANNON

SAT 3/24 **MINISTRY** with CHELSEA WOLFE

TUE 3/27 **GALACTIC** with SOUTHERN AVENUE

FRI 3/30 **THE DARKNESS** with DIARRHEA PLANET

SAT 3/31 **SENSES FAIL** with REGGIE AND THE FULL EFFECT HAVE MERCY + HOUSEHOLD

SAT 4/7 **3LAU** with FLASH GANG + 530

TUE 4/10 **NIGHTWISH** DECADES NORTH AMERICA 2018

WED 4/11 **THE WAR ON DRUGS**

THU 4/12 **CHROMEO** with PHANTOMS

TUE 4/17 **HIGHLY SUSPECT**

FRI 4/27 **SONS OF APOLLO** with FELIX MARTIN

FRI 5/4 - SUN 5/6 **STS9**

TUE 5/8 **AS THE CROW FLIES** feat. CHRIS ROBINSON, MARCUS KING + MORE! with ONCE AND FUTURE BAND

WED 5/9 **MAC SABBATH**

FRI 5/11 **BEATS ANTIQUE (DJ SET)**

MON 5/14 **PETER HOOK & THE LIGHT**

FRI 5/18 **GLASS ANIMALS**

SAT 5/19 **SOJA**

THU 5/24 **SUM 41:** DOES THIS LOOK INFECTED 15TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

SAT 5/26 **SOFI TUKKER:** TREEHOUSE WORLD TOUR

SUN 5/27 **THE GLITCH MOB** with ELOHIM

MON 5/28 **THE DEVON ALLMAN PROJECT** with special guest DUANE BETTS

FRI 6/8 **T.S.O.L.** with REAGAN YOUTH, GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION N.E. LAST WORDS + LAST RITES

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water main. But this isn't that complicated a structure to get done. El Paso's (ballpark) was built in 207 days. Reno was done in nine months, so time-wise, we're still good. All the concerned parties — which is us, the LVCVA, the city, the county — are all focused on 2019.

For years, you and multiple ownership groups expressed a need for the 51s to have a new, modern stadium. Why was it critical?

I travel around and I see what these stadiums have done. Just look at Reno. That's a market that's one-fifth the size of ours, and you see that beautiful stadium downtown and how the people responded to it and how successful it's been. This facility is going to have the same type of impact in terms of construction jobs and full-time jobs — obviously, our staff is going to have to increase dramatically. And then there are the types of events we're going to be able to do that we just can't do (at Cashman) because the field is too fragile. A new field means concerts, it means college baseball tournaments, it means local high school and legion tournaments, it means national amateur tournaments, more big league (exhibition) games.

All of these things fit the core of what Las Vegas is about, which is putting heads in beds.

How much of the need for a new home was based on Cashman Field's location in a deteriorating part of town?

That's certainly part of it. You talk about the redevelopment of Downtown, well, everything that happened was south of the 95. North of the 95 was just forgotten. If it wasn't for the (Grant Sawyer) state building, you wouldn't want to drive down here.

And we heard from fans all the time: There's nowhere to go before the game to get something to eat and drink, and certainly there's no place after the game to do that. You basically come, go to the game, and get the hell out of here. We also had vandalism issues in the parking lot — just a lot of things that happen in deteriorating inner cities that made this a challenging place to operate.

So what took so long to finally get the stadium done?

You know, honestly, I've said this on the record, and I don't like doing it, but we had 12 years of Oscar (Goodman) saying he's a big-league mayor, and he really didn't understand what Triple A baseball is. He didn't understand how substandard (Cashman) was. And I don't think he really cared, quite frankly; he wasn't going to put any time and effort into it. Concurrently with being the mayor, he was also the chairman of the convention authority, which is the entity that owns (Cashman Center). ... Oscar just didn't get it.

Also, we went to the state Legislature in 2003, and they increased the rental car tax with the intent to use the revenue to build a new ballpark here and a new ballpark in Reno. Well, they did the ballpark in Reno, but the legislators from Southern Nevada decided The Smith Center was more important. So that jumped in front of us, and kind of wiped out a few years of effort there.

Then the city of Henderson had interest in doing (a ballpark) out there, but that never came to be. And Derek Stevens, when the Stevens family owned the team, he really wanted to do something Downtown where The Smith Center is, or right next to it, and again, Oscar would tell you he was interested, but I don't think he ever really wanted to put a stadium down there.

Then, when the economy tanked, that changed the access to money. Once the economy started coming back and the Howard Hughes folks leaned forward and said, "Hey, we've got (land in Summerlin), and we'd like to look at it as a spot for a stadium," it finally came into being.

For the last two decades, you've watched one sports venue after another pop up on and around the Strip, and yet the 51s were left in the on-deck circle. How frustrating was that for you?

Very. But to me, it was always the right goal, the right mission. We had to figure out a way to get it done — just from a purely business-of-baseball perspective.

This is probably the top Triple A market in the country — certainly one of the top three or four — and we're such a can-do type of city. We've got the best hotels, best restaurants, best shopping, best entertainment, and to not have the type of (first-rate) facility for our baseball community just never made sense.

As frustrating as it was in that it took so long ... I'm hard-headed enough to stay the course and keep grinding away, which is what I did. (*Laughs.*)

Given how much time and effort that you spent trying to make the stadium a reality, what were your emotions like when you knew for certain that it was a done deal?

Relief. And that relief didn't last but for maybe a half hour to an hour, and then it was, "Oh my god, now we really have to get this thing going and get it done." So immediately I started focusing on how to do that.

I spend the majority of every one of my days dealing with something (related to the new stadium). There are so many little pieces to the puzzle that require your attention — somebody just sent me an email today asking me what kind of locks we want on the doors.

But having Hughes involved is great, because they're developers, so in terms of what it's going to look like — what type of metal, the color (schemes) — that's them. I'm really focusing on creating a facility that's going to be the best in minor-league baseball, something people are going to want to go to multiple times a year, that's going to function properly, and the business side of it is going to work at the level we need it to work.

What are your favorite elements of the new ballpark?

All of the destinations in the park. I was in

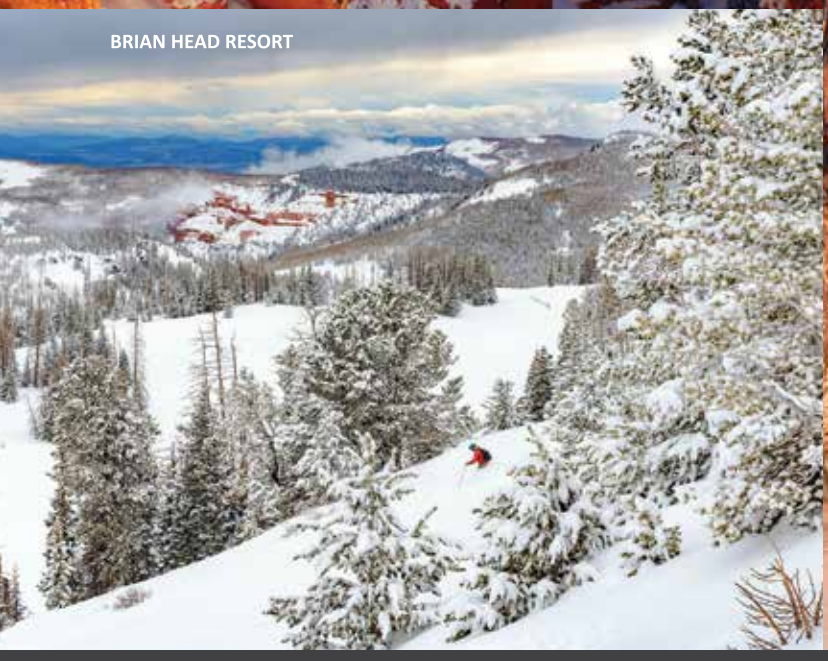


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Memphis, and (its new stadium) has this kids zone that has those splash pads — it's a simple thing, but it's a fun element that we don't have (at Cashman). Also, the pool, because of the heat here, is going to be wildly successful. We're going to have themed food-and-beverage areas throughout, and the club area is going to be absolutely unbelievable.

Since Hughes owns the team, it makes sense that they would choose to build the stadium in Summerlin. But is there any concern about moving from the center of town to a more isolated part of the valley?

Because most tickets these days are purchased with credit cards, you can look at ZIP code data, and what we learned was that 38 percent of our fans come from the northwest and Summerlin, while 37 percent come from Green Valley and Henderson. So basically, 75 percent of our fan base comes from those areas. So we got on the 215 at Green Valley Parkway and drove here (via) two routes: the 15 north to the 95 south, and the 215 east to the 515 north. What we determined was, because of traffic, it's a shorter drive time-wise going from Green Valley Parkway and the 215 to the new stadium site than it is to Cashman.

So it's actually going to be easier and faster for our core fans — and 75 percent is a significant number — to get to the ballpark. And now you have restaurants and shopping at Downtown Summerlin, plus Red Rock (Resort) — all the different pre- and postgame elements that our fans don't have now.

How critical was it to secure the stadium naming rights agreement with the LVCVA, and was it an easy sell?

Nothing is easy. Not one bit of this has been easy! (*Laughs.*) But it made sense, because the convention authority is (also) the fair and recreation board for Clark County. And one of their charges when (Cashman Center) was built was they're the overseer of professional baseball in the valley. You add that to the amount of money this place was costing them to operate, and to be able to get out from under that, it just made sense. It truly is a win-win.

As you know, Southern Nevada's pro sports landscape has changed dramatically with the arrival of the NHL and, soon, the NFL, WNBA, and a new minor-league soccer team. In what way does this new competition affect the 51s?

If you compare us to the Knights and Raiders, we play in the summertime. We overlap a little at the end of the hockey season maybe and the beginning of the football season, but not much. So that doesn't change. And then there are the price points. What's going to be a premium ticket price for us doesn't even get you in the door at a Knights game. So that really isn't competition.

We have different audiences, too. I think we're going to increase our aim of targeting families — that's the core constituency of minor-league baseball, and now we have the right kind of place where people can really enjoy it and come out more often.

Does it also help that this is becoming more of a sports town?

Definitely. I've never understood why more people who live here don't go to sporting events. I think it's going to be good for all of us — for UNLV, for the Knights, for the Raiders, and it's certainly for us and for the soccer team — to get people used to going to sporting events.

I've said this, and I'm not sure it's the right terminology, but (the 51s are) a normal entertainment option in a city that has the most unique entertainment options of any market in the country. Until places like Downtown Summerlin, if you wanted to go see a movie, you had to go to a casino. If you want to go bowling, you go to a casino. This is going to be more normal. You're going to go to a beautiful new professional ballpark like you would see in any city in the country.

So the Golden Knights are here, the Raiders are coming, and speculation is that the WNBA's presence here is a precursor to Las Vegas landing an NBA team. Which begs the question: What are the odds Major League Baseball takes a swing at Southern Nevada?

Well, what are we, the 40th media market in the country? There's only so much money in the market. There aren't suburbs here, you don't have the business base, and we're still a real mono-dimensional economy — tourism is it. So to generate the type of sponsorship revenue and season-ticket revenue — and the Raiders are going to be looking for seat-license revenue — that to me is going to make it tough to go beyond the NHL and NFL.

The best chance for Major League Baseball in Las Vegas is if there's expansion, and there are murmurs about that because there are two 15-team leagues right now, which means that every day you have interleague play. I think you need to have 32 teams in baseball — 16 teams in the American League, 16 in the National League — to balance out everything. And certainly, if (expansion) happens, Vegas is going to be one of the top candidates for one of those new teams. ✦



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FIELD NOTES

A SIMPLE SHOWER

A mobile bathing unit is bringing a measure of hygiene — and dignity — to the city's homeless

BY ***Michael Lyle***

There have been many early mornings when 23-year-old Victoria Cooke scaled the fence of an apartment complex to sneak into the pool area. At 5 or 6 a.m., apartment staff wouldn't be there yet, leaving Cooke alone to do one thing she missed while living on the streets: shower. Never a full shower — she would keep her bathing suit on while lathering up. But at least it was something. "It really makes a difference," she says.

For the homeless, getting clean can be a master class in creativity. If they can get away with it, some use bathroom sinks in hotels, casinos, or restaurants. Other options include secretly using someone's garden hose, or, as Cooke has done a few times, golf course sprinklers. "I've also been able to convince random guys to let me use their showers," she adds. "But it doesn't feel safe. They are usually really creepy."

FRESH START Clean the World's mobile shower unit, parked near the Catholic Charities facility on Las Vegas Boulevard

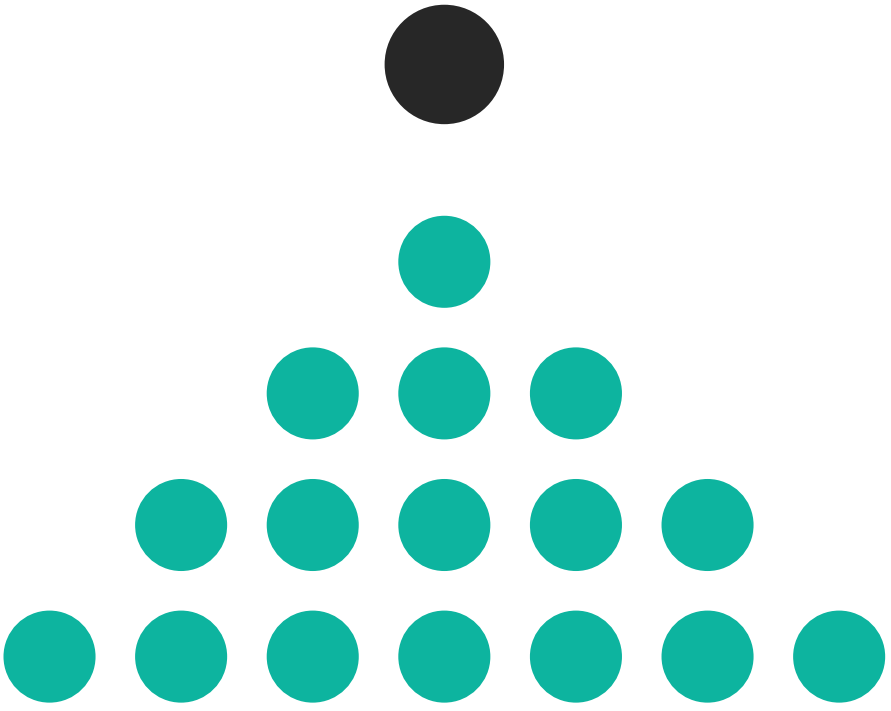
Emergency shelters do have showers for clients. However, some living on the streets don't always feel comfortable in such places, whether it's because they are transgender or because they don't like the open, locker-room shower setup.

Fortunately, options recently increased with the arrival of Southern Nevada's only mobile shower unit for the homeless, created by the nonprofit Clean the World. "This makes a difference," says Kevin Williams, the mobile hygiene manager. "You can see their demeanor when they go in and how they are kind of mopey. Once they come out, (their demeanor) changes."

Outside the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada one recent day, Williams sits under a canopy near the shower unit, checking in clients. When it's their turn, he hands each a clean towel and a hygiene kit — a bar of soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, and a toothbrush — and directs them to a stall. After each use, Williams or one of the other workers does a quick wipe-down before calling in the next person.

Clean the World is an international organization that collects discarded hygiene items donated from hotels, such as unused

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Brent Holmes***



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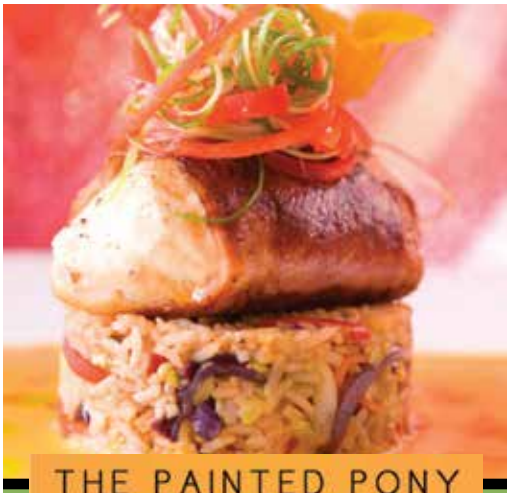
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bars of soap or bottles of shampoo and conditioner. Local donor Las Vegas Sands Corp. approached Clean the World about opening a mobile hygiene unit; it launched in late August and is funded for three years.

The unit, hauled behind a semi, has four private rooms, each with a bathroom, sink, and shower that holds 80 gallons of water. It's not just a shower, but a *hot* shower in a private bathroom that clients can use for up to 20 minutes. It's an unimaginable luxury for a homeless person. "Not everyone takes up all the time, but some do," Williams says. "When it was hot, oftentimes people would come just so they could escape the heat."

The shower keeps operating until all the clients are served or it runs out of water. Williams says if he had access to a water supply and a place to dump the water onsite (he has been discarding the water at a mobile trailer park) he could serve even more people. It takes about 15 minutes to fill up the 320 gallons of water the unit goes through.

Clean the World's trailer was first going out three days a week, then increased to five days a week in January. Each week, the organization partners with a nonprofit to host the mobile unit one day of the week. The only thing the nonprofit has to do is provide clean towels.

Williams has already seen the impact of the service. "When this first started, the showers would be black with dirt afterward," he says. "They aren't as dirty anymore now that people have access to this regularly."

Williams says some 2,300 people used the mobile unit in its first few months. Even a spell of persistent rainfall and 40 degree weather on one Tuesday morning in January didn't prevent people from coming out to "the courtyard," an empty lot next to Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, where many who are homeless gather. Nearly 50 signed up to take advantage of the shower. "If we had two vans, some days I could do 100 people easily," Williams says.

Cooke spent a year on the streets before getting arrested for shoplifting and being placed in a group home. In addition to a safe place to sleep, finding somewhere to shower was always an issue. "If something like this would have existed when I was homeless, I think things would have been different for me," she says.

Steve Gross, 55, has been homeless on and off for three years, which started after his mother died and he stopped working. "I just got depressed," he says. "I got lazy, too, I'm not going to lie."

Living in the homeless corridor, he tried to keep the bare minimum of hygienic standards, using the bathrooms of establishments that let him in. Now he uses the shower unit at least once a week.

Increasing access to hygiene and cleanliness helps fend off health issues, outreach workers say. Around town last year, the City of Las Vegas installed 24-hour Porta-Potties and hand-washing stations. "Each Porta-Potty holds about 60 gallons of waste, and we have eight of them, cleaned seven days a week, so that impact is significant," says Margaret Kurtz, a city spokeswoman. "That waste otherwise would presumably be on the nearby properties."

"We've noticed people are more willing to talk with social services once they've gotten a shower," Paulsen says. "That makes sense. Think about how you feel after you get a shower."

In San Diego, hygiene stations were put in place in 2017 to combat an outbreak of hepatitis A in the homeless community. "We have not had a hepatitis A outbreak like other communities," Kurtz adds. "We believe (that's) because we have had these interim measures in place since March 2017, and the community has other services available to help." Williams says influenza has been going around Southern Nevada, and hand-washing stations and showers could help keep it out of homeless camps.

But health benefits are just one aspect. A hot shower can also provide dignity. "We've noticed people are more willing to talk with social services once they've gotten a shower," says Emily Paulsen, executive director of the Nevada Homeless Alliance. "That makes sense. Think about how you feel after you get a shower." Every Tuesday, the organization



SHOWER POWER
A typical mobile shower unit, far left. John, a homeless man, before and after his session.

hosts the mobile unit in "the courtyard." "It's by far our busiest day," Williams says.

Periodically, the group brings in other social-service agencies, mental-health services, and general resources that homeless people can access. Williams notes that people use the showers before job interviews. "I think this is going a long way," he says.

As much as access to showers is a challenge for anyone who is homeless, it can be even more of a task for homeless transgender people. For seven months, Blue Montana lived on the streets of San Diego. It was hard finding facilities willing to accept him and his husband.

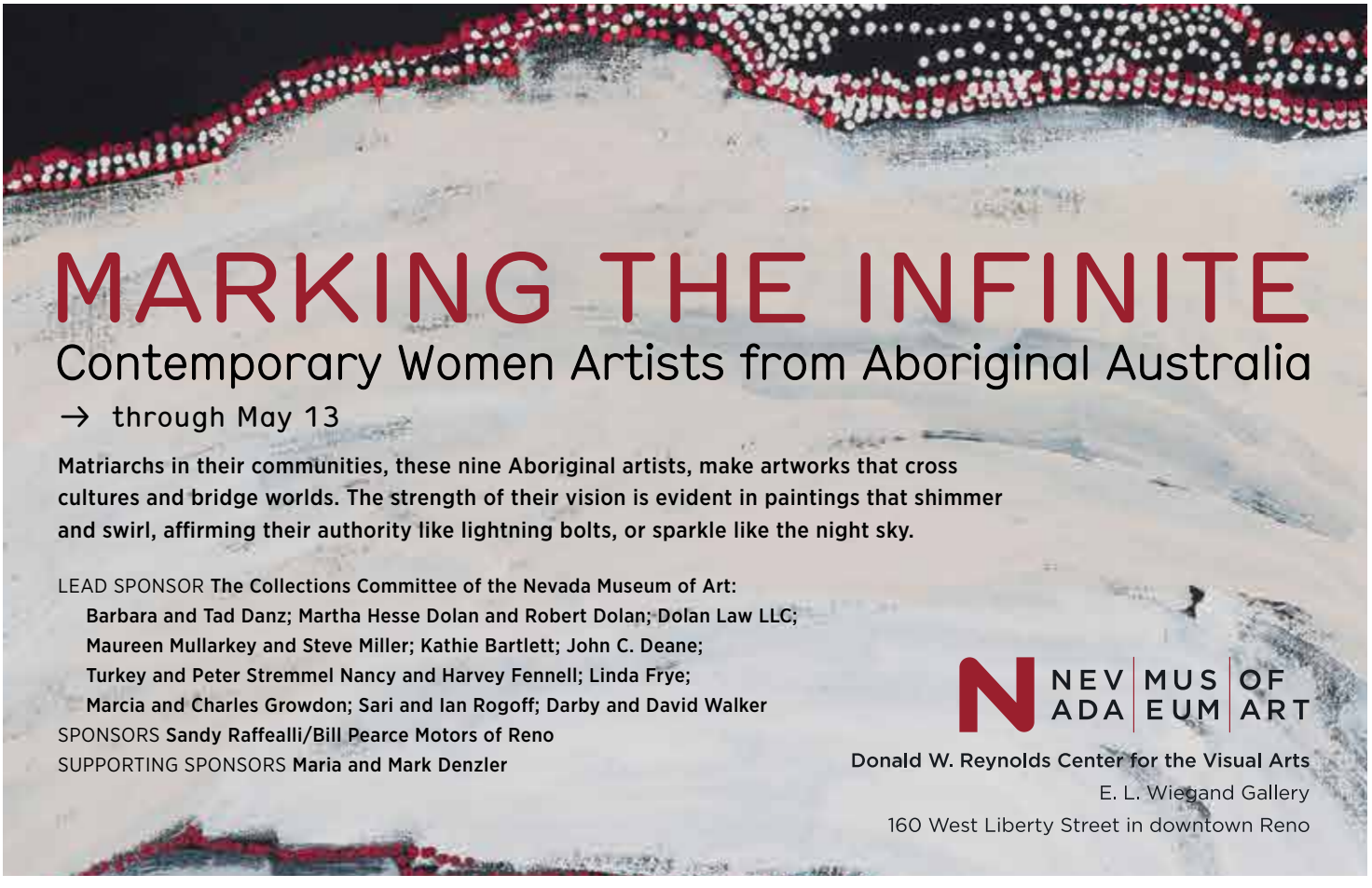
Even if the facility allowed them to stay for the evening, being transgender made Montana fearful about taking a shower. "Especially if I was being stealth," he said. "If a trans person has all (the gender markers) on their ID changed and is placed in a shelter that matches, a shower could out them as trans and potentially get them kicked out. Or if (trans people) take a shower and what people are seeing doesn't match a person's gender identity, it could put them in an unsafe situation."

As a result, sometimes trans people who are homeless might opt not to shower in traditional facilities, let alone access many homeless services. A private shower takes away that anxiety. Montana is now the trans program manager at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center. On average, he sees two or three trans people a day in the center, all of whom face problems similar to the ones he once dealt with in San Diego.

He learned of the mobile unit last year, and worked to bring it to the center on Fridays. On its first day, some 17 people showed up, not all of them LGBT. It's grown since. "If all I do is have to provide clean towels, that's a small price to pay," Montana says.

Showers are just one element that helps people on the streets find dignity. When she heard about the hygiene unit coming to the Center, hair stylist Jasmine Farro loaded up her gear and came to help as well. "I live down the street, in a low-income area, so I think this is awesome they are doing this," she says.

While people wait for a shower, Farro offers free haircuts, something she hopes to do at least every other Friday. Even a simple buzzcut to someone's outgrown hair can make a difference in how they're treated. "I know that as a society, we judge people based on appearance," she says. "A hot shower and a fresh haircut can change someone's life. It can give them a fresh start." ✦



PROFILE

RACING AHEAD

There's more to a marathon than running — Porta-Potties, for instance. That's where race organizer Joyce Forier comes in

BY ***Jakub Cernoch***



CATCHING A BREATH
Calico Racing owner Joyce Forier pauses — briefly! — amid the natural setting her races showcase.

It's late February 2007, and then-32-year-old Joyce Forier is running along the Red Rock Scenic Drive. The 13-mile loop is a gorgeous training spot for the five-year marathon enthusiast. Something occurs to her as she runs: *Huh, I wonder what it takes to put on a race here?* That day, she makes some calls, cuts through some red tape, and makes a few more calls. On March 1, the Red Rock Canyon Marathon, and Calico Racing alongside it, are born.

"Las Vegas had very few races back in 2007, and none that served runners in natural settings," says Forier, who has lived in Las Vegas since 2001. "The Las Vegas Marathon was the only marathon-distance race, and they focused on the typical Las Vegas experience of the Las Vegas Strip, casinos, and neon lights. I wanted to show people the gorgeous natural side of Las Vegas where I trained as an athlete myself."

Forier's efforts to organize these kinds of landscape races — from Running With the Devil at Lake Mead to the ET Full Moon marathon on the Extraterrestrial Highway — have made her a sort of founder of the modern Las Vegas running scene. Prior to her races, such events in Las Vegas were primarily short charity runs, like the Great Santa Run, the Race for the Cure, or Turkey Trots around Thanksgiving.

It didn't happen overnight. The avid marathoner had to quickly learn the art of jumping through hoops. Operating races required a new set of skills and knowledge that have nothing to do with running races: LLCs, insurance, renting portable toilets, site permits, website building, traffic plans, and on-site ambulances. She must coordinate with different agencies and governments to set up races on public land. Establishing the Red Rock Canyon Marathon taught her not just about the race-organizing process, but about *creating* the process.

"There really wasn't a process in place for running events, and I worked together with the permitting agency to develop that process going forward," she says. "From there, I developed eight other races in other jurisdictions within the greater Las Vegas Valley."

Her first race was Running with the Devil at Lake Mead on June 30, 2007, with 92 participants — and a pounding heart.

"I'm nervous every race, even today," Forier says. "What's that expression? Whoever is angered by nothing cares about nothing. If I didn't worry, it would mean I didn't necessarily care. Even 96 races later, I'm still nervous. The minute that you stop being nervous, that's when things start to fall apart, because there are going to be things that are completely outside of your control, like a potential government shutdown."

That August, she held her first ET Full Moon midnight race on the Extraterrestrial Highway next to the tiny town of Rachel,

(The author has volunteered at Forier's races a dozen or so times, as his mother is an ultramarathon runner.)

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Anthony Mair***



which has one of the highest participation rates of any of her races, and is certainly the one that has gotten the most press in the running world.

Forier will celebrate her 100th race with the Calico Centennial on May 26, which will include both trail and road options. Getting to that number wasn't easy. She's putting on two races this month alone, and organizes nine to 11 annually.

"Joyce is probably the hardest-working person I've ever met," says Steve Delaney, who has been helping with her events for eight years, and has yet to miss a race since he started. "She's the sole owner. She does it all herself, except for volunteers. But she is it. She is the backbone of Calico. And it really inspired me to see how hard she worked."

Doing it all herself is how Forier makes Calico Racing a full-time job — though perhaps she's temperamentally suited for it, too. "It takes a certain person to work with her," Delaney says. "You have to understand that she's in charge. It's got to go her way, and her way only. She's not looking for opinions from anybody. She'll ask 'What's your opinion?' but your opinion will be whatever you say, and she doesn't really want it."

* * * * *

WHEN IT CAME to running races herself, Forier didn't start small — her first race was a full marathon in 2002. "I've still never run a 5k or 10k, and only ran my first half-marathon a month after running my 100th marathon," she says.

Running a marathon was on her bucket list, and she trained by herself for 18 weeks under the clearly false pretense that she would retire from running races afterward. When she finished the race successfully, she came to lament the loss of such a large end goal for her training. So she signed up for a second marathon. She quickly found herself drawn in to the sport, and has competed in more than 120 marathons, ultramarathons (running any distance greater than the traditional 26.2 miles of a marathon), and Ironman-style triathlons over the past 16 years. She's also three states from becoming the first Nevada woman to run a marathon in under four hours in all 50 states, a group that includes only 84 men and 19 women throughout the United States, according to the 50Sub4 Marathon Club. (Those states are Wyoming, Idaho, and Michigan.)

As an organizer, she trades the solitude of running for a flurry of administrative duties. She gets the runners, with their timer chips fastened somehow to their person, in position to start, leads a 10-second countdown shout, and sends them on their way. (Her races typically have multiple distances, leading to staggered start times.) Then she immediately meets with others to ensure that proper race protocols are being followed.

She makes sure that aid stations (water and food tables dotting the course) are supplied and that proper instructions have been delivered to her many volunteers who work the aid stations. Given that many of her races include marathon and ultramarathon distances, this can last most of the day.

"She invites runners to be in places where they normally wouldn't think of for running," says Ernie Rambo, who has been running and volunteering at Forier's races since the first Running With the Devil. "Joyce started directing events in this area when others believed that it couldn't be done." She says that a decade ago, few believed there was enough interest in longer races to sustain a business like Forier's. Many marathoners believed you needed to rest one day for every mile in a grueling

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race. "Joyce is part of the generation that thought, *You know, we can go out and do those longer distances and not have to rest for the next three months 'til we could run again.*"

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BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2013, Forier noticed a drop in her participation numbers. For a few races the trend continued, and it took time before she realized why.

"Some of it was just the number of competitors," she says, "but in 2013 (it) was the large prevalence of races advertising on Groupon and Livingsocial." She says "money-grabbing, unethical" organizations came to town, putting on subpar events. "They didn't have a sustainable business model. So it's a $50 entry, and then with Groupon it has to be 50 percent of the retail price. So if it's $50, they're gonna put it out there for $25 as the Groupon price, and then from that, you get half. So the organizers get $12.50 for what they're saying is the retail price. So a lot of them in the beginning were playing exactly that game. Well, our race legitimately is $40, so now it's $20 for the sale, and I get $10 with the split. So obviously that's not sustainable. You're barely even covering your most basic of costs. But then a lot of companies canceled. A lot of companies then started catching on and artificially inflating. 'Oh yeah, it's normally $100.' Really? Your 5k is normally $100? And that's their way to ultimately only get $25 which, honestly, even $25 isn't that sustainable. So they started delivering these very inferior products, the product being the race."

Rambo has had her own experiences with poor race structures. "Sometimes it's not a safe course," she says. "Sometimes maybe a low-key race, let's say. Where they have running with traffic, and it's not coned. To me that's not safe." Other issues ranged from accessible water for runners to all participant T-shirts being the same size. "These are just assumptions that you make when you pay money to register for a race," she says.

After runners and government agencies alike got burned by the organizers, new permits and permissions were put in place, making life harder for Forier and other companies that follow procedures. Though it did weed out some that didn't.

"From a racer's point of view, I return to Joyce's races because I can depend on her putting on a legitimate race, with proper permits, insurance, and safety considerations," Rambo says.

Forier was tempted to join the Groupon train, but opted not to, knowing that once runners pay a smaller amount, it would be difficult to get them to pay normal rates going forward. "She won't do it because it devalues what she's worked at," Delaney says. "It completely devalues it."

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FORIER HAS A saying, "Not my fault, still my problem." Here's an example: One year, a bus Forier set up to ferry participants to Rachel for the ET race had its windshield smashed by an unknown projectile. That left it inoperable on the side of Route 93 with 56 runners aboard. Forier was on a bus behind it, and when she learned of the problem, she immediately began trying to wave down passenger cars, in the hope that they were headed toward the race and might have room for a single runner. (The other buses were too full to help.) By some miracle, she got everyone to the starting line on time.

"Las Vegas had very few races back in 2007, and none that served runners in natural settings. I wanted to show people the gorgeous natural side of Las Vegas."

Running with the Devil, at Lake Mead, hit its own snag in 2013 due to heat warnings less than two weeks before the start of the race. Because the warning was for locations below 4,000 feet, which includes Lake Mead, Forier scrambled to find a higher location, so she could at least offer the runners *something*. Then the heat warning was raised to include locations below 6,000 feet, effectively removing most possibilities. An effort was made to secure private land, but to no avail. She had to cancel.

"I've never worked harder to not put on a race," she recalls.

Although her terms of agreement protected her from the necessity of it, she opted to send emails to all 430 runners, with a list of options for reimbursement; she met with five international runners on the Strip to hand them their cash back. It took her three years, but everyone was taken care of.

❊ ❊ ❊ ❊ ❊

IF FORIER'S PARTICIPANT numbers haven't returned to their peak — such as her 995-person ET race in 2010 — the smaller scale (which she says has stabilized) has some upsides. Smaller races can be more social, and Forier enjoys the "Calico family" created by her races, and her direct involvement in them. And in 2014, Forier gained a deeper understanding of how much she appreciates that.

That Christmas Eve, she received a call from a company that bought races from a friend of hers. They offered to buy Calico outright. Forier thought about it.

"Through those days, it gave me a chance to think about, *Am I willing to sell? And if so, how much?* It was a really interesting barometer for my life," she says. "Because if I wanted to, I could have just cashed out, and all ties are gone. I could have sold my business, sold my house, and I could have left Las Vegas and created what I want my life to be. Which was a really weird position. Well, it's not enough to not have to work, so where do I wanna live? What do I wanna do? And ultimately I came back to, *I wanna do exactly this, exactly here*. And it was such a marvelous revelation to realize I'm living the right life for myself." ✦



RUNNING THROUGH FIRE
A scene from the Rally in the Valley of Fire Running Festival in January.

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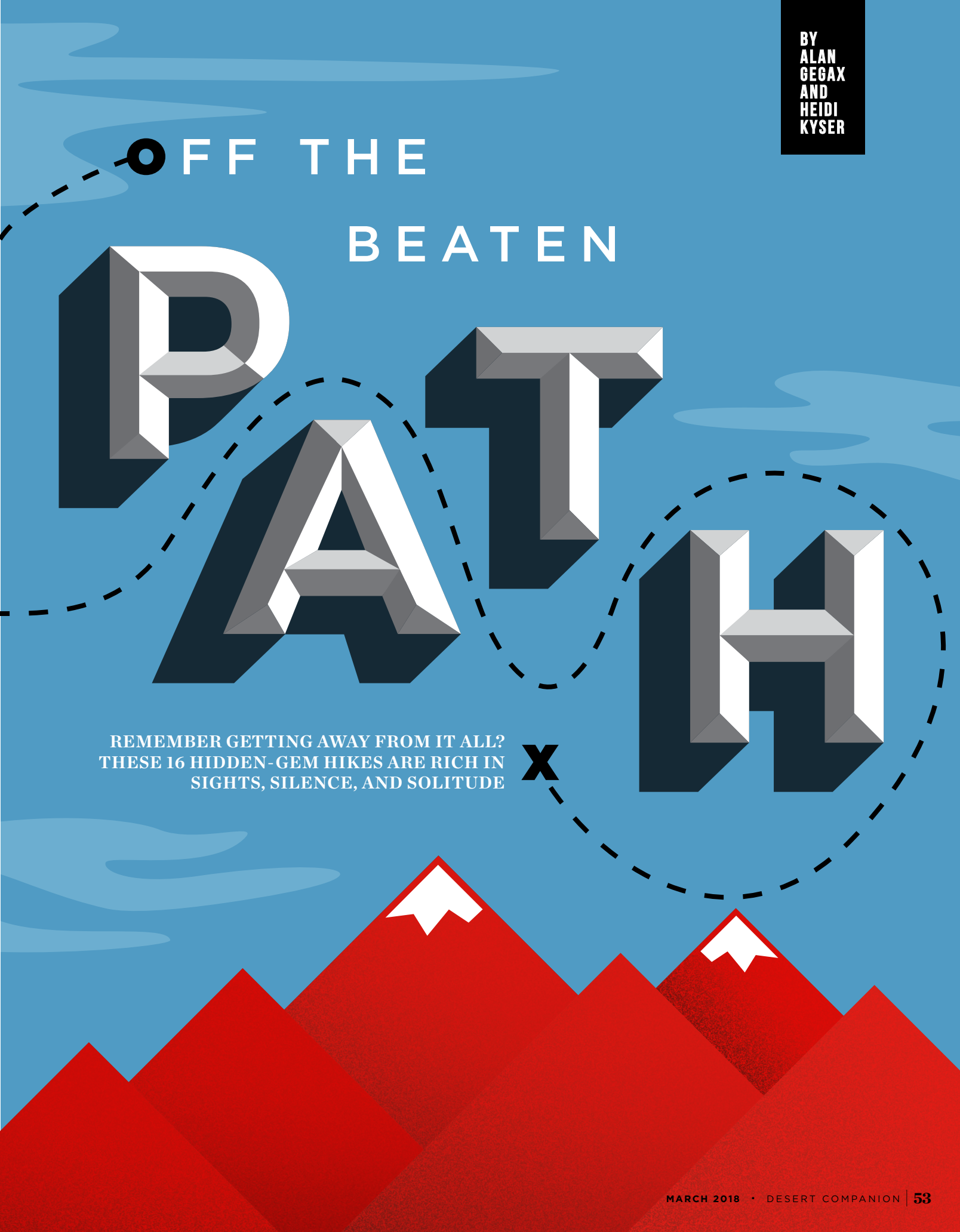
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BY ALAN GEGAX AND HEIDI KYSER

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

REMEMBER GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL? THESE 16 HIDDEN-GEM HIKES ARE RICH IN SIGHTS, SILENCE, AND SOLITUDE





RED ROCK

OAK CREEK CANYON

Pine Creek's forgotten twin — all the dramatic vistas, minus the crowd

DISTANCE 3 miles

ELEVATION GAIN 200 feet

There's no substitute for the deep canyons along the western edge of the Red Rock Scenic Loop. And that's why they're so damn crowded. But if you're willing to drive down a short dirt road, you can cut the crowds by more than half, which is usually enough to get some alone time on the trail. Oak Creek has the same dramatic walls as Pine Creek Canyon and Ice Box Canyon, the same boulders, the same pools. But because people can't see the parking area as they drive the loop, they just don't visit Oak Creek in the throngs seen on competing trails. ***AG***

HOW TO GET THERE: Take the Red Rock Scenic Loop to the signed turnoff for Oak Creek. Drive down the short dirt road to the trailhead, then follow the trail west into the canyon.

MT. CHARLESTON

DEER CREEK

Discover a perennial creek that's hiding in plain sight

DISTANCE 2 miles

ELEVATION GAIN 300 feet

AMAZINGLY, I DID not know Mt. Charleston had a year-round flowing creek until last summer. Deer Creek itself runs alongside usually-empty picnic tables at the Deer Creek Picnic Area, right on Deer Creek Road. I know, right? Anyway, following the trail upstream eventually leads to private property, which can be bypassed on the left. If you're willing to venture farther off the beaten path, veer west-northwest just past the private property and rejoin Deer Creek, where you can follow it to its headwaters. Otherwise, the main trail continues roughly west-southwest and eventually climbs the steep hillside to Mummy Springs. From here, you can hike back via the North Loop trail to avoid retracing your steps. ***AG***

HOW TO GET THERE: Park at the Deer Creek parking area and cross Deer Creek Road to take the trail down to the picnic area.

OAK CREEK CANYON: BRENT HOLMES; CHOLLA FOREST: SCOTT LIEN

LAKE MEAD

CHOLLA FOREST AND SEVEN DRY FALLS LOOP

Trek to a grove of teddy bear cholla (but don't cuddle!)

The quiet of this hike seems to lend itself to contemplation. As I saunter my way up Seven Dry Falls Canyon on my preferred counterclockwise route, my thoughts often turn to the amount of time required for a canyon like this to form. Rocks large and small must be broken down and carried away by rushing water, which falls in appropriate strength exceedingly rarely. The countless millennia have given a gift that few people take the time to appreciate.

This first leg of this loop stays in the bottom of a fun wash on the southeastern slope of the River Mountains. The number of dry falls climbed in the hike is a matter of some conjecture, as it's unclear which pour-overs actually constitute "falls." By my count, it could be as low as five or as high as 13. Each one creates its own challenge, a puzzle to be overcome with a combination of brawn and brain. If the puzzle gets the better of you, there are climb-arounds to the right of each fall.

At the top of the canyon, the route reaches a saddle that serves as the midpoint of the hike. Do yourself the favor of a brief side trip by following the game trail to the right (north) and scrambling your way up to the ridgeline. The views of Lake Mead and the surrounding River Mountains are truly breathtaking.

Back at the saddle, the trail heads southwest down to Cholla Forest Road. From there, it's a short walk to the hillside home of a substantial family of the diabolical, and deceptively named, teddy bear cholla. The cholla are made of pods which are densely covered on all sides by a thicket of sharp spines, complete with microbarbs that, once embedded in clothing or skin, are very difficult and painful to remove. For goodness' sake, be careful!

The loop is completed by hiking down Cholla Forest Road toward Lake Mead and turning left at the Boulder City lateral pump station to return to the parking area. There are beautiful views of Lake Mead throughout. ***AG***

HOW TO GET THERE: Park just beyond the water tanks on Cottonwood Tree Road, across Lakeshore Drive from the Boulder Beach Campground.

DISTANCE
7 miles

ELEVATION GAIN
1,200 feet





LAKE MEAD

CLEOPATRA WASH

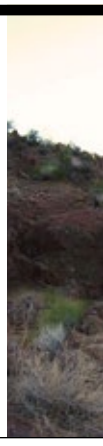
Seasoned hikers will savor the most colorful hike at Lake Mead

OUR DESERT'S BEAUTY usually comes in subtle shades of brown. At Cleopatra Wash, Mother Nature's artistic palette is brought fully to bear. The topography of Cleopatra Wash is similar to many washes at Lake Mead. It has wide spots and narrow spots, an alternately rocky and gravelly bottom, misplaced boulders and tenacious vegetation. That alone makes it a wonderfully fun

HOW TO GET THERE: Take Northshore Road to Boathouse Cove Road, 100 yards south of mile marker 30. In a high-clearance vehicle, drive three miles to the crossing of Cleopatra Wash. Hike down the wash from there.

DISTANCE
6 miles

ELEVATION GAIN
1,000 feet





KRAFT MOUNTAIN LOOP: HEIDI KYSER; CLEOPATRA WASH: ALAN GEGAX

RED ROCK

KRAFT MOUNTAIN LOOP

Enjoy a Mojave Desert sampler in one encyclopedic hike

DISTANCE
3.25 miles

ELEVATION GAIN
590 feet

This 3.2-mile loop is a compact package of everything there is to love about Mojave Desert hiking: a robust little climb to start things off with a bang, some scrambling and hopping down pour-overs, an oak tree-lined wash for a shady rest, and a chance to gawk at young climbers who congregate around the Kraft Boulders near the end of the hike. All that is provided that you do it clockwise, which is recommended until you get used to identifying the spot where the trail crosses a broad expanse of rock and drops into Gateway Canyon. What gives the Kraft Mountain Loop its personality is the gorgeously patterned red-and-milky-white sandstone that fills the middle third of the hike. Descending the velvety slopes of these giant rocks — touching one, occasionally, to keep your balance — it's easy to understand how people get addicted to climbing them. ***HK***

HOW TO GET THERE: Take West Charleston Boulevard (State Route 159) about 30 minutes from city limits and turn right on Calico Basin Road. Go to the end of the paved road and park near the Sandstone Road Trailhead, where the hike starts. Several trails crisscross the desert around Kraft Mountain, so use a detailed trail guide to get to the right one.



and varied hike, geared toward the seasoned hiker. Where Cleopatra Wash truly sets itself apart is in the bands and splotches of red, yellow, purple, white, and, of course, brown rocks that line its cliffs and spring up unexpected from its bottom. Around every bend is a new and surprising canvas, luring hikers all the way to the wash's glorious terminus at the shore of Lake Mead. ***AG***

LAKE MEAD

BOULDER WASH, PINTO VALLEY WILDERNESS

Beyond the scrub is a painted wonderland

A DEFINING CHARACTERISTIC of Nevada wilderness is its hidden beauty. From the road, it may look like endless miles of boring scrub; but get out of your car, hike in a ways, and a colorful wonderland reveals itself. This is the case with Pinto Valley. Only after topping the ridge a half-hour from your car does the landscape open up into something that seems worth getting a closer look at. As the name "Pinto" (Spanish for "painted") suggests, it's a tableau of red, yellow, brown, and gray mudstone, sandstone, and sedimentary rock along a wide, flat wash leading to a hidden cove. One warning: The trail is entirely unmarked, so a map or GPS is needed. ***HK***

DISTANCE
11 miles

ELEVATION GAIN
2,000 feet

HOW TO GET THERE: Drive northeast on Northshore Road in Lake Mead National Recreation Area to mile marker 18. About two-tenths of a mile farther, you'll see a paved pullout on the left. Park there. The trailhead is on the opposite side of the road.

VALLEY OF FIRE

PINNACLES

So rarely visited it still has that new trail smell (and plenty of bighorn sheep)

Pinnacles takes "off the beaten path" literally. The last section of this loop, across the open, untouched desert, has not yet been beaten in by years of hiking boots, and the trail gets very faint in areas. Don't worry, the Atlatl and Arch Rock formations, and the crowds of tourists that go with them, can be seen from miles away to guide you home. At the heart of the trail, Pinnacles gets hikers up close and personal with the most dramatically vertical red rocks in all of Valley of Fire. Take the time to climb around, see what's around the bend and over the rise. As an added bonus, the steep terrain and lack of humans seems to attract bighorn sheep, which I've seen every time I've hiked the Pinnacles. ***AG***

DISTANCE
5 miles

ELEVATION GAIN
400 feet

HOW TO GET THERE: Park at the Atlatl Rock parking lot, and take the marked trail to the north.





PINNACLES: CHRISTOPHER SMITH; WINDY PEAK: HEIDI KYSER

RED ROCK

WINDY PEAK

A rigorous climb rewards you with a breathtaking payoff

HOW TO GET THERE: Go west on Blue Diamond Road (State Route 160). Nearly 10 miles past the junction with State Route 159, look for the Mountain Springs sign. Just before the town, there's a turnout where the trailhead is located.

DISTANCE
5.2 miles

ELEVATION GAIN
900 feet

Let the unwashed masses fight each other for parking at the pullouts off the Red Rock Scenic Loop. You, queen of the desert, will survey your domain from the majestic ridges that overlook them from the southwest! That's how it will feel arriving at Windy Peak, a 6,200-foot summit that's easily accessible without having to go anywhere near the heavily trafficked 159. The view from Windy Peak is the payoff for a fairly rigorous climb up from the trailhead to the highest point — a net elevation gain of more than 900 vertical feet in just over a mile and a half (the entire hike is a little more than 5 miles). From there, you'll descend along a ridge where geology buffs can geek out about passing over the Keystone Thrust Fault, where one tectonic plate was pushed above another during the Mesozoic Era. Stand with one foot on the gray limestone and the other on the yellow sandstone, and you'll figuratively straddle 65 million years! ***HK***

LET'S BE CLEAR: This hike is tough. It's four miles of climbing (some 2,800 vertical feet!) to the summit, some of it on rocky terrain, with switchbacks that seem like they'll never end. But it's also everything that draws crowds to Mount Charleston — cool ponderosa and bristlecone pine forest, pristine wilderness, sweeping vistas — without those crowds. Note that the summit proper isn't on the trail, so a guidebook or GPS unit is necessary to find the cutoff to get there from the saddle. With either of those tools, however, it's easy to get to, and offers views of Mummy Mountain, the Nevada Test and Training Range, Desert National Wildlife Refuge, and even Pahrump. ***HK***

MT. CHARLESTON

BONANZA PEAK, FROM COLD CREEK

All the switchbacks in the world can't keep you from this peak (but they'll try)

HOW TO GET THERE: Go to Cold Creek — off Interstate 95 about an hour northwest of Las Vegas — and continue south through town to the Bonanza Trailhead at the end of Cold Creek Road.

DISTANCE
8 miles

ELEVATION GAIN
2,8520 feet

RED ROCK

BROWNSTONE CANYON

Ponder ancient pictographs in quiet seclusion

HOW TO GET THERE: You can either walk (it's illegal to drive) up the wash from the far western edge of Summerlin, or park at the Kraft Mountain parking area and pick your way north through the hills.

DISTANCE
5 miles

ELEVATION GAIN
1,000 feet

PEOPLE LOVE ROCK art. Whether it's petroglyphs (created by carving into the rock) or pictographs (created by painting the rock), these remnants of cultures past always draw a crowd. Red Rock's most famous example, the petroglyphs at Willow Springs, bring in tourists by the busload — literally. The pictographs at Brownstone Canyon, by contrast, are secluded enough that you will almost certainly have them all to yourself. Take advantage of that quiet time to ponder their meaning. Among the untouched hills in this far-flung section of Red Rock, it's easy to imagine life as it was a thousand years ago, before overcrowding required sites like this to be put behind fences. Soak it in. ***AG***

MT. CHARLESTON

STANLEY B SPRINGS

A spring! A mine! A campsite? All of the above

Nestled between the overcrowded trailhead for Fletcher Canyon and the overcrowded trailhead of Trail Canyon lies the often empty dirt lot that is the trailhead for Stanley B Springs. The trail climbs through an old forest that is rich with manzanita, mountain mahogany, and gambel oak. Along the way, clearings provide stunning views of Kyle Canyon, from Harris Peak to Cathedral Rock. The jewel of the hike, of course, is the two springs that meet alongside the trail, just below the mine.

From this confluence, hikers can take the path to the right, and follow the tumbling stream to its source, a mine shaft carved into the hillside, blocked by sturdy metal bars. Once home to a wary miner's avaricious dreams, the mine is now home to a population of bats. Farther up the canyon, the trail becomes difficult, and is soon blocked by the detritus of another, similarly abandoned mine.

Returning to the confluence and taking the other fork, to the left, the hike extends as far as your sense of adventure will take you. This tiny but reliable rivulet, a rare commodity in our harsh desert, cascades its way alongside the trail all the way to a small concrete ruin, built up around its source.

Just below the spring on the eastern hillside, is a large graded area that is the perfect spot for a small group of tents. Staying here, hikers have a reliable source of water, and can really take their time exploring this seldom visited section of Mt. Charleston. During one such exploratory trip, I found another campsite, hidden on the opposite hill (west). The first thing I noticed on the steep, scree-covered hillside was a perfectly level spot of ground, just big enough for a two-person tent. Someone actually went to the trouble of building a retaining wall from fallen logs and branches, and backfilling it with smooth, soft dirt. One of these days, I'm going to get back there and set up a tent of my own. ***AG***

HOW TO GET THERE: The trailhead for Stanley B Springs is a dirt lot big enough for about 10 cars, on the north side of Kyle Canyon Road, just west of Rainbow Canyon Blvd..

DISTANCE
3 miles

ELEVATION GAIN
1,000 feet

STANLEY B SPRINGS: BRENT HOLMES



RED ROCK

GRAND CIRCLE

Get an insider's view of Red Rock Canyon at a leisurely pace

Believe it or not, it's possible to hike within the core area of Red Rock, visiting four bustling trailheads, yet have the trail all to yourself for most of the day. The Grand Circle is an ambitious endeavor, covering nearly 12 miles as it winds its way around the park, roughly following the Scenic Loop. The hike affords the opportunity to become intimately familiar with the Calico Hills, White Rock, and the Escarpment — the best of what Red Rock has to offer. In my opinion, the Grand Circle is the best way to see the park.

HOW TO GET THERE: Park at the Visitors Center and start your hike on the Moenkopi Loop. From there, follow the signs to stay on the Grand Circle, counter-clockwise around the park.

DISTANCE
12 miles

ELEVATION GAIN
2,700 feet

The best way to hike Grand Circle: amble. It's a long trail, and it deserves to be enjoyed. The sights, sounds, and scents change substantially as Grand Circle touches on the varied landscapes of Red Rock. As cars zoom by on the Scenic Drive, cameras out the window trying to capture the incredible views, you can relax, knowing those views will be yours all day long.

On my last trip around Grand Circle, these were a few of the experiences I had along the way: Between the Visitor Center and Calico I, I saw a beetle impaled on a yucca leaf. First time I've come across that particular sight. Just past Sandstone Quarry, I encountered a lone, burned out tree, standing on a hillside otherwise bare from an already-forgotten wildfire. Above Ice Box Canyon, I walked through a stand of cliffrose, which, though not in bloom, filled the air with its unmistakable floral scent. They're not dramatic, but they're the type of thing we often fly past in daily life. Walking a long distance, away from crowds, affords the opportunity to really soak in our experiences. It's Grand that such experiences can be had right in the heart of Red Rock. ***AG***





VALLEY OF FIRE

CHARLIE'S SPRING

Just you, yourself and the wildlife on this spring-fed walk

MOST VISITORS TO Valley of Fire are drawn to the park's dramatic sandstone. That leaves Charlie's Spring, one of the park's only perennial water sources, largely unvisited — except by wildlife. Hiking during the crepuscular hours, when the desert's inhabitants are at their most active, the quiet of the trail offers reliable wildlife viewing. As an added bonus, the water that flows just below the surface for most of the hike allows for flora that doesn't exists in most of Valley of Fire. Among other superlatives, this area has, by far, the biggest brittlebush plants I have ever seen. ***AG***



GRAND CIRCLE: ALAN GEGAX; CHARLIE'S SPRING AND MCCULLOUGH HILLS: CHRISTOPHER SMITH

HOW TO GET THERE: Park at the historic marker, a mile inside the east entrance to Valley of Fire, and follow the trail south to the wash, then take the wash downhill (left) to the spring.

DISTANCE
6 miles

ELEVATION GAIN
500 feet

SLOAN CANYON

ANTHEM EAST TO MCCULLOUGH HILLS

Spot quail, lizards, and snakes on this sun-soaked excursion

DISTANCE
17 miles

ELEVATION GAIN
533 feet

What this hike lacks in petroglyphs — the hallmark of Sloan Canyon — it more than makes up for in wildlife. Tell your hiker friends that you're striking out on the Anthem East trail, and they're sure to tell you about the snake that crossed their path out there, or the family of quail they scared up from the creosote. One of two main caveats of this hike is it's multi-use; you're likely to be passed by a mountain biker or two — and maybe even someone on horseback. The other caveat is the trail's utter lack of shade, apart from a lean-to over two benches at mile 3. This isn't a hot-weather hike! But it's perfect for any level of hiker who enjoys spotting lizards and jackrabbits as the dirt path meanders pleasantly through the hills toward the opposite trailhead in Henderson. The full hike is 17 miles point-to-point and back again, but it can be shortened with an earlier turnaround. ***HK***

HOW TO GET THERE: For the west-to-east version described here, drive to Anthem Hills Park off McCullough Hills Parkway near Del Webb Middle School in Anthem. Go all the way to the end of the park's easternmost parking lot, where a shaded picnic table marks the trailhead.

LAKE MEAD

REDSTONE

Your own private roadside Red Rock that's worth the drive

DISTANCE
< 1 mile

ELEVATION GAIN
< 100 feet



REDSTONE: CHRISTOPHER SMITH

Imagine if there were a place like Red Rock, where you could park right at the foot of the most gnarled and dramatic sandstone formations, have a picnic in a shaded ramada, and have the whole area almost entirely to yourself. That place is Redstone. Wind and rain have sculpted the rocks at Redstone into seemingly impossible shapes, with potholes, alcoves, arcs, and spires that tease the imagination. Two short, flat trails amble through the area, offering limitless opportunities for photographers, youthful explorers, and anyone taken by the wonder of geology. Apparently, 30 miles of meandering desert highway is all it takes to keep the gawkers away. Let their loss be your gain, and take your family for an easy picnic they won't soon forget. ***AG***

HOW TO GET THERE:
From Las Vegas, head out to Lake Mead and go north on Northshore Road to Redstone, around mile marker 27.

MT. CHARLESTON

MAHOGANY TRAIL

A crumbling campsite awaits your discovery in a murmuring forest



HOW TO GET THERE: The trailhead for this hike is in a small parking lot at the entrance to the Mahogany Grove Campground, on Deer Creek Road.

DISTANCE
1 mile

ELEVATION GAIN
150 feet

THIS SHORT BUT interesting trail is perfect for children or beginner hikers. The area was once a campsite, constructed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, and is now returning to its natural state. Along the trail, the Forest Service has put up informational signs detailing the natural and human histories of the area. As the hike winds its way downhill into a wash, there are occasional benches where parents can catch their breath as the little ones enjoy the great outdoors. Or, on a day when the trail is quiet (which is most days), a seasoned hiker can take in the natural sounds and sights of the forest, so often missed on more crowded trails. To turn the hike into a short loop, follow the trail to the Mahogany Grove Campground and make a left to walk back up the road. ***AG***

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Advertisment

The Guide

ART

THROUGH MARCH 10

Wet is Wild: Water Stories

Artist James R. Atha manipulates photographs of water into abstractions, encouraging viewers to notice the shapes, patterns, and colors found in nature. **Free. Gallery at Laughlin Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH MARCH 18

96 Hours

Artist Ronda Churchill shares her candid photographs centering on the architecture, culture, and people of Cuba as seen through a photojournalist's eye. **Free. Gallery at Whitney Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH MARCH 18

Chinese Year of the Dog Exhibition

Artists explore the idea and imagery of the dog for the Chinese Year of the Dog. **Free. Historic Fifth Street School, 401 S. Fourth St., *artslasvegas.org***

THROUGH MARCH 22

From Refuse to Reuse

See how different artists use found and thrown-away materials in finished pieces that will surprise and shock. **Free. Las Vegas City Hall Grand Gallery, *artslasvegas.org***

THROUGH MARCH 25

Focus on Nevada Photo Showcase

The installation showcases the photography selected for *Desert Companion's* 2017 "Focus on Nevada" feature. **Free. Gallery at Windmill Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH MARCH 27

The Artist Within

Preston will present photographs from his new coffee-table book which features well-known cartoonists, comic book artists, animators, and illustrators in their studios. **Free. Gallery at West Charleston Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH MARCH 28

Moral Monsters

The display includes small works in charcoal and oil paint exploring moral apathy, race, and conflict in America. **Mon.–Fri. 7A–5:30P, free. Las Vegas City Hall Chamber Gallery, 495 S. Main St., second floor, *artslasvegas.org***

THROUGH APRIL 1

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Dating back to 1923, these awards are the nation's longest-running, most-prestigious recognition program for creative teens. **9A–5P, free for members or with paid admission. Origen Museum at Springs Preserve, *springspreserve.org***

THROUGH APRIL 3

Where I Live

View the display of the winning CCSD student artists chosen by the Nevada Housing Division for inclusion in the 2018 calendar. **Free. Gallery at Spring Valley Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH APRIL 7

Jing Zhou: Visual Meditations

View this exhibition of digital print artwork by Chinese-born multimedia artist, designer, and Associate Professor of Art and Design at Monmouth University. **Free. Artspace Gallery at the NLV campus of CSN, *csn.edu***

THROUGH APRIL 8

Carrying On

The diversity program offers a collection of oil paintings utilizing a classical style to depict contemporary subject matter, both figurative and narrative in theme. **Free. Gallery at Summerlin Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH APRIL 10

Elegant Creatures

Strikingly chromatic and scintillating paintings depict luxury fashion displays as an investigation into consumer culture. **Free. Gallery at Enterprise Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH APRIL 21

Off the Page

An installation that showcases ceramic objects relating to literary works and authors. **Free. Gallery at Sahara West Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH APRIL 25

Celebrating Life Masters Exhibition

This year's juried art exhibit includes artists who were chosen based on the texture present in each of their works and the visual similarity in the subjects each artist presents. **Free. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush St., *artslasvegas.org***

THROUGH APRIL 29

Global Villagers

Lose yourself in this dynamic installation of photographic portraits from streets around the world. **Gallery at Sahara West Library, *lvccld.org***

MUSIC

MARCH 3

Wade Hammond, The Voice, "Celebrating The Country Legends"

Hammond will entertain you with the classic hits of the country legends from the '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s. **7P, $20. Starbright Theatre at Sun City Summerlin, *scscai.com***

MARCH 3

Passafire

The reggae-rock band from Savannah, Georgia will rock the Las Vegas Strip. **18+ only. 8P, $12–$15. Brooklyn Bowl at The Linq, *brooklynbowl.com***

MARCH 6

The Ten Tenors — Wish You Were Here

A celebration of songs from legends lost before their time, including John Lennon, David Bowie, Prince, and many others. **7:30P, $24–$99. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 8

Chadwick Johnson & Jonathan Karrant

Jazz song-stylists present an evening of musical expression. **8P, $25–$40. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 9

Chase Padgett — 6 Guitars

Padgett channels

six different musicians with wildly different personalities and musical styles that include classical blues, jazz, rock, folk, and country. **7:30P, $24 adults; $12 under 18. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush St., *artslasvegas.org***

MARCH 9

Badfish: A Tribute to Sublime

What separates Badfish from other tribute bands is that they have replicated Sublime's essence, developing a scene and dedicated following most commonly reserved for label-driven, mainstream acts. **18+ only. 8P, $22–$25. Brooklyn Bowl at The Linq, *brooklynbowl.com***

MARCH 9–10

Masters of Hawaiian Music: George Kahumoku Jr., Led Kaapana, & Jeff Peterson

Traditional Hawaiian music performed by a trio of acclaimed musicians. **7P, $35–$45. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 10

The Ultimate Live Tribute to the Man and his Music, Featuring Henry Prego

Known as the world's foremost ambassador of the Frank Sinatra songbook, Prego has become one of the most prominent, in-demand vocalists of today. **7P, $20. Starbright Theatre at Sun City Summerlin, *scscai.com***

MARCH 11

Tony Arias, Direct from Las Vegas

Arias and his eight-piece band perform songs from the old-school Vegas Strip. **2P, $20–$25. Theatre at West Las Vegas Library, *tonyarias.com***

MARCH 14

Contemporary Jazz Ensemble

UNLV's Division of Jazz Studies will perform contemporary classics. **7P, free. Main Theater at Clark County Library, *lvccld.org***

MARCH 15

Spotlight 2: A Little Romance

Members of the Las Vegas Philharmonic perform small ensemble works by Strauss, Brahms, and others. **7:30P, $70. Troesh Studio Theater at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 15–16

Runa

The Irish supergroup blends the music of their native land with American roots music. **7P, $37–$45. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 16

Mullivan's Edge

This high-energy multi-layered band will play neo-traditional Celtic with a stage full of instruments. **1P, free. Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse Jury Assembly Room, 333 Las Vegas Blvd. S., *artslasvegas.org***

MARCH 17

Elvis — Tribute to The King

Featuring Matt Lewis, who is known as one of the best Elvis tribute artists due to his charm, comic timing, looks, and his amazing Elvis voice. **7P, $20. Starbright Theatre at Sun City Summerlin, *scscai.com***

MARCH 21

The FlyBoys

The unique four-piece vocal group features effortless vocals and sublime harmonies, reminiscent of the Four Freshmen and TAKE 6. **7P, $20. Starbright Theatre at Sun City Summerlin, *scscai.com***

MARCH 22–23

Lucia Micarelli

A violinist featured on the HBO series *TREMÉ*, she was trained at Julliard and has worked with Itzhak Perlman and Pinchas Zukerman. **7P, $39–$59. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 24

Bill Fayne's Sondheim Celebration

Fayne will be celebrating Stephen Sondheim's 88th birthday in this tribute to the most prolific composer and lyricist of contemporary musical theatre. **7P, $20. Starbright Theatre at Sun City Summerlin, *scscai.com***



FILM FESTIVAL

Females in the Frame

Feminist icons and film-industry visionaries fill the roster at the 4th Annual Women's Film Festival. Highlights include the presentation of the Nevada Woman of Achievement Award to costume designer Diana Eden; a retrospective of the work of filmmaker Stephanie Rothman, a pioneer in the "exploitation" genre; and a screening of *Dolores* (pictured), Peter Bratt's documentary on legendary civil rights activist Dolores Huerta. The 4th Annual Nevada Women's Film Festival takes place March 22-25 at Eclipse Theaters, 814 S. Third St. Info: nwffest.com.

MARCH 24

Paul Byrom Sings The Great Irish Songbook and More!

Original member of Celtic Thunder performs Broadway tunes and Irish ballads. **7P, $39–$55. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 25

Bravo Bernstein!

In a celebration of the centennial of Leonard Bernstein, Opera Las Vegas will perform hits from his many shows. **3P, $100. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 28

Elisa Fiorillo — The Lady I Am

This former member of Prince's New Power Generation has also worked with Savage Garden and has had several hits of her own. **7P, $20–$35. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 30

An Intimate Evening with Michael Feinstein and Special Guest Liza Minnelli

The two entertainment legends share songs and stories from their careers. **7:30P, $39–$175. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 30–31

Arturo Sandoval

The renowned multi-instrumentalist performs a wide variety of jazz styles. **Fri, 7P; Sat, 6P and 9P, $39–$65. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

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THEATER & COMEDY

MARCH 9–25

A View from the Bridge

Arthur Miller's classic tragedy is a story of love and betrayal. **Thu–Sat, 8P; Sun 2P, $21-$24. Las Vegas Little Theatre, *lvlt.org***

MARCH 17

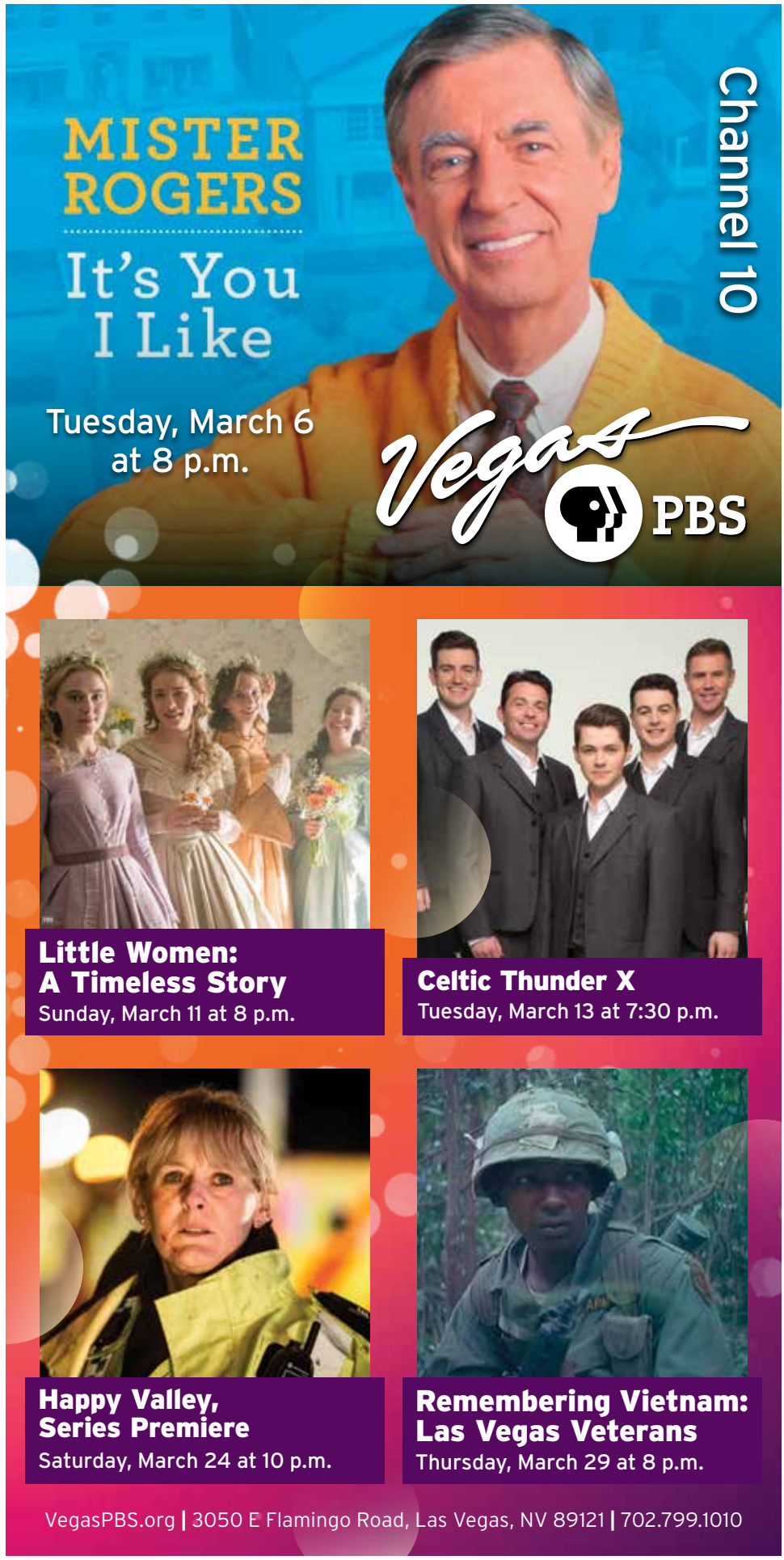
The Luckiest LVIP Show Yet!

Kiss the blarney stone, then let loose with the laughter as the Las Vegas Improvisational Players make up the show on the spot based on the audience's suggestions. **7P, $10; $5 kids, seniors, and military. Show Creators Studio, 4445 W. Sunset Road, *lvimprov.com***

MARCH 17 AND 31

Ripe and Seedless

A judgmental 20-something



girl encounters some modern-day "Golden Girls" who teach her that life as she sees it is not necessarily how life really is. **5P, $25–$30. Theatre at West Las Vegas Library, *lvccld.org***

MARCH 20–25

Love Never Dies

Andrew Lloyd Webber's sequel to *Phantom of the Opera* takes place 10 years later as the Phantom has escaped to a new life in New York City. **Tue–Sun, 7:30P; Sat–Sun, 2P. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 29–APRIL 15

The Father

A tragicomic look at the world through the eyes of a man experiencing dementia. **Thu–Sat, 8P; Sun 2P, $15–$25. Cockroach Theatre, *cockroachtheatre.com***

MARCH 31

Miranda Sings...Your Welcome

(Spelling intentional.) Actress, comedian, and singer Colleen Ballinger performs in her one-woman variety show. **7P, $25–$99. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

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DANCE

MARCH 8–11

Shen Yun 2018

Classical Chinese dance blends with original orchestral works to present stories of traditional Chinese culture. **Thu–Sat, 7:30; Sat, 2P; Sun, 1P, $84–$204. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 9–10

Tango Malambo

Maestro Oscar Carrescia brings his Argentinian compatriots singer Damian Rivero, dancers Daniela Rosal and Claudio Otero, and bandoneon player Javier Sanchez to work with Las Vegas musicians in a full-scale tango extravaganza. **Fri 7P; Sat 2P, $25. Winchester Cultural Center, 3130 McLeod Drive, *clarkcountynv.gov***

MARCH 10

Fission — An Exploration of Movement

The show will feature the hottest rising stars of belly dance from around the globe. **7P, $30. Main Theater at Clark County Library, *themassivespectacular.com***

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DISCUSSIONS & READINGS

MARCH 10

Kevin Kling

The author, playwright, and teller of tales will speak about his stories and shows. **7P, $20 adults; $10 under 18. Historic Fifth Street School, 401 S. Fourth St., *artslasvegas.org***

MARCH 16

The Poet's Corner

Lablaque hosts this forum for established poets and open-mic participants. **7:30P, free. West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd., *artslasvegas.org***

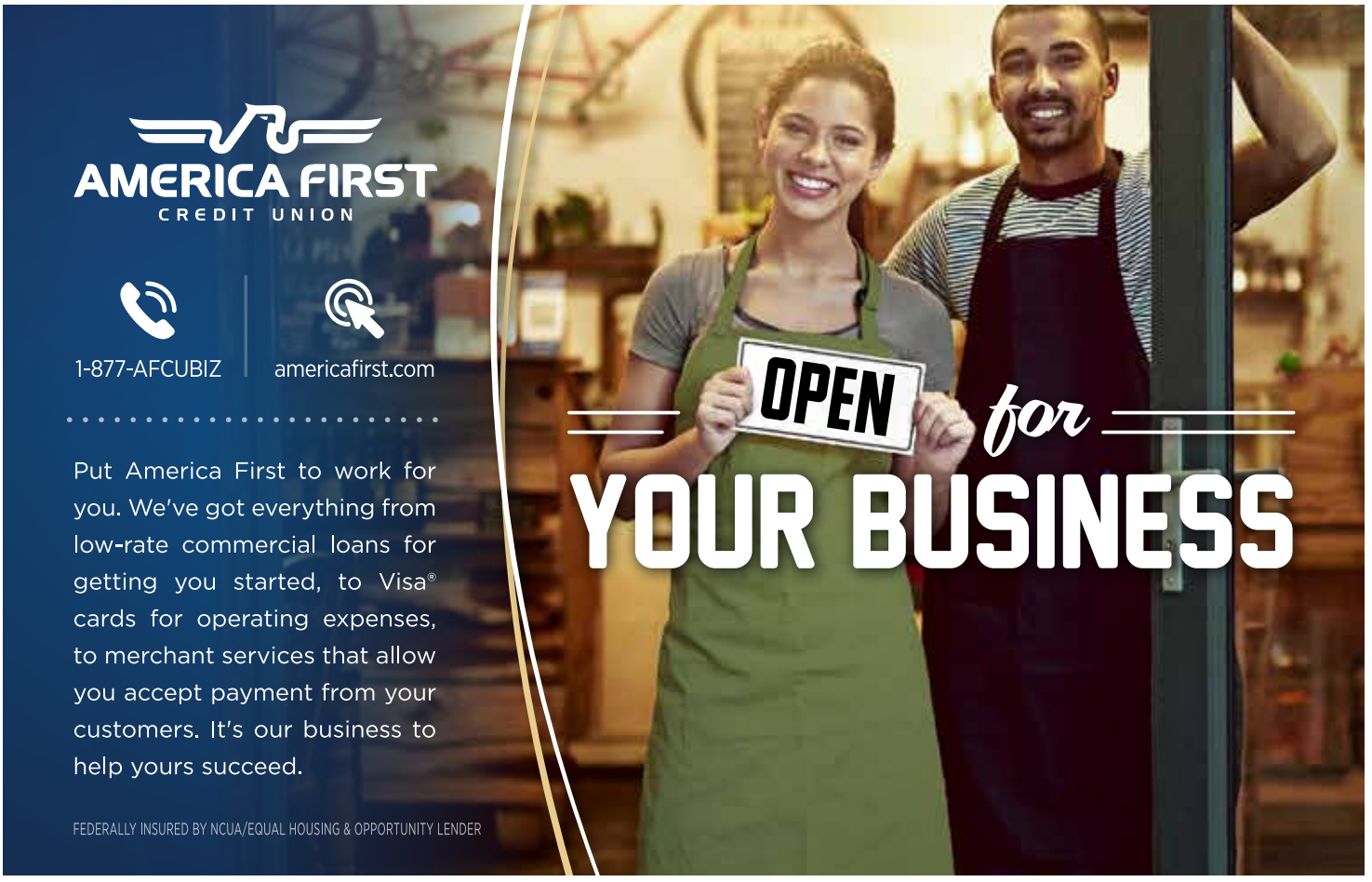
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FAMILY & FESTIVALS

MARCH 2

First Friday

The Arts District of Downtown Las Vegas explodes with art, vendors, food trucks, $2/20 minute plays (at Cockroach Theatre), and



a host of other community-engaging events. **5P–11P, free. 1025 First St., *fffIv.org***

MARCH 3–4

The One Act Festival

This exciting event showcases an evening of 5–7 minute plays directed by CSN Students. **Sat 7P, Sun 2P; $12, $10 students/seniors. North Las Vegas campus of CSN, *csn.edu/pac***

MARCH 10

Japanese Culture Day

The festival will include a formal Japanese tea ceremony, Taiko drummers, origami, and more. **12P, free. Green Valley Library, *henderson libraries.com***

MARCH 14

Mr. Popper's Penguins

The classic children's book gets the musical treatment. A decorator suddenly receives a crate full of penguins; what does he do? **6:30P, $14.95–$75. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 17

St. Patrick's Day Festival

Start the day early with local bands Darby O' Gill and the Little People and Killian's Angels as you enjoy traditional Irish food and beer. **1–8P, free. Historic Fifth Street School, 401 S. Fourth St., *artslasvegas.org***

MARCH 17

Jack Hanna's Into the Wild Live!

The renowned animal expert shares stories and footage from his worldwide adventures and interacts with live animals. **7P, $24–$75. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 22–25

Rob Torres in Room to Play

Torres delivers an evening of magic, comedy, and pantomime. **Thu–Sat 7P; Sat–Sun 3P. Troesh Studio Theater at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

MARCH 24

Las Vegas Bluegrass Festival

Browse a wide array of folk art and jewelry in the craft market; enjoy tasty barbecue, beer, and other festival food; and check out the children's activities, too. **2–8P, free. Centennial Hills Park, 7101 N. Buffalo Drive, *artslasvegas.org***

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FUNDRAISERS

MARCH 2

One Night for One Drop

Cirque du Soleil cast and crew donate their talent in support of an international non-profit organization dedicated to providing access to safe water. **7:30P, $125–$1,500. Michael Jackson One Theatre at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, *onenight.onedrop.org***

MARCH 10

Skye Canyon 8K Trail Mix and 5K Road Race

A portion of the event's proceeds will benefit Create a Change Now, a local non-profit educating at-risk children about health and nutrition. **9A, $30–$35. Skye Canyon Park, *skyecanyon.com***



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END NOTE

THE MEMES OF 1911

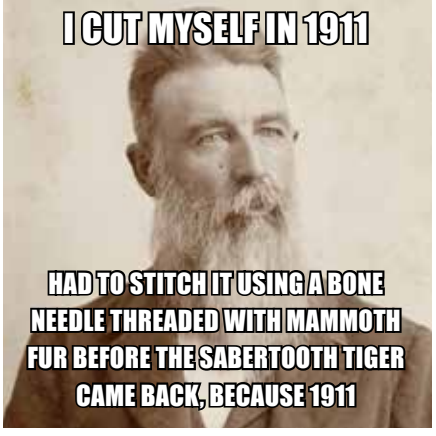
What was on the minds of Las Vegans the year the city incorporated?

BY ***Scott Dickensheets and Andrew Kiraly***



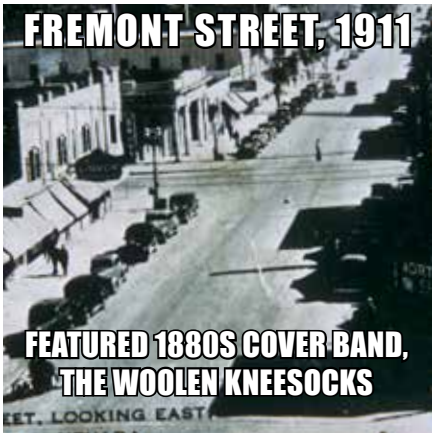


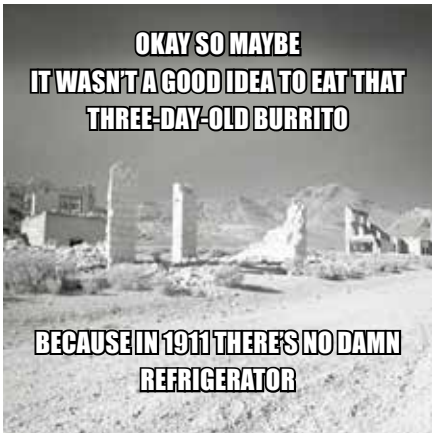














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