P. 96 WHAT IS *GOING ON* ON THIS PAGE?!
IT'S CRAZY, ALL RIGHT — BUT OH SO CHRISTMASY!

FIGHTING FOR HIV-POSITIVE CHILDREN P. 11
A CLOSED CLINIC, DESPERATE PARENTS, FEW ANSWERS

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December



KAISEKI YUZU: SABIN ORR

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COVER



RESTAURANT AWARDS
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An Intimate Evening with
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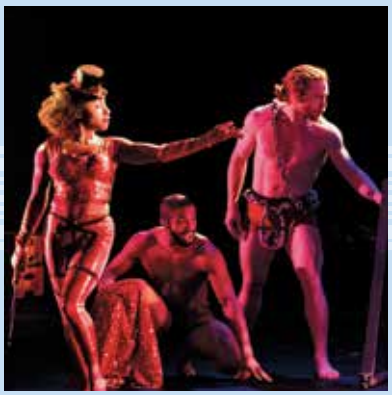
DECEMBER 31



PAULA POUNDSTONE
JANUARY 19



WYNONNA & THE BIG NOISE
JANUARY 20



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Beyond the Limits of Dance
JANUARY 23



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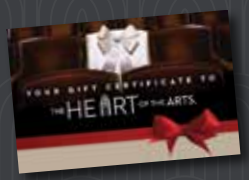

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Editor's note

COMFORT, FOOD

If there's one thing I can't stand about tragedy and death — aside from, of course, its own tragical deathitude — it's that spirit-sapping side effect of making life's everyday pleasures feel shallow and dumb. I can only express it with a torturously mixed metaphor: The headline cycle that seems to feed on our fear and anxiety — and since October 1, it only seems to have lurched into voracious overdrive — won't be sated, it seems, until we're all collectively screaming *How can you think about* _____ *at a time like this?!* in a permanent nightmare loop.

To which I say: *Maybe this is EXACTLY the time to think about* _____. Not out of escapist impulse but, rather, to celebrate, perhaps defiantly, higher human values and talents. Perhaps it's a facile proposition that the culinary sorcery on display in this year's Restaurant Awards should take on a special resonance, but now seems a good moment to appreciate the myriad ways that food can nourish, delight, and inspire us. Additionally, many of this year's honorees share a refreshing outsider status that suggests the faces of fine dining are diversifying, and that bucking tradition and defying received truth can make for some downright amazing dishes. Get a taste of our winners on p. 48.

Then, and only then, turn to p. 65 to enjoy our feature, "What It's Like." In this collection of illustrated vignettes, Las Vegans recount Crazy Big Major Life Experiences, from funny to painful to painful-but-in-a-good-way. Variety, spice, *life*.



Andrew Kiraly
EDITOR

NEXT MONTH Start the new year with fresh ideas from our Conversations Issue.

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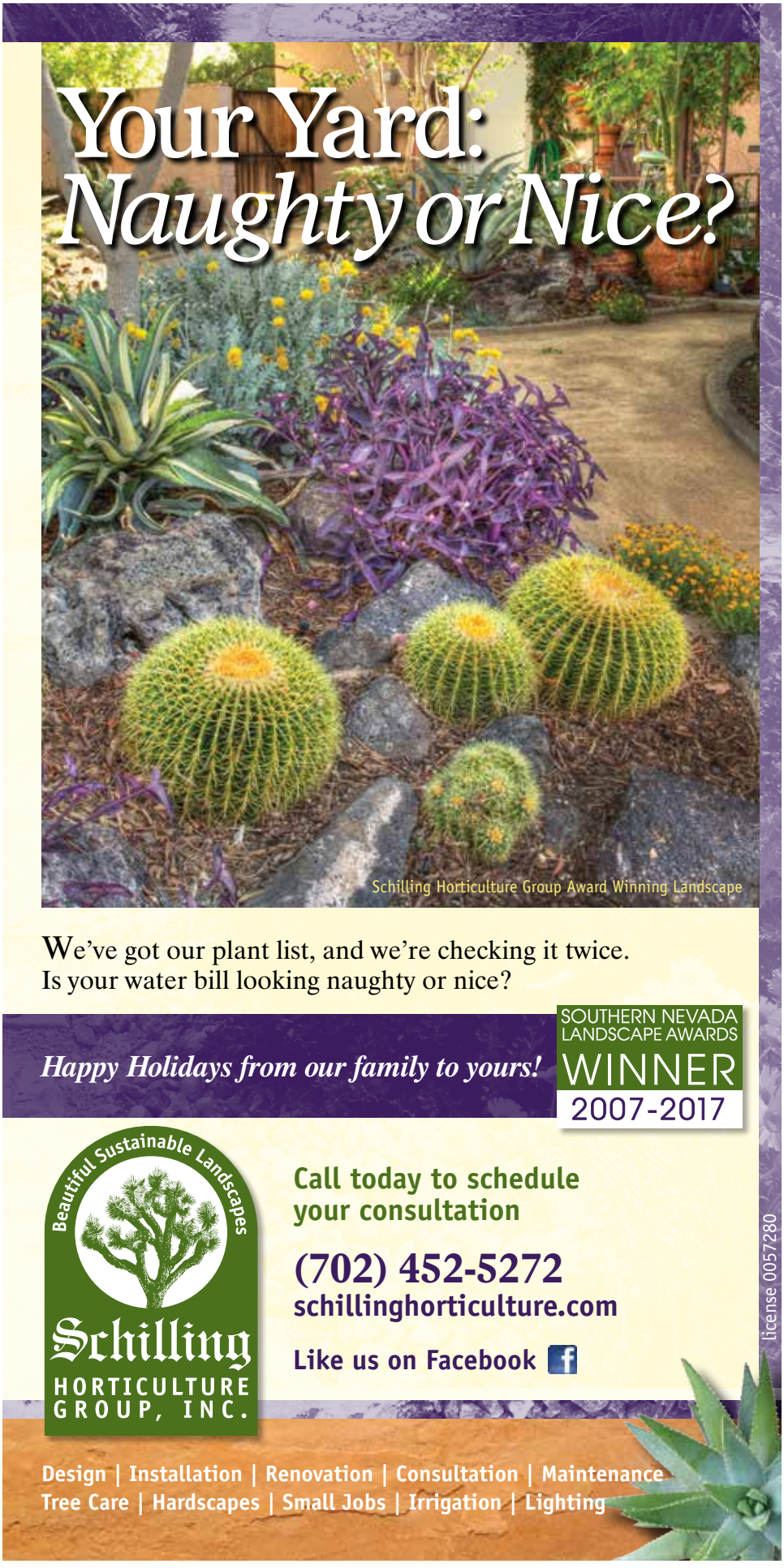

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ALL IN

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

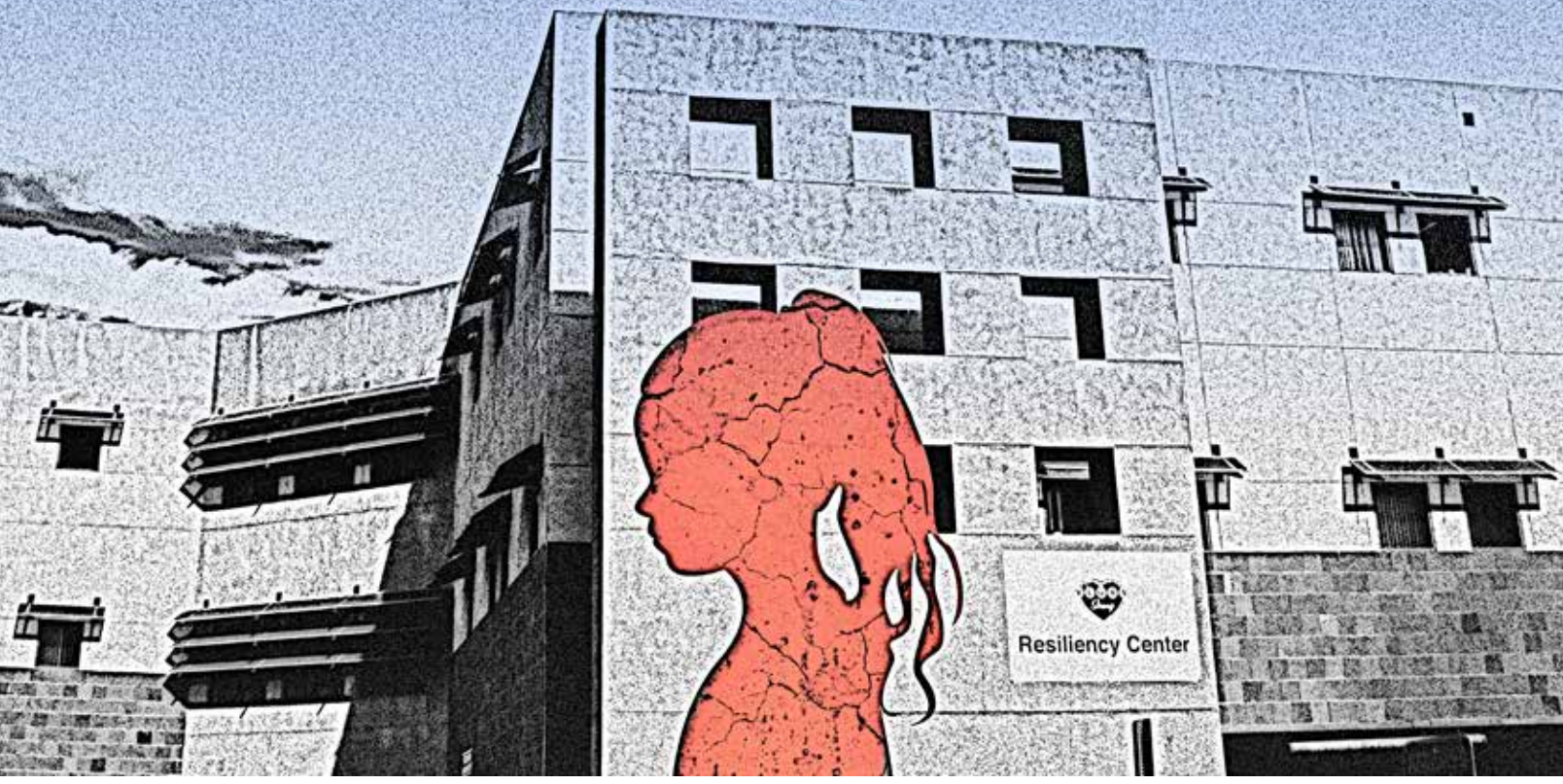

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: BRENT HOLMES

ONE | COMMUNITY

‘What Would You Do?’

The angry loved one of a child with HIV fights UNLV’s changes to a life-saving pediatric program

BY ***Heidi Kyser***

Elena Ledoux has known her close friend since they were kids growing up together abroad, so it’s not unusual that the friend’s daughter sees Ledoux as a second mom — especially the last couple years, since Ledoux has been helping the girl get critical medical care for her HIV. (The child, deemed by her treatment team too young to process the information, doesn’t know she has the virus. She and her parents are anonymous here to protect their privacy.) That role recently thrust a reluctant Ledoux into the spotlight, as she has agitated for straight answers from UNLV about why two doctors who were caring for the daughter, and some 60 other children, were let go in September.

“This is not something that I wanted to do,” she says. “I’m a small business owner. I don’t need the negative publicity. But these are sick children. … What would you do?”

Ledoux and the mother’s paths parted ways when Ledoux came to the U.S., where she eventually went to law school. Ledoux married, had two kids of her own — both boys — and lived in Hawaii and Europe before moving to Las Vegas about five years ago.

Meanwhile, the daughter contracted HIV while receiving a blood transfusion at a hospital in her home country when she was 2 years old. She had various health issues for years, but wasn’t diagnosed as HIV-positive until age 8, when painful sores broke out all over her body. Around the same time, her parents were arranging to immigrate to the U.S. The mother contacted her friend Ledoux, whom she’d kept in touch with through the years, knowing she could help the family settle in.

Their first priority was getting the daughter to a doctor. Ledoux contacted Aid for AIDS of Nevada, or AFAN, which referred her to a local pediatric HIV clinic funded by a federal grant. The daughter qualified for free care there, due to her immigration status. Overseeing the clinic’s medical program — the clinic also includes counseling, food stamps, and other services for people with limited access to



CLINICAL SETTING
The building on Pinto Lane, near UMC, where the pediatric AIDS clinic was housed

such things — was pediatrician Echezona Ezeanolue ("Dr. Eze" to his patients) and nurse practitioner Dina Patel.

"Dr. Eze and Dina saved (my daughter's) life," the mother tells me, with Ledoux translating from their native language. "When we went to see them, she was blue, not growing, skinny, had tuberculosis, and couldn't use one of her arms. The virus was taking her over. I had resigned to bury my daughter."

Under Ezeanolue and Patel's care, the daughter blossomed. They matched her with the right prescriptions and, most importantly, "they protected her and calmed her," her mother says.

For about two years, the daughter's care ran on auto-pilot: easy routine visits; automatic prescription refills. Then, in mid-October, it came to a screeching halt. A dentist required a doctor's clearance before doing some necessary work on the daughter's teeth. When the father went to see Ezeanolue and Patel, their office in the UNLV Pediatric Clinic was closed. (It turns out their services had been suspended since September 15.) More important than the dentist visit, the daughter was running low on the anti-viral medication that she takes daily to stay contagion-free.

The dire need for this medication is what launched Ledoux into action. She made dozens of phone calls, she says, including to UNLV's School of Community Health Sciences Dean and School of Medicine Acting Dean Shawn Gerstenberger, and UNLV President Len Jessup, whose offices she also visited personally — and where she threatened to camp out until she got some answers. Down to the last pill in his daughter's prescription, the father persuaded their regular pediatrician to give them an emergency one-month refill. By that time, Ledoux had connected with other parents whose children had been getting care from Ezeanolue and Patel. They staged a protest of sorts, using the public comment period of the Board of Regents' October meeting to air their grievances.

Over the next few weeks, each side dug in its heels. On October 20, UNLV issued a statement saying that an administrative audit was underway and referring patients to a case manager for help finding alternative services. Ledoux, who tried this approach, said the case manager wasn't helpful, since the services available didn't include a pediatric HIV specialist, but, rather, a doctor in a clinic filled with adults, free condoms, and literature on HIV/AIDS — not an appropriate environment for kids. The mother of one patient, who'd been hospitalized due to complications from her HIV, hired an attorney, Jacob Shafter, to sue for reinstatement of the program. In their reply to the lawsuit, attorneys for Gerstenberger and the university said that Ezeanolue and Patel refused to complete necessary paperwork, and that they withheld patient information. Shafter claimed that Gerstenberger made discriminatory remarks to Ezeanolue, who filed complaints with both the university's compliance office and the state's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. As backlash, Shafter says, the dean had the physicians terminated and escorted off campus, barring their access to documents and e-mails that could corroborate their side of the story.

On November 8, during a state district court hearing, an attorney for UNLV told Judge Nancy Alff, in essence, that the legal action had been rendered moot by the university getting (that very morning) approval for David Di John, a pediatrician who specializes in infectious diseases, to take over the HIV program. Alff said the court would take them at their word that patient care would be restored. Nevertheless, she set an early-December date to hear the two sides argue the case further.

Perhaps Alff had some of the same questions Ledoux still has; namely, why did the university wait until October 20 to publicly address a problem that began September 15? Why were Ezeanolue and Patel relieved of the program that Ezeanolue had started 10 years earlier? The federal grant had been awarded

PHOTOS BY BRENT HOLMES

2 How WE'RE SEEN

THIS CRAZY TOWN

A guy hoses down a frozen corpse — more accurately, part of a frozen corpse, the torso — in a parking lot, trying to thaw it, as the fleshy runoff pools down the street. A business legally evicts seniors from their suburban retirement homes. Prosecutors bend protocols to convict an innocent man, then refuse to yield to exonerating evidence. *Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas!* Those stories, from Reuters, *The New Yorker* and *Vanity Fair/Pro Publica*, respectively, are recent longform reports about national issues (commercial body-part sales, elderly home confiscation, and prosecutorial misconduct) that are set all or partly in Las Vegas.

Anyone who happened to read all three could be forgiven for thinking: *Oh, right, Sin City — that place is out of control.* A lightly regulated Wild West, where legally sanctioned greed, flagrant rule-bending, and casually handled body parts are all part of the charm. Of course, Vegas has long served lazy writers as an atmosphere-enhancer and insta-weirdness additive. For one recent nadir, just look up *The Daily Beast*'s post-Route 91 story referring to this as a "city of forever night." But these are prestige outlets, and their editorial horsepower adds veracity to the absurd notion of Vegas as a place where anything goes. *Scott Dickensheets*



in August; what related documentation was so important (and so complicated) that it couldn't be worked out internally and necessitated a service suspension? What is the status of Ezeanolue's discrimination complaint against Gerstenberger?

The health and medical schools, and the compliance office, along with the NSHE Board of Regents, referred inquiries to the UNLV public information office, which said it doesn't comment on personnel matters, though it did say in a press release that "the lawsuit has no merit and is based on inaccuracies and misinformation." The EEOC said it's forbidden by law to share complaint information with the media. Just before press time, the *Review-Journal* reported that 10 women had complained about Gerstenberger's conduct to a state faculty association.

On the other hand, Ezeanolue and Patel's respective medical boards show that their licenses are active, and they have no malpractice claims or disciplinary actions pending against them.

The most important question remains: What will happen to the children who were being treated through the program? Gerstenberger told *Desert Companion*, "We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused patients. Getting patients the care they need and deserve is our number one priority, and we are putting tremendous time and effort into that."

Ledoux, who has met Di John, fears for the daughter's well-being in the care of someone who doesn't specialize in HIV. "He was nice," she says. "But UNLV told us this is not his area of expertise. How would you feel if it were your child?" ✦



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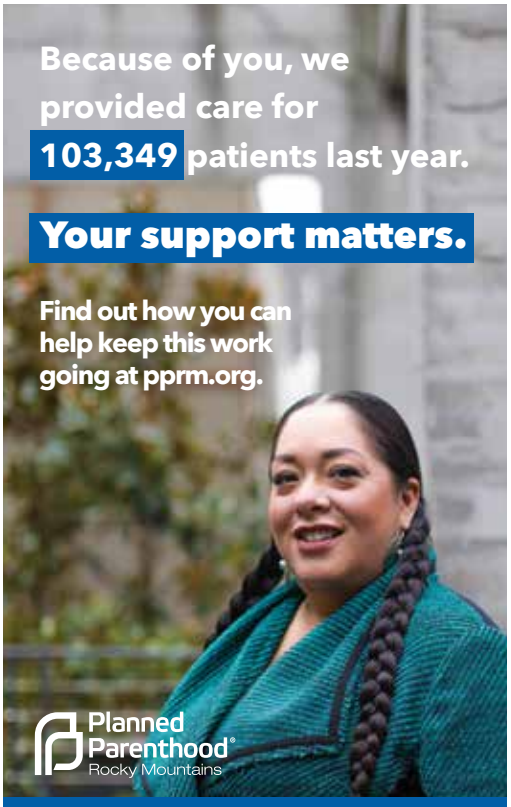

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THREE | **GOOD DEEDS**

Water Works

A local water-purification company donates units to Puerto Rico

BY ***Heidi Kyser***

"I've never been to a disaster zone," says Kenton Jones of Las Vegas-based water-purification company Multipure, remembering his October visit to Puerto Rico. "But to my eyes it's complete destruction. ... Everywhere you go, you assume there's no water, no power, and no communication."

Lucky break then, to get Olga Ramos on the phone, first try. The Boys & Girls Club of Puerto Rico director helped Jones deliver three of Multipure's Waterbox purification units to Boys & Girls Clubs around the island (two others went to Multipure distributors).

Ramos' view of her home post-Hurricane Maria has the optimism of a devoted local: "We're rebuilding," she says. "My hope is that this will be an opportunity for us to create a more sustainable infrastructure."

In the meantime, an estimated 1 million Puerto Ricans still lack running water. Donations like Multipure's Waterboxes, which run on solar panels, are helping to fill the gap. The $10,000 unit was designed for military use — small battlefield deployments. What's unique about it, Jones says, is that it makes water microbiologically safe without the use of UV light, chemicals, or wastewater.

"You can suck water out of an elephant footprint with this and make it drinkable," he says. "We have a lot of contacts in Puerto Rico, a lot of distribution there. So, we knew we had a good opportunity to help, coupled with a product sitting on our shelf, ready for use."

Multipure Foundation, the company's fundraising and philanthropy arm, had previously worked with the Boys & Girls Club to donate Waterboxes in Flint, Michigan, during that town's 2015 leaden-water crisis, making the collaboration with Ramos a natural.

She says that, in addition to supplying the clubs' children and staff with drinking water, the Waterboxes are providing a supplemental source for their surrounding communities. The clubs have cisterns, a reliable input source from which the Waterboxes can generate as much as 30 gallons of potable water per hour.

At press time, Jones expected to make a second trip to the island at the end of November; difficulty booking flights had prevented him from doing it sooner. His plan is to deliver five more Waterboxes, again working with the Boys & Girls Club.

"Since infrastructure is lacking, there isn't a whole lot that you or I could do, now that the immediate emergency is over," Jones says. "Water is one of the few areas where people can help. It's a tropical island, so there's water everywhere. It's just a matter of making it drinkable." ✦

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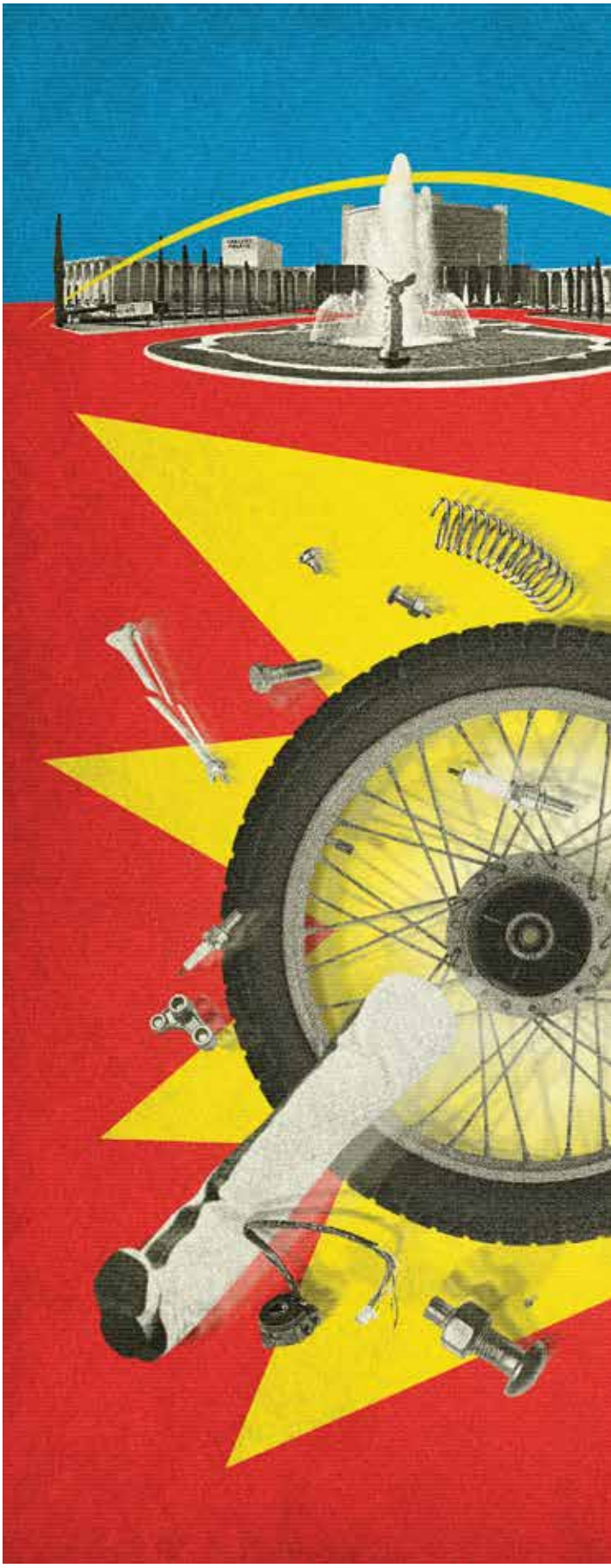
FOUR | HISTORY

Evel Has Landed

... and, 50 years ago, tumbled into Vegas mythology

ILLUSTRATION ***Ryan Olbrysh***



And I'm off! Givin' her the throttle, up the ramp — away I go! I'm in the air! Clearing the fountains! Take that, you doubters and losers! You jerks who said it couldn't be done! Lookit all the people down there, 10,000 of 'em, here to see me, the world's greatest daredevil, doing something ain't never been done! And I'm gonna make it! Then I'm gonna collect my money, and soak up the love of this huge crowd! All I gotta do is land, and then —

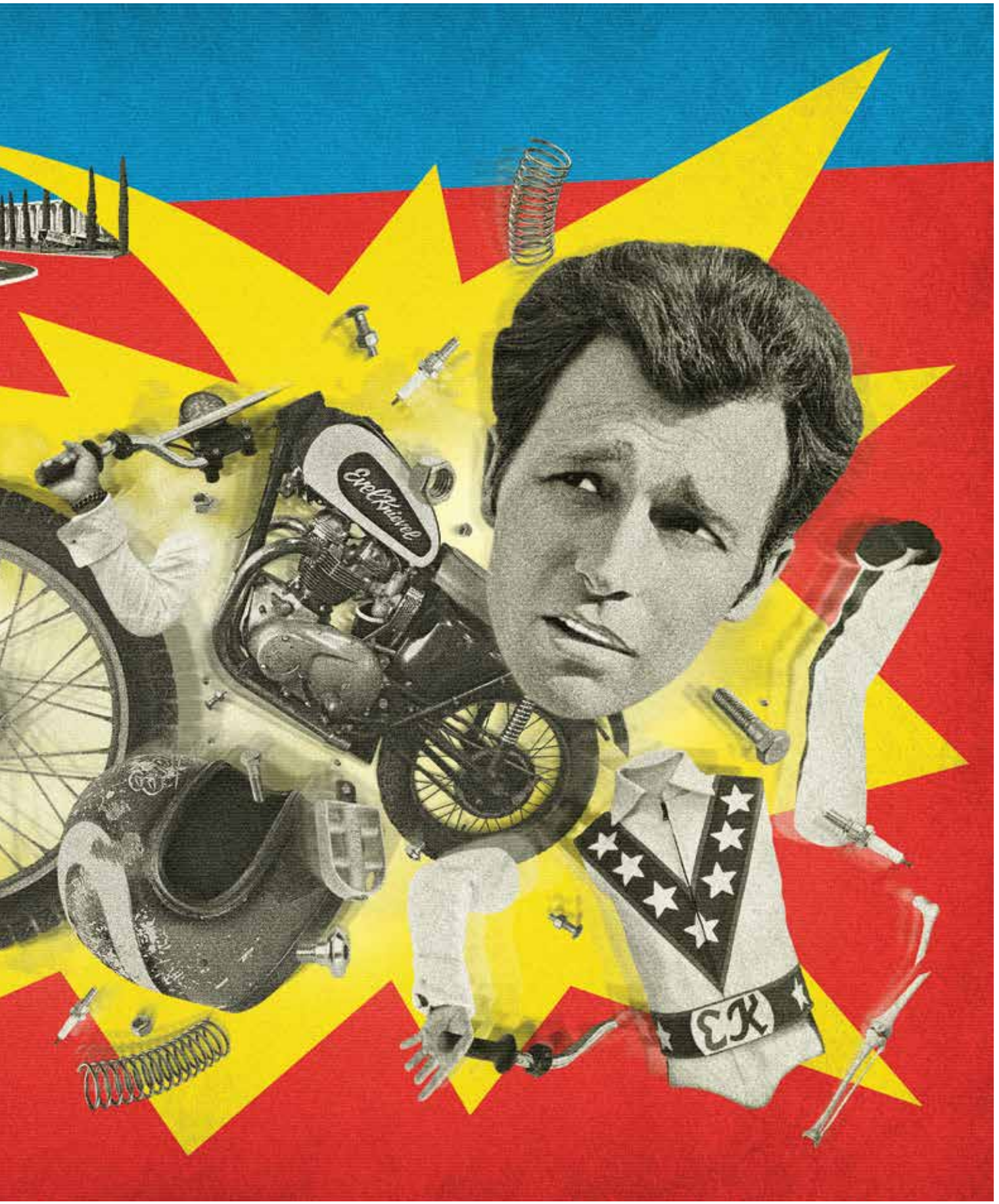
Evel Knievel landed, all right, but badly and hard, in a million little pieces. You've probably seen the famous footage, filmed 50 years ago this month by a crew Knievel had to hire because no network was interested. End over end he went, breaking all those bones, his legend supersizing even as he rag-dolled across the pavement. Had he stuck the landing, the jump would've surely been quickly forgotten, just another wacky promo by Caesars hype-man Jay Sarno.

But in its failure, in its graphic demonstration of the downside of risk-taking and spectacle — which, of course, form the lifeblood of Vegas — the jump became myth. It propelled Knievel to the front ranks of American huckster-showmen; it paid off for Caesars; and it helped cinch the idea of Vegas as the place for one-of-a-kind spectacle.

But 50 years on, does anyone remember or care? Knievel, and this would no doubt infuriate him, is at best a fleeting presence in the city's official histories. He doesn't appear in the indexes of many books about Las Vegas, and merits just a passing mention in a few. Thankfully, UNLV professor David G. Schwartz's *Grandissimo*, a 2013 biography of Sarno, has an expansive chapter on the jump, detailing the rich mix of bluster, ballsiness, and con-jobbery that went into it. We asked him to put it all into perspective for us.

"The Evel Knievel jump didn't put Las Vegas on the map," Schwartz says, "but it gave it an iconic image for immediate post-Rat Pack Las Vegas. Las Vegas had been cool (and, if you asked some people, corny), but it hadn't been a place where big things happened outdoors. You could have adventures there, but you could share them, at most, with a few hundred others in the showroom. And they weren't news. A guy nearly killing himself trying to jump a set of fountains that rivaled those at Versailles — this was newsworthy.

"And Las Vegas was hooked," he adds. "Boxing, wrestling, and a host of other competitions had been staged in Las Vegas since before the Dam, but Evel Knievel gave the city a taste of what it meant to host an event that made people watch. It's no accident that Caesars Palace would go on to host championship tennis, boxing superfights, and even Wrestlemania. The Ultimate Fighting Championship built on that hunger to keep Las Vegas on the cutting edge of entertainment spectacle, and the city's current major league status is its logical conclusion." ***Scott Dickensheets***


Evel Knievel
EK

5

WRITE HERE

Downtown residency brings authors to LV for a month

"I WAS EXPECTING more of the glitz and glamour side of Vegas," writer J.C. Hemphill (below) says. It's the day before he ships out, back to Virginia, his family, and real life, following a dreamy month he spent Downtown as the October fellow in a new program called Writing Downtown. Among other things, it provided him a studio apartment near Fremont Street and 10th — not exactly glitz and glamour central. But, he says, those thwarted expectations worked out just fine.

"Here, it's definitely more real," he says, heavy on the exposed urban grit that doesn't comport with the city's PR sizzle reel. "That's been a little different. But I really like it. I've never lived in the heart of a big city."

Writing Downtown is a partnership between Plympton, a nonprofit literary studio, and the Writer's Block. Creatives spend a month here, free to focus on their work. (Funding comes from grants and private donors.) As part of the agreement, they engage in a public event at the Writer's Block.

Diversity is built into the program. Hemphill writes genre fiction; September's fellow, Jamel Brinkley, worked on a literary novel set in the South. November's fellow, Jennifer Croft, translated Argentine, Polish and Russian poetry.

What makes it dreamy? The chance to focus. "It's been really productive," Hemphill says. "I've never been able to be, *I'm a writer, and my story's the only thing going on in my life*. That's afforded me something that's never been possible before." *Scott Dickensheets*



Under the Disgusting Parasitic Plant Thing

A mistletoe story

By Andrew Kiraly



On a recent Sunday afternoon, we were walking the nature-lite paths of the Springs Preserve — highly recommended if you're feeling a little lazy with a 20 percent chance of hangover but you promised your spouse you'd go hiking on Sunday and this is a plausible compromise, isn't it?, please, come on — and my wife points and goes, "What is that?" It looked like a dirty clump of spaghetti angrily hurled into the branches of a dying tree.

"That's mistletoe," I said. "It's a parasite."

BOOOOW — here I presume to imagine that summer-movie-trailer bass drop sound effect slo-mo shockwaving through my wife's mind. We're talking a multiphase epiphany here:

1) Seeing actual mistletoe for the first time (she's not from here) after a lifetime of it previously existing in a gauzy conceptual realm as the mythical/official plant of happy holiday smoochery; and ...

2a) Seeing it *not* as some jolly, richly berry-laden sprig exuding Yule spirit and free-floating eros, but instead as a haggy gnarl of carious yellow blight; and ...

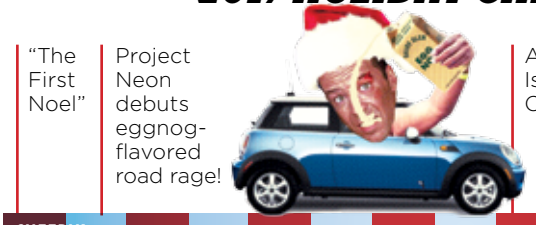
2b) Learning that not only is it hella ugly, but that it's a parasite that can kill entire trees and sicken pets; and ...

3) You know that weird high you get from having a juicy secret to tell, rumor to drop, or jarring botanical facts to mindfreak people with? My stupid mouth kept going.

"Yeah, it can kill entire trees and sicken pets! Most people think it's this harmless sprig exuding Yule spirit, but it's, like, pretty hardcore. I've seen it take down entire trees in real time, swarming upon the branches like crazed gremlins ..." I should have turned the moment around with something like, "But, oh, when it grows plump and hale during its seasonal tumescence, the mistle-berries swell and sparkle with, O, such seasonal savor!" But I swear I've never seen mistletoe anywhere in the valley like that. Romance and felicity fast-bleeding from the scene, we both obeyed an unconscious urge to move on to consider the Springs Preserve's historic water-pumping-mechanism display.

7

2017 HOLIDAY CHEER INDEX



"The First Noel"

Project Neon debuts eggnog-flavored road rage!

Annual argument: Is *Die Hard* really a Christmas movie?

Rudoph, replaced by a drone, drunk-dials North Pole

The 1,000th "Noel"

CHEERY! — NOT SO CHEERY

Christmas on a Monday means *full weekend* for last-minute shoppers

Coal in stockings replaced by carbon-offset credits

Carolers take knee during "Silent Night"

Only 78 days until we start thinking about *next* Christmas!

Santa rage-tweets as Mueller indicts dirty elves

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ILLUSTRATION ***Brent Holmes***



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EIGHT | OPEN TOPIC

Eating Is Thinking

Why dining critics (like me!) are still relevant and important in the age of Instagram and Yelp

BY ***John Curtas***



Food writing has been my passion, my avocation, and my second job for 23 years now. But, to massively understate things, a lot has changed over the past decade.

Twenty years ago, most information was filtered through traditional media, vetted by gatekeepers whose purpose was to bring a semblance of responsibility to the information. In my world — the world of food and restaurants — you had to know your stuff before you could strut your stuff. In 1995, no outlet would publish you unless you knew your subject. Fast-forward to 2017, and Facebook, Yelp, and Instagram have turned everyone into food bloggers — not necessarily a bad thing in itself. But along the way, those platforms have cultivated a zombie-like readership zonked out on mindless listicles, gossip, and food porn. The marriage of everyman food critics and an ADHD audience could only lower the bar.

Another factor: phone cameras. Remember the saying, "Everyone deserves a voice, but not everyone deserves a microphone"? Well, once the ubiquity of the internet met the ubiquity of high-quality camera phones, everyone had a voice *and* a mic.

My theory is that once camera phones got better — around five years ago — everyone could see decent pictures of what a restaurant's food looked like. When that happened, actually reading about restaurants became a chore for all but the most ardent foodies. Traditional restaurant reviews, thoughtful dining pieces, and blogs like (plug) my *Eating Las Vegas* (eatinglv.com) once had mass appeal — right up until those masses could simply look at pretty pictures to satisfy their low-information threshold about where to eat. Thus did clickbait such as "Top 5 Tacos in Town!" and "David Chang's Favorite Pizzas!" supplant actually learning about food from writers who knew what they were talking about. If you want to learn something, you have to pay attention, just like in elementary school. And just as in elementary school, most students would rather be told the right answers than do their homework.

Where does this leave the future of

9 Yada Yada

Hello, Hive Mind

There are times you just want to eat without too many expectations. You want something more enjoyable than merely *fueling up*, but without the heaviness of *a dining experience*. A modest compromise between high standards and basic functionality is what I mean. Do you turn to Yelp for guidance?

I don't, not often. (If you were expecting a high-spirited defense of Yelp, surprise!) I'm wary of crowdsourced taste. Hive-mind judgment tends to privilege the widely (and thus blandly) acceptable, and to flatten idiosyncrasy. Plus, one has to wonder about the motives of both friendly and hostile reviewers, hidden algorithmic tweakings (why is this bad review at the top?), pay-for-play, and all the other erosions of reliability inherent in a process like this. At the philosophical level, I'm wary of shortcutting one of the best methods of accumulating knowledge — trial and error — by outsourcing my thinking to an app. Plus, what John Curtas says above about the value of expertise in an era of unconstrained amateurism.

On the other hand, four stars on Yelp probably means I'll get a decently edible burger or plate of pasta during that brief window of sanity between the hammering at work and the pummeling at home. (If you were expecting a judo takedown of Yelp, surprise!)

If nothing else, the fact that I'm using Yelp at all means that I'm game to try something outside my usual list of go-tos. If I just let the app nudge me toward a few new places without getting too caught up in all the users' blah blah blah, it might just work out all right.

Scott Dickensheets



food writing? The internet has been the ultimate double-edged sword. On one hand, consumers are more educated than ever. Almost instantly, you can research a restaurant, a wine, or what a proper bucatini Amatriciana is made of. You can find a crowdsourced opinion on a ramen parlor in Dallas or a taco hut in Ensenada. What you can't find very easily anymore is the informed, thoughtful opinion of someone dedicated to finding the perfect pasta, or the best sushi.

"Who needs an expert," you might say, "when I have the opinions of a hundred Yelpers at my fingertips?"

What a real critic brings is dedication — an obsession, really — to the subject matter that no amateur can approach. A professional food writer is an instructor, a critic, and a consumer advocate. It takes years of experience — of developing his palate and knowledge of food — before he can opine on the merits of something. A Yelper tells you what he liked. A professional reviewer tells you why something is good or bad — and if it *is* good, how and why to like it. This creates a bond between writer and reader, establishes a trust, a confidence that the review is the product of devoted research, multiple meals, and part of an ongoing quest for excellence. As Anton Ego said in *Ratatouille*: "What I provide is ... perspective" — which is what you pay any expert for.

And that bond grows into a relationship with someone whose tastes and opinions you come to trust. You don't have a relationship with anyone on TripAdvisor. Their tastes and opinions are unknown; their prejudices and predilections are a mystery. Think of a real restaurant critic like one of your favorite teachers — the ones who always made you look forward to class. These days, those teachers are in short supply because the outlets for their talents have been buried in an avalanche of social media — but if you want to appreciate food beyond a third-grade level, they are more than worth seeking out. ✦



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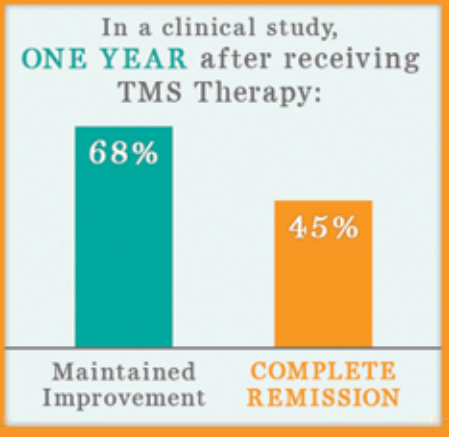


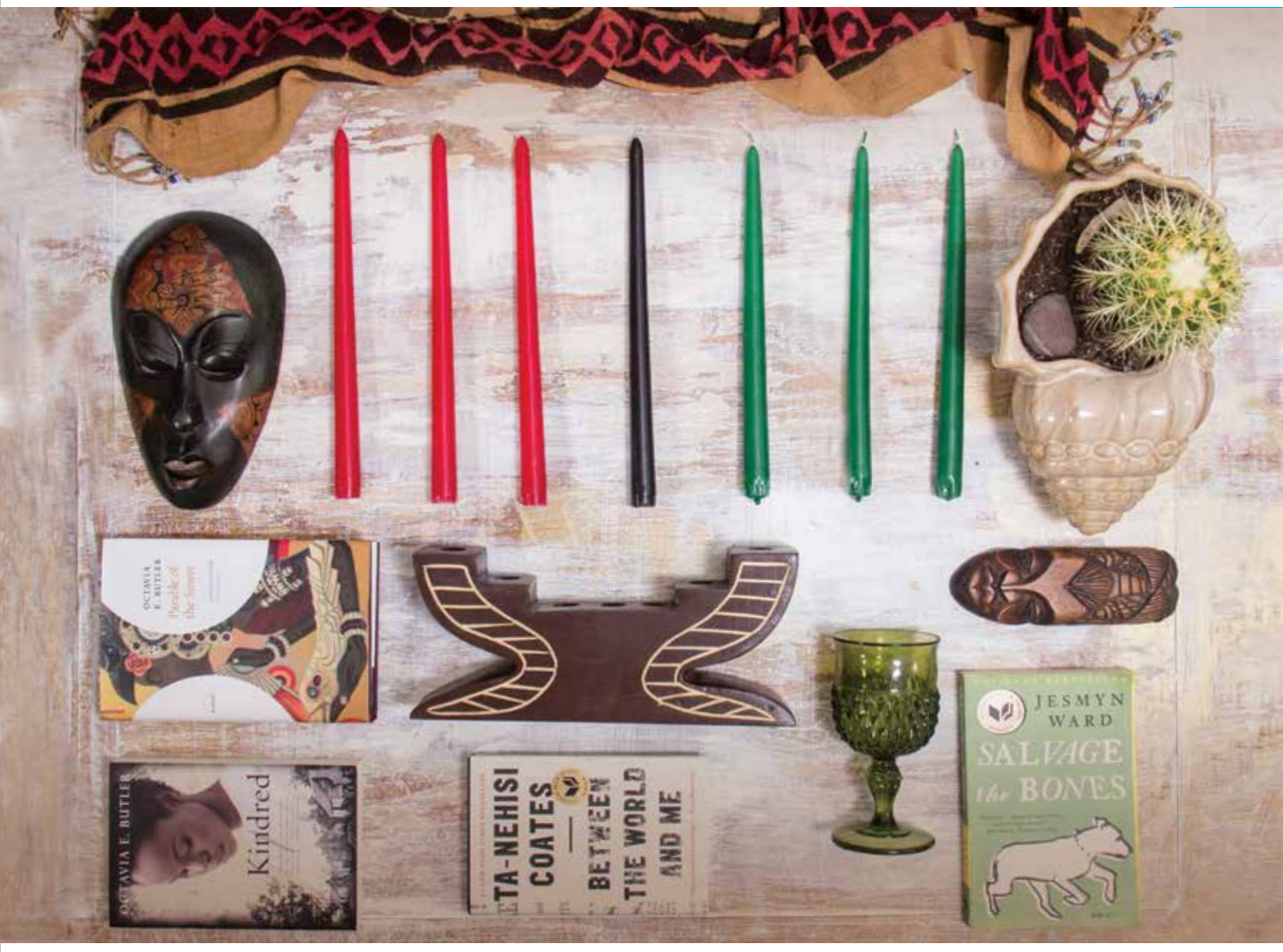
"One of the things that we've enjoyed about our experience with TMS is that ability to offer that additional level of improvement for some of our patients that they were unable to receive with prior treatments."

- Dr. Chris Bojrab

"If I could go back and talk to my depressed self, I think that all I'd really say is don't wait. Don't waste those months. Just do it. Make that change."

- Robert R.

800-643-0978
HPRTC.com



HOLIDAY | PERSPECTIVE

Getting Our Own Story

Kwanzaa isn't "African-American Christmas" — it's about a people reclaiming and celebrating their narrative

BY ***Erica Vital-Lazare***

At a crossroads in an intensely passionate yet increasingly less-satisfying relationship with a partner who seemed only to have love for himself, I shaped the words he would inadvertently use to set me free. "I am losing myself in your story," I said. "Living your narrative." And in answer, he said to me, in a tone that seemed quite cold at the time, "Then maybe you need to get your own" ... and the truth rang deep. *Get your own.* And so I did.

I file divorce papers on a day I am asked to consider Kwanzaa. There is a parallel here that is more than personal. When we arrived in 1619, a cargo of 20 pirated from the shores of southwest Africa, passed from Dutch slaver

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Brent Holmes***

to two British warships, one aptly named the Treasurer, there was no Christmas as far as the First Twenty were concerned. Stripped from the coastal regions of what is now Angola and Congo, our Jamestown landing was not celebratory.

Two hundred years into enslavement, we mined salt, hewed lumber, tended homes and fields not our own, and, come December, staged elaborate holiday festivities for those who did the owning. We were granted rest at the tail end of Advent, and cobbled the day itself together from grosgrain ribbon and scraps of gingham, fashioning crude dolls as gifts out of corn husks, and wreathing cabin doors in garlands of rag and paper chains. A hundred years after Emancipation, we waded into the marketplace of desegregation and a new Civil Rights America, herded into the frenzy of holiday spending. Flush with funds we'd earned from jobs that paid 40 cents to the dollar of mainstream wage-earners, we continued to piece together what we could.

We approximated the all-American Christmas featured on every magazine, every billboard, every screen. We lugged home Chatty Cathys and toy six-shooters, ran up charge accounts, served eggnog and Christmas punch in cut-glass bowls, set likenesses of Santa out on the lawn, and left warm cookies and milk on the mantel of homes often redlined and over-mortgaged. Chasing tinseled visions of inclusion, the black consumer spent, and continues to spend, comparably more than the general population come Christmastime, while earning less.

Born of the Black Arts and Pan-African movement of the 1960s, Kwanzaa was a means of constructing a counter-narrative — a community's answer to getting our own. Gifts are often handmade and include books or other items meant to educate and connect with a shared past and empowered future. A sole black candle representing unity is centered in a decorative holder, the Kinara, and flanked by three red candles to the left representing self-determination, cooperative economics, and creativity. Three green candles to the right are calls to collective work and responsibility, purpose, and faith.

Kwanzaa's originator, Dr. Ron Maulana Karenga, himself a problematic figure, phrased the *Nguzo Saba*, these Seven Principles, in the Swahili — *Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujamaa, Kuumba, Ujima, Nia,* and *Imani*.

Starting the day after Christmas until New Year's Day, a single candle is lit in honor of each principle, beginning with Umoja on the first day, then moving left to right. Not unlike a Menorah, the Kinara is set in a central location of the home, wherever the family gathers. The table or altar that holds the Kinara is draped in *kente* or mudcloth and topped by the *mkeka*, a ceremonial mat on which fresh fruit, gifts to family and the ancestors, at least two ears of corn — *muhindi* — representing the children of the community and the ceremonial unity cup — the *kikombe cha umoja* — are laid. The customary greeting over the seven days, *Habari gani*, "What's the news?" demands that you respond with the principle of the day.

We feast and fête the last day of Kwanzaa, feeding the body, the soul, and collective consciousness through dance, music, storytelling, art, and poetry. Kwanzaa is *karamu* — a banquet of life and identity. We celebrate with folk like Brother Keith Brantley, spoken wordsmith and founder of the Poet's Corner, who opens his doors for all to come and contribute to a table set with roasted greens and red peppers, sweet potato pies, and Chef Keidi's vegan creations; and Sister China Hudson, founder of Girls Rites of Passage and principal dancer of the African Dance troupe Olabisi, who will stage stirring productions connecting us to the old and clearing the way for the new; and quiet force of nature Marcia Robinson, director of the West Las Vegas Cultural Arts Center, who throws a mean Kwanzaa crafts fair and celebration at the arts center each year. We look to and are reminded to become these folk who spend their days on and off the holiday clock reclaiming and reshaping our landing.

When we light the seven candles, we are pledging allegiance to our own narrative, a cultural *be*-ing that says simply *We are* and *I am*. *Harambe*. ✦

BOOKS ON KWANZAA

Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture, by Maulana Karenga

The Story of Kwanzaa, by Donna L. Washington

Seven Candles for Kwanzaa, by Andrea Davis Pinkney

ONLINE RESOURCES

africanheritagecollection.com
africaimports.com
officialkwanzaawebsite.org

KWANZAA CELEBRATION 2017

Dec. 30, 2-4:30 p.m., free, West Las Vegas Library Theatre, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd., 702-507-3989



LOCATIONS SERIES, VALENTIN YORDANOV $400

As finished paintings, this artist's frenetic, abstracted cityscapes can fetch a hefty price. But the savvy art shopper can pick up one of Yordanov's preliminary sketches for quite a bit less through his website. Perfect for that person on your list who dreams in chaotic color.
valentinyordanov.com



ERIC VOZZOLA "HEAVY SUN," $100

Acrylic on wood panel, 8 x 8 inches. The artist says, "This piece was created earlier this year on a particularly hot Las Vegas summer day, where the heat was feeling heavier than usual — something that most people living in this desert can relate to." Even at Christmas.
ericvozzola.com/shop

Shop

The Gift of Art

BY ***Brent Holmes***

Before you blow your Christmas shopping fund on ties, socks, and gift cards galore, consider giving a few special people on your list something different, unique, perhaps even inspiring: work by local artists.





WORK BY FILTHY LITTLE HANDS $15-$25

Stuff a few creative stockings with 'zines and mugs made by local printmaking team Filthy Little Hands. Inner Self Mug: $15. *Wrong Room* (zine): $25.
filthylittlehands.com

HANDMADE PATTERNED PLANTERS BY MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ, $150 EACH

This onetime KNPR artist has created a series of functional sculptures in which your loved ones can grow their garden.
Jana's Red Room, 107 E. Charleston Blvd. Unit 135





WORKS BY EVA MARIA CELIN, $120-$400

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"Girls Having Fun," acrylic on canvas board, 8 x 10 inches, framed: $400. "Mandala Orange," hand-painted and cut paper, 5.5 x 5.5 x 2 inches, framed: $120
Priscilla Fowler Fine Art, ArtSquare #155 1025 S. First St.

DINING | TABLE FOR TWO

Check It

Slamming our way through MacKenzie River Pizza's menu at the Golden Knights' practice arena

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



(We settle in at a long table overlooking one of the two City National Arena hockey rinks. We just missed official Golden Knights practice, but there are a few people skating lazily around.)

Andrew: The ambience is kinda PT's meets warehouse. But I don't mind, because I would think you're privileging the hockey-viewing experience.

Scott: (Gazing upon empty hockey rink.) I'm gonna have to imagine skaters, and body-checking, and maybe a tooth getting knocked out.

Andrew: Maybe a slow, improbably elegant pirouette.

Scott: I wonder what percentage of people in Las Vegas can ice skate. I tried it once, and was so terrible. And I felt like, at any minute, I was gonna fall over. And I was always afraid someone would skate over my hand and cut my fingertips off.

Andrew: I feel that way all the time just when I'm walking.

(We start off with the Lodgepoles appetizer — think cheesy breadsticks. We each tug off a cheesy, puffy stick and take a bite.)

Scott: Very Pizza Hut.

Andrew: A little underwhelming, yeah, especially with the hefty mouthfeel of the word "Lodgepole." I want something I can use to ... what is a lodgepole? Is it holding up a yurt, a lodge?

Scott: Yeah. You'd think they would have done something a little more with it.

Andrew: I wanted a little more lodgeiness, a little bit more pole. Oh, look. Is that a Zamboni? Pirouette!

Scott: Drift!

Andrew: What if you turn the Zamboni over and it looks like one of those super-annoying Mach 5 Gillette razors?

Scott: I wonder how long before that guy's job is replaced by a giant Zamboni Roomba.

Andrew: (Takes another bite.) The Lodgepole's got a pretty decent layer of cheese. But when I actually eat it, I don't feel the indulgent, experiential cheese-flavor blast, like this side view of the bread-cheese strata would suggest. Maybe it's an optical illusion.

Scott: Sadly, these things are calibrated to our taste buds that have been trained by fast food to like this sort of stuff.

Andrew. Cheese. Bread. Filling. My tribe is safe. I am safe and warm.

Scott: But objectively, it's pretty ordinary.

(For the main course, we order a meaty Stockman pizza, and Slammers, which are sliders.)

Andrew: All right, this pizza better body-check my face. (Pulls off a slice of the pizza) Whoa, that's got some heft.

Scott: I will say, that's a better cut of Italian sausage than is typical of what you'd order at your house.

Andrew: What do you think about the crust?

Scott: Seems pretty ordinary to me.

Andrew: I almost get a microwave pizza vibe. Sort of an affable, spongy, crispness to it. The toppings are good.

Scott: Definitely, there's a density of toppings and multilayered quality to the different meats.

Andrew: The toppings say, "Yeah, indulgent burly hockeytude!" Then the crust says, "It's not delivery ..." That said, it feels like it's good for spectatorial eating. Because you don't have to think about it too much, and you'd be watching something, like this Zamboni.

(We dig into the Slammers.)

Andrew: Here goes. Slam me! Hm. Good bun. I like the bun a lot. Is that egg bread? Toasted, firm, but slammy. What are your thoughts?

Scott: This one had a nice char on it. I mean, the meat itself is fairly standard, but it was well-griddled. I guess I was expecting it to taste a little bit like ground-up Gordie Howe or something. He was a famous hockey player. It doesn't quite have that kind of a kick, but it's not the worst slider I've ever had. I used to be the slider king. I started eating them because it was like a burger I could eat over lunch while taking notes. I just kinda liked the form. There's a formal appeal.

Andrew: I feel like it needs a sin factor. Like if it had an unreasonable amount of pickles.

Scott: You gotta bring it a little harder than this.

(For dessert, we have the Mack Lovin', skillet-cooked chocolate chip cookies with ice cream. Also, actual ice skaters have taken to the arena.)

Scott: There's somebody talented and

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Christopher Smith***



skilled out on the ice. She might pirouette.

Andrew: Look, unironic leg warmers. They're actually leg warmers, that are warming her legs.

Scott: This may be the only place where you can wear leg warmers unironically. The skaters appear to be dancing.

Andrew: What if the woman doing the maneuver is going (voice of female opera singer), "Those Slammers were deliciouuuuus!"

Scott: Hmm. Cookies surrounded by bubbling hot chocolate.

Andrew: (Takes a bite): Oh, my god. That's got like super melted chocolate delicio-decadence.

Scott: Yeah ...

(Contented, largely silent period of dumbstruck bovine pleasure in eating what is essentially melted cookies.)

Andrew: These cookies actually have that crackaliciously doughy, chewy goodness you always hear about.

Scott: (Momentarily emerging from diabetic coma.) She pirouetted! ✦

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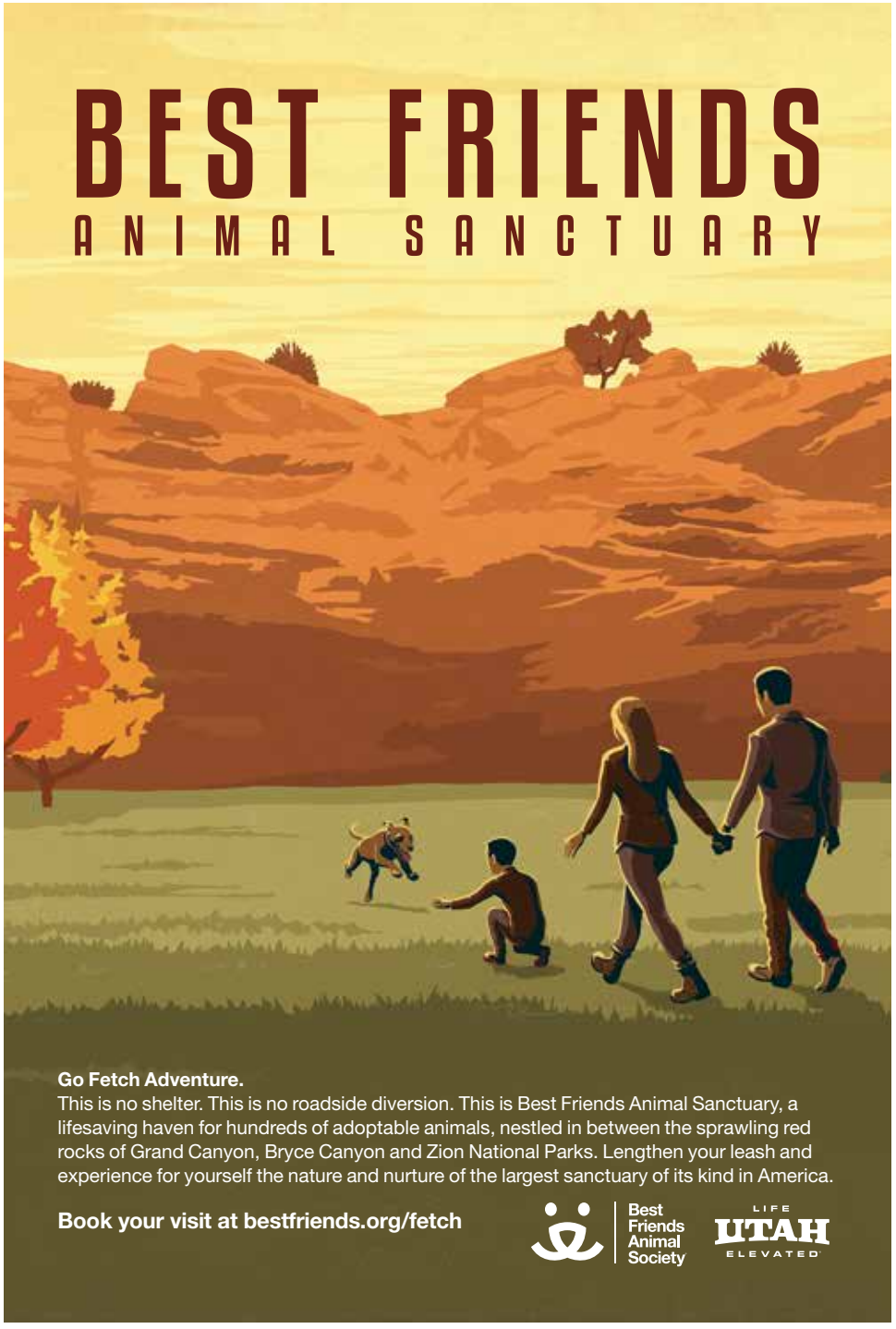

STREET FOODIE

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PHOTOS & CAPTIONS BY **Brent Holmes**



BARBACOA PLATE, $11, BARBACOA KINGS

Perfect grandma-style beans, plus lamb with *penca a de maguey* (tequila plants) buried and roasted for eight hours, oh, and handmade tortillas. Why aren't you eating this right now?



HOT DOG $3, SINALOA TACOS

Top this hot dog, bound in bacon, with grilled onions, guacamole, and salsa. Who thought such beauty existed in a tire shop parking lot?



DONUTS, $2 EACH, DULCE DONUTS

Twenty-four-hour donuts. Let the concept work inside you, say it aloud, let it roll around the tongue like a freshly glazed apple fritter — okay, you're there. And if you're not, get a fresh squeezed carrot juice or some ice cream.

COMPLETA, $5 CARLITOS CUBAN FOOD #1

Imagine a Cuban Panda Express, with proteins that change daily, plus always-excellent rice and plantains. Or go with the familiar Cuban sandwich — its the best I've had in town, and only $5.



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The concept of cozy is all about interiorizing outside things: crackling fires in homes, snuggly sweaters on the couch. So a bar inside another bar is like grandma's afghan for your liver. That's the Laundry Room, tucked inside Commonwealth. You can't go wrong with any drink on or off the menu — their mixologists are monkishly devoted to their craft — but for seasonal coze factor, I recommend the Whisker Rub. A fireside indulgence made with bourbon, cacao, honey, cream, and nutmeg, it's unapologetically rich. Your inner child will smile; your inner grandma will, I don't know, knit or something. I didn't think the metaphor through. I'm drinking. ***Andrew Kiraly***

food

KIELBASA ROASTING ON AN OPEN FIRE ...

... AND OTHER SEASONAL FAMILY EATS FONDLY REMEMBERED BY LOCAL CHEFS

"I still make *puto bumbong* (logs of white and purple sticky rice with brown sugar and fresh coconut) during Christmas. During the midnight Mass, people would line up at the stalls outside the church just for these. It reminds me of my childhood in the Philippines."

— Ramir DeCastro, chef/owner, Yonaka Modern Japanese and Purple Potato



"At my house it was latkes. The secret to good latkes: grated onion, chive, and making them little! A small and crispy latke is always better. And, of course, apple sauce and sour cream."

— Michael Rubinstein, sous chef, Momofuku Las Vegas

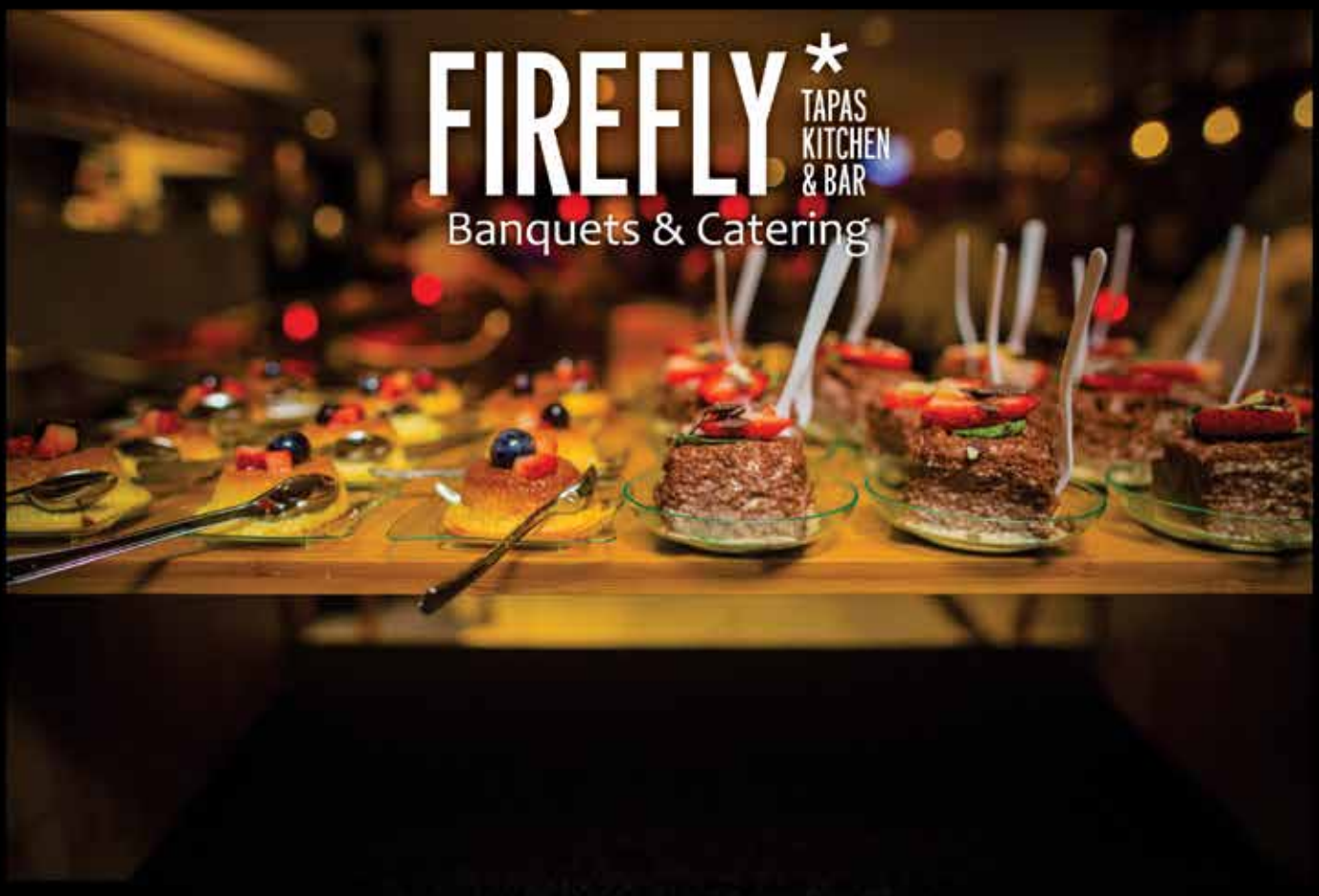
"A holiday tradition was roasted duck or chicken. We would stuff it with sticky rice, diced pork belly, Chinese sausage, chestnuts, and shiitake mushrooms — just something my mom would make up because she didn't enjoy turkey!"

— Sheridan Su, chef/owner, Flock & Fowl



"Every Christmas Eve after midnight Mass, lots of Polish food. *Perogis*, *babka*, *galumpki* (stuffed cabbage), and kielbasa. My favorite part was making a lefovers sandwich the next day. I'd do sliced kielbasa on *babka* with lots of horseradish and mustard."

— Nicole Brisson, culinary director, B&B Hospitality Group



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HOT SEAT LEAD | THEATER

Welcome to the New Scrooge

This multi-culti *Christmas Carol* modernizes the holiday classic, but its spirit and message haven't changed

BY ***Scott Dickensheets***

Strip away its waxy buildup of Victorian ornament, and *A Christmas Carol*'s story — a jerk redeemed — is timeless. Which means, in theory, that it should work in any time. However sentimental we get about them, the top hats, frock coats, and elevated Patrick Stewart oration aren't necessary to its essence.

Enter Nevada Conservatory Theatre and director Christopher Edwards, who will test that theory with this month's production of an upcycled version of the old Dickens chestnut. "It's an experiment," he allows. Here's how:

The characters: The same, but different. The cast is multicultural, multiethnic. The Cratchit family, for example, will have Hispanic accents, with Spanglish spoken — "and possibly some foster children," Edwards says.

The setting: "It's set in the now," he says, in an unnamed industrial megalopolis. "It could Lagos, it could be Rio, it could be New York, it could be Milan, it could be Beijing." Visually, it will be a pomo pastiche of favela, inner city, Fifth Avenue. Metaphorically, it'll represent a soul-chewing, capitalist modernity.



The ghosts: Same functions, different vectors. Christmas Past will represent Colonial America. Christmas Present: "Someone who is of African descent." Christmas Yet to Come will be postapocalyptic — less Grim Reaper and more *Mad Max*.

The language: Expect the fusty Dickensisms to be translated into American idiom: Instead of *Do you know if they've sold the prize turkey in the poulterer's window?* Scrooge might instead ask the urchin, *Do they still have the big turkey at Whole Foods?* The verbal tailoring was still going on at press time.

The staging: Two words: mariachi music.

The social context: Here's where we mention Trump, but only in passing: "I think it's bigger than that," Edwards says of the play's topical overtones — anxieties about immigration, angst toward those unlike us, dueling "Lives Matter" movements. Disconnection. He describes Scrooge as a figure who's deliberately cut himself off from humanity, "this man who has chosen to live his life with greed, hate, avarice, and judgment of The Other in his heart." (You can add the MAGA cap in your imagination.) "I think Scrooge is a perfect archetype for disassociation," he says. "I think the country feels like it's in a place of disassociation."

For all the changes, this still sounds like a production Dickens would recognize. The basic story isn't changing, nor its relevance.

"We can walk across Maryland Parkway and be reminded of the things *A Christmas Carol* is talking about," Edwards says. "Someone's going to come up to you and ask if you have extra change, and it's so easy to put blinders on and pretend it doesn't exist.

"*A Christmas Carol* is one of those stories that reminds us to come back to our center, which is about our humanity, about empathy — at its core, that's what's going on." ✦

THE Hot Seat



Art

Nancy Good

WINCHESTER CULTURAL CENTER,

Artist Nancy Good is a devoted Burning Man participant, and this year she's turned the experience into art: large-format pieces based on her photos of the festival and its denizens, but digitally manipulated into semi-abstract, mandala-like images meant to "capture the social, cultural, and artistic experience." Title: *See, Touch, and Go Dream: The Burning Man Tapestries.* **Dec. 1-Jan. 1, opening reception at 5p, Dec. 12, and artist's workshop at 11a, Dec. 16, 702-455-7340**

HARPIST: UNLV CREATIVE SERVICES/ JOSH HAWKINS





Literature

PAUL BEATTY AND VIET THANH NGUYEN

If you had to choose, which is the more prestigious recognition, the Man Booker Prize or the Pulitzer Prize? Trick question! You don't have to decide. This event pairs Man Booker winner Beatty (for his novel *The Sellout*) with Pulitzer winner Nguyen (for his novel *The Sympathizer*). They'll talk about literature as satire, politics, and "what it means to be the other." Presented by Black Mountain Institute and *The Believer* magazine. **Dec. 4, 7p, free (but RSVP requested), *blackmountaininstitute.org***

opera

CHRISTMAS AT THE OPERA

Beyond the pa-rum-pum-pum-pum: Ninety minutes of holiday scenes from *La Boheme, Werther*, and *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. A nice alternative to clichéd carols sung by street urchins and David Bowie/Bing Crosby. **Dec. 16, 7:30p, $20 adults, $10 youths, artslasvegas.org**



HARPIST EMILY MONTOYA BARNES

Theater

ONE MAN CHRISTMAS CAROL

From Scrooge to the spirits to Tiny Tim to sad old Jacob Marley and his damn chains, there are many indelible characters in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Actor Mike Randall will play all of them in his one-man version of the sentimental holiday classic — just as Dickens himself did in a legendary visit to Randall's hometown of Buffalo, New York, in 1868. **Dec. 9, 4p, free, Whitney Library**

Music + Art

Composition

Here's a little cross-genre gift you can give yourself: UNLV music students compose new works that respond to pieces of art hanging in the Barrick Museum. And before you think, *Aw, they're just students*, check that bah-humbug, Scrooge. This is the season of generosity, so check this out. **Dec. 6, 7:30p, free, Barrick Museum, *unlv.edu/barrickmuseum***

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MY SPACE

Mercedes M. Yardley

Where the magic happens for this writer of horror and whimsy

BY **Scott Dickensheets**

She greets us with cookies. Homemade. Delicious. "Arsenic." She's joking, we're pretty sure. That's Mercedes M. Yardley in microcosm: a yin-yang swirl of light and dark. A writer of whimsical horror — *Pretty Little Dead Girls, Apocalyptic Montessa and Nuclear Lulu: A Tale of Atomic Love, Little Dead Red*, which won a coveted Bram Stoker Award — she's funny, joyously macabre, and large-spirited: The ornate frame notwithstanding, Jesus isn't hanging there ironically. Her open-heartedness led her to contribute to a new charity anthology, *Vegas Strong*, that supports first-responders.

In her compact workspace, Yardley surrounds herself with a carefully curated selection of personal objects bright and dark. "I can see who I am in a snapshot," she says, "then sit down and get to business."

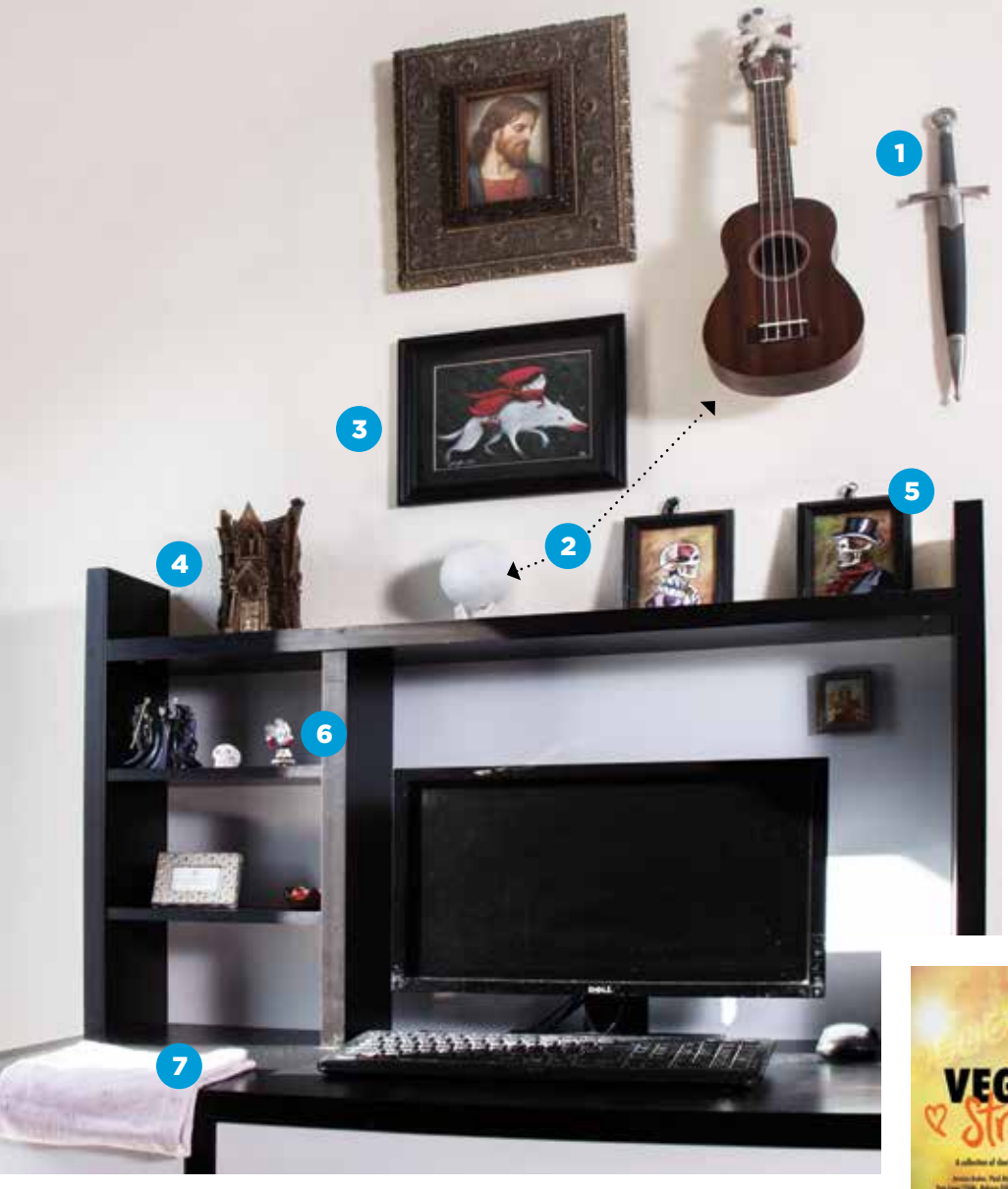


PHOTO BY BRENT HOLMES

1 Dagger This is a Stabby Award, which she won for *Apocalyptic Montessa and Nuclear Lulu*. Who hands it out, you ask? "Reddit, actually. So Reddit can't agree on anything, but they agreed that I got a knife."

2 Ukulele and moon sculpture "My mind doesn't stop, ever," she says. To rein it in, it helps to keep her hands busy. She strums the ukulele before interviews and podcasts. Holding the resin moon helps calm her creative stresses. "When I'm typing and get unfocused, I put glitter on the backs of my hands so I can catch my attention."

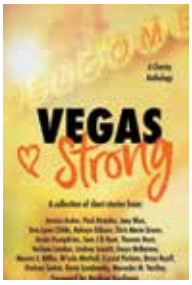
3 Drawing "I have a thing for Little Red Riding Hood," she says. In this drawing, girl and wolf seem chummy enough. But there's a malign vibe about it, too. "I like that mixture of sinister and sweet."

4 Bram Stoker Award It's the real deal in horror/fantasy fiction — Stephen King and J.K. Rowling have them. Because it's quite heavy, the Stoker can be weaponized if need be: "I thought I heard something once, and I picked it up." *Lady, you have a dagger!* It has other uses, too. "During Christmastime," she says, "we use it for our Christmas village."

5 Paintings "They're so sweet and, you know, dead." Artist: Meriweather Asterios.

6 Tchotchkes "My daughter says, 'You have a lot of toys,' and I'm like, 'NO! THESE ARE GROWN-UP THINGS!'" Maleficent is one of Yardley's favorite villains: "I like that she's a female villain who wants to kill a baby. Because female villains tend to be soft. She's *hardcore*. She's like, 'I'm going to kill that baby. I'm going to have everyone I know try to kill that baby.'" The skull was made by a friend on a 3-D printer. The kachina doll reminds her of growing up in Navajo country in Utah. "When I was a kid, they terrified me," she says. "I've tried to get over that. I mean, look at that face. He's darling."

7 Baby blanket Time for an emotional downshift. Yardley and her husband had triplets; only one survived. "Two of them would fit under this," she says. "This is the blanket they would use all the time. I keep it in my drawer so I can just touch it. It's very special to me." ✦



Post-Route 91, local writers created the charity anthology *Vegas Strong* to benefit The Code Green Campaign, a first-responder support effort. Available at Amazon.

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TRAVEL

Lakeside Staycation

Heated pools, paddleboats, fine restaurants, and luxe accommodations make Lake Las Vegas an ideal winter getaway

BY ***Greg Thilmont***

Mojave winters get downright chilly. Most hotels, from the Strip to Downtown, close their swimming pools for the season. So what's a local water-lover to do for a staycation weekend in this shivery season? A promising option awaits in the easternmost sliver of Henderson: the nearly mirage-like **Lake Las Vegas** (lakelasvegas.com).

Created nearly three decades ago, Lake Las Vegas shimmers in a reed-rimmed basin with a dramatic backdrop of gnarled, sere mountains and multi-hued, eroded volcanic formations. It's home to many beautiful waterfowl, including mallards, grebes, and stately herons. Homes are peppered about the landscape, many quite luxurious; lakeside is the faux-but-charming Italianate MonteLago Village with its mini marina. There are palm trees everywhere.

Lake Las Vegas was pummeled by the Great Recession, and many restaurants and boutiques in the area were shuttered; there's still a closed casino. But life is returning steadily, making this an ideal destination for a night or two just out of sight of Sin City's skyline.

For families, the expansive **Westin Lake Las Vegas Resort & Spa** (westinlakelasvegas.com) is the best choice for lodgings. Located on the far side of the reservoir, it features a lovely Moroccan-themed décor. It has two restaurants, the Japanese-influenced Marssa Steak & Sushi — tip: order the spicy seafood miso soup — and the Mediterranean-meets-New American Rick's Café. There's also a bar in the comfortable, multileveled central lobby, next to a stunning patio that overlooks the lake, with the serrated Muddy Mountains in Lake Mead National Recreation Area beyond.

I'm one of those water-lovers I mentioned earlier, so, most importantly, the Westin has the Nuala Pool, with its two levels and a whirlpool. It's heated and open year-round, short of inclement weather. Kids seem to prefer the lower level, though during my stays at the Westin, I've mostly floated in the upper, more adult-favored pool, with its gorgeous desert vista. In the evenings, I've been known to kick back in the whirlpool with a beverage as stars glint in the dark sky overhead. It's an aquanaut's dream.

Next to MonteLago Village, the **Hilton Lake Las Vegas & Spa** (hilton.com) is an elegant hotel with a lake-spanning, Venice-style loggia bridge, and, of the two resorts, is the more intimate and quiet destination.

Though the village's meandering streets still have plenty of empty storefronts for rent, a chocolate store, a gelateria, and Italian restaurant **Luna Rossa** (lunarossalakelv.com) all lasted through the lean years. Plus, a few new eateries have opened recently, including gastropub Proof Tavern and side-by-side but separate French spots **Le Cafe du Lac** (lecafedulac.com) and **Mimi' & Coco' Bistro** (mimicocobistro.com), where a salade Niçoise and glass of rosé on the sunny patio make for a mini Riviera experience. There's even a new market carrying groceries and wines for locals; it's a handy picnic-shopping resource.

If you really want to feel non-Vegasy, the marina has electric cruising boats, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, and pedal boats for rent. If it's golf you want, **Reflection Bay** (reflectionbaygolf.com) is stunning, and was designed by Jack Nicklaus. Or just stay in your hotel for a spa treatment. And have I mentioned the pool? ✦

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ART

PUSHING BACK

In her art and activism, Wendy Kveck subverts the patriarchy, promotes the city's arts scene, and gets unabashedly political

BY **Nadia Eldemerdash**



BODIES OF WORK
Wendy Kveck's work explores how consumer culture portrays the female body.

The first thing that strikes you when you enter artist Wendy Kveck's studio: pink. The oil paintings on the studio walls are a bright neon pink, layered with equally bold reds and yellows and blues. The images are striking, not just because of the colors that arrest the eye, but because of the subjects as well.

Kveck has been making art for nearly 30 years, and throughout that time her work has focused on the female body — eating, drinking, at rest, active. When she moved to Las Vegas 20 years ago, she began to draw on her retail experience and the heavy consumer culture in the city.

"When I moved to Las Vegas, that experience of seeing magazines ads and billboards and so much media about body modification and cosmetic surgery made me think about how accelerated and dominant that had become in culture, particularly somewhere like Las Vegas," Kveck says.

"I was also starting to look at a lot of advertising where women's bodies were objectified in a way that they were both being shown as consumers, marketed to, but also consumed, literally," she says. "I remember there was an image of a women wearing something that looked like a slice of a peach or piece of fruit, so her body became a piece of fruit."

And so Kveck turned women into food, too.

For her *Meateater* series, Kveck brought in friends and family to pose as models, layering cold cuts over their faces and photographing them. In *Specimen*, she swapped the meat for frosting, layering chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry confections over the faces in a way that mimics oil paint.

"When I was doing this series, I realized the models became more passive because they couldn't really move with this food on their face," she says. "Exposing that vulnerability or that level of trust with another human being who had (been) invited to collaborate or volunteer ... These women were being open to these experiences with me, and there was an element of touch." One woman, she remembers, was a vegetarian but was determined to participate in the project despite her discomfort, something Kveck appreciated.

Collaboration is a key concept for Kveck; her models are as much an influence on her work as they are canvases for it. In one series, Kveck had friends reenact poses of models on magazine covers for a project exploring the aestheticization and stylization of the female body. That they were friends was crucial. "To have a connection with the model so we would have a conversation about body image ... that was like a backdrop for the work, these shared experiences."

These women become recurring characters in Kveck's work, as she transforms them from staged performances to photographs to blind-contour line drawings and then paintings. In each iteration, the images take on a new significance and tell a new story. "(I) think about representations of the female body as being this zeitgeist of cultural values, moments in time, in that way I think that it can be accessible ... not limited to a gendered reading that way, but that's there, too, in my work," she explains.

Last year, her work was included in the

PHOTOGRAPHY **Mikayla Whitmore**



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VIRTUALLY ARTISTIC
Clockwise from upper left, artists' work included on *Settlers + Nomads*: Dan Fischer, Wendy Kveck, Lance Smith, and Mikayla Whitmore

sprawling, statewide survey of Nevada artists, *Tilting the Basin*, which originated at Reno's Nevada Museum of Art. Not long before, she was part of a three-artist exhibit at the Barrick Museum. Singly or in group shows, her work has been exhibited in Los Angeles, Sacramento, Portland, Dallas, and beyond.

Kveck received an MFA from UNLV in 2007, and has taught there and at the College of Southern Nevada. Her studio space is reminiscent of a professor's office, with books stacked against the wall and laying on tables. The desk sits near the center of the floor space, and her brushes sit neatly organized in makeshift penholders. It's a space that says, *This is a place for work*, and Kveck takes that seriously. She leaves her laptop at home because it's a distraction

from making art.

That discipline is channeled beyond the studio, as well. Kveck is an active member of the local arts scene — in fact, you could argue that she is a significant driver of it. In 2015, she launched the website *Settlers + Nomads* (settlersandnomads.com), a collaborative effort in which Nevada artists contribute their work and their perspectives on the art community. "Settlers" describes those who live here — some 30 or so — while "Nomads" covers dozens of artists from out of state who have stopped in Nevada for exhibits or residences, or former locals who have moved away. The site has links to their work, and a sporadically updated blog that looks at art projects around the country.

Kveck was inspired by artists' web projects in other cities, and sought to tackle what she says is a lack of arts infrastructure in Las Vegas. What began as a small project consisting of colleagues she had worked with at UNLV quickly grew to include a much wider group of artists, including visiting artists at UNLV and some who worked for the now defunct P3 residency program at The Cosmopolitan.

"People have been extremely generous and enthusiastic about participating — it's really highlighted the special energy here," Kveck says.

"With Las Vegas being so transient, I think it's paramount for a project like *Settlers + Nomads* to exist," says Lance Smith, a local artist highlighted on the site. "Beyond its archival importance, it provides a beautifully curated space that showcases the artists who have lived and created in Las Vegas. It also creates a bridge between artists who have relocated, which allows for new and interesting collaborative possibilities."

Andreana Donahue, another Las Vegas artist and contributor to *Settlers + Nomads*, believes that the project has been crucial in creating an art community in the city. "*Settlers + Nomads* draws necessary attention to work artists are also doing outside of the studio — rigorous endeavors in community engagement, activism, and education," she says.

This month, *Settlers + Nomads* will mark its second anniversary. Kveck hopes to keep growing the project by creating a publication that will feature the blog posts artists have contributed to the site.

After the 2016 election and the subsequent Women's March, Kveck deepened her activism, helping found the Desert Arts Action Coalition. Affiliated with the progressive movement Indivisible, DAAC began as 10 artists and arts patrons who initially

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wanted to get involved in this year's state Legislature. "One of our focuses has been to protect arts and humanities funding," Kveck says. During the session, Kveck and others attended public hearings, hosted speakers, and, using a private Facebook page, tracked legislative actions so that members could contact their Senate and Assembly Members. More long-range, she adds, DAAC is "ultimately preparing for the 2018 midterm and gubernatorial elections."

"Wendy is, to me, one of the most important artists and activists in the Las Vegas art scene," Smith says. "She has shown time and time again that she is committed to harnessing community, and seeks to help elevate the perception of what it means to be a working artist in Las Vegas and Nevada as a whole."

The election, and the bills and executive orders coming of out of Washington, D.C., have also motivated Kveck's work. While her art has always challenged our culture's view of women's bodies, she now says she wants her work to be more aggressive — more assertive or angry female figures, she says. "The feminist agenda in my work and research is to push back against patriarchy and a society that has become desensitized to objectified, hyper-sexualized images of the body," she says.

While Kveck draws from art history, the clichés of which often reflect a patriarchal culture — the Reclining Nude, the Mad and Fallen Woman — she works to subvert these tropes through her media and approach. Sometimes, that's simply a matter of readjusting the frame: "I've done a lot of paintings where it started as a reclining figure, so it maybe would have been a horizontal painting, where then I invert it and make it a vertical painting. I'm activating or empowering the figure by switching the passive to a more active (stance)."

She is also taking another look at some of her older paintings and considering how she might change them to reflect the current political climate. "This could mean pushing the grotesque or tragic overtones in the existing works," she says. As an example, she mentions obliterating a soft yellow sky in one image by painting over it with heavy black brushstrokes. "This sounds simplistic and obvious, a petulant response which might destroy the painting, but it also creates a formal problem to solve: How do I make the black sky work with rest of the painting? How do I have to modify the figures in the foreground to make them hold their own against the field of darkness?"

As always, there is her use of color, deliberately oversaturated and overpowering. "The way that I've worked with color, it has been to me more confrontational," Kveck says.

"Wendy's work always circles back to painting; whether she's implementing other media, such as performance, drawing, or collage to access recurring concepts, there's a visceral, painterly quality present," artist Donahue says. Smith concurs with the sentiment: "Wendy has a beautiful understanding of color and form. ... There is an honesty in Wendy's work that is always there. Her work does not simplify itself for the sake of the viewer, it demands attention while offering insight."

As Kveck talks through her paintings and photographs, one feels that visceral connection with the women who posed for them. Even as their features are obscured by frosting or paint, the movement and message are clear. *We are here*, these paintings say. *We are loud and aggressive*. Maybe that's not what you expect from pink, but it is there, in its nature. It's not going away. ✦





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ON THE STRIP AT SUNSET ROAD



BUSINESS

SPEEDY BEATTY

A new fiberoptic system that will give this tiny town the fastest internet in the state is just the latest innovation from a unique rural energy co-op

BY ***T.R. Witcher***

Best known as a fueling station on the way to Death Valley, Beatty is a really small place. Like, before you know you're rolling into town, you're rolling out of town. Hemmed in by mountains, the community of 3,000, about 120 miles northwest of Las Vegas, is not much more than a few motels and a few watering holes, but residents are a proud bunch who like that they've gotten away from the hustle of bigger cities.

The vibe is strongest at the Happy Burro Chili & Beer, which is full of delicious chili and carousing regulars. The restaurant's owner, Fred Summers, is holding court with some friends — two chili cooks and a chili judge —and Eddy Huffman, a newcomer to town, speaks for them all about the town's appeal. "I'm old," he says, "and I like old stuff."

But Beatty's about to get an infusion of 21st-century technology, courtesy of a blazing fiberoptic system that will enable internet speeds up to 400 times faster than what rural residents have dealt with — and probably a hell of a lot faster than your internet in Las Vegas, too. Beatty will be the first town in Nevada to be entirely connected with fiberoptic lines, hair-sized strands of glass that can transmit light at breathtaking speeds. (While fiberoptic lines are available elsewhere in the state, most customers in Nevada rely on either copper phone lines, coaxial cable lines, or wireless antennas.)

The fiber system, installed by a subsidiary of Valley Electric Association, not only heralds a more connected future for Nevada's rural communities, it also calls back to the past of the region itself. VEA was begun 52 years ago "by farmers, ranchers, people in rural areas sitting around the kitchen table saying, 'How are we gonna get electricity here?'" says Thomas Husted, the co-op's CEO. Nevada Power wouldn't service the area. The only power came from personal generators. There were just a few hundred people living here. There was no school — kids were bused to Shoshone, California, 27 miles away.

Other rural communities, such as Dyer and Amargosa, were in the

HIGHLY CHARGED Valley Electric Association CEO Thomas Husted

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Anthony Mair***

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POWER PLACE
Valley Electric Association's unassuming control room in Pahrump

same boat. With a push from the federal Rural Electrification Administration, which provided loans to build electrical-distribution systems in underserved parts of the country, those communities came together to form the Valley Electric Association. What began as a way to bring "very basic essentials to the folks in this area," such as lights and pumping water, has grown into a co-op that services 40,000 members across nearly 7,000 square miles — an area larger than Connecticut.

But if you think this is a small-time operation, think again. Husted, VEA's CEO, is quick to boast that the utility "has a legacy of being one of the most sophisticated, technologically advanced utilities in the United States." It sounds like hyperbole until you visit the utility's control room at its Pahrump headquarters, in a building where doors aren't marked and where sensitive equipment is placed in rooms surrounded on six sides by concrete. A screen in a corridor shows a map of real-time cyber attacks occurring in the United States. It looks like a scene out of *WarGames*: The U.S. mainline is bombarded by dozens of attacks every second. VEA gets hit with about 8,000 a day — hackers probing for weakness anywhere along the national energy grid. (For security reasons, the VEA declined to address how it thwarts these attacks.)

In the control room, technicians calmly monitor a wall filled with 20 huge flat screens, from banks of more than half-a-dozen monitors that curve around. If there are any issues, they can zoom down to see a single power line serving one home anywhere on their network.

VEA began putting fiberoptics on its energy transmission lines around 2007, to improve its internal communications. Those lines reduced the utility's outage time by 90 percent by speeding up the ability to respond to problems on the system.

At the time, the company didn't want to get into the communications business. But in the intervening years — thanks to the explosive growth of broadband-connected mobile devices — it realized that high-speed communications is today's version of electricity: No longer a luxury, but an absolute requirement for participating in local, national, and global economies and societies.

VEA formed Valley Communications Association in 2015 to begin to develop a fiberoptic system. Its first customer was the electric utility itself. "Every device on our system, we need high-speed communications to, in order to develop the real smart grid — meters, breakers," he says.

Fiber allows what Husted calls "an unlimited future" — only the equipment on the ends of the wires can limit virtually instantaneous speeds. The full build-out of the fiber system in VEA's service area will cost about $100 million. Husted says fiber is a way to safeguard decades and hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in the electrical grid and what it represents: the building of a community. "To not do this is to make a conscious decision (that) we don't have a future," Husted says. "We call this place home, and home is forever."

The new service will start at 50 megabits per second (Mbps) for $49.95 all the way up to 1 gigabit — 1,000 Mbps — for $149.95 a month. According to broadbandnow.com, a database of information about U.S. broadband connectivity, the fastest-connected cities in Nevada at the moment are Boulder City and Incline Village, both with an average speed of more than 46 Mbps. The state's average is 37.5 Mpbs. (A megabit is one-eighth of a megabyte.)

The utility began with Beatty because the town is so compact. Beatty High School, where demand for fast internet has for years far outpaced supply, was the first to be wired. The rest of the town was scheduled to be wired by the end of this month. The rest of VEA's service area will be wired by the end next year. Husted says the installation work has been slowed by the need for linemen in storm-hit regions such Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

The utility's vision would not be possible without its own backbone of savvy business deals. In 2013 VEA became the first out-of-state utility to join the California Independent Service Operator, or CAISO, which oversees





26,000 miles of transmission lines in California and Nevada. "There's a large potential for renewables in our area," Husted says. The deal makes the small utility a key conduit in transmitting renewable energy from Nevada to California's massive market of users.

The deal instantly made VEA the fourth-largest transmission owner-operator in CAISO and saw the utility grow the value of its capital assets from $125 million to more than $400 million. Between 2010 and 2016, meanwhile, VEA's revenues have grown by 40 percent, from $50 million annually to more than $72 million without a rate increase. (The company doesn't anticipate a rate adjustment until 2024.)

To further build out the system and bring down costs for end-users, the utility partnered with Las Vegas' Switch Communications, which was building a fiberoptic line to link data centers in Las Vegas and Reno. When asked whether it's feasible to roll out high-speed internet across rural Nevada, where more than 270,000 people live, Husted is bullish. "Is this a model that can be used elsewhere? Absolutely. It's an easy blueprint. I believe it will come."

The fastest-connected cities in Nevada at the moment are Boulder City and Incline Village, both with an average speed of more than 46 Mbps.

The key is finding capital. While VEA was starting to install fiber in its own backyard, it began looking at expanding fiber beyond its service area, to other rural communities such as Tonopah and Gabbs, that have similar needs — but this wasn't in its charter. "We have a lot of capital that was tied up in transmission," Husted says. "So we put our toe in the market and said, 'What's our transmission worth?'"

VEA eventually struck a deal in September to sell 164 miles of high-voltage transmission lines to Chicago-based GridLiance Holdco. VEA will continue to manage the system. With the windfall from the sale, reported at $190 million, VEA will pay down $80 million in debt, and return $18 million back to its members in the form of a dividend — about $579 to all its members.

The new company, Husted says, "has the expertise, the wherewithal to expand this infrastructure into the West to better serve, to strengthen the electric grid." And it's needed. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, nearly 40 percent of rural Americans — around 23 million people — lack broadband internet access. Beatty residents know this full well, having lumbered along for years at speeds of around 2.5 Mbps.

"If your highest speed is less than 5 Mbps, you're limited in what you can do online," says Robert Williams, director of technology for the Nye County School District. There are 5,000 kids total in the school district, and 225 in Beatty.

Williams was formerly the principal at Beatty High School and knows how internet speeds can affect education. The school district for years has been conducting the yearly Measure of Academic Progress test online. "We could basically test one computer lab of students at a time, and nobody else could use the computers," he says. "If you had a teacher streaming video in one room, you probably didn't have a strong enough connection to do your grade book in another." Teachers had to



take turns using online course materials.

The new fiberoptic link to the school — announced in September at a press event attended by Governor Brian Sandoval — should create several positive impacts. For one, the district can now purchase online curriculum materials, whether a digital reading or a video that accompanies a reading, to aid students.

The school district hopes to provide every student at the school with a Chromebook to allow them to work at home. Given that many students do homework on their parents' smartphones (these are common in Beatty; personal computers, not so much), affordable high-speed internet should make it easier for students to be productive outside of class.

Also, it should help kids "really understand how businesses work," Williams says. "You have to be able to use a computer effectively to communicate. You can't even apply for a job anymore without an internet connection."

There are other benefits as well. The Beatty Medical Clinic will be able to more effectively serve as a hub of telemedicine. And others see the potential for rural communities such as Beatty and Pahrump to become more attractive to people looking for a scenic, less congested, more neighborly kind of life — provided they can have speedy communications.

Still, there might be some potential losers. Existing internet service providers in the area, such as WestNet and Mojave Development, stand to lose as VEA encroaches into their business.

Inside Eddie World's, the massive candy, snack, and gifts emporium at the edge of Beatty, I caught up with entrepreneur John DeLee, who just opened a coffee shop here. He also runs Mojave Development, which provides internet services in the Amargosa Valley, and a real-estate business in Beatty. DeLee believes "high speed internet would have gotten here sooner if local ISPs had gotten access to the fiber sooner." And he knows that since VEA owns the poles the fiber is being strung on, they don't even need the wireless antennas that the smaller ISPs use.

"We don't have a growth path currently, given the existing broadband situation," DeLee says. However, he does say that faster internet will be a benefit to the community.

Husted sees fiber as part of an ongoing empowerment of consumers. "We see our role as not being the dictator of this vertically integrated industry: big generation, big transmission distribution down to the end-use consumer," Husted says. "We see ourselves as the conductor of this orchestra, where people have rooftop solar, people have electric cars with battery packs — they're not going to get all their energy from the utility. It's going to be this symbiotic relationship of the utility and the end-use consumers working side by side."

Still, some folks are a little bit impatient. Gema Moreno, who works at the tiny Gema's Café (named after the cafe's owner, Gema's mom), says she doesn't know when service is coming. Her mother has applied for it, but her existing service has been turned off. "We haven't heard that much," she says.

The vibe in town, though, is one of casual optimism. "Folks who live in the rurals are usually calm about this type of thing," Williams says. "We'll wait and see how it works. I've talked with a few businesses. They were very excited. It will make an impact on their business. It will allow some parents to work at home."

Huffman, the chili cook at Happy Burro, puts it the best. "In this day and age, you gotta have communication." ✦





PERFECTION ON PLATES
Twist's Canadian venison, braised turnips on a cabbage and huckleberry marmalade, with game pie and blackberry jam

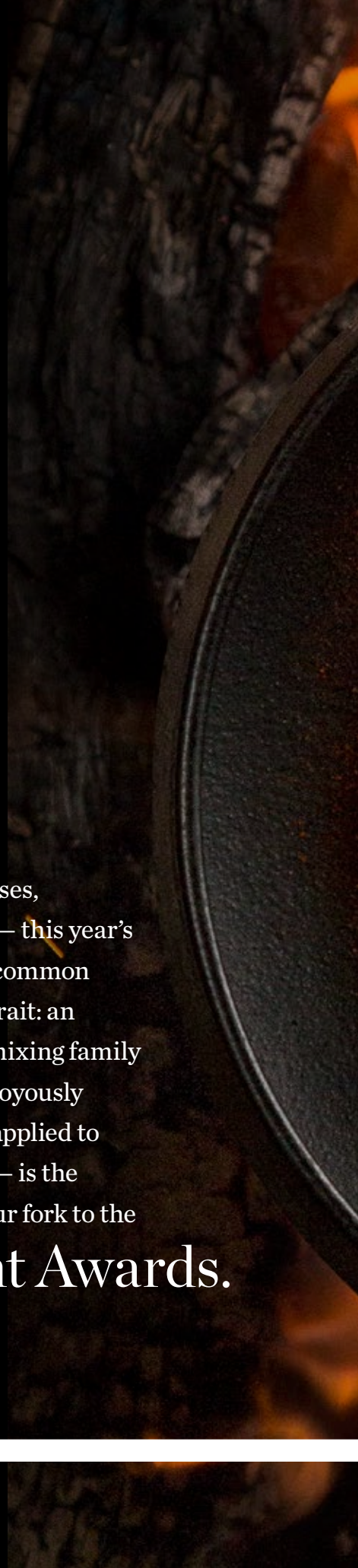
BY JOHN CURTAS + JIM BEGLEY + MITCHELL WILBURN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTOPHER SMITH + SABIN ORR

Restaurant Awards

OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF LAS VEGAS' BEST DINING SPOTS, DISHES, AND CHEFS





Upstarts

and unlikely successes, mavericks and innovators, even a disruptor or two — this year's Restaurant Awards honorees share in common uncommon backgrounds and origin stories. And one defining trait: an unflagging attention to detail. Whether they're remixing family recipes, refining a noble culinary tradition, or just joyously making it up as they go along, a loving precision — applied to the craft, the service, the entire dining experience — is the shining hallmark of this year's recipients. Raise your fork to the honorees of the 2017 Restaurant Awards.



EARTHY EATS
Maitake mushrooms with Turkish hummus, crispy sunchokes and cascabel chiles from Sparrow + Wolf



DESSERT OF THE YEAR

Paris-Brest at Eatt

Amid a lively menu of healthy French fare, Eatt's Paris-Brest is a decadent surprise

There are two requirements for a dessert to be magnificent: one, that it be intense; and two, that it be French. A French renaissance of sorts has blossomed off the Strip in the last year, and the team at Eatt is one of the restaurants doing the food of its homeland proud. On a menu full of standouts both lavish and light, it is Vincent Pellerin's desserts that will have you swooning — and forgetting about all the delicious, healthy fare you just had for dinner. These classic cream puffs, named to celebrate the Paris-to-Brest bicycle race, are filled with a praline cream, then topped with a house-made chocolate bar and caramelized hazelnuts. They come three to an order, which won't be enough — whether there's one person at the table, or three. ***John Curtas***

(7865 W. Sahara Ave. #104, 702-608-5233, eattfood.com)



DEALICIOUS MEAL OF THE YEAR

Chengdu Zajiang Noodles at Mian Sichuan Noodles

This seemingly humble bowl of noodles unleashes a deep, complex heat

The Chengdu Zajiang noodle bowl at Mian Sichuan Noodles is a simple dish — house-made noodles, pork, fried egg, baby bok choy, green onions and a savory sauce. But there's nothing simple about that sauce. Embracing chiles as a central ingredient, Mian turns an ordinary noodle dish into a regional Chinese take on a classic Bolognese; spiked with Sichuan peppercorns and chili flakes, it's a hearty and piquant torrent of flavor. But what's noteworthy about the Chengdu Zajiang noodles — and the entire menu at Mian — is that the spice is about flavor, not just heat. It makes for a sweat-inducing kick, to be sure, but that's a side benefit to the dish's deep, rich complexity. ***Jim Begley***

(4355 Spring Mountain Road #107, 702-483-6531)



EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AND MANAGEMENT

Morels French Steakhouse & Bistro

The precise professionalism that runs this restaurant only adds to the pleasure of its top-flight French fare

Running a three-meal-a-day restaurant in a busy Las Vegas hotel has to be one of the toughest jobs in the hospitality business. It's one thing if the operation is a glorified coffee shop, but quite another if it aspires to be a top-flight French steakhouse with a wine bar, an outdoor patio, and a menu that runs the gamut from sparkling oysters to eggs Benedict to dry-aged ribeyes. Add a cheese program, au courant cocktails, tableside Caesar salads, rolling beverage carts, artisanal beers, and late-night dining, and you have the service challenge to end all service challenges. But every day of every week, from daybreak until well past midnight, G.M. Louis Hirsch (pictured) keeps Morels Steakhouse running like a luxury timepiece. I ate four meals here in the past year — two when I was recognized and two when I was not — and the service was perfect every time. JL Carter's classic steakhouse fare never disappoints; the ease and professionalism with which it is served, morning, noon and night, only deepens the pleasure of dining at this unsung restaurant. ***JC***

(The Palazzo, 702-607-6333, morelslv.com)

ASIAN RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Kaiseki Yuzu

In an otherwise unremarkable suburban strip mall, some of the valley's most sublime Japanese cuisine is served

One of the valley's best Japanese restaurants is far from bustling Chinatown, tucked behind an AutoZone on East Silverado Ranch Boulevard. But what chef/owner Kaoru Azeuchi is doing at Kaiseki Yuzu is nothing short of a revelation.

Azeuchi, a Japanese culinary veteran, first came to Southern Nevada in 2014 with the intent of opening a strictly *kaiseki* restaurant. *Kaiseki* is a multicourse, seasonal dining experience with ornate presentations and specially sourced ingredients. But would locals embrace such a novel concept right out of the gate? Azeuchi played it strategically safe, opening Yuzu Japanese Kitchen with more mainstream Japanese fare. And yes, even hidden in a suburban strip mall, Yuzu's menu — boasting a worldly refinement thanks to Azeuchi's training in both Japanese and French cuisine — soon attracted a following. Taking that as a vote of confidence, last year Azeuchi transitioned to focus on *kaiseki*, and Yuzu's fan base only grew.

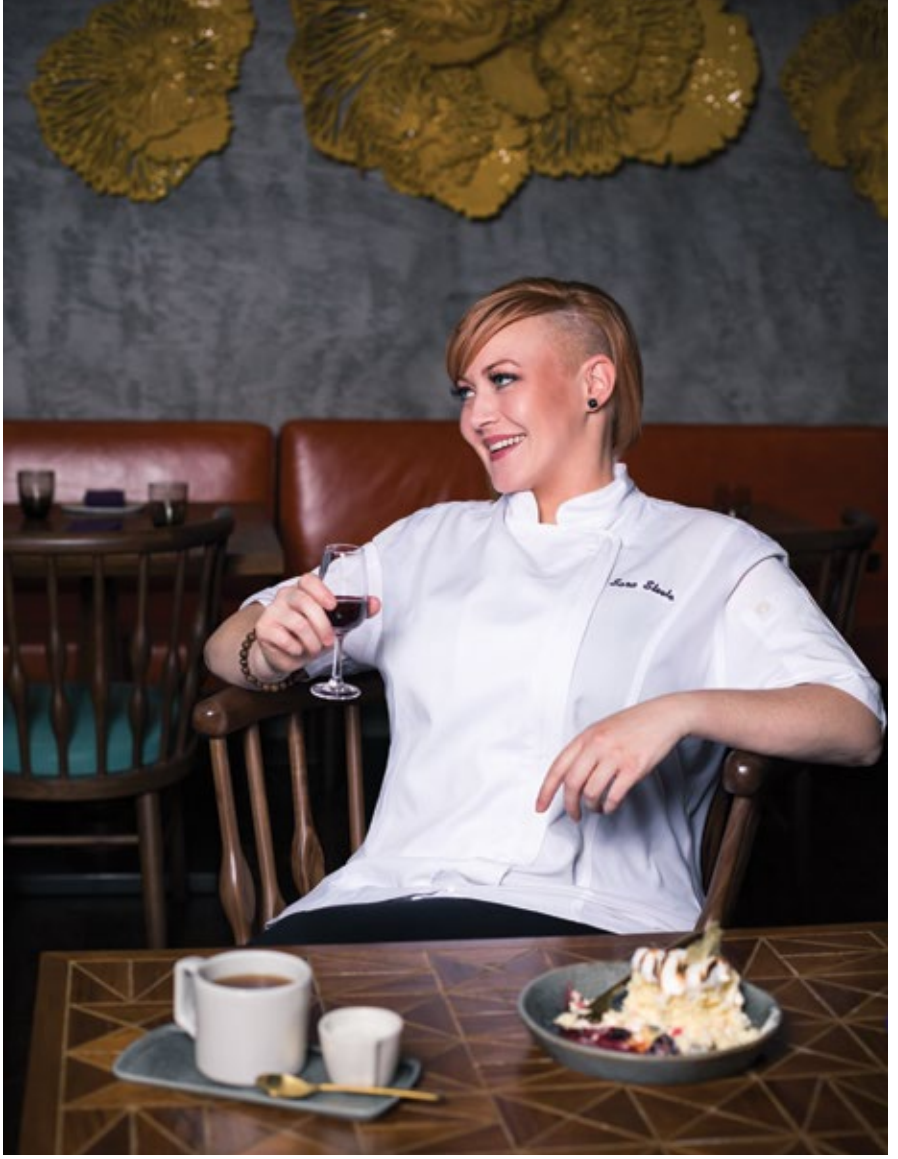
Courses vary with each visit — the point and the beauty of *kaiseki* — but past offerings have included smoky grilled Kobe beef slices swaddling king oyster mushrooms, and kale chip-garnished lobster delivered with an umami-rich mushroom sauce. Azeuchi actually keeps track of diners' menus, so you never eat the same course twice. It's another way that Azeuchi's attention to detail has made Kaiseki Yuzu a devotee's destination for high-concept Japanese cuisine. ***JB***

(1310 E. Silverado Ranch Blvd. #105, 702-778-8889, yuzukaiseki.com)



RAW AND ROLL Every visit to Kaiseki Yuzu reveals a different menu — the essence of the concept of *kaiseki*.





PASTRY CHEF OF THE YEAR

Sara Steele, Chica

Sara Steele's deceptively simple desserts tweak familiar recipes in fascinating ways

Sara Steele is one of our own. An Eldorado High School graduate, she earned degrees from both the California Culinary Academy and the College of Southern Nevada before turning her talents to pastry. She began wowing customers with her dessert carts at the Wynn and Encore a decade ago, bringing a playful touch to all sorts of classic cookies, candies, and sweets at Botero and Lakeside. Then she left the grind of restaurant work for a while, much to the dismay of her fans. But the siren song of culinary creativity lured her back to the Chica kitchen when it opened earlier this year, and pan-Latin desserts have never tasted so good. Steele's forte is tweaking the familiar in fascinating ways. Lemon donuts are given a new personality when made with ricotta — and a definite wardrobe upgrade when dressed with white chocolate dulce de leche sauce. You won't find a richer tres leches cake this side of Mexico City, and her take on the Venezuelan marquesa de chocolate is a study in sinful indulgence. Getting every dessert in the house is always the best option here, since there never seems to be enough donuts or churro-fried ice cream pops to go around. Sara Steele can make desserts sing in any language. ***JC***

(The Venetian, 702-805-8472, chicalasvegas.com)



RESTAURATEURS OF THE YEAR

Sheridan Su and Jenny Wong

From hot plates in a hair salon, Su and Wong have built a small empire on Chinese comfort classics

From humble beginnings, husband and wife restaurateurs Sheridan Su and Jenny Wong have assembled a small culinary empire in and near Downtown. And it couldn't have happened in a more unlikely manner.

After beginning his career on the Strip, six years ago, the classically trained Su was let go as Comme Ça's executive chef. Faced with a momentous life decision, he did what any reasonable chef would do: He and then-girlfriend Wong opened up Great Bao in a hair salon, doling out bao and other Asian specialties served up from a two-burner hotplate in a closet-size space.

The couple only intended for the venture to maintain cash flow while their food truck got up and running. The food truck never materialized, but a cult following did, catching the eye of Eureka Casino owner Greg Lee, who was looking to revamp his East Sahara casino diner. With Su overseeing the kitchen and Wong shining at front-of-house, in early 2013 the couple revamped the greasy spoon menu with Asian-American flair, including their now-famous bao, handmade potstickers and savory sesame noodles, along with novel takes on staples such as the Fat Choy Burger and a short-rib grilled cheese. An appearance on *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives* only bolstered their following. Driven by the success of Fat Choy, the couple pursued a dream: a postage stamp-size joint dishing out Hainan chicken in an aging East Sahara strip mall. Their hope was to break even serving the obscure Asian poached chicken dish they loved, only to discover everybody else loved it as much as they did. Flock & Fowl put the dish — and the culinary couple — on the map.

Their conquests continue: A second Flock & Fowl has just premiered at the Ogden. Su, a gentle giant, and Wong, a wry firecracker, provide the perfect foil for one another. His steady demeanor is perfect for running a kitchen; her bright persona in the dining room gives every meal a touch of familial warmth — a perfect pairing for this cross-cultural comfort food. ***JB***

(flockandfowl.com, fatchoylv.com)



DINNER AT EIGHT
Black Sheep's crispy Mediterranean octopus

NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Black Sheep

The swagger and self-assurance of Chef Jamie Tran's new restaurant is just what the dining scene needs

This was a rocky year for off-Strip restaurants, with some disappointing closures and some noteworthy openings. But what struck me were the retreats — restaurants that walked back ambitious concepts, watered down innovative menus, or abandoned culinary ideals in favor of safe mediocrity. To me, that's a kind of spiritual defeat worse than closing. Amid this trend, Black Sheep and partner/chef Jamie Tran was an inspiring exception.

As a restaurant name, "Black Sheep" reflects Tran's rebel status in a male-dominated industry, but it's much more than a clever brand. There's fun swagger and self-assurance in the menu, the wait staff — even the location. In the culinary desert of the southwest Las Vegas — where the IKEA café is a dining destination, where eateries have to throw a cheeseburger on the menu to soothe cranky suburbanites wielding Yelp accounts like switchblades — Black Sheep is a playful dare. In the process, it's drawn in every serious food-lover in town and become a chefs' hangout. The menu has a comfort-food heart with elegant fine-dining touches. The braised Duroc pork belly, done in a sweet and savory sauce of Hood River cherries and seasonal mushrooms, is as rib-sticking as Grandma's pot roast, but the flavor is complex, inflected with the flavors of Hoisin sauce. The fried beef crisps (think a large *chicharron*), with a spicy Japanese *togarashi* dust and a drizzle of a thin chili-lime sauce, is a perfect handshake between Tran's fine-dining past (she spent five years at Aureole) and her current embrace of casual comfort food. There's even a great happy hour, with cheap cocktails and $1 oysters. By refusing to play by the unspoken rules of neighborhood restaurants, the Black Sheep is doing everything right. ***Mitchell Wilburn***

(8680 W. Warm Springs Road, 702-954-3998, blacksheepvegas.com)





NEW RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Sparrow + Wolf

Chef Brian Howard didn't just open a stellar restaurant. He created a template for inspiring future innovation

If you're going to judge the New Restaurant of the Year based upon the splash it made, no one did a bigger cannonball in 2017 than Sparrow + Wolf. After leaving the Strip and wandering in the desert for a few years, Chef Brian Howard found a home in the middle of Chinatown. From day one, he's been pulling in locals and tourists with a protein-rich menu that demands you pay attention. Never before has Chinatown, much less the rest of Las Vegas, seen things like clams casino with an uni hollandaise, beef cheek and bone marrow dumplings, and halibut in a white Alabama barbecue sauce. Because of these and other dishes, our restaurant scene will never be the same again.

Those dishes — along with the cool vibe, inventive cocktails, and spot-on service — will probably prove to be Howard's legacy. By going so far out on a limb — with his food, his concept, and his location — he's established a template for chefs who want to break with the corporate culture and do it their way. His is not cooking that bows to any convention (sweetbreads wrapped in grilled romaine with smoked bacon is not exactly grandma-friendly), but it is squarely aimed at Gen X and Millennial customers, diners whose palates have come of age in the internet era. They're the customers who will drive the restaurant business for the next 20 years, and Sparrow + Wolf taps right into this hyper-foodie zeitgeist.

Whether you're looking for a fusion homage to the neighborhood (udon Bolognese), hearth-baked bread or coal-roasted beets, Howard has you covered. That he can squeeze so many flavors into such a modest space is a testament to his passion and planning. That his intended audience responded immediately bodes well for the future of chef-driven restaurants. I don't know if Las Vegas has enough dedicated foodies to support other young chefs trying to do what Sparrow + Wolf has pulled off, but its success is a great start for the future of good eating. ***JC***

(4480 Spring Mountain Road #100, 702-790-2147, sparrowandwolflv.com



ISLAND SPICE Hawaiian hearts of palm with medjool dates, oxheart carrots, coconut and curry at Sparrow + Wolf



HAVE YOU CURD? Raku's silky-smooth agedashi tofu

HALL OF FAME AWARD

Aburiya Raku

Raku's food is extraordinary, but its impact on the Las Vegas culinary culture is incalculable

Mitsuo Endo's Aburiya Raku, better known as simply Raku, has been a fixture of the Vegas dining scene for most of the last decade — actually, multiple fixtures to multiple crowds. It opened in 2008 as a Chinatown destination courting Asian tourists. Then it grew into a late-night spot for Strip chefs in the know; today, it's a mainstream darling, garnering numerous accolades, including James Beard nominations for Best New Restaurant and a half-dozen nods as a semifinalist for Best Chef Southwest. Every accolade, every nomination, every nod is richly deserved: Raku's head chef, Mitsuo Endo, applies an attention to detail that manifests in every facet of the dining experience — whether it's the multitude of soy sauces or salts paired with dishes (including an outrageous green tea salt), the handcrafted Japanese tableware selected by Endo-san himself, or even the tropical-paradise restroom that has to be seen to be believed.

The food is extraordinary. Raku is known for dishes such as its silky-smooth *agedashi* tofu, smoky *binchotan*-fired robata offerings (the unctuous beef tendon is not to be missed), and the mystifying potato-stuffed corn. But it truly excels on its blackboard specials that never cease to impress, many of which hail directly from Japan's Tsukiji Market. I've marveled at flying fish fried whole, while miniature *sawagani* (sand crabs) are flash-fried in fighting formation like a small toy army.

Even with the 2013 expansion to 48 seats (and rumors of a long-awaited patio expansion coming to fruition), it's still hard to get a table. But luckily, its Seoul Plaza opening unleashed a tidal wave of ambitious and diverse Japanese cuisine. Without Raku, there might not be Monta, Kyara, Trattoria Nakamura-Ya, Curry House Zen, Kabuto, Kaiseki Yuzu, Yui ... The impact of Raku upon our culinary landscape cannot be overestimated. Endo-san has since expanded Raku into a West Hollywood location. For once, rather than importing from SoCal, we're gladly sharing a talent that is truly our own. ***JB***

(5030 W. Spring Mountain Road #2, 702-367-3511, raku-grill.com)



CHEF OF THE YEAR

Francesco Di Caudo, Ferraro's

The young Sicilian chef brings audacity and verve to Ferraro's solid menu of Italian classics

Taking a restaurant from great to glorious is a tricky proposition. Why gamble with a good thing? When it's a place as iconic as Ferraro's Italian Restaurant & Wine Bar, you run the risk of alienating customers if you change so much as the bread basket. But the change the Ferraro family made by putting Francesco Di Caudo in the kitchen in 2015 has paid big dividends, while not disturbing what's kept this place at the top of the Italian food chain since 1985.

Born at the foot of Mount Etna, Di Caudo is Sicilian by birth, but his training took him all over Italy until he arrived in Las Vegas more than a decade ago. Stints at Circo and Sinatra no doubt prepared him for a life of leading corporate kitchens, but when he landed at the doorstep of Ferraro's, they had to know there was a show pony in their midst who was dying to strut his stuff. Taking over an operation famous for its osso buco and its wine cellar is a balancing act. But Di Caudo has managed to incorporate such push-the-envelope dishes as risotto *roccaverano* (Arborio rice with Rabiola cheese, lamb ragu and pistachio-coffee dust) with such classics as the house-made *salsiccia Calabrese* (spicy sausage), pleasing everyone — and gaining a lot of foodie cred in the process. The *trippa satriano* (tripe in spicy tomato sauce) is about as old-school as you can get, but when paired with Di Caudo's sea urchin pasta in a ginger-carrot sauce, or new-age beef tartare (with garlic chips and cured, grated egg yolk), you have the best of old and new Italy in one meal. The Ferraro's crowd has always been a meat-loving one, but the things Di Caudo does with black bass and salt cod are now attracting true gastronomes.

Making an established kitchen sing a new tune while still playing the golden oldies is a remarkable feat for any chef. Ferraro's is better than ever in 2017, and that's quite an accomplishment for the restaurant — and for Francesco Di Caudo. ***JC***

(4480 Paradise Road, 702-364-5300, ferraroslasvegas.com)



SUBTLE SEAS
Twist's wild European turbot with fregola pasta and prawns. Opposite, grilled fennel with spinach velouté





RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Twist by Pierre Gagnaire

Twist's tireless commitment to excellence pays the ultimate dividend: perfection

When Twist by Pierre Gagnaire opened in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in 2009, it capped a culinary renaissance that had been seven years in the making. Beginning in 2003 with Thomas Keller's Bouchon, our French revolution continued through the openings of Joël Robuchon (2005), Daniel Boulud (2005) and Guy Savoy (2006), and was such a revolution in restaurant cooking that the whole world took notice.

Twist was last to the party — but what an entrance it made. From the beginning, it featured the groundbreaking, modernist cuisine of Pierre Gagnaire, usually served in a blizzard of plates celebrating a central theme. At the time, you might be excused for thinking that you were getting too much of a good thing, as Gagnaire's chefs riffed on everything from crabs to cauliflower, sometimes overwhelming your palate in the process. These days, Chef de Cuisine Frédéric Don does Gagnaire proud by creating more focused dishes, in a glittering atmosphere, delivered by a staff that never misses a beat.

Besides the razor-sharp execution, jaw-dropping presentations, and fork-dropping flavors, what impresses most about Twist is how it's come together in the past year to become an almost perfect Las Vegas restaurant. It always had the pedigree, the spectacle and the world-class cooking, and now its menu fits the Strip like a Chanel suit. Exotic fare (foie gras parfait, langoustine beignet, smoked haddock soufflé) competes with eye-popping vegetarian menus, as this kitchen toggles back and forth between wild turbot finished in a classic *beurre Nantais* to a not-so-classic black eggplant tortellini with black garlic *velouté*. This is cooking in the deep end of the epicurean pond; in the wrong hands, you could find yourself drowning in a sea of ingredients. Instead, everything from the proteins to the plants is always on point. If all chefs cooked vegetables this well, the birds and beasts that roam the earth would have nothing to worry about.

The point of Twist is to dazzle, to intrigue, and to amuse; but it never confuses. (Along with those pirouettes on the plate, they also serve some mighty great steaks.) With an improved (and more affordable) wine program, and Vivian Chang's ethereal desserts, it's become our most complete dining salon — ready to impress the neophyte gastronome as much as the fussiest gourmet — all served with a view that's as breathtaking as what's on your plate. ***JC***

(Mandarin Oriental, 702-590-8888, mandarinoriental.com)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WHAT IT'S LIKE



Joy. Pain. Fear. Obsession. Triumph. If you've ever wondered what it's like to be bitten by a brown recluse, have a baby at home, beat cancer, battle drug addiction or escape from a burning car stuck in a tree after you drove off a cliff, these illustrated, true-life stories from Las Vegans are your answer.

FEATURING

PATRICK BOWEN is the principal percussionist of the Las Vegas Philharmonic and jazz/percussion director at Las Vegas Academy.

KAYLA EVERLY-DICKENSHEETS is a full-time mother of three in Henderson.

CLAY HEXIMER is a longtime drummer in the Las Vegas punk scene.

JOHN JUADINES is the owner of WADBOD CrossFit.

MICHELLE LARIME is associate director of the Nevada Preservation Foundation.

ANDREA LIPOMI is a massage therapist, esthetician and nail tech.

ASIA PEREZ is a model and adult fetish actress.

LISA YALICH is a nurse practitioner specializing in Native American healthcare.

OBSESSED

By day, I was a mild-mannered dental assistant. A second job took my body and soul into dark territory.

BY JOHN JUADINES ILLUSTRATED BY RYAN INZANA



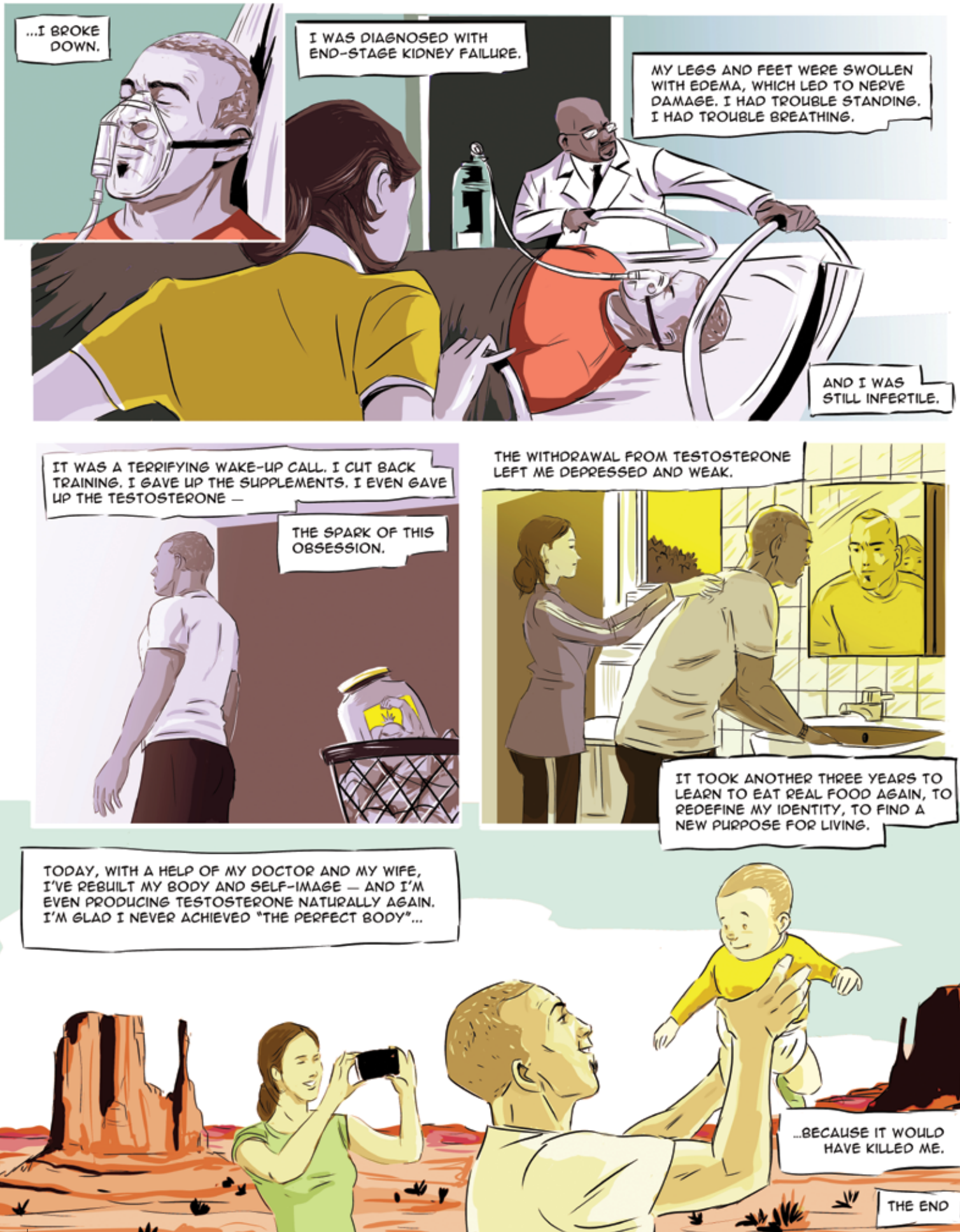

TWO SHOWS NIGHTLY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.
BETWEEN SHOWS, 500 CALORIES.


SIX HOURS OF RESTLESS SLEEP.
REPEAT.


MEANTIME, I WAS GORGING ON ENERGY SUPPLEMENTS AND CONCOCTIONS.
IF I ATE SOMETHING I LIKED: GUILT.
JACK3D
H-PLODE


I COULD AVOID THE GUILT BY PURGING.

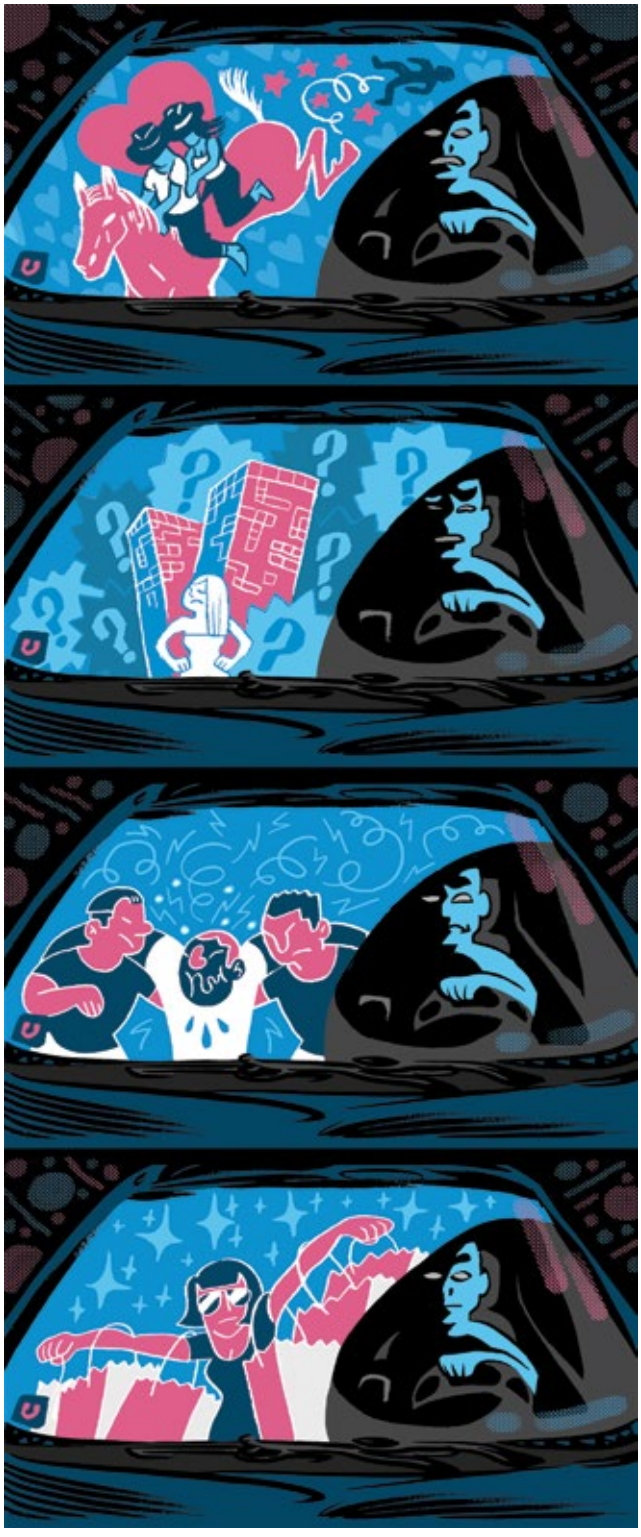

AFTER THREE YEARS OF THIS...


...I BROKE DOWN.
I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH END-STAGE KIDNEY FAILURE.
MY LEGS AND FEET WERE SWOLLEN WITH EDEMA, WHICH LED TO NERVE DAMAGE. I HAD TROUBLE STANDING. I HAD TROUBLE BREATHING.
AND I WAS STILL INFERTILE.
IT WAS A TERRIFYING WAKE-UP CALL. I CUT BACK TRAINING. I GAVE UP THE SUPPLEMENTS. I EVEN GAVE UP THE TESTOSTERONE —
THE SPARK OF THIS OBSESSION.
THE WITHDRAWAL FROM TESTOSTERONE LEFT ME DEPRESSED AND WEAK.
IT TOOK ANOTHER THREE YEARS TO LEARN TO EAT REAL FOOD AGAIN, TO REDEFINE MY IDENTITY, TO FIND A NEW PURPOSE FOR LIVING.
TODAY, WITH A HELP OF MY DOCTOR AND MY WIFE, I'VE REBUILT MY BODY AND SELF-IMAGE — AND I'M EVEN PRODUCING TESTOSTERONE NATURALLY AGAIN. I'M GLAD I NEVER ACHIEVED "THE PERFECT BODY"...
...BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE KILLED ME.
THE END

UBER DRIVER

I don't just pick up riders. I pick up stories.

BY ANONYMOUS ILLUSTRATED BY COLIN ANDERSEN



I pull up to the house and the rider hops in, telling me how excited he is about the rodeo. But first, I have to take him to his date's house. I check my phone for directions - and my heart drops: It's the home of the woman I've been dating for the past few months!

Flush with anger, I text her at the first red light: Hey, what are you up to tonight? She texts back that she's really excited - she's going to the rodeo! I text back: I know - I'm driving your "friend" to your house right now! She insists they really are just friends, it's not what I think.

It's a long, 25-minute drive filled with simmering resentment and jealousy.

As we pull up to her house, the rider asks if I want to wait and take them to the rodeo at the Thomas & Mack.

I decline.

I pick up a woman from Veer Towers. She wants me to take her to Stoney's at Town Square to pick up her car - she drank too much last night and thought the safe thing would be to leave her car there. During the ride, she recaps her previous evening and her tally of what she'd been drinking.

As we approach the lot behind Stoney's, I ask her to point out her car. She has this perplexed look and points. I ask, "This one?" "Uh, yeah, this is good." I tell her to have a good day and take off.

As I'm pulling out of Town Square, I get another ride request - it's her again! As I pull up, she walks to my car with her head down.

"I'm so embarrassed," she says. "I forgot I actually did drive my car home to Veer last night."

I pull up to the Cromwell and see two guys holding up a third guy who is obviously not holding his liquor well. But it's just a five-minute drive down Koval to the Venetian. what could go wrong?

I look in my rearview mirror and notice they put their drunk friend in the middle. Shouldn't he sit by the window? They say, "No, he's fine, he's never puked before!" As I approach Koval, the drunk guy is falling over, and his friends start flopping him back and forth between them. I say that's probably not a great idea, and they tell me, he's fine, he's never thrown up.

Then he starts throwing up on his friend's lap, on the back seat, and on the floor of my car!

The rest of the ride, all I can think about is how badly I want these guys out so I can get my car cleaned. But it's 5:55, and all of the full-service car washes close at 6.

That was the day I made a new rule: If you're so drunk that you can't use a phone, you're not getting in my car.

I pick up a rider who says she needs some "retail therapy" after a long day of graduate classes at UNLV. On our way to Target, we talk about her struggles in school, and she reveals it's hard for her to focus because of a brain injury from a car accident. She can't drive, and she suffers from debilitating migraines that confine her to her blacked-out room for days at a time, but she still pushes through her courses toward getting her degree.

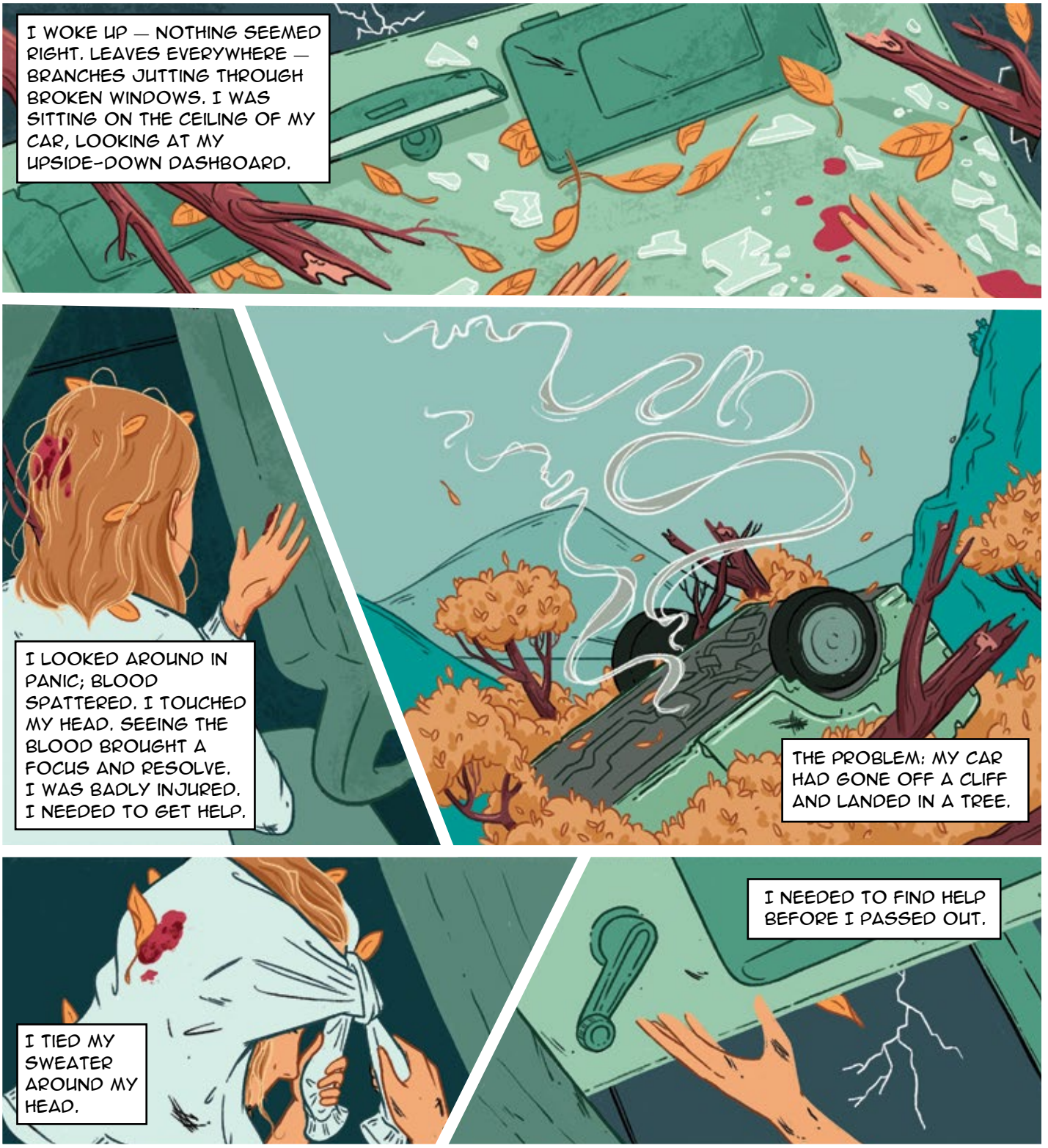
She asks me if I've had to work through any adversity. I told her about the time I had an emotional breakdown and checked myself into the hospital. I told her I'd struggled with anxiety my whole life, but didn't realize it until I went to the hospital. At 37 years old, I was actually diagnosed with anxiety and was now learning how to treat it.

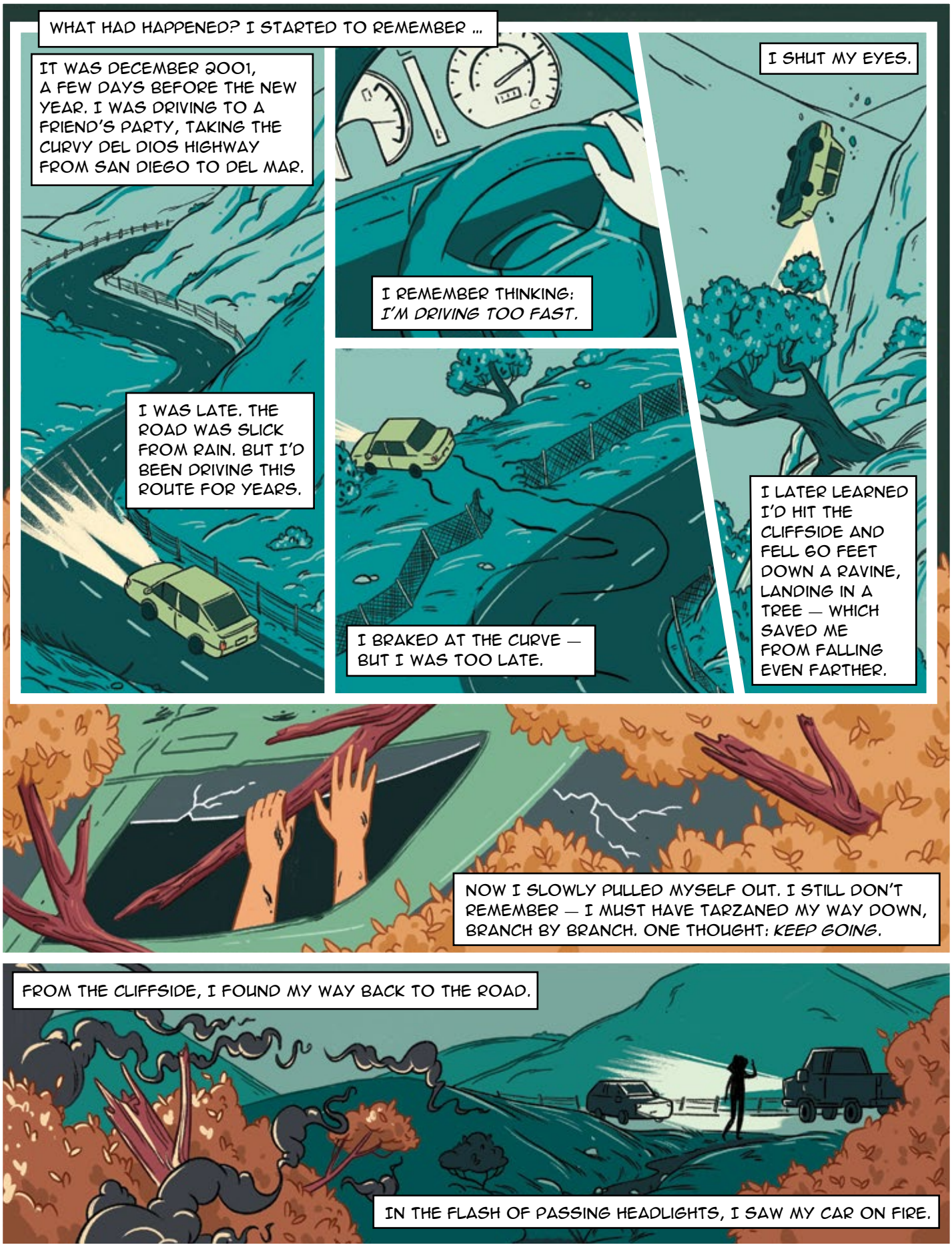
It was nice to have a connection with a complete stranger, and it gave me comfort knowing we can find something in common with anyone if we just take the time to talk.

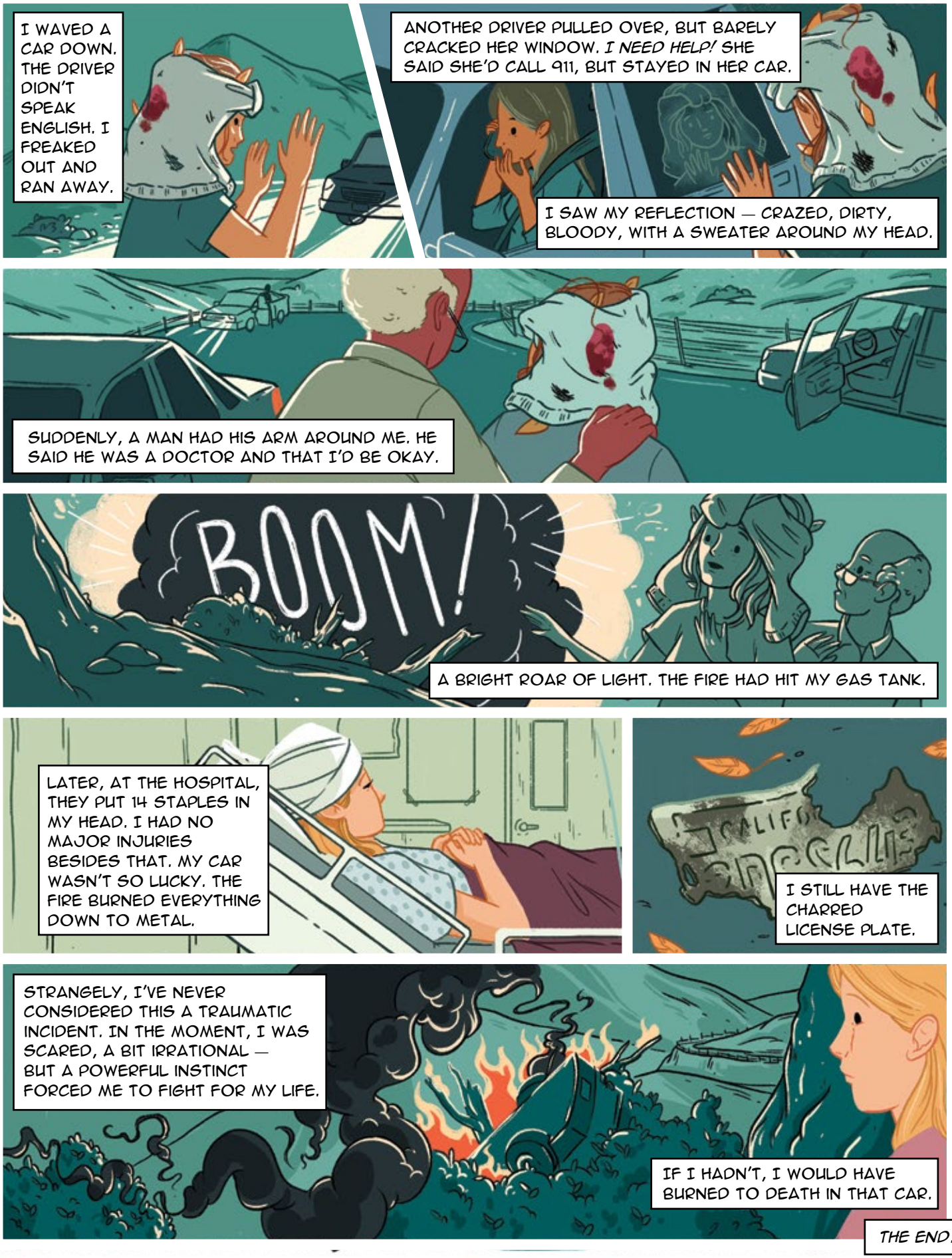
CRASHED

A night drive on a slick road nearly killed me. But I tapped a primal part of myself to survive.

BY MICHELLE LARIME ILLUSTRATED BY CELIA KRAMPIEN




WHAT HAD HAPPENED? I STARTED TO REMEMBER ...
IT WAS DECEMBER 2001, A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE NEW YEAR. I WAS DRIVING TO A FRIEND'S PARTY, TAKING THE CURVY DEL DIOS HIGHWAY FROM SAN DIEGO TO DEL MAR.
I WAS LATE. THE ROAD WAS SLICK FROM RAIN. BUT I'D BEEN DRIVING THIS ROUTE FOR YEARS.
I REMEMBER THINKING: *I'M DRIVING TOO FAST.*
I BRAKED AT THE CURVE — BUT I WAS TOO LATE.
I SHUT MY EYES.
I LATER LEARNED I'D HIT THE CLIFFSIDE AND FELL 60 FEET DOWN A RAVINE, LANDING IN A TREE — WHICH SAVED ME FROM FALLING EVEN FARTHER.
NOW I SLOWLY PULLED MYSELF OUT. I STILL DON'T REMEMBER — I MUST HAVE TARZANED MY WAY DOWN, BRANCH BY BRANCH. ONE THOUGHT: *KEEP GOING.*
FROM THE CLIFFSIDE, I FOUND MY WAY BACK TO THE ROAD.
IN THE FLASH OF PASSING HEADLIGHTS, I SAW MY CAR ON FIRE.

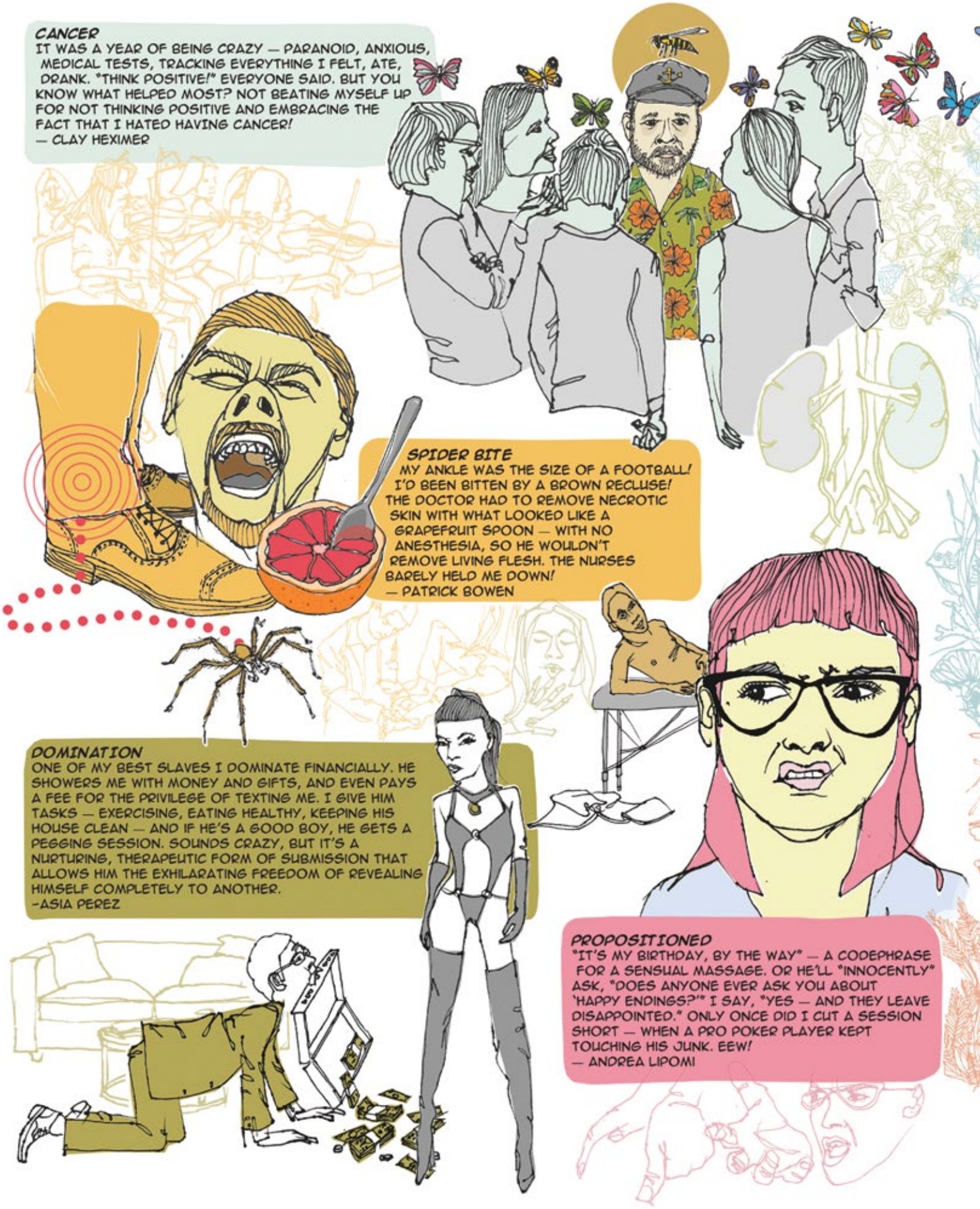

I WAVED A CAR DOWN. THE DRIVER DIDN'T SPEAK ENGLISH. I FREAKED OUT AND RAN AWAY.
ANOTHER DRIVER PULLED OVER, BUT BARELY CRACKED HER WINDOW. *I NEED HELP!* SHE SAID SHE'D CALL 911, BUT STAYED IN HER CAR.
I SAW MY REFLECTION — CRAZED, DIRTY, BLOODY, WITH A SWEATER AROUND MY HEAD.
SUDDENLY, A MAN HAD HIS ARM AROUND ME. HE SAID HE WAS A DOCTOR AND THAT I'D BE OKAY.
BOOM!
A BRIGHT ROAR OF LIGHT. THE FIRE HAD HIT MY GAS TANK.
LATER, AT THE HOSPITAL, THEY PUT 14 STAPLES IN MY HEAD. I HAD NO MAJOR INJURIES BESIDES THAT. MY CAR WASN'T SO LUCKY. THE FIRE BURNED EVERYTHING DOWN TO METAL.
I STILL HAVE THE CHARRED LICENSE PLATE.
STRANGELY, I'VE NEVER CONSIDERED THIS A TRAUMATIC INCIDENT. IN THE MOMENT, I WAS SCARED, A BIT IRRATIONAL — BUT A POWERFUL INSTINCT FORCED ME TO FIGHT FOR MY LIFE.
IF I HADN'T, I WOULD HAVE BURNED TO DEATH IN THAT CAR.
THE END.

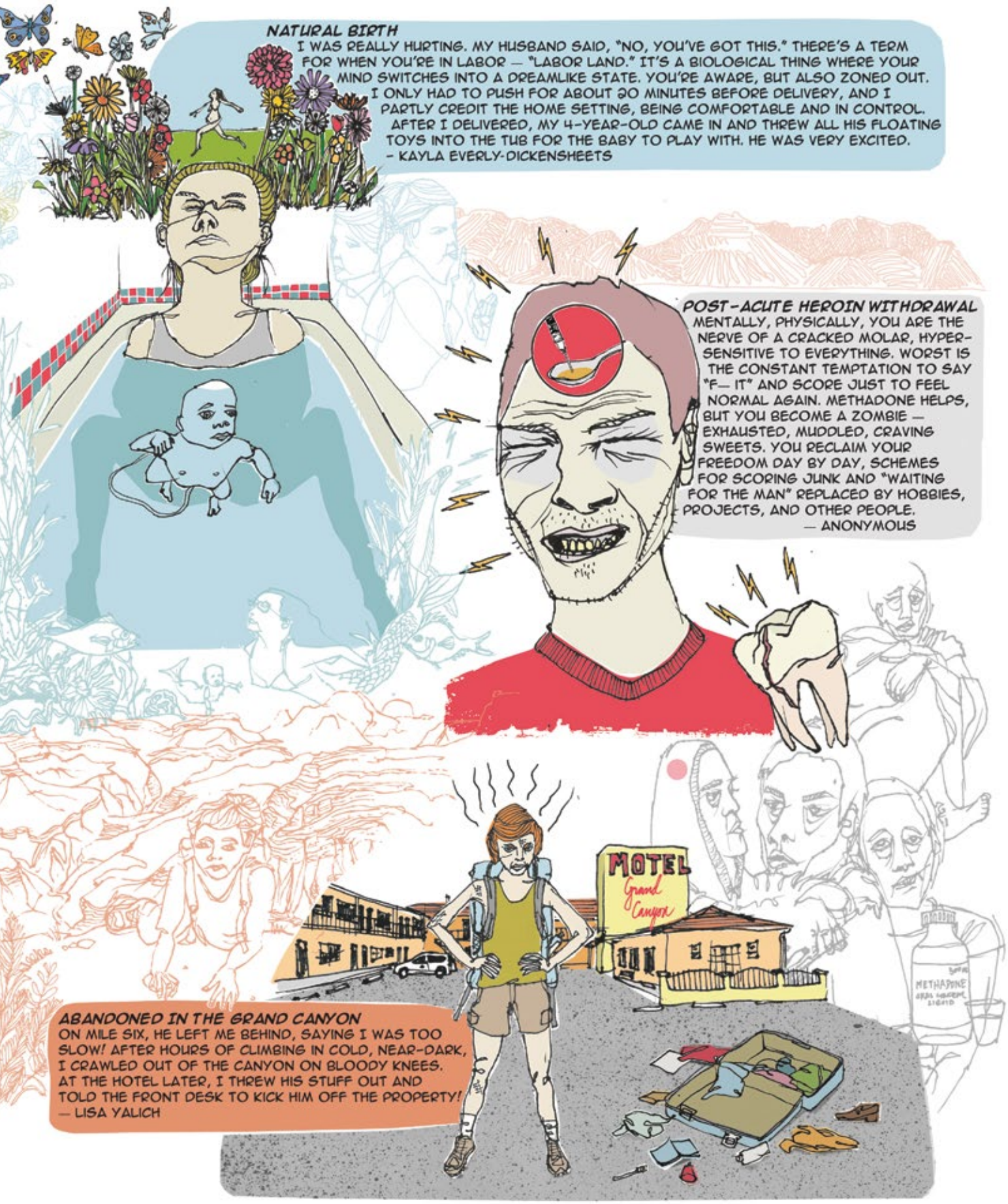
IT HAPPENED TO ME

Two-panel tales of human comedy and drama. Turn the page to see what happened next.

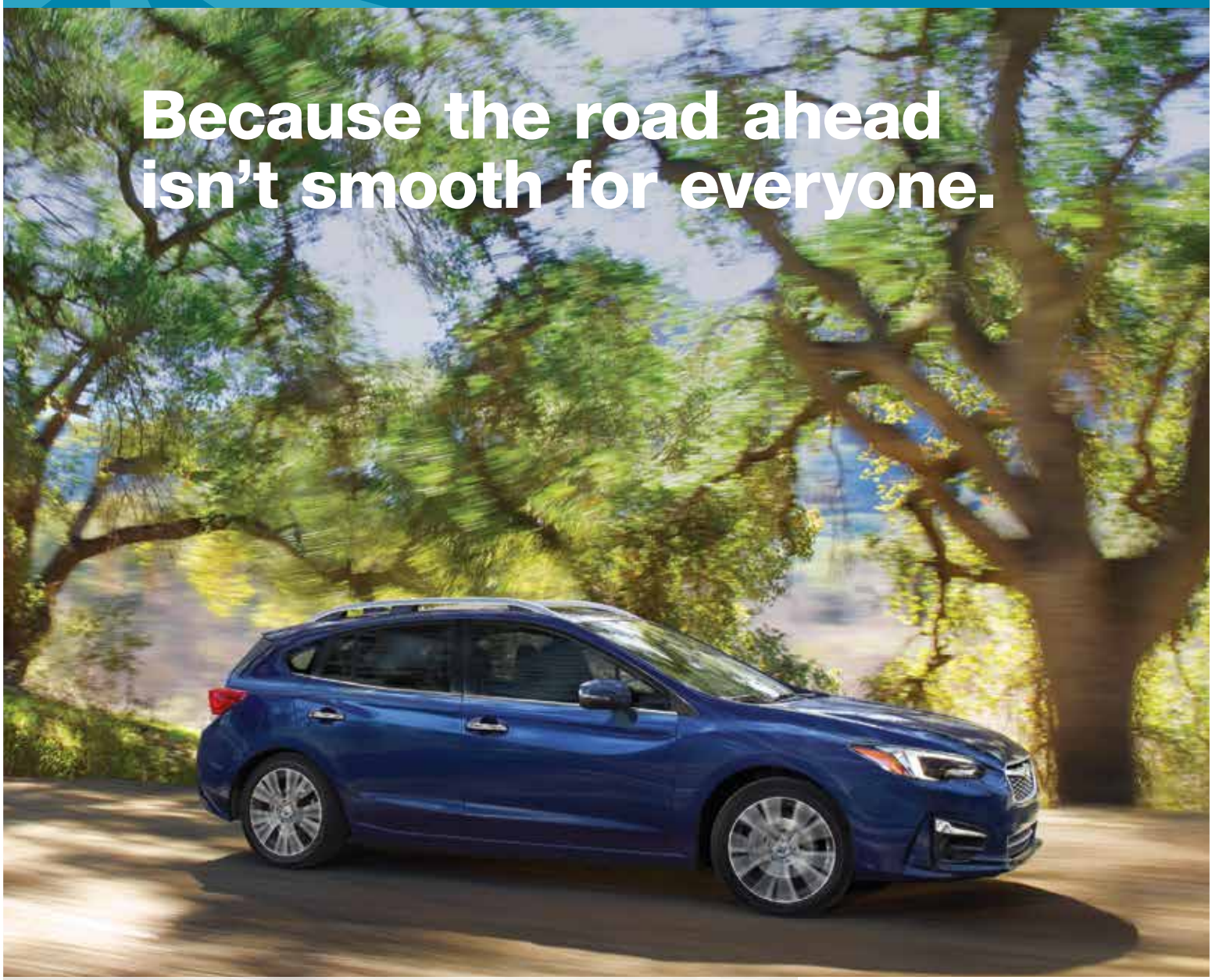
ILLUSTRATED BY T.G. MILLER




CANCER
IT WAS A YEAR OF BEING CRAZY — PARANOID, ANXIOUS, MEDICAL TESTS, TRACKING EVERYTHING I FELT, ATE, DRANK. "THINK POSITIVE!" EVERYONE SAID. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT HELPED MOST? NOT BEATING MYSELF UP FOR NOT THINKING POSITIVE AND EMBRACING THE FACT THAT I HATED HAVING CANCER!
— CLAY HEXIMER
SPIDER BITE
MY ANKLE WAS THE SIZE OF A FOOTBALL! I'D BEEN BITTEN BY A BROWN RECLUSE! THE DOCTOR HAD TO REMOVE NECROTIC SKIN WITH WHAT LOOKED LIKE A GRAPEFRUIT SPOON — WITH NO ANESTHESIA, SO HE WOULDN'T REMOVE LIVING FLESH. THE NURSES BARELY HELD ME DOWN!
— PATRICK BOWEN
DOMINATION
ONE OF MY BEST SLAVES I DOMINATE FINANCIALLY. HE SHOWERS ME WITH MONEY AND GIFTS, AND EVEN PAYS A FEE FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF TEXTING ME. I GIVE HIM TASKS — EXERCISING, EATING HEALTHY, KEEPING HIS HOUSE CLEAN — AND IF HE'S A GOOD BOY, HE GETS A PEGGING SESSION. SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT IT'S A NURTURING, THERAPEUTIC FORM OF SUBMISSION THAT ALLOWS HIM THE EXHILARATING FREEDOM OF REVEALING HIMSELF COMPLETELY TO ANOTHER.
-ASIA PEREZ
PROPOSITIONED
"IT'S MY BIRTHDAY, BY THE WAY" — A CODEPHRASE FOR A SENSUAL MASSAGE. OR HE'LL "INNOCENTLY" ASK, "DOES ANYONE EVER ASK YOU ABOUT 'HAPPY ENDINGS?'" I SAY, "YES — AND THEY LEAVE DISAPPOINTED." ONLY ONCE DID I CUT A SESSION SHORT — WHEN A PRO POKER PLAYER KEPT TOUCHING HIS JUNK. EEW!
— ANDREA LIPOMI


NATURAL BIRTH
I WAS REALLY HURTING. MY HUSBAND SAID, "NO, YOU'VE GOT THIS." THERE'S A TERM FOR WHEN YOU'RE IN LABOR — "LABOR LAND." IT'S A BIOLOGICAL THING WHERE YOUR MIND SWITCHES INTO A DREAMLIKE STATE. YOU'RE AWARE, BUT ALSO ZONED OUT. I ONLY HAD TO PUSH FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES BEFORE DELIVERY, AND I PARTLY CREDIT THE HOME SETTING, BEING COMFORTABLE AND IN CONTROL. AFTER I DELIVERED, MY 4-YEAR-OLD CAME IN AND THREW ALL HIS FLOATING TOYS INTO THE TUB FOR THE BABY TO PLAY WITH. HE WAS VERY EXCITED.
– KAYLA EVERLY-DICKENSHEETS
POST-ACUTE HEROIN WITHDRAWAL
MENTALLY, PHYSICALLY, YOU ARE THE NERVE OF A CRACKED MOLAR, HYPER-SENSITIVE TO EVERYTHING. WORST IS THE CONSTANT TEMPTATION TO SAY "F— IT" AND SCORE JUST TO FEEL NORMAL AGAIN. METHADONE HELPS, BUT YOU BECOME A ZOMBIE — EXHAUSTED, MUDDLED, CRAVING SWEETS. YOU RECLAIM YOUR FREEDOM DAY BY DAY, SCHEMES FOR SCORING JUNK AND "WAITING FOR THE MAN" REPLACED BY HOBBIES, PROJECTS, AND OTHER PEOPLE.
— ANONYMOUS
MOTEL
Grand Canyon
METHADONE
ABANDONED IN THE GRAND CANYON
ON MILE SIX, HE LEFT ME BEHIND, SAYING I WAS TOO SLOW! AFTER HOURS OF CLIMBING IN COLD, NEAR-DARK, I CRAWLED OUT OF THE CANYON ON BLOODY KNEES. AT THE HOTEL LATER, I THREW HIS STUFF OUT AND TOLD THE FRONT DESK TO KICK HIM OFF THE PROPERTY!
— LISA YALICH

SUBARU **share the love**® EVENT



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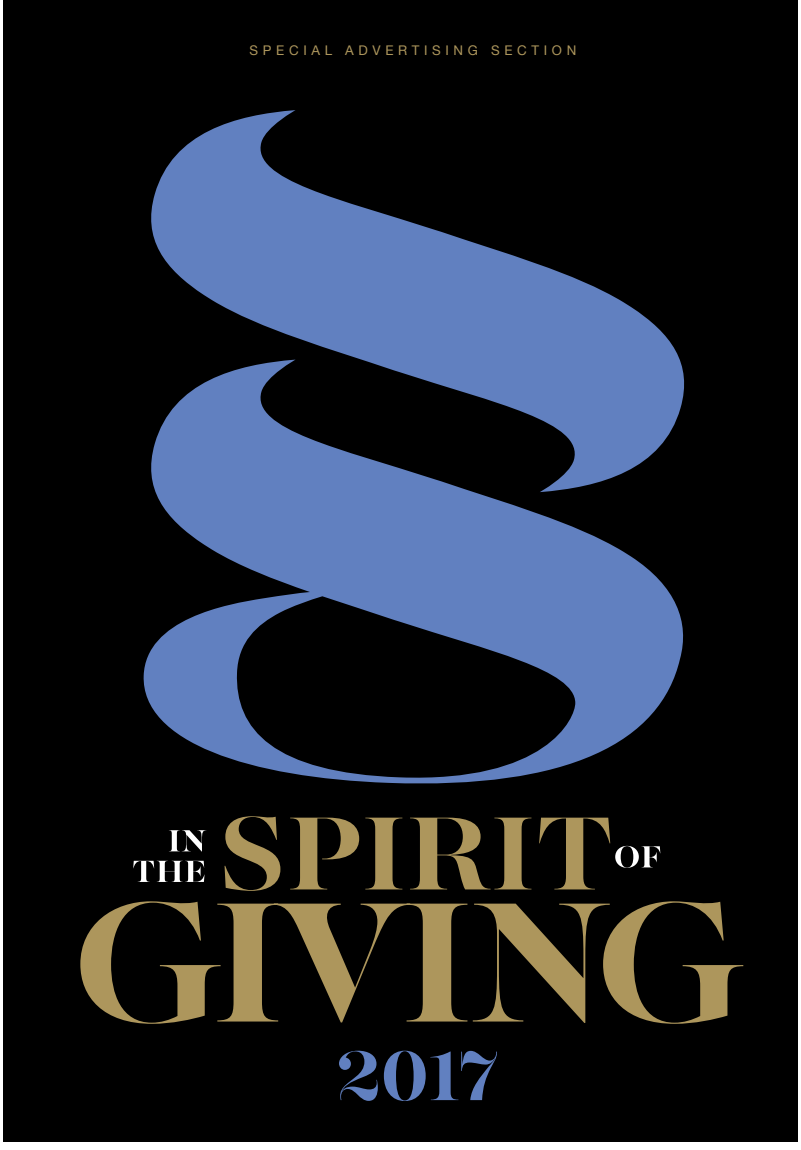
There's a dog park at the new location!

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION



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

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While the events of October 1 forever changed our city, one thing is certain. Now, more than ever, our community has come together in an unprecedented show of unity for victims, first responders and anyone who was affected by a tragic and senseless act of violence. #VegasStrong is not just a hashtag, it's a new mantra for our city where countless acts of kindness and compassion have fortified our community and shown that love always overcomes hate.

As our community recovers and moves forward, we are especially grateful to all the nonprofit organizations in Southern Nevada that contribute to community betterment and most importantly, help to keep #VegasStrong. Because of the tireless work and dedication of scores of nonprofits, Las Vegas is a wonderful place to live, work, learn and play.

The Howard Hughes Corporation® is proud to sponsor for the third year, "In the Spirit of Giving," a testament to the rich tradition of philanthropy in Southern Nevada. Thanks to our community's abundance of nonprofits and scores of corporate partners that understand the value of supporting initiatives and organizations that make our world better, we enjoy a culture of giving in Las Vegas that extends well beyond the holiday season.

For more than four decades, The Howard Hughes Corporation is proud to have played a role in the growth of Southern Nevada, particularly through the development of Summerlin®, soon moving into its 28th year and home to more than 100,000 residents. As a builder of community, we understand and appreciate the value of access to quality education and healthcare services, a healthy environment, the uplift of culture and arts, and a robust network of social services that improve the lives of all who call our valley home.

ENVIRONMENT

Even before Summerlin began, The Howard Hughes Corporation established a growth and sustainability plan that would develop the community as a partner to the environment, protecting natural habitats and wildlife while building neighborhoods that enhance the natural desert landscape. Our 2017 support of organizations dedicated to protecting the environment includes long-time beneficiaries of The Howard Hughes Corporation - **Outside Las Vegas Foundation** and **The Nature Conservancy.**

EDUCATION

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

CULTURE AND THE ARTS

New this year to our list of supported initiatives is **Vegas PBS** that brings high quality and uplifting educational, informational and artistic programming directly into the homes of Southern Nevada via regional cable and satellite providers.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the value to our community of developing strong business and community leaders, we are proud to support the **Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Las Vegas** program that has shaped and enhanced the careers of hundreds of Southern Nevada professionals who have had the privilege of participating.

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

Sincerely,

Kevin T. Orrock
President, Summerlin
The Howard Hughes Corporation

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The Nature Conservancy
nature.org/nevada

CONTACT

1 E. First Street, Suite 1007
Reno, Nevada 89521
775-322-4990 x3126
megan.merenda@tnc.org
nature.org/nevada

VISION

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

OUTSIDE LAS VEGAS FOUNDATION

CONTACT

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

MISSION

The Outside Las Vegas Foundation's (OLVF) mission is to connect the community to Southern Nevada's special outdoor places through three major program areas: Education, Volunteerism and Collaboration & Outreach. Education programs deliver science education in the outdoor classroom for low-income and at-risk youth. It also offers a micro-grant providing funds for transportation to take youth on field trips. Volunteer programs provide residents, community groups and the business community enhancement and support opportunities. Organizing cleanups in each jurisdiction and beautification projects creating a healthier environment to discover and explore. Collaboration & Outreach efforts include the Vegas Valley Rim Trail; Get Outdoors Nevada Day, www.getoutdoorsnevadaday.org

CCSD
CLARK COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

CONTACT

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

MISSION

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

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IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING 2017

LEADERSHIP LAS VEGAS

CONTACT

575 Symphony Park Avenue, Ste. 100
Las Vegas, NV 89106
702-641-5822
Cara@Leadership.Vegas
www.Leadership.Vegas

MISSION

Leadership Las Vegas is dedicated to developing leaders committed to improving the community through service. Every year, the graduating class creates a project to help improve the quality of life in Southern Nevada. The Class of 2016 is supporting the Buddy Bench program in local schools. The program designates a special bench at the school where a student can sit to indicate their need of support from fellow classmates. You can join The Howard Hughes Corporation in generously supporting the Leadership Las Vegas Class of 2016 Buddy Bench project by making a tax-deductible gift to the Leadership Foundation of Greater Las Vegas.

UNLV FOUNDATION

CONTACT

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

MISSION

The UNLV Foundation raises and manages private funds for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. These funds help UNLV and its diverse faculty, students, staff and alumni promote community well-being and individual achievement through education, research, scholarship, creative activities and clinical services. In fact, 75-percent of UNLV's 30,000 students rely on some form of financial aid. We also stimulate economic development and diversification, foster a climate of innovation, promote health and enrich the cultural vitality of the community we serve. Through the UNLV Foundation every charitable dollar UNLV receives has an exponential impact, as it helps us leverage UNLV's most valuable skills – research, teaching and community service – for the benefit of all Nevadans.

ROSEMAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

CONTACT

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

MISSION

Roseman University educates healthcare professionals and advances healthcare education through its innovative educational model; it creates and disseminates new knowledge; it impacts the health, education, and wellness of the communities it serves, and it provides a collaborative and supportive environment that enables its students, faculty, and staff to be successful. Founded in Henderson, Nevada in 1999, Roseman University of Health Sciences is a private, non-profit institution of higher learning with campuses in Henderson, Summerlin and South Jordan, Utah. The University is comprised of the College of Dental Medicine, College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing and an MBA program. The university is developing an MD-granting College of Medicine at its Summerlin campus.

SPONSORED BY

SUMMERLIN®

Howard Hughes®

DOWNTOWN SUMMERLIN®

CONTACT

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

MISSION

The Summerlin® Children's Forum (SCF) is a nonprofit organization established in 1997 by leaders of the Summerlin® master-planned community and its developer, The Howard Hughes Corporation®. The organization is dedicated to recognizing excellence among students, teachers and parent volunteers at Summerlin schools. Since its inception, the Summerlin Children's Forum has funded enrichment grants, special educational programs and annual college scholarships totaling more than $600,000. The scholarship program is open to all graduating high school seniors who reside in Summerlin.

CONTACT

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

MISSION

Vegas PBS invites all people in our community – from all walks of life – to explore new worlds, discover new ideas and broaden personal horizons through television and digital content. Vegas PBS empowers Southern Nevadans by providing outreach programs to assist students of any age; professional development services for teachers; online adult job training education courses; career services and resources for veterans; literacy and health workshops for families; educational materials for the deaf, hard of hearing, blind or vision impaired; and 24/7 online access to educational programming and content via an array of devices and media. Visit VegasPBS.org to learn more.

CONTACT

1651 Inner Circle
Las Vegas, NV 89134
(702) 243-2623
NevadaBallet.org

MISSION

Now in its 46th Season, Nevada Ballet Theatre (NBT) continues to bring the Las Vegas community closer to the art form of dance. With professional Company productions at The Smith Center for the Performing Arts, where it is the Resident Ballet Company, an affiliated Ballet and Dance Academy, as well as numerous Education and Outreach programs that serve over 20,000 students a year, NBT is at the heart of Las Vegas' cultural landscape. With an eye on the future, and a reverence for its past, NBT looks ahead to its 50th Anniversary and the continuation of presenting outstanding professional ballet and dance productions to the Las Vegas community.

SPONSORED BY

SUMMERLIN®

Howard Hughes®

DOWNTOWN SUMMERLIN®

Las Vegas Rescue Mission

Redemption. Recovery. Restoration.

CONTACT

Las Vegas Rescue Mission
480 W. Bonanza Road
Las Vegas, NV 89106
702-932-8177
www.vegasrescue.org
Email: admin@vegasrescue.org

MISSION

Since 1970, the Las Vegas Rescue Mission has been assisting homeless men, women and families with food, shelter, and basic needs, along with addiction recovery resources. We are more than just a shelter; we stand as a beacon of hope, and continue to adapt to meet the needs of an ever-changing society. Last year, we served over 370,000 meals, provided nearly 45,000 nights of shelter, gave clothing and essentials to nearly 22,000 individuals, and over 275 men and women graduated our 12-month recovery program.

Catholic Charities

OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

CONTACT

1501 Las Vegas Blvd. N.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
702-385-2662
www.CatholicCharities.com
info@catholiccharities.com

MISSION

Since 1941, the mission of Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada has been to serve those in need – the most vulnerable, regardless of race, religion or creed. Through the generosity of foundations, grants, organizations and individual donors, Catholic Charities operates 20 programs with very limited budgets. Family Services, Food Services, Senior Services, Immigration and Refugee Services, and Homeless and Housing Services are providing a wide range of support to more than 5,000 people each day. This leading community resource offers help and hope with dignity as it strives to meet the diverse needs of men, women and children in Southern Nevada.

STRAIGHT FROM THE STREETS

CONTACT

Thomas Randle El
1930 Village Center Circle
Las Vegas, NV 89134
702.496.6087
www.StraightFromTheStreets.org
SFTS702@gmail.com

MISSION

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

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

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

Help us by donating or volunteering!

SPONSORED BY

UnitedHealthcare®

TRAUMA INTERVENTION PROGRAM

(TIP) OF SOUTHERN NEVADA, INC.

CONTACT

PO Box 93203
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193
702-229-0426
info@tipoflasvegas.org
www.tipoflasvegas.org

MISSION

The Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) of Southern Nevada, Inc.'s mission is to ensure that those who are traumatized in emergency situations receive immediate emotional and practical assistance. To accomplish this goal, TIP partners with emergency response agencies in Clark County (fire departments, police departments, hospitals, etc.). These agencies request TIP's specially trained volunteers to respond to emergency scenes where the volunteers are able to assist victims, families, and witnesses during the investigative process by providing emotional and practical assistance. In 2016, volunteers responded to nearly 1,400 scenes and were able to provide support to over 7,000 individuals in crisis.

three square

together, we can feed everyone

MEMBER OF FEEDING AMERICA

CONTACT

4190 N. Pecos Road
Las Vegas, NV 89115
702-644-3663
www.threesquare.org

MISSION

To provide wholesome food to hungry people, while passionately pursuing a hunger-free community.

VISION

No one in our community should be hungry.

One in seven Southern Nevadans struggle with hunger – that's more than 279,000 people in our community who are food insecure, which includes more than 109,000 children. Three Square works with a service network of more than 1,600 community partners, including nonprofit and faith-based organizations, schools, government agencies and businesses to reach struggling individuals and families at risk for hunger.

Together, we can feed everyone.

American Cancer Society®

CONTACT

6165 S. Rainbow Blvd
Las Vegas, NV 89118
O: 702-891-9014
C:702-338-7112

MISSION

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

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

SPONSORED BY

UnitedHealthcare®

Toys 4 Smiles

www.toys4smileslasvegas.org

CONTACT

4315 Dean Martin Drive, Suite 200,
Las Vegas, NV 89103
Mailing Address: Toys 4 Smiles,
2251 N. Rampart Blvd., Unit 172,
Las Vegas, NV 89128
702 232-8191
Info@toys4smileslasvegas.org
www.toys4smileslasvegas.org

MISSION

Our Mission is to provide a toy to children of all ages in need of a smile, while providing a sense of purpose, caring, and community to the volunteers of Toys 4 Smiles.

These toys are not simply playthings, but tools that help unlock a child's ability to think, to be creative, and to cope with the world around them.

At the same time, the volunteers, develop relationships that create joy and everlasting friendships.

Your time talents and treasures are always appreciated!

Blessings,
'Better Together'
Rex

BEST BUDDIES

CONTACT

6655 W. Sahara Ave, Suite A110
Las Vegas, NV 89183
702-822-2268
www.bestbuddies.org/nevada

MISSION

Best Buddies Nevada an organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). We are dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people worldwide with IDD, and our programs empower the special abilities of people with IDD by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy and communication skills, and feel valued by society.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help us by sponsoring events, volunteering, or donating. Your support says that you care about children and young adults with disabilities, and allows Best Buddies Nevada to continue grow in 2018.

VMSN Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada

CONTACT

1240 North Martin Luther King Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89106
702-912-0019
info@vmsn.org
www.vmsn.org

MISSION

Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada (VMSN) is a donor-funded, nonprofit staffed primarily by volunteers. We provide preventative and comprehensive medical, dental, and social and behavioral health care services to uninsured, low-income adults and children in Southern Nevada who would otherwise go without needed medical care. In Fiscal Year 2017, we provided FREE health-care services to local residents valued at over $7,000,000, including:

- Over 9,600 primary/specialty medical care, dental care and social service appointments
- $3,127,857 in medications
- $1,000,000+ in labs and imaging with the help of 50 community partners
- 650 volunteers donated a total of 44,673 service hours
- Students from 21 clinical programs received over 13,000 hours of hands-on education

SPONSORED BY

WELLS FARGO

green our planet
Creators of America's Largest School Garden Program

CONTACT

703-927-9205
www.greenourplanet.org

MISSION

Green Our Planet is a nonprofit conservation organization that runs the largest and one of the most comprehensive school garden programs in America. Its mission is to use outdoor garden classrooms as a powerful, "hands-on" teaching tool to improve student test scores in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math), student nutrition and to make schools and local communities more sustainable. Founded in 2013, Green Our Planet has helped fund and build 124 outdoor garden classrooms in the Clark County School District. Its Outdoor Garden Classroom Program includes a STEAM garden curriculum, the formation of teacher-led garden teams, weekly in-garden classes from horticulturalists, chef-to-school cooking demos, hydroponics, student-run farmers markets, teacher trainings, and an annual school garden conference. Green Our Planet currently works with 3,000 teachers and impacts more than 75,000 students across Southern Nevada.

TRANSITION SERVICES

CONTACT

2408 Las Verdes St.
Las Vegas, NV 89102
702-383-1106
www.tsilasvegas.org
info@tsilasvegas.org

MISSION

Transition Services, Inc. (TSI) provides meaningful work to adults with developmental disabilities.

The 400 individuals we serve have helped create and maintain the following social enterprise businesses to benefit our community:

- Studio 8 Ten and Cheyenne Gift Shop – Arts, crafts and specialty gifts
- Yards 4 You – Yard cleaning and maintenance
- Time 2 Shine – Home and office cleaning
- Circles Magazine – A lifestyle magazine
- Projects 4 Pets – Pet care and toys for animals

Each business showcases the abilities of those we serve, providing them dignity and purpose while ensuring a strong product for our customers.

Contact us to schedule a tour or to learn more!

Goodwill Southern Nevada

CONTACT

1280 W. Cheyenne Ave., Suite 100
Las Vegas, NV 89030
702-214-2041
www.Goodwill.Vegas

MISSION

Goodwill of Southern Nevada fights poverty with jobs. We do it because jobs are a true systemic solution, helping reduce homelessness, hunger, addiction, family instability, reliance on government assistance, and much more. Whether you donate, shop, or make financial contributions to Goodwill, you can feel good knowing your investment is treating a cause; not just the symptoms.

Goodwill empowers individuals to overcome barriers to employment no matter how big or small. We serve veterans, people with disabilities, older workers, the long-term unemployed, and the formerly incarcerated. We provide them with free individualized career guidance, work-readiness workshops, job training, work experiences, and job placement services, including hiring events.

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WELLS FARGO

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING 2017

DISCOVERY Children's Museum

CONTACT

360 Promenade Place
Las Vegas, NV 89106
702-385-3445
www.DiscoveryKidsLV.org

MISSION

The mission of DISCOVERY Children's Museum is to provide a vibrant and engaging experience, through exhibits and programs, where children from economically and culturally diverse backgrounds actively participate in playful learning experiences that ignite a love of lifelong learning.

Discovery on Wheels provides elementary school students with hands-on and interactive health, science, fitness, nutrition, mathematical measurements, obesity and cardiovascular health programs brought directly to their classroom.

YouthWorks is a community outreach program addressing the local high school dropout issue and preparing youth ages 14-18 opportunities to develop career goals and job skills.

Learn. Engage. Discover.

SPONSORED BY

WELLS FARGO

SPRINGS PRESERVE

CONTACT

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

MISSION

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

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

SPONSORED BY

REISMAN SOROKAC

40TH ANNIVERSARY CANDLELIGHTERS

CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION OF NEVADA

CONTACT

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

MISSION

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

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

CONTACT

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

MISSION

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

SPONSORED BY

JAGUAR LAND ROVER
LAS VEGAS • JLRLV.COM

CONTACT

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

MISSION

Assistance League volunteers transforming the lives of children through community programs.

WHO WE SERVE

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

SPONSORED BY

J.A. TIBERTI
CONSTRUCTION

Feed your smart.

88.9 npr 89.7

npr.vegas

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING 2017

THE SMITH CENTER®

CONTACT

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

MISSION

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

SERVICES

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

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

VOLUNTEER

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

GIVING

Thanks to the generous support of our dedicated Founders, Members, Donors and Sponsors, The Smith Center continues to provide a wide variety of services for Southern Nevada residents, including presenting world-class performances, offering accessible ticket prices, providing inspirational Education and Outreach programs for students and teachers, and serving as a unique space to host special events. After celebrating our fifth anniversary in 2017, our nonprofit depends upon public support to fulfill our mission and serve as the Heart of the Arts® in Southern Nevada for many years to come.



SPONSORED BY

arcata

CONTACT

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

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

MISSION

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

VISION

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

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

HOW TO HELP

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

CONTACT

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

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

MISSION

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

VISION

Grant the wish of every eligible child.

HOW TO HELP

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

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

SPONSORED BY

allegiant®

ONE DROP 10 YEARS

CONTACT

6775 Edmond Street, Suite 300
Las Vegas, NV 89118
1-844-33-WATER
one.night@onedrop.org

MISSION

One Drop strives to ensure that safe water is accessible to all, sustainably.

SERVICES

One Drop is an international foundation created in 2007 by Cirque du Soleil's founder Guy Laliberté. At the core of our mission is access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene as a transformative force to improve the living conditions of some of the world's most vulnerable communities. With the objective of delivering long-term impact and sustainability, we bring into all of our projects a unique Social Art for Behavior Change approach that aims at engaging communities in taking ownership and embracing adequate behaviors towards water, sanitation and hygiene. One Drop has been recognized internationally for its approach including the 2015 UN-Water Best Practices Award and the International Water Association Project Innovation Award. This year, One Drop is celebrating 10 years of bringing sustainable access to safe water to people around the world with projects in 11 countries that will reach over 1 million beneficiaries.

WHERE WE WORK

Globally, One Drop's intervention zones are in Latin America, West Africa and Asia. In Las Vegas, One Drop has created a partnership with the Springs Preserve by donating $1.25M to further develop innovative educational programming. Contributions were used to develop the Springs Preserve WaterWorks exhibit, which opened in September 2017.

GIVING

Join us for the 6th edition of One Night for One Drop, an annual philanthropic event in which *Cirque du Soleil* cast and crew donate their talent and time to create a unique and breathtaking theatrical spectacle for one night only to raise funds and awareness for critical water issues. The 6th edition will be inspired by the life and music of GRAMMY® nominated singer songwriter Jewel.



SPONSORED BY

ONE NIGHT FOR ONE DROP
IMAGINED BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL



TICKETS ON SALE NOW

VENTURE INTO OUR DREAM WORLD WITH A ONE-NIGHT ONLY, UNIQUE PRODUCTION IMAGINED BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL AND INSPIRED BY THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF THE ARTIST JEWEL.

Featuring world-renowned performers alongside Cirque du Soleil artists. All to raise funds and awareness for critical water issues.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

1.844.33.WATER - ONEDROP.ORG/ONENIGHT - ONE.NIGHT@ONEDROP.ORG

PRESENTED BY MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL®

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING 2017

MAKE-A-WISH Southern Nevada

CONTACT

5105 South Durango Drive, Suite 100
Las Vegas, NV 89149
702-212-WISH (9474)
www.SNV.WISH.org

VISION

Grant the wish of every eligible child.

MISSION

Make-A-Wish grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy.

SPONSORED BY

allegiant

ABOUT MAKE-A-WISH® SOUTHERN NEVADA

Make-A-Wish Southern Nevada transforms lives by providing children battling life-threatening medical conditions with an opportunity to spend time together away from hospitals, treatments, and procedures. A wish come true gives kids a chance to feel normal again. A wish gives them something to think about and the hope they need to stay strong during the dark and stressful times.

Since forming in 1996, we have served medically eligible children and their families in Clark, Nye, Lincoln, and Esmeralda counties. To date, Make-A-Wish® Southern Nevada has provided healing and magical wishes that over 1,700 children will cherish for a lifetime.

Many local children diagnosed each year with qualifying illnesses are referred to Make-A-Wish by their medical providers, parents or guardians, and by the children themselves. We're thrilled to be able to grant about 140 wishes each year in Southern Nevada—each wish a potential game-changer for the child battling for health and sometimes for his or her life. Even with all that we are proud to accomplish annually, our challenge is that only about half of the kids who need a wish currently get one.

Here is where your support can make a big difference: help us increase the number of wishes we grant each year until every eligible child's one true wish is realized. Please consider joining our partner Allegiant in supporting the *Wishes Can't Wait* program to ensure we can continue to transform lives. Your support gives seriously ill kids an experience that can improve their quality of life and strengthen their families. It can offer them hope for the future and bring joy back into their lives. Your gift makes all of that possible.

A PARTNERSHIP TAKES FLIGHT

Allegiant has been a part of the Make-A-Wish family nationally for more than five years, having provided nearly 600 flights to wish destinations, raising funds through the sale of Wingz Kids Snack Packs in flight, and sponsoring Walk For Wishes® events across the country.
Now, Allegiant is opening its home to Make-A-Wish Southern Nevada, with a $1.5 million renovation of space on its corporate campus in Summerlin to provide a new headquarters for Make-A-Wish with a $1 per year lease. This means more than $100,000 in annual rent expense will be redirected toward granting more wishes.

THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERS

A group of caring volunteers in Arizona founded Make-A-Wish in 1980 after granting the wish of 7-year-old leukemia patient, Chris Greicius. Chris' wish was to be a police officer. For one magical day, his wish came true: he donned a DPS-custom-made uniform, he was sworn in as a police officer, rode in a helicopter, visited the director, and was certified as a motorcycle officer. This experience meant so much to Chris that when he passed away, his parents buried him in the police uniform made for him as part of his wish.

Those involved in that first wish realized the magnitude of the gift given to Chris and his family and vowed to do it for other children. From that grassroot effort, Make-A-Wish evolved to become the world's largest wish-granting organization, with over 62 chapters in the United States and 35 affiliates throughout the world, granting wishes in almost 50 countries.

Today, Make-A-Wish still relies on more than 200 volunteers throughout Southern Nevada to help grant wishes. Every volunteer plays a vital role in helping achieve our important mission. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit www.snv.wish.org or call us at 702-212-9474.

U.S.VETS
UNITED STATES VETERANS INITIATIVE
A nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation

CONTACT

702-947-4478
525 E. Bonanza Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89101
www.usvetsinc.org/LasVegas
lvinfo@usvetsinc.org

MISSION

The successful transition of military veterans and their families through the provision of housing, counseling, career development and comprehensive support.

WHO WE SERVE

Our program offers temporary assistance to military veterans and their families in an effort to keep them from becoming homeless. These struggling veterans represent sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters. Each have served our country.

We share both the pride and problems of this nation's military servicemen and women and believe we have an obligation to help protect and serve those who have served and protected us. Because of this, we are committed to helping veterans in need.

PROVIDES VITAL SERVICES SUCH AS

- Counseling
- Job placement
- Case management
- Employment assistance
- Drug and alcohol-free housing

NEED: MAKE AN IMPACT

Veterans who visit U.S.VETS represent a variety of needs as diverse as the veterans themselves. Some seek employment assistance. Some require mental health treatment to help them fully reintegrate into civilian society. Some need help finding affordable housing options for themselves or their families. These issues are just a few of those addressed by U.S.VETS with a wide spectrum of supportive programs.

Contributions make it possible for U.S.VETS to offer essential services that support the individuals who stood up when their country needed them. As troops return home, U.S.VETS strives to be a leader in innovative programs that empower our evolving veteran population with the tools they need to become self-sufficient. If not for your help, many veterans would struggle to adjust to civilian life, facing issues like homelessness and substance abuse without the support system U.S.VETS provides.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- In-Kind Donations (clothes/home goods/food)
- Circle of Service
- Planned Giving
- Volunteer
- Hire a Vet



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BARRICK

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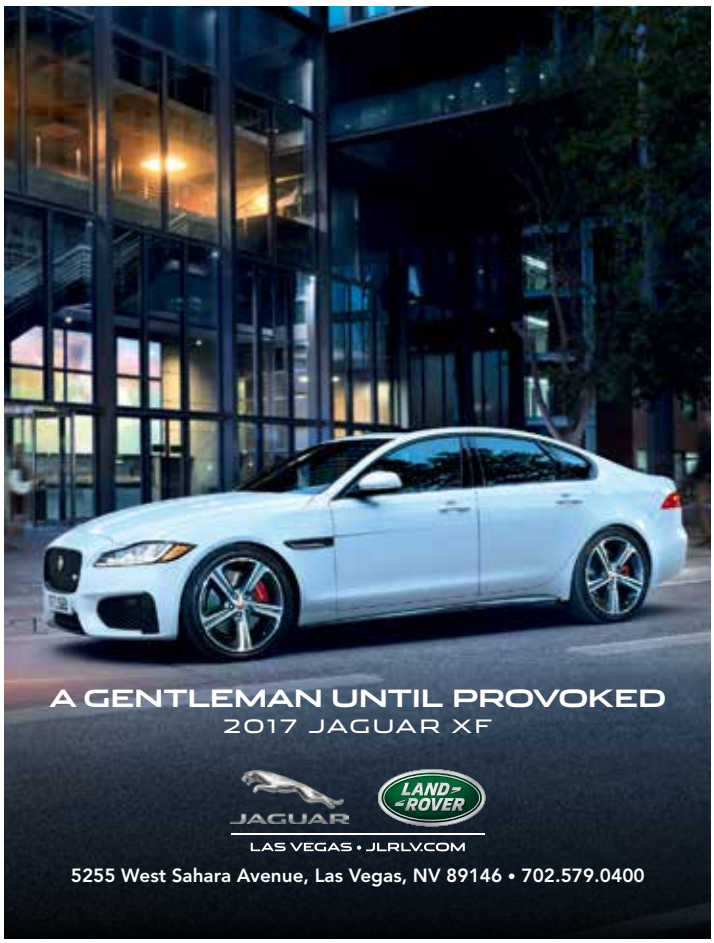


The Guide

ART

THROUGH DEC. 7

Culturas Hispanas: Historia y Tradiciones

This exhibit focuses on the local Hispanic visual arts community, through a group exhibit exploring relevant cultural topics. **Free. Las Vegas City Hall Chamber Gallery, 495 S. Main St., *artslasvegas.org***

THROUGH DEC. 12

AIDS Memorial Quilt Exhibit

Founded in 1987, the quilt is a poignant memorial, a powerful tool for use in preventing new HIV infections, and the largest ongoing community arts project in the world. **Free. West Charleston Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH DEC. 28

Nevada Clay Guild Exhibition

The exhibit includes both functional and non-functional sculptural work, chosen from the artists in the Nevada Clay Guild. **Free. Las Vegas City Hall Chamber Gallery, 495 S. Main St., *artslasvegas.org***

THROUGH DEC. 29

Masking

This exhibition combines traditional Mexican masks with contemporary artwork to blur the lines between art and artifice, self and other, being, and nonbeing. **9A–5P, free. Marjorie Barrick Museum at UNLV, *unlv.edu***

THROUGH JAN. 2

The Art of Kip Miller

Miller presents a surreal world through his stylized paintings. **Free. West Las Vegas Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH JAN. 7

Springs Preserve Photo Contest Exhibition

See how professional, amateur, and youth photographers have captured all things related to "10," in celebration of the Springs Preserve's first decade in the desert. **9A–5P, free for members or with paid general admission. Springs Preserve, *springspreserve.org***

THROUGH JAN. 9

Desert Companion's Focus on Nevada Photo Showcase

Winning photography selected for *Desert Companion*'s 2017 Focus on Nevada feature. **Free. Centennial Hills Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH JAN. 16

Low Res

The display is a new body of paintings that celebrates and examines pixilation. **Free. Art Gallery at Whitney Library, *lvccld.org***

THROUGH JAN. 20

Past Perfect

This installation focuses on abandoned houses and imagining the stories behind them. **Free. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush St., *artslasvegas.org***

DEC. 7–MAR. 18

Chinese Year of the Dog Exhibition

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

DEC. 14–FEB. 1

Public Employee Art Exhibition

Various displays of art, created by city employees. **Free. Las Vegas City Hall Chamber Gallery, 495 S. Main St., *artslasvegas.org***

MUSIC

DEC. 1

Annual Holiday Guitar Concert

Enjoy a night of enchanting Christmas music, performed on guitars played exclusively by Guitar Society members representing all ages. **7P, free. West Charleston Library, *lvccld.org***

DEC. 1–2

Poncho Sanchez

Conga drummer Poncho Sanchez stirs up a fiery stew of Jazz, Soul, Latin, and South American melodies. **Fri 7P; Sat 6P and 8:30P, $37–$59. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

DEC. 2

Home for the Holidays — Las Vegas Philharmonic

The annual event features Peter and the Wolf, selections from The Nutcracker, a holiday singalong, and more. **2P, $30–$129. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

DEC. 2

A Baroque Holiday — Handel's Messiah

The Las Vegas Philharmonic performs Baroque-era holiday classics, including Part One of Handel's Messiah. **7:30P; pre-concert conversation, 6:30P, $30–$109. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

DEC. 3

Symphonic Rockshow

This show features the music of Queen, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, and other classic rock greats. 6P, **$29–$75. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

DEC. 6

Composition: Music Inspired by Visual Art

UNLV School of Music students compose new works in response to art on view at the UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art. **7:30P, free. Marjorie Barrick Museum at UNLV, *unlv.edu***

DEC. 7

The Flattened Earth

The ensemble will perform songs from when humanity still thought the earth was flat, mixed with more modern music from around the increasingly flattening world we share. **7:30P, $10. Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall at UNLV, *unlv.edu***

DEC. 15

Rejoice!

The Las Vegas Master Singers celebrate the holiday with the Harmony Handbells in a fantastic program of music old and new.**7:30P, free. Green Valley Presbyterian Church, 1798 Wigwam Parkway, unlv.edu**

DEC. 16

The World Famous Ink Spots Christmas Concert

A holiday concert experience for audiences of all ages to enjoy. **2P, free. West Las Vegas Library Theater, *artslasvegas.org***

DEC. 16

Christmas at the Opera

A concert featuring beloved scenes celebrating the joy of Christmas -- from operas such as La Bohème, Werther, and Amahl and the Night Visitors. **7:30P, $20; $10 under 18. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush St., *artslasvegas.org***

DEC. 31

Ja Rule & Ashanti

Award-winning rap artists storm the stage for a New Year's celebration. 21+ only. **9P, $75–$85. Brooklyn Bowl at The Linq, *brooklynbowl.com***

DEC. 31

An Intimate Evening with Kristin Chenoweth

Actress and singer Chenoweth performs Broadway classics and popular tunes with her five-piece band. **7:30P, $39–$189. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

THEATER & COMEDY

DEC. 1–17

A Christmas Carol

Mean-spirited and greedy Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by four apparitions who show him the meaning of goodwill, cheer, and joy. **Fri–Sat 7P; Sat–Sun 2P, $27.50–$33. Judy Bayley Theatre at UNLV, *unlv.edu***

DEC. 1–17

What the Butler Saw

Fallen trousers, sexual indiscretions, mistaken identities, and lewd puns abound in Joe Orton's farce about psychiatry, religion, marriage, government, definitions of gender, and even simple language. **Thu–Sat 8P; Sat–Sun 2P, $21–$24. Las Vegas little Theatre, *lvlt.org***

DEC. 2

The Brothers



Grimm Spectaculathon
Beloved fairy tales are turned on their heads as two narrators and several actors attempt to combine all 209 stories into more bizarre, obscure stories.1P, **$7. Winchester Cultural Center, 3130 McLeod Drive, *clarkcountynv.gov***

DEC. 16
LVIP Christmas Explosion
Unwrap the gift of musical comedy as the Las Vegas Improvisational Players make up the show on the spot, based on your suggestions. **7P, $10; $5 kids, seniors, and military. Show Creators Studio, 4455 W. Sunset Road, *lvimprov.com***

DANCE

DEC. 9–24
The Nutcracker
Nevada Ballet Theatre's annual presentation of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic features amazing set designs and more than 100 dancers. Wed–Sat **7:30P; Sat–Sun 2P, $29–$179, Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, *thesmithcenter.com***

DEC. 13
Happy, Tappy Holidays
Sun City Dance Company showcases their tapping skills in a holiday special. **7P, $8. Starbright Theatre at Sun City *Summerlin, scscai.com***

DEC. 23
The Nutcracker
Put on by the Pink Tutu Ballet Company, this smaller production still has all of the charm. 1P, **free. Container Park, *thepinktutuballet.com***

DISCUSSIONS & READINGS

DEC. 5
Dave Hickey: Lecture on Art
Hickey is an art critic who has written for many American publications. **7P, free. Marjorie Barrick Museum at UNLV, *unlv.edu***

DEC. 7
Candice Lin
Lin creates complex and raw artifacts that question the stability of hierarchies, materials, and cultural ideals. **7P, free. Marjorie Barrick Museum at UNLV, *unlv.edu***

DEC. 12
Dave Hickey: Lecture on Writing
Hickey will discuss the art of writing about art. **7P, free. Marjorie Barrick Museum at UNLV, *unlv.edu***

DEC. 13
Played Out on the Strip: The Rise and Fall of Las Vegas Casino Bands
Professor Janis McKay presents a book talk about the loss of live, full-time big bands and orchestras in Las Vegas in relation to the casino takeovers by corporations. **2P, free. Marjorie Barrick Museum at UNLV, *unlv.edu***

DEC. 15
The Poet's Corner
A monthly forum hosted by Lablaque for established poets and open-mic participants, featuring the best local talent. 7:30P, **free. West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd., *artslasvegas.org***

FAMILY & FESTIVALS

DEC. 15–17
The Sin City Memory Game @SkillCon
Students, professionals, memory amateurs, and memory record-holders from all over the world will come together to compete for prizes in this exciting game. **$40. Rio Hotel, bit.*ly/2zHrW5o***

DEC. 29
Last Friday — Just Add Water Street
A foodie, arts, music, and crafts celebration in the historic downtown area. **6–10P, free. Henderson Events Plaza, 200 S. Water St., cityof*henderson.com***

FUNDRAISERS

DEC. 2
Great Santa Run
Your registration for this fundraiser includes a full Santa suit, a medal, and the opportunity to be a part of the largest gathering of Santas in the world! 8:30A, **$30. Opportunity Village, *raceentry.com***

DEC. 20
Murray's Annual Beggin' For Magic Charity Holiday Variety Show
A show full of magic, music, and comedy that celebrates the holidays. Proceeds go toward animal rescues. **7P, $20. Starbright Theatre at Sun City Summerlin, *scscai.com***

HOLIDAY FUN

DEC. 9–10, 16–23
Springs Preserve Holiday Express
Embrace the holiday magic with train rides to Santa's magical village and festive activities including photos with Santa, holiday crafts, cookie decorating, holiday stories, a nutcracker display, and more! **12–6P, $10 or $8 for members. Springs Preserve, *springspreserve.org***

DEC. 16
Holiday Spectacular!
This Vegas all-star performance includes singers, dancers, showgirls, live bands, and a reading of "The Night before Christmas." **7P, $20. Starbright Theatre at Sun City Summerlin, *scscai.com***

DEC. 30
Kwanzaa Celebration
The theme will be "Affirming African Values, Culture, and Community with Purpose," and the event will feature the Boys and Girls Rites of Passage graduation ceremony. **2–4P, free. West Las Vegas Library Theatre, *artslasvegas.org***

THROUGH DEC. 23
Snow in the Square
This 10-minute show enchants guests with falling snowflakes choreographed to classic holiday music. **Mon–Sun 7P; Fri–Sun 8P, free. Town Square, *mytownsquarelasvegas.com***

THROUGH DEC. 31

House on Robindale

The most-decorated house in the valley welcomes visitors from far and wide. Park across the street to take in the 95,000+ lights synchronized to Top 40 hits and holiday favorites. **6–10P nightly, free. 1420 E. Robindale Road, *houseonrobindale.com***

THROUGH DEC. 31

Opportunity Village's Magical Forest

Enter a winter wonderland with millions of sparkling lights, nightly entertainment, the Forest Express passenger train, Cheyenne's Enchanted Carousel, Boris the Elf's 3-D Experience, and so much more. **Sun–Thu 5:30-9P; Fri–Sat 5:30–10P, $9–$20. Opportunity Village, 6300 W. Oakey Blvd., *opportunityvillage.org***

THROUGH JAN. 2

Fountains of Bellagio

The internationally renowned Bellagio fountains presents Christmas performances choreographed to holiday classics. **Bellagio, *bellagio.com***

THROUGH JAN. 2

The Rink at the Boulevard Pool

Ice-skate high above the Strip, enjoying snow showers every 30 minutes! Or sit by the fire pits while enjoying s'mores and warm cocktails. 17+ unless with parent. **Sat 10A–9P; Sun 11A–6P, $20; $10 locals; $10 skate rental. The Cosmopolitan Las Vegas, *cosmopolitanlasvegas.com***

THROUGH JAN. 6

Glittering Lights Las Vegas

Nevada's largest drive-through light show, this annual event showcases 1 million LEDs and more than 400 animated displays over 2.5 miles. Open every night at dusk, **$20 per vehicle. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, *glitteringlights/lasvegas.com***

THROUGH JAN. 6

Holiday Cactus Garden

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

THROUGH JAN. 6

Mystic Falls Holiday Shows

Sam's Town's famous indoor laser light and water show transforms into a holiday dreamland filled with snow-covered trees, wreaths, poinsettias, and more. **6P, 8P, and 10P, free. Sam's Town Hotel & Gambling Hall, *samstownlv.com***

DEC. 1–2, 8–9, 15–24

Downtown Summerlin Holiday Parade

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



Live From Lincoln Center: New York Philharmonic New Year's Eve: Bernstein on Broadway
Sunday, December 31 at 9 p.m.



Celtic Woman – Homecoming: Ireland
Sunday, December 10 at 8 p.m.



Last Tango in Halifax Holiday Special
Sundays, December 17 & 24 at 8 p.m.

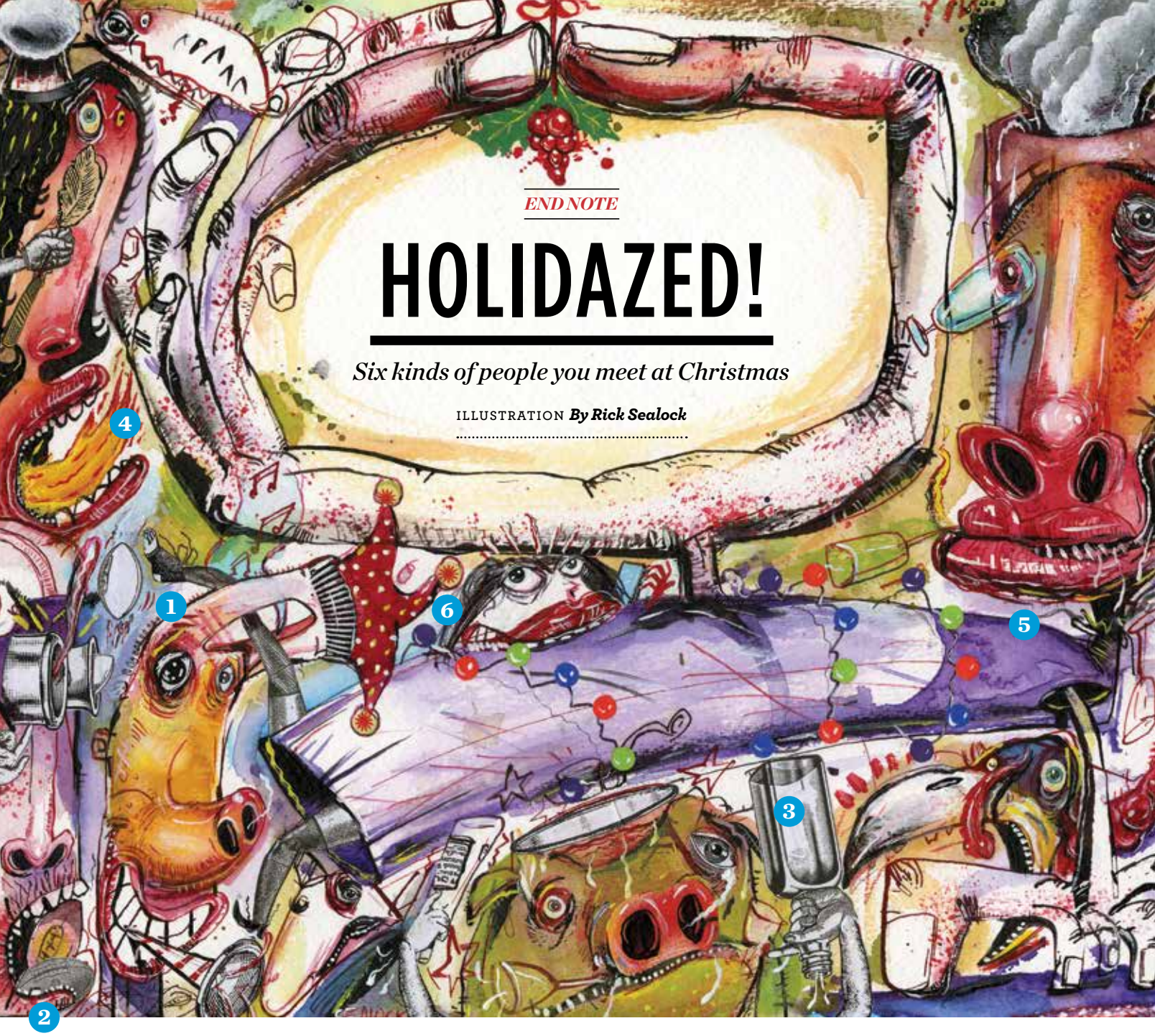


Eric Idle's The Entire Universe
Friday, December 22 at 10 p.m.



Secrets of Spanish Florida: A Secrets of the Dead Special
Tuesday, December 26 at 9 p.m.

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



END NOTE

HOLIDAZED!

Six kinds of people you meet at Christmas

ILLUSTRATION ***By Rick Sealock***

1
THE MANIACALLY CHEERFUL HOLIDAY ENTHUSIAST

Wears Santa hats. Decks halls. Knows never-sung last verse of "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen." Quote: "It's *Christmaaaaaas!*"

2
THE EMOTIONALLY DETACHED FOOTBALL WATCHER

Avoids all the &%#*! jingle-belling by hunkering on couch, yelling at referees. His Barcalounger is worse than his bite.

3
THE CYNICAL SPIKED-EGGNOG HOG

Glugs the 'nog to forget he's lonelier than pre-Whoville Grinch. Unrelated but also damning: Thinks Trans-Siberian Orchestra is "coolio."

4
THE MANIC CHEF

Her annual frenzy of chopping, baking, basting, and roasting buys her family's love at least until she makes her famous Fourth of July BBQ ribs.

5
THE UNWANTED-ADVICE-DISPENSING HEALTH NUT/NEW AGE GURU/SELF-HELP ADDICT

The time of year you can't duck your jerk-splaining, know-it-all cousin. Quote: "That fruitcake will stay in your colon *forever*."

6
THE TOO-COOL-FOR-CHRISTMAS TEENAGER

Happy Gothmas, losers! Thinks Scrooge's humbug game was *weak*. Still wants new iPhone in stocking, though.



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