STRIP AT DAWN SO YOU CAN READ ABOUT IT AT A MORE CONVENIENT TIME • COUPLES WHO RUN RESTAURANTS KEEP THE FLAME ALIVE • USE OUR NEW, SUPER-CURATED CALENDAR TO ORGANIZE YOUR LIFE, INCREASE YOUR CULTURAL IQ, AND BECOME A BETTER PERSON

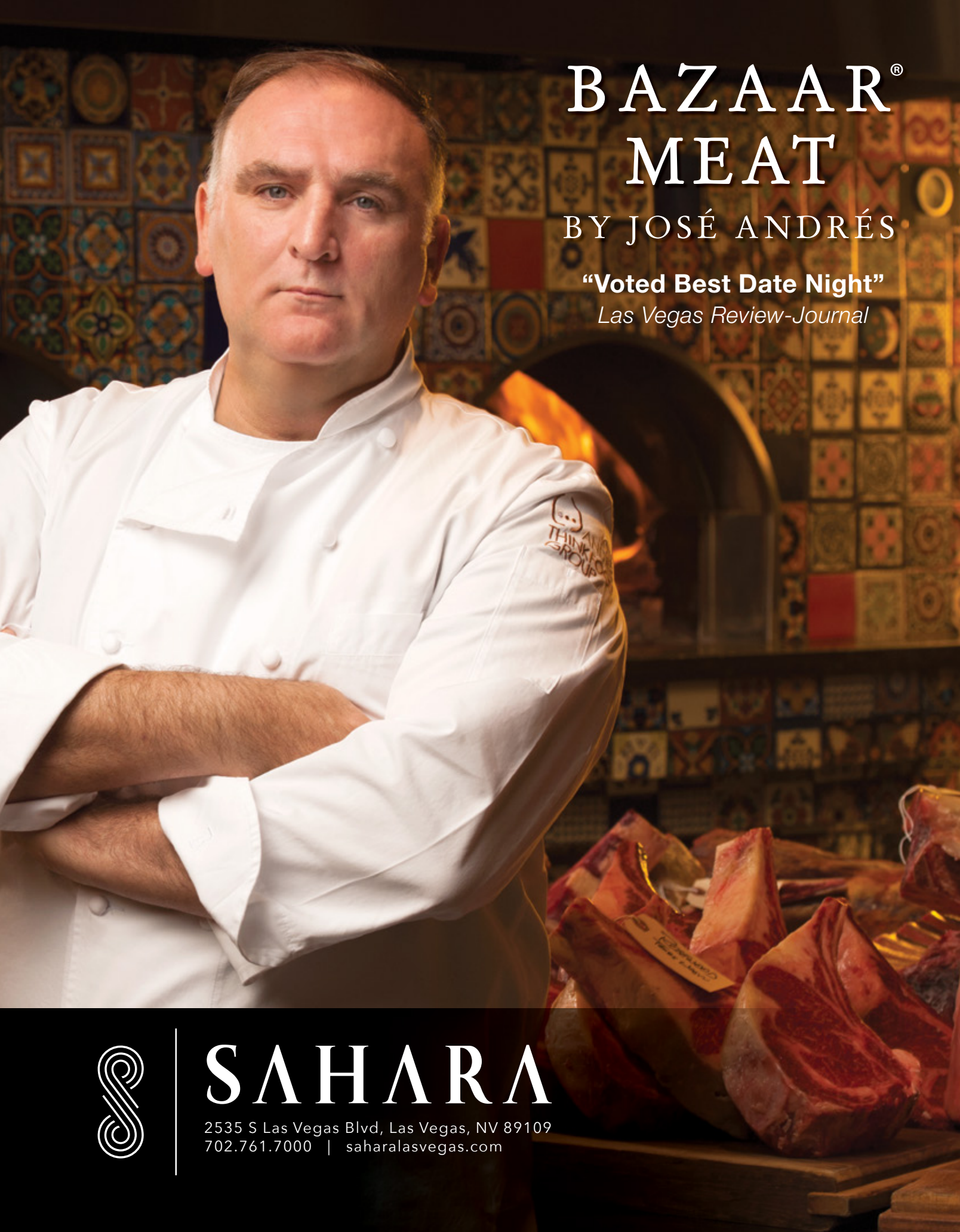
desert® COMPANION

HEIDI KYSER EXAMINES A CHILLING NEW TACTIC IN PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT • WE WANDER THE



U.S. $4.99 JAN/FEB 2020
0 74470 61847 8

PUBLISHED BY NEVADA PUBLIC RADIO

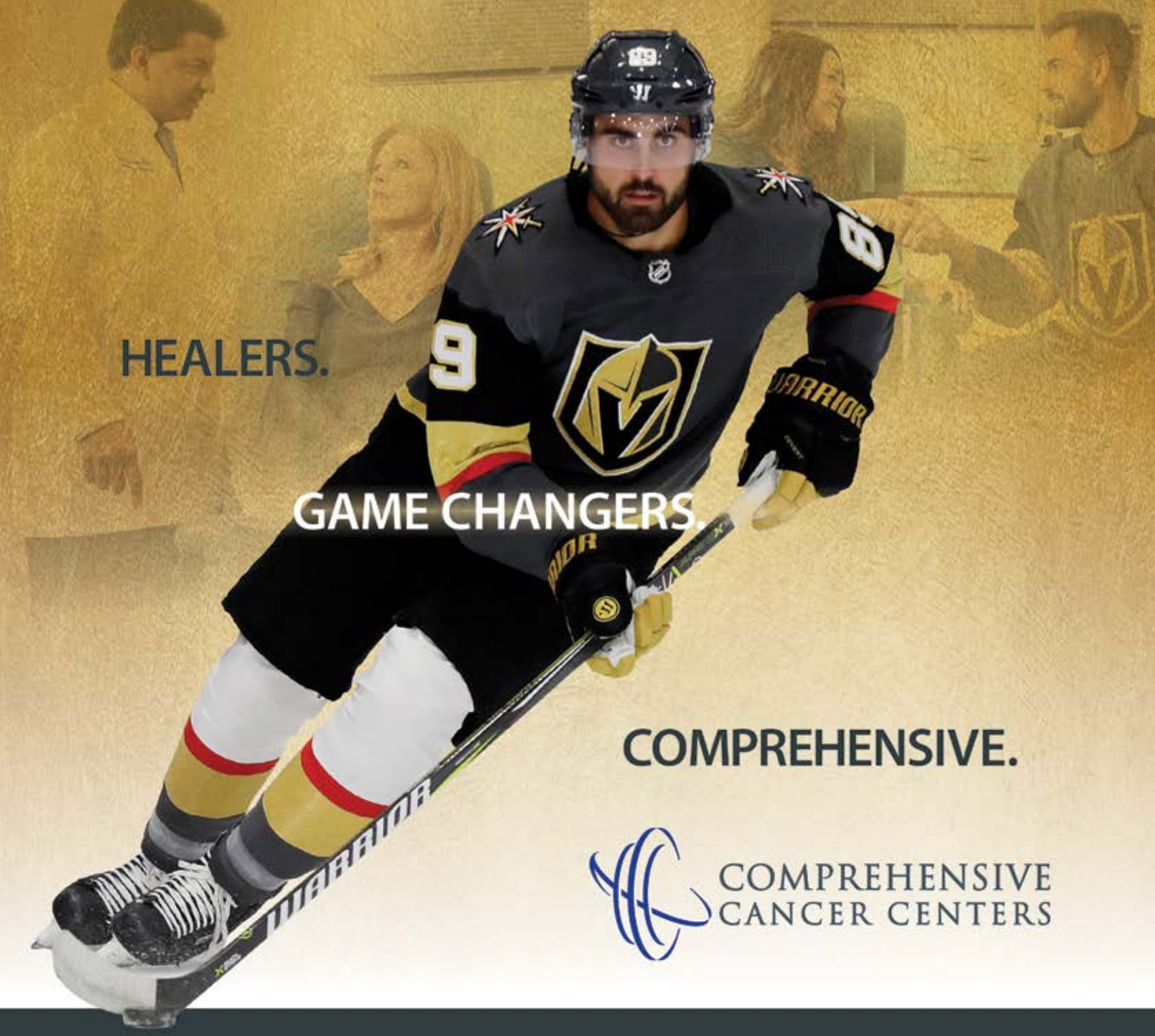

BAZAAR®
MEAT
BY JOSÉ ANDRÉS
"Voted Best Date Night"
Las Vegas Review-Journal
SAHARA
2535 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109
702.761.7000 | saharalasvegas.com



RANGE ROVER:
THE WORLD'S FINEST LUXURY SUV

When the Range Rover was introduced 50 years ago, it changed the way the world went off-road. It embodied capability. It exemplified performance. Over the years, it has come to represent the very pinnacle of refinement and British craftsmanship. The current generation of Range Rover vehicles build on that legacy. And go even further. To experience the 2020 Range Rover for yourself, visit Jaguar Land Rover Las Vegas for a test drive today.

Jaguar Land Rover Las Vegas
6425 Roy Horn Way, Las Vegas, NV 89118
702.579.0400 | www.jlrlv.com



Victory means leaving it all out there. Everything you have. Every time. Like the patients and doctors battling every day at Comprehensive Cancer Centers. From breakthroughs that use DNA to guide cancer treatment, to the latest in treatment technologies, the multidisciplinary team at Comprehensive will give everything they have to deliver the most effective treatment strategy for your individual needs. From medical oncology, radiation oncology and clinical research, to breast surgery and pulmonology – when you're up against cancer, having top performers on your team can mean everything. Change the game. Visit our website to learn more.

Proud Partner of the Vegas Golden Knights

cccnevada.com | 702.952.3350


STYLE
YOUR
VEGAS
30+ DINING OPTIONS | 8 DEPARTMENT STORES | 250+ STORES
FASHIONSHOW
LAS VEGAS
FREE, CONVENIENT PARKING | EXIT I-15 AT SPRING MOUNTAIN ROAD
NEIMAN MARCUS | SAKS FIFTH AVENUE | NORDSTROM | MACY'S | FOREVER 21
DICK'S SPORTING GOODS | DILLARD'S | MACY'S MEN'S STORE | ZARA | APPLE
TheFashionShow.com



©2019 California Closet Company, Inc. All rights reserved. Franchises independently owned and operated.

Featuring our exclusive Everstyle Drawer System and hidden hardware, Paxton delivers streamlined style and flawless functionality to elevate any room in the home.

CALIFORNIA CLOSETS®

800.274.6754 californiaclosets.com

LAS VEGAS 7350 Dean Martin | 5770 Centennial Center

DOWNTOWN SUMMERLIN 1825 Festival Plaza, Suite 170

Snow flies when you're having fun.

Welcome to the all-new 2020 Subaru Outback®.



Winter drivers have never had it so good. Standard Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive + up to 33 MPG* helps make winter roads safer. SUBARU STARLINK® Multimedia with standard Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto™ integration keeps you connected. 8.7 inches of ground clearance and heated seats keep you smiling. **Go where love takes you.**

SUBARU

Outback. Well-equipped at $26,645†.

There's a dog park at the new location!

Subaru, Outback, and SUBARU STARLINK are registered trademarks. Android Auto is a trademark of Google LLC. Apple CarPlay is a trademark of Apple Inc. *EPA-estimated highway fuel economy for 2020 Subaru Outback non-turbo models. 2020 Subaru Outback Onyx Edition XT shown is rated at 30 MPG highway. Actual mileage may vary. †MSRP excludes destination and delivery charges, tax, title, and registration fees. Retailer sets actual price. Certain equipment may be required in specific states, which can modify your MSRP. See your retailer for details. 2020 Subaru Outback Onyx Edition XT shown has an MSRP of $36,740. Vehicle shown with accessory equipment.

Subaru of Las Vegas 6455 Roy Horn Way (702) 495-2100 Subaruoflasvegas.com.

desert COMPANION

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 1
DESERTCOMPANION.VEGAS

Jan-Feb



FEATURES

45

BEST OF THE CITY

Our New Year's resolution is to give you a deep, wide-ranging selection of superlative Las Vegas food, shopping, culture, and community intel. *Done!*

ALL THINGS

13
IDEAS
Studying the past offers a benefit for the future: an increase in empathy
By Geoff Schumacher

14
GAMING
Looking back at the first batch of inductees into Nevada's famous Black Book
By John L. Smith

16
CHART BURN
Ten years ago this month, *Desert Companion* predicted what 2020 would look like. How'd we do? Well ...
By Andrew Kiraly

19
CALENDAR 2.0
Now with 87 percent more curation. This is no mere list of events; it *is* an event!

23
PERSPECTIVE
The big Banksy exhibit — good viewing, but at what cost?
By Veronica Klash





24
ASKED & ANSWERED
Talking with dancer and choreographer Krista Baker on the eve of her big debut
By Heidi Kyser

27
DINING
How do restauran couples make it work?
By Sonja Swanson

DEPARTMENTS

32
PROFILE
The mayor of Needles, California, battles economic hardship — and his own body
By John M. Glionna

36
ESSAY
Not listening: The latest trend in managing public lands
By Heidi Kyser

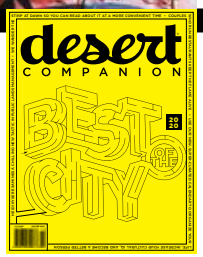
LADY GAGA: COURTESY MGM RESORTS; WILLIAMS: SABIN ORR; ILLUSTRATION: RICK SEALOCK

EXTRAS

8
EDITOR'S NOTE

72
SENSE OF PLACE
Once the site of my youthful fumblings toward adulthood, the Boulevard Mall is now a dynamic cultural gem
By Andrew Kiraly

COVER



A-MAZE-ING
DESIGN
Christopher Smith

THE HEART OF THE ARTS®

BROADWAY



THE COMPANY OF THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL. PHOTO BY JEREMY DANIEL

THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL
FEBRUARY 4-9



THE NORTH AMERICAN TOUR OF ONCE ON THIS ISLAND. PHOTO BY JOAN MARCUS, 2019

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND
MARCH 10-15



COMPANY OF MEAN GIRLS. CREDIT: © 2019 JOAN MARCUS

MEAN GIRLS
APRIL 14-19
ON SALE JANUARY 17

HEADLINERS



MICHAEL BOLTON
MARCH 4



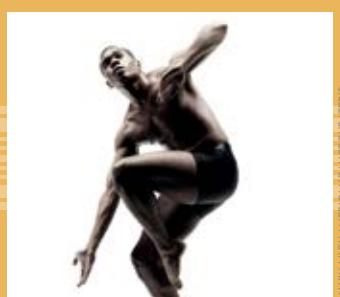
STRANGER IN A **STRANGE LAND**
with Photographer, Jodi Cobb
MARCH 18



LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO
MARCH 20



KANSAS
MARCH 21



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S SOLOMON DUMAS. PHOTO BY ANDREW ECCLES

ALVIN AILEY® AMERICAN DANCE THEATER
AILEY REVEALED
MARCH 27-28



DRUM TAO 2020
APRIL 11

THE SMITH CENTER®

VISIT **THESMITHCENTER.COM** TO SEE THE FULL LINEUP

702.749.2000 | TTY: 800.326.6868 or dial 711 | Group Inquiries: 702.749.2348 | 361 Symphony Park Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89106

8

Editor's Note

BEST BEHAVIOR

I suspect I speak for a lot of us when I say, with nothing less than wholly unironic earnestness, that I sure hope 2020 embodies at least a fraction of the spirit of cogent, assured optimism suggested by the number. Don't you feel it in its pleasing roundness and vervy doubling? 2020 says solar jetpacks, holographic casino games, willowy skyscraper resorts canopied with clouds; 2020 suggests a higher civic unity born of sage, sleek technocracy and evolved social consciousness — okay, okay, maybe that's a bit of an outsized ask. I think we'd all be ecstatic with a few extra clicks on the compassion and decency scale. In any case: 2020, HERE WE COME. [Futuristic synth riff.]

Perhaps that's wishful thinking. With its campaigns, climate crisis, and quantum-leaping technology, 2020 threatens to be a year of rancor, fear, and lurching confusion. I'm kinda used to it. You're kinda used to it. I don't profess to offer any comforting bromides or concrete prescriptions, but I do continue to believe there's modest merit in the practice of cultivating goodwill in your immediate space, of paying kind attention to where you live. I won't try to pull off some wily transitional legerdemain that suggests our annual Best of the City issue partakes of this cure, but there's definitely a dotted line that leads us to noticing, embracing, and celebrating all the good things about Southern Nevada — its fine people, its crazy good food, its exotic customs and unique culture. Enjoy this year's feature in that spirit of big-hearted optimism. Our future may depend on it.



Andrew Kiraly
EDITOR

NEXT MONTH Activate with our sports, leisure and outdoors issue!

OH, YEAH, ALSO



1. In "In Praise of the Strip at Dawn" on p. 69, writer **Krista Diamond** and Art Director **Christopher Smith** explore the oddly peaceful world of the Strip at dawn. Krista's favorite part? "It was the unexpected obsession I developed with seeing the elusive scuba divers who clean the fish tanks behind the front desk at the Mirage. They only do it a few mornings a week, and MGM Resorts was a bit cagey about revealing specific timeframes, so I got into this routine of getting up before dawn, chugging a bunch of coffee, and then driving down to the Strip just to hang out in the Mirage lobby and wait. It finally paid off, and like most things in Las Vegas, it was weird and beautiful and worth it."

2. Graphic Designer **Brent Holmes** helped source our items for our piece on Valentine's Day gifts for food lovers on p. 30. Brent has adventurous tastes and always picks up interesting stuff, like this bag of Jubes lychee-flavored coconut gel. "Spend hours of fun munching these chewy, juicy cubes," the bag says. It is still unopened.



3. In one of our **Best of the City** social media polls, we surveyed longtime Las Vegans on the "Best Historic Place Reference That's a Secret Handshake Among Natives." One of the choices, Soak 'n' Poke, was a kind of meta-secret handshake: It was the nickname for Spring Fever, an '80s-era private jacuzzi/sauna rental complex at Sahara and Boulder Highway. You know, for … soaking. (Above is a still from its TV commercial.) One reader posted, "Didn't an upset spouse burn it down when he caught his wife there with someone else?" Wet and wild!

desert COMPANION

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

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

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

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

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jim Begley, Josh Bell, Chris Bitonti, Mya Constantino, Cybele, Krista Diamond, Kim Foster, John M. Glionna, Matt Jacob, Jenessa Kenway, Veronica Klash, Christie Moeller, Mike Prevatt, James P. Reza, Lissa Townsend Rodgers, Geoff Schumacher, John L. Smith, Sonja Swanson, Mike Weatherford, Mitchell Willburn, T.R. Witcher

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

Delphine Lee, Sabin Orr, Rick Sealock

CONTACT

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

Desert Companion is published 12 times a year by Nevada Public Radio, 1289 S. Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89146. It is available by subscription at desertcompanion.vegas, or as part of Nevada Public Radio membership. It is also distributed free at select locations in the Las Vegas Valley. All photos, artwork and ad designs printed are the sole property of Desert Companion and may not be duplicated or reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. The views of Desert Companion contributing writers are not necessarily the views of Desert Companion or Nevada Public Radio. Contact us for back issues, which are available for purchase for $7.95.

FOLLOW DESERT COMPANION

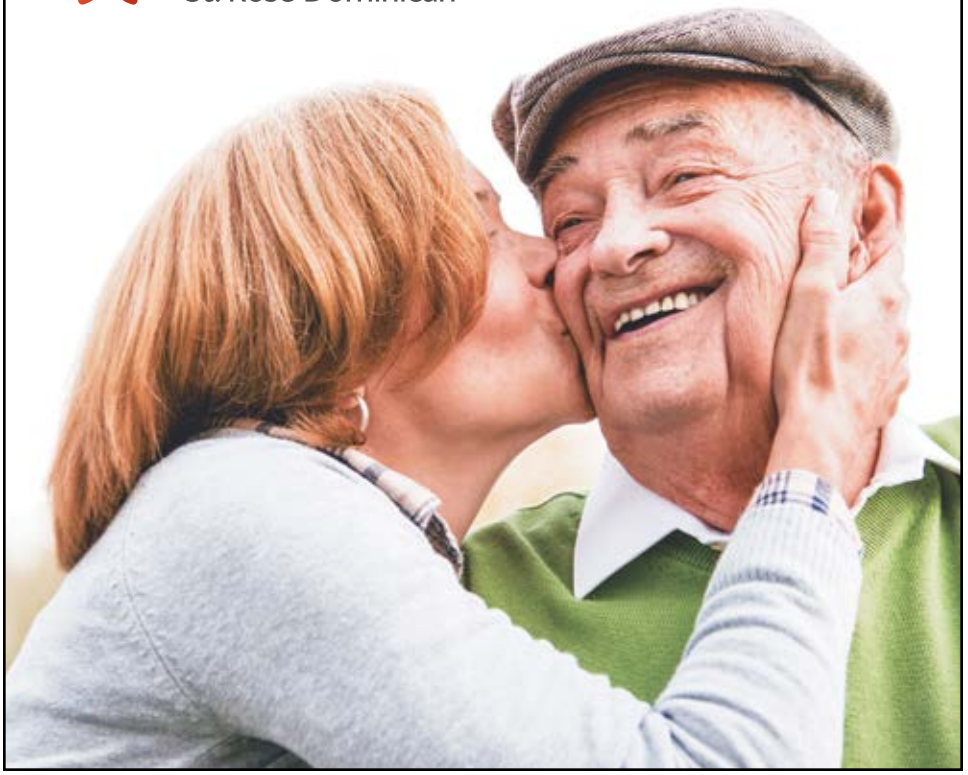
www.facebook.com/DesertCcompanion
www.twitter.com/DesertCompanion

Expert cardiology with heart.

Our cardiology experts never miss a beat when it comes to your heart health. They'll be there for you whatever you're facing—and above all, they'll put all they've got into healing you. Find out more at **StRoseHospitals.org/heart**.

Hello humankindness®

Dignity Health®
St. Rose Dominican





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

ANTHONY J. PEARL, ESQ.
CHAIR
The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas

RICHARD I. DREITZER, ESQ.
VICE CHAIR
Fennemore Craig

KATHE NYLEN
TREASURER

JERRY NADAL
SECRETARY

DIRECTORS

CYNTHIA ALEXANDER EMERITUS
Dickinson Wright PLLC

DAVE CABRAL EMERITUS
Business Finance Corp.

LOUIS CASTLE EMERITUS
Amazon Games Seattle

PATRICK N. CHAPIN, ESQ. EMERITUS

ELIZABETH FRETWELL EMERITUS
Switch

BOB GLASER
BNY Mellon

WILLIAM GROUNDS
Infinity World Development Corp.

DANIEL HAMILTON
UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law

DON HAMRICK
Chapman Las Vegas Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram

GAVIN ISAACS

FRED J. KEETON
Keeton Iconoclast Consulting, LLC

JOHN R. KLAI II EMERITUS
Klai Juba Wald Architects

TODD-AVERY LENAHAN
TAL Studio

LAMAR MARCHESE PRESIDENT EMERITUS

WILLIAM MASON
Taylor International Corporation

AMANDA MOORE
Live Nation

CHRIS MURRAY EMERITUS
Avissa Corporation

JERRY NADAL EMERITUS

WILLIAM J. "BILL" NOONAN EMERITUS
Boyd Gaming Corporation

MARK RICCIARDI, ESQ. EMERITUS
Fisher & Phillips, LLP

MICKEY ROEMER EMERITUS
Roemer Gaming

TIM WONG EMERITUS
Arcata Associates

RENEE YACKIRA

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

ISSN 2157-8389 (print) · ISSN 2157-8397 (online)

CELEBRATE THE NEW DECADE WITH YOUR LAS VEGAS PHILHARMONIC!





CONCERT TICKETS START AT $30

For tickets and information,
call 702.258.5438 or visit lvphil.org.

PERFORMANCES IN REYNOLDS HALL AT THE SMITH CENTER

LAS VEGAS
PHILHARMONIC
MUSIC DIRECTOR **DONATO CABRERA**
MUSIC. CULTURE. EDUCATION.

GRASSIER AIN'T CLASSIER.



Not only will you cut down on your water use, you'll have less to mow and maintain. Need even more incentive? Earn a cash rebate of $3 per square foot when you replace your grass with a beautiful water smart landscape.

Learn more at lvvwd.com.

Remove grass you don't use
LVVWD.com

ALL THINGS



IDEAS, CULTURE, FOOD, AND OTHER WAYS TO USE THIS CITY

IDEAS

The Purpose of the Past

There's a surprisingly practical reason to learn the city's history: greater empathy

BY ***Geoff Schumacher***

In the summer of 1933, a newly minted lawyer named Paul Ralli arrived in Las Vegas, where he planned to launch his legal career. One of the first people to write seriously about Las Vegas, Ralli vividly described the small town he had chosen to call home.

"The town impressed me as being very different from any other American town," Ralli wrote in *Nevada Lawyer*, his 1946 memoir. "It had a touch of Mexico's Tijuana, where people loitered in the streets, and the tempo was slow. There was a lack of formality in the air, and absolute disregard for social distinction. The people were friendly, and money was loose and plentiful. The bars and gambling halls were packed to capacity, and Boulder Dam workers were pouring their earnings into the town. Loafers and moochers roamed the streets, and women of questionable reputation rubbed elbows with society."

You can see it, right? If you have lived in Las Vegas for a few years and venture now and then beyond your leaf-blown suburban enclave, you recognize the authenticity of Ralli's summertime city. Many things have changed over the past 86 years, but Las Vegas retains "a lack of formality," the bars and gambling halls are still "packed to capacity," and "loafers and moochers" still roam the streets.

Paul Ralli's Las Vegas is still with us in some ways. When he arrived in Las Vegas "with ten dollars in (his) pocket," Ralli reports that he registered at a local

ILLUSTRATION ***Delphine Lee***

hotel. He does not give the hotel's name, but it very well could have been the Victory, built in 1910 and a very affordable option on Main Street, just north of Bonneville Avenue. I think of the Victory, because it still stands today. It is closed and in bad shape, but it endures, somehow avoiding the wrecking ball of Downtown redevelopment.

About 15 years ago, I had the opportunity to look inside the Victory, to walk its halls and peek into its rooms. It was closed, but it had only recently ceased serving as a low-rent refuge for the city's "loafers and moochers," its "women of questionable reputation." Some of the rooms are very small, with no bathroom and only a sink jutting from the wall. But imagine the human dramas that unfolded inside this building, from the hot, dusty days after the railroad came through the valley to the hyper-drive population infusion of the 1940s and '50s to the hollowing out of Downtown of the 1970s and '80s.

Newcomers often describe difficulties adjusting to life in Las Vegas. As Ralli recognized back in 1933, Las Vegas is different. It can take a while — several years even — to get used to the place. But there is one surefire way to become more comfortable with Las Vegas, or any city, really, and that is by learning its history.

Please do me this favor: Never utter the words "Las Vegas has no history" or "Las Vegas doesn't care about its history." Not only are these statements false, but they are counterproductive to your enjoyment of living here. The "Las Vegas has no history" mantra is presumably based on the fact that Las Vegas is a young community or that the collective mindset is completely focused on the present and future. The phrase "Las Vegas doesn't care about its history" is surely inspired by the string of casino implosions in the 1990s and early 2000s.

In fact, despite its relative youth, Las Vegas has a rich and fascinating history, and it is very easy to access. Besides a long list of books and documentaries, several local museums are devoted to telling stories and displaying artifacts about the community's past. The city's history is all around us if you take a closer look.

As a longtime resident and student of Las Vegas history, I probably see the city a little differently than many others. When I travel the streets and highways, I see a blended vision of what once was, what remains, and what has emerged in more recent times. I constantly see black-and-white scenes playing behind the technicolor present. Of course, I possess no special powers — anyone can do this with a little effort.

An appreciation of a city's past can make it a more enjoyable place to live, turning a meaningless jumble of buildings and people into a compelling story. Humans crave stories, and every city has one. To our delight, the Las Vegas story happens to be more interesting than most.

And once we look at a city as a story, or many stories, once we understand what has gone into its growth and evolution, we gain a deeper understanding of its complexities, and greater empathy for the people and institutions striving to keep it all together and moving forward. Imagining the lives of people renting rooms at the Victory Hotel, or the impending divorcés who once spent six weeks at what is now Floyd Lamb Park, or the Binion family occupying what is now a decrepit husk of a house on Bonanza Road, can engender a greater understanding of people other than ourselves.

The Las Vegas of 2020 could use more empathy. With its routine road rage, rampant domestic violence, chronic homelessness, and relentless drunken driving, to name just a few big-city challenges, Las Vegas today is rapidly losing its resemblance to the small town Paul Ralli encountered in 1933. A heightened awareness of the city's history obviously is not going to solve such big and difficult problems, but it can be a valuable foundation for nurturing personal joy and community pride. ✦

Geoff Schumacher is senior director of content for The Mob Museum and the author of Sun, Sin & Suburbia: The History of Modern Las Vegas.

LAS VEGAS 101: FURTHER READING

Resort City in the Sunbelt: Las Vegas, 1930-2000, Second Edition
Eugene P. Moehring (University of Nevada Press, 2000)

Neon Metropolis: How Las Vegas Started the Twenty-First Century
Hal Rothman (Routledge, 2003)

Las Vegas: A Centennial History
Eugene P. Moehring and Michael S. Green (University of Nevada Press, 2005)

Bright Light City: Las Vegas in Popular Culture
Larry Gragg (University Press of Kansas, 2013)

GAMING

The Class of 1960

The first Black Book entrants were a motley crew — and one of the first tests of Nevada's desire to build a grown-up gaming industry

BY ***John L. Smith***

Gov. Grant Sawyer was tired of the muckraking exposés that painted Nevada as a den of iniquity run by organized crime. The stories were accompanied by mugshots bearing nicknames like "Momo," "Johnny Bats," and "Trigger Mike." On the cusp of the 1960s, the state's legal gaming industry was undergoing a dangerous evolution — and it threatened the state's fragile reputation.

"After a while it began to get to me," Sawyer said in his oral history. "You consider yourself an honorable person surrounded by honorable people, and to be constantly accused of being something less gets to be very annoying. I developed the attitude, 'By God, I will show these people that Nevadans are like everybody else, with the same principles and the same standards — maybe better than some other people. We are not the riffraff that they make us out to be, nor are we for sale to anybody!'"

Sawyer knew the score: The mob had bankrolled much of the gaming industry, and they wielded clout in many casinos through associates and front men. The FBI and Department









Building Skills For Tomorrow With LifeWorks

LIFEWORKS

With opportunities such as Career & Technical Educational programs, the College & Career Readiness Diploma, and work-based learning, LifeWorks connects Nevada's students with the training and education required by the jobs of tomorrow.

Help prepare your future workers by offering internships, apprenticeships, or other work-based learning opportunities. Ask about how you can join the growing network of LifeWorks partners.

To get involved, visit **LifeWorksNV.org** or call the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation at **702-486-8080**.

Nevada Department of Education

Nevada Ready!

The Nevada Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth.

LIFE WORKS



SELF-ASSESSMENT

THE FUTURE AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE

In our January/February 2010 issue, we made predictions about what Las Vegas would look like in 2020. Here's what we got right, what we got wrong … and what we got really *wrong.*

What We Predicted	Did It Happen?	The Upshot
"Our best short-term bet for economic diversity is the World Market Center."	Nope.	The annual Las Vegas Market is a fine start — but what can the complex do the other 51 weeks a year?
"…I'm betting that yet another period of wild and crazy American self-indulgence will kick off right around 2020, the Roaring '20s Redux, for which Las Vegas will once again be the in-sync epicenter."	Uh, yeah, no.	In an age of climate change and wealth disparity as everyday topics, "crazy American self-indulgence" seems like, I dunno, a bad look.
"As our country moves toward renewable energy usage, Southern Nevada is well-positioned to become a center of new energy sources and exportable technology."	Um, well, er, nah.	But come on, people, it's the sun! It's like a gigantic free life-giving Duracell!
"Health care will become our second-largest industry by 2020, followed by government."	Ehhh no.	Check back in 2030 … and then 2040.
"Housing prices will be double what they are today …"	Yeppers!	In some cases, triple! But a recession may put a damper on would-be flippers.
"Education will become a priority. … The Clark County School District will be replaced by several smaller ones … Voters will approve property tax increases to fund schools … Teachers will be paid more …"	LOLOLOL NO 	so naive … smh
"More local music venues are also on the horizon, which will further boost the music scene."	Naw!	But let's hope the Huntridge Theater makes a comeback.
"Mobile technology and real-time social media will allow resorts to communicate with their customers — and customers to communicate with one another — on a minute-by-minute basis."	Yeah, but …	… didn't this technology exist in 2010?
"Value will be a chief reason people choose to visit."	Hm, vague enough to be plausible …	… especially if you define "value" as "yeeting into soul-death via heedless, shrieking hedonism."
"Since *Mad Men* has made early-'60s style the epitome of cool, maybe the Fontainebleau, when it finally opens, can realize … a themed Strip resort devoted to evoking nostalgic Rat Pack fantasy."	Ha! Actually, the opposite happened.	The Drew, the resort slated for the former Fontainebleau site, has been pushed back to 2022
"In 2020, Las Vegas will look a lot like it does today."	Nailed it!	Whether this is a good or bad thing … no comment.

of Justice were also bearing down, increasing the pressure on Sawyer. As governor, Sawyer called out organized crime in his inaugural address and pushed through the Gaming Control Act of 1959, setting in motion the regulatory apparatus Nevada uses today. Federal and local law enforcement, along with intrepid Gaming Control Board investigators, would spend the next two decades ferreting out the last vestiges of traditional organized crime within the casino industry. Between arrest, attrition, and the mob's own violent retirement plan, the industry ultimately emerged from the shadow of mob ties.

But that was the long game. In the short term, Sawyer had a big PR problem. The hoodlum element had to be forced out. And from that, the idea for Nevada gaming's "list of excluded persons" — better known as the Black Book — was born. Praised by some as an anti-corruption tool and decried by others as a merely cosmetic (not to mention unconstitutional) fix to Vegas' mob problem, the Black Book turns 60 this year. It's a distinctly Nevadan document that reflects a serious desire to grow up, one of our most emphatic attempts to separate gambling as a responsible form of leisure from its stigma of vice and criminality.

The first iteration of the Black Book was a rogue's gallery of 11 men who represented several of the biggest organized crime concerns in the country. From Chicago, Outfit boss Sam Giancana was joined by business genius Murray Llewelyn "The Camel" Humphreys, and a short-fused killer named Marshall Caifano, also known as Johnny Marshall. From Kansas City came brothers Nicholas and Carl "Cork" Civella, who already had their eyes on the Tropicana and other Strip properties. Their lesser-known partner, Motel Grezebrenacy, aka Max Jaben, was considered a master of the group's illegal gambling activities in Kansas City and Las Vegas. Spotlighted by the Kefauver Committee, New York-born Genovese family mobster Michael "Trigger Mike" Coppola enjoyed his syndicate's influence in Miami

Beach and Las Vegas, where he was said to hold points in casinos on Las Vegas Boulevard. He was arrested here after visiting pals at the Riviera and Stardust.

From Los Angeles, mafia man John Louis "Johnny Bats" Battaglia and bookmaking baron Joe Sica were barred, along with handsome Louis Tom Dragna, who would become known as "the Reluctant Prince" for his unwillingness to dive into the messy end of the family business. Dragna encountered his share of legal trouble, but managed to live in seclusion before checking out in 2012 at age 92 as the last living member of the first class. There were seemingly odd additions: former club fighter Robert L. Garcia of Southern California, reputed to be friends with Mickey Cohen, the Hollywood hoodlum. Denying links to the "Mickster," Garcia lamented that he was just an honest guy trying to keep the lights on at his own illegal gaming parlors located outside the city limits of Palm Springs, but regularly visited by the authorities. His many complaints didn't change his Black Book status. The same was true for the rest of the class of '60. Not that they didn't try.

Marshall and Dragna separately tested the constitutionality of the ban by making public appearances at Las Vegas casinos where they'd once received VIP treatment. They were wined and dined up and down the Strip — until they weren't. After Dragna returned to Los Angeles, Marshall was arrested. The ensuing litigation played out over six years, ending with a court decision that upheld the constitutionality of the Black Book.

The book's strength was tested again in 1963, this time at Lake Tahoe's Cal Neva Lodge. After a supposedly private rendezvous in Chalet 50 between Giancana and his singing star girlfriend Phyllis McGuire went public, the Cal Neva's part owner Frank Sinatra went ballistic. Sinatra's epithet-laced dressing down of a gaming agent led to the effective yanking of his gaming license — until 1981, when the state Gaming Commission, with substantial ceremony, restored Sinatra's license with no restrictions.

The Black Book has always had its critics, none larger than former Las Vegas mayor and unabashed mob lawyer Oscar Goodman. His list of Black Book-fighting clients includes Tony Spilotro, Frank Rosenthal, and Joey Cusumano. "It was a cosmetic device established by people who couldn't care less about who went into a casino unless there was a cheating element to them," he says. Which may make you wonder why so many people fought so hard to stay out of the book.

If anyone knows the answer, it's Control Board Deputy Chief of Enforcement James Taylor, who's spent most of his 24-year career investigating Black Book characters. He's personally handled 13 successful cases, and supervised many more, and has watched Black Book nominees go from being predominantly mob-connected to being accused of cheating and stealing from casinos.

"It's withstood a lot of challenges over the years, and it remains. It still helps us identify people who pose a threat to the interests of the state, or the interests of the gaming industry. And I think there's always going to be a place for it in the industry. It's a good tool for us." In which case, a "happy birthday" is in order. ✦

OUT OF CONTEXT

"IT'S BETTER FOR NEVADA THAN WHEN HARRY REID FELL OFF HIS TREADMILL."

— Social-media curiosity @RealMiniAOC, touting a "Deplorapalooza" gathering March 5-7 at Trump Tower in Las Vegas





OUR FOOD IS OFF THE WALL

CHARCUTERIE AND CHEESE WALL
Just one of our many custom stations designed to elevate your event

LAS VEGAS' PREMIER CATERING COMPANY,
READY TO MAKE WHATEVER YOU ENVISION POSSIBLE.

WWW.CUTLV.COM | 702 270 0299

CUT AND TASTE

CULTURE


ANITA HILL


LAS VEGAS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

HAYLEY KIYOKO


CARMEN MARIA MACHADO



(Opera)

OPERA LEGENDS IN BLACK

FEB 24

From Leontyne Price to Jessye Norman, Scott Joplin to Porgy and Bess, the contributions of African Americans to the American musical canon were achieved in the face of prejudice and exclusion. In this concert, Opera Las Vegas salutes black composers, performers, and works. ***(SD)* 2p, free, Windmill Library, *operalasvegas.com***

TALK

Anita Hill

JAN 28

What's she been up to?, you might wonder at seeing the words "Anita Hill" atop this blurb. These days, she mostly appears in the feeds and streams as an occasional data point, usually counterpoised against some newsbyte about Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, at whose confirmation hearings in 1991 she so memorably testified about sexual harassment. Since then she's become a professor at Brandeis University, a women's and civil rights activist, and more. With her talk, titled "Restoring the Vision," Hill means to highlight and reinvigorate the aims and gains of Title IX, the groundbreaking gender-parity law. ***(SD)* 7:30p, free (but tickets required), UNLV's Ham Hall, *unlv.edu/calendar***

(Music)

HAYLEY KIYOKO

JAN 30

The reigning queen of queer pop has been lauded by critics for her cleverly barbed (but always undeniably catchy) dance songs, not to mention her sometimes startling emotional wisdom. The title of her latest EP — a three-song bubble machine optimized for huggy living-room dance hijinks — says it all: *I'm Too Sensitive for This Shit*. ***(AK)* 7p, House of Blues, $32-$142, *houseofblues.com***

VISUAL ART

NVHead2Toe

JAN 23-FEB 29

Is it ever not fun to see artists nudged from their usual work into something more whimsically specific and offbeat? No, it is not. So this exhibit — a cross-state collab between Las Vegas' Core Contemporary Gallery and Virginia City's St. Mary's Art Center — ought to delight. Some 30 artists, split between both places, created exquisite corpse pieces that will surely teem with zinging juxtapositions, surreal imagination, and inspired silliness. ***(SD)* Opening reception January 25, Core Contemporary, 900 E. Karen Ave. #D-222, free, corecontemporary.com**

KIYOKO: COURTESY ATLANTIC RECORDS; HILL: COURTESY UNLV; NVHEAD2TOE: COURTESY CORE CONTEMPORARY; MACHADO: COURTESY BLACK MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE; ABBEY: COURTESY LAS VEGAS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

THEATER

MEN ON BOATS

FEB 19-MARCH 15

Did we say *men* on boats? We meant women and non-binary people on boats. This is the high-voltage creative twist in Jaclyn Backhaus' historical-adventure-comedy chronicling John Wesley Powell's 1869 expedition through the Grand Canyon. However full of laughs it may be, this isn't a drag-campy, *RuPaul Goes West* caper. The nontraditional casting subverts the macho bluster of Western mythmaking while, as *The New York Times* noted in an approving review, underlining how impossible it is to know the whole truth about the past. **(*SD*), various times, $25-$33, Art Square Theatre, *theatre.vegas***



LITERATURE

KRISTEN ARNETT AND LISA KO

FEB 6

It's a family-drama double bill as two Black Mountain Institute spring fellows gab about their most recent novels. Ko's *The Leavers* — winner of a PEN award honoring social justice literature — tells the entwined stories of a Chinese immigrant mother and her American son (adopted by a white family) as they try to find each other. Arnett's *Mostly Dead Things* is a funny, moving tale of family disintegration and taxidermy set in, of course, Florida. **(SD) 7p, The Writer's Block, free, *thewritersblock.org***



(Music)

TOOL

JAN 17

You know you've become an institution when you're synonymous with an entire generation. That's Tool, all right – patron band of '90s neckbeards, edgelords, flannel kids, and every known subspecies of monkey-booted slackoid; icon of Gen X angst. Nearly 30 years later, Tool hasn't so much evolved its sound as tunneled deeper into it, mining new musical articulations of a default mood that might be called super-operatic bummer. On 2019's Fear Inoculum, there are still the urgent sweeps and deft lunges, but there's also restraint and wisdom — at least until you get to the 15-minute-long "7empest," an anthemic, prog-rocky marathon that alternately jams, lurches, and scorches. Being operatically bummed is rarely this fun. With opener Author & Punisher. (*AK*) 8p, T-Mobile Arena, $78-$481, *t-mobilearena.com*

DANCE

Shen Yun

FEB 26-29

What is the secret sauce of Shen Yun that the show inspires such fervent fandom, such reverential awe? The flawless dancing, the impeccable music? The aura of optimism that seems to beam from every colorful poster and TV ad? Could be. Or it could be the larger story that looms behind all the joyous dancing: Shen Yun performers are practitioners of Falun Dafa, a religious practice related to Buddhism that employs meditation and moral instruction in service of human goodness and achievement; and they feel that dance in particular is an art form that flourishes under the auspices of their religion. But in China, Falun Dafa is banned, considered a dangerous cult; adherents are regularly persecuted. In that light, Shen Yun is more than a dance performance; it's a highly physical expression of religious devotion. **(AK) Reynolds Hall in The Smith Center, $84-$224, *thesmithcenter.com***

CONVERSATION

THE COMMUNAL WEST

JAN 24

Two major talents in one antique schoolhouse! Tea Obreht's lauded recent novel, *Inland*, rethinks the Western story, while Terry Tempest Williams' new essay collection, *Erosion*, is a tough and tender outburst on behalf of America's threatened Western landscapes. A milestone event, sponsored by Black Mountain Institute and the Las Vegas Jewish film Festival. **(*SD*) 7p, Historic Fifth Street School, free (tickets required), *blackmountaininstitute.org***

(Film)

LAS VEGAS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

JAN 9-26

Our Best of the City pick for Best Film Festival (page 53) clocks in with its 19th edition. "Everyone, yes everyone, is welcome," says the festival website, and, indeed, a documentary like *Aulcie* — about an African American basketball player from New Jersey who led an Israeli basketball team to a historic title, became famous in his adopted country, and wound up in prison — can be enjoyed equally by the Jewish and goyim alike. As a bonus, famed nature writer Terry Tempest Williams will be on hand for a screening of *Wrenched*, a film about the doomed Earth First! Movement. (She'll also do a separate reading hosted by the Black Mountain Institute; see item above). **(SD) Various venues, info: *lvjff.org***

ARNETT, KO: COURTESY BLACK MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE; TOOL: COURTESY THE BAND; SAADIQ COURTESY SHOREFIRE MEDIA; CAPONE: WIKICOMMONS



(Music)

Raphael Saadiq

JAN 24

Raphael Saadiq is a student of soul in the best sense of the word. One of the founding members of late-'80s outfit Tony! Toni! Toné! — an act charting consistently with dance-ready R&B pop tunes that nonetheless refused to forfeit spirit or sophistication — Saadiq has spent much of his subsequent solo career exploring soul music, testing it with inflections of rock, dance, and blues. But he's perhaps at his straightforward best on songs such as "Kings Fall," when Saadiq is simply performing intense, searching, searing, torchy soul music. With opener Jamila Woods. (AK) 8p, Brooklyn Bowl, $35-$459.38, brooklynbowl.com

(Festival)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FESTIVAL

FEB 15

The Springs Preserve has become so much more than just a big water conservation demonstration park. With its growing roster of festivals, for example, the Springs Preserve has become a focal point and gathering place for Las Vegas' many diverse communities. In February, the Preserve hosts its Black History Month Festival, featuring live bands, spoken-word artists and hip-hop performers, as well as art, food, and gifts that celebrate black history and heritage. (AK) 11a-5p, Springs Preserve, tickets TBA, *springspreserve.org*



(Talk)

AL CAPONE DISCUSSION

JAN 16

Al Capone may have been a vicious crime lord — February 14 marks the 91st anniversary of the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre, said to be one of his greatest hits — but he was also a grandfather. "How could such a purported 'king of the underworld' and an alleged killer be capable of such extraordinary kindness and generosity?" asks his granddaughter, Diane Capone, in her new memoir, *Al Capone: Stories My Grandmother Told Me*. On what would've been his 121st birthday, she'll be at the Mob Museum to talk about gramps — and the truth of his final hours. **(*SD*) 7p, Mob Museum Courtroom, $16.95,**

(Literature)

CARMEN MARIA MACHADO

JAN 29

Black Mountain Institute presents Carmen Maria Machado talking to *Believer* deputy editor Niela Orr about Machado's riveting memoir *In the Dream House*. "House" is used figuratively and literally to explore the author's fragmented memories of a doomed relationship. Employing a variety of forms — such as fairytale and folklore — Machado's book explores themes of psychological abuse in queer relationships. **(MC) 7p, The Writer's Block, free, blackmountaininstitute.org**

VISUAL ART

Existing in Thought

JAN 6-FEB 7

If you disable your conditioned cynicism — if you don't think *My kid could do this*, or *Abstraction is just a way for untalented artists to stay in the game* — and just roll with it, abstract art can be enormously fun. Largely stripped of referentiality, abstract art deals in the eye-candy potential of shapes, lines, splatters, drips, washes, juxtaposition, randomness, and composition. See it all and more in this group show. **(*SD*) Opening reception January 16, free, Winchester Gallery, 702-455-7340**

(Theater)

MARCUS, OR THE SECRET OF SWEET

FEB 14-23

Academy Award-winning writer Tarell Alvin Mcraney (*Moonlight*) offers the story of Marcus, a young gay black man ("sweet" is Southern slang for gay) searching for the truth about his father, and himself. Its staging is often called "unconventional": Character dialogue includes stage directions, they often act in unison, and the stage isn't overly realistic. "Taut, moving," says *Variety*. **(*MC*) UNLV's Black Box Theatre, $10-$20, *unlv.edu/calendar***



(Music)

DERMOT KENNEDY

FEB 7

Dermot Kennedy's raw, charged vocal delivery — imagine a whisphered shout — has become his sonic signature, but his style began as a practical necessity: As a sidewalk busker playing for tips, the Irish singer-songwriter had to learn to project his voice to compete with the urban noise of Dublin, or Boston, or wherever he was performing. The tactic obviously worked, and then some: Kennedy blew up Spotify's Discovery playlist after posting his songs directly to the platform, and in 2018, NPR listeners chose him as best new artist in NPR Music's fan poll. **(AK) 8p, The Pearl at the Palms, $32-$73, *palms.com***

THEATER

A Steady Rain

FEB 7-23

Police officers who work as partners can form bonds that go beyond friendship, fraternity, even love — but when those bonds break, the shockwaves are powerful. What happens when the trust, loyalty, and mutual respect between two veteran cops is tested by a painful truth? That's the question facing Chicago police officers Joey and Denny in *A Steady Rain*. Based on an anecdotal story about serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer, *A Steady Rain* explores the fallout when the officers respond to a call involving a young, frightened Vietnamese boy and an older man. The older man claims to be the boy's uncle and convinces the officers to return the boy to his care. How Joey and Denny deal with the aftermath of their decision tests their moral core. **(AK) Feb 7-23, 7:30p and 2p, $25-$30, The Usual Place, 100 S. Maryland Parkway, *apublicfit.org***

(Music)

BEETHOVEN, MOZART, & BRITTEN

FEB 15

The modest but versatile French horn gets some center-stage love in this concert that's all about starry night skies and gentle moonlight and stuff. The Las Vegas Philharmonic will perform Mozart's Serenade No. 11, K. 375 in E-Flat Major; Britten's Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings; and Beethoven's Symphony No. 4. Okay, Symphony No. 4 is less moonbeamy and more like a hysterical chuckwagon deathrace, but there are plenty of chill pastoral interludes to give your heart a break. **(AK) 7:30p, Reynolds Hall in The Smith Center, $30-$110, *thesmitchenter.com***





MUSIC

SANKOFA: A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY

FEB 23

In Ghana, *sankofa* is a one-word proverb that roughly translates into "Go back and get it." That is: Don't forget the lessons of the past. That's the animating idea behind *Sankofa: A Musical Celebration of Black History*. The show promises to be a fond revisiting and historic consideration of the rich music and dance of African culture, whether it's tribal music, gospel songs, or jazz. Las Vegas entertainer Michelle Johnson (pictured), the show's producer, has culled an all-star team from friends and colleagues in the Las Vegas entertainment scene to perform, which promises to make *Sankofa* just as much a talent showcase as a celebration of heritage. (AK) 3p, Myron's Cabaret Jazz in The Smith Center, $25-$40, *thesmithcenter.com*

BEETHOVEN: WIKICOMMONS; KENNEDY: COURTESY THE PEARL; JOHNSON: COURTESY THE SMITH CENTER; BANKSY: CHRISTOPHER SMITH



CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

ALL THE WAY TO THE BANKSY

The new exhibit at Immersion Vegas is titled *BANKSY: Genius or Vandal?* If you're considering spending the $29 to attend, you've likely already formed an opinion regarding the famously anonymous guerrilla artist. The actual question this traveling exhibit prompts is about its organizers: Is this a cash grab or a way to share Banksy's work? This retrospective features prints, originals, posters, vinyl record sleeves, printer plates, and a gift store. Among the designs emblazoned on mugs, mousepads, and T-shirts is a panda with arms outstretched, each hand gripping a gun. This image is notoriously not attributed to Banksy. The artist himself (or herself or themselves) has publicly announced that it is not his work. The organizers either don't know or don't care. I reached out to Pest Control, the only service authorized by Banksy to authenticate his work, to find out how many of the pieces in the exhibit they had checked. My inquiry was forwarded to Jo Brooks, Banksy's publicist, who stated that this show has "absolutely nothing to do with the artist." It's not rare for artists' work to be viewed, reproduced, or sold without their consent. Just ask Kaws, an artist whose limited-edition vinyl sculptures have sold at auction for thousands of dollars (a large piece is on view at The Palms) and are routinely bootlegged around the world. The difference between Banksy and Kaws — or any other artist this happens to — is that when Kaws feels the offense egregious enough, he can pursue legal recourse. Banksy can't since his work skirts legality. As a longtime Banksy fan, it was meaningful seeing in person the prints I've only admired through a screen. But experiencing those anticonsumerist pieces in the wreckage of a Topshop at Fashion Show Mall (still lit by a neon sign with the words "Personal Shopping"), without the artist's approval, extracts any joy or meaning. Then there's the wall. An appealing element of the Banksy ethos is that he places his work in public areas, where it can be viewed for free (until it's defaced or covered up). That's why it's supremely disturbing to see a wall decorated with original artwork that was removed by a third party from its primary location and displayed for a fee. Witnessing this at a traveling show that originally charged $7 in Madrid and now charges more than four times that amount in Las Vegas is an irony too powerful to ignore. If you love Banksy, his work, or his mind-set, consider spending your money elsewhere. ✦ ***Veronica Klash***

Through April 5, in the Fashion Show Mall



DANCE

HIGH POINTE

A dancer's lifetime of creation pays off for Nevada Ballet Theatre

Krista Baker joined Nevada Ballet Theatre 15 years ago, at age 17. Right off the bat, she choreographed a number for the precursor to what would become A Choreographer's Showcase, and she's done 10 other works for the company since. She grew up in a ballet family — her mother trained her — and says she started creating dance pieces when she was about 6. That lifetime of creation comes to fruition in February, when Baker will stage her untitled piece as part of NBT's *Bolero* program, the first time the company premiers a member's original work. We talked with her about her own evolution and that of other women in her field.

It's been an interesting decade for women from all walks of life. What has it been like in ballet?
I got really lucky with the directors we've had who, through my time at Nevada Ballet Theatre, have always seen something in me for dancing or choreographing, so I've been given a lot of opportunity here. … It's nice to see more female choreographers, because women tend to rule the ballet world, but there are a lot of male choreographers. Who understands more about dancing on a pointe shoe than someone who's actually done it?

How does your experience as a dancer inform your choreography?
I've always loved, as a dancer, when you're learning new choreography, and the director will ask you, *How does that feel in your body?* Because we all have very certain ways we like to move. And some ways of moving are more comfortable or feel more natural. So, I always try to do that for the dancers I'm working with. That's the beauty of being able to create something new with the dancers that you have. You can make them look the best that they can possibly look.

When I see your production in February, what should I watch for?
The pieces that I've loved are visualizations of music. I've found music that I have yet to tire of, and it still sparks creativity, so that's why I'm holding onto it. I'm not going for something to shock the audience. My goal is for them to enjoy listening and watching and walk away having felt something.

How does the first number that you did back in 2007 compare with what you're doing today?
I'm a much more confident choreographer now. I still look back at that piece and I love it, which, I feel, is very rare. I go back and watch that piece and think that could restage it, but now I'm much more critical of myself because I know the level of the company is much higher. I don't let things go as easily as I used to.

You're already an accomplished dancer and choreographer. What's next for you as an artist?
I don't know. This season so far has been my favorite, based on what I'm getting to do. I get to dance, I get to stage *Nutcracker*, and I also get to choreograph. So, I'd love to just continue doing that for however long I can. ✦ **Heidi Kyser**

2/22 **BOLERO**, by Nevada Dance Theatre, February 22-23, The Smith Center, $33-$141, *nevadaballet.org*

THEATER

Rich and Tasty

The upper crust winds up under the (pie) crust in Majestic Repertory's class-warfare take on *Sweeney Todd*

Troy Heard was a 15-year-old aspiring horror-film auteur in Georgia when he went to a play for the first time — a production of Stephen Sondheim's macabre musical *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. (You know, the one in which the wronged barber throat-slashes his enemies, after which his accomplice bakes them into meat pies.) The first cut is the deepest: Something about that youthful immersion into *Sweeney*'s dynamic interplay of great music, gruesome revenge, blood, dark humor, social politics, and more blood hijacked his imagination from film to theater. With Majestic Repertory's *Sweeney Todd* — now set in London's 1970s punk scene instead of the usual late 19th century — he wants to replicate that formative whomp. The new setting lets Heard amp up the script's class-struggle and critique-of-capitalism elements — "You definitely see the descendants of *Downton Abbey* onstage, and some street trash. It's the rich crushing the poor at every opportunity. And now you can eat the rich." But first banish Tim Burton's movie version from your mind. This is something else: "It's live and in-your-face, and you have to use your imagination." Johnny Depp can't help you now. ***Scott Dickensheets***

Sweeney Todd, January 16-February 9, $28, 1217 S. Main St., majesticrepertory.com

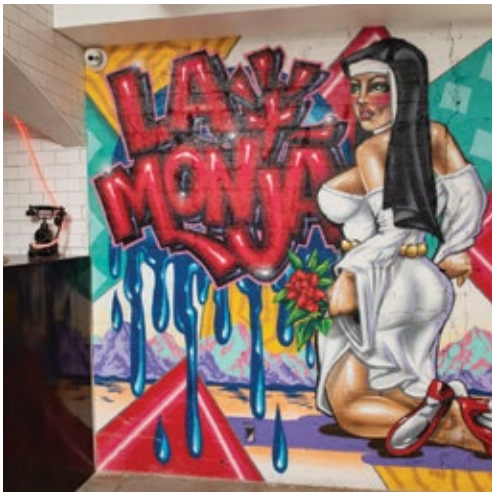
KRISTA BAKER: KAT ARMENDARIZ/NEVADA BALLET THEATRE



ILLUSTRATION ***Rick Sealock***





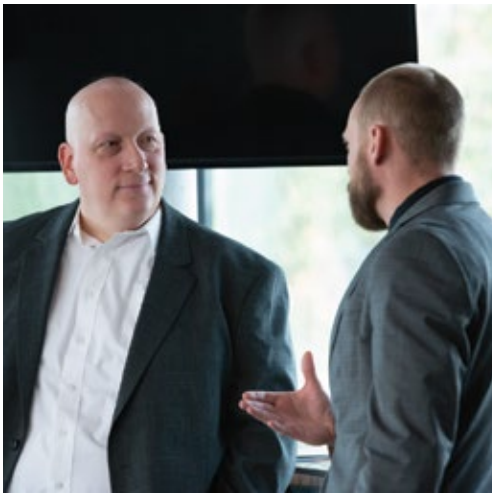



Winner is Served.

Desert Companion Restaurateur of the Year Chef Daniel Krohmer hosted this year's **Restaurant Awards Issue Party** on December 12 at La Monja Cantina downtown. Guests were treated to a vibrant assortment of local vegetable sopes, mixed ceviche, and chicken mole taquitos while celebrating the culinary acomplishments of the Las Vegas dining scene, from old classics to new arrivals.

Photography by Matt Chichelli of Cashman Photo








Peter Bastien and David Mozes

FOOD

Tables for Two

How does a couple maintain a relationship when they're also running a restaurant together? Three case studies

BY ***Sonja Swanson***

There's a special sub-genre of popular fiction: the restaurant romance — find yourself a chef or a baker and watch the sparks and the saucepans fly. Add in the thrill of a dinner rush, a dash of spice, and the glamour of beautiful food with an adoring audience ... a recipe for romance, right?

At this point, every reader who has ever worked in restaurants is either laughing or throwing this magazine across the room. The food industry behind the scenes is a brutal one, consisting of long hours and grueling physical and mental labor. Late hours and high tempers are common. Oh, and don't forget that you'll be working holidays, so your Valentine's Day will mainly consist of an extra-long shift.

To see how they keep the flame alive under such trying circumstances, we talked to three local couples who work in the food industry together.

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Sabin Orr***

PETER BASTIEN AND DAVID MOZES: BRONZE CAFÉ

PETER AND DAVID met in their fraternity in college, but it was food that cemented their relationship. After graduating, they decided to join a progressive and gay-friendly synagogue in L.A., and it was there that they developed a friend group, grew a shared sense of spirituality, and started cooking for charity events and fundraisers. They've been together for 20 years. "I'm not sure if he's the one," Peter teases.

Inspired by the synagogue feasts, Peter went to culinary school, and David, who worked in commercial real estate, soon joined forces with him, opening Bronze Café here in Las Vegas in 2013. Today, they have a new location in Summerlin and just started service at Davy's and ReBAR in the Arts District. Bronze Café specializes in healthy, simple fare, from sandwiches and salads to baked goods and coffee. Though the pair isn't vegan, more than half of their menu is, inspired by the days when they'd whip up vegan spreads for the synagogue.

The key to making their partnership work, they say, is in their personalities: Peter is the perfectionist, David the problem-solver. Peter remembers his early days in an intense L.A. kitchen, when he'd retreat to the back alley on his breaks and call David. "He talked me off the ledge," Peter says.

Running a food business together is a lot less *Chocolat* and a lot more *Bob's Burgers,* they explain, referencing the animated series in which a couple runs a burger joint peppered with hijinks. Stuff happens, and egos have to be put aside. "You cannot be sensitive when you're working in a successful restaurant," Peter says. "If you can get over something in five seconds, definitely (open a restaurant) together. If you can't, then don't."

"We don't really waste time here talking about all that gossip and personal stuff because we already know all the gossip," David adds.

Maybe the best part of running the business together is getting to be playful. "Sometimes we look at each other, and we're like, 'Thanks for playing store with me!'" David says with a smile.

"And you remember, 'Ah! We're in love!'" Peter says.

JENNY WONG AND SHERIDAN SU: FLOCK & FOWL, FAT CHOY, AND EVERY GRAIN

JENNY HAS WORKED in restaurants since she was 12, starting as a cashier at her parents' restaurant in Southern California. "I actually wanted to be very far away from restaurants," she says, "because every day of my life I kind of spent in a restaurant."

Fate had other plans: After briefly dating Sheridan for a few months in high school, they happened to reconnect in their 20s here in Las Vegas. Sheridan was working at Social House on the Strip, and after he finished work at 10:30 p.m., they stayed up talking until half past five. It wasn't long before Jenny moved here, got a job, and found herself waiting at the restaurant for Sheridan to finish work. "All the hostesses and cocktail servers got used to seeing me ... and they'd come around with the pity drinks!" she says with a laugh.

Once they started their own business they realized they could control their own hours. Both self-confessed workaholics, they put in hundred-hour weeks to get their first food business off the ground. Later, after their son was born, running restaurants gave them the flexibility to set their own hours and spend more time together as a family — a challenging task with three popular eateries open in town. The most recent addition is Every Grain, a Tawainese-style rice restaurant in the Huntridge neighborhood.

It's the hard times that can be most revealing about a relationship: Both recall a particularly grueling day, when the food truck they operated broke down on Fremont. Jenny was pregnant.

"Remember that you're on the same team," says Jenny Wong of running a restaurant as a couple. "It's figuring out solutions together."



It started to rain as they waited for hours in the cold for the tow truck. Jenny remembers the way Sheridan took care of her, making sure she had something to eat and drink. "There are little things that add up over time that tell the true story of who we are," she says.

Their words of wisdom for would-be restaurant couples: "Remember that you're on the same team," Jenny says, regardless of who is taking on more financial risk, putting their name on the lease, or who has more responsibilities at any given time. "It's figuring out solutions together."

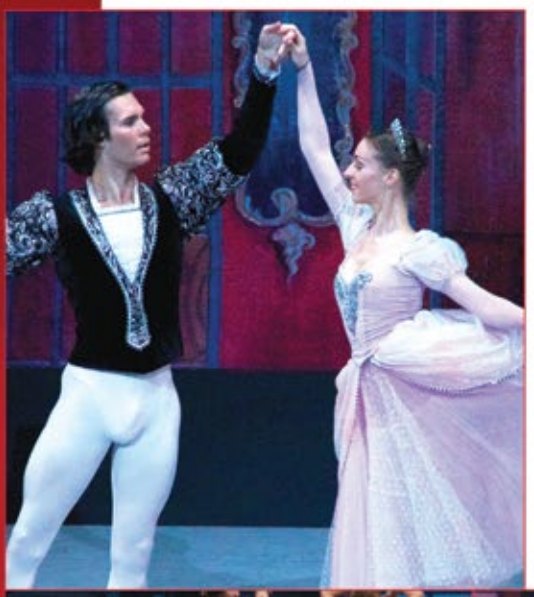
CATHERINE LENORMAND AND JJ CHEVRON: THE REAL CREPE

THEY CROSSED AN ocean and jumped into an adventure. Catherine and JJ were both divorcés living in Brittany, France, when



Sheridan Su and Jenny Wong

UNLV PERFORMING ARTS CENTER'S 44TH SEASON



RUSSIAN NATIONAL BALLET: *Cinderella*

January 25 • *7:30 p.m.*
$50 - $40 - $30 - $20

Start 2020 with Profokiev's music, the Russian National Ballet, and the heartwarming story of Cinderella and her prince, complete with her ugly step-family!





BOHEMIAN RHAPSODIES: The Music of Czech Composers

February 6 • *7:30 p.m.* • *$25*

UNLV faculty perform.



702-895-ARTS (2787) • pac.unlv.edu

Performing Arts Center UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL LASVEGASSUN

Although unanticipated, artists, dates, and times are subject to change without notice.

they fell for each other and decided to take the plunge. JJ had worked for Air France for two decades but loved the U.S. His dream was to open a small creperie here in the States, and Catherine, who ran a clothing shop in France, agreed to join him. "I said for 20 years that I would open a creperie," JJ says happily, gesturing at the cozy space around him.

He and Catherine took formal training in France (their butter cookies and buckwheat crepes are a Bréton specialty), then flew here. "It was my first trip to the U.S.A.," Catherine says. Originally, they'd hoped to open a place near the ocean — they both grew up near the sea — but Las Vegas proved to be a more affordable and convenient option, and they soon grew to love the desert. They set up shop near Summerlin Parkway and the 95, filling the space with glowing pendant lights and giving each table the name of a famous French star: Edith Piaf, Marion Cotillard, Sophie Marceau.

But running a creperie together is challenging work: JJ gets to the restaurant every morning at 5 or 6 a.m. to start prepping the crepe batter, quiche Lorraine, and French onion soup. Catherine arrives around midday to run the front-of-house, and both admit that having some time apart with overlapping schedules is helpful. "The French people are, how do you say ..." Catherine trails off.

"Passionate?" I suggest.

"Oh, that's beautiful!" she laughs. "Angry, but after, it's whole," she said with a smile. Their work and their personalities are complementary, they explained. JJ is more strict, Catherine more flexible.

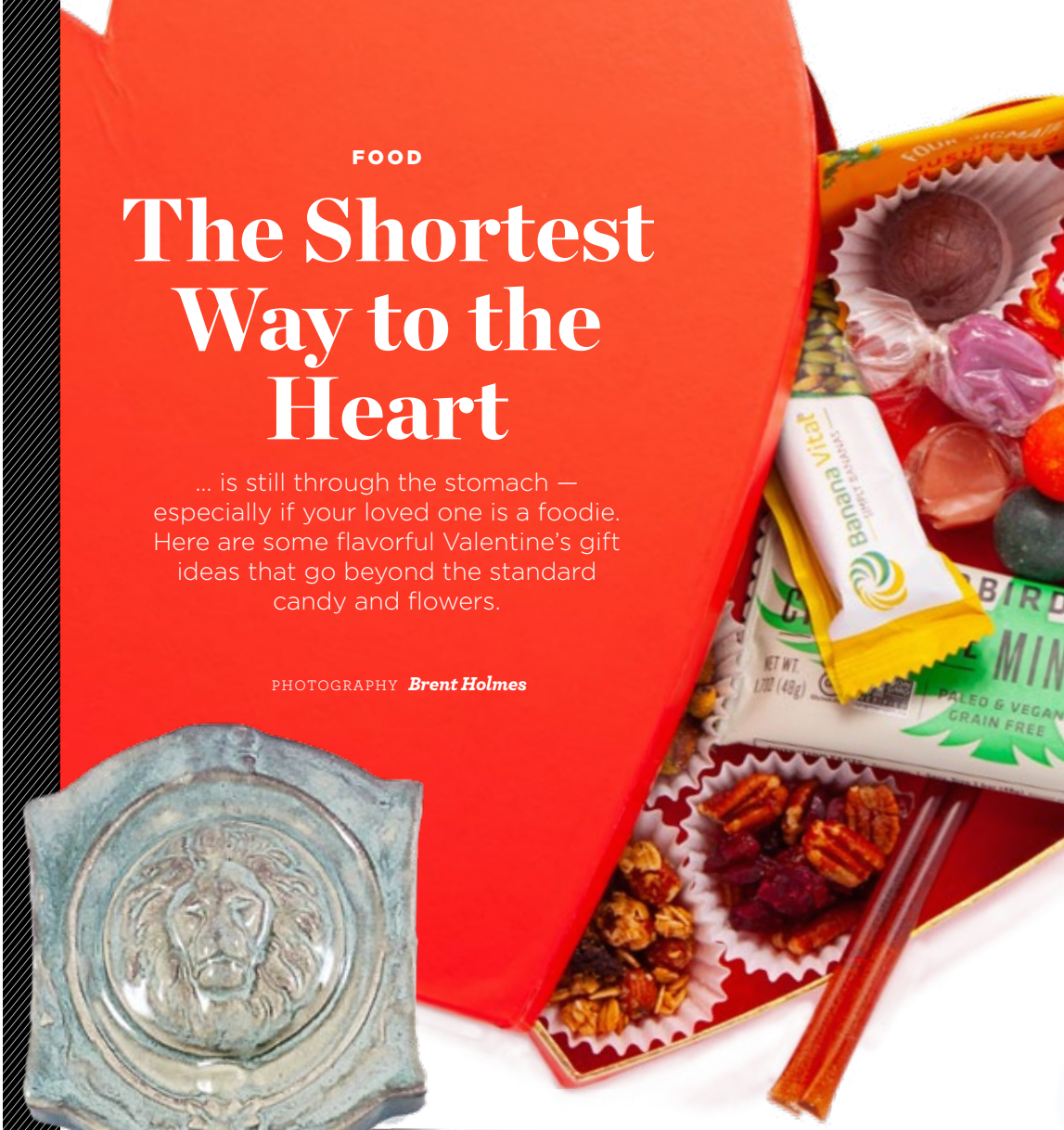
It was a big risk, to travel so far and start a restaurant together, but they have no regrets. "There is just one life," Catherine says. "I recommend it, because it's a beautiful adventure." ✦

FOOD

The Shortest Way to the Heart

... is still through the stomach — especially if your loved one is a foodie. Here are some flavorful Valentine's gift ideas that go beyond the standard candy and flowers.

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Brent Holmes***



CURRYING FAVOR Adventurous home cooks who like to experiment with spice will be all a-tingle over curry kits, spice collections, and other cooking and condiment options available at stores such as **Sheffield Spice & Tea Co.** (*sheffieldspices.com*), **Las Vegas Spice Co.** (*lvspiceco.com*), and **The Spice Outlet** (*thespiceoutlet.com*)

I'D TAP THAT Have a home-brewer in your life? He or she's in luck when you think outside the box this season — whether it's with brewing lessons from **Big Dog's Brews** (*bigdogsbrews.com*), supplies from **Vegas Homebrew** (*homebrewvegas.com*), or personalized tap handles in every shape and size from AprilsEtsySite at **Etsy** (*etsy.com*)





A HEART-SHAPED BOX Candy is dandy, but it's also sugar crashes, diabetes and tooth decay. Consider an alt-box of sweet and savory treats — plentifully available at shops such as **Herbally Grounded** (herballygrounded.com), **Sprouts Farmers Market** (sprouts.com), **Rani's World Foods** (ranisworldfoods.com), and **International Marketplace** (702-889-2888)



HOW THE COOKIE CRUMBLES The cookie-crazed home baker might be surprised to discover that cookie cutters have come a long way from your standard stars, hearts, and rounds. Think octopi, moons, anchors, booms, and kapows! They're available at local cookie-cutter manufacturers **Kato Baking Supplies** (katosupplies.com)



A BOUQUET OF FLOURS There's bound to be fun in the oven when your loved one receives a "bouquet of flours" featuring different flours — think casava, coconut, buckwheat — from local shops such as **Sprouts Farmers Market** (sprouts.com) and **Whole Foods Market** (wholefoodsmarket.com)



Sanditon on Masterpiece

Premieres Sunday, January 12 at 9 p.m.

Experience Jane Austen's last, fragmented work, where entrepreneurs, love interests, legacy hunters, hypochondriacs and medical mountebanks come together at a struggling resort aimed to be the next fashionable playground in early 1800s England.



Hubert Keller: Secrets of a Chef: #LovinLasVegas

Premieres Saturday, January 11 at 12:30 p.m.

Chef Hubert Keller is back with a new series that takes viewers on a culinary journey of his favorite restaurants on and off the Las Vegas Strip. Get all the insider foodie secrets every Saturday at 12:30 p.m., starting January 11th.

vegaspbs.org | @vegaspbs

TUNE IN ON CHANNEL 10 OR STREAM ON THE PBS VIDEO APP



PROFILE

IN HIS BLOOD

Jeff Williams, mayor of a tiny town south of Las Vegas, battles economic and medical struggles with the same upbeat vigor

BY ***John M. Glionna***

NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA

Three afternoons a week, Needles Mayor Jeff Williams drops his work at City Hall and makes the half-hour trip into Arizona for a critical appointment he knows he cannot miss — not even once. At these times he doesn't meet with bureaucrats. There are no sessions with chamber of commerce, water, or air-quality officials, although he sits on all those community boards, and more.

With his doting 75-year-old mother, Deloris, playing chauffeur, Williams visits a medical clinic in Bullhead City, wincing as a nurse sticks him with a needle "the size of a garden hose" and the ominous machine by his side begins to whirr. For three hours, he undergoes an exhausting kidney dialysis procedure that drains, cleans, and replaces all the blood in his body. When he's finally done, the 55-year-old Oklahoma native is so weary it's difficult to stand.

Then his mother drives him straight home, where he has a quick dinner, puts on his pajamas, and drops into bed.

Or not. Sometimes, there are meetings to attend, people to meet, responsibilities he can't ignore. The mayor never complains, even after three long years of the same tiring drill. Williams has kidney cancer. Not only that, he's suffered from pancreatitis, pneumonia, and heart and kidney failure that has nearly killed him.

Williams is rail-thin, with thick graying hair he wears swept back, like a 1940s TV heartthrob. His voice is raspy. Deep lines run across his forehead. He has lost 40 pounds during his cancer battle. But he keeps going.

Ask anyone: Jeff Williams is no typical public official. He's lived in this desert community since he was in the second grade. He got married here, raised three children, and doted on 13 grandkids, spending a decade as a San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy before entering local politics 20 years ago.

This tiny town is in his beleaguered

PHOTOGRAPHY ***Sabin Orr***

blood. Just 110 miles south of Las Vegas, close enough to feel the city's gravitational pull, the town lies on the western banks of the Colorado River, named after a nearby set of jagged mountain teeth known as "the needles." Most of the population is elderly, well past their working days. Needles is also geographically isolated from the rest of California — the next nearest town is 140 miles and two mountain ranges distant — which hasn't helped its economic health. As of the 2010 census, some 30 percent of its residents lived below the poverty line.

Today, the downtown is marred by boarded-up storefronts, the quiet pierced by the whistles of the 100 or so freight trains that roll past the town on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe lines — sounds that take Williams back to his childhood here.

Over the years, he's seen railroad and freight industries fail, slashing Needles' population by nearly two-thirds, from 12,000 to fewer than 5,000. Nowadays, the traffic that used to stop here along old U.S. Route 66 has diminished. Recent years have seen more houses burned in fires than being built, more businesses closing than opening.

"This city was literally dying," Williams recalls. "Nobody was being born here."

As mayor, Williams wants to fix roads and refurbish the community center. He loves his hometown for its familiarity and camaraderie. He calls it a great place to raise a family, without traffic or gang violence, with one of California's lowest crime rates. But will there be enough jobs for the next generation? That keeps him up at night.

NO COMPLAINTS

THREE YEARS AGO, doctors removed a mammoth cancerous tumor, leading to an exasperating wait for an available kidney transplant donor. Meanwhile, he undergoes the regular, fatiguing dialysis just to stay alive.

But his schedule as a small-town mayor is unrelenting. He takes calls while hooked to the dialysis machine. He hasn't missed a single City Council session. On trips, he buys a fast-food drink and empties it right out, keeping the cup in case he gets sick behind the wheel. All with a smile.

"Jeff never, ever complains, ever," says Pam Blake, a former Chamber of Commerce president. "He can be looking like death warmed over, and he doesn't complain. He has had so many health setbacks, but he never gripes about anything. He'll complain about progress in the city, but never about himself."

Take his 2018 state-of-the-city address,



HENDERSON LIBRARIES



THE SEVENTH ANNUAL

LOCAL AUTHOR SHOWCASE



FEATURING BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Laura McBride

Meet more than 60 authors from the Las Vegas Valley!

Saturday, March 28
10 am - 2:30 pm
Laura McBride appearance 12 pm

Paseo Verde Library
280 S Green Valley Parkway

A Good Book Brings a Community Together

For more information, visit:
hendersonlibraries.com/communityread

HENDERSON LIBRARIES

which fell on the same day as a dialysis session. Williams was miserable — not because he had to give the speech, but because he was so tired, he couldn't do it the way he wanted. He'd planned on an energetic pep-talk and PowerPoint presentation about the town's budding economic recovery. Since California legalized marijuana, he'd stress, Needles had attracted a new crop of cannabis businesses that he hopes will add 2,100 new jobs.

But when he arrived at the Giggling Cactus restaurant that evening, he just didn't have the energy. "I'd memorized my entire speech," Williams recalls. "But I was so tired, I had to read it. I like to make eye contact with people, but I just couldn't. I just wasn't on my game that night."

One morning, as he sits at the popular Wagon Wheel diner talking about his health and that of his city, a waitress refills his iced tea. "She was a student of mine in high school," Williams says, referring to a law-enforcement course he taught. "Smart girl."

Williams knows everyone in Needles. It's one reason he entered politics, after serving as president of a girls' softball league. "Jeff loves this town," says Glenda, his wife of 36 years. "As long as I've known him, Jeff has talked about getting into local politics."

In April 2000, at age 38, he was elected to his first term in the City Council. He won more votes than any other candidate.

He thrived in the role. As he mentored his children and grandchildren in football, car racing, and the church, residents came to him with their problems, knowing he would listen. He helped build a local youth skatepark with a $25,000 donation from professional skateboarder Tony Hawk, who attended the opening.

All the while, his physician advised that he keep a close eye on his right kidney. Williams had known the organ was ailing, he just didn't know why — whether it was hereditary or, perhaps, he speculates, his long-term exposure to drugs as a sheriff's deputy.

Then, in 2016, doctors found a cancerous mass on his troubled kidney that was bigger than the organ itself. His father had died of cancer that year and his mother "was wore out." The news hit hard. "It was a kick in the gut," he says.

Then vice-mayor, he figured his days might be numbered. So he did two things that were decidedly un-Jeff Williams.

He had his earlobes pierced, sporting two new flashy diamond earrings, twin symbols of a man reckoning with his mortality. He traded in his trusted Chevy Silverado pickup for a silver Camaro with a red racing stripe and the vanity plate "Jamn Jef."

"Our mouths dropped," Glenda recalls at the Wagon Wheel. "Jeff was never wild. He was never into nose rings or tattoos."

Williams sips from his ice tea and smiles: "I'm still hiding my nipple rings."

Time went into warp speed. Williams had the tumor removed and started kidney dialysis. In November 2016, he took over as Needles' mayor.

His mother was against the move. Why not just concentrate on being a cancer patient? "Jeff does what he wants," she says. "Being busy helps him."

Medical expenses mounted with Williams' $1-a-month mayoral salary, so with checks of $25, $50, and $100, residents raised $5,000 though social media. People whom Williams arrested years ago on drug and drunk-driving offenses have knocked on his door, asking what they can do to help.

Vice-Mayor Ed Paget, 80, has replaced Williams on some out-of-town trips. "I don't know if I could do it, what he's doing, as sick as he is," Paget says. "But Jeff is dedicated. He cares about this town. Not even cancer is going to stop him."

Sometimes, his younger sister Kathy recalls, "Jeff is so tired I cannot believe he's standing, but the minute he sees someone, it sparks a big smile. No one would know he's hurting," she says. "But the minute they're gone, he ages. He wants to be that people person. He doesn't want anyone to worry about him."

Brett Hodgin, Williams' best friend from childhood, was unprepared for what he found on one visit home. "It just knocked me down," he says. "Jeff was using a cane. He looked so frail. But he was going wide-open for the city."

Recently, after being declared cancer-free for two years, Williams began looking for a kidney donor. Kathy was the first to volunteer. She underwent voluminous tests and paperwork and a procedure was scheduled. Williams was elated, just imagining a life without constant dialysis.

Then doctors ruled her out, saying losing a kidney would compromise her own health.

"Our mouths dropped," his wife says. "Jeff was never wild. He was never into nose rings or tattoos." Williams smiles. "I'm still hiding my nipple rings," he says.

The family was devastated, and no one felt worse than Kathy. Since then, others have stepped up, including Kathy's son, Williams' own children, and Glenda. Williams doesn't want anyone to risk their own health trying to help save his life.

"I don't want to reach 90 only to find that a nephew has to go into dialysis at age 50 because I've taken one of his kidneys," he says. "I couldn't live with that."

Others in town have also volunteered to be tested as possible donors. "I'm humbled that a stranger would go through that for me," Williams says.

BACK ON TRACK

MEANWHILE, THE MAYOR stays busy.

"My Dad still coaches football with me," says son Andy. "I've seen him exhausted from dialysis and still not lose one step. He takes his grandkids to NASCAR events in Las Vegas or Fontana. Worn down, beat up, he makes sure he's always there for them."

Williams sometimes gets disheartened. The constant dialysis sessions take too much of his precious time. "With this kidney crap, it's frustrating to not be able to take care of business. If a developer comes to town and wants to build houses, I want to meet with him. I've had to miss meetings. It drives me nuts. There's so much stuff to do, and I'm stuck to that machine three hours a day, three times a week."

Even as he's battled his own health, Williams has fought to get Needles back on track. To fix local roads and rebuild the community center, he's using grant money and funds from the town's new cannabis tax.

Last year, Williams expected Needles to reap $500,000 from the tax, but the figure turned out to be a whopping $1.2 million. And the biggest operations are yet to open, he says, which will make that tax base soar even higher. Presently, 14 cannabis operations are up and running, with permits for 87 more.

But Williams is shrewd. He realizes that pot might be a flash in the pan, so he is trying to diversify the businesses he's luring to town, including plastics manufacturers and other big energy users that would be attracted by the town's low land prices and electricity rates, which are one-third of other California locales.

And you can bet Mayor Williams has an eye on his legacy. He can already point to an unemployment rate that, at 2.2 percent, is the lowest in San Bernardino County. Since he took office, the town's median income has risen $7,500, and in the last three years the average home value has jumped from $69,000 to $96,000. Jeff Williams plans to leave Needles better than he found it.

He's also given up his earrings and plans to trade in the Camaro for another pickup. "I need six seats for the grandkids," he says.

At the Wagon Wheel, Williams looks happy — the proud nucleus of both a family and an entire community. After all, there are new jobs to create, a city economy to revitalize, a tomorrow to plan. He wants to be around for all that.

"He's not going anywhere," Glenda says. "He promised me we'd see 80 together."

As he leaves, Williams greets a longtime friend, who gives him a long emotional embrace. Then the mayor walks out the door, headed for another dialysis session.

Not exactly smiling, but determined. ✦





ESSAY

SHIFTING LANDS

Is the county hiding something in its public lands bill, or are the scientists just paranoid?

BY ***Heidi Kyser***

Nevadans are outdoorsy! It's a thing outsiders don't know about us. But what does it mean? That we take for granted the privilege of getting in our cars and being at a recreation spot within an hour. What we do there is wildly diverse. Hiking with the dog around the Calico hills of Red Rock. Target practice in the dunes off the 95 north of town, out past the jail. Jeeping the steep, bumpy roads of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge's furthest reaches. Meeting up with the road bike gang at the Starbucks on Warm Springs for a ride out to the River Mountains Loop Trail. Or taking visiting family to Sloan Canyon to see the petroglyphs.

An afternoon on a pontoon at Lake Mead, a snowboard at Lee Canyon, or a mountain bike at Cottonwood Canyon. Put 10 outdoorsy Southern Nevadans in a room, and they'll have radically different ideas about the best uses of the public lands bounding Las Vegas. But they'll likely agree on one thing: They don't want their elected officials divvying up those lands and selling them off to private developers, at least without having had some say in the process. Is that part of the process — public input — getting chipped away in the latest public-lands controversy?

When Jim Rhodes' Gypsum Resources proposed a housing development on top of Blue Diamond hill, Save Red Rock rallied hundreds of protesters to line up at the Clark County Government Center and object. Hearings took hours, filled entire days. But Clark County's recent proposal to expand into sensitive habitat around the valley had no public vetting before being sent to the state's congressional delegation for passage as federal legislation. How did this happen?

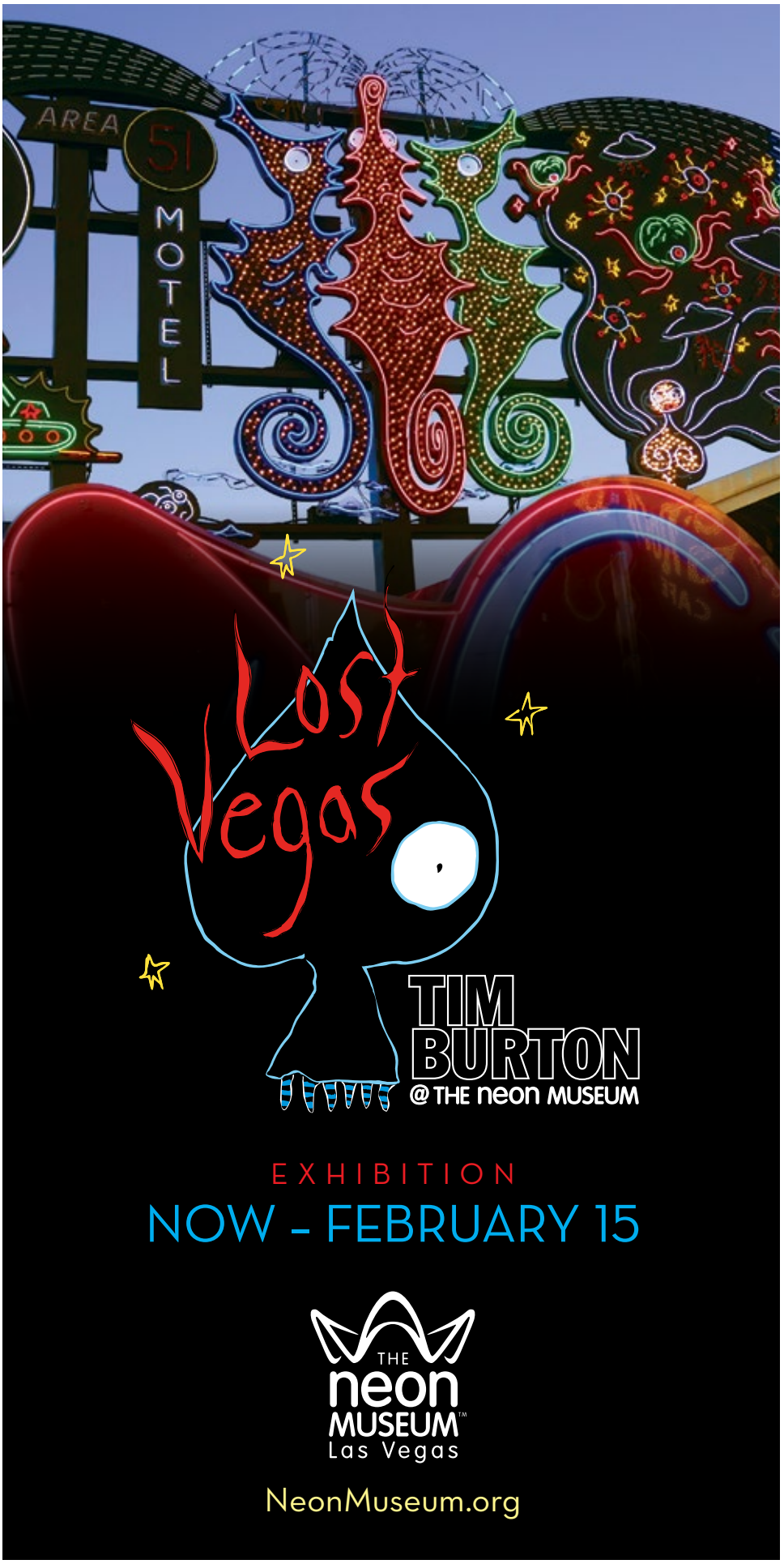
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION ***Scott Lien***

THE 'TOWN HALL' THAT WASN'T

IN EARLY 2017, President Donald Trump's interior secretary, Ryan Zinke, made a priority of studying the national monuments that Trump's predecessors had created, with the apparent intent of scaling them back or opening them up to development by the oil and gas, and mining industries. (Secretary Zinke resigned in December 2018 amid multiple controversies, including one in which Zinke's wife and an executive from oil and gas developer Halliburton were planning a commercial real estate development on land owned by a fund Zinke started.)

It was the opening salvo in a two-year campaign that environmentalists — from hunting and wilderness associations to biodiversity and conservation advocates — would broadly describe as the new administration's assault on public lands. One popular tactic they used was to do only the minimum required to gather public input. The longstanding, if tedious, tradition is to hold open hearings, where the public is notified of an issue and given the chance to put in their two cents. If they had strong feelings about it, they could show up, sign in, and wait in line to air their concerns (no matter how crazy or irrelevant) one by one. Reporters like me have recorded hundreds of these comments, staying awake through the droning of retired bird watchers and wildlife biologists for the occasional conspiracy theorist, drunkard, or neighbor with a bone to pick.

Under Trump, this process was replaced with so-called "town halls," run by hired third-party meeting organizers. They'd arrange posters containing proposed plans on easels around the back of hotel ballrooms, invite the public to look them over and ask questions of government public relations reps for a couple hours, then give them two minutes to make their comments on record, while a giant timer ticked down on a screen at the front of the room. Dispassionate contractors with no stake in the community would cut off elderly citizens who'd given up their evening to voice a genuine concern for their favorite stream or park. Dazed individuals complained at the exits that they didn't have enough time to lodge a meaningful complaint. They felt the government had already decided what it was going to do and solicited their input to check a necessary box. But at least they'd gotten notice — through the newspaper or social media — that something was afoot, and they cared enough to show up, futile though it felt.







That traditional process, part of the government's cumbersome requirement to withdraw public lands for a nonpublic use, hampered the Trump administration's (Zinke's and his successor Acting Secretary David Bernhardt's) agenda to open up as much public land as possible to development while it was in power. For example, it allowed a broad coalition of locals to kill the BLM's 2017 proposal to lease more than 53,000 acres in the Ruby Mountains for oil and gas/mineral exploration.

Endorsing that coalition's concerns, last May, U.S. Forest Service Supervisor Bill Dunkelberger told the *Elko Free Daily Press*, "I want to thank everyone who provided feedback and comments during the National Environmental Policy Act process. Based on extensive analysis and public input, I feel that my decision best serves the public." That decision not to lease the land to oil and mining companies was the result of public input that revealed there probably wasn't enough oil or gas to justify tearing up the land used for camping, hunting, fishing, and motorized recreation — a $12.5 billion, 87,000-job industry — anyway.

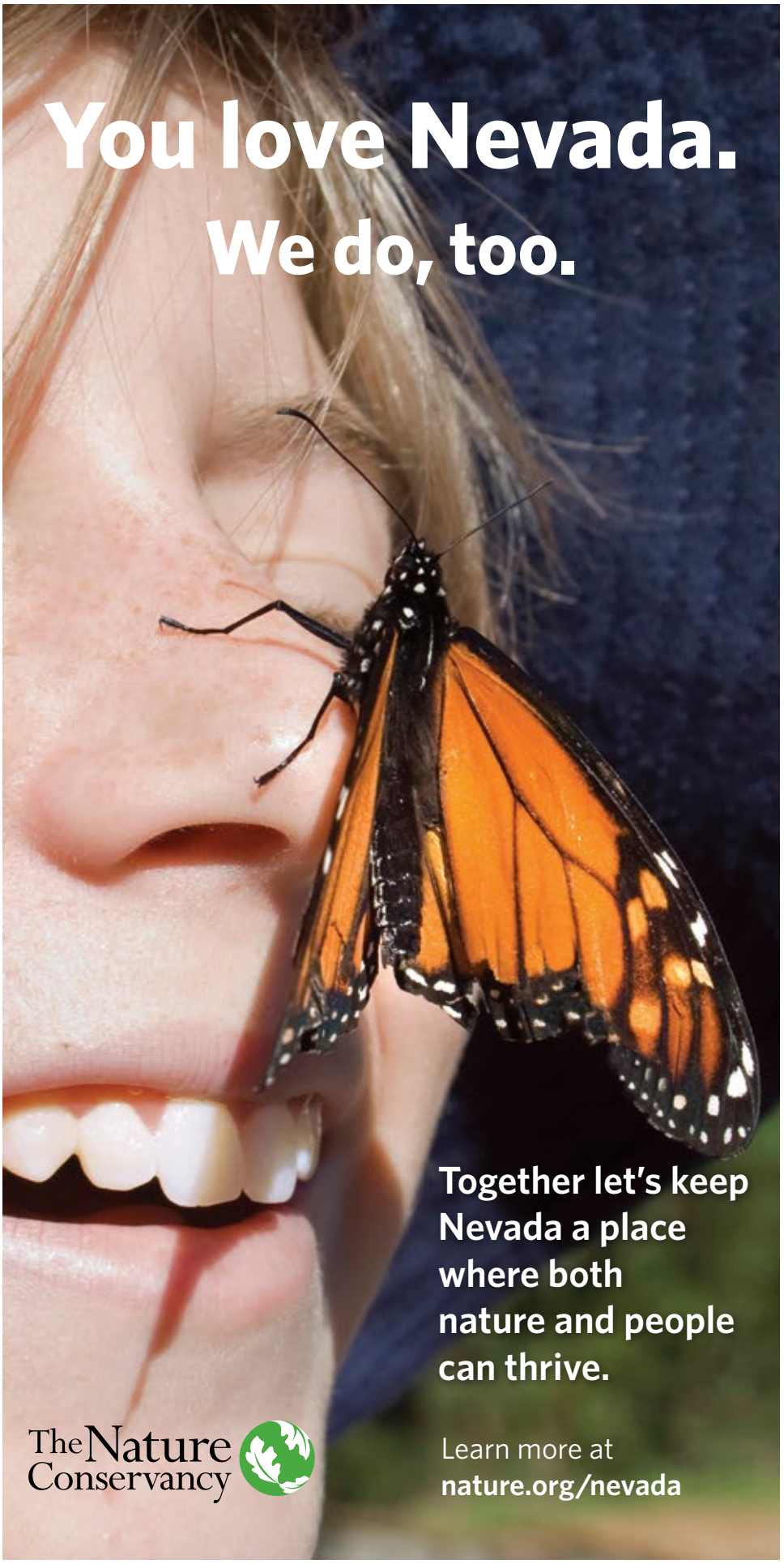
In other words, the process worked the way it was supposed to. The community spoke up, and public officials listened. U.S. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nevada), building on the momentum, sent out a release hailing her bill, the Ruby Mountains Protection Act, which would prohibit oil and gas exploration within the Ruby Mountain Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forrest.

PLEAS AND PROTESTS

THE SIERRA CLUB built on that success to gin up opposition to the BLM's proposed sale of another 570,000 acres in Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine counties, emphasizing the possibility that development in the areas under consideration could pollute the Muddy and Virgin Rivers, and eventually Lake Mead. It was a message that the two mayors and a Clark County Commissioner whose jurisdictions included the lands proposed for sale got behind, sending official letters of protest to the BLM on behalf of their constituents. Public input won again: The BLM postponed the sale to December, minus the parts to which the elected officials objected.

Member-based groups like Sierra Club depend on this public process to accomplish their goals. Toiyabe Chapter Director Brian Beffort wrote in the club's winter 2019 newsletter that he'd recently "met with two staffers of Nevada's Congressional Delegation in Southern Nevada, laying out


MON AMI GABI®
A CLASSIC FRENCH BISTRO
Enjoy Traditional French Fare
STEAK FRITES, ONION SOUP AU GRATIN,
TROUT ALMONDINE & ESCARGOTS DE BOURGOGNE
IN A CLASSIC PARISIAN BISTRO
LOCATED ON THE STRIP AT THE PARIS HOTEL
3655 S. LAS VEGAS BLVD. • MONAMIGABI.COM • (702) 944-4224



my concerns about the proposed military expansion over the Desert National Wildlife Refuge and sprawl in the Las Vegas Valley, and each encouraged our members to communicate their (your) concerns often and vocally." He then pled with members to write letters to editors and contact their representatives.

The Department of Defense's 300,000-acre expansion of the Nevada Test and Training Range into the Desert National Wildlife Refuge has attained such high-profile status that the *Washington Post* covered it recently. In October, a couple dozen military veterans and Code Pink protesters gathered at Nellis Air Force Base to manifest their opposition to the plan. *Las Vegas Sun* reporter Miranda Willson wrote, "Navy veteran Jeoff Carlson said the expansion would cause undue environmental harm and questioned whether it was necessary for military activities conducted at the range." The public has been airing its opposition to the test-range expansion plan at public meetings since the Air Force floated it in 2017. Still, as of this writing, a draft bill is circulating in Congress that would transfer sole jurisdiction of more than 1 million acres from the Department of Interior to the Department of Defense, allowing the Air Force to take over most of the refuge for military exercises. Only U.S. Representative Steven Horsford (D-Nevada) has officially, publicly opposed it.

But opposing the federal government is almost as popular a hobby as outdoor recreation among Nevadans, particularly in rural areas. And how are citizens supposed to provide feedback on Clark County's Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation plan — Beffort's "sprawl" — anyway? Critics and activists say the county has made it particularly difficult.

Clark County held an open house and passed a resolution to move forward with its intent to send a plan to the state's congressional delegation for hopeful introduction as federal legislation in June 2018. Here's what that means: The county — not in its current form, mind you (there's since been an election that replaced three commissioners) — voted to endorse a public lands development plan allowing the county to balloon its boundary, and then send that plan on to our U.S. representatives and senators for passage as federal legislation. Since then, have you heard anything about it? Have your new county commissioners been keeping you apprised? How about those member organizations, like Beffort's Sierra Club, that you perhaps send money to, in part to help keep you up on what's going on at local, state, and federal levels?

OF CONFUSION AND CONSENSUS

ONE REASON YOU might not have heard much is because those groups are having a hard time agreeing on what to do about it themselves.

In July, a coalition of environmental groups wrote to the congressional delegation "... the draft legislation prepared by Clark County does not include adequate amounts of conservation protections, undermines bedrock environmental laws, and limits citizen participation in public land management. ... We believe the Nevada Congressional delegation is best served by starting with a new draft for this important legislation that utilizes standard legislative language, does not undermine bedrock environmental laws or citizen involvement in public land management."

Since then, consensus has unraveled. More politically connected groups now endorse the plan, having gotten what they want included, such as designations of wilderness areas. Groups led by scientists are shocked by the bill's apparent effort to circumvent a thorough environmental review. A public hearing would have aired this division — but, again, there hasn't been one since that first open house a year and a half ago.

At issue is a particular part of the plan that would designate around several Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, or ACECs, for protection of endangered species and habitat. In exchange for this protection, the county would bank credits for future development on an equal number of acres and get an up-front Endangered Species Act (ESA) permit allowing it to take potentially restricted habitat without going through the National Environmental Protection Act, or NEPA, process. The proposed bill specifically provides for this on some 60,000 acres — a combination of existing undeveloped private land and land that the BLM would sell to private developers — and holds open the possibility for another 300,000 in the future. In other words, the county is proposing that the federal government legislate something (the ESA permit) that should be decided through a scientific process (NEPA). It's using a Trumpian tactic of curtailing the public vetting process to push privatization of public land, without the community's input.

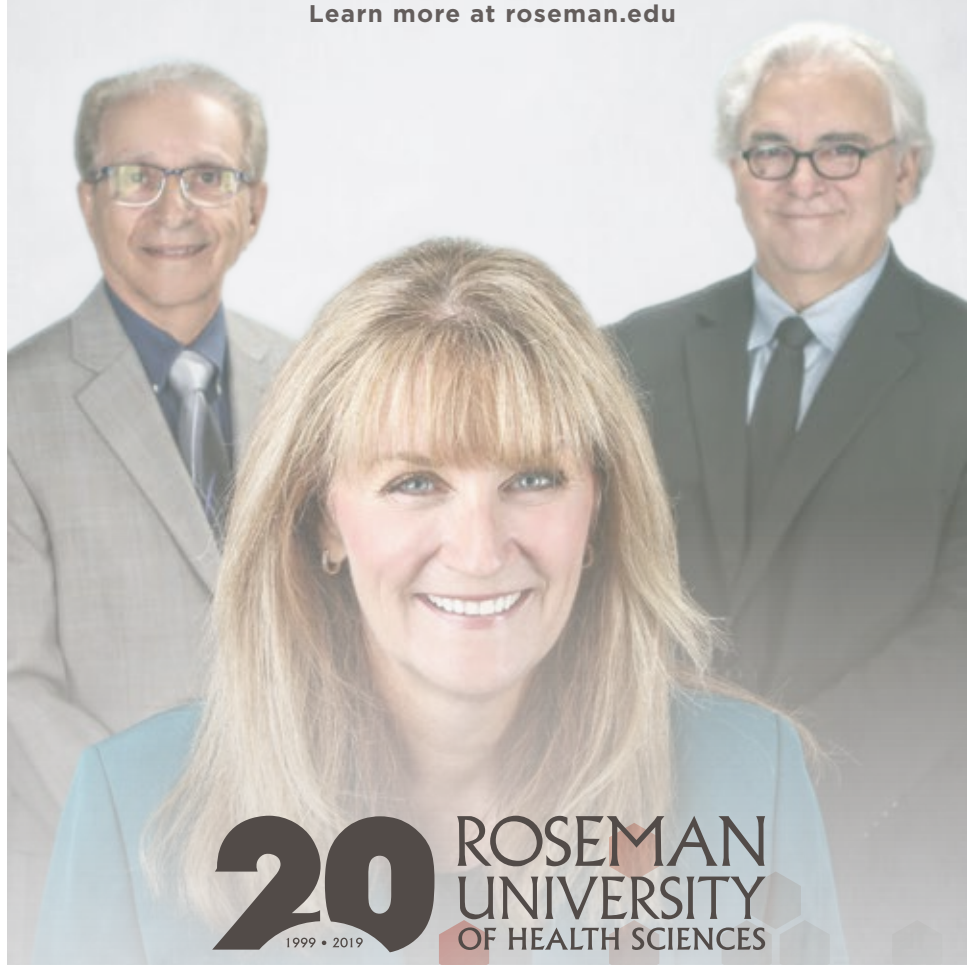
In November, directors of two conservation groups who'd signed the July letter wrote an op-ed for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* hailing a revised version of the plan as a potential boon for Southern Nevada and calling out its potential to address

REIMAGINE EDUCATION

Twenty years ago, three educators challenged the status quo in graduate level healthcare education. They believed all students could be competent, at very high levels, but only if they were taught differently. They believed the bar could be raised, but that innovation must trump tradition. They believed that the **Six-Point Mastery Learning Model** would prepare students better than ever before, and that they would transition into healthcare fields with ease, prowess, confidence and mastery. Roseman University has been rethinking education since our inception in 1999. Using the **Six-Point Mastery Learning Model**, we train students to thrive and practice in today's complex world of medicine and patient care.

Challenge. *Reimagine.* Roseman.

Learn more at roseman.edu



20 1999 • 2019 ROSEMAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

11 Sunset Way | Henderson, NV 89014 | 702-990-4433

10530 Discovery Drive | Las Vegas, NV 89135 | 702-802-2841

10920 S. River Front Parkway | South Jordan, UT 84095 | 801-302-2600

roseman.edu | @rosemanuhs

climate change. (A head-scratcher, since the plan contains nothing that would address carbon emission reduction and much that would create more car commuters.)

Directors of a biodiversity and progressive political group wrote their counterpoint for the paper a month later, describing the plan as "the worst kind of greenwashing." Its misguided efforts to withdraw public lands notwithstanding, they wrote, its most dangerous element is its attempt to do away with the traditional public lands withdrawal process, granting a blanket permit to transfer public lands to private interests, rather than filing separate applications for discrete developments that would have to be vetted and completed one at a time.

"People across the country are outraged by this land grab, because it would set a dangerous precedent," wrote Patrick Donnelly, Nevada state director of the Center for Biological Diversity, in a November newsletter. "It'll put imperiled wildlife nationwide in the crosshairs when we're already in an extinction crisis."

The county seems to hope federal legislation will allow it to avoid the same open discussion that kept the BLM from selling oil and gas leases in the Ruby Mountains.

When that community got wind of the government's Ruby Mountain plan, it banded together and fought to keep developers out. If Elko County residents hadn't had the chance to line up and yell at the feds about invading their beloved mountains, would a Halliburton contractor be pouring well pads a half-mile from Lamoille Canyon right now? And do Sloan Canyon hikers, Hidden Valley OHVers, and friends of the endangered Desert Tortoise care as much as those Northern Nevadans did — enough to take on the county the way Red Rock enthusiasts did?

I've heard a lot of crazy talk at public meetings, but I never wondered why it was being allowed. A good moderator can control it and move the discussion along constructively. I thought it went without saying that that's how public lands policy-making worked. Is the "town hall" what we get now — two minutes to hear concerned citizens react in real time to a plan they've barely had time to look at?

Jose Witt, former Southern Nevada director of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, told me in 2017, when the Air Force was presenting its proposal for the Desert Refuge in ballrooms around Southern Nevada, "We're disappointed that it's an open house, because this is a great way for agencies to divide and conquer. It's going to be different representatives talking about different things, so you can't have one-on-one conversations, and you don't get to ask question in front of a general audience, like you do at a county commission meeting, where everyone is listening."

He didn't understand how any meaningful compromise could come out of such a perfunctory exercise. The thousands of comments his organization gathered and submitted in reaction to the Air Force's proposal were essentially ignored in the final plan (the one circulating in Congress now); the rationale for ignoring them was that they were the result of an effective organizing campaign, not representative of the collective public view. But isn't the view of those who care enough to show up and write down their thoughts the one that matters most?

Or has the public just been worn down from the two years of relentless public-lands onslaught? There's only one way to find out: Let them have their say. ✦



MARKETPLACE

SHOPS • DINING • GOODS



Jaguar Land Rover of Las Vegas
ELECTRIFY THE PACE

The revolutionary design of the I-PACE is both true to the spirit of Jaguar and the I-PACE Concept. From the pronounced front wheel arches to the rear diffuser, every supercar-inspired styling element allows the I-PACE to slice cleanly through the air for improved range and stability. The bold grille curves inwards - reducing drag by channeling air through the hood scoop and out, where it passes over the roofline that is curved for optimum efficiency. To experience the I-PACE for yourself, visit Jaguar Land Rover Las Vegas for a test drive today.

JAGUAR LAND ROVER
LAS VEGAS • JLRLV.COM

702.579.0400
jlrlv.com



Vegas Valley Infusion Centers
Vegas Valley Infusion Centers is a premier destination for outpatient infusion services, PICC line placements, and infusion therapies. VVIC is also a wellness source for individuals interested in using infusion therapies as restorative and preventive measures.

8530 W. Sunset Rd. Ste. 330
Las Vegas, NV 89113
(702) 998-VVIC (8842)
www.vegasvalleyinfusion.com
Located in the Durango Medical Plaza, 1 block east from Ikea

Table 34
Featuring Chef Wes Kendrick's contemporary American cuisine including fresh fish, wild game, duck and lamb, Certified Angus Beef and comfort food classics.

Conveniently located off the 215 and Warm Springs. Serving dinner Tuesday - Saturday and Lunch Monday - Friday.

600 E Warm Springs Road
702-263-0034



THREE TIMES THE PRIME

MEMORABLE DINING EXPERIENCES AT OUR INCREDIBLE STEAKHOUSES



TBONES AT RED ROCK

TBONES

CLASSIC BEEF AND SEAFOOD DISHES, AND AN EXTRAORDINARY ATMOSPHERE.

RED ROCK

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED
702.797.7576









HANK'S AT GREEN VALLEY RANCH

HANK'S

ELEGANT DINING ROOM AND BAR SEATING, AND THE FINEST GOURMET SELECTIONS.

GREEN VALLEY RANCH

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED
702.617.7075







SCOTCH 80 PRIME AT PALMS

SCOTCH 80 PRIME

CLASSIC LAS VEGAS CHARM WITH AN UNPARALLED DINING EXPERIENCE.

PALMS

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED
702.933.9900



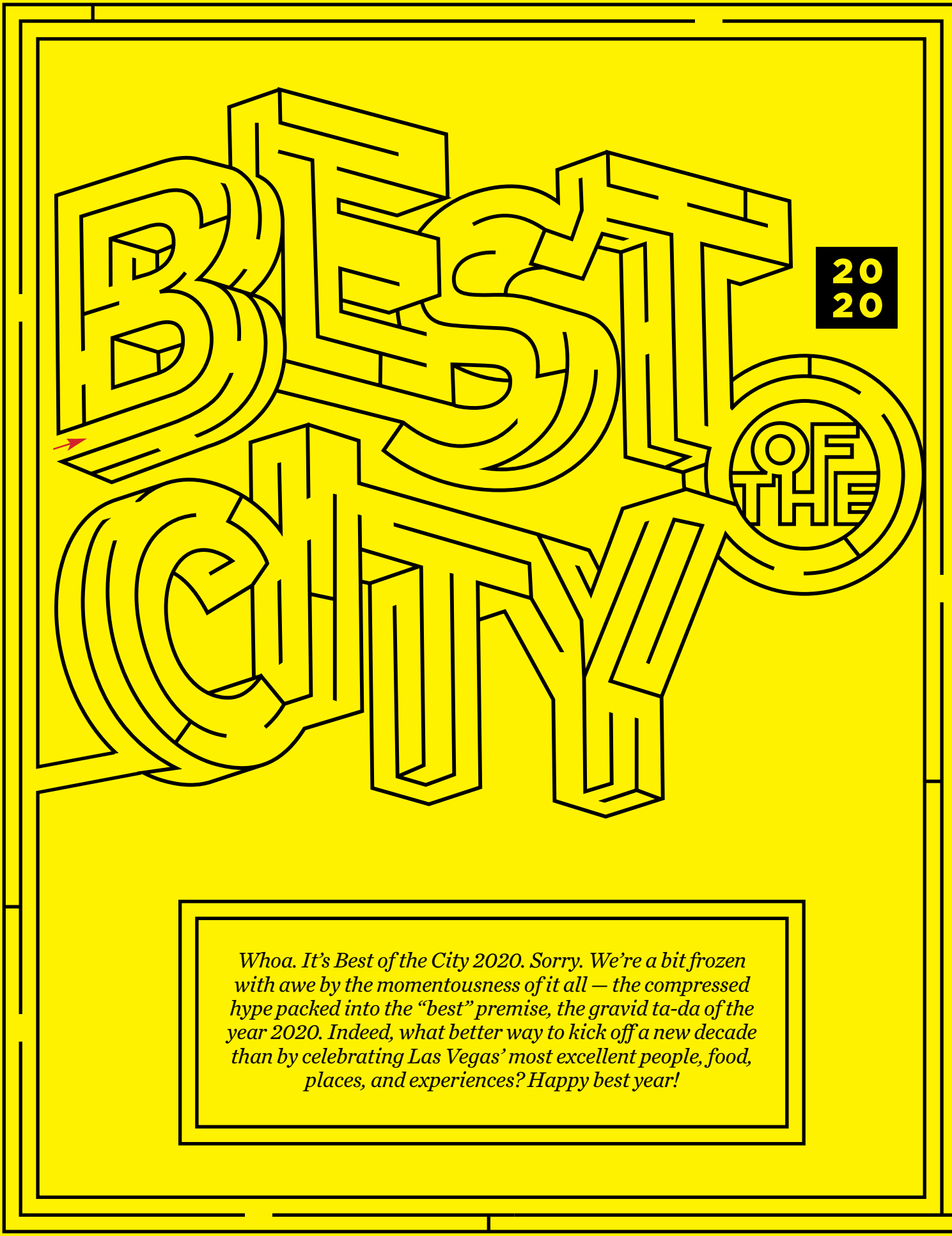


red rock
CASINO · RESORT · SPA

GVR GREEN VALLEY RANCH™
RESORT | SPA | CASINO

PALMS®

© 2020 STATION CASINOS, LAS VEGAS, NV.



Whoa. It's Best of the City 2020. Sorry. We're a bit frozen with awe by the momentousness of it all — the compressed hype packed into the "best" premise, the gravid ta-da of the year 2020. Indeed, what better way to kick off a new decade than by celebrating Las Vegas' most excellent people, food, places, and experiences? Happy best year!

SHOPS + SERVICES

by ANDREW KIRALY, VERONICA KLASH, CHRISTIE MOELLER, JAMES P. REZA, LISSA TOWNSEND RODGERS

BEST WOMEN'S CLOTHING STORE

JOHNNY WAS

The word "bohemian" doesn't mean much nowadays, but there's a certain breezy freedom to the clothing of Johnny Was that nonetheless calls it to mind. Maybe it's because the clothes are flowy and free but sturdily crafted. Or maybe it's because the silhouettes are always relaxed, effortless, and playful, but the fabrics and embroidery run to the luxurious and timelessly fashionable. Johnny Was opened its Las Vegas location in September, and it's quickly become a welcome — and necessary — staple in the Fashion Show Mall. **CM**

Fashion Show Mall, 725-214-1933, johnnywas.com

BEST BEAUTY STORE

LUSH

Even if you've never been to LUSH, you've almost certainly caught its scent while shopping. This cruelty-free, sustainable cult favorite is one that grabs your attention (after grabbing your nose) with its bright branding, fragrant cosmetics, and quirky product names. Better yet, their colorful products not only deliver results (pro trip: try their RUMP product for any rubbing/chafing on thighs or feet — total lifesaver!), but also leave you feeling as though you've been on a glittery, fragrant adventure. Plus all that other good stuff: ethical, organic, 100% vegetarian, handmade, no animal testing. **CM**

Multiple locations, lushusa.com

BEST NAIL SALON

NOHEA NAILS AT THE GRAMERCY

Focusing on the latest trends in nail art, Nohea Nails offers manicures, pedicures, and gel systems, and boasts one of the largest selections of nail decals around. Whether you want to rock a full set of *Golden Girls* decals or just glam up one nail with your zodiac sign, they have you covered. And when you're done, check out their array of non-toxic polishes and natural spa products. **VK**

In The Gramercy, 9275 W. Russell Road #160, 702-985-4888, thisisgramercy.com

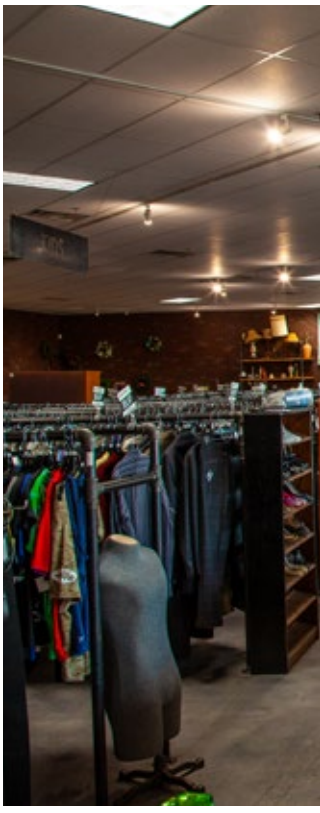
BEST HAIR STYLIST

ALEX MCDONALD AT ATELIER BY SQUARE SALON

"What are we doing today, my love?" That's not a quote from every weekend with my husband, but the beginning of every visit with Alex McDonald. Those words are often followed by a scalp-tingling, toe-twinkling shampoo. Sometimes there's light, frothy conversation. Sometimes it's serious and subdued. But always, there's magic when Alex does her thing. And her thing is impeccable texturizing and precision cutting. This is hairstyling as luxury and necessity. Sitting in that chair and trusting her to create beauty that is practical is pure opulence. Leaving that chair and feeling like you could own every room you walk into — that's addicting. A good salon session can unlock the doors to confidence, calm, joy, peace, and pleasure. Alex is simply the best key-maker I've ever seen. **VK**

1225 S. Fort Apache #135, 702-906-1770, atelierbysquaresalon.com





NOHEA NAILS: COURTESY NOHEA NAILS; CASTAWAYS: BRENT HOLMES

BEST OUTLET STORE

JOHN VARVATOS COMPANY STORE PREMIUM OUTLETS

John Varvatos signature style? Check. Boutique setting with rock 'n' roll artwork? Check. Friendly, knowledgeable

Let Us Count the Ways

BEST SUIT STORE

STITCHED

1 They're a locally born shop on the Strip, just like the old days. **2** They do made-to-measure in house. **3** They also offer Baker, Ford, and Varvatos — the trifecta of trendy off-the-rack. **4** Dressing up. Remember how fun that used to be? **5** It's the go-to for the young and restless Vegas VIPs. **6** If they can't afford it, they talk about the day they can. **7** You can pair your shopping or measuring with a drink or dinner at the Cosmopolitan. **JPR** ***The Cosmopolitan, stitchedlifestyle.com***



Social Poll!*

BEST DOG PARK (TIE)

a. Barkin Basin
b. Desert Breeze
c. Dog Fancier's
d. Silverado Ranch
e. Sunset

staff? Check. Racks upon racks of stress-melting retail therapy? Check? Mall retail prices? Nope! The prices are the only difference at this outlet store filled with all the signature Varvatos pieces you could ever want — many of which are priced at half or even a third of what you'd pay retail. Thanks, John. **CM**
875 Grand Central Parkway, 702-508-0580, johnvarvatos.com

BEST VINTAGE STORE

THE RED KAT

Vintage shopping has been happening in hip 'hoods since Aardvark's Odd Ark landed on L.A.'s Melrose Avenue in the early 1980s. Downtown Vegas dove into the scene soon after with Vintage Madness (R.I.P.), followed by the recently reopened Attic. The pace of the past has picked up considerably along Main Street, and now numerous shops make an afternoon of shopping simple. Tops among them is Velma Campbell's Red Kat. Opened in 2014, and featuring Velma Campbell's personally curated, ever-evolving collection of vintage couture, Red Kat replenishes its racks via Velma's regular road trips with her husband Derrick and their hot rods, which hint at the styles inside. In 2019, Red Kat's reputation allowed Velma to grow her collection and double her shop's footprint inside Arts District mainstay Retro Vegas. It now takes up both her original upstairs loft, and the downstairs space beneath it. **JPR**
1131 S. Main St., 702-384-2700, facebook.com/theredkatlv

BEST ANTIQUES SHOP

ANTIQUE MALL OF AMERICA

They offer complimentary bottled water and cookies at the main desk at Antique Mall of America, and it's not just a gesture of welcome — it's a vital necessity for maintaining the stamina required to properly shop this place. Set aside at least two hours for a thorough graze of the booths spanning more than 40,000 square feet, but, honestly, you'll need three or more if you've got an incurable niche obsession, whether it's Matchbox cars, semiprecious stone jewelry, Hollywood Regency furnishings, analog cameras, vintage hats, or pristine speed metal LPs. (Ah, the fizzy, epiphanic tingle of stumbling across a vinyl reissue of Slayer's *Show No Mercy*!) For all the complex's wondrous split-level sprawl, though, the curation at Antique Mall of America is guided by informed taste and astute expertise, so, yeah, there's a minimum of insufferable country-kitchen barnwood tchotchkes and old Coke signs. What is up with the old Coke signs? **AK**
9151 S. Las Vegas Blvd. #344, 702-933-2791, antiquemallofamerica.net

AHEM!

Jessica Huth (Dog Fancier's): "There is so much room and so many different enclosures. ... Really good for a dog that's new to dog parks."

Let Us Count the Ways

BEST THRIFT STORE

CASTAWAYS RESALE STORE

1 The layout is well-planned with sections from appliances, to glassware, to kids' clothing and holiday décor. **2** No one can resist a Banana Republic cardigan for under $6. **3** Because there's no room in your kitchen for a movie-theatre style popcorn machine, but at $14.97, that baby is coming home, space be damned. **4** The book nook carries Williams Sonoma tomes for under $2, and, hey, you've always wanted to make a meal that requires a minimum of 20 ingredients. **5** Castaways' profits fuel the work of Vegas-based charity God Behind Bars, an organization working to reduce recidivism. **6** The staff is friendly and good-humored, even with customers looking to haggle over a $7 lamp (with bulbs). **7** The plush toys are stored in a large wire cage, and they still look happy. **8** It doesn't smell like a thrift store. **VK** ***241 N. Stephanie Street, 702-425-9146, castawaysresale.com***

BEST GAME STORE

Wii PLAY GAMES WEST

The words *nerd* and *geek*, once the height of sophisticated high-school insults, have been reclaimed

** We polled our Facebook friends. Unscientific! Fun!*

by those who wholeheartedly embrace and worship what they enjoy. And there's no place better to kneel at the altar of gaming than Wii Play Games West. Trading card, board, and video games can all be found here. Knowledgeable employees can guide neophytes through the dense jungle of contemporary gaming. But the real value of Wii Play Games West is in its role as a gathering place. Their online calendar presents different trading card events every day, making this the spot for hanging with old friends or finding new ones. (Extra points if you stop next door at Nakata Market of Japan for Ramuné and Pocky.) VK

2350 S. Rainbow Blvd. #5, 702-550-4220, wiiplay2.crystalcommerce.com



BEST CANDY STORE

JEAN-MARIE AUBOINE CHOCOLATIER FACTORY SHOP

Chocolate. Creamy, crunchy, crushingly perfect chocolate. At Jean-Marie Auboine Chocolatier Factory Shop, they have it all. That's not an exaggeration. They have chocolate body lotion, hot chocolate, chocolate tea, candy bars, chocolate bars, barks, caramels, nougats, and myriad chocolate-covered nuts. But the undisputed stars of this modest, factory-attached retail area are the colorful, flawlessly shiny bonbons. Displayed in brick-lined, underlit glass cases, these small examples of master craftsmanship clamor to be consumed by all the senses; gaze upon them, breathe in their aroma, stroke their smooth curves, pierce their shells, and hear them shatter. Finally, let your tongue luxuriate in a triumph of flavors and textures. This is an elevated experience, well worth the price of admission. VK

4780 W. Harmon Ave. #1, 702-222-0535, jmauboinechocolates.com



BEST FLORIST

STINKO'S

Las Vegas lavishes itself with flowers. But when bouquets begin to bore, it's time to call Stinko's, a newish florist that will level-up your flowers beyond expectations. Owner Steven Stewart-Clark has a background in event floral arrangement, which goes a long way toward explaining the theatricality of his bold, beautiful, and statement-making arrangements. They wow whoever sees them, and his multipurpose space, in new Main Street buildings behind Arts Square, signals what's to come in the Arts District. JPR

1029 S. Main St, 702-722-2494, stinkoslasvegas.com

BEST PHONE REPAIR

uBREAKiFIX

Horror, despair, disbelief — oh, the trauma of dropping your phone in the toilet. Or cracking the screen on a tile floor. With three valley locations, uBreakiFix is equipped to handle your worst phone nightmares as quickly as possible. While their speed is essential, it's their honest and attentive service — which includes free diagnoses, price-matching, and a 90-day warranty on repairs — that keeps customers like me coming back. Worst-case scenarios are softened and best-case scenarios are all the sweeter when there's good bedside manner involved. They can turn trauma into a funny story you tell at dinner parties while holding up your perfect-looking phone. Until the next time one of your most precious possessions takes a tumble, that is. VK

Multiple locations, ubreakifix.com

WII PLAY: BRENT HOLMES; JEAN-MARIE AUBOINE: COURTESY; GHOST ADVENTURES: COURTESY

(PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT LAS VEGAS)

In Praise of Ghost Adventures

It took me a while to understand why I take such rapt, unalloyed delight in *Ghost Adventures*. At first, I thought I was liking it ironically or in the mode of camp — cousin species of so-bad-it's-good enjoyment that exalts flaws, fails, and excesses. That would make sense. The show is not, by any conventional standard, good. *Ghost Adventures* is a long-running program on the Travel Channel in which Zak Bagans (owner of The Haunted Museum in Downtown) and his crew investigate haunted sites around the U.S. To be sure, there's enough of a gap between what it wants to be and what it actually is to enjoy *Ghost Adventures* ironically. It purports to conduct scientific paranormal investigations, pursued with gobbledygook technology (*video ovilus, inductive probes, electromagnetic voice phenomenon recorders*) and a posture of clinical gravity so ludicrously magisterial it approaches satire. But basically, it's four bros bumbling around in spooky places in some slapdash hybrid reality-TV homage to *Ghostbusters*, *The Goonies*, *The Blair Witch Project*, and *Scooby-Doo*. If you're looking for ANSWERS (Bagans intones the word with such grim, leaden, yearning emphasis in the intro voice-over!), look elsewhere. Out of either brazen indolence or brilliant ellipsis, rarely do their investigations offer a unifying theory to tie together historical facts, legends, and all the milky green apparitions into any semblance of a coherent story.



Which is a hint to its true appeal. *Ghost Adventures* isn't about truth, facts, or answers. Rather, *Ghost Adventures* is performative nostalgia that re-enacts the emotional rituals of a universal experience: banding together with your friends to explore that creepy house on the corner, the dark tunnel in the wash, the forbidden patch of desert strewn with animal bones. *Ghost Adventures* is 45 minutes of grown men freaking themselves out, and it's startlingly satisfying to watch.

The show's motto should be "What was *THAT?!*" At the climax of each episode, Bagans and his crew are practically barking that phrase in a chorus of bewilderment. But there's a precision to the apparent chaos. All the childhood rites are here: the egging on, the psyching up, the delirious collaborative fabulating that synthesizes into consensual delusion ("Did you just touch me? Something touched me!" "Something touched me too!"), even the timeless ceremony of the big kids sending the little kid alone into the dank basement to bait a phantom. The *Ghost Adventures* crew doesn't need, nor should it want, to discover the truth, whatever that is. The pleasure of *Ghost Adventures* is watching it feverishly manufacture its own lore in real time, using psychic revenants of childhood as its raw material.

I suspect this resonates particularly for men. Daring each other to knock on the door of the legendary neighborhood murder house or dragging each other into a dark cave wasn't ever just about adventure. It was always about introspection as much as exploration. Such adventures proposed conditions for sanctioned emotional vulnerability, and sought provisional places where it was okay to hesitate, shiver, yelp, scream, cry, maybe even pee your pants. Each episode of *Ghost Adventures* has an almost formulaic reversal that echoes this: In the cthonic depths of the haunted mansion, the tables are turned on the investigators with their probing antennae and invasive cameras, and they themselves are touched, probed, attacked, sometimes even "possessed" by restless spirits (cringey improv in which Bagans musters his best diabolical smile that's more like a twitchy, dyspeptic leer). If there was some *Ghostbusters* gear that measured *zoinks!* levels in these high, delicious moments, the needle would be pulsing in the red. The feels gush forth from the men — *I'm scared! I'm so confused. I feel nauseous. I feel so cold! I'm dizzy. I feel this anxiety. My skin feels like it's burning. What's happening! What was that? What was THAAAT?!* — and, ultimately, they undergo their own transformation that defies matter and sense: The men will be boys. ***Andrew Kiraly***

BEST BUDTENDERS

INYO FINE CANNABIS

As cannabis powers up into a big economy, the small-business personal touch can become more elusive. One of the first dispensaries to open in Las Vegas, Inyo's always had a low-key vibe and solid selection, but it's the staff that sets Inyo apart. The budtender team is led by local cannabis legend Rob Ruckus, who's been aiding and advising medical patients for more than a decade. Kwazi, Joe, Darla, and the rest of the crew are able to guide both newbie and veteran smoker, whether you're seeking pain relief or recreational enjoyment, all without talking down or upselling. **LTR**

2520 S. Maryland Parkway #2, 702-707-8888, inyolasvegas.com

Let Us Count the Ways

BEST DISPENSARY

ESSENCE

1. The convenience of late hours, as well as locations on the west side, Henderson, and the Strip, plus two in California. **2** The Las Vegas Boulevard store has a flashy green sign — and hooray for anyone who deploys old-school bulbs and neon. **3** Also hooray for locals' discount and rewards program everywhere. **4** There's usually a line, but it keeps moving, and budtenders don't rush you. **5** Product selection is vast, with dozens of varieties of flower, concentrate, and edible for your perusal. **6** A number of daily deals, as well as regular $25 eighths. But if you want to spend on top-shelf, there are plenty of options there, too. **LTR**

Multiple locations, essencevegas.com

BEST GYM

TRU FUSION

It's not a traditional gym. There are no weight rooms, no treadmills, no bikes or steppers. What it is, according to those who swear by it, is a transformational class-based, instructor-led workout experience that can be social or solo, easy or hard, twice a day or thrice a week.

Social Poll!

BEST FITNESS CLASS

a. Camp Rhino Boot Camp
b. CrossFit
c. Goat Yoga Las Vegas
d. Orange Theory
e. Silent Savasana

It's barre and yoga and kettlebell, and booty workouts that'll have you creeping carefully around the office for days, all set to hip-hop, rock, and disco. Members can easily structure their own routine, thanks to a full roster of classes found on its user-friendly app. **JPR**

Three locations, trufusion.com



BEST AUTO DETAILING

FABULOUS FREDDY'S

This mini-chain of eight car washes (five in Las Vegas) not only offers various levels of washing to suit both your budget and your steed's need, but they can also detail everything from soiled seats to stinky rugs. Drop off your grubby sled and when you return, you'll find your 1983 Mercedes shiny and smelling sweet. Or your 2018 Subie. Whatever it is, it drives better too, right? **JPR**

Five locations, fabfred.com

AHEM!

"Goat Yoga is fitness? I would say Orange Theory." — Rachael Sellars

ARTS + ENTERTAIN MENT

by JOSH BELL, CHRIS BITONTI, JENESSA KENWAY, HEIDI KYSER, MIKE WEATHERFORD

BEST NEW SHOW

ATOMIC SALOON SHOW

When it comes to new shows, people vote with their wallets: *Fuerza Bruta, Postmodern Jukebox,* and *Blanc de Blanc* didn't live to see a New Year's confetti drop. Three that so far survive seem awfully familiar. Hans Klok is Siegfried without Roy; *Celestia* is a Cirque knockoff; and *Atomic Saloon Show* is from Spiegelworld, the dirty jokes and acrobatics factory that brought you *Absinthe* and *Opium*. But you can't knock a winning formula, or a festive barroom atmosphere. And the raunchy *Atomic* bits you will whisper about the next day are a lot easier to remember than anything in *Celestia*. MW **Venetian, spiegelworld.com**

BEST VARIETY SHOW

MYSTÈRE

It's nostalgic and symbolic to revisit the beginning of modern-era Vegas entertainment. But don't blame your treacherous memory when Cirque du Soleil's dreamy spectacle doesn't play out quite the way you recall it. Cirque marked last year's 25th anniversary with subtle but substantial changes meant to keep the show dust-free and exciting to the parents who saw it as kids and are now taking their own. MW **Mirage, cirque dusoleil.com**

BEST SHOW DESERVING A RETURN VISIT

LE RÊVE

Most long-running shows battle inertia, or may be superstitious about messing with a winning formula (hello, *Blue Man Group*). But change has been a constant with *Le Rêve* since it opened in 2005. That's partly because it was a pet obsession of former resort chairman Steve Wynn, and partly because, well, it needed to. Originally perceived as an *O* knockoff, *Le Rêve*'s derivative elements have faded amid tweaks that make this water show a bolder, sexier, and more immediate experience. Even if *Le Rêve* has settled down since Steve Wynn's disgraced departure, you've likely missed, at the very least, the new music and costumes added in a 2017 makeover. MW ***Wynn Las Vegas, wynnlasvegas.com/entertainment***



TRU FUSION, MYSTÈRE. LADY GAGA: KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES



BEST RESIDENCY

LADY GAGA

Vegas' newfound residency renaissance ascended to previously unthinkable heights when the queen of the Little Monsters graced our city with not one but two unique experiences. The flash of Lady Gaga's outrageous pop spectacle seems tailor-made for the glamour of Las Vegas, while her stripped-down jazz performances buck the formula outright and reshape how our city shines by changing what is possible in the showroom. Her impact on Vegas entertainment will undoubtedly reverberate for years to come. CB **Park MGM, vegas.ladygaga.com**

BEST NEAR MISS

R.U.N

Sure, you could question spending millions to put a cheesy action flick onstage. But not since *KÀ* has Cirque du Soleil so challenged the physical boundaries of theater. And for at least a half hour, it's exciting to see a slam-bang, cheeky action-noir penned by Robert Rodriguez (*Sin City*, *Machete*) come to life. See it in that spirit — or simply with spirits — and you will root for them to fix the rest: Over-reliance on video, characters you never come to care about, and a climax that devolves into pointless motorcycle stunts. Even if they don't fix it, you'll still be talking about that freaky torture scene. **MW**

Luxor, cirquedu soleil.com

BEST NEW VOICE

SONIA BARCELONA

What we like most about Sonia Barcelona is her ambition to grow and willingness to create art and experience not through her music, but beyond it. Music may be the central vehicle for her creation, but Barcelona doesn't limit herself to it. Not only did 2019 gave us her full-length release *Bitter Melon*, it also saw her inaugural Farside Wonderfest, a music, culture, and wellness event, and features from *Vice* and NPR. **CB**

artofsonia.com



BEST INTIMATE SHOWCASE

SARAH MCLACHLAN — AN INTIMATE EVENING OF SONGS AND STORYTELLING

The Canadian singer-songwriter followed the anti-Vegas path of an even bigger '90s star, Garth Brooks, who was the first to strip the Encore Theater at Wynn Las Vegas down to a bare stage for a biographical, almost solo acoustic showcase. If McLachlan's April debut (she returns February 19, 21-22) wasn't as dramatically resonant as, say, *Springsteen on Broadway*, the singer's earthy rapport in contrast with her ethereal vocals still proves the format can speak to you in a way that spectacle can't. **MW**

Wynn Las Vegas, wynnlasvegas.com/entertainment

BEST DJ

HEKLER

For the city that made the headlining DJ king, Vegas' homegrown crown is still surprisingly open for claim — although 2019 launched Hekler on that flight path with an impressive streak. He performed at EDC, Bonnaroo, Lost Lands, and Hard Summer, in addition to tours of Europe and Asia. While not yet one of the household names that litter Strip billboards, Hekler is snowballing with national momentum and is poised to rule the local scene, then burst beyond it. **CB**

soundcloud.com/heklermusic



AHEM!

"Can we eliminate Hirst and Koons right off the bat and talk actual art?"
— John Curtas

Social Poll!

BEST PUBLIC ART ATTACHED TO A CASINO

a. *Big Edge*, by Nancy Rubins at CityCenter
b. *Demon with Bowl*, by Damien Hirst at the Palms
c. Untitled lobby installation, by Henrique Oliveira at Park MGM
d. *Akhob*, by James Turrell at Crystals
e. Whatever Jeff Koons thing the Wynn might be showing

BEST GENRE DEFIER

ZACK GRAY

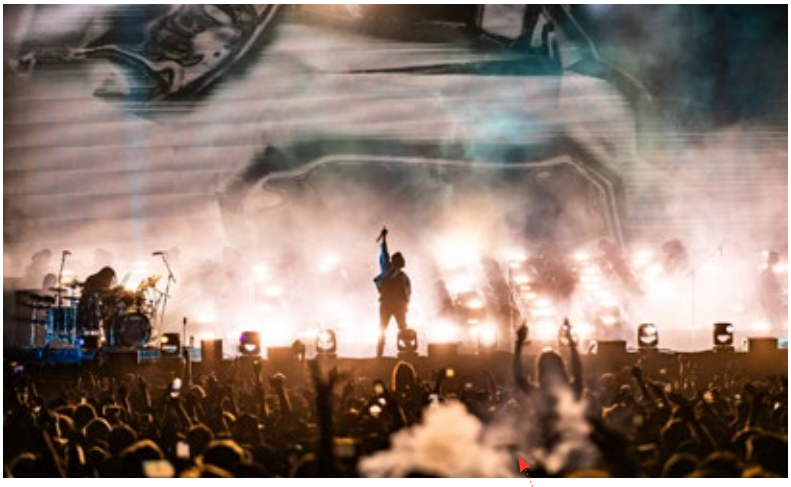
If the unfettered availability of digital music has killed the genre, then Zack Gray should perform the dirge at its wake. Swimming among R&B, soul, electronic, and pop music is where Gray finds depth. His music has caught the attention of tastemakers in and beyond Vegas, with features in Onestowatch and Earmilk, plus a slot

SONIA BARCELONA, HEKLER, LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL; COURTESY

BEST LOCAL FILM MOGULS

SONNY AND MICHAEL MAHAL

1 Some titles the brothers have produced through their Mahal Empire production company (all direct to VOD/DVD): *30 Girls 30 Days*, *Party Bus to Hell*, *Art of the Dead*, *Attack of the Unknown*, *Bridge of the Doomed*. **2** "Stars" the Mahals have recruited for supporting roles: Tara Reid, Richard Grieco, Michael Pare. **3** Mahal Empire films are produced largely via crowd-funding, which may be the Mahals' greatest strength; their most recently completed campaigns, for *Attack of the Unknown*, raised more than $200,000. **4** The B-list celebrities, genre-movie hooks (zombies, aliens, evil paintings), and requisite amounts of nudity facilitate productions that employ local cast and crew, put Vegas locations onscreen, and, to some degree, boost our hometown film industry. **5** Come on, who doesn't want to see a movie called *Party Bus to Hell*? **JB**



at last year's Life Is Beautiful. **CB**

zackgraymusic.com

BEST MUSICAL TREND

MUSIC FESTIVALS

No, you're not crazy, there really *is* a new music festival in town every week (almost), and the expansion shows no signs of slowing. From genre-bound niche gatherings like Viva, Psycho, and Punk Rock Bowling to the mass congregations of I Heart Radio and **Life Is Beautiful** to newbies such as Day N Vegas and Intersect, Vegas has become Festival City, USA. And why not? Could there be a place better equipped to host throngs of hedonistic partiers on the reg? **CB**

BEST LOCAL FILMMAKER

BRANDON CHRISTENSEN

After building buzz on the indie horror scene with his 2017 debut feature *Still/Born*, Vegas-based filmmaker Christensen returned with *Z*, another horror movie about familial anxieties. Shot in Christensen's native Canada with recognizable stars including Keegan Connor Tracy and Stephen McHattie, *Z* is a creepy and unsettling story about pain and trauma passing from one generation to the next. It played at 2019's Sin City Horror Fest and will be available to stream later this year. **JB**

thebrandonchristensen.com

BEST FILM FESTIVAL

LAS VEGAS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

The longest-running film festival in Vegas (its 19th edition takes place beginning January 9), the Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival has a history of showcasing both artistically challenging and crowd-pleasing films from around the world, demonstrating the range of work related to Jewish culture and history. As festival director Joshua Abbey has quipped, "You don't have to be 'chosen' to attend," meaning that this local cultural gem deserves attention from cinephiles of all faiths. **JB**

lvjff.org

BEST USE OF LAS VEGAS ON TV

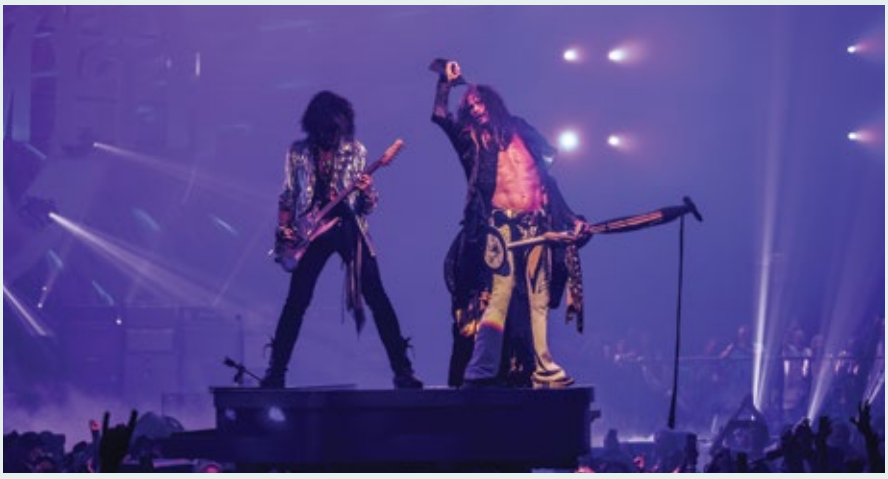
GLOW

In real life, the Gorgeous Ladies of Wrestling spent its entire four-year run in the 1980s based in Las Vegas, but the Netflix series loosely inspired by the classic wrestling promotion didn't get to Vegas until its recent third season. The creators made up for lost time by delving deeply into the minutiae of Vegas history, with references to classic show producers, local publications, and the UNLV library, treating it all with a mix of snark and reverence. **JB**

BEST USE OF LAS VEGAS IN MOVIES

GLORIA BELL

Most of Sebastian Lelio's affecting, exuberant drama about a middle-aged woman (the fantastic Julianne Moore) rediscovering her self-confidence takes place in LA, but for one lovely stretch, the story moves to Las Vegas, as Gloria and her feckless boyfriend (John Turturro) take a disastrous vacation — they fight, and he heads back to L.A. without telling her — that turns into an empowering experience for her. Lelio captures the rush and the comedown of Vegas, viewing it from the



(PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT LAS VEGAS)

In Praise of Aerosmith's Residency

Aerosmith has played Las Vegas long enough to outlast the city's first Hard Rock Café. They opened it with a benefit concert in 1990, and it was demolished last November, while they happened to be in town for their *Deuces Are Wild* showcase at the Park Theater.

But the Boston rockers aren't counting on mere longevity to keep their residency fresh. Aerosmith hasn't changed the everyman appeal of its loud — seriously loud — guitar hooks buffered by wisecracks. But this time they spared no expense, making sure to throw in almost **EVERY TRICK** from other concert residencies and shows on the Strip — except for maybe the showgirls. (Dancers are the first rule for pop divas, but not so much for old rockers.) You've gotta admire their gumption.

Carlos Santana and John Fogerty may display their Woodstock baby pics on the rear screen while their old selves play, but Aerosmith takes **AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL VIDEO** to a new height with a 30-minute pre-show countdown video of the band's early history. **ENVIRONMENTAL VARIETY PERFORMERS** from the Cirque du Soleil playbook add even more to the preshow mix.

SPECIAL AUDIENCE SEATING RIGHT ONSTAGE awaits those willing to pay as much as $821 (before taxes and fees), a concept tracing back to Barry Manilow at the Hilton in 2005. Longtime fans rock to the hits, yes, but also to **DEEP ALBUM CUTS** such as "Lord of the Thighs" and "Toys in the Attic," the latter presenting the opportunity to air up the **GIANT INFLATABLES** popularized by Elton John over at Caesars Palace. Hello, Creepy Teddy. They warned me about the brown acid.

As Park Theater co-tenant Lady Gaga can tell you, nothing says Instagram photo like the **DRY ICE-SHROUDED GRAND PIANO** magically rising for "Dream On." Bonus points when it's structurally sound enough for guitarist Joe Perry to stand on top of and solo. If you're old-school and prefer lighter-flicking ballads to iPhone fumbling, you'll be glad to see that Steven Tyler sings "I Don't Want to Miss A Thing" with the help of a **HARD TO HEAR BUT VISUALLY STRIKING GRATUITOUS STRING QUARTET**.

The **CATWALK** that lowers from on high to let Tyler and Perry "Walk This Way" from stage to mezzanine is an unlikely second callback to Manilow, in this case his big "Copacabana" moment. The **GIANT BALLOONS** that the audience bats around are fairly ubiquitous now, though Rod Stewart ingeniously substituted soccer balls. And the **CONFETTI DROP** must be written into the contract for all Vegas residencies. However, the **71-YEAR-OLD MAN GOING SHIRTLESS** is not actually a thing yet outside this show. And while Tyler can get away with it, better if that one doesn't catch on. ***Mike Weatherford***

same generous, sympathetic perspective as he does the title character. **JB**

BEST ACTOR

MIKE VARGOVICH

The kind of energy that you need to sing through two hours of Green Day music while the sound system in the small, old building where you're performing is taking occasional craps and you're playing the main character who holds the whole story together — that's the energy Mike Vargovich brought to *American Idiot* at Majestic Repertory Theatre. It wasn't his first rodeo; Vargovich has been in several other Majestic performances and done some work elsewhere, too. But it was riveting. Here's to whatever he's got on tap after *Krampus*! **HK**

BEST ACTRESS

VALERIE CARPENTER BERNSTEIN

Valerie Carpenter Bernstein was in her first movie (*Lottery!*)



AEROSMITH: KATARINA BENZOVA; BERNSTEIN: COURTESY A PUBLIC FIT; BUTTERFLIES: BRENT HOLMES

more than 35 years ago, so she shouldn't have anything left to prove. Which may explain how she was able to leave it all on the floor night after night, and come back and do it again the following day, for three weeks of *August: Osage County* at A Public Fit. The Tracy Letts story starts bad and gets progressively worse until it's absolutely devastating, mainly due to Violet Weston, the misanthropic matriarch Bernstein played. So the actor has to hold it all together, make it all fall apart, and then trample on the spoils. Bernstein's been around the Vegas scene for a while now, popping up in a variety of Downtown productions, but in this one it felt like she finally met her match. Good for us. **HK**



BEST MURAL

BUTTERFLIES BY MANTRA

For this year's Life is Beautiful festival, the JustKids creative house pulled in street artist Mantra to create one of his signature, building-size, trompe l'oeil butterfly cases. The super-realistic mural expresses the idea of specimens caught, pinned down — living beauty captured in its prime and preserved for the pleasure of examination and study. The stunning winged specimens recall the vanitas of Dutch still-life and sound the vivid notes of memento mori. It's at Ninth and Fremont streets; you can ponder it while having a drink on the patio at Atomic Liquors. **JK**

BEST ARTIST

DAVID BAIRD

Thin rods of interwoven balsa wood sculpture rise up in a trembling three-foot tower. Artist David Baird's small monument to Babel, titled "Conceit," acknowledges human audacity, but at the same time, the possibility of withdrawing the slender beams from position, one-by-one, comments on the precariousness of social structures, the fragility of humanity itself.

Baird has firsthand experience with vulnerable constructions, having worked on numerous low-income architectural projects, such as recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina and low-income neighborhoods in Las Vegas.

The sculptures of his Babel series grow carefully upward, each an intricate structure of delicate limbs presenting a unique effort to aspire to a higher plane of existence. Rather than stopping after one thwarted attempt, Baird's work reminds us new towers are constructed all the time — all of humanity is one ongoing construction, continuously added to, modified, at times breaking down, always striving toward improvement.

The serial sculpture works are a product of Baird's daily journal practice of creating three visual entries. Each journal is a meditative act pulling together a limited number of materials, musing upon compositional space and possible configurations. Baird's journals and works invoke a sense of mindfulness and an intuitive search for balance and order. **JK**

keepitreal.gallery



Let Us Count the Ways

BEST ART GALLERY

PRISCILLA FOWLER FINE ART

1 From the moment Priscilla hit the local art scene she has delivered the goods: gorgeous objects and conceptually rigorous exhibits. **2** Her new Main Street space. About a year ago she moved from Art Square into a spacious new storefront on Main Street, doubling the viewing area, which means double the exhibit fun: A new show in the front and a rotating display of local and national artists in the back. **3** Commitment to showing local, regional, and national artists. She collaborates with UNLV and independent artists. **4** Priscilla's artwork. Not only does she run a great gallery, she is a pretty great artist herself. Her colorful biomorphic paintings are awesome. **5** Priscilla herself. She wants visitors to connect with the art and hook into the local art scene. She is friendly, down-to-earth, happy to answer questions or bring out works not on display. **JK** ***priscillafowler.com***

FOOD + DRINK

by JIM BEGLEY, KIM FOSTER, MIKE PREVATT, JAMES P. REZA, LISSA TOWNSEND RODGERS, MITCHELL WILBURN

BEST TACOS

TACOS EL GORDO

It's almost criminal how good Tacos El Gordo is. You could forego the famous, cumin-laced adobada and you'd still have a killer lineup of tacos to choose from. Savory *saudero* — think flank steak — comes from a bubbling vat of witch's brew in the center of the serving line, marinating with a medley of other assorted cow parts, while their *lengua* (that's tongue) is as tender a rendition as you'll find of the sinewy organ. Less challenging but equally as appealing are a semi-spicy chorizo and carne asada, ordered at the farthest end of the carnival show otherwise known as El Gordo's serving line. And if you want to gild the lily, order your favorite meat vampiro-style, in which a heap is sandwiched between fried tortillas layered with griddle-browned cheese. As if El Gordo could get any better! JB

Multiple locations, tacoselgordobc.com



BEST PIZZA

GOOD PIE

We take pizza for granted. We feed cardboard franchise versions to kids; we feed the frozen kind to ourselves when we're tired, or settle for a greasy leftover slice when working late. It's easy to forget how damn delicious a well-made pizza can be. And there is no other kind at Good Pie, New York native Vincent Rotolo's new-style celebration of the old-school slice.

Good Pie starts with multiple crust options — the classic Brooklyn round, the light and crispy Grandma square, the you'd-never-know gluten-free version, or the Detroit, whose thick, caramelized crust adds extra layers of flavor and texture even to their basic cheese pie. Of course, their basic cheese pie is more like a platonic ideal of the cheese pie, with a slightly spicy tomato sauce and fresh basil. The specialty pies are made with a balance of classic and unexpected ingredients, such as the It's All Good, with sausage, caramelized onions, and hot honey; or a white pizza slathered with two kinds of mozzarella and dotted with dollops of ricotta. How good is Good Pie? Good enough to make even the crankiest local brave the tourists of Pawn Plaza — in other words, the best. LTR

725 S. Las Vegas Blvd. #140, 702-844-2700, goodpie.com

Social Poll!

BEST HISTORIC PLACE REFERENCE THAT'S A SECRET HANDSHAKE AMONG NATIVES

a. Mary K's
b. Naugles
c. Hydrotubes
d. Alpine Village
e. Soak 'n' Poke

BEST WINGS

POK POK WING

Wings, that traditionally blue-collar bar staple, get a Southeast Asian makeover by a James Beard Award-winning chef at Pok Pok in the Cosmopolitan. They're called Ike's Famous Vietnamese Chicken Wings, and they're marinated in fish sauce, tossed in a sticky, savory, umami dressing, and then rolled in crispy fried garlic. Little wonder that these wings helped spawn a culinary empire out of Portland, Oregon, where Pok Pok chef/owner Andy Ricker also runs Pok Pok Som, a drinking vinegar company, and Pok Pok Thaan, a charcoal importing business. These deservedly famous wings are well worth the trek through the Cosmopolitan any night of the week. MW

The Cosmopolitan, cosmopolitanlasvegas.com

OF NOTE

Alpine Village was a Bavarian restaurant on Paradise Road, beloved for its chicken soup and lively basement bar, the Rathskeller. The restaurant closed in 1997.

TACOS EL GORDO AND FAT CHOY: CHRISTOPHER SMITH



BEST BURGER

FAT CHOY

Set in a tight corner of the Eureka Casino on Sahara avenue, Fat Choy is as American a diner as you will ever eat at. Think Buffalo wings right alongside pork belly bao, and duck rice next to short-rib grilled cheese in a throwback room complete with red vinyl banquets. The one thing you can say about Sheridan Su's brilliant take on the complexity and diversity of Americana is that every dish is big, rich, priced reasonably, and just a little over the top. Which is why the Fat Choy Burger is legendary among locals. It's a half-pound of Angus beef and short rib, a melty slab of cheddar, bacon, a drippy, messy, runny fried egg, onion jam — plus all the condiments available that can be on a burger, including the required secret sauce. But this monster is not for the waist-conscious. You'll need to loosen the old belt a notch or two to get this burger down, which is part of the fun. And very much a part of Americana. **KF**

Eureka Casino, 595 E. Sahara Ave., 702-794-0829, fatchoylv.com

BEST VEGAN RESTAURANT

GARDEN GRILL

The booth with the longest line at Vegas VegFest now has a brick-and-mortar location in Summerlin — an unpretentious fast-casual joint serving the same artisan street food that made it a cult favorite at farmers markets and festivals. If you've got a vegan-curious carnivore in your life, this is the place to take them for an education. With its crispy chicken and Philly cheese steak sandwiches, tacos, and cheesecake, it's an all-around crowd pleaser whose plant-based creations are every bit as good as their traditional alternatives. You leave wondering: Why do we eat animals? **HK**

7550 W. Lake Mead Blvd. #8, 702-929-2244, gardengrilllv.com

BEST MEXICAN

EL DORADO CANTINA

You call it Sammy Davis Jr. Drive, we call it Industrial Road. You call it a gentlemen's club, we call it a strip joint. Nuh-vah-duh, Ne-VAD-uh. But the arguments all end when you get to El Dorado Cantina, the Vegas-born restaurant adjacent to Sapphire Gentlemen's Club. That's because El Dorado goes out of its way to please those with dietary restrictions, including calling out the vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free items on its menu. (They also offer a few of those trendy bowls.) Along with the expected fajitas, tacos, and enchiladas, El Dorado also has many wonderful entrees, including chile-rubbed steak, pineapple shrimp, and chipotle salmon. It's dark, it's sexy, it's delicious, and it's 24 hours. How Vegas is that? **JPR**

3025 S. Sammy Davis Jr. Dr., 702-722-2289, eldoradovegas.com

BEST JAPANESE

ABURIYA RAKU

As the 2017 recipient of *Desert Companion*'s Hall of Fame Restaurant Award and a multiple-time James Bear-nominee, Mistuo Endo's Aburiya Raku – better known as Raku – isn't some kind of secret enclave. In fact, at 11 years old it's a Vegas veteran, having opened at the forefront of our burgeoning Japanese dining scene. While quality Japanese restaurants are plentiful, Raku remains the Valley's gold standard. *Agedashi* tofu remains just as silky as ever, robata-fired beef tendon just as smoky and savory. And with a picturesque patio expansion — the restaurant's third expansion since its opening — dining options are better than ever.

Let Us Count the Ways

BEST ITALIAN

ESTHER'S KITCHEN

1 Half price pasta with a drink during pasta happy hour. **2** Some of the best homemade bread in Vegas. **3** Pasta Puttanesca (note to self: Look up the translation). **4** Bartender Liatt giving me impromptu Hebrew lessons. **5** Plates made by Downtown pottery nerds. **6** Amaro Centerba (thank — or curse — me later). **7** Italian food with just the right amount of comfort **MW** ***1130 S. Casino Center Blvd., 702-570-7864, estherslv.com***

BEST TAPAS

EDO GASTRO TAPAS & WINE

1 A constantly rotating gazpacho amuse bouche to begin your meal. Do it like a shot! **2** Tweezers. You get to eat with tweezers. **3** The bikini. The absolute best panini you'll have in your life, layered with mahón cheese and sobrasado drizzled with honey. **4** A gin and tonic cart that, while somewhat immobile in the tiny space, serves killer, clove-laced Monkey 47 G&T which go very well with ... **5** Tuna tostadas, *rillette* highlighted by Rocoto chilies. **6** Want dinner and a show? Order the montadito, house-smoked salmon adorned with truffled cream cheese and honey which arrives to your table under a glass dome, revealing itself in a puff of smoke. And watch as nearby tables leer with jealousy. **7** Not-so-fishy *boquerones* atop a flaky *pa amb tomàquet*. That's anchovies on tomato bread. **8** This place is like the Bubba Gump of Jamón ibérico. But ... **9** Vegans are represented with showstoppers such as a pistachio-highlighted green tartare even carnivores will adore. **10** Did I mention the tweezers? **JB**

3400 S. Jones Blvd. #11A, 702-641-1345, edotapas.com

There's never been a better time to revisit a classic. **JB**

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

BEST CHINESE

ASIAN BBQ & NOODLE

A small, spare, cash-only, no-booze joint called Asian BBQ & Noodle serves the best curry beef tendon I've had in ages. Think soft, melty, slow-cooked, fatty beef tendon in a curry gravy that is so unctuous and full of umami you will use every bit of rice to sop up the remains. This is a little taste of Hong Kong, in the back corner of a strip mall that also houses China Mama and District One. Cantonese food is about barbecue meat, so order the platter, with the roast duck, pork ribs and — my favorite — roasted pork belly in a sticky, sweet *char siu* sauce, under an almost cellophane-like, crunchy pork skin — for just $17.99. With prices like these, you'll want to be adventurous, so order your usual wonton soup (theirs has perfectly chewy wonton noodles), but definitely dive into the offal. Try the intestines or the pig's blood. You only live once! **KF**

3400 S. Jones Blvd. #5C, 702-202-3636, asianbbqnoodle.com

BEST APPETIZERS

BORN & RAISED

With Las Vegas now a full-on dining mecca, it's nice that those fancy five-star spots offer bar seating where one can easily craft a light (or not-so-light) dinner by sticking with starters. Now, with the city gone full-bore for sports, elevated pub fare is finding its way into every neighborhood. Credit Vegas' original, native-owned Born & Raised for that. First opened in 2010, and now with three locations, Born & Raised plates 24 unique and affordable appetizers — including Korean-style steak tacos, steak poutine, and sweet corn tamale cakes — and that doesn't include the 16 varieties of sliders. This is a true Vegas spot, so for those who like to graze while watching UNLV or the Golden Knights, B&R leads the way. **JPR**

Three locations, bornandraisedlv.com



ASIAN BBQ. ESTHER'S: BRENT HOLMES

BEST BAR FOOD

HARDWAY 8

Part of the essence of bar food is its predictability: You're going to get nachos, mozzarella sticks, burgers, and beers in a sports-bar setting. And Hardway 8 offers what you expect, but takes it to the next level — rather like the 1977 UNLV Runnin' Rebels finals team whose nickname inspired the bar/restaurant. Sure, it's got the game on all the screens, but features comfy-yet-sleek design with a witty collection of memorabilia (Kung Fu Elvis, pizza-eating Charles Barkley). The beer list is expansive and well-curated, with a fun selection of cocktails displayed in trading-card style. But, really, it's about the food. The nachos are topped with pork belly and dotted with

(PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT LAS VEGAS)

In Praise of Simple Date-Night Dining

When I go to a restaurant, I need the chef to do something I can't. This might be unfair. But I'm a fairly adept home cook, and you shouldn't be a professional chef if I can out-cook you.

I'm not talking about feats of molecular gastronomy. Or even anything complex — a seafood taco can move me. I just want to taste something and think, *How the hell do they do that?*

That's rare. But it happened on a recent date night at Esther's Kitchen. We had popped in for a drink. We weren't going to eat. But then David saw the McGrath beets. He's Aussie. Australians have this intense love for what they call beetroot. They put slices of beets from a can (only the can) on their burgers, and it totally works. So David was all over this dish.



Now, Esther's has been solidly very good since its opening. The staff is sweet, the Bloody Marys are on-point, and the salmon on that thick, crunchy toast is like some kind of girls-brunch heaven. But this dish, the tiny beets from Cali with ricotta *gnudi*, pistachio pesto, sorrel, and basil, was something different.

Mostly, there is the game that happens from the plate. You almost don't know if you are popping a beet in your mouth or a nodule of herb-infused ricotta ball, so each bite is a little revolution, an upstart, a drama, an unexpected roller-coaster ride.

How the hell do they do that?

I performed the greatest act of marriage-love and let David finish the plate. I knew this was what he wanted because he didn't protest, despite looking guilty. As he should've. He was afraid I might just be performing an act of politeness. Which I was. So he ate quickly in case I changed my mind.

Smart man.

Somehow the beets and ricotta set the tone for the evening. After all, not all date nights are equal. But this one was uniquely unforgettable all around. We drove the truck out into the desert and laid on a blanket in the bed and watched the stars. Maybe I took an edible as we left the restaurant, and maybe I relaxed into the night, so much so that I didn't want to go back. And maybe we did lovely unmentionable things in the back of that truck while no one was around but stars and jets. And maybe we talked about all the things that matter and don't matter. And maybe I mentioned that I'm going to need to learn how to make the beet dish, and that I may not stop until I do. And maybe he knows I'll be true to my word and slightly more than obsessive about it.

Because that's marriage. Knowing those things and still being cool about it. Plus, he gets to eat my experiments. This is also marriage.

On the way back in, high (me, not him) and mellow and happy and jonesing for a burger (both of us), I made David stop for In-N-Out. Two protein-style burgers with onions, which we ate in the car, the lights of Vegas stretched out in front of us, on the way back to our lives. It may not be the world's best burger, but right then it was. The food made the night and the night made the food, and it was all pretty damned-near perfect. ***Kim Foster***

Social Poll!

BEST LAS VEGAS MOVIE

a. Casino
b. Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas
c. Leaving Las Vegas
d. Ocean's Eleven
e. The Hangover
f. Viva Las Vegas
g. Showgirls
h. Leprechaun 3

chicharrones; the 8 Way Deep Fried Mozzarella — their version of mozzarella sticks — eschews breading to quick-fry a challah-sized slice of cheese that's chopped into 8 pieces (get it?) for melted perfection. The turkey, ham, and Swiss meatballs are topped with slivers of prosciutto and a peppercorn sauce (and somehow shames both Italian restaurants and steakhouses), while the bacon-egg-cheddar Hardway 8 burger could fuel a team for an entire season. **LTR** ***46 S. Water St., 702-410-5124, hardway-8henderson.com***

BEST COCKTAILS

HERBS & RYE

Cocktailing has come quite a long way in the 10 years since native Las Vegan Nectaly Mendoza opened Herbs & Rye, and there are now some exceptional cocktail menus from the Strip to the Arts District to unexpected dive bars in dark corners of the valley. We celebrate them all, of course. But we won't apologize for honoring this repeat winner for not only jump-starting the resurgence of cocktail nation, but also for holding fast to the classic concoctions that got them here. From the balanced Ford to the fun Ramos Gin Fizz, from the complex Lion's Tail to the bender-ending Last Word, Herbs & Rye not only knows its cocktails, but trains its bar staff so well that every drink you order sips just like the last, no matter who made it. Globally respected and nationally honored, Herbs & Rye is a homegrown original that we're lucky to have. **JPR** ***3713 W. Sahara Ave., 702-982-8036, herbsandrye.com***

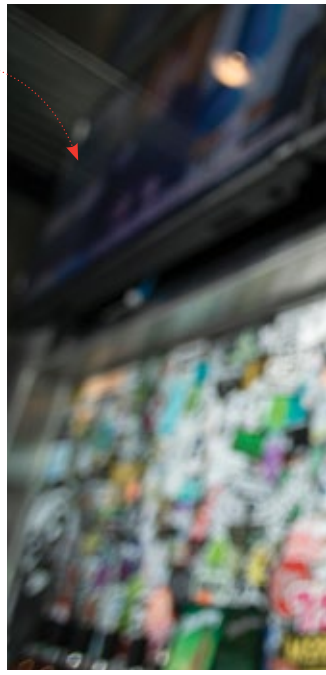
WRITE-INS:

Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2, Swingers, One From the Heart, Corvette Summer, Con Air

BEST BEER SELECTION

BEER ZOMBIES BOTTLE SHOP

The Beer Zombies Bottle Shop just opened in July, but it's already quickly established itself as one of the Valley's foremost beer destinations. Much of this has to do with founder Chris Jacobs' network of industry connections, forged over years of brewfest travels and brewery trips, resulting in a small shop with the most dynamic beer selection in the Valley. Tucked away in a vestigial, post-age-stamp-tiny space next to the SkinnyFATS on Warm Springs, Jacobs' 15 taps present an eclectic mix of brews for every palate. There's typically a preponderance of IPAs — we *are* on the West Coast! — but he always aims to have stouts, easier-drinking beers, and even kombuchas in the mix for those not so crazy about hops. As if the taps aren't enough, there are always the 58 other varieties of bottles and cans awaiting you in the coolers. Both cooler and draft brews rotate frequently, providing newcomers and regulars alike an ever-changing menu.



Let Us Count the Ways

BEST BAKERY

GÄBI COFFEE + BAKERY

You can't just eat and drink at this Korean bakery, you have to hang. Here's why: **1** They bake pastries and desserts that merge cultures and influences. Everything at Gäbi is East meets West, but firmly rooted in Korean coffee culture. **2** You will drink good coffee. (Gäbi is Korean for coffee.) You will eat good desserts that are emblematic of that East-meets-West aesthetic, like Dan Mee Cake, a light-as-a-feather chiffon cake with orange blossom marscapone mousse and a blackberry-raspberry wine gelée. Or the Rose Lychee cake. Or one of my favorites, the Rainbow Roulade, a rainbow colored rolled cake with a scrumptious, airy whip cream filling. **3** Is it modern or throwback? It's both. It's candles and old books and viney plants and rattan chairs and a wrought iron greenhouse where you can watch the bakers work their magic while you drink ristretto and eat their house-made cruffin with cream. **4** And you'll want to climb up into the big wooden bleachers, kick your shoes off, and lounge with a thick book and drink your Monk's Mead tea and eat your Oreo Roulade, and nothing will make you happier. **KF** ***5808 Spring Mountain Road #104, 702-331-1144, gabicafe.com***



BEER ZOMBIES: CHRISTOPHER SMITH

For those on the hunt for something new in brews, rest assured you'll find it at the Beer Zombies Bottle Shop. **JB**
8680 W. Warm Springs Road #170, 702-596-5167, facebook.com/bzbottleshop

BEST WINE SELECTION

LAMAII

Lamaii owner Bank Atcharawan originally made his mark in Vegas with wine, leading prestigious programs at hot spots such as Lotus of Siam, where the Rieslings are as renowned as the curries. At Lamaii, Atcharawan goes for depth over breadth. The wine list isn't a phone book filled with three-digit bottles; rather, it's a well-curated gallery, a distillation of a sommelier's experience in the span of a couple dozen bottles — each one a distinct pleasure and a revelation. **MW**
4480 Spring Mountain Road #700, 702-238-0567, lamaiilv.com

BEST COFFEE

VESTA

Coffee can be either a useful beverage to get you through the morning, or a lifelong obsession marked by almost religious fervor. At Vesta, it's definitely the latter. If you want to rediscover why coffee was something that inspired people to journey across oceans, fight pirates, pay fortunes, and explore (and exploit) jungles for, come to Vesta. Here you can get a single-origin, lovingly roasted, and



BEST OF THE CITY



PRESENTED BY

JAGUAR LAND ROVER LAS VEGAS • JLRLV.COM

SAHARA LAS VEGAS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 AT 5:30 PM
JAGUAR LAND ROVER LAS VEGAS

perfectly brewed cup that exudes character and complexity. **MW**
1114 S. Casino Center Blvd., 702-685-1777, vestacoffee.com

BEST DONUTS

SAINT HONORÉ

No sooner had we begun mourning the loss of Fractured Prune than another specialty donut shop quickly sprang up in the same exact location. Perhaps the owners of Saint Honoré knew that besting Fractured Prune's toothsome friedcakes would be a tall order, so they whirred up some ambition and set out to create what they've billed as "the first couture donut and classic beignet shop." And deliver the hauteness Saint Honoré does, most notably with artisanal yeast-based creations that even Freed's would double-take—including the spire-sprouting Le Chocolat, which looks like a pastry Gotham City and tastes like sugary Chanel. For those who lean toward traditionalism, the cake-based vegan and gluten-free rounders both deftly avoid the flavor-free aridness associated with alt-donuts and rival any cornershop frosted sponge. Fret not, purists—Saint Honoré makes great leaps but lands squarely on perfection. **MP**
9460 W. Flamingo Road #115, 702-840-3361, ilovesainthonore.com

BEST BRUNCH

ROOSTER BOY CAFÉ

Eating at Rooster Boy Café is, I imagine, a little like sitting in Chef Sonia El-Nawal's own kitchen. The café is small, intimate, with a comfortable and vine-filled outdoor space. You'll make your own cup of coffee (that's right, no baristas, just you) while you watch her and her small but symbiotic team make your *chilaquiles* in spicy salsa, with shredded chicken, cotija cheese, avocado, onion, tomato and crema, or your baked egg in brioche with arugula and white truffle oil. If brunch places can feel like chains, with their faux industrial pipes, their absentee chef-owners and their ubiquitous avocado toasts, this is real and personal eating. And because El-Nawal is so well-traveled and so familiar with global flavors, the world bleeds into your brunch: Belgium, Mexico, Lebanon. It's all right there. **KF**
2620 Regatta Drive #113, 702-560-2453, roosterboycafe.com

LEISURE + COMMUNITY

by **SCOTT DICKENSHEETS, KIM FOSTER, MATT JACOB, T.R. WITCHER**

BEST DATE NIGHT

VETRI CUCINA

Mark Vetri makes unique, elevated, and surprising food. Think oxtail lasagna or smoked goat with soft polenta. But it's not just the food that makes Vetri Cucina the most romantic restaurant in Vegas. The room is all soft chandelier lighting, blonde wood, tans, and muted browns, so elegant that it never feels clubby. Then there's that view, as dramatic as flying into McCarran. Vetri is the restaurant where, late in the evening, you lean over your *taleggio* with housemade jam and honeycomb and say the thing you've been wanting to say but haven't. Or ask the thing you've wanted to ask but haven't. Your love will never forget it. And I'm betting they will totally say yes. **KF**

The Palms, vetricucina.com

BEST INTERACTIVE/ HANDS-ON ATTRACTION

WRECK ROOM

Chinatown's Wreck Room offers visitors a unique service: the opportunity to bust shit up for 30 minutes or longer (prices start at $55). Staff outfit you in safety gear, give you a bat and a crowbar, and turn you loose on printers, TV sets, bottles, ceramics, and other goods sourced from local recyclers. Is this the sign of the end times, or our salvation from it? **TRW**

4090 Schiff Drive, wreckvegas.com, 702-405-6407

BEST NEW WAY TO REWATCH AN OLD FLICK

FLICKS ON THE FIELD

This summer and fall, instead of dialing up a cinematic classic on Netflix, head to Las Vegas Ballpark for "Flicks on the Field." On select Saturday nights from mid-August to mid-November, the home of the Las Vegas Aviators invites families to plop on the field and enjoy a popular film shown on the massive (126-foot by 31-foot) LED scoreboard. Last year's flicks included *Top Gun* and original versions of *Ghostbusters* and *Jurassic Park*. Admission is just $2 per person, concession stands are open, and — perhaps best — the state-of-the-art sound system blows away your home theater! **MJ**

thelvballpark.com/events



LAS VEGAS BALLPARK: COURTESY LAS VEGAS BALLPARK

BEST LIFESTYLE CLASSES

SUR LA TABLE

The Downtown Summerlin outpost of cookware shop Sur la Table offers a vast array of fun cooking classes on just about every kind of cuisine or dish you can imagine. Try a paella or a Moroccan stew. Make pumpkin pie or

Let Us Count the Ways

BEST DAY TRIP

ST. GEORGE, UTAH

1 The easy drive. **2** The weather. Although the topography is similar to Las Vegas', and the elevation climb is only about 850 feet, St. George's climate is much milder. The spring and fall seasons are longer, and the summer heat less intense. **3** The outdoor adventures. Did we mention the temperate climate? It makes hiking, biking, off-roading, paddleboarding, horseback riding, and golfing all the more enjoyable. **4** The plentiful festivals. From the St. George Art Festival in April to the Enterprise Cornfest in nearby Enterprise, Utah, in August to the Dickens Christmas Festival in December, St. George hosts a slew of annual events. **5** The square of history. The past meets the present at Ancestor Square, which is billed as "The Art and Soul of St. George since the 1860s." Located in the city's historic district and financial center, the square is home to five restaurants (try the Painted Pony), several shops and galleries, and a Saturday farmer's market. It's all spread across 12 buildings, six of which have historic registry designations. **6** The Broadway musicals. It's an annual tradition at the spectacular Tuacahn Amphitheater, which is nestled in the shadows of 1,500-foot red rock cliffs. From mid-May through late October, the amphitheater stage is home to post-sunset performances of classic musicals. On the docket this year are *Beauty and the Beast*, *Annie*, and *The Count of Monte Cristo*. **MJ**

pad Thai. Pick up some knife skills. Learn a few pointers on the art and science of cooking. Also, make new friends, impress your date, and enjoy a well-cooked meal — provided you followed the chef's instructions. **TRW**

1980 Festival Plaza Drive #155, surlatable.com

BEST PLACE TO TEACH KIDS SOME HISTORY

MOB MUSEUM

Ancient history? World history? U.S. history? Eh, the Clark County School District has those subjects covered. But if you want your kids (preteens and older) to get a true glimpse of what life was like in their hometown "back in the day," take them to the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement, a.k.a. the Mob Museum. Through dozens of artifacts and interactive exhibits (including a crime lab and firearms training simulator), the Mob Museum fascinates as it educates. As history lessons go, this one is certain to hold a youngster's attention. **MJ**

themobmuseum.org

BEST FAMILY PHOTO BACKDROP

3-D TRICK ART MUSEUM

Located alongside the escape rooms and ax-throwing joint in the HeadzUp complex at the Boulevard Mall, the 3-D Trick Art Museum is 28,000 square feet of eye-popping visual illusions — all designed to make it look, in photos, as if you're part of the 3-D action. Sixty backdrops in all. Cheesy? As hell. But a lot of silly fun, too, which makes it ideal for kids and adults to cut loose**.** **SD**

3542 S. Maryland Parkway, $25 adults, $13 kids, headzupvegas.com



Social Poll!

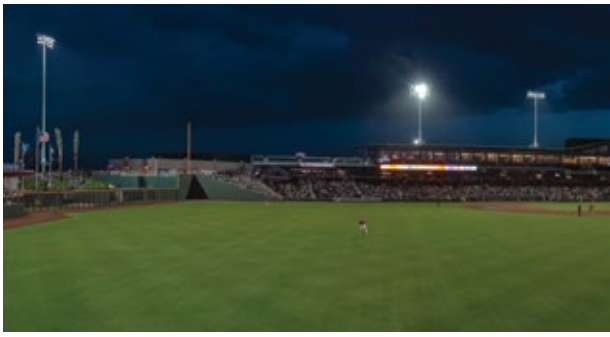
BEST PUBLIC ART OFF THE STRIP

a. *Big Rig Jig,* by Mike Ross
b. *Seven Magic Mountains,* by Ugo Rondinone
c. *Spirit Tower,* by Rita Deanin Abbey
d. *Radial Symmetry,* by Luis Valera-Rico
e. *Dream Machine,* by Wayne Littlejohn
f. *Monument to theSimulacrum,* by Stephen Hendee

BEST PLACES FOR A SELFIE

DOWNTOWN MURALS

Look, if you're into selfies, you gotta go someplace cool. Because selfies are all about showing to the world that you got It, that indelible grace of being in the right spot at the right time while making it all look easy. So grab your phone, skip the Strip, and go find a mural Downtown. There are dozens of stunning works to choose from; they're sure to up your style points. **TRW**



BEST STAYCATION SPOT

THE COSMOPOLITAN

This place built its reputation on being the ultimate urban, millennial kickback spot on the Strip. But it's also the best place to do your holiday in town, which everyone really should once a year. Why the Cosmo? Proximity. It's a pedestrian-friendly, (relatively) human-scaled stroll to the Bellagio Fountains, CityCenter, Eataly and the revamped Park MGM, and the pleasing pedestrian ramble of The Park, plus all the beautiful shops, restaurants, spas, and clubs you need. **TRW**

thecosmopolitanlasvegas.com

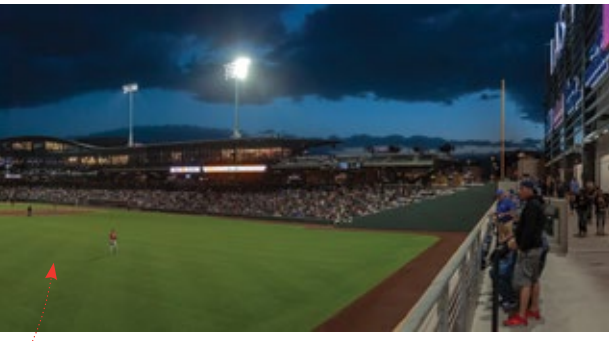
BEST SPORTS VENUE

LAS VEGAS BALLPARK

We're still on the fence about the Aviators' name and logo. But one thing we all agree on is that our longest-standing professional sports team knocked it out of the park with its new Downtown Summerlin stadium. From the mesh seats to the posh suites, from the party zones to the kids' zone, from the outfield swimming pool to the insanely huge video board, Las Vegas Ballpark was a huge hit with baseball fans during its inaugural season. In fact, the season-long attendance figure of 650,934 not only led all of Minor League Baseball, but it shattered the 37-year-old franchise's previous

AHEM!

"Why do you hate Jesse Smigel's 'Snowball'?"
— Laura Herbert



LAS VEGAS BALLPARK: CHRISTOPHER SMITH; MOB MUSEUM: COURTESY MOB MUSEUM

high mark of 387,815 set in 1992 at Cashman Field. MJ

BEST SPORTS BOOK

MANDALAY BAY

Plenty of worthy candidates, including the SuperBook at Westgate and a pair of top-notch Station Casinos-owned books at opposite ends of town (Red Rock Resort and Green Valley Ranch). But Mandalay Bay's race and sports book gets our nod for being the complete package: It's a spacious room with plenty of seats (about 300 in all); the main wall features 17 big screens and an easy-to-read betting board; and a full-service bar and the Sports Book Grill offer stadium-style eats and drinks. It's the premier place to enjoy all the action. MJ

mandalaybay.mgmresorts.com

BEST EXAMPLE OF A PUBLIC AGENCY SERVING THE PUBLIC

GOLDEN KNIGHTS EXPRESS

If we're going to criticize public agencies when they fail, we should praise 'em when they get something right. So big-time kudos to the Regional Transportation Commission for offering shuttle buses that transport Golden Knights fans to and from T-Mobile Arena. Not only is the Golden Knights Express cheap ($4 round trip), but it's convenient (pickup/drop-off locations in Summerlin, Green Valley/Henderson, Southwest, and Centennial Hills); efficient (the nonstop trip takes 20-35 minutes); and stress-free (Express riders don't have to navigate the Strip or pay absurd parking fees). One of the best perks in town. MJ

rtcsnv.com

BEST PUBLIC BUILDING

CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

Las Vegas has few public spaces to be proud of, but the Clark County Government Center is one. Partly, it's the Red Rock-inspired architecture, but the real attraction is the government center's stuffed calendar of public events: music and food festivals on the amphitheater-like grounds, art exhibits in the cavernous, 100-foot tall Rotunda. TRW

500 S. Grand Central Parkway



(PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT LAS VEGAS)

In Praise of the Barrick Museum

2019: What a year for the Barrick Museum of Art. Fast out of the gate with *Axis Mundo*, a widely acclaimed exhibit of queer Chicano art and artifacts, which has since toured internationally, the museum followed up with *Sorry for the Mess*, by Justin Favela and Ramiro Gomez. This justly praised exhibit brought into the gallery the lives, labor, and memories of working-class and immigrant Las Vegans in a bloom of multicultural energy. Thousands of local students toured the exhibit *Connective Tissue* by neuroscientist-turned-artist Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya, experiencing the intersection of art and science. Executive Director Alisha Kerlin — she saw the "interim" dropped from her title this year — says, "I was looking back and was, *Oh, my God, we did all of that in one year!* And it's not even over."



As you look back, do you see any thread between those exhibits that speaks to what the Barrick's mission is?

Yeah. We believe in what artists can do, what art can do for us, what it can say, and how it can help us articulate our world. And we are all about supporting that. *Axis Mundo* is a historical show, the first of its kind in the world. That show did so much, right? It's traveling internationally, so it puts Las Vegas on the map — and, by the way, every time I talk to (the show's organizers) they tell me we had the most visitors, more than any other venue. And they loved our opening, they felt more of a sense of community here, more than anywhere else.

It seems that with that show and *Sorry for the Mess*, in particular, there was an effort to represent groups of people who probably don't see themselves in museums very often.

That's intentional. One of the most, I think, disturbing and encouraging things we realized was that the last solo female art exhibition at the Barrick Museum was in the late 1980s. So, in 2018 we had our first solo exhibition by a woman (Tamar Ettun's *Jubilation Inflation*) — and we weren't really loud about that. I'd rather people look at the work itself instead of, *Oh, it's the first woman*, or *It's the first Chicano show*, or *It's the first show in Spanish and English*, you know? It's something we should have been doing for a long time, especially with UNLV being the most ethnically diverse campus in the country. So obviously there's a lot to do, and a lot to catch up on.

You've done a number of shows that use the gallery space in what many might see as an atypical way.

What I've noticed is that a lot of people who enter our space — not everyone but a lot of people — it might be their first time (1) on a university campus, and (2) in an art museum, ever. So that's a huge responsibility and privilege. So, for example, with the inflatables (*Jubilation Inflation*, again), come on in, have your first-time museum experience, and, yes, you can walk inside the sculpture.

And so we have a great opportunity to define and redefine what art can be. It can be painted on the wall, it can be something you walk into, it can be science, it can be interactive, it can be tires stacked up and piñatas everywhere. It can be queer Chicano artwork that existed as zines and postcards and things that couldn't be shown when they were made.

I feel like we have enough room and enough time to show all kinds of work. I do think we have a lot of responsibility to allow all kinds of voices in. As we do that, you're going to see all kinds of things you haven't seen before, things you might not expect, things that haven't been done before. It's less in opposition to traditional kinds of work; it's a matter of, like, handing the mic over. ***Scott Dickensheets***

BEST PLACE FOR A STROLL

FOX HILL PARK

At the far western reach of Summerlin is a surprisingly urban network of parks. The northernmost, Fox Hill Park, is a hilly expense with cool kids' ziplines and a commanding view. Then, unexpectedly, the park joins a narrow and cozy arroyo-like trail that winds for a mile between several neighborhoods before joining leafy Paseos Village Park. The beauty is the sense of discovery, the way the neighborhood closes in and then opens up. **TRW**

Antelope Ridge Drive

BEST PEOPLE WATCHING

THE PARK

If there was a governing body for the sport of people watching, Las Vegas would be a first-ballot Hall of Famer — there really is a sight to behold around every corner. That said, our preferred hangout spot is The Park. A winding path that funnels people to and from the Strip to T-Mobile Arena, The Park is the one of the few places where locals and tourists regularly commingle, especially before and after Vegas Golden Knights games. **MJ**



ALISHA KERLIN: CHRISTOPHER SMITH; THE PARK: COURTESY MGM RESORTS

Social Poll!

BEST HIKE

a. Arizona Hot Springs (Lake Mead)
b. Mary Jane Falls (Spring Mountains)
c. McCullough Hills Trail (Sloan Canyon)
d. Old Arrowhead Road (Valley of Fire)
e. White Rock Loop (Red Rock Canyon)

BEST PLACE TO ENJOY TIME BY YOURSELF

STATE ROUTE 159

I'm always amazed at how little traffic you encounter on the road through Red Rock Canyon — I'm talking State Route 159, not the 13-mile loop inside the conservation area. It's an easy, beautiful drive for car lovers whose idea of alone time is getting behind the wheel. Or pull over for tranquil hikes that head toward the majestic Wilson Cliffs — no entrance fees down here, and no crowds. And, come to think of it, no city, either. **TRW**

BEST ONGOING REVIVAL

WATER STREET IN HENDERSON

A stretch of road long known for dilapidated (if not shuttered) storefronts, smoke-filled casinos catering mostly to nickel slot players, and a frequently vacant convention center, the Water Street District is now a bustling hub of activity. New restaurants and bars have joined popular mainstays; ramshackle buildings and storefronts have been spruced up (as has the street itself); and the convention center has been demolished to make way for the district's forthcoming crown jewel: a new ice arena dubbed Lifeguard Arena in Henderson, which is a partnership with the Vegas Golden Knights and slated to open in July. It's all led to a new slogan few would've bought into a decade ago: "Water Street District — You Should Be Here." **MJ**

Let Us Count the Ways

BEST OLD SCHOOL VEGAS EXPERIENCE

CLASSIC NIGHT OUT

If you're of a certain age, you've undoubtedly uttered this phrase: *Boy, I really miss Old Vegas*. Good news: You actually can enjoy Vegas as it used to be (even if just for a night), and you don't even need a time machine. You just need a carefully curated itinerary, and we've got you covered: **1** Leave the jeans, stretch pants, and T-shirts in the closet. This is old-school Vegas, and you need to dress the part. Guys, that means a sleek suit (yes, including tie); gals, that means a classy dress. **2** Dinner tonight comes with a side of history. Located on Sahara just west of the Strip, the Golden Steer Steakhouse opened in 1958 and is the "joint" where Frank, Dean, and Sammy used to hang on the regular (and where Elvis, Joe DiMaggio, Natalie Wood, and Tony "The Ant" Spilotro are known to have frequented). **3** What follows dinner in old-time Vegas? A show, of course. Frank, Dean, and Sammy may be gone, but their legend lives on through *The Rat Pack Is Back*. This tribute show in the Copa Room (of course!) at the Tuscany Suites & Casino has played to rave reviews for nearly two decades. **4** There's only one way to cap an old-school Vegas night on the town: with a nightcap ... in a basement speakeasy ... that requires a "secret password" to gain entrance. We're talking about The Underground, the Mob Museum's downstairs ode to the Prohibition era. After slipping through the side door, order an era-specific cocktail (we're partial to the Old Fashioned served in a bottle tucked inside a hollowed-out book), enjoy nightly entertainment, peruse the 1920s artifacts ... and see if you can find (and access) the secret VIP room. (Now *that's* old-school Vegas!) **MJ**

we don't treat patients

WE TREAT NEIGHBORS



ER ALWAYS HERE. ALWAYS READY.

- Dizziness, fainting, abdominal pain and other symptoms
- Respiratory concerns like pneumonia and bronchitis
- Sprains, strains, breaks
- High fevers
- Chest pain or other heart attack symptoms
- Stroke symptoms
- Pediatric and adult emergencies

If you are having an emergency, call 9-1-1.

MOUNTAIN VIEW HOSPITAL

A Sunrise Health System Hospital

MountainView-Hospital.com

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED A FALL 2019 LEAPFROG HOSPITAL SAFETY GRADE

THE LEAPFROG GROUP TOP TEACHING HOSPITAL 2019

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is an elite designation from The Leapfrog Group, a national, independent watchdog that sets the highest standards for patient safety in the United States.



(PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT LAS VEGAS)

In Praise of the Strip at Dawn

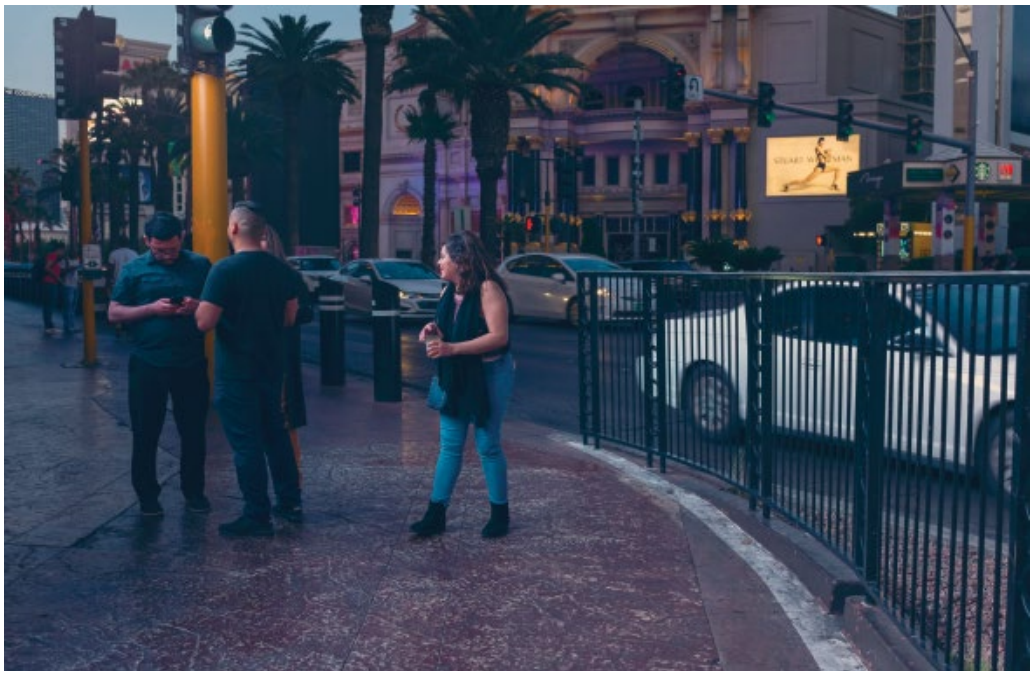
Story by **KRISTA DIAMOND**
Photography by **CHRISTOPHER SMITH**

Someone once told me that there's nothing uglier than Las Vegas Boulevard during the day, that seeing the bones of the city laid bare in the white desert sunlight, stripped of their neon façade, is something no one should experience. I disagree.

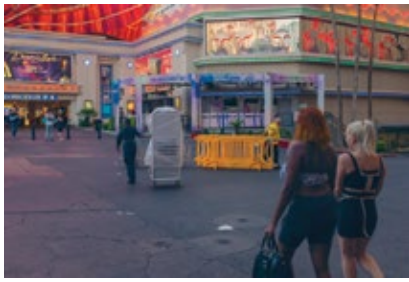
For me, it's always been the moments just before and after dawn on the Strip that evoke the deepest sense of I-shouldn't-be-here. Those hours — after the bars have closed but before the thousands of people sleeping in hotel rooms have risen — feel like purgatory.

One thing no one tells you about 3:30 a.m. on the Strip is this: You might need sunglasses. The sky is still black, the drunken masses are reaching their final crescendo, and the lights from the 270-foot tall LED screen at the Palms flash like a summer lightning storm all the way from Flamingo Road. In the distance, a billboard for 1 OAK nightclub bears the message "Ended up at 1 Oak," which might as well be the official slogan of the Strip during that transitional period between the party and the hangover. No one is really anywhere on purpose. Just past the Stratosphere, people ride rented bicycles down the middle of Las Vegas Boulevard. Barefoot women stand in dirty fountains, high heels dangling in their hands. At the Venetian, a medic guides someone onto a stretcher. Near Carnival Court, a scuffle between two men breaks out and then ends when both parties realize that they are too tired to fight, and it is time to go home.

Outside the Encore, lit-up rooms look like stars in the sky, each one representing a tiny world where those inside are ordering late-night room service, or falling into bed, or staring out at what's left of the night. There are no lights on at the nearby Fontainebleau hotel. The second tallest building in the city has been sitting



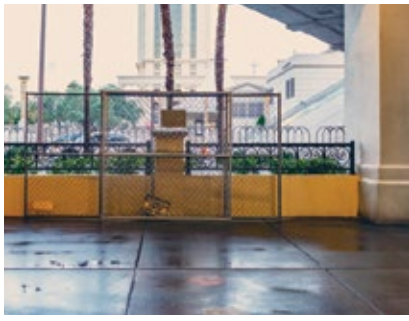












unfinished for a decade, and in the shadows of the early morning, it looms like an abandoned palace.

At 4 a.m., XS Nightclub lets out. A trail of gold confetti streams from the exit, all the way through the casino and out onto the sidewalk.

"Every night," a security guard says, looking at it.

Someone locks the door to the nightclub, despite the protestations of a trio of women who are trying to get back inside, and soon enough the din of the crowd dulls and subsides.

5 a.m. turns the Strip into a true no man's land. The chorus of Queen's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" streams through the empty casino floor at the Palazzo. A guard walks a stoic Belgian Malinois past rows of unoccupied slots. On a screen above a video blackjack machine, a beautiful blonde dressed in sequins invites the vacant room to come play.

A different sort of nocturnal species takes over outside — actual animals. Ducks float in the Bellagio fountains and waddle down the Linq Promenade toward the unmoving High Roller observation wheel. Feral cats prowl parking garages. If you walk through the gardens behind the Flamingo, you'll see the resort's flock of pale pink namesake birds waiting silently in the darkness.

If you are lucky enough or lonely enough to be wandering the city in the hours before daylight, you can witness the strangest thing of all: the sight of Las Vegas readying itself for another day. At Caesars Palace, porters push mops across marble floors. At the Bellagio Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, horticulturists replace every single stem-cut flower in the intricate topiaries. At the Mirage, divers swim in the 20,000-gallon tank behind the front desk, cleaning coral







by hand as angelfish float around them. Landscapers replant gardens in the medians along Las Vegas Boulevard. A street sweeper putters past the Arc de Triomphe outside of the Paris. Watching this routine has always felt illicit to me, as if I've just walked in on someone who is not yet dressed, or I'm watching the rehearsal before the performance.

For some reason, at almost exactly 5:41 a.m. each day, runners appear on the Strip. It is a coincidence, but it feels intentional. The sun strikes the golden tower of Mandalay Bay like some sort of urban alpenglow, lighting up discarded champagne flutes on the sidewalk below. Soon, they will be plucked off the pavement and thrown away. Las Vegas is the only place I know that throws an elaborate celebration every night, cleans up in the morning, and then immediately begins the next day's festivities. This constant resetting is like a mandala, only less spiritual. Or maybe it's extremely spiritual, if your religion consists of buskers on pedestrian bridges singing Beatles songs and the unexpected pleasure of finishing a glass of Scotch at the exact moment that the dancing neon lights turn off.

At 6:30 a.m., a Zamboni-like vehicle arrives to sweep away the confetti outside of XS Nightclub. It's strange to think that this superfluous yet mundane action is a part of someone's job. An everyday event that requires an employee to set an alarm, make coffee, and drive to the Strip while the rest of the world sleeps. This person, whoever he or she might be, climbs into the seat of the vehicle each day and navigates the halls of the casino, following the pathway of glitter and sweeping it away bit by bit until there is nothing left, as if the party never happened at all.

YES, THIS DESIGN IS AN ACTUAL MAZE.



SENSE OF PLACE

The Boulevard Mall

As a confused and despairing broke college dropout in the early '90s, I found The Vineyard a source of reassurance. It was an Italian restaurant at the front of the Boulevard Mall. At the risk of gross misremembrance, I'll let the dreamy, feely, associative part of my memory conjure a picture: I remember a cozy, natal, candle-flickering cocoon of geniality and generosity, steaming, ropy piles of pasta, and grape juleps that could magically induce me to make sudden, veering, disastrous romantic pronouncements to would-be girlfriends. Being broke, I could afford to eat at The Vineyard only rarely. That added another dimension to its allure: As an emblem of the Boulevard Mall itself, The Vineyard represented to me a portal to the consumer rites of middle-class American adulthood, a life phase in which eating at decent Italian restaurants was a key portfolio item of your identity. I always imagined the Boulevard Mall to be waiting for my official arrival. (In the fantasy, I wore blazers, I used the valet, I opened doors for my dates with balletic confidence. The closest I came to that arrival was when my mom took my broke ass to Sears for my birthday and bought me a cast-iron saucepan.)

I stumbled into some off-brand version of adulthood through other doors, and what of the Boulevard Mall? It did, too. What strange and wonderful things have happened to it! It seems stingy and unfair to murmur despondently about its decline as part of the larger story of the American shopping mall. It's not exactly thriving, either. But it's certainly *becoming* in a way that marks a distinct chapter of midtown. In its recent improvisations, the mall is consciously evolving into a family-oriented retail and entertainment complex that caters to its Hispanic and working-class neighborhood. It has become vigorously local in a way that malls — megalithic composites of chain stores — typically are not. The concourse to Galaxy Theatre is lined with portraits of Mexican cinema stars bearing short biographies in English and Spanish. The Chamango Mexican Snacks concession is constantly abuzz, as is the Christy Mexican Candy Shop. There are, of course, playlist standards: Old Navy, Hot Topic, Victoria's Secret. But these aren't as interesting as the Boulevard's locally owned stores such as Sticks & Stones. It's delightfully improbable: a fragrant and placid shop that sells all manner of crystals, candles, and sage sticks on the sincere premise of spiritual wellness. One of the clerks is named Mercy, and she is probably the only retail worker on the planet who can be said to emanate shamanic calm. Not far away, the Goodwill is bustling with bargain-hunters; the SeaQuest aquarium exhales oceanic damp. In a way, the mall is trying to sidestep its preordained history through feverish adaptation. It would require a psychic or a shaman to divine the future of the Boulevard Mall, but its current incarnation is its most expressively Las Vegas yet. ***Andrew Kiraly***

PHOTOGRAPH ***Brent Holmes***

EDUCATION NOW



50 GREAT SCHOOLS

FROM PRE-K TO POSTGRAD AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

desert COMPANION

Soar!

Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas (CASLV) believes in empowering our community by investing in our youth. We foster an environment based on 21st Century skills: Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication and Creativity. When students are free to think and dream, anything can be accomplished.

CASLV
Soaring to Excellence







NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

APPLY TODAY!

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS U.S.News CHARTER 2019

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS U.S.News SILVER 2018

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS U.S.News SILVER 2017

FIVE-STAR SCHOOL

Applications to this award-winning school are being accepted now. The first lottery cut off date is February 28th, 2020

Apply online: caslv.org/admission

SANDY RIDGE CAMPUS
GRADES 8-12
1051 Sandy Ridge Ave.
Henderson, NV 89052
(702) 776-8800
(702) 776-8803 (Fax)

WINDMILL CAMPUS
GRADES 5-7
2150 Windmill Pkwy.
Henderson, NV 89074
(702) 485-3410
(702) 722-7218 (Fax)

TAMARUS CAMPUS
GRADES K-4
8185 Tamarus St.
Las Vegas, NV 89123
(702) 269-8512
(702) 269-3258 (Fax)

CENTENNIAL CAMPUS
GRADES K-8
7951 Deer Springs Way
Las Vegas, NV 89131
(702) 685-4333
(702) 685-7525 (Fax)

NELLIS AFB CAMPUS
GRADES PREK-8
42 Baer Dr.,
Las Vegas, NV 89115
(702) 643-5121
(702) 643-5138 (Fax)

EASTGATE CAMPUS
GRADES K-7
7777 Eastgate Rd.
Henderson, NV 89011
(702) 489-9797
(702) 489-9191(Fax)



MAKING THE GRADE

OUR ANNUAL EDUCATION GUIDE COVERING PRE-SCHOOLS TO COLLEGE

Las Vegas offers a unique, family-friendly lifestyle with plenty of housing options, robust employment prospects, a range of entertainment options including a burgeoning sports landscape, and a variety of excellent education opportunities—from pre-school to grad school.

Clark County School District (CCSD) is the fifth largest school district in the country. More than 320,000 students, ranging from kindergarten through 12th grade, are enrolled in 336 CCSD schools.

Several CCSD schools are magnets: themed programs that are designed to attract a diverse student body. These federally funded programs have a specific focus, such as Science, Math, Engineering and Technology (STEM), performing arts, language immersion, or International Baccalaureate (IB) curricula. Letting students study areas of interest that they're passionate about leads to higher engagement in classes and ultimately a better educational result. There are no tuition, application or entrance fees for magnets.

Charter schools are another popular option with parents who appreciate their flexible curricula. There are 24 of these independently run public schools throughout the Vegas Valley.

Private schools provide parents with a choice between different teaching philosophies, learning environments, and religious affiliations. There are more than 75 individual private schools in the Vegas Valley, many of which are nationally recognized.

Other multifaceted learning opportunities include the School of Rock, where kids are educated on the finer points of rock-n-roll; discovering how to be a gondolier at the Gondola University at The Venetian; getting hands-on experience with aquatic mammals as a Dolphin Trainer for a Day; channeling a favorite NASCAR driver at The Richard Petty Driving Experience, and more.

■ Founded by Wharton School of Business alum Connie Yeh, **9TH BRIDGE SCHOOL** *(310 S 9th St, Las Vegas, 89101)* is an independent, non-profit, early childhood and elementary school, enrolling students 12 months old to 5th grade. The school's mission is to cultivate independent thinkers and creative problem solvers through a project-based curriculum designed to foster critical thinking, social-emotional learning and integrated academic skills. Designed to mindfully develop every aspect of a child from empathy to language to math, the school blends instruction and deep exploration with student interest, preparing students to become leaders of their own lives. 9th Bridge School is nationally accredited by NAEYC and rated 5 out of 5 stars by QRIS.

■ **ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES ACADEMY** *(2501 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas 89106)* is a magnet public high school in Las Vegas with a mission to empower a diverse student body to succeed in a competitive world by promoting academic concepts, technological skills, and ethical behavior. Offering 25 Advanced Placement (AP) courses in seven areas of study, A-TECH was ranked #1 in the state of Nevada by U.S. News and World report in 2017, and is a 2019 recipient of the Blue Ribbon School Award of Excellence by the US Department of Education for the third time in its history.

■■ **ALEXANDER DAWSON SCHOOL AT RAINBOW MOUNTAIN** *(10845 W. Desert Inn Road, Las Vegas, 89135)*, located on 33 acres in Summerlin, is Nevada's first Stanford University Challenge Success partner school for students in early childhood through grade eight. Utilizing the unique Challenge Success framework, Dawson uses research-based strategies and programs that emphasize student wellbeing and a healthy school-life balance to create more engaged, motivated, and resilient learners. In addition, Dawson's curriculum promotes the principles of design thinking to encourage deeper learning in our students through extensive research, exploration, discussion, experimentation, and play. At Dawson, Challenge Success and design thinking are not just a set of skills or philosophies, but a campus-wide cultural mindset that places a premium on creative, innovative, and student-centered approaches to every aspect of campus life.

■■■ **ANDRE AGASSI COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY** *(1201 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Las Vegas, 89106)* is a kindergarten through twelfth grade, tuition-free public charter school. Founded by tennis player Andre Agassi, a native of Las Vegas, Agassi Prep maximizes the opportunity for academic achievement by requiring students to attend school for an additional two hours per day and an additional ten days per year. The students attending Agassi Prep are selected by a public computer-based lottery system. Preference is given to children living in a two-mile radius from the school, which is a low-income neighborhood. There are no entrance exams or tuition fees required for students to attend. Students and parents are required to sign a Code of Excellence pledging a commitment to fulfill school requirements, including community service hours.

■ **BASIC ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES** *(400 Palo Verde Drive, Henderson 89015)*, serving grades 9-12, was the first high school in Henderson. Home of the Wolves, the school's motto is, "The strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack." Basic Academy is a candidate school for three International Baccalaureate programs, each of which develop an understanding of languages, culture and global issues. An emphasis on career and technical education includes tracks for business, computers, forensic science and fashion.

■ **BISHOP GORMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL** *(5959 S. Hualapai Way, Las Vegas 89148)* has become rooted in the fabric of Las Vegas over the last sixty years with a mission centered on teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, preparing students for higher education and creating a community where service is valued and celebrated. The Class of 2019 received over $31 million in college scholarship and boasts a 98% college-bound rate.

■ **CANYON SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL** *(350 East Alexander Road, North Las Vegas, 89032)* is a public high school serving grades 9-12. Canyon Springs is home to the Leadership and Law Preparatory Academy, a college preparatory magnet program which offers a four-year program in legal studies. There is a fully functioning courtroom on campus.

■ Home of the Bulldogs, **CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL** *(10200 W. Centennial Parkway, Las Vegas, 89149)* is a public high school serving grades 9-12. Students have received National Merit Finalist Recognitions, scholarships, and Military Academy Appointments. The school's NJROTC Program has repeatedly been selected as the number one unit in the nation. The Bulldogs have earned over 50 division championships, more than 28 region championships, and fifteen state championships.

■■ **CHALLENGER SCHOOL** *(challengerschool.com)* is an independent, non-profit private school serving Pre-K through 8th Grade students with four locations in the Las Vegas Valley. The curriculum builds on a foundation of reading, composition, math, history, and logic. Recognizing that the stimulation the brain receives after birth create the connections for intelligence, Challenger's teaching methods maintain the circuits in the brain and helps each child build new ones through a structured and encouraging learning environment.

■ **CHAPARRAL HIGH SCHOOL** *(3850 Annie Oakley Drive, Las Vegas, 89121)* is a public high school located on the east side of the valley serving grades 9-12. The school's pioneering spirit is embodied in its cowboy mascot and its motto: Rigor, Relevance, Relationships, and Responsibility. In addition to foundational coursework, Chaparral offers Mariachi, Journalism, Culinary, We the People, and Forensic Science classes



Innovation Happens Here.

Situated in one of the most culturally diverse communities in the nation, the UNLV College of Education offers a unique and responsive learning environment that prepares students to be successful and impactful education practitioners and researchers who transform the communities they serve. Our and students are committed to being a leading source of significant knowledge and a creator of innovative models across the spectrum of education and behavioral health, and our research and scholarship continually shapes policy and practice across our areas of expertise.

UNLV | College of EDUCATION

*The future is **now**.* Find more at **unlv.edu/education**

and recently doubled graduation rates. The school has a robust athletics department with spring, fall, and winter sports, including football, soccer, golf and swimming.

■ With a student-to-faculty ratio of 23 to 1, **COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA** *(csn.edu)* is a fully accredited institution offering over 180 degrees and certificates in more than 70 academic programs—with 24 degrees and certificates available entirely online. There are three main campuses in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, and Henderson, as well as multiple sites and centers throughout the Southern Nevada area. A variety of clubs, activities and organizations are offered to keep students engaged and connected. The CSN Coyotes are national baseball champions and are also represented in team softball, soccer, and volleyball.

■ The highly-rated **CORONADO PREP PRESCHOOL** *(2650 Sunridge Heights Parkway, Henderson, 89052)* provides Infant Care, Toddler Care, Two's Care and Preschool for 3- to 5-year-olds. Coronado strives to develop readiness skills and instill a love for learning at an early age in a home-like environment. Families are encouraged to visit and participate in daily events through a "open door" policy that includes a newsletter, weekly memos, and a live video monitoring system in which parents can watch live from anywhere with a cell phone or desktop computer.

■ A five-star school, **CORAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE** *(7951 Deer Springs Way, Las Vegas, 89131)* has received distinguished awards and national rankings, including being named one of the Best High Schools in the nation by US News and World Report for 2019. A K-12 state sponsored tuition-free public charter with an emphasis on STEM education, including computer coding, engineering, robotics, 3-D technologies, and other cutting-edge specialties. CASLV has five campuses throughout the Las Vegas Valley: two in Las Vegas, two in Henderson, and one at Nellis Air Force Base. Its students have won national academic competitions, been awarded prestigious scholarships, and earned admissions into the nation's best universities.

■ Through partnerships with the Culinary Union 226, Bartenders Union 165, and 32 major properties on the Las Vegas Strip, **CULINARY ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS** *(710 W. Lake Mead Blvd., North Las Vegas, 89030)* provides students with real-world training in 12 different classifications. Academy students gain hands-on experience by cooking for the Westside Bistro, the Academy's restaurant, as well as preparing and delivering meals to the needy in the community.

■ **DEL SOL ACADEMY OF THE PERFORMING ARTS** *(3100 E. Patrick Lane, Las Vegas, 89120)* offers a comprehensive high school experience, in addition to selected magnet curricula. Students may choose one of the following magnet majors: Costume Design, Dance, Mariachi, Band, Orchestra, Vocal, Music Production, Technical Theater, and Theater. Magnet students have access to community internships, Artist-in-Residence programs, and performance opportunities. As they partake in a challenging and rigorous curriculum in all content areas, students have the unique opportunity to study the performing arts—while still benefitting from a comprehensive environment rich in athletics, visual arts, service organizations, clubs, and countless student activities.

■ **EAST CAREER & TECHNICAL ACADEMY** *(705 Vegas Valley Drive, Las Vegas, 89142)* is a comprehensive magnet high school that offers several distinct program areas of study. Students select their program of choice when applying for admission. Students can choose coursework in Education, Medical Professions, Culinary Arts, Entertainment Marketing & Hospitality, Automotive Mechanical Technology, Information Technology Systems, Construction Technology, and Electronics Technology. Rigorous coursework, hands-on projects, job-shadowing, and internships will give students first-hand experience in their selected program areas. In addition, students can earn college credits through the 2+2 Tech Prep program and through Advanced Placement Courses.

■ **FAITH LUTHERAN ACADEMY** *(2700 S. Town Center, Las Vegas, 89135)* is a private Christian School in Summerlin. Faculty and staff focus on providing a safe, nurturing environment with a quality, Christ-centered education for students from Kindergarten through Grade 5. Students are encouraged to grow in their faith, to develop their gifts and talents, to serve and respect others, and to be well prepared leaders in their education in this digital age. Faith Lutheran Academy is accredited by AdvancED and the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA).

■■ **FAITH LUTHERAN MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL** (*2015 S. Hualapai Way, Las Vegas, NV 89117*) is the largest private school in Nevada, with over 1,900 students enrolled for the 2019 – 2020 academic year. The school's 50-acre campus is located near Downtown Summerlin, and offers traditional college preparatory curriculum, and specialized technical and creative academies, including STEM, Justice & Advocacy, WCG Business & Entrepreneurship, Academy of Film & Broadcast, Christ Academy, Hospitality and Tourism and the Conservatory of Fine Arts. The school offers award-winning athletic programs, a research greenhouse, and over 175 extracurricular opportunities in athletics, clubs and fine arts programs for high school and middle school students.

■ **GILBERT MAGNET SCHOOL FOR COMMUNICATION AND CREATIVE ARTS** *(2101 W. Cartier Ave., North Las Vegas, 89032)* is an elementary magnet school serving pre-kindergarten through 5th grade children. The school's guiding philosophy is that the arts are a way to learn and a way to live. The curriculum centers on integrated instruction and a climate for teacher learning and collaboration, infusing artistic and creative methodologies. The authentic

HENDERSON
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL





Your child deserves an educational experience that delivers academic excellence within a challenging and rewarding environment.

Henderson International delivers a prestigious private school experience which will enlighten, inspire and engage your child.

To schedule a tour, please contact us at admissions@hendersonschool.com or phone us on 702.818.2100



Personalized Learning • Student Centric • Community Engagement

NCA CASI • NWAC • SACS CASI
ACCREDITED
AdvancED

If you'd like to learn more about becoming part of the Henderson International School family, please contact us.

702.818.2100 | HendersonSchool.com

integration of the arts into content areas and school-wide events strongly encourages and supports students' academic success and positive character development.

■ ■ **HENDERSON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL** *(1165 Sandy Ridge Ave., Henderson 89052)* is private, preschool through 8th-grade co-ed college-preparatory school. The school's STEAM curriculum focuses not only on science, technology, engineering, and math, but also on art. The international emphasis includes a homestay boarding program that provides opportunities for students from around the globe. The school is also a satellite site for The Western Talent Search, offered through the Center for Bright Kids.



■ ■ ■ **IMAGINE SCHOOLS AT MOUNTAINVIEW** *(6610 Grand Montecito Parkway. Las Vegas, 89149)* was founded in 2004 as a national non-profit network of pre-K-12 charter schools preparing students for lives of leadership, accomplishment and exemplary character. Imagine Schools' vision is for every student to reach his or her full potential and discover the pathways for life-long success. The school operates as tuition free based charter school that accepts eligible student applications on a first come, first serve basis. Curriculum is characterized by challenging academic standards that lead to high achievement for all students.

■ **JO MACKEY ACADEMY OF LEADERSHIP AND GLOBAL COMMUNICATION** *(2726 Englestad, North Las Vegas, 89030)* is a 5-star magnet school serving pre-K through 5th grade students. Jo Mackey's program is built around a philosophy of 3 Cs: Positive Character, Strong Citizenship, and Outstanding Communication, all elements that are needed to be successful leaders in a global society. The school is named for Mrs. Jo Mackey, who came to Las Vegas around 1925 and devoted her life to the under-privileged and to the handicapped, being handicapped herself. Her legacy is carried on through student participation in service projects, which are undertaken by students in every grade level.

■ ■ **JOURNEY EDUCATION** *(2710 S. Rainbow Blvd. Las Vegas, 89146)* is a private K-8th Grade school founded in 2007. Journey offers a personalized approach to learning through multi-aged classroom groupings with a small teacher-to-student ratio, enabling children to work at academic ability rather than by age. Academics provide students with a strong foundation in reading, writing, grammar, math, science, and history. Admissions are based on space and following a one-on-one admissions assessment.

UNLV









Session 1: May 20 – June 7
Session 2: June 10 – July 12
Session 3: July 15 – August 16
SUMMERTERM.UNLV.EDU

SUMMER TERM

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

■ **LAS VEGAS ACADEMY OF THE ARTS** *(315 S. Seventh St., Las Vegas, 89101)* is an award-winning magnet high school. Located in the center of the Las Vegas High School Historical District, the Las Vegas Academy serves students in grades 9 through 12. Students may pursue a major in band, vocal music, dance, guitar, international studies (French, Japanese, and Spanish), mariachi, orchestra, photography, piano, studio art, technical theatre, theatre, visual design, and World Jazz studies. Students attend classes in 85-minute blocks, as compared with the standard 50 minutes in a comprehensive high school, allowing for more intensive instruction.

■ **LAS VEGAS HIGH SCHOOL** *(6500 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, 89142)* is a public high school and home of the Wildcats. Along with attending challenging academic classes, students can participate in sports, CTE courses, the school's performing arts program, or its AJROTC program. Students can also join one of the 40 different clubs and organizations on campus. The Wildcats have won numerous championships, and their athletics programs are recognized as some of the best in Nevada.

■■ Known for their back-to-basics approach to learning, **LEGACY TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS** *(legacytraditional.org)*, with locations in North Las Vegas, Southwest Las Vegas, and Henderson, is a non-profit network of tuition-free, public charter schools that emphasizes a rigorous education including the arts, physical education and extensive athletics and extracurricular activities. The curriculum develops highly-capable learners with a dynamic pace of study, high expectations, self-contained K-8 classrooms, the Spalding Language Arts curriculum, the accelerated Saxon Math curriculum, and more.

■ **MILAN INSTITUTE OF COSMETOLOGY** *(710 S. Tonopah Drive, Las Vegas, 89106)* offers career training in beauty, business, healthcare, industrial, information technology, and massage. Because instructors are professionals in their respective fields, they bring relevant, on-the-job experience to the classroom. Excellent training and job-placement assistance enable students to become enterprising professionals. Because Milan is well known to employers for providing the most advanced, up-to-date curriculum, graduates can more easily gain employment and advance in their new careers.

■■ **NASRI ACADEMY FOR GIFTED CHILDREN** *(3695 Lindell Road, Las Vegas, 89103)* serves kindergarten through 8th grade students. Understanding that gifted children are unique and require a specialized learning environment, Nasri provides students with hands-on, collaborative, integrated experiences, to tackle real-world projects, through integrated Learning Academic Blocks. Programs include, Art, Music, Theater, Spanish, Robotics, Coding, and Innovation & Design.

■ **NEVADA CAREER INSTITUTE** *(3231 N. Decatur Blvd. #201, Las Vegas, 89130)* is a for-profit college offering Diploma, Associate Degree and Certification Programs in health care that can be completed in less than a year. A leader in allied health education, Nevada Career Institute offers affordable training programs in Medical Assisting, Surgical Technology, Medical Insurance Billing, and Massage Therapy. Programs combine rigorous classroom studies with hands-on training. A choice of day or evening classes accommodate busy schedules, and some coursework is available online.

■■ **NEVADA LEARNING ACADEMY** *(nvlearningacademy.net)* is a CCSD tuition-free online secondary public school, providing opportunities for




Dawson Middle School's
Performance of Shakespeare's
"A Midsummer Night's Dream"
THE
ALEXANDER
DAWSON
SCHOOL
AT RAINBOW MOUNTAIN
The Dawson Difference
WE PREPARE OUR GRADUATES TO
THRIVE NO MATTER WHICH PATH
THEY CHOOSE IN LIFE.
702.949.3600 | www.adsrm.org



Touro University Nevada

A MEMBER OF THE TOURO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SYSTEM





LEADING

the way in

TEACHING

the health care

providers and

educators of

tomorrow while

CARING

for our community.

Largest Medical School in Nevada

- Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
- Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Doctor of Education
  ~ Education Administration and Leadership
- Occupational Therapy Doctorate
- Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies
- Master of Science in Medical Health Sciences
- Master of Science in Nursing
  ~ Family Nurse Practitioner
- Master of Education
  ~ Curriculum & Instruction – School Counseling
  ~ School Administration
  ~ Special Education
- RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Education Advanced Studies

For more information about Touro University Nevada or for a campus tour, please call

702.777.3100

or visit our website at

tun.touro.edu

874 American Pacific Drive, Henderson NV 89014

Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and licensed in Nevada by the Commission on Post-Secondary Education. Touro University Nevada does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, age, sex, gender, color, creed, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or disability.

students in grades 6-12 to engage in online courses to enhance their learning experience. Offering a full catalog of online middle and high school courses to choose from, including honors, Advanced Placement®, Career Pathways and other college preparatory courses. At NVLA students benefit from an individualized program tailored to meet their educational goals.

■ **NEVADA STATE COLLEGE** *(1300 Nevada State Drive, Henderson, 89002)* is a four-year public college offering more than 26 majors and 16 minors. Known for its small classes and experienced faculty, fields of study include the liberal arts and sciences, and more. Students can learn in-class or online, or a hybrid of both. All instruction is career-focused, so technology and a hands-on approach are high priorities. Recognizing that education goes beyond academics, Nevada State College also has a robust and diverse student life with a variety of clubs and organizations and the opportunity to participate in student government.

■ **NEVADA STATE HIGH SCHOOL** *(earlycollegenv.com)* is a tuition-free public charter school with six Nevada locations serving high-school juniors and seniors. With a laser-focused mission to support students in an authentic college environment, the school allows juniors and seniors to earn both high school and college credits through Nevada's dual enrollment law. The school has six locations: Henderson, Downtown Las Vegas, Southwest Las Vegas, Summerlin, Sunrise, and Reno. The high school strives to complete students' core college classes, but some students have gone beyond the basics to earn an associate degree before graduation.

■ **NORTHWEST CAREER & TECHNICAL ACADEMY** *(8200 W. Tropical Parkway, Las Vegas, 89149)* is a public magnet school serving grades 9-12. Northwest Career & Technical Academy emphasizes college preparation and



ENROLLING NOW

FOR 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

FAITH LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Preschool Programs for Students Ages 2-5 Years Old

Feeder School to Faith Lutheran Academy

Fostering Relations with Families and Communities

Loving God and Others

Learning Through Play Based, Age-Appropriate Program



Faith Lutheran Preschool

10405 Griffith Peak Drive
702-921-2727



FAITH LUTHERAN ACADEMY

Where Faith Meets Excellence



Faith in Jesus is Modeled, Witnessed and Instructed through Loving Relationshipis and Academic Excellence



A proud feeder school to Faith Lutheran Middle School and High School.

Please visit our website at
faithlutheranacademy.org
To schedule a tour, contact us at
702-921-2777
2700 S. Town Center
Las Vegas NV 89135



offers several programs for students to choose from: Engineering & Design, Hospitality, Mechanical Technology, Culinary Arts, Construction Technology, Early Childhood Education, Teacher Education, Kindergarten, Medical Professions, Media Communications, and Biotechnology. There are over 50 clubs and activities for students to participate in, including Anime Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Hip-Hop Club, Physics Club, and Robotics Club.

■ **PALO VERDE HIGH SCHOOL** *(333 S. Pavilion Center Drive, Las Vegas, 89144)* is a public high school in Summerlin serving grades 9-12. The mission of Palo Verde is to prepare students to realize their academic, creative, emotional, physical, social, and career potentials as contributing members of a multicultural society in an international community of mutual respect. The school achieves this mission through challenging coursework, a robust athletics program and an array of activities.

■ **RAINBOW DREAMS ACADEMY** *(50 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Las Vegas, 89106)* is a public charter school serving students in grades K-6. Located in a 13,028-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility, students are educated and prepared to challenge their intellect, maximize their talents, respect themselves and others, and take pride in their heritage in a nurturing learning community. The curriculum integrates English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, reading, computer technology, fine and performing arts, and Spanish with an infusion of African-American history and multicultural learning. With the philosophy that music and dance can be vehicles for social change, Rainbow Dreams offers three Music & Dance Programs.

■ **RANCHO HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIES OF AVIATION AND MEDICAL SCIENCES** *(1900 Searles Ave., Las Vegas, 89101)* is a "school within a school" inside Rancho High School. Part of a comprehensive high school serving grades 9-12, the RHS Academy provides students with rigorous and relevant learning experiences within the magnet programs as well as in the general curriculum, and students can choose from electives such as orchestra, theater, dance, band, choir, and art. After-school athletic programs and club activities are also available. The Rancho High School Medical Academy is the head-start program for those interested in becoming doctors, dentists, pharmacists, veterinarians, and nurses. "Real-life"





Through our kids, we see **HEROISM.**

We provide the highest level of care, with services that are the first—and only—of their kind in Nevada. Because our children are everything, and their fight is ours.

Nevada's ONLY Designated Pediatric Trauma Center • Nevada's ONLY Pediatric Burn Center • Nevada's ONLY Pediatric Transplant Center • Nevada's ONLY Hospital accepted as an Associate Member of the Children's Hospital Association • Named one of the Top Five Children's Hospitals in the Country by Consumer Reports for zero infection rates in the Pediatric ICU

UMCSN.COM | CHNV.ORG

UMC UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER | Children's Hospital

NEVADA NEEDS TEACHERS.
Sierra Nevada University has been educating them for over 25 years.



SNJ LAS VEGAS | SIERRA NEVADA UNIVERSITY
TEACHINNEVADA.COM
775-TEACHER | 702.43.TEACH
graducateadmissions@sierranevada.edu

DONIZETTI'S
THE DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT
MARCH 20 & 21
TROESH STUDIO THEATER @ THE SMITH CENTER
vegas city opera



■ ELEMENTARY ■ MIDDLE SCHOOL ■ HIGH SCHOOL
■ COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY/VOCATIONAL

medical work, including virtual autopsies, suturing, and CPR, gives students insight into the medical field. The only one of its kind in the District and one of only a handful in the United States, Rancho High School's Academy of Aviation offers two dynamic and unique programs for students interested in aviation and aerospace. Other offerings include the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Dual Enrollment Program and Biomedicine.

■ **ROBERT O. GIBSON MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY** *(3900 W. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, 89107)* is a magnet school serving grades 6-8. The Leadership Academy fosters the academic success, personal growth, and social development of middle school students through service to their communities. The curriculum centers on English, Math, and Science, and uses the real world as a classroom in which students develop as leaders who take initiative, solve problems, work as a team, and demonstrate their abilities while addressing real community needs. Eighth graders can participate in the Dual Language Immersion Academy, a bilingual program of Spanish and English.

■ **ROSEMAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES** *(11 Sunset Way, Henderson, 89014)* is a private, non-profit university with campuses in Henderson, Summerlin and South Jordan, Utah. The University is comprised of the College of Dental Medicine, offering an Advanced Education in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics/MBA residency and Doctor of Dental Medicine program; College of Pharmacy, offering a Doctor of Pharmacy and Professional Continuing Education; College of Nursing, offering a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner; and an MBA program. Roseman's programs are unique in that they utilize the Six-Point Master Learning Model.

■ **SANDY SEARLES MILLER ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES** *(4851 E. Lake Mead Blvd., Las Vegas, 89115)* is a globally recognized International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme serving Pre-K through Grade 5 students. It's the first school in Nevada to receive the top magnet school award in the USA. Miller is recognized as a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) school. A partnership with Desert Research Institute provides students with opportunities to engage with scientists in various fields of study. Miller provides Spanish instruction to all students. Students are involved in their learning through inquiry and discovery in an internationally-relevant and rigorous program of study.

■ **SIERRA NEVADA UNIVERSITY** *(4300 E. Sunset Road #E1 Henderson NV 89014)* is a private, four-year institution on the shores of Lake Tahoe in Northern Nevada with a campus in Henderson. Sierra Nevada University combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental , social , economic and educational sustainability. The Henderson campus offers several masters degrees in Teaching & Education. All teacher education programs are structured for working adults, and led by experienced teachers and administrators.

■ **SIERRA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL** *(8100 W. Robindale Road, Las Vegas, 89113)* is a public high school in Spring Valley serving grades 9-12. The school recently produced two National Merit Finalists, and several students have gone on to attend prestigious institutions such as Stanford, Berkeley and West Point after graduation. Known for its strong robotics team, Sierra Vista won the respected Community Award in Robotics and was a Robotics World Qualifier. They were State Finalists in Cross Country, Wrestling, and Volleyball, and the school won a National Championship in Orchestra.



CHOOSE NEVADA LEARNING ACADEMY!

The Nevada Learning Academy at CCSD is a tuition-free online public school for students in grades 6-12 who want flexible and personalized learning options. Students engage in high-quality digital coursework that enhances their learning experience in a wide variety of classes including Honors, Advanced Placement,Dual Enrollment, Cisco, and Health Science. As the premier public online learning institution, Nevada Learning Academy at CCSD has set the standard for online learning in the Clark County School District and Nevada. NVLA merges distance education and digital education for a learn anytime, anywhere experience. Choose your learning path - Choose NVLA!

NEVADA LEARNING ACADEMY AT CCSD

CCSD CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

3050 E. FLAMINGO ROAD, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89121 | 702-799-NVLA (6852) | nvlearningacademy.net



2710 S. Rainbow Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89146
(702) 327-5340 | journeyeducation.org

JOURNEY EDUCATION

DISCOVER THE JOURNEY EDUCATION EXPERIENCE



Where children learn, grow, and develop in a nurturing, individualized educational environment

Making the right school choice is one of the most important decisions you will make for your child and your family. Where your child spends their formative educational years will shape a life-long love of learning and help develop a strong work ethic. A nurturing environment will help build confidence and shape a broader world view. **Journey Education**, a private Las Vegas school for children Kindergarten through eighth grade, can help.

The right environment

- **Journey Education** provides an environment conducive to learning. School is where your child will spend a great deal of time working, growing, and playing. It is important that a school provides safety, happiness, and a love of learning.

- **Journey Education** provides an individualized education. Finding a school that recognizes where your child is in his or her development can make all the difference. Because children grow and develop at different rates, it is important that the educational system honors each child's development. By doing this, your child is challenged to be their best self while fostering confidence in their abilities.

- **Journey Education** creates a foundation for a lifetime of learning. Elementary and middle school years are foundational to growth throughout a child's life, particularly in the formative years of Kindergarten and first grade. **Journey Education** is serious about your child obtaining a solid understanding of reading, writing, and math that will serve their entire life.

The right connection

- **The Journey Education** experience is one of encouragement and friendship where students, parents and faculty enjoy a strong sense of community. Parents are welcomed, supported, and listened to. Our teachers love to come to work where they are supported by administration, and students are excited and engaged.

The right approach

- **Journey Education** uses a model of individualized education which features a small campus and small student-teacher ratios which allows faculty to gain insights to meet each student's individual needs. A unique daily schedule is developed for these adjustments. **Journey Education** also allows family flexibility by offering four-day or five-day school week options.

The right time

- **Journey Education** recognizes the importance of kindergarten and first grade. The concepts learned at this early stage of a child's academic life serve as the foundation for everything taught in the coming years. With the bar set high, and a strong foundation under them, Kindergarten and first grade students are set up for success the rest of their lives.

- **Journey Education** offers a unique educational experience not found anywhere else. Academics as well as principles and values are incorporated into everyday learning in a positive environment to learn, grow, and develop. Discover for yourself how **Journey Education** can make a difference for your child.

Schedule a tour at Journey Education and give your child the best start to a great education. Call 702-327-5340 for a tour or visit JourneyEducation.org. Open Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year begins February 18, 2020. New students application fee is waived by mentioning this article.

2710 S. Rainbow Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89146
(702) 327-5340 | journeyeducation.org

JOURNEY EDUCATION

■ ■ **SILVER SANDS MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL** *(1841 Whitney Mesa Drive, Henderson, 89014)* is a hybrid charter school that serves grades K through 8. Silver Sands Montessori is the only public Montessori school in Southern Nevada. Students from kindergarten to eighth grade engage in cultural and social studies as well as learning practical life skills, Spanish, art, and music. As part of the Montessori method, children are taught to develop independence, respect and an understanding of cultural differences.

■ ■ ■ **THE ADELSON EDUCATIONAL CAMPUS** *(9700 Hillpointe Road, Las Vegas, 89134)* is a preschool-through-grade-12 independent private school based on academic excellence and Jewish values. The Adelson Educational Campus consists of two schools: The Lower School for students from 18 months through 5th grade and the Upper School for grades 6–12. The Adelson Educational Campus strives to develop students into caring, perceptive, engaged thinkers, who are fully prepared for top universities at home and abroad. Adelson Campus is a drug-free campus and recently launched a $4 million technology lab called the Startup Incubator. In 2018, Adelson Campus was named the most beautiful private high school in Nevada by *Architectural Digest*. In 2019, Adelson Campus was named Best in Las Vegas, Private School by the *Las Vegas Review Journal*.

■ **TOURO UNIVERSITY** *(874 American Pacific Drive, Henderson, 89014)* is a non-profit, Jewish-sponsored, private institution focused on the health sciences and education. Touro offers a wide range of degree programs in allied health sciences and education, as well as osteopathic medicine. The Touro campus is also home to both a full-service patient health clinic, staffed by practicing faculty members, and a multidisciplinary Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities. In addition to serving the community through care, both facilities serve as on-site learning laboratories for students across the disciplines.

■ Recognized as a top research institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, **UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS** *(unlv.edu)* is a public university situated on 332 acres roughly 1.6 miles east of the Las Vegas Strip. UNLV has more than 350 degrees to choose from. The Honors College provides a distinct course path for undergraduates with a state-of-the-art curriculum and access to academic and career advising, including a dedicated Academic Success Center. UNLV is also becoming a home for the study of



IMAGINE SCHOOLS at Mountain View

K-6 TUITION FREE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

Developing Character.
Enriching Minds.

NOW ENROLLING

More information or to enroll visit:
www.imaginemountainview.org

6610 Grand Montecito Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89149
702.253.0251 | www.imaginemountainview.org

facebook.com/imagineschoolsatmountainview

THE UNIVERSITY OF

THE FAST TRACK TO CAREER SUCCESS.

Competency-based education lets you fly through what you already know and focus on what you still need to learn.

Earn an accredited bachelor's or master's degree in business, IT, education, or healthcare.

Visit **nevada.wgu.edu** today!

Online. Nonprofit.
Surprisingly affordable.

WGU NEVADA®



robotics and unmanned aerial systems industries, with high-quality research opportunities and associated academic programs. UNLV has celebrated programs in hospitality administration, creative writing, nursing, law and dispute resolution, entertainment engineering & design, architecture, sciences, fine arts, and more. UNLV also has a number of notable graduate schools, including the William S. Boyd School of Law, which is particularly well regarded for its legal writing program; the College of Education, which offers nationally recognized Master's and Doctoral degree programs; and the College of Business. The Lee Business School offers five master's degree programs -including the MBA and Executive MBA, plus nine undergraduate programs- and is among just 181 business colleges and schools worldwide to hold international dual accreditation in business and accounting by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. UNLV is also home to the prominent Black Mountain Institute, a literary center dedicated to promoting discourse on today's most contentious topics. UNLV's Performing Arts Center is a home for the arts in Southern Nevada, nationally known for its musical and theatrical offerings. The popular Rebels athletic teams compete in the NCAA Division I Mountain West Conference. The Science and Engineering Building boasts over 200,000 square feet of laboratory and teaching space, high-tech conference rooms and integrated research areas. Opportunities for research are available through the university's academic hubs, such as the Center for Gaming Research, the Center for Information and Communication Technology and the Arnold Shaw Popular Music Research Center. UNLV School of Dental Medicine is the only four-year accredited dental school in Nevada. UNLV's Summer Term, a division of educational outreach, is a self-supporting program which empowers students to get ahead and graduate sooner. By offering additional opportunities to earn college credit students reap the benefits of attaining up to an additional 18 credits for undergraduate students, and 12 credits for graduate students, ultimately fast-tracking their degree.



An independent private school offering preschool through eighth grade

Desert Hills 410-7225
8175 West Badura Ave.

Green Valley 263-4576
1725 East Serene Ave.

Los Prados 839-1900
5150 North Jones Blvd.

Summerlin 878-6418
9900 Isaac Newton Way

Open Enrollment begins January 21!

CHALLENGER SCHOOL

© 2020, Challenger Schools
Challenger School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

DRIVEN
BY AMBITION



Ranked in the top 100 professional evening MBA programs by U.S. News & World Report, an MBA from the LEE MBA is a worthwhile investment in your future.

- Flexible Format
- Marketing, Finance, Management and Health Care Management concentrations
- MBA dual degrees: Juris Doctor, Doctor of Dental Medicine, Hotel Administration, Management Information Systems

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
Learn more at: unlv.edu/mba

UNLV | LEE BUSINESS SCHOOL
MBA Programs

AACSB ACCREDITED

■ **VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL** *(2839 Burnham Ave., Las Vegas, 89169)* is a public high school, serving grades 9-12, that also offers two widely recognized magnet programs: The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and Middle Years Programme. The school is also home to the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism (AOHT), which develops employable skills using project-based learning. Valley High School's athletic program is known as the Vikings. Valley also offers a variety of co-curricular activities in addition to athletics: Band, Choir, Mariachi, Fine Arts, and various clubs.

■ **VETERANS TRIBUTE CAREER AND TECHNICAL ACADEMY** *(2531 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, 89106)* is a public high school serving grades 9-12. The school has the distinction of being the only school of its kind in the state of Nevada focusing on preparing students for careers in public service. Instructors with enforcement, emergency medical response, and dispatch careers provide students with firsthand knowledge and training. Partnerships with the Las Vegas Metro Police Department and other public agencies give students a leg up when applying for public service positions.

■ **WALTER BRACKEN (STEAM) ACADEMY** *(1200 North 27th St., Las Vegas, 89101)* is a pre-K through 5th-grade public magnet school with an award-winning program that emphasizes Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math. Ranked among the top 5% of all elementary schools in the Clark County School District, Bracken STEAM offers students labs focused on earth, life, and physical sciences as well as access to outdoor gardens, tortoise habitats, and investigative field trips, which provide additional opportunities for hands-on discovery. All students participate in gardening and help to maintain the multiple school gardens. With computer labs and 1-to-1 iPads, students become familiar with technology for data collection, analysis, interpretation, and publication.

■ **WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY** *(nevada.wgu.edu)* was established in 1997 by nineteen U.S. governors with a mission to expand access to high-quality, affordable higher education, online. Non-profit WGU now serves more than 117,000 students nationwide and has more than 157,000 graduates. Driving innovation as the nation's leading competency-based university, WGU has become a leading influence in the development of innovative workforce-focused approaches to education. WGU is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, has been named one of Fast Company's Most Innovative Companies.



Nasri Academy noun

Nas·ri A·cad·e·my | \nas- rē ə-'ka-də-mē\

Definition of Nasri Academy

1. solution to an overlooked, and under-served need for students *especially: the only full-time education solution for gifted children in Southern Nevada*
2. a private school for the advanced education and unique needs of K-8 gifted children of ALL socioeconomic backgrounds
3. a community of gifted persons organized to advance (STEAM) science, technology, engineering, arts, and math in the youth of Las Vegas
4. a body of established educators widely accepted as authoritative in the schooling of gifted children

Synonyms for Nasri Academy

Advocate for the gifted, frustration-breaker

To Learn More About Nasri Academy visit

nasriacademy.com

CALL 702.896.8000 FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR FEBRUARY 1 OPEN HOUSE!



ARTS LEARNING

building a community for arts education

The Arts Learning Program, from the Nevada Arts Council, supports lifelong learning through the arts for all Nevada citizens. This is accomplished through the development of knowledge, skills and/or the appreciation of one or more of the arts disciplines, the use of the arts as tools to strengthen teaching and learning in non-arts subjects, and the use of the arts as tools to promote social development or health and healing.

NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL

nvartscouncil.org

WHOLE CHILD

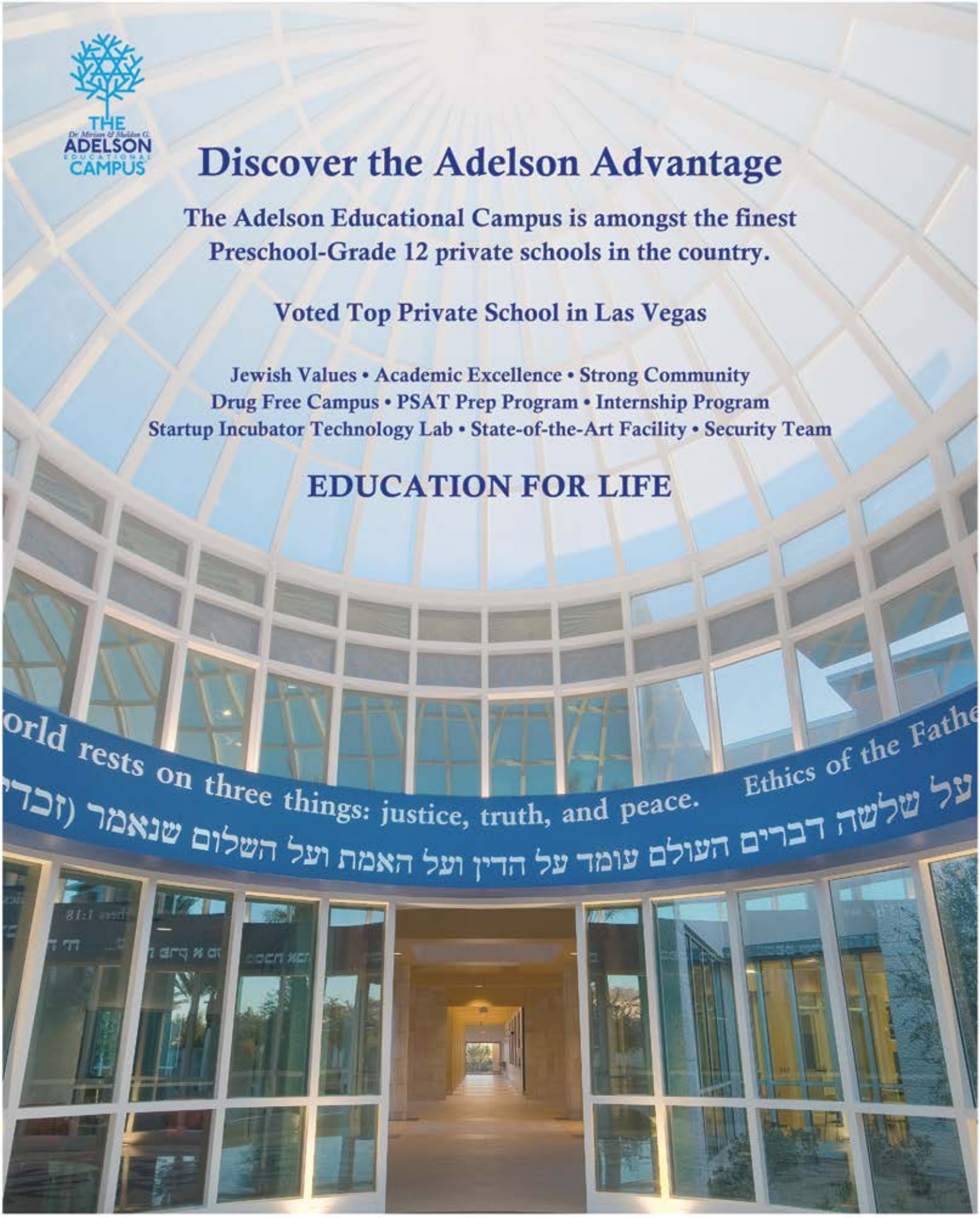
WHOLE COMMUNITY

WHOLE STATE

Funding for the Nevada Arts Council is provided by:

NEVADA TOURISM & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS


THE
Dr Miriam & Sheldon G.
ADELSON
EDUCATIONAL
CAMPUS
Discover the Adelson Advantage
The Adelson Educational Campus is amongst the finest
Preschool-Grade 12 private schools in the country.
Voted Top Private School in Las Vegas
Jewish Values • Academic Excellence • Strong Community
Drug Free Campus • PSAT Prep Program • Internship Program
Startup Incubator Technology Lab • State-of-the-Art Facility • Security Team
EDUCATION FOR LIFE
orld rests on three things: justice, truth, and peace. Ethics of the Fathe
על שלשה דברים העולם עומד על הדין ועל האמת ועל השלום שנאמר (זכר
Schedule a Private Tour • 702-255-4500 • www.adelsoncampus.org