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Mukelisiwe Goba as "Rafiki" in THE LION KING North American Tour. ©Disney. Photo by Matthew Murphy.

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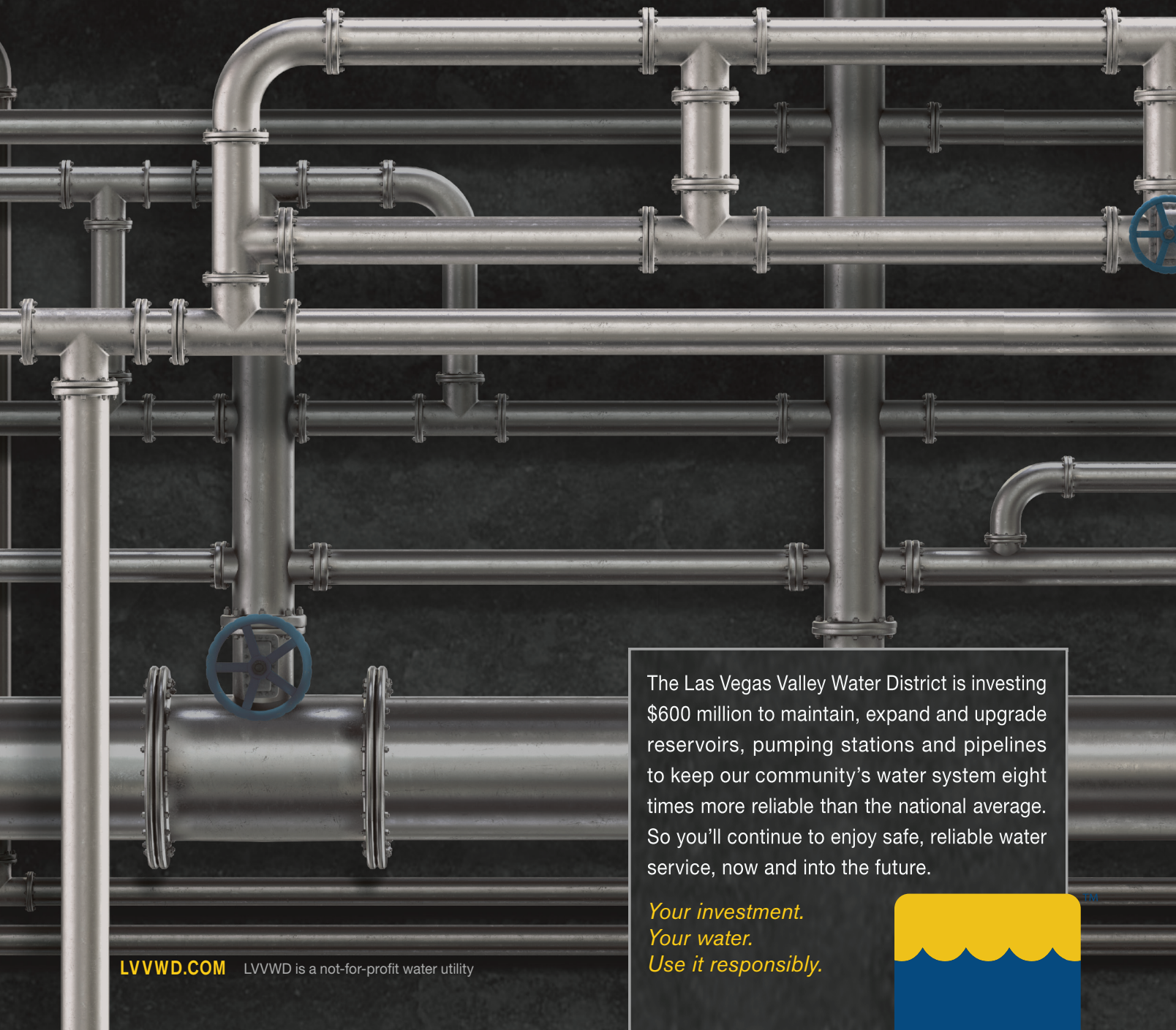
92 THE GUIDE
Here we are now, entertain us — exhibits, concerts, shows, events, and sundry escapements to fill your calendar

COVER



ILLUSTRATION
MARY FELKER

INVESTING IN OUR
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Editor's note

GO YOUR OWN WAY

I tend to prefer navigating cities the old-school way: with my nose in a map half the time. I do not necessarily endorse this method. It's needlessly time-consuming and wildly inefficient. There's not some big ineffable aesthetic or philosophical gratification as payoff. I mostly do it because I'm afraid that relying too much on GPS navigation apps will turn my hippocampus into pudding, or that I'll succumb to that trippy digital hostage syndrome and blindly follow Siri's directions as she navigates me into a lava pit. But I'm also convinced that it's good and useful to flex a little cerebral muscle to create internal maps of the places we inhabit and visit. When you conscript memory, logic, and intuition, and employ landmarks and the live cityscape to move consciously in physical space, your deepened intent brings something like meaning to the relationship between the traveler and the terrain. Or, I don't know, maybe you'll still fall into a lava pit anyway.

This month's illustrated feature, "Charted Territory," works on that fussy, overwrought premise. We crafted a small collection of maps to highlight different ways of looking at Southern Nevada —

through memory, mystery, tragedy, history, and more. They won't necessarily navigate you to a precise destination, but they will most certainly offer you a new way home.

Andrew Kiraly
EDITOR



NEXT MONTH Save room for the 2018 Restaurant Awards!

LOVE FOR 'LUNCHES'

Here is a typically literate text exchange from October 9, when some of the *Desert Companion* team, in New York City for the prestigious Folio Awards, told the rest of us about our win for "Best Single Article":

"we won meth lunches"

"YAAAAAYYYY!!!!!!"

That normally undignified number of exclamation points is warranted in this case. You'll recall "The Meth Lunches" from our July 2017 issue: writer Kim Foster's deeply affecting story of trying, and failing, to connect with a wayward meth addict through food. An emotionally complex story about appetite, family, and community, it was a finalist for a 2018 James Beard award.

Now we can add an "Eddie" award to its portfolio.

"For me," says *DC* editor Andrew Kiraly, "the potency of Kim's story is not just in its starkness and beauty, but in how preparing meals is such an expressive act. It shows her patience and compassion for the struggling addicts, sure, but it also serves to express her frustration and even anger at the relentless grip of drug addiction. I'm so gratified that the Folio judges appreciated the richness and subtlety of this story."

"The Meth Lunches" has enjoyed a long tail with readers, too; as of this writing, it's the most-read story on desertcompanion.vegas. "I found this piece to be fascinating," writes Ronnie Childs. "I know countless people who are in about the same boat as this cat. Sad. Plus, the damn thing made me hungry."

"Wonderful piece," comments another. "Your family's genuine efforts toward Charlie (were) riveting, heartwarming, humane."

Those feelings endure. "One of the best things about the attention 'The Meth Lunches' has received," Foster tells us, "is all the love, support and good wishes for Tessie and Charlie. I've always been conflicted about writing about this very dark time in their lives, as if it might define them. But readers have embraced them. And hoped for them. And sent prayers for them. There is a whole community of people rooting for their recovery. To have all that support and kindness transcend the page into real life is the reason for doing this work. For me, it's the end-game for being a writer. I hope Tessie and Charlie feel all the people behind them — I hope they know I'm behind them — because they deserve the love and the space for redemption."



desert COMPANION

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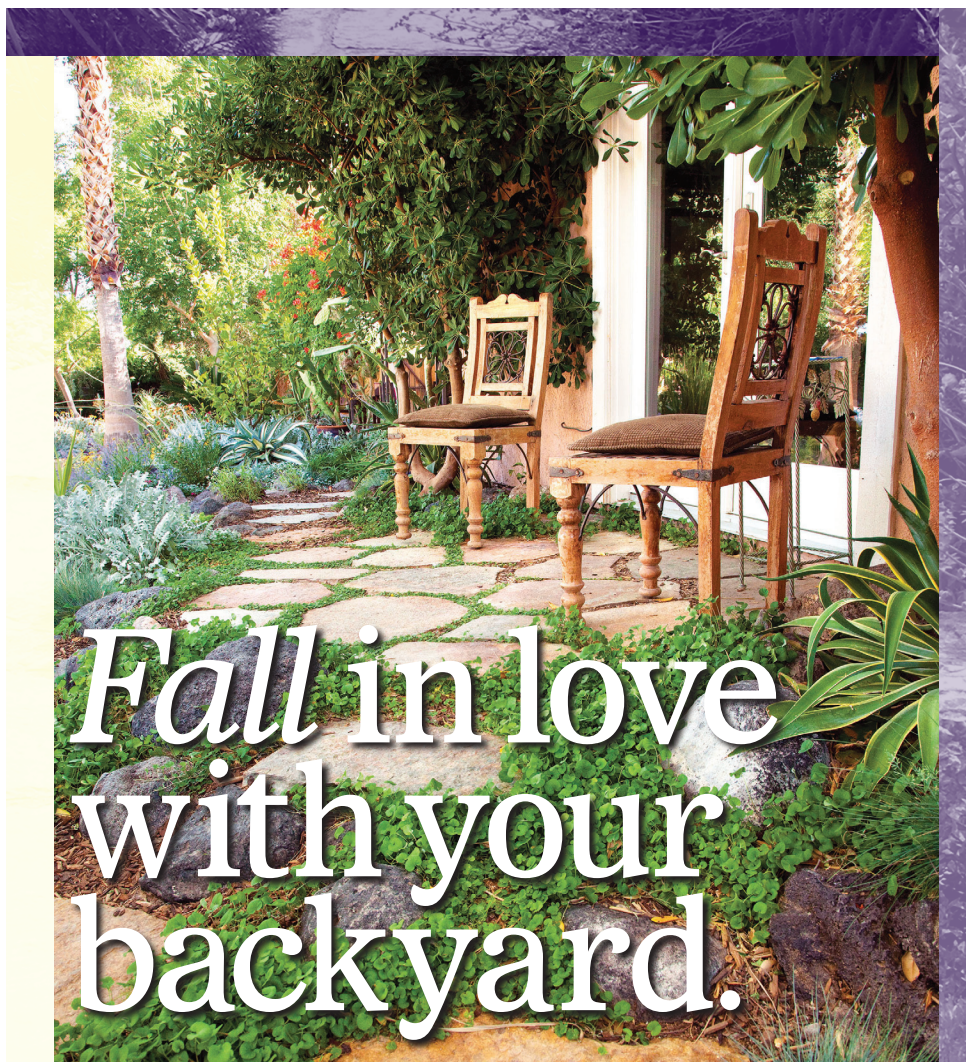
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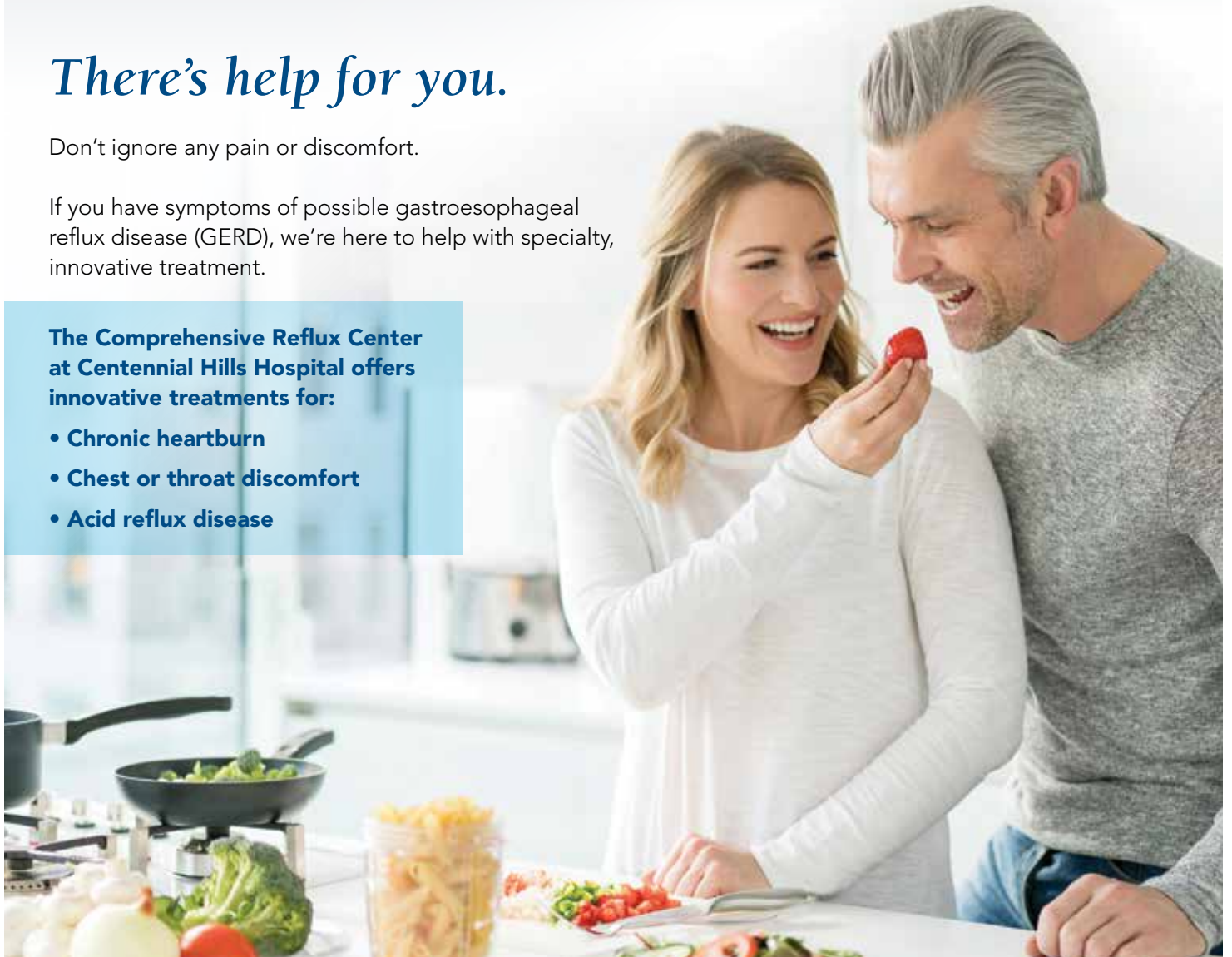
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ALL IN

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


ONE | EXPLAINER

Dry Gleaning

There's a gush of water news, most of it bad

BY *Heidi Kyser*

Prepare for another onslaught of conference presentations beginning with the exhausted joke about whiskey being for drinking and water being for fighting. There's a lot going on in Nevada water news — so much that the constant drip, drip, drip is likely to leave many people drowning in information they can't absorb. The three biggest stories are about the Colorado River, the water pipeline, and Pahrump wells. Taken together, they suggest a shift in thinking, from joking about our water woes, to getting serious about conservation. Here's an explainer for each.



The ever-deepening “bathtub ring” seen from Hoover Dam shows just how dire the Southern Nevada water crisis is becoming.

COLORADO RIVER

First, a reminder: The Colorado River supplies water to seven states, which are divided into two basins, upper and lower. Based on the best estimates available at the time, the 1922 Colorado River Compact distributed about 7.5 million acre-feet to each basin, to be further parsed among the states. Because Nevada had relatively little agriculture and few people at the time, it got only 300,000 acre-feet, compared with 2.85 million for Arizona and 4.4 million for California, its fellow lower-basin states.

Fast forward to today. The Colorado supports 40 million people and 6,300 square miles of farmland in the U.S. and Mexico. Because of a 19-year drought, there is a significantly lighter average annual flow in the river than there was when the water allocation was made almost 100 years ago. Add climate change to the mix, and, well ... you see where this is going. The river is in trouble.

There are two main reservoirs to store water for the upper and lower basins. Lake Mead, the source of 90 percent of Las Vegas' water, is one of them. So, what happens to Lake Mead directly affects us. (And vice versa.)

The Bureau of Reclamation is the main regulatory and research body for the Colorado. So basin states keep a close eye on the bureau's reports of average annual flows, reservoir levels, and similar things. They determine when/if shortages will trigger mandatory water cuts. In the first round of cuts, which would go into effect if Lake

Mead were to fall below 1,075 feet, Nevada would see a reduction of 13,000 acre-feet. We wouldn't really feel any pain, though, because we're already using less than our allotment (unlike Arizona, which would lose 320,000 acre-feet).

The bureau's recent reports are discouraging. They suggest that mandatory cuts are more likely than not to happen by 2020.

There's a silver lining to that storm cloud, however: Forced to the table by the dire situation, the seven states hammered out preliminary drought contingency plans in October. The plans, to manage water cuts and minimize their effects, still have to be finalized, which may not happen until next year.

They have ample motivation to get moving. A 2015 study estimated that the Colorado River has an annual economic impact on its reliant regions of \$1.4 trillion.

Perhaps all this explains why the Southern Nevada Water Authority, or SNWA, shifted its marketing message this year, from the anodyne, "It's a desert out there — be water smart!" to the survivalist-themed "Are you preparing for the future?"



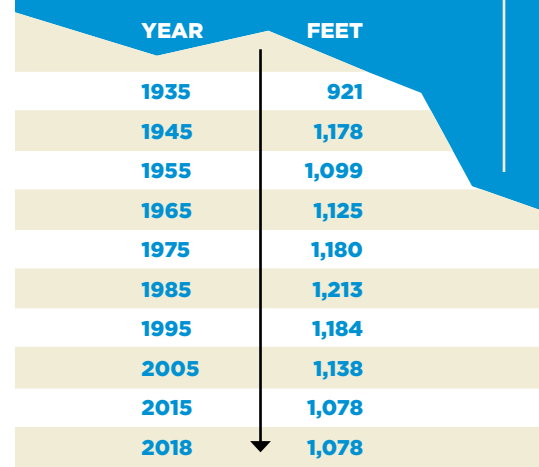
WATER PIPELINE

Coincidentally, the SNWA's proposed water pipeline is listed on the agency's website under "Preparing for the Future." What is the pipeline? Exactly what it sounds like: a mechanism for pumping groundwater from one area and moving it somewhere else. It's exactly as popular with the people living the

90%

Estimated amount of Southern Nevada's water that comes from Colorado River. Other sources: **groundwater** (about 10%) and **Las Vegas Wash** (less than 2%)

Lake Mead Water Levels



area whose water is to be exported as one might expect, which is to say not at all.

Some history: From the late '80s through the '90s, the Las Vegas Water District and SNWA bought land and filed water-rights applications along a corridor of verdant valleys in eastern Nevada. By connecting these rights and adding the necessary infrastructure, the authority figured, it could get the water that its booming metropolis needed to continue thriving if Lake Mead ever ran low. A litany



This Is Us

Here's how art can randomly blindside you: Until a few days ago, I was unaware of this painting, "On Borrowed Time," by Brian Myers. (It lives in Roswell, New Mexico, as does Myers.) Then I saw it on Instagram and was floored: by its hypervigilant detail, its casual surrealism, and the way it simply says what it means. Which is: *This mess is unsustainable*. This clash between nature and our blithe instinct to suburbanize it. You see it in the reckless water use, those cheerfully oblivious faces, and the other markers of our indifference: the guy spraying chemicals on his lawn, the cactus dying from overwatering. Then there's this: Myers painted it in 1994. "It really bothered me, the ridiculous water usage," he says, speaking not only of Vegas but the Southwest. "You could see it coming." It certainly seems clairvoyant now, what with new reports about troubling Colorado River levels. Yet it's not without humor, spectacle, and accessibility, which may make it a near-perfect Las Vegas painting. **Scott Dickensheets**



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29M

Acre-feet
Lake Mead
holds when
it's full

11,280

Domestic wells in Pahrump Valley,
highest density of wells in the state

584,000

Acre-feet that evaporate
from Lake Mead each year

57%

Likelihood that the Lower
Basin of the Colorado will
reach shortage conditions by
2020, triggering mandatory
cuts in water delivery
64% Chance it will
happen by 2021

\$15.5B

Cost of
pipeline, say
opponents
(twice what
SNWA has said
it would be)

Parties that
banded
together to
sue agencies
in charge
of granting
SNWA's
pipeline
water rights

59

\$115,000,000,000

Amount of gross state product generated annually in
Nevada by the Colorado River, according to 2015 report

Sources: Bureau of Reclamation, Business for Water Stewardship, National Park Service,
Southern Nevada Water Authority, U.S. Geological Service

of lawsuits and petitions to state and federal regulatory agencies followed, stymieing the project. The authority does maintain it as a viable backup plan, however.

The details: SNWA has tweaked the plan over the years; as it stands now, the authority would pump some 200,000 acre-feet of water annually and transport it across more than 250 miles. Opponents believe it would destroy 200 square miles of natural and cultural resources.

The latest: In August the Nevada state engineer, Jason King, denied SNWA's applications in four critical valleys, ruling the authority can't prove the pipeline wouldn't cause environmental harm and infringe on existing water rights. It wasn't a total loss for SNWA, though, since King also approved its plan to manage, mitigate, and monitor environmental damage caused by the pipeline (should it start operating), and indicated he would support an appeal on the application's denial because he disagrees with a relevant court interpretation of water law.

PAHRUMP WELLS

King is also involved in a controversy over Pahrump's aquifer. Last December, the Nye

County Water District's governing board sent King a letter noting that the Pahrump Artesian Basin is drastically overallocated. King issued an order, No. 1293, declaring that a dedicated water right would be required to drill any new wells. People who own undeveloped land, which they thought came with water rights, lost their minds. They, along with real estate agents and well-drillers, filed a joint lawsuit against the state.

The math: The Pahrump Basin yields about 20,000 acre-feet of water a year. Historical data indicate the basin's water level has been falling since the 1950s. Existing water rights allow for as much as 22,560 acre-feet to be withdrawn. Based on property data, the county estimates that another 8,500 wells could be drilled. King revised that to 8,000. At two acre-feet per well, that would mean another 16,000 acre-feet promised. In case you can't add it all up in your head, that's a deficit of 18,560 acre-feet.

Caveats: Order 1293 didn't originally apply to rehabilitating or re-drilling existing wells. In July, King amended it further to exclude those who had already filed an intent to drill and/or sought related zoning permits before the order took effect. The lawsuit is still pending. ♦

3

A NEW SCRIPT

*Maya Cinemas brings a
community-oriented cineplex to
underserved North Las Vegas*

WHEN MEXICAN-AMERICAN film producer Moctesuma Esparza toured the country promoting *The Milagro Beanfield War* in 1989, he discovered something alarming. "There were no first-rate, quality movie theaters in any of the Latino communities that I visited," he says. Esparza grew up in East L.A., where in 1968 he was one of 13 high school students arrested for organizing a walkout to protest racism and police brutality. As a producer, he worked on films including *Milagro Beanfield* (directed by Robert Redford), the Civil War dramas *Gettysburg* and *Gods and Generals*, the biopics *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge* (starring Halle Berry) and *Selena* (starring Jennifer Lopez), and the HBO original movie *Walkout*, based on his own 1968 protest experiences.

In 1997, while promoting *Selena*, Esparza found that the dearth of movie theaters in Latino communities had gotten worse. "I noticed that even the second-run movie theaters in these communities had all closed," he says. "And so I was able to, doing a little bit of investigation, determine that this was a national pattern that had to do with the development of big malls and big-box stores and lifestyle centers and regional shopping centers, where megaplexes were being built."

Those observations led him to found Maya Cinemas in 2000, with the goal of returning those theater experiences to the communities where they'd been lost. "I saw that as a business opportunity, to be able to bring back entertainment, which I knew from my own personal family experience was cherished," Esparza says. "And an opportunity to do redevelopment, to bring jobs, to revitalize communities."

With five locations in California, Maya will open a 14-screen theater in North Las Vegas next month. It's part of a broader redevelopment initiative in the

city, and the 67,000-square-foot Maya Cinemas complex, across from the North Las Vegas City Hall, is set to include a number of other tenants, although Maya will be the only business there when the facility opens. However, Esparza says, “many, many retail establishments” have expressed interest in being there.

Even as the only business in the complex, Maya will be an impressive attraction, with an 8,000-square-foot lobby and all the amenities that modern moviegoers have come to expect. That includes beer and wine, an arcade, a café, and auditoriums with plush luxury seating. “They take up double the room, so we made the theater a little bit bigger so that we could have more seats,” Esparza says. That doesn’t mean that Maya will be charging high prices, though, and Esparza says that compared to surrounding theaters, “We’re going to be less, and for a nicer product.”

Coming into an area where theater options are limited is another key element of Maya’s business plan. While North Las Vegas has four other movie theaters, the closest to Maya, the Regal Cinemas at Texas Station, is a 10-minute drive away. Esparza calls areas like this “entertainment deserts,” and says that any future Maya development here would focus on a similar area. “We have a really rigorous criteria for where we go, because basically we like to go where there’s nobody else,” he says.

As for the movies themselves, Maya Cinemas locations primarily showcase the same blockbuster movies as other chains, with a smaller emphasis on specialty releases, including “art films, foreign films, Spanish-language films, American Latino films, documentaries,” depending on local demand. “We look to bring whatever is missing that the audience would love to see,” Esparza explains. That could include Spanish-language dubs of Hollywood releases, especially animated movies, although that’s not the company’s main focus.

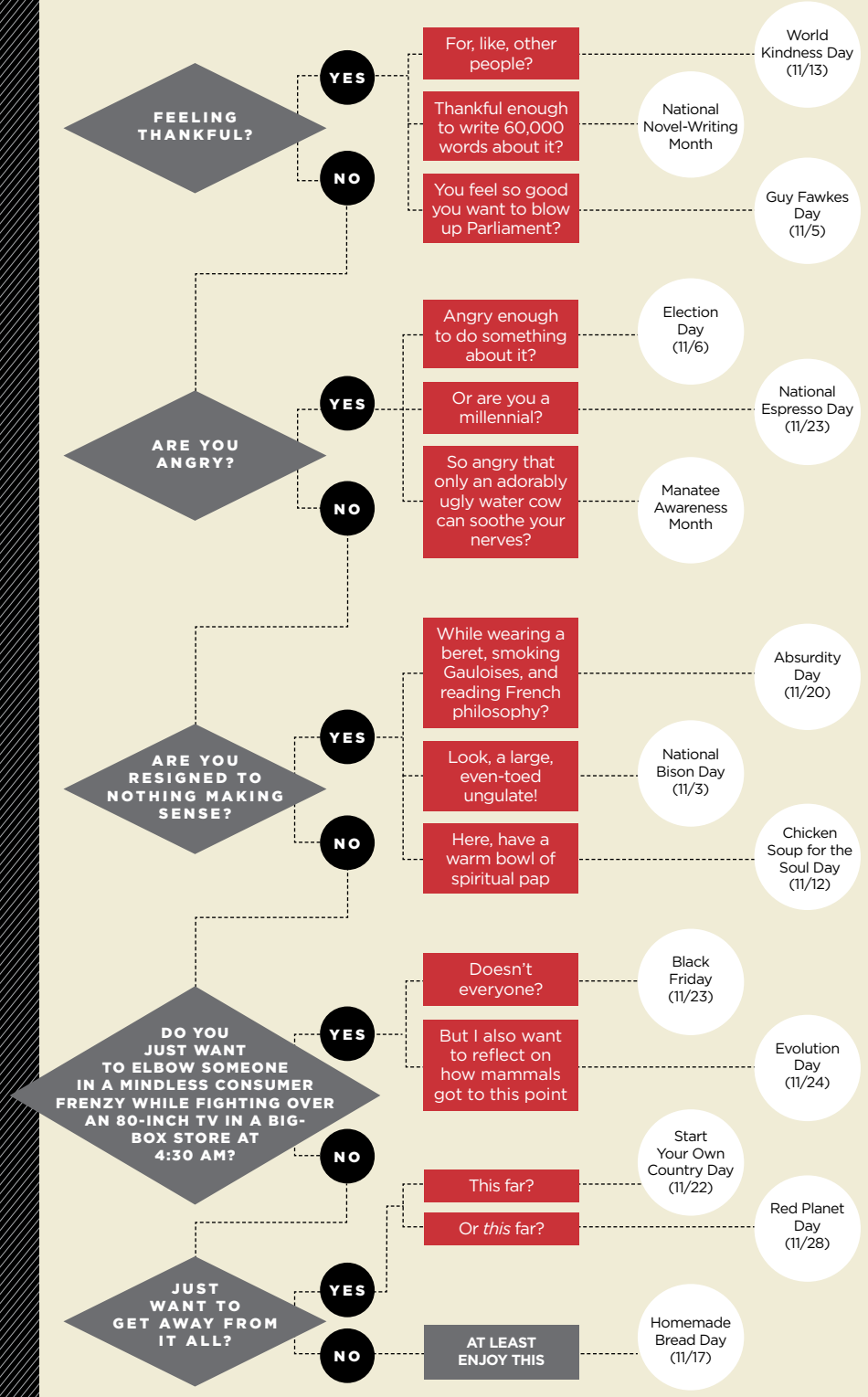
The point, Esparza says, is to be welcoming and supportive of the local community. “First off, our staff looks like the community that we’re in. It’s a rainbow,” Esparza says. “We find that it’s word of mouth that is the really powerful tool for us. People have a great experience, they’re treated with respect, they have a great time, it’s a beautiful venue, and they come back.” **Josh Bell**

4

I, CHARTICUS

What to Celebrate in November

BY *Scott Dickensheets*



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FIVE | PROFILE

The Next Race

Aurelio Herrera is a man obsessed. It's paying off.

BY *Heidi Kyser*

Obsession is not always dramatic and sexy. It may also be, as in Aurelio Herrera's case, quiet and methodical. Herrera, whose obsession is competitive running, walking, and cycling, clocks all his times on an old Casio watch, and then writes them down on a sheet of notebook paper taped to a cupboard door in his garage. Stacks of these sheets inside the cupboard constitute his training record for the last 30 years.

Here's something curious about those 30 years: Herrera is 71. He didn't just start recording his times at 41. That's when he started running and cycling seriously for the first time. He began competing a decade later.

"I always knew growing up that running was good and healthy and something you could do anywhere," he says, "but competing wasn't possible in the village where I grew up" (Matamoros, in Puebla, Mexico).

It was a dream that would have to wait until middle age. But for someone who got a late start, he's done all right. A shelf in Herrera's garage, along with a 10-foot-long row of arm-like brackets, hold the 150 or so trophies and medals he's won during the past 20 years — everything from a 5k benefiting a regional Utah fire department to the Senior Olympics.

That's the event he was training for when I met him. He was heading to St. George on October 8 to compete in the 3,000-meter, 1,500-meter, and 1,000-meter race-walk events, and the 3,000-meter, 1,500-meter, and 800-meter runs.



Discipline is common among athletes in training. But in the case of Herrera, one senses that it's a way of life. In 26 years as a busser at Fuego restaurant in Fiesta Henderson, for instance, he's never called in sick. Not once.

"Aurelio is without a doubt the finest team member I've managed in 20 years of food-service management," Fuego's Quinn Kuehn-Jones says. "He does exactly what he's supposed to do every minute of every day. He runs laps around people half his age."

Nice pun. "Yeah, but I mean it literally," Kuehn-Jones continues. "He has a lot of hustle. He does twice what two other people do, and he does it in half the time." How is this possible? "Organization. He knows exactly what he's going to do with every second. If you watch him in the dining room, he's very efficient, never backtracking, never wasting a movement."

This is reflected in his daily schedule, too. Herrera gets home from work around 11:30 p.m. He sleeps for a few hours and gets up

at 3:30 a.m. By 4 o'clock, he's on the road — either running, walking, or biking. When he gets home, he eats breakfast, showers, and goes back to sleep for a few hours before returning to work in the afternoon. On biking days, which are once a week on a day when he's not working, he rides from his home in Henderson out to Red Rock and back. This schedule applies to every week, all year. Nothing interferes.

"He's very strict about it," says Rosana Romero, a Station Casinos employee who translated from his native Spanish to English. "He wants to be alone so he can concentrate. He likes to do everything by himself."


Friends and family don't go with him to races, by his choice. He has no one holding signs or cheering for him at the finish line. He only talks about his event results with coworkers if they ask. When I wonder why, Herrera shrugs, as if it's irrelevant. His best memories, he says, are of his extraordinary times — a 50-mile bike ride in two hours and seven minutes, for example.

"He's very solitary," Romero says. "All his life is based on the next race." ♦

6

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 - * Tickle Me Orwell
- * Subscription to *GQ Kids*
- * Get Out of Laughlin Free card
 - * Cabbage Patch Pelosi
 - * *Grand Theft Tax Cut* (for PlayStation)
- * "Heroes of Project Neon" action figures
 - * Tickets to *The Lion King* at The Smith Center
- * Gift certificate for one hastily conducted FBI investigation
 - * Trip to Build-A-Bot
 - * Toy polar bear stranded on plush ice floe
 - * Lego Mitch McConnell
 - * Anything with clowns



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SEVEN

SPREADING LIKE

2018 has been a record-setting year for wildfires in Nevada. Does this herald a new normal?

So far in 2018, more than a million acres of Nevada wilderness have burned in both human- and lightning-caused fires. That's the most of any year since the Great Basin Coordination Center began recording statistics in 2012. That year saw the second-highest total number of acres burned, at 607,798. This year's largest Nevada wildfires were the South Sugarloaf, which burned 233,461 acres in Elko County, and the Martin, which burned 431,753 acres in Humboldt County. Could this be the new post-climate change norm? Fire officials fear so.

Heidi Kyser and Summer Thomad

TRACKING NEVADA WILDFIRES

NUMBER OF FIRES	ACRES BURNED
874	2012 607,798
702	2013 159,424
503	2014 63,036
551	2015 42,479
467	2016 265,156
85	2017 279,599
592	2018 1,095,062

2018 NEVADA WILDFIRES ACRES BURNED BY COUNTY

- More than 400,000 acres
- 15,001-100,000 acres
- 5,001-15,000 acres
- 1,001-5,000 acres
- Less than 1,000 acres

8
By the NUMBERS

SERVICE BY CONFLICT ERA

- 22%** Iraq/Afghanistan Wars
- 23%** Gulf War
- 35%** Vietnam War
- 7%** Korean War
- 2%** World War II

VETERANS IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

Southern Nevadans have an abstract sense of the many military veterans living and working in our midst, primarily because of the visibility of nearby Air Force bases and testing ranges. But do we have a concrete knowledge of this population? Here are some numbers to put **Veterans Day** (November 11) in perspective.

146,394
Number of veterans living in Clark County as of 2017

8+
Percent of the adult population.

91
Percent who are male, (meaning 9% are female)

28
Percent who have a bachelor's degree or higher education.

\$881 million
Amount the VA spent on medical care in Nevada in 2016

5,259
Total veteran enrollment in Nevada higher ed

7
Percent of Clark County veterans whose past 12 months' income is below the poverty level

10
Bills designed to help veterans that passed in the 2017 Legislature

1,069
Number of veterans incarcerated in Nevada as of 2016

851
Those who are homeless in Clark County

22
Percentage of all suicides that are by veterans

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, HUD, and VA; Nevada Department of Veterans Services and Interagency Council on Veterans Services

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Strangers in a Room

Jury duty puts you at the center of the big engine of American justice

BY T.R. Witcher



To be a juror is to be suspended. At first, it's just the waiting. You start in a room of hundreds of potential jurors at the Regional Justice Center; then move with a group of 60 to a courtroom; then wait through a few hours of *voir dire* questions as the 60 is reduced to 20; then wait for another hour or more in the hallway as the 20 is reduced to nine. All the while you toggle between a desire to be dismissed — because, you know, you have a life — and a curiosity about how the system looks on the other side of the veil. Will it be as gripping as *Law & Order*? And there's a desire to simply prove your mettle, that you were sturdy enough to discharge the work at hand.

When you become one of those nine, as I did recently, the feeling of suspension grows. (One juror became ill, so at the end of the trial there were eight of us.) As we jurors got to know each other, there was the inevitable self-directed *schadenfreude* at being stuck here. We appreciated the handful of perks — \$40 per day, free parking, a juror badge that sped us through security — but mostly we waited.

We waited through hours of long, dry, often monotonous testimony in court. When we weren't in court, we were in the hallway (because of some delay or other) — 12 floors above Las Vegas, a long, serene, mostly empty corridor, airy with windows, filled with brilliant cloudless blue skies and

a sweeping view of the city. Neither here nor there, this was a space to dream and wonder. Who is the plaintiff? What's the judge's story? Who are the other jurors? Who gets to be Henry Fonda?

At the same moment your life gets momentarily put on hold, you find yourself thrust into a starring, if anonymous, role in someone else's life, deciding the fate of a perfect stranger who has waited years for this moment. Those present in the courtroom do not rise for the entry of the judge; they rise for the entry of the jurors. Every time we walked in — always in the same order — we were at the center of the action.

Yet we were equally at a remove. The legal parries between lawyers were handled by our amiable but no-nonsense judge, who ordered a blanket of white noise over the courtroom every time the lawyers approached the bench, so we couldn't hear their machinations.

We were allowed to ask questions as we went; we wrote them on a piece of paper and the marshal delivered them to the judge. If they passed muster with her, she'd direct our questions to the witnesses herself. But, basically, we were at the mercy of the lawyers. Their pace. Their approach to building or disrupting the narrative of facts, their effort to mold us into perfect jurors — the ones who'd side with their client.

(Were we here because of our capacity for Herculean impartiality — a nice thought — or just because one or both attorneys thought that out of 60 people we were the most susceptible to being swayed to their side?)

As the trial lumbered on, I wished I could study the depositions myself, to build my own narrative of the key testimony. Instead, I could only try to keep ahead of the avalanche of facts — searching for the inconsistencies that mattered most, watching witnesses buckle under pressure or hold firm. How reliable is memory, in the end? Which facts were truly the decisive ones?

The suspension eventually pressurized into tension, day by day, because we weren't allowed to talk about the case. To anyone. Not even each other. My wife was thrilled and jealous I was on jury duty, but I couldn't say anything. We jurors were sharing this experience, but we couldn't fully share it at all, so the whole thing felt a bit out-of-body, and I became super-sensitive to every shift of body posture, every little chuckle, every ambiguous word here and there that might suggest what was on the jury's mind.

Most disconcerting of all, the judge instructed us not to form our own thoughts about the case until we'd heard everything. I

took this to mean I couldn't even talk about the case to myself. You become a kind of simmering pot, absorbing only the information at hand, keeping it live and present in your consciousness but forming no feeling about it. This was a total break from regular life, where information exists to be quickly consumed and metabolized into opinions and points of view that must be communicated all at once. Jury duty was a slow-food alternative, a place to try to stay open to more than one claim of truth — but then to make a choice.

(We remained in the dark about the law we would actually apply to our case until the judge read us our instructions after closing arguments. In other words, the most important variable in the whole show was presented at the last possible minute.)

Honestly, the details of the trial were fairly mundane. We heard a lot more information than the critical heart of the case warranted. Neither lawyer was in a particular hurry to speed things along. No Jack McCoy histrionics here, I'm afraid.

Yet, that's where the beauty was. If you want your day in court, no matter the nature of your claim, no matter how banal, we will fire it all up for you. The big engine of American jurisprudence. All the depositions and paperwork and pleadings, all the kabuki rituals of objections sustained and overruled. We will find you nine people who, while they might rather be somewhere else when they get the summons, will nonetheless show up on time every day and do their best to rise to the moment.

The splendid release from all this tension was in the deliberation room. The setting sun filled the room with a warm light; we were finally able to talk to each other, to make jokes, to learn how the others thought, to test our collective mettle, to collaborate on a verdict, to assess or challenge or support each other's ideas, to weigh the evidence, to interpret the law, to seek consensus. This spirited but fair-minded tug of war? I could do that every week.

Within a few hours it was over. The fate of the plaintiff, a stranger whom we nevertheless now knew well, was decided. The judge came to chat with us about our experience, counsel for the winning side hung around the courthouse to celebrate. My fellow jurors practically felt like friends. But now we were strangers again.

Then we were released into the night, back to a world where no one stands when you enter a room, a world where you're two weeks behind schedule, a world where the careful consideration of facts grows more and more rare. ♦

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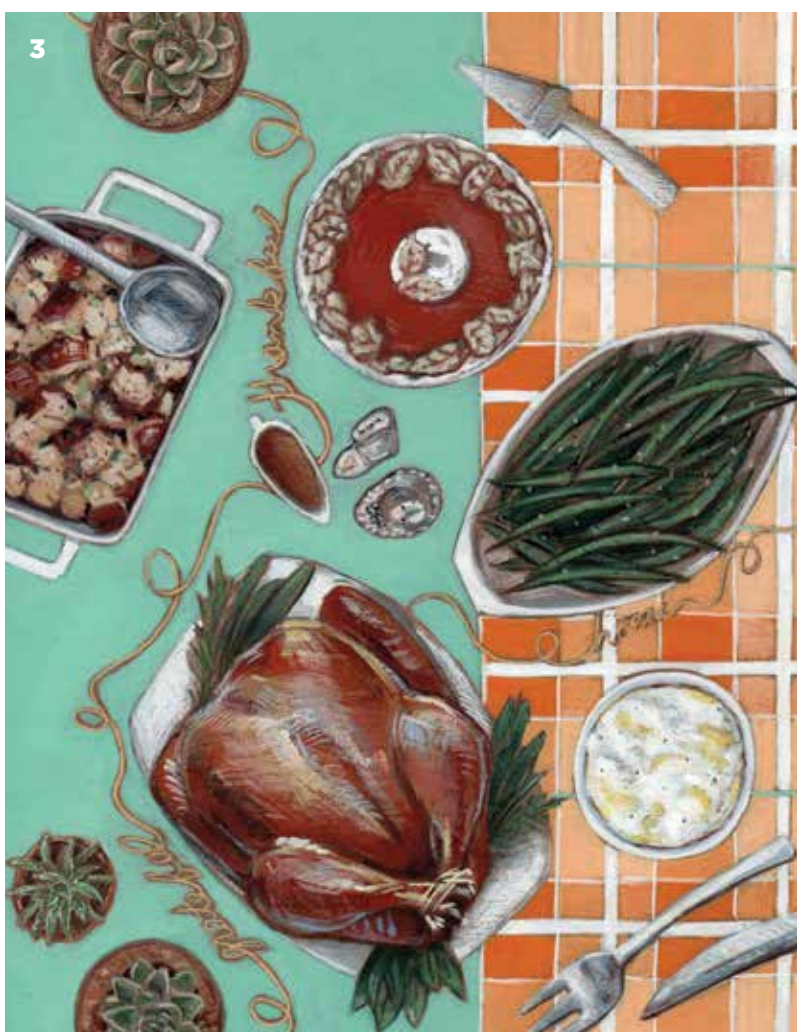
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10

The Prompt
Art Basted

Four Southern Nevada artists envision a very Vegas Turkey Day

Look what the Thanksgiving bunny stuffed into our stocking this year: four variations on a pumpkin-spiced theme, "Thanksgiving in Las Vegas." And what varied variations they are! As large-hearted as ever, painter Montana Black **(3)** interpreted our prompt in the holiday's traditional terms: gratitude, family, comfort. In these quarrelsome times, that amounts to an act of healing. Gig Depio's **(1)** beautifully impasto'd turkey nods to the traditional, until you notice the desert hills behind it — and what about those eggs bearing the mark of commerce beneath it? With his many-armed pilgrim lass juggling a host of symbols, Jw Caldwell **(2)** offers a wry roundup of things we should be thankful for: beauty, art, family, time, a bit of danger, and really good cocktails. John Coulter **(4)** giddily completes our slide into whimsy with the ultimate vision of Turkey Day in the city that redefines the meaning of *gobble*.

ROD STEWART

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It's a parent's nightmare to receive a phone call from their child's school. It usually means something is wrong.

"Hello, Mercedes? This is the elementary school secretary ..."

Her words were drowned out by my sweet, timid, playful 7-year-old screaming bloody murder in the background.

Did you know that I can make a 15-minute drive in less than five minutes? Not all heroes wear capes. Sometimes we just dress like moms.

Itty Bit was grabbing her chest and hyperventilating. She was in so much pain that she was doubled over and couldn't walk.

"Deep breaths," I said. This is our anxiety mantra. "Slow, deep breaths."

"Can't breathe," she managed. "Ate a coin."

They say your body goes cold and time stops. This is true.

"Is it stuck?" I asked. I somehow managed to keep my voice calm.

"It hurts so bad," she whimpered.

We were just minutes from the hospital. Have you ever picked up your child and fled to the emergency room? I have, more times than I can count. It never gets easier. It's always filled with terror.

"She swallowed a coin and is having difficulty breathing," I gasped. The nurses took blood pressure, temperature, and an X-ray.

"Well, there's no doubt," the doctor said, pointing at her X-ray. "The coin is lodged right below her clavicle."

I could see it. It looked huge. Were we sure it was a coin? Could it be a frisbee or a dinner plate? It was standing on its side, so air could pass through. My fear was that it would close like a manhole cover and cut off her air supply. The doctor feared Itty Bit would breathe it into her lungs and cut up the soft tissue.

Her spasming esophagus caused her great pain. "It's trying to push the coin down into her stomach where it will hopefully pass," the doctor said. Two hours later, the coin hadn't budged.

We were transported by ambulance to a hospital that had a surgical team better equipped for children. Itty Bit was strapped down and loaded up. I hopped in beside her. She nervously asked about stranger danger, and I assured her ambulances, and especially ambulances with her mom inside, didn't intend to kidnap her.

After two more hours, a second X-ray



ELEVEN | DISCOMFORT ZONE

Nickel and Dimed

Yes, my daughter swallowed a coin

BY Mercedes M. Yardley

showed the coin hadn't moved. It was time to call the surgical team. I thought this meant cutting, but the surgeon explained they would put Itty Bit under general anesthesia, intubate her, and then go down her throat with a scope. The scope had a camera and a little grabby claw to get the coin.

The nurses gave her a stuffed kangaroo to cuddle, and the medicine kicked in. She fell asleep, and they rolled her into surgery.

I was a wreck. I paced in the waiting room while calling my parents. Today had been a game of Telephone. I'd give somebody a piece of information and then say, "Pass it on." The end result was distorted. Somebody had told my mother Itty Bit had been life-flighted to the hospital.

"Don't worry, Mom. That's not the case."

"Are you sure?" she asked.

"Pretty sure that if the ambulance flew, I would have noticed."

The surgery took about half an hour. The surgeon came striding out with a plastic cup.

"Here you go. It was a dime. Make sure she doesn't swallow any more coins."

A dime. The smallest American currency. I looked at the surgeon, and she shrugged. I was slightly offended that the coin didn't even have the nerve to be a quarter. Turns out she was chewing on the dime while thinking, and then it went down.

My husband joined me at Itty Bit's bedside while she woke up. I shook the most expensive dime I had ever seen at her.

"You are not a vending machine. No more nickel-and-diming us to death."

"You don't want to be shortchanged," my husband said. We high-fived over the hospital bed. Itty Bit turned away from us primly.

"You aren't funny. I don't want to disgust it anymore," she said.

Yeah, that makes cents. ♦

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ALL OUT

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



How Bazaar

Forget gift cards and cash envelopes. This holiday season, give the gift of thoughtful quirk by shopping at these local niche spots

BY **Christie Moeller**

Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday — November is full of major shopping days. It's simple enough to click through your shopping list online, or grab a stack of gift cards at your nearest retail megaplex. But remember when gift-giving was a playful exercise in thoughtful regard? From foodie finds to treasures for toy-lovers, these independent shops sell cool stuff for just that. Better yet, you'll be doing a Santa-worthy solid for local businesses.

R + D EMPORIUM

This kitschy-chic lifestyle store has been around for nearly a decade. Located in Boca Park Fashion Village, R+D is a mix of contemporary kids' and women's styles, home décor, and gifts under one roof. Just

like its name suggests (R for research, D for development), R+D is constantly evolving to stay relevant and on trend.

"Not an easy task by any means, buying for such a wide variety of categories and it all making sense, but it does, somehow," owner Mariah Lewis-Briley says. "Our goal is to provide our customers with a unique shopping destination, with items that can't be easily purchased with a click of a button, while providing each customer with a warm welcome and good conversation." R+D carries more than 25 contemporary clothing lines for kids, and the store's humorous gift selection ranges from witty and sophisticated to cheekily lowbrow. Notable brands for fashion, accessories and toys include Lauren Moshi, Chaser, Spiritual Gangster, Native, Kappa, Tiny Whales, Superism, Appaman, Lack of Color, and Pam & Gela.

740 S. Rampart Blvd. #11, 702-750-0550

ALL OUT

VALLEY CHEESE & WINE (1)

This specialty store is a gourmand's paradise, featuring artisanal foods, hard-to-find wines, and cheeses and meats that are cut to order, making perfect gifts for the most discriminating palates. They also offer "wine-u-cation" classes, which include a six-wine tasting complete with charcuterie.

1570 W. Horizon Ridge Parkway #140, 702-341-8191

ALTERNATE REALITY COMICS (2)

Not only is Alternate Reality one of the valley's longest-lived comic books stores, but owner Ralph Mathieu's personal zeal for visual storytelling makes the shop one of the most beloved. The University District store offers up a super-powered gift selection with a vast collection of classic superhero comics, alternative comics, graphic novels, manga, action figures and more. Mathieu's picks for Vegas-made comics: *Tome of Terror*, *Illumknights Enchantrix*, and *Where We Live: A Benefit for the Survivors in Las Vegas*.

4110 S. Maryland Parkway #8, alternaterealitycomics.net

11TH STREET RECORDS (3)

Las Vegas' leading authority on all things vinyl, 11th Street Records hosts a generous stock of music in just about every genre, but is particularly known for its rare and collectible vinyl. A big supporter of local music, 11th Street also boasts the largest local music section around, including LPs and EPs by such local favorites as Brett Vee, All Night Visitors, The Psyatics, Franks & Deans, and Mercy Music.

1023 Fremont Street, 11thstreetrecords.com

KAPPA TOYS (4)

When all you want for Christmas is an old-school Monchhichi, Kappa Toys is your place. It carries a wide selection of rare oddities combined with a curated selection of nostalgic classics. Kids and adults can spend hours discovering the toys of yesterday interspersed with unusual playthings from Japan and beyond.

707 Fremont St. #1170; *Fashion Show*, kappatoys.com

KARMA AND LUCK (5)

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1



2



6



7



4

together, Karma and Luck offers unique pieces that you can wear, adorn your home with, and use to support your spiritual practice, including jewelry, sound bowls, yoga mats, Turkish lamps, stones, and minerals.

Available at multiple locations, including *The Fashion Show*, *Grand Canal Shoppes*, *The Forum Shops at Caesars*, *the Miracle Mile Shops*, and karmaandluck.com

BATTLE BORN GROOMING CO. (6)

Web-based Battle Born Grooming Co. specializes in natural, ethically sourced, earth-friendly styling products for both men and women. You might say their products just say no — that is, no petroleum, no parabens, no sulfates, no animal testing. For every purchase from its line, Battle Born

donates \$1 to zerocancer.org to support those battling prostate cancer.

Available at *Amazon*, battleborngrooming.com, and *Goodtimes Barbershop & Shave Parlor*

ROSS & SNOW (7)

Ross & Snow specializes in functional luxury footwear with a love for shearling, or sheepskin leather. Co-founded by former Zappos executives Steve Hill and husband-and-wife duo Fred and Meghan Mossler, the Las Vegas-based luxury shoe brand offers men's and women's boots, slippers, and more, made in classic Italian style that doesn't sacrifice ruggedness and practicality.

Available online at *Zappos*, *Nordstrom*, and ross-snow.com

VALLEY CHEESE & WINE: CHRISTOPHER SMITH; 11TH STREET RECORDS: SCOTT LIEN; BATTLE BORN, ROSS & SNOW, CLEAN CARRIAGE: COURTESY



3



5



8

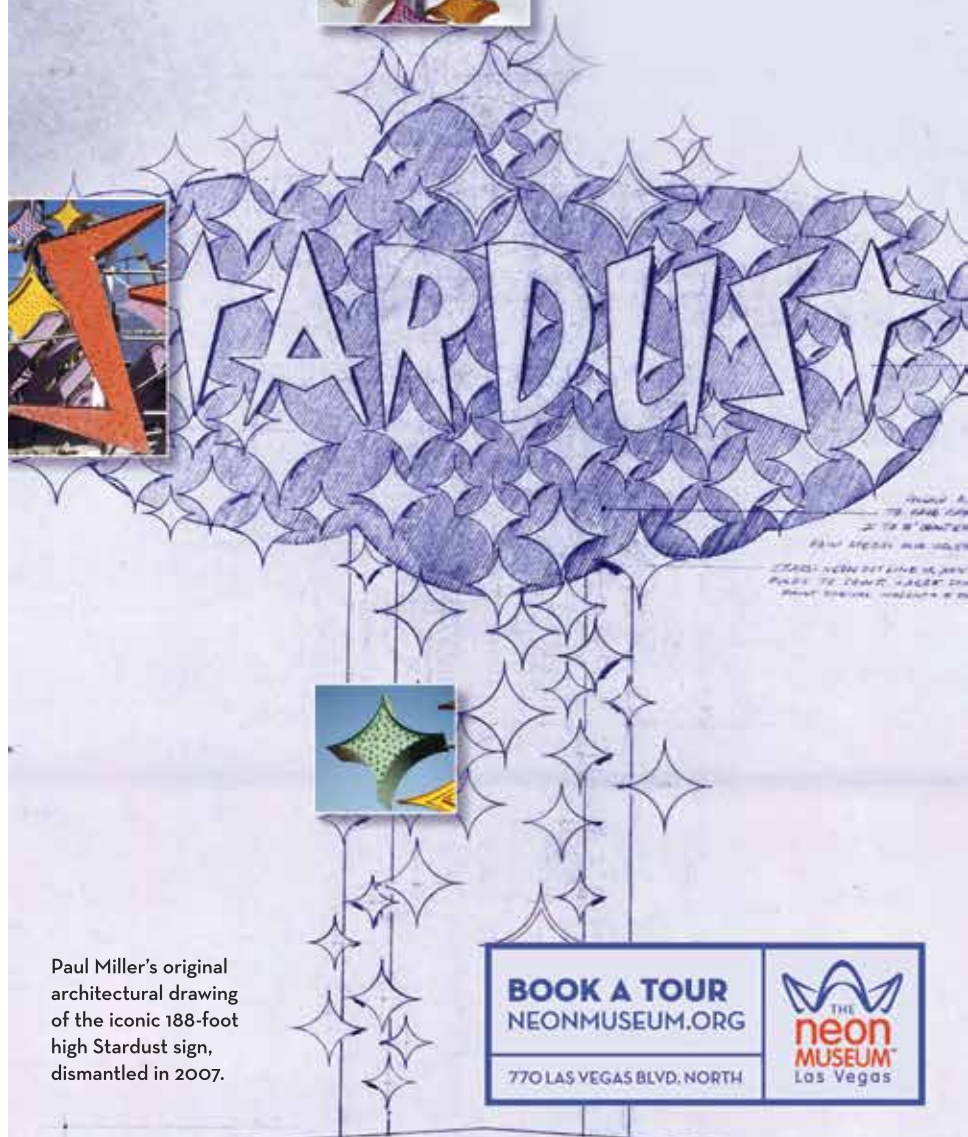
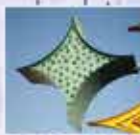
CLEAN CARRIAGE SOAP COMPANY (8)

The Clean Carriage Soap Company produces handmade soaps using plant-based material and pure, therapeutic-grade essential oils. You may have seen its traveling store at First Friday, built on the chassis of a 1970 reclaimed camper trailer, which functions as a micro-boutique. If you sign up for a “sud”scription, you receive premium soaps delivered to your door every month.

Available at cleancarriage.com

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Actor Erik Amblad gets animated during a table reading with castmates Marcus Weiss, Tina Rice, and Jasmine Kajouri.

THEATER | PREVIEW

Head Games

A Public Fit's cerebral *Incognito* explores the most puzzling landscape of all, the human brain

BY **Summer Thomad**

As a staged reading of *Incognito* in July of last year reached its pinnacle scene, in which Henry Maison, a brain-disorder patient whose condition prevents him from forming new memories, plays a melody on the piano (per stage direction) “f---ing brilliantly,” Ann Marie Pereth, co-founder of local theater company A Public Fit, was moved to tears. “I found it incredibly moving in that way ... if we just find the right route or the right course, we could find a way around something that seems impossible.”

Matters of the brain — gray, white, and most everything in between — are at the center of British playwright Nick Payne’s cerebral puzzle, which A Public Fit will debut in a fully staged version on November 30. *Incognito*, which Pereth describes as a “sexy play about the brain,” is a profound exploration of the mind, partially through

examining one of the greatest minds in history: Albert Einstein.

The play follows Thomas Harvey, the real-life pathologist who stole Einstein’s brain in 1955, then dedicated the rest of his years to studying it obsessively. Henry Molaison, a neurological patient who lost his short-term memory after an operation to cure his epilepsy, is the inspiration behind another central character. And Martha Murphy is a modern-day neuropsychologist who struggles to understand her own mind and relationships after a recent divorce. Though these characters exist in different times and circumstances, each is faced with a similar challenge: learning to navigate the mystery that is the human brain.

This unconventionally structured show

features a cast of four (including Tina Rice, who won Best Actress at the Las Vegas Valley Theatre Awards for her performance in last year’s *W;t*) who together play 21 characters, both fictional and historical. Each character comes from a different region of Europe and the U.S., and live across time periods ranging from the 1920s to the present day.

Although the structure may seem perplexing, the seamless and instantaneous way in which each actor transforms into an entirely new character is well worth the whiplash, and easier to follow than one might think — a credit to both the writing and the exceptional acting. *The Guardian* says of Payne’s writing, “one of his great gifts is the ability to poignantly meld complicated philosophic and scientific tenets with simpler human struggles.”

If *Incognito* proves anything, it is that despite the immeasurable variance of the people who carry it, the human brain has a nearly equal capacity for great resilience and deep despair. With the holidays approaching, *Incognito* emerges as a story as hopeful as it is heartbreaking. “It’s important that we dig into these meaningful stories, but not just for the sake of being morbid or knowledgeable,” Pereth says. “The best kind of story ends with possibility for a new day.” ♦

11
30

INCOGNITO presented by A Public Fit, November 30-December 16, 7:30p and 2p, \$30 general, Art Square Theatre, 1025 First St., apublicfit.org



Theater

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The setting: a bland conference room. The setup: Walt Disney is reading aloud a screenplay he's written about his life and achievements — to the people, brother and daughter included, who shared that life, for good or ill. Lucas Hnath's play is a dark comedy (the *Times* says: "Walt would be doing cartoonish gyrations in his grave") with an intriguing theatrical challenge: Make it work despite a lack of action — the actors are sitting around a table. Take it away, Majestic Rep! **November 1-25, various times, \$25, majesticrepertory.com**

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Pop Culture

**VEGAS VALLEY COMIC
BOOK FESTIVAL**

CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY

You needn't be an advanced nerd to have a good time here. "Wonder Woman: Bondage and Liberation" — does that sound like a nerd-only discussion topic? There's more: how to create James Bond comics for the 21st century; work by creators of color; "Can Comic Books Save the World?" The real-world impact of comics was seen locally in the funds raised for victims of October 1 by the comics anthology *Where We Live* — there will be a panel about that, too. **November 3, 10a-4:30p, free, vegasvalleycomic-bookfestival.org**

Classical

**CELEBRATION
OF VIRKO
BALEY**

**UNLV'S BEAM
MUSIC CENTER**



Born in the Ukraine, composer and conductor Virko Baley has been in Las Vegas almost forever, joining the UNLV music faculty in 1970. During his stint helming the Nevada Symphony Orchestra in the '80s and early '90s, he introduced local audiences to demanding modernist works, then went on to win enough accolades, honors, and awards that the "short bio" on his website runs to 650 words. The university marks his 80th birthday with a special concert. **November 8, 7:30p, free, unlv.edu/calendar**

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THE Hot Seat

Culture

DERRICK SUWAIMA DAVIS

SAHARA WEST LIBRARY

Davis, a member of the Hopi and Choctaw nations, is a champion hoop dancer. This is a feat both dauntingly physical — requiring him to keep up to five rattan hoops going at any one time — and deeply cultural, in that he “conveys the Hopi story of creation through his hoops, creating intricate patterns while keeping time to the singing and drumming of a musician.” Part of the Library District’s celebration of Native American Heritage Month. **November 14, 6:30p, free, lvccd.org**



Literature

NATASHA TRETHERWEY THE WRITER'S BLOCK

It’ll be laureate-squared at this *Believer* magazine event: Natasha Trethewey, former U.S. poet laureate, will be joined by Vogue Robinson, Clark County’s poet laureate. The topic will be Trethewey’s new collection, *Monument*. This is not an unbig deal, folks. But: Will it be at the Writer’s Block’s new or old location? Watch social media! **November 29, 7p, free, blackmountaininstitute.org**

Civility and Climate Change.

This University Forum talk is subtitled “How (Not) to Talk About Scientific Controversy.” Given the stakes — you know, human survival and all — it might be worth a listen. **November 30, 7:30p, free, UNLV’s Barrick Museum, unlv.edu/calendar**

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ALLOUT

FILM | COMMUNITY

Together Again

The Queer Arts Film Festival brings life back to a dormant niche of the local film scene

BY **Josh Bell**

The film festival scene in Las Vegas is full of events that cater to specific communities, including the Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival and the Nevada Women's Film Festival, but it's been nearly 10 years since there was an LGBT-focused film festival in town. Local filmmaker and event coordinator Kris Manzano is helping to fill that niche by putting on the first Las Vegas Queer Arts Film Festival, which takes place November 2-4 at Eclipse Theaters Downtown.

While the NeonFest LGBT film festival attracted decent crowds for a few years, it closed down after its 2009 edition, and Manzano sees the local LGBT film community as a bit fractured now. "I don't see a lot of members of our community in major roles in the local film industry," he says. "I created the festival to bring the community together, not only to bring in the LGBTQ artists, but also connect them with the local Las Vegas film industry. To have an event every year that everyone can get excited for."

Manzano recruited other members of the LGBT community who are active in local film, putting together a six-member board that includes people with film festival experience who could plan an event in less than a year, "from just having an idea while I was sitting on my couch to what it's become today," as he says. That event will feature four blocks of short films (including works from local filmmakers Jake Ryan Pepito, Jason Robertson, and Heidi Moore, among others), along with an opening reception, an awards ceremony, and a ball inspired by underground LGBT ballroom culture, as seen on the recent FX series *Pose*.

Hosted by model and performer The Ghaddess Ajá (who's also a member of the festival

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LAS VEGAS QUEER ARTS FILM FESTIVAL November 2-4, various times, \$12, Eclipse Theaters Downtown, lvqueerarts.com



OUT AND ABOUT

In *Fever* (above), by Shu Zhu, a man navigates nightmares to find his identity. Savannah Rodgers' documentary *Dragtivists* (opposite, above) looks at activism and drag. In *Blows With the Wind* (opposite, below), by Hazhir As'adi, a scarecrow becomes human.

board), the ball will feature four categories for participants to show off their looks and win prizes from festival sponsors. “We wanted every category to not just be based on what you were born with, but more what your talent is, what your skill is, what your artistry is,” Manzano says. “It’s a fun thing that sets us apart from other film festivals.”

Shows such as *Pose* are part of the increased LGBT representation in mainstream entertainment, and Manzano hopes the festival can contribute to that. “It is really important for film and TV to continue to push forward, because you’re always going to get resistance,” he says.

Locally, LVQAFF has received support from organizers of other film festivals, as well as sponsors such as Las Vegas Pride and the Human Rights Campaign. “It’s been quite a few years since Las Vegas has had a queer cinema festival, so I’m glad someone’s taken it up again,” says historian and Nevada State Museum director Dennis McBride, author of the book *Out of the Neon Closet: Queer Community in the Silver State*. “It provides us affirmation, context, and connection in the world — more vital today than ever.”

For Manzano, his hope is to bring together the close-knit local film community and the diverse LGBT community, giving inspiration to both. “I hope that it inspires more LGBTQ artists to go out and make stuff, to create art and to connect with filmmakers and to make projects together,” he says. “I’m hoping that they’ll be so excited about it that they’ll want to make stuff for year two.” ♦



Onstage STORY TIME

What makes a Moth story a Moth story?

When The Moth, perhaps the nation’s best-known venue for live storytelling, alights in Las Vegas this month, its five performers will take the stage with nothing but mental outlines. No notes, nothing memorized word for word, no standup routines — just an understanding of their story thorough enough that they can tell it authentically. They’ll each get 12 minutes, give or take, to tell a tale, a narrative honed and contoured by 20 years of Moth best practices.

“There really isn’t a formula,” says Jenifer Hixson, a Moth senior director. “I feel it’s like, how do you fall in love? It’s different every time.” But there are some fairly consistent traits of a Moth story.

TIME: Because you have limited time to tell your story, your story must be about a limited time. No life stories. “The less successful stories are ones that span a long time,” Hixson says. Sure, you can relate incidents separated by years — within reason. “You can be 10 and then you can be 20. But you can’t be 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20.” Which means you have to be choosy about ...

DETAIL: “Everything feels relevant at first,” Hixson says. It’s not. Everything you do is clouded in details, most of them extraneous. Shave it down! “Don’t start with a ton of description. You can’t really spend a whole lot of time on the shape of the clouds.” This is one of the hardest lessons for storytellers to learn: “Talking people out of a scene that they particularly love, that’s always a challenge.” How do you know what to leave in? That depends on ...

“THE STAKES”: This is huge in Moth-world. This is your story’s crux — whatever you stand to gain or lose, the thing that makes it worth telling. While she’s reluctant to lay down hard rules, Hixson says she prefers to hear the stakes articulated in the first third of the story, lest the narrative go slack. “Do I believe there’s a story out there that would sing and be



gorgeous in which the stakes are revealed in the last paragraph? It's possible!" But the exclamation point in her voice says it's also unlikely. Your stakes should not only be real, they should ...

BE FRESH: If your stakes are surviving illness, coming out of the closet, giving birth, or falling in or out of love, know that these topics — however consuming they are in your life — have been done and done again. This can be an uncomfortable truth. "Sometimes it doesn't feel so nice to reject something that feels so deeply important to them personally," Hixson allows. "But it's gotta be different." It's also gotta have a ...

TRANSFORMATION: To keep people involved for the duration of a 12-minute story, there needs to be change. Someone has to be different by the end. "There should be some major decision in your story," Hixson says. Still, even as you change in the story, onstage ...

BE YOU: Shy? Don't try to be charismatic. "A shy person has to make people *lean in*," Hixson says. Charismatic? Don't pretend to be low-key; go ahead and grab the audience. "You need to go with your strengths," she adds. And if the story makes you a little unlikable or reveals your unpleasant side, that's fine, as long as it's true. "Authenticity is really huge — try to be who you are."

Scott Dickensheets

Disclosure: Nevada Public Radio is partnering with the Beverly Rogers, Carol C. Harter Black Mountain Institute to present this show.

THE ONE-QUESTION INTERVIEW

Freak Power

Biographer Timothy Denevi on the political mission of Hunter S. Thompson

In *Freak Kingdom*, Timothy Denevi chronicles the early career of writer Hunter S. Thompson — famed in these parts for *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* — when he was animated, and deeply damaged, by a passionate sense of political urgency, focused largely on the evil of Richard Nixon. In doing so, Denevi explicitly connects the circumstances of Thompson's political awakening to our current situation, and reintroduces the gonzo writer to the 21st century.

Despite its political dimensions, *Fear and Loathing* is often remembered now as a kind of rolling frat party, thanks in part to its movie version. Which brings us to our question.

***Freak Kingdom* is an attempt to reclaim Thompson as the political writer he was from the cartoonish, jester figure he became. How much of a surprise will this Thompson be to fans captivated by the image of him as a spastic clown in the movie?**

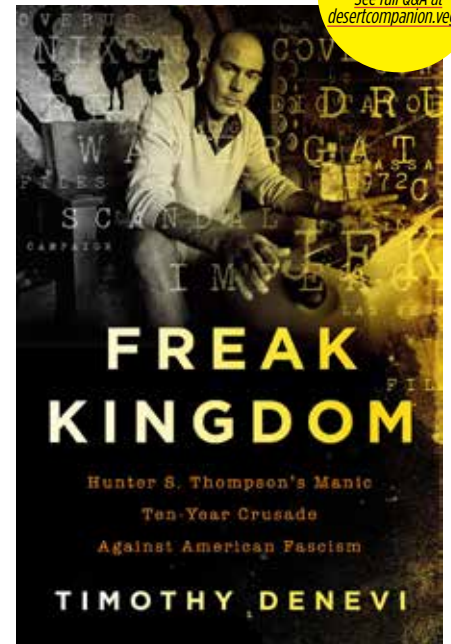
It's like Schrödinger's cat: Both can exist. I hope that someone who enjoys the Johnny Depp version, or dresses up as Hunter Thompson for Halloween, understands that humor, iconoclasm, and outsidersness are inherent tools you can use to fight against power.

What we see in Thompson's writing (is that) he's very good at depicting the earlier Thompson — hours before, days before — *on the page*, as being wrong. As making mistakes: "Well, that was the wrong place to be, and I realized with horror I should get out right away." It's a nonfiction technique of showing the past you not understanding something, but that the present you, at the typewriter, now *gets it*. And he plays that very well. That can come across, in something like a movie, as more cartoonish. But the beauty of his writing is that we know that to be able to get to the composition of that past self, of seeming clownish or bewildered, he has to have gotten to the point of understanding it. There's that double-edged perspective in his writing that comes through.

(Also, when he ran for sheriff of Pitkin County (Colorado, in 1970), he talked about this idea of being a freak, and the "Freak Power ticket" (essentially, his campaign platform). He says, "I'm not at all embarrassed at the use of the word *freak*. ... To be abnormal, to deviate from the style of government (in America) is not only wise, but necessary." This quote melds, in a sense, this outlandish character with the mysterious Jeffersonian participatory American who deeply believes in using the system to make things better.

There was an outlandishness, but it was a *logic* — if you have to be outlandish to respond to this government, then that is a just move. I think that resonates today more than anything. And suddenly the clownishness can be put into a different sort of light. A jester is always one of the greatest weapons against totalitarianism, injustice, and runaway, amok power.

Scott Dickensheets



↓
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***Freak Kingdom: Hunter S. Thompson's Manic Ten-Year Crusade Against American Fascism*, by Timothy Denevi (Public Affairs)**



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Left, Anise Tapas & Grill's Sarit Bitton; above, Anise's Ultimate Kosher Burger with a cucumber pomegranate mojito

DINING

Eating by the Rules

Food and religion mix deliciously in local restaurants that adhere to kosher, halal, and Jainist standards

BY **Greg Thilmont**

In the sacred texts of religions worldwide, matters of the spirit come first, of course. Not far behind, though, are matters of food. Centuries ago, Deuteronomy, the final book in the Torah, and Al-Ma'ida, the fifth chapter of the Quran, laid out guidelines for properly preparing food in the Jewish and Islamic traditions. Likewise, Jainism, also stretching back millennia, has specific strictures for its adherents. All three traditions are becoming increasingly available for diners in the Las Vegas Valley.

MODERN KOSHER AT ANISE TAPAS & GRILL

MOST NON-JEWISH AMERICANS have at least heard of kosher cuisine, even if it's just from seeing products in grocery stores. The top-level rules are widely known, too: no pork or shellfish.

But that's just the beginning. In fact, every time Sarit Bitton, owner of **Anise Tapas &**

Grill (3100 S. Durango Drive, anisetapas.com), shops for ingredients, she consults a checklist of some 50 certification symbols her restaurant needs to follow according to strict Orthodox Jewish dining standards.

"This has everything to the nitty-gritty of, 'Is salt kosher? Is oil kosher?'" Bitton says. It's not easy to keep her menus appropriate for the observant — not only the small but growing local population of Orthodox followers, but many visitors from New York and L.A., as well — so she has a rabbi on staff to make sure all of Anise's dishes abide by the rules.

As a culinary entrepreneur, Bitton knows that the full scope of kosher food is mysterious to many Las Vegas. (There are fewer than 10 kosher restaurants in the valley.) That's led her to market Anise with a light touch. "We have no signage here saying 'kosher,' and I do that on purpose, because I don't want people to feel excluded. A lot of people have a stigma of what kosher is," she says. "A lot of people don't want to go out of their comfort zone."

Bitton says her soft-sell approach is inspired by Las Vegas' Chinatown district, which slowly built an audience outside the Asian community. "That's what Anise does ... we're bringing in the street flavors of old

Morocco, old Israeli traditions, but we're making them more inviting to the public."

But the ancient dietary laws still preside, even as she presents a modern-minded tableau of small plates. "We have no shellfish, no dairy." Kosher law prohibits preparing or serving meat and dairy together; each requires completely separate equipment, serving ware, and table settings. It's theoretically possible to do both under one roof, but very complicated. "You have to choose meat or dairy," she says. "I chose meat."

This has required some ingenuity on her part. "What if I made this amazing shawarma, which is like a gyro, or a lamb kebab — the non-Jewish people are really going to want their yogurt," Bitton says. "They're going to be like, 'Wait, where's my tzatziki?' That's where I started creating nondairy substitutes. They don't even know the difference."

The secret to that tzatziki? Tofutti sour cream. "We make it with fresh dill, cucumbers, and garlic," she says. "It tastes like the real thing."

HALAL AT SHIRAZ

HALAL CUISINE IS less familiar to most non-Muslim Southern Nevadans, but the term can certainly be seen about town on restaurant and market signs. It has similarities to kosher treatments, such as pork being forbidden.

Properly preparing meat is a focus of halal cuisine, says Jainine Jaffer, executive chef at **Shiraz** (2575 S. Decatur Blvd., shiraz-restaurant.com), a new restaurant serving Persian, Pakistani, and Indian dishes. A glimpse at its extensive menu would include Persian-style, saffron-infused lamb shank, and Pakistani chicken *karahi*, a succulent stew filled with chili, onion, tomato, garlic, and spices.

"An animal must be alive and not maimed, diseased, or injured," Jaffer says of the butchery process. "The slaughter must be performed by an adult Muslim who invokes the name of Allah by reciting *Bismillah-ir-rahman-ir-rahim*: In the name of Allah, most gracious, most merciful." Halal tradition insists that animals be kept as calm as possible in their final moments, and then dispatched quickly and as painlessly as possible. Further, she welcomes that fact that halal meats must come from animals raised without steroids, growth hormones, or antibiotics.

"The halal meat that we purchase and consume is a much healthier product overall," says Jaffer, who began following



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a halal diet two years ago for religious and health reasons. “I have not experienced the digestive issues that I previously did, and I truly feel that you can taste the difference in the cleanness of the meats.”

Shiraz’s halal menu has led to a thriving business catering receptions for Persian, Pakistani, Indian, and even Afghan families, pockets of the community with higher percentages of Muslim adherents.

JAINISM AT MINT INDIAN BISTRO

ON THE MENUS of some of the many restaurants in town serving Indian food, a lesser-known religious cuisine makes itself known with a capital letter — “J” for Jainism. Adherents of the ancient faith are strictly vegetarian, and then some: Under Jainism’s principle of ahimsa, a far-reaching form of nonviolence, even underground vegetables and tubers, such as carrots,

CULTURED TASTES

Above, Jainine Jaffer of Shiraz; right, the restaurant’s lamb shank. Opposite: Kris Parikh of Mint Indian Bistro, and a plate of his Jain-friendly Signature Chilli.

potatoes, onions, and garlic are forbidden, as the plant is killed when harvested, and insects and microorganisms that rely on their roots might be harmed in the harvest, too.

It can be difficult for members of the Jain community to find acceptable places to eat in Las Vegas. But a few restaurateurs, like Kris Parikh, the owner of the city’s two **Mint Indian Bistros** (730 E. Flamingo Road and 4246 S. Durango Drive; mintbistro.com), have filled that void.

“We denote every single item on our menu that is Jain,” Parikh says. “That way

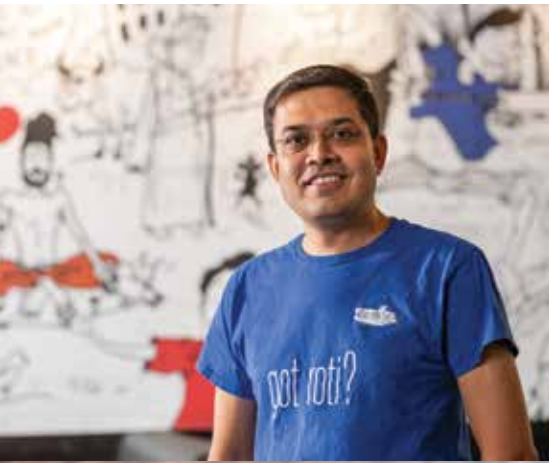


our guests coming in are comfortable, and say, ‘Hey, these guys know what they’re doing.’” Jain-friendly dishes include *idli*, fried spongy rice cakes served with coconut chutney; dal, a lentil soup; and *saag paneer*, fresh cheese in a thick spinach stew.

“It’s a safe haven for a lot of people.”

ON THE DESERT COMPANION BLOG, Sonja Swenson takes in the recent reopening of Hamburger Mary’s, an LGBTQ-friendly restaurant that serves up excellent burgers with a side of drag — and open-mindedness. “Same-sex couples with families ... can bring their children here, relax, have fun, and not worry about dad and dad holding hands,” says Manager Ernie Yuen. Diner Christopher Kenney tells Swenson, “It is so bright and colorful and campy and sparkly, and I just absolutely love it so far.” Also welcome: hungry people. Enormous, juicy burgers, cooked to order, are sandwiched between plush buns; crunchy chicken tenders come out in generous portions; the fries are thick-cut and piping hot. And don’t forget the onion rings. For Swenson’s full, tasty report, visit our blog at desertcompanion.vegas.





SHIRAZ AND MINT: SABIN ORR; HAMBURGER MARY'S; MICHELLE MIN

Early summer is a big window for Jain tourism in Las Vegas, as many members of the faith work in India's diamond industry and visit town for the JCK jewelry convention. It used to be difficult for them to find restaurants before Mint and a few other eateries adapted their menus.

In Mint's kitchen, his chefs create base sauces that adhere to Jain precepts. "We don't add garlic and onion into everything; we have our bases laid down," Parikh says. "Everything is made fresh, so when you order anything from the menu, let's say our chana masala, that can be made Jain because it's only tomato-based." Those entrées can be augmented with non-Jain ingredients — like onions and meat — for other diners, while assuring Jain guests that their choices are proper and fit. ♦

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HISTORY

MURDERING THE MAYOR OF PARADISE

Sixty years ago, the grisly killings of the Riviera Hotel's president and his wife stunned Las Vegas — and would haunt the casino industry for a generation

BY **John L. Smith**

.....

The ranch-style home at 1115 Monte Vista in the upscale Encanto neighborhood of Phoenix was quiet when the housekeeper arrived just before noon on Wednesday, December 3, 1958. High blood pressure and a bad heart kept Mrs. Pearl Ray from working full-time, but she enjoyed cleaning and cooking for Gustave “Gus” Greenbaum and his wife, Bess. Greenbaum was president of the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, but when he returned frequently to Phoenix, he liked her home cooking. Mrs. Greenbaum was very busy with her charities, but she took time Tuesday evening to give the maid a ride home at the end of a long day. They were awfully nice people, the housekeeper believed, and she’d liked working for their daughter, Mrs. Harold Tenenbom, too.

HIS DAY IN THE SUN

Gus Greenbaum, right, with Moe Sedway, center, and an unidentified third man. Greenbaum's violent death was intended to send a message.

Glancing at the kitchen she had cleaned a day earlier, Ray would recall to an *Arizona Republic* reporter, “I saw that there were some things out of the freezer, just like when I left the night before, and that seemed strange.” Then she pushed open the door to the den.

A few feet from the fireplace, Bess Serinopskie Greenbaum lay facedown on the sofa, a newspaper spread beneath her head with pillows on either side. Still fully clothed from the night before, her hands were bound behind her back with one of her flashy-dressing husband’s neckties. It was immediately obvious the defenseless 63-year-old society matron was dead. A large bruise was visible on her head. The sight set Ray’s ailing heart racing.

“God, I just ran out of there and went to a neighbor’s,” the housekeeper recalled to a reporter after being hospitalized for shock. She didn’t set eyes on the body of Gus Greenbaum, and it was just as well. Phoenix police found him in the couple’s bedroom, sprawled across merged twin beds, an electric heating pad meant to soothe his aching back still plugged in nearby. A television glowed a few feet away. He was dressed in beige silk pajamas. Although he kept a chrome-plated .38 revolver handy, it had done him no good. The multiple, crushing, blunt-force traumas he suffered to the back of his head might easily have been fatal. But also, Greenbaum’s throat was cut from ear to ear, so deeply he was nearly decapitated.

Although the family’s loyal maid concluded, “The Greenbaums didn’t seem worried about anything” beyond superficial appearances, the Riviera’s reckless boss had gone far off the deep end with the violent men who controlled his life and monitored his increasingly erratic behavior. The ugly truth was, he’d been living on borrowed time for years.

Within a day, gruesome details of the double murder, called “vicious, brutal, and thorough” by the chief of detectives at the scene, burned across the front pages of the nation’s newspapers. Little more than a decade after the shooting death of his friend and business partner Benjamin “Bugsy” Siegel, the movie star-handsome psychopath whom he’d replaced at the Flamingo, Chicago native Greenbaum and his Poland-born wife had also experienced the mob’s forced retirement plan.

Their bodies barely cold, Phoenix police weren’t yet prepared to conclude professional killers had eliminated the Greenbaums, but the signs were clear enough. With the

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victims unconscious from the blows to the head, the nine-inch knife ensured a silent death that would go undetected by the neighbors after dark on the quiet street. Although a three-carat diamond ring turned up missing, many other valuables were untouched. Not even the cash from their wallets was taken. Police found shoe prints and cigarette ashes pointing to the presence of two men who may have waited for Bess Greenbaum to take the maid home for the evening before entering the house.

Then there was the crime itself. Slashed throats sent a clear message that someone couldn't be trusted to keep his mouth shut, and by several reliable accounts the arrogant casino boss had grown garrulous. The fractured skulls? Perhaps it was a coincidence, but the use of a blunt instrument was a trademark of Greenbaum's silent partner in the Riviera, Chicago mob boss Anthony "Joe Batters" Accardo.

Led by affable Riviera executive Ben Goffstein, the Vegas crowd quickly announced a cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killers. But they were streetwise enough to know no one was likely to collect a nickel. It was an awful thing that the Greenbaums were gone, but the faster the story faded the better.

The bosses quickly chartered a plane to Phoenix to pay their respects at the Greenbaums' funeral service and burial at Beth Israel Cemetery. As a sign of the deep affection the "boys" had for the so-called "Mayor of Paradise," the Riviera remained closed from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the day memorial services were held in Phoenix and Las Vegas. As a side benefit, the closure also prevented a robbery or takeover at the casino. Those who understood the truth about Greenbaum's rise to power in Las Vegas knew such things were not only possible, but to be expected. They would take no chances.

With 300 people in attendance at the funeral, and U.S. Senator and future presidential candidate Barry Goldwater of Arizona among the notables, Rabbi Albert L. Plotkin exercised his appreciation of the nuance of language. "The lives of good people need no eulogy," he said. "They speak for themselves. Gustave Greenbaum was loved and respected as a friend. He had an inner warmth and kindness to his soul. He gave of himself humbly and simply, and without notoriety."

A funeral was no place to convey darker truths.

Pallbearers included Las Vegas casino executives Goffstein, Elias Atol, Joe Rosenberg, Sam Pop, J.K. Houssels, and brothel owner

Al Abrams. They didn't sit shiva long. Within hours, the green-felt mourners flew back to Las Vegas and waited for what came next.

NOW THAT 60 years have passed, we can reflect on Greenbaum's life, his pivotal role in the development of Las Vegas, and his unsolved murder, too. Because a strange thing happened on the way to burying the memories of Gus and Bess Greenbaum: Their ghosts refused to remain silent, and haunted the mob and the casino crowd for the better part of a generation. For crime writers and government agents, those awful deaths became a touchstone for the dangerous shadows that still existed just beyond legalized gambling's bright lights. Their names were dropped whenever the casino business was discussed in-depth, and the failure of the Nevada Tax Commission's Gaming Control Board to put the murders in focus exposed a tragicomic flaw in the system.

The Greenbaum murders created a challenge back in Las Vegas, where the state's largest newspaper, the *Review-Journal*, gave scant news coverage to the casino industry, preferring to concentrate on crime stories and business news that often lapsed into boosterism. Gushing show reviews and gossip columns were the order of the day. Readers might be left to wonder whether there was any gambling going on in the new Casablanca.

Faced with the Greenbaum murders, the newspaper's response was simultaneously sensational and understated. While the banner headline declared, "RIVIERA PRESIDENT, WIFE FOUND SLAIN," the story beneath ran just a dozen paragraphs and was sourced through Goffstein, who "discounted the gangland slaying theory." Readers were reminded that while "Greenbaum was well known to Las Vegas and eastern gambling circles," it was important to remember he "was frequently associated with benefit and charitable organizations."

But few nonprofits solved problems with blunt instruments and nine-inch butcher knives. Before the week was up, Goffstein's \$25,000 reward offer was written into an "exclusive," and Clark County law enforcement leaders appeared almost relieved that the murders had taken place outside their jurisdiction. Clark County Sheriff W.E. "Butch" Leypoldt opined, "We have no reason to believe Las Vegas was involved

in any way. ... We cannot find any Las Vegas angle to the murders." His undersheriff, Lloyd Bell, added, "All we can do is make routine inquiries," since the homicides happened out of state.

With a few notable exceptions, the double murder vanished from Nevada newsprint. The problem wasn't a lack of journalistic sinew, historians have observed, but was an example of the state's split personality when it came to the casino industry. "Officially, state and local political and law-enforcement leaders considered Las Vegas,

like Reno and the rest of the state, off-limits to mobsters," academics Michael Green and Eugene Moehring wrote in *Las Vegas: A Centennial History*. "Unofficially, they quietly accepted gang-related and former gang-related operators like Gus Greenbaum and Moe Dalitz. While out-of-state newspapers often echoed the views of critics like Senator Estes Kefauver that Las Vegas was mob-run, the local media, for the most part, tended to minimize the problem by ignoring it or trivializing it."

But there wasn't a casino rug big enough to cover two bloody homicides that made headlines from coast to coast.

ALTHOUGH FANS OF *The Godfather* movies will recognize an amalgam of his name in the character Moe Greene, Gus Greenbaum remains the most important forgotten man in early Las Vegas casino history. Siegel was a well-known quantity when he opened the Flamingo in 1946, and vaulted into legendary status after his June 1947 murder in Beverly Hills — but it was Greenbaum who was the superior businessman. He bossed the rackets in Phoenix, invested in the Flamingo, and had owned pieces of the El Cortez and Las Vegas Club with Siegel and Meyer Lansky. Greenbaum's sudden appearance at the Flamingo, by some accounts just hours after Siegel's demise, was big news, but no big surprise to insiders. With Moe Sedway and Joe Rosenberg at his side, Greenbaum signaled the beginning of a new era.

At a glance, Greenbaum and Siegel couldn't have been more different. Slight-framed and as handsome as the actors he cultivated in Hollywood, Siegel could make a loud sport coat look like a million bucks. The balding Greenbaum was thick-chested, apish, and large-jawed. In photographs, the best-tailored clothes didn't seem made for a man with that

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Bugsy would be remembered as a visionary, but he wasn't a reliable accountant. It was Greenbaum who made the Flamingo fly, with a focus on service, hot headlines, and an eye on the bottom line.

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HISTORY

face. It's little wonder that when the sharpies at the new-generation El Cortez went looking for the face of Vegas nostalgia, they chose Siegel over Greenbaum.

Although he looked more like an undercard pug than an impresario of gaudy glamour and the "Mayor of Paradise" — the designation given the boss of the area around what's now known as the Strip — he'd soon become its darling. At the Flamingo, Greenbaum's influence was undeniable after Siegel's murder. With a large personal investment, \$500,000 according to the *Review-Journal*, and an infusion of as much as \$1 million from underworld sources for additional amenities, in no time the Flamingo emerged as the biggest winner in town, with a \$4 million reported profit in the first full year post-Bugsy. They didn't call it the "Fabulous Flamingo" for nothing.

Siegel would be remembered as a visionary, but he wasn't a reliable accountant. It was Greenbaum who made the Flamingo fly, with a focus on customer service, popular showroom headliners, and a greater attention to the bottom line. Operating out of Phoenix kept him out of the glare — if not always out of the headlines.

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GUSTAVE GREENBAUM WAS born in Chicago in 1893, the son of Austrian immigrants. Although some sources report he spent time in New York City making his bones with Lansky's syndicate, he came west from Chicago to Arizona in the late 1920s with brothers Charlie and Sam. By then, Greenbaum was a well-connected bookmaker, and Phoenix soon became an important relay point in the mob's race-wire service. The Greenbaum brothers owned a grocery store and a smoke shop, managed the racing wire that provided bookmakers with information, and opened a string of betting parlors. For many years brother Charlie ran the store and Sam operated Bond Service Co., a bail company that kept his money on the street and gave him valuable insight into the local criminal element.

Life was good. Throughout much of their comfortable life in Phoenix, Bess Greenbaum



EXOTIC BIRDS

After the murder of his friend and business partner Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, left, Gus Greenbaum took over management of the Flamingo. But not for long.

made the pages of *The Arizona Republic* as much as her husband, but for very different reasons. In the early years, even the construction of their home in the Encanto development made news. Bess was a society-page regular as a respected contributor to Jewish charitable organizations and the Red Cross. Gus and his brothers were known as soft touches for good causes, and that reputation would follow Greenbaum to Las Vegas. But when the Greenbaum brothers hustled \$800,000 worth of stock in the Arizona Clarence Saunders Stores, a branch of the grocery chain started by the man who invented the American supermarket, they drew a criminal mail fraud investigation from federal authorities. The ensuing legal battle lasted throughout much of the 1930s, through three jury trials with multiple convictions and successful appeals.

It was far from Greenbaum's only challenge. Greenbaum's comfortable run of luck was interrupted by law enforcement and state legislators on a reform kick. Proposed legislation called for bookmaking and betting to be branded with felony status. It was another headache to fix. Greenbaum's headquarters, known locally as the Western News Exchange and based out of the St. James Hotel on East Madison Street,

once again had been interrupted by Phoenix police. With the phone service clipped and the doors once again padlocked, it was time to let his surrogates untangle the mess. Although he maintained his home

in Phoenix, he moved the lion's share of his game to Las Vegas about the time Siegel made his untimely exit.

Within a year of taking over the Flamingo, Greenbaum put the trouble in Phoenix mostly behind him. Trouble of another kind found the casino man as he slipped into compulsive gambling and heavy drinking. Two night clerks robbed his personal lock box of \$47,000, and once they were tracked down and brought into custody, he did something extraordinary — he let them work their way through the legal system and saw them receive prison sentences. Others who crossed him wouldn't fare as well.

To outsiders Greenbaum was the gregarious new face of the casino industry. His notorious reputation in Phoenix was rarely worth a line in a Las Vegas newspaper. His easily traced connections to Siegel and the mob weren't discussed. Although a young Susan Berman, in her memoir of life with her father, gangster casino man Dave Berman, would recall Greenbaum as a grouch, longtime Downtown sandwich shop owner Max Corsun would rave about the refinement "Mr. G" exuded, calling him a classy dresser and big tipper. In his Siegel biography, Dean Jennings summarized Greenbaum's public persona: "For the so-called respectable citizens and the high rollers with class, Gus was as friendly and sincere as a Bible salesman. He knew the percentages of both gambling and public relations, and he made them work."

Once he moved his action across the Colorado River, the reinvention of Gus Greenbaum didn't take long in the forgiving light of the Las Vegas press and police department.

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Although he looked more like an undercard boxer than a casino boss, Greenbaum soon became known as the "Mayor of Paradise" — and his influence at the Flamingo and beyond was undeniable.
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IN SOME WAYS, 1950 was Greenbaum's best year. Las Vegas had not overwhelmed him yet. Although he drank and caroused more, and gambled hard, he wasn't yet addicted to the opium prescribed for his asthma. He'd turned over day-to-day operations of his Phoenix bookmaking operation to Mike Newman, and had operated the Flamingo so profitably that the stigma created by the bloody Siegel hit had at last begun to fade.

In Las Vegas, local news stories generally portrayed Greenbaum as something of an anti-Bugsy, an affable gladhander with a ready smile, a Runyonesque quip, and a penchant for hitting the green-felt tables. He was also a vocal spokesman for Strip interests, moved in powerful political circles, and assured skeptical reporters that, contrary to the headlines in one Los Angeles newspaper, there would be no "shooting war" in Las Vegas casinos.

He even made a cameo appearance in the legendary dice tale of "Mr. Anonymous" at the Desert Inn. As an Associated Press story enthused, a young man stepped up to a craps table at the D.I. on the evening of Saturday, June 10, dropped \$2 on the layout, and called for the dice. Over the next 80 minutes he rolled 28 straight passes — against 10-million-to-1 odds — before shooting a loser. At the table, according to the report, was Zeppo Marx of Marx Brothers fame, who won \$28,000. But the biggest winner was Greenbaum, "owner of a rival club," who strolled into the night \$48,000 richer. Given his itch for action, it's sure the money didn't stay in his pocket long.

He gave generously to charity, especially to the local synagogue and Catholic Church, and didn't mind the word getting around. In an only-in-Vegas moment, a late 1950s photo lineup commemorating the gifting of the land for the Guardian Angel Cathedral on the Strip, Greenbaum was pictured with Benny Binion, Moe Dalitz, Willie Alderman, and other casino men, along with Monsignor James Empey, Cardinal James McIntyre, and other members of the clergy.

Greenbaum opened his bankroll even more to Nevada politicians, who helped him with everything from preventing the city's annexation of the burgeoning Strip casino corridor, christened Paradise Township in 1950, to fixing a pending income-tax-evasion investigation through his ally (and Siegel's secret pal) U.S. Senator

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Greenbaum's run of luck was disrupted by law enforcement and state legislators on a reform kick. And trouble of another kind soon found the casino man as he slipped into compulsive gambling and heavy drinking.



ACT OF FAITH

Gus Greenbaum, second from left, appears at an event to donate land for the construction of the Guardian Angel. Greenbaum gave generously to churches and charities.

Pat McCarran. It's no wonder that by 1950 he'd picked up the nickname "the Mayor of Paradise." Playing the small-town mayor on a local tax issue, he enthused, "We hope this move will bring you better roads, better schools, and better everything."

The move also helped ensure a lower tax burden for the casino kings.

Behind the smile and swagger was a compulsive gambler who understood a balance sheet. "To many people in Las Vegas, even today," hard-hitting authors Ed Reid and Ovid Demaris wrote in their *Green Felt Jungle*, "Gus is regarded as one of the sharpest and toughest punks ever to operate there."

It wasn't all rosy. *The Las Vegas Sun* was making trouble for the boys' biggest front man, Senate powerhouse McCarran. In his now-classic 1966 memoir *Where I Stand: The Record of a Reckless Man*, the late *Sun* publisher Hank Greenspun devotes scant space to mob violence, but he skewers his mortal enemy McCarran by describing the politician's proximity to the mobbed-up casino men. Under the increasing heat of a deposition, "He (McCarran) had to admit that he had long enjoyed carte blanche privileges at various Strip hotels, where he had never paid a bill,

even when using hotel space for campaign headquarters. He had to confirm that he had interceded in 1950 with Charles Oliphant, counsel for the Bureau of Internal Revenue, in connection with the tax difficulties of two casino operators, Gus Greenbaum and Moe Sedway of the Flamingo." McCarran was so far in the pocket of the mob that he openly battled immigration officials to prevent the deportation of gangster Joe Adonis and other felons despite his anti-immigration histrionics in the Senate.

Greenbaum understood the power of making friends in high places. And he knew how to return a favor. Not only did McCarran enjoy the Flamingo's complimentary services, but also when the senator became the subject of regular searing commentary from Greenspun's front-page "Where I Stand" column, Greenbaum was one of a few casino bosses to approach the publisher in March 1952 with a request to turn down the heat.

"Hank, you've got to lay off," Greenbaum implored. "The Old Man has the power of life and death over us." After making the mistake of raising his voice to Greenspun, the casino man added, "Look, Hank, I like your paper. I want to support it. But I'm afraid that you're going too far this time. I'm just warning you: They're driving us crazy from Washington!" Greenbaum temporarily canceled the Flamingo's advertising contract with the *Sun*. Greenspun would survive the assault and come back stronger.

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Even when the spotlight on interstate gambling and organized crime grew most intense during the national tour of Tennessee Senator Estes Kefauver’s so-called “rackets committee” hearings, Greenbaum caught a big break. Although subpoenaed, for some reason the man who was arguably second only to Dalitz in importance on the Strip wasn’t called to testify. He dressed in a suit and reported to the federal courthouse, now the site of the popular Mob Museum, and cooled his heels in the hallway.

In 1951, Los Angeles-based hoodlum heisters Anthony Trombino and Anthony Brancato made the fatal mistake of robbing the Flamingo in 1951, at the height of Greenbaum’s power. Brancato failed to wear a mask during the heist (which netted only \$3,500 in cash) and was positively identified by a Flamingo employee. Both men were smart enough to surrender to the authorities in California, but dumb enough to leave police custody. On August 6, 1951, they were shot to death in Los Angeles. The Flamingo didn’t get its money back, but you might say it paid to advertise: Stickup men would think twice before trying their luck again.

Greenbaum’s reputation for toughness grew. As Jennings, author of *We Only Kill Each Other*, later observed, “If there was a way to skim money off the top without having the Internal Revenue Service men snooping around, Gus could do it. If there were unwelcome visitors at the hotel — maverick hoodlums — Gus would grab the seat of their pants and propel them to the nearest exit.”

But even the strong can stumble. As Greenbaum’s drinking, drug use, and gambling worsened, his accounting grew increasingly suspect. He also made a life-changing mistake that would become one of the enduring mysteries of his decline: He hired a new entertainment director named “William Nelson,” who was the spitting image of the Hollywood labor fixer-turned-mob informant Willie Bioff. Some investigative reporters have surmised that the hiring of Bioff, whose testimony put away several high-profile Chicago mobsters, forever made Greenbaum the enemy of Tony Accardo.

In a business where loose lips were never wise, Greenbaum made it clear he was the man to see on the Strip. As the pressure to produce increased, his small group of trusted allies shrunk in 1952 with the heart-attack death of Moe Sedway. And his own health was failing, too, with ulcers, a bad back, and recurring asthma.

Whether his 1955 exit from the helm of the Flamingo was fully forced or merely strongly encouraged mattered little. He

wasn’t out of the Las Vegas headlines long. When the sparkling new Riviera Hotel and Casino, the Strip’s first high rise, founded and entered bankruptcy just three months after its April 20, 1955, opening, he was repeatedly asked by his Chicago associates to come back and run it; despite his problems, they needed someone to set things right. He repeatedly declined.

Greenbaum began to reconsider after the suffocation “by human hand” of Leone Greenbaum, brother Charlie’s wife. The 75-year-old woman for months had told friends, family, and even her hired help that she feared for her life from men associated with her brother-in-law, Gus. With the possible exception of a single missing ring, nothing was taken from the house and no suspects were arrested.

Then it was Bioff’s turn. On November 4, 1955, in Phoenix, he started his pickup and was blown to pieces. Getting the message, Greenbaum, with what remained of his loyal crew around him, went back to work.

The wheel of fortune being what it is, Las Vegas never skipped a beat. But the violence had been noticed. When Arkansas Senator John McClellan commenced the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in Labor and Management, Teamsters President James Riddle Hoffa felt much of the heat. Some of the committee’s investigative trails led straight to Las Vegas, where the Teamsters had begun lending money from its Central States Pension Fund. The committee’s chief counsel, Robert F. Kennedy, was intrigued — some would argue obsessed — with the complex connections of Chicago labor lawyer Sidney Korshak, who was particularly close to the management of the Riviera, where it was rumored he held points in the operation.

With so much pressure being brought to bear in Washington, it’s hard to imagine those associated with the Teamsters and the hidden interests of Las Vegas had much faith in Greenbaum’s ability to hold up under the strain. By then he was using heroin daily.

Greenbaum was less and less the affable “Mayor of Paradise” and more a morose man in the throes of his addictions. He lost his trusted friend Berman during surgery on Father’s Day 1957, and attended the funeral with Joe Rosenberg, Israel “Icepick Willie” Alderman, Nick the Greek

Dandalos, and a rogue’s gallery of members of the sporting crowd. Berman, a killer and kidnapper-turned-Las Vegas casino man, had died of surgical complications at age 53.

Gus Greenbaum’s world was getting smaller.

THAT GREENBAUM WAS stealing from his fellow investors has been widely suspected. But when the end came in December 1958, following a clandestine meeting of mob leaders in Tucson, where it’s been reported the final decision to kill him was made, few seemed angry enough to pursue justice in his name. While several hundred would attend the Phoenix funeral, a smaller crowd turned out in Las Vegas for a memorial at Temple Beth Shalom.

Not everyone was satisfied to let the murders fade away. Riviera publicity man Ed Becker, who’d been hired by Greenbaum and liked the troubled casino man despite

his failings, began inquiring into the shadowy politics surrounding the hits, in a call for justice that lasted the rest of his life. Becker would eventually become a private investigator, pivotal researcher for Ed Reid’s blistering 1969 state-of-the-mob analysis *The Grim Reapers*, and co-author with Charles Rappleye of the biography of mob fixer Johnny Rosselli, *All-American Mafioso*. In an interview with fellow investigative author Gus Russo, Becker recalled, “When my boss Gus

Greenbaum got killed at the Riviera, everybody took off, all the owners, everybody, we all left. But I stayed around town and commuted between Las Vegas and Beverly Hills.” When Becker later dug up dirt on behalf of Reid, as Russo observed, powerhouse mob attorney Sid Korshak “was not happy with their probings and the repercussions of Becker’s knowledge for Korshak’s friends.” Las Vegas, the consummate off-the-record company town, was still being haunted by Greenbaum’s ghost.

Becker died in 2007 with the double murders unsolved but still on his mind. When it came to the Greenbaum murders, the words of Reid and Demaris remained as true after more than five decades as the day they were printed in 1963: “There was much official speculation concerning the crime, but as in the Siegel murder in Beverly Hills, nothing of any importance was ever added to the basic facts. No clue, no suspicion, no arrests.”

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The killings set the Nevada Tax Commission on its heels. Its Gaming Control Board was tasked with keeping an eye on the casino, but balked at taking up an independent investigation of the links between the homicides and the darker interests of Las Vegas. When control board member William Deutsch made the suggestion in a December 19, 1958, meeting, he was countered by Chairman Robbins Cahill, who had no law enforcement training but offered, “the crime doesn’t look like a Syndicate job. ... It was too messy. It was more like a crime of passion.”

Grant Sawyer, in his oral history, does not say that the Greenbaum murders influenced his decision as governor to separate the casino regulators from the tax commission and create a two-tiered system that created a new standard of modern gaming control. But three individuals with whom Greenbaum was well acquainted were among the first 11 names added to the state’s “List of Excluded Persons” — Sam Giancana, Murray Humphreys, and Marshall Caifano. All three Chicago mob titans were banned from setting foot in a gambling hall.

Although reports conflict over who gave the final nod on Greenbaum’s demise, Accardo and Lansky are mentioned most often in published reports. The fact the sawed-off psychopath Caifano paid Greenbaum a visit, reportedly to remind him to sell out his piece of the Riviera pronto, makes Accardo a strong favorite. But various investigative reports, some published by Reid and Demaris, and another offered by nationally syndicated columnist Drew Pearson, note that two professional hitmen departed from Phoenix less than 24 hours after the homicides. Other accounts put the blood on the hands of Caifano, whose reputation included the murder of at least one woman.

Was his murder ordered by the mercurial Accardo and carried out by the maniacal Caifano? Perhaps Greenbaum’s harboring of the snitch Willie Bioff sealed his fate, or his embarrassing proximity to future Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater. Authorities differ. Some say Lansky himself gave the final approval. A credible case can be made for Greenbaum being eliminated to prevent him from being caught in the investigative probe of the McClellan Committee and perhaps informing on the Chicago mob’s greatest fixer and consummate casino-industry insider, Korshak. Despite the unconvincing conclusion of Nevada gaming authorities, no one makes the case that the murders

weren’t ordered by Greenbaum’s closest associates in the underworld.

Greenbaum’s death cemented the image that the mob was beyond the reach of the law, that the tentacles of organized crime could strike its members without impunity. The findings of the McClellan Committee aside, when *The Green Felt Jungle* was published in 1963, Greenbaum’s murder figured prominently — and his ties to Goldwater caused the GOP’s rising star to denounce the book as “trash, and the American people won’t want to have anything to do with it. In fact, it might even be libelous. We’re looking into that.” Although Goldwater liked to believe his associations with Greenbaum and Bioff wouldn’t have an impact on his presidential dreams, he was wrong. The connection would dog Goldwater to his obituary in 1998.

The theme repeated itself every few years. Published in 1966, Wallace Turner’s *Gamblers’ Money: The New Force in American Life* centered its reporting on the business activities of Dalitz, but the specter of the Greenbaum murder loomed. When Jennings published his 1967 Siegel biography, Greenbaum emerged as capable and obviously connected. Reid’s later-published work further cemented the Greenbaum legend, which became even more indelible in 1972, with the release of Francis Ford Coppola’s *The Godfather*. The character Moe Greene was drawn from several notorious Jewish gangsters of the era, including Greenbaum.

Greenbaum’s immense but not unlimited influence in the underworld were detailed even further in the new century with the 2001 publication of *The Money and the Power: The Making of Las Vegas and Its Hold on America*. Although Siegel’s handsome “baby blue eyes” image was best remembered, it was Mr. G. who paid attention to detail.

In the new Las Vegas, Siegel rates a plaque in a rose garden at the Flamingo, and his image has even been used to promote the classic El Cortez casino Downtown. Greenbaum’s name has faded like old newsprint. In the new Phoenix, a drive through the Encanto neighborhood now finds it listed as “historic.” It’s aged well and still bucolic. The curious will find a well-kept house at 1115 Monte Vista, a place so peaceful visitors will wonder if they’d discovered their own piece of paradise. ♦

John L. Smith is a longtime Las Vegas journalist and a member of the Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame. He is writing a book on the Greenbaum murders and other mysteries of Las Vegas.

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MONUMENTAL EFFORT

Departing director Jaina Moan saw Friends of Gold Butte through its best times — and its worst

BY **Heidi Kyser**

The morning of April 26, 2017, Jaina Moan went for a run in the desert, had breakfast with her husband, Ben, showered, pulled on her standard work attire of jeans, boots, and a long-sleeved knit shirt, and headed to the Downtown coworking space where she carried out her duties as Friends of Gold Butte's executive director. It would've been an unremarkable day, were it not for the vague worry nibbling at the edge of her consciousness. Rumors that President Trump was planning to roll back the national monument designations of his predecessor, Barack Obama, were trickling down from Washington, D.C., to people such as Moan, who'd worked to get those public lands protected from development.

Then it happened. A little before lunchtime, Moan got a press release alerting her that Trump had ordered Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to review the size and scope of more than two dozen national monuments and recommend any alterations — reductions, likely — he deemed necessary. Gold Butte was on the list.

Moan hung up the phone, whisper-shouted an expletive, stood up, paced around distractedly for moment, and walked to the common area for some coffee. She ran into an office-mate who was familiar with her work, so she spent a few minutes venting her frustration. Then she went back to her desk, sat down, pushed up her sleeves, and got back to work. She emailed the bad news to Friends of Gold Butte's board of directors and staff, contacts from the local Paiute tribes, and members of a coalition



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PROFILE



VOICES OF THE LAND

Jaina Moan (in white) at a Public Lands Day event in September, with Nancy Hall (at microphone), Harry Reid (right), and others. Opposite, Moan with Gold Butte supporters.

encompassing like-minded groups that had pushed for protection.

“It was a moment of discouragement,” she says. “Achieving the designation was a great success, but we had a lot of work to do following that, too, to make sure the cultural and natural resources would be safe. I had been gearing up, writing grants, reconfiguring the organization. We had already adopted a new mission, and I was working on that in our new capacity. Then to have the monument review come up—I knew we’d have to defend it. I knew it would be hard. I’d spent two years asking people to support the monument, sign petitions, testify at hearings, write letters to the editor. And to have to go back to them ... to defend the designation we’d achieved, it was discouraging.”

Barely four months since Friends of Gold Butte’s high point, when Obama used the Antiquities Act to declare their beloved land a national monument, they were at an all-time low. But the emotional roller coaster was nothing new. Nor was Moan’s reaction. Apart from those few minutes of pacing and venting, she wasted no time wallowing in disappointment. By the time she went to bed on April 26, a plan for responding to the crisis was in place.

“Trump’s review of the monuments, that was really frustrating for her,” says Jose Witt, both Moan’s close friend and, as Southern Nevada director for Friends of Nevada Wilderness, a fellow member of the conservation community. “But it never wore her down. At the end of the day, she stayed on course. She was at every meeting. I can’t imagine how many hours she worked. Her passion carried her through everything they threw at her.”

In September, after three years and eight months with Friends of Gold Butte, Moan took her passion to The Nature Conservancy of Nevada, where she now oversees its climate change initiative. She wasn’t looking for a new job, she says; the position just fell in her lap, an unexpected and ideal next step in her career trajectory. For Gold Butte, meanwhile, the drama continues. Zinke’s December 2017 report to Trump recommended scaling back the national monument to

the smallest size allowed by the declaration’s stated goal, but the report didn’t specify how to go about that. Without clear guidance—or a budget—the Bureau of Land Management has back-burnered the planning process for the monument. Can Friends of Gold Butte win this game of limbo without the director who saw it through its most tumultuous

.....
“My mom instilled in my sister and me from an early age that we are not the only important things on this Earth. There are other plants and animals out there that deserve to be there.”

PUBLIC LANDS DAY PHOTOS: COURTESY FRIENDS OF GOLD BUTTE



time? Not surprisingly, Moan had already thought of that.

* * * * *

WHEN MOAN WAS a kid growing up in Arizona, her mom would take her and her sister to the wilderness, sometimes pulling them out of school for it.

“My mom is a great environmentalist,”

Moan says. “She instilled in my sister and me from an early age that we are not the only important things on this Earth. There are other plants and animals out there that deserve to be there and are affected by what we do. ... I remember we’d go to the Red Rock Crossing area of Sedona. My sister and I would play in the stream, and she would just be in that space, showing us by

example why it was important to care for nature. It wasn’t just reading me *The Lorax*, or giving me a stuffed animal. It was like, ‘Let’s get out there!’ ... Seeing my mom sit still in nature, and then emerge from that a happier, calmer mom, it stayed with me.”

Moan’s parents divorced when she was young, but her father stayed involved in his daughters’ lives, and his work ethic also made an impression on the future nonprofit executive. “My dad taught me that it’s important to have integrity, to work hard, and to make sure those you’re working with are supported,” she says.

These experiences were reflected in the way Moan handled her time at Gold Butte. Besides trail running several times a week, she practices yoga, and goes on frequent hiking and backpacking trips, often with her husband. She says the peace she gains from being outdoors and having a calm, nurturing home life allows her to maintain equanimity in the face of challenges, and balance during stressful times at work.

“From Jaina, I learned that to do a job like this, it not only takes knowledge, but it also takes being driven. She’s the hardest-working

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PROFILE

person I know, and I can't keep up," says Brenda Slocumb, the outings and outreach coordinator for Friends of Gold Butte.

Before Moan, Friends of Gold Butte didn't have employees like Slocumb. When the board of directors hired Moan in January 2015, hers was the only paid position. Nevertheless, the former (and founding) director, Nancy Hall, and the board had laid a good foundation for growth. The group had a positive bank balance, and Hall had tied up loose ends before leaving, Moan says, so she could hit the ground running. She immediately partnered with other conservation groups and started spending as much time in Gold Butte and nearby Mesquite as possible.

"Jaina took over a fledgling organization and built it into early adulthood," says Jim Boone, a local wildlife biologist known as the "Bird and Hike guy" after his exhaustive blog. "Nancy (Hall) gathered up a few friends and built it up through the toddler years. Jaina took over and built it up through its adolescence, when everything kind of went berserk, and got it through that."

Things actually went "berserk" before Moan got there. In August of 2013, Hall's efforts culminated in a pair of congressional bills that proposed setting aside 350,000 acres as a national conservation area with some wilderness. The plan included a concession for HOVers, whom she'd managed to bring to the table: a transportation plan leaving 500 miles of trails open for motorized recreation.

"I worked on that map constantly starting in 1998," Hall told *Desert Companion* in a 2017 interview. "There was input from the tribes, the ATV community, the environmentalists, and the local community."

As close as she came to winning NCA designation, Hall says, the opposition was always there. When the bills came out, anger among those who opposed closing off the wilderness coalesced. Then came April 2014 and the confrontation between law enforcement and the Bundy family and its armed supporters outside Bunkerville, near Gold Butte. Although no one would admit it on record, the incident spooked almost everyone involved in the conservation effort. By the time Moan arrived in her new job, the BLM hadn't set foot in Gold Butte for months. Undeterred, she went out on her own, and then with volunteers. They raised awareness and funds; documented damage, such as bullet holes riddling ancient petroglyph rock panels; took groups of activists, elected officials, and reporters out for tours. For two years, they rebuilt the case for federal protection, and in December 2016, with Obama's national

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Andrew J. Rotherham is a co-founder and partner at Bellwether Education Partners, a national nonprofit organization working to support educational innovation and improve educational outcomes for underserved students. Rotherham leads Bellwether's policy analysis and thought leadership work. He is also a contributing editor to U.S. News & World Report and a senior editor at The 74, an education news and analysis publication. In addition Rotherham writes the blog Eduwonk.com, teaches courses on education at The University of Virginia, and is co-publisher of "Education Insider," a federal policy analysis tool produced by Whiteboard Advisors, where he is a senior adviser. Rotherham previously served at the White House as special assistant to the president for domestic policy during the Clinton administration, as a member of the Virginia Board of Education, and as an education columnist for TIME and Executive Editor of RealClear Education. In addition to Bellwether, Rotherham has founded or co-founded two other education organizations and served on the boards of several other successful education startups. Rotherham is the author or co-author of more than 400 published articles, book chapters, papers, and op-eds about education policy and politics and is the author or editor of four books on educational policy. He serves on the boards of directors several organizations including the Curry School of Education Foundation at the University of Virginia and Classroom Champions, a Canada-based nonprofit that pairs Olympic and Paralympic athletes with high-poverty classrooms and schools for student mentoring.

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PROFILE

monument designation, they got it.

But it was a bumpy ride. The Bundy standoff galvanized designation proponents just as much as opponents, as did a second pair of NCA bills proposed in 2015. Tension at public hearings grew, culminating in open hostility at a February 2017 meeting in Mesquite that the BLM had called simply to let residents know what to expect now that Gold Butte was a national monument. Through it all, though, Moan stayed calm. She gave everyone a chance to voice their opinion, and listened respectfully.

“Jaina had a mission as part of her responsibilities with Friends of Gold Butte, and I had mine as general manager of the Virgin Valley Water District, and a couple times those two missions clashed,” says Kevin Brown, who believes the monument, as designated, would infringe on his agency’s water rights. “But Jaina was always professional and easy to get along with, and I think we both mutually respected each other.”

If opponents thought Trump’s monument review and Zinke’s downsizing recommendation would make Moan give up, then they don’t know her, Witt says. He tells this story

to illustrate her determination:

Jaina wanted to explore the southern end of Gold Butte, as most of the highlights are in the northern part of the monument. The problem was that the cooler seasons were always busy because we’d be hosting tours for groups. So she resolved to go out there in the middle of summer. She recruited me to join her, and, with a massive amount of water, we headed down to explore parts of the area that neither of us had seen. One place we wanted to check out was an old abandoned mine. As we drove toward it, the road got really bad, to the point where we had to get out of the vehicle and walk. It was more than 105 degrees as we hiked toward the mine site that was at least a mile and a half away. Jaina claims she really loves the heat. To emphasize this, she kept her bright-pink, soft-shell jacket on! I remember thinking, ‘How does she not just collapse of heat exhaustion?’ Obviously, we survived, but I’m sure we were one flat tire away from certain death.

THIS IS NOT a woman who would walk away from Friends of Gold Butte without mak-

ing sure she’d first done everything in her power to help it reach its goal. She leaves the organization with two full-time and two part-time staff, an office in Mesquite, a rebranding campaign that’s well underway, and a new mission, to promote the responsible enjoyment of Gold Butte National Monument. Moan has uncovered every opportunity to work around the Zinke-induced limbo, securing other funding and collaborating with government agencies on road improvements, sign installations, and restoration projects. She’s confident that the BLM partnership and vast network of volunteers that she’s helped to forge will carry this work forward. (At press time, Friends of Gold Butte was interviewing potential replacements.) She’s excited about her future at The Nature Conservancy, a well-established environmental organization, but it’s bittersweet.

“I loved working for Friends of Gold Butte,” she says. “I hope that people really realize the incredible number of both natural and human antiquities that there are on this landscape. I will always carry Gold Butte in my heart.” ♦

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stories about Southern
Nevada's many
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QUIET ON THE SET ...

Where movie scenes were filmed
Downtown

ILLUSTRATED BY
TANYA
COOPER



1. Diamonds Are Forever (1971)
Casino Center between Fremont and Carson. James Bond drove a Mustang on two wheels through a narrow passage just off Fremont. Pop culture expert Richard Hooker thinks it was a Four Queens service alley, with the end of the scene fabricated in Hollywood.

2. Starman (1984)
Binion's. Alien Jeff Bridges uses other-worldly abilities to cheat Binion's out of a \$500,000 jackpot.

3. The Stand (1994)
In front of Plaza. Beelzebub has a devil set aside for Vegas at a giant pep rally of evil, after which everyone gets (atom) bombed.

4. Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998)
East Fremont near Charleston Boulevard. Where Duke and his attorney,

driving around, see Lucy, the young girl they'd earlier given drugs to, crossing the street — and freak out.

5. Mars Attacks! (1996)
Neon Boneyard. Danny DeVito

meets his alien demise amid the lovely old signs.

6. Con Air (1997)
Fremont Street Experience. In this movie's convoluted Vegas, the Fremont Street Experience —

which Nic Cage and John Cusack weave through on motorcycles — is a short stolen-fire-truck ride from the Sands.

7. Now You See Me (2013)
Neon Boneyard. This

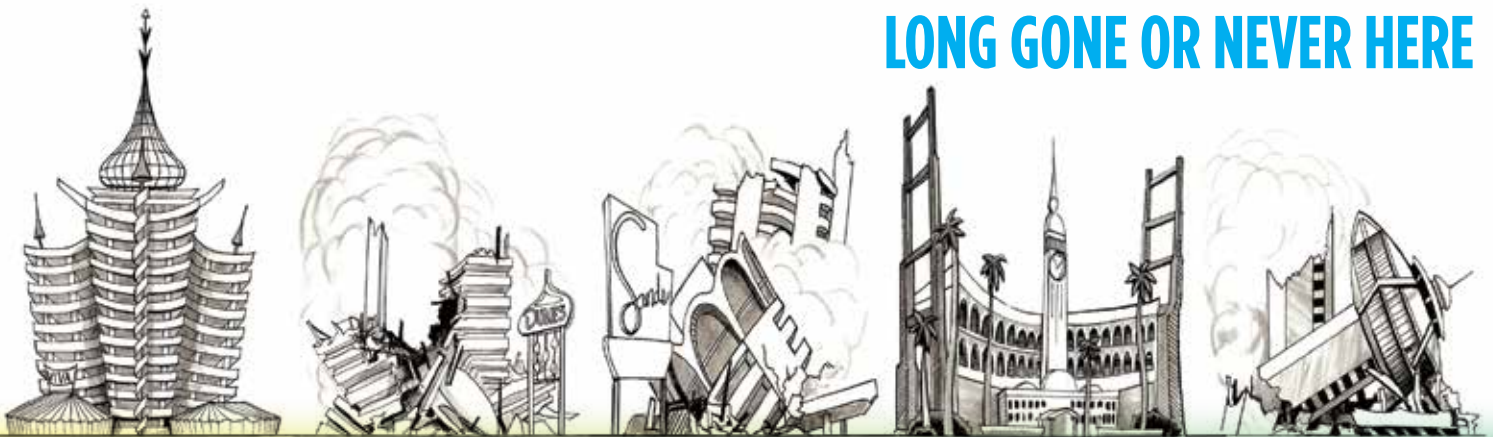
magic-caper film's ending was supposed to have been shot at the Neon Boneyard, but the production ran out of time. A few scenes filmed there were included as DVD extras (with

CGI magic making the Boneyard appear to be in the middle of nowhere).

8. Vegas Vacation (1997)
Neon Boneyard. Audrey Griswold kicks it at a teen party.

9. Honey, I Blew Up the Kid (1992)
By Four Queens. Giant baby rampages adorably down pre-canopy Fremont Street; Vegas Vickie can't believe it!

LONG GONE OR NEVER HERE



VIVA VEGAS
Proposed early 1960s

THE DUNES
Imploded 1993

THE SANDS
Imploded 1996

CITY BY THE BAY
Proposed circa 2000

LANDMARK
Imploded 1995

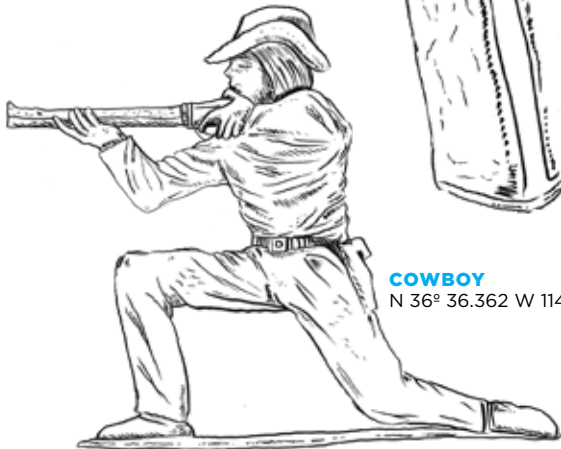
GEOCACHE ACCEPTED

Trinkets we found at local geocaching sites



BOTTLE

N 35° 58.919 W 114° 49.010



COWBOY

N 36° 36.362 W 114° 49.010

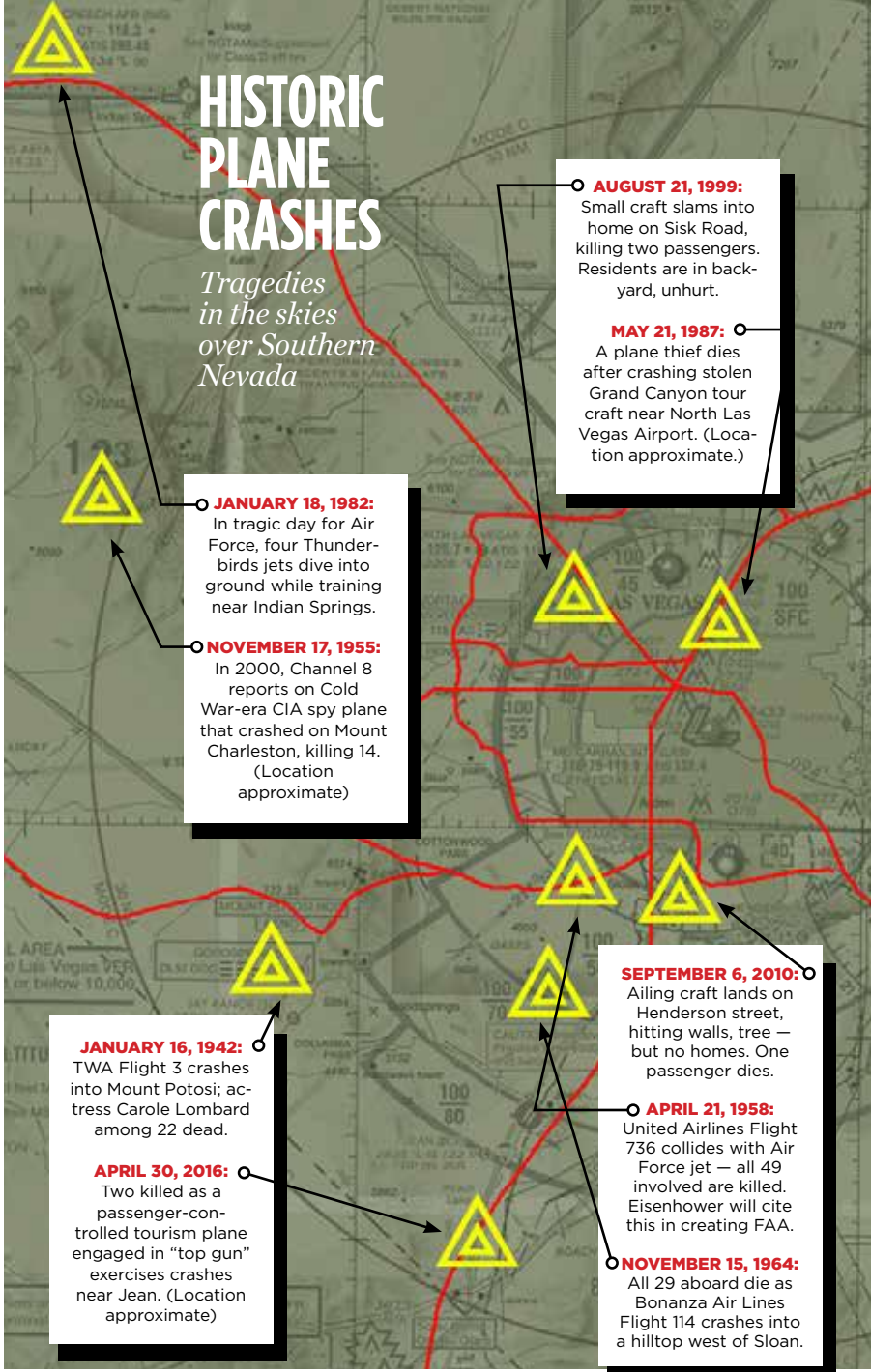
YO-YO & BALL

N 36° 22.584 W 115° 37.183



GARTER

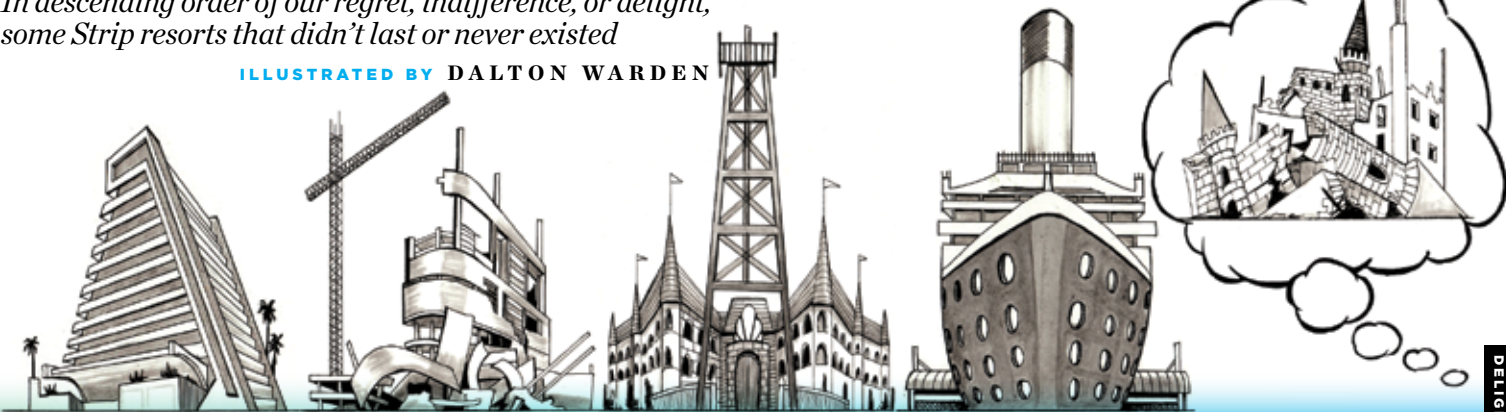
N 36° 9701 W 115° 8.861



GEOCACHING AND AIRPLANE: BRENT HOLMES

In descending order of our regret, indifference, or delight, some Strip resorts that didn't last or never existed

ILLUSTRATED BY DALTON WARDEN



XANADU
Proposed mid-1970s

HARMON TOWER
Dismantled 2014-15

BEVERLY HILLS RESORT
Proposed various times in North Las Vegas, Carson City

TITANIC RESORT
Circa late '90s

EXCALIBUR
Maybe someday ...

DELIGHT

2408 PALOMINO LANE

September 17, 1998: Horseshoe casino heir Fred Binion found dead, setting off one of city's most sordid trials.

ALPINE PLACE NEAR CHARLESTON BLVD

December 18, 1994: Businessman Ron Rudin killed in home. Wife goes on lam for two years, later convicted.

MOB MUSEUM

DOWNTOWN POST OFFICE (now Mob Museum)
December 30, 1959: In Cold Blood killers Perry Smith and Richard Hickock spotted by cops at post office, leading to arrest.

STEWART AVE

FREMONT HOTEL

September 1-18, 1966: Her celebrity waning, Jayne Mansfield plays dreary final shows at the Fremont. (After her death, hotel bills her estate \$7,000 for costumes.)

Fremont st

OASIS MOTEL (1731 Las Vegas Boulevard South)

March 22, 1999: Suddenly Susan co-star David Strickland hangs himself after beer-and-prostitutes spree.

THE STARDUST

May 1976: Slot supervisor George Jay Vandermark, having overseen mob skim, disappears—possibly for skimming the skim?

CHARLESTON BLVD

LAS VEGAS BLVD

WYNN LAS VEGAS

August 27, 2010: Paris Hilton arrested for coke possession outside resort.

PUSSYCAT A GO-GO

(corner of Las Vegas Boulevard and Sands Avenue)
January 28, 1968: Doors singer Jim Morrison billy-clubbed, arrested outside club.

THE SANDS

(where Venetian now stands)
February 1960: JFK meets future mistress (and friend of mobsters) Judith Campbell Exner in the lounge.

SORDID, SAD, DEADLY, WEIRD

A few of our city's lurid historic highlights

ILLUSTRATED BY RICK SEALOCK



WALNUT RD



GATEWAY AVE



JUNK DESERT OF MY YOUTH CIRCA 1981

MEMORIES BY
ANDREW KIRALY

ILLUSTRATED BY
LAURENT HRYBYK

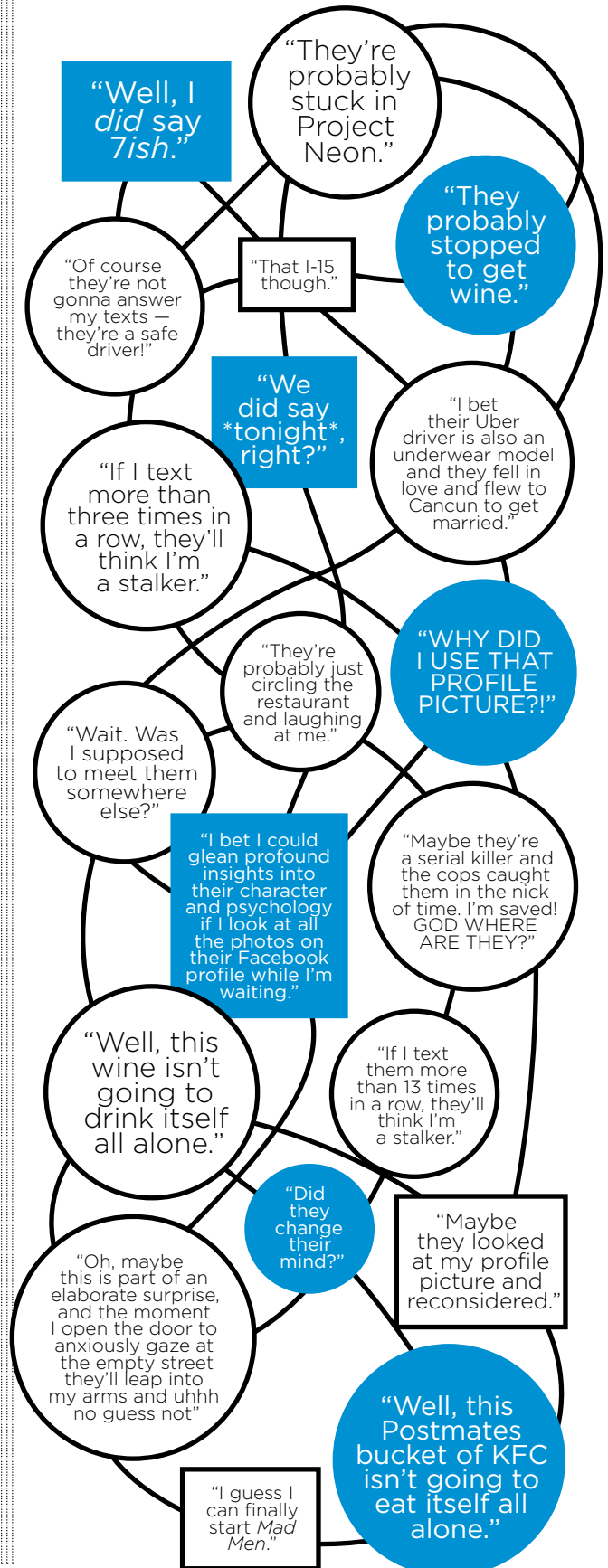


JACKSON POLLOCK
 "MAP OF LAS VEGAS"
 OIL ON CANVAS

BRENT HOLMES

THE 20 STAGES OF GETTING THE 'VEGAS FLAKE'

Why haven't they shown up yet?!

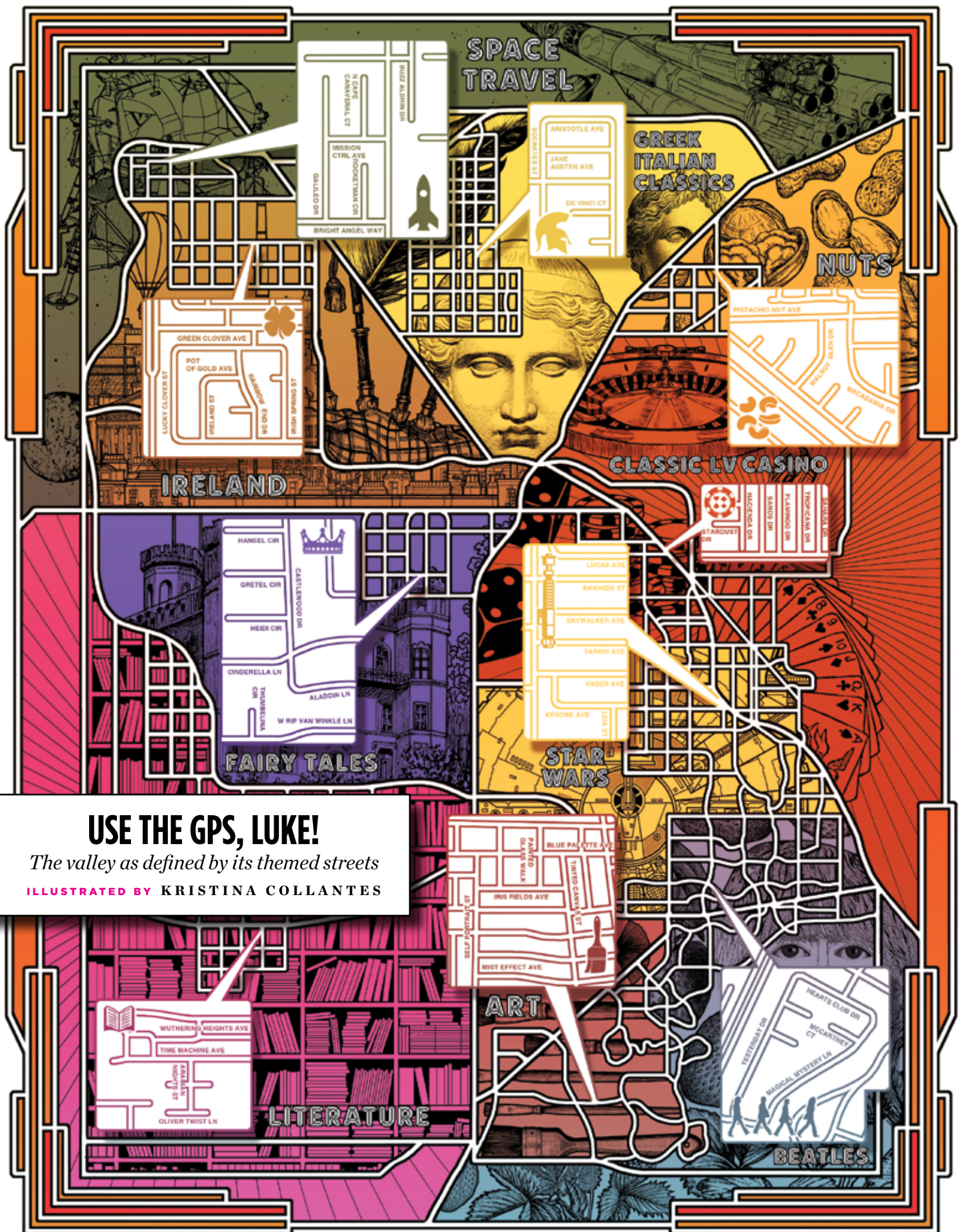


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CHRIS MORRIS



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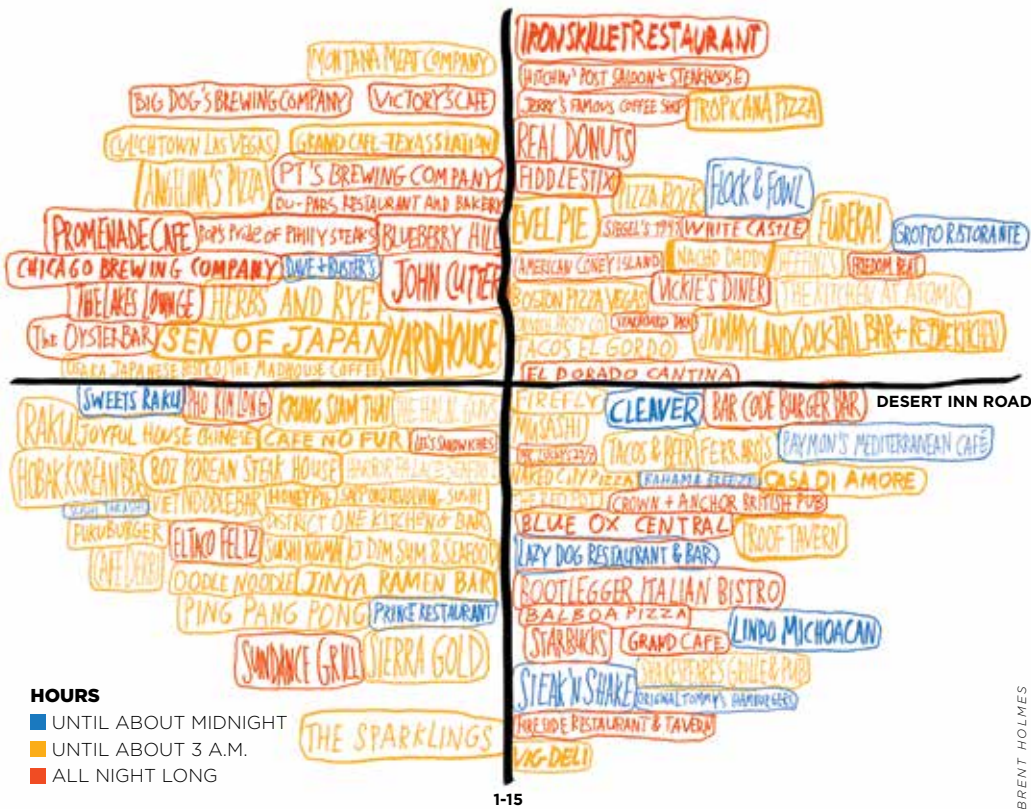
USE THE GPS, LUKE!

The valley as defined by its themed streets

ILLUSTRATED BY KRISTINA COLLANTES

LATE-NIGHT EATS & DRINKS

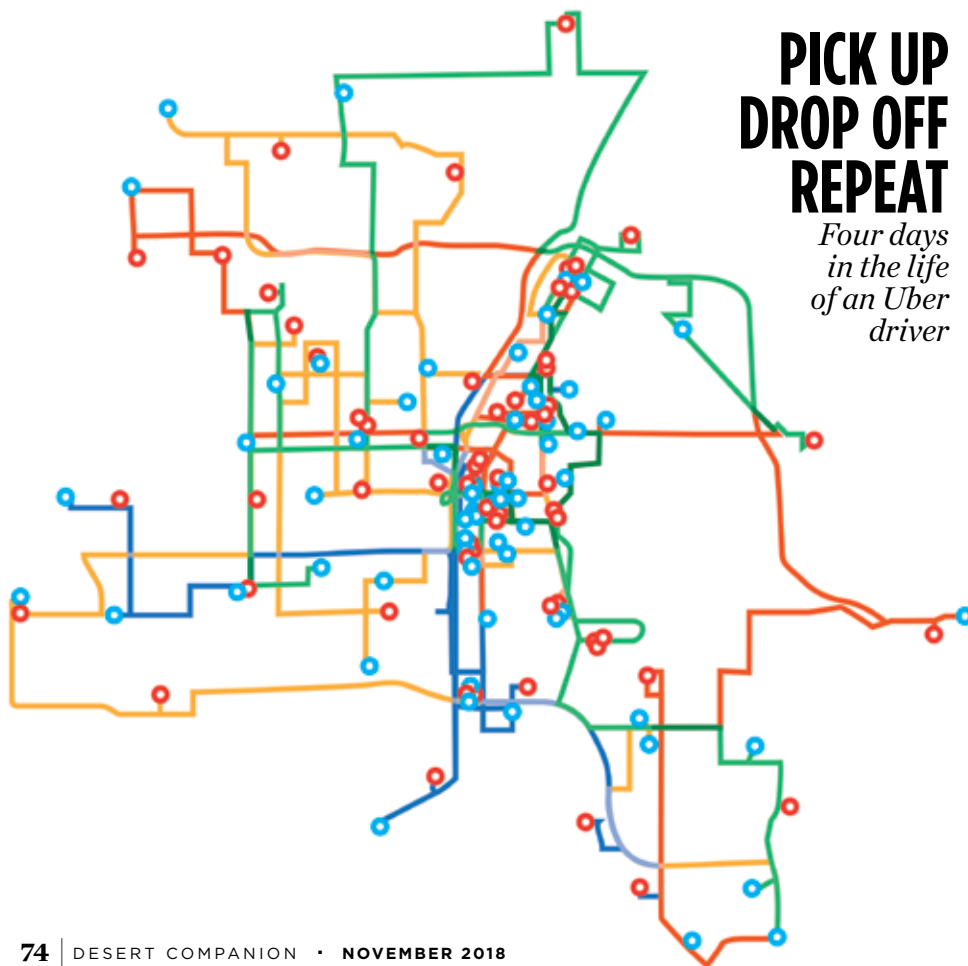
Whatever your quadrant of town, there's a wee-hours joint for you



BRENT HOLMES

PICK UP DROP OFF REPEAT

Four days
in the life
of an Uber
driver



CHRISTOPHER SMITH

THE WILD & MYSTERIOUS MOJAVE DESERT

COMPILED BY

KEN LAYNE

ILLUSTRATED BY

STEVE STANKIEWICZ

GOLDSTONE DEEP SPACE COMMUNICATIONS COMPLEX
93 GOLDSTONE ROAD, FORT IRWIN, CA

One of three Deep Space Network antenna sites in remote spots around the world, Goldstone's giant antennas south of Death Valley National Park allow communication with NASA's far-flung satellites, space probes and robot rovers. Closed to the public.

BARKER RANCH
GOLER WASH ROAD, DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, CA

Following the Tate-LaBianca murders in Los Angeles, Charles Manson and his Family hid at this remote Panamint Mountains ranch until their arrest for suspicion of car theft and vandalism in Death Valley.

ASH MEADOWS SKY RANCH
E. NYE COUNTY ROAD #266, AMARGOSA VALLEY, NV

Long abandoned but once the fanciest brothel in Nevada — complete with airstrip,

restaurant and swimming pool — it was here at the bar where Edward Abbey wrote *Desert Solitaire* on breaks from his school-bus-driver job in Death Valley.

PIONEER SALOON
310 NV-161 GOODSPRINGS, NV

This legendary watering hole north of Jean was built in 1913, and it was here that Clark Gable waited out the search on nearby Potosi Mountain, where his wife Carole Lombard was among the 22 killed in the January 1942 crash of TWA Flight 3.

SINGING DUNES OF KELSO
KELSO DUNES TRAIL, BAKER, CA

In the middle of the sublime Mojave National Preserve, you'll find 45 square miles of shifting sand dunes — the eerie chorus of goblin voices you hear while walking the crest of a dune is created by sand shifting under your weight.

ZZYXZ ROAD
DESERT STUDIES CENTER ZZYXZ, CA
"Doc" Curtis Springer, an old-time radio



evangelist and miracle-cure huckster, had Los Angeles winos build his health resort here on the old Mojave Road at Soda Springs, but was evicted by the Bureau of Land Management in 1974.

LLANO DEL RIO COLLECTIVE
 HIGHWAY 138 AT 172ND ST E.
 LLANO, CA
 On the north side of Pearblossom Highway stand the century-old stone

ruins of the famed Llano socialist community — Frank Black of the Pixies wrote a song about it, “Llano del Rio.”

LITTLE PETROGLYPH CANYON CHINA LAKE NAVAL AIR WEAPONS STATION RIDGECREST, CA
 Deep within the Mojave wilderness of China Lake naval air base is Little Petroglyph Canyon, a stunning collection

of Coso people’s rock art — but you can only visit on reservation-only guided tours through the Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest.

KILL BILL CHURCH
 19809 E. AVE. G, HI VISTA, CA
 Extensively remodeled for the 2003 Uma Thurman movie *Kill Bill*, this former community center has since become a real church and

has kept the interior and exterior features made famous from the bloody film.

INTEGRATRON
 2477 BELFIELD BLVD., LANDERS, CA
 Built by UFO contactee George Van Tassel as some sort of dimensional-travel machine, this striking white monument now serves neo-hippie tourists who climb up to the dome where they recline on yoga mats

and experience a “sound bath.”

THE FIRST DEL TACO
 38434 E. YERMO ROAD, YERMO, CA
 Now known as Tita’s Burger Den but still featuring the original Del Taco’s 1964 signage, this humble burrito stand was the beginning of the Mojave’s best-known restaurant chain.

THE PALMS RESTAURANT
 83131 AMBOY ROAD, WONDER VALLEY, CA
 On the lonesome “back road to Vegas” stands a unique oasis, run by the Sibley family (they’ve got an indie rock band, too) and serving tasty burgers and brunch and beers to a weird-but-friendly mix of dusty locals, bikers and sun-fried travelers.

CAP ROCK NATURE TRAIL, JOSHUA TREE, CA
 Country-rock pilgrims from around the world pay tribute to Gram Parsons here in Joshua Tree National Park, where the singer-songwriter was more or less cremated after his death at the Joshua Tree Inn, and where he and Keith Richards used to watch for UFOs from a barber’s chair they dragged up to the top.

DESERT COMPANION
PUB CRAWL

THE DISTRICT at
GREEN VALLEY RANCH

That night we had a few drinks, engaged in a little revelry and gave away Goo Goo Dolls tickets at *The District*. We can't wait 'til the next one!

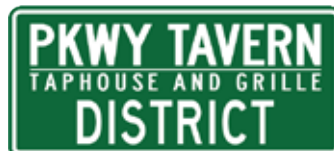


THE | DISTRICTSM
at green valley ranch

desertSM
COMPANION



Ritchie
McNeely's



TICKETS MAKE THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT!

NEVADA BALLET THEATRE'S

The NUTCRACKER

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Choreography by James Canfield

December 8-24, 2018

2018 PRESENTING SPONSOR



Value Pricing
for Select Dates



NEVADA BALLET THEATRE PRESENTS

FIREBIRD

plus RAYMONDA VARIATIONS,
LIGHT RAIN (pas de deux) and a
WORLD PREMIERE by Nicolo Fonte

WITH FULL ORCHESTRA

February 16 & 17, 2019



LIGHT RAIN (PAS DE DUEX) IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY AN AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

PHOTO BY JERRY METELLUS

NEVADA BALLET THEATRE
PRESENTS

ALICE (IN WONDERLAND)

Music by Matthew Pierce
Choreography by Septime Webre

WITH FULL ORCHESTRA

May 3-5, 2019

*"A pop-art dream, a feat
of fevered imagination."*

— Washington Post



PHOTO BY JERRY METELLUS



(702) 749-2000
NEVADABALLET.ORG



DANCER PHOTO BY BILL HUGHES

the Urge to Splurge



Sona 10" glass hurricane candle holder, \$89.95, [Crate & Barrel](#) in Downtown Summerlin

SOMETIMES, YOU JUST LOVE SOMEONE SOOO MUCH, YOU WANNA
GET THEM SOMETHING UNREASONABLY FANCY

*Picks by Christie Moeller,
Andrew Kiraly, Heidi Kyser,
Scott Lien, and Summer Thomad*





Nespresso Vertuo
coffee and espresso
machine, \$139.30,
nespresso.com



Crate & Barrel Viv
champagne glass,
\$4.95, Crate & Barrel in
Downtown Summerlin



Di Martino Dolce & Gabbana
pasta and apron tin box set, \$160,
Neiman Marcus Fashion Show



Leatherman Surge
21-feature multitool,
\$109.95, REI and
leatherman.com



2018 holiday gift guide



Cocktail Courier
Punch Royal, party size, \$149.99,
[Williams Sonoma](#)



Gucci Rajah maxi tote, \$2,500, Gucci in the [Forum Shops at Caesars](#)



Le Creuset Dutch oven, starts at \$130, [Sur La Table](#)



XS pocket fountain pen in aluminum and brass, \$59, [ensso.com](#)





Tiffany Paper Flowers yellow diamond firefly ring in platinum with white diamonds, price upon request, *Tiffany & Co.* in the Forum Shops at Caesars and the Shops at Crystals



Karma And Luck hematite chakra wrap, \$49.99; 18k gold-plated Hamsa charm with Swarovski crystal, \$49.99; gunmetal evil-eye tube with onyx cabachon, \$69.99, *Karma And Luck* in the Fashion Show Mall and Miracle Mile Shops



NARS Hot Tryst cheek palette, \$59; Riot velvet matte lip pencil set, \$45, *NARS* in the Forum Shops at Caesars



2018 holiday gift guide



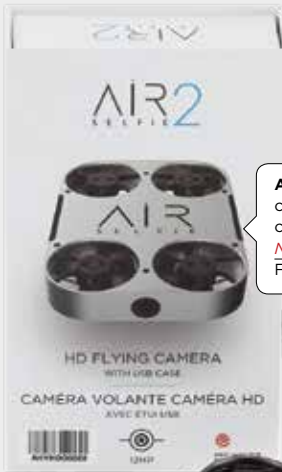
Gucci Reversible GG wool poncho, \$1,200, [Gucci](#) in the Forum Shops at Caesars



Apple Watch Series 4, starts at \$499, [The Apple Store](#)

Tory Burch Foundation seed box, \$98, [Tory Burch](#) in the Fashion Show Mall, Forum Shops at Caesars, Shoppes at Palazzo





AirSelfie2 HD flying camera with leather carrying case, \$199, [Neiman Marcus](#) in the Fashion Show Mall



Schoenut classic wooden toy guitar, \$59, [Crate & Barrel](#) in Downtown Summerlin



DL1961 Fido canine trucker jacket, \$49, [DL1961.com](#)



Build-A-Bear Pawlette (bunny), \$16.50; holiday dress, \$15; sparkle flats, \$7.50, [Build-A-Bear](#) in Downtown Summerlin



Xbox One X, \$499.99, [Best Buy](#)



Bring in Good Cheer

CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOLIDAYING? HERE IS THE ULTIMATE LIST OF EVENTS!

Compiled by *Mélanie Hope*

THROUGH NOV. 24 Falling Asleep

The installation at The Conservatory & Botanical Gardens is inspired by the mythology of the goddess of harvest. **24/7, free.** Bellagio, bellagio.com

NOV. 2-4 Holiday Craft and Gift Festival

Check out the vintage Christmas train display while enjoying holiday music, food, and shopping. **Fri-Sat 10A-5P; Sun 10A-4P, \$5; children 12 and under, free.** Orleans Arena, 4500 W. Tropicana Ave., lvcraftfestival.com

NOV. 3 Veterans Day Ceremony

The Basic High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC will present colors and read the names to be added to the memorial wall. The

Henderson Symphony Orchestra will provide a special musical tribute to veterans and the armed forces.

10A, free. Henderson Amphitheatre, cityofhenderson.com

NOV. 3 New Vista's Brew's Best Craft Beer Festival

Attendees enjoy an afternoon of unlimited samplings from local and national breweries, entertainment, activities, and games. All participants receive a souvenir tasting glass and tasting guide. **2-7P, \$30-\$45** The Lawn at Downtown Summerlin, 1980 Festival Plaza Drive, brewsbest.com

NOV. 4 Las Vegas Brass Band: A Salute to Veterans

The British-style brass band has been performing since 1993, when some of its current members were not even born yet! **2P, free.** Main Theater at Clark County Library, lvccld.org

NOV. 6-JAN. 6 Holiday Cactus Garden

More than a million lights will be strung throughout the 3-acre garden. Stop inside for a chocolate sample! **5-12P, free.** Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Botanical Garden, 2 Cactus Garden Drive, Henderson, ethelm.com

NOV. 8 UNLV Music: Community Concert & New Horizons Bands

The UNLV Community Concert Band and the New Horizons Band perform, conducted by Anthony LaBounty. **7:30P, \$10.** Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall at UNLV, unlv.edu

NOV. 9 Andy McKee

Fingerstyle guitarist McKee's success and millions of YouTube viewers underscore his role as one of today's most unusual artists. **7:30P, \$45.** Lee and Thomas Beam Music Center at UNLV, unlv.edu

NOV. 9-JAN. 6 Glittering Lights Las Vegas

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

NOV. 10 Red, White, & Blue Wine Walk

There are more than 25 stops you can visit

to get your pour of all different kinds of wine as you enjoy the decorations in the historic downtown district. **21+ only. 4-8P, \$25 individual, \$45 couple.** Historic Downtown Boulder City, visitbouldercity.com

NOV. 14 The Moth

An acclaimed not-for-profit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling, each Moth Mainstage features five wildly divergent raconteurs. **7:30P, \$15.** Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall at UNLV, unlv.edu

NOV. 15 The President's Concert

The UNLV Wind Orchestra presents the annual President's Concert: Honoring America's Heroes. **7:30P, \$10.** Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall at UNLV, unlv.edu

NOV. 15-18 Synchronicities

An exciting collection of dances from BA of Fine Arts majors. **7:30P, \$18.** Alta Ham Fine Arts at UNLV, unlv.edu

NOV. 16-18 41st Annual Christmas Bazaar

The Women's Guild hosts this popular indoor/outdoor event full of fine arts, crafts, clothing, jewelry, antiques, and more. **8A-5P Fri-Sat; 8A-2P Sun, free.** St. Viator Parish, 2461 E. Flamingo Road, stviator.org

NOV. 17 Tellebration!

Storytellers from the Nevada Storytelling Guild will regale the audiences with a potpourri of folktales, personal tales, historical, mythical, and musical tales in celebration of story! **1P, free.** West Charleston Library, ccivld.org

NOV. 6 The 25th Anniversary Holiday Cactus Garden Lighting

Celebrate the switching on of more than a million lights with live entertainment, premium gifts, and hot chocolate. **5P, free admission with toy or food donation.** Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Botanical Garden, 2 Cactus Garden Drive, Henderson, ethelm.com



NOV. 17–JAN. 6

Mystic Falls Holiday Shows

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

NOV. 17–18, 24–25; DEC. 1–2, 8–9, 15–24

Downtown Summerlin Holiday Parade

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

NOV. 17

Henderson Stroll 'n' Roll

The road will be closed to motorized traffic so that you may enjoy the street via bicycle, skates, skateboards, stroller, or on foot. Along the way, enjoy craft and food vendors. **10A–2P, free.** Along Paseo Verde Parkway, bikehenderson.org

NOV. 17

LVIP Thanksgiving Extravaganza

Feast on the musical comedy of the Las Vegas Improvisational Players as they make up the show on the spot, based on your suggestions. **7P, \$10; \$5 kids, seniors, and military.** Show Creators Studio, 4455 W. Sunset Road, lvimprov.com

NOV. 23–DEC. 31

Opportunity Village's



NOV. 21–JAN. 2

The Rink at the Boulevard Pool

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

Magical Forest

Enter a winter wonderland with millions of sparkling lights, nightly entertainment, the Forest Express passenger train, Cheyenne's Enchanted Carousel, Boris the Elf's 3-D Experience, and so much more.

Sun–Thu 5:30–9P; Fri–Sat 5:30–10P, \$9–\$20. Opportunity Village, 6300 W. Oakey Blvd., opportunityvillage.org

NOV. 24–JAN. 6

Fountains of Bellagio

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

NOV. 24–DEC. 31

House on Robindale

The most decorated house in the valley

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

NOV. 29–DEC. 1

KINEKT: Circus, Dance, Theater

It is the story of a father and son's struggle to connect and the forces that keep them apart in this technological age, told by combining the spectacle of acrobatics and the poetry of dance and theater. **12P, \$25–\$30.** Summerlin Library, lvccld.org

NOV. 29

Luminaria and Las Posadas

Enjoy holiday festivities, choirs from local

schools, a living nativity, and a Christmas carol sing-along followed by hot chocolate. **6P, free.** Boulder City Recreation Center Gymnasium, 900 Arizona St., visitbouldercity.com

NOV. 29

Winter Choral Concert

The UNLV Choral Ensembles present its winter concert. **7:30P, \$10.** Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall at UNLV, unlv.edu

NOV. 30

Christmas Tree Lighting

Join Jingle Cat in lighting up the Community Christmas Tree, plus live entertainment and hot chocolate. **6P, free.** Frank Crowe Park, Boulder City, visitbouldercity.com

NOV. 30 AND DEC. 29

Last Friday — Just Add Water Street

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

NOV. 30

A Polar Express Dance Extravaganza

Intensive Dance Company, under the direction of Anna Lawson, will present its annual Christmas performance. **7:30P, \$25.** The Historic Boulder Theatre, 1225 Arizona St., boulder-citychamberofcommerce.com

NOV. 30–DEC. 9

Love's Labour's Lost

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

DEC. 1–31

Santa Train

This 40-minute ride along the Boulder Branch Line features a toy train exhibit, Santa's sleigh for photos, North Pole mailbox, and depot gift store. **10A–3P Fri–Sun,**

\$5-\$10. Nevada State Railroad Museum, 601 Yucca St., Boulder City, nevadasouthern.com

DEC. 1

Great Santa Run

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

DEC. 1—JAN 6

Holiday Glamour

The Conservatory & Botanical Gardens will be transformed into a magical holiday paradise. 24/7, free. The Bellagio, bellagio.com

DEC. 1

Doodlebug Bazaar

Almost 140 booths offer items like handmade jewelry, clothing, holiday decorations, ornaments, and toys. 9A-4P; Santa parade at 4:30P, free. Boulder City Recreation Center, 900 Arizona St., visitbouldercity.com

DEC. 1

A Classic Holiday

The Las Vegas Philharmonic presents its

annual holiday concert, featuring vocalists and an audience singalong. 2P and 7:30P, \$30-\$109. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, thesmithcenter.com

DEC. 2

Magical Forest Menorah Lighting Ceremony

A special part of the holiday celebrations. 5P, \$9-\$20. Opportunity Village, 6300 W. Oakey Blvd., opportunityvillage.org

DEC. 6-16

Stetson Country Christmas Downtown

The 25th anniversary of this mega-shopping event brings many traditions as well as exciting changes. Live music and more. 10A-5P, free. Sands Expo, countrychristmas.vegas

DEC. 6-7

A Well-Strung Christmas Starring Edmund Bagnell, Christopher Marchant, Daniel Shevlin, and Trevor Wadleigh

This singing string quartet will perform

holiday classics. 7P. \$39-\$59. Myron's Cabaret Jazz at The Smith Center, thesmithcenter.com

DEC. 7-9, 14-16, & 21-23

Holiday Express

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

DECEMBER 7-8

WinterFest

This year's theme is North Pole Adventures and includes a variety of family-friendly activities including the official tree-lighting ceremony with Santa, craft vendors, entertainment, and a spectacular evening light parade. Fri 6-9P; Sat 12-5P, free. Henderson Convention Center & Events Plaza,

200 S. Water St., Henderson, cityof-henderson.com

DEC. 7

Randy Riggle: Nostalgic Christmas

A winter wonderland will be re-created for audience members as we revisit Santa's one night of work each year. 7:30P, free. West Charleston Library, lvccld.org

DEC. 8

Holidays From the Heart with Kristen Hertenberg and Philip Fortenberry

The duo will perform a delightful array of Christmas music from their CD, taking audiences on a wistful ride and connecting to the true heart of the most magical time of the year. 3P, free. Auditorium at Windmill Library, lvccld.org

DEC. 8

Ugly Sweater Wine Walk

Get your awful holiday sweater judged as you taste wines and treats while enjoying the festive decorations all

over town. 21+. 4P, \$25 individual, \$45 couple. Historic Downtown Boulder City, visitbouldercity.com

DEC. 8

Jingle Bell Run

Raise funds and awareness for the Arthritis Foundation in the 5K, 10K, or 1 mile kids' run. Runners receive jingle bells for their shoes and other goodies. 8A, \$25-\$75. Tivoli Village, arthritis.org/Nevada

DEC. 15

LVIP Christmas Special

Get out of the mall to enjoy an evening of holiday-themed comedy by the Las Vegas Improvisational Players. Brighten your silent night with lighthearted, clean antics based on audience suggestions. 7P, \$10; \$5 kids, seniors, and military. Show Creators Studio, 4455 W. Sunset Road, lvimprov.com

DEC. 20

A Very Harry Potter Winter

Get sorted into your Hogwarts House, choose your wand, and join in more fun wizarding festivities! 3P, free. Spring Valley Library, lvccld.org

DEC. 31

Resolution Run 10K/5K/1M

Get an early start to your New Year's resolutions. Finishers of this slightly hilly course receive a shirt and a medal. Walkers and strollers welcome. 12P, \$30-\$55, Kellogg-Zaher Park, 7901 W. Washington Ave., tripledearuns.com



DEC 8-24

The Nutcracker

Nevada Ballet Theatre's annual tradition continues with its performance of Tchaikovsky's immortal ballet. Fri-Sat and Dec. 20, 7:30P; Sat-Sun and Dec. 24, 2P (beginning Dec 15); \$29-\$179. Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center, thesmithcenter.com

The Gift of Giving

THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN GIVE TO OTHERS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS ARE SEEKING DONATIONS, VOLUNTEERS, AND OTHER SUPPORT.

Compiled by *Mélanie Hope*

ADULT DAY CARE CENTERS OF LAS VEGAS AND HENDERSON

As an alternative to expensive in-home care, this organization helps keep your loved one home longer through visits, day centers, and social programs. **Needs:** Donations, visits, entertainment, event planning, facilities support, class leadership. **Volunteer:** 702-648-3425, adultdaycarelv.org

AID FOR AIDS OF NEVADA

Afan provides medical case management, medical transportation, education, prevention, housing, and nutritional services for adults and children affected by HIV/AIDS. **Needs:** Host a holiday fundraising event. **Volunteer:** 702-382-2326, afanlv.org

BABY'S BOUNTY

This active group provides new and gently used infant clothing and gear to babies born to victims of domestic abuse, teen mothers, and low-income families. **Needs:** Help with collecting, sorting, cleaning, and preparing clothing donations. **Volunteer:** 702-485-2229, babysbounty.org

BEST BUDDIES NEVADA

Best Buddies International works to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through socialization programs, job coaching, and tools in leadership development. **Needs:** Donate money and office supplies; assist with special events; become a "Buddy" to offer mentoring, friendship, or jobs to persons with IDD. **Volunteer:** 702-822-2268, bestbuddies.org/nevada

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

BBBS is a mentoring network that provides children facing adversity with professionally supported, positive relationships. **Needs:** Donate, volunteer as "Bigs" who are interested in playing sports, hiking, reading, and other fun events with their "Littles." Also consider donating a new bicycle or skateboard for their Holiday Bike and Board Bonanza. **Volunteer:** 702-731-2227, bbbsn.org

BLIND CENTER OF NEVADA

BCN assists the blind and visually impaired by focusing on

personal development, social interaction, and meaningful employment. **Needs:** Assist with various daily programs and activities. **Volunteer:** 702-642-6000, blindcenter.org

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

Club programs and services promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging, and influence. **Needs:** Volunteer at a local club. Each location has its own needs. **Volunteer:** 702-253-2801, bgcsnv.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

Regardless of faith, the charity provides counseling services, services to pregnant women, immigration legal assistance, transitional housing, aid to low-income families, and a food

bank. **Needs:** Prepare Thanksgiving baskets, stock pantry shelves, assist with Meals on Wheels, and serve community meals. **Volunteer:** 702-385-2662, catholiccharities.com

GOODIE TWO SHOES FOUNDATION

The organization provides disadvantaged children and children in crisis with new shoes and socks as well as other items deemed essential for good health and positive development. **Needs:** Help participating children select properly fitted shoes, assist with filling of backpacks, serve lunches. **Volunteer:** 702-617-4027, goodietwoshoes.org

HEAVEN CAN WAIT ANIMAL SOCIETY

Heaven Can Wait works to eliminate companion-animal suffering and pet overpopulation through aggressive spay/neuter programs, adoptions, community outreach, and education. **Needs:** Work tables at events, write for various publications, assist in fostering and adoption programs, administrative work, clinical work. **Volunteer:** 702-227-5555, hcws.org

HELPING HANDS OF VEGAS VALLEY

A nonprofit with the mission to provide free assistive services to senior citizens in Southern Nevada, allowing them to maintain their dignity and independence while improving health and daily living.

Needs: Drive seniors to their appointments, help with admin duties, assist with the food pantry and delivery services, distribute pet food — bilingual volunteers particularly needed. **Volunteer:** 702-633-7264, hhvv.org

HELP OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

HELP assists the poor, the homeless, and those in crisis to receive emergency services and holiday gifts through its three signature programs: Adopt-A-Family, Turkey-A-Thon, and Toy Drive/Holiday Assistance. **Needs:** Host a donation drive, sponsor an event, assist in events planning and execution, adopt a family. **Volunteer:** 702-369-4357, helpsonv.org

LAS VEGAS VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

The Humane Society is dedicated to improving the welfare of animals, particularly those that are stray or abandoned. **Needs:** Foster or sponsor an animal; transport rescues; walk dogs or socialize with cats; assist in fundraisers; help with administrative work; donate blankets, pet food, or toys. **Volunteer:** 702-434-2009, lvhumane.org



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY

JFSA supports people of all backgrounds by providing professional social services including counseling, senior services, adoptions, and emergency assistance. **Needs:** Help with daily administrative tasks, the food pantry, driving seniors, and events held throughout the year. **Volunteer:** 702-732-0304, jfsalv.org/volunteer

LAS VEGAS RESCUE MISSION

The Las Vegas Rescue Mission provides people in need with shelter and services, without regard to religion or origin. During the holidays, it provides children with Christmas gifts as well as food and other essentials. **Needs:** Help serve meals, sort and price items for the thrift store, assist in toy and food drives, mentor recovery clients, provide life skills training. **Volunteer:** 702-382-1766, vegasrescue.org

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF NEVADA

LSSNV provides professional social services to people of all backgrounds, including counseling, senior services, adoptions, and emergency assistance. **Needs:** Assist with assembly and distribution of holiday baskets; join the Adopt-A-Family program; help with the emergency-services food pantry, office tasks, maintenance at housing units, and fundraising. **Volunteer:** 702-639-1730, lssnv.org

PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The PEF offers literacy programs to children and families. **Needs:** Tutor students in reading, help with general clerical work, pick up and deliver books. **Volunteer:** 702-799-1042, thepef.org

TOYS 4 TOTS

This program run by the U.S. Marines collects new, unwrapped toys and distributes them as Christmas gifts to needy children. **Needs:** Gather toy and financial donations, help with the transportation and storage of donated toys, assist in the warehouse, help with meals. **Volunteer:** 702-632-1519 or 702-632-1524, las-vegas-nv.toysfortots.org

NEVADA PARTNER-SHIP FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

NPHY provides youth services, including street outreach, 24-hour crisis intervention, a full-time drop-in center, and an independent living program. **Needs:** Donate food, clothing, hygiene items, school supplies, and other items; assemble and distribute sack lunches; join or host events; assist with clerical tasks; help in the food pantry and clothing closet. **Volunteer:** 702-383-1332, nphy.org

THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF GREATER LAS VEGAS

Ronald McDonald House Charities provides lodging, transportation, and support to families while their children receive medical treatment. **Needs:** Become a Family Room host at Sunrise Children's Hospital, assist in the office, drive a shuttle van, help with cleaning and maintenance, decorate lunch bags and caring cards, wrap gifts, cook holiday meals. **Volunteer:** 702-252-4663, rmhlv.com/volunteer

THE SALVATION ARMY

This well-known organization offers adult rehabilitation,



OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE

OV helps people with severe intellectual and related disabilities seek independence by providing vocational training, community employment, day services, advocacy, arts programs, and social recreation. **Needs:** Work with men and women with intellectual disabilities; assist with various events including the Magical Forest. **Volunteer:** 702-259-3741, opportunityvillage.org

emergency disaster relief, victim and veteran services, and youth programs. **Needs:** Sponsor and assist with toy drives, food drives, and Christmas Angel Tree programs; participate in the Adopt-a-Kettle program through the holidays. **Volunteer:** 702-870-4430, salvationarmysouth-ernnevada.org/volunteer

THE SHADE TREE

The Shade Tree provides a safe shelter for homeless and abused women and children in crisis — along with their pets — and offers services promoting stability, dignity and self-reliance. **Needs:** Help prepare and serve daily meals; assist in the clinic; tutor children or teach life skills classes to adults; organize arts and craft projects; provide transportation; help with cleaning, painting, and yard work; assist with special events. **Volunteer:** 702-385-0072, theshadetreecorv.com

SPREAD THE WORD NEVADA

The goal of Spread the

Word Nevada is to promote early literacy by giving books to children in at-risk, low-income communities. **Needs:** Help prepare books, become a mentor or reading companion at an elementary school, assist with Breakfast/Snack Time with Books programs and at community events. **Volunteer:** 702-564-7809, spreadtheword-nevada.org

ST. JUDE'S RANCH FOR CHILDREN

SJRC works with abused, neglected, and at-risk children and young adults through residential foster care, transitional living, housing, services for homeless 18-25 year-olds, child-focused sibling preservation, emergency placement, and child nutrition programs. **Needs:** Volunteers in the thrift store and mailroom; help with maintenance of the grounds and buildings, holiday decorating, and donations from the holiday wish list. **Volunteer:** 702-294-7100, stjudesranch.org

THREE SQUARE

Three Square's mission is to provide wholesome food to hungry people while passionately pursuing a hunger-free community. The Backpack for Kids program provides Clark County schoolchildren in need with bags of nourishing food for after school, weekends, holidays, and school breaks. **Needs:** Donate funds; sort and package meals for school programs; help out at special events; box meals for the Senior Share Program. **Volunteer:** 702-644-3663, threesquare.org

VA SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM

The US Department of Veterans Affairs honors America's veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their well-being. **Needs:** Donate new clothing and hygiene items, help transport patients to medical appointments, assist with admin duties. **Volunteer:** 702-791-9134, volunteer.va.gov

YMCA

The YMCA provides personal and social change through Christian principles and opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive side-by-side regardless of age, income, or background. **Needs:** Assist in sorting and wrapping toy donations, coach sports teams, chaperone field trips, teach classes, fundraise. **Volunteer:** lasvegasymca.org

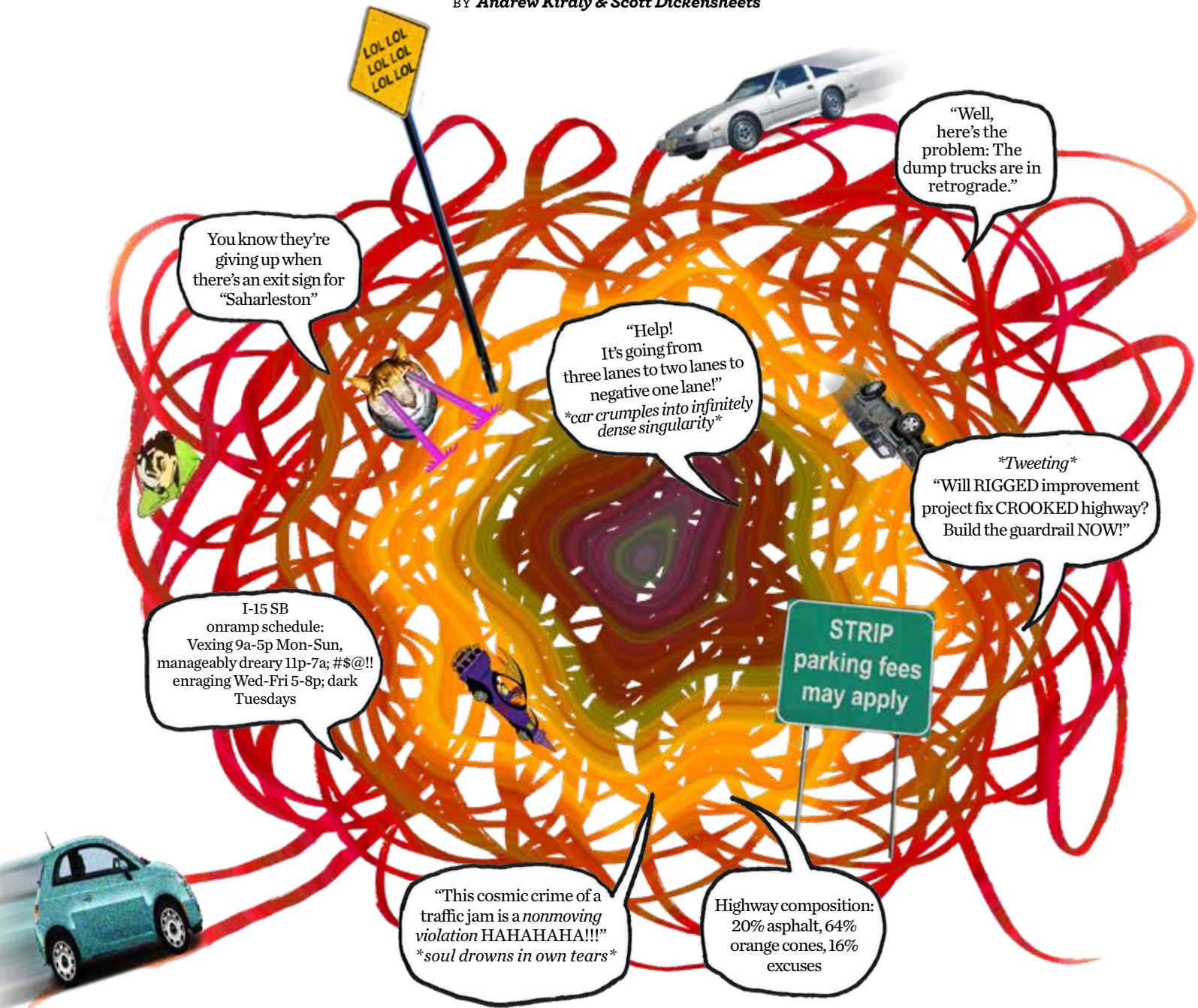
YWCA

The YWCA focuses on eliminating racism and empowering women in Nevada. **Needs:** Tutor international visitors in English, teach teens financial literacy, assist in preschool classrooms, join the Youth Mentor Program, become part of the Eracism Seminar leadership, fundraise. **Volunteer:** ywcanevada.org

DRIVING THE SPAGHETTI MONSTER

Notes from a recent spin through Project Neon

BY Andrew Kiraly & Scott Dickensheets



You know they're giving up when there's an exit sign for "Saharleston"

"Well, here's the problem: The dump trucks are in retrograde."

"Help! It's going from three lanes to two lanes to negative one lane!"
car crumples into infinitely dense singularity

Tweeting
"Will RIGGED improvement project fix CROOKED highway? Build the guardrail NOW!"

I-15 SB onramp schedule: Vexing 9a-5p Mon-Sun, manageably dreary 11p-7a; #\$\$\$@!! enraging Wed-Fri 5-8p; dark Tuesdays

STRIP parking fees may apply

"This cosmic crime of a traffic jam is a *nonmoving violation* HAHAAAAH!!!"
soul drowns in own tears

Highway composition: 20% asphalt, 64% orange cones, 16% excuses



WORKING TOGETHER WORKS WONDERS.

Food is a fundamental necessity for human life. As one of the largest, multi-concept restaurant operators in the world, MGM Resorts makes it our responsibility to find ways to safely donate un-served food and help address food insecurity in the communities in which we operate. From restaurants to events and from minibars to warehouses, we are partnering with local non-profits such as Three Square Food Bank to create a program that helps feed thousands of residents in the local area. When it comes to food, we have one mission: Feed more people. Waste less food. Learn more about our commitment to fighting hunger and ways to help at mgmresorts.com/csr.

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Comprehensive Cancer Centers is the leading cancer treatment provider in Southern Nevada. Doctors and patients who have a choice choose Comprehensive.

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- Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicare Advantage (PPO)
- Humana Medicare (PFFS & PPO)
- United Health Care Medicare Solutions (PPO)
- Hometown Health Senior Care Plus
- Select Health Advantage (HMO)

(As of January 1, 2019. Plans are subject to change)

Not sure?

Call us or visit our website and we'll let you know if we're included in your plan.



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