

Meet the Man  
Who Will Take You to Space

What to Do With  
Your Annoying Visitors

VEGAS

# seven

May 24-30, 2012

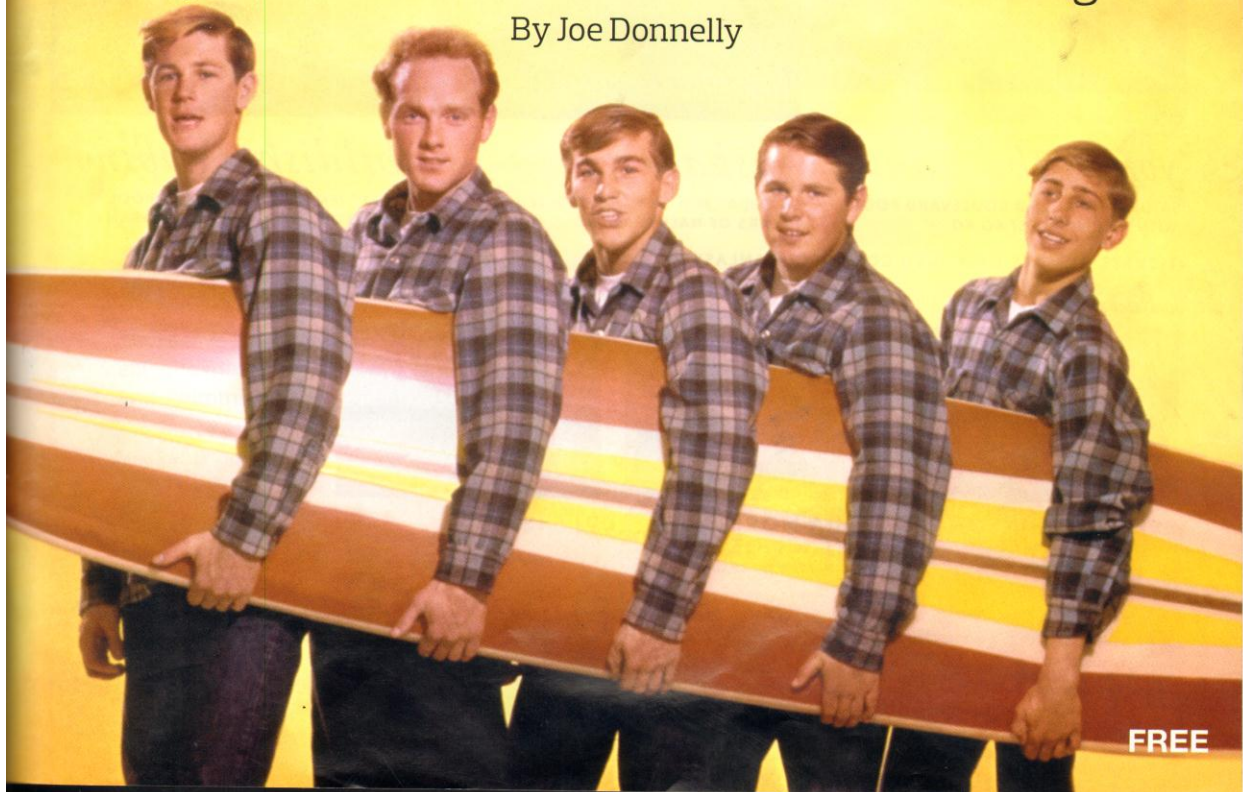
THIS WEEK IN YOUR CITY

MEMORIAL  
DAY WEEKEND  
GUIDE

## 50 ENDLESS SUMMERS

Why the **BEACH BOYS** are still worth listening to

By Joe Donnelly



FREE

**IDEAS**

## Planning Megapolitan Las Vegas

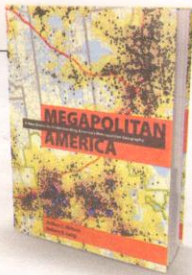
Robert Lang, the director of the Brookings Mountain West center at UNLV, has never shied away from thinking big about the future of cities—and of the Southwest. Now, in a book coauthored with University of Utah planning professor Arthur Nelson, Lang predicts the Las Vegas Valley's population could grow by 70 percent by 2040.

The book, *Megapolitan America: A New Vision for Understanding America's Metropolitan Geography*, argues that the nation has evolved into 10 megapolitan clusters, composed of 23 megapolitan areas. Las Vegas is considered a megapolitan area in the Southwest Megapolitan Cluster, along with Southern California and the Sun Corridor (Phoenix/Tucson). Lang and Nelson predict the Southwest will see the nation's most profound

growth: By 2040, the Southwest cluster will have more than 44 million people, and "its density, at nearly 1,800 persons per square mile, will be greater than that of any European country."

In order to accommodate all this growth and density in a sustainable way, we need to do a better job at planning our city. And Lang is prepared to take an important early step: developing the curriculum for an urban planning program at UNLV. The program will initially offer certificates and eventually evolve into a graduate program.

"We see this ramping up over the next two years," Lang says. "The interesting thing is we have the faculty; they just need to be programmed for this." Planning is a conglomerate of other disciplines, such as law, architec-



ture, geography, environmental studies, public policy, etc., so all it takes is for faculty in these other fields to teach classes geared toward planning. And given our state's educational budget woes, it's an opportunity to get the most out of the university's resources.

Planning is all about context, and this program will help create a Las Vegas interpretation of urban development; people who know the Valley, its history and its needs will be formally educated on the best practices in the field. Ideally, that means we'll be better able to handle growth in a creative and informed way, making us a better neighbor for Los Angeles and Phoenix in the new, megapolitan Southwest.

—Justin Montgomery



**WARNING**

### Five reasons North Las Vegas should worry ...

- Your officials were expecting a budget deficit of "only" \$15.5 million for fiscal year 2012-13. The actual figure is closer to \$33 million.
- To close the gap, your City Council plans to lay off 300 police-department employees.
- You have the highest crime rate in the county.
- Fiscal 2012 will be the third year in a row for no growth.
- Don't fret yet, your new city manager as of September has already run afoul of your no-union, wary union politics. The firefighter's union is calling him a liar.
- The state is watching and still may take away if your officials can't get their fiscal house in order.

### And two reasons they shouldn't ...

- Craig Ranch Regional Park will be awesome, even if you have to pay to play.
- Las Vegas or Clark County may just step in and annex the place.

—Bob Whitby

**PHILANTHROPY**

## Serving Up Opportunity

Who says Las Vegas doesn't take care of its own?

Jazmyn Franklin was raised by hospitality workers on the Strip, graduated from Valley High's magnet program in hospitality and now attends Penn State with a scholarship from Las Vegas' Epicurean Charitable Foundation.

Franklin, who hopes to work in casino or hotel management, will enter her junior year this fall after a summer internship in MGM's human resources department. After college, she'll probably return to the Las Vegas Strip. "I love it."

The Epicurean Charitable Foundation, which is made up of more than 40 local hospitality executives, has provided more than \$1 million in scholarships to future hospitality professionals since 2001. The group just announced its 2012 recipients, all of whom have plans to enroll in UNLV's hospitality administration program: Noah Shakespeare (Southwest Career and Technical Academy), Ajaha Johnson (Valley High School), Karen Nava (Valley) and Alexandria Von Mohr (Northwest Career and Technical Academy).

Scott Farber, president of the foundation and director of operations for Emeril Lagasse's four Las Vegas restaurants, says it's about both ensuring the continued quality of the hospitality industry and enhancing the relationship between the industry and the community. "One of our biggest focuses is on education and mentorship," he says.

Franklin is one of Farber's mentees—the two Skyye to maintain a dialogue about her career development. "She'll be a great addition to the industry, I have no doubt."

—Stacy J. Willis

# Seven DAYS

A curated tour of this week in your city

BY BOB WHITBY

**THURSDAY, MAY 24:** The UNLV baseball team has wrapped up a sub-500 regular season, but that's OK: the Rebels still have the **Mountain West Conference Championships** to look forward to, today through Saturday at UNLV's Wilson Stadium. Check [TheMWC.com](http://TheMWC.com) for a tournament bracket and ticket information.

**FRIDAY, MAY 25:** Here's a mashup aimed squarely at a younger demo: the **Amateur Fighting Championships** at 5:30 p.m. at South Point Arena. Yes, it's got lots of cage-match MMA fighting. It's also got bikini bull riding, free beer tasting and, of course, food trucks. Because who wants to do anything without a food truck nearby? [SouthPointCasino.com](http://SouthPointCasino.com).



**SATURDAY, MAY 26:** Memorial Day weekend is upon us, which means you're free for the next three days. Perhaps those three days should include the annual **Rockability Rod Reunion** at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Pre-1964 cars, vendors, music, drag racing, a swimsuit competition, a burn-out contest ... sounds pretty bitchin' to us. Gates open at 10 a.m. today and tomorrow; check [LVMS.com](http://LVMS.com) for ticket info.

**SUNDAY, MAY 27:** Who says you need to bowl alone? The 14th annual **Punk Rock Bowling and Music Festival**, featuring NOFX, Rancid and other groups not traditionally associated with the bowling alley, comes to Las Vegas from Friday through Monday. Catch concerts at the festival stage at Sixth and Stewart streets and at clubs throughout downtown. The bowling tourney is at Sam's Town on Saturday and Sunday. Check [PunkRockBowling.com](http://PunkRockBowling.com) for tickets and info.



**MONDAY, MAY 28:** We interrupt your beer drinking and barbecuing for a reminder of the real reason behind Memorial Day: to honor the fallen servicemen from all our country's conflicts. Toward that end, the Palm Downtown Mortuary is holding its 47th annual **Memorial Day service** at 9 a.m. in the large Chapel, 1325 N. Main St., [PalmMortuary.com](http://PalmMortuary.com).

**TUESDAY, MAY 29:** The **Las Vegas Contemporary Dance Theater** marks five years of pushing boundaries tonight at The Smith Center. The 7:30 p.m. show kicks off its spring concert series. Go and raise your culture quotient. \$27-\$65. [TheSmithCenter.com](http://TheSmithCenter.com).

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 30:** In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt created the Bracero program to bring guest workers from Mexico to the United States to alleviate a labor shortage in our fields and factories. It lasted 22 years, and enabled 2 million Mexicans to come here on short-term labor contracts. Learn more about this suddenly relevant bit of history through the Smithsonian's traveling exhibit **Bittersweet Harvest**, at the Springs Preserve through July 29. [SpringsPreserve.org](http://SpringsPreserve.org).



For an expanded calendar, see *Seven Days & Nights at WeeklySeven.com*.