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WHERE I STAND

Nevada’s senators take a for-the-people stand

Brian Greenspun

A version of this column was posted on lasvegassun.com.

Abraham Lincoln was without question our first great Republican president. I believe he remains our greatest to this day. Some would argue that Ronald Reagan was our second greatest Republican president. The first kept our union together when it was ripping itself apart. The second helped to

rip apart our greatest adversary, the Soviet Union, while bringing our entire country together around an ideal that freedom and strength could go hand in hand. There have been, of course, great Democratic presidents. Franklin Delano Roosevelt and William Jefferson Clinton come immediately to mind. The point is that quality American leadership is not the province of just one political party. Nor is it defined by only one kind of action. To paraphrase a Supreme Court justice trying to explain pornography, he couldn't



define it but he would certainly know it when it was staring him in the face! And speaking of pornography, what our country has witnessed and had to live through the past couple of months is nothing short of obscene. I wrote a couple of weeks ago

when Nevada's senior senator, Catherine Cortez Masto, cast her almost lone dissenting Democratic vote in favor of reopening the government, that I have always been opposed to shutting down our government as a way to effect policy change in Washington. The time for those decisions happens every two and four years and should be decided at the ballot box. In the past, most of the shutting down has been at the hands of the Republicans who were unhappy about something or other that the Democrats were

doing. It never surprised me that they were willing to put ordinary Americans in harm's way because, well, that's what they always do when there is money and power at stake. This time the shoe was on the other foot as the Democrats, frustrated with the GOP's iron grip on the Congress, the White House and what many would argue the Supreme Court, tried to hold government funding hostage in an effort to prevent President Donald Trump from

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TOURISM

Grand Prix glows as Las Vegas weathers international visitor slump

Editor's note: Este artículo está traducido al español en la página 10.

BY GRACE DA ROCHA
A version of this story was posted on lasvegassun.com.

Las Vegas Grand Prix officials believe this week's race could help remedy the decline in international tourism to the city. Emily Prazer, president and CEO of Las Vegas Grand Prix Inc., expects 100,000 fans to attend each day of this week's three-day festivities, consistent with previous years' attendance. While many visitors come from nearby "feeder markets" like California and Arizona, race officials say they have seen growing interest from Mexico, Canada and throughout Europe. As Formula One's popularity continues to surge in the United States, race officials say they aim for an even balance between domestic and international attendees. This year's projected split: 60% domestic, 40% international. "If you're looking for destination marketing to drive international tourism back to Las Vegas, we feel like we're in pole position to assist with that," Prazer said. "We're catering to a really dynamic and broad audience, and it's not just about a single person — we truly believe this year that we've got something for everybody." From January through September, Las Vegas welcomed 2.5 million fewer visitors than during the same period last year, with international arrivals dipping the most at 13.5% year-over-year. This decline can be attributed to multiple factors, including reduced travel confidence in the United States tied to President Donald Trump's immigration policies, tariff measures and increased visa fees for international visitors. Additionally, many travelers have complained about being priced out of visiting Las Vegas because of the high costs for food, drinks, entertainment and resort fees. Those factors seem to be waning, at least where the Las Vegas Grand Prix is concerned. "Canada and Mexico have been a huge market for us; we haven't seen a dip in our ticket sales, so we assume that it's all moving and the trajectory is as we anticipated," Prazer said. Marta Soligo, an assistant professor at UNLV and director of tourism research at the UNLV Office of Economic Development, said the market for Formula One tourism is niche, meaning people would be

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SUN FILE (2024)

Mercedes driver George Russell of Great Britain leads a pack of drivers during the 2024 Las Vegas Grand Prix. The Formula One event, which is expected draw upwards of 100,000 people for each of its three days of racing, returns to Las Vegas this week.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER DEVARGAS

Count Kyle Porterfield, owner and operator of Dark Moon Coffee Roasters in Henderson, among independent roasters whose business is dealing with the effects of new, higher U.S. tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on imports this year. Porterfield is pictured Tuesday in his shop.

BUSINESS

Tariffs take toll on Las Vegas coffee industry despite Trump rollback

Largest supplier Brazil still faces 40% levy while declining tourism squeezes local shops

Editor's note: Este artículo está traducido al español en la página 10.

BY KYLE CHOUINARD
A version of this story was posted on lasvegassun.com.

Juanny Romero, owner of Mothership Coffee Roasters in Las Vegas, has been preparing for what may be one of the largest changes in her company's history: Moving the majority of Mothership's roasting facilities to Ecuador. It's not of Romero's own volition. Since President Donald Trump retook the White House in January, his global trade war has affected some of America's biggest coffee suppliers, including Brazil, Colombia and Peru. Because of the comparatively high tariffs Trump has placed on goods from Brazil, Romero believes roasting coffee in Ecuador and shipping from there will ease her import tax burden. In 2017, United States Customs and Border Protection ruled that coffee's "country of origin" can be changed by where beans are roasted, but that wasn't directly related to tariffs. "It feels like a huge leap for me to be like, 'OK, I'm going to get a secondary citizenship,'" said Romero, who's planning to go to Ecuador next month. "It's not so I can vacation in Europe or enjoy some tax benefits. It's



Dark Moon Coffee Roasters packages and sells its own blends of coffee, among other goods.

literally in order to make sure that my business survives." In Southern Nevada, coffee shops and roasteries that talked to the Sun described tightening margins due to tariffs and other market forces as they resist raising prices on customers. Less than 1% of coffee is grown domestically, according to the National Coffee Association. Help could be on the way. Trump on Friday abruptly scrapped reciprocal tariffs on coffee, beef, tropical fruits and a slew of other commodities as pressure mounted on his campaign promise to combat high consumer prices. The rollback takes effect immediately, and eventually should provide relief to coffee roast-

ers and retailers facing higher costs. But how quickly coffee importers and, ultimately, consumers will see relief remains unknown. What is known: A 40% tariff will continue to be levied on Brazilian coffee imports, Brazil's Vice President Geraldo Alckmin said Saturday. The U.S. is the world's second-leading importer of coffee, and Brazilian coffee is the single largest source of imported coffee in the United States, typically accounting for about one-third of total U.S. coffee imports, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Trump in July ratcheted up tar-

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