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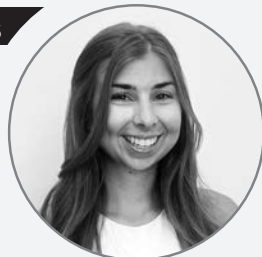
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ABOUT THE COVER: For our second annual July Outdoorsy Issue, long-time *SLUG* illustrator Garrick Dean (@dean_illustration on Instagram) captures the joy and wonder of outdoor activities in Utah with a sick mountain bike jump over Salt Lake City!

Mallory Meados

Contributor Limelight Contributing Writer



With strong writing skills and a passion for wellness and the outdoors, Mallory has been sharing community stories with *SLUG*'s audience for over a year. Read her interview with beekeeper McKay Opeifa on page 16 and check out her personal blog at mallorymichelewellness.com.

Yonni Uribe

Contributor Limelight Editorial Intern



After first starting as a Film Intern last winter, Yonni has shown enthusiasm and creativity each day she blesses us with her presence. A brilliant writer and witty social media aficionado, her talents take *SLUG* to the next level. Find links to her new short film on her Instagram @yonni_rox.

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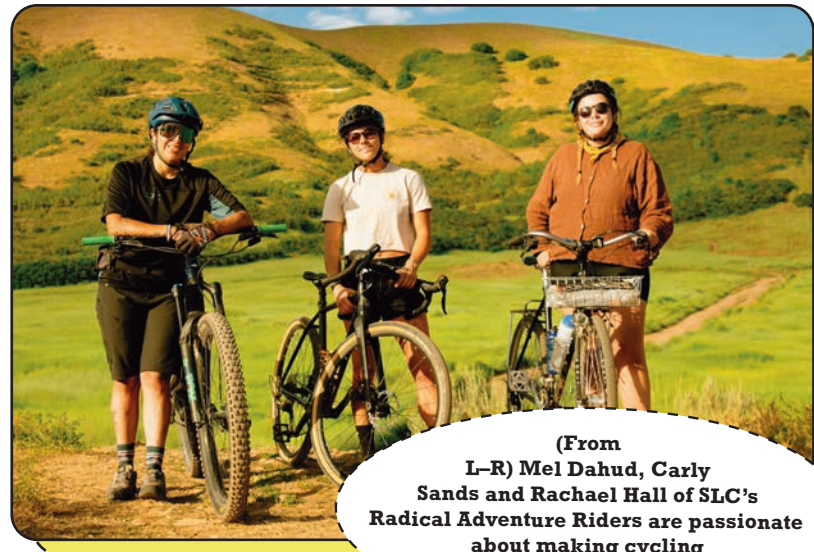
Shredding Stereotypes

Salt Lake City's Radical Adventure Riders
By Rosie Mansfield | romansfield@gmail.com
Photos by Roberto Valdez

As a national program, Radical Adventure Riders (RAR) describes itself as a “movement,” but after speaking with **Mel Dahud**, **Rachael Hall** and **Carly Sands**, three of the RAR Salt Lake City chapter organizers, it has every characteristic of a flourishing community.

The first RAR group started in 2017, which, according to its website, has an interest in “gender inclusivity and racial equity in cycling and the outdoors ... by providing education, connection, resources and support for the community and industry.” Today, RAR has 20 chapters nationwide; the Salt Lake City chapter began hosting events in 2021. RAR Salt Lake City now runs several events per month, often collaborating with like-minded, local meet-up groups such as Salt Lake Area Queer Climbers (SLAQC), Wheelie Spoked and the Beehive Bike Polo Club. Last fall, they even partnered with the RAR Moab chapter to host over 30 participants on a bikepacking trip through the southeast desert of Utah. They also host introduction to mountain biking clinics, bicycle maintenance workshops, film screenings and group rides.

RAR Salt Lake City is volunteer-run, led by passionate organizers who manage social media, send outreach emails, pull together a newsletter, communicate with community partners, plan monthly programs and brainstorm ideas for the future. “It doesn’t feel much like work because I enjoy it,” says Dahud. She seems to always be thinking of new opportunities for RAR, conjuring up ideas throughout her day. Sands describes the group by saying, “We’re all so passionate about community building that there are always ideas running through our heads for RAR.”



(From L-R) Mel Dahud, Carly Sands and Rachael Hall of SLC’s Radical Adventure Riders are passionate about making cycling more inclusive.

Hall has made a long-time commitment to the cycling community. She describes building her first bike at a bike co-op in Montana as “life-changing.” Today she is car-free, relying solely on her bicycle to get to work and around town. “Getting into bikes can be difficult as a female in a male-dominated space,” she explains, “and I just want to make that transition easier for everyone I meet.” In regards to the cycling-based events RAR hosts, bringing together femme, transgender, women and non-binary folks (FTWN-B) as well as Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), “the energy is a lot different. It just feels better,” she says.

Dahud, an experienced trail runner, says she started mountain biking and just “fell in love with it.” After a tough start—falling over the handlebars on a challenging trail—she improved her technique with the help of supportive friends. She says she appreciated that the group didn’t care “if [she] was super slow, but they just wanted [her] to be on the trail and have fun.” Now, through RAR, she brings that same encouragement to other people.

Sands had biked prior to moving to Salt Lake, but stopped for a few years following the death of a close friend who was hit by a car while riding a bike. She sought out the Salt Lake City chapter of RAR after learning about the group from her sister, an organizer for another RAR chapter. She says that RAR expanded her community and made her feel more safe biking again. “Cycling is empowering and a great way to meet people,” she says.

Sands says that they “try to gear RAR events toward accessibility in a historically intimidating space, to create an environ-

ment without obstacles.” So, while many of the programs are built to introduce mountain biking, urban group rides or bikepacking to new participants, Dahud wants people to know that “there’s something for everyone, no matter your skill level.”

The RAR organizers are currently working to build a gear library to provide more low-cost resources for those just starting out on a bike or those honing their skills. They’re also looking for new ways to enhance their winter events and will continue their commitment to bringing the community together.

To learn more about RAR Salt Lake City, check out radicaladventureriders.com/chapters/salt-lake or find upcoming events on their Instagram page [@rar.saltlake](https://www.instagram.com/rar.saltlake).



Mel Dahud finds joy on the trails and in encouraging others to do the same.



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AUTHENTIC NATURE

Lisa Thompson's *Wild Wasatch Front*



Photo: Andrew Kooyman

Lisa Thompson's book aims to "give people a broader definition of nature."

By Peter Eckhardt
peter.eckhardt711@gmail.com

"Where do you experience nature?" asks author and exhibit designer Lisa Thompson. Utah is famous for its breathtaking natural world. Rolling red rocks blanket the southern half of the state while steep, snow-capped mountains run the length of the eastern border. These emblems of Utah are what we typically associate with nature: grand, unique and ultimately, separate from the places so many of us call home.

While many of us look for nature as something remote, Thompson looks closer to home. Growing up in the foothills of Millcreek Canyon, Thompson has fond memories of the nature of the Wasatch Front. "We spent a lot of time in our front yard, where there were remnants of some Gambel oak. We'd just play forever and ever," she recalls. Thompson's experience with nature has critically informed the rest of her life. Through her work in museums like the *Natural History Museum of Utah (NHMU)*, Thompson has sought to share that experience with others.

Human society and nature are usually viewed as opposites, but in her book *Wild Wasatch Front*, Thompson and the *NHMU* draw on urban ecology to dispel that myth. Equal parts guidebook and story collection, *Wild Wasatch Front* turns the naturalist's lens onto the less mythic areas of Utah.

"We wanted to give people a broader definition of nature," says Thompson. "One that would make nature accessible in your everyday life." Echoing the works of

famous botanist and author **Robin Wall Kimmerer**, *WWF* uses personal narratives and natural history to unveil the secrets of our own backyards. The book opens with a collection of nine essays from local naturalists and environmental professionals whose words act as "kaleidoscopes" to view unseen sides of the Wasatch Front. Next, the book shares 127 short biographies of local plants, animals, fungi and lichen. Each living thing is presented with its own story, eschewing typical guidebook conventions like distribution and size-comparison charts and instead offering bite-sized narrative chunks about the organism. The work is rounded out by 21 local "field trips" that offer opportunities to find the previously discussed creatures and concepts.

Wild Wasatch Front is not the first way Thompson has played with concepts of urban ecology. The book's genesis comes from a 2018 *NHMU* exhibit entitled "Nature All Around Us." As an exhibit designer for the museum, Thompson worked with scientists, educators and public officials to realize human connection to the unassuming wilds of the Salt Lake Valley. The exhibit was a success, but its existence was only temporary. As the museum prepared for its next showcase, Thompson felt she still had more work to do with Utah's urban ecology.

After learning of a similar undertaking by the *Natural History Museum of*

Los Angeles County, Thompson knew the best way to ensure the continued legacy of the project. She contacted many of the same people with whom she worked on the initial exhibit to source material for the book, additionally drawing on citizen science resources such as *iNaturalist*. Thompson built upon her foundation of knowledge to create a work that facilitates not only appreciation of nature, but community in it.

Some of the book's most uplifting moments are in the "field trips" section. In sharing the stories of places like Utah Lake, Thompson relates their arduous histories. For decades, the lake was used as dumping grounds for the raw sewage of many surrounding municipalities. Utah Lake's June sucker population declined so much that the fish species was listed as endangered. Citizens took interest in the lake's recovery, hosting clean-ups and working with the state to reconstruct the once-destroyed river delta, paving the way for June sucker population recovery. Now, Utah Lake boasts family-friendly trails and water activities alongside a thriving ecosystem.

Utah's nature is not just exciting in the desert or mountains; it is exciting all around us. Thompson hoped that "this species guide would be a way to introduce you to your [natural] neighbors," she says. To find a copy of the book, check out Amazon, your local bookstore or the *NHMU* itself. To find the subjects of the book, look outside your window.



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Active-ism

Fat Senders Proves Bouldering Is For Every Body

By Nicole Svagr | literatureintheletters@gmail.com
Photos by John Taylor



At Fat Senders meetups, everyone is supported—both figuratively and physically on the climbing wall.

Even as diet culture and Ozempic obsession permeate the online world, Fat Senders fights for the right of everyone to exist in the outdoors. When it was first founded by **Sunni Ford**, Fat Senders was a blog to share their experiences as a trans, fat rock climber. Ford has since nurtured it into a passionate, non-profit organization of members and allies, advocating for BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and larger-bodied individuals to engage with sports in a non-judgemental space. “I stepped away from the blogging part of it as I grew into letting go of justifying who I am and [focused on] just putting out fat joy content,” Ford says.

Fat Senders now hosts two to four events each month. Most of these focus on experiencing nature—bouldering meetups, hikes and outdoor climbs—but the group also fills plenty of calendar space with fun social activities like skateboarding, fundraising and film screenings. They’ve even attended several climbing festivals, including *Joe’s Valley Bouldering Festival* and *Flash Foxy Climbing Festival*.

This success is owed to the group’s dedication to fostering kindness and providing a safe space. “We make sure all of

the language within the group, and surrounding the group, is inclusive,” says Ford. Fat Senders partners with gyms that are queer allies. At their meets, vulnerable members always have someone willing to accompany them into intimidating situations. They demonstrate an astounding degree of trust as they help adjust each others’ harnesses and cheer as they scale higher and then belay down the walls, the climbers completely anchored by those that support them from the ground. Together, they reach new heights.

Their meetings aren’t intimidating, though. Anyone—from the rookies to the masters—is always welcome as long as they help maintain a positive atmosphere. One of their newest members, **Felix Willenburg**, says, “People are so supportive here ... but not in a way of pressuring you to push yourself beyond where you want to be [in] climbing. They’re just happy that you’re here ... You can go ten feet up the wall and that’s great, and everyone is super proud of you.”

Fat Senders’ reach has even gone national. With its base camp in Salt Lake City, as well as a sister branch in San Diego, the group has used its platform to push for greater size inclusivity everywhere. “Building community and safe spaces for people to engage in those sports is our main purpose,” says Ford, “but we also reach out to brands and lobby them to get bigger sizes. Most brands stop at around a size 12 [or] 14, so they’re missing an entire market that does want to go outside, does want to have waterproof things and does want to have harnesses that fit.”

This mission to educate and advocate is central for Ford. With around 12 years of experience in rock climbing, they are currently working to be certified as an

AMGA Single Pitch Instructor to further expand Fat Senders’ potential for good. Ford says, “I’m hoping that we can blossom into more of an educational resource than we already are—providing low-cost guided trips or low-cost Skillshare [online classes] for members of our community, then also providing education to companies or groups of people interested in learning about size inclusivity.”

Through their tireless work, Fat Senders is working to create a better, brighter world for every body. Reflecting on their impact, Ford says, “It’s been a really validating and affirming message for me that there are other people in bigger bodies, there are other trans people in bigger bodies out there. It’s not always what you see in the media.”

For more information about Fat Senders and to see a full list of their upcoming activities, visit fatsenders.org or follow them on Instagram at [@fat_senders](https://www.instagram.com/fat_senders). Anyone interested in joining can simply show up to an event and dive in at their own pace.

As a climber for over 12 years, Sunni Ford knows that size inclusivity is still lacking in the outdoor industry.





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By Marzia Thomas • marziamercurythomas@gmail.com

Photos by Logan Fang



A common house sparrow.



Jeanne Le Ber (left) leads a birding field trip for SLC locals to become engaged with Utah's wildlife.

fighting for free flight

Birds can't fly without clean skies to travel through and safe water to drink from. The ecosystem of an area depends on multiple variables including, but not limited to, its air and water cycles. The health and regulation of such patterns are revealed to us by how nature reacts to the behavior of legislators and citizens of Salt Lake Valley.

The Great Salt Lake has proven to be in crisis—it started drying up in 2021 and is projected to be completely out of water in five years if drastic action is not taken. Salt Lake City's air quality reflects the body of water, as the city is ranked 10th for most polluted ozone across the United States. The present can be intimidating to face and accept, especially when the build-up has been a long time coming. It all feeds into each other and little steps must be taken to undo the damage and protect the local environment. Our winged friends need help if we want to continue to hear them sing.

The Audubon Society and its Salt Lake Valley chapter strive to educate community members on how climate change has impacted our nation's birds and their migration patterns. **Jeanne Le Ber**, a board member of Great Salt Lake Audubon, shares her experiences in birding and how they have influenced her efforts in preserving the Great

Salt Lake. By organizing and facilitating the connection between the public and municipal power, Le Ber has gained insight into how the collective can contribute. Her interest began in 1980; while hiking with her husband, the pair ran into a birding group who had spotted an American avocet. After being inspired by the beauty of the bird, she began engaging in the hobby herself, later sparking her desire to advocate for them as a member of the Audubon Society.

Since 1912, Great Salt Lake Audubon has been protecting the lives of birds inhabiting our valley. Education is widespread through seminars, field trips and volunteer opportunities. The Audubon organizes outings available to the public for visiting the Great Salt Lake and viewing the birds, learning their species and recording the amount of wildlife that can be found.

In addition, they fund grants of \$2,000 twice a year for non-profit and educational institutions. These grants aid local efforts in bringing information into the classroom and creating art to show the significant impact that climate change has had on the Great Salt Lake. The Audubon Society also brings the public together through active participation. Witnessing the lives of birds in their

rightful home offers a different perspective on how we can help them.

The Salt Lake Valley is notably hemispheric, meaning that the mountain ranges surround the area distinctly. When the overuse of water and pollution is present, it leads to what locals refer to as "the inversion," or the trapping of baneful chemicals released by industries into the water and air. The influx of population from surrounding states in the last few years, influenced by COVID-19, has led to an increased need for water to sustain new inhabitants. The Great Salt Lake is a designated reserve and home to 400 species of birds, as well as a diverse variety of other animal and plant life. The lake's health and safety are fundamental to all living creatures and if neglected, nature's sacred rhythm is harshly affected.

Visit greatsaltlakeaudubon.org to read about legislation updates, upcoming events and ways to donate to the cause. The most sustainable changes can start even smaller—think bird-watching or preparing for what to do if faced with an injured baby bird in your neighborhood. Understanding what can be done individually leads to a greater and more positive change for the ecology. Support the birds and us humans in breathing unclouded.

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CONNECT TO YOUR WILD SIDE

with Inner Peas Goat Yoga

By Jamie Christensen • jamiec1331@gmail.com



Photo courtesy of Ty Dobbs

Kenzie Tolman and Berenice Castro show the joy and connection in goat yoga at Inner Peas Farm.

What better way to escape suburban mundanity than by retreating to the holistic red rocks of Southern Utah and opening a farm centered around community, natural wellness and achieving self-awareness? Inner Peas Farm owners Camille and DJ Zolman found themselves craving a more rural lifestyle after the COVID-19 pandemic, leading them to flee the suburbs and find healing on one-and-a-half acres of land in Hurricane, Utah. Now, Inner Peas is a fully-functioning farm with plans for an upcoming fall season of veggie growth, over six varieties of planted fruit trees, 30 chicks and hens and an outdoor goat yoga space with 11 adult and seven kid goats.

Speaking to why they initially decided to leave Northern Utah and purchase their land in Hurricane, Camille says, "We wanted something a bit simpler, and it's definitely not simpler, but it's really nice to be able to have something that connects you with the earth and other living things—[to] find respect for the food that we eat and the land that we live on." As someone who has been practicing yoga for 10 years and teaching it for eight, Camille notes that there is peace and tranquility to be found in the red rocks of Hurricane and an abundance of healing energy due to their proximity to Zion National Park. She says, "There's a special energy in the landscape down here. It offers peace and the lack of busyness creates a nice container for people to practice [yoga]."

Inner Peas first introduced three goats to their farm as a way of controlling their pasture and for companionship. Because Camille has been involved with yoga for the past decade, it

made sense that their next move would be to offer goat yoga in May of 2023 as a way to provide funds to support the animals and let the community experience the joy of being around the goats. "Goat yoga is definitely a different feeling than a studio class," she laughs. "I tell people not to take it too seriously. It's just a chance to get outside and move your body. We're outside in the sun listening to the birds chirping and the goats bleating—by the end, everyone is just happy and laughing and connected ... It's an opportunity to move and breathe."

A typical goat yoga class at Inner Peas is about an hour long, with the last 20 minutes reserved for goat snuggles and pictures. Sessions are accessible for all experience levels and usually filled with a bunch of strangers—although you can also book a private class—gathered together to enjoy a new experience in nature.

Photo courtesy of Hazel Sage



Mats (and goats) are provided, and the weekly class schedule is typically determined about a month in advance. "All of our goats are Nigerian Dwarfes so they are a little bit smaller ... They normally don't do goat yoga after they're a year old," she says. For those who are not familiar with goats, Camille notes that they are the perfect yoga companions due to their inclination to jump around and nuzzle up to participants, though you may experience the occasional nibble or playful headbutt.

Beyond goat yoga, Camille also teaches at local studios around Hurricane, is currently finalizing an online yoga teacher training program and has recently wrapped up the annual Zion Yoga Fest in June which includes music, meditation, lectures and a variety of yoga classes and offerings focused on community building. "The more I learn about yoga, the more I realize it's so much more than the physical poses," she says. "It's about connection, love and acceptance for the self and for every living being, seeing other humans as equal and recognizing that we are all one. Yoga is for every body and every person."

Check out innerpeasfarm.com and @innerpeasfarm on Instagram to stay up to date on the farm's future offerings and to sign up for upcoming goat yoga classes.

Owner and teacher Camille Zolman is new to farming, but she has a decade of experience in yoga.

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If you've noticed bees around Salt Lake City, they may belong to one of McKay Opeifa's hives. An entomologist and soon-to-be Certified Master Beekeeper, Opeifa has worked with many Salt Lake City restaurants and businesses, such as *Publik Kitchen* and *cityhomeCOLLECTIVE*, to care for their local hives while pursuing her passion for beekeeping.

Before relocating to Salt Lake City, Opeifa lived on a small farm, tending to her own beehives. Unfortunately, leaving her place in the country meant leaving her hives behind. But moving into a city wasn't the end of her beekeeping journey. Instead, Opeifa sought innovative ways to continue her passion for beekeeping. She reached out to local restaurants interested in starting their own hives and offered to support them with her expert knowledge from a decade of beekeeping experience. Throughout the process, Opeifa has grown her business, working closely with local restaurants such as *The Rose Establishment*, *Arlo* and *Table X*. "All of the honey that these hives produce goes back to the business for them to use in their own recipes and products," says Opeifa.

Opeifa takes a personalized approach with each business, providing as much education and training as each employee desires to learn. "To be able to lend a helping hand to the community while educating people about bees—I'm living the dream," says Opeifa.

Some companies have used the beehives as team-building opportunities, dressing their employees in beekeeper suits to get a closer look at the hives while reflecting on the similarities their team might have with the intricate ecosystems. Company gardens also provide a serene retreat for employees during their work days, fostering a reprieve to nature, which comes with its own mental health benefits. "Beekeeping changed my life. It has taught me to slow down, to be more present and to feel more grateful," says Opeifa. She shares that when she rushes through her beekeeping duties, the bees will often become agitated and aggressive. On the contrary, if she takes a moment to slow

URBAN BEEKEEPING:

The Collaborative Practice That Benefits All

By Mallory Meados
@mallory_michele_



Photo: Ashley Christenson

McKay Opeifa helps SLC restaurants such as *Publik Kitchen* care for their hives while educating the community on the benefits of beekeeping.

If you're interested in her honey taste-testing experience, you can learn more about Opeifa, her courses and her community presence by visiting her website mckayjo.com or her Instagram @mckayjo.

down and breathe, allowing herself to take her time while completing her tasks, the bees will calm right down. "You can see it in real-time," she says.

There are also numerous environmental benefits to urban beekeeping, such as fostering the pollination of local flora, supporting urban agriculture and generally maintaining a healthy ecosystem. If you're considering beekeeping, explore Opeifa's online beginner beekeeping course which guides you through a full year of beekeeping, from preparation to maintenance and even honey harvesting in a sustainable manner.

"When I say 'save the bees,' I don't just mean honeybees," says Opeifa. "There are about 20,000 different species of bees." This means that bringing new pollinators to an area can tip the balance of an ecosystem. Opeifa tries to be mindful of where she places her hives and teaches her students that saving the bees does not always require owning your own hive—it can also mean planting flowers in your backyard or windowsill for pollinators to enjoy, preferably local, indigenous plants. She also recommends avoiding insecticides and pesticides. "Generally, bees from urban regions produce a purer and healthier honey because there are fewer chemicals in the plants and gardens within a city," says Opeifa.

Opeifa values the health and quality of her honey and enjoys trying different kinds of honey from around the world. She has even created a unique honey-tasting experience for others to enjoy, walking guests through the taste-testing while teaching them about the vitality of bees for the environment.

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It is a rite of passage for any young ankle-biter to test one's endurance and face their fears at the rollercoaster Mecca of the Rockies. With pulsating fumes of gear grease and funnel cake, it's a trip down memory lane and a tradition for future generations, full of pleasure and pain (depending on who you ask). That's right, ladies and gentlemen, we're going to *Lagoon*!

For over a damn century, Farmington's very own *Lagoon Amusement Park* has reshaped and relocated into the bustling family fun zone that it is today. **Adam Leishman**, *Lagoon's* media relations spokesperson and our own personal guide through the park, breaks down its conception 138 years ago, which began two and a half miles west of the Great Salt Lake. "Originally, it was built by the Denver and Rio Grande [Western] Railroad as a bathing resort," says Leishman. "The lake dried up like it normally does and [*Lagoon*] was moved [to Farmington] by **Simon Bamberger**." By the time Utah was granted statehood in 1896, *Lagoon* was already a popular railroad destination, as tracks dissipated across the territory. This would bring in the many faces of entertainment for the coming decades—from hydro sports in water "fit to drink" to concert venues and ultimately, roller coasters!

As a rigid family-owned park that has survived spontaneous fires and **Rolling Stones** fans, all while being older than the actual state of Utah, it's fair to say *Lagoon* has earned its stripes. Impressive as it may be, however, has the park held up against the sands of time? More importantly, is the \$93 day pass justifiable? That's what I wanted to figure out. So double up on your Dramamine dosage and pull those waist bars down—

WHITE-KNUCKLED

A DAY AT Lagoon



By Alton Barnhart
altonboy2009@gmail.com

you're in for a ride.

When starting your visit, swing right and make your way to the Roller Coaster (yes, the wooden one). Built in 1921, this rickety thrill ride is the type of classic design that brings a certain boardwalk essence to the landlocked state. Its pill-shaped layout comes with sharp turns, rattling drops and a picture-perfect view of the sunset. Yet, as the park's "Ship of Theseus," is it really the same coaster if you've replaced every wood board at some point through the years?

The rest is heavy pickings for all daredevils or easy-goers. Squeeze into sharp turns and belly-lurching dips on Wild Mouse, awe your dad at the *American Pickers* hotspot of Pioneer Village and take on the 90-degree, shot-and-drop track of Cannibal. If you've finally emptied out your stomach from nausea and

back-breaker lunges, that's where the 2019 installment, Biergarten, will fulfill your needs. The Bavarian-style cove serves up delicious meals year-round, while also flexing drafted and bottled beverages to the 21+ crowd.

Now comes the big event—the newest and most-anticipated attraction, Primordial. With a medieval façade and complex backstory, Primordial mixes both rollercoaster and interactive gaming. For me and my accompanying photographer **Dominic Jordan**, the total runtime was shorter than expected, with its fair share of surprises. Maybe not the ride to cram two lumbering, grown-ass men together on one side of the ride vehicle, though...

Lagoon is a park for everyone—death-defying thrill-seekers and baby-step beginners alike. It's the type of place that holds true value in history and soon-to-be legacy. So that begs the question: Is *Lagoon* worth the money? I would say yes and no. The nearly 100 dollars for a single-day pass is a bit steep for the regular middle-class family pinching pennies through a summer of crushing economic pressure. This markup might be due to the rising influx of the Salt Lake Valley's population, or the fact that arguably, *Lagoon's* only competition this side of the Rocky Mountains is the "House of Mouse" itself in California. Although, for those who want constant entertainment all the way to Halloween, consider risking it big with a Season Passport.

To plan your next trip, go to their website lagoonpark.com or follow them on Instagram at [@lagoonpark](https://www.instagram.com/lagoonpark) for future announcements.



(From L-R) *Lagoon* spokesman Adam Leishman and *SLUG's* very own Alton Barnhart loop-de-loop around the park, breaking down all of its history and excitement.

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BACK TO THE FUTURE:

THE OUTDOOR RECREATION ARCHIVE AND FISH-SKI DESIGNS

By Lila Kiron • lila.kiron@gmail.com

If you can't remember the past, you are doomed to repeat the same mistakes. In the early days of the outdoor industry, companies had distinct personalities. Nowadays, if you removed all jacket logos, would you be able to tell the difference in brand? The Outdoor Recreation Archive's utilization of historical records is fostering a new wave of inspiration, innovation and ingenuity to develop better, more sustainable products.

The Outdoor Recreation Archive started in 2018 at *Utah State University* in Logan, UT. **Clint Pumphrey**, Manuscript Curator, manages the school's historical document collections and **Chase Anderson**, Project Coordinator for the Outdoor Product Design and Development Program, manages marketing and outreach to share their incredible work and mission.

SLUG: How has the Outdoor Recreation Archive been critical in the creation of sustainable product designs?

Anderson: It is helpful to see the products that came before, and things that failed. That perspective helps students focus on designing new things. [They] learn what works and what doesn't [and] then build on that in a sustainable way.

SLUG: In what ways do you promote and entrench the value of preserving the archives?

Pumphrey: Until now, nobody has collected and preserved the history of the industry of outdoor products and business to this degree or in one place. Designers and brands come to the archive and it reshapes how they think about the products they create. Not a lot of time is given to reflect on the past. They find inspiration for future collections. The archive helps people not only understand the value of history, but also develop connections between people interested in the industry.

We don't collect actual gear, not because we don't want to, but [because] preserving fabric is a whole other skillset. One day we would love to have a space to display and store them, and a lab where the students can see how they are made. That is a longer-term goal. We'll see, who knows what the future will hold.

SLUG: What are some outcomes and benefits of using archival materials to understand the history of people, products and brands?

Anderson: There is a hunger for new sources of inspiration. This is the first time in decades that this material has been seen. It is exciting to see all the new doors it unlocks for inspiration and industry. We have a book coming out in 2025. This coffee table book of catalog scans will get archives into the hands of people around the world.

It is compelling to see how students interpret the material. When *Black Diamond* created some design briefs for the students to design, we brought the students to the archive and Clint [Pumphrey] pulled out all [of] the *Black Diamond* equipment articles. The students studied the evolution of their product line and aesthetics, which leveled up the projects. We show students and the industry why the archive is valuable to their creative process.

Fischer Olpin, a 2021 graduate of *USU's* Outdoor Product Design and Development Program, gave me a glimpse into the workshop and creative genius of Fish-Ski Designs. Bursting with colorful, humorous and exuberant character, Fischer and Fish-Ski Designs put the "fun" in functional. You can see and purchase his designs on Instagram at [@fish_ski.designs](https://www.instagram.com/fish_ski.designs) or on his website fish-ski.com.

SLUG: What was it like working with the Outdoor Recreation Archive?

Fischer: The archive started really small. It was fun to see the cool stuff companies sent in and say, "Hey that was a great idea, why didn't it go further?" Seeing the '80s retro colors gave me inspiration and ideas—all fashion circles back around. I still talk to Chase [Anderson] and my professors. I loved the program. The connections this program develops with students has cultivated a great community of creatives. I can message anyone and say, "I am running into this problem—what should I do? Do you know anything about this material? Do you have any connections to this brand?"

SLUG: How has the Outdoor Recreation Archive influenced your product designs?

Fischer: I try to do a lot with sustainability. I work with upcycled materials like these fun, colorful old windsurf sails. I've been working with *Trek Bicycle*, using their vinyl canvas showroom displays because they just threw them away afterwards. I turn them into something that can be used again and again. One man's trash is another man's treasure! It is fun to know I am saving something from being thrown away. I get a lot of people reaching out offering old tents—it feels like I am becoming an eclectic trash hoarder in a way. It is a time-consuming cycle to collect and also use to make space for more, especially with limited space.

SLUG: How have you redefined and pushed the boundaries of the outdoor industry?

Fischer: What makes my brand different is that my gear is identifiable from far away by the unique colors and design, not the logo. I really enjoy biking, sewing and creating. I started messing around with *Bevvy Carriers*, the first product I sold. I'm at the gas station thinking, "How can I store a six-pack on my bike?" At the 999 bike ride, people shove beverages in their pockets or duct tape them to their bikes. I wondered, "Is there a problem here that could be fixed?"

I have so many fun ideas, so I decided to create them and see if people wanted them. The *oniGEARi Bag* came from a friend who approached me when he was going to Japan and said he wanted a bag to hold onigiri. He took it to Japan and it exploded. It took off so fast. Now it is one of my best-selling products. Every year I make a funny April Fools product. The first year, I dropped *Bike Nuts*. As soon as they went live, they were gone. People got upset that I didn't have more, so I started making and selling them. I like creating usable art. I love bringing more fun to the serious biking community. I want to make it more inclusive and get people into biking.

SLUG: What are some of your future goals or plans?

Fischer: I am about to start my YouTube channel with adventure videos and product overviews. It would be great to move out of this basement, to have a small warehouse with giant sewing machines and cutting tables to sustainably ramp up production. Manufacturing in the US and creating a sewing community is important to me.

I would be interested in speaking to students in the program, saying, "I was once in your shoes and this is what I am doing now. It's possible but it won't be a cake walk. If it was easy, then everyone would be doing it." I want to show them you can create fun ideas, bring them into the retail world and make it a company.

Looking back to move forward, the Outdoor Recreation Archive showcases industry pioneers and simultaneously nurtures the next generation of designers. Building this repository connects people and passion, ingraining what makes exploring the outdoors special in the first place. See more from the archive on Instagram at [@outdoorrearchive](https://www.instagram.com/outdoorrearchive) or on their website library.usu.edu/archives/ora.



Photo courtesy of USU

Chase Anderson (above) and Clint Pumphrey (below) work together to maintain and promote the Outdoor Recreation Archive at Utah State University.



Photo courtesy of USU



Photo: Lila Kiron

As a former *USU* student, Fischer Olpin gained a lot of valuable inspiration from the Outdoor Recreation Archive, which shows in his current designs.



Photo: Lila Kiron



Photo: Brayden Salisbury

Dawgz N Leenks

Da Fat G is a thick, all-beef "leenk" grilled, bacon-wrapped and piled high with award-winning chili, cheese and Dawgz N Leenks' special sauce.

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Check website for weekly schedule

It's summertime and the weather is mighty fine. You're at a brewery on a weeknight (so naughty), but they aren't serving any of the solid food that your buzz is craving. Enter Dawgz N Leenks.

Don't let the appearance of this food "truck" fool you. It looks like a food stall with two wheels. To me, though, this added to the charm of my visit. I ordered Da Good, a classic all-beef frank in a natural casing, and Da Fat G, a bacon-wrapped beef hot link buried in chili and cheese with a hint of mustard. The only topping on Da Good dog is the Dawgz N Leenks special sauce—a mix of not-too-powerful, sweet BBQ with a light heat to it, which made for a tantalizing combination. Y'all, when I tell you my first bite into this hot dog snapped, it SUH-NAPPED. A rubber band of salty, savory, sweet and heat went off in my mouth all at once.

Da Fat G also did not disappoint flavor-wise. Sometimes, when you eat a chili dog, the chili and the dog seem to be at war with one another. It's almost like one of them owes the other money and they can't let it go, so you're left trying to figure things out: One, why these two delicious things can't get along; and two, why they taste so different from each other, which then makes you wonder why they're even in the same bun. That wasn't the case AT ALL with Dawgz N Leenks' Da Fat G. The chili had a freshness with a subtle sweet tang that went harmoniously hand-in-hand with the bacon-wrapped dog.

Both were delicious. I think you should try Dawgz N Leenks—really, I do! But it's just... the prices rocked me a little: \$9 for Da Good and \$15 for Da Fat G. But they hit the spot when my buzz needed it, so perhaps you won't regret it, either.



By Christian Ledek
sea.ledek@gmail.com

Nana's Sonoran Hotdogs had heavy bidding to live up to. The pinned post on their Instagram page is a seal of approval from Guy Fieri—EVER HEARD OF HIM? I also ordered two dogs from this food truck: the Sonoran and the Arizona.

The Sonoran is where Nana's shines: A bacon-wrapped grilled hot dog topped with beans, cheese, grilled onions and tomatoes served on a soft bun. The first bite might have you feeling transported to Mexico and reaching to adjust your sombrero because it's THAT GOOD. The soft and snappy textures of beans, onions and meat work together to bring you all the flavor of the bacon-wrapped dog, plus the coolness of the tomatoes and cheese takes the tastiness up a notch.

The Arizona bursts like a piñata in your mouth! Instead of candy, you get an explosion of green chile nacho cheese and Flamin' Hot Cheetos to go along with another delectable bacon-wrapped frank. If you like green chile, it would be inconsiderate not to order the Arizona. So don't do that, okay? You deserve good things in your life—hell, you deserve MOUTH-WATERING good things in your life, and Nana's Sonoran Hotdogs will have you driving to the center of Flavortown (thanks, Guy).

I won't even try to front, Nana's was significantly cheaper than Dawgz N Leenks. Each dog cost \$6 and \$8, respectively. But I think it's safe to say that we all have fond memories of spending a little more money than we wanted to in the name of summer fun, right? Right. And if you don't think you have those kinds of memories, then now sounds like a fine time to make them with Dawgz N Leenks and Nana's Sonoran Hotdogs.

(623) 210-7320 | @nanas_hotdogs
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Nana's Sonoran Hotdogs

Photo: Anna Chapman



The titular Sonoran is a grilled, bacon-wrapped dog with beans, cheese, grilled onions and tomatoes on a perfectly toasted bun.



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By Emily Ward • edubsmcfly@outlook.com

This scalding summer is getting even hotter with brutal riffs and growls delivered by **DiseNged** and **Debrider**. **Admitted Bastard** will kick off this headbanger's heaven at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 11 at *Kilby Court*. Sponsored by *Riso-Geist*, the show costs just \$5 for entry.

Two years ago, an eavesdropper was dropping a few eaves at *Proper Burger Company*. This is where **Bryan Blanco** first overheard **Max Muscolino** and **Johnny Nikoloff** talking about music. And later, through some mutual friends, **Jake Arnold** joined the band that we know and love today as **Debrider** (pronounced "de-breeder"). Ever since this initial formation, the band has been releasing fast-paced and heavy tracks for listeners everywhere to jam to.

Each member had always known they'd wanted to play music since their youth, influenced by **Archspire** and **Necrophagist**. "Anthony Jackson all day!" says Muscolino. Arnold admits that the album *Alive* by **Hiro** had a huge impact on the band's songwriting process as well.

When I inquire about the writing journey for their newest single "Asylum," Muscolino says, "It's like a battle of the motifs." Arnold agrees with this. "Imagine vocals battling signatures with a twist of cosmic horror and a hint of ancient lore," he says.

"I like to think it feels as though it's two ideas complementing each other with sidequests," says Nikoloff. With these expressions, one would imagine they were traversing through an open-world video game with a sword strapped to their hip, looking for their next big adventure.

Debrider first played a show together at *Urban Lounge* at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each member of the band had plenty of stage experience beforehand, so nerves weren't necessarily a factor. However, navigating the public safety rules of COVID-19 was an entirely different challenge, along with accepting that not many people were leaving their homes to scope out the local music scene. But Debrider persisted, and went on to open for bands like **Born of Osiris** and **Aborted Angel**.

They've since played with quite a few local favorites as well, including **Babygirl** and **Snuff Tape**. One of their favorite shows was at *9th and 9th Book & Music Gallery*, especially because "someone brought a young child wearing big headphones to the show," says Blanco. This just proves that locals of all ages support the metal scene and the musicians in it.

Musicians must also support other musicians. When I ask Debrider what advice they'd give to aspiring metalheads everywhere, including their younger selves, their answers are profoundly different but all incredibly insightful.

"Don't write to impress people, write what you enjoy and want to play," says Arnold. "Push your boundaries."

"Don't hold on to a song for two years because you're trying to make it perfect," says Blanco. "Put a good amount of work into it and make it the best you can. Keep on making new music."

"Don't get comfortable," says Muscolino. "If you get comfortable, then you start resting on your morals and you start stagnating. You've got to be suffering and continuously moving forward in an uncomfortable state to be able to progress musically. Be willing to make other people uncomfortable for the sake of your art, because if you're not, are you really creating anything new or just regurgitating someone else's creation?"

"Listen to music outside of the genre that you play and write in," says Nikoloff. "It's not only liberating to experience a new variety, but it's important to seek inspiration from everywhere. I mean, inspiration can be found in everything, even nature. It's just about how we interpret that and convey that in what makes sense to us."

Debrider wants everyone to be their authentic selves when creating and writing music. Otherwise, how else could a musician translate the inspirational message they are trying to convey? Catch Debrider live in all of their glory at July's *Localized* show on Thursday, July 11 at *Kilby Court* and follow the band on Instagram at @debriderfuqsllc.

(From L-R) Max Muscolino (bass), Johnny Nikoloff (guitar), Bryan Blanco (drums) and Jake Arnold (vocals) overcame the difficulties of the pandemic to become one of SLC's most technically impressive metal acts.



Photo: Moses Namkung



(From L-R) Chase Williams (guitar), Dez Troy (vocals) and Dylan Dawes (drums) have been writing brutal music and collecting wild tour stories since 2009.

It all started with a high school drummer's love for music, a guitarist's garage and a vocalist's KSL advertisement. Thus, Dylan Dawes, Chase Williams and Dez Troy came together one fateful day in 2009 when DiseNgaged became whole.

Ultimately, the music-writing process is an enigma to most: How does the work of a few people throwing tunes together actually make them sound good? The band tells me they "work separately and come together" with what they've written. "Sometimes they'll look at me and tell me if it's dumb," answers Troy, as Williams and Dawes nod their heads in agreement.

When I ask which bands inspired their musical tastes, the members of DiseNgaged have very different answers: "Periphery," Williams answers promptly. "Lamb of God and Devil Driver," cheers Troy. "Slipknot!" Dawes replies. All are undeniably inspiring classics that would influence many aspiring metal musicians.

Despite epic metal bands serving as a guiding light for DiseNgaged, playing the first show as a new band is still no easy feat. DiseNgaged first played at Mojoes in Ogden in 2012, back when the night club was still open. "The venue was so small it felt like a full house with just ten people in the room, but the energy was always great. We were nervous but it turned out way chill," Troy says.

As they progressed in the metal field, they delved into deeper waters and even crossed state lines to explore opportunities. The farthest they've traversed so far is Milwaukee, where their audience consisted of one angry old man silently judging them in the corner. Disapproving though he may have been, present he was. "One of the best audiences we had, though," interjects Williams, "was in Des Moines, Iowa," due to the manner in which they were received and welcomed into the metal scene with open arms, or in this case, mosh pits.

When I ask about their best (worst) tour stories, they give each other sidelong glances before answering in unison, "Bailing out our former bass player."

"We got pulled over and he was arrested for having his license suspended," Troy elaborates. "And we used most of our budget money on his bail."

"Another time, we had to sleep in a cooler in Vegas," says Dawes, but he quickly reassures me that it felt nice in the Las Vegas heat.

"We also slept at this scary bar owner's house that was haunted," adds Williams. "The TVs turned on by themselves and the bar owner took a picture of our bassist while he was sleeping to 'make sure he didn't steal any shit.'"

So what's the magic in touring? Besides driving in a van with a bad alternator or being crammed together without a shower

for days, "it was some of the best and worst times," says Williams. "[They're] experiences we'll never forget or regret, alongside the many people we got to meet and perform with."

But how does touring work? When I ask if they booked shows in advance, Troy says, "At first, we would cold call venues—show up to a city and see which places were looking for metal bands to perform." It's a gamble that was worth the risk and the reward.

With every networking opportunity, there are bound to be great experiences. "Our favorite local bands we've played with are Balance of Power and Become the Void. Our favorite bands we've opened for are Soulfly and Kataklysm," says Troy.

Their ultimate goal is to "sustain the band with the band" and tour the world. They are not currently touring, but rather focusing on releasing new music for future tours.

Uncertainty is unavoidable when performing in the metal scene. But with more than a decade of experience, DiseNgaged wants aspiring metalheads everywhere to know that the musician must play for the love of the music without expectations. "It's going to be tough, and you're going to need a lot of patience," says Troy. "But it's worth it." Follow DiseNgaged on Instagram at @disengagedofficial and catch them live in action at July's Localized on Thursday, July 11 at Kilby Court.

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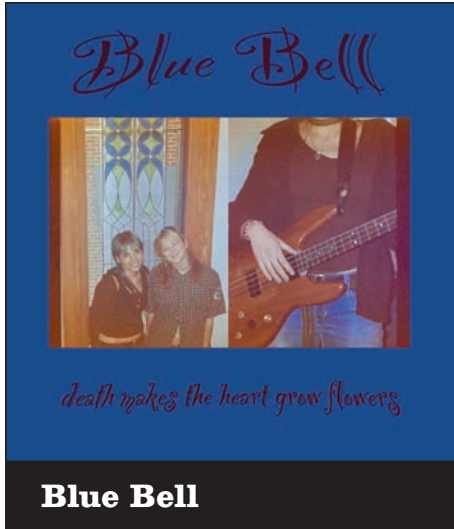
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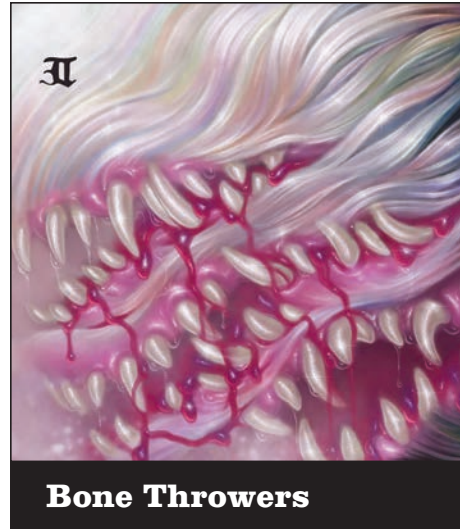
LOCAL MUSIC SINGLES ROUNDUP

Hot local (music) singles are in your area! Whether you're looking for a summer of love, melancholy brooding or unbridled rage, you're sure to find your (musical) match for a seasonal fling here in this roundup of our favorite new tracks by Utah artists. Read additional reviews of new songs by **Toto Peña**, **Victory Lungs** and **Voidsmen** on *SLUGMag.com*!



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 Street: 05.03
 Blue Bell = sign crushes motorist x PACKS

You're walking alone at night under a dark new moon. On a cobblestone street corner, **Natalie Shorr** strums her electric guitar with Old-World flair. "Oh, you're such a bonehead / I don't know why I want you so bad / Must be all the fucked up things from my past," she sings passively. Her muffled voice echoes off the crumbling stucco walls. "Maybe I'm selfish, I'm feeling confused / Can I really win if I've got nothing to lose?" Lo-fi and bare, "Bonehead" is the first of three tracks on Shorr's debut EP as Blue Bell, a collection of bedroom demos titled *Death Makes the Heart Grow Flowers*. Shorr lists her stage name as "Belladonna" on Spotify, a reference to the deadly nightshade. It's fitting. Listening to "Bonehead" conjures up stormy feelings of helpless desire and images of black lace veils—a solemn funeral held for a doomed relationship before it's even begun. —*Mekenna Malan*



Bone Throwers
 "Psychic Debris"
 Self-Released
 Street: 05.24
 Bone Throwers = The Buttermen + Laughing Clowns

As if taking a new surfboard for a spin and being drowned by the gnarly waves, the track "Psychic Debris" hits you like the sweet salt the ocean provides. With the wisdom of a sea shanty and the grit of Salt Lake City's local punk scene, Bone Throwers flows between genres with ingenious rhythm and style. By allowing multiple sources of inspiration to ricochet on the soft edges of the brain, the result is a memorable and idiosyncratic sound. The only real way to explain it is this: If the Krusty Krab crew decided to take a tab of acid during a wild night in Bikini Bottom, this would be what the audience hears. While *Spongebob* and *Patrick* discuss the parts of their inner world that frighten them the most, *Squidward* and *Plankton* stare at the wall trying to find patterns that simply aren't there. The silly and the solemn harmonize easily when truth is at the center. Still, the sublime contrast has left my skeleton feeling hurled. —*Marzia Thomas*



The Hollering Pines
 "Olive Branch"
 Self-Released
 Street: 05.03
 The Hollering Pines = Sierra Ferrell + The Montvales

One reason I find myself continuously gravitating toward folksy, roots-rock and bluegrass sounds is because it's rare that you'll find these artists sacrificing intelligent lyricism for catchy instrumentals (or vice versa). Instead, you'll likely find an evergreen balance of songwriting, storytelling and the perfect complement of strings and steel guitar. This is true for The Hollering Pines' recent release, *Here's to Hoping*, and especially so for the auspicious "Olive Branch." With dual, harmonious vocals that hum, haw and bounce throughout the track's rosy and bright atmosphere, singers and sisters **Marie Bradshaw** and **Kiki Jane Sieger** have crafted a cautionary tale laced with religious comparisons and a backing of soft cries that both haunt and inspire. The guitar-centered bridge is true to any classic Americana and perfectly ties the track together while cementing The Hollering Pines as a staple of Salt Lake's folk-rock community. —*Jamie Christensen*



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The Grogans 7.02
 Xanz ^{SOLD OUT} 7.03
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 One Step Closer ^{LOW TICKETS} + Anxious + Koyo 7.06
 The Mountain Grass Unit 7.08
 Bitter Blue + Dr. Teeth + Nowhere Lane 7.10
 SLUG LOCALIZED: Disengaged + Debrider + Admitted Bastard 7.11
 Nothin' Good Album Release Party! 7.12
 transmitter + Molotov Dress + 333 7.13
 Anna Tivel 7.17
 Mummy + Gnumb + A Minute To Die For + Infernum 7.18
 Futuristic 7.19
 53 Thieves 7.20
 sombr ^{SOLD OUT} 7.21
 OSTON 7.23
 Merry Andrew+ Otis Moore + Suppertime 7.23
 Bennett Coast ^{LOW TICKETS} 7.25
 Triptides 7.26
 Sunfish 7.27
 Unlikely Candidates 7.28
 Cashier + World's Worst 7.29
 Anna Beck 7.31

METRO MUSIC HALL

The Early November w/ Hellogoodbye 7.03
 Video Game Rave: Remixes, EDM, and Cosplay! 7.05
 Among The Lies 7.06
 Sleep Cult + Mopsy + BRUE 7.11
 Redd Kross 7.12
 Viva La Diva: Coat Of Many Colors 7.13
 Viva La Diva: Coat Of Many Colors 7.14
 Leetham + Micah Willis + Angie Petty 7.18
 Emo Night ^{LOW TICKETS} 7.19
 United We Dance: The EDM Hits Dance Party! 7.20
 Gottmik 7.26
 Halloween In July 7.27
 MIZMOR 7.29
 Ringo Deathstarr 8.5
 Urban Heat 8.7
 Led Zeppelin Tribute: Houses Of The Holy 8.9
 Cults 8.10
 The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus 8.11
 The Principals 8.15
 Marrio Suzanne And The Galaxy Band - Elemental - A 70's Rock Drag Show! 8.17

URBAN LOUNGE

Puhrtureprimitive 7.05
 Glass Spells 7.06
 Dad Bod + Marshall Van Luevan + Persona 749 7.10
 Sarah Shook & The Disarmers 7.11
 Indie Sleaze Nite! 7.12
 sapphic factory ^{LOW TICKETS} queer joy dance party! 7.13
 Tophouse ^{SOLD OUT} 7.14
 Quasi 7.16
 Etran De L'Air 7.17
 Closure In Moscow 7.18
 10 Years ^{LOW TICKETS} 7.19
 Puppeteers For Fears ^{SOLD OUT} 7.20
 Pie & Beer Day with Hooch + Sean Baker's Recycled Stardust + Little Lonesome 7.24
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 VINCENT DRAPER & THE CULLS **JIMI DEAD**
 MUSOR FREEMIND MOVEMENT FREAK BUCK KJ WARD SHECOCK WITH A VENGEANCE
 STAGE FRIGHT DOOMCUPCAKE SHAPES NAMED SOAP THE ALPINES
 THE BENNY C QUARTET HALAU KU PONO I KAMALANI BOMBA MARILE
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SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

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