

VEGAS

# seven®

FREE | November 28–December 4, 2013

Katie Epstein:  
El Cortez exec  
and trendsetter

## *Our Annual* **SHOPPING GUIDE**

Hot new stores, best boutiques, tips from a bargain hunter, the latest trends, Black Friday bulletins and great looks

*Plus ...* 12 DAYS OF A&E GIFT-GIVING

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Let the shopping begin!  
Kemo Sabe at the Forum Shops.

PHOTO BY REVENUE PUPPET

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Big dreams and holiday skepticism on the Strip; assessing the tenure of outgoing UNLV President Smastrek; and new steps for desert tortoise adoption. Plus, Ask a Native, The Deal and Tweets of the Week.

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"Dear America, Pro Athletes Think You're Soft," by Stacy J. Willis. So does the secretary of education. Maybe Bobby Knight can help.

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Onetime Playmate of the Year and current *View* co-host Jenny McCarthy on her upcoming *Hard Rock* comedy showcase, dating a *New Kid* and one wild Vegas night.



### ON THE COVER

Katie Epstein photographed at Coterie (515 Fremont St.) by Beverly Poppe. Dress by TFNC London (\$95 at Coterie).

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## At the Fashion Show, a High-Tech Showdown

► It feels like a science-fiction movie: I'm in a familiar place, but something is off. It looks like an Apple Store. Similar display tables. Tablets and smartphones aligned and ready for people to play with. Similar staff, clad in dark-blue T-shirts, eager to answer questions. But there are no customers. And when have you ever seen an Apple Store vacant?

Then I see the sign, four illuminated and colorful cubes that make up one large square. Turns out I'm at the new Microsoft Store. From operating systems to tablets, Microsoft has been following Apple's lead for years; now it's followed its rival to Fashion Show.

The Microsoft Store opened November 14, just a couple of minutes down the concourse from the much larger Apple Store. And for those who have decided against an iPhone 5c, it offers a good opportunity to do some hands-on shopping for an alternative. Microsoft's product line isn't as broad as Apple's in terms of accessories, but, then again, you won't find the Xbox One and Skylanders action figures at the Apple Store.

Plus, while I was browsing, five different employees offered their help within 10 minutes. At Apple, it was one employee after 20. So if you want to beat the crowd to that Xbox and the new Assassin's Creed game, Microsoft could be the answer. And unlike Apple, there's no one in front of you in line.

—Nicole Ely

## The New and Improved Market LV

► Tivoli Village recently took ownership of the Market LV space, which specializes in locally owned shops, fan favorites such as MarkieCher Jewelry, B Sweet Candy Boutique and Katie August footwear. New to the collection, just in time for the holidays, are Annie Creamcheese, a high-end vintage shop that relocated from the Palazzo, and Gekka, a boutique specializing in handbags made from silk kimonos. [TivoliVillageLV.com](http://TivoliVillageLV.com)



**Cowboy Cool** Looking for something flashy to wear to the National Finals Rodeo? **Kemo Sabe** owners Tom and Nancy Yoder provide just that at their recently opened Forum Shops outpost, offering a curated selection of boots, buckles, knives, hats and leather goods in a modern, highly stylized setting designed by Rowland + Broughton. [KemoSabe.com](http://KemoSabe.com).