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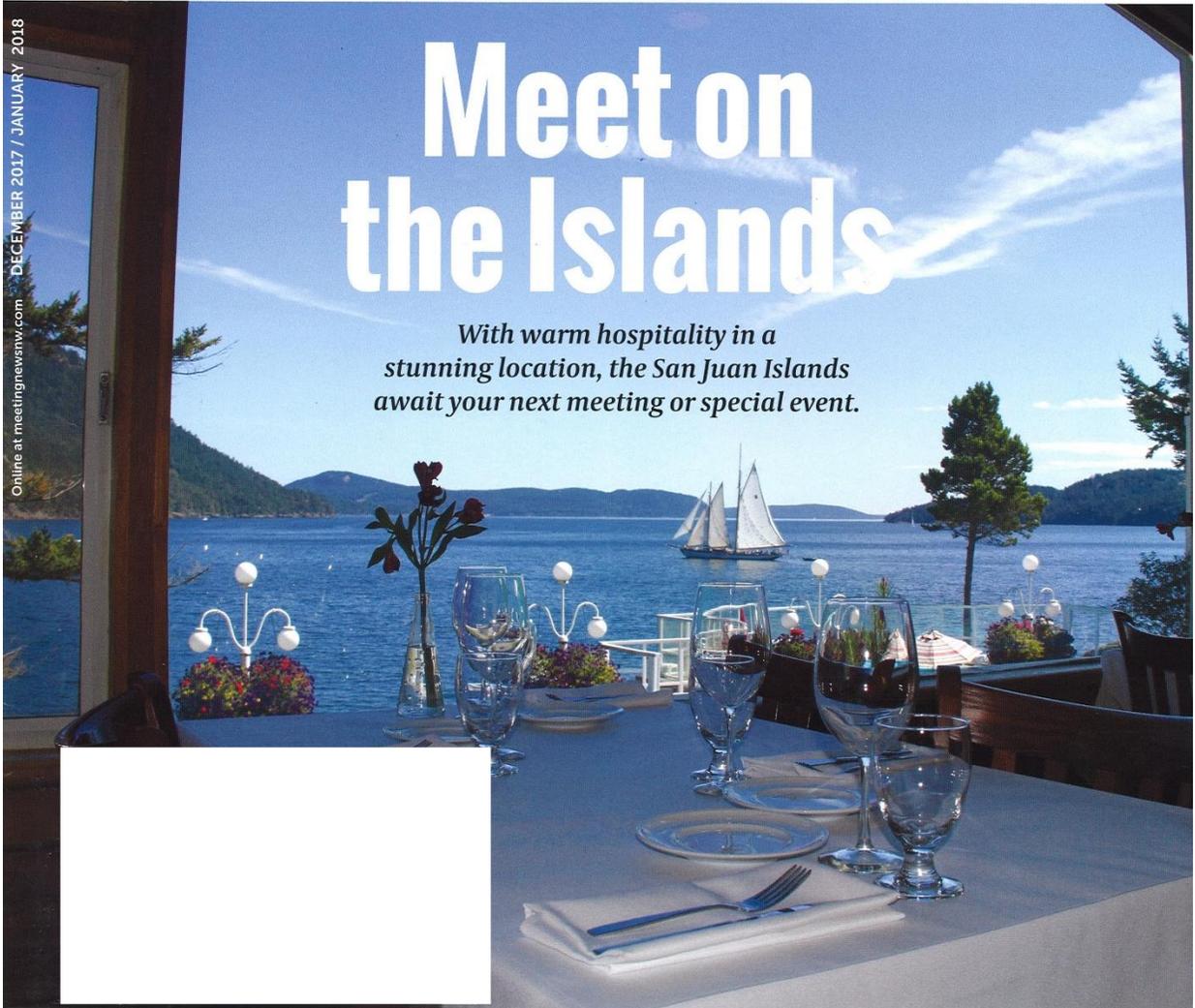
Meeting *news*

NORTHWEST

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Meet on the Islands

With warm hospitality in a stunning location, the San Juan Islands await your next meeting or special event.



MEET HERE Central Oregon

Mountain scenery, outdoor recreation and an abundance of excellent venues make this area an attractive choice for planners. **Page 26>**

FEATURE Airport Conference Centers

Offering convenience and modern facilities, the region's airports are a first-rate option for your next meeting or conference. **Page 18>**



+ Site Selection Savvy

Check out our tips for successfully navigating this important aspect of the planning process. **Page 16>**



Our relationship with machines will change

Berger predicts that we are on the verge of a revolution in automation that will affect the industry. Robots will become common in event operations. Photographers using drones to document a meeting or event, some security personnel replaced by robots, and machines being used to setup and teardown events are some of the ways that automation will become commonplace in the industry.

New ways to travel are changing our behavior

Access to the destinations that planners partner with will change, contends Berger. Increased home sharing will add room inventory everywhere, and autonomous vehicles will unlock new destinations for events. This means that planners will have an expanded choice of destinations from which to choose. When planners can take their technology with them, remote destinations will compete with traditional ones.

Technology will continue to evolve

The increased sophistication of our technology will lead to changes in behavior. Site visits will be less common because hyper-realistic presentations will enable planners to get all the information they need without traveling to the site. Events themselves will change with technology. Berger says, "Virtual and real events will become one as automated reality will enhance the onsite experience."

The meeting profession is entering prime time

Far from facing the demise of the meetings and events industry, Berger contends that the industry will continue to flourish. Face-to-face meetings will become more coveted. The recognition of the value of meetings will expand, and the meeting planning profession will continue to grow. "Overall, the meetings industry will be taken more seriously," Berger predicts.

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Meeting News Northwest

Even Hotel Eugene
ATHLETIC-THEMED HOTEL OPENS IN EUGENE

With a focus on health and wellness, the Intercontinental Hotel Group is scheduled to open Eugene, Oregon's newest hotel in December 2017. The Even Hotel Eugene will feature athletic studios for the energetic traveler, and calming relaxation zones for guests in search of a peaceful respite.

Each of the hotel's 100 rooms can become a traveler's private sanctuary. Featuring in-room training zones and spa-like showers, guest rooms are designed to offer energy-boosting workouts while providing a relaxing setting that can also be a productive working environment.

The hotel's 1,061-square-foot meeting room can accommodate small groups that want to conduct a fruitful business meeting, private retreat or informal reception. The room is equipped with modern audiovisual and tele-conference equipment, along with all the amenities a group needs to get down to business. Complimentary high-speed WiFi is available throughout the facility.

Located just one mile from the University of Oregon's Autzen Stadium and only minute from downtown Eugene, the hotel provides easy access to all that there is to see and do in Eugene. Whether it is playing "Pinot Bingo" as you check out the region's wineries, savoring the city's fine food and beverage scene or enjoying a sightseeing trip around the area, you will find plenty to do. Eugene's reputation as a center for sports and recreation means that there are endless activities your group can engage in.

Even Hotel provides free parking, and for travelers from out of the area a complimentary shuttle offers transportation to and from the Eugene Airport.

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The Rialto

REMODELED EVENT AND PERFORMANCE SPACE REOPENS IN BOZEMAN

Situated in the heart of downtown Bozeman, Montana, the iconic Rialto is an artistic, cultural and inspirational venue that will feature live concerts, performing arts, and private meeting and event spaces, as well as a beer and wine bar overlooking Main Street. Originally built in 1908 as a storefront and converted into a theater in 1924, the Rialto is reopening in 2018 after sitting vacant for over a decade.

Renovations to the historic Rialto theater in the heart of downtown Bozeman are well under way. The venue is scheduled to open in January 2018, hosting an exciting lineup of top-tier talent from around the country. The renovated Rialto offers an impressive location for seminars, conferences, corporate functions, boardroom-style meetings and social occasions.

The Rialto has a long history of serving Main Street in Bozeman's central commercial district. Bozeman's ThinkTank Design Group, along with general contractor North Fork Builders, is re-fashioning the vacant theater to set the stage as an artistic and cultural hub. Honoring the Rialto's historical relevance, iconic features will be replicated, such as the art deco-style marquee and signage at the front of the building, designed by local artist and metal sculptor Erik "Ole" Nelson of Media Station.

The reinvented venue will include a ground-floor theater called the Black Box which will accommodate up to 400 people and feature a mezzanine level, offering a variety of options for private events and live performances. The theater acoustics and sound system were designed by the award-winning consulting firm Charles M. Salter Associates, Inc. Theater programming will range from some of the country's most sought-after bands to local musicians, spoken-word performances, movie nights and more.

The second floor will house the Burn Box, a stylish space overlooking Main Street that will serve wine, beer and a rotating menu from local chefs and food artisans, crafted around the entertainment style. The Burn Box will welcome in ticket holders and the general public for a drink and bite on days of scheduled programming. Adjacent to the Burn Box will be the Light Box, a gallery that will showcase work from local artists, host special events for the community and serve as an additional space for private events for 15 to 150 people.

"We are creating a vibrant, one-of-a-kind hub where people can experience Bozeman's evolving culture," says Drew Fleming, productions and operations manager. "The Rialto will attract exceptional and unique acts, artists and audiences, becoming a place where artistry truly thrives."

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rialto-bozeman.com



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