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Inside

NEVADA

MAGAZINE

Thunderbird Lodge Turns 80



56

Unleash your Inner Jason Bourne



64

18



VISIONS

22



BEST OF NEVADA

38



CITY LIMITS

Up Front

- 8 Veterans Memorial Opens, Hot August Nights Turns 30, Lonnie Hammargren, & More

Wide Open

- 28 Ghost Town Adventures

Cravings

- 34 Back-Road Bites

Cover Photo: Sydney Martinez

Special Section

- 42 Silver State Scavenger Hunt
- 44 Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City

Events & Shows

- 49 Martial Arts SuperShow
- 50 Boston
- 52 Statewide Events & Shows
- 54 'Mined of my Own'

Tour Around Nevada

- 72 Winnemucca
- Anniversary Scrapbook
- 80 80 Years of Memories

In Every Issue

- 3 Nevada Wide Web
- 4 Editor's Note & Letters
- 6 Know Your Nevada
- 7 Nevada Map

Nevada's night skies are considered to be some of the darkest in the nation; sadly, astronomers consider them endangered. For now, they can be easily found 20 minutes outside Fallon at Sand Mountain Recreation Area.

2016

great nevada picture hunt

The 2016 Great Nevada Picture Hunt is here!

For 39 years, we've highlighted the most beautiful images from around the Silver State. Winning entries will be published in the September/October 2016 issue and on our website.

This year's categories:

Cityscape	Rural Town
Black & White	Long Exposure
Event	Landscape
Wildlife	Portrait/People
Mobile Phone	

Prize packages include Nevada photographic experiences such as admission to the Nevada Northern Railway Winter Photoshoot, plus a three-night stay the Ramada Copper Queen in Ely; admission to the Shooting the West Photography Symposium in Winnemucca; a framing gift certificate from Nevada Fine Arts; Gordon's Photo Service gift certificates; and much more.

Deadline to enter is Wednesday, July 20, 2016, 5 p.m. pacific time. Visit nevadamagazine.com/2016gnph for the rules.

NEVADA

MAGAZINE

NEVADA

MAGAZINE

80

Celebrating our 80th year

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NEVADA
A WORLD WITHIN.
A STATE APART.

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TAHOE RIM TRAIL ASSOCIATION

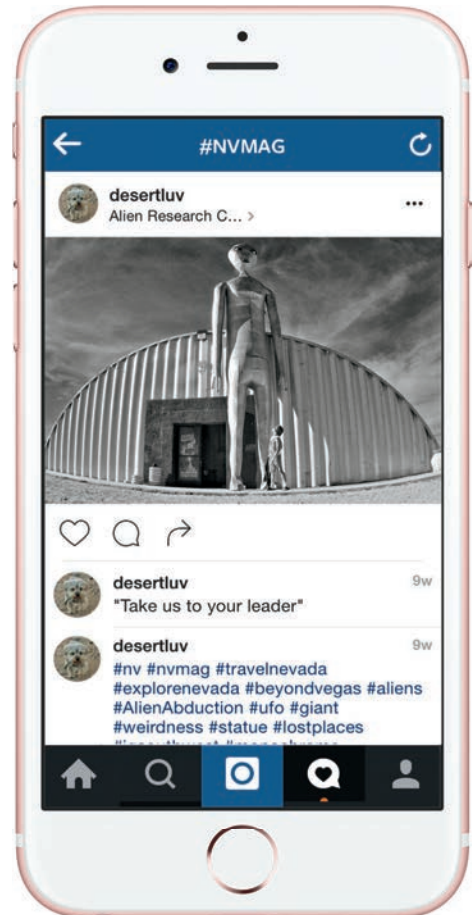
WEB EXTRAS

► Who hikes 165 miles of 24-inch single-track trail? Anyone who puts his or her mind to it, that's who. Peter Mires is taking advantage of the **Tahoe Rim Trail** (TRT) Association's segment hiking program and from June 15 to Aug. 31, Peter is tackling the world-famous trail. Over 12 weeks, this 62-year-old polio survivor proves that this gorgeous and awesome adventure is accessible to anyone with the will to accept it.

If hiking isn't your thing, the trail is open to equestrians and—in most areas—mountain bikers. Whatever your mode of transportation, and whatever distances you can muster, the TRT is a backyard paradise. **By Peter Mires**

► What began as an idea between several Nevada lovers has transformed into a way of life. The **Nevada Backroads** Facebook group, which focuses on everything from stunning photographs to travel advice and everything in between, has been picking up speed across the state. The group is several thousand members strong and acts as a place for people to share their vision of Nevada. Read about why the group has become so popular, and how you can share your backroads message. **By Eric Cachinero**

FEATURED Instagram



Use #nvmag for a chance to be featured in future issues of *Nevada Magazine*.

TOUR AROUND NEVADA 2016



Only three more towns will be crowned this year! What is your favorite Nevada town? We'll do a story on it, and present residents with a plaque.

NOTE: Carson City, Elko, Ely, Gardnerville, Genoa, Laughlin, Las Vegas, Minden, Reno, Sparks,

Tonopah, Virginia City, and Winnemucca are not eligible because they have already won.

Send your vote to editor@nevadamagazine.com with the town and "Tour Around NV" in the subject line by 5 p.m. on July 15. Only one vote per email address each voting session, and for full rules and information, visit nevadamagazine.com/tour.



FEATURED VIDEO

Visit nevadamagazine.com/ghosttown4 to see the fourth round of ghost town adventures. We explore a stone chimney, magnificent mills, and a town overrun with sagebrush.





Look for this icon through November/December 2016 to read about other Nevada entities celebrating anniversary milestones this year.

The only traffic jam I can abide these days is the type pictured above. It's the sort of thing anyone who regularly travels our back roads will surely understand, and while I have an advantage in how often I see such sights, they are readily available to anyone in Nevada. The message behind such an encounter is obvious: slow down.

While driving on a back road to Cave Lake in eastern Nevada, these gentle beasts in the middle of the road were just one sighting on our latest road trip. Rabbits galore, myriad deer, ample antelope...the state is teeming with wildlife as we enjoy rich green hills and valleys thanks to an abundantly wet spring. Each time we see an animal, it's as if time stops; we slow the car or pull over to watch them bound out of view. We're in their space, and it's such a privilege when they share a glimpse of their day.

Summer is the perfect time to slow down and take a look at the horizon. Take a drive anywhere in Nevada and you'll see a



ERIC CACHINERO

dirt road beckoning you to discover its treasures. Not all these roads require a four-wheel drive, but all require you to bring your sense of adventure and a willingness to slow down. Around each corner, you never know what—or who—might be waiting.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

We're on high-adventure alert this issue as we unveil our second annual Silver State Scavenger Hunt locations on page 42. Last year's contest was a wild success and all I can say is get your magazine and your camera, pack up the family, and hit the road. It's an incredibly fun way to see parts of Nevada you may be unfamiliar with. Oh, and there's great prizes, too. How can you pass this up?

For this issue's ghost town story, Associate Editor Eric Cachinero used Highway 50 as a home base, and despite more uncharacteristic precipitation, an adventure was had that included some unexpected guests. Check it out on page 28.

We love history, and this month we're unveiling a new twist in the retelling of our state's important stories. On page 14, you'll find a biographical comic—*Territorial Legends* is the work of Michael Ogilvie from Clark County. We hope you enjoy this very visual look at one of Nevada's lesser-known legends.

We continue to search for new legends, and on page 22 you'll find our 39th annual readers' survey: Best of Nevada 2016. We asked for your favorites, and we thank you for your choices; it's awesome to learn something new about our state. It's also a chance to check out some of the great work by our new Senior Graphic Designer—Jody Cory.

On page 56 you can read about a mythic man who, with his trusted lion at his side, built one of Lake Tahoe's most beautiful mansions and preserved the Nevada shoreline. And on page 64, we cater to the action-adventure hero in us all with a story about how just off The Strip, you can recreate a little movie magic of your own.

Megg Mueller, Managing Editor
mmueller@nevadamagazine.com



LETTERS

MAY/JUNE ON POINT

Lately the magazine has been feeling much more like a photography catalog but then the May/June issue came and it is one of the most outstanding magazines you've put out in years. The history, the towns, and travels through Nevada are exactly what I'm looking for in the magazine. Keep up the good work. I live in Indiana but I am a major fan of Nevada.

— **David Crauder**, Greenwood, Ind.

NEWSPAPER'S PERSONAL LEGACY

Raised on the Comstock, I developed an interest in history and many times used the information provided by the *Territorial Enterprise* in my research. I'm gratified to see that my grandfather—Vincent Nevin—played an important part in keeping journalism in place there. I understand the Virginia City News was sold in 1943 after Vincent's unexpected death in December 1942. Thanks to *Nevada Magazine* our state's history continues to be told!

— **Dan Nevin** (via nevadamagazine.com)

'MOTORCYCLE MADNESS' HITS THE SPOT

As a 34-year former resident of the Silver State, I'm homesick. I traveled Nevada for my job. I've been to all the places mentioned and some not. Really enjoyed the trip down memory lane.

— **Bill Cyphers**
(via nevadamagazine.com)

PUTTIN' RUBBER TO THE ROAD

I'm really enjoying the ghost town series; been to a few of them myself. I noticed last issue (April/May 2016, "Odyssey of a Ghost Town Explorer, Part 2") those street-rubber tires on that Tahoe. If you're going to drive to the kind of places you go in search of stories, you need the proper tires. Highway rubber does not cut it. It's akin to hiking a rugged mountain trail in smooth-soled dress shoes.

— **Mark Spangenberg**, Washougal, Wa.



CONTRIBUTORS

JOHN DELELLO



When he's not searching for and losing discs at Nevada disc-golf courses, John—a Colorado transplant—can be found cycling, snowboarding, hiking, camping, and four wheeling into the sunset. He's also a four-time

Burning Man participant and a Reno-based licensed Nevada realtor. ■ PGS. 38-41

CAROLINE HORWITZ



Caroline Horwitz lives in Las Vegas with her husband and son. She has written for *Nevada Magazine* as well as various literary journals. Her work has been nominated for the 2015 Best of the Net Anthology and listed as a

notable entry in The Best American Essays 2014. ■ PGS. 44-47

TERRY WILSON



Once known as The Marathon Man on Reno's Oldies radio station, Terry Wilson is also an Emmy-Award winning TV host and freelance journalist. His adventures on the road include being hit by lightning three times and attacked by a shark. Terry's

adventures are chronicled in his book: "Life's Too Short & So Am I." ■ PG. 49

CHRIS LEWIS



Chris Lewis is a freelance writer who has lived in Las Vegas since 2007. A native Los Angeleno, Chris joined the Marines after graduating from college and lived on the East Coast for 10 years before moving back west. He has decided to retire from

fighting zombies and search for other adventures in the Silver State. ■ PGS. 64-71

PETER MIRES



Peter Mires, a native of the Green Mountain State, first came out west in 1990 and has been fascinated with the region, especially the Sierra Nevada and Lake Tahoe, ever since. Dr. Mires is the author of the recently published book "Lake Tahoe's

Rustic Architecture" (Arcadia Publishing, 2016). He lives in Carson City. ■ at nevadamagazine.com

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

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To find out how to contribute, visit nevadamagazine.com/writer

BEAT THE HEAT at our State Museums



Lost City Museum

PHOTOS: SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVELNEVADA



Nevada State Museum, Carson City

Summer is in full swing, and now that the temperatures are well into the triple digits in southern Nevada and approaching those in northern Nevada, there's no better time to explore some of the excellent indoor activities our state has to offer. Nevada's museums have an abundance of indoor educational activities and exhibits that both children and adults alike may find interesting and engaging.

The Nevada State Museum located in Carson City hosts a variety of exhibits showcasing the Silver State's rich history. Step back in time and get a glimpse of how the Carson City Mint processed silver coins in the 1870s. Step further back and get a firsthand look at the largest Columbian mammoth in North America. Museum visitors who enjoy geology are in luck, too. The museum's exhibit "Nevada's Changing Earth" showcases our great state's geologic history going as far back as 1.75 billion years ago, and allows visitors to walk through the ancient Devonian Sea.

In Las Vegas, the Nevada State Museum—like its northern counterpart—presents a great history of Nevada. Throughout the more than 13,000 square feet of exhibit space, visitors can enjoy rich cultural and natural history. Museum guests will catch a glimpse of the tremendous influence that mining and the rise of the railroad had on the Silver State. From there, see how the atomic era, and the evolution of the Nevada resort industry shaped our state into what it is today. This museum also plays host to our state's fossil, the *Shonisaurus popularis* ichthyosaur.

The Lost City Museum highlights the contributions and impacts of the prehistoric ancestral Puebloans (Anasazi) through exhibits featuring artifacts, along with reconstructed and replicated

Puebloan sites. Visitors can catch a glimpse of daily life for this unique and remarkable culture. The incredible educational and cultural contributions offered by the Lost City Museum about the prehistoric Ancestral Puebloans are incomparable. The Lost City Museum is located an hour drive east of Las Vegas in Overton.

Whether a Nevada resident looking to find indoor educational opportunities for students now that school's out for the summer or a visitor hoping to learn more about the varied and compelling history of the Silver State, I'm confident the Nevada state museums can offer a memorable experience for everyone.



Mark Hutchison
Lieutenant Governor
Chairman—Nevada Commission on Tourism
ltgov.nv.gov

PLACES HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS ISSUE

Belmont Mill (pg. 31)

Berlin (pg. 32)

Boulder City (pg. 44)

Eberhardt (pg. 30)

Hamilton (pg. 30)

Lahontan Reservoir (pg. 20)

Lake Tahoe (pgs. 21, 56)

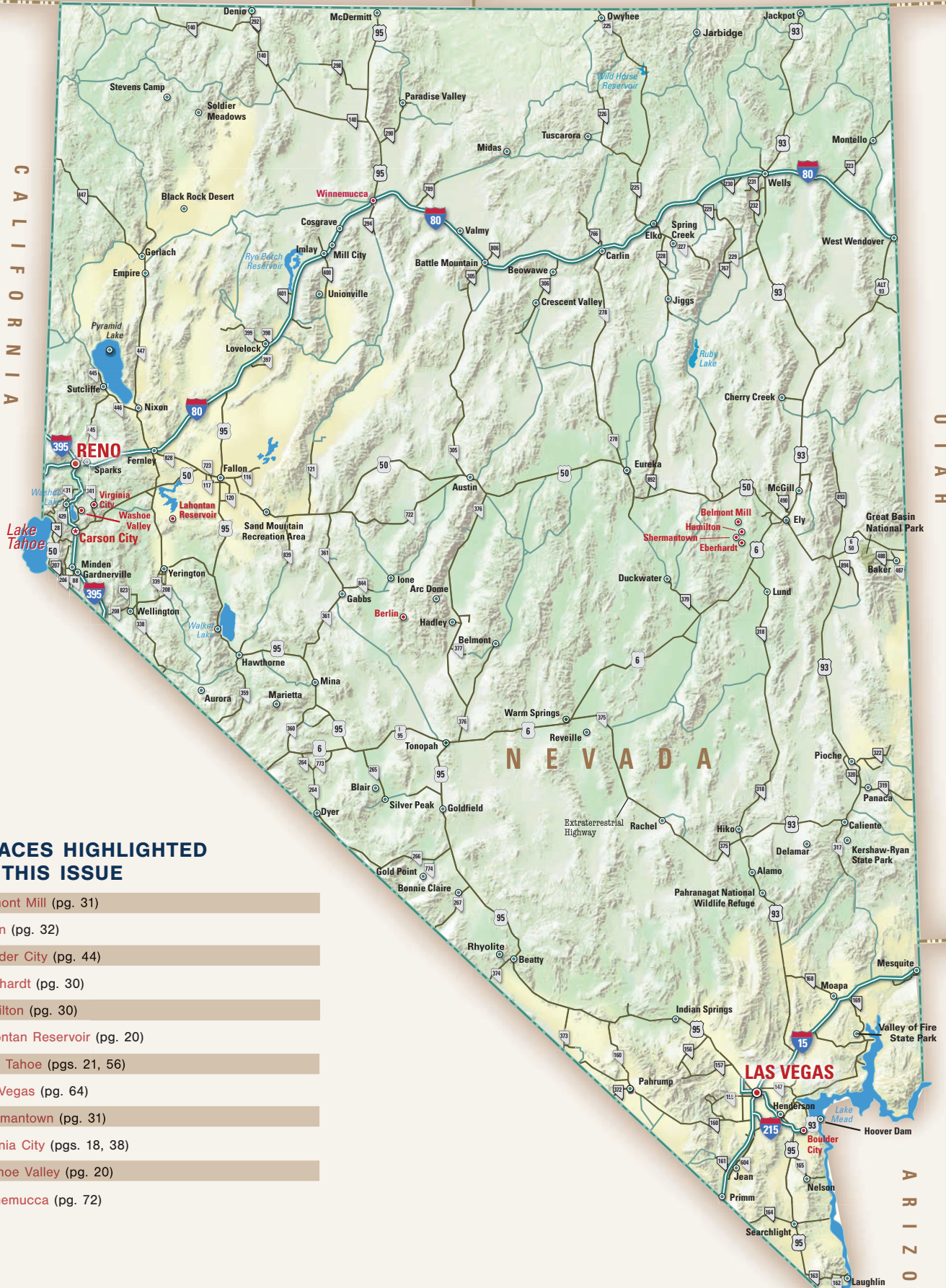
Las Vegas (pg. 64)

Shermantown (pg. 31)

Virginia City (pgs. 18, 38)

Washoe Valley (pg. 20)

Winnemucca (pg. 72)





EVENTS

Hot August Nights celebrates 30 years of rock 'n' roll and classic cars

The first Hot August Nights was Aug. 1, 1986, when 10,000 people packed the Reno-Sparks Convention Center parking lot to listen to the Righteous Brothers, Wolfman Jack, and Jan & Dean. The goal was to fill a void in tourism in Reno during the month of August and to raise money for local charities. That first year was more about nostalgia than cars, but the classic car parade was the highlight of the event as people filled Virginia Street to watch the cars roll by.

This year, the world's premier classic car event is celebrating its 30th anniversary in Reno Aug. 2-7, and it still pays tribute to the powerful automobiles and music of the '50s, '60s, and '70s. More than 6,000 registered classic vehicles show up each year and visitors from all over the world thrill at the sight of beautiful cars revving up, racing, and cruising around town. From the Big Boy's Toy



PHOTOS: MARCELLO ROSTAGNI

Store—where enthusiasts can find the latest parts, accessories, and technology for their street rods, hot rods, and muscle cars—to the largest cash prize purse show-n-shine in the world, it's a car-lover's dream.

Performers at the 30th anniversary event are set to include The Monkees, America, Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone, and renowned tribute bands featuring the music of Elvis, Abba, The Beatles, and the Rolling Stones. Many of the concert performances and other happenings are free to the public. hotaugustnights.net, 775-356-1956

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Notable Nevadans

Dr. Lonnie Hammargren is a straight-up Nevada institution. A retired neurosurgeon, former Lieutenant Governor, and lover of all things Nevada, Dr. Hammargren often opens his home and eclectic collection of memorabilia to the public for tours on Nevada Day. Our Carrie Roussel talked to Dr. Hammargren from his famed Las Vegas home.

DR. LONNIE HAMMARGREN

Question: What's your favorite Nevada thing to show or do with out-of-town guests?

Dr. Hammargren: I have an Apollo spacecraft that the astronauts trained in. I keep it in the yard, sitting over a spa so you can go through the hot water (with or without clothes) to get to the inside.

Question: What are your hobbies?

Dr. Hammargren: I enjoy collecting cars. I used to have a lot of expensive cars: a Rolls Royce, and a Bugatti that was once prized as the most beautiful car in the world.

Question: What's your favorite thing about Nevada?

Dr. Hammargren: I really enjoy the entertainment. I can't afford the new entertainers that charge \$500 per seat for their shows, but I like to see the retiring shows that have been around a long time.

Question: What's your favorite Nevada event or festival?

Dr. Hammargren: Parades. I especially love the Helldorado Days Parade in downtown Las Vegas each May. I've participated in it for the past 20 or 30 years.

Question: What does being Battle Born mean to you?

Dr. Hammargren: It means our state started during the Civil War.

Question: Do you have a favorite Nevada memory?

Dr. Hammargren: Sure... (Singing)
*When it's nighttime in Nevada I'm dreaming
 Of the old days on the prairie and you
 I miss you when the campfires are gleaming
 And I wonder if you miss me too*

*I can see the Great Divide and the trails we used to ride
 The only bit of heaven I knew
 When it's nighttime in Nevada I'm dreaming
 Of the old days on the prairie and you...*

It's an old song by Roy Rogers and Gene Autry. That song wasn't even written in Nevada, but it sure fits Nevada so well.



PHOTOS: JANET GEARY



DR. PETER J. SHIELD

To read the full interview, visit nevadamagazine.com/hammargren



■ **MGM Resorts** in Las Vegas have waived the parking fee for Nevada residents until Dec. 29. Self-parking is free for one hour. The fees were rolled out in June and apply to self-parking and valet. Some loyalty program members will be entitled to free parking. mgmresorts.com

■ **uberESPAÑOL** has launched in Nevada. This new feature—available in Las Vegas and Reno—allows riders to request an uberX with a Spanish-speaking driver-partner. Nevada is the 5th state to offer uberESPAÑOL. uber.com

■ **Las Vegas 51s** fans can now use 51s Mobile Fast Pass—a quick way to instantly purchase tickets using text messaging. Fans who register for the program will receive customized notifications when tickets become available, enabling them to purchase tickets on-demand in a matter of seconds via text message. replybuy.com, 702-943-7200

■ Las Vegas company **AviSight** has flown the first FAA-approved drone at an airshow in Louisville, Ky., during a live broadcast of the show. The unmanned aircraft system (UAS) gave TV viewers unprecedented access, and could serve as a model for future UAS operations at airshows. avisight.com, 702-857-8441

■ For the third year, Virginia City is hosting **Flashback Friday Museum Days**—an opportunity to tour 12 of the historic town's museums for free. Flashback Friday Museum Days are the first Friday of each month, May through October 2016. visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

■ The largest diecast model car, toy, pop culture convention, and comic show—**Super Toy Con**—returns to the Orleans Arena Aug. 5-7. Celebrity guests include Chris Sarandon and David Anders. Additional events include autograph sessions, a costume contest, and a Hall of Fame banquet ceremony. orleansarena.com, 702-284-7777



MUSEUM

Liberace's garage, now available for viewing

The Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts has unveiled a brand new museum that will showcase legendary automobiles from the performer's stage acts. The exhibit—Liberace's Garage—is located inside the Hollywood Cars Museum in Las Vegas, and features vehicles such as the 1961 Rolls Royce Phantom V limousine, which was used for his acts at the Las Vegas Hilton and shown in the HBO movie, "Behind the Candelabra;" the Liberace Crystal Roadster which he rode onto Radio City Music Hall's stage; and the London taxi he used to pick up friends from the airport.

Photos and artifacts from Liberace's homes are also on display. hollywoodcarsmuseum.com, 702-331-6400



ART

Ely's Art & Wine Walk raises funds for Art Bank, Renaissance Village

The annual Ely Renaissance Art & Wine Walk will be held at the Renaissance Village Saturday, July 23, beginning at 5 p.m., and is followed by dinner and a silent auction. Attendees will meet artists, enjoy art, sample ethnic food, and taste wines in the restored houses of the village.

The silent auction includes a variety of gift baskets, home decor, and much more. Because all auction items are donated, all proceeds will be used to continue improvements to the Art Bank and Renaissance Village. elyrenaissance.com

Mother Nature's THEME PARK



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A world away
FOR A DAY

Head over to the charming town of Boulder City for a change of pace. Sure, it looks peaceful. But all around town, there are people zip-lining down canyons,

waterskiing on Lake Mead, and mountain biking along miles and miles of rugged trails. Just swing by to start flying by the seat of your pants. **VisitBoulderCity.com**





■ **Nevada's Electric Highway**—U.S. Route 95—welcomed its first electric charging station earlier this year. Located at Eddie World gas station convenience store in Beatty, the station is part of Governor Sandoval's plan to make getting between Las Vegas and Reno easier for electric car owners. Fallon, Tonopah, and Hawthorne are other possible charging station sites in the works. energy.nv.gov

■ **Three Fremont Street mainstays—Mermaids Casino, La Bayou Casino, and Topless Girls of Glitter Gulch**—closed in late June to make room for a new hotel-casino property being built by the owners of the D Las Vegas Casino Hotel, Golden Gate Hotel and Casino, and the Downtown Las Vegas Events Center. thed.com, 702-388-2400

■ The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) has a data-sharing partnership with Waze to give travelers info about current road conditions and construction projects. **Waze** provides users with real-time incident and traffic slowdown information directly from drivers, plus government-reported data on road construction, traffic accidents, and road closures. seeingorangenv.com, 702-928-2663

■ The **LINQ Hotel & Casino** is offering the first bunk bed accommodations on The Strip. The 12 bunk bed rooms allow large groups to have an affordable option, with rooms starting at \$69. thelinq.com, 800-634-6441

■ The **Crystal Bay Casino** at Lake Tahoe is expanding its largest concert venue—the Crown Room. The new room will be able to host 750 people, which the owner says will allow the venue to attract higher-profile artists. crystalbaycasino.com, 774-833-6333

■ The **National Speleological Society**, as part of its annual conference, is planning a public unveiling of a 25 foot-wide mural in downtown Ely on July 16. The artwork will represent Lehman Caves at Great Basin National Park. caves.org, 256-852-1300



PHOTOS: CLAUDIA VECCHIO

MEMORIAL

Las Vegas Veterans Memorial Foundation unveiled

A new veterans memorial has opened to the public in Las Vegas. Located at the Grant Sawyer State Building, just north of downtown, the memorial features 18 larger-than-life statues spanning the nation's history from the Revolutionary War to today's Global War on Terror. More than 2,500 commemorative bricks that can be purchased via a donation are a part of the project, along with commemorative quotes placed amid the two-acre plaza.

lasvegasmemorial.org,
702-858-5886



BATTLE BORN BIRTHDAYS

The Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival has been at its current location at Sand Harbor State Park for 40 years. The 2016 season runs July 8–Aug. 21 and features Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors" and "Forever Plaid," a pitch-perfect jukebox musical, along with its Showcase Series events and children's events.

laketahoeshakespeare.com,
800-747-4697

Legends in Concert is celebrating its 33rd anniversary. The longest-running show in Las Vegas performs 10 shows a week, year round in the Donny & Marie Showroom at the Flamingo Las Vegas.

legendsinconcert.com,
702-777-2782



JOY STROTZ

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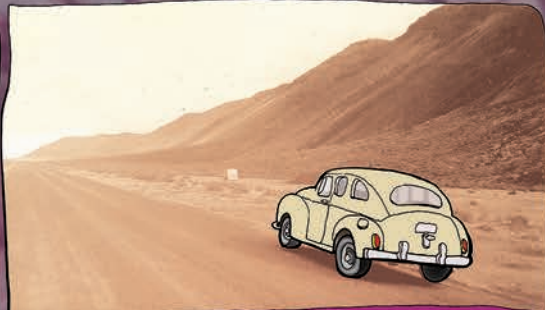
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SARANN KNIGHT PREDDY: the galling Dr.

SARANN CAME TO VEGAS IN 1942 TO FIND THE END OF THE RAINBOW.



SHE WROTE KENO FOR THE COTTON CLUB ON THE SEGREGATED WEST SIDE.



WHEN HER HUSBAND LANDED AN ARTILLERY JOB IN HAWTHORNE THEY LEFT FOR THE HIGH DESERT.

HER FATHER FUELED HER ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT. HIS CINDER BLOCK FACTORY PROVIDED BLOCKS FOR THE MOULIN ROUGE AND THE MONEY TO BUY HER FIRST BUSINESS IN HAWTHORNE - THE TONGA CLUB.



It was just a bar. They had a liquor license but nothing else but the bar. Back in the day it was easy to get a (gaming) license, it was almost like getting a license for a shoe stand. That was the start of my life being in the gaming business.



As far as the national records indicate, I was the first African-American female to receive a non-restricted gaming license.

FOR SEVEN YEARS THE TONGA CLUB RAKED IN THE CASH. SHE RETURNED TO VEGAS TO OPEN THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE CASINO. SHE FOUND HER POT OF GOLD.

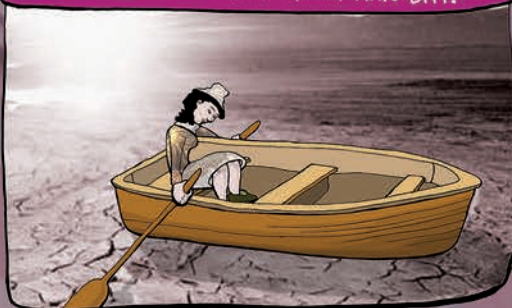


IN 1985, AT THE AGE OF 65, SHE BOUGHT THE BUILDING HER FATHER PROVIDED THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR.



The Moulin Rouge was left desolate for so many years after it closed in 1955 and I heard so many rumors that the man, Leo Fry, who acquired it when it was in bankruptcy, refused to sell it to any black person. I have always been one to like a challenge and I confronted him on the rumor. He indicated it was not true. So I made a deal with him and leased the Moulin Rouge with an option to buy.

FROM 1985-1997 SHE POURED CASH INTO THE MOULIN ROUGE, BUT THE MONEY RIVER RAN DRY.



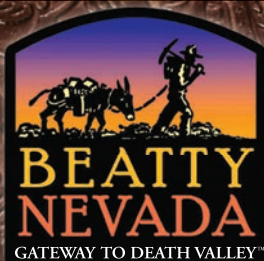
IN HER TENTH DECADE THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS AWARDED HER AN HONORARY DOCTORATE.

I feel proud sometimes I think, "How did I do all of those things?" Then I think, "I am 90 years old, I had to do something."



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 - Photo Opportunity at Hoover Dam
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- Photo opportunity at Hoover Dam overlook
 - Home of the world famous Grand Canyon Skywalk
 - Includes lunch at the Canyon
- Includes stops at Eagle Point, Guano Point and Hualapai Ranch

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\$180 | \$91

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Add Pink Jeep	\$99
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- See Native American Dancers and Wild West shows
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\$241 | \$135

Add Skywalk	\$25
Add Heli	\$181
Add Helicopter/Boat	\$216
Add Helicopter/Boat/Skywalk	\$241

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HOOVER DAM EXPRESS TOUR

- Photo stop at The Las Vegas Sign
- Up to 2 hours at Hoover Dam
- Government Guided Interior Tour
- Departs twice daily
- Access to the Newly Opened Visitors Center, Museum, Monuments, and Gift Shop

\$72 | \$42 Add Heli \$99

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- Photo stop at The Las Vegas Sign
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- Access to the Newly Opened Visitors Center, Museum, Monuments, and Gift Shop
- Ethel M's Chocolate Factory & Cacti Gardens
- Includes Lunch

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- Self guided tour of multiple points along the rim of the canyon

\$340 | \$259 Add Skywalk \$25

LAKE MEAD CRUISES

HOOVER DAM & LAKE MEAD CRUISE

- Mississippi Style Paddle Wheel Boat**
- Photo Stop at The Las Vegas Sign
 - Up to 2 hours at Hoover Dam
 - Government Guided Interior Tour
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 - Includes Lunch

\$107 | \$82 Day Cruise

LAKE MEAD DINNER CRUISE

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Thanks to exceptional precipitation in northern Nevada, a cluster of poppies bloom in Virginia City. | Photo By Liz Huntington



An aging fence is surrounded by thriving vegetation near the Twaddle-Pedroli Ranch in Washoe Valley. | Photo By Lee Molof



A lone tree stands anchored to the sand at Lahontan State Recreational Area during a stunning sunset. | Photo By Michelle Cavanagh



Waves and clouds roll mildly over the beach at Sand Harbor. | Photo By Sarah Ladeira



Desert plants sprout from the earth in a damp field covered in wildflowers. | Photo By Dennis Doyle

Facebook Group Choice

Each issue, our Nevada Photographers Facebook group votes for their favorite photo out of three selected by Nevada Magazine staff.

19th Annual READER'S SURVEYS



THIS YEAR'S WINNERS ARE...

KID PLACES



Lake Tahoe

NORTH: Terry Lee Wells Discovery Museum, Reno

SOUTH: Springs Preserve, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Lake Tahoe

Voting for the “best” of anything isn’t easy, but when you have a state like Nevada, it becomes downright daunting. There are so many wonderful places to eat, shows to see, events to attend, tours to take, places to golf, etc., it’s hard to play favorites.

Thank goodness so many of our readers were equal to the challenge. They’ve helped narrow the playing field as it were, and given us a look into their personal favorites all across the state.

Because we’re such a large state, we’ve split Nevada—for contest purposes only—into three areas; North, South, and Everywhere Else, which includes our rural regions and our not-so-rural, but not-quite-urban cities.

Thanks as ever to our incredible readers who voted; this contest is nothing without you. And to the winners we say congratulations! Your hard work has paid off. Be sure to visit nevadamagazine.com and look for the 2017 Best of Nevada survey in March of next year.

STATE PARK

NORTH: Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park

SOUTH: Valley of Fire State Park

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park

TOURS

NORTH: Thunderbird Lodge, Lake Tahoe
SOUTH: Maverick Helicopters, Las Vegas
EVERYWHERE ELSE: Hoover Dam, Boulder City



Thunderbird Lodge

MUSEUM

NORTH: Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
SOUTH: The Mob Museum, Las Vegas
EVERYWHERE ELSE: Nevada Northern Railway, Ely



Polar Express

EVENT

NORTH: Hot August Nights, Reno
SOUTH: Life is Beautiful, Las Vegas
EVERYWHERE ELSE: Polar Express, Nevada Northern Railway, Ely



Nevada Northern Railway

BURGER



Awful, Awful Burger



Nugget Casino Resort

NORTH: Awful, Awful, Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks
SOUTH: Bachi Burger, Las Vegas
EVERYWHERE ELSE: Awful, Awful, Carson Nugget, Carson City

NORTH: Tahoe Ridge Winery, Carson City
SOUTH: Pahrump Valley Winery, Pahrump
EVERYWHERE ELSE: Churchill Vineyards, Fallon

BUFFET



Carnival World & Seafood Buffet

NORTH: Toucan Charlie's Buffet & Grille, Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno
SOUTH: Carnival World & Seafood Buffet, Rio Las Vegas Casino, Las Vegas
EVERYWHERE ELSE: Rum Jungle Buffet, Casino Fandango, Carson City

WINERY



Churchill Vineyards



PHOTOS: KIM LAMB



SHOW

RESORT

NORTH: Footloose, Eldorado Reno Resort Casino, Reno
SOUTH: Terry Fator, Mirage, Las Vegas
EVERYWHERE ELSE: CasaPoolooza, Casa Blanca Resort Casino
 Golf Spa, Mesquite

SPA

NORTH: Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno
SOUTH: Red Rock Casino Resort Spa, Las Vegas
EVERYWHERE ELSE: 1862 David Walley's Resort
 Hot Springs & Spa, Genoa

CASINO

NORTH: Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno
SOUTH: Red Rock Casino Resort Spa, Las Vegas
EVERYWHERE ELSE: Hotel Nevada, Ely



NORTH: Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno
SOUTH: Red Rock Casino Resort Spa, Las Vegas
EVERYWHERE ELSE: 1862 David Walley's Resort
 Hot Springs and Spa, Genoa



NIGHTCLUB/
BAR

NORTH: Lex Nightclub, Grand Sierra Resort, Reno

SOUTH: The Showroom, South Point Hotel Casino & Spa

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Hotel Nevada, Ely

RESTAURANT

NORTH: Cactus Creek Prime Steakhouse, Bonanza Casino, Reno

SOUTH: Top of the World, Stratosphere Casino Hotel & Tower, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Symphony's Restaurant, Pahrump Valley Winery, Pahrump

PLACE
TO SHOP

NORTH: The Summit, Reno

SOUTH: The Forum Shops, Caesars Palace, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Laughlin Outlets, Laughlin

GOLF



Angel Park Golf Club

NORTH: LakeRidge Golf Course, Reno

SOUTH: Angel Park Golf Club, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Mountain Falls Golf Club, Pahrump

Congratulations to these four lucky voters who won Laughlin prize packages!

Tom Sheckells

Kim Kozlowski

Mike Whan

Marianne Lake



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ODYSSEY OF A GHOST TOWN EXPLORER

FOURTH OF SIX-PART SERIES EXAMINES
ABANDONED SETTLEMENTS OFF
THE LONELIEST ROAD IN AMERICA.

PART 4: THE ELK OF EBERHARDT

BY ERIC CACHINERO

I am of the deeply held belief that Rocky Mountain elk are among the most majestic and genuine creatures to walk the earth. I am also of the belief that words like majestic and genuine can be used to describe the remains of a place that once quaked with life, but is now presumed to be devoid of it. Ghost towns and elk are each worthy of these words singularly, but when you combine the two, it's permissible to be at a complete loss for words. I have come to realize that some situations are almost impervious to words, for fear of the word's inadequacies to describe them.

Though difficult as it may be, I will do my best to describe coming around a bend to find three bull elk standing in the ghost town of Eberhardt. More on that to come.





PHOTOS: MEGG MUELLER & ERIC CACHINERO

HAMILTON

The trip begins like many others: historic hotel, the threat of rain and snow, and miles of pure Nevada. In this case, our early, westerly departure from Hotel Nevada in Ely gives us what we hope will be enough time to visit a cluster of tightly packed ghost towns located south of U.S. Route 50 near the White Pine Range and mighty Mt. Hamilton. Mule deer and panoramas are prevalent while driving the dirt road leading to Hamilton. Editor Megg Mueller and I stop first at Hamilton's aging graveyard, then at the town's relatively scant remains.

It's surprising they're limited, given Hamilton's size in the 1800s. Silver discoveries and the lure of swift wealth were as enslaving as opium in 1867 Hamilton. Fittingly, the first business established was a saloon, followed by more than 10,000 miners and townsfolk, some living in nothing more than caves, tents, and huts made of hay. By 1869, Hamilton had grown significantly, welcoming a slew of general stores, churches, banks, breweries, gunsmiths, and approximately 195 mining companies to the two-square-mile townsite. But seemingly as quickly as the town had sprung from the ground, it succumbed to diminished riches and devastating fires that tapered the population through the 1920s and into eventual nothingness.

Modern buildings interspersed with ghostly ones are most of what's left. A large, stone chimney keeps watch over the town, while evidence of mining can be seen in most directions. Megg and I explore the ruins before taking a short, scenic drive down the road to our next town.

EBERHARDT

Megg sees them first. Our Tahoe comes to an abrupt halt before the on-board chaos begins. Megg is trying—albeit failing—to gasp the three-letter word “elk” while slapping my arm and reaching for her camera. My brain is in the same state of discombobulation, though I opt instead for my binoculars. I've seen plenty of elk in my life, but never in a scene such as this. The three small bulls model long enough for Megg to get their glamor shot, then, as elk tend to do, hightail it without looking back.

Eberhardt is used to riches. Named after the largest mine in the area, Eberhardt's prospectors were said to have a certain glow to them—literally. The Eberhardt mine had ceilings and walls made of glittering silver, transferring a fine coating to the boots and clothes of the men who worked in it. From 1869 to 1880, the town and area were worked, until the mines closed and Eberhardt returned to the elk.

Though these sites were briefly threatened by man's attempt to wrangle them in, Mother Nature always returns for what's rightfully hers. So have the elk reclaimed what's theirs. We linger a while to take photos before moving on, feeling guilty for interrupting the elk's Eberhardt city council meeting, or whatever they were doing there.



SHERMANTOWN

If I were an 8-foot-tall man, I would have trouble navigating Shermantown in its current state. Located just a couple miles from Eberhardt, the town is being consumed by the tallest sagebrush I've ever encountered, which gives it a maze-like atmosphere. Skeletons of sandstone buildings poke out amid the foliage, evidence that the shrubbery was once better confined.

It's no surprise Shermantown's sagebrush grows so tall. Water and wood supplies were abundant during the town's—then called Silver Springs—roots in the 1860s. Eight mills, four furnaces, and two sawmills sprung up with Shermantown, as did nearly 3,000 residents. The town's canyon location made it one of the most desired camps in the White Pine mining region because it sheltered residents from the elements. The year 1870 saw the end of Shermantown, save a lone family that is said to have resided there for another decade.

A decaying chimney structure, along with roofless buildings full of bullet holes, keep Megg and me occupied. Fresh springs dot the hills around the townsite, as does an abundance of pine trees. We retrace our steps in an attempt to reach the last ghostly structure of the day.



BELMONT MILL

We're not running out of precious daylight yet, but we're getting close. And what better way to save some of it than taking a shortcut? Yea, right.

It is somewhere between inching down a less-than desirable (putting it lightly) road with a tapering cliff on one side and realizing we have absolutely no clue if we're even on the right road that my absolute admiration for the pioneers of the past kicks in. They traveled these roads with horses, wagons, and on foot, carrying hundreds of pounds of supplies. Our air-conditioned, four-wheel drive SUV makes us look like amateurs. I know I can hear deer snickering at us from behind the sagebrush.

After traveling an hour out of our way and ending up back at the same exact point we had started, we decided to nix the shortcut and take the logical, but longer road to Belmont Mill. We reach the mill with a little bit of daylight to spare, and to my amazement, it's one of the largest abandoned structures I've ever seen in Nevada.

The Tonopah Belmont Development Company built the mill in the mid 1920s, and allegedly constructed it using machinery and parts salvaged from the company's operations in Tonopah and Goldfield. According to an article by the *Nevada Appeal*, "Records indicate that despite the considerable investment—Belmont Mill was set up as a company town—the mines proved to be marginal and the camp was abandoned after about a decade of mining."

The mill speaks for itself. It's incredible to sit back and absorb the intricacies of this building, just imagining the sounds and smells that must have perforated the air during its operation. Please look but don't touch the mill, and do not enter the building. Though standing, floorboards and beams are decaying and present a dangerous situation.

As the sun sets, Megg and I hightail it to the quaint Union Street Lodging Bed and Breakfast in Austin for some shuteye.



PHOTOS: ERIC CACHINERO

BERLIN

Well-rested and with French toast and rocket fuel in our bellies, Megg and I set off for our final ghost town of the trip: Berlin. We, of course, take the backroads through the Reese River Valley and Ione. I believe this is the first time this year on a ghost town trip that weather and roads are cooperating with us fully.

Berlin is what most ghost towns would look like if they were protected from weather and vandals and survived the test of time. Located in Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, Berlin is well preserved. According to Nevada State Parks, Berlin is "maintained in a state of 'arrested decay.'" The park office, ranger residence, and maintenance shop are all housed in historic cabins.

In 1863, a man named A.J. McGee discovered silver near Berlin, sparking the creation of the Union Mining District, which included Union, Grantsville, Ione, and Berlin. Major silver in Berlin wasn't long lasting, but in 1900, the Nevada Company built a 30-stamp mill, which still exists and is in fantastic shape. By 1907, the mines began to play out after producing \$849,000 in silver.

TRAVEL LOG

Miles: 867

Days: 2

Ghost

Towns: 5

NEVADA MAGAZINE'S GHOST TOWNS & HISTORIC SITES MAP IS FOR SALE NOW!

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\$7.99

+ \$1 S&H



SPECTACLES

The more I travel this state in search of places that supposedly used to contain life, the more I learn that they are, in fact, still full of it. Ghost towns are some of the liveliest places in existence. Sure they don't have honking horns, sirens, and people; you have to look much deeper than that. Wide-open spaces give your soul the vital room it needs to sprint full speed in every direction, and to appreciate what it truly means to see, touch, and experience nature. Ghost towns may be the destination, but they certainly act as only a fraction of what you gain from visiting them. And don't forget the elk. There are those, too. ▀

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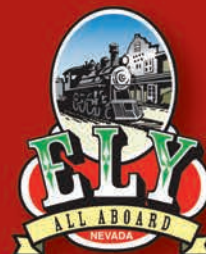
White Pine County Tourism & Recreation Board

150 Sixth Street, Ely, Nevada

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Tucked away in Nevada's rural towns,
tasty dishes await.

Back-Road Bites

BY MEGG MUELLER

There's one thing Nevada's lesser-traveled roads reveal: while there may be scenic views for days, there may not always be a place to eat. Some towns have just one restaurant with mercurial hours (think Austin), while others have none (sorry, Ione).

Lest you be discouraged, there are plenty of cafes, bars, saloons, and restaurants tucked into our rural corners. Here are but a few of the places ready to whet your whistle and fill a grumbling tummy. A word to the wise: if your plans allow, call before you head out to confirm working hours. Many of these places don't have websites, and hours may be subject to the ebb and flow of patrons.



Pittman Café, Tonopah

Tucked in the back of the Mizpah Hotel, the Pittman Café exudes the town's mining heritage; décor is simple with a warm, welcoming feel. On a too-early morning, I had a perfect stack of incredibly fluffy pancakes, crispy bacon, and a mug of delicious coffee. Look-



ing over the dinner and lunch menu, I saw a wealth of salads, sandwiches, burgers, pastas, and steaks which can be paired with cocktails from the full bar. I'd suggest the Lady in Red Bloody Mary—a nod to the hotel's most auspicious spectral guest.

100 N Main St.
Tonopah, NV 89049
mizpahhotel.net
775-482-3030



SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVELNEVADA

The Wigwam, Fernley

You wouldn't know it from driving through town, but nearly 20,000 people call the Fernley-area home. The Wigwam has been around since the 1960s, and despite a brief closure in 2009, this casino-restaurant-Indian artifact museum is a town mainstay. The menu is straightforward—think tuna melts (my particular favorite here), patty melts, pancakes, and omelets, plus a small salad bar. You won't find a lot of frills here, but I had a tasty meal, kind service,

and a decent price. The building houses an Indian artifact museum, which was great to wander through while waiting for my meal. It's chock full of arrowheads and other interesting memorabilia from the area's Native American history.

255 W. Main St. • Fernley, NV 89408
775-575-2573





LARRY HANNA



Silver Café and Bakery, Pioche

Rough and tumble is the reputation in Pioche, and this little café has survived since 1907. It recently changed hands, and while I can't compare it to the prior owners I give this version a thumbs up. Tacos, rib-eye steaks, and seafood platters top the menu, along with massive breakfast plates with eggs, bacon, and all the trimmings. A silly gift shop flowed into the small seating area with some of the strangest merchandise you'd expect to see in this old West town, but somehow it added to the flavor of the meal.

673 S. Main St. • Pioche, NV 89043
silvercafeandbakery.com
 888-344-6922





Hotel Nevada Café, Ely

A bit of an anomaly for rural Nevada, this delicious little restaurant is open 24 hours. Part standard coffee shop, part trendy café, the four-page menu has something for everyone. I had the Gold Miner burger and sweet potato fries and it was absolute perfection. Serving everything from chicken fried steak that looked like it covered the plate to specialty pizza ingredients that would make a big-city chef proud, the Hotel Nevada Café also serves up an eclectic display of artifacts that make your brain as full as your stomach.

501 Aultman St. • Ely, NV 89301

hotelnevada.com

888-406-3055

Lane's Ranch Motel Coffee Shop, Preston

The coffee shop at Lane's Ranch Motel is about 30 miles south of Ely on State Route 318, and it doesn't look like too much from the outside, but as I learned, looks aren't everything. Attached to a convenience store, Lane's has been

around since 1982 (closing in 1995, but reopening in 2014) and it's about as basic as you get...until you get inside. Staying at the motel, this is the only restaurant option, but it's the only one you need. The restaurant has a warm, moderately upscale feel to it, and some of the tastiest burgers I've found anywhere. Wine and beer are served, and in the morning there's hearty breakfast fare.

1755 North State Highway 318 • Preston, NV 89317

775-238-5230

Yes, Nevada is rife with fantastic burgers, but that's not all you'll find when you divert from the highway and stop at that tiny restaurant you see as you're slowing the car through town. Don't wait for the next fast-food joint or chain restaurant, or you'll be missing a real taste of the Silver State. ■



More Tasty Options, Recommended By Others



LARRY BURTON

Cowboy's Café, Minden A great place for breakfast or lunch with fresh smoked tri-tip and good old-fashioned small-town hospitality.

1679 U.S. Highway 395 N • Minden, NV 89423
775-782-8800

Socorro's Burger Hut, Mina The sign reads "Not fast food," and here you'll find some of the most delicious burgers on the planet, plus sandwiches, homemade Mexican food, and

handmade malts and shakes.

710 Front St. • Mina, NV 89422

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MARK CAVALLO

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HOW SHEER ADVENTURE SOARS

Reno disc golf park blends beauty and altitude.



FAITH PHOTOGRAPHY OF NEVADA

BY JOHN DELELLO

As I trot down the concrete runway, I plant my feet consciously and precisely, taking care not to tumble down the mountain. Quickly yet fervently I let the neon-yellow disc fly with all my strength. My target—a steel disc catcher basket—is more than 400 feet away and 200 feet below. Granite, trees, and one of the steepest, loosest side hills in the state stand between my putt and me.

I'm playing the red course—the most difficult of the three disc golf courses at The Reno Adventure Park. Next to me is Reno Adventure Park creator Tom Frost, who declines to throw. He's 78 years old and a towering 6 feet 4 inches. He has the appearance and mo-

bility of an aging Titan.

When Tom bought the 40-acre plot of unreachable and vertical foothill terrain off Geiger Grade southeast of Reno in 1976, he couldn't access his land, and consequently had no vision for it.

"I got the bulldozer stuck and about rolled 'er," Tom says. "Needed to call in another dozer to get me out."

Then, when renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright's colleague David Dodge declared "This property is magical and a test of perseverance and will be a credit to all involved," Tom vowed to figure out a purpose for the parcel.

Opposite page: A disc-golf basket with a spectacular view of south Reno awaits players. This page: Reno Adventure Park creator Tom Frost constructed this basket using a 100-year-old wagon wheel. Inset: Tom poses and marvels over his creation.

PHOTOS: JOHN DELELLO

FROM THE GRADE UP

Disc golf involves throwing Frisbee-like discs into a metal basket. The goal, like golf, is to use the least amount of throws possible. Teeing off from concrete tee pads etched into the steep terrain feels more like preparing to skydive than play disc golf.

In 2008, Tom built—almost single handedly—three of the steepest disc golf courses in the world. While Reno Adventure Park sounds like a modest experiment or a manageably sized ‘Disneyland in the Sierras,’ it could be the most humbling and awe-inspiring 40 acres anywhere. One part of the property drops 500 vertical feet in a quarter mile, with an average 38 percent grade on loose footing.

It takes 18 80-pound sacks of concrete and a lot of water to construct a tee pad. The herculean task of wheeling these loads down such a grade put Tom in the hospital. A quintuple bypass and three months later he was back, finishing the course on a limited budget, and primarily by himself at the age of 70.

Ironically, Tom has never played the game and has no desire to do so.

“When I saw a disc catcher in a sporting goods store, I asked the salesman what it was,” Tom says. “He explained the concept and referred me to a couple websites. I did my research including hole lengths, tee pad placement, and studied the layouts of the best courses. I then decided I’d build the most extreme and beautiful disc golf course in the world.”



TEE TIME

There are more than 2,500 officially designated disc golf courses in the world and Tom's courses are ranked in the top 10 for vertical challenge and enjoyment alike. His courses also showcase top-notch metal art. The disc catchers are custom welded from scrap metal. One is made from a 100-year-old wagon wheel.

"I basically lived at a Reno salvage yard. My first purchase was 600 steel pipes for \$3,500," Tom says.

There are more than three miles of singletrack trails that connect the disc golf course holes as well as other loose ribbons of trail. Several lead to beautifully crafted steel benches, offering sweeping views of snow-covered Mt. Rose and the glittery view of south Reno 1,500 feet below.

"I've got some designated artist points; the best places to paint, draw, or take photos. Everything in the park's priority is aesthetics," says Tom, who paints Tahoe landscapes as a day job. He sells his paintings to fund the adventure park's ongoing construction.

GAINING ALTITUDE

The trails that connect the holes of the course are worthy hikes, even without throwing a disc. Reno Adventure Park's benches and artist-lookout points showcase some of the finest views anywhere.

Tom envisions people coming to the park for events including bachelor parties, tours, and to play its courses. Future plans include building an amphitheater and a '50s-style diner.

Surrounded by a collage of cliffs, spring flowers, juniper, psychedelic hues of dust, and a bluebird sky, the park radiates freedom. There may be no better place to spend an extra 10 minutes searching for a double bogey. ▀



Top: Just like traditional golf, a player completes each the course by reaching each hole in the fewest turns possible. Bottom: Tom's course plays off of the steep area's natural beauty, providing a challenging and scenic experience.

FLYING HIGH

Visit renoadventurepark.com for all necessary information and to plan a visit. Because the park is privately owned, give them a call at 775-750-0776 for tee times. There is no trash service. Pack it in, pack it out. Detailed maps can be found on the website.



PHOTOS: FAITH PHOTOGRAPHY OF NEVADA



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THE SILVER STATE SCAVENGER HUNT

Get to the Ghost Towns! Let the Scavenger Hunt begin!

First 25 people
to complete will receive
a free copy of Nevada
Magazine's new Ghost
Towns & Historic Sites Map!



The second-annual Silver State Scavenger Hunt is now in full swing! We've decided to celebrate ghost towns this year, highlighting some of the most iconic and important mining camps and early sites in Nevada's history.

If you already have your game plan, it's time to get out there and start exploring! Don't forget to share your adventures with us on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and Instagram by using #nvmaghunt to document your travels. Remember, the first 25 people to complete the hunt will receive a free copy of our new Ghost Towns & Historic Sites map! So, for the sake of the Silver State, stay safe, have fun, and start your adventure!

The Silver State Scavenger Hunt Details:

We split the state into two zones—Northern and Southern—and chose 14 notable ghost towns in each. Simply pick a zone, visit 10 of the 14 locations in that zone, snap a photo of yourself holding the **JULY/AUGUST 2016** issue of *Nevada Magazine* at each location, and email all 10 photos to us at nvmaghunt@gmail.com.

Submission must be taken in front of the historical marker!

By submitting your photos, you'll be entered to win one of two Grand Prizes courtesy of Land Rover Las Vegas and Jaguar Land Rover Reno.

Visit nevadamagazine.com/scavengerhunt for complete rules.

Grand Prize Option 1

Winners can embark on a Land Rover Weekend Getaway, which includes an overnight stay in Gold Point—a living ghost town in southern Nevada rich in history and excitement. The adventure promises ghost town exploring and lodging in a historic building. Best part is, the winner's get to spend the weekend driving a Land Rover.

Grand Prize Option 2

The second option is best suited for the day-tripper, and includes an off-roading adventure in a Land Rover, with no overnight stay. This option gives the winner a chance to explore some of the state's coolest ghost towns. Breakfast and lunch are catered, and the luck explorer gets to ride with professionals from Land Rover Las Vegas and Jaguar Land Rover Reno.

GHOST TOWNS & HISTORIC SITES MAP

Nevada Magazine's Ghost Towns & Historic Sites map is for sale now! This Nevada treasure comes jam-packed with historical information, color photographs, ghost town trip itineraries, park and territory information, fun facts, and a large state map showing the locations of hundreds of ghost towns. Printed on tear-resistant and water-resistant paper, the map is the perfect companion for Nevada's backroads. Maps are available for sale on the Shop section of our website or by calling *Nevada Magazine* Circulation Manager Carrie Roussel at 775-687-0610.



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HISTORICAL MARKER 172	TYBO
HISTORICAL MARKER 174	BLAIR
HISTORICAL MARKER 203	BULLIONVILLE

Nevada State Historical Markers are catalogued and maintained by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Nevada Department of Transportation. Visit shpo.nv.gov/historical-markers for more information.

Locomotion Commotion

History is on track with growth at Boulder City's Nevada State Railroad Museum.

The Nevada Southern Railway—part of the museum—has four operational diesel locomotives, and three locomotives that are used for display only. The name Nevada Southern Railway was chosen as a complement to the Nevada Northern Railway excursion line that runs in Ely.



NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM, BOULDER CITY





BY CAROLINE HORWITZ

"There's a romance to trains, a kind of magic," says Peter Barton, administrator for the Nevada Division of Museums and History. "Riding one never seems to lose its charm."

Indeed, this charm is felt by all the guests at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City as they ride inside a 100-year-old train car (with the modern bonus of air conditioning), speak with the friendly attendants in traditional railroad uniforms, wave from the window to cyclists on the nearby bike path, and hear the quintessential train whistle that draws gasps and emblazoned smiles from toddlers to retirees.

The museum offers train rides every Saturday and Sunday, plus access to a model railroad and several historical trains, including an old post office car. It relies almost entirely on a crew of more than 80 volunteers, all of whom have earned their Federal Railroad Administration licenses.

MAINLINE TO HISTORY

The railroad was acquired by the State of Nevada in 1986 and opened as a museum in 2001, but possesses a much deeper history. The U.S. government originally built a 20-mile line in the 1930s to support the building of the Hoover Dam, then called the Boulder Canyon Project. It took three different railroads to transport the heavy materials necessary for construction, including the vast amounts of cement. Later, in 1961, the line carried a giant generator down to the dam, after which the section to the dam was abandoned and torn up.

Union Pacific discontinued its train service between Henderson and Boulder City in 1985 and offered the line to the state. Eager to acquire a piece of such significant history, the state spent several years building the facilities necessary for a museum, then began its search for a collection. The equipment includes two engines that were used to carry rockets at the Nevada Test Site: a 1939 diesel locomotive (the first of its kind on the Union Pacific Railroad); a 100-year-old caboose; and even a small, 7.5-inch gauge train that passengers sit atop to ride.

PHOTOS: SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVELNEVADA



NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM, BOULDER CITY

EVENTS FOR EVERYONE

In addition to the museum's collection, it also hosts numerous special events. Each year, visitors can choose from storytime on the train, Western-themed rides, Easter and Halloween rides, and the ever-popular Santa train at Christmas time—children visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus on a decorated train and even wear pajamas during the evening rides for a magical holiday experience.

Schools may also arrange field trips and group rides for students, and adults may pay to be “engineer for an hour,” during which the crew will instruct and allow them to operate the train.

Perhaps one of the most meaningful special events held, Peter says, was when the museum hosted five surviving sailors who were stationed on the *USS Nevada* in World War II. The veterans were treated to an old-fashioned train ride complete with a reenactment group and ‘40s-era singers.

“All five men rode trains to get almost everywhere throughout their time in the war,” Peter says. “We were happy to stir some of their memories from that time and give them some new ones.”

FULL STEAM AHEAD

In addition to such rich history, the museum possesses some ambitious plans for the future. These include a bigger retail store and interpretive exhibits highlighting the importance of the railway's role in supporting Hoover Dam—one of the largest public works projects in the country's history. A larger ticket depot where visitors can purchase their train tickets inside (out of the often sweltering weather) is also in the works so people will be able to enjoy more of the ambiance of what a depot used to look like.

The museum is also focused on expansion plans that coincide with the completion of Interstate 11—a proposed interstate highway through Nevada and Arizona. Once it's finished, they can reconnect the railroad line at Railroad Pass, with a bridge over the highway to carry the track. More types of train rides and varied experiences will then be offered, such as longer rides into

Henderson and dinner trains. Plans to roll out a new website are in the works as well, which will allow customers more online ticketing options and news on future opportunities.

The museum's continually growing success is largely responsible for the expansion possibilities.

“It's just amazing,” Peter says. “Of all seven state museums, this one has the most consistent growth.”

Randy Hees, director of the museum, agrees. “We're seeing about a 5 percent growth in visitors per year, and the museum is earning just over half of the cost of operations,” he says. “It's able to, little by little, reduce its dependence on the state.”

The romance of this upwardly mobile Boulder City gem, it seems, will continue to grow along with the rest of it. ■

MAKE TRACKS

Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City

601 Yucca St.

Boulder City, NV 89005

museums.nevadaculture.org

702-486-5933

Train ride schedule:

Saturdays and Sundays: 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.

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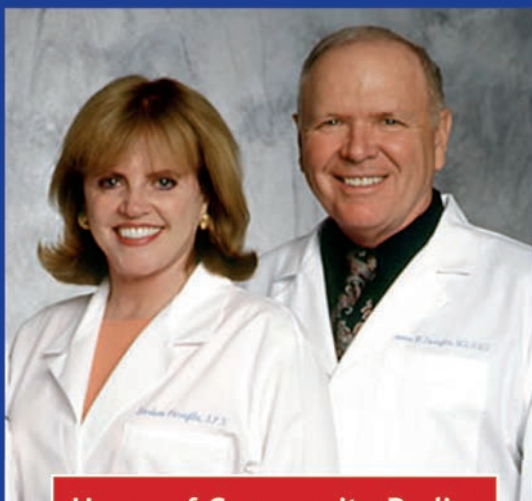
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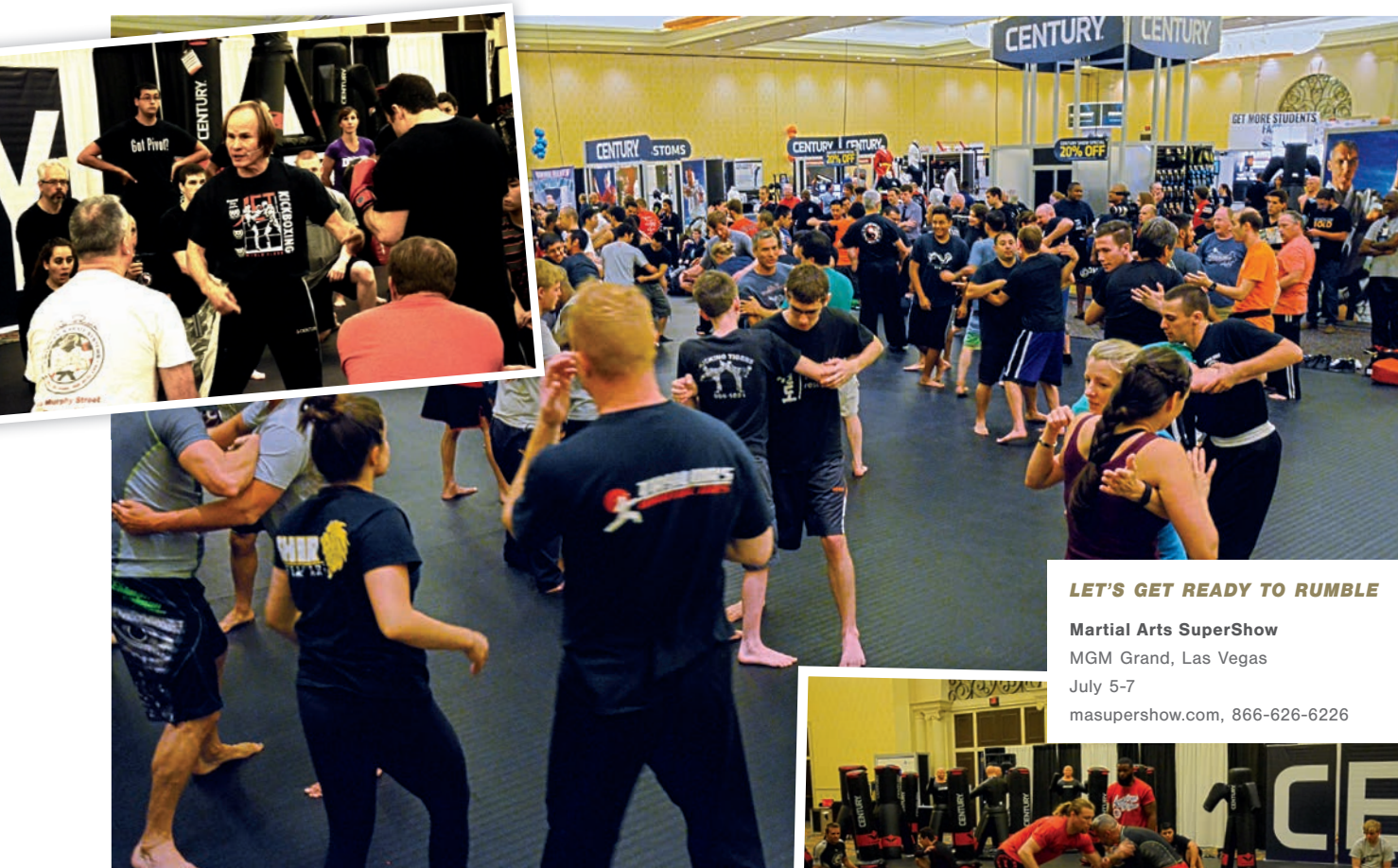
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LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE

Martial Arts SuperShow

MGM Grand, Las Vegas

July 5-7

masupershow.com, 866-626-6226



BY TERRY WILSON

The annual Martial Arts SuperShow is a star-studded event that draws fans and black-belt icons from around the country and the world to the MGM Grand in Las Vegas for a three-day event, July 5-7. The gathering has been called the Consumer Electronics Show of martial arts.

"It's the largest business event in our industry and the industry's largest trade show," says Frank Silverman, one of the event's co-creators. "And there is no other event in the world where students of all ranks and ages can train with some of the most famous martial artists in the world."

During the opening ceremonies, actor and stuntman Ernie Reyes, Jr. performs a much-anticipated demonstration. His exhibitions are legendary; his performance alone is worth the price of admission. Among the legendary names on the SuperShow roster is Benny "The Jet" Urquidez—a martial-arts superstar and international champion. There is also a bodyguard training camp taught by Tom Patire—*Black Belt* magazine's instructor of the

year.

Forbes magazine dubbed him: "Tactical Instructor to the Billionaires."

In addition to learning grips, flips, and kicks, attendees have an opportunity to see an assortment of business seminars, all conducted by prominent figures in the martial art business world.

The SuperShow is part of Century Martial Arts—a company that sells everything from custom uniforms to business platforms for school owners. Mike Dillard, David Wahl, and Frank Silverman—three martial artists and school owners who had big dreams for their profession—conceived the SuperShow 15 years ago.

"We decided that we wanted to throw the biggest event ever held for the martial arts industry," says Frank. "The cost didn't matter, we just did it, and look what it has become today."

BOSTON

T-MOBILE ARENA GETS A VISIT FROM JUST ANOTHER BAND OUT OF BOSTON.



Boston is bringing the ultimate concert to its Las Vegas fans to celebrate “The 40th Anniversary Tour” at the Downtown Las Vegas Events Center (DLVEC) on Friday, July 15. Dennis DeYoung, founding member of the band Styx, is also making an appearance at the event.

Boston became an iconic classic-rock fixture when it joined the music scene with the self-titled album, “Boston,” in 1976. With more than 17 million copies sold, Boston generated hits such as “More Than a Feeling,” “Peace of Mind,” and “Smokin’”—rock staples that are still in heavy radio rotation today.

With more than 31 million albums sold to date, Boston is bringing back memories this summer with their anticipated tour, celebrating 40 years of legendary music. Fans can expect to hear all the classic songs they have grown to love, and will be treated to wild Hammond organ work, soaring harmony guitars, and exceptional vocal arrangements, as well as Boston’s spectacular visual stage presentation.

American singer and songwriter Dennis DeYoung is a founding member of the iconic rock group Styx. He now tours with his rock band dedicated to the legacy of Styx, performing hits such as “Babe,” “Mr. Roboto,” and “The Best of Times.”

Tickets can be purchased at ticketmaster.com and dlvec.com and start at \$49.50.

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MUST SEE GWEN STEFANI

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Singer, songwriter, and fashion designer Gwen Stefani with special guest Eve is bringing the "This Is What the Truth Feels Like" tour to T-Mobile Arena, Friday, Aug. 19. Tickets start at \$39.95 and are on sale now.

Gwen Stefani has achieved worldwide success, selling more than 30 million albums worldwide with No Doubt and as a multi-platinum solo artist. She is the recipient of three Grammy Awards, four MTV Video Music Awards, one American Music Award, one Brit Award and two Billboard Music Awards.

Hip-hop star Eve is joining Stefani for all dates on the "This Is What the Truth Feels Like" tour. The Grammy Award-winning artist is also an established actress known for her role in the "Barbershop" film series and has achieved success as a fashion designer. She has also collaborated with Stefani on two successful hit songs: "Rich Girl" and "Let Me Blow Ya Mind."

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Mike Posner is joining Demi Lovato and Nick Jonas on the 2016 Honda Civic Tour this summer. Posner's latest Top 10 single, "I Took a Pill in Ibiza," has already spent 12 weeks on the Billboard charts. See all three chart-topping artists at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Saturday, Aug. 13. Tickets are on sale now at ticketmaster.com and all MGM Grand or Mandalay Bay box office locations. **mandalaybay.com, 702-632-7777**

Legendary singer, actress, and filmmaker Barbra Streisand is making her way to T-Mobile Arena for a show-stopping performance Saturday, Aug. 6. As the best-selling female recording artist in history, Streisand has recorded 52 gold, 31 platinum, and 13 multi-platinum albums in her career. **t-mobilearena.com, 877-275-6958**



July 4

4TH OF JULY PARADE

Beatty

beattynevada.org, 866-736-3716

Join the small-town charm during Beatty's 4th of July celebration, where the only bright lights are fireworks. Enjoy delicious food, games, races, and a parade. The night is topped off with a spectacular fireworks display that you won't soon forget.



SYDNEY MARTINEZ/
TRAVELNEVADA

July 23

RENAISSANCE ELY ART/ WINE WALK

Renaissance Village, Ely
elyrenaissance.com

Attendees can meet artists, enjoy art, sample ethnic food and wine in the restored houses, and enjoy a special event with a silent auction. The event is a chance to socialize with people and view and purchase lovely artwork, all set in an attractive and unique setting.

JULY

1-3

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15-16

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26-Aug. 13

CLASSICAL TAHOE

Lake Tahoe area
classicaltahoe.org, 775-298-0245

29-31

WELLS FUN RUN CAR SHOW & CRUISE

Wells
wellsfunrun.org, 775-752-1153



MARCELLO ROSTAGNI

Aug. 2-7

HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

Reno

hotaugustnights.com, 775-356-1956

The 30th anniversary of Hot August Nights is Aug. 2-7. The world's premier classic car and rock 'n' roll event draws hundreds of thousands of spectators and participants annually to see free, live performances by musical legends of the '50s, '60s, and '70s; thousands of classic cars; car auctions; live drag races; and more.



PEPPERMILL RESORT

Aug. 20

LYNYRD SKYNYRD

Peppermill, Reno

peppermillreno.com, 866-821-9996

On Saturday, Aug. 20, the southern rock sensation Lynyrd Skynyrd comes to the Tuscany Event Center at the Peppermill Reno for a high-energy showcase. Known for hit classics like "Free Bird," "Sweet Home Alabama," and "Simple Man," Lynyrd Skynyrd remains a cultural icon that appeals to all generations.

AUGUST

5

PIRATES OF THE COLORADO RIVER REGATTA

Laughlin

visitlaughlin.com, 800-425-9255

6

KINGSTON DAYS

Kingston

austinnevada.com, 775-964-2200

10-15

LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR & RODEO

Lincoln County

nevadasilvertrails.com

12-14

BOWERS MANSION BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Bowers Mansion

bowersbluegrassfestival.org, 775-233-0122

JARBIDGE DAYS

Jarbridge

775-488-2311

13-14

INCLINE VILLAGE FINE ART & CRAFT FESTIVAL

Preston Field, Incline Village

cwbevents.com, 916-936-9393

13-27

TAHOE RIM TRAIL GUIDED HIKE

Tahoe Rim Trail, Lake Tahoe

tahoeirimtrail.org, 775-298-4491

19-20

CARLIN RANCH HAND RODEO

Carlin

explorecarlinnv.com, 775-754-6354

20

CARS, STARS, & GUITARS

Las Vegas

carsstarsguitars.com

27

BATTLE MOUNTAIN BURNER CAR SHOW N' SHINE

Battle Mountain

battlemountainchamber.com, 775-635-8245

28-Sept. 5

BURNING MAN

Black Rock City

burningman.org



Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival

JOY STROTZ

'MINED OF MY OWN'



NATIVE NEVADAN PRESENTS ABSTRACT LOOK AT SILVER STATE ART.

Stremmel Gallery is pleased to present Robert Brady's "Mined of My Own"—an exhibition of new works, running through July 30. This marks Stremmel Gallery's eighth exhibition featuring the Nevada-born artist. The show includes mixed media paintings, sculptures, ceramics, and works on paper.

Born in Reno, Robert often names his works after his experiences and discoveries in remote and familiar parts of the Silver State.

"In Nevada, the mining process often references discovery and extraction from the ground," Robert says. "It's a good metaphor for what we all do when it comes to pulling from our conscious and unconscious minds, developing ideas, drawing from what we know and what we have experienced."

Robert has rigorously explored figurative abstraction for more than 40 years. Prolific and versatile, his unique style and imagery represents the morphing of a personal lexicon of graphic symbols with color, revealing a whimsical sense of humor, energetic process, and primitive mixture of materials. Deeply engaged in abstraction, Robert is able to provide viewers with a plethora of figurative and representational handholds: faces, tools, and architectural details. His references to artifacts, equipment, pictographs, and tribal art resonate strongly.

SILVER-STATE STYLE

"Mined of My Own"

Stremmel Gallery, Reno

Through July 30

stremmelgallery.com, 775-786-0558



ARTIFACTS & ARTISTRY

"ARTFUL WOMEN: SMALL WORKS IN FIBER AND MIXED MEDIA"

Wilbur D. May Museum, Reno

Through July 17

arts4nevada.org, 775-785-5961

"VANTAGE POINT OF DISTANCE"

OXS Gallery, Carson City

Through July 29

nac.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-6680

"GREETINGS FROM THE NORTHERN PLAINS EXHIBITION"

Western Folklife Center, Elko

Through Sept. 10

arts4nevada.org, 775-738-7508

"ANNA MCKEE: 68,000 YEARS OF ICE"

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno

Through Sept. 18

nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333



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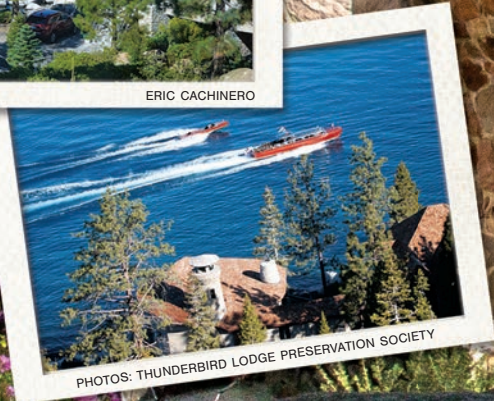


THUNDERBIRD LODGE

80 years of mystery and magic
surround Lake Tahoe's famed estate.



ERIC CACHINERO



PHOTOS: THUNDERBIRD LODGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

BY MEGG MUELLER

If the Internet had been around in the 1930s, the legend of George Whittell Jr. would far outshine the scandal-plagued celebrities of today. And while he was himself a raconteur, the adage would still be true; you can't believe everything you read.

The truth—he was fabulously wealthy, collected exotic animals, and had a penchant for beautiful women that weren't his wife—is enough for the storybooks, but likely wasn't salacious enough to sell newspapers in his day, so exaggeration was rampant in the press. He did, however, have a somewhat-deserved scandalous reputation when he began building his summer home on the shores of east Lake Tahoe in 1936.

MAN BEHIND THE MANSION

Born in 1881 in San Francisco to a family that made a fortune from Gold Rush-era banking, real estate, and railroads, George loved his money, but not the restrictions of high society. The quintessential rebellious teenager, it's been said he left home shortly after graduating high school to join the Barnum & Bailey Circus. A foray into big-game hunting in Africa cemented a lifelong love of wild animals, particularly large cats.

In 1903, George's parents hoped to settle down their wayward son, and arranged a marriage to one of San Francisco's respected blue bloods. The story goes that George had other plans and instead eloped with a voluptuous showgirl. Further investigation reveals Florence Boyer to be a modest

seamstress, but regardless of her profession, she was not suitable to George's parents. His father quickly had the union annulled with the hopes of avoiding scandal, only to have his son turn around and marry an actress, who left him two years later in divorce.



George Whittell Jr.



During World War I, George reportedly drove an ambulance while in Italy and after being injured, met and fell in love with Elia Pascal, a French nurse. He brought Elia back to California, and with her acceptable pedigree the two married in 1919. George's predilection for beautiful women continued after his marriage, and while Elia traveled to Paris sans George, she lived with him at their Woodside, Calif., home and frequently accompanied him to Thunderbird Lodge.

In 1922, George's father died, and despite a wild, rambunctious youth, George Jr. proved an adept businessman, growing the family fortune steadily in the ensuing decade. In late 1929, however, George made what may have been his most perfect deal.

THE TRADE OF THE CENTURY

After the stock market crashed in 1929, George presciently made what is arguably his most savvy purchase; he bought acres and acres of pristine Sierra Nevada land—including more than 20 miles of Lake Tahoe shoreline—for just \$3 an acre for the offshore land, and \$6 an acre for the shoreline. (Tales of the purchase for 6 cents an acre are untrue). At one point he owned more than 40,000 acres of Lake Tahoe property, reaching from Nevada's north shore to Zephyr Cove.

Initially, his plans for the land included a casino-hotel, luxury homes, and even a ski resort. After he built his summer home, however, the solitude was something he could not give up, and he chose the peace and quiet of no neighbors over the money developing the land would bring.

For 33 years, George reveled in his summer retreat, even bringing his elephant, Mingo, for a visit before the temperatures proved too much for the pachyderm. A more consistent companion was his pet lion, Bill, which was a gift from his ex-wife. Tales of the big cat's nocturnal wanderings are exaggerated, but it's safe to say guests at Thunderbird Lodge kept a wary eye out for George's beloved friend.

Almost as constant were rumors of George's ribald ways, with stories of parties growing more sensational with every retelling. From orgies in the fountains to locking naughty

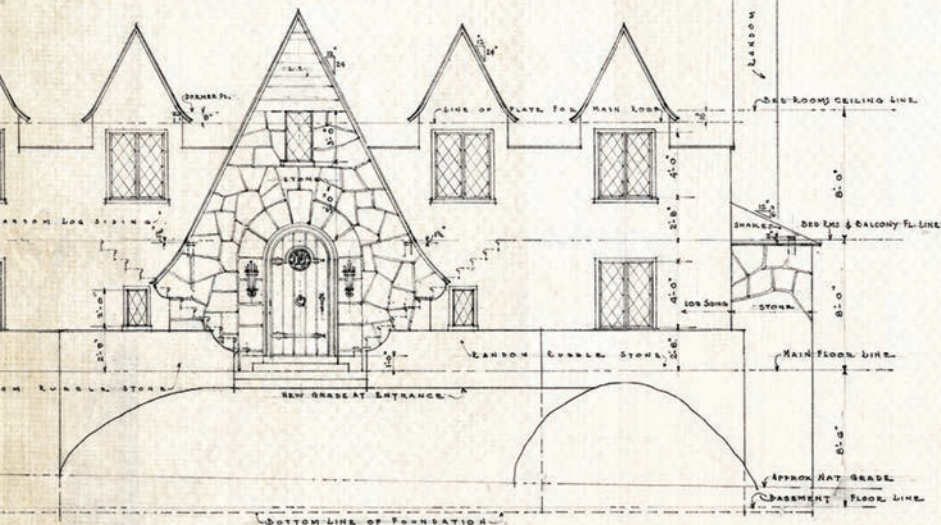
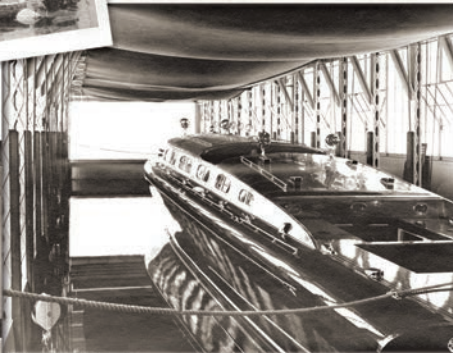
Lake
Tahoe

Zephyr Cove



PHOTOS: THUNDERBIRD LODGE
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

A collection of historic photos of the Whittels and their home, including George and Elia filming their Lake Tahoe home; family photos of some of George's favorite pets; and a sketch of the lodge's front elevation by architect Frederic DeLongchamps.



~ FRONT ELEVATION ~
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

LAKE TAHOE COTTAGE
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guests up in the house's dungeon, the tales of George's life at Thunderbird Lodge are more about the myth than the man. While he did entertain on occasion and was known for raucous all-night poker games with the likes of Ty Cobb and Howard Hughes, George's reclusive nature found him often in the company of just a few close friends while in Lake Tahoe. George died in 1969 at the age of 87.

AN UNINTENTIONAL LEGACY

While he never set out to become such, George was perhaps the lake's greatest conservationist: the Nevada shoreline's untouched beauty is largely thanks to him. Built from materials found in the area, Thunderbird Lodge is an elegant addition to the natural surroundings and also a shining example of renowned architect Frederic DeLongchamps' work. In addition to the main house, there is a card house, caretaker's cottage, the cook/butler's house, an elephant barn, the admiral's house, the boathouse with adjoining 600-foot tunnel, and gatehouse.

Additions were made by subsequent owner Jack Dreyfus, but the property retains its original glory and mystery. In the summer, guided tours by docents offer a glimpse into the life and legacy that is George Whittell Jr. But Thunderbird Lodge is more than meets the eye.

"It's so much more than just a house or a history of a colorful man," Bill Watson, chief executive and curator of Thunderbird Lodge, explains. "We've become the repository for the Lake Tahoe Basin's art and history."

Some 11 years into a job that was supposed to last 90 days, Bill has found himself on the front line of Lake Tahoe's historical preservation efforts. His original mission was to save the Thunderbird Lodge from being torn down—that was accomplished when a deal was brokered that gave the buildings to the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society, while the Forest Service kept the land. Next, the challenge was to sustain the buildings; 10,000 people a year visit Thunderbird Lodge for tours, plus 2,000 schoolchildren. There are special events—some are members-only, but the public is invited to others—that help raise funds for the upkeep of the buildings, but as Bill points out, there's still work to be done before he can

accomplish his third mission: building a permanent preservation fund endowment.

"We are still a historic site at risk," he says. "Even with just five paid employees, Thunderbird Lodge costs \$1 million a year to run. We are totally self contained up here."

Along with its own water treatment plant and septic system, the operation requires the help of about 100 volunteers to keep the property open for visitors who come to see the buildings, artifacts, and discover the history of the man, house, and area.

Like George, Bill has found himself in a conservationist role he didn't anticipate. He oversees Lake Tahoe's de facto art and history museum, housing more than 25,000 art objects, papers, and artifacts from the region's past. He has story after story of people calling him offering entire collections because they have nowhere else to donate them. He always says yes, and one day, he hopes to make the entire collection available online to the public (see sidebar on page 62).

Art, history, exotic pets, incredible architecture and land, plus the story of one of Nevada's most influential men come together under one roof, and the Thunderbird Lodge is still teeming with adventure at 80 years old.

"Thunderbird is a wonderful escape, offering windows to the past and to George's legacy," Bill says. ■

Thunderbird Lodge
5000 State Route 28
Incline Village, NV 89451
thunderbirdlodge.org
775-832-8750

Clockwise: The card house features a hidden escape tunnel, which George is said to have used when playing poorly. George's bedroom with personal effects displayed. The boathouse harbors a wooden rowboat. The tunnel from the main house to the boathouse.



ERIC CACHINERO



LAUREN ARENDS



ERIC CACHINERO



MEGG MUELLER

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The Mighty Thunderbird Yacht

One of George Whittell's Jr.'s most spectacular toys—among his Duesenberg cars, Grumman Goose seaplane, and a DC-2 airplane—was the 55-foot speedboat he commissioned in 1940 specifically to use at Lake Tahoe.

Thunderbird cost \$87,000 to build and is a gleaming wooden vessel, with a hull and cockpit designed to mimic those of George's DC-2. It originally had twin V-12, 550 horsepower Kermath engines, but when casino mogul Bill Harrah bought it in 1962, he replaced them with twin V-12 Allison aircraft engines.

The beautiful boat ferried the glitterati around Lake Tahoe's waters, during George's ownership and Bill Harrah's time. From casino showgirls to the likes of Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, and Liza Minnelli, the *Thunderbird* was a well-known sight on the lake.

The upkeep of the 75-year-old boat is considerable, and while it spends much of its time protected in the *Thunderbird*'s massive boathouse, it is available to charter for private events.



DIANE PHELPS



PHOTOS: THUNDERBIRD LODGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

FINDING HISTORY THE PROPER HOME

BY BILL WATSON

Thunderbird Lodge may seem like just another beautiful estate on a stunning lake, but our vision—and our future—is much greater. We realize how important it will be to have preserved Nevada's treasures like *Thunderbird Lodge* and *Thunderbird* yacht for future generations. More than just a local legacy, *Thunderbird* is becoming a global model for such preservation endeavours.

We are the keepers of Lake Tahoe's rich heritage—protecting and sharing for future historians and forward-thinking leaders. We hope they will recognize the universal potential in inspiring curiosity, appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of Lake Tahoe's art, history, and environment.

Lake Tahoe's cultural narrative intersects at *Thunderbird Lodge*: geologic, Native American, mining, lumbering, railroading, rustication, recreating, early conservation efforts, and more. Sadly, there is no viable institution today with the capacity to assemble and interpret this colourful past. With its vast collections of material and archives, *Thunderbird* is best positioned to share Lake Tahoe's story as its de facto art and history museum.

Through *Thunderbird*'s Flagship and Castle Club membership programs, preservation-minded families and business are sponsoring development of one of the nation's first digital museums, where *Thunderbird* will make available online its entire Lake Tahoe collection, plus other compelling content to researchers and audiences worldwide.





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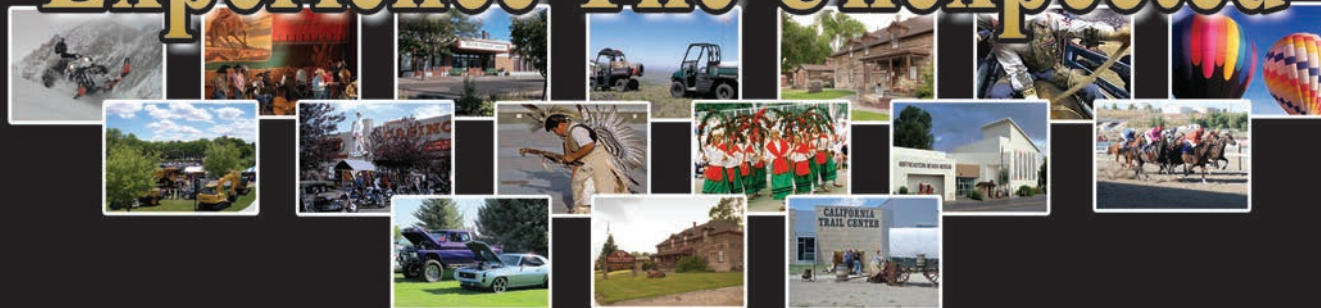
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UNLEASH YOUR INNER JASON BOURNE

The mission for cinematic adventure is on in Las Vegas.

BY CHRIS LEWIS



Las Vegas built its reputation as the place to fulfill fantasies. Ever since Bugsy Siegel opened the Flamingo, the city has promised to transport us to somewhere else and maybe even transform us into someone else. In the past, most of those promises revolved around luxury, fine dining, and a chance to earn fabulous wealth. Now, live adventures are popping up all along The Strip to help visitors scratch a different sort of itch.

Like the character Jason Bourne from “The Bourne Identity” film who awakes one morning and learns he’s an assassin, you now have the opportunity to live the action-packed life of someone else—even if it’s only for an afternoon. Play the role of a Special Forces commando, mercenary-for-hire, demolition man, or expert sniper.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to read through the following adventures and pick one or more to your liking. Be ready to train with experts with real-world experience, look like the real thing, and live a scene straight out of the movies. As always, *Nevada Magazine* will disavow any knowledge of your actions. And thankfully, this message will not self-destruct in five seconds. Good luck.



PHOTOS: DORALYNNE VALENZUELA

ADVENTURE COMBAT OPS

My team and I just spent the last half hour learning weapon safety and CQB (close quarters battle) inside a monstrous warehouse just a few miles west of The Strip. “Gator” and “Wombat,” our two instructors, are now teaching us the finer points of how to properly clear a room. They would know: both men are Green Berets and the number of combat missions overseas they have conducted is more than the combined ages of the greenhorns they’re training right now.

Just as we get the hang of it, the warehouse goes black; sirens sound off, and growling is heard at the other end of the building. A message is relayed on the wall behind us via video. The apoca-



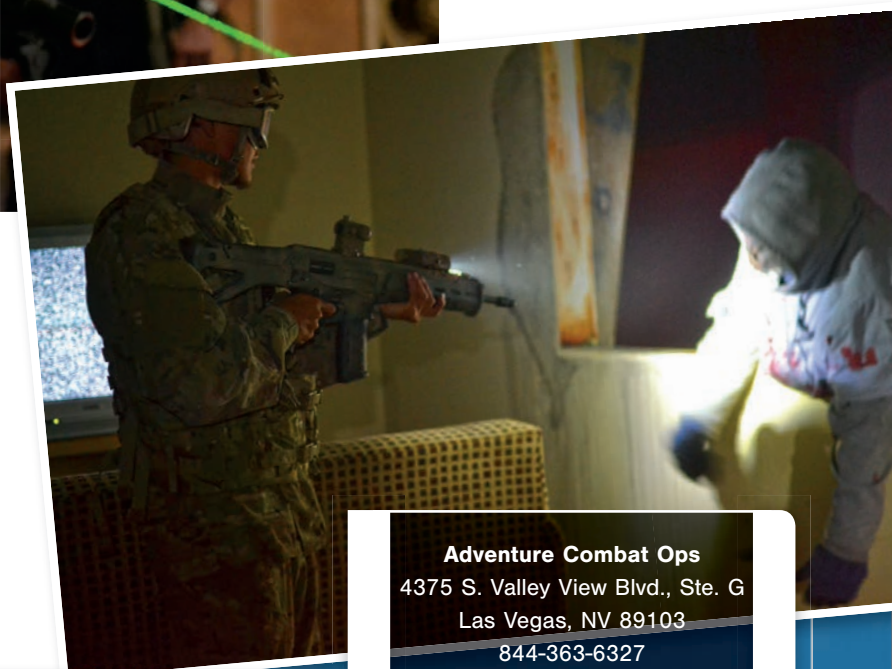


PHOTOS: DORALYNNE VALENZUELA

lypse has started and we're under attack by zombies.

It's just the beginning of the experience provided by Adventure Combat Ops, where you and your teammates don real gear, carry airsoft assault rifles, and fight off the zombie threat after learning the "tools of the trade" from real-life spec-ops warriors, who will then lead you into battle.

As the strobe lights spin, fog machines pour out a thick mist, and Wombat barks at us to get moving, my body pumps adrenaline like this is for real. In the end, the zombies were finally put down. They looked heavily padded so I don't think our shots hurt too much, but each did die a long, drawn-out death.



Adventure Combat Ops
4375 S. Valley View Blvd., Ste. G
Las Vegas, NV 89103
844-363-6327
adventurecombatops.com
Prices: \$159-\$234 per package

While you don't have to be in prime physical condition to thwart a horde of zombies, guests do need to be at least 14 years old, with minors accompanied by an adult. And this is not a guys-only adventure; bachelorette parties and date nights are popular events.



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WELLS NEVADA

A collage of three photographs: hot air balloons over a field, a mountain landscape with a path, and a car show.

1) 4th of July Parade **July 4**
2) Angle Lake Fishing Derby for Kids **July 16**
3) Wells Fun Run Car Show **July 29-31**
4) Meet the Ghost of Mark Twain **August 5**
5) Experience our Western Heritage **August 5-6**
6) Wells Junior Rodeo Ruckus **August 6-7**
7) Wells Annual Rib Cook-off **August 20**

A photograph of a car show with several cars parked in a field.
A photograph of a building, likely the Wells Chamber of Commerce.

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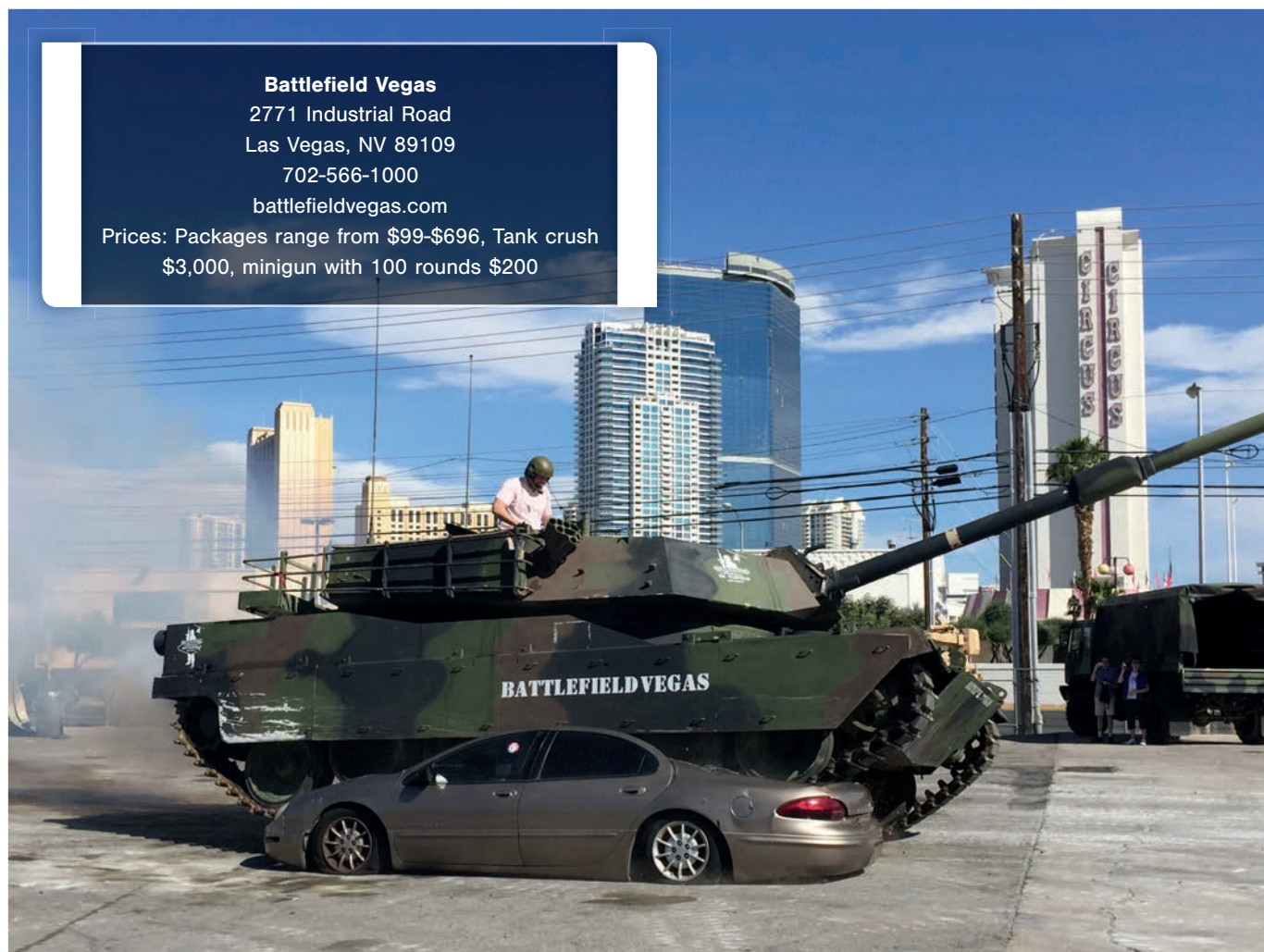


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CHRIS LEWIS

BATTLEFIELD VEGAS

"It pulls up and to the left," Kyle, my weapons instructor, warns me after I shoulder my Heckler & Koch UMP .45 submachine gun. It's straight out of Call of Duty but feels light like it's not a real gun. I'm reminded otherwise after I squeeze the trigger—it kicks like a mule. As I look over my paper target, Kyle remarks, "not bad." But I know better, and vow to stick to my Xbox.

Battlefield Vegas is a 5-acre complex with an indoor shooting range, a vehicle museum, and the largest selection of weapons you can rent in the entire city, according to Operations Manager Matt Supnick.

"You could add up all the guns from every range in town and it wouldn't equal what we have onsite," Matt says.

At your disposal are hundreds of weapons to fire from World War I to present-day, including handguns, assault rifles, submachine guns, and heavy weapons like a 20-mm minigun.

On the museum side, I notice a solitary car with an M1 tank about 200 feet away. Up walks Joe and Travis Jacobs, who are celebrating Travis's 30th birthday. Joe is from New York and Travis is a seventh-grade math teacher from Dallas. Joe has a surprise for Travis—he bought him the tank crush experience.

"Are there height requirements for tank drivers?" Travis asks as he struggles to squeeze his lanky 6-foot frame into the tank's driver seat.

Five minutes later, the two men admire their work. What was a car is now a flat pancake of crushed metal and glass. The tank crush cost \$3,000. Was it worth it?

The wide grins on their faces tell me all I need to know.

LIVE ESCAPE ADVENTURE

The stars of this summer's "Suicide Squad" are granted a temporary pardon to get out of prison in exchange for their help. But you're not that lucky. You have to escape using only your brains and cunning. Do you think you're up for it?

You can find out at Live Escape Adventure, where you and your friends choose one of three adventures to test your wits—find your way through Pharaoh's tomb, track down a delinquent debtor, or break out of prison.

The easiest, according to owner Bret Hilby, is Payback. You play the role of an underworld loan shark collecting on a large debt but find that your mark has fled and is attempting to leave the country. You must unravel the clues and discover where



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Live Escape Adventure

she's headed.

The next hardest is Wrongfully Accused. You're wrongfully convicted of a series of horrible murders and have a date with the electric chair that evening. Fortunately for you, a prison riot breaks out distracting the guards. Can you find your way out of your cell and escape your fate?

Pharaoh's Curse is the most challenging. As you enter a recently discovered tomb, the gate closes and you are trapped. You must explore the tomb and escape before you become another victim of the Pharaoh's curse.

Bret recommends you bring some friends (more heads are better than one). Your group has one hour to solve the puzzle, and don't think these adventures will be a cakewalk. Bret says the solve rate for Payback is around 50 percent while Pharaoh's Curse and Wrongfully Accused is 40 percent, at best. And no cheating—cell phones are prohibited.

IMPACT ARCHERY

Curious how you stack up against Katniss Everdeen of "The Hunger Games?" Impact Archery has 20 indoor shooting lanes and is the largest range in Nevada, according to owner Charles Roof.

Inside the facility is a full-service pro-shop that caters to both target shooters and hunters.

If you're visiting or new to the sport, you can rent equipment and certified instructors are available for lessons. There are even rental packages geared toward the newbie



that include a little instruction time.

It's a sport the entire family can enjoy, Charles says, adding that 5 or 6 is a great starting age. After you're comfortable with your skills, consider participating in one of their leagues, which is available to adults as well as kids.

If you're looking for more of an adrenaline rush, then Archery Tag might be the game for you. Think dodgeball or paintball with bows and foam-tipped arrows. Each game lasts 15 minutes. Teams start at opposite ends, and after the whistle blows, you'll rush to the middle to collect as many arrows as you can. After that, I suggest finding cover as soon as possible. Archery Tag is played every Saturday.

GET READY FOR YOUR CLOSEUP

Whether your taste in movies is wildly adventurous or just a little on the weekend-warrior side, there's no reason to sit in front of the TV wishing you could be part of the action. Channel your inner adventure hero, and remember: In Las Vegas, no mission is impossible. ▀



Battlefield Vegas

Live Escape Adventure

6376 W. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV, 89146
702-405-6355
livescapeadventure.com

Impact Archery

6323 Dean Martin Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89118
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impactarcherylv.com

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Winnemucca

The town that promises a prize actually delivers.



The Winnemucca Sand Dunes offer about 40 miles of bike riding, hiking, and off-road vehicle fun. A camping area that can host motorhomes and RVs is located off Highway 95. Inset left: A view of Winnemucca Mountain from Bridge Street in downtown. Inset opposite page: The Griddle restaurant opened in 1948, and has been run by the Aboud family since 1960.

MATTHEW B. BROWN

BY MEGG MUELLER

Let's get this out of the way: there is no such thing as a mucca, so no, you can't win one. And yes, that question gets asked.

If there were such a mythical creature, it would surely live in this bucolic central Nevada town, located smack dab in the heart of Cowboy Country. Whatever pleasures you seek, you'll find them in this melting pot of activity, heritage, and geography. Whether you're a native or a transplant, the lure of Winnemucca is undeniable.



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Buckaroo Hall of Fame



Veterans Memorial Park

BACK IN THE DAY

Winnemucca didn't incorporate as a city until 1917, but the area was populated long before that. Almost 100 years before, the site along the Humboldt River was a desired spot for trappers, and later became a trading hub for the pioneers heading westward. A virtual oasis in the desert, the land was fertile and farmers and ranchers flocked to the area. Mining activity was scattered throughout the surrounding hills, and while the town went through a few monikers, it was officially named Winnemucca after the area's legendary Paiute chief in about 1868. It is the only town in Nevada named after an American Indian.

Around the same time, the Central Pacific Railroad began building a line to connect the north- and south-bound stage lines. Only a few hundred residents called Winnemucca home at



PHOTOS: MEGG MUELLER

that time, but by 1872, the town became the county seat.

Winnemucca continued to grow thanks to its advantageous location as a shipping hub along the lush Humboldt River. In the 1970s, gold discoveries led to the resurgence of the mining industry, which continues to play an important role in the area's economy today.

DRAWN IN FOR LIFE

Kelly Hess moved to Winnemucca last year. He had lived in Elko and Ely working for Barrick Gold, but after marrying and moving to California, he and his wife quickly decided that in order to have the quality of life they wanted, it was time to head back to Nevada.

"We love it here. We just got back from a camping trip to the Dufferena Ponds," Kelly says. "Every weekend we try to do something. Even if it's just take a ride in the truck, find a dirt road, and see where it goes."

Kelly admits he's not a cowboy, but the lure of Winnemucca's outdoors has him talking like someone who's lived in the area much longer than a year. Someone like Mayor Di An Putnam, who conversely, has lived in the area since she was just a year old. Di An has been mayor of her hometown for 10 years, and as she approaches the end of her term-limited leadership, she is




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CONTACT

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WORTH A CLICK

humboldt-museum.org
themartinhotel.com
winnemuccapizzeria.com
ranchrodeonv.com
buckaroohalloffame.com
shootingthewest.org

Incorporated: 1917
Population: 8,001 (census.gov)
Elevation: 4,295 feet



The Humboldt County Courthouse was built in 1921 to replace the original building that burned down. Bottom photo: The Winnemucca Pizzeria offers pizza, pasta, salads, and more and features outdoor dining.

TRAVELNEVADA

proud of what the town has accomplished—a new Boys and Girls Club, for example—because it was a collaborative effort.

“They know it will benefit the community, so people say ‘let’s just get together and get it done,’ ” she says. “Winnemucca is just a clean, friendly town, and we’re very family oriented.”

Families are central to the town and its culture today. One of Nevada’s largest concentration of Basque people dwell in the area, and that hard-working, family-first mentality can be found in the many residents of Basque heritage, at the annual Basque Festival, and in the town’s famed Basque eateries. The Martin Hotel has been around since 1898, and while it’s on the National Register of Historic Places, you can still enjoy the traditional, family-style dining. Ormachea’s carries the Basque influence in its meals as well, and don’t forget the Nevada favorite Picon Punch. If you have to ask what that is, well, don’t do it in Winnemucca. It’s a dead giveaway you’re not from these parts.

“I was in The Martin last week. The waitress is making me a Picon, and because she knows how I like it, she pours a little grenadine, looks up at me and sighs, then pours another dash,” Kelly says, laughing at how his need for a tweak on this notoriously strong drink causes mock exasperation.

A good-natured ribbing is something you might expect to feel when you meet Winnemuccans.

“When you walk down the street here, people say hello,” Di An says.

SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO

No matter your proclivity, Winnemucca can satisfy. Kelly is quick to mention the Winnemucca Sand Dunes for camping, riding, and hiking; Di An notes the town is encircled by sidewalks and has many parks for more leisurely outings. The epitome of rodeos—The Winnemucca Ranch Hand Rodeo—has brought out the real cowboys for 27 years. Di An explains this is not for professional rodeo cowboys, but working ranch hands and cowboys,

and the event grows more popular every year.

On the flip side, but no less authentic, Shooting the West is an annual photographer’s dream experience. For 28 years, photographers from across the world have come to Winnemucca to take part in classes and symposiums held throughout the town and out in the gorgeous Humboldt County area.

There’s a pristine and challenging nine-hole golf course in town, plus a racetrack that offers stock-car racing and more on Fridays and Saturdays throughout summer and fall. Just 10 miles north of town, the Winnemucca Sand Dunes offer some 40 miles of adult playground. Kelly notes that while there are other sand dunes in Nevada, these are the largest field of dunes in the state and about a seven-minute drive from his house, making it one of his favorite attractions.

Back in town, a historic walking tour awaits for architecture and history buffs, or perhaps the Humboldt Museum will fill your quest for just about everything related to the area’s beginnings and its people. If you’re fascinated by the old West, a stop at the Buckaroo Hall of Fame at the Winnemucca Convention & Visitors Authority will have you saying yeehaw in no time. The museum honors some 70 inductees, with photos and memorabilia that preserve the legendary buckaroo heritage.

In a town of just 8,000 people, the range of activities and culture that can be found is almost overwhelming if you visit for just a short time. Better spend a couple days so you can unveil the true prize that is Winnemucca. ▀





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I dared her to climb that rock face.

She bet me we couldn't bike 100 miles.

A guy at the bar said to try a Picon Punch cocktail.

I can't remember who recommended the heli-skiing.

But man I'm glad we did.

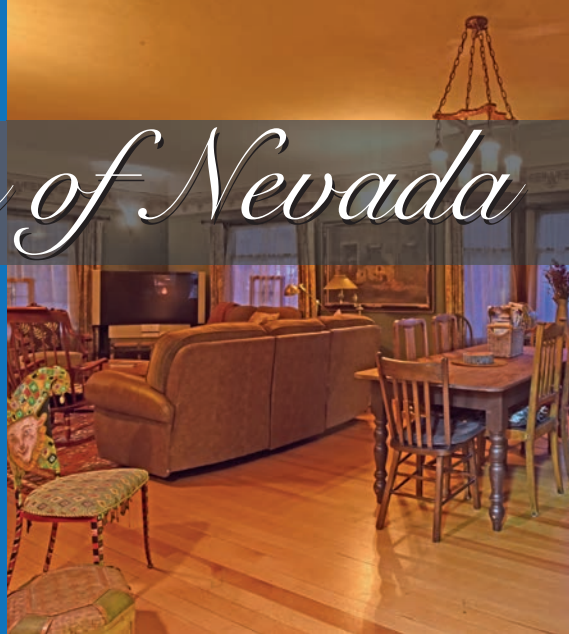
Jenny & Mike, Adventurers
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NEVADA A WORLD WITHIN.
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OF MEMORIES

Where are they now?



KIRK WHISLER

Publisher
1986-1992

Where do you work now?

I'm a publisher and producer with Latino Print Network. We work with 900 Latino newspapers, magazines, and websites around the U.S.

Do you have a favorite memory about the magazine?

My favorite memory is the great staff. It was an exciting time as we brought the magazine into the modern age of publishing by bringing layout and design in-house. We ultimately took the entire operation from outdated typewriters to computers. It was exciting.

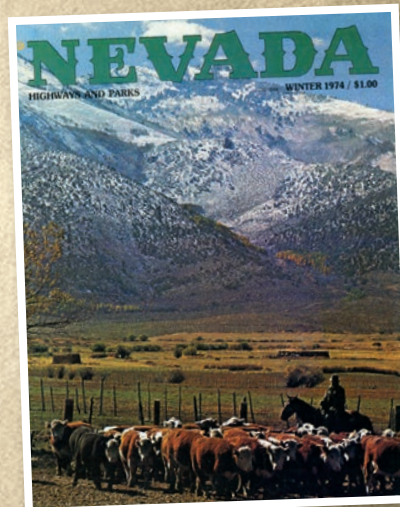
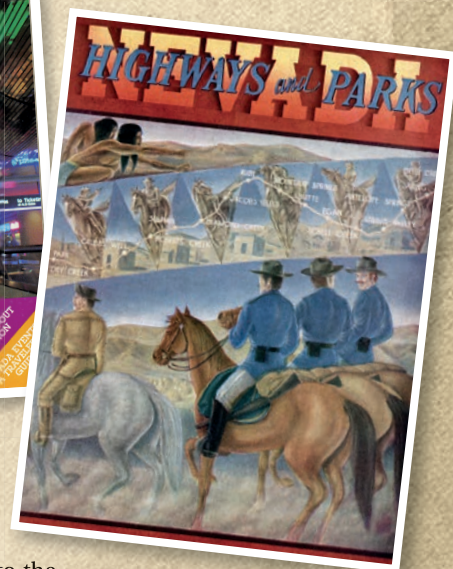
How about a favorite story?

I took over as the magazine was celebrating 50 years of publishing. It was also a time that the publication was not only operating at a \$800,000 deficit, it had never been profitable. One of the first things I did was ask the magazine's staff one by one if the magazine was a regional magazine, targeting people currently living in Nevada, or was it travel magazine, aimed at people outside Nevada. Everyone felt it was a regional magazine, but the circulation breakdown showed more than 70 percent of the readership lived outside the state. The readers were very specific about what they wanted to see and over the next year, as the content evolved, we also brought in new revenue sources. Within 18 months the publication was profitable—and most importantly, better positioned to serve readers and the tourism industry in Nevada. The bottom line is that working as a team can open many doors.

I miss the time that I spent in Nevada. Our three boys were all born in Carson City and we loved the small-town feel it offered. Even though the Silver State population has grown substantially, it still offers so many unique outdoor and entertainment opportunities. Nevada truly offers the best of both worlds.



Covers of the past: From top left, December 1986; December 1987, March/April 1990; and Winter 1974.

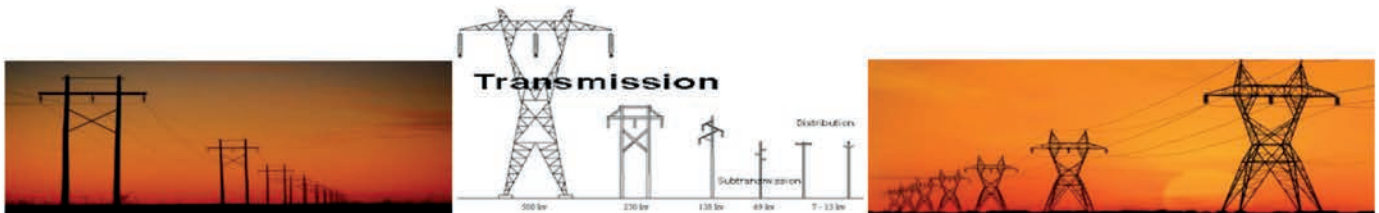




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