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Cover Photo: Robert Petersen
Snow and slush cover the tree-lined Dodge Lane in Fallon during a quintessential winter scene in Nevada.



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NEVADA
A WORLD WITHIN.
A STATE APART.

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WEB EXTRAS

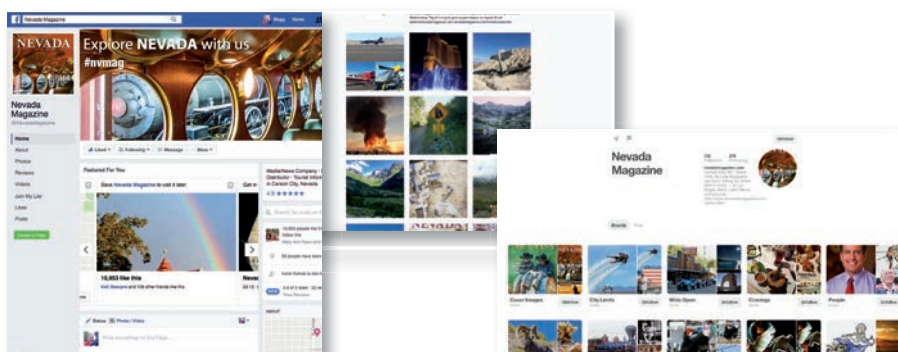
► In the 19th century, fights that pitted bears and bulls were a popular spectator sport. The strangest venue for such an event occurred in 1871 in Virginia City. The fight, held inside Piper's Opera House, was the only such event ever held indoors. In the wild world of The Comstock, the savage and bloody fights were considered entertainment and paying audiences were determined to get their money's worth, even when the animals weren't inclined to fight. A gory and unfortunate relic of a less-compassionate time, the one-and-only bear and bull fight at Piper's provides a glimpse into a young and untamed Virginia City. **By Daniel J. Demers**

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FEATURED VIDEO

Visit nevadamagazine.com/7magicmountains to get an up-close look at Nevada's latest land-art installation in the desert outside Las Vegas—Seven Magic Mountains.



A New Year of ADVENTURES

Another year is upon us, and as I sit here in the tail end of 2016 writing this note, I'm flabbergasted to be saying, Happy New Year, 2017! It's not as if it snuck up on me; I've been working on story ideas for the coming year for months and I own a calendar. We are saying farewell to our ghost town series and our Tour Around Nevada stories for a while (never say never!), but we've got some exciting things ahead of us.

When the team got together to talk about the coming year, one theme stood out from all the others. This year, we will focus our content on Nevada's great outdoors, and we have three great series in that vein for you. First, we'll explore ancient Nevada, from the geography and prehistoric waters to the first civilizations and animals to roam our as-yet created state. Get ready for some great, ancient history.

There are 23 state parks here, and each of them offers something different. Whether you're looking for a park to play with the family, a camping trip that affords spectacular views, or a

history lesson along with a side of fun, our parks can supply it. We are visiting them all this year, and will share with you what makes each one worth a visit.

We're also taking a special look at Nevada through the eyes of some of its best photographers this year. With endless vistas, colorful towns, and incredible wildlife, our state is begging to be photographed. For anyone hoping to capture the perfect shot, a photo tour guide is the ticket. Across the state, photo tours can give you insight, tips, and a fresh view of Nevada.

The more I travel across our state, the more I realize that being outside is such a blessing. Warm weather, cold weather, forests, and deserts...we have it all and it's just waiting to be discovered. Make 2017 the year to get outdoors.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Along with our outdoor stories, we've got some seriously fun history about five fools riding a flume in 1875. Read that story on page 22, then discover some doubt surrounding the execution of one of Virginia City's most notorious murderers. Did he or didn't he? Read about it on page 26.

We took to the south this issue for a story on the many off-roading adventures that can be found in Pahrump (see page 40), and we went on a delicious foodie tour on The Strip that was an incredible way to sample some of the city's best dining. Whet your appetite on page 56.

And finally, a story about accessibility in northern Nevada's parks and trails. For readers with limited mobility, this story will hopefully entice you to visit some of our most beautiful sights confident that you will be able to enjoy them without hesitation. Check out page 72.

I hope you enjoy our new series this year, and if you have any feedback—good or bad—I'd love to hear your thoughts. Here's to a year of amazing outdoor adventures!



Megg Mueller, Managing Editor
mmueller@nevadamagazine.com

LETTERS

FINE FALLON FIND



You have one fine publication and as a subscriber I thoroughly enjoy it. I have been a resident since 1950. The history of Nevada, particularly mining, has always been of interest. Recently while sorting some memorabilia, I came across this photo and thought it might be useful.

— **Larry Hall**, Sparks

GOOD ADVICE

We enjoyed the photo of your team and you do a great job on the magazine. And to Eric, in particular, as the only fella on staff... "Be mighty careful, and watch your step."

— **Edith and John Bozman**, Baltimore, Md.



SHORT AND SWEET

I'm a subscriber and I loved every page. Thank you for the enjoyment of this magazine.

— **Jeane Thomas**, Lund

TRIP PLANNER

Keep up the excellence with *Nevada Magazine*. My entire family reads it, then we plan our mini-vacations.

— **Nevada "Wannabe" Al Minster**, Camarillo, Calif.

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

Write to editor@nevadamagazine.com or via mail at 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701. You can also comment on stories and read more letters at nevadamagazine.com. Letters and comments are subject to editing.

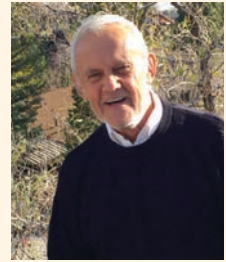
To find out how to contribute, visit
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CONTRIBUTORS

BOB SAGAN

First-time contributor Bob Sagan is a 35-year Reno resident by way of Chicago, Phoenix, and San Francisco. He's written about the Silver State for several publications over the years and, "thought it was about time I approached Nevada's namesake magazine with a story."

He's a veteran public relations and advertising executive, now retired. ■ PGS. 22-25



ROBIN FLINCHUM

Robin Flinchum is a freelance writer living in Tecopa, Calif., on the edge of Death Valley. She loves the open desert and listening to its stories. She is the author of "Red Light Women of Death Valley" (History Press 2015) and is currently at work on a book about the aftermath of the Julia Bulette murder in Virginia City. ■ PGS. 26-31



VERN HEE

Vern Hee is an award-winning journalist who has written for the *Pahrump Valley Times* for the past six years. The Nevada School Board Association recently honored him for his coverage of Nevada schools. His stories have appeared in *Nevada Magazine*, *Desert Companion*, the *Las Vegas Review Journal*, and the *Times-Bonanza* and *Goldfield News*. ■ PGS. 40-43



BRETT FISHER

Brett Fisher is an 11-year veteran newspaper journalist currently working in Carson City. He and his wife, Lisa—both living with disabilities—are advocates of universal access to Nevada's outdoors. Lisa is a nature photographer and northern Nevada native. ■ PGS. 72-78



DANIEL J. DEMERS

Daniel J. Demers is a writer who lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is pioneering the exploration and exploitation of the Library of Congress' digital newspaper archives to write about American social history. He is the author of "Old Wine and Food Stories." ■ at nevadamagazine.com



Start the New Year with a Capital City Visit

Happy New Year! It is my hope that all Nevadans and those traveling to our great state enjoyed a joyous and celebratory holiday season. In looking back to 2016, our state certainly has a lot to celebrate. For instance, entities throughout Nevada received nearly \$900,000 in grants to better fund marketing projects and enhance visitation to more rural parts of our state; the first Nevada tourism office was opened in India; and our very own TravelNevada “Don’t Fence Me In” campaign was recognized as a top travel marketing program by the Public Relations Society of America.

As we dive into 2017, come the first Monday in February, Nevada lawmakers will make their way to our state’s capital of Carson City for the beginning of the 79th Regular Legislative Session. In the span of 120 days, all of the newly proposed laws for the state of Nevada will be introduced, debated, and ultimately voted upon. In my role as lieutenant governor, I have the privilege of serving as president of the Nevada State Senate, and I look forward to Feb. 6 wherein I’ll have the honor to preside once again.

No conversation about our state’s capital would be complete without mentioning how wonderful of a travel spot it unquestionably is. With an abundance of cultural and recreational activities, and with close proximity to the must-see stops in Lake Tahoe and Virginia City, Nevada’s capital city should certainly top the list of any local Nevada traveler and visitor alike.

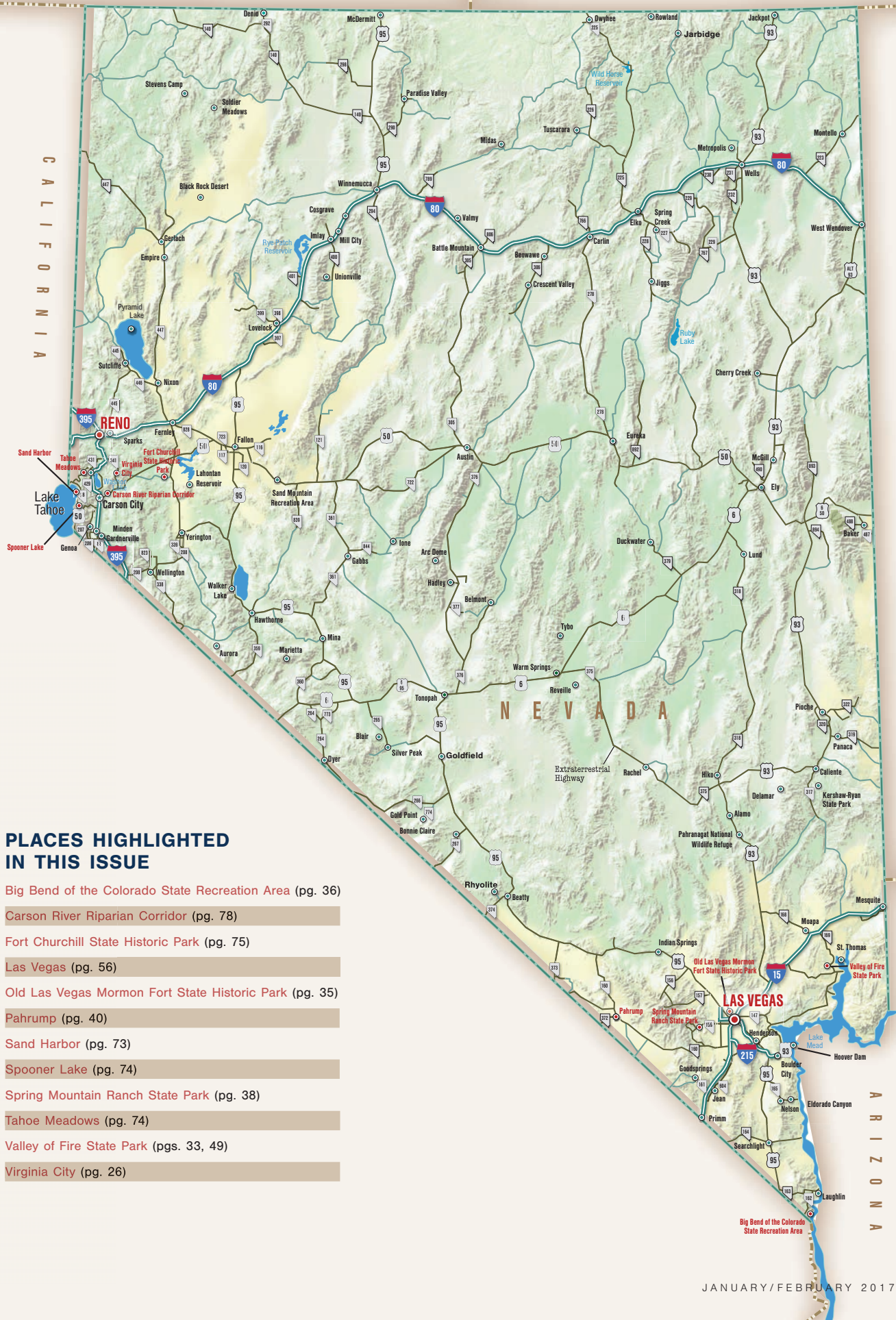
As our state’s seat of government, Carson City is packed with things to see and do for historical enthusiasts and those with a passion for government. Travelers should be sure to stop at the Nevada State Capitol for a guided or self-guided tour. Every stop at the Capitol grants visitors the opportunity to walk through the halls of history and alongside those who founded and governed (and still do!) the Silver State, with reminders and tokens of past decades found throughout.

Carson City visitors should also not miss walking the Blue Line Trail. Carson City’s Blue Line Trail leads guests on a walking tour through the historical corridors of our capital city while highlighting 43 designated landmarks along the way. Visitors simply follow the blue painted line along the sidewalks throughout Carson City, beginning at the Nevada State Museum and ending at Nevada’s first federal building—constructed in 1891—the Paul Laxalt Building.

Last, but certainly not least, no visit to Carson City would be complete without a stop at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. The Railroad Museum highlights the contributions the rail industry made throughout Nevada and the western U.S. Museum guests are offered a firsthand view of the locomotives, equipment, and railway memorabilia that shaped the era. On certain days of the year, visitors have the opportunity to hop aboard one of the museum’s restored steam trains or motorcars for a ride through the grounds.



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



PLACES HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS ISSUE

Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area (pg. 36)

Carson River Riparian Corridor (pg. 78)

Fort Churchill State Historic Park (pg. 75)

Las Vegas (pg. 56)

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park (pg. 35)

Pahrump (pg. 40)

Sand Harbor (pg. 73)

Spoooner Lake (pg. 74)

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park (pg. 38)

Tahoe Meadows (pg. 74)

Valley of Fire State Park (pgs. 33, 49)

Virginia City (pg. 26)

Up Front

TRANSPORTATION

RTC BIKE SHARE: Las Vegas Residents & Visitors Get Cheap Economical Travel Options

Las Vegas is the latest city to bring bike share to its community, further enhancing transportation options for residents and the world-class experience for millions of visitors. Recently, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) and its partners Bicycle Transit Systems and BCycle launched RTC Bike Share, the valley's first public bike share system in downtown Las Vegas.

RTC Bike Share provides a convenient and easy-to-use transportation alternative for short trips in the downtown area where users can check out a bike from one station and return it to another station near their final destination. With 21 stations at popular locations downtown and 180 bikes available 24 hours a day, bike share provides a new alternative for residents, commuters, and tourists to travel.

Priced at \$4 for a 30-minute ride, \$8 for a 24-hour pass, and \$20 for a 30-day membership, RTC Bike Share is an inexpensive way to make trips that are too long to walk, but too short to drive. As part of the 24-hour pass and 30-day membership, users can check out a bike for 30 minutes at a time, for as many trips as their pass duration allows, without being charged an extra fee.

"The RTC Bike Share program demonstrates our progressive approach to multimodal transportation," says Tina Quigley, RTC general manager. "The RTC is committed to promoting cycling as a more sustainable transportation option, and bike share is a fun and convenient way to get people outdoors and see the city."

The program complements downtown Las Vegas' dedicated green bike lanes and is the latest addition to the RTC's current cycling initiatives, including the state-of-the-art bike center at the Bonneville Transit Center and hundreds of miles of bike routes throughout the valley. bikeshare.rtcnv.com, 844-641-7823



Notable Nevadans



For 60 years, John Ascuaga could often be seen walking the casino floor of his namesake hotel-casino in Sparks. John Ascuaga's Nugget became an anchor of the city, and one of its most fervent supporters. Our Carrie Roussel recently spoke to Mr. Ascuaga.

JOHN ASCUAGA

Question: Where were you born? Where do you live now?

John Ascuaga: I was born in Caldwell, Idaho, and I now live at Jacks Valley Ranch in Carson Valley. It's one of the most historic ranches in the area. We bought it 50 years ago and have lived there ever since.

Question: How did you get started in the casino business?

John Ascuaga: I worked for a guy named Dick Graves when I was just coming out of Washington State as a hotel/motel major. He had seven bars and restaurants across Idaho with slot machines, so I'd travel to all of them. Gambling was outlawed in Idaho, though, and Dick had visions of Nevada slots. I was with him when he started the Carson City Nugget. I was the food supervisor at the Carson City Nugget when it opened. Dick also owned the Sparks Nugget. We built it together. I remember we'd walk on B Street, which is now Victorian Avenue, and Dick was 6 feet 5 inches tall and I was 5 foot 4 inches...we were quite the couple. I have so many great memories of how we promoted stuff to get the energy back into the city of Sparks. March 17, 1955 was the day we started. It was a great foundation of good employees. They were the best.

Question: What's your favorite thing about living in Nevada?

John Ascuaga: The people. They feel like they're still embedded in our state; that a handshake really means something.

Question: Do you have favorite Nevada memory?

John Ascuaga: I have so many I can't even tell you. The day we opened until I retired; I feel like it is one great memory.

Question: Who do you consider to be a notable Nevadan? Why?

John Ascuaga: I've never given it much thought. You've just got to have a conscience, and you know what's fair. You have to be yourself and if you have a goal, you try to reach it. We've had some really great political leaders: Carl Dodge, Lawrence Jacobsen, and Mahlon Brown. They were heavyweight senators from both parties and they were always able to solve problems. They looked to solve problems, and forgot their party.

Question: What does being Battle Born mean to you?

John Ascuaga: You've got to have some true grit. Never take no for starters. If you have a goal, think positive and you'll fulfill it.

Visit nevadamagazine.com/ascuaga to read the full interview with John Ascuaga.



■ **Atlantis Casino Resort Spa** General Manager Cheraz Ecker received Nevada Hotel and Lodging Association's top honor—Hotelier of the Year—during the annual Stars of the Industry Gala held in October at the Aria Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.
atlantiscasino.com, 800-723-6500

■ The NBA Development League and the Sacramento Kings announced that the team has acquired a controlling interest in the NBA D-League's **Reno Bighorns**. Since the team's inception, more than 10 Bighorns have been called up to the NBA, including San Antonio Spurs guard Danny Green. Also 16 NBA players have spent time on assignment in Reno, including Jeremy Lin and Hassan Whiteside.
reno.dleague.nba.com, 775-853-8220

■ A new brewery is opening in Carson City in January. **Shoe Tree Brewery**—located next to Sassafras Eclectic Food Joint—will serve handcrafted sodas, craft brews created with local ingredients, and will share the Sassafras menu. The patio, tasting bar, and brewery are the brainchild of brothers Paul and Jeff Young. **shootreebrewing.com**

■ The **Springs Preserve** live animal show, "Copycats and Other Critters," showcases the amazing talents and special skills found among Mojave Desert animals that have inspired, or play an important role in future technologies. The cast of animals includes geckos, snakes, pocket gophers, and a few special guests. **springspreserve.org, 702-822-7700**

■ **Nevada Ballet Theatre** has chosen renowned singer, actress, author, and fashion designer Vanessa Williams as Woman of the Year for its 33rd Annual Black & White Ball. Williams' dedication to the performing arts through her esteemed career, as well as her unwavering philanthropy to numerous charitable causes, will be celebrated on Jan. 28 at ARIA Resort & Casino.
nevadaballet.org, 702-243-2623



SHOPPING

Ethel M Chocolates' Sweet New Store

Ethel M Chocolates in Henderson has reopened after an extensive upgrade to its factory and flagship store. The chocolate factory now has a fully enhanced guest experience, an updated look, interactive elements, expanded retail space, and additions to its café menu.

The redesigned store showcases a new ambiance and atmosphere, highlighting colors and materials that represent the factory's original copper kettles and signature botanical cactus garden. The upgraded Chocolate Tasting Room overlooks the cactus garden, where guests learn how chocolate is made and sample freshly made confections. The demonstration area features professional chocolatiers who prepare combinations such as chocolate-covered strawberries and caramel-dipped apples.

In addition, guests can stroll through one of the world's largest botanical cactus gardens. The 3-acre garden features more than 300 different species of drought-tolerant ornamentals, cacti, and other desert plants. The garden is open to the public 365 days a year. **ethelm.com, 702-435-2608**



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■ **Masaharu Morimoto**, famed Japanese chef and star of Food Network's "Iron Chef America," made his official Las Vegas debut with Morimoto Las Vegas, now open at MGM Grand. Morimoto and his distinctive Japanese fare from the world's finest sushi to unforgettable dishes showcase the Iron Chef's ability to meld Eastern and Western flavors. The restaurant offers a sushi bar, main dining room, and Teppan tables. mgmgrand.com, 702-891-3001

■ The first **Blue Man Group** performance took place at the Astor Place Theatre in New York in November 1991. In honor of their 25th anniversary, the Blue Man Group at Luxor Hotel and Casino received a key to the Las Vegas Strip. Blue Man Group has performed its award-winning production in Las Vegas for more than 10,000 shows. blueman.com, 800-557-7428

■ Acclaimed storytelling nonprofit The Moth will present its Mainstage show for the first time in Nevada at the **33rd National Cowboy Poetry Gathering** on Feb. 4. Since launching in 1997, The Moth has presented more than 20,000 stories to standing-room-only crowds worldwide. westernfolklife.org, 775-738-7508

■ **Jobs for Nevada's Graduates** (JAG Nevada) students from Nevada traveled to Washington, D.C. in November to attend the JAG National Student Leadership Academy. More than 600 students from 32 states attended the event. Nine of the 46 Nevada JAG students engaged in national competitions in employability skills, public speaking, and math skills. jagnv.org, 702-410-8078

■ Pop music icon **Britney Spears** presented the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation (NCCF) with a check for \$200,000. Through her time performing at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, \$1 of every ticket purchased to Britney's show has been donated to the NCCF. With this donation, she has reached halfway to her goal of raising \$1 million for NCCF to build its new permanent facility. caesars.com, 702-777-2782



REMODEL

Primm casino gets a makeover

Whiskey Pete's Hotel & Casino in Primm is sporting a brand new look thanks to a \$3.5 million investment by parent company Affinity Gaming to renovate the property. The upgrade is the first for Whiskey Pete's since opening in 1973.

The renovations include the addition of new bathrooms; upgraded beds and carpeting; modern furnishings; and appliances including refrigerators, flat screen TVs, and plug-ins for laptops, smartphones, and other devices. The entire project, which included the remodeling of 243 standard rooms and four suites, took approximately 12 weeks. primmvalleyresorts.com, 702-386-7867



AWARDS

Huffington Post recognizes Whitney Peak Hotel

Whitney Peak Hotel in Reno has been named on Richard's Picks: Best Hotels in the World, Fall 2016 list on the Huffington Post. This is the first year the Whitney Peak Hotel has been on Richard Bangs' list of best hotels. On the list, Bangs describes Whitney Peak Hotel and the giant climbing wall as "an urban tribute to the mountains, lakes, and wild steppes that sprawl throughout the state. The hotel is trying to bring Nevada's epic outside in, and is succeeding in hearts and spades." whitneypeakhotel.com, 775-398-5400



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■ **Night in the Country** artists are being announced in advance of the July 27-29 annual music festival. Friday night headliner Justin Moore plus Drake White and The Big Fire have been added to the lineup that includes Steve Moakler, Brandon Ray, Toree McGee, Chad Bramlet, and Saturday night headliner Thomas Rhett.

nightinthecountry.org, 775-463-5114

■ **Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall** announced the opening of its newest dining concept, the savory Big Mess Bar-BQ. This genuine smokehouse barbecue restaurant serves up classic American fare with meats smoked in-house, plus classic comfort-food sides. samstowntlv.com, 702-456-7777

■ The Professional Grounds Management Society recognized the **University of Nevada, Reno** with a Grand Award in the Society's 2016 Green Star Awards competition. The award was given in the University and College Grounds category for exceptional grounds maintenance. unr.edu, 775-784-1110

■ **Maverick Helicopters** celebrated 20 years of operation in 2016. Maverick Helicopters debuted with one aircraft and a group of committed flight personnel. Today, Maverick Helicopters operates the world's largest and youngest fleet of Airbus EC130/H130 ECO-Star helicopters and holds the industry's top safety record. flymaverick.com, 702-261-0007

■ **McCarran International Airport** now has the second-tallest airport control tower in the U.S. Standing 352 feet high, the control tower offers controllers greater visibility and with two levels, it keeps ground and air operations separate. The tower accommodates up to 16 air traffic controllers at any given time and includes a 52,800-square-foot base building where the Terminal Radar Approach Control facility operates. mccarran.com, 702-261-5211



EAGLES & AGRICULTURE

WILDLIFE

Eagles & Agriculture takes flight

The 2017 Eagles & Agriculture event will be held Jan. 26-29. The 15th year of this popular event has been moved earlier in the year to coincide with the height of eagle viewing opportunities in Carson Valley.

Ranchers allow visitors access to their fields, where eagles migrate in winter to feed on rodents and afterbirth during the calving season. Bird experts demonstrate how to identify eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls, and attendees learn about Carson Valley's agricultural history dating back to the 1850s in workshops and on tours.

The event starts Thursday evening with the opening reception and photo exhibit; continues with tours and the falconers dinner on Friday; the ranch and eagle tour on Saturday morning, additional tours and the class session of the photo workshop on Saturday; and concludes with several tours and the field exercise of the photo workshop on Sunday. carsonvalleynv.org, 775-782-8144



MANICA ARCHITECTURE

LEGISLATION

Las Vegas football stadium closer to a reality

Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval signed into law Senate Bill 1 and Assembly Bill 1 on Oct. 17, 2016. The signing means two major projects can now move forward—the expansion and renovation of the Las Vegas Convention Center and the development of a domed, 65,000-seat football stadium. The Oakland Raiders have expressed interest in moving to the new stadium if a deal can be worked out. The Nevada Legislature approved the measure that would use \$750 million in public money three days earlier. gov.nv.gov, 775-684-5670



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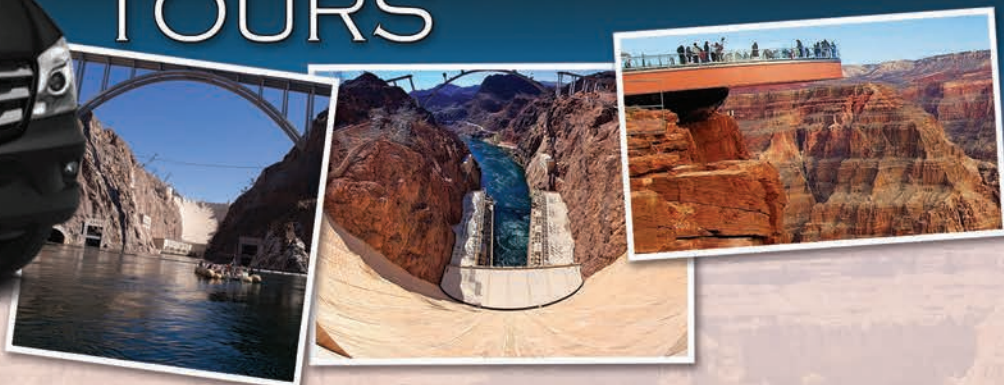
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KRISTEN KABRIN



SUSANNE REESE

Previous page: Photographer Kristen Kabrin was up to her knees in beauty when she snapped this shot of Lamoille Canyon. "The snow went from a trace to thigh deep in no time at all," she says. "How do I know that? Upon exiting the truck, I sunk down about thigh high." She adds, "There was just something about the sky and the mountains that just called for a close-up."

Left: "The trick is to listen to the echo of the whistle off the massive walls of Robinson Canyon," says photographer Susanne Reese while describing how she got this perfectly timed shot. The Polar Express in Ely has become a family tradition and photographer's dream.

Below: Photographer Bernadine Murray captured this shot of majestic Rocky Mountain elk in southern Nevada near Cold Creek. "The area was blanketed in snow and warm, so we anticipated some great shooting," she says. "As we drove toward the Bonanza trailhead we came upon a herd of around 15 elk munching on brush."

Opposite page, top: Sometimes subject matter can appear before your eyes and be gone in an instant. "Unfortunately, I couldn't get to my camera fast enough, so these were shot with my cellphone," says photographer Sarah Ladeira. She snapped the photo near Incline Village in November.



BERNADINE MURRAY



SARAH LADEIRA



FACEBOOK GROUP CHOICE

Photographer Tony Fuentes captured this shot of smoke over Lake Tahoe while hiking the Tahoe Rim Trail. "I was a bit disappointed that smoke from the Little Valley controlled burn had settled across the lake, but after the fact, it added a foggy appearance that seemed to mirror a few of the high clouds that were overhead this night," he says.

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



TONY FUENTES

JOIN OUR NEVADA PHOTOGRAPHERS FACEBOOK GROUP facebook.com/groups/nevadasnaps



A bonehead challenge to Nevada's 'wooden wonder.'

BY BOB SAGAN

That ancient adage—a fool and his money are soon parted—might have found its purest form of expression in a little-known incident that occurred in 1875 Nevada, had it not been for a hefty dose of dumb luck.

The incident in question was triggered by the curiosity of an East Coast journalist who decided to visit The Comstock and see what the mining boom was all about. A chance invitation to see how the lumber that built the mines was being moved from Lake Tahoe was extended, and he ended up with a story he never could have imagined.

TIMBER, THE CRITICAL COMPONENT

As the Comstock mining companies gouged ever deeper into the mineral-rich earth, the need for timber to shore up the excavations grew critical. Pressure in the underground mines, some of which extended as far as 5 miles, made cave-ins common. The mines needed the steady stream of lumber and cordwood supplied by a 12-thousand-acre tract on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada to continue operating.

Harvesting the lumber was one thing, but getting it to the mines was something else. The terrain was steep and irregular, and footing was treacherous. The road—dusty and choking in dry weather—became muddy and virtually impassable in the rain and snow. So lumberman J.W. Haines of Douglas County came up with a solution that turned out to be a pivotal point in the continuing development of The Comstock.



The flume near Carson City as it comes off the mountain.

PHOTOS: NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A WOODEN WONDER

Haines' brainchild was a V-shaped flume—nothing more than a giant trough of 2-inch-thick planks, 2-feet wide and 16-feet long, nailed together into a V. The slanting sides of the flume allowed the lumber to float freely on a rapid stream of water, as opposed to the conventional dry chutes and square-box flumes of the day.

The flume contained 2-million feet of lumber and 28 tons of spikes and nails. It operated 70-feet above ground in some places, and could transport up to a half-million feet of lumber daily. Employing 200 men, the flume's builders completed 15 miles of trough, from Hunter's Creek on Mount Rose—between Lake Tahoe and Reno—to Huffaker's Station and the Virginia and Truckee Railroad terminus in Washoe Valley. They did it in a scant 10 weeks at a cost of \$250,000.

Reportedly, the flume did the work of 2,000 horses, and quickly became a kind of "wooden wonder of the West." It sparked some curiosity as far east as New York City; no small feat, since even then New Yorkers were not easily convinced anything noteworthy was to be found west of the Hudson. Still, due to its riches, Virginia City in the 1870s was considered one of the most important cities between Chicago and San Francisco.



“Flying Down the Flume”

painted by Nick Galloway



James G. Fair



J.C. Flood

In the summer of 1875, H.J. Ramsdell, a reporter for the *New York Tribune*, had heard tales of Nevada’s great flume and decided to see it for himself. Ramsdell was hosted by James G. Fair and J.C. Flood, both principals in the company that built the flume and multimillionaires who had made their fortunes in the mines. Understandably proud of their operation, Fair and Flood were eager to showcase it for the journalist from the big city and invited Ramsdell to inspect the construction up close. Had the reporter guessed at the time just how close, he might not have accepted so readily.

Ramsdell was impressed by the operation’s simplicity, and also its immensity. He was fascinated by the fact that the 15 miles of trough actually ended at a point only 8 miles away as the crow flies. Like a huge wooden snake, the flume twisted and turned for an additional 7 miles in order to negotiate the irregular landscape.

LOSING THEIR SENSES

What happened that summer's day in 1875 remains sketchy. It's hard to understand how otherwise intelligent, pragmatic businessmen would do what they decided to do. Some say Fair and Flood took the occasion to "baptize" their flume with a ceremonial ride. More likely, the two men—showing off for the reporter—dared each other to ride the flume, and Ramsdell and John B. Hereford (who directed the project's construction) were sucked into the challenge.

Lumberjacks and mill-hands at the flume entrance hurriedly rigged together two V-shaped "boats," which were no more than narrower versions of the flume itself. The fronts of the "hog troughs," as they were called, were left open, while the rear portions were closed with boards, against which the water currents would act as propulsion. Narrow boards served as seats. Fair and Ramsdell would "captain" the lead boat. At the last minute, they requested a volunteer from the workers standing around—someone to accompany them who was familiar with the flume's meanderings. An unnamed, ruddy-faced carpenter, whose coworkers claimed had a hearty attraction "to the grape," agreed to go.

It was a dumb decision on top of an already dumber decision. The second boat would carry Flood and Hereford. Apparently, up until that point, no one had considered that the second boat, with a lighter load, could eventually overtake and crash into the lead vessel while on the descent.

NEARER MY GOD TO THEE

As soon as the passengers hit their seats, they took off like human bullets in the furious flow of flume water. The makeshift boats bumped and careened wildly down the irregular course, over deep rocky gullies and around curved sections built along the sides of sheer cliffs. The trip might be compared to a ride on a modern-day roller coaster with the attendant asleep at the switch—except there was no attendant to do the switching...or

even the sleeping. The occupants of the two hog troughs, by this time hurtling down the flume at breakneck speed, would later admit they divided their time between cursing their stupidity and



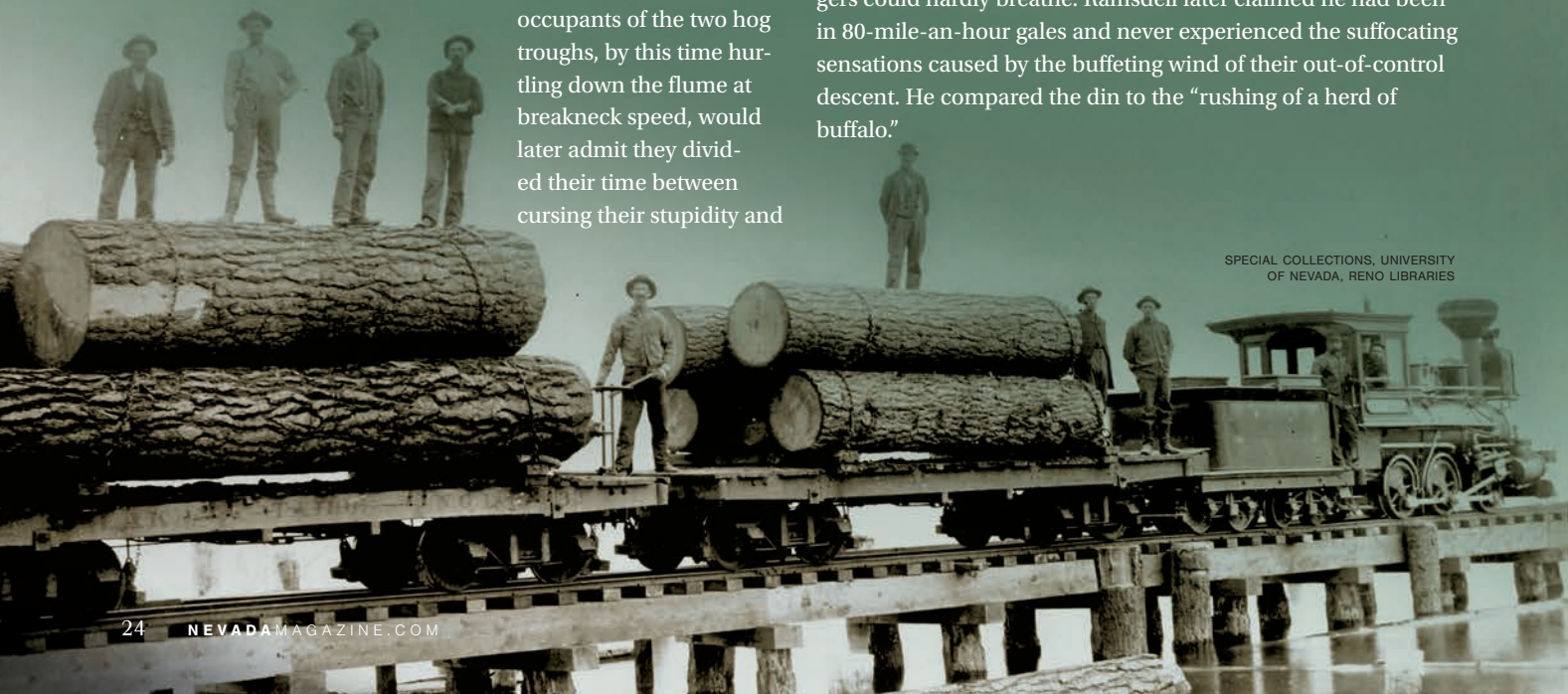
The Carson & Tahoe Lumber & Flume Co. flume. The ride was taken on the Pacific Wood & Lumber Co. flume.

making peace with their maker.

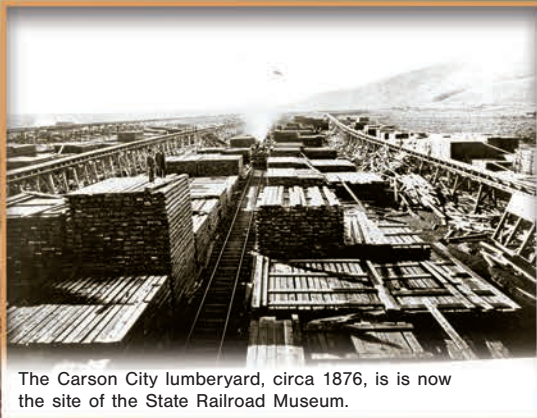
Ramsdell described it later for his New York readers: "You have nothing to hold on to; you have only to sit still, take all the water that comes—drenching you like a plunge through the surf—and wait for eternity." James Fair put it a little more eloquently (though perhaps a trifle overstated): "My belief is that we annihilated both time and space."

At one point, the lead boat carrying Fair, Ramsdell, and the carpenter hit a submerged object and stuck momentarily. The abrupt stop catapulted the carpenter out of the vessel and into the flume waters a few feet ahead. This sudden lightening of its load permitted the craft to break free, and Fair managed to drag him back into the boat.

With that brief delay, the second, lighter boat was able to gain on the lead craft, which increased the likelihood of a collision. If it occurred at certain points along the trestle, the men could be thrown out against the jagged rocks below. At times, where the flume was steepest, the speed was great enough that the passengers could hardly breathe. Ramsdell later claimed he had been in 80-mile-an-hour gales and never experienced the suffocating sensations caused by the buffeting wind of their out-of-control descent. He compared the din to the "rushing of a herd of buffalo."



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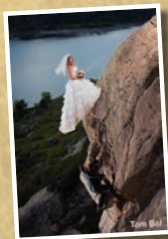
PHOTOS: NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM



AN UNWELCOME RENDEZVOUS

Then, possibility became reality. With the end of the trip in sight, the second boat carrying Flood and Hereford plowed into the first vessel with a jarring impact. Flood got the worst of it, pitching forward unceremoniously on his face. The others fared only slightly better. The five were grateful that the collision occurred in a relatively slow and safe area of the flume. Scant seconds before, they had been traveling over a particularly hazardous stretch, where the outcome could have been disastrous. As it was, the bruised and battered men eagerly jumped clear as the boats slowed down near the run's terminal. The workers at the end of the flume were completely caught off guard to see their usually dapper bosses showing up at camp in such a bedraggled state. They were even more surprised given their mode of transportation.

Understandably, none of those involved would ever again engage in such timberland "tomflumery." If it's true there are no atheists in foxholes, then so it's true that the five men bucking the flume that day in 1875 were as devout as they ever would be. Ramsdell returned to the *New York Tribune* to report to his readers that something of substance did indeed exist outside the confines of New York. ■



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VIRGINIA CITY

A woman in a dark, long-sleeved Victorian dress with a bow at the waist stands on a balcony. To her left, on a table, is a fire helmet with the number '1' on it. The background shows a view of Virginia City, Nevada, with its characteristic wooden buildings and a mountain in the distance.

A MYSTERIOUS MURDER ON THE COMSTOCK

Unanswered questions loom after the murder of a notorious prostitute.

BY ROBIN FLINCHUM

It's been 150 years since that dreadful January morning when Mary Jane Minieri left her little cottage on Virginia City's D Street and stepped carefully through the mud to her friend and neighbor Julia Bulette's back door. She could have never imagined that she was about to walk into the beginning of one of the most enduring stories in Nevada history.

LEGEND & LORE

She would find that Bulette, an independent prostitute, had been beaten and strangled to death in her bed and that much of her sumptuous wardrobe, including silks, furs, and jewelry, had been carried off in the dark of night. Almost a year and a half later, a French immigrant day laborer would hang for the crime in front of a crowd of thousands.

But did John Millain really kill Julia Bulette? The answer, all this time later, isn't entirely clear.

COLD CASE

The murder shocked Virginia City. In January 1867, the town was only 8 years old. The city had seen its share of killings and its residents generally accepted brawling and dueling as a part of life. But the Bulette murder—perpetrated on a sleeping woman in her nightgown—was different. After Alf Doten, a reporter for the *Territorial Enterprise* newspaper, had been to the little cottage to see Julia's mangled body, he wrote in his diary "Worst murder ever in this city—horrible."

Doten, who had known Julia in her professional capacity, estimated that she was about 35 years old. She had been a prostitute for more than 15 years and had achieved modest success. While she was often segregated from 'respectable' women, she had many friends among her peers. As an honorary member of the Virginia Fire Engine Co. No. 1, she had also earned some admiration in the larger community. The *Territorial Enterprise* eulogized her as "being of a very kind-hearted, liberal, benevolent, and charitable disposition, few of her class had more true friends."

In the days following the murder, her friends wanted justice. To complicate matters, some feared that Bulette's death was only one in a string of similar killings. Virginia City police had been consulted in 1863 and again in 1864 in connection with the unsolved murders of two prostitutes in San Francisco. In each case the woman was in her mid thirties or older, approaching retirement or at least having worked long enough to accumulate some wealth. Each woman worked independently, lived alone, and was killed late at night, apparently after she had retired to bed. And each woman had some connection to Virginia City.

The San Francisco murders had been shockingly bloody, the victims repeatedly stabbed. The Bulette murder had been done with less gore, but in all other respects the killings shared eerie similarities. In a pre-Jack the Ripper world, this left reporters, police, and other prostitutes grappling with an unthinkable idea.

The Bulette murder also had larger implications for Virginia City, because mining production was on the decline that year and the local economy was in recession. For those invested in the city's future, it was vitally important to keep up civic pride and investor morale.

IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING THE MURDER, HER FRIENDS WANTED JUSTICE.

A LEAD

Despite their best efforts, however, it would take Virginia City police nearly four months to capture a viable suspect. In early May, another independent prostitute awoke to find a dark figure skulking about her room and later identified him as 37-year-old John Millain (sometimes spelled Milleain).

"It is not at all improbable that the same man who so foully murdered Bulette attempted to murder and rob [Martha] Camp last night," reported the *Virginia Daily Tresspass*.

Most everyone believed the murderer had been caught. "The man is either a perfect fiend or he is scandalously belied by those who have some knowledge of his past history," said the *Enterprise*, adding that Millain was rumored to have once had a pretty wife in San Francisco who died mysteriously. It was even reported that he had confessed to the Bulette murder, though Millain denied this.

The *Sacramento Daily Union* claimed "The detectives have learned that Millain was driving a water cart in [San Francisco], on a route in the worst part of town, at the time that the prostitutes were mysteriously murdered."

"This creates deep excitement in this city," wrote Doten in his diary, "he will hang."



However, guilty as many believed him to be, the police had yet to prove it. Millain remained in custody on a charge of attempted robbery while they searched for clues. In late May, a woman named Mrs. Cazentre came forward and said she'd recently bought a length of silk from him under suspicious circumstances.

By the end of the day, the silk had been established as a unique piece purchased by Julia Bulette before her death. In the next few days, more shopkeepers came forward with stolen items they had unwittingly purchased from Millain. Then police were alerted to a house where Millain had stored a trunk filled with the rest of Bulette's missing treasures.

From that moment forward, John Millain was on a fast track to the gallows.

THE PROSECUTION

The city needed someone to pay, not only to maintain the morale of its investors and economy, but to keep the civic peace. Friends of Bulette's, never specifically identified in court documents but possibly members of the Virginia Fire Engine Co., among others, asserted that Millain would hang one way or another.

Judge Richard Rising, who had been presiding over the District Court since its establishment some years before, and who had seen the results of vigilante justice in action, hoped to maintain order. He would later write that during those days "many outrages and crimes...were constantly being committed in this city and to endeavor to create a terror upon evildoers, I imposed...very severe punishments."

The trial lasted only one day, with not a single witness for the defense. Millain's grasp of the language was poor, despite some 15 years in American mining camps. He was uneducated and he did not present well. After a brief deliberation, the jury handed down a guilty verdict.

"The bell of [Virginia Fire Engine Co.] No. 1 pealed out in notes of joy," wrote Doten privately. "This is the first instance I ever knew of the public rejoicing over such a verdict, where a man's life is at stake."

But the *Daily Tresspass* explained it thus; "That John Millain is the cruelest and most heartless murderer of the age is beyond doubt... that he has been a professional strangler there is but little doubt, and his last confession will doubtless elucidate the terrible doubts that have shrouded several murders in California with impenetrable mystery."

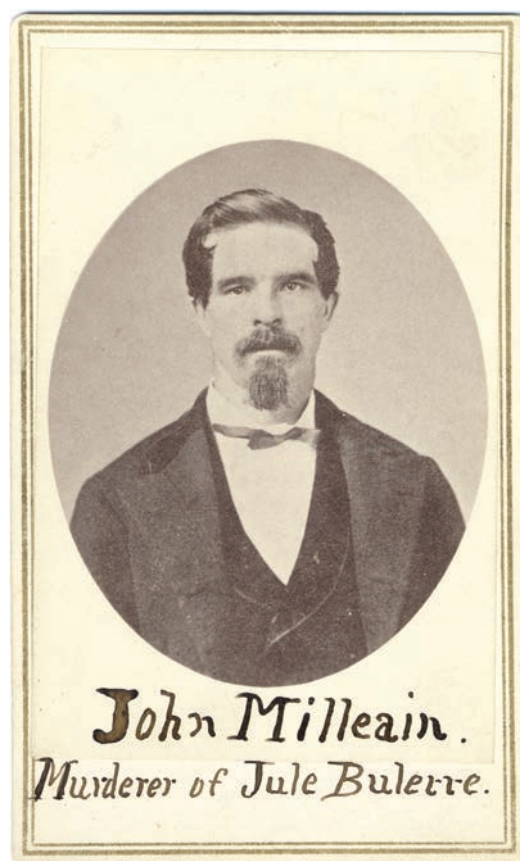
On July 5, in front of a crowded courtroom, John Millain was sentenced to hang and accepted the verdict with quiet composure.

But was he guilty?

THE TRIAL LASTED ONLY ONE DAY, WITH NOT A SINGLE WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE.

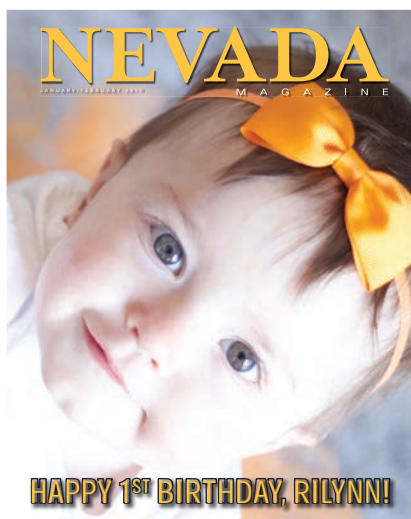
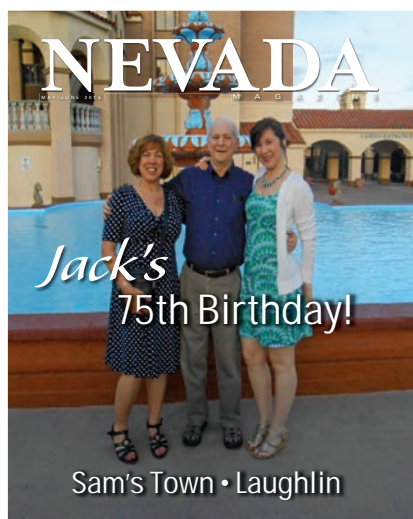
THE DEFENSE

Millain maintained his innocence, admitting only that he had drunk a bottle of wine and fallen asleep under Julia's house while two other men went inside. They had afterward given him the trunk full of jewels, silks, and furs to hold for them and he hadn't known until the next day what really happened. The two men, whose names he said were Douglass and Dillon, had long since disappeared. The trial evidence was entirely circumstantial and consisted of testimony proving that Millain was in possession of Julia's stolen belongings and that he had sold many of them, thereby profiting from her death.



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The lawyer appointed to defend Millain was a politically ambitious young man named Charles DeLong, well liked in Virginia City until the trial put him in the unenviable position of defending the town's most hated villain. He asked for a change of venue but was denied. On appeal, the Nevada Supreme Court upheld this decision on the grounds that, because Julia Bulette was a prostitute, her friends had no influence on public opinion and a change of venue was unnecessary.

During the trial DeLong questioned Mrs. Cazenre about the silk dress fabric she had purchased from Millain. He prompted her to tell the story of the first time she met John Millain, when he came into her tobacco shop to hide from police after he'd been brawling with a prostitute known as Buffalo Joe. This story, of no conceivable value to the defense, could have established in the minds of the jurors that Millain had a history of violence against women.

In the end, DeLong's best strategy was to argue that the evidence only showed Millain to be a fool, rather than a killer. But the jurymen believed him to be a killer and DeLong could not prove otherwise.

The conviction was upheld on appeal and the execution was set for April 24, 1868. On the gallows, in front of a crowd of between 3-5,000, Millain was serene and thanked the priest and nuns who had given him comfort in his last days. In French, he criticized DeLong, the Virginia City police, and the prostitutes who had testified against him.

STRING HIM UP

What he didn't do, to the disappointment of many, was admit to either the Bulette murder or any of the others he was

suspected of committing. He did not explicitly deny his guilt but spoke with sincerity of being ready for God's judgment, which he expected to be less harsh than that of his fellow man. Former *Territorial Enterprise* reporter Mark Twain was on hand to witness the execution.

"I believed that if ever it would be possible to see a man hanged, and derive satisfaction from the spectacle, this was the time," Twain wrote.

"For John Melanie [sic] was no common murderer...He was a heartless assassin."

But the lack of a real confession left doubts. In 1873, *The Sacramento Record* ran a brief item claiming that the "mystery attached to the [Bulette] murder...will shortly be cleared up." The reporter seemed sure that a prisoner in custody there was about to be linked to the crime, though nothing further came of it.

While Millain was in jail awaiting sentence, another prostitute was attacked in Virginia City by a skulking late-night prowler who was never caught. In the dozen or so years after Millain's execution, at least two similar unsolved prostitute murders were committed in California mining camps.

Were they connected? Did John Millain kill Julia Bulette? And only Julia Bulette? Or was he merely a dupe in the wrong place at the

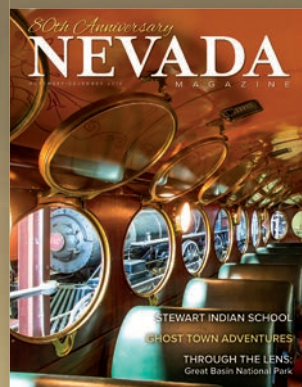
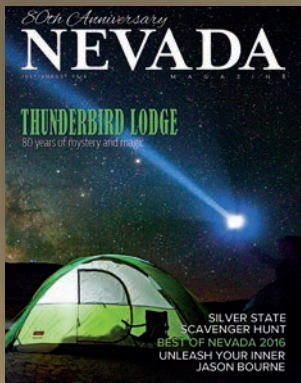
wrong time?

Only Millain knew the answers and he took them with him when he stepped off the gallows and into the abyss all those many years ago. ▼

"I BELIEVED
THAT IF EVER IT
WOULD BE POSSIBLE
TO SEE A MAN HANGED,
AND DERIVE SATISFACTION
FROM THE SPECTACLE,
THIS WAS THE TIME,"
— MARK TWAIN

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NEVADA

M A G A Z I N E

Nevada State Parks:

Something for Everyone

PART 1: CLARK COUNTY IS HOME TO THE STATE'S OLDEST AND NEWEST STATE PARKS.

The Wedding Arch, Valley of Fire

*Whether the adventure is
watersports, hiking, camping,
or a history lesson, Nevada has it all.*

BY MEGG MUELLER

The National Park Service was established in 1916 as a means to preserve natural and cultural resources so they could be enjoyed for generations to come. Just 100 years later, America's more than 10,000 parks receive approximately 275 million visitors a year.

Nevada's first state park was established in 1935, and in little more than six decades, we've created 23 distinct parks—from a historic schoolhouse to prehistoric rock formations, glacial lakes to charcoal ovens. Whether the adventure is watersports, hiking, camping, or a history lesson, Nevada has it all.

The parks located in southern Nevada—Clark County to be exact—are a perfect place to start a yearlong excursion of what the state parks have to offer. The variety of experiences available is as diverse as it is engaging.

VALLEY OF FIRE

Nevada's oldest and largest state park, Valley of Fire State Park was officially dedicated in 1935. Best known for its fantastic geological features, ancient petroglyphs, and extreme temperatures, the park easily hosts everyone from the most adventurous camper to the casual drive-through traveler. The white, pink, red, orange, and tan sandstone that colors the landscape is a favorite of photographers, especially at sunset and sunrise. Located about 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas, the park has miles of trails, camping (tent and full RV hook-up), visitor center, and ADA campsites.

DENNIS DOYLE



Valley of Fire

MEGG MUELLER

Things to look out for: Elephant Rock; the “bacon” wave; a wooden shack frame that was part of the movie set for “The Professionals” Burt Lancaster’s 1966 film; and wildlife, including Nevada’s state animal and reptile—desert bighorn sheep and desert tortoise, respectively.

“Roadrunners, coyotes, and lizards are pretty common,” Valley of Fire Park Ranger Chris Johnson says. “It’s also not uncommon to see a desert kit fox rummaging in the campgrounds at night.”

Spring and fall are the most popular times of the year to visit, due to the unforgiving temperature extremes. Summer days can see temps soar to 120 degrees, while summer nights can vary widely. Winter in the park sees freezing weather, or on some days, 75-degree temperatures. Make sure to stop by the visitor center first to learn about the history of the park and get tips for your visit. Guided hikes and children’s activities are routinely offered.

Valley of Fire State Park
29450 Valley of Fire Road
Overton, NV 89040
parks.nv.gov, 702-397-2088



The Elephant Rock, Valley of Fire

KENT LEFEVRE



Valley of Fire

DAVID N. BRAUN



Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort

SUSANNE REESE

OLD LAS VEGAS MORMON FORT

The unexpected delight of Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park makes up for the fact the park is basically hidden in plain site. Established as a state park in 1991, it straddles the line of downtown Las Vegas and North Las Vegas—seemingly plopped ungraciously between government buildings, the freeway, and the Cashman Center. Mormon Fort is a hidden gem that begs discovery.

In 1855, water from Las Vegas Creek had made the area fertile, with grass for miles and the only free-flowing water in the area. The Paiutes called the area home until non-native settlers arrived, creating a Mormon outpost when an adobe fort was built that year. The creek, which stems from Springs Preserve, no longer flows as it did in 1855 but remnants of the original fort still stand today. Park Interpreter Garrett Fehner explains the small creek running through the grounds is a reconstruction of the now-dry Las Vegas Creek.

“We’re committed to talking about the meadow environment, the trees, and the natural history of the area,” Garrett says.

Special programs at the park include history talks, craft sessions for kids, campfires, Dutch oven cook-off, and Pioneer Christmas. Engaging the community of Las Vegas to discover more about the birthplace of their city is an ongoing effort, Garrett says. The programs entertain and educate.



Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort

ERIC CACHINERO



Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort

PHOTOS: MEGG MUELLER

The fort was home to one of the city's most influential pioneers—Helen Stewart. When her husband was killed in 1884, Stewart did the unthinkable for a woman in that time; she stayed on her ranch. She not only thrived there, she was instrumental in the development of the community.

The park's visitor center houses a number of exhibits about the fort and region, plus it contains many historic artifacts. After your visit, step outside into the world of Old Las Vegas

Mormon Fort and through the remains of the Las Vegas Valley's first dwelling before you head back to The Strip. It's a humbling, authentic experience you won't forget.

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park

500 E. Washington Ave.

Las Vegas, NV 89101

parks.nv.gov, 702-486-3511

BIG BEND OF THE COLORADO

Our newest park—and the furthest south—opened in 1996. Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area wanders along the shores of the Colorado River just south of Laughlin. The shoreline is dotted with covered shelters, picnic benches, horseshoe pits, and sandy beaches. A 24-unit campground that is mostly pull-through sites for RVs up to 60 feet is set back from the water and a favorite of Snowbirds escaping the winter chill, but it has local fans, too.

"We love it here," Jim Queen of Boulder City says. "We've been to most of the state parks."

The avid RVer and his wife, Nikki, are set up in Big Bend for two weeks. They come complete with good friends—Juan and Shirley Gomez have been camping with the Queens for decades



Big Bend of the Colorado



Big Bend of the Colorado

and all four know how to do it right. Jim even brings a small freezer and makes his own ice.

Nikki loves the space at Big Bend.

"It's such a great park," she says. "We have everything we need, and you're not on top of each other here."

Space is definitely not in short supply at Big Bend. The parking lot for the beach access is huge, the concrete paths to the shelters are extremely wide, and the boat launch has two lanes

so fisherman can try their luck with ease. The park is very ADA friendly; three campsites are reserved for those with permits, parking, and beach access points are accessible for most, with rubber mats occasionally snaking down toward the water.

Both couples are fans of the number of trails accessible from the campground. Jim notes you could take a dirt trail all the way to Boulder City, and the quartet loves to take out Jim's quad—the "Pope Mobile"—and ride the surrounding hills.

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Big Bend of the Colorado

MEGG MUELLER

One reason the group keeps coming back is Park Ranger Jonathan Brunjes. Jonathan is responsible for park programs like a Dutch oven Thanksgiving dinner, and other events designed to get people out and into the park.

Four miles of trail are in the campground for hikers or mountain bikers looking to catch a glimpse of some of the abundant wildlife, such as cottontail, fox, beaver, and even the occasional bobcat or bighorn sheep.

Roadrunners compete with

quail for mesquite beans, while numerous waterfowl look on.

Unlike most other state parks in Nevada, water is the focus of Big Bend, and with summer temps that can soar to 120 degrees, it's no wonder the shores of the rolling river call to guests. Bring your swimsuit and sunscreen.

Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area

4220 S. Needles Hwy. #3

Laughlin, NV 89029

parks.nv.gov, 702-298-1859



Spring Mountain Ranch

MEGG MUELLER

SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH

Finally, we have a huge park just 15 miles west of Las Vegas that is also a historic center. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park was established in the 1870s as prospectors discovered six bubbling springs on the land, as had Paiutes, just outside the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. The working ranch changed names a few times, and went through a host of owners—radio star Chet Lauck, German actress Vera Krupp, and Howard Hughes, among them. Memorabilia from Krupp includes a secret room, and some of her furniture and glamorous clothing, which are on display.

Spring Mountain became a state park in 1974 when the state bought the ranch after plans to develop it into a massive housing project failed. A guided tour is a must, so contact the park to find out the schedule. Visitors can roam parts of the house, but the volunteer docents—an indispensable part of the park, according to Park Supervisor Richard Keller—fill in the blanks of history with fascinating stories. After a tour, venture outside where walking trails allow access to some of the 520 acres, including views of two of the oldest



GET IT STAMPED!

Park Passport provides a free annual pass to all Nevada's parks.

The Nevada State Parks Passport Program aims to encourage Nevada residents and visitors to experience the diverse natural, cultural and recreational resources that span Nevada's state parks. The booklet—which can be picked up at any state park—serves as a travel aid as well as a travelogue for park visitors and includes photos, a description of each park, lists of amenities, travel journal pages, and spaces for validation stamps that have been designed to reflect each park. Once passport holders have their booklets stamped at 15 different parks, they will earn one free annual pass to all Nevada State Parks. Call 775-684-2770 for more information or to have a passport mailed to you.



ANDERS SORESENSEN

buildings in the state. A massive lawn is dotted with picnic tables and barbecues, where families play while watching the light play off the colorful hills above.

The park hosts many programs and special events, including yoga three times a week and living history programs that bring the ranch's past to life in vivid retellings of early settlers. Super Summer Theater comes to the park each year, with staged performances including "The Man of LaMancha," "Young Frankenstein," and "The Wedding Singer." A summer tradition since 1976, Super Summer Theater is a big party, with visitors bringing picnic baskets, blankets, chairs, and beverages for a night of theater under the summer sky.

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park

6375 State Hwy. 159
Blue Diamond, NV 89004
parks.nv.gov, 702-875-4141

This year, Nevada Magazine will visit all of our state parks. Next issue: Churchill, Lyon, and Pershing Counties. ▀



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RIDE INTO THE *WILD NEW YONDER*

Pahrump's myriad trails are making
a name with OHV enthusiasts.





BY VERN HEE

Climb on an ATV and ride east from Pahrump, and within 30 minutes of the southern town, the desert quickly falls behind as you undulate through mountain trails, checking out the wild horses, deer, or some of the many petroglyphs found in the Spring Mountains.

While Nevada is certainly known for its wide-open spaces and miles of dirt roads, when people think of off-roading, not too many think of the Pahrump Valley. The area is better known for gambling, wine, festivals, and its proximity to Death Valley National Park. That should change.

Where else can you ride your quad along a secluded trail in the middle of desert, on one side nothing but open space and a dry lakebed, and on the other, snow-capped majestic mountains?

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Pahrump is 65 miles west of Las Vegas and just 55 miles east of Death Valley. While its large neighbors could seem a disadvantage, the Pahrump tourism board recognizes that being so close to the two attractions can work in the city's favor. Arlette Ledbetter of the Pahrump Town Tourism Advisory Committee says promoting off-road adventures is something the board has been considering.

"We have a goal to map our trails and develop that market segment," she says. "It's an excellent market to pursue."

Tourists are already coming to Pahrump for other reasons when they discover the off-roading options are so amazing. So why is the off-roading in Pahrump such a secret?

Mike Zaman of the Pahrump Valley 4-Wheelers believes one reason Pahrump hasn't attracted a lot of riders is simple.

"Pahrump has no advanced trails that are really hard and that's the main reason it's not on the map," Mike says.



HORACE LANGFORD JR.



PHOTOS: TOWN OF PAHRUMP

OH, WHAT A VIEW

What the town lacks in advanced trails, however, it makes up for with scenery and access to an abundance of diverse trails. Mike says the valley is perfect for riders of all different skill levels and a great place for families to ride together.

"We have access to beautiful scenic trails like Wheeler Pass and destinations like Carpenters Canyon just within a few miles of town," he says.

The president of the 4-Wheelers, John Allen, says there are also a lot of historic trails such as the Old Spanish Trail. Many riders come to Pahrump to enjoy the petroglyphs or ride where explorers once drove their mules and horses.

"You can ride the Old Spanish Trail, see old mines, and even the remnants of the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad," John says. "You can take a trail and ride a large portion of it to Dumont Dunes [in California]. There are also trails that take you to Tecopa and run along the Amargosa River."

Mike says there are two types of riders in Pahrump: those with large, off-road vehicles and those with ATVs and motorcycles. The area easily accommodates all. Tyler Baumgarten of Parker's Kawasaki said the majority of the people that come from out of town like the valley because of the different terrains available.

"I like to ride behind Gamebird and near the Chicken Ranch because the terrain is really different in elevations," Tyler says. "You can be riding trails in this area and encounter steep hills, rough rocky terrain in ravines, and just straightaways where you can open it up and even get airborne in some areas, although I don't recommend it because it's not sand and the landings can be rough."

Tyler also likes the fact that when he gets bored he can go to the mountains.

"I love taking my ATV up into the mountains and just opening her up," he says. "It's a straight shot up the mountain and you can floor it."

Ariana Cox, another Parker's Kawasaki employee, enjoys the mountain views.

"From the mountain you get a panoramic view of the valley, which to me is just mesmerizing," she explains. "You can see all the fields and houses all spread out. I do this all year long, hot or cold."

IT'S ALL OUT THERE

Like many trail networks across Nevada, some of the trails are unmarked, and while the tourism board is trying to change that, it will take time. For those unfamiliar with the area, that fact shouldn't discourage them. Mike says the Pahrump Valley 4-Wheelers club can act as guides if contacted in advance. Good maps and GPS are other options.

Ariana agrees the trails not being marked is an obstacle, but her store will also help people who need guidance.

"We give directions to people all the time," she says. "We also sell a lot of maps."

Also, unlike many small towns, Pahrump has the infrastructure travelers need for the perfect getaway. The town of about 38,000 has close to 400 hotel rooms and a number of RV parks. After a day or two of riding, check out the Pahrump Valley Speedway or ride a jetpack at the Spring Mountain Motor Resort & Country Club. Pahrump boasts two wineries, numerous fine dining restaurants, diners, bistros, cafes, Mexican and Japanese cuisine, plus many more choices. Whatever you need to complete your adventure, you'll find it there. ▀



PHOTOS: HORACE LANGFORD JR.



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NEVADA PHOTO TOURS: SERIES COMPILED BY KIPPY S. SPILKER

The bacon wave at Valley of Fire State Park. A sunset at Lake Tahoe's Bonsai rock. The International Car Forest of the Last Church in Goldfield. Iconic images are everywhere in Nevada, but capturing them in photos can be tricky. Taking a photo tour with a professional photographer can bring it all into focus. This year, we'll highlight some of the photographers offering tours and workshops across Nevada. If you take a tour or workshop, let them know you read about them in Nevada Magazine, and get ready to take some amazing photos of your own.

Larry P. Burton, Jr., in his own words

I moved to Ruby Valley in 1988 and started working part-time as a guide for Hidden Lake Outfitters in 1990. Prior to that I worked in the Owens Valley near Bishop, Calif., as a part-time guide for professional photographers helping them find wildlife. I retired from the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) in 2008 and started my business, Outdoor Adventures, in order to put my years of guide service to work with an emphasis on photography.

As a teenager, I was taking pictures with an assortment of point-and-shoot film cameras. My first "real" camera was a Nikon 35mm SLR. I was fortunate to meet several professionals along the way who mentored me as I guided them.

When I moved to Nevada, I had enough experience and confi-

dence to start sharing my work. A second-place finish in an Elko contest resulted in positive exposure, and I was first published in a regional phone book with a photo of wildflowers, became a regular contributor to the Wells *Ruralite* magazine, and sold my first photos to the Elko Convention & Visitors Authority (ECVA). The ECVA has me attend sports shows to share my portfolio and encourage people to visit northern Nevada and see its many treasures.

My business since moving back to Carson City in 2012 has been photography. I continue to work with the ECVA, conduct tours, and just completed a two-year contract with the Nevada Indian Commission building a photo library with more than 30,000 images of all native properties in Nevada.



For my tours, I'm comfortable guiding in all areas of Nevada. I worked at NDOW for 20 years and during that time I covered most of Nevada, so I have an extensive knowledge of the state. I am known primarily as a wildlife and landscape photographer but I also do events, still-life subjects, and portraits on occasion. Giving lessons during a tour is fine if that's what the client wants—the level is based on their knowledge and desire. I also adjust the level of activity and difficulty to the age and ability of each client. My clients have varied in age from 10–80 years old, and lately I seem to be getting more requests from beginning photographers.

My favorite tip runs contrary to digital wisdom, and comes from my training in film. I underexpose photos in the high-key situations often present in desert landscapes. This gives better color saturation in film and has been productive for me since the conversion to digital.

Photo tours are always interesting. On a trip looking for burros, I found some in a valley south of Tonopah but they had a bad reaction to my red truck; one of the jacks was braying, stomping, and trying to kick it. When I returned the following day with a client we brought his grey vehicle and got a completely different reaction. The herd surrounded us and a jenny stuck her head in my window while I was photographing one through the windshield! My client took a photo that I still have.

I have been traveling and working in Nevada most of my life. After living in one of the most remote locations, Ruby Valley, for 20 years and experiencing all that it has to offer—from desert heat to sub-zero temperatures—I am still fascinated by it. As a photographer I'm always looking for the perfect combination of light and subject, and Nevada offers more of that than any place I've been. Nevada is like a hardscrabble old miner—tough and grumpy on the outside but when you look close, you see a soft heart and generous spirit. This state has more mountain ranges than any state in the union, begging to be explored and appreciated. All you have to do is take the time to look.



Larry P. Burton, Jr.



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Dennis Doyle, in his own words

For about three years, I have been teaching groups and giving photography tours. I try to keep them small and make it more of an experience than a class or a tour. I have given tours all over Nevada; from Gold Butte, Little Finland, and the far reaches of northern Nevada. I also like to focus on the area around Fallon; there are ghost towns, magnificent sand dunes, wide-open playas, old mines and equipment, and a world-class national wildlife refuge. The diversity of this area is beyond the pale.

I am a full time photographer and this is my only job—if you can call what I do a job! I show in galleries in Canada and Scottsdale, Ariz. I am only one of three photographers juried into the Arizona Fine Art EXPO and have won numerous world-wide contests, including first place in photography at

the American Art Awards. I have published two books, and this year I will be a presenter at the prestigious Shooting The West photography symposium in Winnemucca.

During my tours I like to focus on a landscape experience. I attempt to show the incredible vistas that can be captured in a small square viewfinder. I am a teacher in my heart, and my love of photography is only equaled by the desire to teach others the love of this craft. I love to wander around old buildings and encourage people to see the lives that used to exist in these abandoned relics.

Physically, my classes and tours are not difficult. I try to keep the areas we visit to those accessible by two-wheel-drive vehicle and keep the walking distance to one mile or less. I do offer a semi-private class that is more difficult.





In terms of equipment, I am comfortable teaching and touring with all forms and styles of cameras—from a camera phone to a top level DSLR, or a simple point-and-shoot to a medium-format film camera. You don't have to be a master of your camera; all I ask is that you have a love of nature. I practice a "leave nothing behind but footprints" philosophy. One of my favorite photography tips is simple: Open your eyes! This means getting up before you are comfortable, stopping along the trail more than you are used to, and turning around and looking behind you. There is so much to see when you open your eyes.



During one of my tours at Safe Haven Wildlife Sanctuary, a participant was trying to photograph a particularly beautiful female Bengal tiger. He wanted to photograph this cat out in the huge enclosure, but she took a particular liking to him and followed him everywhere he went. She would run toward the fence as soon as she saw him approach. As we all were laughing, this fella got a lot of

close-ups. I still smile thinking about him trying to get some distance from the cat. These things happen, and the beauty of a small tour/class is the ability to roll with the situation.

Shooting in Nevada is very special to me, as I'm a native Nevadan. I was born in Carson City and grew up in Lake Tahoe. I have lived and visited hundreds of places around the world and I keep coming back to Nevada. Our beautiful state has everything. We have very urban cities and a national park so remote it doesn't even charge to get in. We have incredible playas and some of the highest mountains anywhere. We claim Lake Tahoe as our own. We have Burning Man and the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. From the deep-red mountains of Valley of Fire State Park to the High Rock Canyon Wilderness, we are unique. ▀



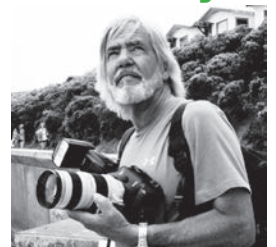
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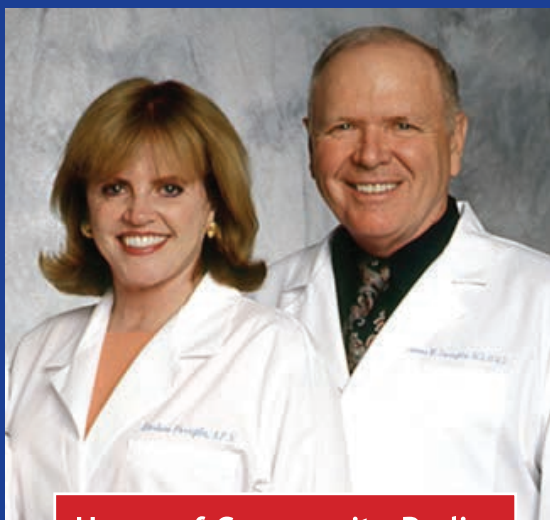
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Dennis Doyle



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HELIYOGA - LIMITLESS

LUXURY HELICOPTER FLIGHT
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GUESTS TO VALLEY OF FIRE.

Maverick Helicopters introduces HeliYoga - Limitless, an exclusive, luxury helicopter flight and yoga experience featuring a remote landing at Valley of Fire State Park and a private, 75-minute yoga session. The helicopter operator has partnered exclusively with award-winning local yoga company, Silent Savasana.

"We are thrilled to offer this once-in-a-lifetime helicopter and yoga experience to our guests," says Bryan Kroten, vice president of marketing at Maverick Helicopters. "The remote and amazing scenery at Valley of Fire will have guests in awe as they land on top of the cliff and take in the vivid colors during their private yoga session."

The two-and-a-half hour excursion includes limo coach transportation from The Strip to Maverick Helicopters' Las Vegas terminal, where up to six guests depart with a yoga instructor to the Valley of Fire. The helicopter lands on one of the highest peaks of Valley of Fire, only accessible via helicopter. Considered one of the most remote destinations in the southwest U.S., the peak offers unsurpassed views of the area's spectacular red sandstone formations. Passengers have an opportunity to explore the remote landscape by foot and take in the area's extraordinary sights before being led through a private, 75-minute yoga session by a certified Silent Savasana yoga instructor.

For more information or to book a reservation, please visit flymaverick.com or call 702-261-0007.

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Valley of Fire State Park

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THE FIRST FLIGHT



TRAVELING CIRQUE DU SOLEIL PERFORMANCE IS BASED ON BLOCKBUSTER FILM.

Soar into the world of Pandora with “TORUK – The First Flight,” a Cirque du Soleil production based on James Cameron’s Academy-Award winning movie, “Avatar.” Performing for one week only from Jan. 18-22, TORUK is the first touring Cirque show to hit the T-Mobile Arena.

Through a riveting fusion of cutting-edge visuals, puppetry, and stagecraft buoyed by a soaring cinematic score, Cirque du Soleil applies its unique signature style to James Cameron’s imaginary world and makes the bond between two kindred artistic visions that capture the imagination.

Narrated by a “Na’vi storyteller” and populated by unforgettable characters, “TORUK – The First Flight” is a mythical tale set thousands of years before the events depicted in the film “Avatar,” and before any humans ever set foot on Pandora.

The production provides locals and tourists with the opportunity to see a brand new Cirque show unlike others currently on the Las Vegas Strip transporting patrons to the world of Pandora in a visually stunning live setting. Tickets are on sale now.

WHERE

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WHEN

Jan. 18-22

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ALSO AT T-MOBILE ARENA

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A Night of Hope with Joel Osteen, Jan. 27

Harlem Globetrotters 2017 World Tour, Feb. 9

George Strait, Feb. 17-18

Bon Jovi, Feb. 25

HOTTEST SHOWS

STYX & DON FELDER

The Venetian
Jan. 6-7, 11, 13-14
venetian.com
866-725-2990

KAT WILLIAMS

Monte Carlo
Jan. 7
montecarlo.com
702-730-7777

BRITNEY SPEARS

Planet Hollywood
Jan 11, 13-14, 18, 20-21, 25, 27-28;
Feb. 1, 3-4
venetian.com
866-725-2990

VAN MORRISON

The Colosseum
Jan. 13-14
thecolosseum.com
866-320-9763

MOTOWN THE MUSICAL

The Smith Center for the
Performing Arts
Jan. 17-22
thesmithcenter.com
702-749-2000

ARIANA GRANDE

MGM
Feb. 4
mgmgrand.com
702-891-1111

DIANA ROSS

The Venetian
Feb. 8, 10-11, 14, 17-18, 22, 24-25
venetian.com
866-725-2990

IRATION

The Joint
Feb. 10
hardrockhotel.com
702-693-5000

MUST SEE

SEBASTIAN MANISCALCO

The Mirage
Feb. 17-18
mirage.com, 702-791-7111

On Feb. 17-18, The Mirage Hotel and Casino presents the 2016 "Just for Laughs" Stand Up Comedian of the Year Sebastian Maniscalco. Maniscalco returned to "Showtime" in fall 2016 with his wildly popular "Sebastian Maniscalco: Why Would You Do That?" show.

Maniscalco is one of comedy's fastest rising new stars. Born and raised in a working-class Chicago neighborhood, he moved to Los Angeles in 1998 to pursue his comedy career. There, he employed the work ethic his father instilled in him to build his name, and eventually drew the attention of actor Vince Vaughn, who cast him in "Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show." Maniscalco can be seen in the 2016 season of Jerry Seinfeld's "Comedians In Cars Getting Coffee" as well as in the upcoming feature film "The House," starring Will Ferrell and Amy Poehler.

TODD ROSENBERG

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Renowned musician and songwriter **Burton Cummings** returns to perform his iconic hits at The Orleans Showroom on Jan. 11-12. Cummings began his career in the 1960s as lead singer of Canadian rock band The Guess Who. The group produced the hits "These Eyes," "American Woman," "Hang On To Your Life," and more. orleanscasino.com, 800-745-3000

Due to sold out shows all over the country and overwhelming fan demand, the wildly popular "**I Love The '90s Tour**" is adding a stop at The Joint at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on Friday, Feb. 3. The iconic decade is represented in Las Vegas by superstar acts Vanilla Ice, Sugar Ray's Mark McGrath, Naughty By Nature, All-4-One, Tone Loc, and Young MC. hardrockhotel.com, 702-693-5000


**WORLD FINANCIAL GROUP
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CURLING**

Orleans Arena, Las Vegas
702-284-7777

The annual World Financial Group Continental Cup of Curling returns to Orleans Arena in Las Vegas for its third year. Men and women from the U.S. and Canada join to form Team North America, facing off against Team World, which includes competitors from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and more.

Jan. 11-15


SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVELNEVADA

**NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY
GATHERING**

Western Folklife Center, Elko
nationalcowboypoetrygathering.org

The renowned National Cowboy Poetry Gathering returns to the Western Folklife Center in Elko for its 33rd year celebrating western culture. The gathering features a plethora of activities and workshops, including cooking, crafting, writing, art, music, and some good, old-fashioned cowboy poetry.

Jan. 30-Feb. 4
JANUARY
Through Jan. 7
GLITTERING LIGHTS

Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas
glitteringlightslasvegas.com

Jan. 1, 6-7
ROB LAKE

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Stateline
caesars.com, 775-588-6611

6-7
DAVID JOHN & THE COMSTOCK COWBOYS

Nugget, Sparks
nuggetcasinoresort.com, 775-356-3300

12
HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

Reno Events Center, Reno
visitrenotahoe.com, 775-335-8800

13-14
SHEEP DIP SHOW

Eldorado, Reno
sheepdipshow.org

13-15
MESQUITE MOTOR MANIA

Mesquite
visitmesquite.com, 877-637-7848

WHITE PINE FIRE & ICE SHOW

Cave Lake State Park
elynevada.net, 800-496-9350

14
FIREWORKS EXPRESS

Nevada Northern Railway, Ely
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

17
THE NEW UP

Whitney Peak, Reno
cargoreno.com, 775-398-5400

20-22
MESQUITE BALLOON FESTIVAL

Mesquite
visitmesquite.com, 877-637-7848

21
TEDX UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

Grand Sierra Resort
grandsierraresort.com, 800-501-2651

21-23
SHEEP SHOW

Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno
wildsheepfoundation.org, 406-404-8750

24-29
MOTOWN: THE MUSICAL

Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno
pioneercenter.com, 866-553-6605

26-29
EAGLES AND AGRICULTURE

Carson Valley
carsonvalleynv.org, 775-782-8144

27
PRINCE, GAGA, & MICHAEL: A TRIBUTE

Cactus Petes, Jackpot
ameristar.com, 775-755-2321

28
ROTARY ICE FISHING DERBY

Cave Lake State Park
elynevada.net, 800-496-9350

28-Feb. 14
RENO/TAHOE SENIOR WINTER GAMES

Reno/Tahoe
reno.gov, 775-657-4602

CALENDAR



SHELBY MCAULIFFE

Feb. 4

EVENING OF ROMANCE- ENCHANTED MASQUERADE

Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
note-ables.org, 775-324-5521

The 13th annual Evening of Romance brings community together with music, dancing, champagne, desserts, and auctions. The Grand Sierra Resort comes alive as an enchanted forest with art displays and performances by local artists. The Reno Jazz Orchestra delights the crowd with music and dancing, along with favorites by The Note-Ables.



Feb. 10-12, 17-19

WINTER STEAM SPECTACULAR

Nevada Northern Railway, Ely
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

The Winter Steam Spectacular, held annually at the Nevada Northern Railway in Ely, is a one-of-a-kind event that invites photographers of all skill levels. The event allows attendees to photograph steam trains operating in low temperatures, resulting in spectacular displays. Train crews dress in era attire, adding to the experience.

FEBRUARY

3

HANK WILLIAMS JR.

Peppermill Concert Hall, Wendover
wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

5

BIG GAME 51 BASH

Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
grandsierraresort.com, 800-501-2651

7

LOTUS

Cargo, Reno
cargoreno.com, 775-398-5400

10

DON RICKLES & REGIS PHILBIN LAUGHFEST

Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
grandsierraresort.com, 800-501-2651

17

EASTON CORBIN

Peppermill Concert Hall, Wendover
wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

17-18

JOHN ANDERSON

Cactus Petes, Jackpot
ameristar.com, 775-755-2321

18

"POSTMODERN JUKEBOX"

Silver Legacy, Reno
silverlegacyreno.com, 775-329-4777

24

DIVING FOR SUNKEN TREASURE

National Atomic Testing Museum, Las Vegas
nationalatomictestingmuseum.org, 702-794-5144

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National Automobile Museum, Reno
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NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM
EXHIBIT FEATURES MOTORSPORT
VEHICLES FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE.

Like many art forms, car design reflects changes in entertainment, technology, and social attitudes. As motorcars emerged, people became fascinated with speed, endurance, and pushing the limits. The National Automobile Museum's new exhibit, "Speed," showcases an extraordinary collection of cars that competed in everything from IndyCar to treacherous races in Mexico. Guests have an opportunity to enjoy race stories about crossing rushing rivers, discover the trials and tribulations of the teams, and learn how innovations from the sport of racing influenced the cars we drive today. Attendees can also view photos of European racing from 1903 to 1925 produced from the glass plate negatives of photographer Henri Louis Meurisse.

"Our goal is to educate, captivate, and provide unique experiences for our visitors," says Jackie Frady, museum president and executive director.

Some of the cars on display include the 1977 Porsche 935 "Spirit of Nevada" Coupe driven by Olympic gold medalist Bruce Jenner; the Battery Box—a home-built, semi-streamlined car built to attack the world speed record for electric-powered vehicles reaching 174.918 mph; and the 1977 Steamin' Demon steam-powered world-record car, which set a steam-powered land-speed record of 145.607 mph.

ARTIFACTS & ARTISTRY

"GLYPHS & HOUSES"

Carson City Community Center, Carson City
Through Feb. 24
arts4nevada.org, 775-721-7424

"HORSES IN THE AMERICAN WEST"

Western Folklife Center, Elko
Through May 13
westernfolklife.org, 775-738-7508

"PETER STICHBURY: ANATOMY OF A PHENOMENON"

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
Through May 28
nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

"LES FOLIES BERGÈRE: ENTERTAINING LAS VEGAS ONE RHINESTONE AT A TIME"

Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
Through Aug. 31
museums.nevadaculture.org, 702-486-5205



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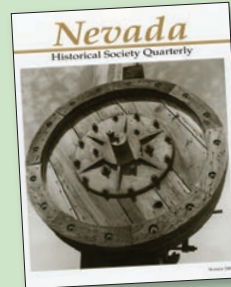
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Elko Classic Car Show-September 8 & September 9

Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival-September 21 thru September 24



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Lip Smacking FOODIE TOURS

A VIP SAMPLING OF THE BEST DISHES LAS VEGAS HAS TO OFFER.

BY MEGG MUELLER

Adventures of every flavor exist in Las Vegas, but when flavor is the adventure, you've got a tasty new ball game. Luckily, Las Vegas has someone who not only knows the game, he's mastered the rules, knows all the players, and with his Lip Smacking Foodie Tours (LSFT), hits a culinary extravaganza out of the park.

Donald Contursi started the company a year and a half ago, after spending 12 years as a server in some of Las Vegas' most famous eateries. He has created an experience that allows the average diner to enjoy some of The Strip's most elegant and sought-after restaurants without any of the pressure or hassle that can accompany navigating the world of seriously fine dining.

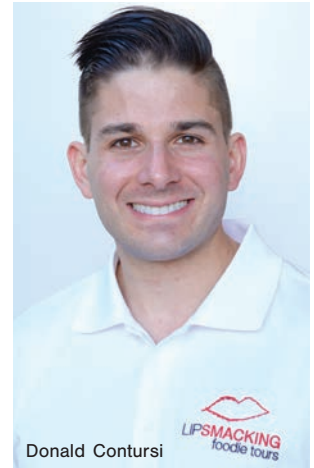
"I wanted to put together the best possible meal in Las Vegas by highlighting the best signature dishes at the highest-rated

restaurants,” Donald says. “There is an overwhelming number of restaurants in Las Vegas and when somebody visits, they are limited to the number of restaurants they can visit. With a Lip Smacking Foodie Tour, they can experience five of the best restaurants in Las Vegas in three hours and experience Vegas as a VIP.”

To a culinary neophyte like me, trying to get a reservation or ordering from a fancy menu is often a nerve-wracking experience. I know almost nothing of beautiful plating, exotic ingredients, perfect pairings, or daring recipes.

I do, however, trust people like Donald and his guides, and I do know when I taste food so delicious it renders me speechless.

Let the tour begin.



Donald Contursi

EASY ON THE BREAD

Meeting outside the Aria Resort & Casino for the Savors of The Strip tour—just one of LSFT’s choices—Associate Editor Eric Cachinero and I join Donald and one other guest on a Monday evening. Early-week tours are less busy, but Donald notes the week before he escorted 55 people on a private tour. As we get acquainted, Donald tells us about the “Focus” wall we’re standing in front of; it’s a huge—270 feet long by 24 feet high—expansive, curved water wall. Just one of the many fun details we are given during the evening.



VIC CHOCHAN

Our first stop is Chef Michael Mina’s new Bardot Brasserie at the Aria. Our tour companion, Guillaume Coppin, is from Paris and this is his first trip to Las Vegas. While we sample escargot Bardot, duck wings a’ l’orange, and a roasted chicken French dip sandwich, he tells us he takes a foodie tour in every city he visits as a way to sample the area’s dining scene. He’s taken more than 100 tours, he estimates, which may explain how he was able to keep chatting while Eric and I fall silent at the first taste of the wild burgundy snails with toasted hazelnuts in a chartreuse garlic butter, wrapped in a puff pastry shell. The explosion of flavors is unexpected and

Opposite page: The grilled Mediterranean octopus at Estiatorio Milos is a crowd-pleaser. Right: The roasted chicken French dip sandwich is meant to be eaten ‘wet,’ with plenty of sauce.



sublime. Neither a snail nor hazelnut fan, I'm overwhelmed at the richness of the delicate puff. If this start is any indication of our evening's gastronomic future, it's going to be bright.

"Don't fill up on bread," Donald politely suggests as I reach for a beautiful French roll.

He says nothing else, but I take a small bite and heed his gentle warning. I will be glad later.

A WISE CHOICE

The tours have an optional beverage package which Eric and I sadly decline. Thankfully, Guillaume partakes and at our next stop we're thrilled he does. At Sage—also at the Aria—he receives a Bohemian absinthe cocktail, complete with flaming presentation and a required inhalation of the verdant fumes before sipping. It's quite a show, and from his smile, I think Guillaume enjoyed his dance with the green fairy. Eric continues to eat the bread.

Our tasting menu from James Beard award-winning chef Shawn McClain includes a roasted heirloom carrot salad with feta and date puree; a foie

Above: Escargot Bardot (left) is served, along with duck wings a l'orange (right) at Bardot Brasserie. Below: Roasted heirloom carrot salad, foie gras brulee on brioche, and roasted veal sweetbreads combine beautifully at Sage, and an absinthe cocktail is artfully created. Opposite page: The fresh fish at Estiatorio Milos is flown in from the Mediterranean and guests can choose their favorite.



ERIC CACHINERO

"My favorite part of giving the tours is introducing people to restaurants and dishes they maybe wouldn't have discovered or order on their own"

gras brulee that blends strawberry compote and cocoa nib, served with a brioche that I might actually sell my mother for; and roasted veal sweetbreads with glazed bacon, trumpet mushroom, and a creamy polenta.

I feel it's worth noting that I would likely not order anything I have tasted thus far. I am not adventurous when it comes to food, or at least I wasn't. The foie gras was a sweet and savory dance, and the sweetbreads were delicately flavored and perfectly cooked. The beauty of Lip Smacking Foodie Tours is evident to me, as I'm enticed to broaden my palate with each bite, and deliciously rewarded for doing so.

"My favorite part of giving the tours is introducing people to restaurants and dishes they maybe wouldn't have discovered or order on their own," Donald says.

MORE THAN JUST A DISH

Recently named Best Tour of Las Vegas 2016 in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal's* annual poll, Lip Smacking Foodie Tours is an artful blend of sights, tastes, and sounds. Donald's veritable encyclopedic knowledge of food, the restaurants, and their chefs is sprinkled across the evening like only a seasoned purveyor could provide.



ERIC CACHINERO

NEVADA MAGAZINE'S 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 at nevadamagazine.com or by calling Nevada Magazine Circulation Manager Carrie toll-free at 855-729-7117.

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As we move to our third stop of the night—Estiatorio Milos at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas—our short walk is welcomed, especially by Eric who has eaten most of the bread. We travel through the Shops at Crystal shopping center, where Donald discusses some of the high-end mall’s artwork. The respite is brief, but perfectly timed as we transition from absinthe and foie gras to Chef Costas Spiliadis’ legendary Mediterranean seafood.

More incredible bread is served, but only one of us indulges (Eric). In my sights I have the Milos Special—lightly fried zucchini, eggplant tzatziki, and kefalograviera cheese—and the crispy Greek chip-and-dip tower is making me salivate. A gorgeous Greek salad is delivered, and the tomatoes are so ripe and sweet the barrel-aged feta makes the perfect slightly salty counterpoint. But my favorite dish—shocking myself, even—is the grilled Mediterranean octopus. Succulent chunks of tender, delicious meat dissolve in my mouth, fresh and with minimal adornment. It’s simply wonderful.

SENSATIONAL SHOEMANSHIP

Our penultimate stop is Jaleo, Chef Jose’ Andres homage to Spanish tapas and paellas. Jaleo delivers exotic tastes in an exciting, pulsating restaurant, the centerpiece of which is a phenomenal wood-fired paella grill. We sample ‘Ferann Adrià’ liquid olives, which burst the moment you put them on your tongue; endive with goat cheese, oranges, and almonds which has a lovely light, clean flavor; and croquetas de pollo—a chicken fritter, lightly fried to a golden crisp that houses a warm, creamy center.

Above: Estiatorio Milos’ special is served with an eggplant tzatziki, and the fresh tomatoes were the star of the Greek salad, right.

Below: The wood-fired paella grill at Jaleo creates an intensely authentic Spanish dish. Opposite page: The chicken fritters at Jaleo are served in the chef’s favorite brand of shoe, left, and Lip Smacking Foodie Tour guests give drinking from the porrón a try, right.



ERIC CACHINERO

*Did I mention
the fritters are
served in a
Camper shoe?*



VIK CHOCHAN

Did I mention the fritters are served in a Camper shoe, the Converse of Spain? It's Jose's favorite shoe, and Donald tells us it's the chef's version of sole food. The man definitely has soul.

Crazy serving vessels notwithstanding, the highlight of Jaleo is the paella. The beautifully prepared and presented classic dish is served with tender rabbit, chicken, and green beans with just the perfect array of spices. During our meal, Donald demonstrates the porrón, a traditional Spanish jug used to share refreshing house-made rosemary lemonade with anyone brave enough to try the from-afar pouring method.

At this point, I'm bordering on the ridiculously full and notice while we linger at Jaleo chatting with our new French friend that even Eric has slowed down on the bread. We have one stop left, however, so it's no time for quitters. It's time for dessert.



LOOKING GOOD

Our pace leaving Jaleo is decidedly slower, despite the tour already having lasted almost three hours. But Donald has a surprise for us; we take a quick stop to look around RetroSpecs, an antique eyewear specialty store, where we get to listen to a genial history lesson about some seriously famous eyewear. We all take turns trying on the styles and glasses made famous by such bastions of cool as Jimi Hendrix, Bruce Lee, and my personal diva favorite, Zsa Zsa Gabor. It's an unexpected twist to the evening, but thoroughly enjoyable and a nice break from my gluttony.



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Bon Appetit

In addition to the Savors of the Strip tour, LSFT offers a Downtown Lip Smacking Tour; a Lip Smacking Boozy Brunch (mocktails available); an Afternoon Culinary Adventures tour; and a Savory Bites & Neon Lights tour, complete with a nighttime helicopter flight.



SAVE SOME ROOM

Lip Smacking Foodie Tours
 vegasfoodietour.com
 888-681-4388



ERIC CACHINERO

From left, the French silk pie, Ecuadorian brownies, and Aztec chocolate cake at Hexx Kitchen & Bar ended the tour with sweet success.

Alas, we must get back to the deliciousness at hand, so we head to Hexx Kitchen & Bar at Paris Las Vegas for our final tastes of the night. As we near the resort, the famous replica of the Eiffel Tower looms above us, and I hear Eric jokingly ask Guillaume if it's as big as the one in Paris. I hear Guillaume chuckle, and say "not quite." All I can think is it must have been all the bread Eric had, so I say nothing.

Fortunately, the intoxicating smell of cacao beans as we step inside Hexx drives all such cultural faux pas from my head; I'm in chocolate heaven. Hexx is a 24-hour restaurant and bar, but we're here for the sweets. Known for its bean-to-bar creations, Hexx' chocolates are created from just two ingredients—cacao beans and organic palm sugar (except for the milk chocolate, which also includes cocoa butter powder). The myriad flavors attending their creations are a matter of simplicity and elegance, and after a quick tasting of a handful of different chocolates, we are presented with our evening's glorious ending.

Dessert is Ecuadorian brownies made with Ecuadorian chocolate, served with coffee ice cream, hazelnut crumble, and caramel sauce; the Aztec chocolate



The chef at Hexx explains the dish before serving.

cake is made with Venezuelan chocolate, a spiced ganache, cinnamon cream cheese icing, and toasted almonds; and the French silk pie has a Madagascar chocolate mousse with whiskey caramel sauce.

Each bite was a blend of sensations that while the ingredients may seem

tooth-achingly sweet, were actually smooth and rich without being overpowering or cloying. This is adult dessert, the kind that makes you crave more while your tastebuds continue to be pummeled by the boldness of the many flavors.

Barely able to consume another bite, but defiant until the very last, Eric finishes his chocolate dishes with the look of a man knowingly—and happily—flirting with death. But if the last thing he ever did was attend the Lip Smacking Foodie Tour, it would certainly be a worthy final experience. ▀

Note: No associate editors were harmed during this tour. Eric made a full recovery the next day, and is planning which Lip Smacking Foodie Tour he will take next.

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Ash Springs	Death Valley	Goldfield	Belmont	Rachel	Shoshone	Yerington

ANCIENT NEVADA



water



civilizations



landscapes



fossils



plants & animals



geology



Lamoille Canyon (pictured here) was once covered in massive glaciers that eventually melted and left us with the landscape we know today. Time, temperature, and pressure combined to carve these spectacular formations in the Ruby Mountains and elsewhere.

First of six-part series reveals our most precious resource wasn't always in such short supply.

ANCIENT WATER

BY ERIC CACHINERO

If you were to stand on the shore of Pyramid Lake and gaze across seemingly endless miles of beautiful blue water, it would be hard to imagine that it could get any larger. But the northern Nevada lake was once part of a much larger body of water that dwarfed modern ones in size.

Water has sculpted Nevada's desert mountain ranges and created miles of barren lakebeds. It's what gives animals and plants the ability to thrive, and is responsible for almost every natural landscape in the state looking the way it does. With enough time, water can cut rocks and erode entire mountains. And when it disappears, it can create endless miles of nothingness.

Just 10,000 years ago, a person could have sailed a boat from Hawthorne to Winnemucca without ever touching dry land. This fact gives some perspective of how much water we had, and just how different our modern landscapes and ecosystems are from those of ancient Nevada.

GLACIERS

This story begins with frozen water, and during the Pleistocene Epoch—which began roughly 2.5 million years ago and lasted until about 11,700 years ago—there was a lot of it. Though the most recent ice age took place during this time period, leaving many mountain ranges in Nevada covered

in glaciers, the state wasn't completely covered in ice sheets. Intermittent freezing and warming sculpted many ranges in the Great Basin, including the Snake Range and Wheeler Peak in eastern Nevada.

Queue the Holocene Epoch, which marks the end of the most-recent ice age and continues to this day. Natural climate warming occurred and most glaciers in Nevada met their demise. The Wheeler Peak Glacier, however, is the last alpine glacier to survive in Nevada, though the National Parks Service estimates that with continued climate change the colossal ice structure could disappear in as few as 20 years.

Nevada's climate during the Pleistocene and early Holocene Epochs was characterized by a pluvial climate, causing increased precipitation and reduced evaporation. The excess moisture and eventual temperature increase contributed to Nevada's extensive lakes and rivers systems.





Colorado River



DAVID RUMSEY MAP COLLECTION, DAVIDRUMSEY.COM

ANCIENT LAKES AND RIVERS

The most notable of these mammoth lakes was ancient Lake Lahontan. Today, remnants of Lake Lahontan still exist, though the size pales in comparison to the massive prehistoric water source that once covered much of northwest Nevada and a part of eastern California. At its peak during the late Pleistocene Epoch, the lake covered more than 8,600 square miles and reached a maximum depth of more than 500 feet.

Lahontan was created over several millennia, the result of a several major river systems. Walker, Carson, Truckee, and Humboldt Rivers are responsible for filling basin after basin, causing many lakes to spill over into new areas. Water sources combined, eventually leading to the lake's creation. Lake Bonneville was formed by similar means, with a sliver of the lake spilling into eastern Nevada.

Though Lake Lahontan did not make its way to southern Nevada, dry lakebeds are evidence that water played a key role in shaping the southern landscape, as well. And though the Colorado River only makes a brief appearance in the state, the colorful canyons it created are a reminder that Nevada's landscape is at the mercy of this powerful element.



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Amargosa River

NANCY GOOD

Another ancient waterway in the southern part of the state is the Amargosa River. This river flowed from the volcanic highlands near Beatty during the Pleistocene Epoch, making its way across the border into several California lakes, and eventually underground in Death Valley. The river still flows to this day, though mostly underground. It makes appearances above ground during periods of heavy precipitation.

THE GREAT BASIN

Explorer John C. Frémont coined the term Great Basin in the mid 1800s, using it to describe the hydro-graphic nature of the area as having no connection to the ocean. Generally, any water that lands on the west side of the Continental Divide will flow to the Pacific Ocean, and any on the east side will flow to the Atlantic, but the Great Basin is different. Water settles here, often

flowing into alkaline lakes or underground aquifers, or simply evaporates.

Walker Lake, located near Hawthorne, is a perfect example of the Great Basin's imprisoning nature. With no outlets, water fed to the lake via Walker River simply settles; the only way it has a chance of leaving is through evaporation or absorption. The lake is a remnant of ancient Lake Lahontan, though it hasn't always been full of water since that time. Walker is believed to have dried up several times since the Pleistocene era, due to the river's natural diversions over time.

Pyramid Lake, another remnant of ancient Lake Lahontan, has never dried up. Similar to Walker Lake, Pyramid has no outlets, giving its water salinity that is common among Great Basin lakes. And though Pyramid survives, many of these saline lakes didn't, leaving behind beautiful watermarks.



Walker Lake

JANIS KNIGHT



Pyramid Lake



DENNIS DOYLE

Black Rock Desert

Water, Water Everywhere ...

ANCIENT OCEAN

Though Nevada is a desert, it was once entirely submerged hundreds of millions of years ago. The state experienced everything from warm, shallow seas to deep ocean basins. Reefs were common, and evidence of their existence can still be found today in fossils. Animals such as the ichthyosaur once swam in the waters that covered the state, as did ancient plankton and fish.

LAMOILLE GLACIER



Lamoille Creek

MARK VOLLMER

Lamoille Canyon in eastern Nevada is a good example of how time, temperature, and pressure sculpted many of the incredible landforms we know today. About 250 million years ago, two glaciers—each 1,000 feet thick—merged in the area that would become the canyon. During a period of hundreds of millions of years, the glaciers melted and refroze, creating natural dams and eventually Lamoille Creek, which carved out much of the canyon.

LAKE TAHOE

Lake Tahoe's formation was a bit of a different story. The Lake Tahoe Basin was formed some 23 million years ago when massive faulting and lava flows created the perfect area to hold water. Over time, water from snowfall filled the massive basin, giving us the crystal-clear lake we still enjoy.



Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe

ERIC CACHINERO

PLAYAS

Over time, in the same places that trillions of gallons of water once stood, now there is none. Because water that settled in these places years ago had no place to drain, it simply evaporated, leaving a layer of salt on the surface. The Black Rock Desert, for example, was once submerged beneath Lake Lahontan, but is now a vast expanse of alkali nothingness. The playa is flat and barren nearly as far as the eye can see in some places. Nevada has numerous dry lakebeds dotted across the landscape, providing even more evidence that Nevada was once much wetter than it is today.

CYCLES

Water has had an enduring and often vicious relationship with Nevada. Colossal glaciers carved landscapes; ancient rivers rose from the earth; and lakes so large they are difficult to imagine dried up. Water has, and will continue, to shape Nevada. ▀

Next issue, we'll explore Nevada's ancient civilizations and the important role they played in our state's history.



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NO LIMITS

NEVADA'S OUTDOOR SPLENDOR CAN BE

BY BRETT FISHER

There was a time when I thought much of Nevada was beyond my reach. Experiencing spastic muscles in my legs and reduced mobility, I was diagnosed with Primary Lateral Sclerosis (PLS), an upper motor neuron disease affecting muscles primarily in the lower body. A non-terminal cousin to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis—better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease—PLS is a permanent, often progressive condition that can change a person's game plan considerably. I assumed this meant I had to give up outdoor recreation.

ENJOYED BY EVERYONE, EVEN THOSE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY.

After doing some research, I discovered that accommodations had been made to several Nevada destinations so that people with disabilities could share in our state's natural wonders. Innovative thinkers over the years have applied what they've learned from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), designing wider, flatter trails to be accessible by all. There are more benches and rest areas along trails, surface dirt that's packed and graded for better traction, pavement, and even raised boardwalks. These accommodations, remarkably, do not impede or take away from the natural environment. But they do make it easier for people like me to experience the outdoors.

SAND HARBOR, LAKE TAHOE STATE PARK

On the northeast shore of Lake Tahoe—located along State Route 28—sits Sand Harbor, the crown jewel of Nevada's Lake Tahoe State Park system that stretches much the length of the east shore from Incline Village to Zephyr Cove. Here you'll find the collision of lakeshore and mountain topography, where loose sandy beach meets rocky terrain.

A popular destination all year, Sand Harbor attracts thousands to its soft beaches, cold crystal clear waters, pedestrian-friendly boardwalks, as



well as the annual Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival's outdoor stage, which is lit up with live performances every summer. The draw for me, though, is the picturesque beauty of beach combined with towering Ponderosa and Jeffrey pines, age-old giant boulders crowding the shoreline and, of course, Lake Tahoe.

Viewing platforms are found at a few points along the boardwalk to ensure the most sweeping, panoramic vistas of one of the world's largest alpine lakes. The boardwalk is level, making it easy to maneuver in a wheelchair or walker. A bonus to Sand Harbor is its beach access. Not only was I able to view the beach, but also could just about walk to the water's edge and dip my toes in.

A heavy-duty waterproof mat runner connects the paved walking path paralleling the beach to the lifeguard station and the soft sands surrounding it. The Nevada Division of State Parks invested in two beach wheelchairs specially designed and built for mobility on the sand. Paid for with funds generated from the Lake Tahoe Nevada License Plate campaign, the wheelchairs are surprisingly sturdy given their lightweight design. Constructed of PVC pipe and equipped with four thick inflatable rubber tires that look like beach balls with bearings, the beach wheelchair maneuvers nimbly over Sand Harbor's soft surface. The wheelchairs are free on a first-come, first-served basis by visiting Sand Harbor's main office.

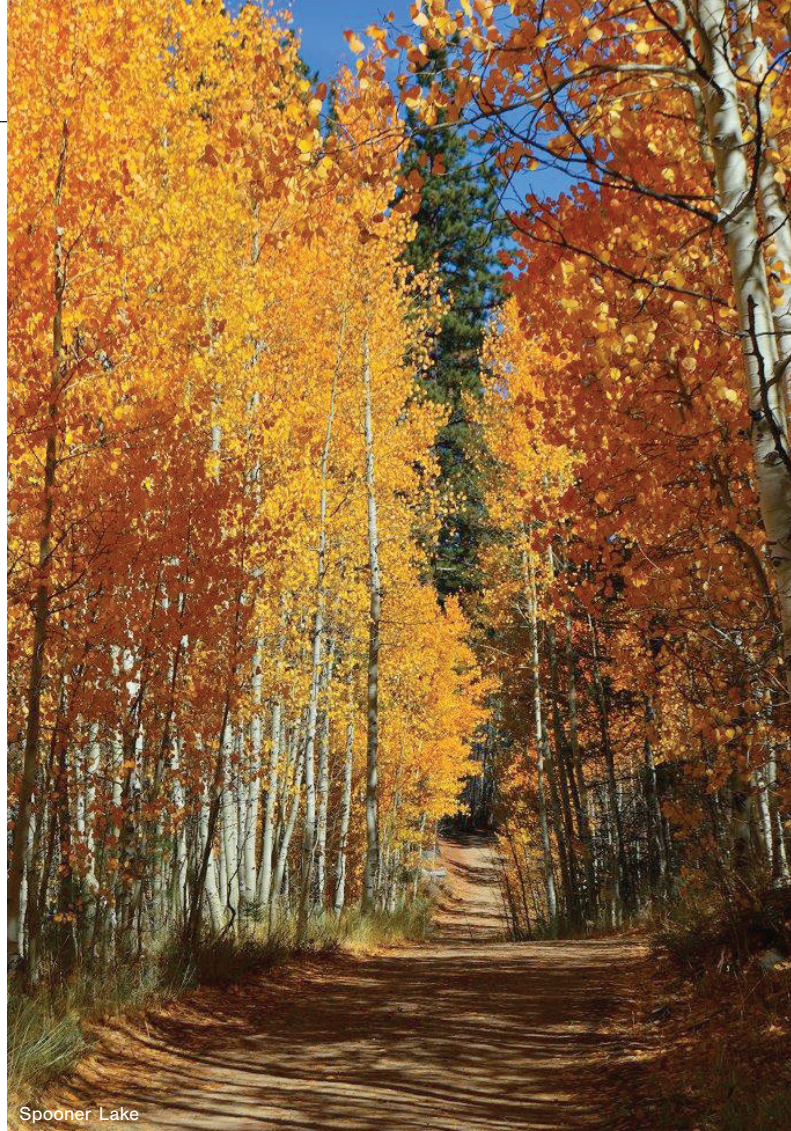
The best time to visit Sand Harbor is in the off-seasons—spring and fall. If you choose to visit during the summer, however, be prepared to go early in the morning to beat the crowds. Sand Harbor parking typically fills up by 10 a.m. on an average summer day.

SPOONER LAKE

A few miles southeast of Sand Harbor, at the junction of S.R. 28 and Highway 50, rests Spooner Lake, a delightfully quaint alpine recreation area small enough to hike around without too much trouble. The challenge for hikers with disabilities, though, is getting down to the lake from the parking lot. A moderate grade from the day-use area to the lakeshore is close to a couple hundred feet long and can be difficult to negotiate alone. Consider asking the park official for vehicle clearance down to the lake. A service gate to the north of the entrance is usually closed to traffic, but it's often opened for vehicles with permission from Nevada State Parks.

Once at lake level, you can choose to proceed toward the shore of Spooner Lake or head east up a service road toward Marlette Lake. The latter is about 4 miles above Spooner Lake, so it eventually climbs steeply. But the first three-quarters of a mile is flat and easy, passing by an expansive meadow and an old rancher's cabin on its way through thick groves of aspen and crossing a small creek before the road comes to a T intersection where it begins to climb sharply, one side in the direction of Marlette Lake. I advise stopping at the T and turning around. There's still Spooner Lake to see, after all.

The small lake offers a 2-mile loop trail that is generally



Spooner Lake

PHOTOS: LISA FISHER

maneuverable for wheelchairs and walkers, although be vigilant for errant rocks and tree roots breaching the trail's surface. They can make the going a bit rough in places, but the trip is worth it. The trail is otherwise mostly flat and certainly wide enough for my rollator walker or a wheelchair.

Soil down near the lake shore can be much softer than the main trail, so traction can get more difficult the closer you venture to the water. Make the effort anyway just to see the large boulders situated on the northeast corner of Spooner Lake. This is a historic site, after all, featuring man-made mortars carved out of the rocks by American Indians, who once used them for crushing pine nuts.

Spooner Lake is usually full of waterfowl—Canadian geese and an assortment of ducks—while the shoreline is home to small mammals and several species of birds.

TAHOE MEADOWS

Soaring more than 2,000 feet above Lake Tahoe is Mount Rose Summit on S.R. 431, the highest mountain pass in Nevada at about 8,900 feet above sea level. Just below that—situated at around 8,700 feet elevation—is Tahoe Meadows, a U.S. Forest Service trail system that cuts gently through high alpine and timberline habitats.



Broad, expansive alpine meadows are the signature features of this destination, displaying brilliant wildflowers in the spring and robust greenery during the summer months. The east end of the upper meadow features ponds and marshes created from snow melt and spring run-off. There are even small fish swimming in the little brooks that feed into the meadow marshes. Tahoe Meadows is an ideal outdoor destination to escape the summertime heat. But don't let its considerably cooler climate deceive you. Sunlight is very intense there, so be sure to protect yourself with sunscreen and headwear.

Wildlife, though plentiful, seems scarce and skittish. Hikers are met with the sounds of wildlife, but not so much the sights. The pine and fir trees at this altitude are generally smaller and shorter than at lower elevations. Vegetation is hardier, too. It has to be to survive cold temperatures, punishing winds, and very short growing seasons.

The trail—high in the rugged Carson Mountain Range, just east of the mighty Sierra Nevada—has wide, flat paths and friendly raised boardwalks crossing the meadows, but it's not officially accessible. According to Chris Binder of the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, there are a few hundred yards of the trail not built or maintained to the accessible standards. Wheelchairs can access parking but may face some difficulty getting to the hundreds of feet of wooden boardwalks that stretch across the lower meadow. For those not in a wheelchair, there are several wood-planked footbridges on the upper meadow loop trail, an easy 1.2-mile excursion encircling the far eastern end of Tahoe Meadows.

It's also good to note that visiting in the spring might bring challenges of late-season snow melt blocking parts of the trail.

FORT CHURCHILL STATE PARK

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east beyond the Pine Nut Mountain Range—lay the ruins of historic Fort Churchill, a 19th century U.S. Army installation that's now part of the Nevada State Parks system. Visitors here are treated to the vast expanse of the Great Basin's high desert landscape, as well as a riparian habitat along the Carson River. The Nevada Division of State Parks has done exceptional work not only preserving the adobe ruins at Fort Churchill, but also maintaining a very user-friendly trail system around the archaeological area.

Though not especially wide, trails around the ruins are broad enough for a walker or wheelchair, which can maneuver easily over a flat surface of packed sand and fine pebbles. The trails are well defined, too, with rock borders and signs advising users to stay on marked paths. Other signs along the trails warn of rattlesnakes, just in case anyone needed a good reason to follow the rules. Daytime hikers are offered no shade at the ruins site, so either dress appropriately or else avoid visiting during the heat of the day.

The Carson River is very close by, though, and day-use campgrounds on park property provide plenty of cool shelter from the intense Nevada sun.

To get there from points north, take U.S. Highway 95 Alternate out of Silver Springs and drive south toward Yerington. Look for signs to Fort Churchill State Park, which will be on the right. If you pass over the railroad crossing on the highway, then you've gone too far.

OXBOW NATURE STUDY AREA

Most universal access trails in northwestern Nevada are found in riparian zones, areas where land and water bodies come together. One reason is because designing trails for assistive-device use is easier in areas that are already broad and flat to begin with.

In Reno, the Oxbow Nature Study Area west of downtown off Second Street is a refreshing distraction from big city life. This Truckee River riparian corridor, managed under a public partnership between the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the City of Reno, is teeming with abundant plant and animal life. Dense foliage and underbrush provide adequate shelter for many animals, ranging from waterfowl and other birds to mammals both small and large.

The Truckee River features areas of whitewater rapids and calm water along this corridor, treating visitors to the sounds of a rushing river and a sleepy tributary all at once.

Oxbow's nature trail, less than a half-mile long, is ideally suited for wheelchairs and walkers. Broad, flat and firm, the path is wide enough to accommodate two devices passing one another. There is also more than adequate shade from the sun here as foliage has grown up and over the path, forming natural arches in some places that give one the feeling of hiking through a storybook.



A photograph of a snowy forest path. Two people are skiing away from the camera, leaving tracks in the deep snow. The trees are heavily covered in snow, creating a serene winter scene. The sky is overcast and white.

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Oxbow Nature Study Area

LISA FISHER

To get there, follow Second Street west from downtown Reno until it becomes Dickerson Road, which then dead-ends into the Oxbow Nature Study Area.

CARSON RIVER RIPARIAN CORRIDOR

Twenty-five miles south of Reno is Carson City, Nevada's state capital and home to a trail system friendly to people with disabilities along the Carson River riparian corridor.

Riverview Park at the end of East Fifth Street and Carson River Park at Silver Saddle Ranch off Carson River Road serve as trailheads to paths that offer easy, scenic nature hikes for people with disabilities. Trails are wide, flat, and packed down for good traction.

Mighty, mature cottonwood trees line the Carson River's banks, providing ample shade along the trails for hikers. These old-growth giants are also home to owls and hawks, a plethora of other birds, as well as small mammals. Raptors and herons have long frequented the area, while coyotes, mule deer, and even a band of wild horses call this habitat home.

From the I-580 freeway at Fairview Drive, follow Fairview east to the roundabout at East Fifth Street. To get to Riverview Park, just follow East Fifth until it ends at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The park is right behind it.

Carson River Park at Silver Saddle Ranch is accessed by taking East Fifth Street to Carson River Road. Turn right and follow the road out to the park on the right, just before the bridge over the Carson River.

While not every trail has accommodations for all types of disability, there are many that offer some sort of accessibility. Check with local parks and management agencies before you head out. There are no limits to the beauty of Nevada's wilderness, and for those with limited mobility, seeing it first-hand is getting easier. ■

TRAILS FOR ALL

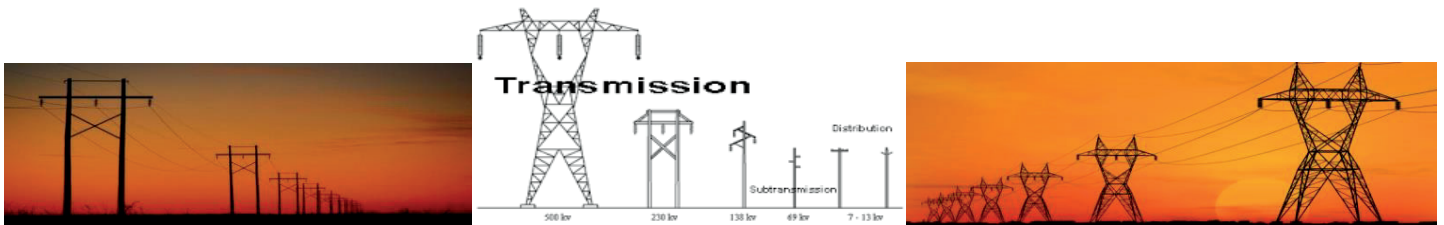
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STORY BY RACHAEL AND DEBBIE LAMBIN
PHOTOS BY KIPPY S. SPILKER

My mom, Debbie Lambin, and I created "My Thousand Words," a series of book sculptures. Each book sculpture tells a story of its origin, from the name of the book to an idea that becomes inspiration for the sculpture. That idea is incorporated into and from the pages.

Both of us create unique artwork from books and magazines, repurposing them and bringing their stories to life. My mother will shape them through the art of origami while I manipulate the pages to create intricate sculptures, from a man in his boat engaged in a heroic battle with a mighty swordfish to mustangs galloping through the tall grass.

We enjoy creating out of the ordinary multi-medium sculptures, which accentuate the fine detailing in our work.

My love of art finds its roots with my mother and has

always been the thing that motivates me. I find that our combined efforts are more than either one of us could produce individually.

We lived in the Carson Valley for more than 23 years and moved to Reno two years ago. We help local organizations like West Elm, The Discovery Museum, and the Nevada Museum of Art to provide art education, as well as funding to them.

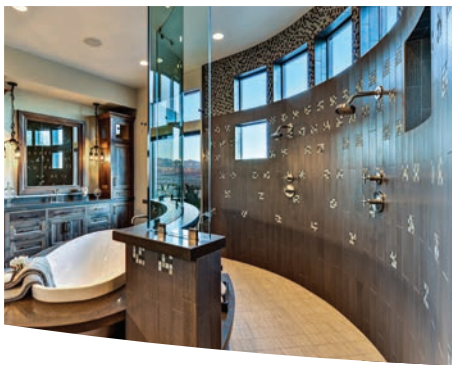
We have received several national awards and have earned the opportunity for our works to be displayed in the Nevada Governor's Mansion, Nevada State Capitol, as well as private residences throughout the U.S., United Kingdom, Bermuda, South America, and Africa. Our work has appeared in publications, cable and television programs, and at special events.



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