

NEVADA

MARCH/APRIL 2017

M A G A Z I N E

THE ATOMIC AGE

Southern Nevada's
Explosive History

Vintage Las Vegas
Neighborhoods

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AT SYMPHONY PARK

Inside



NEVADA

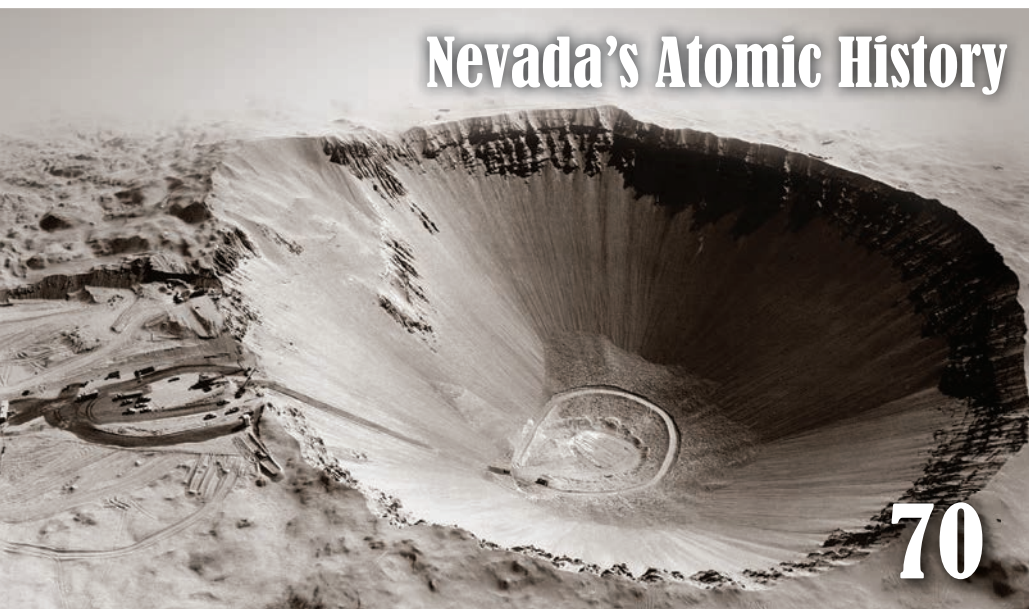
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Cover Photo: U.S. Department of Energy

Priscilla—part of Operation Plumbbob—was detonated on June 24, 1957. The 37-kiloton bomb was dropped from a balloon at the Nevada Test Site.

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with Grammy Winning
Guitarist, Eric Tingstad

May 19-20: The Fiddlers Contest

June 2-3: Eureka Car Show

June 17: Don Edwards

July 4:
Old Fashioned 4th Celebration

July 24-29:
Missoula Children's Theatre

August 10-12:
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editor@nevadamagazine.com • nevadamagazine.com

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Managing Editor: MEGG MUELLER
Associate Editor: ERIC CACHINERO
Art Director: KIPPY S. SPILKER
Senior Graphic Designer: JODY CORY
Circulation Manager: CARRIE ROUSSEL

ADVERTISING
Sales & Marketing Manager: ADELE HOPPE
775-687-0605
ahoppe@nevadamagazine.com

For media kit, click on "Advertise" at nevadamagazine.com.

Contributing Writers: Engrid Barnett, Chris Lewis, Frank X. Mullen, Chris Platt, Jim Price

Contributing Photographers: Jay Aldrich, Duane Blood, Matthew B. Brown, Karen Brown-Gordon, Randall Bruce, Mark Dunton, Brittany Fish, David Frederick, Lloyd Gordon, Paul Griesse, David Homen, Michael Horsley, Janis Knight, Stefan McLeod, Neil Lockhart, Richard Massey, Lee Molof, Clayton Peoples, James Marvin Phelps, Jim Price, Mark Vollmer

Magazine Advisory Committee: Carolyn Graham, Joyce Hollister, John Wilda, Dave Moore

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Governor: Brian Sandoval

NEVADA
A WORLD WITHIN.
A STATE APART.

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WEB EXTRAS

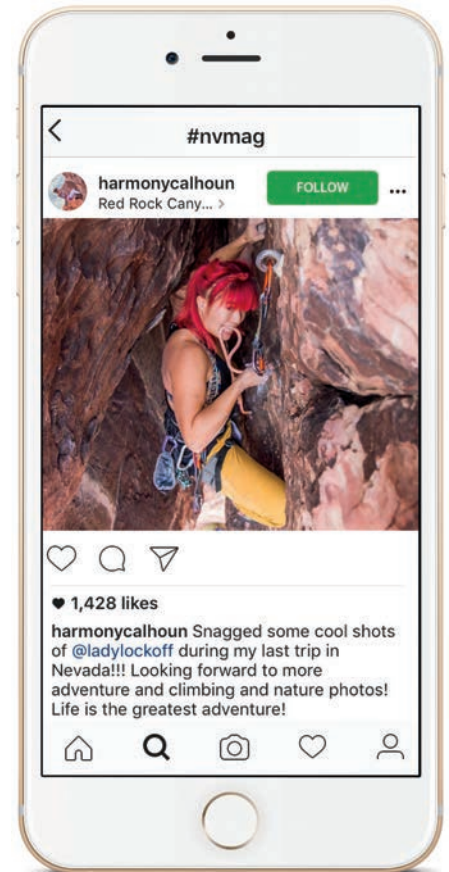
► Thanks to the magic of seven colorful mountains, a partnership between northern and southern Nevada's art communities has continued to develop. This time, Reno's Nevada Museum of Art and The Art Museum at Symphony Park in Las Vegas have created "Tilting the Basin: Contemporary Art of Nevada," an exhibition of more than 30 artists working in Nevada today. The show opens Friday, March 17 in Las Vegas and will remain on view through Sunday, May 14.

The artists' work gives a wide-ranging picture of the art being created across Nevada today, including painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, mixed media, street art, installation, sound performance, fiber arts, and new media.

By Megg Mueller

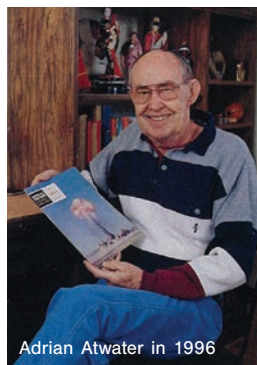
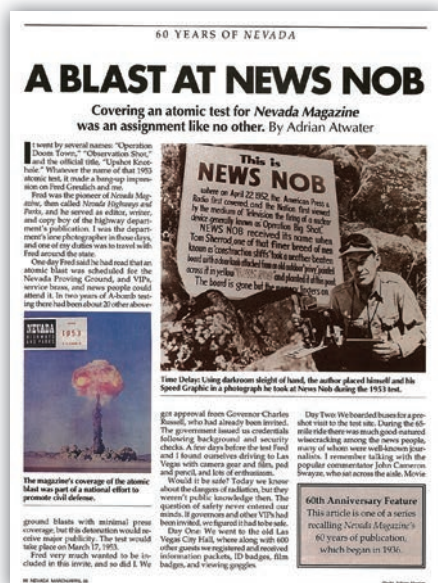


FEATURED



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

CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



Adrian Atwater in 1996

► In 1953, editor Fred Greulich and photographer Adrian Atwater—Nevada Magazine's first dynamic duo—attended the test of Annie, an atomic bomb detonated at the Nevada Test Site

on St. Patrick's day that year. Some 43 years later, Adrian wrote a first-person account of their unforgettable visit.

Head to nevadamagazine.com/atomic to read that story.

NEVADA BLOWS MY MIND

The rich history of this state continues to surprise and educate me. We have a number of note-worthy elements in our past, but it's unlikely any can compete with our atomic history. It's been 66 years since we embarked on this crucial and controversial journey in our country's evolution, but the relevance of those early days of the 20th century hasn't faded at all. America was enamored with the Atomic Era, and while we no longer test full-scale nuclear weapons, the vision of those mushroom clouds is seared into many of our memories.

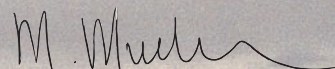
The Nevada National Security Site—as it is now known—still exists and, along with the Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas, provides an invaluable look into how southern Nevada was an integral part of our nation's success during this time. We take a very intimate look at this subject on page 70. I know you'll discover something amazing about our state, just like we did.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Speaking of Las Vegas history, on page 32 you'll find a story about the Nevada Preservation Foundation's work to protect some of the city's iconic neighborhoods.

Our Ancient Nevada series continues, and Associate Editor Eric Cachinero examines Nevada's earliest residents. Read about them on page 56. We visit Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park this issue, and as the only state park in Nye County, its massive (literally) offerings prove it's more than enough. Check it out on page 38.

We covered ghost towns last year, but this issue we're taking a look at a different type of specter; ghost railroads in Central Nevada. Once crisscrossed with numerous rails, the landscape still bears the remains of many of these structures, just waiting to be discovered: see page 62.



Megg Mueller, Managing Editor
mmueller@nevadamagazine.com

This digital recreation combines a photo of the first nationally televised atomic test in 1953, and a photo from the spectator benches taken during a recent visit.



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In 1957, NATO observers attended the Boltzmann Event detonation at the Nevada Test Site. Today, the benches that overlook Frenchman Flat where many of the above ground tests took place still offer a spectacular view.

LETTERS

WE'RE BLUSHING

Thank you very much for the beautiful picture of the Governor's Mansion! I absolutely love it and will proudly display it. I appreciate all you do to feature all the amazing nooks and crannies of our great state. I look forward to seeing the magazine every month. See you on the trail. All Nevada!
— **Governor Brian Sandoval**, Carson City



LOTS OF GOOD STUFF

I love the magazine. I'm flabbergasted by the amount of material you run. — **James Rentz**, via phone

NO REFUGE
IN THE WILD

I read with great interest your article on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge (Sept/Oct 2016). However, I was very

disappointed when you mentioned the refuge might be changed into a wilderness area. That portion of Nevada has very few visitors because of the distance from any significant community or any major highway. Making it a wilderness area will limit the number of people who can visit and enjoy the refuge because as a wilderness area, most of the visitors will be limited to people who are very physically fit, and have sufficient vacation or leisure time. Because I grew up in that part of Nevada, I know the beauty of the area and enjoy the trips there. However, because I am elderly, I will not be able to enjoy the beauty of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge if it is made into a wilderness. — **Donald Haas**, via email

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
nevadamagazine.com/writer

CONTRIBUTORS

CHRIS LEWIS

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

■ PGS. 32-37



ENGRID BARNETT

Engrid Barnett is a musician, geographer, writer, and photographer with a serious passion for travel, especially in Nevada and the American West. When not writing, she can be found hiking, off roading, rock crawling, taking photographs, observing wildlife, or zip lining. To keep up on her adventures past and present, visit her blog, westerngirltravel.com.

■ PGS. 42-47



FRANK X. MULLEN

Frank X. Mullen is a Reno-based journalist, author, university journalism instructor, and Chautauqua scholar. He was an editor/investigative reporter at the *Reno Gazette-Journal* for 25 years. He is the author of "The Donner Party Chronicles," and has appeared as a Nevada historian on History Channel, National Geographic, and other cable TV documentaries. ■ PG. 59



JIM PRICE

Jim Price and his wife, Joan Sieber, live in San Diego, California. They also have a part-time residence in Goldfield, where they began to research the area's ghost railroads. They are both involved in the Goldfield Historical Society, and are restoring what was Nevada Copper

Belt Railroad's caboose #2. Jim previously published "The Railroad Stations of San Diego County: Then and Now." ■ PGS. 62-69

CHRIS PLATT

Chris Platt is a graduate of the Reynold's School of Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno. She writes for newspapers, magazines, and has 17 award-winning children's books in publication. ■ PG. 80



More Opportunities for Exploration

Beaver Dam

I first wrote about Nevada's state parks in 2015. At that time, The Nevada State Parks Passport program was still in its infancy; visitors and locals alike were encouraged to visit 15 of the Silver State's parks to gain free access for a year. Two years later, even more exciting things are in store for Nevada state park visitors. On Jan. 17, during his final State of the State address, Governor Brian Sandoval presented the "Explore Your Nevada" initiative. The initiative provides three remarkable opportunities: creation of a new state recreation area; establishment of a new state park; and enhancements, additions, and improvements to existing state parks.

Governor Sandoval's Explore Your Nevada initiative will, among other things, grant visitors access to more than 28 miles of the East Walker River area to enjoy a host of recreational activities such as boating, camping, fishing, and hiking. Through the Explore Your Nevada initiative, the Walker River State Recreation Area is provided initial funding for staffing, fishing and hiking access, primitive camping, RV hook-ups, and cabin rentals.

The initiative also provides the Silver State an exciting opportunity to establish a new state park. Bordering the National Tule Springs Fossil Beds Monument in southern Nevada, Tule Springs State Park will protect and preserve a 315-acre piece of land that holds an abundance of fossils, prehistoric treasures, and paleontological resources, all while allowing visitors access and opportunity to explore this one-of-a-kind location.

Finally, Governor Sandoval's initiative gives Nevada's existing state parks some additions and enhancements. For example, rental cabins will be constructed at Wildhorse State Recreation Area. Eight state parks will be Wi-Fi enabled, including Valley of Fire in southern Nevada and Berlin-Ichthyosaur in central Nevada. Ten state parks will receive pull-through campsites including Rye Patch in northern Nevada and Beaver Dam in southeastern Nevada. Six parks will receive additional and enhanced staffing, and seven parks will receive full hook-up campsites.

As chairman of the Nevada Commission on Tourism, it was a privilege to hear Governor Sandoval outline the "Explore Your



PHOTOS: SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVELNEVADA

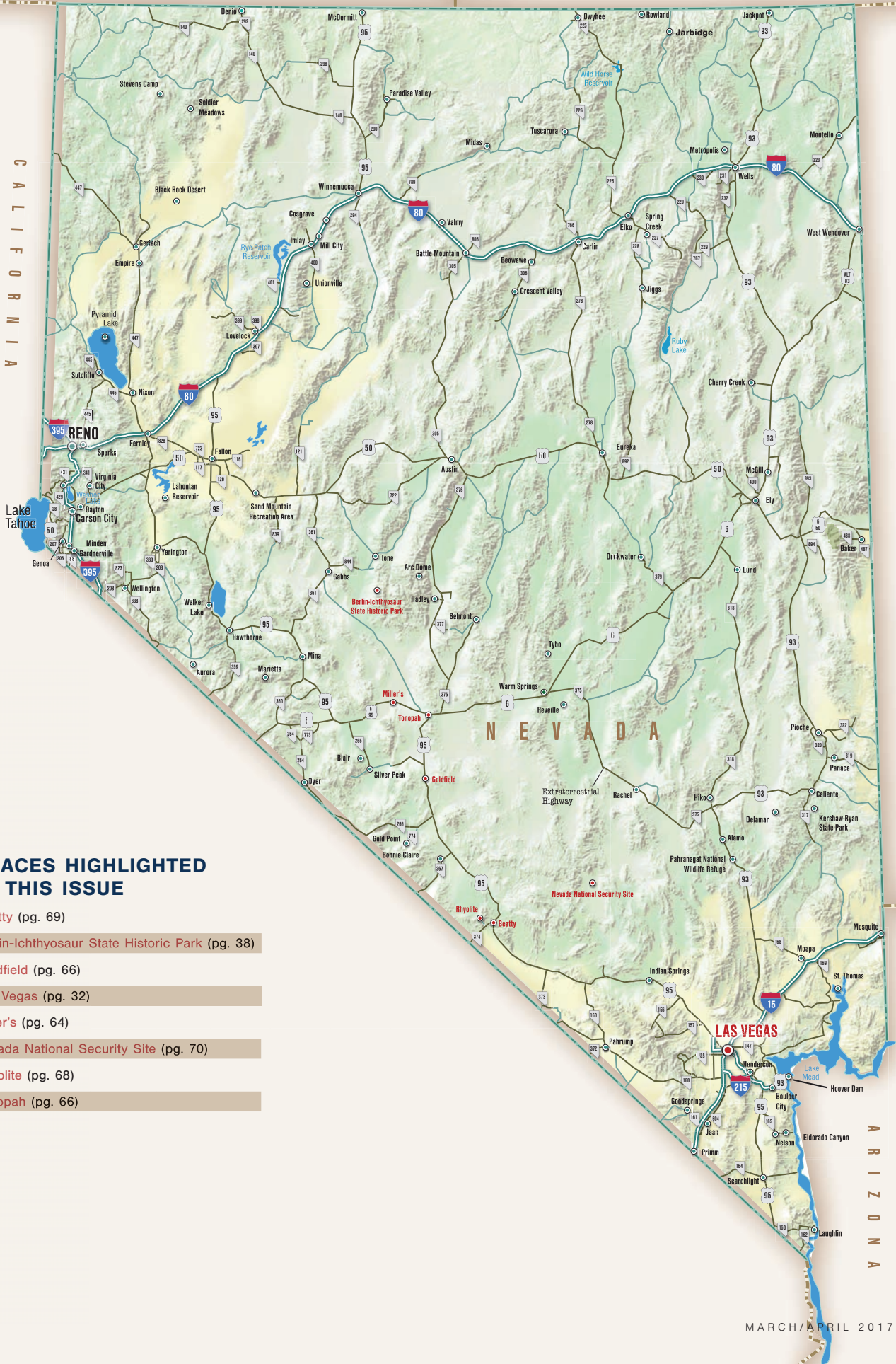
Nevada" initiative as a means to enhance our Nevada State Parks program. Nevada's great outdoors offers tourists and residents unrivaled recreational opportunities. Preservation and enhancement of our unique landscape is crucial to our efforts to maintain and conserve the wildlife, the environment, and the cultural heritage of the Silver State.



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

CALIFORNIA

UTAH



ARIZONA

PLACES HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS ISSUE

Beatty (pg. 69)

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Historic Park (pg. 38)

Goldfield (pg. 66)

Las Vegas (pg. 32)

Miller's (pg. 64)

Nevada National Security Site (pg. 70)

Rhyolite (pg. 68)

Tonopah (pg. 66)

Up Front



HOTELS

A renaissance for the Siena Hotel Reno

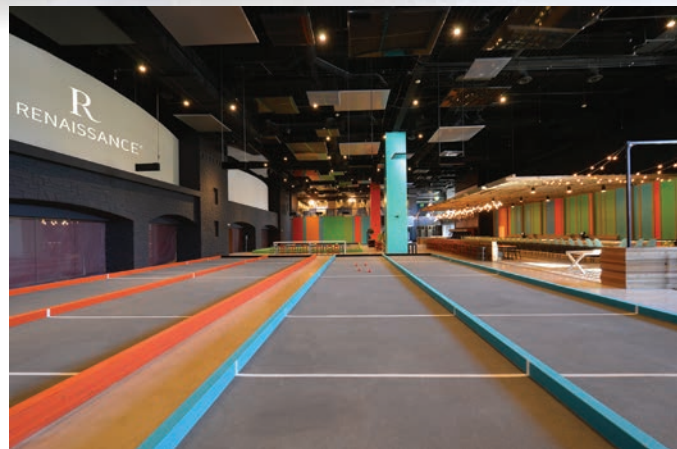
Work is underway to convert the Siena Hotel Reno into the new Renaissance Reno Downtown Hotel, expected to open in early spring. Renaissance Hotels are a Marriott International property. With sophisticated upgrades to all guestrooms, as well as meeting rooms, restaurant, bar, common areas, fitness center, and a bocce venue, the property will provide a welcoming environment to Reno travelers looking for a non-gaming, non-smoking, branded, premier, full-service hotel.

The Renaissance Reno Downtown Hotel will incorporate 214 fully renovated guestrooms, including 28 suites. Additionally, the seasonal rooftop pool and hot tub will be available to guests, as will a full-service restaurant offering breakfast, lunch, and dinner with available outdoor deck seating. The hotel will also be pet-friendly.

With two private rooms, an outdoor, semi-private grass area, and a space that can accommodate up to 1,500 people, guests can discover the delightful sport of bocce with seven indoor courts measuring 10-by-80 feet and two outdoor courts measuring 10-by-90 feet. In addition to the bocce courts, guests will enjoy the classics: 10 lanes of skee ball, and two 14-foot shuffleboard courts. Three banks of four 55-inch TVs and two projection walls will show sporting events and popular shows that can also be customized for private events and meetings.

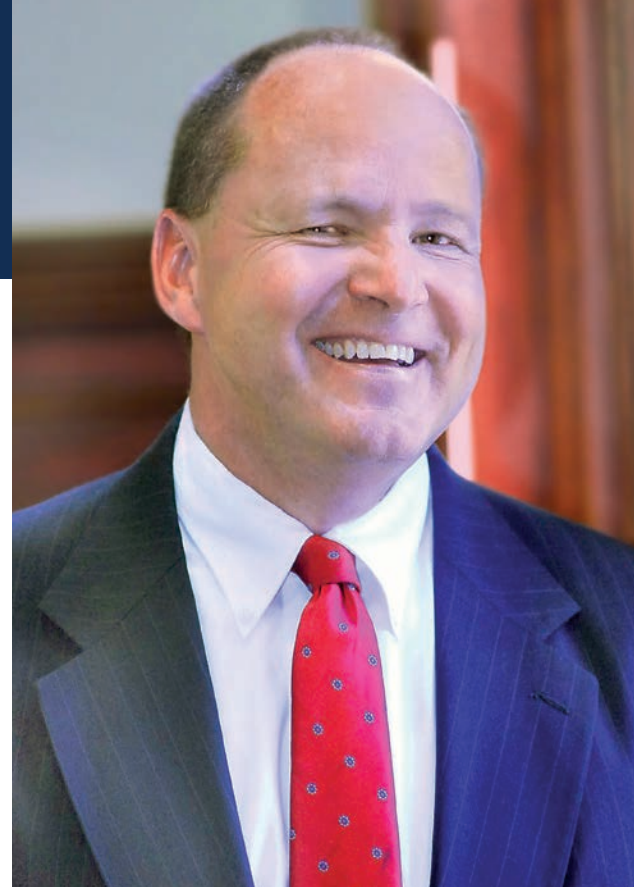
Bundox Bocce will also offer indoor and outdoor bars and seating areas, as well as a restaurant.

The property was first opened in 1956 as the Holiday Reno, which was open for 40 years. marriott.com/rnobr, 775-321-5830



Notable Nevadans

Larry Friedman spent more than 26 years at the Nevada Commission on Tourism, now TravelNevada. During his tenure, he developed the annual Rural Roundup conference; helped educate the industry through the Nevada Tourism University; assisted with the creation of Nevada's National Scenic Byways; and expanded the rural grants program, resulting in special events and historic building preservation across rural Nevada. Our Carrie Roussel recently spoke to Larry.



LARRY FRIEDMAN

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

Larry Friedman: I was born in Marin County, California, and I now live in Douglas County. I originally came to Nevada to work as a radio DJ in South Lake Tahoe.

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

Larry Friedman: The people, of course, the landscape, and the variety of activities available here.

Question: Do you have a favorite Nevada memory?

Larry Friedman: I have about 30! Really, there are so many but I can condense them into two things. Every single Rural Roundup and every familiarization (FAM) trip we hosted are my favorite memories. The time that stands out the most is when we hosted 147 tour operators from Brazil on a visit to the Reno-Tahoe area. The final night was an award ceremony and dinner that we arranged at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City. Every single Brazilian in that room was impressed that they had dinner in the Governor's Mansion. It was a spectacular night.

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

Larry Friedman: I'm most proud of the World Human Powered Speed Championship in Battle Mountain. The producers traveled all over to find the location, and Battle Mountain ended up being perfect. Participants come from all over the world: Mexico, Japan, Russia, the UK, and more. It continues to grow each year in terms of teams, countries represented, and spectators. People should go and see how unique it is.

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

Larry Friedman: Living here I'd say Lake Tahoe, Virginia City, and Genoa. Our state parks are amazing, too, and I'm always proud of them. Having done so many FAM trips, Lehman Caves, Valley of Fire, and our night skies are my favorite things to show people.

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

Larry Friedman: Well, there are actually five people I'd like to include:

1. Virginia Ridgeway from Goldfield
2. Denys Koyle from Baker/Great Basin National Park
3. Wally Cuchine from Eureka
4. Chris Melville from West Wendover
5. Jan Morrison from Austin

Virginia and Denys are both so passionate about their communities and are always at the forefront of sharing what their area has to offer. Wally deserves recognition for his dedication to preserving Nevada art. Chris grew up in West Wendover and is also very passionate and dedicated to his community. Jan is a "one-woman act of love" for her dedication to Austin and the work she has put in to restore St. Augustine. I have admired all of them for the past 20 years and they deserve recognition for what they've done.

Question: What does being Battle Born mean to you?

Larry Friedman: Free to be yourself. I'm a left-wing liberal working with mostly conservatives throughout rural Nevada but it's never been an issue. Nevadans are non-judgmental. If you are a hardworking and dedicated individual, you get the respect you deserve.



■ **Gary Carano**, chairman and chief executive officer of Eldorado Resorts, Inc. has been chosen as one of “25 People to Watch” in the casino gaming industry by *Global Gaming Business*, a leading industry trade publication and the official publication of the American Gaming Association. eldoradoreno.com, 775-786-5700

■ CHICA will deliver the robust and vibrant flavors of Latin cuisine combined with an eclectic wine and mixology program to **The Venetian Las Vegas**. The newest concept from John Kunkel's 50 Eggs, and the creator of The Venetian's Yardbird Southern Table & Bar, CHICA Las Vegas will feature acclaimed Top Chef Masters' Chef Lorena Garcia's extensive culinary education in diverse, Latin-inspired cuisine. venetian.com, 702-414-1000

■ The National Endowment for the Arts has approved an Art Works grant of \$25,000 to **Artown** for the July 2017 festival. Artown is one of five organizations that received an Art Works grant in Nevada, and one of two organizations in northern Nevada. renoisartown.com, 775-322-1538

■ **Maverick Helicopters** offers 2017 NASCAR Weekend attendees transfers from its Las Vegas terminal to Las Vegas Motor Speedway on March 11-12. During the 15-minute flight, passengers ride in Airbus ECO-Star helicopters while taking in the views of the Las Vegas Strip and NASCAR race grounds. flymaverick.com, 702-261-0007

■ The National Park Service has listed the **Newlands Heights Historic District** in the National Register of Historic Places. The designation recognizes the historical and architectural importance of the Newlands Heights Historic District to the City of Reno. The district is significant as a neighborhood that shaped Reno's early suburban development. shpo.nv.gov, 775-684-3436



FESTIVALS

Night in the Country gets fancy

The Night in the Country music festival is offering VIP experiences for its July 27-29 event. The Country Cabana offers a private cabana, eye-level stage view, bar, and hostess. For \$5,000 the package includes 10 tickets, with access to the Super-fan area, private entrance into the Cabana area from 3-11 p.m., a furnished cabana, 12 complimentary beers per guest, and 10 food vouchers, and each cabana is stocked with water, Pepsi products, snacks, and an exclusive portable restroom.

The KBUL 98.1 crew will host the Bull Pen with camping, partying, daily games, and contests. For \$6,500 the Bull Pen includes a 32-foot travel trailer that sleeps up to six, four tickets (granting access to VIP tent and viewing area), fresh water and pumping daily, power hookup, up to six food vouchers per pen per day, turf outside each camper, daily gift basket, water and snacks, six camp chairs, and a pool fill included with top off each morning.

nightinthecountry.org, 775-463-5144

PHOTOGRAPHY

Great Nevada Picture Hunt Turns 40

It's the 40th anniversary of *Nevada Magazine's* Great Nevada Picture Hunt and there are great things in store. This year's picture hunt will be bigger and better than ever, with the theme “Home Means Nevada” as we partner with amazing sponsors to provide some seriously cool and exciting prize packages.

But wait! That's not all. This year we will host a second contest, too. We don't want to spill the beans just yet, but photos chosen for this second contest will be featured in a limited-edition, large format print that's sure to knock any Nevada lover's socks off!

Watch for the May/June issue of *Nevada Magazine* for more details about this year's exciting contests, including submission guidelines, deadlines, and a peek at some of the prize packages.



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■ The **Nugget Casino Resort** has begun more than \$25 million in renovations to the iconic Sparks property. Major upgrades to the west tower hotel rooms and all the convention space will roll out in 2017. The west hotel tower was opened in 1996 and only minor changes have been made since that time. nuggetresort.com, 775-356-3300

■ The **Logandale Trail System** in southern Nevada is going to receive some much-needed upkeep thanks to Partners in Conservation. The nonprofit group was awarded a grant from the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Commission. The grant program supports projects that improve recreational facilities. The main trailhead restrooms at Logandale have surpassed their 25-year life cycle and are due for replacement. logandaletrails.com

■ The **Tahoe Queen**, a 144-foot paddle wheeler that has been a part of the Lake Tahoe landscape for more than 30 years is out of service. The boat caught fire last summer when it was docked for repairs, and the vessel is unrecoverable. Aramark Lake Tahoe Cruises which owns the *Tahoe Queen* plans to replace the vessel. The *M.S. Dixie II* paddle wheeler is still operating at Lake Tahoe. zephyrcove.com, 800-238-2463

■ SolarReserve's **Crescent Dunes Solar Energy** plant outside Tonopah has been named top plant of the year by *POWER* magazine. The Plant of the Year award is given to a power plant that leads the industry in the successful deployment of advanced technology and maximizing efficiency while minimizing environmental impact. Since its start in November 2015, Crescent Dunes has exceeded obligations in its contract with NV Energy. solarreserve.com, 310-315-2200



AL POWERS FOR PARK THEATER

CONCERT VENUE

Park Theater debuts in Las Vegas

MGM Resorts International celebrated the milestone grand opening of its newest live entertainment venue on the Las Vegas Strip, Park Theater at Monte Carlo Resort and Casino, with a performance by Stevie Nicks. The 5,200-seat venue aims to give artists a space to create productions unique to the venue, and features state-of-the-art audio and visual technology and luxurious décor. Built with the audience in mind, the intimate seating allows guests to feel up close and personal for any and all events.

The Park Theater is the first step in the recreation of Monte Carlo. The transformation—taking place over the next two years—will include two distinct hotel experiences: a Las Vegas version of Sydell Group's famed NoMad Hotel and the launch of a new luxury hotel named Park MGM. parktheaterlv.com, 844-600-7275

CASINOS

Lucky Dragon Hotel & Casino now open

The first hotel-casino in Las Vegas to offer an authentic Asian gaming, dining, and lifestyle experience opened its doors in December. The first ground-up construction of a hotel-casino property since 2010, the Lucky Dragon has 203 guest rooms, including 22 suites. All rooms have a rich Asian flair, TVs with extensive Chinese programming, and tea brewing equipment plus a selection of imported teas. The five restaurants at Lucky Dragon will offer multiple styles of Chinese dining, from quick meals on the go to fine dining, and everything in between.

The casino hosts 287 slot machines and table games that focus on popular Asian games such as baccarat and Pai Gow, plus roulette, black jack, and poker. The casino floor is home to two bars—the Pagoda Bar in the center of the floor, and the Atrium Bar with specialty cocktails. The property also includes a pool with lounge seating and cabanas, and a Sothys Spa, offering both western and Chinese treatments. luckydragonlv.com, 702-889-8018





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Elko County Fair & Horse Races-August 25 thru September 4
Elko Classic Car Show-September 8 & September 9
Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival-September 21 thru September 24



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www.ExploreElko.com





■ The show “**American Pickers**” is looking for leads in Nevada for coming episodes. The documentary series that explores the world of antique ‘picking’ on the History channel is planning to film in Nevada this spring. history.com, 855-653-7878

■ Lyft Las Vegas is launching a new experience for riders to embrace their inner celebrity. Las Vegas is the 11th city in the U.S. to offer **Lyft Premier**, matching riders with a luxury sedan or SUV like a BMW 5 Series, Audi A6, Lexus LS, or Cadillac Escalade. lyft.com

■ **Health Binge** opened its first retail location in Las Vegas. Created by former NFL athlete and entrepreneur Gerome Sapp, the grab-and-go style health market focusing on freshly prepared meals provides customers with portion-controlled, gourmet meals with the ease of a fast-food restaurant. tryhealthbinge.com

■ Virginia City’s annual **Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry and St. Patrick’s Day** parade will be held on March 11 in The Comstock town. This year’s event will be combined with the Ball Breaker Saloon Crawl. visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

■ The Nevada Museum of Art welcomes paintings and rare drawings by **Maynard Dixon**, one of the premier artists working in the American West during the first half of the twentieth century. Drawn from private collections, this exhibition offers an intimate look at Dixon’s life and creative process, providing insight into the passionate way he traversed and interpreted the world. The exhibition runs through July 16. nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

■ Harrah’s Las Vegas will now offer **military discounts year-round**. Active duty military and veterans may receive a number of discounts and special deals on everything from rooms to restaurants to shows. harrahslasvegas.caesars.com, 800-214-9110

RECREATION

900-mile backcountry route unveiled

Since 2010, the adventure motorcycling non-profit Backcountry Discovery Routes (BDR) has created six trans-state routes for dual-sport and adventure motorcycle travel. Now, BDR announces its seventh route, the Nevada Backcountry Discovery Route (NVBDR), produced in partnership with the American Honda Motor Co., Inc. and TravelNevada. The NVBDR is a scenic ride across Nevada, beginning in Oatman, Ariz., and finishing in Jarbidge. Created for dual-sport and adventure motorcyclists, this 900-mile south-to-north route primarily uses dirt roads to lead riders through Nevada’s expansive deserts, open sagebrush valleys, and endless mountain ranges. ridebdr.com/nvbdr



SPORTS

Newest hockey team named

The 31st team in the National Hockey League (NHL) is the **Vegas Golden Knights**. The first expansion team in the NHL since 2000, the Vegas Golden Knights will be Las Vegas’ first professional team and is owned by businessman Bill Foley and the Maloof family, who owned the National Basketball Association’s Houston Rockets and Sacramento Kings. Foley owns 85 percent of the team.

General Manager George McPhee and staff will choose the team’s players this summer during the draft, and will play at the T-Mobile Arena during the 2017-18 season. A head coach announcement is expected soon. nhl.com/goldenknights, 702-645-4259



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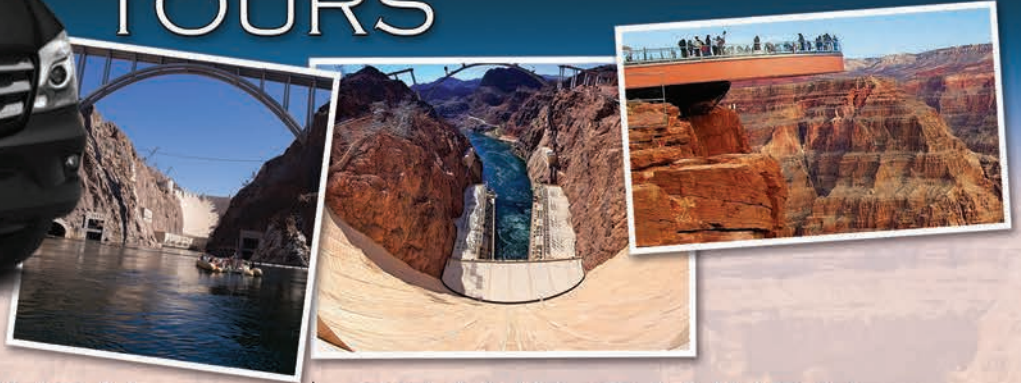
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- View the widest and deepest parts of the Grand Canyon

\$180 | \$91

Add IMAX \$15
Add Pink Jeep \$99
Add Helicopter \$195

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- Photo stop at Hoover Dam
- Experience both Eagle and Guano lookout points
- Visit the Hualapai Village & Hualapai Ranch
- See Native American Dancers and Wild West shows
- View the historic new Skywalk

\$241 | \$135

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Add Heli \$181
Add Helicopter/Boat \$216
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- Departs twice daily
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\$72 | \$42

HOOVER DAM DELUXE TOUR

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

\$82 | \$52 Add Heli
\$99

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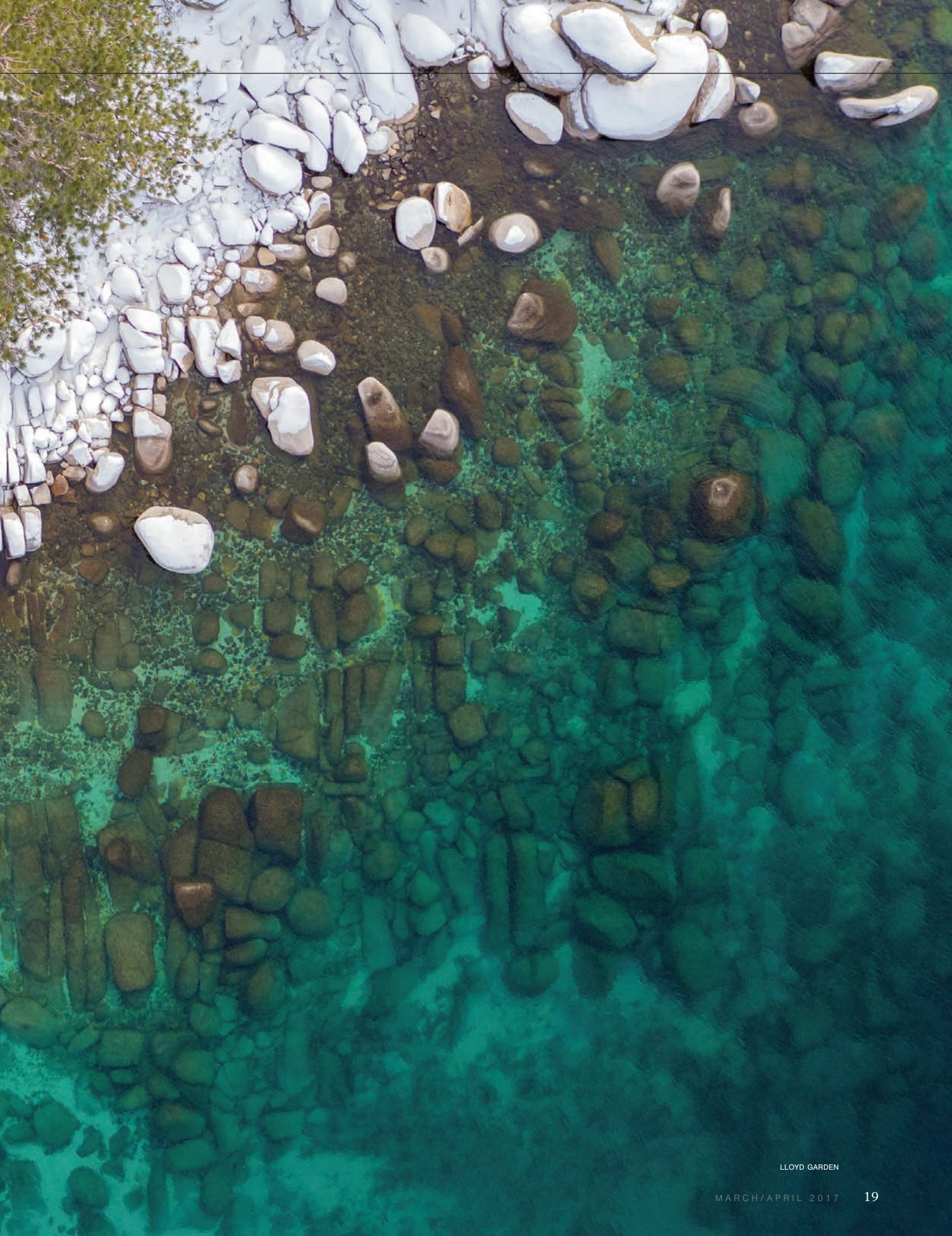
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CLAYTON PEOPLES

Previous page: "I named it "White Emerald" because of how the white snow meets the iconic emerald colors of the lake," says photographer Lloyd Garden, who used his drone to capture this bird's-eye view of the Lake Tahoe shoreline. "The photo was taken during the calm of Christmas morning after the heavy snowstorm days before."

Left: Photographer Clayton Peoples describes how wet northern Nevada weather lent itself to this photo of Carson Valley. "The peaks of the Carson Range were snow-capped while the valley was lush, green, and saturated by the recent rainfall," he says. "Carson Valley is a beautiful place, but I've never seen it quite as stunning as it was that spring morning."

Below: Great balls of fire! The Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry, held each spring in Virginia City, allows bold patrons to get their share of the Nevada delicacy. Photographer Duane Blood captured this action shot of a vendor serving up some fried western comfort food.

Opposite page, top left: "Nevada is a treasure trove of beauty, history, and vast open spaces to explore," says photographer Richard Massey, "and there's no better way to experience it than with good friends and a camera in-hand." Richard captured this shot while on an outing in the Pah Rah Range with several other photographers and a furry friend named Riley.

Opposite page, top right: Photographer David Frederick snapped this shot of a Western Redbud while on a hike in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. "The showy flowers are bright pink or magenta, and grow in clusters all over the shrub, making the plant very colorful and noticeable in the landscape," he says.



DUANE BLOOD



RICHARD MASSEY



DAVID FREDERICK



FACEBOOK GROUP CHOICE

A lunch break can be a great time to snap photos, as photographer Randall Bruce demonstrates with this shot taken at Sunset Park in Las Vegas. "One of the key elements in the photo is the background," he says. "I always try to photograph birds in flight with a nice contrasting background to my subject."

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



RANDALL BRUCE

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

Little-known Facts of our Official State Emblems

Flower and fossil, song and soil, Nevada takes pride in its symbols.



State Locomotive - Engine No. 40

Before you start reading, let's see how well you know Nevada. Can you name our state's official emblems?

Colors _____

Song _____

March _____

Trees _____

Flower _____

Grass _____

Bird _____

Insect _____

Reptile _____

Animal _____

Fish _____

Fossil _____

Artifact _____

Metal _____

Precious Gemstone _____

Semiprecious Gemstone _____

Soil _____

Rock _____

Tartan _____

Locomotive _____

BY MEGG MUELLER

There's a state locomotive? Indeed there is. While most people can name our state animal or state song, all told there are 22 official state symbols as designated by the Nevada Legislature. In addition to those above, our flag and seal round out the list. The seal was first designated in 1864 and was updated in 1866, when the motto was changed from *Volens et Potens*—willing and able—to All for Our Country. Our cobalt flag was not officially adopted until 1905, and since that time there have been four iterations of the blue flag. Our current design was adopted in 1991.

Each state has its own list of state emblems—some include an official dance, drink, oyster, and microbe—and Nevada hasn't adopted a new symbol since 2009.

To have something reviewed for legislative consideration, Congressmen Mark Amodei says people should contact their state assemblyman or senator, who then would draft a piece of legislation and introduce a bill to recognize the item for its significance to the state. The bill then goes through the standard legislative process, needing to pass both Houses and be signed by the Governor before becoming law.

It's never a done deal, however. Congressman Amodei notes that in 2001, a sixth-grade class

from Las Vegas attended a legislative session with a bill to make the mustang Nevada's second state animal. After some contentious debate—including the late Senator Bill Raggio saying adding another animal would mean “pretty much we'll have a state zoo”—the bill died without passage. It was the same legislative session where the state soil was designated, so you just never know.

“Nevadans are proud of their state, whether native or adopted,” Congressman Amodei says. “Symbols are a big deal, whether it's animals, license plates, or fossils.”



Congressman Mark Amodei

DID YOU KNOW?

State song

The song “Home Means Nevada” was written by Bertha Raffetto of Reno. It was adopted in 1933. In 2014, it was discussed by the Sesquicentennial Committee that a second song—more inclusive of southern Nevada—be added, but it never happened.



NEIL LOCKHART

State trees

The single-leaf Pinon—whose pine nuts were a staple of American Indian tribes—was designated in 1959, and the bristlecone pine was added in 1987. The Bristlecone is the oldest single living organism on Earth, and Great Basin National Park once had one that was almost 5,000 years old before being erroneously cut down.



KIPPY S. SPILKER

State metal

Silver was officially given the title in 1977, and while gold production in Nevada is nothing to sneeze at, silver is still the most prolific mineral we mine.

State animal

The desert bighorn sheep became our state animal in 1973. These hard-headed sheep fight head-to-head, and combat between rams has been observed to last more than 24 hours at times.

State grass

The grass known as Indian ricegrass became the state grass in 1977. The seed of the ricegrass fed not only American Indians, but antelope, cattle, horses, and many birds.

State flower

The copious sagebrush became the state flower in 1959. Its proliferation around the state could be explained by the fact it relies mainly on wind for pollination.



Indian ricegrass

JAY ALDRICH

State bird

The mountain bluebird was designated in 1967. It was also named state bird of Idaho in 1931.



MICHAEL HORSLEY

State fossil

The prehistoric marine reptile known as the Ichthyosaur (genus Shonisaurus) was named in 1977. To read more about it check out the story on page 38.



Ichthyosaur fossils

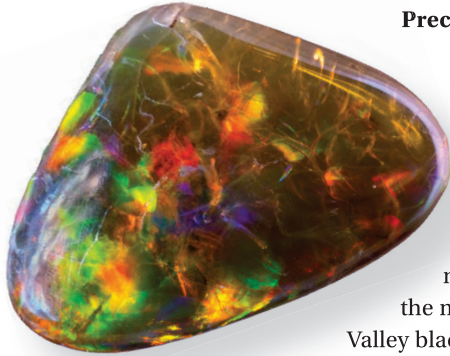
MEGG MUELLER

State colors

The colors silver and blue—already used in the state flag—were officially chosen in 1983.

State rock

The beautifully colored structures in the Valley of Fire State Park are one obvious example of why sandstone was named the state rock in 1987.



KIPPY S. SPILKER

Precious gemstone

The precious gemstone known as the Virgin Valley black fire opal was adopted in 1987, when Harry L. Wilson and wife, Joy, owners of the Royal Peacock Opal Mine near Denio spearheaded the movement to get the Virgin Valley black fire opal officially recognized by bringing a number of the stones to the legislature in Carson City. It worked.

Semiprecious gemstone

That same year (1987), Nevada turquoise—found across much of the state—was deemed the semiprecious gemstone.

State reptile

In 1989, desert tortoise was named our state reptile and as such it is illegal to mess with them. A good reason not to is a defense mechanism of the tortoise, if picked up or startled, is to urinate. Because the reptile can go up to a year without water, loss of this crucial fluid could kill it.



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A canvasback drake duck decoy, found in Lovelock Cave.

State artifact

The 1924 discovery in Lovelock Cave of 11 tule duck decoys that were more than 2,000 years old was a major influence on the decoy being named the state artifact in 1995.

State march

In 1997, high school teacher and band director Gerald Willis composed “Silver State Fanfare” for the Proctor Hug High School marching band to perform at the 1997 presidential inauguration. It was designated the state march in 2001.

State fish

Designated in 1981, the Lahontan cutthroat trout was all but extinct from the waters of Pyramid Lake in 1943. Fish from Summit Lake were re-introduced to Pyramid, and the population is now maintained by fish hatcheries.

State soil

The soil series known as Orovada makes great farmland when irrigated and covers much of the Great Basin. In 2001, it was named our state soil.

State tartan

A bartender at the Aladdin Casino in Las Vegas, Richard Zygmunt Pawlowski discovered while creating Nevada’s state tartan that every color, every number of threads, every space has to mean something. It took two years to design, and it was officially designated in 2001.

State locomotive

The steam locomotive of the Nevada Northern Railway known as Engine No. 40—built in 1910—was named our state locomotive in 2009. The locomotive operated daily between Ely and Cobre until 1941.

State insect

The Vivid Dancer Damselfly—named in 2009—is similar to a dragonfly, but a daintier version with wings that fold the length of its body. The Vivid Dancer is found all across the state. Males are electric blue, while females are tan.

It’s been 8 years since Nevada designated a new state symbol, and while talk of making the Picon Punch the state drink, or adding a new state song pops up every few years, it’s anyone’s guess what might be our next official state symbol. Visit the Nevada Legislature at leg.state.nv.us for more facts about Nevada. ▀



STEFAN MCLEOD



20th Annual READERS' Poll

CAST YOUR
VOTE

at NevadaMagazine.com

– Voting ends April 14 –

Voting begins March 1st. Results of the 20th Annual Readers' Poll will be published in the July/August issue of *Nevada Magazine, Events & Shows*, and on nevadamagazine.com.



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EVENTS & SHOWS



Learn to shoot the Silver State through the eyes of professional photographers.

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.

Mark Vollmer, in his own words



BRITTANY FISH

Mark demonstrates composition techniques for 6th grade students at the Great Basin Outdoor School, Camp Galilee, Lake Tahoe.

I teach one- to two-day outdoor photography workshops through Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) in Reno. The classes include a slideshow portion in the classroom, followed by a field shoot and tour at one or more local areas. I also do private tutoring. I've been conducting tours since 1996 when I led photo hikes for Washoe County Parks & Open Space and Tahoe Rim Trail Association. I started the TMCC workshops in 2006. My TMCC workshops mainly cover the Reno, Carson City, and Lake Tahoe area, but private classes explore Washoe, Storey, Douglas, Lyon, and Churchill counties.

The TMCC classes/tours focus on seasonal photography themes: winter's quiet and dynamic beauty, springtime in the desert, summer mountain landscapes, and autumn splendor. The other workshops cover garden photography, shooting the Great Reno Balloon Race, photographing historic sites, and expressive outdoor natural light. In all my classes, it's about the light and how its angles reveal the character of the subject in

different ways. Developing the creative eye and learning to see surroundings with all the senses is my primary focus.

The variety of desert and mountain beauty beneath awesome skies, mixed with intriguing remnants of our human history, makes Nevada a wonderful place to explore with budding photographers.

I like participants to be relatively familiar with their cameras, but I've taught the whole spectrum. Although my workshops are geared toward the beginner, all skill levels are invited. I do get into the very basics of apertures and shutter speeds, but it helps if the participants have practiced with their camera beforehand. Also, the physical difficulty of my tours fluctuates depending on the physical abilities of the participants. I want my workshops to be open to everyone—including those with disabilities—so we have the option to go to locales easily accessible by passenger car with minimal-to-moderate walking on gentle terrain.

For my TMCC workshops, I teach a lot as the tours are preceded by an in-class session illustrating the processes of composition. The field shoot gives everyone an opportunity to practice what was learned in the classroom. My private tutoring, on the other hand, is totally flexible whether you want complete immersion into all aspects of photographing outdoors, or if you just want experience shooting in new locales.

I've been photographing for fun since the 1970s, and professionally for the last 20 years or so. I've written illustrated articles for *Nevada Magazine*; have been author and co-photographer for a best-selling coffee table book, "Tahoe Rim Trail, Exploring the Jewel;" hung my photography in





Twaddle Pedroli Ranch

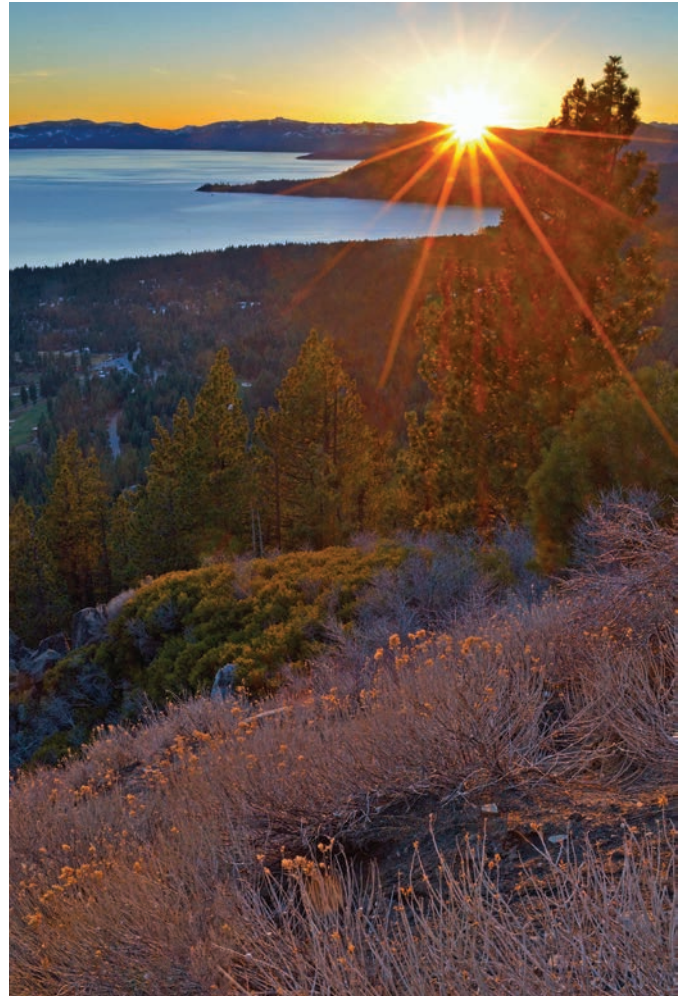
Reno, South Lake Tahoe, and Sacramento galleries since 2004; created and presented multi-media slide shows for schools and community venues since 1985; and partnered on the visual music DVD, “StorySongs: From the Soul of the American West.”

My photos have been published in regional calendars and brochures, and on the covers of hiking guidebooks. My images have won numerous awards since 1991, including competitions in *Nevada Magazine*, Shooting the West Symposium in Winnemucca, and the People’s Choice awards at Bartley Ranch Park. I’ve judged several competitions for the Reno Photo Club.

My favorite photography tip has to be take the time to engage all of your senses. The sense of sight alone isn’t enough to create compelling images. Touch the smooth texture of sagebrush leaves or the roughness of a granite boulder. Get down on your belly and smell the flowers you want to photograph. Hear the wind rustling the trees. All of these senses combine for a true visionary experience. Focus your senses before focusing the camera.

One of my favorite tour stories happened on a desert spring photo shoot north of Spanish Springs Valley. My students and I went to a friend’s ridgetop house that had wonderful views and colorful slopes of blooming flowers following a heavy winter. After exploring and photographing the hillsides below her house, my friend surprised us by cooking dinner for everyone. “Anyone who takes the time to drive way out here deserves to be fed!” she said.

Sadly, a field shoot at the historic Twaddle Pedroli Ranch turned out to be historic in ways I couldn’t have imagined. The original location for my class turned out to be unavailable, so I told the students I knew another place. The students—none of whom had visited the Twaddle Pedroli Ranch—found unlimited opportunities to practice composition techniques that I presented in the classroom as the afternoon sun waned and shadows lengthened. Two weeks later, the tragic Little Valley Fire in October 2016 destroyed all the wooden structures on the property, including the majestic 110-year-old barn that was the favorite of the class. I notified my students that they froze history in time with their photographs.



Mark Vollmer

Mark Vollmer
wdce.tmcc.edu
775-829-9010

mvaznv@gmail.com or
775-223-6438 for private tutoring

Cost: TMCC workshops are \$89,
and private tutoring is \$30 per hour





James Marvin Phelps, in his own words

I have been conducting photography tours since 2012, mostly in Valley of Fire State Park, but can do other areas in the state upon request. On my tours I focus primarily on landscape, but I always let my guests know there may be wildlife (desert bighorn sheep, road runners, desert tortoise, etc.) and to bring a longer lens if they have one.

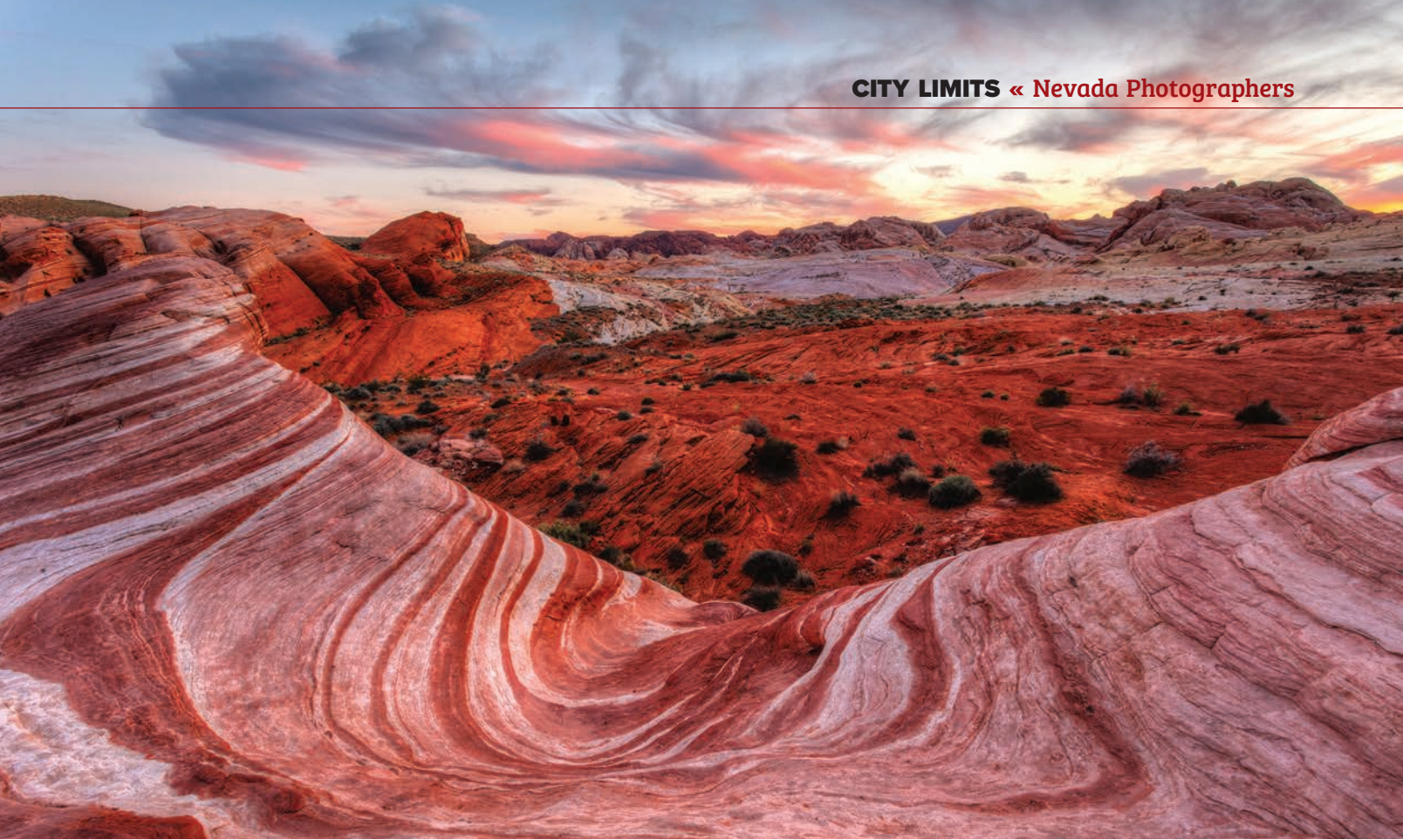
The Valley of Fire photography tour is a wonderful experience; you never know what you'll see: beautiful sunrise and sunsets, water reflections after a summer rain, rainbows, and wildlife. Each trip brings something new to see and marvel, and of course photograph! Because we do a lot of sunrise and sunset shots on the tour, I always tell my guests to "look behind you." Don't be focused on what's right in front of you. There are opportunities all around us when we shoot.

Driving down the road in Valley of Fire one morning, my guest and I heard a loud "crack." My guest thought it was thunder, but there was no weather in the area. I knew what it was. Two male bighorn sheep were butting heads. I pulled over and parked safely and we got some wonderful images. It was a very special moment.

In terms of physical difficulty my tours are moderate. There is some walking over rocks and desert terrain but I take the guests' physical ability into consideration and can modify the tour to fit their needs. As far as their cameras are concerned, the more familiar the better, but I get all levels of photographers.

For that reason I do teach on my tours if needed. Some are very new and need help with composition, depth of field, ISO, and other basics. I also take out some very talented photographers who just want me to get them to the different locations for the best lighting opportunities. We chase the light all day long!





I've been shooting all my life, but got very serious in 2003 with my first digital camera, a Canon 10D. I've had two magazine covers to date (*Lake Erie Living* December 2009; *Nevada Magazine* March/April 2010); two images place in *Nevada Magazine's* 2016 Great Nevada Picture Hunt; my photos have been published in two books, and the Red Rock Canyon visitors' guide.



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Las Vegas History

Finds its Way Home

Preserving mid-century neighborhoods strengthens community at large.

"Just off Las Vegas Boulevard—in the shadow of the Stratosphere—are a number of neighborhoods serving as a reminder of the past."



STORY BY CHRIS LEWIS
PHOTOS BY MARK DUNTON

“What history?”

That’s the common reply when history and Las Vegas are used in the same sentence. It’s a city that places a value on newness; a town that doesn’t hesitate to level a casino from decades past to make room for a new one, and a place where new housing developments sprout like crabgrass.

That’s the Vegas, and Nevada for that matter, in the minds of most. Long-time visitors and residents will often speak of “old-Vegas,” a euphemism when someone wants to describe class and authenticity.

But just off Las Vegas Boulevard—in the shadow of the Stratosphere—are a number of neighborhoods serving as a reminder of the past. The homes are distinctive in design, built just after World War II as the city transformed from a dusty old town with a handful of hotels to the bright neon and glitter of post-war Las Vegas.

Homes were influenced by the architecture of California, particularly around Palm Springs. Single-story ranch homes—many characterized by low-pitched butterfly roofs and large windows—were constructed with a variety of materials, an architectural design known as mid-century modern. These were charming communities where people planted roots and the neighbors knew each other.

PROTECTING THE FOUNDATION



Heidi Swank (left) and Michelle Larime

“Old buildings are like memories you can touch,” says Heidi Swank, executive director of the Nevada Preservation Foundation (NPF). “We spend 90-95 percent of our time in buildings, so there’s the place where history happens.”

Heidi and Associate Director Michelle Larime are the driving force behind protecting the old neighborhoods. This past October, the Las Vegas city council unanimously voted to make the Beverly Green community only the second to receive a designation on

the Las Vegas Register of Historic Places.

It was a two-year process stewarded by Heidi, Michelle, and the foundation that required convincing not only the city’s preservation and planning commissions, but the residents themselves on the value of a historic designation.

It wouldn’t mean their taxes would go up or a new homeowners association would be created, making home improvements impossible. What it would do is protect the integrity of the buildings from the outside, and hopefully, instill more pride into the community.

Heidi and Michelle—both residents of Beverly Green—feel it’s time to celebrate the history the city does have.

“It may not go back as far as it does in Boston, but we’re never going to have that until 200 years from now,” Heidi says. “So let’s let that go and realize we’ve had some amazing architects who built houses here.”



A NEW FRONTIER

With the end of World War II, an entire generation was eager to start their lives. Jobs were plentiful, and young cities like Las Vegas were ripe for discovery. The Hoover Dam was completed, bringing thousands of new residents to the city.

The Flamingo was now a big success as the Rat Pack performed regularly. Vegas Vic, donning cowboy hat and plaid shirt, shone bright over Fremont Street as he stood above the Pioneer Club. The Sahara, Riviera, and Tropicana were on the way.

During the war, Las Vegas’ population stood just above 8,000. By the 1950s, it grew to more than 45,000. New jobs meant new money, and it also meant more housing was needed.

The result was the development of neighborhoods just off Las Vegas Boulevard. Renowned architects like Franklin and Law built homes in the historic John S. Park neighborhood in the ‘40s and ‘50s. Hugh Taylor built homes in Paradise Palms, Desert Inn Estates, and Beverly Green. And Zick and Sharp designed homes in Paradise Village. Many were custom homes but there were also plenty of tract homes, which were designed differently than today.





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"When downtown, the restaurants, and bars got hot, that's when it picked up again."

"In the '50s and '60s, homes were designed not to look the same. Somehow we got away from that," Michelle says.

Hugh Taylor's portion of Paradise Palms, for example, had two floor plans to choose from, but 10 different elevations.

LONG-TIME RESIDENT

Mike Monahan, 61, has lived in Beverly Green pretty much his entire life. His dad, Charles, bought the house in the late 1960s when he helped open up Caesars Palace. After graduating from Bishop Gorman

High School, Mike lived out of state before moving back in the mid-80s. By then, Mike's mom was living alone, so he moved his family into the house of his childhood and never left. Over the years, he's seen the neighborhood go through good times and bad.

"The neighborhood just got old," he says. "It didn't have any identity of any sort."

The homeowners he knew growing up passed away or moved on, and his community went through a tough transition during the '80s and '90s. It became so transient; he didn't even know his neighbors back then.

But then, Downtown Las Vegas started to turn around. After the renovation of Fremont Street and the completion of the World Market Center, Mike started to see changes all along downtown. A younger, hipper

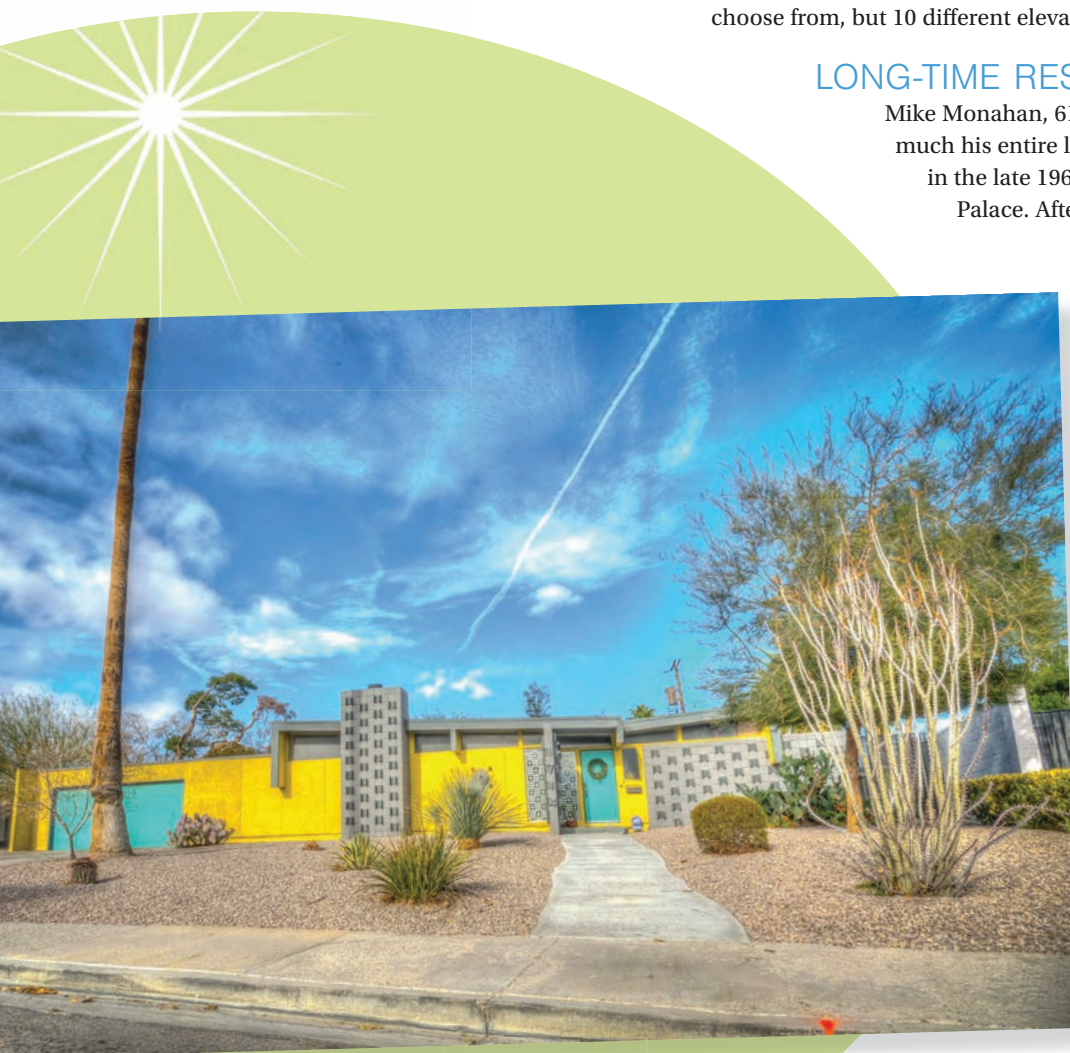
crowd moved in. Businesses and restaurants came back. Much later, Tony Hsieh started the Downtown

Project and moved the Zappos headquarters there, and it really began to take off, including Mike's neighborhood.

"When downtown, the restaurants, and bars got hot, that's when it picked up again," he says.

Today, Mike knows just about everyone on the block again. And since the historic designation, he feels the pressure to maintain appearances.

"I feel kind of guilty. I swear I will work on this," he says about his landscaping.



HOME & HISTORY 2017

Last year was a good year for Heidi, Michelle, and the NPF. With the success of Beverly Green, they're now working to make the Paradise Palms and Paradise Village communities historic neighborhoods. Their volunteer base is growing, and they'll soon move into a larger office space.

They're also finishing up the final details of their biggest event of the year: Vintage Vegas Home & History 2017. Produced in cooperation with The Neon Museum, the annual event occurs the last weekend in April and will be the largest of its history.

"This is our major fundraiser," Michelle says. "We hope to grow this into a cultural tourism event that can help support our community work throughout the rest of the year."

Over the event's two-and-half days, the public can attend cocktail parties, neon bus tours at night, lectures, and guided and self-guided tours of various vintage homes in many of the historic neighborhoods.

Both Michelle and Heidi—who splits her time between the NPF and serving as a Nevada State Assemblywoman—realize their work is just beginning and its impact goes beyond just trying to preserve some old homes.

"It helps people develop a sense of place," Heidi says. "And by getting the word out (with events like Home & History),

we can start to plant the idea that this is a solid, established, historic community—that we have roots here. And I think that is something we desperately need in southern Nevada is people to feel like there already are roots." ▀

VINTAGE VEGAS HOME & HISTORY 2017 April 28-30

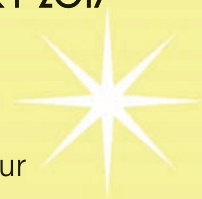
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Friday: Cocktail party & neon bus tour

Saturday: Walking and bus tours, Lectures, Martini tour

Sunday: Self-guided showcase home tour, Cocktail party

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Nevada State Parks: *Something for Everyone*

PART 2: THE ONLY PARK IN NEVADA'S LARGEST COUNTY,
BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK IS DESERVING OF ITS SPACE.



PHOTOS: LEE MOLOF



BY MEGG MUELLER

As the second entry in our year-long series, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park takes center stage, and not just because it's the only state park in Nye County, but for the immensely important role it plays in Nevada history.

Established in 1957, the park is a hybrid; part ghost town, part ancient fossil grounds. There's an old gold mine, too, just for good measure. Located some 30 minutes from the small town of Gabbs, against the base of the Shoshone Mountains, the park requires perhaps a bit more effort to get to, but its offerings are well worth it. The view of the Ione Valley from the park is majestic enough to make the drive, whatever your starting point.

GAGA FOR GOLD

The mining camp developed in 1863 after the discovery of the Union Ledge—a major ore vein. Other towns sprung up, including Union, Ione, and Grantsville, and eventually the area was home to about 250 people. As is often the story, the ore ran dry and since about 1911, the town of Berlin has been deserted.

Nevada State Parks defines Berlin as a town “preserved in a state of arrested decay,” so the buildings that remain are in exceedingly good shape compared to other Nevada ghost towns. The Berlin Mill is the largest and most impressive structure, and while you can't go inside there's plenty of ways to view the massive building that once housed a 30-stamp operation. Other structures include homes and various shops.

Walking among the ruins and peering in the cabin windows at the everyday items once used by inhabitants, it's astounding to see how beautiful the town remains. Ghost towns are often a smattering of structures, a building or two that force you to search your imagination for what life might have been like; at Berlin, you get a sense of what everyday life in the town might have been, even when no one else is around.

Tours of Berlin are self-guided and there are informative plaques at most buildings, so grab your walking shoes and settle in for an immersive experience. Park rangers live onsite and there is a 14-site campground available, along with a day-use and picnicking area.

WE'RE GOING TO NEED A BIGGER BOAT

If the town of Berlin's peek into Nevada's early history wasn't enough, the state park is also home to a collection of giant (up to 50 feet long) reptile fossils. The ichthyosaur (ICK-THEE-oh-sor) lived some 225 million years ago, and these marine reptiles were abundant in the ancient oceans that once covered central Nevada.

In 1928, on the naturally eroded hills above Berlin, a professor discovered ichthyosaur remains, and from 1954 through the 1960s, nearly 40 of the reptiles were found. The collection is the most abundant concentration ever found, and contains some of the largest-known remains. The ichthyosaur was named Nevada's state fossil in 1977.

The park's fossil house is built over one of the excavation sites and displays the remains of nine of the reptiles, with backbones, jawbones, skulls, and other parts clearly visible. Tours are available on certain days throughout the year, and if you can't make one you can view the skeletons through the window and there is information outside the fossil house. Do everything you can to take the tour, however. The guides are a wealth of information about these massive creatures that once swam across our state.



PHOTOS: ERIC CACHINERO



JANIS KNIGHT



MEGG MUELLER

BUT FIRST

The weather in central Nevada is a mercurial thing, and this 1,500-acre park sits at an elevation that ranges from 6,480 feet to almost 8,000 feet. Winter can be inhospitable, but summer is often the perfect time to visit. Check local road conditions before you head out.

Tour times of the Diana Mine and the fossil house change from season to season, so consult the park website before you go. If you have a group, special tours can be arranged with a park ranger. Pets are OK at this park, but they must be leashed.

The closest gas station and store is in Gabbs—no services are available in Ione—so stock up on any supplies before you head into this hodgepodge park of ancient animals and historic mining towns. You're going to want to stay awhile. ■

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park

State Route 844

Gabbs, NV 89310

parks.nv.gov, 775-964-2440



RICHARD MASSEY



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.

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4th St BISTRO



Without trend or hype, Reno eatery remains a bold choice.



Chef Natalie Sellers (left) and General Manager Carol Wilson

ENGRID BARNETT

STORY BY ENGRID BARNETT

PHOTOS BY KIPPY S. SPILKER

As a mainstay of Reno's culinary culture for close to two decades, 4th Street Bistro continues to flourish. An impressive feat in an industry known for ridiculously high failure rates—around 80 percent within the first five years, according to CNBC—4th Street Bistro bucked the trend. Along the way, Chef Natalie Sellers (of Chez Panisse distinction) and General Manager Carol Wilson have inspired a few northern Nevada restaurant trends, including the use of seasonal, sustainable, organic ingredients in all of their preparations and the inclusion of gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan menu fare.

But no matter how good the food, a restaurant's ultimate success requires more than palate pleasers. The secret ingredient for 4th Street Bistro? According to Carol, "We've never, ever cut corners, and we're both very proud of that."

The story of how Natalie and Carol launched a successful and influential restaurant in northern Nevada starts in the most unlikely of locations, a quaint mid-century bungalow well-removed from Reno's neon-lit, casino-dominated downtown core.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

While the secluded address might appear counterproductive to the success of a high-end enterprise, the location represents a kind of geographic muse for Natalie and Carol. In fact, it was the location that lured

them from the dynamic San Francisco dining scene where both enjoyed highly successful careers.

“We’ve never thought about being anywhere but here. It’s because of the charm of the building. This is the only place that we want to be,” Carol says.

Dating to 1945, the cozy structure feels far more like a home than a restaurant. Indeed, guests may be surprised to find that all of its incarnations have been as restaurants. In past days, Old Highway 40 provided ample traffic to the area. Today, Natalie’s delicacies and Carol’s attention to detail provide the powerful draw.

Regular patrons flock from as far as the Bay Area, Southern California, and Las Vegas, and celebrities stop by, too. Natalie and Carol speak fondly of entertaining Patrick Stewart of “Star Trek” fame. Nevada’s version of California restaurant The French Laundry, according to one of their Southern California devotees, 4th Street Bistro earned the *Wine Spectator’s* Award of Excellence for seven consecutive years. The Huffington Post noted, “4th Street Bistro [is] doing [its] part to bring appreciation and understanding to the west, elevating the food culture of Reno.”

IT STARTS HERE

Natalie and Carol achieved this success through hard work, non-negotiable standards of excellence, and focus on a clear concept that drives all aspects of their business to this day: to offer the finest, cleanest cuisine in the region. From melt-in-your-mouth, organically sourced duck rillettes with fig or apricot

mostarda, cornichons, and grainy mustard atop freshly baked crostini to tender morsels of herb-grilled lamb loin chops, Chef Natalie crafts some of the best dining in Reno. What’s more, the cuisine served at 4th Street Bistro is local, organic, sustainable, and never created using factory-farmed ingredients. Natalie and Carol stand behind the local farmers and purveyors who supply their ingredients, and they take pains to support humane animal husbandry.

This refusal to settle for less, plus a deep-seated awareness of the problem’s plaguing America’s food industry, led Natalie to spearhead a local food movement in northern Nevada back in 2000 when the restaurant first opened.

“When we first moved here, the farmer’s market was very small, the one on California Avenue, and there was only one organic producer there, Bill Meywalt,” Nancy recalls. “He had a little teeny booth, and he grew one kind of tomato, celebrity tomatoes.”

She asked Bill to expand his enterprise, and he started cultivating and providing her with heirloom tomatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, spring garlic, and Japanese and Chinese eggplants.

Soon, other nearby organic producers entered the picture including Churchill Butte Organics, a solar-powered, off-the-grid, organically certified producer out of Stagecoach. Run by Steve and Marcia Litsinger, Churchill Butte Organics’ relationship with 4th Street Bistro blossomed as the Litsingers cultivated herbs, chervil, Miner’s lettuce, and other unusual greens for the restaurant. A food revolution was born.





"I cook things
with the seasons,
with the availability.
I don't really
go by trends."



Today, along with Bill Meywalt, City Green Gardens—owned and operated by Craig Frezzette with his wife Gail and his son Cole—provide much of the bistro's produce. Jacobs Family Berry Farm—owned by Diana and Jack Jacobs—contributes the intensely flavorful berries highlighted in many of the bistro's recipes during the warm-weather months.

Naturally, the bistro's menu evolved with the expanding availability of locally sourced, organic products, and it remains Natalie's job to craft this fresh produce into innovative, mouth-watering cuisine.

DELICIOUS CONVERSION

"At first, I thought that Reno was going to be how it used to be...meat and potatoes. That they wouldn't welcome things that I was used to doing in the Bay Area, but they came around," she says.

A quick scan of the menu reveals a multitude of reasons why Reno patrons quickly "came around" and continue to do so. Among the bistro's signature dishes is the O'Liberty duck confit featuring a crispy leg of duck served atop a bed of black beluga lentils, roasted beets, wilted spinach, and aioli. The Porcini-dusted and pan-seared sea scallops, served with pea and pancetta risotto showcasing New Harvest Farm's pea shoots and mushrooms, tantalizes visitors' palates. The braised Durham Ranch bison short ribs, pan-roasted Alaskan halibut, and cabernet-braised Niman Ranch lamb shank offer other gastronomic marvels, and that's just a small cross section of their menu.

Raising Reno's culinary standards and expectations did not come without bumps, though. One of the greatest challenges of featuring seasonal cuisine involves explaining to customers why they won't get iceberg lettuce with tomatoes in the dead of winter.

Natalie explains, "I cook things with the seasons, with the availability. I don't really go by trends."

That statement makes Natalie's uncanny ability to foresee trends all the more fascinating. For example, the restaurant's menu contains an impressive array of gluten-free items, and it always has. The bistro also accommodates vegetarian and vegan diners with diverse selections both on and off the main menu. Finally, Natalie prepares a nightly offering of menu additions based on the available produce and creative inspiration. Many gourmet gems well worth a diner's attention glitter on this list including a savory homemade cream of mushroom soup topped with Chantilly.

A SELECTION WORTH TOASTING

Accompanying elegant presentations of award-winning, contemporary food stands an impressive reserve wine list. From full-bodied cabernets like Napa Valley's 2003 Colgin Tychson Hill to flavorful reds like Ventura's 2006 Sine Qua Non Raven No. 1 Grenache or buttery whites like Sonoma's 2007 Dumol Isobel, Carol handpicks extraordinary bottles. Their staff—most of whom have worked at the restaurant for more than a decade—is imminently skilled at pairing hors d'oeuvres,

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www.winnemucca.com

soups, salads, main courses, and desserts with select wines and cocktails.

Although the star of the show remains the bistro's innovative, contemporary cuisine, the setting is worth note. Warm, comfortable, and fittingly elegant, the restaurant overlooks the distant dazzle of Reno's downtown corridor. In late spring and throughout the summer, guests are beckoned to the outside terrace, which is surrounded, by glittering garden lights and rustic landscaping. Inside, patrons enjoy an equally intimate ambience surrounded by carefully selected fin-de-siècle French prints straight out of Toulouse-Lautrec's imagination and the subtle overtones of jazz.

TASTE THE SENSATION

4th Street Bistro
3065 W. 4th St.
Reno, NV 89523
4thstbistro.com, 775-323-3200

"Old school and charming" as Carol puts it, the atmosphere expertly enhances the overall dining experience making the 4th Street Bistro a divine spot for a unique, satisfying evening. ■

ORGANIC ATAULFO MANGO SORBET

Makes about 1 quart

2 cups mango purée (about 4-5 peeled and seeded ripe mangos)

1 1/2 cups simple syrup*

2 tablespoons fresh organic lemon juice

To make the mango purée, place the mangos in a blender or food processor. Process until the fruit is very smooth. Pour it into a fine mesh strainer set in a deep bowl. Use a rubber spatula to press down on the mixture to extract as much liquid as possible. Discard any pulp that remains in the strainer.

Add the simple syrup and lemon juice to the purée, and stir until well combined. Cover the bowl and refrigerate until chilled before using, at least 1 hr.

Pour mixture into an ice-cream maker, and freeze according to manufacturer's instructions. Transfer sorbet to an airtight container; place in freezer at least 2 hours or overnight before serving.

**To make simple syrup, combine equal parts of organic sugar and water in a saucepan and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until sugar has completely dissolved. Cool before using.*

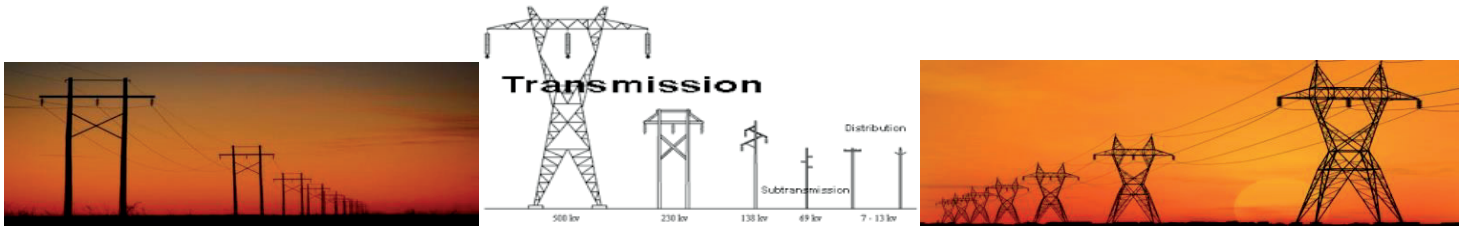




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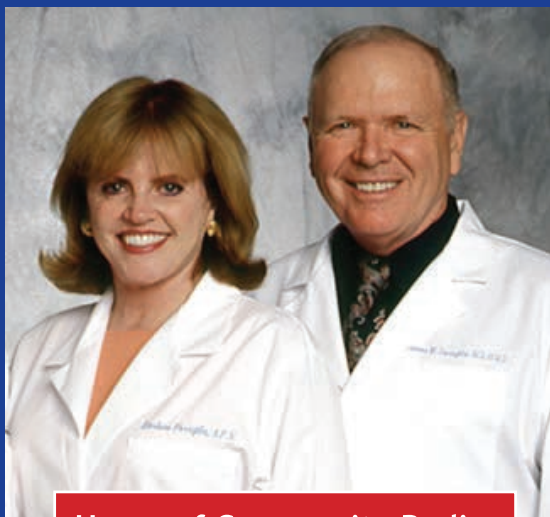
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Tickets are on sale now for perennial favorites such as the Grand Tasting at Caesars Palace and Little Italy From City To Strip; Rao's Italian Brunch with The Rao's Family at Caesars Palace, as well as new events, including Picnic in The Park; MGM Resorts' new outdoor dining and entertainment district; Lunch like a Spaniard with José Andrés at The Cosmopolitan; Brunch with Bobby Flay at Caesars Palace; Sweet Escape: An Evening of Buddy, Beignets, Bon Bons, & Booze at The Palazzo; and Three-Kitchen Tasting at SUGARCANE raw bar grill with Chef Timon Balloo at The Venetian.



Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry



JERAMIE LU

VISITORS HAVE A BALL DURING QUIRKY EVENT.

Although the event has seen the entire sphere of puns over the years, the annual Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry in Virginia City is still nuts. The event—now in its 26th year—takes place March 11, and continues to ensure Nevadans and visitors get their fill of one of the west's most daunting delicacies. Participating chefs serve their creations smoked, fried, grilled, sautéed, and even wrapped in bacon, ensuring that guests stay satisfied.

The fry is much more than a spherule sampling, though. Guests can partake in the Ball Breaker Saloon Crawl, which encourages visitors to explore the historic town while imbibing at their leisure. Head over to visitvirginiacitynv.com to purchase tasting packages along with saloon crawl tickets.

GO NUTS

Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry
Virginia City
March 11
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500



Killswitch Engage



Escape the Fate



All That Remains



The Devil Wears Prada

HARD ROCK AND METAL BANDS DESCEND UPON DOWNTOWN LAS VEGAS.

Las Rageous—a two-day music festival featuring some of the nation's biggest hard rock and metal bands—is taking over two square blocks in Downtown Las Vegas April 21-22. Created by Live Nation, Las Rageous features performances from Avenged Sevenfold, Godsmack, Anthrax, Coheed and Cambria, Killswitch Engage, Breaking Benjamin, and more with two stages in the heart of iconic Downtown Las Vegas.

Charlie Benante of Anthrax says, "We are looking forward to playing the Las Rageous festival, planning on making this first-time festival memorable."

Benjamin Burnley of Breaking Benjamin adds, "We're really excited to be a part of Las Rageous in April. We love playing Vegas and are looking forward to being a part of this new festival."

The lineup for Las Rageous is as follows:

Friday, April 21: Godsmack, Anthrax, Coheed and Cambria, Killswitch Engage, Of Mice & Men, The Devil Wears Prada, and more.

Saturday, April 22: Avenged Sevenfold, Breaking Benjamin, Mastodon, Eagles Of Death Metal, All That Remains, Escape The Fate, and more.

With only 10,000 tickets available for purchase, Las Rageous offers the rare opportunity for fans to enjoy a festival experience in an intimate outdoor setting. Located just off Las Vegas Boulevard at Third and Carson Streets, Las Rageous will take over two city blocks of the historic downtown area.

All ages are welcome and doors open at 4 p.m., with headliners taking the stage at approximately 10 p.m. The festival will also feature a collection of wandering performers, a KOMP-sponsored showcase of local rock and metal bands, and a Vegas scene foodie-focused Food Truck Village.

WHERE

Downtown Las Vegas

WHEN

April 21-22

TICKETS

lasrageous.com, 800-745-3000
Starting at \$99

WORTH A CLICK

anthrax.com
avengedsevenfold.com
coheedandcambria.com
allthatremainsonline.com

HOTTEST SHOWS

MUST SEE

JOHN MAYER

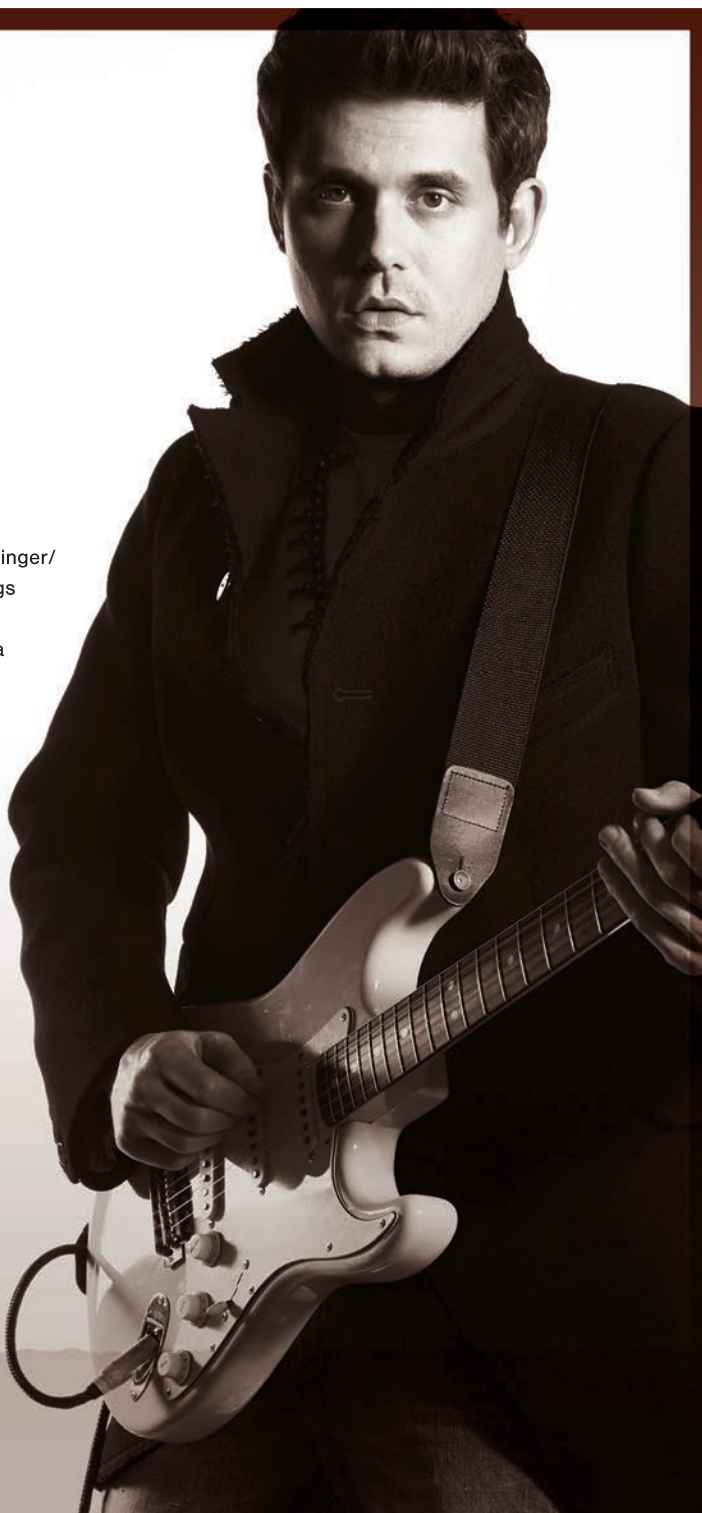
T-Mobile Arena

April 22

t-mobilearena.com,

702-692-1600

Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter John Mayer brings his "Search for Everything" world tour to T-Mobile Arena Saturday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. The tour marks the first solo trek for Mayer since 2014, and is sweeping through arenas across North America and Europe in the spring before concluding on Friday, May 12 at The O2 in London. Each concert on the tour is comprised of full band, solo acoustic, and John Mayer Trio performances.



BACKSTREET BOYS: LARGER THAN LIFE

Planet Hollywood

March 1, 3-4, 8, 10-11, 15, 17-18;

April 12, 14-15, 19, 21-22, 26-28

caesars.com/planet-hollywood

866-919-7472

KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD

The Orleans

March 10-11

orleanscasino.com

702-365-7111

GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS

Palms

March 11

palms.com

702-942-7777

BRUNO MARS

Monte Carlo

March 11-12

montecarlo.com

702-730-7777

CHRIS STAPLETON

Palms

March 30

palms.com

702-942-7777

GREEN DAY

MGM Grand

April 7

mgmgrand.com

702-891-1111

STEELY DAN

The Venetian

April 12, 14-15, 19, 21-22, 26, 28

thevenetian.com

702-414-1000

HANS ZIMMER

Monte Carlo

April 21

montecarlo.com

702-730-7777

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

On March 3, One Drop joins forces with Cirque du Soleil and MGM Resorts International to host the fifth edition of **One Night for One Drop**—an annual celebration created to raise funds and awareness for critical water issues worldwide. onedrop.org

Game of Thrones Live Concert Experience featuring Ramin Djawadi is coming to the MGM Grand Garden Arena Saturday, March 25. The show presents an immersive music and visual experience that brings the Seven Kingdoms to life on a scale never seen before. mgmgrand.com, 702-891-1111



JACK MEGAW

USA SEVENS INTERNATIONAL RUGBY TOURNAMENT

Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas
usasevens.com

The USA Sevens International Rugby Tournament in Las Vegas is North America's premier rugby event. The 2017 tournament and festival brings the top 16 international rugby sevens teams to Las Vegas, including teams and players who competed during the 2016 summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**GUIDED SNOWSHOE HIKES**

Carson Ranger District
fs.usda.gov/htnf, 775-722-3985

The Carson Ranger District on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has announced the return of the popular Forest Ranger-led snowshoe walks. The walks offer an off-trail exploration through the meadow and forest, plus grand views of Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

March 3-5**March 4, 11, 18****MARCH****1-5**

WINNEMUCCA RANCH HAND RODEO
 Winnemucca Events Complex, Winnemucca
ranchrodeonv.com, 775-623-5071

3

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

3-4

ELKO SPORTSMAN'S EXPO
 Elko
exploreelko.com, 775-738-4091

3-5

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

3-12

SNOWFEST!
 North Lake Tahoe
taeosnowfest.org, 530-583-7167

6-11

BIG SKY BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
 Reno Events Center, Reno
roadtoreno.com

7-12

SHOOTING THE WEST
 Winnemucca
shootingthewest.org, 877-623-3501

10

GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS
 Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
grandsierraresort.com, 775-789-2000

10-12

HENDERSON ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE
 Henderson Events Plaza, Henderson
cityofhenderson.com, 702-267-2323

10-12

NASCAR WEEKEND
 Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas
lvms.com, 800-644-4444

11

FOREIGNER
 Primm Valley Resort & Casino, Primm
primmvalleyresorts.com, 702-386-7867

LARRY THE CABLE GUY
 Peppermill Concert Hall, Wendover
wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OYSTER FRY
 Virginia City
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

12

LEPRECHAUN RACE
 Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum, Reno
nvdm.org, 775-786-1000

18

SILVER STATE CHILI COOK-OFF
 Petrack Park, Pahrump
visitpahump.com

18-19

REEBOK SPARTAN SUPER RACE
 Mesquite
visitmesquite.com, 877-637-7848

20-24, 27-31

KIDS UNIVERSITY CAMP
 Fleischmann Planetarium, Reno
kidsu.unr.edu, 775-784-4046.

25

PAT BENATAR & NEIL GIRALDO
 Nugget, Sparks
nuggetcasinoresort.com, 775-356-3300

27-29

NIGHTCLUB & BAR CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW
 Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas
ncbshow.com, 888-966-2727

CALENDAR



April 8

CRAZY SPOKES

Henderson Events Plaza, Henderson
cityofhenderson.com, 702-267-2323
Henderson's fourth annual bicycle event returns for another educational and exciting ride, offering two different rides for participants. The 15-mile guided group ride allows people to experience bicycle-friendly roads and trails while learning the fundamentals of distance riding. The 5.5-mile family fun ride is a silly and leisurely cruise through town.



BRIAN LOWE

April 21

KISS

Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
grandsierraresort.com,
775-789-2000

Face paint, wild leather outfits, and fantastic music embodies KISS, the group that redefined rock 'n' roll and is taking the stage at Grand Sierra Resort and Casino's Grand Theatre on Apr. 21. Shocking the world of music, KISS defined their brand of heavy metal with elaborate performances that included fire-breathing, blood-spitting, and pyrotechnics.

APRIL

Through April 1

"PRIVILEGED-A SPEAKEASY EXPERIENCE"

Eldorado, Reno
eldoradoreno.com, 775-786-5700

1

DUMMY DOWNHILL

Diamond Peak Ski Resort
diamondpeak.com, 775-832-1177

DWIGHT YOAKAM

Primm Valley Resort & Casino, Primm
primmvalleyresorts.com, 702-386-7867

7

OAK RIDGE BOYS

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

THE CLAIRVOYANTS

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

THE HEAD AND THE HEART

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

7-8

GREAT VEGAS FESTIVAL OF BEER

Downtown Las Vegas
greatvegasbeer.com

12-16

CLARK COUNTY FAIR & RODEO

Logandale
ccfair.com, 888-876-3247

14

A PERFECT CIRCLE

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

THE GUESS WHO

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

26-29

LAUGHLIN RIVER RUN

Laughlin
laughlinriverrun.com, 949-502-3434

27-29

RENO JAZZ FESTIVAL

University of Nevada, Reno
unr.edu/rjf, 775-784-4046

29

DAVID CROSBY

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

29-30

VIRGINIA CITY GRAND PRIX

Virginia City
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500



"Privileged-A Speakeasy Experience"

LES FOLIES BERGERE

HISTORIC LAS VEGAS SHOW IS REMINISCED AT NEVADA STATE MUSEUM.

"Les Folies Bergère: Entertaining Las Vegas, One Rhinestone at a Time" explores the beauty, artistry, and extravagance of Las Vegas' longest-running Parisian cabaret show. Included in the exhibit are rarely seen photographs and spectacular stage costumes from the archives at the Las Vegas News Bureau and the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas. The unique exhibition interprets the legacy of the stage show via the personal narratives of those individuals who brought life to Las Vegas' "Folies Bergère."

The exhibition showcases the museum's recent acquisition of the entire existing "Folies Bergère" costume archive discovered backstage at the Hotel Tropicana.

The collection includes more than 8,000 pieces from the 1960s through the show's closing in 2009. The exhibition runs through Aug. 31.



ARTIFACTS & ARTISTRY

"BEYOND NATURE'S LIGHT: THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF ABE BLAIR"

Nevada State Museum,
Carson City
Through March 20
nvdca.org, 775-687-4810

SPRING IN THE SIERRAS PAINTING WORKSHOP

St. Mary's Art & Retreat Center, Virginia City
March 31-April 3
stmarysartcenter.org, 775-220-0325

"RESCUE"

DISCOVERY Children's Museum, Las Vegas
Through May 7
discoverykidslv.org, 702-382-3445

"TILTING THE BASIN: CONTEMPORARY ART OF NEVADA"

920 S. Commerce Street, Las Vegas
Through May 14
nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

REMINISCE

"Les Folies Bergère:
Entertaining Las Vegas, One Rhinestone at a Time"
Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
Through Aug. 31
nvdca.org, 702-486-5205

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Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge



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ANCIENT NEVADA



Second of six-part series explores clues left behind by the earliest Nevadans.

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

BY ERIC CACHINERO

Thousands of years before the Great Pyramid of Giza, Machu Picchu, and Stonehenge were built, ancient Nevadans were leaving their own existential clues. Some of these clues—time capsules delivering messages about the behavior of man—sat preserved deep in the recesses of caves for millennia. Others—carved into exposed limestone—withstood the test of time, erosion, and destruction, and we learn from them still.

If a modern-day Nevadan and a hunter-gatherer of the Great Basin could somehow meet face to face, they would each probably swear they made contact with alien life. An air-conditioned suburban duplex would surely be as bizarre to an ancient Nevadan as a cave dwelling would be to us today.

Modernity seems unfathomably disparate to what it did roughly 15,000 years ago. Almost nothing we interact with in our daily lives existed back then, save the soil that makes up our great state. It's on this same soil that ancient man thrived during the days when hitting a jackpot meant finding food and shelter for the night.

Newspaper Rock, Gold Butte National Monument





KAREN BROWN-GORDON



TULE DUCK DECOY

In the early 20th century, a major discovery was made at Lovelock Cave that would lead to the creation of Nevada's state artifact: the Tule Duck Decoy. A pair of miners searching for bat guano to use as fertilizer first made the discovery, and soon excavations were underway. Archaeologists ended up finding 11 decoys in total, estimating that the ducks had been in the cave for approximately 2,000 years. The decoys, which were used by early hunters to lure ducks, are located at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.

THE ORIGINAL NATIVE NEVADANS

Though there is much we don't know about the history of ancient Nevadans—and the topic is a source of debate—it is generally accepted that hunter-gatherers made their way into western North America and into the Great Basin somewhere around 15,000-10,000 B.C. In the early days, these people were broadly referred to as Paleoindians, and groups commonly consisted of 20-50 members that moved from place to place as necessity demanded.

Nevada's climate was changing 10,000 years ago, and resources abounded. Seeds and pinenuts were aplenty and hunting grounds allowed ancient man to thrive in the Great Basin. Ancient Nevadans lived in caves, as evidenced by several in the northern Nevada area. Toquima, Lovelock, and Spirit Caves—just a few of the many caves once occupied—show evidence that these sites were used for shelter, food storage, and even burial sites.

During the many millennia that ancient man occupied the Great Basin, food-gathering behaviors changed. Weapons like the atlatl—a spear-thrower designed to hunt small and large game—and the bow and arrow that were so heavily relied upon began to be supplemented by agriculture.

Small hunter-gatherer groups began to form larger bands as they migrated and reproduced. Over time, different tribes of American Indians emerged, each with its own set of traditions, customs, and stories.

TIME-CAPSULE ETCHINGS

In 2013, a discovery was made that shifted our understanding of ancient man's timeline. Messages carved into soft limestone near dry Winnemucca Lake come in the form of petroglyphs ranging from simple lines to complex shapes. It's not what they depict that's so remarkable, rather their age. It is believed that the glyphs were created between 10,000 and 14,800 years ago. Prior to dating these petroglyphs, scientists believed the oldest in North America were in Oregon, and were carved just some 6,700 years ago.

Ancient Nevadans didn't just leave their mysterious marks in the northern part of the state, though. Many southern Nevada locations, including Valley of Fire State Park and Grapevine Canyon near Laughlin, contain extensive petroglyphs, dating between several hundred to several thousand years ago. The markings are believed to depict everything from hunting grounds to religious symbols.

TOMB RAIDERS

According to an article published in the January 1951 issue of *Nevada Magazine*, Nevada State Museum workers uncovered fossilized bones of a horse in Crypt Cave, located along the old Lake Lahontan shoreline. Before work was complete, however, vandals raided the cave, removing and destroying the horse fossils and some parts of human skeletons. As a result, the state announced they would impose heavy penalties to similar acts in the future.



Grapevine Canyon Petroglyphs

ERIC CACHINERO



SPIRIT CAVE MAN

BY FRANK X. MULLEN

About 10,600 years ago, at the tail end of the last Ice Age, loved ones buried a tribal elder's body in a shallow cave near what would become Fallon. His partially mummified remains, known as Spirit Cave Man, were unearthed in 1940, but his antiquity wasn't determined until tests were done in 1994.

His people—descendants of the continent's original population—lived in a marsh left by the vanishing Lake Lahontan. The climate was changing, turning warmer and drier. All indications are the first Nevadans adapted to that change as well as any people on Earth. They caught fish; hunted birds, antelope, and rabbits; and weaved beautiful mats and storage bags. Spirit Cave Man died in his 40s, a long life for the period. His remains indicate his people cared for him, nursed him, and laid his body to rest.

Nevada tribal governments said their people occupied the Great Basin since the dawn of time and claimed the man as their relative. They wanted to rebury him so he could resume his trek into the next world. They opposed further research. Anthropologists said the mummy could provide clues to the prehistory of North America and argued for more study. Some scientists theorized the

man was representative of a people who occupied the continent before ancestors of modern Indians arrived. A legal tug-of-war stretched over two decades. In 2015, the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe agreed not to oppose DNA testing and the federal government made plans to give the remains to the tribe.

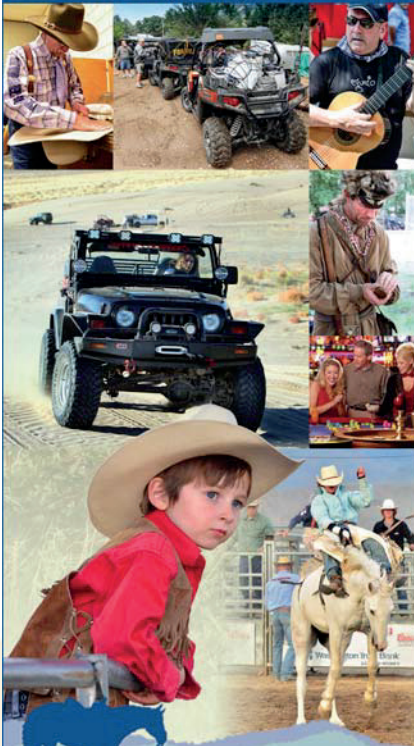
DNA analysis last year revealed Spirit Cave Man was American Indian, although major elements of his genome are more closely related to Central and South American Indians than to any North American tribal people. His genetic mutations were a unique blend passed down from ancestors who lived in Siberia and East Asia more than 20,000 years ago. His DNA and that of other ancient remains indicate humans arrived on this continent from the eastern edge of Siberia more than 150 centuries ago. They probably migrated along the Pacific Coast, and their descendants spread south and east to populate the Americas.

In a way, the Nevada tribes were right: the man's genetic signature exists in American Indians and among no other populations, living or extinct. The New World birthed a new people. In November 2016, the ancient one's remains were surrendered to the Fallon tribe for reburial. The oldest Nevadan has resumed his journey to the next life.



Winnemucca | Elko | Wendover | Lovelock | Wells | Carlin | Jackpot | McDermitt | Battle Mountain | Jarbidge | Gerlach

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THE LOST CITY

Man has occupied areas in southern Nevada as hunter-gatherer groups throughout the millennia, and later incorporated agriculture, built permanent structures, and formed developed settlements. Curator, archaeologist, and interim-Director of the Lost City Museum in Overton Mary Beth Timm says the earliest occupation of the southern Nevada area by the Paleoindians occurred during 11,150-10,830 B.C., evidenced by fluted points recovered at sites throughout Clark County. She adds that during the Pueblo II period (900-1,150 A.D.), a more-advanced civilization of Ancestral Puebloans emerged with improved agriculture.

“These people lived in pueblos; practiced horticulture of squash, corn, beans, and mesquite; and traveled to hunt large game in the mountains during the summer,” she says.

The Lost City (officially named Pueblo Grande de Nevada) does not get its name from an Indiana Jones knockoff, though. The legacy of these early peoples was almost erased from the earth, buried beneath the Mojave Desert’s shifting sands. In 1924, excavations began, uncovering an archeological legacy. Ancestral Puebloans’ westernmost settlement has unveiled much about the life of some of Nevada’s oldest developed civilizations. With the subsequent creation of Hoover Dam, however, much of the history was covered by trillions of gallons of water, becoming lost once again.

MYSTERIES

It can be difficult to fully grasp just how long ancient man thrived on the land that would someday become Nevada. Thousands of years of harsh weather, cave dwellings, game hunting, and ancient technological advancements contributed to the story of our state’s oldest natives. And though these civilizations did an exceptional job at leaving clues as to the way they lived their lives, we’ll never truly understand the depths. ■



Pueblo Grande de Nevada

MARK VOLLMER

Next issue, we’ll explore Nevada’s diverse landscapes and learn how they were formed.



A GIANT MYSTERY

According to Paiute legend, a band of red-haired giants called Si-Te-Cah once inhabited Lovelock Cave. Skeletal remains were uncovered in the cave that some argued fit the description of the race of redheaded behemoths, though it is said that they were destroyed before anyone could confirm their authenticity. Along with the giant bones, irregularly split human bones were found, leading to the rumor that the giants were cannibalistic in nature and had extracted the marrow.



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or kim50now@yahoo.com
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EXPLORING THE
GHOST RAILROADS
OF CENTRAL NEVADA

HISTORIC SITES LAY TRACKS TO THE PAST.



BY JIM PRICE

"Choo, Choo!" I know it seems child-like, but every time my wife and I are driving along what we know is an abandoned railroad grade I just can't help myself. We ride through cuts and over fills that were built more than 100 years ago for railroad lines that brought hopeful prospectors of all kinds to the new mining bonanzas in central Nevada, hauled out processed ore, and brought in needed supplies for burgeoning cities.

Between 1904-07, four different railroad companies optimistically laid no less than 500 miles of shiny new rail in order to reach

the boom cities of Tonopah, Goldfield, and Rhyolite. Imagine the activity level in such a short time: roadbeds graded, trestles built, ties and rail laid, and multiple depots constructed to service the residents and businesses of each city. This had to have been an amazingly exciting time, and the railroads were certainly a key element in the growth of these boomtowns.

But by the 1920s, ore production was falling off and the booms were going bust. It was quick. One by one, the railroad lines were scrapped until by 1947, there were no more rails at all in central Nevada.

Fast forward to today. Surely, one would think, there should be some really interesting remnants of these now "ghost" railroads. And indeed there are!



An early day view of a Tonopah & Goldfield locomotive and passenger activity at the Goldfield station. These buildings were the airports of yesteryear.

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM, CARSON CITY



Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad COMPANY.

ALL ABOARD!

Tonopah boomed first, and the Tonopah Railroad was built from Sodaville (near Mina) to Tonopah in 1904. Next was Goldfield: the Goldfield Railroad was built from Tonopah to that new boom in 1905, and soon thereafter the Tonopah & Goldfield Railroad (T&G) was born with the merger of these two lines.

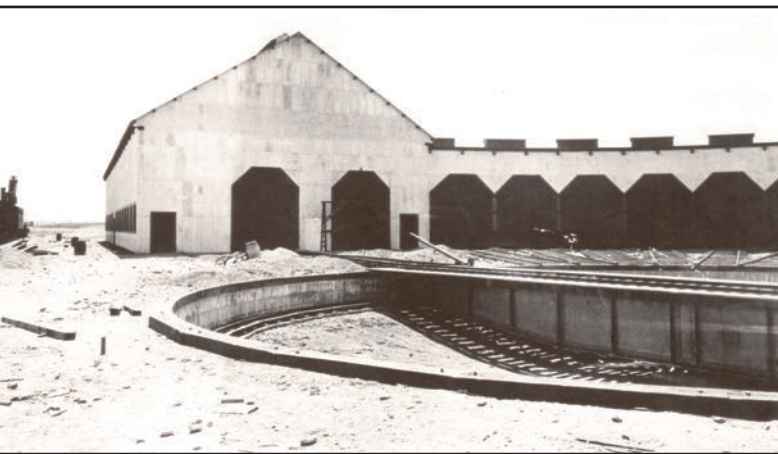
Then in 1906 and 1907, it was Rhyolite and Beatty's turn. Three separate lines were built to the new Bullfrog Mining District: the Bullfrog Goldfield (BG) south from Goldfield; the Las Vegas & Tonopah (LV&T) north from Las Vegas to Beatty and on to Goldfield; and the Tonopah & Tidewater (T&T) north from Ludlow, California, to the Beatty area, spanning almost 200 miles.

By the end of 1907, all of these railroad lines were in place, operating with a full head of steam, so to speak, and it would have been possible to ride by rail all the way from Las Vegas to Reno. Shipment of goods and transportation of passengers to and from any point in the U.S. was available.

T&G ROUNDHOUSE AND TURNTABLE AT MILLER'S

In about 1905, the T&G Railroad built a large roundhouse and turntable at Miller's, some 10 miles west of Tonopah, on flat ground, as Tonopah was too steep and hilly for a large service yard. Miller's was also a major processing site for ore from some of Tonopah's rich mines. An eight-stall roundhouse was built, adjacent to a 90-foot diameter turntable. This allowed the turning of the locomotives and coal cars before backing them into (or driving them out of) a "home" for service and/or protection. Service pits existed underneath the tracks inside the roundhouse allowing mechanics easy access to the underside of the locomotives.

What's left to see today are the extensive foundations of both the roundhouse and turntable. Owing to the ground being level and very little vegetation in the area, the concrete foundations appear to have been poured yesterday.



CENTRAL NEVADA MUSEUM

Left: T&G locomotive roundhouse at Miller's, 1907.

Below: Foundations of the turntable visible today at Miller's.

Getting there: Go to the rest area on U.S. Routes 6 and 95 about 10 miles west of Tonopah, turn south on an unmarked dirt road, and proceed about 1 mile. Turn left upon arrival at power lines that run perpendicular to the road, and drive a short distance. GPS coordinates: N 38 07.696, W 117 27.208



JIM PRICE



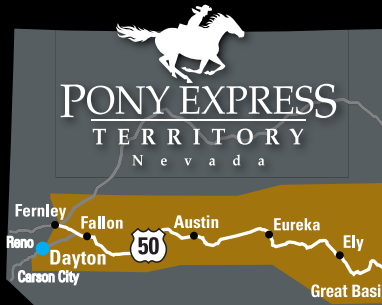
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T&G TRESTLE AT TONOPAH HISTORIC MINING PARK

As Tonopah is located in a fairly narrow and steep canyon, the T&G Railroad built a spur line into town from the area around Miller's down the hill. A stylish depot was constructed (sadly it burned down in 1980), and additional side tracks were built to various mines in the area. The access spur to several major mines, such as the Mizpah, required construction of a wooden trestle.

Fortunately this wonderful example of railroad bridge construction has been preserved at its original location inside the Tonopah Historic Mining Park. The Mining Park is a must for travelers to Tonopah, and the trestle is an added bonus for railroad buffs.

Getting there: Start at the Mizpah Hotel—located on the corner of U.S. 95 and Brougner Avenue—turn north on Brougner, and follow the signs up the hill to the mining park.

The area's history, including that of local railroads, is also well exhibited and interpreted at the Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah, about 1 mile east of the mining park on U.S. 95.

Right: A T&G Railroad train crosses what is now Highway 95 on the way to Goldfield.

Below: T&G trestle, restored and preserved at the Tonopah Historic Mining Park.

"E-TICKET RIDES" ON RAILROAD GRADES IN AND AROUND GOLDFIELD

I have to admit to being somewhat partial to Goldfield. My wife and I own a vacation home there, and we have some very close friends in town. But when you see amazing structures like the Goldfield Hotel, the Esmeralda County Courthouse, and the former Goldfield High School, you get a sense that something special must have happened here back in the boom days.

And indeed it did. Three different railroad lines operated in Goldfield, each with its own railroad yard, and there were miles of tracks in Goldfield and the surrounding areas. There is distressingly little left from those days of prosperity and the bustle of thousands of residents. But there are a few must-see places.



CENTRAL NEVADA MUSEUM



First, visit the Bullfrog Goldfield Railroad yard. This yard would have been a busy place from its construction in 1906 into the 1920s. It's located about one-half mile north of U.S. 95 on Fifth Avenue, across the street from the famous Santa Fe Saloon. The owner of this yard has brought in a wonderful display of a period steam locomotive, and two boxcars that originally ran on the Tonopah & Goldfield Railroad. Initial construction has been done on replicating what was a two-stall car barn for the railroad rolling stock. Two nearby miner's cabins, a wrecked vintage automobile, and a railroad car, all from the early 1900s, add to the nostalgic scene. Please note that this is all private property, so please enjoy these scenes from the street.

Now comes the "E-ticket ride" part. One can drive on segments of what were the LV&T and BG grades for several miles to the north and east of Goldfield. These "dirt freeways" can be driven by just about any vehicle, so don't be shy.



The Bullfrog Goldfield yard in Goldfield with historic exhibits of rolling stock. The boxcars ran on the T&G railroad.

JIM PRICE

Getting there: Start at the BG yard described above, go north a short distance on Fifth Avenue, and turn right at the sign pointing to Diamondfield. This road will head out to the northeast, passing by two of the remaining mining headframes—the larger one belonging to the Florence Mine. Soon after, the road bears slightly left and merges with another road from the right. You are now on the BG railroad grade! Follow this further to the northeast, and note the LV&T grade up the hill to the left. At the top of the pass, you can continue straight ahead and follow the BG grade to a wonderful spot where there used to be a trestle. GPS coordinates: N 37 40.652, W 117 11.540

Or you can turn left, go a couple of hundred feet, turn right, and now you're on the LV&T grade. You can drive this for several miles. Once you get out there a ways, you can look around and sense that, except for the road you are on, the area looks exactly as it would have more than 100 years ago! I find that to be uplifting. And this is one place where I say "Choo, Choo!"

At about 4 miles, the "dirt freeway" ends, and you need to reverse course. As you come up the gentle grade, think about the optimism that must have been felt by early arrivals into Goldfield when this line was opened in 1906. As soon as you get to the top of the hill, continue straight, and you'll see the city off to the left. In the boom days, this would have been a scene of frenetic activity in both the mining district and in the city. Continue on for another mile or so, then head left and back into Goldfield.



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RHYOLITE'S BEAUTIFUL LV&T DEPOT

I remember the first time I saw this building many years ago. I was looking around the rather empty townsite and thinking “how the heck did this get here?”

All four of the railroad lines that ran in central Nevada built structures of various kinds to service both the needs of the railroads themselves and, of course, their customers. A primary interface to those customers was the passenger and freight depots—the airports of yesteryear. LV&T built particularly attractive depots, and fortunately the one in Rhyolite has survived for all to enjoy today.

Ready for operation in 1908, the beautiful Mission Revival-style station initially serviced a busy, bustling city. But it turned out that the Bullfrog mines were nowhere near as productive as had been hoped, and Rhyolite became the ultimate example of a boom and bust city. The first train arrived into town in December 1906; the last one left less than 12 years later in 1918. This depot building has survived thanks to having several other “lives” including being a casino. It presently belongs to Bureau of Land Management, as does the entire townsite, and is looked after by a resident caretaker of Rhyolite. One can thoroughly investigate the outside of the building but cannot go inside.



CENTRAL NEVADA MUSEUM

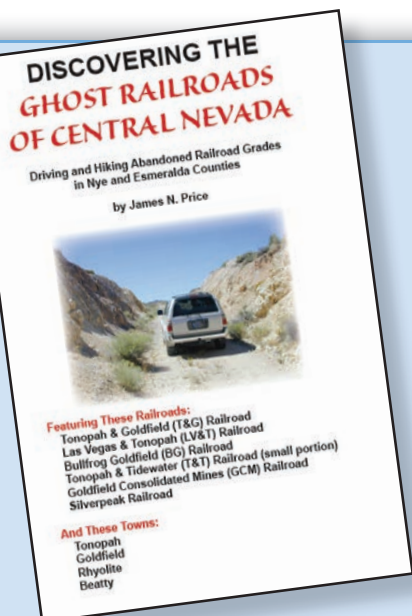


JIM PRICE

Above Right: Construction of Rhyolite's beautiful LV&T depot is nearing completion in 1908.

Above: Rhyolite Depot as seen today—a magnificent building in an otherwise nearly empty landscape.

Getting there: To see this truly wonderful train station, head west from Beatty on State Route 374, and go four miles to the well-marked right turn to Rhyolite. Stop at the bottle house and pick up a town map. The depot sits at the far northern end of town. You'll also see the remains of a Union Pacific caboose adjacent to the depot. Now you know how the heck this building got here, but do look around and think about what would have been going on here more than 100 years ago compared to today.



Meet the Conductor!

For more in depth information on this topic, check out the author's book “Discovering the Ghost Railroads of Central Nevada.” The book is available in some stores in central Nevada, especially in Tonopah and Goldfield, and on Amazon.

The author Jim Price, and his wife, Joan Sieber, dressed up for Goldfield Days.



JACKIE PANKRST



JIM PRICE

A portion of the railroad mural in Beatty painted by local artist Laura Cunningham. The mural is 90 feet long.



JANET GEARY

Getting there: The sign and the mural are located near the corner of U.S. 95 and Amargosa Street on the southeast side of Beatty. Local artist Laura Cunningham completed the full-color mural—10 feet tall by 90 feet long—in 2008. The artwork is stunning in its size, detailed subject matter, and vibrant colors. The depot that is depicted stood about 100 yards to the south.

About five blocks away, on S.R. 374, south of the junction with U.S. 95, is the Beatty Museum, truly a treasure trove of local area memorabilia and history.

T&T MURAL IN BEATTY

As noted previously, the Beatty/Rhyolite area was the confluence of three railroad lines: the BG, LV&T, and T&T. There was so much railroad activity in Beatty back in the day that it was nicknamed “The Chicago of The West.” But when one visits Beatty today, the only two obvious reminders of its train-related heyday are a Nevada state historic sign, and a beautiful mural painted on the side of a building near the original location of the LV&T depot.

RIDE THE GHOST RAILS

So, take a day or take a week to explore these and other remnants of the railroad glory days of Tonopah, Goldfield, Beatty, and Rhyolite. For those who are already ghost town enthusiasts, learning about the railroads that served those towns takes nostalgia about those boom years to a new level. 🍷

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Right: U.S. military personnel climb out of a trench and prepare to advance seconds after an atomic explosion. Opposite page: Mannequins (top) are scattered about a mock living room that has just been hit by a blast. Several vehicles (bottom) sit outside a realistic house constructed for bomb testing. The force of an atomic bomb (right) obliterates a house.

SPLITTING ATOMS: NEVADA'S ATOMIC HISTORY



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Atomic testing is remembered as a sensational and sometimes sinister era of the state's history.

BY ERIC CACHINERO

On the morning of May 5, 1955, a family nested in their contemporary dream home. A tall redbrick chimney and lovely shutters complemented the whitewashed exterior, which gave an exquisite view of the surrounding desert mountains. The home was perfect in nearly every way: a state-of-the-art television, an immaculate kitchen, dining room laden with fresh and frozen food, and the family Desoto sedan parked outside. The occupants were the quintessential 1950s household: a husband, wife, and several fine children, and on that morning they had numerous guests scattered about. Though they had some neighbors' houses not too far away, the small town they lived in was mostly quiet.

But this morning was different than most. Just as the faintest hints of sunlight shone across the desert sky, anomalies abounded. As the father peered out the window, in a split second he saw a blinding flash, followed by an inferno, and finally the sights and sounds of unfathomable destruction. As luck would have it, the family and all of their guests survived the blast, as mannequins tend to do.

The mannequin family had witnessed—just several thousand feet from ground zero—one of man's most destructive inventions: the atomic bomb. Though many of their neighbors' homes weren't so lucky, several that were constructed for the Apple II blast, theirs included, remained standing. The 29-kiloton (roughly 29,000 metric tons of TNT) device was detonated from a 500-foot tower on Yucca Flat at the Nevada Test Site, now known as the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). Though Apple II wasn't the first atomic bomb test at the site, it joined 927 others as part of Nevada's captivating and sometimes chilling atomic legacy.



PHOTOS: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



REPRINTED FROM "IMAGES OF AMERICA: NEVADA TEST SITE"
BY PETER W. MERLIN (ARCADIA PUBLISHING, 2016)

This page: Members of the 11th Airborne Division kneel as they watch a test in 1951. Opposite page: A mushroom cloud (top) rises in the distance, as seen from Fremont Street in Las Vegas. A film crew (bottom) is hit by a shock wave several seconds after an atomic bomb explodes.

1950

BOMB BUSINESS IS BOOMING

The atomic bomb played a vital role in the outcome of WWII, and though the war ended in 1945, the interest of the U.S. in this new technology was burning brighter than ever as the Cold War took shape. From June 1946-48, atomic testing took place at several Pacific island sites, including Bikini and Enewetak Atolls; however, it became costly and difficult to perform them so far from home. Cue Project Nutmeg—a top-secret feasibility study conducted by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to identify the best possible location for a mainland atomic test site.

After a meticulous search, an area was selected 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas due to government control of the land,

low population, little annual rainfall, and its absolute vastness. On Dec. 18, 1950, President Harry S. Truman signed the order to establish the site, and a little more than a month later the first atmospheric test took place. The 1-kiloton bomb named Able dropped from a plane onto Frenchman Flat.

After the blast proved successful, the AEC decided to expand facilities, and the site's operation center at Mercury—located just 5 miles from U.S. Route 95—was born. In the heyday of atomic testing, Mercury boasted 10,000 workers daily, and held many comforts including dormitories, health facilities, a steakhouse, and even an Olympic-sized swimming pool.



FRENCHMAN FLAT

NEVADA MAGAZINE HISTORY

Nevada Magazine's inaugural editor, Fred Greulich, and longtime photographer, Adrian Atwater, attended the detonation of the 16-kiloton Annie bomb at the test site on March 17, 1953. Atwater recalls the experience in the March/April 1996 issue.

"We put our goggles on, and at the count of zero there was a complete white-out...We took off our goggles and saw a ball of deep red fire on the desert floor. The boiling fireball rose on its mushroom stem, and the desert churned with dirt. Thunder echoed off the mountains."

Visit nevadamagazine.com/atomic to read the entire 1996 article.

FIRE ON THE TUBE, CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON

Atmospheric testing was extensive in the early days, and the AEC dreamt up countless designs and scenarios to better understand the bomb's impact on various materials. Many of the tests took place at the 5.8-square-mile dry lakebed called Frenchman Flat. Bomb shelters, man-made forests, utility lines, a railroad trestle, a bank vault, and even mock towns outfitted with mannequins were constructed to test how they stood up to atomic blasts. Civil defense tests were also conducted several miles north on Yucca Flat.

Nevada Magazine's inaugural editor, Fred Greulich, was in attendance with those who watched a 16-kiloton bomb named Annie detonated at the test site on March 17, 1953. The test—part of the Operation Upshot-Knothole projects—was the first nationally televised atomic detonation in history and featured the destruction of several mock structures. Approximately 600 journalists and cameramen from across the U.S. gathered to view the blast, which was broadcast to about 15 million viewers. Their vantage point for tests on Yucca Flat became known as News Knob, and the famous location was used to broadcast the U.S.'s muscle to the world. Greulich wrote in the June-December 1953 issue, "Primarily...the explosion was a scientific experiment, but secondarily it was for the purpose of impressing Americans with the deadly seriousness of nuclear device detonations and the need for arousing a keener interest in civilian defense."

The explosions weren't only visible by high-ranking officials, newsmen, and on television, though. Las Vegas became the epicenter of atomic displays. Nighttime flashes and mushroom clouds were sometimes visible from the city and could be viewed from hotel rooms, rooftops, and sometimes simply from the street. Visitors and residents could often feel the ground shake, and occasionally had to deal with rattling, sometimes shattering windows. The brilliant, unbeknownst radioactive, clouds didn't last too long, though.



PHOTOS: REPRINTED FROM "IMAGES OF AMERICA: NEVADA TEST SITE"
BY PETER W. MERLIN (ARCADIA PUBLISHING, 2016)

HOW AN ATOMIC BOMB WORKS

Atomic bombs use nuclear fission (splitting) to create their devastating power. Essentially, a determined amount of an isotope of uranium (sometimes plutonium) is fired at another determined amount of the same element, causing atoms to split, resulting in a chain reaction that releases an enormous amount of energy. It's this release of energy that causes the explosion.

DRILL FOR THRILL

After a total of 100 aboveground atomic tests, the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963 prohibited atmospheric, outer space, and underwater testing, bringing the days of visible mushroom clouds to a close. The treaty did not, however, limit underground testing. Instead of delivering the atomic weapons via airplane, cannon, or tower—as happened in aboveground tests—holes were drilled and atomic bombs were lowered into them and detonated. Most of the underground tests took place at Yucca Flat.


Initially, underground testing proved difficult and time-consuming. A 1,000-foot-deep, 36-inch diameter hole could take up to 60 days to drill, and sometimes holes needed to accommodate devices that were 6-12 feet in diameter. New drilling equipment and technology was developed, and soon the underground tests were in business.

Unlike atmospheric tests that cause scorched earth but didn't displace much dirt, underground tests created craters—big ones. Once the atomic device was lowered by crane into underground shafts, the hole was filled in with sand, gravel, and epoxy, and the device detonated remotely. Information was then collected and delivered via fiber optic diagnostic cables to aboveground unmanned trailers, which monitored the effects of the bomb extremely carefully and accurately.

The intense heat from underground explosions caused surrounding rock to liquefy instantly, resulting in a hollow cavern. After time, the roof of the blast cavern collapses, causing the earth above it to implode on the hollow structure, leaving a massive subsidence crater on the surface of the earth.

Underground testing also provided scientists and engineers opportunities to explore new, peaceful purposes for atomic devices. For example, tests were conducted to determine the ability of atomic explosions to excavate earth and rock to create canals, harbors, and other large-scale excavations. One such test left behind the Sedan Crater, which is perhaps the most impressive crater at the test site, measuring 300 feet deep and 1,300 feet in diameter.

From 1957-1992, 828 underground atomic tests (928 total atomic tests including atmospheric) were conducted, and much was learned about the way the devices act and perform under a host of different conditions. In 1992, President George H. W. Bush introduced a moratorium on atomic weapons testing, effectively putting an end to full-scale testing. The NNSS, though, remains a bastion of national security to this day.



The device used for the 104-kiloton Sedan test was detonated 635 feet below the surface and moved nearly 12 million tons of earth, causing this crater. The crater can be seen from Earth's orbit with the unaided eye.

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NEVADA NATIONAL SECURITY SITE

In 2010—to better represent the nature of the work occurring at the site—the Nevada Test Site was renamed the Nevada National Security Site. Operated by the U.S. Department of Energy. The 1,360-square-mile NNSS utilizes the world's most-advanced technologies, with a focus on keeping the country's nuclear deterrents safe, secure, and effective. The site supports homeland security and counterterrorism operations, including nuclear detection systems and first-responder training. NNSS Public Affairs Manager Dante Pistone says much of the national security work that occurs at the site today is only possible because of the past.

"The foundation for much of this work was laid during the nuclear testing days," he says. "Many of the lessons we learned back then are applied today without having to do actual testing. Instead we work with the National Laboratories to support maintenance of the nation's nuclear deterrent using subcritical experiments and computer models."

Some of the active programs at NNSS today include:

- **Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (JASPER):** JASPER is one of the most powerful gas guns on the planet. It is designed to subject materials—including plutonium—to extreme pressures and temperatures to see how they react without the need for underground nuclear testing. The gun is capable of accelerating projectiles at 28,000 feet per second.

- **Device Assembly Facility (DAF):** DAF allows scientists to work on special nuclear material in a controlled environment. The facility deals with subcritical tests and computer models to further understand what happens when a nuclear device is detonated.

- **Big Explosives Experimental Facility (BEEF):** This remote facility is used to test conventional high explosives and measure their responses using high-speed optics and x-ray radiology.

- **Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL):** RSL focuses on emergency response technologies, counterterrorism, and radiological incident response. Teams are in place 24/7 to respond to nuclear-related threats worldwide.

- **T-1 Training Area:** Located on ground zero of a 1950s-era atmospheric atomic test, the T-1 Training Area provides one of the most realistic radiological training environments anywhere, testing first responders in a number of different challenging radiological scenarios. The area includes mock storefronts, a crashed 737 airliner, helicopter, trucks, busses, and a derailed locomotive.

- **Nonproliferation Test and Evaluation Complex (NPTEC):** NPTEC is the largest facility for open-air testing of hazardous toxic materials and biological stimulants in the world. The facility provides field-testing and sensor testing to improve responses to toxic chemical spills, in full compliance with all applicable federal and state environmental requirements.

- **U1a Complex:** The U1a Complex is an underground experimental facility designed to conduct subcritical experiments, like measuring properties of plutonium under weapon-like conditions. The plutonium is subjected to high pressures and shocks, mimicking conditions during an atomic explosion.

Beyond tests concerning hazardous or explosive materials, NNSS has served as the location for other historic activities. In 1969, astronauts including Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin underwent lunar training at the site. The mission involved collecting geological material and operating moon rovers. In addition, the University of Nevada, Reno; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and the Desert Research Institute have used the site for climate testing. Experiments involved testing the effects of climate change on the landscape by exposing it to increased CO2 levels.

Below: Several structures including bomb shelters and a bank vault remain at Frenchman Flat. Opposite page: The T-1 Training Area (top) provides first responders with the most realistic radiological training environment in the world. Bottom: Associate Editor Eric Cachinero and NNSS Public Affairs Manager Dante Pistone at Sedan crater.



The Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas tells the history of America's nuclear weapons testing through educational displays and exhibits. According to the museum, guests can "Learn about world events leading up to the establishment of the Nevada Test Site, learn about the progression of the test site from the above-ground tests to underground tests and non-nuclear activities, see a replica of the control point where the countdown was conducted before each nuclear detonation, experience a ground zero theater simulation of an aboveground test, and more."
nationalatomictestingmuseum.org, 702-794-5151

NATIONAL ATOMIC TESTING MUSEUM

TEST SITE TOUR

Free tours of the Nevada National Security Site are available to the general public monthly by reservation. They are often booked out a year in advance, so plan accordingly if you would like to visit. Guests can expect to see Mercury, Frenchman Flat, News Nob, the Sedan Crater, and more. Visit nnss.gov for tour information and scheduling. nnss.gov, 702-295-0944



PHOTOS: ERIC CACHINERO



MEGG MUELLER

PROJECTS SHOAL & FAULTLESS

The Nevada Test Site isn't the only place where atomic bombs have been tested in the state. Project Shoal was an underground atomic blast that took place on Oct. 26, 1963 in the Sand Springs Range east of Fallon. The objective was to detonate a nuclear device in an active seismic area to better understand detection of underground nuclear explosions. Project Faultless was detonated at a depth of 3,200 feet on Jan. 19, 1968 near Hot Creek Valley in central Nevada. The test was designed to allow scientists to differentiate seismic signals caused by atomic bombs and natural earthquakes.

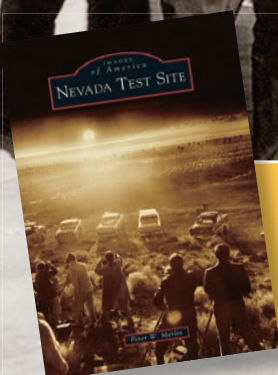
ATOMIC LIQUORS

Built in 1945, Atomic Liquors claims to be the oldest free-standing bar in Las Vegas. The bar is named after the days when patrons would sip cocktails from the roof while watching the mushroom clouds on the horizon.

AN ERA ELEVATED

Nevada's nuclear history is remarkable. It is sensational to some, and sinister to others. The truth is, there is so much we have learned—and continue to learn—from this technology. Given that most people have never had the fortune or misfortune of witnessing an atomic blast firsthand, Greulich, a man who has, explained it best. "All of the blasts are frightfully terrible yet unbelievably magnificent; they are hellish but beautiful; horrible yet spectacular. The whole range of human emotion is brought into play upon observing such a detonation." ▀

President John F. Kennedy tours the Nevada Test Site on Dec. 8, 1962. He later announced that nuclear propulsion technology would not play a role in the first lunar landing, but acknowledged its potential for future space travel.



IMAGES OF AMERICA

Author Peter W. Merlin, in collaboration with Arcadia Publishing, has compiled an extensive collection of Nevada's atomic history in his book, "Images of America: Nevada Test Site." The book features dozens of historical photos and follows Nevada's atomic era from its earliest days to modern times. arcadiapublishing.com, 843-853-2070



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Following Her Gypsy Soul

BY CHRIS PLATT

Washoe Valley artist Jill Mueller is one of the fortunate ones. She figured out how to take a fun hobby and turn it into a life-long career that she loves.

Known to the art world as Lady Jill, this impressionistic watercolorist is celebrating her 40th anniversary as a professional artist. She specializes in painting the Sierra Nevada Mountains and wilderness areas. Jill started drawing at age 5, and moved to watercolors after that.

"My mom was a watercolorist," she says. "I greatly admired her work. She always encouraged me to paint."

Lady Jill's schooling included junior colleges, a well-earned scholarship for Laguna Art School, and mentoring by professional impressionist artists David Millard and Ted Gorschner.

But a solid background in art doesn't guarantee a new artist a living. At one point, Jill found herself driving a bus for the Golden Gate Transit System in San Francisco.

"It was me and 300 men," she laughs. "I was the first woman driver they'd hired since WWII."

That career didn't sit well with Jill's free spirit. So, after 5 long years, Jill quit her steady job, built a wooden camper in the back of her truck that resembled a gypsy wagon, and hit the road with her horse in tow.

"I was determined to make a living off my art," Jill says. "I spent the summer driving to places where I wanted to ride my horse. I'd pack my watercolors and art paper and ride into the wilderness. When I'd find a spot that inspired me, I'd stop and paint it."



Later, she'd take those paintings to town and sell them for a couple of dollars in a flea market. It was a sparse existence, but she was carefree and living her dream of becoming a professional artist.

"It wasn't always a smooth ride," Lady Jill says. "On one trip, I was traveling at night and ran out of gas 30 miles from town. There was no one else on the roads, so I rode my horse bareback to town to get help."

After all her wanderings, Jill decided her heart belonged to Nevada. She moved here in the early '80s and concentrated on her favorite place to paint: the Eastern Sierra's. Looking back over a successful career, Lady Jill has won multiple awards, seen her artwork hung in museums across the west, and toured with her creations.

Today, at 72, the wooden gypsy camper has been replaced by a home in Washoe Valley. But the spontaneous trips into the wilderness continue. These days, the horse stays home, but her faithful Border Collie, Katie, hikes into the back country and sits

by Lady Jill's side while the feisty watercolorist paints her masterpieces.

LUCKY LADY

Lady Jill's artwork can be seen at ladyjill.com, or Eagle Framing & Art Gallery at 1510 S. Wells Ave., Reno, NV 89502. See her website for upcoming exhibitions. ■



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2017 *Uncorked* & ON TAPSM DINNER SERIES

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Don't miss out on these amazing events in 2017! In its 13th year, our wine dinner series has surpassed expectations, hosting some of the finest wineries from across the globe. Enjoy an evening of excellence with a five-course meal carefully paired with wine selections from the featured winery. We look forward to serving you!

Stay tuned for more details. For reservations, please visit www.bonanzacasino.com/reservations.

BONANZA CASINO'S
CACTUS CREEKSM
PRIME STEAKHOUSE

4720 N. Virginia St., Reno, Nevada | www.bonanzacasino.com



ROMBAUER
VINEYARDS

February 13
Rombauer Vineyards



June 5
Stag's Leap
Wine Cellars



August 21
Chef Almir Da
Fonseca
CIA, Greystone



October 2
Game Feed
Pride Mountain
Vineyards

Cakebread
Cellars



December 4 & 5
Cakebread Cellars