

NEVADA

FALL 2021

M A G A Z I N E

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A Love Letter to
Pyramid Lake

Desert Caves

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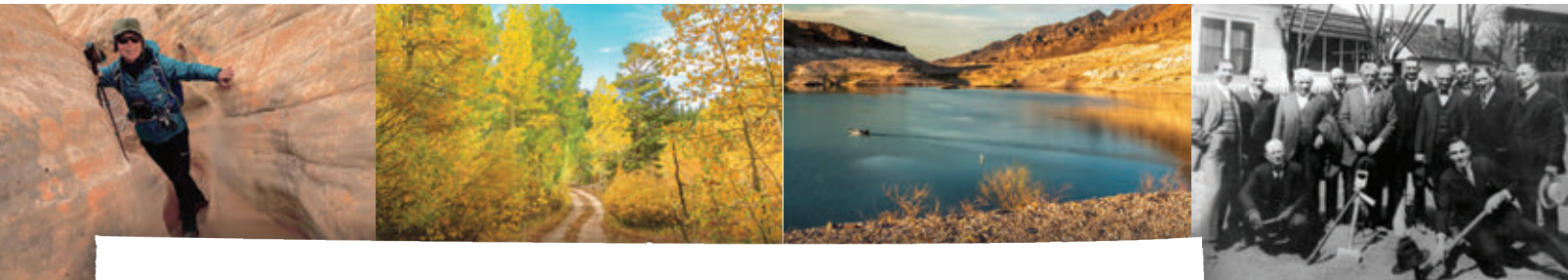
More than 80% of Nevada is pretty much unfenced, totally wild, and—most importantly—public, waiting to bring your wildest get-outside dreams to life. Whether you're highway road-trippin' or lookin' to dip a tire or two into some Nevada backroad action, be sure to explore the Silver State safely and responsibly, to ensure Nevada's spaces remain pristine and special for generations to come.

Do your part to protect the Nevada we love. **#RecreateResponsibly**



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Fall is the perfect time to (you guessed it) fall in love with Nevada. From autumn festivals to the first blushes of snowfall, the Silver State is ready to embrace its seasonal wardrobe and show off its colors in a whole new light.



NEVADA

Cover Photo: Christopher Balladarez

Winter scene in Red Rock: a desert bighorn sheep poses before an empty stretch of highway.

Rich in History, Big on Adventure

*Plan your next
adventure today!*

AustinNevada.com

Stokes Castle

was completed in June, 1897, by Anson Phelps Stokes, mine developer & railroad magnate. Stokes Castle is made of native granite, hewn and put in place by the ancestors of people still living in Austin. The structure stands as an abiding monument to the local men who built it and to those who helped develop the mines of Austin.



NEVADA

M A G A Z I N E

FALL 2021

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WEB EXTRAS

► **The Sagebrush School** – Everyone knows about Mark Twain's career as a prolific writer and reporter in the West and his residency in Nevada. However, Twain was just one in an eclectic group of Nevadan writers, journalists, and poets who told the story of life on the frontier through a distinct style all their own. Known for their wit, humor, love of hoaxes, and scathing criticism of corruption, these writers belong to a short-lived movement known as the Sagebrush School. **By Cory Munson.**

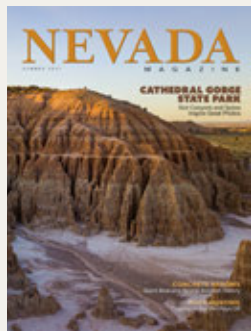


► **Yesterday: A Preppie in Pioche** – In 1946, A New York prep school graduate hitchhikes to one of West's toughest mining towns to work in a mine. There, he embraces the chance to live a few months in a town that's changed little since the frontier days. Along the way, he'll muck for ore, spend wild nights in the saloon, and learn valuable advice from old-timers—specifically, what to do with your paycheck. This story first appeared in our March-April 1998 issue. **By Ralph E. Pray.**



VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE COVER!

Which cover would you have chosen? Visit nevadamagazine.com/covers to see the great images that almost made our cover this month, and vote for which one you would have chosen! The winning photo will be posted on our website, and all who vote will have a chance to win a free 1-year digital subscription!



For our Summer 2021 issue, online voters chose Kippy S. Spilker's photo taken in Cathedral Gorge.

Congratulations to Maria Castañeda, who voted in the last round and was randomly selected to receive a free 1-year digital subscription to Nevada Magazine!

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NEVADA WIDE WEB

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Would you like to see your Instagram page featured in Nevada Magazine? Use **#nvmag** and let us know about your **#Nevada** adventure!



THE FUTURE CALLS

“We remain committed to the 85-year history of this publication and to preserving the soul of *Nevada Magazine* for generations of readers to come.”



You may recall that last year we made the decision to become a quarterly product. It was a tough decision, but in retrospect, it was definitely the right choice. I realized the magazine has morphed many times during its 85 years. It's changed size, names, editorial focus, page count, paper style...you name it, it's done it. Change in life is inevitable: so too in the magazine business.

A full announcement can be found on page 9, but long story short, *Nevada Magazine & Visitor Guide* will debut with our next issue in February 2022. Our new magazine will be a blend of Travel Nevada's annual visitor guide content and *Nevada Magazine* stories. This is an exciting change for us. Not only will we grow our page count to 128 pages, but this new product will be seen by more than four times the number of people that normally see the magazine. With that massive jump in distribution, something else exciting is happening: we are becoming a free publication. The details can be found on page 9, plus we'll be sending emails to our subscribers who've supplied email addresses.

It's a big year for us, as you can imagine, but I want to note another big change that's already taken place. In July, Cory Munson joined the staff as our new associate editor. Cory is a third generation Nevadan, hailing from Spring Creek. He's fought fires, taught school (including Spanish), is a wood worker, and survived his first road trip with me. He's already proven himself equal to almost any task, and I am so happy he's joined our team.

With all the changes going on, I want to assure you of one thing: Carrie, Kippy, Alex, Janet—and now Cory—are all still here, working as tirelessly as ever to bring you a magazine you can look forward to and will be thrilled to receive. We remain committed to the 85-year history of this publication and to preserving the soul of *Nevada Magazine* for generations of readers to come. Please reach out to any/all of us...we love to hear from you!

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

I love this issue because the annual Great Nevada Picture Hunt winners are inside. Each year we are happily bombarded with wonderful images and spend days going through them, choosing our favorites...and then the voting begins. It's a bit of madness, to be sure, but it's a job we take very seriously. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your work with us.

Cory's first story for the magazine is deep. Really deep. He went caving in a few of our most picturesque subterranean locations; his story starts on page 76. A surprise guest writer can be found hiking the Ruby Crest Trail on page 36. Take a look, you might just recognize him. We've got some great history stories, too. Echo Bay Resort on Lake Mead is a shell of its former self, alas, but the 100-year-old Temple Emanu-El in Reno is as robust as ever. Read about them on pages 24 and 44, respectively.

We've got a full fall issue, so happy reading, and see you next year!

Megg Mueller, Executive Editor
mmueller@nevadamagazine.com

LETTERS

RETURN TRIP NEEDED

We love the way Nevada dares to be different with all the history in ghost towns, mining towns, natural rock formations, hot springs, petroglyphs, stars, and miles of open land and sky. I visited Cathedral Gorge once in the 90s, was wowed and amazed then, but Kippy Spilker's story and photos (Summer 2021) really made me want to spend time there again! — **Maureen McMullin**, via email

Cathedral Gorge State Park is where grandparents take their grandchildren so they can feel young watching them. The real bonus is when they say "Grandpa does the coolest things." Nevada, it just makes your heart beat!
— **Dennis Golden**, via Instagram



TONOPAH TRIBUTE

The Winter issue (Winter 2021) is just stupendous. I'm from Tonopah and The Belvada story was wonderful. Some of my family still lives in Tonopah, and they're

so excited about the new hotel. *Nevada Magazine* renews all my Nevada roots. You all do an awesome job.

— **Janice Doran**, Colorado Springs, Colorado

LOVE THE VIEW FROM ABOVE

The Summer 2021 edition was a treat for this homesick Nevadan. Mark Walker's "High-Flying Wayfinding" was especially interesting. It's fascinating to think of the long history of transportation across Nevada. Thanks for this, many other fine articles, and wonderful pictures.
— **John Hannifan**, Elizabethtown, Kentucky



CORRECTION:

In our Summer 2021 issue we incorrectly identified one of our photographers. Kim Kolvet is the photographer of this photo.



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.

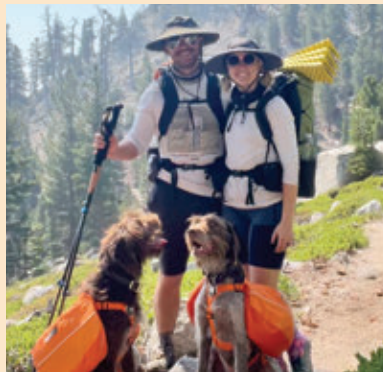
CONTRIBUTORS

KLAUS ALTEMUELLER



Klaus Altemueller moved to Nevada in 1968. In high school he picked up photography as a hobby and did black and white advertising shoots for a local store. He's been fascinated with photography ever since. Klaus has explored most of Nevada's back roads and main streets but maintains the outdoors is his special place. He retired from a local sheriff's office in 2002. He now spends his time traveling, camping, fishing and taking lots of pictures. ■ PGS. 24-29

ERIC CACHINERO



Eric Cachinero is a native Nevadan who loves chasing tall mountains and tall tales. He is the former associate editor of *Nevada Magazine* and the current Public Information Officer with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Eric lives in Carson Valley with his beautiful wife Jillian and two fur babies Opal and Genoa.

■ PGS. 36-43

SUE EDMONDSON



Sue Edmondson is an award-winning freelance writer and long-time Nevada resident who has written for numerous publications in Nevada and in California. Sue is retired from a career in law, and when she's not at her desk writing or investigating Nevada history, she can be found in the garden. ■ PGS. 44-46

Up Front



PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

Shuttles set for Raiders, Knights games

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) and the Las Vegas Raiders have launched Game Day Express service that will offer direct, express transit routes from five convenient locations throughout the Las Vegas Valley to Allegiant Stadium for Las Vegas Raiders home games. RTC also offers Game Day Express service to all Golden Knights home games at T-Mobile Arena.

The Raiders' service is set for all 10 Raiders home games. The cost is \$2 per person each way (\$4 roundtrip). Payment may be made in cash with exact change on the bus, or passes may be purchased in advance on the rideRTC app.

For visitors traveling to the games from downtown Las Vegas or The Strip, the RTC's

popular double-decker Deuce provides 24/7 service to get fans to the stadiums. Multiple pickup locations and two convenient drop-off locations will make it simple for fans to see these two exciting teams play at home.

rtcsonv.com/gamedayexpress, 702-228-7433





ARTS & CULTURE

Theater and performing arts center coming to Downtown Las Vegas

Plans have been revealed for The Beverly Theater, a new independent film house and performance theater set in Downtown Las Vegas. The theater, along with The Lucy and The Writer's Block, fulfills a nearly \$30 million commitment by The Rogers Foundation to the arts on 6th Street.

The Beverly Theater—set to debut in mid-2022—plans to host independent film, music happenings, artistic performances, literary experiences, and educational programming seven days a week.

The two-story, 14,306 square-foot film house and performance theater will feature three distinct areas—the main theater, terrace, and courtyard—each thoughtfully designed to allow for unique content offerings and consistent programming.

thebeverlytheater.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fran Lebowitz headlines Las Vegas Book Festival

Author, journalist, and social observer Fran Lebowitz will headline the 20th annual 2021 Las Vegas Book Festival Oct. 23 at the Historic Fifth Street School. The free festival offers events Oct. 19-24 and is open to all ages.

Children's author Dr. Oriel María Siu—who wrote a series of books after noticing a lack of books for children of color in the U.S.—will also speak at the festival.

lasvegasbookfestival.com



CYBELE MALINOWSKI

FALL 2021

7



■ **MGM Resorts International** recently launched a 100-megawatt solar array: the hospitality industry's largest directly-sourced energy project. The array's clean energy now produces up to 90 percent of MGM Resorts' Las Vegas daytime power needs, which span 65 million square feet of buildings across 13 properties and more than 36,000 rooms on the Las Vegas Strip. mgmresorts.com

■ **The Railroad Pass Hotel Casino and Travel Center** turned 90 in August. Located just south of Las Vegas, the oldest licensed casino in Nevada continues to grow with the construction of a \$15 million hotel tower. railroadpass.com, 702-294-5000

■ **The Venetian Resort Las Vegas** has expanded its concierge level Prestige Club Lounge. Guests can now upgrade in both the Palazzo tower and the Venetian tower. Both private lounges include expedited private check in, complete with a welcome glass of sparkling Prosecco; complimentary continental breakfast; afternoon coffee or tea; and evening appetizers and handcrafted cocktails—all with spectacular views of The Strip. venetian.com/prestige, 702-414-4300

■ An innovative photo exhibit exploring cultural identity is on display at the Winchester-Dondero Cultural Center in Las Vegas. **"Find Your Folklife: We Are the Folk, All of Us"** was curated by the Nevada Arts Council Folklife Program to illustrate the vitality of folklife, folk arts, and folk communities in Nevada. The exhibit features 22 photographs of Nevadans dressed to represent different cultural identities, each paired with a photograph of the same person in everyday dress as they might appear at home, work, or enjoying recreational activities. lasvegasmuseum.org, 702-486-5205

NEVADA BOOKS

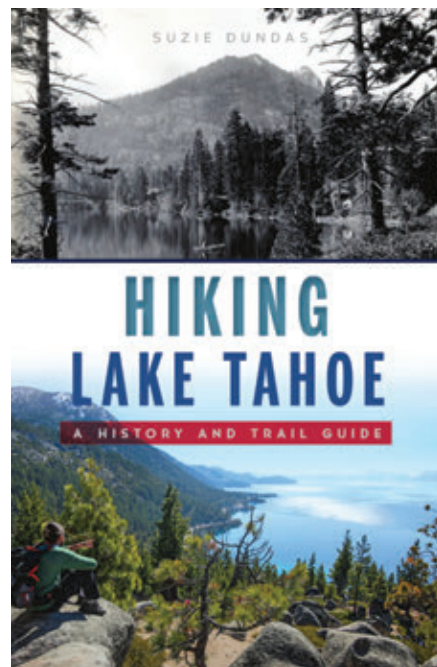
"Hiking Lake Tahoe: A History and Trail Guide"

By Suzie Dundas, The History Press, 240 pages, nonfiction, historypress.com

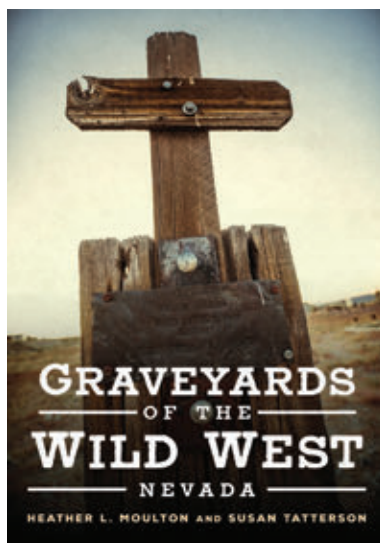
When is a hike more than just exercise? When it involves so much more than just physical labor. For the hikers who also love knowing about the places they traverse, this book is a gem. More than two dozen hikes are described in great detail, including why to hike them, how to hike them, and a rich history of the surrounding area.

Every level of hike is offered in the area surrounding the beauty that is Lake Tahoe. The book offers short lakeside trails used by the Washoe tribe, all-day trips that explore shelters abandoned by early mapmakers, and the chance to see lighthouse ruins built in the early 20th century.

Hiker and author Suzie Dundas lives at Lake Tahoe, and her ability to capture not just the technical side of hiking but also the historical aspect is seamless. She imbues each hike with a rich and clever story that makes the hike become so much more than a physical pursuit.

**"Graveyards of the Wild West: Nevada"**

By Heather L. Moulton and Susan Tatterson, Arcadia Publishing, 128 pages, nonfiction, arcadiapublishing.com



Nevada's population boomed in the late 1800s, with people flocking to the 1849 California Gold Rush and The Comstock Lode in 1859. This influx of people led, naturally, to an increase in the number of graveyards.

Many Nevadan graveyards linger in obscurity in out-of-the-way places that have little to no residents (Candelaria, Silver Peak), while others are beautifully maintained and can't be missed (Hawthorne, Tonopah). Regardless of their conditions, these cemeteries offer powerful and precious reminders of Nevada's wild history.

Authors Heather L. Moulton and Susan Tatterson have added to their series about these important places; "Graveyards of the Wild West: Nevada" follows their entries on Arizona and New Mexico. Read about the people whose spirit of adventure led them to live and die in Nevada's untamed territory.

COMING IN 2022

**Starting with the first issue of 2022,
Nevada Magazine will become
Nevada Magazine & Visitor Guide,
and it will be a free publication.**

We will continue to publish quarterly and the four magazines will be released as follows: February, May, August, November.

All current print subscribers will receive the four issues created in 2022 and can choose to continue receiving the new magazine after that (visit the FAQ below).

For those with additional issues, please visit

NevadaMagazine.com/survey

to choose how to
process the remainder
of your subscription.

The magazine will increase to 128 pages and contain the stories you're used to with new content designed to showcase all there is to see and do in Nevada. Digital subscriptions to **NevadaMagazine.com** are still available, and along with our 85 years of archives, new content will be posted to our website each month.

For detailed information about this change, please visit

NevadaMagazine.com/FAQ

and if you still have questions, call 775-687-0610.

UP FRONT



After more than \$2 million in renovations, the conversion of the Red Lion Hotel and Casino Elko to **Maverick Casino & Hotel** has been completed. Along with upgrades to the building, the new casino and hotel will feature a history wall with old signage, photos, gaming chips, and other nostalgic items. maverickelko.com, 800-545-0044

Lip Smacking Foodie Tours' newest excursion, "Afternoon Culinary Adventures," spotlights renowned restaurants in The Venetian and Wynn Las Vegas. The 2.5-hour tour takes guests to four top restaurants—Smith & Wollensky, Estiatorio Milos, Cipriani, and Sugarcane—to enjoy a feast of more than 10 signature dishes. lipsmackingfoodies.com, 888-681-4388

A longtime Las Vegas icon for live music and craft cocktails, **The Sand Dollar Lounge** now has a second location inside the Plaza Hotel & Casino. In 1976, the Sand Dollar Blues Bar opened its doors and instantly became one of Las Vegas' most iconic bars. plazahotelcasino.com, 800-634-6575

PanIQ Escape Room has opened at Grand Canal Shoppes inside The Venetian. PanIQ Room offers guests a unique entertainment experience featuring multiple next-generation escape rooms. Players have 45 minutes to accomplish a mission as they search for clues, complete puzzles, and crack codes. Among other themes, adventure seekers can explore underwater ruins in Atlantis Rising, learn the art of magic in Wizard Trials, travel back in time in A Steam-punk Story, or play with the paranormal in The Haunted Manor. grandcanalshoppes.com, 702-415-4525



ATTRACTIONS

You're the pilot in this scenic flight adventure

All In Aviation, southern Nevada's premier flight training center, provides the perfect way to experience a new adventure while discovering the region's most breathtaking desert, mountain, and coastal destinations from above. All In Aviation's flight lesson experiences provide an ideal alternative to stuffy flight tours packed with strangers—guests get to be in control of the aircraft alongside a certified flight instructor. No prior flying experience is necessary.

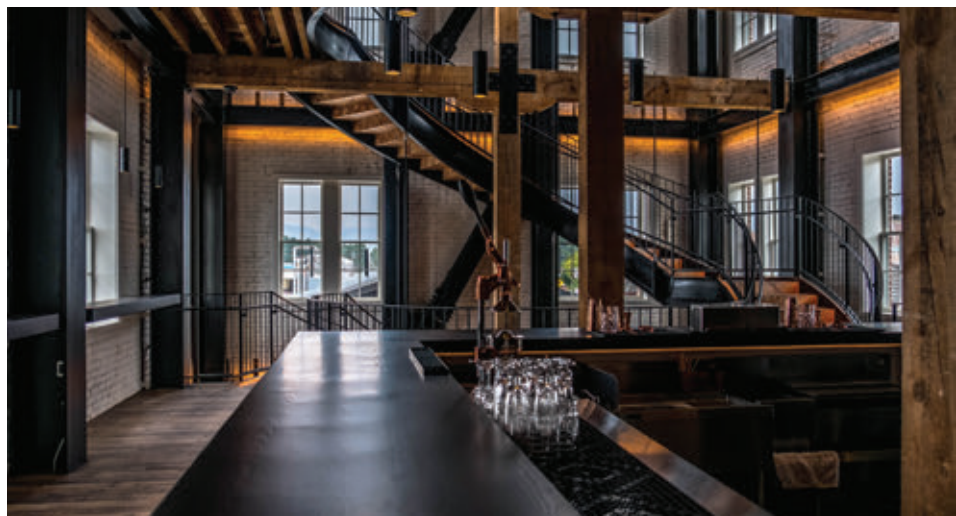
The perfect high-end adventure, the one-hour or half-day flight lessons are offered in the Cirrus SR22, the Cessna 172, or—for the ultimate enthusiast—the Cirrus SF50: the world's first personal jet. allinaviation.com, 702-255-4622

LIBATIONS

Bently Heritage Estate Distillery reopens

After being closed for 17 months, Bently Heritage Estate Distillery has reopened its Public House and tasting room. Guests can relax and enjoy as Bently's craft bartenders create bespoke cocktails with ultra-premium estate spirits or take a tour of the distillery and see Bently's 100-year-old creamery building.

Located in Minden, just 45 minutes from Reno, the distillery offers visitors an expansive view of the eastern slope of the Sierra, a world-class tasting experience, impeccably preserved historic buildings, as well as in-depth tours. bentlyheritage.com, 775-210-5097





Eureka Sentinel Museum

Eureka Heritage Days | Oct. 2, Perdiz
The Cowboy Ain't Dead Yet - R.J. Vandygriff | Oct. 16, Opera House
Holiday Craft Bazaar | Nov. 12-13, Opera House
Two Blokes and a Squeezebox | Dec. 17, Opera House
Fireman's New Year's Eve Ball | Dec. 31, Opera House

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Wild NEVADA Memories

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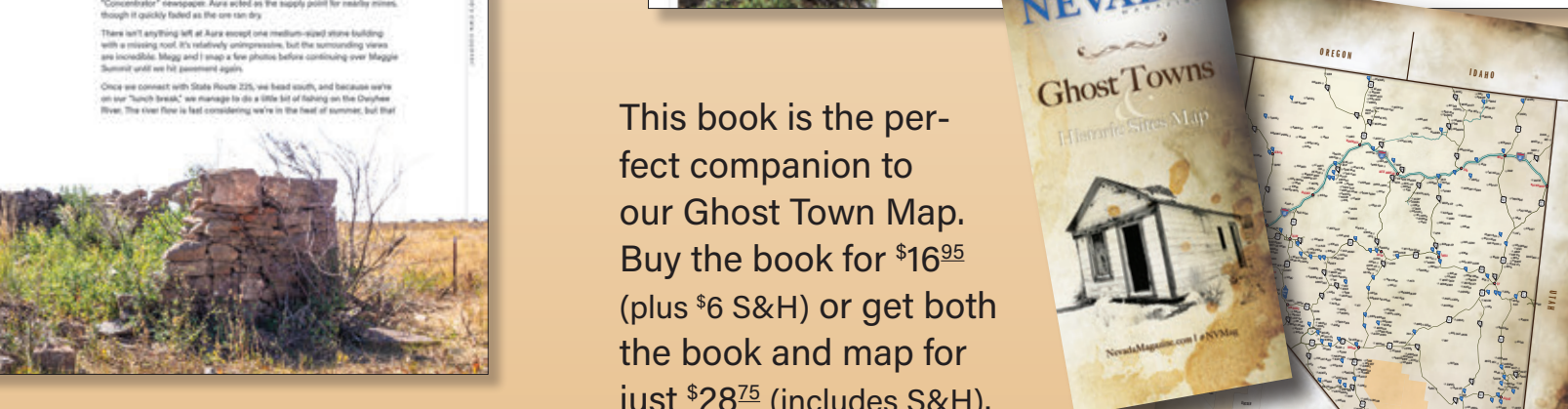
'ODYSSEY OF A GHOST TOWN EXPLORER' BOOK

Travel to more than 70 of the Silver State's most incredible ghost towns, get a glimpse of the past through historical photos, and see what these amazing towns look like today.

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This book is the perfect companion to our Ghost Town Map. Buy the book for \$16⁹⁵ (plus \$6 S&H) or get both the book and map for just \$28⁷⁵ (includes S&H).

toll-free 855-729-7117, or email carrie@nevadamagazine.com



■ **Atlantis Casino Resort Spa** has received the prestigious Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for its steakhouse and Bistro Napa, extending the two restaurants' longest active win streaks in northern Nevada. Atlantis Steakhouse has earned the award for 21 straight years while Bistro Napa has won 20 consecutive years. atlantiscasino.com, 775-825-4700

■ **The Neon Museum** announced that Binnie Tate Wilkin, the official storyteller for the museum's "My Las Vegas" program in 2020, has been awarded the 2021 Regional Excellence ORACLE Award by the National Storytelling Network. The award recognizes the creativity, professional integrity, and artistic contributions of storytellers who have greatly enriched the storytelling culture of their region. neonmuseum.org, 702-387-6366

■ The Lahontan Audubon Society and the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County have introduced the **Birding By Bus Program**. Visitors can view an online map of popular bird-watching locations in area parks and use public transportation to reach them. The map provides information about corresponding bus routes and the type of bird inhabiting the area. Each park on the Birding By Bus map is marked with interactive, informational symbols about the park's features and birding opportunities. rtcwashoe.com, 775-348-0400

■ **The City of Reno** unveiled "Locomotion," a large ground mural located on the ReTRAC Plaza in downtown Reno. Artist Brad Carney's mural was painted on the ReTRAC Plaza over a one-week period in June. Carney worked with more than 150 community volunteers to paint his design. reno.gov, 775-334-4636

RESTAURANT ROUNDUP

Tasty dining and imbibing news from Las Vegas

Four-time James Beard award winner and celebrity chef Todd English has opened **Olives** at Virgin Hotels Las Vegas, part of Curio Collection by Hilton. Following his first Las Vegas restaurant, The Beast, English worked with design firm ICRAVE to reimagine the design of his iconic restaurant Olives in Boston which premiered in 1989. The menu features the star chef's time-tested take on Mediterranean cuisine.

virginhotelslv.com, 702-693-5000



Todd English

The former Sugars Home Plate restaurant in Overton has been transformed into **Cablp, Criss Angel's Breakfast, Lunch & Pizza**. Featuring a sit-down option, walkup window, and to-go service



CABLP

with the highest quality foods, desserts, and spirits. Angel, Executive Chef Amy Coram Reynolds, and staff have created a menu featuring fresh ingredients with a something-for-everyone approach. eatblp.com, 702-397-8084



Cablp



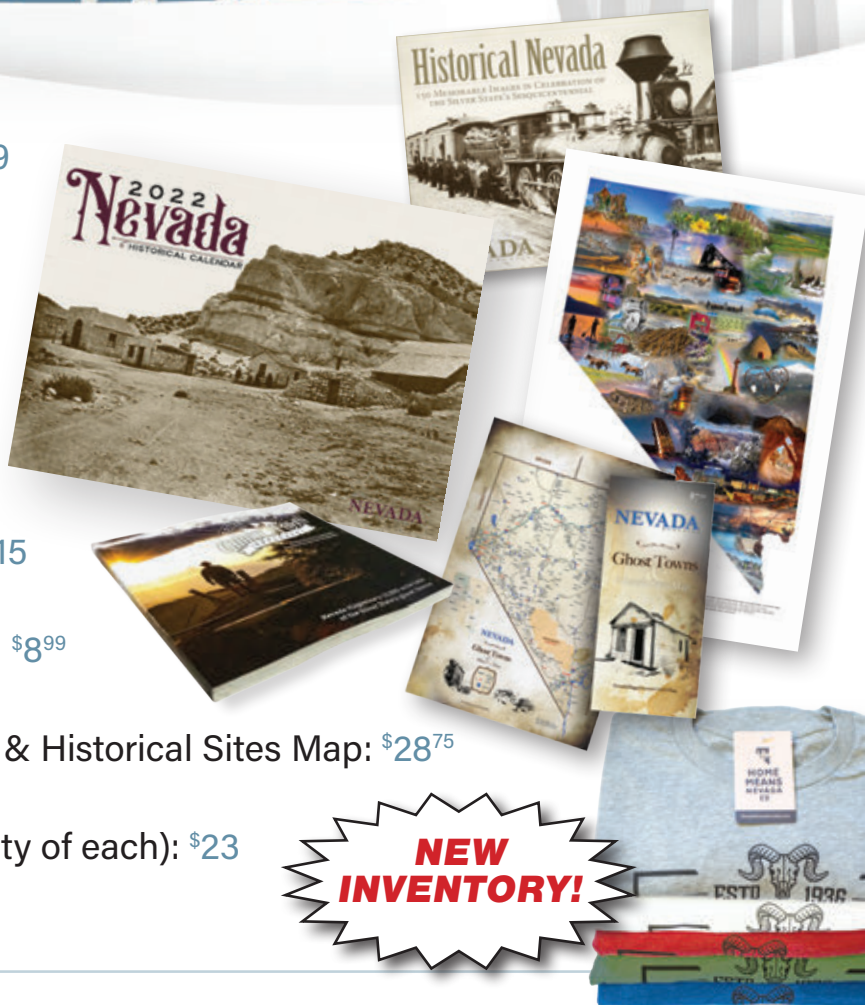
Gabi's Gorditas

Gabi's Gorditas—a unique new twist on what a fast-casual, Latin dining experience can be—has opened in the heart of Southwest Las Vegas. Highlighting an array of eclectic, non-traditional ingredients from around the globe, Gabi's Gorditas showcases the mouth-watering flavors that have made the gordita a Latin staple while promoting healthy dining. gabisgorditas.com, 702-689-0941

GIFT GIVING *made easy*

- ❄ 2022 Nevada Historical Calendar: \$19
- ❄ 1 Year Digital Subscription: \$9⁹⁵
- ❄ Historical Nevada Book: \$20
- ❄ Ghost Town Book: \$22⁹⁵
- ❄ Great Nevada Picture Hunt Poster: \$15
- ❄ Ghost Towns & Historical Sites Map: \$8⁹⁹
- ❄ Ghost Town Book plus Ghost Towns & Historical Sites Map: \$28⁷⁵
- ❄ T-shirts M, L, XL, 2XL (limited quantity of each): \$23

All prices include S&H.



**NEW
INVENTORY!**

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for Christmas delivery!

YOUR FAVORITE NEVADA RECREATION

Each issue, we showcase what we love about Nevada. Well, now it's your turn. We're dedicating these pages to our readers this year.

We wanted to see what kind of recreational activities you enjoy around the state, and you sent us a variety of them from many corners of Nevada. Seems there's no lack of things to do in the Silver State for all interests, fitness, and activity levels. We could never represent everything in these two pages, but these photos have us itchin' to get out and explore.

See more favorite Nevada recreation at nevadamagazine.com/your-favorite-recreation/



Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe

DOUG NULLE



Rachel

STEVE DUDROW

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Valley of Fire State Park

GARY PARKER



Mount Rose Highway/Lake Tahoe

CLAYTON PEOPLES



Goldfield

MAUREEN MCMULLIN



Mesquite

DEENA SNYDER



Snake Range, White Pine County

DAVID MONTROSE



Gold Butte National Monument

TERESA SKYE



Valley of Fire State Park

KAREN BROWN-GORDON







KIM STEED



Pgs. 18-19: "After backpacking five days in the Ruby Mountains, we camped above Liberty Lake for our last night in the wilderness," says Ryan Sharrer. "We had the place to ourselves as a small thunderstorm passed to the northwest."

Opposite page, top: "This was taken on a very cold morning on my way to photograph the eagles. The sunrise was so beautiful, and the low-lying fog beautifully contrasts with the trees. The lone cow was icing on the cake!" Photo captured by Kim Steed.

Opposite page, bottom: Dotty Molt captured this autumn scene on North Canyon Road near Spooner Lake State Park. "The second week in October is typically peak leaf-peeping time. Fall happens in a big way all along this trail."

Right: Jackie Gorton captured this photo of a nighthawk north of Gerlach. "Usually we see them at dusk, flying around in an erratic pattern, scooping up flying insects. This trip was a little different—what luck for me! They were feeding pretty much all day on a variety of different insect hatches!"



JACKIE GORTON



FACEBOOK GROUP CHOICE

"I love this beautiful ranch along old 395 in Washoe Valley," says Sandi Whitteker. "It's been my go-to place for both poppin' fall colors and postcard winter snow scenes. It is rare that I get the chance to capture a little of both as fall gives way to winter."

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



SANDI WHITTEKER

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



DOUG NULLE

Top: Doug Nulle captured this photo in the Spring Mountains. "Fall in southern Nevada is a special time of the year for me. I rarely miss a chance to capture the wide variety of fall color changes while on an invigorating hike. The Upper Bristlecone Trail offers spectacular views in a peaceful setting."



Left: "I go to Red Rock Canyon each evening when I visit Vegas; it heals my heart and mind," says Alexis Craft. "The way the sun sets on this place is magical: it goes from a seemingly dry, barren land during the day to an electrified desert at sunset."

Opposite page: "I showed up to this location in west Reno hoping for a vibrant sunrise," says Michael Lindberg. "The conditions didn't work out and the light was dull and flat. I persisted and stayed a bit longer, then boom the sun peeked through the clouds."



MICHAEL LINDBERG

SILENT ECHO BAY

Lake Mead's receding waters sank this once-popular resort.



BY KLAUS ALTEMUELLER

During its heyday, Echo Bay—located on the Overton Arm of Lake Mead—supported a hotel, a huge marina, a convenience store, and plenty of visitors. Once the playground of some rather colorful types, it is not quite the attraction it once was, although there is still plenty to see and do in this remarkable area.

The sun and surf drew many people to the bay located just 50 miles from Las Vegas. In 1962, a 54-room hotel was built, which sported a large conference room, a restaurant called the Tail 'o the

Whale, and a lively bar. The rooms had either a patio or a balcony, many overlooking the water that lapped right up to the building. A set of stairs and a ramp led into the lake from the corner of the hotel, and swimming was a favorite pastime for many of the guests. The marina could hold 300 boats and was often filled to capacity with a long waiting list for available boat slips. The hotel also had a landing strip for private planes. Pilots could fly in, call the hotel, and have a van sent to pick up passengers.

STEVE DUDROW

FAMOUS VISITORS AND FLEETING WATERS

During the filming of the 1970 movie “The Ballad of Cable Hogue”—filmed at Valley of Fire State Park—it was not uncommon to see director Sam Peckinpah or stars Jason Robards and Stella Stevens in the restaurant and bar. According to a former employee, Peckinpah once approached Stevens—a vegan and quite the spitfire—at her table in the restaurant with a great big lit cigar. She told the director to put it out or she would quit the movie. He put it out.

Ann-Margret was also a regular, having apparently discovered Echo Bay while filming “Viva Las Vegas.” It’s rumored that Pierre Omydar named his auction website eBay after Nevada’s Echo Bay. His consulting firm was named Echo Bay Technology Group, and many reports claim the auction site was to be named Echo Bay until Omydar discovered the domain name was taken, so he shortened it to eBay. Why he chose the name Echo Bay for his consulting company is unclear.

Unfortunately, as the water of Lake Mead receded, so did the fortunes of Echo Bay. In late 2010, the company that ran the hotel canceled all remaining reservations and closed up shop.



PHOTOS: KLAUS ALTEMUELLER

The lingering drought made conditions at the marina less than desirable and led to a decline in visitors. The National Park Service attempted to find another company to take over the hotel and restaurant, but not a single application was submitted. After 44 years, the Echo Bay hotel shuttered for good.

The marina stayed in business for another three years before it too closed. The boat ramp was twice extended as it tried to follow the water, but today it ends in a dry wash. Some 235 feet up the hillside is a sign that once was at water level—it reads “NO WAKE.”



BEAUTIFUL SOLITUDE

Despite the limited commercial services, there is still plenty to do and good reason to stay at Echo Bay. It is far less crowded than other locations at Lake Mead and is within a short drive to several locations. Valley of Fire State Park is a short 15 miles down the road, while Overton and the Lost City Museum are just 20 miles away. Overton has a full-service grocery and fast-food options. Boulder City, Hoover Dam, and Gold Butte National Monument are all within an hour's drive.

There is a new boat ramp further down a graded gravel road about 2 miles from the main parking lot, and all the water sports are available. Out past the ramp is a finger of land with coves and beaches where people fish for Striped and Largemouth Bass.

There are still two nice campgrounds with around 55 RV sites available with full hookups and another 37 campsites available for tents and RVs without hookups. Also available are fuel and air and a small store with limited merchandise. There are some picnic tables and running water bathrooms



Campsite

JOE BORRIELLO

just above the old boat ramp behind the hotel. If you do camp here, it is suggested to not leave canopies out when not immediately present: there can be strong wind gusts without much warning.

SPEND A DAY

The hotel is now boarded up and vacant, but it is still fascinating to photograph and admire. One can look down the boat launch ramp and see where the water once was. The airstrip is no longer monitored, but it still sees about one plane a week. High-powered cars sometimes use the strip as a playground.

The road into Echo Bay is not maintained and is long and winding with very low speed limits. This results in a great road for walking or bicycle riding. There are no improvements or water available past the main parking lot, and cell coverage is very spotty to nonexistent. The best time to visit is in the spring or fall before the temperatures run in the triple digits.

Whether for a day of crowd-free recreation or to explore the ruins from the past, Echo Bay provides ample opportunity for the perfect adventure in southern Nevada. ▀



Abandoned airstrip

STEVE DUDROW



KLAUS ALTEMUELLER

TREASURE YOUR SUMMER
WITH A FAMILY DIG

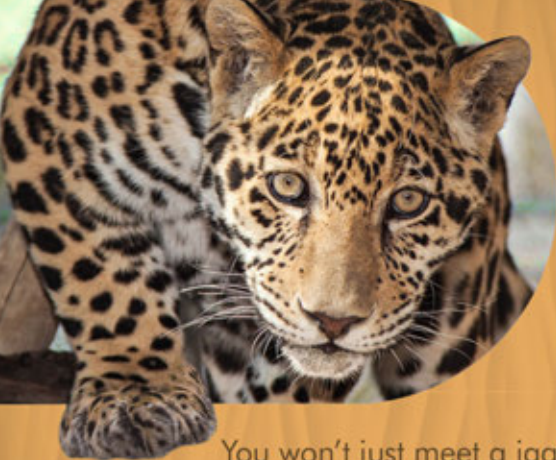


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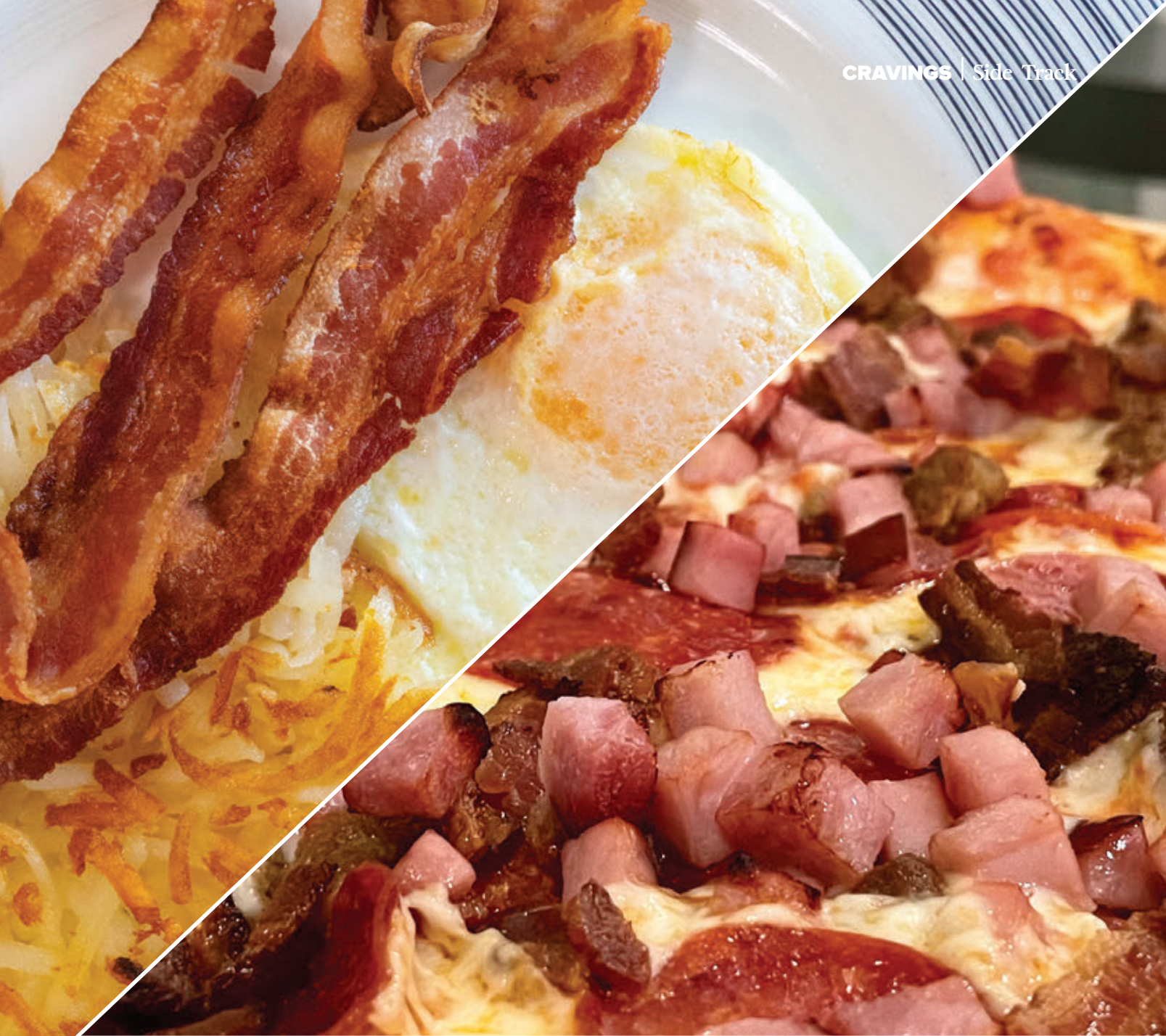
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STORY BY CORY MUNSON
PHOTOS BY KIPPY S. SPILKER

While journeying Nevada's highways, it's easy to get distracted by options; each road shooting off into the desert holds the promise of adventure. However, when it comes to getting a bite to eat, choices are at a premium and travelers are often resigned to a take-what-you-can-get diet. We've all been there: gas station sandwiches, fast food fries, bags of trail mix.

But now, hungry trekkers on Highway 93 can rejoice in a restaurant that puts variety back on the menu. Settled right in the heart of Caliente near the historic train depot, The Side Track restaurant offers classic American cuisine with many dietary choices.



Mary Love

AN UNEXPECTED VENTURE

Mary Love never imagined she'd be the owner and manager of a restaurant in her hometown. Mary—the daughter of two schoolteachers—moved away to the city after graduating high school. It was only later in life that she moved back to help her parents.

When she returned home, Mary purchased a commercial space in downtown Caliente, which she leased to a business that converted the space into a restaurant. But when that restaurant went under, Mary found she owned a restaurant property with no viable tenant.

Mary—who had no real experience in the restaurant industry—had an important, career-defining decision to make. She could sell the building, or she could go into business for herself. She says that starting a restaurant sounded like the more fun option.

Inspired by the town's railroad history, she named the restaurant the Side Track, and the doors opened for business in May of 2018.

**"My aunt was
an awesome lady
who dared to be different."**

THE INSIDE STORY

The restaurant space has been designed with a clean, modern ambience and an understated décor. A large chalkboard announces the daily offerings above pink barstools and an elegant, tiled breakfast bar.

Prominently framed above the service window is the black and white portrait of a woman almost entirely covered in tattoos: Artoria Gibbons, Mary Love's great-great aunt.

Artoria moved to Spokane in the early 1910s where she married a tattoo artist. To make a living, she decided to become a performing tattooed lady. The tattoos—inked by her husband—were inspired by her faith and patriotism; they include 'The Last Supper' and George Washington. Artoria hit the sideshow circuit and enjoyed a long career performing with such acts as Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey's. When she finally retired in 1981, Artoria was one of the last performing tattooed ladies in the country.

"My aunt was an awesome lady who dared to be different," reflects Mary. "She was smart, and they made a good living with the lifestyle. The portrait also makes for good conversation."



Artoria Gibbons

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HILL CEMETERY.



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DINING CAR

Whatever your meal preferences, there are plenty of healthy and perfectly indulgent options at the Side Track. The restaurant has courses for vegan, meat-loving, and gluten-free diets through its generous, seven-page menu.

Breakfast offers all the classics—eggs and bacon, hash browns, parfaits, and pancakes—along with vegan scrambles, hearty breakfast burritos, and omelets of all styles.

For lunch and dinner, the restaurant serves up salmon, teriyaki bowls, build-your-own sandwiches, big salads, spaghetti, and signature burgers ranging from the V-Twin burger—a vegan bun and patty with optional vegan cheese—to the aptly named Hog—1/2 lb. burger with bacon and 3 oz. of ham steak.

Burgers are served with fries, onion rings, or sweet potato fries.

A favorite of the Caliente locals are the 14-inch pizzas. Mary says the restaurant's record is 50 sold in nine hours.

If visiting outside of mealtime, there are a host of beautifully presented appetizers—the cheese platter, the Mediterranean tray, wings, fruit smoothies, and 14 different sides—along with a robust beer and wine menu.



ON THE SIDE

Pass through an adjoining door in the restaurant, and you'll find yourself in the Side Car Speakeasy and Dining Hall. This long, vaulted room opened in May 2019 and is where the restaurant caters to large parties and hosts special events.

"The Side Car is very laid back," says Mary. "We do a lot of things in there: trivia night, game night, concerts, karaoke, private parties. We even put on a car show."

When asked if the Side Car used to be a real speakeasy, she replies that she doesn't think so.

"Probably not. This restaurant was a bar at one time, but it was also a drug store and a bakery."

Step into the Side Car, and your eye will immediately catch the sepia-colored mural depicting Main Street, USA, during Prohibition. The old-time shops line the street—including the eponymous Side Car café. Flapper



Mural inside the Side Car

JURAJ SOJKA/TRAVEL NEVADA

girls ride motor-cycles, men in zoot suits go about their business, and government men pour barrels of liquor down sewer drains.

"The mural was created by local artist Heidi Leavitt," explains Mary. "It is such an amazing piece and really adds to the look."

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Mary's hard work and vision have certainly paid off; the Side Track restaurant has become a popular fixture in Caliente. The restaurant also attracts the stream of tourists who come through town.

"I never knew how much tourist traffic goes through our county until I opened the restaurant. Before COVID, we had people arriving in the restaurant from all over the world."

Looking toward the future, Mary has some ideas for how she would like to improve the restaurant, including expanding the Side Car's outdoor patio area to host more events. She says that she's always working to improve the menu and hopes to make additions to the kitchen to make life easier on the cooks.

Regardless, the Side Track is here to stay, and so is Mary. Although she never expected her career to take this turn, she's happy to be back in her hometown in a community she loves.

The next time you find yourself in Lincoln County, remember that the best experiences are found when we allow ourselves to get a little sidetracked. The reward is often a delicious surprise. ▀

ALL ABOARD

Side Track Restaurant

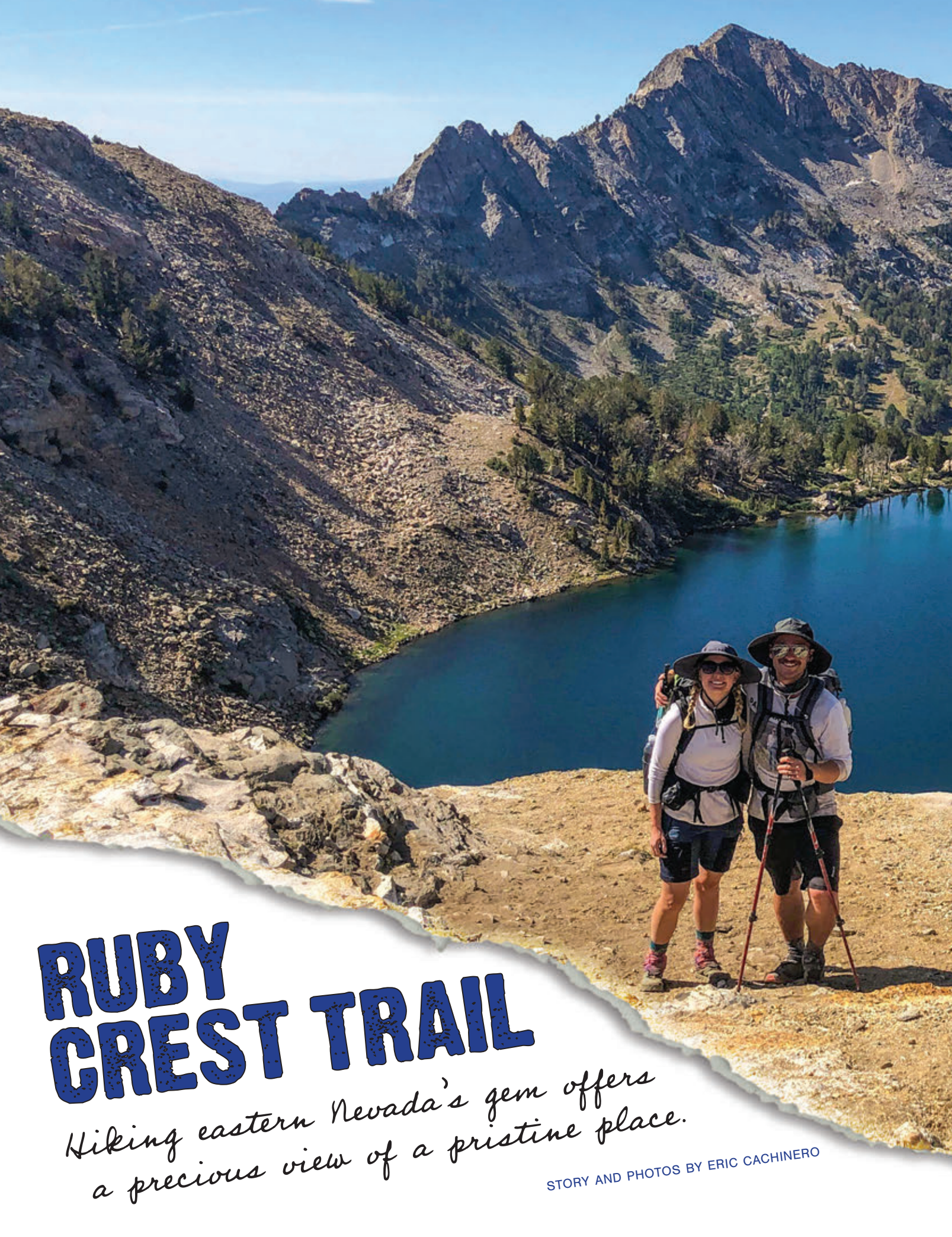
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RUBY CREST TRAIL

*Hiking eastern Nevada's gem offers
a precious view of a pristine place.*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ERIC CACHINERO



Gems typically aren't discovered in abundance. Their beauty and the emotions they conjure aren't forged from commonality: their rarity makes them special. So, too, many natural "gems" of Nevada are just that—beautiful due to their rarity, radiant in color and spirit. The Ruby Mountains—one of Nevada's most precious gems—evoke a sense of discovering some elegant treasure. It's like walking through a field of sagebrush and stumbling upon a shimmer of color peeking up from the dull dirt—a glimpse of something that begs to be studied. Just as someone might study a gem's unique characteristics, the Ruby Mountains provide countless opportunities to get a closer look and a deeper understanding.

FOOLS' RUBIES

The name Ruby Mountains is somewhat of a misplaced moniker. Prospectors in the mid-1800s searching for gold and silver instead found an abundance of red stones. Unfortunately, the seemingly rare and valuable stones were nothing more than the common garnet. Despite history's best attempts at naming it the Garnet Range, Ruby Mountains stuck—and probably for good reason. Though the garnet's beauty is apparent, the Ruby Mountains—or the Rubies, as locals refer to them—provide a level of attraction elevated far beyond a semi-precious stone.

As with many places in the Silver State, they are best viewed close up—hiking in this case. In August 2020, my wife Jillian and I decided to view the beauty of the Rubies for ourselves via the Ruby Crest Trail, a 43- (35 by some accounts) mile-trail that entwines hikers in some of the state's most pristine and soul-enriching landscapes.

DAY 1

Summer haze greets soft-lit peaks as we gaze across the day's objective. Our boots find first dirt at Harrison Pass—located roughly 50 miles southeast of Elko. Waves of excitement (or is it uncertainty?) wash over me as we take our first steps on the trail. Our starting point at the southern end of the Rubies, while scenic, is standard desert hiking. By starting at the southern end and working north, the beauty of the Rubies increases with each day, culminating in Lamoille Canyon.

We're traversing sagebrush and rocks as the trail winds its way up an old Jeep road. The technical start of the trail is up ahead at the southern boundary of the Ruby Mountains Wilderness Area, though we decide to hike in a couple extra miles rather than drive. At the base of the wilderness area, the road turns to singletrack trail, and the feelings of immersion intensify.

A couple miles into the hike, we're greeted with our first crossroads. One fork erupts straight up the steepest, rockiest monstrosity I've ever laid eyes upon. The other winds downhill lazily, though in the complete opposite direction of where we think the trail should go. Against my better judgement—and against Jillian's futile protest—I suggest we take the high road, or in this case, the treacherous precipice that ascends thousands of feet of loose shale and granite boulders.

"The Ruby Mountains are the only location in Nevada where the Himalayan Snowcock lives."

A quick aside, the Ruby Mountains are the only location in Nevada where the Himalayan Snowcock—a large, grey, pheasant-like bird—lives. The feathered creature hails from the Himalayas in Asia, which are, of course, home to the world's tallest peak—Mt. Everest—at more than 29,000 feet.

Back to the climb. As we're trudging breathless up a hill into Himalayan Snowcock territory, I start to wonder if maybe, just maybe, we're perhaps on the wrong trail. Luckily, the views at the top are nice, though my wife's "I told you so's" pierce the natural silence of the place.

As I trudge back down the trail behind the trip's new self-appointed master navigator, the correct trail comes into view, and we're back in business. We're ready for lunch just as we come upon the first potential water source, which is completely dry.

Snacking takes place in the shade, and soon we're back on course. We begin to see the first shimmers of

the terrain that awaits us. Each turn reveals more beauty than the last, and soon we find ourselves with childlike giddiness as we approach each ridgeline, eager to peek and discover what lies in the next valley. This continues for most of the day, and about an hour before night falls we arrive at our first campsite of the trip: the south fork of Smith Creek. We have the place all to ourselves, save a couple cows that lull us to sleep with their mellifluous mooing.

DAY 2

The sun's first rays coax us out of our tent, as does the acceptance of our imminent aloneness. It's a strange feeling being truly alone, with little connection to the outside world. For most of us, even if we're lonely and cooped up at home, all we need to do is walk outside or drive around for five minutes before we see another human. This is not the case here. Nature takes a firmer grip. We wander deep into the high-desert void.

The sights, sounds, and smells are pleasant. Though it's August, overripe wildflowers still solicit their seductive colors, and chipmunks and songbirds make chaotic getaways as we round each corner. Our winding path along the eastern flank of the Rubies leads us through



WIDE OPEN | Ruby Crest Trail

the middle and north forks of Smith Creek, allowing for occasional gluttonous chugs of the coldest and freshest rock-filtered spring water in the region. We step lightly and laugh as we walk before coming face-to-face with the trail's first major climb (not counting the aforementioned scenic detour).

The switchback stares back at us as we prepare for the hike ahead. Our calves and thighs are set ablaze during the ascent. We finally reach the top and peek down the other side into the majestic Ruby Valley, though something is amiss.

Is that...snow? ...popcorn?

Unfortunately for us, the hills are not covered in either: they're dotted with hundreds of domestic lambs and sheep. We take lunchtime refuge just off the trail at the top of the peak and watch a series of sheepdogs working their magic to keep the stubborn balls of wool from wandering off.

As we reach the top of the trip's first major climb, we find ourselves face-to-face with another nonnative animal. I had expected to see mule deer and had hoped to catch a glimpse of a mountain goat, however, toward the peak, Jillian and I encounter animals that—ironically—also prefer to live in one of the Earth's tallest mountain

DAY HIKES & OVERNIGHTERS



The Ruby Crest Trail offers many great day hikes and overnights.

From Lamoille Canyon (roundtrip):

Dollar Lakes & Lamoille Lake – 4 miles, *easy*

Liberty Pass – 6 miles, *moderate*

Liberty Lake – 8 miles, *moderate*

Favre Lake – 10 miles, *difficult*

North Furlong Lake – 14 miles, *difficult*

From Harrison Pass (roundtrip):

South Fork Smith Creek – ~20 miles, *difficult*

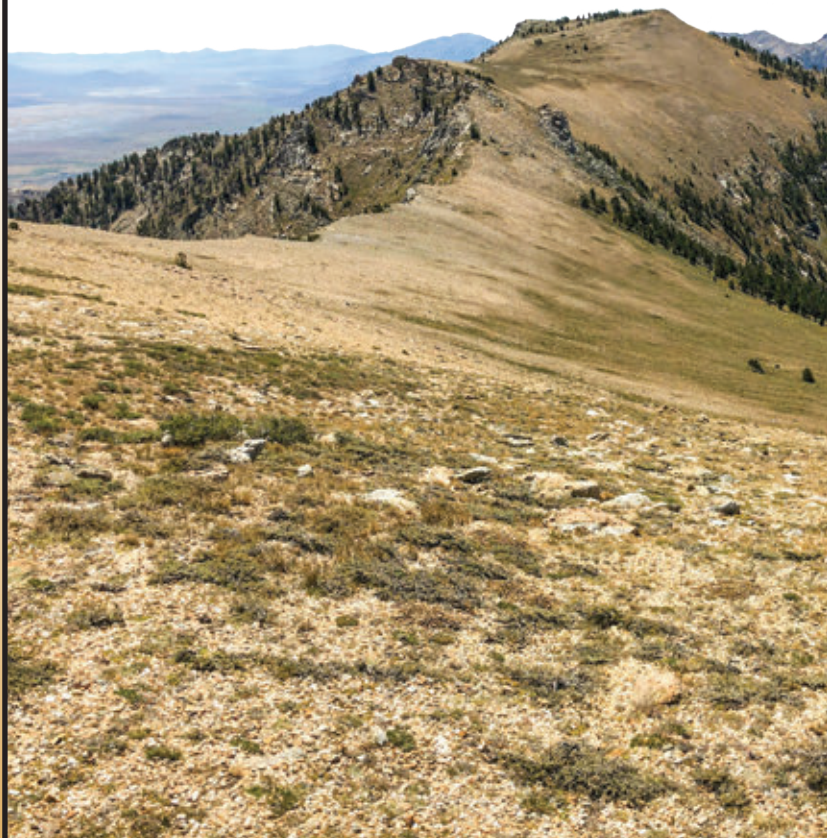


JILLIAN CACHINERO

ranges. Two alpacas—native to the Andes Range in South America—graze cautiously as we trespass their hangout.

When we reach the top of the crest, we're greeted with the most spectacular view of the trail yet: the emerald shimmer of Overland Lake, our destination for the day. The rocky and steep descent to the lake keeps our eyes planted mostly at the trail, though we take the occasional peek at the gleaming alpine oasis.

The remainder of the day is spent swimming in the cool mountain waters and reeling in the occasional brook trout. We pitch our tent by the lake, eat a quick dinner, and call it a night before the sun does, because tomorrow is the longest, driest, and steepest section of the trail.



BACKCOUNTRY FISHING

The Ruby Crest Trail offers abundant opportunities for backcountry stream and alpine lake fishing. Favre Lake, Furlong Lake, Lamoille Creek, Lamoille Lake, Liberty Lake, and Overland Lake all make for good fishing spots. Bowcutt, rainbow, brook, and tiger trout are some of the fishable species.



DAY 3

The dull amber glow of a camp stove lights the air as we cram our gear into our packs. Some swear that gourmet French press coffee provides a superior taste and experience; however, I'm inclined on this morning to argue it holds no candle to watery instant coffee hastily prepared and drunk with Mother Nature's company.

Our pre-dawn departure leaves us stumbling and searching for the correct trail, but it's not long before we find ourselves walking and waking with the world. A mile or two from Overland Lake, we're greeted by an impressive (by Nevada standards) waterfall, which provides the last reliable chance at water until we reach our destination for the day—Favre Lake. Ahead of us lies nearly 10 miles of dry trail that traverses five summits atop the Ruby Crest. We load up as much water as we can carry and begin our climb.

The views are mighty. The lush green Ruby Marshes sprawl out to the east, and canyon after canyon inhabit the basin to the west. It sometimes feels as if we're walking on a knife blade that has protruded from the valley floor, allowing us to peek down each side as we conquer summit after summit.

We're truly on top of the world.

Much of the day's precious hours are spent perfecting the same repetitive—yet rewarding—dance: climb, get tired, rest, eat a Snickers, ponder our absolute infinitesimal role in the universe, sip some water, adjust our packs, repeat.

Before long, we summit the scenic Wines Peak and begin our descent. For fear of running out of water, I aimed to conserve it in the miles past; however, I now find myself thirsty and with an abundance of unappetizing sun-heated water. I know we still have miles left before Favre Lake, so I take reluctant sips of the foul plastic liquid. Luckily for us, we soon find ourselves with an ice-cold solution to our problem. Just off the trail we encounter the familiar melody of a babbling brook, and a surprise water source allows a much-needed rest and hydration session. Jillian and I lay in the green grass and smile at our luck, sipping fresh mountain stream water as we're interrupted by the occasional frog croak.

A few more miles of easy trail lead us to Favre Lake. We make camp on the shore and take a quick dip, though packs of ferocious leeches dissuade our soak and leave us safely enjoying the lake from shore.

"We're truly on top of the world."





DAY 4

The morning finds us coaxing sore legs out of our tent and up a couple short climbs. With only 5 laidback—and dramatically scenic—miles ahead of us for the day, we hike leisurely. We soon reach Liberty Lake, one of the most popular destinations for day hikers coming from Lamoille Canyon. For the first time on the trail, the area is crowded, though the lake's beauty leaves no question why.

Finally, we poke our heads into Lamoille Canyon, and our final descent is in view. Small lakes and streams are in abundance, and we revel in the fact that their presence means that we've almost completed our hike. Soon, pavement greets us. We take a short drive into the town of Lamoille, where a celebratory burger and beer mark the finish line. Our hike has officially come to a close.

REFLECTIONS

Exploration beckons in these wild and mysterious places. Honeybees don't ask why they bounce from flower to colorful flower; they just do it. Much the same can be said for the human instinct to discover these scenic spaces. For a fleeting moment these experiences pause on life's incessant "why," and embrace the solitude and simplicity of nature. The discovery of a precious gemstone presents up-close beauty, while discovery of Nevada's precious Ruby Mountains give bird's-eye beauty. Though different in nature, they both speak to the soul similarly.

Give them a listen. ▀



DONNER PARTY

The infamous Donner Party suffered greatly at the misfortune they experienced in part because of the Ruby Mountains. The Hastings

Cutoff—the route followed by the party—led the pioneers below the Great Salt Lake and looped around the southernmost tip of the Rubies and up to Elko, where it rejoined the California Trail. The "cutoff" added more than 100 miles of travel to the Donner Party's route, causing them to reach the Sierra later than anticipated. Tragedy ensued.

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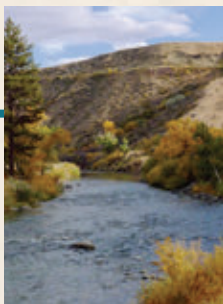
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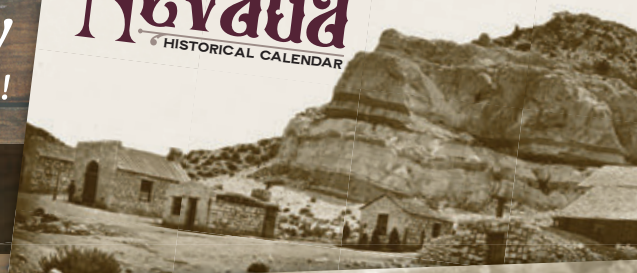
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BY SUE EDMONDSON

It seems unlikely that the California Gold Rush would spawn Nevada's first Jewish synagogue. Yet, that's where Temple Emanu-El's story begins.

Jewish merchants from the East Coast and Europe joined the mass migration to California in the late 1840s, seeking prosperity as suppliers of goods and services just as they had done back home. When The Comstock Lode hit in 1859, hundreds of merchants headed east to Nevada, settling at what was then called Fuller's Crossing, a hospitable location for receiving merchandise from San Francisco. Arrival of the Central Pacific Railroad in 1868 made the community—now renamed Reno—an economic hub, and the Jewish community was there to stay.



A PLACE TO GATHER AND PRAY

Building a temple soon became a priority for the community, but plans were waylaid in 1917 by World War I. On Feb. 27, 1921, the effort moved forward with a fund-raising gala where community leaders spoke enthusiastically about the need for a place to worship. Their support helped raise a whopping \$8,000 (\$121,000 in today's economy) from the 175 gala attendees.

The "Reno Evening Gazette" captured local sentiment about the venture: "Such a religious temple means much for Reno. It gives this little city a truly metropolitan spirit and makes it a community where all can find a home..."

When the cornerstone was laid on June 14, 1921, at 426 West Street, Governor Emmet Boyle, Chief Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Coleman, and Reno Mayor Harry

Stewart spoke about the significant Jewish contributions to civilization. That October, Temple Emanu-El held its first religious services, which were performed by people of note from the congregation, along with visiting rabbis. Composer Samuel Goldfarb, who gained fame for the song "I Had A Little Dreidel," served as the Temple's cantor—the official who often leads prayers and songs—from 1923-1925.

Harry Tarlow—born Hirsh Opoczynski—served as the temple's resident rabbi for almost 20 years. His low salary led him to perform weddings and board Jewish divorcees. He and his wife Pearl also ran a kosher kitchen. In 1947, a new rabbi was brought on, and Tarlow was named rabbi emeritus.

NEVADA'S FIRST JEWISH TEMPLE TURNS 100

Reno's Temple Emanu-El brought the growing community together.

"SUCH A
RELIGIOUS
TEMPLE
MEANS MUCH
FOR RENO."

—"Reno Evening
Gazette," 1921

Left: Temple Emanu-El in 1921.

Right: Sol Jacobs turns the first
shovel for the Temple Emanu-El
groundbreaking on May 3, 1921.



COURTESY OF DEBORAH NAGANO

NEW HOME, OLD TREASURES

The temple and its congregation continued to grow, but by the 1970s, the building's support timbers were failing and it was clear the temple needed a new home. Despite attempts to save the building, it was condemned. The temple was vacated in December 1970, and services were held at a local musician's hall.

Congregant and prominent banker Herbert Brown facilitated the purchase of land from the City of Reno. Building began at the new location on Manzanita Lane, and on April 29, 1973, the building was dedicated. Governor Mike O'Callahan was among the state and local officeholders in attendance.

Around this time, Brown also acquired two significant keepsakes for the Temple: a Torah scroll recovered from a Nazi cache of confiscated religious items and ceramic floor tiles believed to be the entrance to a mikvah (a ritual bath). The tiles were salvaged from the Harrah's Hotel and Casino construction site at Center and Lake Streets, which was situated at what was once the heart of the Jewish district. But perhaps Temple Emanu-El's most significant acquisition came when it created Nevada's first Judaica library.

In 1983, members began discussing the need for a library of Jewish literature, both non-fiction and fiction. That year, the temple began a fundraising campaign to build a library. It took four years, but in 1987, ground broke for the addition of the Judaica library in 1988.

The "Dr. Emanuel Berger Judaica Library of Temple Emanu-El"—in honor of Dr. Berger's contribution of funds and books—was the first library of such magnitude in Nevada. The book collection numbers in the thousands, and members of the public are welcome to peruse the library's shelves with an appointment.



Inside Temple Emanu-El's sanctuary

PHOTOS: LARRY GRALLA

A LONG LEGACY

For the last 100 years, Temple Emanu-El's congregation has remained a committed and dedicated part of the Reno community. Members both past and present—including Charlotte Arley, one of Nevada's first female lawyers; the Parkers of Parker's Western Wear; John Farahi and family, of the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa—have kept Temple Emanu-El a vibrant and important part of Reno's community. ▀

100 YEARS AND COUNTING

Temple Emanu-El
1031 Manzanita Lane
Reno, NV 89509
renoemanuel.org, 775-825-5600



Temple Emanu-El

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT *NEVADA* MAGAZINE.
WE HOPE YOU HAVE A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR!



Left to right: Associate Editor **Cory Munson**, Executive Editor **Megg Mueller**, Customer Relations Manager **Carrie Roussel**, Business Manager **Janet Kinney**, Senior Graphic Designer **Alexandria Olivares-Wenzel**, Art Director **Kippy Spilker**



HAVE YOU SEEN ME?

MISSING

**NEVADA
HIGHWAYS AND PARKS**

PUBLISHED BY THE NEVADA STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
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HOME MEANS NEVADA CLOTHING CO	homemeansnevada.com
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PBS RENO CHANNEL 5	pbsreno.org
PERIGO HAY & CATTLE CO.	perigohaycattle.com
PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY	loneliestroad.us
RENOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	renown.org
ROYAL PEACOCK OPAL MINE	royalpeacock.com
SCENES FROM A KAYAK	scenesfromakayak.com
TOWN OF PAHRUMP	visitpahump.com
TOWN OF TONOPAH	tonopahnevada.com
WINNEMUCCA CVA	winnemucca.com

Nevada Ballet Returns to the Stage



50TH SEASON BRINGS NEW PERFORMANCES AND BELOVED CLASSICS.

Nevada Ballet Theatre is pleased to announce its 2021-2022 season and 50th anniversary year. These shows will delight audiences with world premieres, a once-in-a-lifetime anniversary gala evening, and an incredible season finale complete with orchestral and choral accompaniment.

On Dec. 11, the season commences with the heart and soul of every ballet performance season: "The Nutcracker." Audiences of all ages will gather again to witness this larger-than-life production that blends the best of dance, visual artistry, and holiday tradition. "Nutcracker" will be presented over three weekends.

A program of specially commissioned new works will follow on Feb. 5, 2022. Featuring a world premiere by lauded contemporary choreographer Trey McIntyre, this

evening will underscore the importance of original ballets.

"Carmina Burana" will bring this notable season to a rousing close on May 20-22, 2022. Choreographed by Nicolo Fonte, this dramatic theatre experience will be brought to life by the Las Vegas Philharmonic and the Las Vegas Master Singers.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Nevada Ballet Theater
The Smith Center, Las Vegas
thesmithcenter.com, 702-749-2000

2021-2022 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

The Nutcracker

Dec. 11-26

New Works Program

Feb. 5, 2022

50th Anniversary Gala

May 14, 2022

Carmina Burana

May 20-22, 2022



LAS VEGAS SHOWS

FINAL CONCERT DATES FOR VEGAS' LONGEST COUNTRY MUSIC RESIDENCY

Country music icons Reba McEntire, Kix Brooks, and Ronnie Dunn announce the final dates for their hit residency, “Reba, Brooks & Dunn: Together in Vegas” at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace Dec. 1–15.

The longest-running country residency in Las Vegas, “Reba, Brooks & Dunn: Together in Vegas” is a culmination of the friendship and musical admiration the trio has shared since first touring together in 1993 and features more than 30 hits backed by a band of 10 players from both of their touring crews.

Reba is an entertainment mogul with her successes crossing over with music, television, theater, film, and retail. She has celebrated unprecedented success including 35 career No.1 singles and selling more than 56 million albums worldwide. Brooks & Dunn have 20 No.1 hit songs, two Grammy Awards and many ACM and CMA honors. This year the duo was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.



WHERE

Caesars Palace Las Vegas
Hotel and Casino



WHEN

Dec. 1-15



TICKETS

ticketmaster.com/rebabrooksduunn.com,
866-227-5938

HOTTEST SHOWS

JOHN FOGERTY

Wynn

Oct. 6, 9-10, 13, 15-16

wynnlasvegas.com

702-770-9966

BILLY IDOL

The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas

Oct. 16-17, 22-23

cosmopolitanlasvegas.com

800-745-3000

**WHITNEY HOUSTON HOLOGRAM
CONCERT**

Harrah's Las Vegas

Oct. 26-29

harrahslasvegas.com, 702-369-5000

AMERICA'S GOT TALENT

Luxor Hotel and Casino

Nov. 4

luxor.com

HALESTORM, EVANESCENCE

The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas

Nov. 12

cosmopolitanlasvegas.com

800-745-3000

PEPE AGUILAR

MGM

Nov. 20

mgmresorts.com

PINK MARTINI

Wynn

Dec. 15

wynnlasvegas.com

702-770-9966

USHER

Caesars Palace

Dec. 28-31, Jan. 1, 2022

caesars.com

702-369-5000

MUST SEE

BLUE ÖYSTER CULT

The Showroom at Golden Nugget, Las Vegas

Dec. 31

goldennugget.com, 702-385-7111

For more than four decades, Blue Öyster Cult has thrilled fans worldwide with powerful albums loaded with classic songs. The band is revered within the hard rock and heavy metal scene for its pioneering work. They are also one of the few hard rock/heavy metal bands to earn critical acclaim and commercial success. BÖC's canon includes three stone-cold classics: "(Don't Fear) The Reaper," "Godzilla," and "Burnin' for You."

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

National Geographic Live comes to Las Vegas's Smith Center with two shows that bring behind-the-scenes stories presented by photographers, scientists, and adventurers accompanied by a live orchestra. On Oct. 6, Jodi Cobb—the magazine's first female photographer—shares the story of her career, which began in the counterculture movement of the 1960s. On Nov. 5, Mark Synott talks about his life as globetrotter and big wall rock-climber.

ADMIT ONE

TICKETS

thesmithcenter.com



CALL

702-749-2000

The Smith Center presents **Big Band Jazz for the Holidays** on Dec. 17. Celebrate the holidays with a night of reimagined jazz standards featuring a 17-piece big band of Las Vegas' finest musicians. This festive, big energy presentation highlights the works of composer-arranger Allen Imbach and Count Basie.

ADMIT ONE

TICKETS

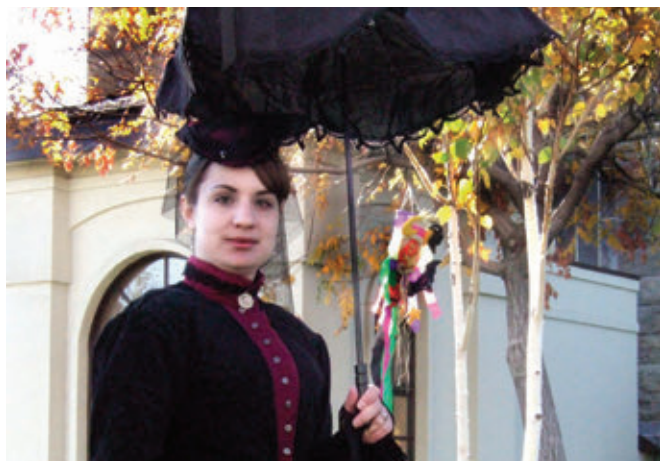
thesmithcenter.com



CALL

702-749-2000

STATEWIDE EVENTS



RONNI HANNAMAN

OCT. 2, 9 Carson City's Ghost Walk



WHERE

Carson City



TICKETS

carsoncityghostwalk.com, 775-348-6279

The Carson City Ghost Walk's evening tours are a spooky and enjoyable way to experience Carson City's past. Tour the capital's historic district and learn about the city's diverse history and its ghostly residents.



OCT. 16-17 Stompapalooza



WHERE

Pahrump



TICKETS

775-751-7800

Celebrate harvest season at the Pahrump Valley Winery with the 2nd annual Stompapalooza. Sign up in advance to participate in the grape stomp or spend an evening of leisure in a park-like setting with local wine and music.



OCT. 29-31 Beatty Days Festival



WHERE

Beatty



TICKETS

beattynevada.org, 775-553-2424

Join the city of Beatty for three days of celebration with games, contests, and a host of family-friendly events. The weekend will feature a chili cook off, 5k run, poker walk, desert art show, model railroads exhibit, a corn hole toss tournament, bed races, live music, old west shootouts, and much more.



OCT. 30 Nevada Day Fall Fest



WHERE

Arlington Square,
Carson City



TICKETS

visitcarsoncity.com, 775-882-2600

Nevada's capital city celebrates statehood with a full day of fun. The celebration kicks off with the balloon launch at 8 a.m., followed by events including the 36th annual Chili Feed, a reverse parade, historic Carson tours, the "Made in Nevada" film festival, and plenty of food and live music.

OCTOBER

1-30, Fridays and Saturdays

FALLON FALL FESTIVAL

Fallon
lattinfarms.com, 775-867-3750

2

EUREKA HERITAGE DAY

Eureka
visiteurekanevada.net, 775-230-2232

MAIN STREET FALL FEST

Heritage Park, Gardnerville
mainstreetgardnerville.org,
775-782-8027

15

KID ROCK

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

15-16

GILBERT GOTTFRIED

Plaza Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas
plazahotelcasino.com, 702-386-2110

15-17

AGE OF CHIVALRY RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

Sunset Park, Las Vegas
lvrenfair.com

22

GRAND FUNK RAILROAD

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

23

LAS VEGAS PHILHARMONIC - FANFARE!

The Smith Center for the Performing Arts, Las Vegas
lvphil.org, 702-749-2000

GREAT EUREKA GHOST HUNT

Eureka
visiteurekanevada.net, 775-230-2232

29

CHRISTOPHER CROSS

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

30

ERIC D'ALESSANDRO

Venetian Resort, Las Vegas
venetian.com, 702-607-4615

NOVEMBER

5

BILL BURR

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

5-6

POMEGRANATE ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Clark County Fair & Rodeo, Moapa Valley
moapavalleyartguild.net, 702-397-6444

9-11

2021 NEVADA OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

CasaBlanca and Palms Golf Clubs, Mesquite
casablancaresort.com, 702-346-7529

12-13

HOLIDAY CRAFT & BAZAAR

Eureka Opera House, Eureka
visiteurekanevada.net, 775-230-2232

13

DARIUS RUCKER AND ELI YOUNG BAND

Laughlin Event Center, Laughlin
visitlaughlin.com, 702-298-5111

19

SARA EVANS

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

19-21

PAHRUMP SOCIAL POW WOW

Petrack Park, Pahrump
visitpahump.com, 775-209-3444

20-Dec. 28

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TRAIN RIDE

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

23

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

The Smith Center for the Performing Arts, Las Vegas
thesmithcenter.com, 702-749-2000

26-Dec. 9

V&T CANDY CANE EXPRESS

Virginia City
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

31-Dec. 1

FESTIVAL OF TREES

Elko Conference Center, Elko
exploreeelko.com, 775-738-4091

DECEMBER

2-11

NATIONAL FINALS RODEO

Thomas & Mack Center, Las Vegas
nfrexperience.com, 702-260-8605

3

QUEENSRYCHE

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

3-5

RENO PHIL'S SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

Pioneer Center, Reno
pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6610

11

SANTA PUB CRAWL

Downtown Reno
renosantacrawl.com

3-12

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

Charleston Heights Art Center, Las Vegas
artslasvegas.org, 702-229-2787

**Please note that all events were correct as of press time. Call before you go to confirm dates/times and to learn about any restrictions.*



Santa Pub Crawl

TRAVEL NEVADA



Arts & Museums

EVENTS



'A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER'



What's Christmas like in Norway? What's the meaning of the Buddhist Wheel of Time? Each year throughout December, the Las Vegas Natural History Museum invites local community members to showcase holiday traditions from around the world as part of a special exhibition series. Bring the whole family and enjoy special displays, workshops, story readings, and live events.



WHERE

Las Vegas Natural
History Museum



WHEN

Nov. 26-Jan. 2, 2022



CALL

702-384-3466



WORTH A CLICK

lvnhm.org

MORE TO SEE

'BASIN AND RANGE'

Community Center – Crowell Board
Room, Carson City
Through Oct. 14
ccainv.org, 775-887-2290

Artist Candida Webb paints the
Great Basin's mountains and
valleys with her own original, vibrant
interpretation of the high desert.

'GIANFRANCO GORGONI: LAND ART PHOTOGRAPHS'

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
Through January 2022
nevadaart.org,
775-329-3333

This exhibit features 50 large-format
photographs of large-scale land art
found all around the world.

'NEVADA MUSEUM TURNS 80!'

Nevada State Museum, Carson City
Oct. 28–Oct. 31, 2022
carsonnmuseum.org,
775-687-4810

This special exhibit will highlight
the amazing variety of objects
collected by the museum throughout
the years.

'THE WESTERN SIGHTS OF JO MORA'

Western Folklife Center, Elko
Through May 14, 2022
westernfolklife.org,
775-738-7503

Uruguayan artist Jo Mora's most
recognizable works document his
experiences throughout the Western
United States including maps,
illustrations, posters, and an
album cover.

2021 BEATTY DAYS FESTIVAL

OCTOBER
29TH-31ST

98 MILES NORTH
OF LAS VEGAS ON
HIGHWAY 95.

OLD WEST SHOOT OUTS • ICS CHILI COOKOFF • 5K RUN/2K WALK
LIVE MUSIC • POKER WALK • BED RACES • DESERT ART SHOW • PARADE
CAR SHOW • *NEW* CORN HOLE TOSS TOURNAMENT • MODEL RAILROADS
VENDORS • CONTESTS • FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY *AND SO MUCH MORE.*

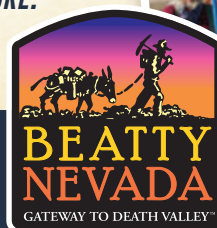
BEATTY'S COTTONWOOD PARK (CORNER OF 3RD & AMARGOSA ST)



HOSTED BY THE BEATTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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**GREEN IS
BACK IN STOCK!**





2021 Great Nevada Picture Hunt

Every year, we think, "It can't get any better," and every year you prove us wrong. Our judges had another difficult time trying to decide—among thousands of submissions—which photos were the best of the best of Nevada. With a particular focus (get it?) on images that evoked an emotional response, we present this year's cream of the photographic crop.

CHRISTOPHER BALLADAREZ, GRAND PRIZE

Christopher Ballardarez is this year's grand prize winner of the Great Nevada Picture Hunt—congratulations!

"It was snowing on The Strip when we left Las Vegas. We arrived at Valley of Fire at blue hour to discover a sky that had me nothing but pessimistic. I knew getting the shot I wanted wasn't going to happen, so I sat and enjoyed the scenery in acceptance. Then, out of nowhere, a little bit of light came through as this bighorn sheep posed almost symmetrically in the middle of the composition and looked at me. I love putting subjects in frame to depict the scale of a landscape, and here I am looking at one of the most rare but natural lineups I've ever witnessed. And just like that, the sheep was gone."

 Canon 5D Mark IV, 1/160s, f/10, ISO 400

WE WANT TO THANK OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS, WHO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO SHARE WONDERFUL EXPERIENCES AND PRIZES.

GRAND PRIZE:



NNRY PHOTOS: STEVE CRISE



Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Landmark. The Nevada Northern Railway Winter Steam Photo Shoot Spectacular gives photographers the chance to photograph historic railroad steam engines against the snowy backdrop of Ely. The winner receives entry to the photoshoot, plus complimentary lodging for three nights at the Ramada Copper Queen in Ely.

nnry.com • wyndhamhotels.com/ramada/ely-nevada/ramada-copper-queen-casino/overview

CATEGORY FIRST PLACE PRIZE:



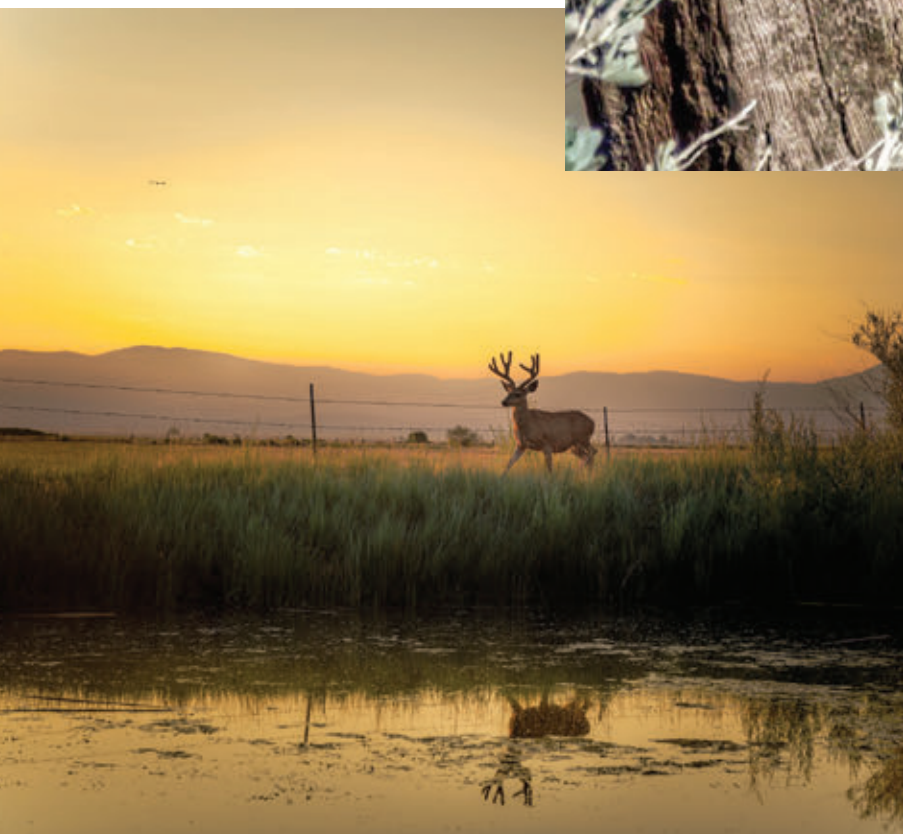
Home Means Nevada. The quintessential Nevada brand, Home Means Nevada apparel is a must for anyone who truly knows what that means.

homemeansnevada.com

KIM STEED
1ST PLACE, WILDLIFE

“This ruffed quail was photographed near my home in the Johnson Lane area of Carson Valley. There is a dirt road I drive where quail often sit on top of the fence posts. On this particular day, the sun was setting, so the light was shining perfectly on this little guy when he started to shake and fluff up.”

📷 Nikon D750,
1/1600s, f/5.6, ISO 250



PAIGE SHAW
RUNNER-UP, WILDLIFE

“This photo was taken at the River Fork Ranch Trail System, a mile east of Genoa. I had my tripod set up and was taking a photo of the sunrise when this gorgeous 4-point mule deer buck entered the frame. I was so startled that I missed the perfect shot, and the buck ran ahead to hide in the willows. Tiptoeing north of the willow trees, I setup for the shot. This time, I was prepared!”

📷 Sony a7RIII



GRETCHEN BAKER, 1ST PLACE, LANDSCAPE

“I like to climb Wheeler Peak every year. This summer, I had waited a little too long, and the wildfire smoke was already coming in. Fortunately, it wasn't too smoky at the top, but there was a nice filter effect in the air. As I descended, a patch of color caught my eye. Parry's primrose, usually a riparian flower, grows near the top of Wheeler Peak. I angled to include it in my photo to give a delightful pop.”

📷 Google Pixel 3a, 1/690s, f/1.8, ISO 50

SCOTT MORTIMORE RUNNER-UP LANDSCAPE

“It was one of those May days in Nevada where winter was having a hard time handing over keys to the summer. My buddy and I had just dropped down from the Toquimas and hit this stretch at the same time a ray of sun was crossing the road. The distant hailstorm provided the perfect cherry.”

📷 Nikon D750, 1/100s, f/9



2021 GREAT NEVADA PICTURE HUNT



LIZ HUNTINGTON 1ST PLACE CITIES/TOWNS

"This spring, Virginia City lost one of its own: StinkE, loved by locals and tourists alike. On March 25, townsfolk gathered in period costume and long johns in a funeral procession—complete with bagpipe music and a mule team—to carry their friend to the Silver Terrace Cemetery. It was a sad but beautiful time as people rallied in love around StinkE to send him off to the great mining camp in the sky."

📷 Canon 5D Mark IV,
1/500s, f/4.5, ISO 200

MICHAEL HERB RUNNER-UP, CITIES/TOWNS

"I awoke very early as the forecast had predicted snow; I'd been wanting to capture downtown Fallon before the town awoke for years. I quickly overdressed, grabbed my camera, and headed into town. Upon arriving, I was disappointed to see that the snow had barely reached downtown. Instead, I had something so much better: a mirror-like reflection of the town Christmas tree!"

📷 Sony A7RIV, 1/10s, f/5.6, ISO 400






JAMES MARVIN PHELPS, 1ST PLACE, LONG EXPOSURE

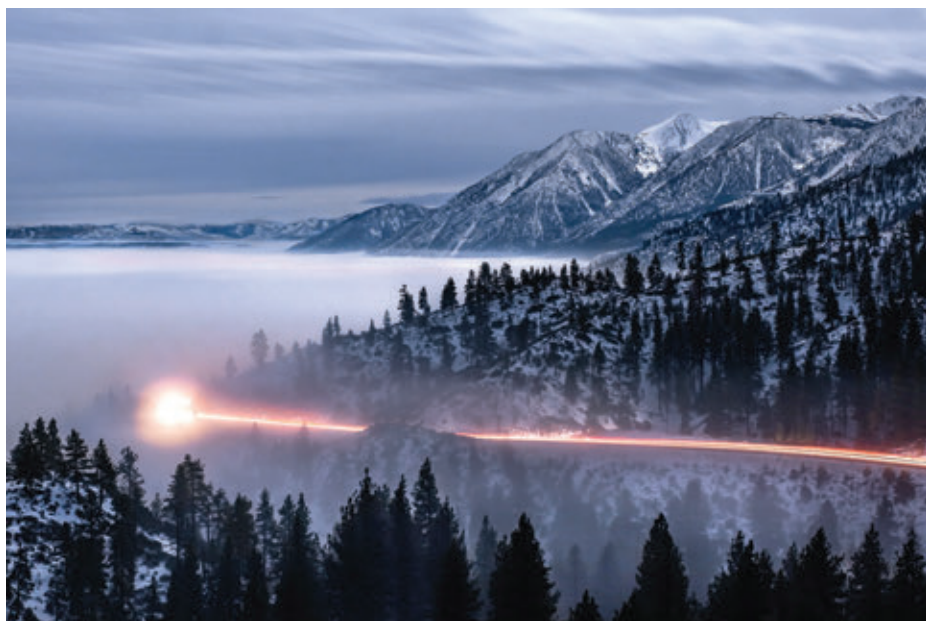
“This image of Comet NEOWISE was captured at 3:51 a.m. at Lake Mead’s Sunset Overlook Point. I was out shooting with friends Dan and Danny, and the three of us had a great time witnessing the once-in-a-life-time event. We were able to get many good captures of the comet with the otherworldly landscape of Lake Mead and the Mojave Desert.”

 Canon 5D Mark IV, 12s, f/2.8, ISO 640

JESSE BRADFORD RUNNER-UP LONG EXPOSURE

“This was taken near the top of Kingsbury Grade looking at Job’s Peak. The Carson Valley was experiencing a rare inversion, which left the mountains clear and the valley coated in clouds. I went out at about 10 p.m. in hopes of catching the moon between the clouds. The moon ended up covered, but the cars and their lights disappearing into the fog caught my eye.”

 Fujifilm X-T4, 240s, f/2.8, ISO 200





LIZ HUNTINGTON, 1ST PLACE, EVENTS

“Virginia City hosts a rodeo every year in autumn. This was my first time to photograph a rodeo, and I was delighted. I quickly set my camera settings and clicked as fast as I could while the cowboys rode. It was so fun that I wanted to run away and become a rodeo photographer. But, after contemplating the matter, I decided it was probably best if I stayed home and took care of my family instead.”

📷 Canon 5D Mark IV, 1/500s, f/4.5, ISO 200




BETH BRETON, RUNNER-UP, EVENTS

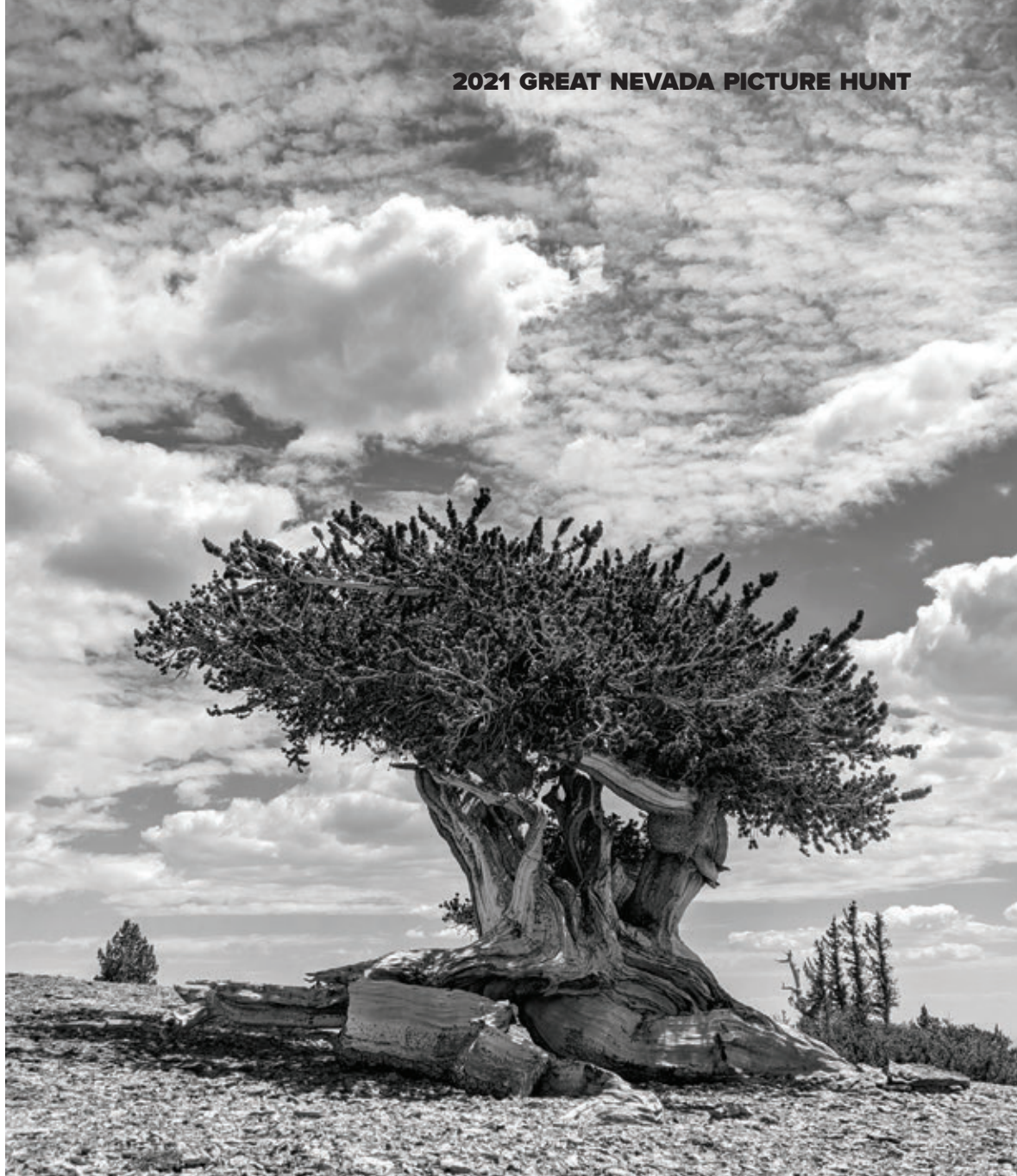
“The event was held at Sparks Marina. I had never been to a lantern festival before, and I really wanted to see it. We decorated our lanterns and then everyone put them in the water. It was awesome.”

📷 Canon 70D, 1/6s, f/6.3, ISO 6400

**GRETCHEN BAKER
1ST PLACE
BLACK & WHITE**


"This is one of my most favorite bristlecone pines in the world. It's in a difficult location in Great Basin National Park, but it's worth the lung-burning ascent. The roots are something that really catch my attention; the tree has lived so long that the rocks around the roots have eroded away. It's extremely uncommon to have something biological outlast something geological."

 Google Pixel 2,
1/4637s, f/1.8, ISO 81



**KIM STEED
RUNNER-UP
BLACK & WHITE**

"I shot this wagon wheel in Genoa on a very cold morning at around 6 a.m. I loved the backdrop of alpenglow on the mountains and the mist rising from the hot springs."

 Nikon D750, 1/800s, f/1.8,
ISO 250



MARK SILVERSTEIN, 1ST PLACE, HUMOROUS


“My wife Maureen and I had just finished a morning southeast of Goodsprings. On the way back to town, we turned up the Old LA Highway and came upon this caution sign posted for the protection of skydiving operations out of Jean Airport. There was a raven perched on the sign, and I happened to catch it in the process of taking off.”

 Canon Rebel EOS T2i, 1/1600s, f/5, ISO 200



**SCOTT MCDANIEL
RUNNER-UP, HUMOROUS**


“This photo was taken several miles into the mountains between Pioche and Eagle Lake Reservoir in Lincoln County. My friend Pete—the model—and I had kayaks on top of my UTV. We were exploring the area when I spotted the rock formation in the photo. The rock’s shape and angles resembled rapids on a river, and the idea struck me to place the kayak.”

 Nikon D60, 1/60s, f/6.3, ISO 100



KAT FULWIDER, 1ST PLACE, PEOPLE/PORTRAITS

"I went to witness the Borda Ranch team herd more than a thousand sheep through an underpass in Washoe Valley. It happened so fast; it was a symphony of moving parts coming together to create a sublime moment. The sheep began to run, the stampede kicking up a huge cloud of dust, Ted Borda chasing after them, and the blazing morning light filtering through."

 Sony Alpha 7iii, 1/8000s, f/5.6, ISO 640

ELEANOR PREGER RUNNER-UP, PEOPLE/PORTRAITS

"Photograph is of Steven Raspa, a very creative, passionate arts advocate. I did a photoshoot with him the night before Burning Man opened. The playa dirt was still in its virgin state before it turns to dust after being driven or walked on. I had him pick up some of the dirt, as if it were an offering. He was wearing the metal scarf as a veil, which belonged to his recently deceased mother."


 Canon 5D MarkIV, 1/1600s, f/3.5, ISO 100





GRETCHEN BAKER, 1ST PLACE, MOBILE/CELL


"When I saw this bristlecone pine in the Mt. Moriah Wilderness silhouetted against the sky, I just had to hike up to get a closer look at it. Its graceful shape made me think of a dancing bristlecone, and the sunset gave the background clouds some extra drama."

 Google Pixel 2, 1/1462s, f/1.8, ISO 46



**BRITNEY KLAPPER
RUNNER-UP, MOBILE/CELL**

"This photo was taken at Adams-McGill Reservoir in Sunnyside at 4:42 a.m. I was with my dad and sister fishing for bass as we have done since I was a little girl. To me, Sunnyside has so much to offer: beautiful sunrises and sunsets, great fishing, and lots of love and memories of our family's time spent there. And I may have just given away one of the desert's best kept secrets (sorry Dad)."


 iPhone XS Max, 1/30s, f/1.8, ISO 800

**SUBMITTED BY SCOTT STEWART
1ST PLACE, UNDER 18**

Unable to reach at time of publication.

**KALEIGH TAYLOR
RUNNER-UP, UNDER 18**

"This year, Tonopah had the 50th Jim Butler Days celebration. On Sunday, the weekend ended with the Stampede Rodeo. I left my camera at home, so grandma let me use one of hers. The rodeo was so much fun; I can't wait till the next one, and I love *Nevada Magazine*!!"

 Nikon D5500, 1/1600s, f/7.1, ISO 400





WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE ...IN NEVADA

SANCTUARIES ACROSS THE STATE GIVE DISPLACED ANIMALS A NEW HOME.

BY MEGG MUELLER AND CORY MUNSON

Human fascination with Mother Nature's fauna existed long before recorded history. We can't get enough of the animals with whom we share the planet, and while the question of man's impact on other creatures is widely debated, there are a number of organizations in Nevada that raise the art of caretaking to a whole new level.

Across the state, education, conservation, and compassion are the messages the following places preach, and it's one to which the entire choir should be listening. As a bonus, while you're learning, you get to discover a world full of incredible animals.



GARY PARKER

LION HABITAT RANCH

Lions, in all their magnificence, are the stars of the animal kingdom. Awe, reverence, and a touch of fear occupy the thoughts of those who gaze at the fierce and powerful cats, but it's long been Keith Evans' hope to add some basic understanding as well.

Keith is president of the Lion Habitat Ranch (LHR) in Henderson and has been working with animals since 1974. He became the caretaker of the MGM Resort's lion exhibit in the late 1990s, traveling from Henderson to The Strip twice a day with his lions. In 2012, that partnership ended, and Lion Habitat Ranch opened to the public soon after.

Keith's career started almost 50 years ago, and while he admits times have changed, the mission is still the same. In fact, it's posted on the ranch's website:

"It is our desire and belief that we can make you fall in love with our lions, and by doing so, we all will strive to protect and donate to wildlife habitats."

LHR advocates for education about African lions, but it also supports international organizations including Conservation International in Kenya. Last year, unfortunately, the mission for LHR shifted slightly into survival mode as the pandemic temporarily shuttered the habitat. A nonprofit organization, the habitat relies on ticket sales and donations to keep the doors open.

"We're still not recovered, and I don't know if we will anytime soon," Keith says. "There are a lot of people that come here when they're in Vegas, but now they may not be able to travel due to the pandemic. It's also impacting donations."



Lion Habitat Ranch

JOHN ANTES

In July, the habitat reopened with 30 big cats, ostriches, emus, other birds, and Ozzie, the only giraffe living in the state of Nevada. Ozzie may also be the only giraffe anywhere that paints with a paintbrush, a skill he gladly demonstrates each day, unless he's not in an artistic mood.

A visit can be as simple as wandering the habitat and observing the various animals, or guests can take it to the next level and book one of LHR's unique offerings, such as feeding a lion by hand, or taking a 90-minute tour behind the scenes to see how the animals are cared for. Whatever the experience, Keith is certain guests won't soon forget their visit.

"We're not in a casino, and you don't have to go through a casino to get to us. We're outdoors, and that's one of the safest places," he says.

It's certainly the right place to fall in love with a lion or two. Located less than 20 minutes from The Strip, it's the perfect adventure for anyone looking for a different kind of wild time.

LION HABITAT RANCH

382 Bruner Ave.

Henderson, NV 89044

lionhabitatranch.org, 702-595-6666



Animal Ark

ANIMAL ARK

For 27 years, Animal Ark Wildlife Sanctuary just north of Reno has sought to educate its audience about wild animals. The genesis for this altruistic idea came from that most brutal of learning opportunities: a huge mistake. In the early 1980s, Aaron and Diana Hiibel bought two gray wolves and shortly thereafter realized they shouldn't be pets. It proved to be the inspiration they needed to educate others who might find themselves in a similar situation. The

Ozzie from Lion Habitat Ranch
DINORAH ARAMBULA



KIM STEED



Animal Ark

CHRIS MORAN/TRAVEL NEVADA

mission to advocate for environmental stewardship has been a successful one, and while the couple recently retired from the Ark, the new Executive Director Bill Baker has stepped in as steward of that goal.

“Our mission has always been we are a wildlife sanctuary that inspires environmental stewardship through education,” Bill says.

The Animal Ark’s 38 acres are home to injured and non-releasable wildlife. They house everything from tortoises to cheetahs, including raptors, fox, bobcats, bears, tigers, and wolves. These amazing creatures can be seen in a wild setting which still maintains the



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safety of both animal and human. Changes to the property are in the works to further enhance the Animal Ark experience.

“Currently we are going through a construction and renovation phase as we prepare for our accreditation inspection by the Zoological Association of America,” Bill explains. “We are working on a new exhibit for Gibbs the black bear, a new maintenance building, interpretive graphics, exhibit upgrades, and we just finished renovating our tortoise exhibit.”

There are many reasons to plan a visit to Animal Ark, but of course that list starts with the animals. Along with general visits, special events are a big draw, especially the cheetah dash where visitors can see these amazing cats running at speeds around 70 mph.

A portion of the park’s proceeds goes to support its animals and conservation

organizations the Ark supports each year, such as cheetah conservations in Botswana, Kenya, and South Africa, and WildAid—an organization that aims to protect animals from illegal trade practices. The spirit of giving back is one that runs through the core of Animal Ark.

“I am truly fortunate to be supported by the best team that I have ever worked with in my career,” Bill says. “Each person is a talented professional that has dedicated their life to conservation.”

ANIMAL ARK

1265 Deerlodge Road
Reno, Nevada 89508
animalark.org, 775-970-3111



GILCREASE NATURE SANCTUARY

The Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary sits on the edge of northwestern Las Vegas. The 1500-acre establishment has served as an animal sanctuary for the past 42 years, but its origins date to 1920 when the Gilcrease family purchased ranchland south of historic Tule Springs.

When young Bill Gilcrease found an abandoned quail on the ranch, his mother let him raise the orphan bird. For Bill, this event was prelude to a life dedicated to the protection of wildlife. In 1979, he established the Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary on his family's ranchland. In 2017, Bill passed at the age of 98, but his vision has become a permanent fixture of the local community.

When COVID forced lockdowns in March of 2020, Gilcrease staff worked quickly to protect the sanctuary's bird, reptile, and mammalian population.

"At the time, there was so little information available," says Amanda Christian, operations manager at the sanctuary. "There was a lot of concern because we had no idea if we could easily transmit the virus to animals and cause another variant to form. They were difficult times."

The sanctuary let go of its volunteers, and the limited staff was left to care for the animal residents. COVID also drove the sanctuary to shut down its petting zoo, a policy that Amanda believes will continue.

MORE TO SEE

On the Las Vegas Strip, it's not unusual to have a wild encounter. For something that is big on animal magnetism and short on danger, check out these venues.

FLAMINGO WILDLIFE HABITAT

Located at the Flamingo Las Vegas, the 15-acre garden invites you to commune with a flock of Chilean flamingos, ringed teal ducks, sacred ibis, and two brown pelicans. Koi fish and turtles inhabit the streams and waterfalls of this unexpected habitat.

caesars.com/flamingo-las-vegas,
702-733-3349

SEAQUEST

An interactive experience with Asian otters, Kinkajou, stingrays, sharks, and more is offered at this adventure park. Part educational museum, part wildlife encounter, SeaQuest is all the fun.

vegas.visitseaquest.com, 702-906-1901

SIEGFRIED AND ROY'S SECRET GARDEN & DOLPHIN HABITAT

Bottlenose dolphins, white tigers, white lions, and leopards are part of the legacy the famed Las Vegas show duo created during their tenure on The Strip. Meet and greet experiences are available with the dolphins.

mirage.mgmresorts.com, 702-791-7188

SHARK REEF AQUARIUM

Located at Mandalay Bay, visitors can see more than 2,000 animals, including sharks, giant rays, endangered green sea turtles, piranha, and a Komodo dragon.

mandalaybayresort.com, 702-632-4555

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary





Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

Now that the public is again invited to return, the sanctuary has shifted its focus to interactive learning: instead of a petting zoo, visitors can book appointments to shadow a goat groomer or feed tortoises fresh produce from the sanctuary's garden.

Amanda describes her vision for Gilcrease in the coming years as a community hub that steps away from an animal sanctuary's assumed model of a park-like zoo.

To start, she hopes to bring in more visitors through events. The sanctuary already has events planned for Halloween and the holiday season. Another event—Light up the Night—invites the public to bring solar powered lights, which will be placed around the sanctuary for a dusk tour.

Gilcrease will soon feature a makerspace and building workshop where visitors of all ages can learn crafting skills, such as a class on how to make backyard ornaments for birds. Larger renovations projects are on the horizon, including construction of a tortoise gazebo and an art garden repurposed from an old junkyard. The Boy Scouts of America are also helping to construct a commemorative cactus garden.

"Our goal is to keep this place going forever," says Amanda. "We're a small, dedicated group doing everything we can to make this place fully intact and growing 150 years from now."

GILCREASE NATURE SANCTUARY

8103 Racel St.

Las Vegas, NV 89131

gnslasvegas.org, 702-645-4224

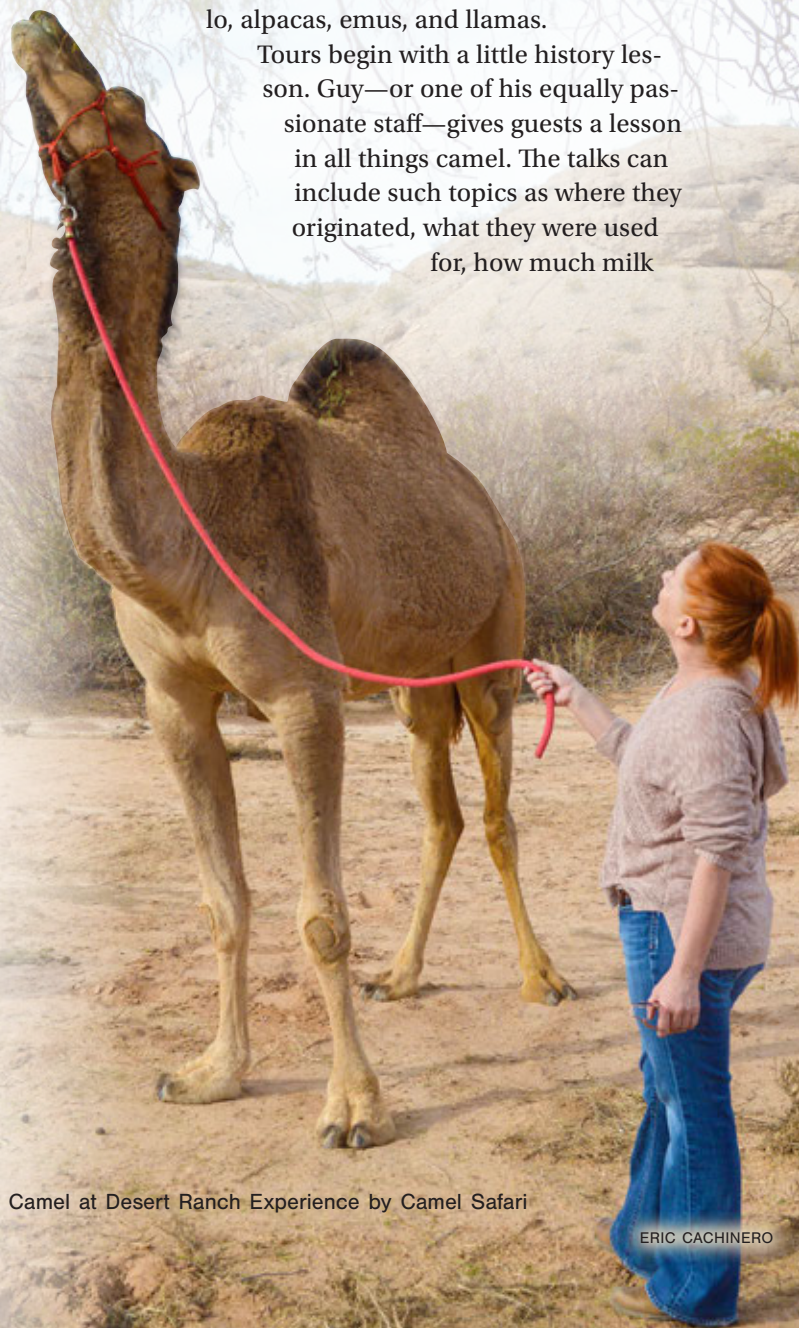
DESERT RANCH EXPERIENCE BY CAMEL SAFARI

In a corner of the harsh desert landscape some 75 miles northeast of Las Vegas, a camel, armadillo, porcupine, and llama walk into a yard.

If you're waiting for the punch line, you might want to go hang out with the sloth, because there is no punch line. That's just the type of scene you can find when you visit the Desert Ranch Experience (formerly known as the Camel Safari) in Bunkerville. Owner Guy Seeklus has created a mesmerizing menagerie of exotic animals in an unlikely setting.

The current roster of animals that visitors can see on the tour includes more than 30 Bactrian and Dromedary camels, zebra, a two-toed sloth, sand cats, New Guinea singing dogs, armadillo, alpacas, emus, and llamas.

Tours begin with a little history lesson. Guy—or one of his equally passionate staff—gives guests a lesson in all things camel. The talks can include such topics as where they originated, what they were used for, how much milk



Camel at Desert Ranch Experience by Camel Safari

ERIC CACHINERO

females produce, the intense weight-loss of a bull in rut, and of course, a discussion on which is better, one hump or two?

Depending on your interest level, tours can take you on a meet-and-greet of the safari's denizens who live along the base of the Virgin Mountains overlooking the Virgin River. There are hands-on encounters available, too, along with sunset safari tours and more. Weddings, reunions, corporate retreats, birthday parties, and bachelor/bachelorette parties can all be booked at the ranch.

With each adventure, educational facts and interesting tidbits are dispensed freely; learn that camels live 30-35 years, or that African crested porcupines are nocturnal creatures. Hanging out with Ambien, the sloth, you might just learn they have very slow digestive processes, and their survival strategy is based on staying still. The knowledge guests leave with goes a long way toward fostering the safari's goal of wildlife conservation, education, and recreation. Desert Ranch is accredited by the Zoological Association of America and is a member of the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy.

DESERT RANCH EXPERIENCE BY CAMEL SAFARI

2725 River Cliff Road

Bunkerville, NV 89007

desertranchexperience.com, 800-436-4036



Desert Ranch Experience by Camel Safari

KIPPY S. SPILKER



Ambien the sloth

KIPPY S. SPILKER

SIERRA NEVADA ZOOLOGICAL PARK

Just 10 miles north of Reno, Sierra Nevada Zoological Park (SNZP) has spent the last 31 years fostering compassion for and sharing knowledge about animals. The legacy of the men who opened the formerly Sierra Safari Zoo remains to this day: "We do this with a commitment for the responsible care of our animal ambassadors and to encourage the thoughtful stewardship of all animals on Earth."

The nonprofit zoo is not a rescue facility, but it provides homes for animals that otherwise wouldn't have one. Whether it is a reptile outgrowing its family, a primate from a research facility, or a wildcat leaving its previous owner, the zoo is willing to give the animal a home.

There are more than 40 species of animals visitors can see at SNZP, plus a petting zoo where kids can get up close to fallow deer, goats, alpacas, llamas, sheep, and miniature cows. ■

SIERRA NEVADA ZOOLOGICAL PARK

10200 N. Virginia St.

Reno, NV 89506

sierranevadazoologicalpark.org, 775-677-1101

DISCOVERING NEVADA THROUGH ITS DESERT CAVES



Toquima Cave

MEGG MUELLER

State's subterranean world reveals the ancient history of the Great Basin.

BY CORY MUNSON

In 1885, Absalom Lehman was riding south of his remote ranch near the Nevada-Utah border. As he worked his way into the verdant mountains near his homestead, the ground suddenly gave way and the horse and rider plunged through a chasm in the earth. Recovering from the fall, Lehman rose and beheld a vast cavern of geological wonder.

The tale of Lehman stumbling upon Nevada's most famous cave is rarely retold the same way: the horse fell but not the rider, the ground broke but no one fell, there was no horse. In the version told to me as a child, someone was kind enough to winch the horse back out of the ground, and it lived a long, happy life.

For all its splendor and history, Lehman Caves is but one such treasure in this state. There are 40 known caves in Great Basin National Park alone, and in Nevada there are an estimated 30,000 caves, grottos, and alcoves. By exploring these subterranean sites, we can uncover the history and hidden beauty of the Great Basin.



UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

A WATER-FILLED BASIN

Ice reigned over our planet 20,000 years ago. Present-day Canada and the northern U.S. were pressed under 2-mile-thick glaciers, sea levels were 400 feet lower, and the average global temperature was 46 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Great Basin was a different place. There were glaciers, but those were nestled in the high mountains.

The ice age in Nevada was better marked by a wet, rainy climate. Because the Great Basin has an elevated perimeter, water cannot escape to the ocean. Instead, the precipitation fell into the valleys, forming lakes. In northwestern Nevada, these lakes merged to create Lake Lahontan. At its peak 12,500 years ago, Lake Lahontan had a surface area greater than Lake Ontario.

CAVING 101

Dr. Louise Hose heads Northern Nevada's chapter for the National Speleological Society, an organization whose continuing mission is three-fold: exploration, conservation, and cave science. Those interested in caving can pay a membership and join the organization in its goal to better understand the nation's cave systems.

"I love the combination of physical and intellectual challenges," says Dr. Hose. "I have always been attracted to caves that are difficult to explore, rarely visited, and present scientific questions to be answered."

"Many people view caves as an opportunity for adventure, but those people are generally better served by going on guided trips with people who can facilitate the adventure," she cautions. Indeed, conditions during exploration can be difficult, if not dangerous. Bracingly tight squeezes, confounding labyrinthine twists, sudden drops, and dead ends are all bundled in the experience.

For this reason, most caves are not openly advertised. This policy serves to protect inexperienced explorers and the cave's natural history.



Tufa formation at Picnic Cave

CORY MUNSON

When the ice age ended, the climate in the Great Basin became hot and dry, and the lakes began to evaporate. While the water disappeared, the minerals remained and turned the water brackish and rich in calcium carbonate. The mineral dense waves from these dying lakes lapped over shoreline rock and gravel, deposited the calcium carbonate—which cemented everything in place—and formed tufa.

In a valley in western Nevada, waves ate away at the hillside beneath the tufa and formed a cave roof. This is where Hidden Cave’s story begins.

HIDDEN CAVE

Eleven miles southeast of Fallon, Executive Editor Megg Mueller and I meet our tour guide Joe Allen at the Hidden Cave trailhead.

Joe carries a wooden pole as both walking stick and rattlesnake deterrent. Joe—a member of the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe—is an expert on the area’s ecology and history as well as a craftsman: he creates duck decoys from tule reed.

We start up the 0.7-mile trail which loops through a U-shaped valley. Near the valley floor, Joe points



MEGG MUELLER



Joe Allen

MEGG MUELLER

out a petroglyph—a salamander—etched into a weathered stone.

“These artifacts,” he says “are 1-2 thousand years old. They were made when this valley was a wetland.”

We hike further up the hill, and Joe stops us at another group of petroglyphs. He explains that these are older than the salamander. Petroglyphs were made near water, which meant that these were made when the shoreline was higher and the hill was an island on a lake.

“Before that, 12-13 thousand years ago, this entire area was underwater; Lake Lahontan was 600-feet deep,” he says, sweeping his hands at the mountain ridges around us.

We look out into the surrounding desert of scrub brush and white playa. It strains the imagination to see a lake dotted with boats and the smoke from shoreline villages. It’s nearly impossible to imagine the same landscape completely underwater.

We reach the cave entrance, and Joe beckons us inside where we crouch through a low opening.

"It's called Hidden Cave because it's hard to find," he says. "Back in the 1920s, some boys were up here looking for treasure. There was a rumor that a stagecoach robber had stashed his loot in the area. After a while, the boys got bored searching and began rolling boulders down the hill. They noticed some boulders were disappearing into the hillside."

The cave opens into a high ceiling. Floodlamps illuminate the cave, and a hint of ammonia lingers in the air. Joe explains the smell: bat guano.

"After the cave was discovered, a man named McRiley mined bat guano out of here and sold it to fertilizer producers. To get to it, he had to excavate dozens of feet of soil out of the entrance. He left everything in a big pile outside which included what he called 'Indian junk.'"

We ask if there are any bats left in the cave, and he assures us there haven't been any for quite some time.

Joe takes us down a narrow staircase built by archaeologists in the mid-20th century. We are now standing on the original cave floor first formed around 21,000 years ago. A large cross-section cut in the wall is filled with pins and tags which date distinctly colored layers in the soil.

The soil layers are more recent as we move up the wall: beach gravel 10,000 years ago; gray ash from the Mazama volcanic eruption—the Cascades' largest eruption in the past million years—6,900 years ago; human occupation 3,800 years ago. There is an atlatl hunting weapon sticking out from that layer.



Hidden Cave



Joe Allen

MEGG MUELLER



CORY MUNSON

We leave the cave, and Joe locks up the entrance. As we walk back to the cars, Joe points out where a sand embankment was mined off the hill a few decades ago. This caused water-flow to be diverted, which carved ravines in the soil and damaged the trail, vegetation, and wildlife habitat.

“This is a fragile environment,” he tells us. “Little changes like a missing embankment don’t just affect the surrounding area: they can change the balance of this valley which, in turn, affects the next valley and so on.”

We look up at the hill hiding the cave—once a marine floor, then an island, then a wetland, then a desert—and take his meaning.

To schedule a tour of Hidden Cave, visit the Churchill County Museum’s website at ccmuseum.org/hidden-cave-tours.

The road goes on forever

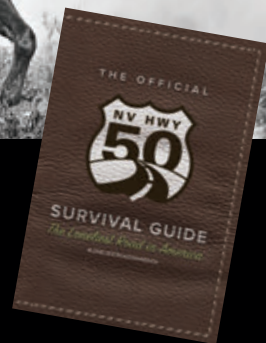


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Dayton
Austin
Eureka
Ely

Baker/Great Basin

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LoneliestRoad.us 1.888.359.9449





ANCIENT WATERWAYS

Unlike shoreline tufa caves which can form in just 20,000 years, many caves in Nevada formed over millions of years.

The caves that appear in our mind's eye as spindly, toothy tunnels are hypogenic caves. These caves form when warm, slightly acidic water courses through porous rock (in Nevada, this is generally limestone). Over millions of years, this flow erodes the rock and leaves river-like tunnels in its wake. When the water table drops, or the land is pushed up into a mountain, the water drains from the system and a dry cave is left behind. Lehman Caves—formed 8-10 million years ago—and Goshute Cave are examples of this process.

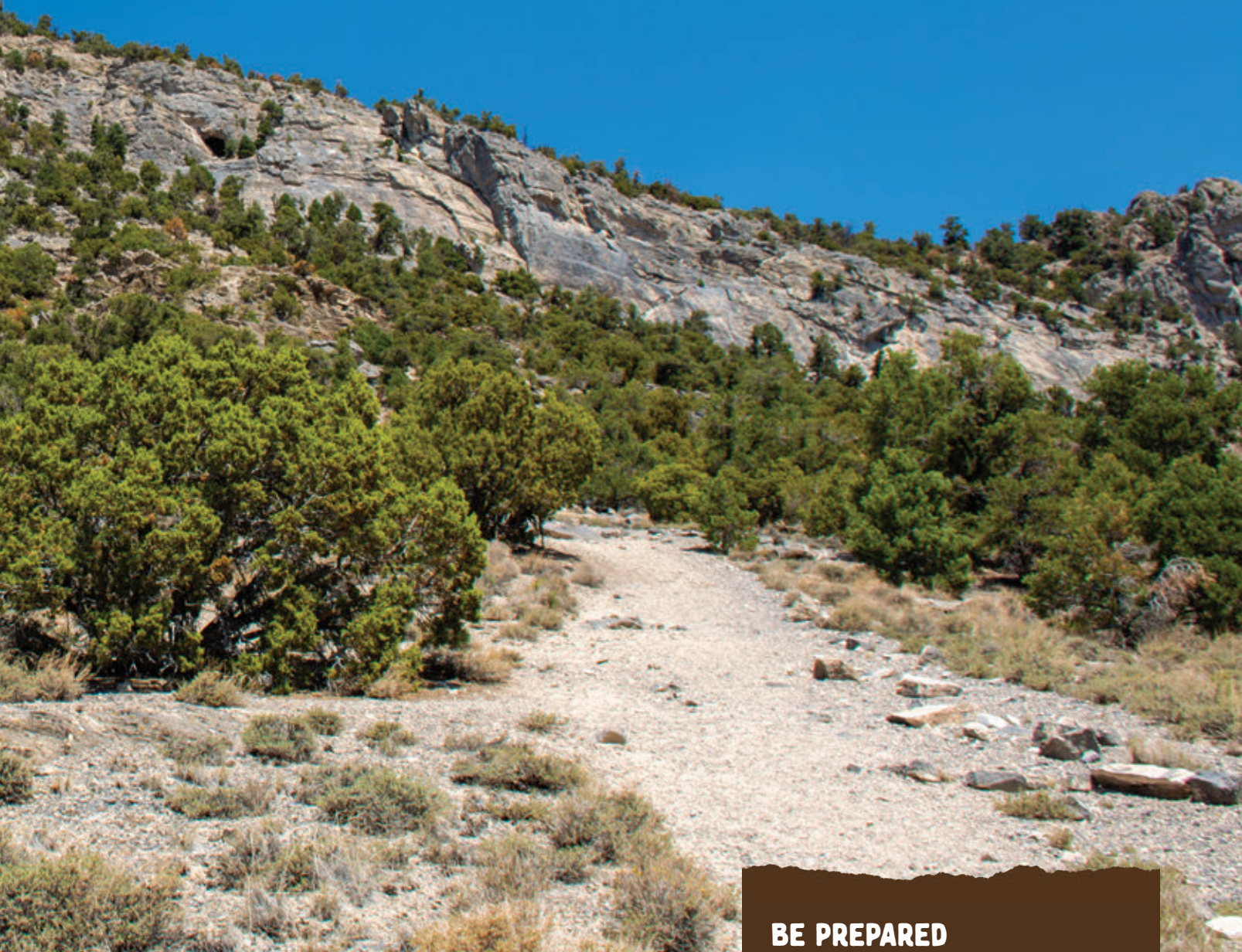
Path up to Goshute Cave

ALONE IN THE MOUNTAIN

Our next destination is Goshute Cave. Megg and I spend the morning rattling down a dirt road in northern White Pine County. As we drive, we jokingly point out the ranches we'll call on when one of us gets stuck in a tunnel.

Our road takes us into mountain foothills and ends at a wooden gate. We peer up the unreasonably steep half-mile trail—no switchbacks to be found here. A circular shadow—an entrance into the mountain—stares back.

The hike to Goshute Cave is grueling and requires frequent stops in sparse shade, which are spent preventing helmets, backpacks, and water bottles from tumbling back down the hill. The hike ends with a climb up a smooth rock slope. I



MEGG MUELLER

stare blankly at this rock face and wish I had brought a rope and a person who could climb up and tie it off for me.

Once atop, I catch my breath and witness the stunning view of Steptoe Valley. I turn around to inspect the large cave entrance when—to my horror—I see that it is nothing more than a shallow rock shelter. Panicking, I yell down the hill to ask where the cave is (as if Megg had something to do with this). She tells me to keep looking. Indeed, a few feet from where I am is the low, narrow entrance into Goshute.

Megg is still working her way up the hill, but the afternoon heat is becoming unbearable, and our time here runs short. We decide—in a conversation held entirely through yelling

BE PREPARED

- o Caves should only be explored with an experienced guide and in groups.
- o Know before you go: do research.
- o Tell someone where you are going and when you'll be back.
- o Get permits and permission when necessary.

Learn more about the National Speleological Society at caves.org.

as I have no clue where she is in the forest below—that I should go into the cave alone to take pictures.

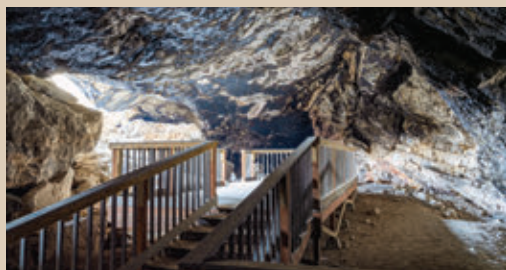
I don't stray far into Goshute—just enough to get away from the natural light. Goshute is a large cave with enough passageways to keep an experienced caver occupied for the afternoon.

The tunnel immediately plunges downhill, and the cave floor is a powder-like dust which lingers in the air at the slightest disturbance. It is exhilarating and terrifying to walk into the blackness beneath a mountain. The knowledge of complete self-reliance begins as a burden; if my equipment fails or I get lost, I'm done.



FAMILY FRIENDLY CAVES

LOVELOCK CAVE



GREG CHAPEL

Lovelock Cave is one of the most historically significant sites in North America. The cave served as a storage area for the Northern Paiute since 2580 B.C.E. and remained untouched until 1911 when it experienced damage from guano miners and rudimentary archeologic digs. The cave is located 40 minutes south of Lovelock and is easily accessible by a short trail and viewing deck.

TOQUIMA CAVES



Toquima Caves is a large rock shelter located one hour southeast of Austin. Toquima is an important cultural site for the Western Shoshone. The cave is home to some of the most remarkable pictographs (pigments on rock) in the West, which date between 3,000 and 1,500 years old. The cave is reached by a short hike and can be viewed through a protective barrier.



PHOTOS: CORY MUNSON

But these thoughts are replaced by a fascination in things that are so unfamiliar in the world above: alien formations, a serene, pure silence, and that darkness at the end of my headlamp's range which seems to call out 'aren't you curious what's down here?'

My time is up. I emerge blinking in the sunlight and am thankful for the summer heat. As I descend the hill, I am already thinking about my return trip. Next time, I'll leave for the cave at dawn. Next time, I'll bring more climbing gear, including a rope, and probably another couple of flashlights.

I feel the thrall of the exploration and the opportunity for discovery.

Maybe I'll bring a horse. ■

Winnemucca, NV

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WINNEMUCCA.com or (775)623-5071



PYRAMID LAKE

Love Letter

A lifetime of memories still in the making at an ancient desert lake.



BY MEGG MUELLER

Until 2020, I don't think there was ever a year that I didn't go to Pyramid Lake. That means, for 54 years, no matter where I lived, I made sure to get to my favorite lake at least once a year. My parents started taking me to Pyramid when I was just a baby, and today, I take my grandchildren there. I think I have the lake's dirt in my blood, and I know I have it in my soul.

For those unfamiliar with the lake, it is located about 35 miles east of Reno and all 125,000 acres are on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation. The Tribal Nation graciously shares much of this sacred land with those who can't get enough of her slightly salinized waters, tumbleweed-flanked dirt beaches, massive Cui-ui fish, exotic rock formations, and phenomenal desert vistas. Most of my family falls into that category.

“When the turquoise water flashed before us, it was worth the long, hot car ride.”



Megg & family at Pyramid circa 1968

MEGG MUELLER

EARLY MEMORIES

When I was just a small child, summer-time brought the nearly-every weekend ritual of packing a Plymouth Belvedere station wagon with my parents and six kids, plus coolers full of fried chicken, PB&Js, sodas, and beer for the parents.

The drive from our house in northwest Reno felt like it took an eternity; once we crested the hill out of Sparks on the Pyramid Lake Highway, there were only a few scattered houses to see as we made our journey 30 miles eastward. Our neighborhood caravan generally consisted of 4-5 vehicles and at least a dozen children. Whether we were sitting in the back of an open pickup or in one of the cars, we counted the distance by the cattle guards on the then-rural highway: there were three, and we'd scream with delight as we crossed each one. After the last one, we'd press forward to see which of us could spot the lake first as we rounded the final hill. When the turquoise water flashed before us, it was worth the long, hot car ride. We'd be in the water soon.

CHARLIE JOHNSTON

Abandoned railroad tracks greeted us each time we turned off the main road to head to the beach, and inevitably, the station wagon would get stuck. This happened more times than I can count: the sand was deep and the tracks perfectly placed for disaster. We kids would run down to the beach, leaving the job of digging our car out of the sand and off the tracks to the men. My nose thickly coated in zinc oxide—a heavy white paste that was the only sunscreen we had—I'd head straight for the water and rarely emerge for the rest of the day.



Pyramid Lake 1967

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“They were glorious summers, filled with sunburns, stickers in our feet, cows wandering in the desert above the beach, swimming, waterskiing, and sleeping under pristine Nevada skies.”



Megg's daughter and nephew, 2015

PHOTOS: MEGG MUELLER

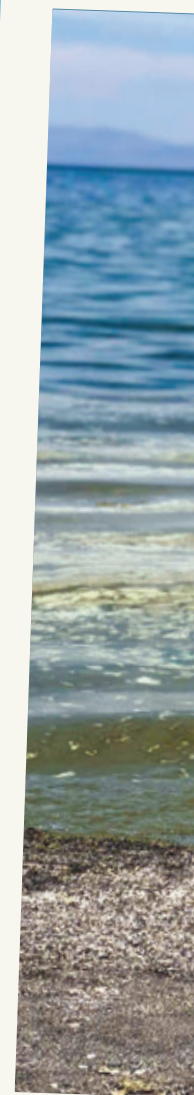


Tufa formations, 1867

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Shade structures were dutifully erected, and the moms would set up their chairs to face the water and keep a constant count of bobbing heads. Horse-shoes, storytelling, sneaking Cokes from the cooler, and exploring the lake's silty bottom kept us busy until we were eventually cajoled to come out of the water for meals and zinc oxide applications.

Some weekends, we would pile into boats and take a then-legal sojourn to the southeast side of the lake where the pyramid stands. The ride over was about 45 minutes depending on the speed and the waves, but the entire way we'd watch the massive rock grow ever larger before us. The huge tufa formation that gives the lake its name rises like a great spire some 600 feet above the beautiful blue waters.





Megg's grandchildren, 2018

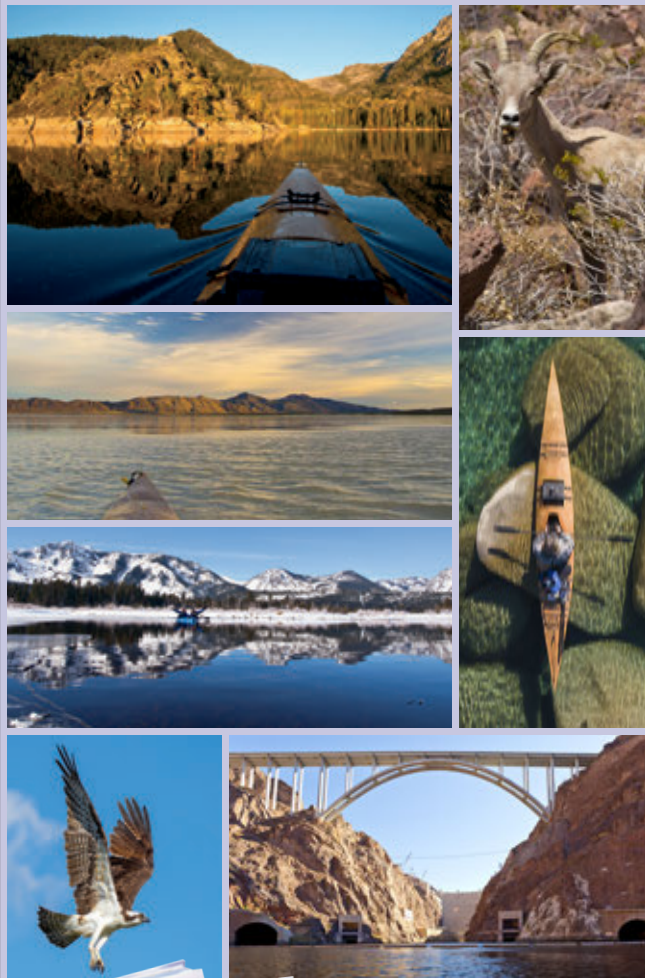
After some time spent exploring this shore, we'd head back to our camp, stopping along the way to let people jump in the deep water. Sometimes, someone would endeavor to ski all the way back. Those who were successful were hailed as the strongest of us all and brought beers their sore arm muscles could barely lift.

They were glorious summers, filled with sunburns, stickers in our feet, cows wandering in the desert above the beach, swimming, waterskiing, and sleeping under pristine Nevada skies. It was the perfect place to be a kid.

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CHANGING TIMES

Even as we got older, there were always trips to Pyramid in one group or another. Water sports were still the top draw along with swimming and—before we knew better—baking in the sun. Kneeboards became a thing, so did ladder fishing and jet skis. We started having kids of our own who learned to swim, took their first boat rides, and had their first camping trips at the lake. We introduced a new generation to the shores and the azure waters that continued to call to us year after year.

My eldest brother Mike was the main fisherman in our family, and he would teach the kids to cast from shore or his canoe. I don't know if he ever told them



Mike Mueller and Tyler Mueller

MEGG MUELLER



SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVEL NEVADA



MICHAEL LINDBERG

the world record for Lahontan cutthroat trout was pulled out of Pyramid Lake—all 41 pounds of it. There are five different species of fish in the lake and massive fish can be caught year-round. The colder months see a preponderance of that strange breed, the ladder fisherman. These diehard sportsmen carry ladders far out into the water in an attempt to get closer to the natural shelves that provide the perfect habitat for fish. Photos of the monster-sized fish pulled from the lake often haunt me as I swim. To date, I have never had my toes nibbled on despite my brothers' attempts to fool me when I was a child.

While most of my memories feel idyllic, Pyramid Lake can be a tempestuous place and deserves the utmost respect. The lake, we always said, is perfect...until it is not. Nevada's wicked winds can kick up out of almost nowhere, leaving campsites upended, umbrellas sailing through the sky, and people scrambling to find cover from the sandblasting their skin and eyes endure. I've been on the lake in a houseboat with 3-foot waves crashing over the bow as my father raced toward the dock, desperately trying to outrun a sudden storm. These are vivid memories, but they do nothing to diminish my love of Pyramid Lake.



LEE MOLOF



MEGG MUELLER

GROWING PAINS

About 10 years ago, the Tribal Nation was forced to close down most of the northern and eastern sides of the lake due to the actions of people I can only imagine were raised by wolves. No offense to the wolves, but how anyone could desecrate the land so sacred to the Paiute or deface the striking tufa formations is beyond me. I miss being able to see those areas of the lake, but I am thankful to still be able to share what I can with my grandchildren.

Visitors were not allowed for much of 2020 due to the pandemic, but as 2021 heads toward its end, it's clear that break did nothing but fuel the fervor for recreation at Pyramid Lake. On weekends, the shorelines are full of trailers, tents, and popup shelters that often denote a day user. Watercraft make waves and pull people on wake boards, and the shores are filled with families enjoying the temperately glorious waters.

For thousands of years, the Paiute who call Pyramid Lake home have known the wonders of this miraculous body of water. The only source of water—aside from precipitation—is the Truckee River, flowing more than 100 miles from Lake Tahoe. The river drops 2,500 feet in elevation, and against all odds, it can make the trip through the desert terrain. Pyramid Lake simply should not be, but it is. While there have been challenges over the years, it remains an incredible jewel in the barren landscape.

PAY YOUR RESPECTS

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Museum and Visitor's Center is the place to start your visit to this historic and beautiful lake. Interactive exhibits explore the ancient people and their lives in the area. You can also learn the natural history of the lake and its animal inhabitants, including the American White pelicans that live on Anaho Island (a national wildlife refuge). Information about obtaining required recreation permits is also available, although permits are not sold at the museum. ■



Truckee River

CHARLIE JOHNSTON

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Museum and Visitor's Center

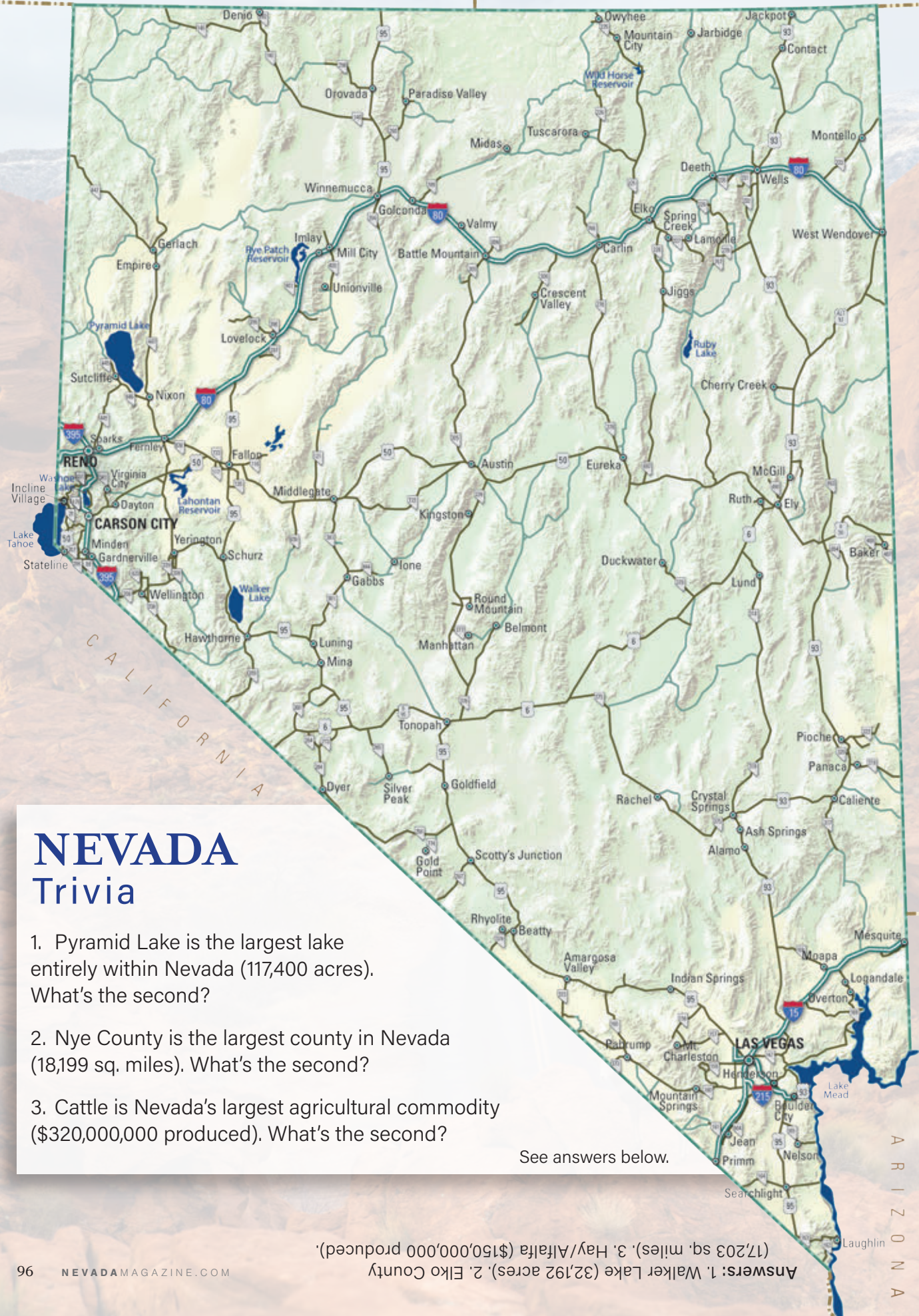
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pyramidlake.us/museum, 775-574-1008

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

pyramidlake.us, 775-574-1000



Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Museum and Visitor's Center



NEVADA

Trivia

1. Pyramid Lake is the largest lake entirely within Nevada (117,400 acres). What's the second?
2. Nye County is the largest county in Nevada (18,199 sq. miles). What's the second?
3. Cattle is Nevada's largest agricultural commodity (\$320,000,000 produced). What's the second?

See answers below.

Answers: 1. Walker Lake (32,192 acres). 2. Elko County (17,203 sq. miles). 3. Hay/Alfalfa (\$150,000,000 produced).

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