

NEVADA

SUMMER 2021

M A G A Z I N E

CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK

Slot Canyons and Spires
Inspire Great Photos

CONCRETE ARROWS

Giant Beacons Reveal Aviation History

ROCK HUNTING

Digging in the Dirt Pays Off

"We're wide OPEN!"



2021 Special Events along Nevada's Highway 50

DAYTON

April 3 Dayton Museum Opens for the Season
May 1 DHS Booster Club Golf Tournament
May 15 Dayton Valley Dog Park "Barking Lot" Sale
May 29 Senior Center Craft Fair and Bake Sale
May 30 Borda Annual Sheep Drive, Downtown Dayton
June 2 Ribbon Cutting - Boys and Girls Club of Mason Valley, Dayton Clubhouse
July 4 3rd Annual Fourth of July Parade, Friends of Old Town Dayton
September 18-19 32nd Annual Dayton Valley Days
September 24 28th Annual "Making A Difference" Dayton Chamber Golf Tournament
October 27 Historical Society of Dayton Valley Haunted Hay Rides

FALLON

June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4 Green Goddess Farmers Market
June 11-12 Octane Fest
June 19 "Cedric Watson & Bijou Creole" Concert in the Park
June 26 7th Annual de Golyer Bucking Horse and Bull Bash
July 3 4th of July Parade
July 4 4th of July Fireworks
July 30-August 1 Fallon Ranch Hand Rodeo
August 20-22 Community Reunion
August 27-29 Fallon Cantaloupe Festival & Country Fair
September 3-6 Lion's Club Junior Rodeo & Labor Day Parade
September 11 City of Fallon 911 Ceremony

September 24-October 3 Lattin Farm's Nevada Maze and Fall Festival

September 30-October 3 World Cowboy Fast Draw Championship

October 1-2 Back Roads Vintage Market

October 2 The No Hill Hundred (100 Mile Bike Ride)

AUSTIN

July 4 4th of July Celebration

September 11 Wine Walk and Sunset Dinner at Stokes Castle

EUREKA

June 11-12 Legends of the West Bike & Car Fest

June 19 Father's Day Shoot

June 26-27 Eureka Gold Rush Games

June 26-27 Nevada Bow Hunters Jamboree

July 4 Open Shooting

July 4 4th of July Celebration and Firemen's Activities

July 17 Fun Shoot

August 3-9 Eureka Fair and Rodeo

August 28 Dove Hunters Warm Up

September 17-18 Art Wine and Music Fest

September 18 2nd Annual Dutch Oven Cook Off

September 18 2nd Annual Dig Deep Trail Run

ELY

Fridays and Saturdays, May-September 18 Renaissance Village

Fridays, May-September 17th Great Basin Star Train

June 12 Fears, Tears, and Beers

June 13-14 3D Target Archery Shoot

June 19 Motorcycle Rodeo

June 25-26 Museum Rock & Gem Swap

June 25-27 Bristlecone Bricks and Train Show

June 30-July 4 Vietnam Traveling Wall

July 1 Wine Tasting

July 1-3 All-Class Reunion

July 3rd Swim-a-thon

July 4 4th of July Celebration

July 10 Ward Mountain Scramble Trail Run and Virtual Run

July 23-25 Christian Motorcycle Association Ride Through

July 30-August 1 Ely Shoshone Tribe Fandango and Pow Wow

August 7 Art & Wine Walk

August 7-8 Arts in the Park

August 13-14 White Pine Rodders' Car Show

August 20-22 White Pine County Fair & Horse Races

September 3-5 McGill Labor Day Weekend

September 11 Chamber Fab Four Concert

September 11 Race the Rails

September 17-19 Silver State Classic Challenge

September 18 Take it to the Lake Half Marathon 10K & Kids Fun Run

BAKER

Open! Tours of Lehman Caves have resumed

September 9-11 Great Basin National Park Astronomy Festival

NEVADA'S HIGHWAY 50

September 26th-October 2nd 30th Annual OATBRAN, One Awesome Tour Bike Ride Across Nevada

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*Summertime,
and the living
is easy in Nevada.
But don't make the
mistake of thinking
that means we're lazy!
Adventures are in full swing
from north to south, live music
is back, and it's the perfect time to
dip your toes in the lake of your choice
and watch the sun set on another perfect
Nevada day.*

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Cover Photo: Kippy S. Spilker

A view of the Cathedral Caves area of Cathedral Gorge State Park. The park is known for slot canyons which host myriad twists and turns, and are often 10-15 degrees cooler than the rest of the park, making them a great place to spend a warm summer day.

Eureka Opera House



Old Fashioned 4th of July
VFW Softball Tournament | July 17th – 18th
Eureka County Fair | August 4th – 8th
Wine Walk | September 18th

EUREKA, NEVADA
31 S. Main Street, Eureka, NV 89316
(775) 237-6006 | opera@eurekacountynv.gov

NEVADA

M A G A Z I N E

SUMMER 2021
VOLUME 81, NUMBER 3

401 N. Carson St. • Carson City, NV 89701-4291
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Nevada Magazine, a division of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, is self-funded and dependent on advertising and subscription revenue.

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Subscriptions/Customer Service: Write to Nevada Magazine Subscriptions, 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701-4291, call 775-687-0610, or visit nevadamagazine.com. Please allow at least six weeks for subscription fulfillment or change of address.

Nevada Magazine (ISSN 0199-1248) is published quarterly by the State of Nevada at 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701-4291. Copyright © 2021 State of Nevada. Subscriptions are \$21.95 per year (international costs vary). Periodicals postage paid at Carson City, NV, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Nevada Magazine Subscriptions, 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701-4291.



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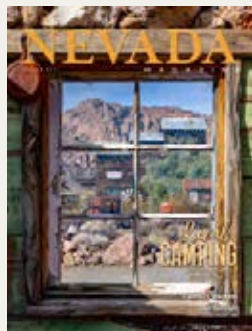
► **Yesterday: Dam Historic Places** - Hoover Dam may be the state's most famous river barrier, editor Richard Moreno wrote in 1995, but it's not the only dam with a historic foundation. In honor of Hoover Dam's 60th anniversary that year, he wrote about 10 other great little dams. This story first appeared in our September/October 1995 issue. **By Richard Moreno**



► **Yesterday: Great Nevada Collections** - Some collectors are cheerfully, but seriously, obsessed with relics of Nevada's past. From postcards to documents, lunch pails to license plates and so very much more. Plus, public collections around the state. This story first appeared in our May/June 1990 issue. **By Mitch Fox and Connie Emerson**

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 Spring 2021 issue, online voters chose James Marvin Phelps' photo taken in Techatticup.

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

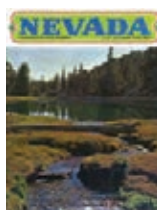
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Would you like to see your Instagram page featured in Nevada Magazine? Use **#nvmag** and let us know about your **#Nevada** adventure!



We May Be Small, But We Are MIGHTY



Well, this was a fun issue to create! The world is slowly coming even more out of its pandemic shell, travel is happening again, and here in Nevada, mask restrictions have been lifted for those fully vaccinated. It's summertime like I haven't felt since I was kid let out on break.

Despite the challenges of creating this issue with a position vacant, I am really proud of the product you're holding. It was definitely "all hands on deck" after Eric left, as evidenced by the stories written by our customer relations manager and our art director, Carrie Roussel and Kippy S. Spilker, respectively. Everyone on my staff—all four of them!—jumped in to help in the creation of our Summer 2021 issue, and no offense to the dearly departed, but I think we hit this one out of the park.

I got back on the road, and while it was a different trip, it was still incredible to be back driving through the state on the search for new adventures. There are a few stories about those adventures, and I think it might be obvious how glad I was to travel again.

Summer events are being announced across the state, and it makes me happy to report we've got a couple different sections with that information. It's been far too

long since we've had festivals, special events, and concerts so make sure—if you're ready—you take advantage of the incredible arts and culture found in every corner of the state.

It is my fervent hope that by next issue, we'll have someone to introduce you to as our new associate editor. Whoever that person is, I know the magazine is ready for the change and new energy they will bring.

One last thing before you get to reading: if you don't already have an email address associated with your subscription, please consider sharing one with us. We've got some exciting news coming up this year, and I want to get that news out to everyone as efficiently as possible via email newsletter. We never sell our lists, and we send emails once a month, so we're not looking to bombard your inbox. We simply can't wait for you to hear the news!

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Along with summer events, we've got some great summer adventures for you in this issue. From a couple of excellent ghost towns visited by a new author to the story behind the massive concrete arrows found across the state, or the history of the radio station in Goldfield or the Sisters of Charity who took care of a young Virginia City population, our freelance writers really brought some great stories to us.

Carrie took a look at the plethora of travel apps that make finding exactly what you want in the Silver State even easier, and Kippy took her camera out to Cathedral Gorge for a deep dive into the other-worldly state park. All this was going on while I headed to Ely to get a little dirty on the trails surrounding this great little town.

We've got even more packed inside, and I hope you find a quiet summer day to sit back, sip a cool drink, and dive into all we have to share with you. See you in fall!

Megg Mueller, Executive Editor
mmueller@nevadamagazine.com

LETTERS

MORE GREAT READS

Your Spring issue is a great one, but those of us in Henderson who enjoy reading also have a great bookstore. The Copper Cat is managed by a charming couple, has great ease of parking, and sells nearly everything at a discount. The majority of the stock is previously owned.

— **Rob MacArthur**, Henderson

A GRAPE MISTAKE

A minor correction to the article about Basin and Range Cellars (Spring 2021) should be that the property is in Gardnerville, not Minden. We live immediately below Buffalo Creek Ranch and the vineyard. We are glad to hear that Mr. Redinger has purchased the vineyard, and we look forward to tasting his product in the future.

— **Mr. and Mrs. Justin Rible**, Gardnerville

GIVING BACK AND GIVING THANKS

I want to thank Nevada Outdoorsmen in Wheelchairs and *Nevada Magazine* for the beautiful article regarding wheelchair hunting giving people the ability to get out



enjoying hunting which wouldn't be possible with them. Our Nevada Wheelchair Foundation gives new wheelchairs to those that can't afford one here in Nevada. Nice to see other foundations giving mobility for sport and life needs.

— **John Williams**, Las Vegas

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.

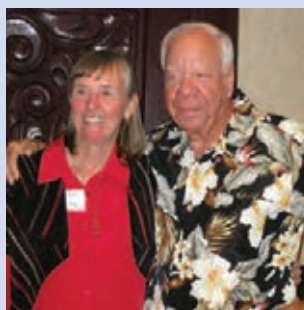
CONTRIBUTORS

CRAIG MACDONALD



Pulitzer Prize-nominee Craig MacDonald loves Nevada and its amazing history. The Nevada Historical Society member's story about the state's first woman sheriff appeared in "The Historical Nevada Magazine" book. He has spoken at Nevada conferences and authored 24 books. Fifty years ago, he rode in a covered wagon from Nevada to California. His great-grandmother came from Iowa to California in a covered wagon in 1853. ■ **PGS. 24-29**

JIM PRICE



James N. (Jim) Price and his wife of 43 years, Joan Sieber spent their careers in San Diego, where they still live today. A long interest in ghost towns led them to Goldfield, where they've owned a home for 20 years. They published the book "Discovering the Ghost Railroads of Central Nevada" in 2015 which is available on Amazon, and in local stores in central Nevada. ■ **PGS. 34-37**

MARK WALKER



Mark Walker is a retired professor from the University of Nevada, Reno and a licensed pilot and drone pilot. He manages a small drone business that specializes in developing topographic maps and schematic diagrams of structures such as cell towers. You can find out more at pfdronemapping.com.

■ **PGS. 38-43**

TAMI FORCE



Tami Force has been visiting and photographing ghost towns for 30 years. Her blog—Gouge Eye Chronicle—follows her travels and documents Nevada's history. She explores Nevada with family, friends and her Jeep, Honey Badger. She lives in the Carson Valley on her family's fourth-generation ranch with her family, dog, cats, goats, and chickens. You can follow her at nvtami.com. ■ **PGS. 66-73**

Up Front

SPECIAL EVENTS

Summer events back throughout Nevada

After a quiet 2020, this summer will see the return of many signature special events. As ever, make sure to confirm dates and times before you go.



Ensemble Mik Na Wooj

Artown, now in its 26th festival season, generally hosts more than 500 events at more than 120 venue locations, across the northern Nevada area for the entire month of July. The family friendly event hosts a number of headliners, along with such series as Discover the Arts, Monday Night Music Series, and more. This year's primary venue has been changed to accommodate a more spacious and safer event due to pandemic precautions. Headliners include Ensemble Mik Na Wooj on July 11, Kronos Quartet on July 15, and Keb' Mo' on July 22. artown.org, 775-322-1538

The **American Century Championship** returns to South Lake Tahoe July 9-11 for its 32nd edition with its best-ever field competing for \$600,000 and fundraising for charity at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course. Justin Timberlake, Tony Romo, Aaron Rodgers, Patrick Mahomes, and Charles Barkley headline a field of more than 80 sports and entertainment stars competing in the 54-hole championship. americancenturychampionship.com

The **Reno Chalk Art & Music Festival** is back and bigger than ever. This year's event is set for July 9-11 in the west parking lot of the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa. Over the course of three days, amateur and professional artists will transform pavement into masterpieces while they battle for prizes in categories such as best use of color, Best use of 3D, and best reproduction of a master's work.

atlantiscasino.com/chalk, 775-825-4700



Chalk art by Maribeth McFaul

Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival hosts beautiful balloons in the skies above Elko July 23-25. rubymountainballoons.org

The **Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival** is back at Sand Harbor July 17-Aug. 22 with performances of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" along with its showcase series events.

laketahoeshakespeare.com, 775-832-1616



Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival

Hot August Nights returns to Virginia City July 30-31, and to Reno Aug. 3-7. Parades, show-n-shines, concerts, and everything that makes this decades-old event way more than a car show. hotaugustnights.net, 775-356-1956



Hot August Nights

Great Basin Astronomy Festival is set to share the incredible dark skies the national park is known for on Sept. 9-11. Even if you don't have your own telescope, make your way to eastern Nevada for this unique event. nps.gov/grba, 775-234-7331



Great Basin Astronomy Festival

The raucous and totally unique **International Camel & Ostrich Races** are set to run Sept. 10-12 in Virginia City. visitvirginiacity.com, 775-847-7500



International Camel & Ostrich Races

The STIHL National Championship Air Races—aka the **Reno Air Races**—takes to the sky once again Sept. 15-19. The only race of its kind, six different classes of planes will race, with some at speeds that exceed 500 mph. airrace.org, 775-972-6663



Life is Beautiful

Music festivals are back, with **Life is Beautiful Las Vegas** leading the way. Lots of music, tons of art, and the chilliest vibe anywhere is the hallmark of this event which is set for Sept. 17-19. Green Day, Billie Eilish, and Tame Impala are this year's headliners. lifeisbeautiful.com

Street Vibrations Motorcycle Festival is a celebration of music, metal, and motorcycles, offering poker runs, entertainment, ride-in shows, stunt and bike shows to more than 50,000 riding and enthusiasts. Set in multiple locations around the Reno-Sparks area, the event happens Sept. 23-26.

roadshowsreno.com/sv_fall.php, 775-329-7469



Street Vibrations



■ **Nevada Northern Railway's** train rides have been named one of the most beautiful in the world by "House Beautiful" magazine. The incredibly popular Star trains have sold out for the year, but the Sunset, Stars, and Champagne trains have plenty of availability. nnry.com, 775-289-2085

■ **Legends in Concert** has returned to the stage at the Tropicana Las Vegas. Fans are invited to celebrate Vegas with the return of the world's top tribute artists paying homage to Elvis Presley, Rod Stewart and Tina Turner. The Queen of Las Vegas, Frank Marino, The Strip's longest running headliner, continues as the production's host. legendsinconcert.com, 800-829-9034

■ **Frey Ranch Distillery** has taken home eight medals at this year's annual San Francisco World Spirits Competition, receiving awards for all eight of its entries. Of the eight medals awarded, Frey Ranch received four silver medals, one gold, and three double gold medals. The double gold, the organization's top award, is awarded to entries that receive a Gold medal rating by all members of the judging panel and are considered among the finest in the world. freyranch.com, 775-423-4000

■ Things are heating up at **Topgolf Las Vegas** as the entertainment venue re-opens Hideaway Pool on weekends and their popular Summer Academy and Summer Fun Pass makes a comeback. Families and friends can also enjoy unlimited gameplay during the weekdays and golf lovers will have some fun with the debut of the 9-Shot Challenge, a global tournament where guests participate in attempting to hit each shot as close to the pin as possible. The winner of the challenge will win a trip to the 2022 PGA Championship. topgolf.com/lasvegas, 702-933-2458

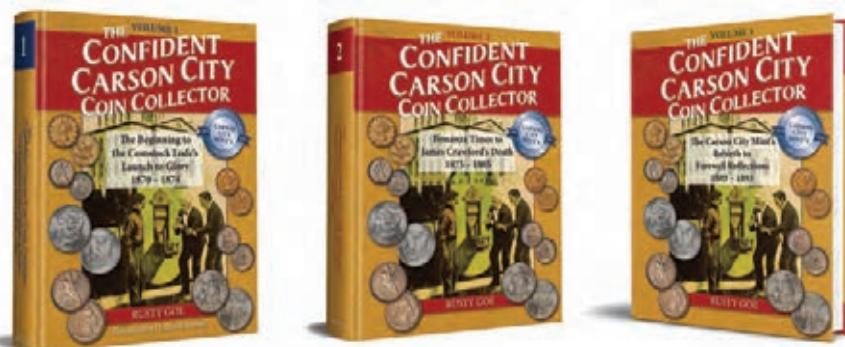
NEVADA BOOKS

"The Confident Carson City Coin Collector"

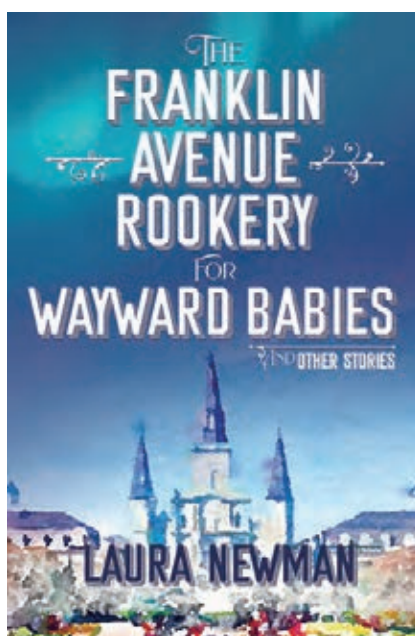
By Rusty Goe, Southgate Coins, 2,500 pages over three volumes, nonfiction, southgatecoins.com

Rusty Goe's three-volume set answers myriad questions asked by clients during his three-plus-decade career as a coin dealer, researcher, and author. Sharp, full-color images of all 111 date-denominations comprising a basic complete set of Carson City coins decorate the pages. For each date-denomination the books present a historical setting section that provides readers with glimpses of operations at the Carson City Mint during the years in which the coins were made.

Goe is a recognized authority on the Carson City Mint's history and its coins. He previously published "The Mint on Carson Street" (2003) and "James Crawford: Master of the Mint at Carson City" (2007).

**"The Franklin Avenue Rookery for Wayward Babies"**

By Laura Newman, Delphinium Books, 240 pages, fiction, delphiniumbooks.com



Ten new short stories make up this second collection of short stories for Reno author Laura Newman. Wildly diverse characters occupy stories of personal and often spiritual challenges that find them facing extraordinary events in the course of everyday life.

Newman switches points of view effortlessly, bringing the reader to far-flung regions of the world, and has an uncanny, authentic grasp of cultures. The stories travel from Varanasi to Tijuana, from Rome to Lhasa, to New Orleans, Valdez, Barcelona, and the Isle of Skye.

Howdy! We all have to do our part so... mask up, stay safe, play safe.

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UP FRONT



■ In celebration of 30 years, **Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel** is offering one lucky winner and their guests a five-night, six-day adventure-filled trip to Lake Tahoe. The nine-story, all-suite hotel opened Dec. 14, 1991. The grand prize includes five nights in a balcony suite for four, a \$1,000 Southwest Airlines voucher, car rental for six days, a \$250 dining credit at the hotel's Echo Restaurant, and three adventures from the "Dream Adventure" list. The hotel is also giving away 29 one-night stays with a \$30 credit at Echo Restaurant. Enter before July 31.

tahoeresorthotel.com/giveaway,
530-544-5400

■ **Nevada State Parks** will launch a new Junior Ranger program to give Nevada's kids an exciting new way to learn about the nature that surrounds them, whether it's in their own backyard, or in a Nevada State Park. Children are invited to earn Junior Ranger badges by completing a free activity book during a visit to any or all of Nevada's beautiful state parks. Some activities include creating a sound map, interviewing a park ranger, identifying scat and animal tracks, and much more.

parks.nv.gov/learn

■ **Maverick Helicopters** is proud to announce receipt of the Federal Aviation Administration's 2020 Award of Excellence Diamond Award. The honor is a result of the company's ongoing dedication to maintenance training and aircraft safety. This is Maverick Helicopters' 10th consecutive year earning the award for its Las Vegas and Grand Canyon South Rim locations. flymaverick.com, 702-261-0007

■ **Circa Sports** opened its fifth Southern Nevada book at The Pass Casino. Located in downtown Henderson, The Pass' book will offer a convenient betting option for visitors to the newly renovated and rebranded property. passcasino.com, 702-841-5000

ATTRACTIONS

Fly over the Grand Canyon without leaving The Strip



FlyOver, an immersive flight ride, will debut this fall on The Las Vegas Strip. The dynamic attraction will take guests on a multi-sensory journey as they soar over the American West's most iconic locations and natural wonders as part of this entertainment experience.

A 52-foot vibrant spherical screen will surround guests as they glide through picturesque destinations including the Las Vegas Strip, Grand Canyon, Zion, and Arches National Parks, Lake Tahoe, and more seen from a first-person perspective in sharp, stunning high definition. The attraction uses a state-of-the-art moving platform with six degrees of motion that enable guests to feel every sweeping movement of the journey. Special effects including wind, mist, and location-specific scents heighten the immersive flight ride as guests hang suspended with their feet dangling above the world's most stunning natural wonders.

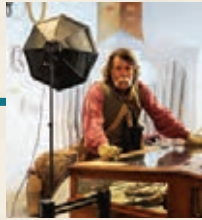
Located next to the Hard Rock Cafe on Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas' FlyOver attraction is set to boast an expansive space with two flight-ride theaters, pre-show entertainment areas and a full-service bar. flyoverlasvegas.com



NHS EDUCATIONAL HISTORY VIDEOS

Nevada Historical Society has created online video tours of their most popular programs.

- Mountain Men and Fur Trappers
- Living on the Land (Native Americans)
- Prehistory of Nevada • Mountain Men Explorers
- Traveling the California Trail through Nevada, 1841-1869



nvhistoricalsociety.org/virtual-tours

HIGH NOON LECTURE SERIES ONLINE - REGISTER NOW

July 15, 2021 - 19th and 20th Century Painters of Nevada, Jack Bacon
August 19, 2021 - Restoring Reno Fire Department's past, Jon Wagner
September 16, 2021 - Friends of the Nevada Wilderness, Pat Bruce

nvhistoricalsociety.org/flyers



Don't miss our Summer 21
issue of Nevada Historical
Society Quarterly

Nevada
Historical Society Quarterly



NEVADA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1650 N. Virginia St., Reno

775-688-1190 | nvhistoricalsociety.org

Ruby Mountain
Balloon Festival

20TH ANNIVERSARY

Elko and Spring Creek
Nevada

2021

RUBY MOUNTAIN BALLOON FESTIVAL

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, July 23

6:00 am
Balloons launch from various
locations in Elko

Noon to 3:00pm
Kids Program Elko City Park
(50 kids maximum)

7:00 pm
Night Glow: Elko City Park

Saturday, July 24

6:00 am
Mass Ascension:
Spring Creek Sports Complex

Sunday, July 25

6:00 am
Mass Ascension:
Spring Creek Sports Complex

- All events are free to the public
- All events are weather permitting
- Changes may be made re: Covid, check website for latest info
- www.RubyMountainBalloons.org
- See website for photo contest information



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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.



Palmer Valley farmers struck gold in the area that would eventually become Delamar in 1895-1896. The discovery inspired an onslaught of eager gold bugs, including Captain John De Lamar of Montana, who purchased prime claims in 1895 in the amount of \$150,000. Soon after his acquisition, the town of Delamar quickly rose from the ground, with many of the buildings constructed from native rock. Various businesses, a newspaper, post office, opera house, and 50-ton mill capable of handling up to 200 tons of ore per day provided work, but the American dream wasn't all it was cracked up to be.

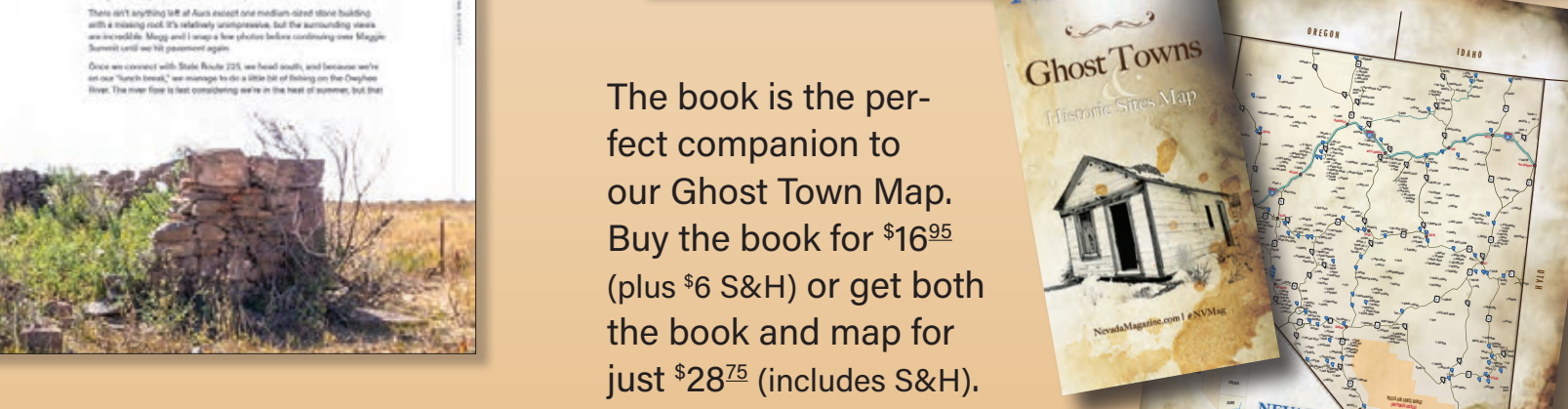


Following morning, we depart Wells and aim toward State Route 226 north of Ely. We hit the Taylor Canyon Resort—a great rural watering hole and haven for hunters—before riding toward Jack Creek, located on the north end of the Independence Mountain Range. I pause here briefly to enjoy the scenery and solitude.

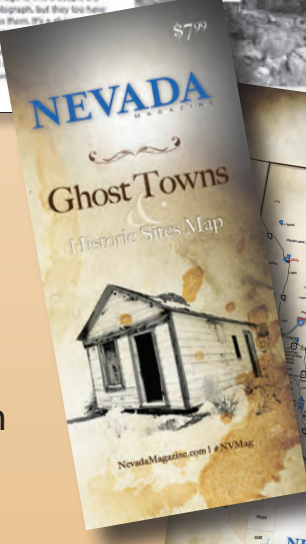
A region is somewhat dry in ghost towns, but makes up for it in beauty. Rich fields are filled with wheat, corn, and other crops. In other valleys, and others of about equal size, the hills. We drive into an idyllic town, and before we reach our first town of the day—Aurora.



TO ORDER: Visit nevadamagazine.com/shop; or contact Carrie at 775-687-0610,



The 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



■ **The State of Nevada** announced the transfer of more than 23,000 acres of wetlands and pasture from the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management. The transfer of the Carson Lake and Pasture in Churchill County will ensure the long-term management and protection of crucial wetlands that provide habitat to shorebirds and waterfowl, while expanding both wildlife viewing and recreation opportunities. Carson Lake and Pasture is located about eight miles southeast of Fallon. ndow.org, 775-423-3171

■ **The Neon Museum** in Las Vegas has adjusted summer hours of operation. The museum will open at 3 p.m. and close at 11 p.m. everyday. The revised hours take into account the later sunset and lower evening temperatures in the summer, allowing guests to enjoy guided tours among the lit neon signs in the museum's Neon Boneyard during the optimal viewing hours. neonmuseum.org, 702-387-6366

■ **Weird Reno** is a walking-tour of offbeat history, good-natured fun, and interactive magic. Guests will follow the Truckee River for a 75-minute, COVID-compliant, community experience hosted by renowned illusionists and show producers Kalin and Jinger, punctuated by multiple stops, a mysterious woman, and amazing revelations—both historical and magical. weirdreno.com, 775-453-4335

■ **Siegel's Bagelmania** has moved to its new flagship location at 252 Convention Center Drive. Siegel's Bagelmania has been a hidden gem behind the glitz and glamour of The Strip, where people gathered for authentic Jewish recipes and handmade pastries since 1989. bagelmanialv.com, 702-369-3322

■ **Grand Sierra Resort** continues its more than \$200 million resort transformation by making guest experience enhancements. Developments include a complete update of the property's front entrance, room upgrades, expanded entertainment and dining options, as well as updates to resort common areas. grandsierraresort.com, 775-789-2000

RESTAURANT ROUNDUP

Tasty dining and imbibing news from Las Vegas

Raiders Tavern & Grill at M Resort Spa Casino is the only official Raiders-themed restaurant. The one-of-a-kind sports dining experience has a seating capacity of 200 guests and has both indoor and outdoor dining areas. The authentic game day experience is carried through the venue with 45 high-definition TVs, video footage of Raiders history, and a retail store. The menu boasts a variety from stadium favorites and sports bar fare to larger entrees, soups and salads, sandwiches and build your own burgers. Healthier, lighter fare—including vegan and vegetarian dishes—is also available.

themresort.com/dining/raiders-tavern-and-grill, 702-797-1100



Estiatorio Milos

TIM ATKINS

Pinkbox Doughnuts opens its first drive-thru, debuts the Pinkbox food truck, and launches premium roast coffee line. The highly anticipated fourth location is now open on the corner of Sunset and Annie Oakley in Las Vegas. pinkboxdoughnuts.com



Pinkbox Doughnuts

Bāng Bar, Chef David Chang's popular Momofuku to-go concept, has landed inside The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas. Making its West Coast debut, Bāng Bar is a nod to the traditional global street meat market, and introduces elevated, Asian-inspired cuisine to the bustling Las Vegas culinary scene.

cosmopolitanlasvegas.com/restaurants/bang-bar, 702-698-7000

Caviar Tacos and captivating cocktail pairings take center stage at **Petrossian Bar's** new epicurean experience at Bellagio Resort & Casino. Along with live piano sounds and views of Dale Chihuly's "Fiori di Como" over the resort's lobby, the legendary bar's evolved menu blends signature components of Las Vegas' culinary scene with extravagant ingredients to create an approachable way to indulge in the world's finest spirits and caviar. bellagio.com, 702-693-7111

HERE'S WHERE YOUR BEST LIFE'S BEEN HIDING.



Spoiler alert: it's right here in our very own state. Cool, crisp lakes and flowing streams? That's us. The most star-studded skies in the Lower 48? You bet. Pristine parks, intriguing towns, and oddball attractions around every corner? Got it all — and plenty more where that came from, too. And the more you explore, the more Silver State surprises there always are to uncover, one home-state adventure at a time. So what are you waiting for?

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 BLACK CANYON WATER TRAIL, BOULDER CITY

YOUR
FAVORITE
NEVADA

PLACE TO TAKE VISITORS

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, and we're asking you to share images of your Nevada favorites. We'll pick a theme (see below) and let our readers lead the way!

We all have at least one—that special place you can't wait to show someone visiting. The spot where you wait to see their eyes light up as soon as they see it. For this issue we wanted to see those magical Nevada places you hold in the highest esteem, that are nearest and dearest to your hearts.

Not only did you blow us away with some of your submissions, but we discovered a few new places we just might have to try soon, too!

See more favorite places our readers like to take visitors at nevadamagazine.com/your-favorite-place-to-take-visitors/

Fall 2021 theme:

YOUR
FAVORITE
NEVADA
RECREATION

Rules and submission instructions:
nevadamagazine.com/favoriterules



Dangberg Ranch, Gardnerville

CONNIE KRAUSE



Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca

LARRY BURTON



Virginia City

LAUREN ARENDS



Gold Butte National Monument

STEVE DUDROW



Squaw Creek Reservoir, Gerlach

DENISE CAPURRO



Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Amargosa Valley

TERESA SKYE



Tabor Creek Campground, Wells

MARIA CASTAÑEDA



Three Sisters, Mount Charleston

KAREN BROWN-GORDON



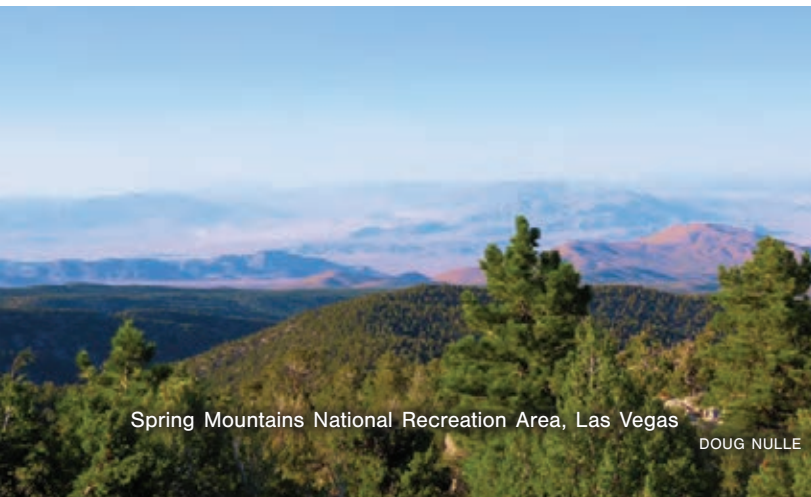
Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca

YOURI ARDENOV



Goldwell Open Air Museum, Beatty

STEVE O'MELIA



Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, Las Vegas

DOUG NULLE



Reno

TERESA MUNSON

SUMMER 2021 17







DEENA SNYDER



ANTHONY CUPAIUOLO



Pages 18-19: "With Covid shutting down beaches last summer, we were overrun with kids on Lake Tahoe," says Doty Molt. "A true testament to the power of the beauty we witness here is this image of young people, capturing this transcendent sunset with their iPhones in the middle of a thunderstorm off of Secret Cove."

Opposite page, top left: "Gold Butte National Monument Nevada is a vast area of BLM land with a number of different things to see and do. You have hiking and biking along with side-by-side OHVs," Deena Snyder says.

Opposite page, top right: Anthony Cupaiuolo took this photo of Claire Hewitt-Demeyer, who is all smiles while wake surfing on Walker Lake.

Opposite page, bottom: "As I was looking out my back window, I notice this little hummingbird making a nest on our outdoor lights. I started checking on her daily," explains Barb Swetzof Lund. "I named her JC. It took her a few days to complete her new home, and after a week or so I noticed she had a couple eggs in her nest. I can't wait to see the little ones when they hatch."

Right: "Amelia and Dresden are taking Tiny for a walk on a crisp spring day in Fallon. These toddlers love everything to do with animals and the outdoors," Brittany Nelson says. "Tiny loves everything to do with her feed."



BRITTANY NELSON



FACEBOOK GROUP CHOICE

"This is Eva Cummings at Lantern Fest in Fernley," Neil Lockhart says. "We all had the look of childlike wonder as it was the first time any of us had been or seen anything like it. It was a magical experience and I'm so glad she got to see it!"

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



NEIL LOCKHART

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



MATT CONDON



DARRIN BUSH

Top: Matt Condon took this photo near Lunar Crater on Highway 6. "Near the end of the day, a good gust of wind picked up and everyone at the camp (who had previously been chatting and sipping beer) dropped what they were doing and headed out on their respective land yachts."

Left: "I was hiking at Cave Lake, near Ely. It was dusk and there was a famous Nevada silence surrounding the lake," Darrin Bush says. "I heard something nearby, and felt like someone or something was watching me. I scanned the bushes with my camera and snapped a photo of this beautiful deer."

Opposite page: "The tufa formations at Pyramid Lake, with their diversity in size, shape, color, and form, including the massive Pinnacles at the north end of the lake and the eponymous pyramid on the east side, add in their uniquely dramatic way to the Lake's mystique, beauty, and spiritual ambiance," says Lee Molof. "With its unique textures and colors illuminated by the early morning sun, this beautiful formation is located at Separator Beach."



LEE MOLOF



Great Nevada Picture Hunt

CONTEST BEGINS
WED, MAY 12
CONTEST ENDS
WED, JULY 14

THIS YEAR'S CATEGORIES:

1. Portrait/People
2. Landscape
3. Cities/Towns
4. Mobile Phone
5. Event
6. Wildlife
7. Long Exposure
8. Humorous
9. Black & White
10. Photographers Under 18 (any subject)

Submitters younger than 18 will need to include signed permission form from a parent or guardian.

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homemeansnevada.com

See nevadamagazine.com/gnph/2021 for official rules, permission form, and submission instructions.

Sweet Saviors

OF VIRGINIA CITY

Sisters brought care and comfort to wild mining town.

BY CRAIG MACDONALD

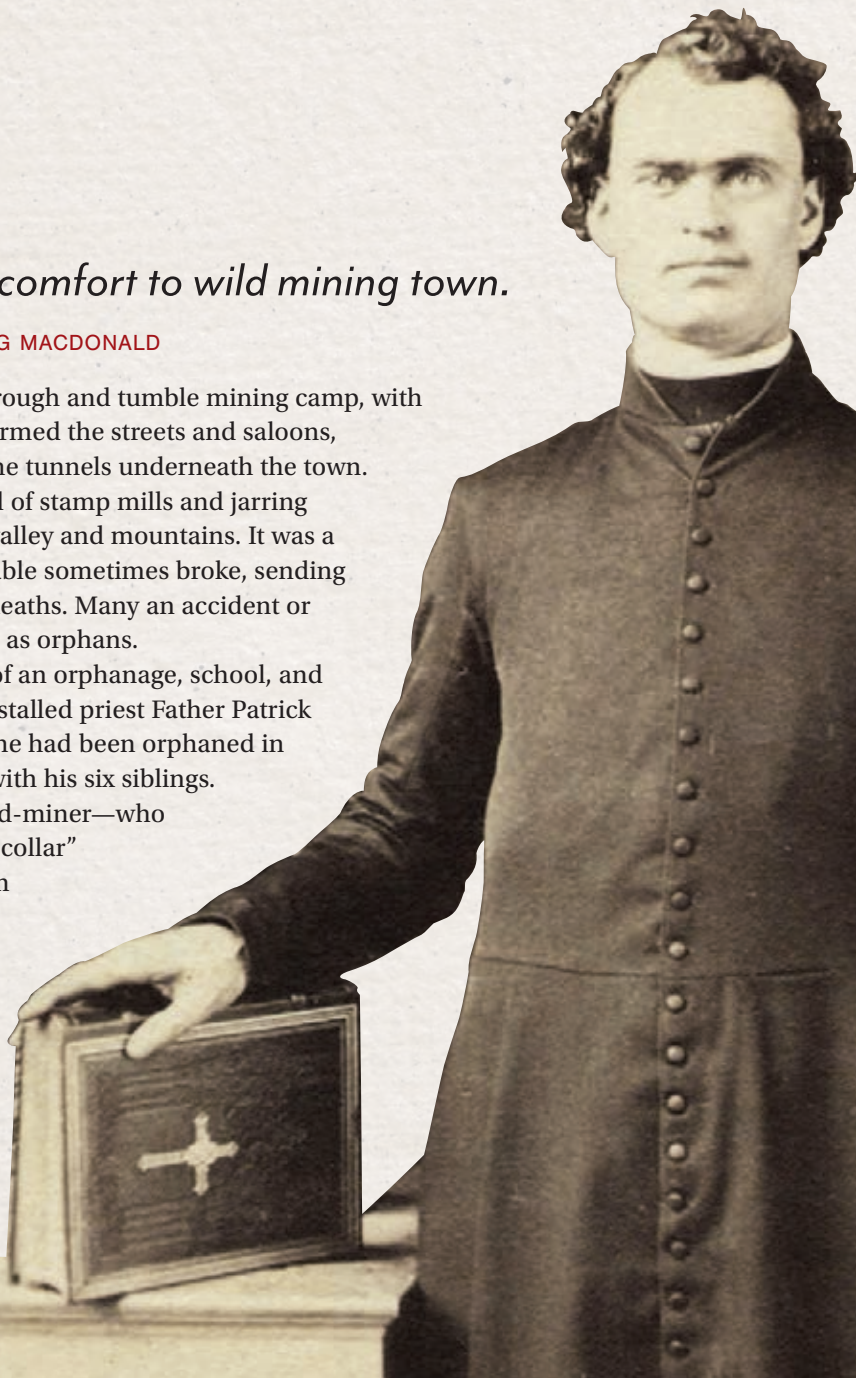
In the 1860s, Virginia City was a rough and tumble mining camp, with 24-hour hustle and bustle. Men swarmed the streets and saloons, while miners labored deep within the tunnels underneath the town.

The loud, constant clanking metal of stamp mills and jarring explosions echoed throughout the valley and mountains. It was a dangerous place, where rope and cable sometimes broke, sending cages full of miners falling to their deaths. Many an accident or fire in the mines or city left children as orphans.

The town was in desperate need of an orphanage, school, and hospital—needs that the recently installed priest Father Patrick Manogue especially recognized, as he had been orphaned in Ireland as a very young boy, along with his six siblings.

The rugged, former California gold-miner—who was often called “Wyatt Earp with a collar” for the way he pulled husbands from taverns and ordered them to surrender their paychecks to their wives—turned to the Catholic Church’s top missionaries to help solve some of Virginia City’s most pressing needs.

Bishop Patrick Manogue



SOMEONE TO CARE FOR

At the request of Father Manogue, the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul traveled over the Sierra Nevada Mountains from San Francisco and Los Angeles. Between 1864-97, he was able to bring more than 50 sisters to care for the town's needy and open Nevada's first orphanage, along with a hospital and two schools. The sisters sought to provide spiritual comfort, regardless of race, culture, or religious preference.

The tireless women shared a dedicated, hardworking, compassionate, and unselfish spirit that bettered those around them and spread a caring attitude that most Nevadans share to this day.

On Oct. 8, 1864, the first three sisters arrived by stagecoach; Frederica McGrath, Elizabeth Russell, and Xavier Schauer. They provided a much-needed "breath of fresh air" in the male-dominated city. They definitely stood out in their distinctive blue habits, guimpes, and white cornettes, which caused the Paiute Indians to call them "God's Geese."

The proactive Sisters went throughout The Comstock—into homes, mines, businesses, and even jails in their efforts to assist anyone in need. They saved the town thousands of dollars by aiding the poor, sick, and injured.



Mural of Sister Frederica McGrath at St. Mary's Art Center

ST. MARY'S ART CENTER



Sisters of Charity Circa 1890s

COURTESY OF THE HISTORIC FOURTH WARD SCHOOL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



St. Mary's Art Center



John Mackay

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

LIZ HUNTINGTON

GETTING RIGHT TO WORK

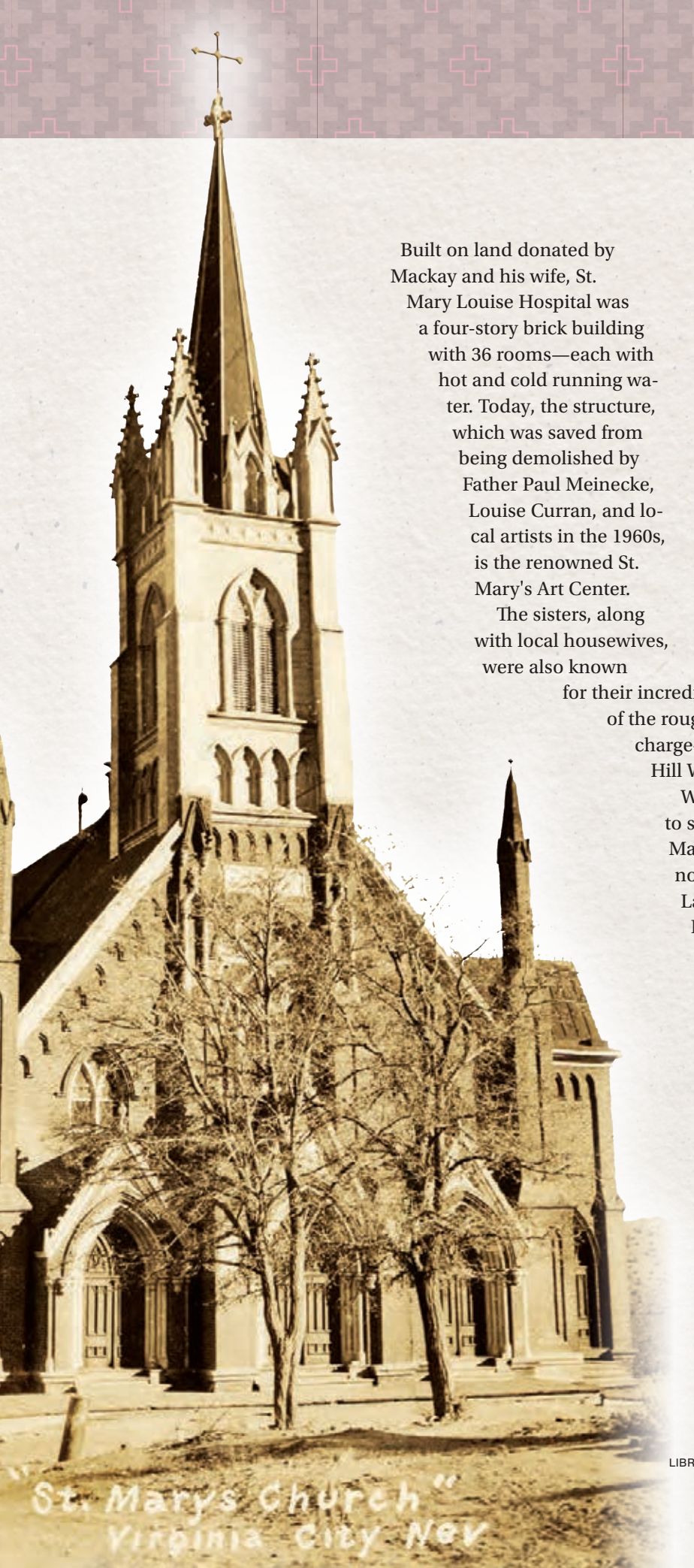
The "Virginia Daily Union" reported the school opened Oct. 17, 1864 "with 50 female children attending the first day" in the basement of the newly-opened St. Mary's of the Mountain Church. In the first year, they aided more than 112 students and ran two schools—one for boys and one for girls.

In 1867, they opened Nevada's first orphanage which was supported by a diverse group of local citizens, including Dr. Wake Bryarly who donated free medical care to the children.

In 1876, with the support of mining icon John Mackay and his wife, Marie Louise, the sisters opened the town's first hospital, which had space for 70 patients, and was run by Sister Ann Sebastian. It helped save the lives of injured miners and many others.



St. Mary's of the Mountain Church



Built on land donated by Mackay and his wife, St. Mary Louise Hospital was a four-story brick building with 36 rooms—each with hot and cold running water. Today, the structure, which was saved from being demolished by Father Paul Meinecke, Louise Curran, and local artists in the 1960s, is the renowned St. Mary's Art Center.

The sisters, along with local housewives, were also known

for their incredible vegetable and flower gardens, created out of the rough, rocky soil. They received water—free of charge—for their gardens from the Virginia and Gold Hill Water Company.

When budget-conscious accountants decided to start charging the women for the water, John Mackay came to their aid, insisting they should not have to pay. He even subsidized water from Lake Tahoe for use in the school and hospital. But as mining profits fell, new owners took over and there were further attempts to collect fees for water usage.

SUPPORT BEGINS TO DRY UP

In June 1885, the company diverted its water into huge metal tanks to prevent “borrowing.” On the evening of June 25, however, someone punched several holes in a tank which lead to the posting of water guards. Two days later, a large explosion shook the area as dynamite blew up a water flume.

Investigators were never able to discover who was responsible but the sisters were never under suspicion. They were all law-abiding “Angels of Mercy” on The Comstock.



Marie Louise Mackay

ST. MARY'S ART CENTER

When the notion of charging the sisters for water was brought up again, (now) Bishop Patrick Manogue came to their rescue. The Irish-born, 6-foot-3, 250-pound man who paid for his education to become a priest by goldmining in Moore's Flat, wrote a sympathetic letter explaining how the sisters helped orphans survive and how taxpayers would have to assume such costs if the sisters free water supply ended.

An attorney also declared that the sisters had purchased land with the understanding the water would be free. The company finally withdrew its request and the sisters went about the business of their charitable works.

TIME TO FLY

By the mid-1890s, much of the mining had stopped and many people were abandoning the once-booming Comstock. When the sisters received orders they were to move on to

other assignments around the country, more than 450 Virginia City residents signed a petition requesting they stay. But in 1897, the sisters closed their convent, hospital, and schools, and left town for other duties. They did, however, return to the Silver State in the 1950s to help out at St. Teresa School in Carson City.

The Sisters of Charity (also called Daughters of Charity) will be remembered for their amazing, pioneer efforts in Nevada. As one person noted: "They opened a vein of social services as rich as The Comstock Lode!"

Today, only one Sister of Charity remains in Virginia

City—Sister Mary Angelica Olivas, who rests peacefully in the Catholic cemetery, now part of Silver Terrace Cemeteries. The memory of their spirit of service, however, lives on in the lives of those Nevadans who still unselfishly care for their neighbors. ▀

"They opened a vein of social services as rich as The Comstock Lode!"



Sister Mary Angelica Olivas' grave

LIZ HUNTINGTON



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APP-SOLUTELY PERFECT TRAVEL PLANNING

Mobile apps put your dream vacation at your fingertips.

BY CARRIE ROUSSEL

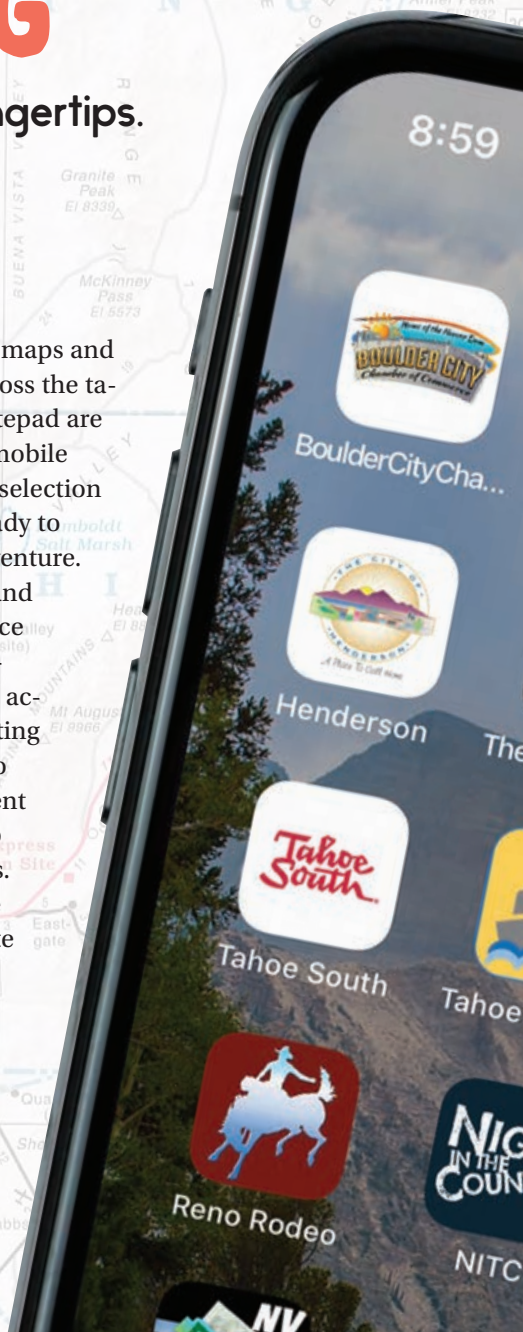
For many of us, the days of maps and travel brochures sprawled across the table while we scribble on a notepad are gone. Replaced by websites, mobile maps, and travel apps, a new selection of on-the-go providers are ready to pave the way to your next adventure.

While Nevada's territories and rural communities still produce printed travel guides and brochures, most also offer online access to itineraries and interesting information. From websites to mobile applications, we present a collection of options to help plan your Nevada wanderings. Keep in mind that cell service in the remote areas of the state may be spotty and relying on access to Wi-Fi alone is never a good idea. Plan ahead, download pertinent information, and get ready for your Nevada adventure.



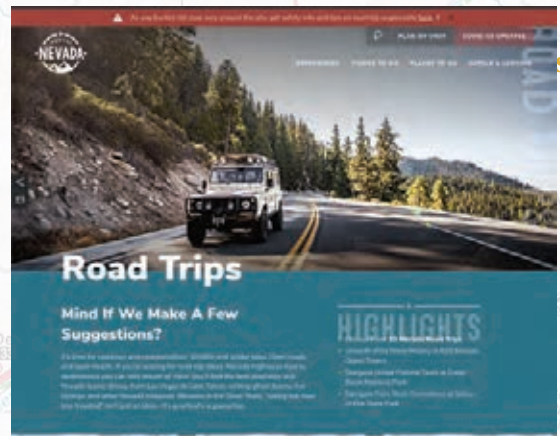
Road to Ward Charcoal Ovens

ALEXANDRIA OLIVARES-WENZEL



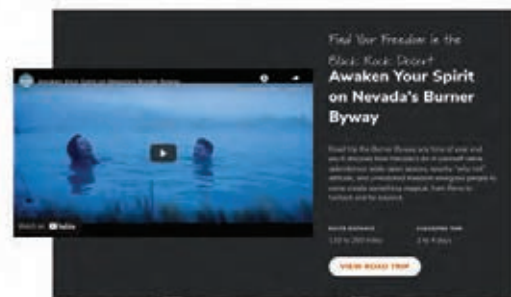
TRAVEL NEVADA

The Nevada Division of Tourism (Travel Nevada) website is sure to whet your whistle and get the creative travel juices flowing. Discover roadtrips, things to do, places to go, hotels and lodging, and first-person travel experiences. You're sure to find inspiration with ideas ranging from seasons and saloons to stargazing and Strip trips, and so many things in between. The "Discover Your Nevada" campaign hosts pages of itineraries, some of which are broken down further into different locations and by season. For those with enough things to plan already, Travel Nevada has done the work for you, and offers excitement and adventure ready for the taking.



Nevada Road Trip Ideas

Where will your story take you? There's something to be said for a road trip. It's a chance to see the state from a different perspective, to discover hidden gems, to experience the beauty of the desert, and to create memories that will last a lifetime. Here are some ideas for your next road trip.



Our 10 Nevada Road Trips

- 1. Burning Byway
- 2. Carson Valley
- 3. Colorado National Monument
- 4. Lake Tahoe Loop
- 5. Lovelock Road to Adventure
- 6. Nevada Valley
- 7. Prater Canyon
- 8. Ruby Mountains
- 9. Shoshone
- 10. Toiyabe

GRAB THAT CELLPHONE

From big cities to rural communities and the six Nevada territories, and from museums to maps and education as well as dining, mobile apps provide information to assist in any way you can imagine.

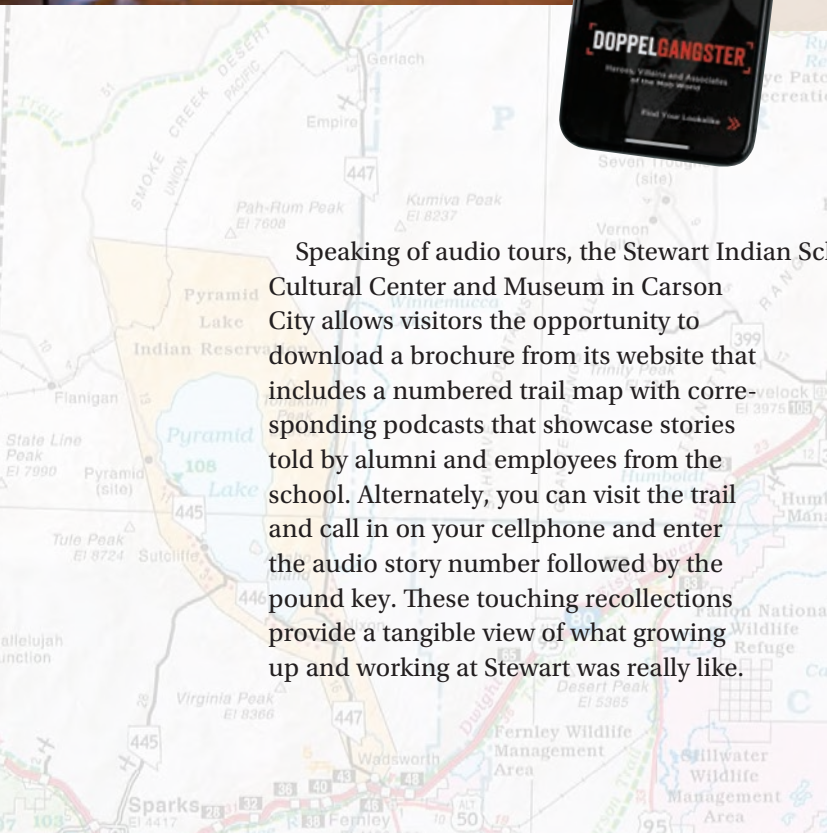
Head to your cellphone's app store (Google Play, or Apple App Store), punch in Boulder City Chamber Nevada, Everything Elko, Go Mesquite, Virginia City Nevada, or City of Henderson Nevada, download the corresponding app and you're ready to explore those communities via your fingertips. Some apps are traveler-specific but even the ones built for residents list events, services, tips, and sometimes even coupons and deals. While the best trips steer clear of automotive emergencies, they sneak in occasionally and a ready-made list of repair shops could save you time and energy.





Mob Museum

The Mob Museum in Downtown Las Vegas has an app that offers the chance to find your “Doppelgangster” by uploading a photo to match you with your lookalike bad boy or girl. I was a 67% match with Bryan Cranston and a more appealing Naomi Watts once I selected “show female lookalikes.” The app allows you to view a map of the building, get tickets, see the exhibits, view the event calendar, or become a member. This app is super user-friendly, and even has a self-guided audio tour.



Speaking of audio tours, the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum in Carson City allows visitors the opportunity to download a brochure from its website that includes a numbered trail map with corresponding podcasts that showcase stories told by alumni and employees from the school. Alternately, you can visit the trail and call in on your cellphone and enter the audio story number followed by the pound key. These touching recollections provide a tangible view of what growing up and working at Stewart was really like.



Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum

PHOTOS: SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVEL NEVADA



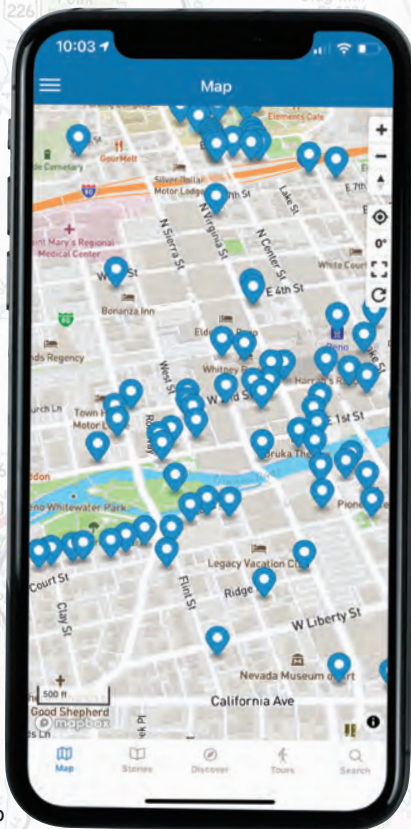
California Trail Interpretive Center



The California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko has a great app where you can view both indoor and outdoor exhibits, explore nearby wagon trail sites, view hours, admission fees, maps, videos, photos, and guides for other locations along the California Trail.

Reno Historical app is a community-based project by local historians, students, and teachers that provides an incredible interpretive look at the city's history. Using a GPS-enabled map, the self-guided tours include historical information about the sites with historic images. Standing in front of historic buildings and seeing what they looked like many years ago truly brings history to life. Many sites include audio clips and short documentary videos based on the University of Nevada Oral History Program's collection of interviews.

Reno Historical App



The big-draw tourism destinations like Lake Tahoe and Las Vegas supply visitors with many great options. View the Tahoe South trip planning app as well as the Tahoe Boating app, and ski resort apps. All will certainly fuel the need for a Lake Tahoe trip and make memories the whole family will enjoy. Like Las Vegas, the apps available run the gamut from your basic city travel guide to Las Vegas Gay Pride and the Raiders + Allegiant Stadium. Whatever you're looking for in Las Vegas, your app store is bound to have something to make your trip more enjoyable. From events like Reno Rodeo to Yerington's Night in the Country Festival, the Pony Express Territory audio tour that can be downloaded on mobile devices, and from Nevada wildflowers to dining options in almost every city and town, planning the perfect vacation is easier than ever. ▀

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**CALIFORNIA TRAIL
INTERPRETIVE CENTER**

THE REAL SOUND OF RURAL NEVADA

Radio Goldfield broadcasts its distinct voice to the world.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JIM PRICE

"This is KGFN, Radio Goldfield, the Voice of the Old West!"

Chances are if you live in central Nevada or have driven through the area on U.S. Highway 95, you've probably heard, or at least heard of, Radio Goldfield. It's about the only signal on the FM radio dial for many miles. And

regardless of where you live, you can hear Radio Goldfield on the internet. How did it come to pass that there's a broadcast radio station in Goldfield, of all places?

It all started in April 2005 when Goldfield resident and former broadcaster Rod Moyes decided to start a radio station. He put some equipment together and Radio Goldfield hit the airwaves on 106.3 FM.

Fast forward a bit, to Dusty Fender and Carl and Patty Brownfield. Dusty and his partner Lou ran Dusty Fender's Grill & Fill gas station and restaurant in town, and he had a background in broadcast engineering. Carl and Patty lived in Las Vegas but had property in Goldfield where they spent most weekends. Carl—a taxi driver in Las Vegas with a thousand interesting stories—and Dusty hit it off.

"The Carl & Dusty Radio Boogie" was born in 2006. They did a live, two-hour show on Saturday evenings playing a variety of country, folk, and bluegrass music interspersed with local bits that featured Goldfield's residents. The show ran for three years—almost 200 episodes in all.

CHANGING THE DIAL

All this time, however, Radio Goldfield was operating as an unlicensed "pirate" radio station. In March 2009, the Federal Communications Commission sent agents to the station and shut it down.



KGFN staff



Patty and Carl Brownfield

At this time, the FCC was not accepting applications for new radio stations, but Rod decided to appeal the shutdown notice and applied for a construction permit. His plight was heard up the chain of command within Nevada, and then-U.S. Senator Harry Reid intervened, and ordered the FCC to issue a construction permit to Radio Goldfield Broadcasting Inc., and to make Radio Goldfield a reality. By summer 2009, the station was back on the air.

In August 2010, Rod Moyes left Goldfield, with Dusty following soon thereafter. The radio station went dark once again. Carl and Patty, who by then were full-time residents of Goldfield, stepped up to the plate.

"We formed a board of directors for Radio Goldfield Broadcasting. We got a license from the FCC, and in March 2011, KGFN was officially on the air at 89.1 FM," Carl says.



Tower and antenna construction

The studio was constructed in a building along Highway 95, across the street from the famous Goldfield Hotel. A 150-watt transmitter and antenna were installed atop Columbia Mountain which is the most obvious topographic feature near Goldfield. Initially all of the programming was done on a computer in town and brought up the mountain.

"That arrangement was impractical," says Carl, "so all station operations are done in the studio and sent to the transmitter via a studio-to-transmitter Link."

Local engineer Ron Payne has made all of this radio magic work and keeps the station on the air.



"MADAME EDIE" ON RADIO GOLDFIELD

Edie and Richard Koepnick have been fulltime residents of Goldfield and listeners of KGFN for a number of years. They have always enjoyed having a radio station in town, and Edie got an idea for a radio show and pitched it to Carl Brownfield, the station program director.

Owning a large personal CD collection, her idea was to feature the early days of country music in the U.S. for an hour each week. Some names that come to mind are Hank Williams, Ernest Tubb, Jimmie Rodgers, Hank Snow, and Kitty Wells. She would call her program "Madame Edie's Early Country Music Show." Carl took her up on it.

Why "Madame Edie?" Well, she and Richard own and are restoring a historic building in Goldfield that was a brothel back in the day. And, of course, the lady who ran the business was the madame.

Edie records her show in her a corner of a bedroom at their home. Mastering the programming software provided by Carl, Edie weaves together early country songs and commentary, passing along her considerable knowledge of the music. Her program airs at 8 a.m. local time on Fridays and is repeated a few times the following week.

"Carl had only three ground rules for me: no gossip, no politics, and no cussin'. I must admit that I have stage fright sometimes," Edie says. "But I get a lot of nice comments from listeners, so it's all worth the effort."



BROADCAST TO THE WORLD

The little station that could has expanded out of its Goldfield borders in recent years. In 2018, Carl and Patty were able to obtain use of a translator license in Hawthorne, broadcasting on 92.1 FM. In 2019, the station's power was increased to 1000 watts, thus expanding the listening area considerably. The signal is solid in Tonopah and can easily be heard for miles to the west toward Coaldale Junction, and to the north toward Round Mountain, and in 2020, the KGFN signal came on the air in Beatty on 99.5 FM.

Carl programs the station with state-of-the-art broadcasting software, such that it can run unattended. The programming still focuses largely on folk, bluegrass, and country. But there are many themed programs, some done by locals (Madame Edie, Sherry Huffman, Chris Wagonseller, Dave and Patty Beth, and others). Some programs sent in by announcers from various parts of the country, featuring oldies-but-goodies, country, blues, and many other types of music.

"I still do a weekly live show—the "Carlshopshow"—every Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. We have now done nearly 400 episodes," says Carl.

Patty emcees the weekly "Old Time Radio Theater" program that features the pre-television radio shows that were so popular in the 1930s and 1940s, such as "The Shadow," "Sherlock Holmes," and some that made it to TV like "Gunsmoke."

One of the key features of KGFN's programming is the community calendars presented throughout the day for Hawthorne, Tonopah, Goldfield, and Beatty. If you need to know when the town council is meeting, what's for lunch at the senior center, or where to get vaccinated, you can find out with just a listen. Patty is the point person for the calendar.

"I'm proud we can provide this type of community service," she says.

If you're outside the listening areas mentioned, you can stream the programming on the KGFN website. KGFN.org includes a detailed list of all of the programs, and with one click on "Favorite Links" you can get acquainted with some of the singers who often appear on the station. Of note is Richard Elloyan who wrote the song "40 Miles of Famous." His lyrics portend is that if he has a hit record on KGFN it will be possible to hear it for 40 miles along Highway 95. That song is definitely in the Radio Goldfield mix.

No article about Radio Goldfield is complete without mentioning Don Heath, also known as "Tumble B. Weed." Don provides many hours of programming each week and intersperses it with considerable amounts of humor. If you know anything about Goldfield, you know that burros are all around, and sometimes, in town. KGFN does indeed have a burro logo, and a character named Leon the weather burro, Don's brainchild.



Leon the weather burro

BEHIND THE SCENES

KGFN is a licensed non-commercial FM broadcast station. All such stations have to raise funds in order to operate, and while commercials are not allowed, shoutouts to businesses and people who support the station are frequent. Carl and Patty also built and operate the Goldfield Opera House which just happens to be in the same building as the radio studio. A number of artists, many of whom are featured on the radio station, have performed live in this acoustically fine venue.

What makes this station almost singularly unique is that it is not just rebroadcasting a satellite feed from some mindless automated set of digital music files from who-knows-where. The variety of music speaks for itself, and it's all carefully honed by Carl and his cadre of announcers. Radio Goldfield demonstrates that community service combined with an eclectic music mix is still a viable combination for a radio station.

When you pass through Goldfield, make sure to tune in, check what's coming up at the Opera House, and by all means say hi to Leon the weather burro. He loves having his picture taken, with or without you in it! ♥



LISTEN UP!

Radio Goldfield KGFN 89.1
P.O. Box 57
Goldfield, NV 89013-0057
kgfn.org, 775-485-3773

JM Penn at Goldfield Opera House

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HIGH-FLYING WAYFINDING

Concrete arrow remains in Reno

CONCRETE ARROWS GUIDED AIRMAIL PILOTS THROUGH NEVADA'S DESERTS AND MOUNTAINS.



U.S. Airmail plane refueling in Las Vegas

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY MARK WALKER

Imagine that you are the pilot of an open-cockpit biplane, flying from Reno to Elko with 300 pounds of mail. It is night in 1926 and you are relying on a recently installed innovation on the ground to keep on course over Nevada's deserts and mountains. You have a strip map and compass and a railroad to follow in daylight. But at night these are useless. Instead of having the navigation equipment and air traffic control that keeps planes on course today, you follow a newly constructed route marked by orange concrete arrows embedded in the ground, each about 50 feet long and lit by beacons powered by acetylene gas or electricity.

The arrows and beacons were part of the Transcontinental Airway, an air route established by the U.S. Airmail Service in the early 1920s. The Airway initially connected New York and San Francisco with stops in Reno and Elko and later expanded to connect Los Angeles and Salt Lake City, with a stop in Las Vegas. The U.S. Airmail Service supported the initial development to establish an airmail delivery system that spanned the country.

The pilots flew in every kind of weather imaginable and there were occasional hair-raising stories, such as this one about Reno pilot William Blanchfield. Blanchfield immigrated to the U.S. after serving as a pilot in Ireland during World War I and applied for citizenship. As an airmail pilot, he was assigned the Reno-Elko run in Nevada, and his exploits while delivering the mail became the stuff of legend.

"The Nevada State Journal" described one of his flights this way: "During the month of November 1922, Blanchfield made his phenomenal run from Elko on the wings of a hurricane. The thermometer registered 16 degrees below zero at Elko and the field manager there told him it was impossible to make the flight. But Blanchfield, with that soldier tradition of generations, demurred. He said that the mail must go. And he won. But the fight he made with the blizzard is still talked about in aviation circles."

"DURING THE MONTH
OF NOVEMBER 1922,
BLANCHFIELD MADE HIS
PHENOMENAL RUN FROM
ELKO ON THE WINGS
OF A HURRICANE. THE
THERMOMETER REGISTERED
16 DEGREES BELOW ZERO
AT ELKO AND THE FIELD
MANAGER THERE TOLD HIM
IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO
MAKE THE FLIGHT."



GET POINTED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

You can find a comprehensive list of concrete arrows across the U.S. at dreamsmithphotos.com. A retired couple from California—Brian and Charlotte Smith—created the website, which lists coordinates of Nevada's sites with beacons and arrows. It has detailed descriptions of the routes pilots flew in the daytime, and scans of the strip maps pilots actually used, along with contemporary and historical photos. In all, 17 arrows and 18 beacons remain in Nevada.



Locations of beacons and arrows on branches of the Transcontinental Airway. Illustration used by permission from <http://wchsutah.org/aviation/navigation-arrows.php>

GROUND SUPPORT

The U.S. Airmail Service wanted to fly at night but recognized that pilots would be at enormous risk of straying off course and crashing. Radio technologies and navigation aids—other than newly drawn maps with descriptions of the routes—were not available, so mail pilots flew during daylight and landed to relay mail bags to trains, which could then travel at night. The combination of air and rail service was faster than rail service alone, but it did not take full advantage of the speed and directness of airplanes.

In 1923, the U.S. Airmail Service began experiments with night flights guided by a trail of concrete arrows and airfields lit by beacons on small sections of the Transcontinental Airway. Each arrow pointed toward the next waypoint and they were placed a few miles apart along the route, allowing pilots to navigate the way.

These tests were a success and the first night flights between Chicago and Cheyenne, Wyoming, were completed safely with no major accidents. The U.S. Airmail Service, still carrying mail with converted biplanes obtained from the U.S. Army, proposed that the arrow and beacon system be expanded. Two sections traversed Nevada, one linking Chicago and San Francisco with major airmail depots in Reno and Elko, and another between Los Angeles and Salt Lake City, which touched down in Las Vegas. By 1927, the U.S. Airmail Service had contracted with private air transport companies to carry mail night and day.



Golconda Summit

SHAUN ASTOR

SIGNS OF THE PAST

Many arrows and beacons still exist in Nevada, on playas, bluffs, and ridges along the routes between Reno and Elko and Las Vegas and Salt Lake City. The paint is most often worn away by nearly a century's exposure to weather and Nevada's sun, although some appear to have been repainted by unknown sources. With varying degrees of effort, you can reach many of the remaining arrows and look to the sky to imagine what it might have been like to navigate by these lighted arrows at night from a few thousand feet above.

The sites are a popular destination for a few adventurers every year. Most of the sites are accessible by dirt road and hiking, though roads to many are in very poor condition and some are on private or tribal land. Many of the roads used to build and maintain the sites still exist but cannot be driven, so this means hiking and climbing, sometimes in rough terrain.

As an example, it takes a modest effort and short climb to reach an eastward pointing arrow just south of the Truckee River near Mogul in northern Nevada. Another, pointing north across a distance of about 9 miles to McCarran International Airport, can't be reached without scrambling up about 250 feet of fairly steep loose rock and scattered brush to the top of a knoll. Access is just outside the fence of a recreational vehicle dealer near Henderson. On a hot day, the trip to that bent arrow at the top can be challenging. It is best to bring food and water for the short hike, even though you can look down on Interstate 15 and a commercial district flanking the knoll on each side.



Sloan site, with arrow pointing toward McCarran International Airport, 9 miles north

MARK WALKER



Beacon Hill, 45 miles north of Las Vegas

KEN ELSNER

In person, the arrows can almost be mistaken for abandoned mobile home foundations, except for two key features. Most have a rectangular pad slightly larger than the arrow itself that housed an acetylene generator or electrical connection to light the beacons, and all have a prominent arrowhead at one end. Some, like the arrow in Mill City in Pershing County, are even bent to let pilots know to change course to reach the next step on the route.

None of Nevada's arrows and beacons function. Some, like those inside posted areas at Pershing County's Derby Field, Winnemucca's Municipal Airport, and Battle Mountain's Lander County Airport have well-preserved towers. At most other sites, the sheds that housed acetylene gas or electric relays have been removed or vandalized in the nearly 100 years since the system was built.

The arrows and beacons were in service for about a decade, replaced by radio communications and better navigational instruments. However, the arrow and beacon trail built faith that airplanes could be a useful tool for commerce, and these successes became the foundation for commercial aviation. The sections that traversed Nevada were an important part of a national test to prove that airplanes could be a cost-effective way of moving people and materials around the world. ▀



Beacon above Fernley

MARK WALKER

Lovelock

GREG CHAPEL

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Labor Day Weekend

September 2 - 5, 2021

**Around these parts, Labor Day means just one thing:
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Livestock Show & Sale - Reptile Show
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LaborDayFair.com
(775) 623-5071



The Silver State SCAVENGER HUNT

RESULTS

THE 2021 HUNT IS IN THE BAG!

The 2021 Silver State Scavenger Hunt returned with a throwback to our first hunt, where dedicated adventurers traversed the state to discover some incredible history through the Nevada State Historical Markers. Participants searched near and far to complete the hunt, collecting memories and crossing off places they've never visited before.



Alexis, Adrienne, and Kevin Baugh



Ainars and Baiba Rodins

SCAVENGER HUNT

We had an overwhelming response from our generous sponsors and ended up with an amazing selection of prizes that were randomly awarded. From overnight stays to spa packages and Nevada-themed baskets and libations plus so much more, all the lucky entrants pictured here are the proud winners of great gifts to fuel their love of traveling Nevada.



Dave and Rosemary Pressler



James and Spencer Gurley



Ed Koch



Jim Price and Joan Sieber



Nori and Chris Preziosi



Jenna Browne and Liz Korntved





Jodi Koch



John Holman



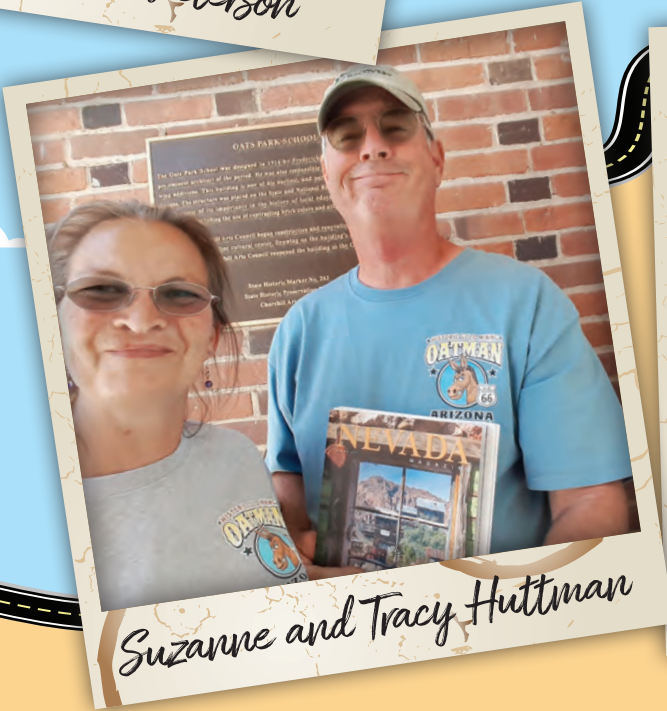
Kathy and Rick Haire



Dave and Jan Peterson



Lori and Roger Heath



Suzanne and Tracy Huttman



Christina and Dan Kistler



Keith and Cheryl Eaton



Vicki and Warren Aveiro



Linda Larkin

Thank you to each organization listed below for their continued support and their willingness to donate not just items but experiences. To see photos of the prizes along with a link to the organization website, visit nevadamagazine.com/scavengerhunt.

Animal Ark Wildlife Sanctuary

Beatty Chamber of Commerce

Visit Carson City

Carson Valley Visitors Authority

Casablanca Resort

Elko Convention & Visitors Authority

Visit Eureka, Nevada

Town of Jackpot

Nevada Arts Council

Patrick Media, LLC

Perigo Hay & Cattle Co

Pony Express Territory

The Mob Museum

Town of Tonopah

Travel Nevada

Two Bitch Spirits, Ltd

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's hunt.

**WE'LL SEE YOU NEXT YEAR FOR THE
2022 SILVER STATE SCAVENGER HUNT!**



Wild NEVADA Memories
THURSDAYS AT 8 PM

PBS Reno
Channel 5.1 or Spectrum 785
Stream **LIVE TV** Online
pbsreno.org

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THEIR WEBSITES

ANIMAL ARK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY	animalark.org
BEATTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	beattynevada.org
BOULDER CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	bouldercitychamber.com
CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER	californiatrailcenter.org
CITY OF WEST WENDOVER	westwendovercity.com
COWBOY COUNTRY TERRITORY	cowboycountry.org
ELKO CONVENTION & VISITORS AUTHORITY	exploreelko.com
EUREKA BUSINESS NETWORK	visiteurekanevada.net
EUREKA OPERA HOUSE	visiteurekanevada.net
FALLON TOURISM AND SPECIAL EVENTS	visitfallonnevada.com
GOLDFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	goldfieldnevada.org
JACKPOT TOURISM	townofjackpot.com
NEVADA COMMISSION ON TOURISM	travelnevada.com
NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY	nvhistoricalsociety.org
NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY MUSEUM	nnry.com
NEVADA SILVER TRAILS	nevadasilvertrails.com
NEVADA WILDLAND FIRE AWARENESS	livingwithfire.com
OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAIL ASSOCIATION	octa-trails.org
PBS RENO CHANNEL 5	pbsreno.org
PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY	loneliestroad.us
PERIGO HAY & CATTLE CO.	perigohaycattle.com
RENOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	renown.org
ROYAL PEACOCK OPAL MINE	royalpeacock.com
RUBY MOUNTAIN HOT AIR, INC	rubymountainballoons.org
TOWN OF PAHRUMP	visitpahump.com
TOWN OF TONOPAH	tonopahnevada.com
WHITE PINE COUNTY TOURISM & REC BOARD	elynevada.net
WINNEMUCCA CVA	winnemucca.com

BATTLE, AXE & TRACKS ROLLS INTO THE CAPITAL

MULTI-DAY MUSIC FESTIVAL
COMES TO CARSON CITY.

Music is coming back in a big way with Carson City's first multi-day music festival taking place Oct. 2–3. Battle, Axe & Tracks combines award-winning established and emerging rock, funk, and blues musicians with northern Nevada's historic roots at the V&T Railway, the original trainline dating back to the late 1800s.

Battle, Axe & Tracks goes beyond music with a full entertainment experience with tickets including Freedom Railbikes at the V&T Railway and axe throwing, along with a beer garden, and more. Tickets are available online now.

"We developed this multi-faceted event to appeal to people with differing interests and used music as the centerpiece," says Gina Lopez, Carson City arts enthusiast and co-founder of E720. "Imagine these top artists performing at the V&T Railway Eastgate Depot with the expansive views of Carson City—it's a winning combination. Our goal is to continue to strengthen, and now expand, Carson City's standing as a music, art and cultural destination. It's so much more than a music festival. This event will be the crowning achievement for cultural tourism for the region."

Friday, Oct. 1 is a rock and blues guitar competition for emerging artists at the Brewery Arts Center; the winner earning a spot in the weekend's festival line-up.

Saturday, Oct. 2 and Sunday, Oct. 3 are dedicated to music with seven bands performing each day starting at 12:30 p.m. Saturday and noon on Sunday. Headliners include national No. 1 Billboard recording artist and five-time Grammy Award nominee Kenny Wayne Shepherd along with Grammy Award nominee Larkin Poe, Samantha Fish, and 2021 Grammy Award nominee North Mississippi Allstars, among others.

The event is produced and developed by E720, bringing more than 20 years of event experience. Both long-time supporters of arts and culture in Carson City, the vision behind this festival is to solidify the region's standing as a leader in entertainment.

For tickets and the full entertainment schedule, visit the Battle, Axe & Tracks website.



PLAN YOUR TRIP

Battle, Axe & Tracks
V&T Railway Eastgate Depot
Eastgate Siding Road, Carson City, NV 89701
Oct. 2-3
battleaxeandtracks.com, 775-387-1876



LAS VEGAS
— S H O W S —



JONAS BROTHERS

Global superstar trio Jonas Brothers are back on the road after the smash success of their “Happiness Begins” tour in 2019 sold more than 1.2 million tickets and grossed more than \$120 million dollars. This time the brothers are guaranteeing happiness is BACK and that fans are going to remember this with their 2021 ‘Remember This’ tour. Multi-platinum country music superstar Kelsea Ballerini will be joining the Brothers out on the road this summer.

“We couldn’t be more excited to officially announce we are going on tour THIS summer and bringing our friend Kelsea Ballerini! If this past year has taught us anything it’s that we need to remember the important moments in our lives. We hope these shows will be special moments for our fans, our friends and our families and we can’t wait to see all their faces soon!!” - Jonas Brothers



WHERE

Park MGM



WHEN

Aug. 20 & 21



TICKETS

parkmgm.mgmresorts.com,
702-730-7777

DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE



ELIOT LEE HAZEL

Alternative rock sensation Death Cab for Cutie is set to take The Chelsea stage inside The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas Wednesday, Sept. 15 with a special opening performance from indie group Illuminati Hotties.

Emerging from Seattle in 1997, Death Cab for Cutie quickly rose to become one of the most definitive alternative groups of its generation. Originally developed by founder Ben Gibbard as

a low-key solo project, the breakthrough group expanded into five band members, making its major label debut in 2005 with their platinum-certified album "Plans." Death Cab for Cutie has gone on to receive eight Grammy nominations. The band's recent release titled "The Georgia E.P." raised more than \$100,000 for voter rights organization Fair Fight in 2020.



WHERE

The Cosmopolitan



WHEN

Sept. 15



TICKETS

cosmopolitanlasvegas.com,
702-698-7000

**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.*

LAS VEGAS EVENTS



JULY 3, 4, 9, 10, 23, 24 Bruno Mars



WHERE
Park MGM



TICKETS
parkmgm.mgmresorts.com

Multi-Grammy award-winning superstar Bruno Mars will mark the Entertainment Capital of the World's return to large-scale entertainment when he takes the stage over the Fourth of July weekend at Park MGM. Mars will get things started with shows July 3 and 4 at Park Theater, followed by four additional July performances.



AUGUST 20 Rise Against



WHERE
The Cosmopolitan



TICKETS
cosmopolitanlasvegas.com

Hailing from Chicago, the multi-Gold and Platinum punk-rock band Rise Against has received worldwide recognition for their eight studio albums, shattering the status quo with their outspoken, yet socially conscious lyrics. The group's upcoming ninth studio album "Nowhere Generation" comes three years after their 2017 blockbuster album "Wolves," the band's fifth straight top 10 record on the Billboard 200 albums chart.

JULY

June-Sept.

'A Summer of Comedy'

The Cosmopolitan
cosmopolitanlasvegas.com, 702-698-7000

Ongoing

Cirque du Soleil

Bellagio & Treasure Island
cirquedusoleil.com/las-vegas

2 & 3

Bill Burr

The Cosmopolitan
cosmopolitanlasvegas.com, 702-698-7000

7

Criss Angel MINDFREAK

Planet Hollywood Las Vegas
caesars.com/planet-hollywood, 866-919-7472

16, Aug. 4, 6, 7, 11, 14

Usher

Caesars Palace
caesars.com/caesars-palace, 866-227-5938

AUGUST

14

Beartooth

House of Blues
houseofblues.com/lasvegas, 702-632-7600

25, 27-29, Sept. 1-4

Carlos Santana

House of Blues
houseofblues.com/lasvegas, 702-632-7600

SEPTEMBER

24-25

Lionel Richie "Back to Las Vegas!" Residency

Wynn Las Vegas
Wynnlasvegas.com, 702-770-7000

25

Enrique Iglesias and Ricky Martin

House of Blues
houseofblues.com/lasvegas, 702-632-7600

STATEWIDE EVENTS



JULY - SEPT. Summer Concert Series



WHERE

Outdoor Arena at Harveys
Lake Tahoe



TICKETS

caesars.com/harveys-tahoe

This year, the Concert Series at Harveys proudly welcomes Brantley Gilbert, Roger Daltrey, Eric Church, Miranda Lambert, Train, and Alabama's 50th Anniversary Tour to the performance schedule. Previously announced shows include Phish, Old Dominion, and Dierks Bentley.



JULY 6 Fireworks Express



WHERE

Ely



TICKETS

nnry.com/pages/special.php

Where can you see fireworks shot off a moving steam train? Only in Ely! The Fireworks Express at the Nevada Northern Railway leaves the depot at 4:30 p.m. Fireworks are set off after nightfall. Get your 'front row' seats to the fireworks.

JULY

July - Aug.

Levitt Amp Concert Series

Brewery Arts Center, Carson City
breweryarts.org, 775-883-1976

3, Aug. 21

Rockin' & Rollin' Geology Train

Ely
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

10

Skid Row

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

10, 31, Aug. 14, & Sept. 11

Roaring 20s Limited

Ely
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

17 & Aug. 7

Pony Express Limited

Ely
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

16 & 17

Vortex presented by A.V.A. Ballet Theater

Robert Z. Hawkins Amphitheater, Reno
avaballet.com, 775-762-5165

24

Wild West Limited

Ely
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

AUGUST

7 & 8

Bristle Cone Arts

Ely
bristleconeartsely.com

13

Sublime with Rome

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

19

Sebastian Maniscalco

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

20-27

Railroad Reality Week

Ely
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

21

Steve Martin and Martin Short 'The Funniest Show in Town at the Moment'

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

29

Alan Parsons Live Project Tour

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

31

Megadeath & Lamb of God

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

SEPTEMBER

3

3 Doors Down

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

10

Alejandro Fernández

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

11

Race the Rails Bike vs Train

Ely
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

17

Camila

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

18

A Taste of Italy

Ely
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

Toby Keith

Nugget Event Center, Reno
nuggetcasinoresort.com, 888-868-4438

26

Foreigner

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

URBAN COWBOY Bar and Grill

Eureka eatery is filled with family, fun, and fantastic feasts.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MEGG MUELLER

Traveling along the Loneliest Road in America—aka U.S. Route 50 or Highway 50—visitors expect barren landscapes and long periods of solitude. That feeling of emptiness, of vast wide-open spaces, is what most adventurers along this road seek... except when it comes to their stomachs.

There are few towns along Highway 50 which, while being part of the appeal, can also make it hard to find a really good meal. Small towns are often notorious for mercurial hours, not to mention the unfortunate truth it's hard to keep restaurants viable when traffic is low. The past year gave new meaning to how hard it is for those trying to keep their doors open, and sadly, a handful of small eateries along this route were forced to close.

There is, however, a shining beacon for those who experience hunger pains as they are about halfway across the state: the Urban Cowboy Bar and Grill in Eureka.

LA FAMILIA

Maria Ureña has lived in Eureka for about 30 years, enough time to see the rise and fall that often accompanies Nevada's small towns. She came to town with her parents, and is now raising her family there. For almost 20 years, she worked at the Owl Club Bar and Steakhouse, but her future was calling.

"My dad, who died 10 years ago, he always wanted to buy this building," Maria says, of the 1880s property her restaurant now inhabits. "I bought it almost five years ago, now, and I named my restaurant after him."

The family called its patriarch—whose name was Urbano—the urban cowboy. A picture of Maria's parents hangs near the front door, a reminder of the importance of family. Maria's sons work at the restaurant, as does her brother. She is a jack-of-all-trades, like many small restaurant owners, and you can find her waiting tables, in front of the stove, washing dishes, or tending bar on any given day.



APPETIZERS

Tacos	\$9.99
Wings (6pc.)	\$9.99
Onion Ring	\$9.99
Cheese Fries	\$9.99
Salads	\$4.99

BURGERS

3.00 in season only	
1/2 lb. \$11.99	
1/4 lb. \$9.99	
1/2 lb. \$9.99	
1/4 lb. \$11.99	
1/2 lb. \$11.99	
1/4 lb. \$11.99	
1/2 lb. \$11.99	
1/4 lb. \$11.99	
1/2 lb. \$13.99	
1/4 lb. \$10.99	

Choice of fries,
cup of soup

DRINKS

Soft \$10.99	
or Ham \$10.99	
Ice \$13.99	

Steak ranchero





Chile Verde

"It's very hard to find help," she says, "but during COVID it was very scary. I did most of the work, and my son cooked. He's a really good cook, and he's only 15. But I'm pretty lucky because we've been open longer than some businesses and we made it."



Western Bacon Burger

OLGA MILLER

"I'm pretty lucky because we've been open longer than some businesses and we made it."

WILL DRIVE FOR CHILE VERDE

No matter who is cooking, the recipes for Maria's dishes are ones she grew up with. Her Chile Verde is something of a cult favorite, with more than one local recommending it. Huge chunks of pork laden with a mild yet intensely flavorful sauce is so delicious it would be worth the drive from Reno, just for lunch.

The steak ranchero is another popular favorite, as are Maria's enchiladas. Her Mexican dishes should not be overlooked, but for those wishing for something different, the menu is packed with steaks, seafood, burgers, and sandwiches. A full bar is available for those in the mood to imbibe, and the atmosphere is casual and comfortable, inviting weary travelers to take the time for a leisurely meal, maybe even shoot a game of pool. It's an inviting place, ready to make customers feel at home.

"The Urban Cowboy building has been a major part of Eureka history since the late 1800s," says Dana Lee Frund, Eureka's tourism director and a frequent customer. "Today, this building is alive with good Mexican American food and a rustic bar serving lively spirits. Maria is always happy to see each person and makes you feel so welcome. And her Pork Chile Verde is absolutely the best! You have got to try it."



Maria Ureña



KEEP IT SIMPLE

Surviving the pandemic, Maria's goals for the future of Urban Cowboy are down to earth.

"This is my home. I keep praying that everything works out and I can stay. I like this community, and there are very good schools," she says.

Sitting amid her restaurant, awaiting the day's first customers, Maria wears the smile of a woman who knows

she's got every chance for success: great food, a solid location, and the right attitude.

"If I can pay my bills, I'm happy," she says. ▀

CHOW TIME

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ROCKS AND MINERALS IN THE SILVER STATE

Digging in the Nevada dirt has rewards beyond any dollar value.



Megg hunting for the perfect rocks

PHOTOS: CHRISTINA CLACK

BY MEGG MUELLER

Almost three-quarters of the Earth is covered by water, some 71 percent. For anyone who has looked upon the vistas and mountain ranges of the Nevada landscape, that can be a mind-boggling thought. Our arid nature comes at a cost sometimes, but boy, that land provides wealth that goes way past bank accounts. Getting down—and maybe dirty—in the hills of our state is one of the easiest, least expensive, and most rewarding pastimes you'll ever find.

WHERE THE RED STONE GROWS

Once, the ground in Nevada was littered with nuggets of gold and rich veins of silver, at least the history books tell us so. It's a little tougher to find those precious metals lying about today, but if a beautiful gemstone will do, look no further than Garnet Hill in White Pine County.

If an entire hill named for the beautiful red gem isn't enough, it's a Bureau of Land Management area replete with an accessible bathroom and four picnic sites with grills. But let's be honest, you didn't come here for the picnic—you came for the garnets.

Almandine garnets are made up of iron aluminum silicate and are generally a rich dark color. Flashes of red often burn within the multifaceted stones that can be found lying on the ground. You read that correctly; they can be found lying on the ground as well as in the rhyolite rocks that populate the hillsides.

Locating the gemstones within the rhyolite can be tough and requires a rock hammer and close inspection. Don't smash willy-nilly or you can easily bust up the gems you seek. Looking for rocks



KIPPY S. SPILKER



PHOTOS: KIPPY S. SPILKER

with holes or pockets is a decent indicator, albeit not foolproof. The garnets found lying on the ground have extricated themselves from these pockets, so it can follow there will be others in the slabs of light-colored rhyolite, but not always.

Close inspection is also required for finding the loose stones. Traveling further away from the areas close to the parking lot is an obvious tip, as is look in gullies and anywhere it appears water has been flowing. The stones can

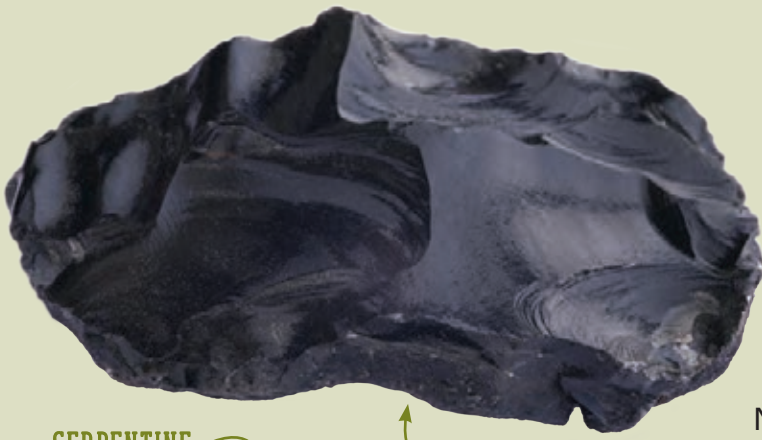
get picked up and deposited this way. I found two such gems near one another, but fully admit there were also a lot of berries picked up and perhaps even a piece of deer poop or two. Wear gloves is another tip I gladly share.

I didn't find anything on my first couple visits to Garnet Hill, but both times I was on a tight schedule. This time, I simply wandered down the slopes of the hill determined not to leave until I found something. I spent a

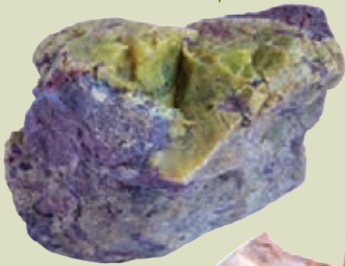
lot of time on my knees, digging with my rock hammer, seeing glints of crystals, and sitting back to watch the goings on at the massive Robinson Mining District copper mine that is visible from much of Garnet Hill. It was a beautiful day, cool at 7,000 feet elevation but not cold. Even without stones, it was worth the trip.



MORE COOL ROCKS YOU CAN FIND IN NEVADA



SERPENTINE



OBSIDIAN

When you're traveling around Nevada taking in the sights, be sure to look down at the smaller geological wonders around you, too.

BASALT



AGATE



QUARTZ
CRYSTAL



CALCITE



MILKY
QUARTZ



Always make sure rock collecting is allowed before removing them from any Nevada location.



SPARKLES IN THE DESERT

One of the easiest rock hunting sites to access is located in Weeks, off 95A between Silver Springs and Yerington in Lyon County. Not only do you not need any special vehicle considerations, if you go on a sunny day, the glint off the selenite crystals will do its best to blind you.

Selenite is a variety of gypsum and specimens have been found up to 39 feet long in caves in Mexico. You likely won't find anything that long, but scattered all over the ground the mostly clear, often perfectly cleaved material sparkles beautifully in the sun. The mineral is fairly soft, a 2 on the Mohs hardness scale which means you can scratch it with your fingernail. It has some flexibility but can be broken, especially if you find a flat piece, of which there are many. Selenite is generally clear—depending on the other trace minerals that might be in the material—and has been used as window panes.

In the world of crystal lore, selenite is said to have properties that aid in positive energy and clearing of stagnant emotions. Selenite wands are popular with people who use crystals for energy work, and they are incredibly beautiful. Whether you ascribe to crystals and their mystical properties, there is no mistaking the elegance of selenite.

Selenite is found across Nevada: I have material from the Weeks site, and also from Gold Butte National Monument in southern Nevada. It's a favorite of kids, due to its easy-to-spot sparkly properties.



PHOTOS:
KIPPY S. SPILKER

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

I've been a wee bit obsessed with wonderstone since I first saw it decades ago. Bands of orange, red, brown, purple, creams...it was as if the rainbow-striped hills I'd grew up seeing were presented to me in miniature. When I discovered Wonderstone Mountain (or Rainbow Mountain, as it's also been called) was just under an hour east of Fallon, it quickly became my favorite haunt.

For my recent trip, I enlisted the help of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology at the University of Nevada, Reno. Geologist Rachel Micander and Graphic Designer Christina Clack joined me for a day wandering the hills and talking all things rocks. Growing up in the Sierra Nevada foothills, Rachel is an eager teacher and veritable font of information.

"I recently heard a geologist friend say that 'wherever you go, there is always geology.' That's the cool thing—there are rocks, remnants of rocks, and the processes that form rocks and landscapes all around us," she says. "There is always something new



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Wonderstone can be found in many varied and beautiful patterns.

to discover—different rocks and minerals to pick up on hikes, and fascinating geologic formations to study. The Great Basin is a remarkable place to study geology.”

Driving to the Grimes Point/Hidden Cave Archaeological Site turnoff, we head east to find orange hills capped by rhyolitic tuff, which is indicative of the myriad kinds of volcanic activity the area has witnessed, Rachel explains. Suffice to say, all technical information from here on out comes from Rachel. Going rockhounding with a geologist is like making snacks with Julia Child: you learn more about a supposedly simple task than you could have ever imagined possible.

As we approach the orange hills, it’s obvious we’re in the right territory because the ground is covered in material of every color and size. Some of the material is covered in what Rachel mentions is called desert varnish or

patina, but is actually a microorganism that grows on the rocks, painting them black. The unmistakable Liesegang bands characteristic of wonderstone are everywhere. The bands are the result of what Rachel calls the perfect recipe: the rhyolitic tuff is altered by hot waters that have deposited pyrite and quartz, while rainwaters penetrated the rock and oxidized the pyrite forming stripes of red hematite, and orange brown goethite.

“THE SAMPLES ON THE GROUND ARE ENOUGH TO MAKE MY HEAD DIZZY, BUT THE LARGE ROCK FORMATIONS ARE STAGGERING IN THEIR COMPLEXITY AND BEAUTY.”





PHOTOS: KIPPY S. SPILKER

Christina is taking photo after photo, and it's obvious the wealth of material is going to consume most of her cameral roll. Brilliant patterns made up of stripes, squares, and circles appear as if painted by artists. The samples on the ground are enough to make my head dizzy, but the large rock formations are staggering in their complexity and beauty.

We stand with rock hammers in hand, but no one wants to disturb the massive rock canvases so we gather some souvenirs from the ground. I'm only slightly embarrassed to note I am the only one who brought a bucket.

We move on, knowing there are other deposits nearby and hoping to find other rocks. Agate, green rhyolite, and even jasper have been found in the area, along with volcanic bombs that Rachel says are most likely from the nearby Soda Lake. The small rocks were formed when lava was ejected from ancient volcanos, landing miles away.

Eventually we decide we've gathered enough samples, hiked enough hills, seen enough lizards, and talked about rocks enough for one day. And what a great day it was.

JUST LOOK AROUND

The amount of exciting material found across Nevada is one of the things that makes this state a rockhoulder's dream. Rachel thinks of a few additional reasons.



"I think one of the things that makes rockhounding in Nevada so special is the amount of public land we have in this state. With the right knowledge and resources, It is so easy to get out and explore our public lands," she explains. "The desert climate also makes for a great rockhounding experience. With so little dense vegetation, the rocks can be found that much easier."

Rockhounding can be easy, and it can be frustrating. But it's so simple a thing, to do a little research and point your vehicle in the right direction. At the end of the road—or perhaps the top of the hill—it's just you and your thoughts as you walk through serene landscapes, gathering beautiful stones, and, hopefully, a sense of wonder at how beautifully made this state truly is. ▀

DIG IT!

Before you go, know what you're looking for, and whose land you'll be on. As ever, bring water, the right tools, and make sure your vehicle is equipped for the roads you plan to traverse. Some useful information can be found here:

Bureau of Land Management

blm.gov/Nevada

Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

nbmg.unr.edu, 775-784-6691

Rockhounding Nevada, 3rd edition

By William A. Kappel, revised by Gary Warren

Garnet Hill

blm.gov/visit/garnet-hill



Great Basin Collared Lizard

PHOTOS: CHRISTINA CLACK

GHOSTLY SOCIAL DISTANCING,

Nevada Style



Discovering the towns of Coppereid, La Plata, and Averill prove the perfect solution to derailed travel plans.

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY TAMI FORCE

Ghost Towing

verb

the act of researching, locating and exploring a deserted town. A perfect Nevada pastime.

I decided 2020 would be my year of travel with multiple, domestic and international trips. My first planned trip was the week of the shutdown but instead of having my plans derailed, I decided it was time to renew my interest in Nevada history. It was still the year of travel, but 2020 was not as I had planned.

Instead, every week I visited ghost towns, mining camps, emigrant trails, and Pony Express stations. I met wonderful friends, became an off-road Jeep, and learned about history and myself. My third-generation Nevada husband is amazed by the locations I discover, many unknown to him. I feel like a teenager without the curfew and have had an amazing time exploring our beautiful state.

Combing through ghost town books and photos, two towns that caught my eye were Coppereid and La Plata. They are in the Stillwater Range in Churchill County, and seemed to be well-preserved with interesting histories.

COPPEREID

The town of Coppereid was love at first sight for me. It's now one of my favorite ghost towns. It combines a beautiful drive, isolation, a stream, wildlife, and amazing rock remains of buildings and a smelter.

Copper was discovered in White Cloud Canyon in 1868 by Major B.B. Bee and Frederick Smith. Due to conflict with Native Americans the district was not organized until 1869 when White Cloud Canyon Mining District was created.

To support the mine, a small settlement grew at the mouth of the canyon with some 40 resi-

dents, a general store, and the requisite saloon. To draw more interest and more importantly investors, White Cloud City was sited at the mouth of the canyon. The plan failed, however, and White Cloud City never developed beyond a small camp.

John Fall from Unionville, north of White Cloud Canyon, worked a copper claim in the 1870s, and a smaller smelter was constructed at the base of the mountain in 1893. Ore was shipped over the next three years until the smelter closed in 1896.

The mine and town clung to life until 1907 when the Nevada United Mining Company, under the management of John T. Reid, expanded operations in White Cloud Canyon. A new town was laid out in the location of the original camp and named Coppereid in honor of the Reid. Rebirth brought renewed interest and soon the town grew to include boarding houses, general stores, and saloons. A post office opened in 1907.

Unfortunately, production was disappointing between 1907 and 1912 and totaled just a few carloads of ore. A railroad spur was planned across the Carson Sink to Parran but output didn't warrant construction costs. The post office closed in 1914 and the town was soon abandoned.

"The post office closed in 1914 and the town was soon abandoned."

The remnants of Coppereid are divided into two sections. The lower section consists of the smelter, a large stone multi-room structure, and a second smaller

rock structure. I was not able to visit upper Coppereid this time. It requires access from the east side of the Stillwater Range.



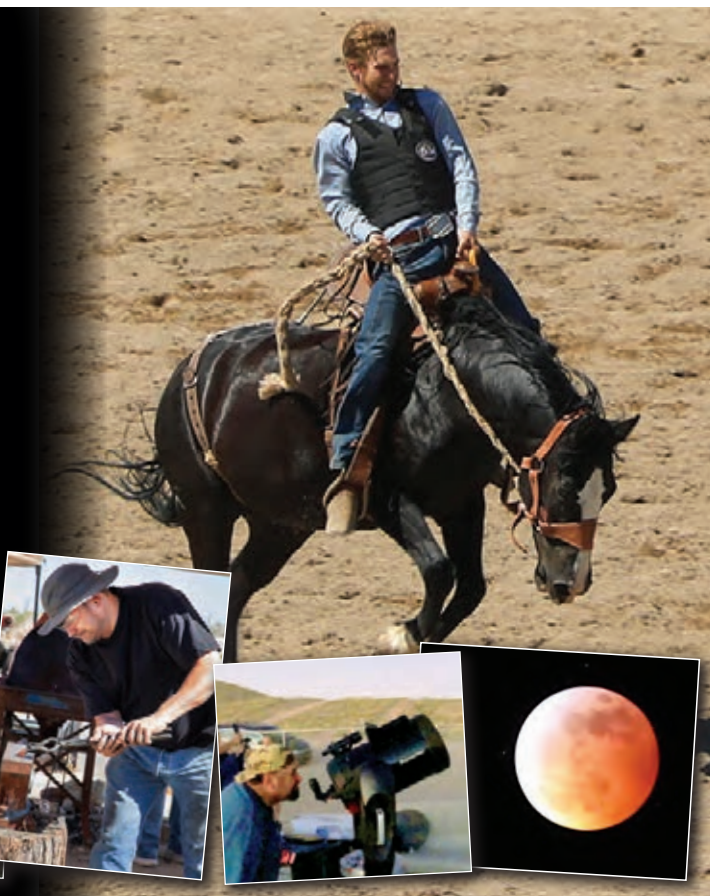
Coppereid with Lahontan Valley in the distance

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July 17, Aug. 7, Sept. 18, Oct. 2, and Oct. 16
- Rodeos
July 3 and Sept. 25

Visit TonopahNevada.com/events for our complete 2021 events calendar.



LA PLATA

Ten years after the Gold Rush to California began in 1849, the gold fields played out. Silver was discovered in Nevada in 1859 and the flow of miners over the Sierras reversed its course. Prospectors who once rushed through Nevada now headed east as silver replaced gold as the stuff of legend.

As claims in The Comstock Lode were staked, prospectors began to explore outlying locations. In 1862, silver was discovered on the east side of the Stillwater Range and the Mountain Well Mining District was formed. Promising quartz was discovered at the junction of La Plata and Silver Wave Canyons and a town site established the following year. The new town was named La Plata, Spanish for silver. Investors from the east funded

widespread prospecting and development of mines around La Plata. Silver Wave Mining Company owned the townsite and 1500 adjacent wooded acres. They constructed a large 10-stamp mill in 1864 at the cost of \$150,000, more than \$2 million in 2021 dollars.

La Plata grew rapidly and became the largest town in the county, containing multiple businesses. The burgeoning town became the second county seat of Churchill County in 1864. A post office opened on April 13, 1865.

Similar to other strikes in the area including Como, milling and processing facilities were erected prior to determining the extent of the strike. Mines failed in 1867 and many residents moved to the big strikes in White Pine and Nye Counties. The 10-stamp mill was moved to Ellsworth in Nye County. Ore was shipped to Eleven Mile Canyon and Averill, but production was minimal. The post office closed on Nov. 25, 1867 and Stillwater replaced La Plata as the county seat in 1868. A brief revival occurred in 1906, but La Plata was to remain a ghost town.

**"The new town was named
La Plata, Spanish for silver."**



The Courthouse at La Plata

Several structures have survived. Some call the largest the "Court-house" but a dedicated courthouse was never built, possibly due to construction costs and La Plata's short tenure as Churchill County seat. Stone foundations and structures were common in Nevada as timber was in short supply and rock was abundant. This building was of high-quality construction with features such as cut cornerstones.

A second foundation corner is behind the large rock structure. The stones are stacked instead of being cut. A cabin is situated north of the structures, and unlike many cabins' ruins, a fireplace hearth and chimney remain.



Austin Metz of Nevada Expeditions and Tami Force try to photograph each other through the chimney in the ruins of a La Plata cabin.

SHONNA INGRAM

AVERILL

In 1864, the Connecticut & Nevada Silver Mining Company constructed a 10-stamp mill south of La Plata to process ore from the Mountain Well Mining District. The town of Averill developed but it was never large enough to support a post office. Mail was likely delivered to La Plata.

Ore deposits played out in 1867. With strikes in White Pine County at Monti Cristo, many miners relocated. The La Plata post office closed November 25 and service was

transferred to Stillwater. Averill was abandoned in 1869, and it enjoyed a brief revival in 1906, only to be forsaken once again.

The main remaining structure is a rock wall on a hill over the townsite. Hiking above the site, we noticed the foundations of several structures, probably part of the mill. If you spend time wandering there you can locate several building foundations, brick, and debris. Averill was intended to be a brief stop but once we discovered the extensive foundations we spent more time exploring.



Averill townsite

DAY TRIPPING

I spent several days exploring the Stillwater Range with friends Austin and Shonna in Honey Badger, my Jeep. I haven't had so much fun in a long time and we spent the days driving up, down, and over the range.

The first trip, we drove around Lahontan Valley as there are no roads across Carson Sink (the end of the Carson River) due to water, the playa... and oh yes, it's an active Navy bombing range. Don't bother washing your vehicle before you go: everything in Honey Badger was covered with white playa dust.

The second trip we crossed over the range and drove up a pole line through Dixie Valley. I lost track of how many times I hit a wash and said, "Sorry about that!" I'm not sure if I was apologizing to my friends or Honey Badger.

For those considering checking out these incredible ghost towns, Fallon makes the perfect place to stock up on gas, water, food, and supplies before you hit the road on your own ghost town adventure. ▀



Honey Badger in La Plata



A road between ghost towns

EXPLORATION *Awaits*

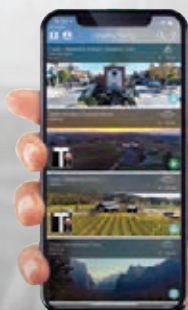
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THROUGH THE LENS

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GORGE STATE PARK

Dark skies and slot canyons provide an adventure filled with child-like wonder.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KIPPY S. SPILKER

“One hundred ninety-eight miles to Panaca,” our GPS announced as my husband and I left Tonopah. The robot voice pronounced it panic-uh, and Google kept autocorrecting it to panacea, and in the end, our four-day trip resulted in both being accurate.

Cathedral Gorge State Park, born of volcanic activity more

than 10 million years ago, touts itself a photographer’s dream and I can attest to that being true. For a relatively small state park, it is huge in character, drama, and opportunities to explore. We spent four days and three nights at the Swallow Cove B&B in Panaca, merely 2 miles from the park entrance. If not camping at the park itself, this is the closest lodging and a perfect option for photographers who plan to be there all hours.

**IT’S PRONOUNCED
PUH-NACK-UH.**

FEATURE | Cathedral Gorge

Upon arriving, we took inventory of our gear: two Canon cameras, GoPro, Mavic Pro drone, digital audio recorder, and an Insta360 (which shoots 360° photos and video) camera, with all associated chargers, spare batteries, memory cards, special stands and tripods...we had it all. Except the chargers for our two primary cameras. Seven hours from home, two hours from Las Vegas, and we'd forgotten to pack even one of the four chargers we had at home. Panic-uh, indeed. In the end, we had enough spare batteries to last through our stay, and Panaca and Cathedral Gorge quickly skewed toward a panacea.



Dawn Andone, standing next to an over-850-year-old bison skull that was found at the park in the 1970s, and eventually returned for display in the Visitor's Center. Dawn explained that—contrary to popular belief—research has shown there were at one time a lot of bison in the Panaca area.

WHO NEEDS SLEEP, ANYWAY?

After the long drive from Carson City to Panaca, we shot the sunset from Miller Point and then got a couple hours' sleep before our 1 a.m. alarm went off. We packed everything and headed for the

park, which is open 24 hours. Parking at the day-use picnic area, we set out in the dark along the Miller Point Trail with the intention of capturing some stars from the canyon. Holy moly! Even with a bit of smoke from nearby fires, the astral display was impressive with the Milky Way easily visible to the naked

FOR PHOTOGRAPHING NIGHT SKIES, INVEST IN A HEADLAMP THAT HAS A WHITE LIGHT FOR VISIBILITY WHILE WALKING, BUT ALSO A RED LIGHT FOR MAINTAINING YOUR NIGHT VISION WHILE SHOOTING.

eye. We stayed through sunrise and then did what many photographers do while waiting for the light to provide what is next needed—went back and took naps.

While there is a comprehensive grocery store in Panaca, there aren't any restaurants so for lunch we drove to Caliente and discovered a gem called The Side Track. After enjoying two excellent burgers and chatting with the friendly staff, we made our way back to Cathedral Gorge to meet with Dawn Andone, park ranger extraordinaire, who took some time to talk with us about the park and her job.

"When this was all a lake," Dawn explained, gesturing to the park, "eventually this site opened up from seismic activity no doubt, and it created this area where the water could get out and then it all went into the Meadow Valley Wash."

I asked her what formed the lighter-colored lines that run horizontally along the length of the canyons. "That would have been probably the bottom of the lake at one time, and then as the water precipitated away it left that layer of limestone. That creates a hard cover on top of all of the siltstone which is much softer. As the water and snow and everything comes around that limestone, it has created these cool formations. The interesting thing about the formations is that they erode not just from the outside in, but from the inside out."

We tried our best to explore those canyons that afternoon but the wind had other plans and, after being sandblasted for a while, we eventually decided to pack it in. "It's great for you," Dawn joked about nature's 'spa treatment,' "people pay lots of money for that, and you're getting it for free!" The sunset was looking a bit lackluster, so we opted to sleep in order to get up early for sunrise (which was to happen around 5:30 a.m.) then take on the slot canyons again.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY... EVEN YOUR DOG

Our third day was just about perfect. We were given special permission to fly our drone inside the





Kippy inside Moon Caves

JEREMY SPILKER



Dawn Andone leads a group of schoolkids into Cathedral Caves, for some hands-on learning about erosion and how the slot canyons are formed.

park and got some gorgeous sunrise footage and photos. Afterward we went to the slot canyons again, where my husband found the “secret cave,” squeezed himself through and came out in a larger cavern with a rope you can climb up to a higher cave. There were already two people climbing, so he did not wait around to try it himself, but that will be a fun adventure for another day. Online reviews of these slot canyons time and again highlight how fun this is for kids as a family activity and I can absolutely understand why, as Jeremy and I pretty much became children again, climbing through and exploring among the bentonite spires.



IT IS ILLEGAL TO FLY DRONES WITHIN NEVADA STATE PARKS. IF YOU ARE AN FAA-CERTIFIED DRONE PILOT, YOU CAN CONTACT THE PARK YOU PLAN TO VISIT TO SEE ABOUT OBTAINING A PERMIT.





Juniper Draw Loop

**FIVE ESSENTIALS FOR
EXPLORING NEVADA:
SUNSCREEN, WATER,
SUNGLASSES, HAT,
AND GOOD FOOTWEAR.**



Needle yucca with Civilian Conservation Corps water tower in the background

In the early afternoon, we set out on the Juniper Draw Loop. It is often windy through that canyon, so be sure to bring good eye protection. A nice level walk, you really get an intimate view of some of the canyons that are hard to see from any other area of the park. We came across people walking with their dogs—welcome on leashes—and others with binoculars looking for birds. As we came closer to the campground, families were enjoying picnics and playing games.

ALL GOOD THINGS

The skies were dramatic our last night and although we hoped for a great sunset, we were instead treated to an oppressive cold spring-time-in-Nevada rainstorm which resulted in fresh snow on the surrounding mountains. Not to be thwarted, we set our alarm for 2 a.m. and made our way the following morning to the Eagle Point Trail for sunrise photos and video. Another gorgeous morning, although my time lapse didn't work out too well as my lens formed a thin layer of ice on it while shooting.

This last morning, we were celebrating our wedding anniversary, so we made our way back to one of our favorite spots in the slot canyons and took our annual anniversary photo. Afterward, we returned to Swallow Cove, packed up our things and made our way to our first actual sit-down breakfast of the trip. After tasting the great food they served, I wished we'd made more time to partake of the included meals, rather than living on granola bars and cold sandwiches.







Eagle Point Trail

STAY ANOTHER DAY OR TWO

When asked what other things she would recommend visitors see in the area, Dawn responded, "It depends what people are interested in. There's something for everyone." Within about an hour of Panaca you can find:

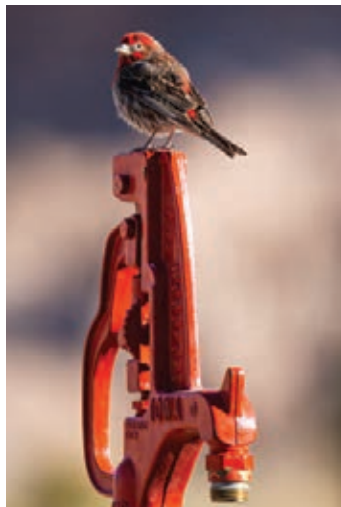
Other state parks/sites:

Kershaw-Ryan, Echo Canyon, Spring Valley, Elgin Schoolhouse, Beaver Dam

Ghost towns and historically significant sites:

Delamar, Bristol Well, Crystal Springs, Hiko, Boot Hill Cemetery in Pioche, Caliente Railroad Depot

Other things to do: Search for fossils at the Oak Springs Trilobite Area, take a soak in the Caliente Hot Springs, get wild at Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge, take your picture with aliens in Hiko near the Extraterrestrial Highway, mountain bike through Barnes Canyon, and/or find petroglyphs driving through Rainbow Canyon to Mount Irish.



JEREMY SPILKER



Some animal's lunch spot

There is a fair amount of wildlife in the park, but much of it seems active mostly around sunrise and sunset, or at night when it's cooler. We had many bat fly-bys, Jeremy spotted a fox one night, and of course there are many birds. If you pay attention, you can find evidence of wildlife even when it's not around.

Our drive home through Ely and along Highway 50 was filled with typical Nevada spring weather. We took our sweatshirts off as we walked around and looked at the Hickison petroglyphs, and then we were white-knuckling it through snow and hail on the hills around Austin.

All told, we spent about two-and-a-half days in the park—and many hours at night—and I felt like we'd seen pretty much everything. However, I looked at a map of Cathedral Gorge State Park when I got home and realized we completely missed the Bullionville Cemetery Trail. I guess we'll just have to go back! ▀

FOLLOW POSTED SPEED LIMITS, ESPECIALLY THROUGH SMALL TOWNS. THERE IS LOTS TO SEE, AND OFTEN A SIGNIFICANT POLICE PRESENCE.

STEEPED IN HISTORY

Cathedral Gorge State Park
parks.nv.gov/parks/cathedral-gorge, 775-728-8101

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Outside Ely

Taking its cue from Mother Nature, the town is putting its outdoor adventures front and center.

BY MEGG MUELLER



KYLE HORVATH

Sometimes, to know the heart of a town, you need to look from the outside in. Staring down into the town of Ely, located in the state's northeastern region, I see the requisite historical buildings that dot Nevada. I see the intense landscape that flanks the area, mostly the verdant and hardy scrub brush that thrives in the clear, dry air, and the towering Egan and Schell Creek mountain ranges that soar high above the town which itself sits at more than 6,500 feet elevation. I see kids in parks, riding bikes and skateboards, and ranchers and farmers traversing the streets in the omnipresent pickup truck. There are people jogging and riding bikes, parents taking their children to visit the ducks at the in-town pond, shopkeepers opening their doors for another day of business along U.S. Route 50, the so-called Loneliest Road in America. I see a bustling community, rich in history and in the promise of its exciting future. Nothing here looks lonely to me.



SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVEL NEVADA



Cave Lake State Park

Ely sprang to life in 1870, not as a mining town, but as a stagecoach stop and post office along the Pony Express' Central Overland Route. The town was designated the White Pine County seat in 1887 and supported surrounding mining camps such as Cherry Creek and Osceola. But Ely's real development was a result of its own mining; in 1906, copper mining took hold and the population boomed as the state's gold mines were beginning to fade, driving hungry miners to White Pine County's new bounty. The boom led to the construction of the Nevada Northern Railway (NNRY), which connected Ely's copper mines to the Southern Pacific Railroad. The copper was mined in Ruth, smelted in McGill, and shipped in Ely. It was a geologically perfect trifecta.

The geography of the area plays no small part in the fervor Ely lovers have for the town.



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MEGG MUELLER



SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVEL NEVADA

**“Nothing here
looks lonely
to me.”**

HISTORY AND SO MUCH MORE

“This is a year-round mountain town, with all the charm, major events, unique arts, and history, plus the best outdoor recreation in the state,” Kyle Horvath replies quickly when asked what is the allure of Ely.

Kyle is the director of tourism for White Pine County, so while he may be biased, he’s not wrong. Ely has long been an outdoor paradise for hunters, sportsmen, and nature lovers. According to hookandbullet.com, there are about 338 ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, and reservoirs

within 12 miles of Ely, giving ample places to fish and recreate to your water-loving heart’s content. Elk are prolific in the area; so much so there’s an elk viewing station just 11 miles south of town.

For all the outdoor recreation opportunities, Kyle is keen on keeping the origins of the town ever-present for everyone to enjoy. The history of the

town is best honored, he says, by continuing to tell the story in new ways and there are some great synergistic opportunities to that end:

- Signage at the new 18-hole disc golf course at Ward Mountain Recreation Area includes information about birds golfers might encounter while on the course.
- NNRY will act as a bike shuttle, taking riders directly to the Garnet Hill trail head 6 miles outside of town. The Trains to Trail program started in June.

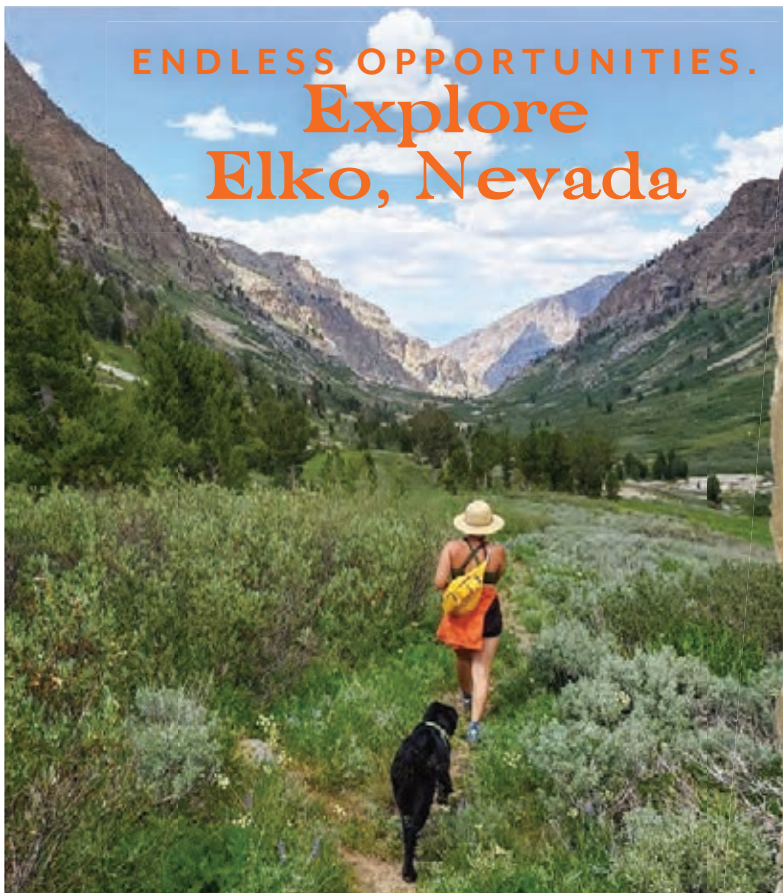
The train shuttle is one that both Kyle and Mark Bassett, president of NNRY, are particularly excited about. The history of the railroad in Ely is central to the town's identity and can be experienced in many ways at NNRY, and by visiting the East Ely Depot Museum



Nevada Northern Railway

SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVEL NEVADA

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- ◆ Lamoille Country Fair
- ◆ Festival of Trees



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Success Loop Scenic Drive

for a deep dive into what it took to keep a railroad going back in the day. Adding the element of adventure to an already cool train ride, the train-bike shuttle is a match made in heaven for anyone seeking something beyond the usual outing.

COMMITTED TO GETTING OUTSIDE

There are hundreds of miles of dirt roads in any direction around the city which is a boon to the avid Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) users that live in and visit Ely. Access to these trails is so important that, in 2018, the city approved the use of OHV on a number of city streets, basically making downtown the perfect trailhead.

"Riders can leave from their hotel parking lot and access all these trails," Kyle says.

For some of us, seeing dirt roads and miles of trails sparks the desire to discover where the road leads, but if you have the desire but not the OHV, it can be a serious bummer. In Ely, however, that problem is easily solved by Eastern Nevada Adventures.



Bruce Eldridge

MEGG MUELLER

Bruce Eldridge is a lifelong White Pine County resident, growing up on the family ranch and returning there after college. He's worked in both ranching and mining, but he and his wife Amanda decided to start Eastern Nevada Adventures OHV rentals in early 2018.

"We felt there was a need for a new recreational activity in Ely that allowed visitors a new activity or reason to stay another day," Bruce says.



ALEXANDRIA OLIVARES-WENZEL

Whether it's visitors itching to explore the incredible scenery, or a local family who'd rather leave their truck at home, renting a Kawasaki Teryx4 is the perfect option for those seeking adventure without the big price tag of buying a side-by-side.

"People are looking for the wind in their face," Bruce says. "They want to get outside, and it's not about power or speed. Lots of families are renting, and they take a cooler, have a picnic, and talk to each other. It's a way to reconnect."

Bruce says the Success Loop near Cave Lake just southeast of town is probably the most popular destination, and he offers trailer service so people can get the OHV where they want it. In-town pickup offers many nearby options, but for those looking to ride around Ward Charcoal Ovens Historic State Park or search for elk near Cave Lake, having the vehicle delivered makes the experience all the more seamless.

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Ward Mountain Recreation Area

Kyle and I met Bruce at his office, which is right on Ely's main street. After some safety tips and driving instructions, we headed out of town to see how far we could get up Ward Mountain after the recent snowfall. As we neared the top, a snowdrift turned us around. No matter: the Kawasaki had delivered us to a breathtaking vantage point, and we set off toward further adventures, just in a different direction.

The ability to find outdoor recreation within a few minutes of your front door is one of the draws of Ely, Bruce says. His business is seeing clients from all over the globe, all looking for a way to navigate the gorgeous terrain that surrounds Ely.

If you prefer going up a mountain under your own power, the mountain biking around Ely is perfect for all levels of riders.

"We have 50 miles of world-class single-track," Kyle says. "We will have 100 miles all accessible to downtown, thanks to a 30-mile trail expansion on Ward Mountain by the Nevada Division of Forestry, and a partnership between the Bureau of Land Management and the International Mountain Biking Association for a 21-mile trail expansion on Garnet Hill."



Garnet Hill

PHOTOS: MEGG MUELLER

Riding up just a small part of the Ice Plant Canyon trails—where the annual Tears, Fears, and Beers enduro ride has happened for 15 years—I can see why “Adventure Sports Journal” wrote that Ely was “On Track to Become the Next Mountain Biking Mecca” in its April issue. The trails alternate between smooth single track with consistent climb, to downhill-only trails that reward the ferocious climber with sweet dips, manicured berms, and enough jumps to satisfy even the most hardcore downhiller. Maps are available all over town for both the biking and OHV trails (hikers, don’t feel left out...there’s plenty of room for you, too). Kyle tells me more signage is in the works to augment the maps and give users the best experience possible.

Once the lure of the trail has been sated, there’s still plenty to do. Ely is home to the most remoted 18-hole golf course in the U.S., and you know how much Nevadans love our remote spaces. Beautiful greens coupled with Ely’s elevation, and you might just have your best day on the links. The pandemic had significant impact on Ely’s other golf course, but it actually improved it. Kyle, dealing with the quarantine of 2020, started to work on improving the existing 9-hole disc golf course. Now an 18-hole course with new tee boxes, baskets, and signage, you haven’t played disc golf until you’re shooting through the juniper that dots the course.



Birkebeiner Loop

SUSANNE REESE



PHOTOS: KYLE HORVATH



Disc golf course



Taproot

MEGG MUELLER

The elevation is just one more attractive thing about a visit to town, Kyle mentions.

"Sitting at 6,500 ft, it's a great way to beat the heat while the rest of the state is cooking," he says.

IF YOU BUILD IT...

Like many outdoor recreation destinations, the town is aware that supporting the community of adventurers they hope will flock to the area is just as important as building trails and offering rentals. The infrastructure has to support tourism, and Ely is answering the call. Thanks to mining's consistent presence the town of about 5,000 people has more than 1,000 hotel rooms awaiting guests, plus plenty of options for both dry and RV camping.

Restaurants run the gamut from a few chain locations to local pizza parlors, myriad international eateries, swanky steakhouses, and cozy cafes. The Hotel Nevada has an impressive craft beer selection at its casino bar, while Taproot offers more flavored caffeinated beverages than I previously thought possible. The centrally located Taproot has been open about a year, and already has a devoted following for its delicious coffees, pastries, bagels (with organic almond butter, if you like), ice cream cones, shakes, fruit smoothies, and wide selection of boba teas. It's the perfect before and after adventure spot.



Giving other businesses a chance to shine and be a part of Ely's outdoor tourism effort was important to Bruce and Amanda, also.

We wanted to have a business located in downtown and provide an opportunity for some other businesses to set up," Bruce says.

To that end in the parking lot of Eastern Nevada Adventures, some say the best sandwiches in town can be found at Shorty's Food Truck, the city's longest running food truck business. Bruce adds that Perigo Beef has a pop-up beef selling station every few weeks, and an out-of-town food truck—Fire-Up Creations—comes on various weekends.

CHECKS ALL THE BOXES

Trails galore, natural splendor, a comfy place to lie your head, and plenty of options for tasty dining and imbibing. As a trail junkie myself—biking, OHV, hiking, you name it—these are the criteria that make me choose an outdoor destination. How well towns pull off the amenities the adventure traveler seeks is what separates the gorgeous scenery you just drive through and the places you know you need to stop for a few days. ▀

PHOTOS: TAPROOT

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Downtown Ely

ERIC CACHINERO



NEVADA

Trivia

1. How many national parks does Nevada have? Name them.
2. What is the largest deep water fish found in Lake Tahoe?
3. Which casino is credited with hiring the first female dealers?

See answers below.

Answers: 1. Great Basin National Park and Death Valley National Park. 2. The Mackinaw Trout.

3. Harolds Club.



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1. Ward Mountain Recreation Area at Murry Summit: 2-10 Miles, Elevation Gain/Loss: 500 to 1200 feet, **Beginner** to **Intermediate**, Riding Season: May-October

2. Sacramento Pass Trails: 3-12 Miles, Elevation Gain/Loss: 900 to 1450 feet, **Intermediate** to **Expert**, Riding Season: March-December

3. Squaw Peak Trails: 7-12 Miles, Elevation Gain/Loss: 1000 to 2600 feet, **Intermediate** to **Expert**, Riding Season: March-December

4. Ice Plant Canyon Trails: 7-16 Miles, Elevation Gain/Loss: 700 to 1800 feet, **Beginner** to **Intermediate**, Riding Season: April-November

5. Cave Lake State Park Trail System: 3-12 Miles, Elevation Gain/Loss: 500 to 1800 feet, **Beginner** to **Intermediate**, Riding Season: May-October, but even into December.

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