

# NEVADA

JULY/AUGUST 2019

M A G A Z I N E



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## National Atomic Testing Museum



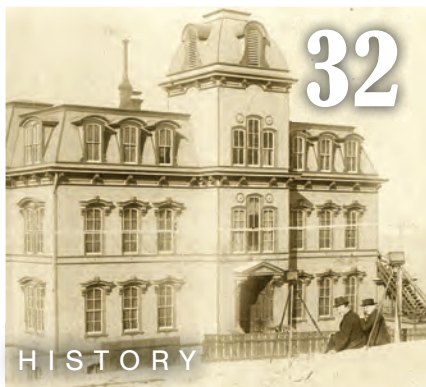
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# LEGENDS OF THE VALLEY COLE PINTHER

**LICENSED GUIDE**  
*to the wild blue yonder*



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WIDE AND THAT BLUE BALL OF A PLANET LOOKS MORE GORGEOUS  
THAN EVER. SUCH IS THE WORLD AT 10,000 FEET, AN EAGLE'S EYE  
PERSPECTIVE FOR THOSE WHO PREFER THEIR ADVENTURES BOLD,  
RAW AND NOT EASILY FORGOTTEN. THE KIND OF EXPERIENCES  
THAT COME NATURALLY AT CARSON VALLEY.

  
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# NEVADA MAGAZINE

JULY/AUGUST 2019  
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# Only at NevadaMagazine.com

## WEB EXTRAS



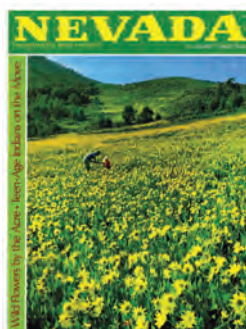
► **Retro Fashion:** If you're a psychedelic soul born in the modern age, or just looking for a stunning hard-to-find ensemble, look no further than the Arts District in revitalized downtown Las Vegas. Stretched along 18 blocks and just 1 mile from The Strip, the Arts District has been the city's beating heart of art and culture since its establishment in 1998. Old warehouses and factories have been revamped to become art galleries, studios, bars, restaurants,

and retail spaces. With its huge colorful murals and retro signs, it feels like you're strutting into Vegas in its heyday. The vintage clothing and antique stores are not only a highlight, but the best kept secret in town.

By Alexia Zilliken

► **Yesterday: Potosi Mine:** "High up in the mountains 35 mile southwest of Las Vegas, is found one of the places most significant to Nevada's early history. This is the old Potosi mine, the first lode mine ever worked in the state. Located near 8,504-foot Potosi Mountain, south of Las Vegas off the highway to Pahrump, the old mine is but a short distance from the historic Old Spanish Trail. This story first appeared in our Summer 1968 issue.

By Elizabeth Harrington



## DIGITAL SUBSCRIBER PERKS

We're working hard to upload every issue of *Nevada Magazine* ever created. We now have every issue from 1936-1975 available for viewing. A digital subscription gives you full access to our website, including the stories listed above, which are only available to digital subscribers. Digital subscriptions cost just **\$9.95** per year, or add it to a print subscription for just **\$5** per year.



## Stay up to date



### FEATURED VIDEOS

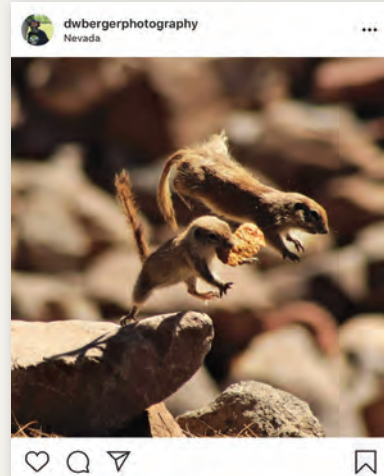
Visit our YouTube channel to see a video of the Truckee River's intrepid surfers. Read the story starting on page 24.



## NEVADA WIDE WEB

## Instagram #nvmag

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





# THE BEST I COULD DO

A funny thing happened when I became editor of *Nevada Magazine*: people began to assume I knew everything about the state. I found myself being asked to reveal the best campground, best roadtrip, best place to eat in (town name here), and so on. I do my best to make recommendations, and in truth, I do have some pretty strong opinions about the places that have become my favorites. But I always wonder: what does the being the best mean?

Certainly, it's different for everyone, but it's safe to say that generally something is considered the best when multiple people agree thusly. Still, my best place to score a tasty hot burger might leave you cold. But that's cool, because Nevada is teeming with places to experience everything your heart desires. We don't have to agree, because there are enough options to satisfy everyone, and really, I'm pretty sure that's what makes Nevada the best state there is. On this topic, however, I brook no argument. If you find my certainty off-putting, you might not want to ask what my favorite magazine is, either.

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

For those of you who need to cut to the chase, the locations of our 2019 Silver State Scavenger Hunt can be found on page 22. Grab your camera, get out there, and good luck!

You may have guessed it but our 2019 Best of Nevada annual readers' survey results are in, and you can find them starting on page 38. Remember, if you don't like the ones chosen as the best, you can always vote next year.

We've got some ridiculously cool stories this issue, including two topics we've never covered before. The first is about surfing the Truckee River in Reno. Yes, really. Grab your board and read all about it on page 24. Secondly, Massacre Rim in northern Nevada was just named the seventh dark sky sanctuary in the world. The entire world. Read about it starting on page 58.



We're taking you to the Republic of Molossia this issue, and before you remind me the name of the magazine, let me assure you this sovereign nation is in Nevada. Read about it on page 16. More mind-blowing work is on page 56, where we take you inside the National Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas.

Another ghost town story has unfolded, this one with a few frosty twists. Check it out on page 62. And finally, Hawthorne is the subject of the True Grit series this issue, and you can find out about this unique town on page 72.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Mueller'.

**Megg Mueller**, Managing Editor  
mmueller@nevadamagazine.com



## LETTERS

## PICTURE-PERFECT PRAISE

Got my copy of *Nevada Magazine* today and once again, you've made my day. Loved that story on the memorial dedicated to the cold warriors. My wife and I were there for the dedication, and about 100 years ago when I was young, I hiked to the site. It's quite poignant and personal. Every issue has great stories, and this one is certainly no exception.

— **Russ Colletta**, Las Vegas

## FEELING OUR PAIN

I absolutely must tell you how much I am enjoying your ghost town series. You bring it all to life, and for those of us who periodically venture forth for some off-road ghost town hunting, oh boy do the problems encountered ring sympathetic bells! — **Judith Filangeri**, via email

## WHERE'S WALDO?

I'm enjoying reading the latest *Nevada Magazine* (awesome as always), but where is Blue Diamond? I'm guessing near Las Vegas, but the address that is listed on the page doesn't help if you don't know where Blue Diamond is! The Cottonwood Eatery story was great, and I would love to visit when I plan a Nevada road trip, once I know where it is! Could you include a locator map when you write about a small town or unique spot? Thanks for creating such a great magazine. — **Randi Thompson**, Reno

## DIGITAL LOVE

Regarding your new website and digital offerings, that's exciting. You guys are the best. — **Glen Kramer**, Auburn, California



## WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

Write to [editor@nevadamagazine.com](mailto: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](http://nevadamagazine.com). Letters and comments are subject to editing.

## CONTRIBUTORS

## JASON LOPEZ



Jason Lopez is a native Nevadan, adventure travel writer, blogger, world traveler, and guru who spent 20-plus years living and working in Bali and other exotic locales of Asia. He has dedicated his life to having fun adventures and finding his way to personal enlightenment, happiness, and love. Follow his travel adventure blog at [thetraveladventuredude.com](http://thetraveladventuredude.com). ■ PGS. 24-31

## SHAARON NETHERTON



Shaaron has served as the executive director for Friends of Nevada Wilderness since 2000, building a nationally recognized Wilderness Stewardship Program working with all four federal agencies across Nevada to provide boots-on-the-ground restoration and monitoring for Nevada's wildlands. She has a strong background in public lands management having also worked 22 years with the Bureau of Land Management. She has lived and worked throughout much of rural Nevada. ■ PGS. 58-61

## ALEXIA ZILLIKEN



After being born and raised in Las Vegas and then graduating from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, it's safe to say Alexia knows her hometown like the back of her hand. She is a contributor for a multimedia investigative journalism project, vintage enthusiast, and history geek. She is excited to share her passion and appreciation for old Las Vegas and its culture with the readers of *Nevada Magazine*.

■ [nevadamagazine.com](http://nevadamagazine.com)



# Up Front

## EVENTS

### Artown poster brings pages to life

Walter Van Tilburg Clark's 1945 semi-autobiographical novel "The City of Trembling Leaves" is set in and around the city of Reno, and now, its pages are the backbone for this year's Artown poster.

The poster shows a sculpture created by Nevada artists Rachael and Debbie Lambin of [mythousandwords.com](http://mythousandwords.com). The mother-daughter duo wanted to focus on community and what Artown brings to so many people. Rachael drew two designs to convey the idea and the chosen design is an array of what Artown represents. The three figures, mountains, and trees were created from the pages of Clark's book, and attached to an antique world atlas.



Sheléa



John-Henry, Debbie, and Rachael Lambin

The annual Artown event sees about 300,000 attendees at its more than 500 events held during the month of July. This year's headliners include roots rocker Paul Thorn, pop sensations Pink Martini, pop-soul star Sheléa, country-bluegrass artists The SteelDrivers, and Squirrel Nut Zippers.  
[artown.org](http://artown.org), 775-322-1538



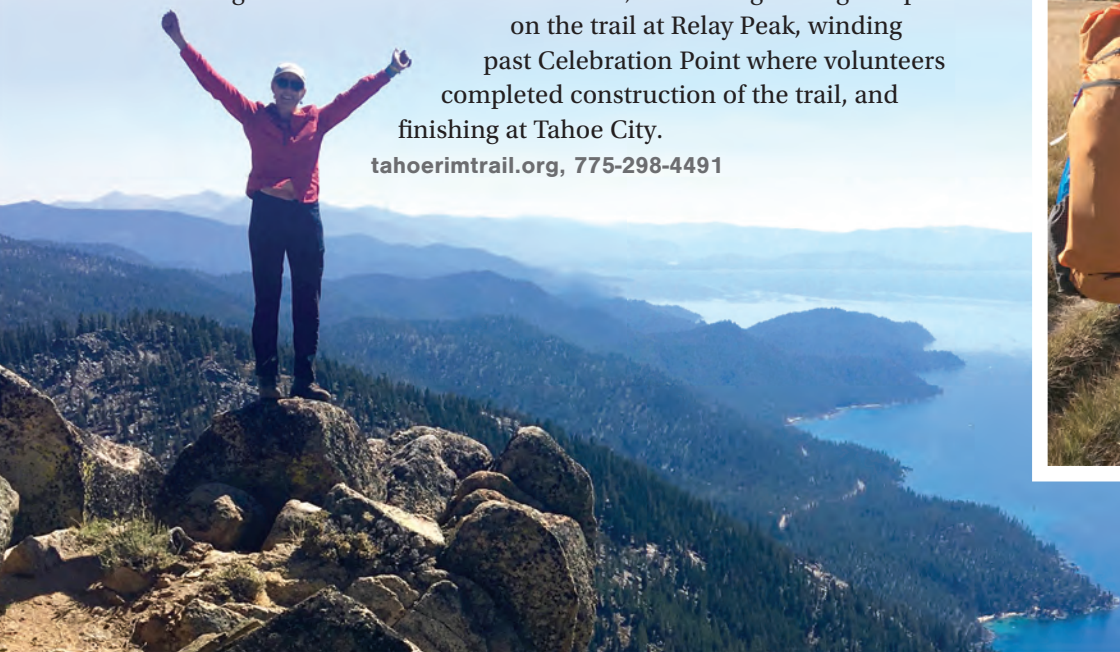
## OUTDOOR RECREATION

### Get a taste of the Tahoe Rim Trail

The Tahoe Rim Trail Association offers a new guided hiking opportunity for backpackers this summer. The “Taste of the TRT” is a four-day, three-night guided trip along roughly one quarter of the 165-mile Tahoe Rim Trail.

On Aug. 20-23, hikers will explore northern segments of the Tahoe Rim Trail hiking west from the Mt. Rose trailhead, summiting the highest point on the trail at Relay Peak, winding past Celebration Point where volunteers completed construction of the trail, and finishing at Tahoe City.

[tahoerimtrail.org](http://tahoerimtrail.org), 775-298-4491



JOEY LOVATO/THE NEVADA INDEPENDENT

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### State gets new official symbol

Governor Steve Sisolak signed Assembly Bill 182, making neon the official state element effective July 1.

Neon signs have been synonymous with Nevada for the better part of a century. Now, thanks to a push from the Nevada Neon Project and a group of 5th- and 6th-grade students at Carson Montessori School, neon will take its place alongside such Nevada state symbols as silver, the state metal. [nv.gov](http://nv.gov), 775-684-5670



## UP FRONT



■ A portion of **Great Basin National Park** closed by fire in 2016 has re-opened. The Strawberry Creek area is open for hiking and other day-use activities, but remains closed to camping for several more years while the park service seeks funding to rebuild the restrooms and camp sites.

[nps.gov/grba](https://nps.gov/grba), 775-234-7331

■ National Park Express has launched the **Boulder City Express** to transport visitors between Las Vegas and Boulder City. This new shuttle service will also allow Las Vegas guests to visit Hoover Dam on their own, or just enjoy Boulder City's Historic District with its cafes, museums, antique shops, railroad attractions, and cultural charm.

[nationalparkexpress.com](https://nationalparkexpress.com), 702-948-4190

■ A **time capsule** placed in 1872 was removed from Reno's oldest standing commercial building, a masonic lodge that was demolished in April. The capsule contained silver dollars from the Carson City Mint and an edition of the "Virginia Enterprise" newspaper, among other items. The site will become part of the Whitney Peak Hotel in downtown, which plans to use salvaged material in the new construction.

[whitneypeakhotel.com](https://whitneypeakhotel.com), 775-398-5400

■ Wynn Las Vegas has brought back **free self-parking** at its Wynn and Encore self-park garages. No validation is required. Valet parking is free for overnight guests, and will be free for non-guests who show a \$50 receipt from the property.

[wynnlasvegas.com](https://wynnlasvegas.com), 702-770-7000

■ Safe Haven Wildlife Sanctuary's **Tee Off for Tigers** annual golf tournament is set for Aug. 18 at Wolf Run Golf Club in Reno. After the tournament, there will be dinner, a raffle, and prizes. All proceeds benefit Safe Haven's rescued wildlife and educational outreach programs.

[safehavenwildlife.com](https://safehavenwildlife.com), 775-463-1842

## BOOKS

### Street art, motels, and Burning Man make it to the page

Smallworks Press has announced three newly released photographic monographs that document the history, art, and culture of West Coast America.

"Street Art Las Vegas" documents the unseen talent of the Las Vegas metropolitan area, unveiling the hidden benefits that street art contributes to the community. The book features a selection of works by well-known streets artists such as Shepard Fairey, Tristan Eaton, D\*face, and Retna along with creations by anonymous artists.



"Motel Vegas" showcases the rise and fall of Las Vegas' iconic roadside motels by photographer and art historian Dr. Fred Sigman. The monograph is an ode to a bye-gone era and a reflection on America's iconic automobile culture. It celebrates the architecture that once dominated Las Vegas' skyline.

"Compass of the Ephemeral" is by Will Roger, cultural co-founder of Burning Man, and it features his aerial and drone photography. The book traces the history of Black Rock City from a few thousand people to the more than 70,000 attendees today. It also includes a series of essays by central figures in the Burning Man community exploring the physical, cultural and artistic context, and impact of the event.

[smallworkspress.com](https://smallworkspress.com), 702-524-1019



## HISTORY

### Nevada State Museum to mint historical coins

On Aug. 1, The Nevada State Museum will mint a replica of the 1870 Seated Liberty half dollar, the first half dollar to be minted on Coin Press No. 1. The museum is set to host a release party that night.

The museum gift shop is also offering a medallion that commemorates the Nevada State Railroad Museum's *Coach 17*—the only rail car still in existence that was present at the completion of the nation's first transcontinental railroad at Promontory Summit in Utah.

[nvculture.org/nevadastatemuseumcarsoncity](https://nvculture.org/nevadastatemuseumcarsoncity), 775-687-4810





A large silhouette of a golfer in mid-swing dominates the right side of the image. Inside the silhouette, a desert landscape is visible, featuring a mountain range under a sunset sky, a small town in the valley, and a golf course in the foreground. The background of the entire image is a soft, pinkish-purple gradient.

# A GETAWAY

THAT'S ALWAYS WITHIN REACH.

There's a lot going on in Mesquite. Whether you choose to partake or simply kick back and relax is entirely up to you. From an array of dining options, to specialty entertainment, to gaming, to championship golf, there is something for every taste. Mesquite is a quick escape that combines a friendly, small-town atmosphere with unique attractions. Comfortably nestled in the picturesque Virgin River Valley.

Learn more at [VisitMesquite.com](http://VisitMesquite.com).

**Mesquite**  
NEVADA

Excitingly Laid-back



## UP FRONT



■ The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has reopened the newly renovated **Timber Creek Campground** in the Ely Ranger District. The campground received new tables, grills, fire rings, and tent pads; an updated water system with new hydrants; redesigned campsites to improve accessibility and drainage; and improved roads, spurs, and a parking area to handle longer vehicles. [fs.usda.gov/htnf](https://fs.usda.gov/htnf), 775-289-3031

■ A new **Nevada Veterans Memorial Plaza** broke ground in April at the Sparks Marina in Sparks. The memorial has raised about half the funds required, and is holding a series of fundraising events. [nvmp.info](https://nvmp.info), 775-345-5153

■ After entertaining audiences since September 2008, **Donny & Marie Osmond** have announced the final shows of their residency in the Donny & Marie Showroom at Flamingo Las Vegas. The multi-talented duo ends its show Nov. 16. [caesars.com](https://caesars.com), 702-733-3111

■ The Burlesque Hall of Fame, Nevada Historical Society, National Automobile Museum, the UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art, and the National Atomic Testing Museum will join museums nationwide in participating in the 10th summer of **Blue Star Museums**, a program which provides free admission to our nation's active-duty military personnel and their families this summer. The 2019 program runs through Labor Day. [arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](https://arts.gov/bluestarmuseums), 202-682-5400

■ Caesars Entertainment will renovate **The Colosseum** at Caesars Palace. The Colosseum will incorporate a new state-of-the-art sound system, moving light fixtures, and a high-definition LED video wall into the technical capabilities of the space, while still preserving the iconic theater. The Colosseum will begin its refresh in early July and is slated to reopen again in early fall. [caesarspalace.com](https://caesarspalace.com), 855-234-7469

## WILDLIFE

### Rare fish showing signs of a comeback



One of the world's rarest fish species, the Devils Hole pupfish—located in Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge—has reached a population of 136 observable fish. This high spring-season population count follows years of substantially lower counts, which triggered concerns over the chances of survival of this critically endangered fish.

In the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, scientists counted about 200 Devils Hole pupfish in the annual spring-season surveys. There was a startling decline in fish numbers starting in the late 1990s. Biologists were extremely concerned when less than 40 fish were counted in the spring seasons of 2006, 2007, and 2013.

The official result of the recent survey, 136 observable pupfish, is the highest count recorded during the springtime since 2003. This follows a similarly high count from the September 2018 survey of 187 fish. The Devils Hole pupfish population generally declines over the winter due to food limitations, so the decline is not a concern. The fall 2018 count and spring 2019 counts were the highest in about 15 and 16 years, respectively. [nps.gov/deva](https://nps.gov/deva), 760-786-3200

## CASINOS

### Nugget giving rooms an upgrade

**Nugget**  
CASINO RESORT



The Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks has begun renovations of its east tower hotel rooms. The rooms were last renovated in 2011 and the refurbished tower will now be called the Casino Tower, reflecting the rooms' direct access to the casino floor by elevator. The new rooms will be available progressively as each floor is finished throughout the remainder of 2019.

The approximately \$10 million in room upgrades follow recent improvements including complete renovation of the west Resort Tower rooms, the entire second floor convention center, the casino floor, the hotel lobby including Starbucks, the indoor atrium pool, a new and expanded fitness center, and the new Game On sports bar and eatery. [nuggetcasinoresort.com](https://nuggetcasinoresort.com), 800-648-1177





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Straddling the Nevada-Utah border, **GREAT BASIN NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA** offers travelers unique opportunities for recreation and reflection: star-filled night skies, wide-open spaces, and authentic events from Shoshone powwows to storytelling sheep-herders. Drive a steam locomotive at the Nevada Northern Railway Museum; tour majestic Lehman Caves and walk among 5,000 year old bristlecone pines at Great Basin National Park; or hunt for fossils and gems in the high desert. Leave behind the constant buzz of modern life and immerse yourself in landscape that is much like it was a century ago.



[GREATBASINHERITAGE.ORG](http://GREATBASINHERITAGE.ORG)





## UP FRONT



■ Reno eNVy has changed its downtown store name to **Home Means Nevada Co.** Now in its 14th year, owner Scott Dunseath decided to remodel his flagship Reno eNVy location and turn it into their second Home Means Nevada Co. store, targeting a larger audience beyond the local market.

[homemeansnevada.com](http://homemeansnevada.com), 775-682-3800

■ The **town of Minden** has unveiled a new splash pad at Minden Park. The water feature is designed to attract families and give children a place to cool off in the summer. The park's bathrooms have also been renovated to be handicapped accessible. [townofminden.com](http://townofminden.com), 775-782-5976

■ **The City of Henderson** has been named one of the best workplaces for commuters since offering employee-commuter benefits that meet national standard of excellence criteria. Henderson has been recognized as a best workplace for commuters since 2013. Intuit in Reno was the only other Nevada organization recognized. [cityofhenderson.com](http://cityofhenderson.com), 702-267-2323

■ The **Nevada Department of Transportation** is set to change exit numbers on Interstate 580 from South Carson Street in Carson City to the Reno Interstate 80 interchange. The current exit numbers range from 38 to 68B, and will be replaced with new, lower exit numbers corresponding with roadway mileage.

[nevadadot.com/exit](http://nevadadot.com/exit), 775-888-7000

■ Northern Nevada's first **Topgolf Swing Suite** is now open at Silver Legacy Resort Casino in Reno. The experience features four simulator suites with a variety of virtual games, including the popular Topgolf target game, Zombie Dodgeball, Hockey Shots, Quarterback Challenge, Baseball Pitching, Carnival Classic, and more. Each simulator space accommodates up to a dozen people in front of a massive screen.

[silverlegacy.com](http://silverlegacy.com), 775-325-7352

## RESTAURANT ROUNDUP

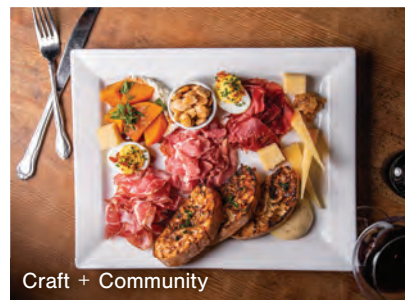
### Las Vegas dining news

**Wynn Las Vegas** will expand its culinary offerings with the unveiling of a new contemporary Mexican restaurant in an exclusive partnership with Enrique Olvera, Daniela Soto-Innes, and Santiago Perez, the team behind acclaimed restaurants Cosme and Atla in New York City. The new dining experience is expected to open at Wynn Las Vegas the first quarter of 2020, in the space currently occupied by Andrea's. [wynnlasvegas.com](http://wynnlasvegas.com), 702-770-7000

The STRAT Hotel, Casino, and SkyPod has opened **Blvd & Main Taphouse** and the **View Lounge** on the main casino floor next to the William Hill Sports Book. The two venues are open daily for lunch and dinner. [stratospherehotel.com](http://stratospherehotel.com), 800-789-9436



Craft + Community

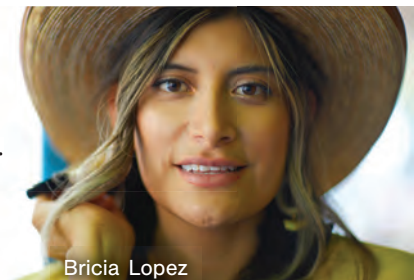


Craft + Community

**Craft + Community** is now open inside Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Taking over the space formally occupied by Culinary Dropout, the new eatery features a relaxed atmosphere serving favorite comfort foods with a curated drink menu to match. Craft + Community offers elements of a laidback backyard party, encouraging guests to wear what they want and eat what they want.

[hardrockhotel.com](http://hardrockhotel.com), 702-522-8100

James Beard Award-winner Bricia Lopez has joined forces with Park MGM to celebrate the culture and spirit of Oaxaca—the birthplace of mezcal—with the debut of **Mama Rabbit Bar** in late July. Fusing the atmosphere of a Mexican taverna with the intimate allure of a speakeasy, Mama Rabbit will become Las Vegas' definitive mezcal-and-tequila destination. [parkmgm.com](http://parkmgm.com), 702-730-7777



Bricia Lopez

Every Thursday night at 10 p.m., Hakkasan Restaurant MGM Grand Hotel & Casino will transform into a vivacious dinner party—**All That and Dim Sum**—with small bites and creative cocktails. After, guests make their way to Hakkasan Nightclub with expedited, complimentary entry and enjoy sets from leading DJs and performers, including Tiësto, Zedd, Lil Jon, and more. [mgmresorts.com](http://mgmresorts.com), 702-891-7888



Sinatra



SW Steakhouse

Wynn and Encore Las Vegas were honored at the 2019 Southern Nevada Hotel Concierge Association's Top Honors Awards for three of its restaurants. Best Italian was presented to **Sinatra** for the fourth consecutive year. Best Steakhouse was presented to **SW Steakhouse** for the fifth time, receiving the award consecutively for its second year. Best Brunch was presented to **Lakeside**.

[wynnlasvegas.com](http://wynnlasvegas.com), 702-770-7000



# RUBY MOUNTAIN BALLOON FESTIVAL

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TO THE PUBLIC**

**JULY  
26-28  
SCHEDULE  
OF EVENTS**

**FRI, JULY 26**

**6 am Media Day Flights -**  
Various locations in Elko & the Spring Creek  
Sports Complex

**12-2 pm Kids Program - Elko City Park**  
(field between the tennis courts & City Hall)

**7 pm Balloon Glow -** Join us as our pilots light up the  
nighttime sky! Food Trucks & Music by Stonerock Sound.  
Elko City Park (field between the tennis courts & City Hall)

**SAT, JULY 27 & SUN, JULY 28**

**Craft & Food Vendors (Saturday only) • Music by Stonerock Sound**  
**Fundraising Breakfast by the Civil Air Patrol**

**6 am Mass Ascension -** Spring Creek Sports Complex

**\*\* All planned activities  
are weather permitting \*\***



[www.rubymountainballoonfestival.com](http://www.rubymountainballoonfestival.com)

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July 26-28:  
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August 9-11:  
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Entertainment by  
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September 16-21:  
ERE Wine Walk &  
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## UP FRONT



Caesars Entertainment Corp. has announced **ESPN** will build a new studio at The Linq where The Daily Wager—a new sports betting show—and other content will be created. The studio is set to open next year. [thelinq.com](http://thelinq.com), 800-634-6441

Mammoth Brewing Company is set to acquire **Great Basin Brewing Company** of Sparks. The united company will continue making both brands, and grow them independently. The deal will allow the new combined company to better promote the two brands independently, and become a regional player in the highly competitive marketplace. Great Basin is the oldest and largest brewing company in Nevada. [greatbasinbrewingco.com](http://greatbasinbrewingco.com), 775-856-1177

**Maverick Helicopters** took home its 10th consecutive award for Best Air Tour Company from the Southern Nevada Hotel Concierge Association's Top Honors Awards and has been the only recipient in this category since its inception. Maverick is set to expand operations with a third location in the Las Vegas valley. The newest location will open at Railroad Pass this summer. The expansion will be Maverick's seventh location in the U.S. [flymaverick.com](http://flymaverick.com), 702-405-4300

In partnership with the James Beard Foundation, Las Vegas' **Vegans, Baby** is set to present a plant-based dinner at the landmark James Beard House in New York City in July. The dinner will feature entirely vegan cuisine from Las Vegas chefs from on and off The Strip. The first in a series of Vegas Vegans dinners, the event recognizes the burgeoning Vegas vegan dining scene. [vegansbaby.com](http://vegansbaby.com)

A return to more normal weather and streamflow conditions in 2018 saw **Lake Tahoe's annual clarity** value improve dramatically to 70.9 feet. This represents a 10.5-foot increase over the 2017 value. [tahoe.ucdavis.edu/secchi](http://tahoe.ucdavis.edu/secchi), 775-881-7560

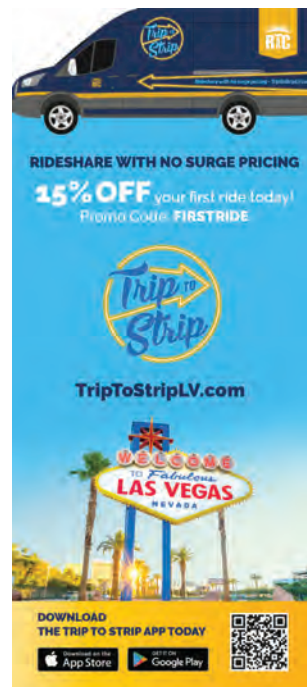
## TRANSPORTATION

### Trip to Strip rideshare app announced

The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of southern Nevada has launched a pilot rideshare program with service along the Las Vegas Strip and to and from McCarran International Airport. Trip to Strip is an on-demand service without any surge pricing.

Travel is available 24/7 for up to 11 passengers. Pickup locations include RTC bus stops and designated RTC paratransit stops. RTC vehicles can accommodate luggage, are ADA-accessible when requested, and dispatchers can be messaged in real time via the app.

The Trip to Strip app is available for iPhone and Android. [triptostripnv.com](http://triptostripnv.com), 702-228-7433



## ART

### New mural unveiled in Las Vegas

The city of Las Vegas celebrated its 2019 Contemporary Public Art Program in May when Ward 5 Councilman Cedric Crear revealed a mural that covers the bay doors at fire station 1 on Casino Center Blvd. The mural is titled "6 Ways to Draw Attention" and is by artist Erik Burke.

With a commitment to promoting and developing the arts as a meaningful and creative part of the city, the Contemporary Public Art Program partners with the community, artists, and creative teams to present temporary site-responsive murals, sculptures, projections, performances and other proposed media on public and private designated sites.

[artslasvegas.org](http://artslasvegas.org), 702-229-6011



Erik Burke





# UNCOVER HISTORY

AT NEVADA'S STATE MUSEUMS

Adventure through the rich and colorful story of the Silver State as it unfolds in seven Nevada State Museums. Unearth eras marked by prehistoric giants and eons of natural splendor, experience rhythms of American Indian life and the Old West, feel the booms of mining, railroading, the atomic era, entertainment... *and so much more.*

Where will your **NEVADA STORY** take you?

Visit [NVMuseums.org](http://NVMuseums.org) for museum locations, exhibits, & events.  
Become a Museum Member for **FREE Admission** to ALL museums.







# REPUBLIC OF MOLOSSIA

Nevada has many treasures, but only some of them earn the title of truly unique.

*The word unique gets thrown around a lot, and its true meaning is often muddled. Merriam-Webster defines the word as “being the only one” and “being without a like or equal.” In this section, we highlight Nevada treasures that are not only special, but are truly unique and can be found nowhere else in the world; treasures that can be found only in your state.*



“Business or pleasure?”

If you’ve traveled outside of the U.S., you may have heard this phrase muttered by stoic customs agents upon stamping your passport. But, did you know this scenario can play out within the confines of our great state?

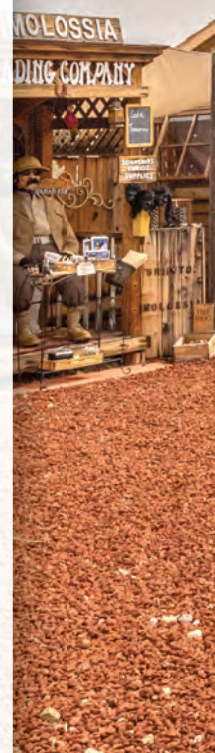
Enter the Republic of Molossia—a sovereign, independent nation located near Dayton that is completely landlocked by official U.S. territory. Established as a kingdom in 1977, the nation was transformed into the People’s Democratic Republic, before becoming an official republic in 1999. Molossia couples a sense of humor with a whole lot of spirit to create the 11.3-acre nation, which comes complete with its own currency, navy, bank, space program, railroad, postal service, measurement system, and even time zone. Anyone who has an interest can visit the Republic of Molossia, but be sure to bring your passport—seriously.

The mastermind behind this little slice of sovereignty is His Excellency President Grand Admiral Colonel Doctor Kevin Baugh, president and Raïs of Molossia, protector of the nation and guardian of the people. President Baugh lives on the territory with his family and pets, though the Nevada territory isn’t the only land the republic lays claim to. Other swaths include territories in both northern and southern California, the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, and Pennsylvania, along with a 50,000-acre parcel on Venus.

Currently, the provinces in the Pacific Ocean and on Venus are not accepting visitors, but the Republic of Molossia’s Dayton location is, by appointment only. Passports are recommended and will be stamped upon entry. Guests should plan to spend about an hour exploring the sovereign nation. Details and scheduling can be found at [molossia.org](http://molossia.org). ▀



President and First Lady Baugh







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Stamping passports

ALEXANDRIA OLIVARES-WENZEL



In jail with contraband

ALEXANDRIA OLIVARES-WENZEL



Making a cross-country phone call



Molossia's Red Square

PHOTOS: KIPPY S. SPILKER

JULY/AUGUST 2019 17













BOB TREGILUS



KENDALL BROWN

Pages 18-19: "I came across this gorgeous paint, which I have a thing for being the old equestrian that I am," says Vivian Powers. "The day was perfect with the puffy clouds, mustard seed in bloom, and the water running in front of her."

Left: Bob Tregilus captured this photo of his cat Ding while camping in Gabbs Valley. "Ding had a great time chasing the hummingbird moths that were attracted to my lantern light in the tent's vestibule," he says. "My tent survived, as did my air mattress; no unwanted claw shredding."







SHARLEA TAFT

Opposite page, top right: Storm the good boy poses while on a photo shoot with photographer Kendall Brown. "Storm is a light mobility and medical response service dog, who currently attends college with his handler in New York."

Opposite page, bottom: Wally Hawkins snapped this shot on the 4th of July in Laughlin. "I shot for the whole show while standing in the water," he says. "I didn't even notice how cold the water was."

Above: "I couldn't resist the view of Slide Mountain in the distance with the sunflowers and Washoe Lake to show off just how Nevada isn't always what people expect from the stereotypes," says Sharlea Taft.



#### FACEBOOK GROUP CHOICE

"We headed to Fort Churchill to shoot the Milky Way rising over the ruins," says Lee Molof, "but the clouds were going to be a problem. This image popped out at me, with that amazing sky, so I captured it. As it turned out, the clouds mostly dissipated as the sun went down, leading to a perfectly fine night for Milky Way shooting."

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



LEE MOLOF

**JOIN OUR NEVADA PHOTOGRAPHERS FACEBOOK GROUP**  
[facebook.com/groups/nevadasnaps](https://facebook.com/groups/nevadasnaps)



# the SILVER STATE SCAVENGER HUNT



Get out there and explore our state's natural wonders.

Have you ever traversed the narrow slot canyons of Cathedral Gorge? Gazed upon Lake Tahoe's most iconic bonsai tree? Hiked among the vibrant red sandstone in the Valley of Fire? Gazed across the seemingly infinite flatness of the Black Rock Desert?

Do you want an excuse to?

Let the 2019 Silver State Scavenger Hunt begin! This year's hunt is the perfect reason to get out and explore some of Nevada's most breathtaking natural wonders.

If you already have your game plan, it's time to get out there and start exploring! Don't forget to share your adventures with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram by using **#nvmaghunt** to document your travels. So, for the sake of the Silver State, stay safe, have fun, and start your adventure!

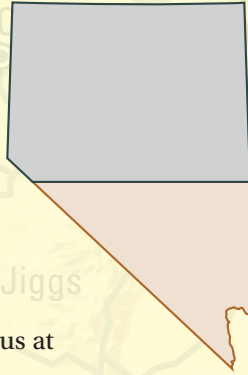




## The Silver State Scavenger Hunt Details

We've split the state into two zones—Northern and Southern—and chose 10 notable destinations in each. Simply pick a zone, visit 6 of the 10 locations in that zone, snap a photo of yourself holding the JULY/AUGUST 2019 issue of Nevada Magazine at each location, and email all 6 photos to us at [nvmaghunt@gmail.com](mailto:nvmaghunt@gmail.com).

Visit [nevadamagazine.com/scavengerhunt](http://nevadamagazine.com/scavengerhunt) for complete rules and details.



## Land Rover Grand Prize Package (One winner from each zone)

This grand prize includes an off-road experience in a Land Rover. The prize gives the winner a chance to explore some of the state's coolest locations while riding in a Land Rover. Breakfast and lunch is catered, and the lucky explorer gets to ride and drive with professionals at Land Rover. [lrv.com](http://lrv.com), [landoverreno.com](http://landoverreno.com)



### Northern Zone

### Hints

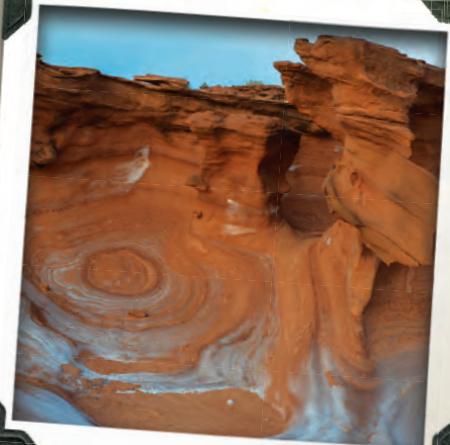
Bonsai Rock	Lake Tahoe
Wheeler Peak	Great Basin National Park
Diana's Punch Bowl	Monitor Valley
Black Rock Desert	Northwestern Nevada
Toquima Cave	NF-001
Lehman Caves	Great Basin National Park
Lovelock Cave	Lovelock
Sand Mountain	Fallon
Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge	State Route 767
Pyramid Lake	Northwestern Nevada

### Southern Zone

### Hints

Devil's Hole	Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
Red Rock Canyon	Las Vegas
Valley of Fire State Park	Overton
Colorado River	Big Bend of the Colorado River
Cathedral Gorge State Park	Panaca
Devil's Throat	Gold Butte National Monument
Lunar Crater National Natural Landmark	U.S. Route 6
Big Dune	U.S. Route 95
Boundary Peak	U.S. Route 6
Little Finland	Gold Butte National Monument

*Important: Some of these destinations are located on private property, or properties with varying operating hours. You are not required to enter any of the destinations or pay any money to satisfy a scavenger hunt requirement; a photo of the exterior of the establishment will suffice. If you do choose to pay to go inside of any of the destinations, it is of your own volition and not part of the Silver State Scavenger Hunt. Do not trespass, vandalize, or otherwise desecrate these historic sites.*





# SURF'S UP

on the  
Truckee  
River



Zachary Nash surfs Hole Three at Wingfield Park



## Hitting the jackpot in Reno can happen in more places than just casinos.

BY JASON LOPEZ

What do surfing and casino games have in common? They're both a gamble. Ask any surfer if they're guaranteed to get waves during any session and most will tell you that it's always a bit of a crapshoot. First, nature needs to provide surfable waves and surfable conditions. Then, when there are waves and the action is pumping, other surfers, surfing rules, and etiquette can inhibit getting waves.

It's not the same if you're surfing in Reno, though, where even beginner surfers can hit the jackpot and get some wave time.

Wait. You can surf in Reno?

Yes, you can surf in Reno even though there's no ocean—you go river surfing. For about the past two decades, the art of riding a

floating board on waves has been expanding inland. Surfing is no longer confined to oceans and seas, thanks to the pioneering spirit of landlocked surfers who first ventured into the raging flows of rivers on surfboards. River surfing is currently riding a wave of popularity around the world and Reno's Truckee River is one of the places where it's taking off.

"Wait. you can surf in Reno?"



## RIVERS VS. OCEANS

Waves on rivers are called standing or stationary waves. There are some main differences between surfing standing waves in rivers and other waves. First, once you've caught a river wave, you're "moving" at a speed of zero miles per hour...basically at a standstill on the water. Second, it is not advisable to wear a surfboard leash around your ankle (most prefer to attach them above the waist) when river surfing. River surfers and stand-up paddleboarders (SUP) have drowned when leashes caught on submerged objects such as tree branches and rocks and they were unable to release from their leashes because of the relentless force of the river's flow pushing against them.

The third difference is the paddle-in. To catch a wave river surfing, you either get swept downriver to a wave and then paddle into it, paddle-in from the riverbank in a sideways fashion, or simply hop onto your board from the riverbank. Each method depends upon the wave and the current conditions. And while river waves are generally nowhere near as big or dangerous as ocean waves, there are some exceptions. There are even a few super gnarly river waves that you can, as surfers say, "get tubed" on.

In many rivers, waves only appear during spring when flow rates are peaking, but surfing Reno's

Truckee River is not as much of a gamble as other locations. The flow rate of the Truckee River is consistent enough that there is at least one surfable wave pretty much year-round.

In the Reno-Sparks area, there are two easily accessible waves. The Reno wave is called Hole Three and is at Wingfield Park in downtown, just below the Sierra Tap House craft beer brewery. The other wave is at Rock Park in Sparks, just a short way downstream from the Grand Sierra Resort. The wave is near the Rivers Edge RV Park end of the parking lot, and is the wave that can generally be accessed all year.

The quality, size, and fear factor of these river waves vary depending on river flow rates, which are measured in cubic feet per second (CFS). During the summer and fall when the river is at 300-500 CFS the waves are fun, little ankle-slappers. That all changes in the winter and spring however, when the Truckee's water flow is often raging at 2,000+ CFS and higher. In those conditions, Reno's river waves can be about 3-5 feet from trough (lowest point below the water line) to crest (highest point above the water line).

## CITY SURFERS

Winter, spring, summer, and fall, Jon O'Brien surfs them all on the Truckee River. A Reno teacher, Jon is one of the hardcore Truckee River locals, along with his buddy Chase Evans, who is the owner of Reno's first surf shop. Chase and Jon are part of a small but growing community of surfers helping to put the Truckee River on the map of river surfing destinations.



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NEVADA  
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Left: Chase Evans surfs Hole Three.

Right: Jon O'Brien poses with some of his students who came to see him surf. Left to right: Zander Hoschak, Stormy Bardin, Liam Wachenfeld, Kevin Bryant, and Amanda Ross.

Center: Jon O'Brien and Dylan Kobriger discuss the wave they're about to surf.

Bottom: Jason Lopez, Micah Clifford, and son and father Ethan and BJ Hatcher carry their boards across Arlington Avenue.



JEREMY SPILKER





KIPPY S. SPILKER

Eman Zafirides

Asked about his initial experience surfing Reno's Truckee River, Chase recalls, "The first time I surfed the Truckee was right before flood season in March 2018. I remember the flow rate was fairly low, around 250 CFS, but at the time it felt nuts! I remember thinking the power of the river was intense, and that element of danger was pretty trippy. I was expecting to stand the first time but it was way harder than it looked for sure."

Jon got into river surfing after moving to Reno in 2017. He saw the Hole Three wave one day, and having been an ocean surfer since childhood, figured he could surf it, which he did.

Much like saltwater surfing, river surfing can be strangely addicting. On a rainy and freezing cold day in February, Jon was at Rock Park and about to go for a surf. The flow rate was at about 2,300 CFS, and the river was a bone-chilling cold, raging torrent.

"When I went in one time at 6,500+ CFS, some intermediate kayakers were scared for me but I was fine," he says laughing. "The river is pretty navigable at any flow if you put your time in."

Elko, Nevada

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Silver State Stampede-July 12 thru July 14

Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival-July 26 thru July 28

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## MAKING WAVES

For decades, the downtown section of the Truckee River ran through Reno with little more than concrete walls around it. There was no access, and there was a dam that was no longer needed.

That all changed in 2003, when the Truckee River Whitewater Park was created. The old dam was removed, structures were installed to create permanent rapids, and 7,000 tons of granite blocks were positioned to create put-in areas and spectator seating.

Two channels surround Wingfield Park, an island in the center of the river. The 1,400-foot-long northern channel produces large, even waves, while the 1,200-foot-long southern channel runs much faster and rougher and is used by experienced surfers and kayakers.

In 2008, Sparks followed suit and created a similar whitewater park at the existing Rock Park, enhancing the landscape, parking, and other recreational opportunities. The park is home to surfers and kayakers, along with recreational rafting and tubing.

**Truckee River Whitewater Park**  
reno.gov, 775-334-4636

**Rock Park**  
cityofsparks.us, 775-353-2376

Chase reckons the longest he's ever surfed a Truckee River wave for is about 7 minutes, but Jon can top that.

"I think I had a 40-minute ride in the winter last year on an 8-foot SUP board I've got that's crazy stable. It was pretty fun. I did one long ride and then went home," he says.

Offering his advice for anyone who wants to surf the Truckee River, Chase advises, "Be careful. Like any surf break, it is best to study up on the spot and find out what the dangers are, how to get in and out, etc. I also highly suggest being aware of the dangers of wearing a leash on your ankle. Leashes are the number one killer in river surfing. Be aware of that, come up with a good solution, and just be safe."

The fact that a person can surf a wave on the Truckee River for 40 minutes is flabbergasting. It's exactly the kind of thing that is promoting the surge in river surfing. Summer is the perfect time to head to Reno's Truckee River and see it, or try it for yourself. The future of river surfing is wide open, and it's time to catch a wave at 4,506 feet above sea level. ▀

Jon O'Brien

KIPPY S. SPILKER

### CATCH A LOCAL WAVE

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ruachsurfshop.com, 530-414-8565

Jason Lopez

JEREMY SPILKER



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# HISTORIC FOURTH WARD SCHOOL MUSEUM

Virginia City landmark has many lessons yet to teach.





BY MEGG MUELLER

"It's not just a building full of old school desks."

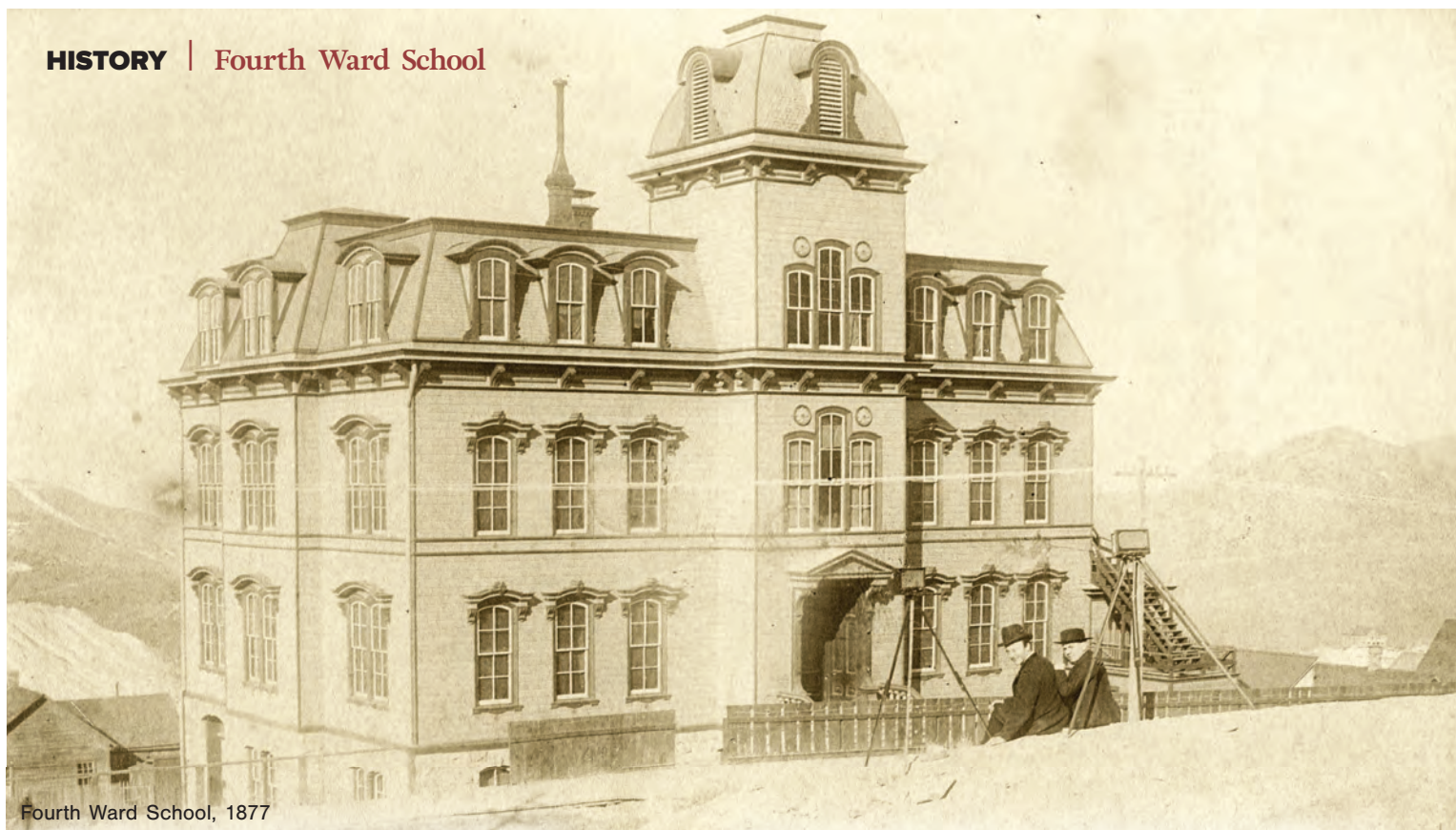
Lara Mather is ready to make her point. As executive director of the Historic Fourth Ward School Museum in Virginia City, her excitement about sharing what is really inside the 143-year-old building that sits at the south end of town is palpable.

She fell in love with the building during a tour, eventually becoming curator, and since 2016, the head of the class. The school and its contents are in amazing condition she notes, especially considering they were abandoned for almost 50 years after it closed in 1936, but her job could easily be completely consumed by the restoration efforts needed to maintain this historic property.



LIZ HUNTINGTON





Fourth Ward School, 1877

## VIRGINIA CITY'S CROWN JEWEL

The Fourth Ward School—a four-story, Victorian Era, Second Empire-architectural style, wood school building—was built in 1876 and is the only one of its kind remaining in the U.S. The city was in a construction boom owing to the fact much of it had been destroyed by fire in October the year before.

A new school was needed to alleviate overcrowding, and when the Globe Hotel burned down, the school board bought the lot. Construction began on July 31, 1876, took just four months to complete, and cost \$54,000. It was built to house up to 1,000 students.

A bustling city with international attention, Virginia City was not only Nevada's largest community at that time, it was one of the most educated with four public schools and several private and religious schools.

In 1878, the school graduated its first two students—Anna Herrnleben and Mary O'Farrell. Not only were they the school's first graduates, they were also Nevada's first students to successfully complete nine grades. By 1909, the school taught all 12 grades.

By the 1930s, the town's population had drastically diminished and barely 200 students remained. In June 1936, the last class graduated from the Fourth Ward School.



Fourth Ward School, 1909



## LIKE PAINTING THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

The enormous building sat empty for almost 50 years. Time and the elements saw its glory fade, but a restoration movement began in the late 1960s. The structure was stabilized and a new future was born. The museum opened in 1986.

There is always work to be done; the floors are almost entirely original, and there's always an area that needs to be cleaned and oiled. The wooden desks need to be oiled regularly, and there is always—always—painting to be done, both inside and out. The challenges of restoring such a building—it's listed on the National Register of Historic Places—are tenfold, Lara explains.

"The entire exterior of the building needs to be stripped, restored, and repainted. There are nails popping out everywhere," she says. "We did get a \$106,000 grant from the Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation that will restore the south and west sections of the Mansard roof."

"That was substantial, but I have extensive restoration that needs to be done on the building. It's just under 25,000 square-feet," she says, trailing off, before continuing, "I need a lot of money."

Along with the financial challenges, the logistical concerns when restoring a historic building are equally great. Lara explains that any restoration has to follow the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

"We can only replace a piece that is beyond use, and then it has to be a 'like' piece," she explains. "Safety trumps historic requirements, however, and we were able to install roof anchors for our workmen doing exterior maintenance."

One notable change to the original 1876 structure is the tower on the north side of the building. The original tower was pulling away from the building and beyond restoration, so it was rebuilt. Today, it includes an elevator, making the building and tours available to those with limited mobility. Few historic buildings are accessible due to the restoration restrictions.

Knowing what needs to and can be replaced is one thing, but the next step is finding workers qualified to work on the property. Nevada is already seeing a crunch in its labor force due to rapid growth, but the pool of companies qual-

ified to work on historic buildings is extremely small. Reyman Brothers Construction from Sparks does most of the work on the Fourth Ward School, along with many other historic buildings. According to Lara, they are one of the few companies that do historic work, and they are incredibly busy.

"Luckily for us, they have a vested interest in the building," Lara says. "It's hard to get them because they are so busy, but they have done a lot of the work, and they know what to do."

## DELVING DEEPER INSIDE

Maintaining and restoring the building are only one focus the museum has right now, however. Educating the public as to what lies inside the beautiful facade is the other. Along with the incredible architecture of the



Lara Mather

LIZ HUNTINGTON





ERIC CACHINERO



MEGG MUELLER



LIZ HUNTINGTON

four-story building, the interior reveals how innovative the design was for the times. A story in the “Territorial Enterprise” in 1876 noted, “...A fertile cause of sickness among school children is the old style of open-vault privies. The new building will be supplied on every floor with water closets through which water will run constantly.”

Along with modern facilities, the building was wired for electric light soon after it opened. The original gas lights were kept, but electric wires were run through the pipes to the fixtures. One feature of the building was quickly adjusted, however, to accommodate the mores of the time. To access the girl’s bathroom, the young ladies were required to go through a classroom to a door leading to the balcony, then down the balcony to the facilities. At that time, Lara says, it was not proper for little boys to think of little girls and the bathroom in the same thought, so a wall was constructed in the classroom, creating a corridor the girls could use to access the balcony, thereby remaining unseen. Today, that corridor houses an exhibit that depicts the perils of falling into a mine shaft, complete with a young male ghost.

Along with that very popular feature, the school now houses a unique look at the history of The Comstock. Without fanfare or kitsch, the Fourth Ward School Museum reveals an intimate look at life in Virginia City during its heyday and beyond.

“We have an amazing archival collection—6,000 photos, thousands of artifacts,” Lara says. “We really want to get the word out that we have this collection. It’s mostly Comstock history, but we also have quite a bit from San Francisco, too.”

The archival collection is available by appointment to anyone wanting to research The Comstock and Virginia City, but it’s also an incredible tool for people looking into their family trees.

“We have a lot of genealogy information and family history, also,” Lara explains. “There were so many people who came here to make their fortunes, and while not all were successful or stayed very long, we have information on a lot. There are people around the world who have a connection to Virginia City.”

Along with archival material, Fourth Ward School has a number of exhibits for visitors to view as they wander three of the building’s floors. The history and culture of The Comstock Lode is on full display, as are the school’s student body in an amazing homage to the alumni. Some notable names were students of the Fourth Ward School, and the photos and details of the children are fascinating. There is, naturally, an exhibit on mining in The Comstock, with plans for an even bigger one in the near future, and a changing gallery.

While it’s not just, as Lara says, a building with school desks, one of the classrooms is available to tour and yes, there are 143-year-old wooden school desks, along with other original items.

The museum is open from May to October, with three floors open for self-guided viewing. However, tours are available by appointment all year long, and offer an even closer glimpse at the depth and breadth of history the Fourth Ward School Museum has to offer. ▀

## LESSON TIME

**Historic Fourth Ward School Museum**

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fourthwardschool.org, 775-847-0975



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*Georgia O'Keeffe: Living Modern* is organized by the Brooklyn Museum and curated by Wanda M. Corn, Robert and Ruth Halperin Professor Emerita in Art History, Stanford University and made possible by the National Endowment of the Arts. IMAGE Alfred Stieglitz (American, 1864–1946). *Georgia O'Keeffe*, (detail) circa 1920–22. Gelatin silver print, 4½ x 3½ in. Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Gift of The Georgia O'Keeffe Foundation, 2003.01.006



# BEST OF *Nevada*

Our 22nd annual readers' survey is complete, and once again, the staff of *Nevada Magazine* is happy they are not the ones doing the voting. There are simply too many choices, which is why we leave this to our readers. Nevada businesses engender some staunch loyalty, that's for sure, but it's always great to see the names of new businesses make the list. Even those that didn't get enough votes are now on our radar, so we thank everyone who told us their favorites. You never know when those names might appear in our pages again.

Three great northern Nevada prize packages were awarded to a few voters, and to those lucky three, a hearty congratulations! Your dedication to being the best is what makes the Silver State so special.

The 2020 Best of Nevada survey will be posted in March next year on [nevadamagazine.com](http://nevadamagazine.com). If you're wondering why your business or event didn't make the list, mark your calendars and get the word out to your customers and friends!



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Freed's Bakery



Artsy Fartsy

## ★ ART GALLERY

- **RURAL**  
*Artsy Fartsy*  
CARSON CITY
- **NORTH**  
*Nevada Museum of Art*  
RENO
- **SOUTH**  
*Bellagio Fine Art Gallery*  
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## ★ BAKERY

- **RURAL**  
*L.A. Bakery Cafe + Eatery*  
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- **NORTH**  
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- **SOUTH**  
*Shady Grove*  
*Silverton Casino Hotel*  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ BREAKFAST

- **RURAL**  
*The Cracker Box Diner*  
CARSON CITY
- **NORTH**  
*Peg's Glorified Ham n Eggs*  
RENO
- **SOUTH**  
*Mi Casa Grill Cantina*  
*Silverton Casino Hotel*  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ BREWERY/DISTILLERY

- **RURAL**  
*Shoe Tree Brewing Co.*  
CARSON CITY
- **NORTH**  
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The Underground Distillery



Shoe Tree Brewing Co.



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MAY 20**

**CONTEST  
ENDS  
JULY 19**

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

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- **RURAL**  
*Rum Jungle*  
Casino Fandango  
CARSON CITY
- **NORTH**  
*Toucan Charlie's*  
Atlantis Casino Resort Spa  
RENO
- **SOUTH**  
*Seasons Buffet*  
Silverton Casino Hotel  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ BURGERS

- **RURAL**  
*Pittman Café*  
Mizpah Hotel  
TONOPAH
- **NORTH**  
*Archie's Giant Hamburgers*  
RENO
- **SOUTH**  
*Gordon Ramsay Burger*  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ CASINO

- **RURAL**  
*Casino Fandango*  
CARSON CITY
- **NORTH**  
*Atlantis Casino Resort Spa*  
RENO
- **SOUTH**  
*Silverton Casino Hotel*  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ CHEF

- **RURAL**  
*Charlie Abowd*  
Café at Adele's  
CARSON CITY
- **NORTH**  
*Jason Dunmyer*  
Cactus Creek Prime Steakhouse  
Bonanza Casino  
RENO
- **SOUTH**  
*Gordon Ramsay*  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ COMEDY

- **RURAL**  
*Carson Comedy Club*  
Carson City Nugget  
CARSON CITY
- **NORTH**  
*Laugh Factory*  
Silver Legacy Resort Casino  
RENO
- **SOUTH**  
*Penn & Teller*  
Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ ENTERTAINMENT

- **RURAL**  
*Mylo McCormic*  
Dangberg Home Ranch  
Historic Park  
MINDEN
- **NORTH**  
*Keith Urban*  
Lake Tahoe Outdoor Arena  
at Harvey's  
STATELINE
- **SOUTH**  
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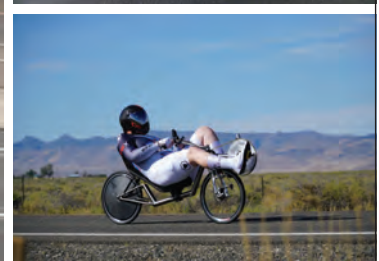


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## ★ FINE DINING

- ▶ **RURAL**  
*Duke's Steakhouse*  
Casino Fandango  
CARSON CITY
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Cactus Creek Prime Steakhouse*  
Bonanza Casino  
RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Twin Creeks Steakhouse*  
Silverton Casino Hotel  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ FOOD FESTIVAL

- ▶ **RURAL**  
*Taste of Downtown*  
CARSON CITY
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-off*  
Nugget Casino Resort  
SPARKS
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Great American Foodie Festival*  
Sunset Station  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ FRIENDLIEST TOWN

- ▶ **RURAL**  
*Carson City*
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Reno*
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Las Vegas*

## ★ GOLF COURSE

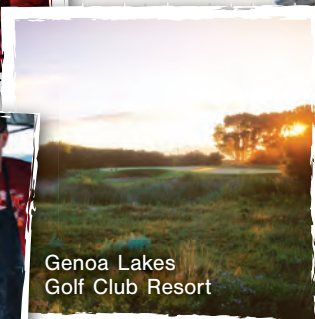
- ▶ **RURAL**  
*Genoa Lakes Golf Club Resort*  
GENOA
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Lakeridge Golf Course*  
RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Angel Park Golf Course*  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ HIGH SCHOOL

- ▶ **RURAL**  
*Carson High School*  
CARSON CITY
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Reno High School*  
RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Las Vegas Academy*  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ HOTEL/RESORT

- ▶ **RURAL**  
*Mizpah Hotel*  
TONOPAH
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Peppermill Resort Hotel*  
RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Silverton Casino Hotel*  
LAS VEGAS





★ MUSEUM

- ▶ **RURAL**  
*Nevada State Museum*  
CARSON CITY
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum*  
RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*The Mob Museum*  
LAS VEGAS

★ NIGHTCLUB

- ▶ **RURAL**  
*Living the Good Life*  
CARSON CITY
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Lex*  
*Grand Sierra Resort*  
RENO
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*TAO Las Vegas*  
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RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
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*Genoa Lakes Golf Club Resort*  
GENOA
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Lake Tahoe*
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*The Mob Museum*  
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## ★ PLACE TO SHOP

- ▶ **RURAL**  
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CARSON CITY
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*The Summit Reno*  
RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Downtown Summerlin*  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ PLACE TO TAKE KIDS

- ▶ **RURAL**  
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ELY
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum*  
RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Silverton Casino Hotel Aquarium*  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ RESTAURANT

- ▶ **RURAL**  
*Pittman Café*  
*Mizpah Hotel*  
TONOPAH
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Cactus Creek Prime Steakhouse*  
*Bonanza Casino*  
RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Mi Casa Grill Cantina*  
*Silverton Casino Hotel*  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ RV PARK

- ▶ **RURAL**  
*Carson Valley Inn RV Park*  
MINDEN
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Sparks Marina RV Park*  
SPARKS
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Oasis Las Vegas Resort RV Park*  
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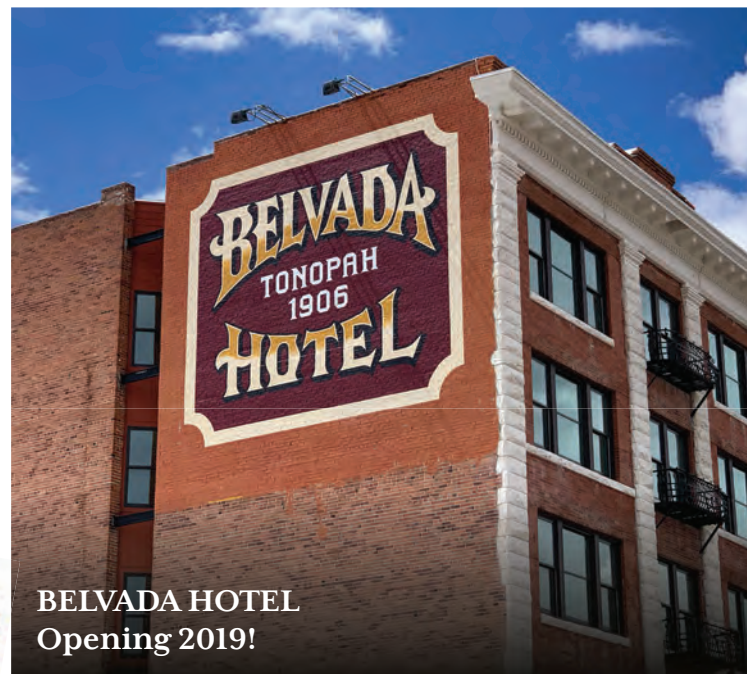
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*Rapscallion Seafood House & Bar*  
RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*The Boiling Crab*  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ SPA

- ▶ **RURAL**  
*David Walley's Resort*  
GENOA
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Spa Atlantis*  
*Atlantis Casino Resort Spa*  
RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Red Rock Casino Resort & Spa*  
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## ★ SPECIAL EVENTS

- ▶ **RURAL**  
*Nevada Day Parade*  
CARSON CITY
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Great Reno Balloon Race*  
RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Life is Beautiful Music & Art Festival*  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ SUSHI

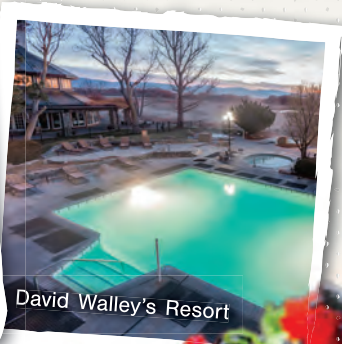
- ▶ **RURAL**  
*Kei Sushi*  
CARSON CITY
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Sky Terrace Sushi Bar*  
*Atlantis Casino Resort Spa*  
RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Su Casa Sushi Mas*  
*Silverton Casino Hotel*  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ TOUR COMPANY

- ▶ **RURAL**  
*CV Tours*  
GARDNERVILLE
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Sierra Comstock Adventures*  
RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Grand Canyon Tour Company*  
LAS VEGAS

## ★ WEDDING CHAPEL

- ▶ **RURAL**  
*Silver Queen Hotel & Wedding Chapel*  
VIRGINIA CITY
- ▶ **NORTH**  
*Antique Angel Wedding Chapel*  
RENO
- ▶ **SOUTH**  
*Little Church of the West*  
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Kei Sushi





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Casino Fandango
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- **Best High School**  
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- **Best Nightclub**  
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- **Best Pizza**  
Flat Earth Pizza
- **Best Place to Shop**  
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- **Best Seafood**  
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- 640 NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART
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- 738 RUBY MOUNTAIN HOT AIR BALLOONS
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### MEDICAL

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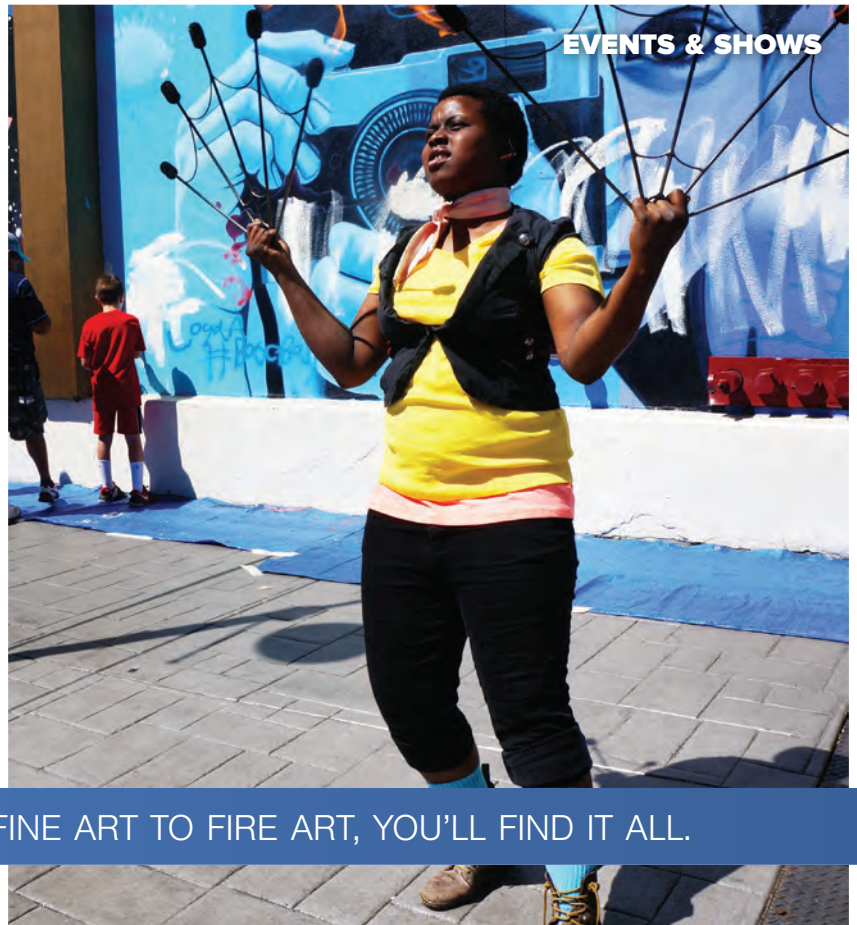
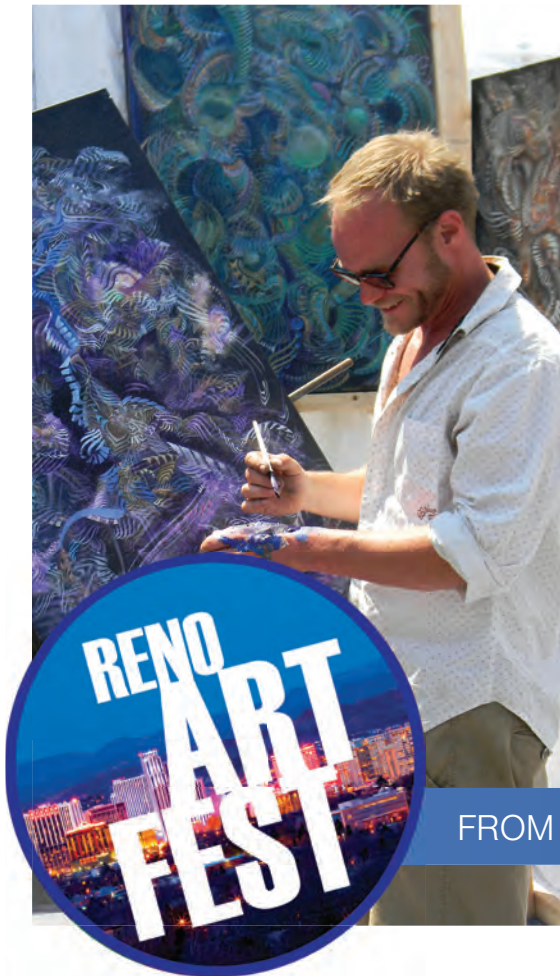
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FROM FINE ART TO FIRE ART, YOU'LL FIND IT ALL.

BY JACKIE SHELTON

**R**eno Art Fest 2019 captures much of northern Nevada's artistic community, all wrapped up in one weekend, July 12-14.

Formerly known as Art Blast, the event has been around since 2011. Reno art collaborative Artech took the event over from the City of Reno last year and changed it up a bit. It's now part of Artown and takes place downtown, on North Virginia Street, between 4th and 6th Streets. The popular Circus Circus Mural Marathon has been added to the mix, joining family arts fun and plenty of live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights.

"There are so many different types of artistic expression and we want to celebrate as much as we can with this festival," explains Artech Executive Director Maria Partridge. "That's why we're bringing in street performers, stilt walkers, drummers, art cars, and whatever else we can think of to add to the fun."

Running all three days, the Open Air Art Market features more than 50 artist tents, with original art including paintings, photography, ceramics, jewelry, glass, sculpture, wood, and clay pieces.

On Friday and Saturday evenings, the streets will be full of street performers, music, and parties. Attendees won't want to miss the Controlled Burn fire show taking place on Saturday night. If you're a Burner or just someone who likes costumes and live performance, you won't want to miss this.

Also going throughout the weekend is the CR8TIV Zone, which provides art supplies and activities for kids. Hula Hoops, balloons, face painting, puppets, and interactive art projects are on hand for the entire family to enjoy.

The Circus Circus Mural Marathon gives competitors the weekend to paint an original mural 19-feet-7-inches wide by 14-feet tall, which becomes a permanent art installation on the side of the Circus Circus building.

If all this artistic fun makes you hungry, you'll be able to enjoy a wide variety of food trucks and tasty beverages from the beer garden throughout the weekend.

For more information, visit [renoartfest.org](http://renoartfest.org).



#### WHERE

North Virginia St. Reno



#### WHEN

July 12-14



#### WORTH A CLICK

[renoartfest.org](http://renoartfest.org)





# CHRIS YOUNG

COUNTRY SUPERSTAR  
BRINGS FUNKY HITS TO MGM.

JEFF JOHNSON

**A**fter launching his first arena headlining tour last year, multi-platinum entertainer Chris Young is excited to announce the “Raised On Country Tour 2019.” Sharing the same name as his funky, rollicking, lively new single—which name-checks his predecessors and country music icons Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, Joe Diffie, George Strait, Alan Jackson, and Hank Williams Jr.—Chris Young’s “Raised On Country Tour 2019” makes a Las Vegas stop at the MGM Grand Garden Arena Saturday, Aug. 17. Young is joined by special guest Chris Janson as direct support along with LOCASH.

Consistently praised for his “rangy baritone and classic meets contemporary production,” in just the past 15 months Chris has been honored with membership into the Grand Ole Opry, included in the Country Music Hall of Fame’s American Currents exhibit, and earned his second ACM Male Vocalist nomination. In addition he has added two new chart-toppers to his discography and headlined a massive 55-city arena tour, including a hometown stop at Nashville’s Bridgestone Arena playing to a capacity crowd of nearly 14,000 fans, friends, and family.



#### WHERE

MGM Grand Garden Arena



#### WHEN

Aug. 17



#### TICKETS

mgmgrand.com,  
877-880-0880

**ALSO AT  
MGM GRAND**

**Hugh Jackman, July 13**





## HOTTEST SHOWS

### MYSTIC ROOTS BAND

Mandalay Bay  
July 4  
mandalaybay.com, 702-632-7777

### PENTATONIX

Mandalay Bay  
July 6  
mandalaybay.com, 702-632-7777

### BRIAN MCKNIGHT

Wynn  
July 19  
wynnlasvegas.com  
702-770-9966

### CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER

Hard Rock  
July 27  
hardrockhotel.com  
702-693-5000

### LIONEL RICHIE

Wynn  
Aug. 9-10  
wynnlasvegas.com  
702-770-9966

### LYNYRD SKYNYRD

T-Mobile Arena  
Aug. 16  
t-mobilearena.com  
702-692-1600

### KACEY MUSGRAVES

The Cosmopolitan  
Aug. 20  
cosmopolitanlasvegas.com  
702-698-7000

### GEORGE STRAIT

T-Mobile Arena  
Aug. 23-24  
t-mobilearena.com  
702-692-1600

## MUST SEE GODSMACK

Hard Rock  
July 5  
hardrockhotel.com, 702-693-5000

Multi-platinum, Boston-based rock band Godsmack is performing at The Joint inside Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas on Friday, July 5 as part of the pre-fight festivities for UFC 239 on Saturday, July 6.

Godsmack is composed of founder, front man, and songwriter Sully Erna; guitarist Tony Rombola; bassist Robbie Merrill; and drummer Shannon Larkin. Since its formation, Godsmack has released seven studio albums, one EP, four DVDs, one compilation album, and one live album. The band has had three consecutive number-one albums ("Faceless," "IV" and "The Oracle") on the Billboard 200, and also has 23 top-10 rock radio hits, including 17 songs in the top five. The band's seventh album, "When Legends Rise," was released in April 2018.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Global music icon, multiple Grammy Award-winner, and multi-Platinum-selling artist **Janet Jackson** brings her Las Vegas residency—"Metamorphosis"—to Park MGM on select dates in July and August. The centerpiece of this thought-provoking show is Janet herself, captivating audiences through the senses with electrifying visuals, explosive dance numbers, chart-topping hits, and fan favorite deep cuts.



### TICKETS

mgmgrand.com, 877-880-0880

Downtown Rocks, the amplified concert series on Fremont Street Experience adds award-winning artists **Eli Young Band**; **Collective Soul**; and the **I Love The 90's Tour** featuring Vanilla Ice, Montell Jordan, All-4-One, Tone Loc, and Coolio to its unparalleled roster of chart-topping talent from around the world. The six-block entertainment district located in historic downtown Las Vegas continues to transcend Las Vegas entertainment boundaries.



### TICKETS

vegasexperience.com





**July 5-Aug. 25**

**LAKE TAHOE SHAKE-SPEARE FESTIVAL**  
Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe  
Nevada State Park  
[laketahoeshakespeare.com](http://laketahoeshakespeare.com),  
775-832-1616

Entertainment, food, family, and friends converge under the stars on the scenic shore of Lake Tahoe this summer as Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival launches its 2019 season. Showcasing live entertainment seven nights a week, the festival's 47th season is headlined by productions of "The Taming of the Shrew" and "Million Dollar Quartet."



**July 6, 13, 20;  
Aug. 17, 24, 31**

**CARSON CITY GHOST WALKING TOURS**  
Carson City  
[carsoncityghostwalk.com](http://carsoncityghostwalk.com)  
775-348-6279

Carson City's history is theatrically relived during seasonal evening walking tours, led by Madame Curry—a spirited and historically fictional character named after the widow of Carson City's founder, Abe Curry. Now in its 27th season, this year's theme explores "In the Shadows" of Carson City. Hear about lingering spirits of the past, haunted and paranormal stories, and gossip from yesteryear.

JULY

**1-31 ARTOWN**

Reno  
[artown.org](http://artown.org), 775-322-1538

**4 AUSTIN 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION**

Austin  
[austinnevada.com](http://austinnevada.com), 775-964-2200

**4 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION**

Heritage Park, Henderson  
[cityofhenderson.com](http://cityofhenderson.com), 702-267-2323

**4 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS & PARADE**

Tonopah  
[tonopahnevada.com](http://tonopahnevada.com), 775-482-6336

**4 BEATTY 4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL**

Beatty  
[beattynevada.org](http://beattynevada.org), 775-553-2424

**4 CALIENTE 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION**

Caliente  
[lincolncountynevada.com](http://lincolncountynevada.com), 877-870-3003

**4 COMSTOCK COWBOYS 2ND AMENDMENT CONCERT**

Virginia City  
[visitvirginiacitynv.com](http://visitvirginiacitynv.com), 775-847-7500

**4 JARBIDGE 4TH OF JULY WEEKEND**

Jarbridge  
[jarbridge.org](http://jarbridge.org)

**4 PAHRUMP 4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL**

Pahrump  
[pahrumppnv.org](http://pahrumppnv.org), 775-727-5800

**4 STAR SPANGLED SPARKS**

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks  
[nuggetcasinoresort.com](http://nuggetcasinoresort.com), 800-648-1177

**5-6 BIGGEST LITTLE CITY WING FEST**

Downtown Reno  
[silverlegacyreno.com](http://silverlegacyreno.com), 775-329-4777

**6 TRACE ADKINS**

MontBleu, Stateline  
[montbleuresort.com](http://montbleuresort.com), 775-588-3515

**7-Aug. 11 CLASSICAL TAHOE**

Incline Village  
[classicaltahoe.org](http://classicaltahoe.org), 775-298-0245

**9-14 AMERICAN CENTURY CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Edgewood Tahoe, Stateline  
[americancenturychampionship.com](http://americancenturychampionship.com), 800-367-7366

**12-14 SILVER STATE STAMPEDE RODEO**

Elko County Fairgrounds, Elko  
[silverstatestampede.com](http://silverstatestampede.com), 775-934-2392

**19-20 WINNEMUCCA WHEELS CAR SHOW**

Winnemucca  
[winnemucca.com](http://winnemucca.com)

**20 COMSTOCK CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

Virginia City  
[visitvirginiacitynv.com](http://visitvirginiacitynv.com), 775-847-7500

**25-27 NIGHT IN THE COUNTRY**

Yerington  
[nightinthecountry.org](http://nightinthecountry.org), 775-463-5114

**26-28 RUBY MOUNTAIN BALLOON FESTIVAL**

Elko  
[exploreelko.com](http://exploreelko.com), 775-738-4091

**26-28 WELLS FUN RUN**

Wells  
[wellsnevada.com](http://wellsnevada.com), 775-752-3540





July 13

### CARSON CITY DOWNTOWN REVIVAL CAR SHOW

Carson City  
775-324-7759

Join the Esther Chapter #3 of the Order of the Eastern Star for the Downtown Carson City Revival Car Show, Saturday July 13. The show takes place in downtown Carson City and offers live music, a poker walk, scavenger hunt, and car show. The show is open to all makes and models of vehicle from any year.



Aug. 7

### WEIRD AL YANKOVIC Smith Center for the Performing Arts, Las Vegas thesmithcenter.com, 702-749-2000

Weird Al Yankovic brings his 2019 Strings Attached tour—a high-energy rock ‘n’ comedy show featuring costumes, props, a video wall, and full orchestra to the Smith Center in Las Vegas on Wednesday, Aug. 7. The show presents fans with an intimate, scaled-down show that showcases a rotating setlist of semi-obscure deep-cut non-parody album tracks, many of which he and his band have never performed live before.

### 2-3 VIRGINIA CITY HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

Virginia City  
hotaugustnights.net, 775-356-1956

### 3 98 DEGREES

Silver Legacy, Reno  
silverlegacyreno.com, 775-325-7401

### 3 BUCKAROO BASH

Carlin  
cityofcarlin.com, 775-754-6354

### 6-11 RENO-SPARKS HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

Reno-Sparks  
hotaugustnights.net, 775-356-1956

### 9-11 JARBIDGE DAYS

Jarbridge  
jarbridge.org

### 14 LAKE STREET DRIVE

MontBleu, Stateline  
montbleuresort.com, 775-588-3515

### 16 THE ISLEY BROTHERS

Silver Legacy, Reno  
silverlegacyreno.com, 775-325-7401

### 16-17 CARLIN RANCH HAND RODEO

Carlin  
cityofcarlin.com, 775-754-6354

### 23 JO KOY

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

### 23-24 THE GRASS ROOTS

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

### 23-34 WILD WEST BBQ SHOOT OUT

West Wendover  
westwendovercity.com, 775-664-3081

### 24-Sept. 2 ELKO COUNTY FAIR & HORSE RACING

Elko  
exploreelko.com, 775-738-4091

### 25-Sept. 2 BURNING MAN

Black Rock City  
burningman.org

### 30 ROBERTO TAPIA

Silver Legacy, Reno  
silverlegacyreno.com, 775-325-7401

### 31 CIVIL WAR DAYS & BATTLE TRAIN

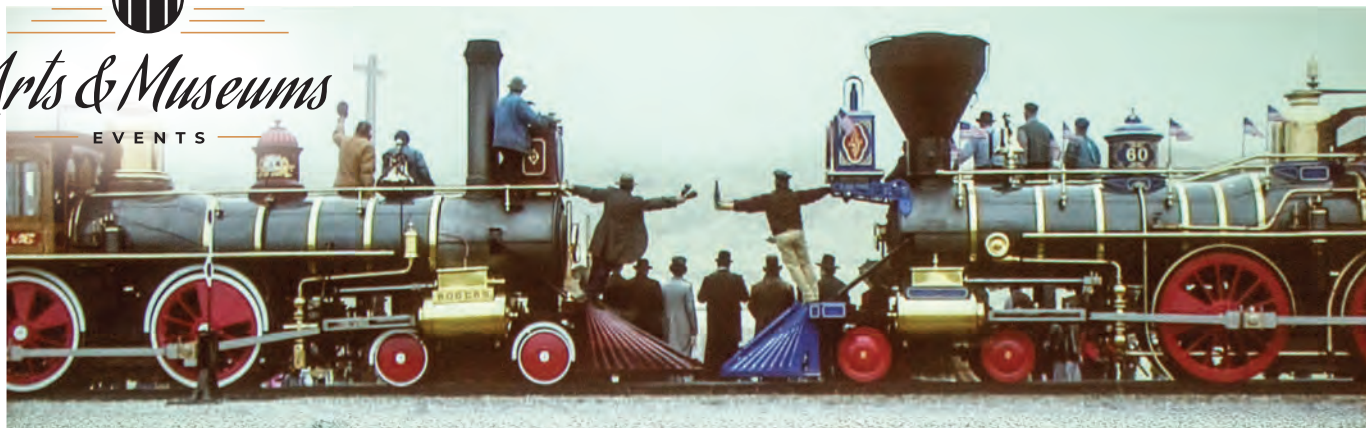
Virginia City  
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500



Burning Man

ERIC CACHINERO





## 'ZHI LIN: CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS OF THE SIERRA NEVADA'



PHOTOS: NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART

### EXHIBITION PAYS TRIBUTE TO LIVES LOST ALONG THE JOURNEY TO MANIFEST DESTINY.

In May, the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad took place. To mark the occasion, the Nevada Museum of Art presents an exhibition featuring the art of Zhi Lin—an artist who has spent much of his career making work that recalls the sacrifices of Chinese immigrant workers in the nineteenth century. “Zhi Lin: Chinese Railroad Workers of the Sierra Nevada” features mixed-media canvases, a video installation, and watercolor paintings that honor the nearly 1,200 Chinese workers who lost their lives to accidents, avalanches, and explosions in treacherous Sierra terrain near Donner Summit while constructing the transcontinental railroad. The exhibition is on view at the Nevada Museum of Art in downtown Reno through Nov. 10.

While most of the names of the Chinese workers have been lost to history, Lin is part of a growing group of artists and scholars working to weave their stories into America’s broader historical narrative. By 1868, 12,000 Chinese were employed by the Central Pacific—about 80 percent of the labor force on the transcontinental line—and monetary compensation was minimal.

“Every day, people see and pass the railway tracks where Chinese workers once worked. Besides the grade or the rails, people find only trees on the ground and the sky above the sites,” reflects Lin. “I hope that after viewing my work, when people look at the trees, at the sky, and along the passage of the old grade, they will be able to see the presence of the workers, tracing back to the 19th century.”

Traveling in California and Nevada between 2005 and 2007, Lin made watercolor sketches of tunnels, bridges, and other sites where traces of Chinese railroad workers remain but are easily overlooked. Rather than correct history by including Chinese people in his scenes, Lin’s paintings underscore their absence altogether.

#### ELKO COUNTY ART CLUB ART IN THE PARK

Elko City Park, Elko  
July 13-14

[elkocountyartclub.wildapricot.org](http://elkocountyartclub.wildapricot.org)

#### “THEN AND NOW: THE NEON BONEYARD LIGHTING UP LAS VEGAS”

Nevada Humanities Program Gallery, Las Vegas  
Through July 24

[nevadahumanities.org](http://nevadahumanities.org), 702-800-4670

#### WILD WOMEN ARTISTS HANDS-ON POP UP SHOW

Truckee Meadows Community College  
Dandini Campus, Reno  
July 19-20

[wildwomenartists.com](http://wildwomenartists.com)

#### Artown

Citywide, Reno  
Through July 31  
[artown.org](http://artown.org), 775-322-1538



#### WHERE

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno



#### WHEN

Through Nov. 10



#### INFO

775-329-3333



#### WORTH A CLICK

[nevadaart.org](http://nevadaart.org)



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# NATIONAL ATOMIC TESTING MUSEUM

NEVADA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD'S ATOMIC HISTORY IS ON DISPLAY.

BY JANET M. GEARY

Mushroom clouds marked the end of the deadliest conflict in world history, though mankind was just getting started testing the limits of its newfound deadly technology. The development of the atomic bomb is one of the most important factors that caused World War II to come to an end in 1945, though Nevada's role in the atomic process would continue for decades to come.

After extensive atomic testing in Pacific island sites, President Harry S. Truman decided it was necessary to create an atomic-bomb-testing area within the continental U.S. On Dec. 18, 1950, a portion of the Nellis Gunnery Range near Las Vegas was chosen as the site. Named the Nevada Proving Ground (later changed to the Nevada Test Site), the area would go on to host more than 900 nuclear tests, 828 of which were underground.

During the 1950s, the mushroom clouds from atmospheric tests could be seen for almost 100 miles. The city of Las Vegas experienced noticeable seismic effects and the distant mushroom clouds, which could be seen from downtown, became unique tourist attractions. The last near-ground atmospheric test at the Nevada Test Site was "Little Feller I" of Operation Sunbeam on July 17, 1962.

From 1951 to 1992, employees of the Nevada Test Site were forbidden to speak about their work, and today's National Atomic Testing Museum—which opened in 2005—"speaks" for them.





## HISTORY ON DISPLAY

The entrance to the museum is through steel doors with a ticket booth that looks like a Nevada Test Site guard station. The galleries are set up chronologically, starting with an exhibit about World War II, the Manhattan Project, and the 1945 bombings of Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Next, museum goers enter a gallery detailing the earliest days of atomic testing. Guests are guided through interactive stations with a wealth of pictures, short films, and paraphernalia that was top-secret two decades ago.

One of the most popular exhibits is the Ground Zero Theater—a stark reminder of the power that was created at the test site. Hard benches like the ones military personnel sat on to watch the testing make it all seem so real. A recorded voice starts the count down and guests are drawn into the horrifying experience of a real test. Quiet at first, the aftermath of steam, dirt, and noise that emanates from the theater elicit gasps and even screams from the viewers. It's easy to leave the area with a different understanding of what really took place.

The Atomic Testing Museum has become very popular and is a definite must-see in Vegas. In association with the Smithsonian Institution, the museum has revolving exhibits, lectures, and book signings that keep the material fresh. With more than 12,000 artifacts, allow a minimum of 2-4 hours to visit.

The gift shop offers some unusual Las Vegas souvenirs. From alien dolls to Miss Atomic Bomb posters, these mementos are quirky reminders of Nevada's atomic past. ▀

Miss Atomic Bomb

### EXPLOSIVE HISTORY

#### National Atomic Testing Museum

755 E. Flamingo Rd.

Las Vegas, NV 89119

[nationalatomicmuseum.org](http://nationalatomicmuseum.org), 702-794-5161

#### Museum hours:

Monday-Saturday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday: noon–5 p.m.



MEGG MUELLER



ERIC CACHINERO



ERIC CACHINERO




ERIC CACHINERO



MEGG MUELLER





# EMBRACE THE DARKNESS

Massacre Rim Wilderness Study Area is named  
fourth dark sky sanctuary in U.S.



BY SHAARON NETHERTON

As the sun sets and light slowly fades from the sky, stars begin to appear and the dark side of Nevada shows itself. Long known for remote and beautiful landscapes, Nevada is now being recognized for its exceptionally dark skies. In March, the International Dark Sky Association designated the Massacre Rim Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in northern Washoe County as an International Dark Sky Sanctuary, only the fourth location in the country to achieve this status and the seventh in the entire world.

### HOW DARK IS IT?

The International Dark Sky Association identifies a dark sky sanctuary as a place with “an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is protected for its scientific, natural, or education value, its cultural heritage and/or public enjoyment.” Massacre Rim Wilderness Study Area’s night skies represent the darkest of the dark. Visitors can see their shadow by the light of the Milky Way, one criterion for Dark Sky designation.

RICHELIE BEDNARSKI



## BRING THE DARKNESS A LITTLE CLOSER



KURT KUZNICKI

Along with Massacre Rim, dark sky opportunities for sightseers abound across Nevada. For less intrepid travelers, venturing beyond the bright lights of Nevada's bigger urban centers is a great way to experience the state's trove of dark skies.

### TONOPAH STAR TRAILS AND STAR PARK

Rated the No. 1 Stargazing Destination in America by "USA Today," Tonopah boasts the Clair Blackburn Memorial Stargazing Park with cement pads designed for telescopes. Or download the Tonopah Star Trails map at [tonopahnevada.com](http://tonopahnevada.com) so you can explore the extensive paved and unpaved options to see central Nevada's night skies and protected landscapes. Bonus: Star Parties at the Stargazing Park are July 20, Aug. 17, and Sept. 21 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

### BASIN AND RANGE

For another Dark Sky roadtrip, follow U.S. Route 6 as it transects Nevada's stunning basin and range country—think Tonopah to Ely—with skies that dazzle in both daylight and darkness.

### GERLACH/BLACK ROCK

Less than two scenic hours northeast of Reno is the town of Gerlach, featured in writer Oliver Roeder's "The Darkest Town in America," a chronicle of his search for the darkest place on the continent. Venture on to the Black Rock Playa (only when it is dry) and experience one of the largest, flattest surfaces in the world. The playa rewards dark-sky enthusiasts with a wide open, epic starscape and is a popular place for watching meteor showers. For creature comforts you can enjoy a Picon Punch cocktail at local watering hole Bruno's Country Club & Motel or stop by the Empire Store to stock up for your night-sky picnic.

### ELY'S GREAT BASIN STAR TRAIN

Nevada Northern Railway's Star Train pulls out of Ely on select summer evenings. "Dark Rangers" of Great Basin National Park are aboard with special telescopes set up for viewing the night sky. For details, visit [nnry.com](http://nnry.com).

### GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

The saying goes "Half the park is after dark!" As a designated Dark Sky Park, Great Basin's Night Sky Program highlights include guided full-moon hikes, seasonal ranger-led astronomy talks, and telescope viewings at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Check out the annual Astronomy Festival Sept. 26-28, where stargazers get the chance to view dark skies through top-notch telescopes. For details, visit [nps.gov/grba](http://nps.gov/grba).

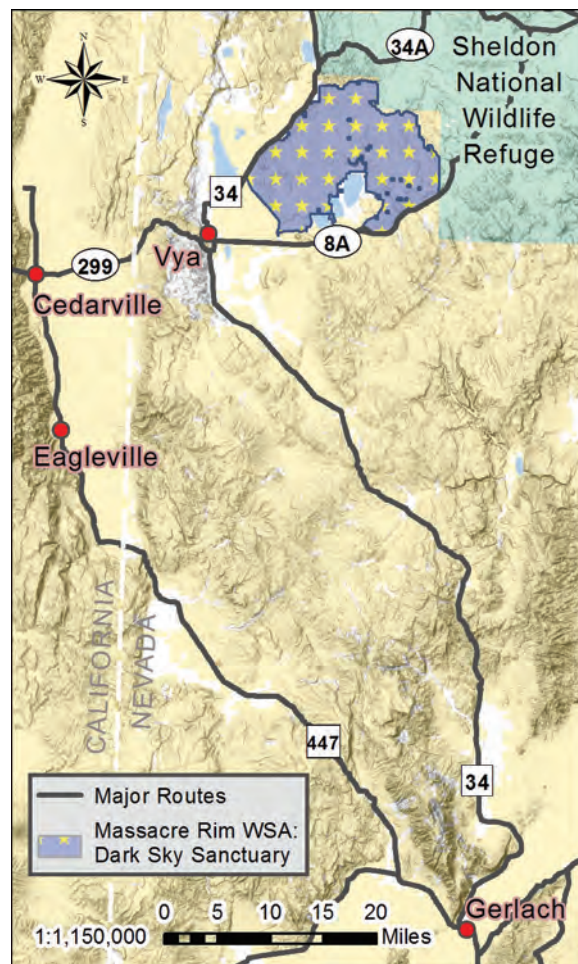


Massacre Rim

KIRK PETERSON

The 101,000-acre Massacre Rim WSA lies some 150 miles from Reno in the far northwest corner where Nevada, California, and Oregon come together and adjacent to the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. Massacre Rim itself is a 1,200-foot basalt rim that towers above Long Valley, a landscape of rock, and rolling sagebrush hills. Flanked by lichen-covered boulders and ancient stands of juniper, the geological wonder that is Massacre Rim appears by turn black, gray, pink, and gold, backlit by ever-shifting sunlight and clouds.

As night falls, the view gets even better, for there is little to no light pollution in any direction. On a moonless night, it can be difficult to identify





constellations due to the sheer number of visible stars. According to a 2016 “National Geographic” article, 80 percent of Americans cannot see the Milky Way anymore due to light pollution. Researchers worry that humans around the globe are losing appreciation of the scientific, philosophical, and spiritual benefits of appreciating a dark sky blanketed by stars. Fortunately, Nevada is blessed with public lands where protected places like Massacre Rim will help ensure dark skies will be around for future generations. It is the premier place to discover the awe-inspiring Milky Way and to observe the faint shadows cast by our galactic center.

### DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK

The stars in the night sky carry information about the origin of our ancestors' greatest artistic and scientific achievements, and we are



KURT KUZNICKI

only now beginning to understand how important dark skies are for the health and welfare of wildlife populations. Whether it is for the important clues needed for accurate migration navigation or the crucial balance between the nocturnal interactions of predators and prey, dark skies are an important element in the healthy life cycles of Nevada's wildlife.

Visitors can reach Massacre Rim via the gravel State Route 34 north out of Gerlach or follow State Route 299 heading east out of Cedarville, California. S.R. 299 turns into gravel State Route 8a at the Nevada border. The Massacre Rim WSA begins where these two routes converge near Vya. S.R. 34 traverses the western edge of Massacre Rim WSA and offers panoramic views. Isolated locations along the other boundaries of the WSA are accessible by rugged dirt roads that require a high-clearance four-wheel drive vehicle. The interior of the WSA is best reached on foot or by horseback. There are no services in this part of the state. ▼

### FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS DARK SKY AREA INFORMATION

[nevadawilderness.org/dark\\_sky\\_areas](http://nevadawilderness.org/dark_sky_areas), 775-324-7667



## Labor Day Weekend

# August 30 - September 1, 2019

**Around these parts, Labor Day means just one thing: it's time for a fabulous weekend dedicated to some serious, end-of-summer fun. Great food, good times and plenty of spectacular entertainment!**

**Bulls & Broncs Rodeo - Carnival Midway  
Livestock Show & Sale - Reptile Show  
Western Art Roundup - Fun & Food**



**LaborDayFair.com**  
**(775) 623-5071**



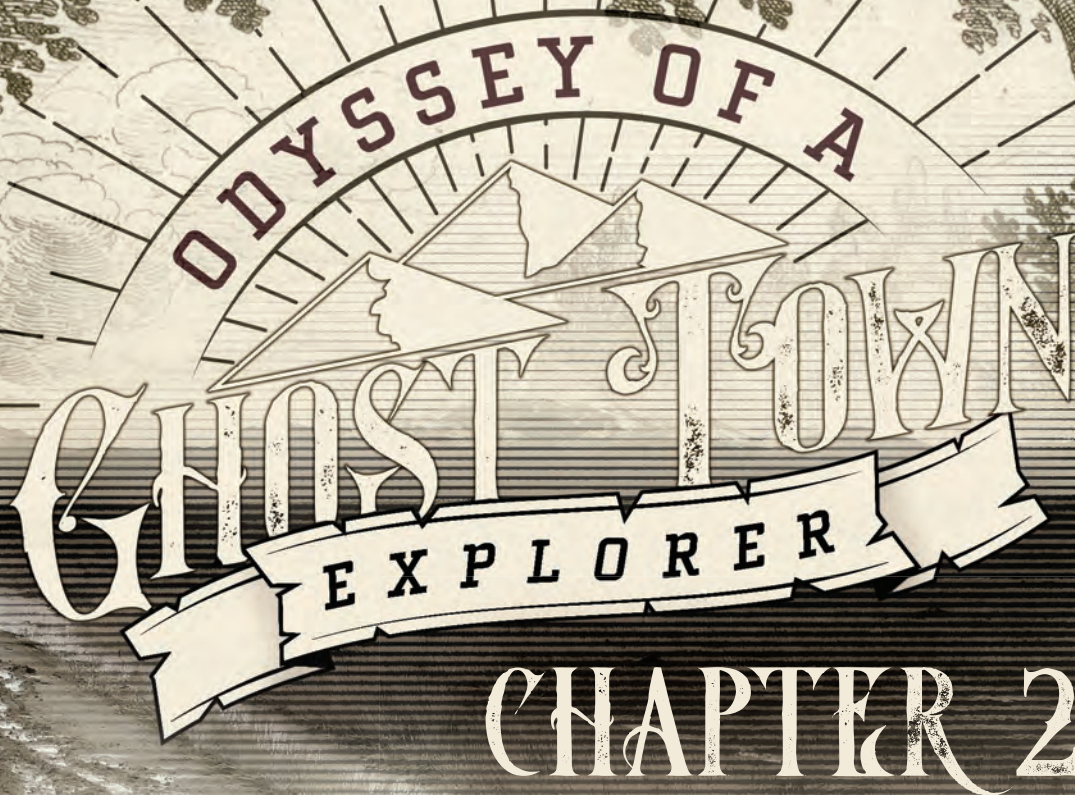
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A treacherous unnamed road in eastern Nevada is digitally blended with an unknown artist's rendering (circa 1600) of Icarus falling.





# ODYSSEY OF A GHOST TOWN EXPLORER

## CHAPTER 2

### PART 10: ICARUS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ERIC CACHINERO

Melting wax and burning feathers were likely the last things Icarus, son of the prominent craftsman Daedalus, saw before his body plunged from the sky into the sea. The famous Greek myth tells of how the two characters become imprisoned by King Minos on the island of Crete, banished forever to a tower above the king's palace. Being the artisan he was, Daedalus crafted two sets of wings using wax and feathers, and the pair used them to fly away, escaping their prison. Before the flight, Daedalus instructed Icarus not to fly too close to the sun, for the heat would melt the wax and send him plummeting into the sea. Icarus, intoxicated on the allure of flight, ignored his father's advice, flying too high before the sun melted the wax, sending him plummeting into history.

In many ways, the tragic story of Daedalus and Icarus can be compared to the prospectors of early Nevada. They went wherever the silver was no matter the cost, which in some cases, meant climbing higher and higher into the mountains, sometimes building their homes in places they had no earthly business doing so. In the case of Aurum, located high in the Schell Creek Range in eastern Nevada, three prospectors would pay the price like Icarus. Their demise would be an ironic one, though, because it would not be a blazing sun that brought death. Desert snow would deal their death blow.

Wallace McCrimmon, John Fox, and W.H. Mitchell were the three pioneers whose wings would melt on Feb. 11, 1884, when an avalanche crashed into the mining camp of Aurum. The tragedy stands as a reminder that sometimes recklessly flying too high can get you killed.



## GLOBAL GLITCH

It's May 21 when I start my ghost town adventure, which means its springtime in Nevada. The birds should be chirping, flowers should be in full bloom, and the sun should be smiling down upon the Silver State. Hotel Nevada in Ely is my ghost town base camp for the trip, and as I open my eyes and peer outside...it's absolutely dumping snow. I feel like a kid on Christmas morning...only the opposite. I asked Santa for a mountain of presents and a trove of dry roads and easily accessible ghost towns, and I'm greeted with a mountain of coal that I know means soupy mud roads and malicious mountain passes. But, considering I don't have a choice, I set off into the great and mysterious unknown.



As I drive northbound on U.S. Route 93 out of Ely, I sip my coffee in the company of the radio, orchestrated by a DJ who is as irked by the weather as I am.

"I'm sorry to do this to you, Ely, but here's the weather report for the next week," the voice cracks through the speakers. "100 percent chance of snow showers today with a high of 37...Then 100 percent chance of snow showers tomorrow with a high of 38..." The message goes on for a minute or two before the DJ dedicates a song to the town of Ely, and a familiar B.J. Thomas rendition appropriately comes on:

*"Raindrops are falling on my head  
And just like the guy whose feet are too  
big for his bed  
Nothing seems to fit  
Those raindrops are falling on my head,  
they keep falling..."*

The song lightens the mood a bit, and I take the low-hanging fruit first, which in this case means low-elevation ghost towns. Cherry Creek is on the

list, and while it doesn't meet my typical requirements of ghost town, there is a paved road leading all the way to the town, so I head there first.

The reason it doesn't meet my requirements, is that Cherry Creek is very much a living ghost town with a population of a couple dozen residents. I usually like my ghost towns good and dead; completely without a pulse. But Cherry Creek's historical significance is undoubted.

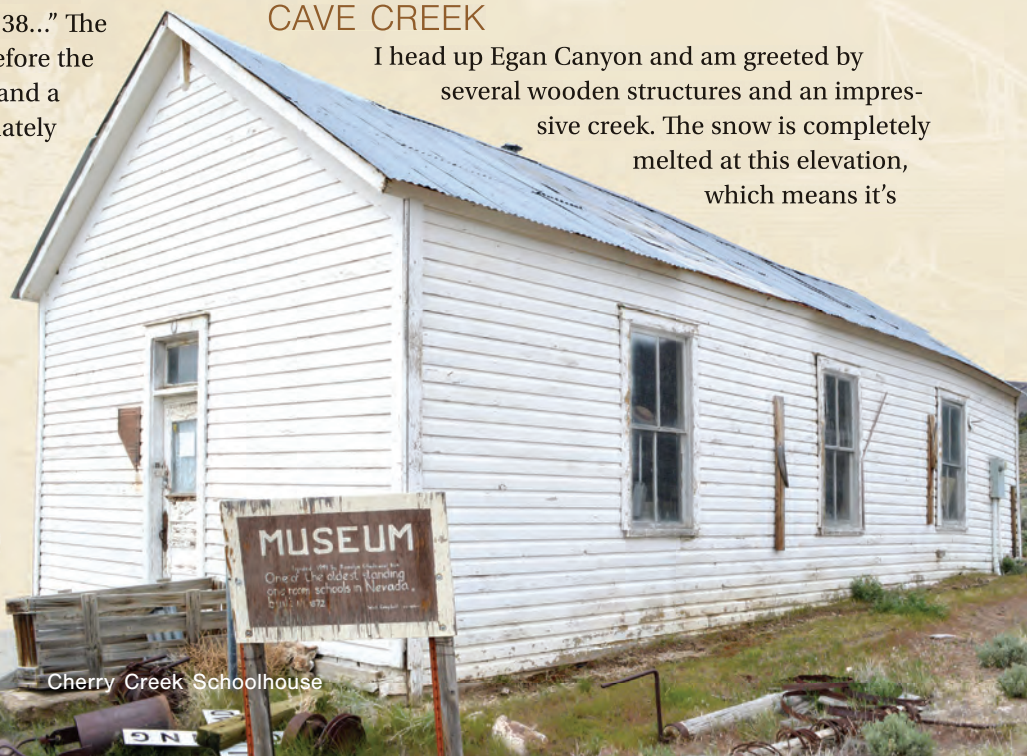
Silver was discovered in Cherry Creek in 1872 by prospectors Peter Corning and John Carpenter, staking the Tea Cup claim. By 1873, about 400 people called the town home. Cherry Creek quickly became the county's largest mining camp, attracting a Wells Fargo agency and a post office. After a small lull in ore production, the town peaked in 1880 when additional mineral deposits were discovered, bringing a population of more than 1,800. A financial crash in 1883 closed much of the town's services, and an 1888 fire dealt another deafening blow, as did major fires in both 1901 and 1904. The town held on though, with substantial mining activity well into the 1940s.

Cherry Creek is the very definition of a living ghost town. Homes and trailers are interspersed among buildings in various stages of decay. Remnants of stone buildings dot the landscape, though the highlight of the town is probably the historic one-room schoolhouse. Constructed in 1872, the schoolhouse is one of the oldest in Nevada. History maintains that a dispute over the schoolhouse's proposed location lead to a deadly gunfight between Cherry Creek residents Pat Green and Pat Dolan, with Dolan the victor.

Though I see several Cherry Creek residents around town, I decide it best not to argue with them over the location of their schoolhouse, and head south toward the nearby mining camp of Egan.

## CAVE CREEK

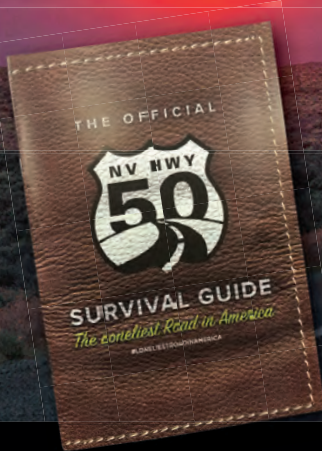
I head up Egan Canyon and am greeted by several wooden structures and an impressive creek. The snow is completely melted at this elevation, which means it's



Cherry Creek Schoolhouse



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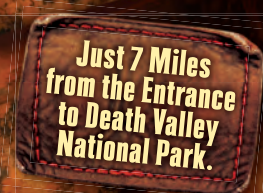
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It's time to  
commence the  
gloppy chocolate-  
milkshake roads.

time to commence the gloppy chocolate-milkshake roads. Though Egan was less of a town and more of a temporary camp, the canyon is special because of its location along the Pony Express route.

The location is named for Howard Egan—a man who pioneered a mail service through the canyon in the 1850s. The west end of the canyon would become home to a Pony Express change station by 1860, and was home to an Overland Mail Company station that would last as a temporary town until 1869.



Egan

Unfortunately, I find nothing left of the Pony Express station—an attempt at road building and small mining operations have destroyed the site. The most interesting thing about the canyon, though, is the origin of the aforementioned creek. I follow it to its source, which to my surprise,

is flowing from an abandoned mine. Even more to my surprise is way out in the middle of nowhere, I find myself with company. A car has pulled up, and two women exit the vehicle. I'm surprised to see people in such a remote location. We make small talk before the women inform me that the plants growing in the creek water are watercress—an edible aquatic plant. The women quickly fill up several grocery bags with the desert lettuce before hightailing it out of the canyon. I think for a second of trying some of it myself, but considering the source of the creek is coming from an abandoned mine, I decide it best to stick with a handful of trail mix instead.

I head further up Route 93 before turning south to traverse the east side of the Antelope Range. Eventually I find myself leaving the pavement yet again.

## SLOP

The drive is poetic—true Nevada at its absolute finest. Perfection personified. Graphite rainclouds entwine snow-capped peaks, as they tower above dew-laced rabbitbrush. The rain unshackles the perfume of the sagebrush sea, an intoxicant you can almost taste. Indigo pools of wildflowers splash across the Earth as if placed by intentional brushstrokes.

Two golden eagles soar overhead, aiming watchful eyes at the occasional Pronghorn antelope and jackrabbit. There are no natural sounds in this place at this moment; deafening silence is the heartbeat.

I drive further and further into the desert, taking the occasional break to turn off the car and step outside to listen to the atmosphere. With beauty this pristine, it almost





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seems silly seeking out ghost towns. The roads worsen and worsen, but at first I really don't care. I need to get further out into this remoteness.

Eventually, though, I snap out of my trance and I realize that it's the end of the road for me. I had my sights set on the ghost towns of Tippet and Tungstonia, but the snow-melt has made this road impassible, and it's clear that if I don't turn around right now, I'll be spending a cold night out in the desert waiting to be rescued. I decide to try a new road one valley to the west, and the move ends up being a good one.

## DESERT AVALANCHE

I find a wide spot in the road to pull over and prepare myself lunch—a freeze-dried pouch of chili mac with beef—before I continue on my newfound dirt road. To my surprise, this new road is in a lot better condition than the last, and I see a glimmer of hope that I may actually get to see some more ghost towns today. As luck would have it, the intermittent slush storms cease just long enough to allow me to climb the craggy road to the townsite of Aurum.

Silver was discovered on the east flank of the Schell Creek Range in 1878, giving rise to a new mining camp called Silver Canyon—later renamed Aurum. By 1881, Aurum had a store, saloon, blacksmith, school, post office, and two boarding houses.

The fateful tragedy of the pioneers that lived in Aurum can be tough to grasp. An avalanche killing people in the middle of the desert does sound like the makings of a “The Twilight Zone” episode, yet it actually happened in Aurum. Last issue, I wrote about how a flash flood claimed the lives of eight people in the mining camp of Mazuma, leading to the realization that maybe water in the desert is a lot deadlier than it's made out to be.

I find the cemetery at Aurum, and according to an informative plaque at the site, two of the three men that died in the avalanche are buried in the plot, though I can't find their headstones. Regardless, the cemetery is authentic as can be, with several stones still legible.

## IT'S A SIGN

I drive south a couple more canyons before picking a new one to go up, with my sights set on the ghost town of Muncy. My foot, however, takes a lighter approach on the gas pedal as the ominous clues of Muncy start to peak out from behind the bushes. Some “keep out” signs in Nevada leave questions to the person reading them. “How old is that sign? Do you think they mean me? Do they mean just don't leave the road?” The sign that greets visitors of Muncy, on the other hand, is very clear in its ugly message.

“BACK UP!”

Against my better judgement—and due to how old the sign looks—I do not back up, and instead head further up the canyon. The rain really starts to pour right as I can tell I've reached the “townsite.”

Muncy never really amounted to much. Copper mining took place in the canyon above town during the 1870s and 1880s, though nothing significant was ever mined. People continued to mine the district over the decades, though disappointment was largely the only thing uncovered.

It's clear as I arrive that most of the structures left in Muncy are probably less than 50 years old, though it appears most of them have roasted in a wildfire. Propane tanks and an old bicycle are some of the only highlights. I press on after exploring briefly.

## WAX AND FEATHERS

Eureka!

Finally, after a day full of snow, sleet, ice, mud, rain, slush, hail, and every amalgamation thereof, the sun shows itself, though it's about to set. I make one last push higher and higher into the Schell Range in hopes of reaching the ghost town of Siegel. As my elevation increases, the road becomes rockier and narrower. The higher I climb, the more my tires start to slip and send me sliding into muddy ruts. I think, “What if I get stuck up here?” “How would you ever recover a stuck car up this high?” My questions are answered by the appearance of a collection of rusted old vehicles (ones that weren't as lucky as me) and a rickety log cabin let me know I've reached my objective.



Aurum



Muncy





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Siegel/Centerville

Siegel was originally named Centerville when silver was discovered in the early 1870s and lasted intermittently through the 1880s. In the early 1900s, a Utah financier renewed operations at the camp, though the venture was short-lived.



As the sun officially retires, I head back down the hill before I get myself into trouble. I'm greeted with herds of mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk reveal themselves around almost every turn. I make the long trek back to Ely, and am greeted with a massive snow storm when I reach town.

*"Raindrops keep falling on my head..."*

## NEVADA

I'm reminded that Nevada is derived from the Spanish phrase meaning "snow covered" as I awake the next morning to similar conditions. I waste no time heading south out of Ely toward the mining camp of Taylor.

The road to Taylor is unforgiving due to the mud. Again, I climb higher, and again, I am greeted with muck where a road should be. I decide it best to get out and walk to Taylor, due to the fact that I'm just spinning tires at this point.

Taylor slid under the headlines for its first several years of life, though by 1880, the town boomed. Prospectors who folded on Cherry Creek made their way to Taylor, and the town was the county's top producer for a number of years. Taylor was billed as a quiet and orderly town, boasting an opera house, and was visited by the occasional traveling circus. Production waned due to the up and coming town of Ely nearby, and Taylor slowly faded out over the decades.

Taylor

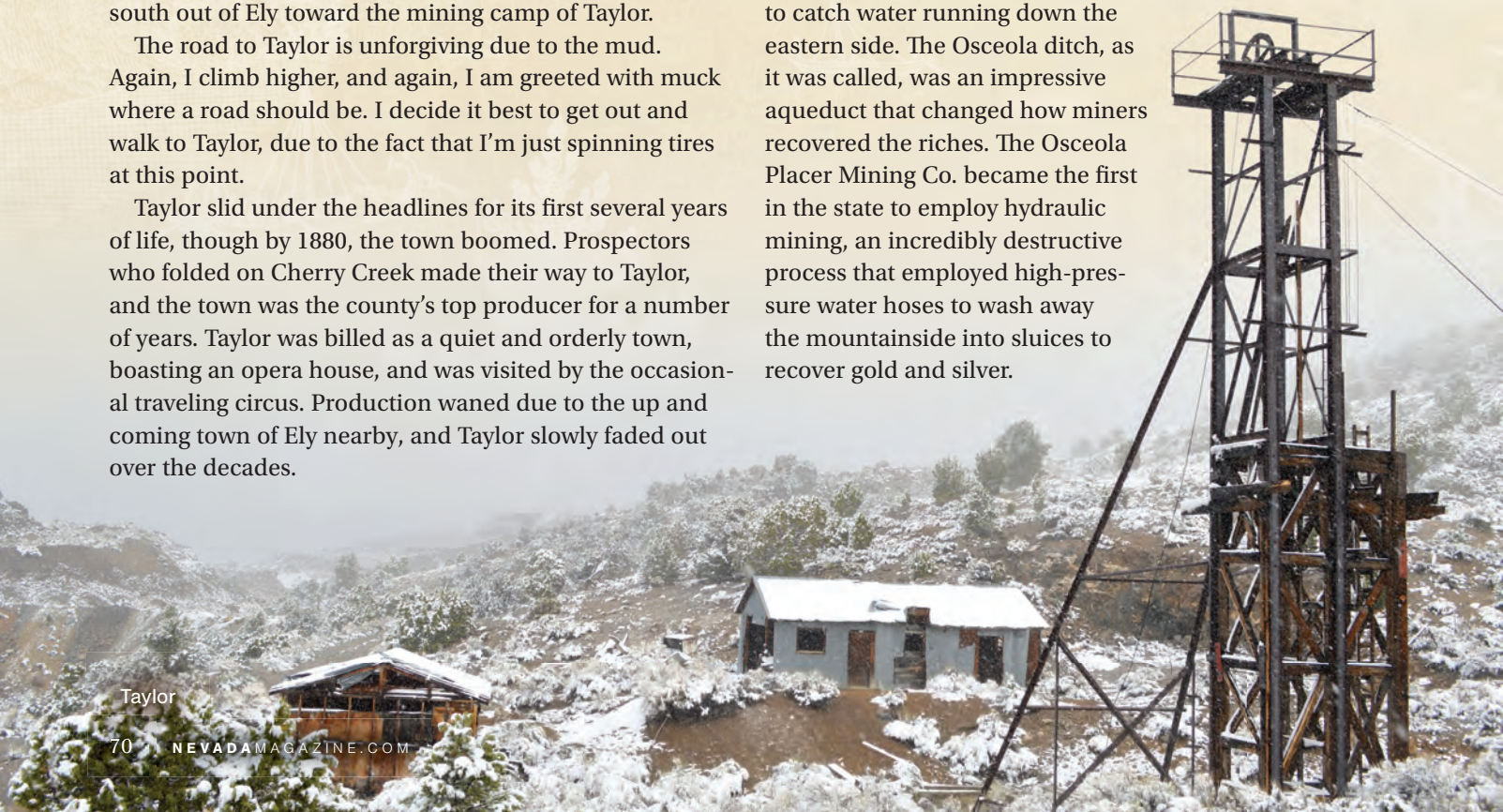
I am impressed with the amount of explorable real estate at Taylor. A large headframe and several operations buildings remain. A highlight of the location is the boxes of rock core samples left in one of the buildings. It's as if everyone simply walked away one day, giving a glimpse into a time and a place reclaimed by history.

## BACK UP! SERIOUSLY

I head toward my final ghost town of the trip, located on the western edge of the Snake Range, just northwest of Great Basin National Park. I'd heard good things about Osceola, not only for what remains there, but also for its place in Nevada history.

Osceola lays claim to one of the longest-worked placer camps in Nevada. The town was actively mined from 1872 well into the second half of the 20th century, with small operations continuing today. As impressive as its time-span was its ore production, with the gold-bearing quartz belt measuring 12 miles long by 7 miles wide. The deposit was originally mined by hand using pans and rocker boxes, until a five-stamp mill was built in 1878.

Osceola's problem was that there was no water to mine with. So, mining interests constructed an 18-mile-long canal to bring water from streams running down the west side of Wheeler Peak, followed by another 18-mile canal to catch water running down the eastern side. The Osceola ditch, as it was called, was an impressive aqueduct that changed how miners recovered the riches. The Osceola Placer Mining Co. became the first in the state to employ hydraulic mining, an incredibly destructive process that employed high-pressure water hoses to wash away the mountainside into sluices to recover gold and silver.





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### KEY

★ GHOST TOWNS VISITED IN THIS ISSUE

### VISITED GHOST TOWNS

#### 4 JULY/AUGUST '19 ISSUE

AURUM	OSCEOLA
CHERRY CREEK	SIEGEL/CENTERVILLE
EGAN	TAYLOR
MUNCY	



For as incredible as the history of Osceola is, I'm pretty disappointed that not much remains in the public property realm. "No Trespassing" and "Private Property" signs dot nearly every structure—historical and modern—and in many ways deplete the historic value. I do manage to find several old wooden structures to photograph, but they too have the signs splattered across them. It's a shame in some ways, understandable in others.

After Osceola, I decide I've had enough ghost towning for one trip, and I make my way back to Carson City on the Loneliest Road in America.



### RAPTURE

Would the pioneers who lost their lives on that fateful day in Aurum regret their ventures? They say space is the final frontier, but before that, the Western U.S. was the final frontier. These men and women were the astronauts of their time, journeying into an unfamiliar and unforgiving moonscape. Sometimes they flew too high and their wings melted, but that's only one way

to look at the story. Irish poet and playwright Oscar Wilde gives us the other.

*"Never regret thy fall, O Icarus of the fearless flight. For the greatest tragedy of them all is never to feel the burning light."* ■

### TRAVEL LOG

MILES

1,155

DAYS

2

GHOST  
TOWNS

7



# TRUE GRIT

## HAWTHORNE

A person with true grit is often defined as someone who sticks to their goals, despite problems, setbacks, and failures. Having true grit means you are tough and determined...you have a steadfast core. In 2019, we are highlighting towns in Nevada that have that core strength. Not all towns in Nevada have huge shiny tourist draws; many exist along the highways that traverse our state but aside from getting gas or grabbing food to go, they

are easily overlooked. Nevada roads go on forever. Small towns appear on the horizon, but are often quickly in the rearview mirror with little more than a passing thought about the town's existence. And while tourism is the state's largest industry—and the focus of this magazine—it is not why all towns in Nevada exist. This year, we honor some of those towns that defy easy description but stand tall in the desert, refusing to give into the sways of economic hardship or the passing of time. These towns bloom in the dirt, and they embody true grit. This issue: Hawthorne.





BY MEGG MUELLER

The Silver State has seen many towns come and go; ghost towns litter the state and have been said to outnumber live towns 6 to 1. While many living towns have seen their fortunes rise and fall, and their populations swell and dwindle, very few have felt it the way Hawthorne has.

Most towns experienced a boom and bust in the late 1880s-early 1900s, but Hawthorne had its growing pains much later. In fact, it wasn't until World War II when Hawthorne saw its population peak. Before 1944, the town—which had been founded in 1881—hadn't been home to more than 1,000 people, and often had just a few hundred. But that was soon to change.

## IT STARTS THE SAME

In 1880, the Carson & Colorado Railroad planned a 600-mile route to connect the Carson and Colorado rivers while running through prolific mining districts. While only 300 miles of that ill-fated narrow-gauge railway were ever laid, the town of Hawthorne was born as a division point for the railroad. The town's location in the Walker Lake Valley was determined by railroad mules, who during a terrible winter found the most protected spot. Hawthorne became the county seat of Esmeralda County in 1883, despite it having just a few hundred residents. While mining was going on in the nearby mountains, the economic windfall was minimal, and in 1905, when the railroad—now part of the Southern Pacific—changed to standard gauge, the town was bypassed entirely. Goldfield became the new county seat, and Hawthorne carried on with mining discoveries maintaining a slim economy for about 500 residents.

In 1911, the massive Esmeralda County was determined to be too large, and Mineral County was born.

Hawthorne became the seat of the new county, giving the courthouse and economy new life, but as mining waned after World War I, only about 200 people were hanging on.

Then in 1926, misfortune in New Jersey turned into a lifesaver for Hawthorne. Lake Denmark, New Jersey housed a naval ammunition depot until an explosion decimated it. Congress was on the hunt for cheap real estate and Hawthorne was chosen to house the new depot.

Construction began in 1928, and the first high explosives were delivered in 1930. The base brought people and troops to town slowly at first, but with the onset of World War II, Hawthorne's role in the conflict saw the town explode to 13,000. The depot was a staging area for bombs, rockets, and ammunition. After the war, the depot settled into peacetime mode, and Hawthorne saw its citizens dip to less than 1,900 by 1950.

In 1977, the Navy transferred the base to the Army, and today, the Hawthorne Army Depot—a government owned, contractor-operated facility—is the largest in the world, with a mission to “store conventional munitions; demilitarize and dispose of unserviceable, obsolete, and surplus munitions; and maintain serviceability through inspection and renovation to ensure munitions readiness.”



Hawthorne, 1889



PHOTOS: MINERAL COUNTY MUSEUM



## NOT JUST BUNKERS ON THE HORIZON

While the depot is the largest feature in Hawthorne—it sits on 147,236 acres, has 414 buildings, and 2,094 magazines that provide an explosive storage capacity of 7,685,000 square feet—it is not the most scenic. Although the site of the bunkers laid across the valley can elicit an eerie Cold War vibe, the beauty of the Walker Lake Valley lies in Walker Lake. Like the town's population, it too has dwindled over the years.

The lake's source of water—Walker River—has been diverted for agricultural use for so long, the lake's surface elevation has dropped more than 2,800 feet since the 1880s. The loss of fresh water has also increased salinity in the lake and has made it inhabitable for fish and most wildlife.

Chris Hegg, chairman of the Mineral County Board of Commissioners, grew up in nearby Luning and knows the lake well, and its importance to the local economy. Without the fishing and boating that once attracted visitors to the lake, an economic resource dried up for Hawthorne. But he's hopeful the problem is on the mend. The county recently won a long-awaited court decision that, among other things, reallocates water from Walker River to be delivered to Walker Lake.

"We are not sure if we're going to get it on this cycle of water, or not," Chris says. "There are still some decisions and allocations to be made. Luckily, we've been getting a reprieve with the weather the last few years so we've seen the water level being sustained. We're holding."

Chris explains the court's decision gave not only water rights back to the lake, but allows the county to purchase additional rights from ranches that have them to sell. To see the fish return, he says the lake needs to come up about 6-9 feet to have it be considered healthy, and right



Aerial view of Walker Lake

now, they have the water rights to make that happen once delivery begins.

Janice and Jim Scott have lived in Hawthorne more than 70 years, and Janice recalls when her friends would jump from the cliffs that dotted the western side of the lake when water levels were high.

"I wouldn't do it," she says, laughing, "but in high school, everyone used to love jumping in."

The demise of Walker Lake extends beyond devastating wildlife; it also took away one of the great recreational treasures of the area. A place where families and friends communed and visitors came to watch the annual boat races and throw a line in the water. When that stopped, the livelihood for local hotels and restaurants all but disappeared with the dropping water lines.

The return of Walker Lake, conversely, could see all of those things return, along with something Chris says is equally important: a place people want to call home.







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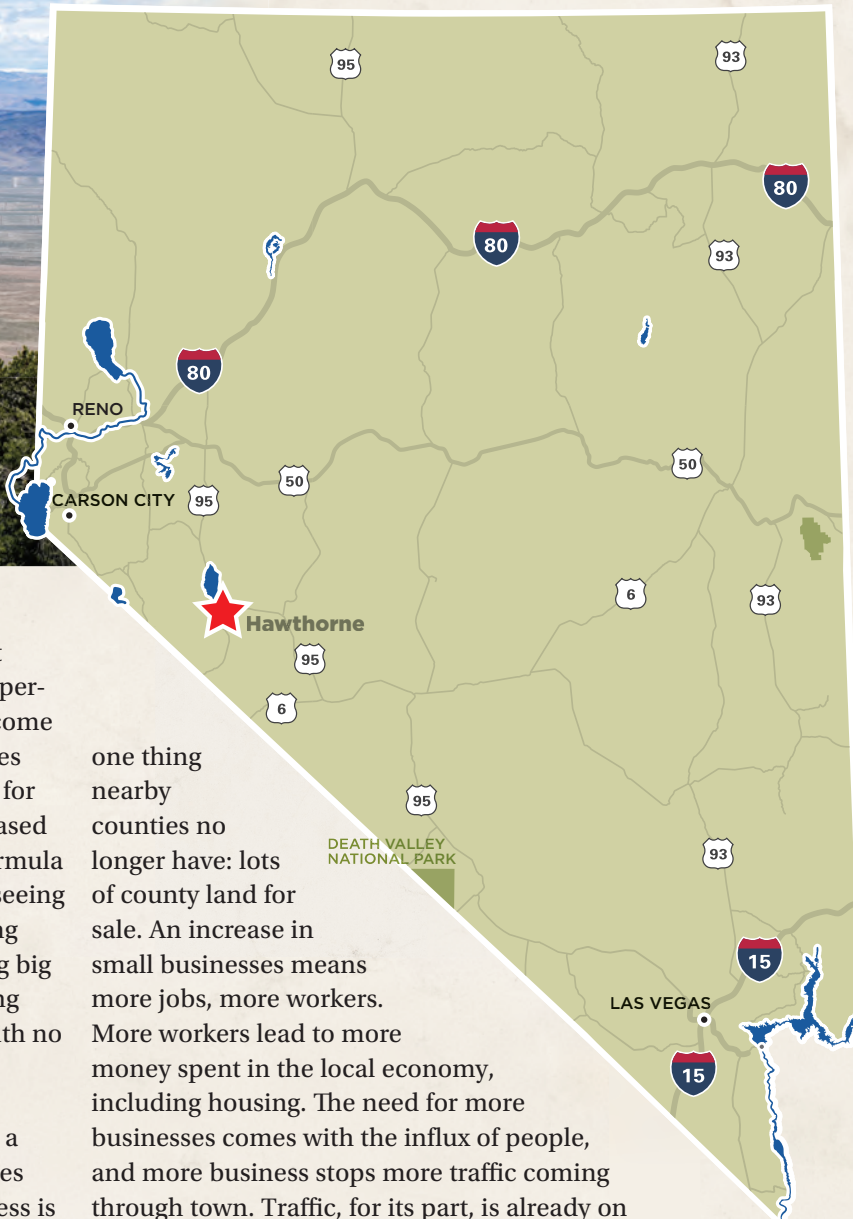


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## IF YOU BUILD IT, WILL THEY COME?

Hawthorne is in the midst of the vicious circle that plagues many small towns. Which comes first in the perfect scenario: businesses and recreational activities come to town, creating an exciting, diverse place for families looking to put down roots; or, families come to town for good paying jobs and businesses follow due to increased demand for goods and services? Finding the right formula is elusive and tricky, Chris notes. Mineral County is seeing an increase in mining, including a number of pending mines near Hawthorne, and these mines are bringing big paychecks with them. Trouble is, Chris admits, getting workers whose families want to relocate to a town with no bowling alley or movie theater.

The depot may come into play in the near future however. The civilian contract is up for bid, and with a new contractor, there is the promise of new businesses opening on land the base has to sell. And new business is something the county definitely wants to attract.

From solar and geothermal power to hemp farms, Mineral County is looking for businesses and they have

one thing nearby counties no longer have: lots of county land for sale. An increase in small businesses means more jobs, more workers. More workers lead to more money spent in the local economy, including housing. The need for more businesses comes with the influx of people, and more business stops more traffic coming through town. Traffic, for its part, is already on the increase, Chris says, thanks to trucks serving Storey County's Reno-Tahoe Industrial Park, and could be growing even more in the near future.



Old Nevada Pizza



"Interstate 11 is a big topic right now," he says. "We are almost sure it's coming through Mineral County, but the question is how close will it be. We don't want it too far away, or no one will stop here."

The Scotts used to own a gas station and convenience store, among other businesses, and Janice recalls always being delighted at the number of foreign accents she'd hear among her patrons.

"This is a busy town," she says. "People from all over the world come through here."

Chris agrees, noting that between 6,000-7,000 trucks pass through Hawthorne on any given day. Getting them to stop for gas and a meal is key, and hopefully, they stop for even longer.

## IT'S HOME

Betty Easley came to town in 1965, and it was her final stop. She worked as a teacher until retiring in 1992. She had a transient childhood, moving every four years with her Baptist minister father and her mother. After college, she followed her folks once more to Hawthorne and her traveling days were over.



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August 31



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"It has been so nice to put down roots here after a life of moving," she says. "I love the fact it's a quiet town. I do hate that a lot of businesses have struggled, but we're really hoping the base will be opening up for some private industry."

Betty serves as the Hawthorne airport's volunteer greeter/pilot liaison, something she started doing in 2007. Her title may be unofficial, but Betty's passion for promoting the airport and her town is nothing short of legit. Knowing general aviation pilots have many airports to choose from, Betty has created an environ-



Mineral County Museum

PHOTOS: MEGG MUELLER

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Mineral County High School

ment that brings them back to town time and again. On her own, she's purchased three courtesy vehicles for pilots to use when they are in town, giving them the opportunity to visit Hawthorne for a meal or to see a museum.

Encouraging visitors and having the infrastructure to support their needs is crucial, everyone agrees. Keeping families, and especially young children, in town is the only way for Hawthorne to survive and grow. When Janice graduated high school, there were 95 kids in her class. A few years later, when her sister Janette Childress graduated, there were 85. This year's class has just 30 kids. The Scott's daughter lives in town and has worked for the hospital for 10 years, but their son is working on a career in the music industry, so the opportunities in Las Vegas made more sense. They have two grandchildren who live in town also, and they understand that young people need to have options when it comes to jobs and a social life, but they think that can be found in Hawthorne. Jim worked at the depot after he got out of the army, but eventually he and Janice made their own way with a series of family businesses.

"We love it here," Janice says. "We have always been content to be here."

Betty agrees.

"So many people in this town are nice and friendly. I don't think the town's problems are unique, and we still have hope."

"With I-11 coming through, there are probably going to be a couple of offramps. If we can get water to the lake, we get the fish back. We know we're going through hard times, but it will get better. We know it will." ▀



# JOURNEY OR DESTINATION

*how 'bout both?*



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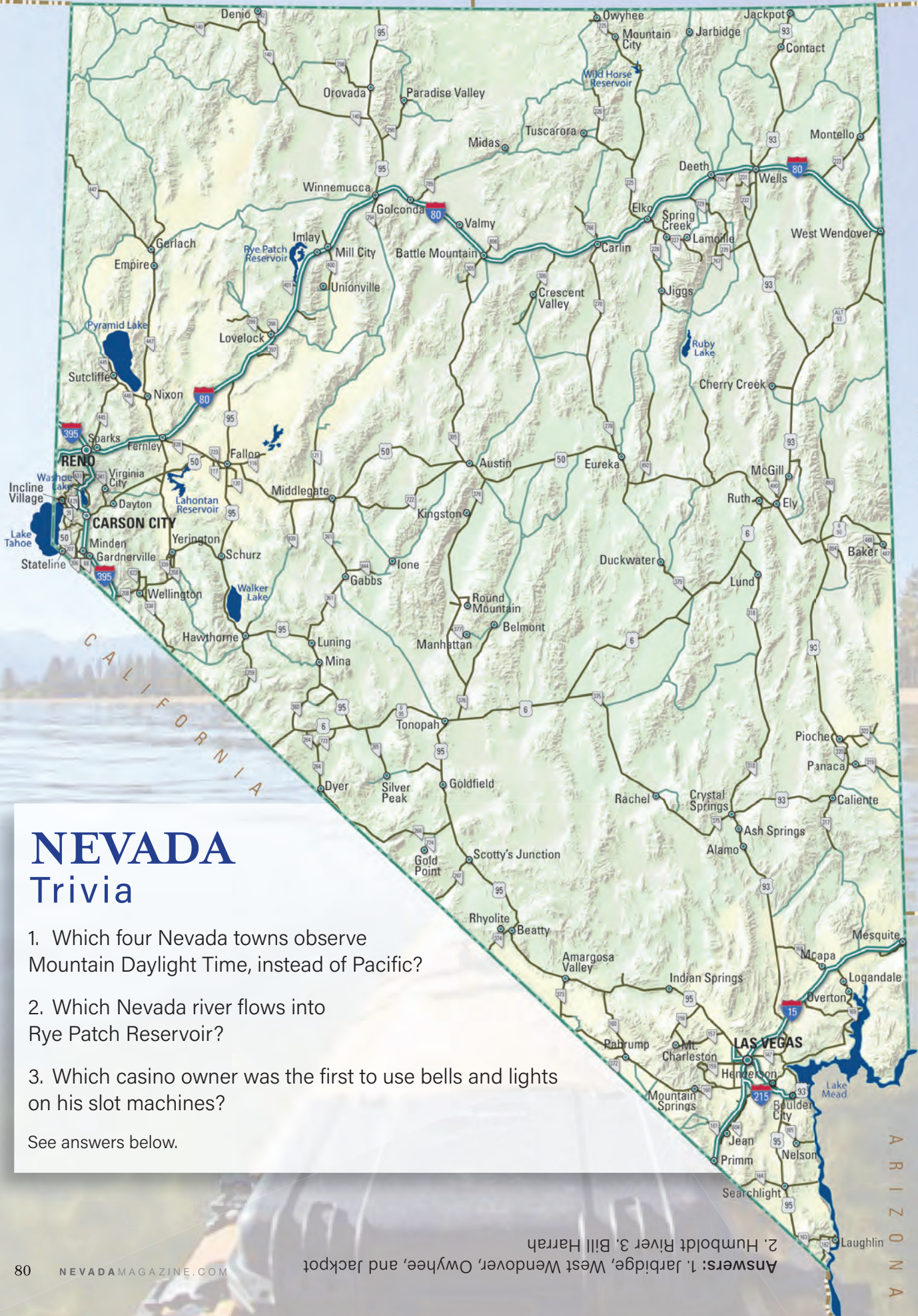


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## NEVADA Trivia

1. Which four Nevada towns observe Mountain Daylight Time, instead of Pacific?
2. Which Nevada river flows into Rye Patch Reservoir?
3. Which casino owner was the first to use bells and lights on his slot machines?

See answers below.

Answers: 1. Jarbidge, West Wendover, Owyhee, and Jackpot  
2. Humboldt River 3. Bill Harrah

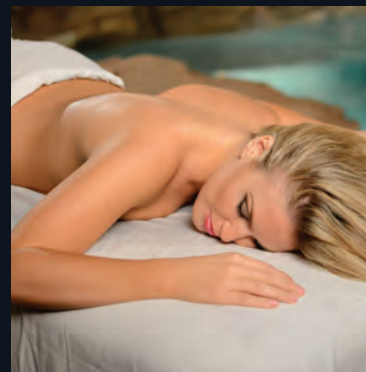


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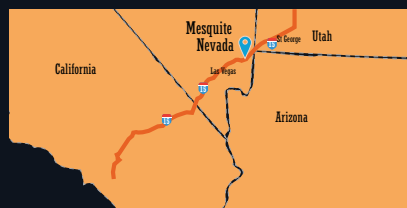
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