# NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

# Odyssey of a Ghost Town Explorer's

final chapter



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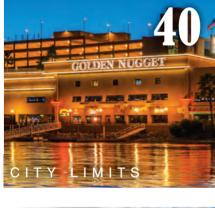
Three Hikes in Red Rock **Nevada Nuggets** 

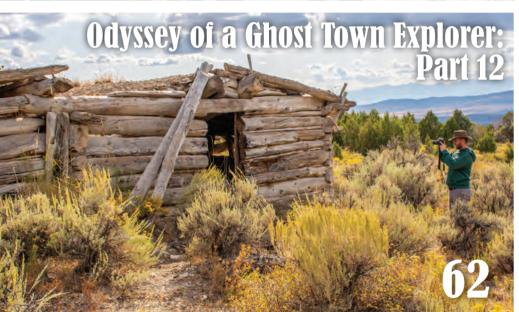


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Sun sets over the Clover Valley near Wells, illuminating a quiet moment at the end of a long day of ghost town adventures. Pictured is our intrepid ghost town explorer, Associate Editor Eric Cachinero.



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#### WFR FXTRAS



Through the Lens: Lamoille Canyon: A pictorial journey through the jewel of the Ruby Mountains in eastern Nevada.

Our first coverage of Lamoille Canyon was in May 1937, and has continued

for eight decades. Take a look at what makes this place worthy of our continued attention. By Nevada Magazine staff



Yesterday: Steamers of Tahoe: Early steamships carried freight and mail to isolated settlements on the fringes of Lake Tahoe, but commercial exploitation of the water did not really take hold until the discovery of The

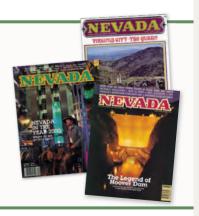
Comstock Lode in the early 1860s. The mines consumed vast hordes of lumber for shoring and

the burgeoning towns. As this source of lumber began to wane, new timbering areas began to open up on the west side of Lake Tahoe which led to the launching of the first steamships to tow lumber barges across the lake. Steamers found other uses. and today, some of these early ships lie at the bottom of the lake. This story first appeared in our Winter 1973 issue. By Philip I. Earl



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We're working hard to upload every issue of Nevada Magazine ever created. We now have every issue from 1936-1988 and 2013-2019 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 6











#### **NEVADA WIDE WEB**

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







# My Gift to Nevada

My sister brought something to my attention recently, something I hadn't really considered—my job as editor of this magazine has afforded me a very special perspective on my home state. In the five and a half years I've been here, my partner in crime Associate Editor Eric Cachinero and I have covered an amazing amount of ground, all within the state lines.

I'm sure there are many people who have traveled across Nevada as much, but I'm also sure there are more people who call Nevada home and haven't visited more than a couple places. When I lived in Maryland, I did not explore the state much, and I was there for a decade. Looking back, I'm not sure if it was because I had young children or because it was too overwhelming, but I do wish I had explored more.

Hindsight is everything some say. And in a nice bit of serendipity, we're about to enter the year 2020. While I am fortunate enough to have a job focused on discovering our state, I hope that what we do in the pages of this magazine encourages people to get out and do some discovering on their own. While Eric and I have certainly seen a great portion of Nevada, we both know there are still so many roads we've never driven on, towns and ghost towns we haven't seen, and more importantly, so many great

Nevada, it's been said, is a world within, a state apart.
As we approach the holiday season, I hope you enjoy the gift of Nevada

people we haven't met.

you find in these pages, and even more, I hope you give yourself the gift of Nevada in your travels.

#### COMING NEXT YEAR

This issue marks the end of our second chapter of the "Odyssey of a Ghost Town Explorer" series (see page 62). While there are still many places to explore, we are putting ghost towns on the shelf for a bit and turning our attention to haunted Nevada. Historic buildings, artifacts, events from the past...anything with a story of spectral visits is fair game. We're compiling our list, but would love to hear from anyone who knows of something we need to cover. Share your thoughts at editor@nevadamagazine.com, or shoot me a letter, or give me a call. We can't wait to hear your stories.

Also this year, we're opening up a couple pages for your photos. Each issue we'll choose a theme, and our January/February 2020 theme will be Your Favorite Nevada...View. Share your photos via email for a chance to be featured in the magazine. We can't wait to see

Nevada through your eyes!

Thank you for reading *Nevada Magazine*, whether in print or online. Your support keeps us excited to explore Nevada in new and wonderful ways, and will for years to come.

Megg Mueller, Managing Editor
mmueller@nevadamagazine.com

#### **LETTERS**



#### SWEPT AWAY

The story about surfing on the Truckee River (July/ August 2019) is really something. I read it three times! It was a very good story.

I learn a lot of stuff I didn't know about Nevada from your magazine. Thank you! — **Louis Matney**, Tonopah

#### ARE YOU SURE?

I read with interest the article about Hawthorne in the July/August issue and noted on page 74 the claim that "the lake's surface elevation has dropped more than 2,800 feet since the 1880s." Obviously, while the surface level has clearly dropped, it most certainly has not dropped 2,800 feet. Would you happen to know how much it has actually dropped? — **Peter Hansen**, via email

Peter, you're absolutely correct. That was quite the typo, and for that I apologize. According to the Walker Basin Restoration Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Walker Lake has dropped more than 150 feet. — Megg Mueller

#### STIRRING MEMORIES

Really nice article about St.

Thomas (September/October 2019) and reminded me of a story told to me by the culprit herself when her family lived in St. Thomas.

The Strasser family was well known and among their children was a very independent Bertha. As the family settled into church one Sunday, late-arriving Bertha caused every head to turn. For whatever reason, she'd stuffed her bloomers with sleigh bells and her jingling entrance down the aisle brought lots of smiles and giggles, to the consternation off her religious family! Even now I have to laugh as I recall that picture! — **Donna Andress**, via email

#### RECOMMENDED

I like the beautiful photos, great articles, and offbeat information about the best state of all.

—Deanna Swaney, via Facebook

#### WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

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

#### CONTRIBUTORS

#### DAVID MCCORMICK

With a master's degree in regional planning from the University of Massachusetts, David McCormick was employed by the City of Springfield for several years. Now retired, he works as a freelance writer. His articles have appeared in "Naval History," "America's Civil War," "Pennsylvania Heritage," "History Magazine," and "Michigan History," among others. 
PGS. 32-37



#### LORI SMITHSON

Lori Smithson is a relentless traveler and adventurer and loves hiking, RVing, scuba diving, and reading everything including cereal boxes at breakfast. She also enjoys poking through dusty bookstores, libraries,



and museums and attending weird festivals and events on the weekends. A new transplant to Nevada, she is enthusiastically falling in love with her new home in Las Vegas. ■ PGS. 56-61

To find out how to contribute, visit nevadamagazine.com/writer

### **Up Front**

#### MUSEUMS

#### Extra chances to witness historic coin press

As the 150th anniversary of the opening of the U.S. Branch Mint in Carson City draws closer, the Nevada State Museum is expanding the days it showcases one of the mint's most enduring artifacts. The museum is now operating its historic coin press on Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The most popular medallion of late is the replica 1870 Liberty Seated Half Dollar (complete with the "CC" mint mark), the first half dollar to come off the press when the Mint opened in 1870. The museum is doing a limited-edition run of the replicas in honor of the mint's sesquicentennial.

Freedom's defense. Though the figure

of Liberty did not change, there

Variations on both

the obverse and

Pere many design

reverse of the balf

O Linerty Seater

the fourth and last of

inscribed with the Word "Liberty."

The shield has 13 stripes for the oniginal colonies and represents This Liberty Seated Half Dollar is a replica of the first half dollar minted on Coin Press No. 1 in the Carson City Mint in 1870, approximately two months after the beginning of operations. Each piece minted in this limited series is made of .999 fine Nevada silver, thanks to support from the Coeur Rochester mining company. Our replica was sculpted by retired U.S. Mint engraver, Tom Rogers. CC half dollars were minted from Roy Ounce, 999 Fine Newall 1870 to 1878, but the smallest coinage was the first in 1870 at 54,617 coins. of 3,000 Nevada State

"Interest in the replica 1870 half dollar has been tremendous," says Myron Freedman, director of the museum. "The planchets we are using are made from silver that comes from the Coeur Rochester mine near Lovelock and we only have so much of it, so it is a special limited series."

Museum patrons can purchase a planchet in the museum store and bring it to the Coin Press Gallery to have it minted. Prepressed medallions are available in the museum store for purchase as well.

> Through February 2020, the museum will mint a variety of its medallions. Patrons can call the museum the week they plan to visit to see which medallion is being minted.

"The combination of the mint's original coin press striking an 1870 replica coin using Nevada silver, and during the sesquicentennial period, makes collecting this medallion the perfect way to celebrate this unique and rare piece of history," Freedman says.



by Christian Gobrecht, or man waren Marer of the United States Ming 84. The basic obverse design



The former SLS Las Vegas will now operate under the resort's original, iconic brand name—Sahara Las Vegas. Since Owner Alex Meruelo purchased the property last year, strides have been made in transforming the resort experience. Completed renovations within the \$150 million resort overhaul include an updated casino

floor featuring the 24-hour Casbar Lounge; the recently unveiled Infinity premium gaming lounge; renovated hotel rooms, suites, and corridors; an upgraded spa; and a soon-to-debut hotel lobby. saharalasvegas.com, 702-761-7000



#### HOLIDAYS

#### Ethel M Chocolates lights up Henderson cactus garden

Ethel M Chocolates' factory will host its 26th annual light ceremony and display in its cactus garden on Nov. 5. The cactus garden is lit with festive holiday lights during November and December.

The Nevada-based chocolatier has also unveiled its 2019 limited-edition holiday collection, which includes dark chocolate Cabernet raisins, XO Cognac truffles made with Remy Martin XO Cognac, champagne and cherry cordials, chocolate covered pecan brittle, and collectible holiday tins.

ethelm.com, 775-962-5102



#### **UP FRONT**



- Nevada State Parks announced the completion of an important park improvement project at **Kershaw-Ryan State Park** in southeastern Nevada. Electrical and water hook-ups are now available at all of the park's 16 camp sites. Camp comfortably during summer or winter with the new 50-amp electrical service.

  parks.nv.gov, 775-726-3564
- The Raiders have announced the name of their new football stadium being built in Las Vegas. The new stadium, which the team will play at for the 2020 season, will be named **Allegiant Stadium**. Name sponsor Allegiant Travel Co. is the parent company of the Las Vegas-based airline Allegiant Air. **allegiantstadium.com**
- A new report shows local governments and highway departments at **Lake Tahoe** successfully exceeded pollutant reduction goals set for 2018 to decrease "fine sediment loads" (e.g., road sands) by approximately 440,000 pounds per year. Twenty years ago, Lake Tahoe was losing a foot of clarity per year. In 2019, winter clarity is improving by a half-foot per year. **clarity.laketahoeinfo.org**, 775-687-9450
- The City of Reno unveiled its first historic marker in its Historical Resources Commission's new program. In August, a marker was placed at 236 North Virginia Street as a tribute to **Harold's Club**. The opening of Harold's Club on Virginia Street in 1935 by the Smith family changed the face of Reno and helped usher in the modern age of gaming in Nevada.

  reno.gov, 775-334-4636
- Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno recently installed bipolar ionization technology to combat tobacco smoke and odor throughout the resort. The new Plasma Air smoke and odor control system is the first of its kind in northern Nevada featuring 120 Plasma Air 50 Series ionizers. The system will neutralize the air on the gaming floor and throughout the facility. grandsierraresort.com, 775-789-2000

#### LODGING

#### Claire Sinclair debuts boutique hotel in Vegas



Renowned pin-up star, Playboy Playmate, and Las Vegas headliner Claire Sinclair has opened a oneof-a-kind boutique hotel renovation and passion project Clairbnb. The themed, boutique hotel allows guests to stay in an

immersive art installation in Downtown Las Vegas. Each intricately curated room is outfitted with chic and skillfully-sourced décor, allowing guests the opportunity to transform their common hotel experience into a destination in itself.



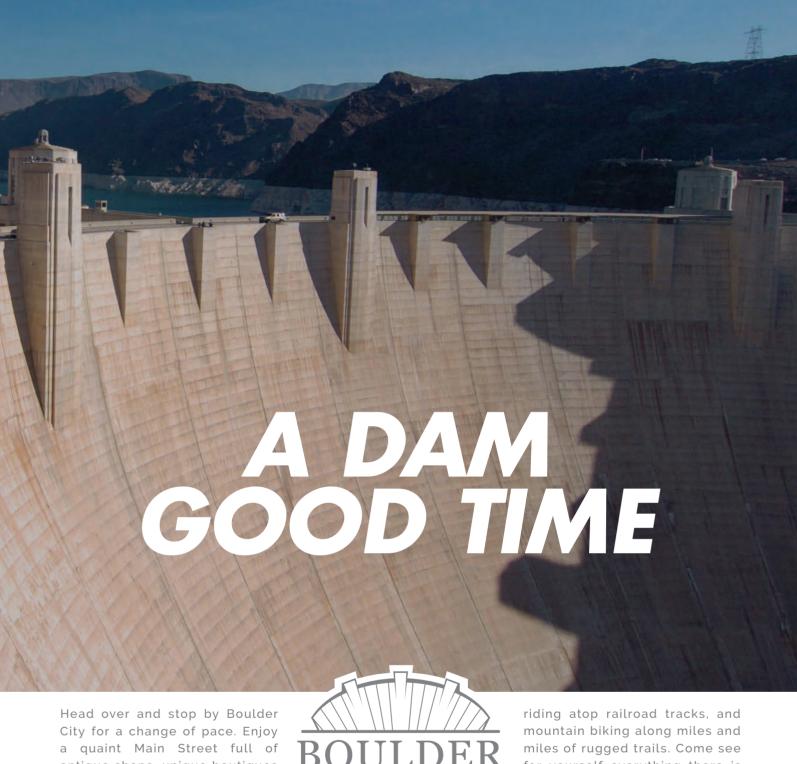
Each of Clairbnb's seven rooms has a unique theme imagined by Claire Sinclair and brought to life by local artist Jon Crowder. Years of collecting and perfecting designs went

into creating Clairbnb, with rooms like the '70s Suite with groovy, green interior, a record collection to peruse from the shag carpet, a pin-ball machine, and period light fixtures. The Fairy Tale Suite is a fantasy

connoisseur's dream with room furnishings fit for a king or queen.

Each suite includes a king- or queen-sized bed, full bath, kitchen, living space, and is aptly named according to the unique elements and designs found within.

clairbnb.com, 702-907-6545



antique shops, unique boutiques and places to grab a bite. Sure, it looks peaceful. But Boulder City also has an adventurous side, with people zip-lining down canyons,



for yourself everything there is to do, whether you're looking to simply hang out or to hang on tight. VisitBoulderCity.com







#### **UP FRONT**



- Binion's Gambling Hall has opened the **Hotel Apache** on Fremont Street in Las Vegas. The boutique hotel features 81 rooms with vintage-style furnishings reminiscent of the original Hotel Apache that opened in 1932. **binions.com**, 702-382-1600
- Appealing to the younger crowd at the 2019 Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance, the **National Automobile Museum** in Reno earned the Hillsborough Schools Foundation Children's Choice Award for the 1961 Roth Beatnik Bandit Custom Hot Rod. The hot rod was chosen as the favorite car by children attending the event. For 63 years, The Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance has maintained a proud tradition of honoring and celebrating excellence in automotive design and engineering. **automuseum.org**, **775-333-9300**
- The 2019 American Century Championship at South Lake Tahoe saw a record number of spectators, 91 celebrities, and international media exposure for Lake Tahoe. The financial impact of this year's annual event has been estimated at \$30 million.

americancenturychampionship.com

- The Las Vegas Aviators baseball team has been selected to host the 2020 Ephesus Sports Lighting Triple-A National Championship Game, which will be played at Las Vegas Ballpark on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020. The game will feature the champion of the Pacific Coast League against the champion of the International League in a one-game winner-take-all showdown. aviatorslv.com, 702-943-7200
- The iconic Maine Street Historic

  District in Fallon has been listed in the

  National Register of Historic Places. The

  Maine Street Historic District is a significant reflection of the town's commercial
  development in the early twentieth century through the mid-1960s. The National

  Register is the nation's official list of places
  worthy of preservation.

shpo.nv.gov/historicplaces, 775-684-3448

#### DINING

#### Gordon Ramsay brings Hell's Kitchen to Tahoe





Celebrated multi-Michelin star chef and television personality Gordon Ramsay will bring the third Gordon Ramsay Hell's Kitchen restaurant to Lake Tahoe, with an anticipated debut in late 2019.

Gordon Ramsay Hell's Kitchen Lake Tahoe will be located in the

historic Sage Room at Harveys, which was one of Tahoe's first fine dining establishments. Sage Room will continue its legacy in 19 Kitchen & Bar location, high atop Harveys with breathtaking views of the lake. Similar to the other Hell's Kitchen restaurants,



design and menu elements will be pulled directly from the long-running hit FOX reality show.

The restaurant will feature a nod to the past by leaving Sage Room's iconic, hand-hewn wooden beams intact. The beams were made from trees that were removed when the road to the property was initially built and have been a prominent design piece since the original log building that housed Harveys Wagon Wheel casino, which first opened in 1944.

gordonramsayrestaurants.com, 775-348-2200



### TREASURES FROM THE ROBERT M. LEE COLLECTION

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#### NEV MUS OF ADA EUM ART

Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts
E. L. Wiegand Gallery
160 West Liberty Street in downtown Reno, Nevada

Silver-Mounted Exhibition Pistol, 1854-55, Louis-Julien Gastinne-Renette (Paris, France), Engraver unsigned; Silver and wood (ebony). Collection of Robert M. Lee.



#### **UP FRONT**



- The **Camel Safari** outside Mesquite now has authentic Mongolian gers (yurts) available at the attraction. Sleep alongside more than 30 Bactrian and Dromedary camels and a variety of other exotic animals. Gers can accommodate two to four guests comfortably and do not include a tour of Camel Safari, which can be booked separately. **camelsafari.com**, 800-836-4036
- International cabaret sensation **Blanc de Blanc** now performs at the Sahara Las
  Vegas. The acclaimed production blends
  vintage glamour and high-end spectacle
  with theatre, circus, and aerial performances. This award-winning production plunges audiences into a world of overflowing
  champagne bottles, sparkles, and glamour. **saharalasvegas.com**, **702-761-7000**
- The Mob Museum and the El Cortez Hotel & Casino announce an epic vintage Vegas experience. This first-ever collaboration pairs VIP access to The Mob Museum with two unparalleled nights in the Jackie Gaughan Suite at the historic El Cortez Hotel & Casino. This package is available through Dec. 31. themobmuseum.org/vintage-vegas-experience, 702-724-8631
- The City of Reno unveiled the "Longest Little Landscape" along Gibraltar Drive in southwest Reno. The project, titled "The Infinity Range," by artist Jennifer Charboneau consists of three murals with mountain-scape themes. reno.gov, 775-334-4636
- DISCOVERY Children's Museum, in partnership with Subaru of Las Vegas, has opened the museum's newest Eco City exhibit, the Subaru Car Care Center. Fully equipped with a replica of the Subaru Ascent and showroom, families will become mechanics or customers while learning helpful ways to be environmentally friendly that apply to the automotive industry. discoverykidslv.org, 702-382-3445

#### RESTAURANT ROUNDUP

#### Tasty dining and imbibing news from Las Vegas

Wynn Las Vegas made a dramatic expansion to its culinary portfolio with the announcement of its partnership with acclaimed **Chef Thomas Keller** and his collection of restaurants that include famed Bouchon, The French Laundry, Per Se, The Surf Club Restaurant, and TAK Room. Taking over the space previously occupied by The Country Club, the new venture is expected to open in the fall of 2020. wynnlasvegas.com, 775-770-7000



UGENE DELA CRUZ

Trustworthy Brewing Co. & BBQ is now open at the Grand Canal Shoppes at The Palazzo. As the only brewery on the Las Vegas Strip to focus on artisanal smallbatch craft beers, Trustworthy Brewing Co. & BBQ is pouring award-winning West Coast-inspired beers

brewed on site as well as from their Burbank brewery, along with a full bar. Executive Chef Lloyd Bansil's menu complements the beer with a selection of smoked meats and barbecue dishes. trustworthybrewingco.com/las-vegas, 702-607-2337

**Ike's Love & Sandwiches**—the wildly popular, cult favorite among sandwich lovers—has debuted its first Las Vegas location. The store is located along The Strip within Fashion Show Las Vegas. The new location introduces the inaugural High Roller Menu with three decadent sandwiches, all of which feature American Wagyu roast beef, sliced prime rib, and Ike's white truffle Dirty Sauce. **flightsrestaurants.com**, **702-268-7264** 

La Strega—Las Vegas' new Italian ristorante featuring Executive Chef Gina Marinelli's farm-to-table Italian cuisine in the heart of Summerlin—introduces a fanciful brunch menu with a series of refreshing cocktails, a caviar tasting experience, waffles with marscapone butter, and innovative treatments of a selection of



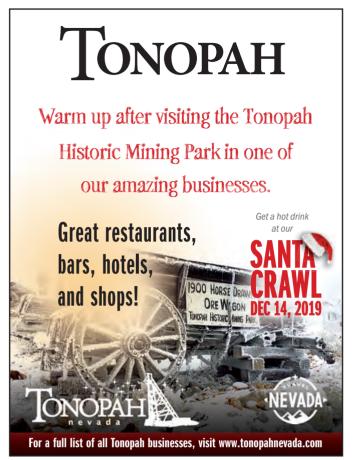
meats including short rib and hangar steak. **lastregalv.com**, **702-722-2099 Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas** is taking its käsespätzle, a German noodle dish,

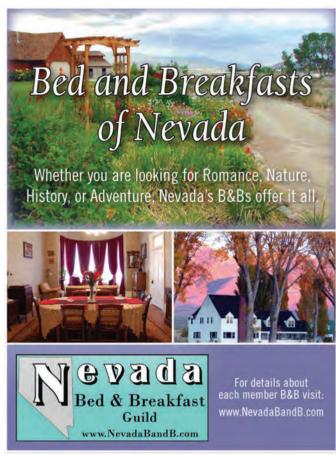
to the next level. The iconic Bavarian beer hall and restaurant has launched a



four-and-a-half-pound version of the specialty dish, which is complimentary to patrons under one condition: the guest must finish the supersized version of the delectable dish on their own in less than one hour.

hofbrauhauslasvegas.com,
702-853-2337





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#### **UP FRONT**



■ The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas announced a debut charitable giving application available on all ticket redemption machines on the casino floor. The Giving Module program, powered by EveriCares, allows guests to donate spare change to one of four pre-selected nonprofit organizations when redeeming a slot ticket voucher. The Cosmopolitan is the first resort on The Strip to implement this giving platform. cosmopolitanlasvegas.com, 702-698-7000

#### ■ The Nevada Historical Society

announced it has found a new permanent home. The museum will relocate to the old "Reno-Gazette Journal" building in downtown Reno. The new location is triple the size of the current building and will allow the museum to expand educational programs, exhibition space, a research facility, and augment public access.

nvhistoricalsociety.org, 775-688-1190

■ The Burlesque Hall of Fame has received a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence. Now in its ninth year, the achievement celebrates businesses that are consistently excellent—having earned great traveler reviews on TripAdvisor over the past year. Certificate of Excellence recipients include restaurants, accommodations, and attractions located all over the world that have continually delivered a quality customer experience.

burlesquehall.com, 888-661-6465

■ Acclaimed Spanish artist **Okuda San Miguel** has partnered with Mama Rabbit
Bar at Park MGM in Las Vegas to create
"Mother Natura"—a project featuring the
country's first sculptural slot machines and
an accompanying mural inspired by the
legend of Mayahuel, the Mexican goddess
of agave and fertility.

drinkmamarabbitlv.com, 702-405-4300

■ The historic **Delta Saloon** in Virginia City has reopened. The building, built in 1863, sustained major damage after a gas leak caused an explosion in March that destroyed the kitchens and partially collapsed the roof.

thedeltasaloon.com, 775-583-6005

#### REINVENTION

#### The Neon Line District transforms Highway 40 in Reno







Jeffrey Jacobs, real-estate developer and CEO of Jacobs Entertainment, Inc., is set to create a \$1 billion mixed-use development in downtown Reno. The area encompasses 20 city blocks that will be known as Reno's Neon Line District. Jacobs Entertainment has already invested more than \$100 million in the acquisition of more than 50 separate properties.

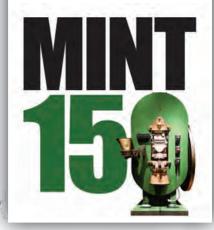
The centerpiece of the district is the creation of a \$25 million, half-mile-long installation of public art along West Fourth Street, that will be known as Reno's Neon Line. Currently under construction, Reno's Neon Line will host rotating artwork, with the initial artwork of the series to include sculptures formerly exhibited at Burning Man.

The initial sculptures include a giant steel Mongolian warrior that stood guard over the playa in 2018, a 50-foot tree-like LED lantern sculpture, a large interactive lights and steel

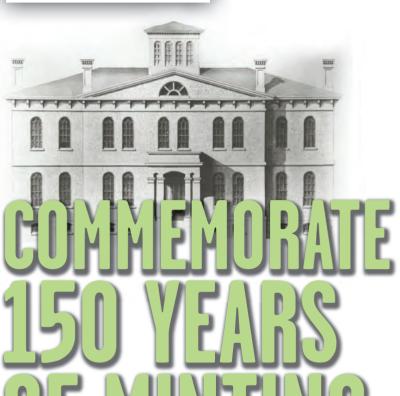
sculpture, and a kinetic horse sculpture made of found objects.

The space will be pedestrian-friendly and allows local and

national artists to showcase their work. Construction on the entirety of Reno's Neon Line will be completed in summer 2021. jacobsentertainmentinc.com, 303-215-5200



Visit **MINT150.COM** for upcoming events and a look at the Mint's history.



Take home your own piece of history. The Nevada State Museum is commemorating the sesquicentennial of the historic Carson City Mint by offering a **limited edition**, .999 fine silver, 1870 CC Liberty Seated Half Dollar replica from Coin Press No. 1. **Don't miss** this unique opportunity to collect a replica of the first CC half dollar coin, struck on the same coin press operating in the same mint building and made with silver mined in Nevada.









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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.

SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVEL NEVAD



**FOR MORE INFORMATION** 

Guru Road Nevada, 89412

drive vehicles, and as the wisdom on

the rocks say, at the price of free, "RE-

MEMBER THE PRICE IS RIGHT."







HILLARY WILLIAMS

Pages 18-19: Angela Davis captured this photo of a mule deer fawn peeking in her window. "It was a snowy morning and I was just finishing up decorating our Christmas tree when out of the corner of my eye this young mule deer was seen peering into my home. Lucky me...I had my camera at easy access and ended up with this amazing photo."

Left: While fighting the Jacks Valley Fire in September, Hillary Williams snapped this shot of the north end of Carson Valley. "We were unable to access the fire with our engine, so we parked and hiked to it. While watching the fire, I saw lightning bolts strike behind a rainbow. The scene was breathtaking; a once in a lifetime combination of natural events, along with perfect lighting. I didn't realize the shot I captured, however, until I got home later that night."

Below: Wallace Hawkins captured this image of the Hoover Dam last winter. "I decided to drive to the pedestrian bridge, which would give me this view. The only problem with that is the fencing—so that people don't fall off the bridge—is as high as my head. I wasn't able to use my tripod because my tripod doesn't go as high as I would have needed it to. So, I shot this handheld, on my toes..."

Opposite page, top: "Even when she isn't calm, collected, and all dressed up in Caribbean blues, Tahoe still possesses a beauty as this midwinter sunset reveals," says Scott Mortimore. "I timed it so that the wrath of the winds would be revealed in the rhythm of the splashes that came toward me and exploded at various points of this pier just a few miles from Sand Harbor. It took patience: and a towel."

Opposite page, center: Sandi Whitteker captured this image of wild turkeys. "Turkeys are one of my favorite birds to find and photograph in the wild. It makes me chuckle just to watch them, sporting their crimson-red snoods, and chatting away in their funny gobble speak. And oh those boys! They're really quite handsome, as they spread their colorful tail feathers and strut around to impress the girls."





SCOTT MORTIMORE



SANDI WHITTEKER



#### FACEBOOK GROUP CHOICE

Mary Cioffi captured this shot of three wild horses wandering across the Fish Springs Range in Carson Valley.

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



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

MARY CIOFFI

#### BY JANET GEARY

Here's some sweet news: according to forbes.com, the average American consumes almost 10 pounds of chocolate per year. Chocolate is big business. In 2018, it was reported in the "Washington Post" that \$22 billion a year is spent on the sweet treat in the U.S. alone. For anyone with a sweet tooth, those numbers are probably no surprise. Today, Las Vegas is home to three premiere chocolate stores, and chocolate lovers can visit them all as part of the new Vegas Chocolate Tour.



# Weel Decadence

Vegas Chocolate Tour delivers a tasty experience.

#### SERIOUSLY SWEET STOPS



This four-hour experience explores the sweet side of Sin City, starting at the iconic M&M's World on The Strip where four floors of colorful fun await. This location is the only M&M's World in the western U.S. and one step inside reveals this is someplace special. Visitors can snap colorful photos of the famous M&M's characters; pose in front of Kyle Busch's M&M's-sponsored NA-SCAR; print a personal message on M&M's candies; and sample some of the new flavors like Thai coconut or coffee peanut. With more than 28,000 square feet to explore, the time flies by, so make sure to take it all in before the tour's next stop.



The tour heads to Hershey's Chocolate World, housing more that 800 Hershey candies and chocolates, including Reese's and Jolly Ranchers. Marvel at the Statue of Liberty made entirely out of Twizzlers, or if you're

#### **CRAVINGS** | Vegas Chocolate Tour



still looking for that chocolate rush, check out the Statue of Liberty made out of almost 800 pounds of Hershey's milk chocolate. Sample some of the dozens of flavors of Hershey's Kisses or Jolly Ranchers and send a message to your friends via the email kiosk before you head outside for a delicious treat. Tour guests receive a beautifully decorated cupcake and a drink to enjoy in the shaded picnic area right on The Strip.

Then it's time for a brief

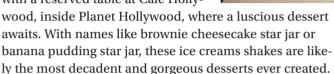
respite via an air-conditioned SUV—complete with sparkling cider or chocolate wine toasts—which makes a visit to the famous "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign. This iconic location provides the perfect selfie spot, and tour guides will make sure to get the perfect shot.

#### WORLDS OF PURE IMAGINATION

The next stop is the world-famous Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Botanical Cactus Garden. Watch as they make hand-dipped confections or caramel apples while munching on delectable samples.

The tour can be extended to include a premium chocolate-tasting class where they discuss how chocolate is sourced, refined, and produced, as well as the subtleties of chocolate tasting and flavor identification. There is time to explore the Botanical Cactus Gardens featuring more than 300 different varieties of succulents.

But it's not over yet! The last stop on the Vegas Chocolate Tour starts with a reserved table at Café Holly-



There are even more treats along the way, but suffice to say, guests of the Vegas Chocolate Tour will never look at chocolate the same way again.



#### **TOUR DELICIOUSLY**

Vegas Chocolate Tour 2590 Windmill Lane #348 Las Vegas, NV 89074 vegaschocolatetour.com, 702-236-8728



### The Star Hotel

Taste authenticity at this cornerstone of Nevada Basque cuisine.



Pasty BASQUE FOOD EAMILY STYLE

#### BY ERIC CACHINERO

#### THE CUISINE

In September, Editor Megg Mueller and I, after wrapping up day two of ghost town adventures (see page 62), treated ourselves to one of the most consistently delicious meals in Elko—The Star Hotel.

Guests of The Star experience authentic Nevada from the moment they walk in the door, and we were certainly no exception. The atmosphere is typically busy, but always inviting. In true Nevada style, the first thing I do is to belly up to the bar and order a Picon Punch. The Nevada-Basque traditional drink pairs Torani Amer liqueur with a skosh of grenadine and soda water over ice, followed by a splash of brandy, a garnish of lemon, all served in a custom stemmed Picon glass. The cocktail presents an initial potent al-

cohol punch that is mellowed by the bitter orange and hints of mint presented by the Torani Amer. Megg opts for an even more authentic Nevada drink: whiskey and coke.

As we wait for a table and sip our drinks, our eyes can't help but scan the wooden walls of The Star. Photos of old cowboys, trophy bull elk, and framed National Cowboy Poetry Gathering posters adorn almost every wall in the restaurant.

We're soon seated, and it's game time.

A portly bowl of steamy vegetable soup finds its way to our table, accompanied by an equally adequate bowl of green salad. Each no-frills dish lets the taste do the talking—the soup with its salty seasoned cabbage, tomatoes, and celery, and the salad with its creamy garlic sauce.

The trick to eating successfully at The Star—and any Nevada Basque restaurant for that matter—is not to fill up on the first courses. I've made this mistake many times before, as it is easy to do.

I assume it's the Picon Punch that encourages me to make the same mistake once again as the next dishes are brought to our table. Seasoned pinto and garbanzo beans are supplemented with tender chunks of Basque chorizo, spaghetti is artfully drowned in marinara





MEGG MUELLER



ERIC CACHINERO



#### **CRAVINGS** The Star

sauce, and the most addicting dish of perhaps the entire meal—crispy French fries—prove almost too much for me to handle. Luckily the main course arrives before I fill up too much.

I opt for the lamb chops. They're served absolutely slathered in a mountain of aromatic sautéed garlic and served with a side of mint jelly. The combination seems odd, but it strangely blends as the lamb melts in my mouth with each bite.

Megg goes for the beef filet wrapped in a thick slice of bacon. Lucky for me, she lets me try a bite. The savory beef is equally tender as the lamb chops, and the bacon amplifies the already superior cut of beef.

I'm sufficiently stuffed at this point, so we opt out of dessert—a regrettable yet wise choice considering the circumstances. We walk out the front door a little bit fatter and a lot happier after having a taste of true Nevada.

#### BY MEGG MUELLER

#### THE HISTORY

The Basque sheepherder is an ingrained part of Nevada history, lured to the West like so many others during the late 1800s when gold and silver were being discovered. Far from their native lands, they gathered in communities with other Basques, keeping their traditions and language alive. In Elko, Basque ranchers supplied food to the growing population, tending both cattle and sheep. Family and friends were encouraged to come to the new land, to work as sheepherders and ranchers, and for some, such as Pete Jauregui and his wife Matilde, to open boarding houses.

The Jaureguis had long dreamed of opening a place where other Basques could find somewhere that felt like home, even in a different



NORTHEASTERN NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM



MEGG MUELLER

country. In December 1910, that dream came true with the opening of The Star Hotel. It started with 11 rooms and one bath. Wood stoves warmed the sheepherders that came to stay in the winter after the sheep had been sold. The hotel was so successful, in just two years, it doubled in size.

The boarding house became a social hub for the Basques, with frequent dances and weddings held there. Basque girls were employed as maids and waitresses, and not surprisingly, turnover was quite high as the sheepherders quickly proposed to the young women.

Meals were served family style, further encouraging the social life of the boarders. A bell would ring at mealtime, and dishes were passed back and forth. Traditional dishes included porru-salda (leek soup), baratzuri-salda (garlic soup), bacaloa a la Vizcaina (salt cod in tomato and pimento sauce), clams and rice, and garbanzos with chorizos. Side dishes included spaghetti and beans, and the food was plentiful.

For 109 years, The Star Hotel has been Basque-owned. A number of owners have come and gone, but each family kept the traditions started by Pete and Matilde alive. A few long-term boarders still live above the restaurant that is packed nightly with locals and tourists, all longing for a taste of Basque hospitality.

#### **WELCOME HOME**

The Star Hotel 246 Silver St. Elko, NV 89801 elkostarhotel.com, 775-738-9925







Cowboy Arts & Gear Museum
775-389-1713 | cowboyartsandgearmuseum.org
542 Commercial St. Elko, Nevada 89801

#### BY ERIC CACHINERO

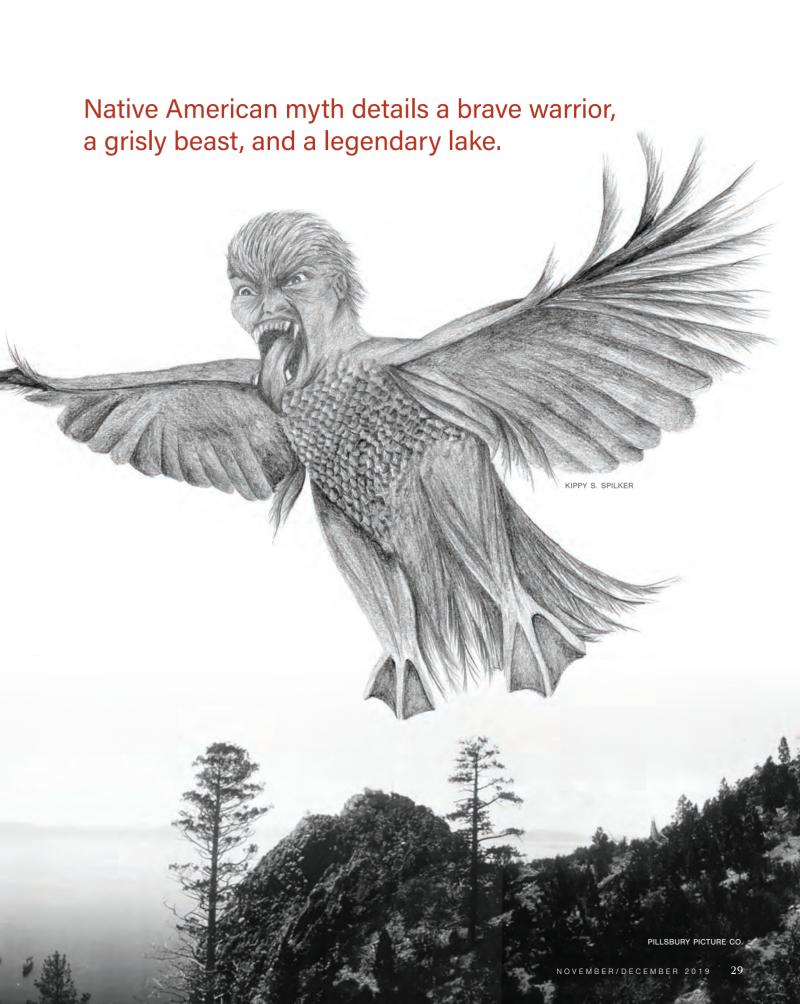
"No one ever heard or saw anything of such poor mortals as were drowned in these waters, for their bodies were carried to the Ong's nest and no morsel ever escaped him. Sometimes he would fly about the shores in quest of some child or woman or hunter, yet he was a great coward and was never known to attack anyone in camp, or when two or more were together. No arrow could pierce its feathers, nor could the strongest spear do more than glance from the scales on its face and legs, yet its cowards heart made him afraid for its toes had no claws, and its mouth no beak."

These words were written by author Nonette V. McGlashan in an article titled "The Legend of Lake Tahoe," that was published in "Sunset Magazine" on Nov. 3, 1905. They tell of a Native American legend about a terrible creature that used to haunt the waters of what would become Lake Tahoe. The Washoe Tribe (sometimes spelled Washo) lived in constant fear of the creature, who was notorious for picking off those unlucky enough to be traveling alone, and dragging them to its watery nest at the bottom of the lake.

The Ong, as it became known, was said to have wings as long as the tallest pine tree, colossal webbed feet, and was covered in both feathers and scales. Legend maintains that the creature also had a human-like face.

Though cowardly as the beast may have been at times, the Ong didn't just drag people away for fun.

It consumed them.



#### LAKE LEGEND

Washoe mythology immortalizes what is perhaps the most important day the tribe ever had regarding The Ong. as well as details how the famous Lake Tahoe was named.

The Washoe Tribe was embarking on its final hunt of the season late one fall, before the lake would become entombed in snow for the winter. The chief's daughter Nona had turned 16 years old, and was said to be the most beautiful girl anyone in the tribe had ever laid eyes upon—and it was time for the chief to select a young war-

rior for her to marry. The toughest braves in the tribe were all determined to win her hand in marriage, and they sought to prove themselves on this final hunt.

One young man, who was never known for being particularly daring, strong, or brave, traveled to a solitary spot on the lake's shore on the morning of the hunt to pray to the Great Spirit—the name the Washoe people gave to their creator. He prayed for guidance and asked how he could win Nona's hand. though his calls went unanswered. That is until in the distance, in the middle of the lake, he saw The Ong's gruesome body begin to bubble up from the lake.

The beast shot up into the sky, seeking out its prey for the day. The young man began to flail his arms, as to attract the attention of The Ong, and it worked. The creature

swooped down and grabbed the young man by his ankles, and leapt high into the sky above the lake. Onlookers gasped as their fellow tribesman was clutched in the beast's webbed feet, being dragged higher and higher, horrified as they witnessed his inevitable death. The Ong often dragged its prey into the sky, and released it to fall into the lake, allowing water currents to carry the victim into the beast's nest.

But the young man had something else in mind. As he was clutched in The Ong's massive webbed feet,

> he took out a buckskin rope, and firmly attached himself to the creature's feet. Once above the lake, the beast, try though he might, couldn't release the young man into the lake, and instead tried biting him with its razor teeth. Each time the beast opened its horrible jaws, the young man threw toxic arrows down its throat.

The Ong flailed about, unable to release the young man, as it suffered increasingly from the onslaught of arrows that pierced its insides. The beast plunged into the center of the lake as the entire tribe, which gathered on the lake's shore, watched the chaos. The young man almost drowned as the beast flailed about, trying its hardest to snap the rope that was attached to its feet. As the sun set, the spectacular battle raged on, until right before it became too dark to see, The Ong flew into the sky, and off into the distance.





LAWRENCE & HOUSEWORTH

#### FATEFUL FLIGHT

Night fell, and the rest of the tribe gathered around fires and told stories of their bravery, accepting that The Ong had claimed another victim—though they wondered why The Ong had acted so strangely. Because the battle had taken place so far off shore, none of the tribe could see the rope tied around the beast's feet, or the arrows the young man had tossed down its throat.

The chief pondered his decision, wondering who was the bravest bachelor in the tribe. However, his daughter Nona was heartbroken that the young man she had secretly admired had been killed. She snuck away from the camp and paddled a canoe into the lake. Her plan was to rescue the young man, or if she was unable to locate him, join him in death.

Once in the middle of the lake, she cried the young man's name.



"Tahoe! My darling Tahoe!"

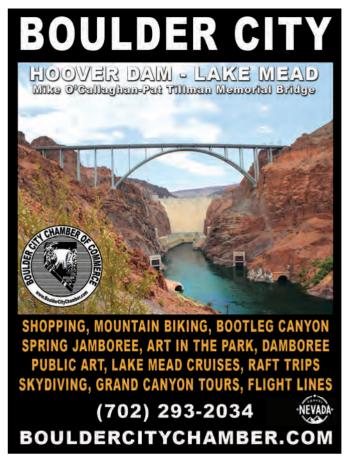
Back at camp, the chief announced he had made a decision, though when he called for his daughter, it was discovered she was missing. Mass panic ensued as the tribe searched for his daughter, though no one could find her.

At daybreak, the tribe gazed across the lake, only to see the horrible Ong, lifeless and floating on the lake next to an empty canoe. In addition, they beheld a miraculous sight. Tahoe and Nona stood embracing one another on one of the lifeless monster's wings, using the other as a sail to bring them back to shore. As they reached the shore, the tribe unanimously agreed that Tahoe was the bravest of them all, and the chief granted Nona permission to become Tahoe's wife.

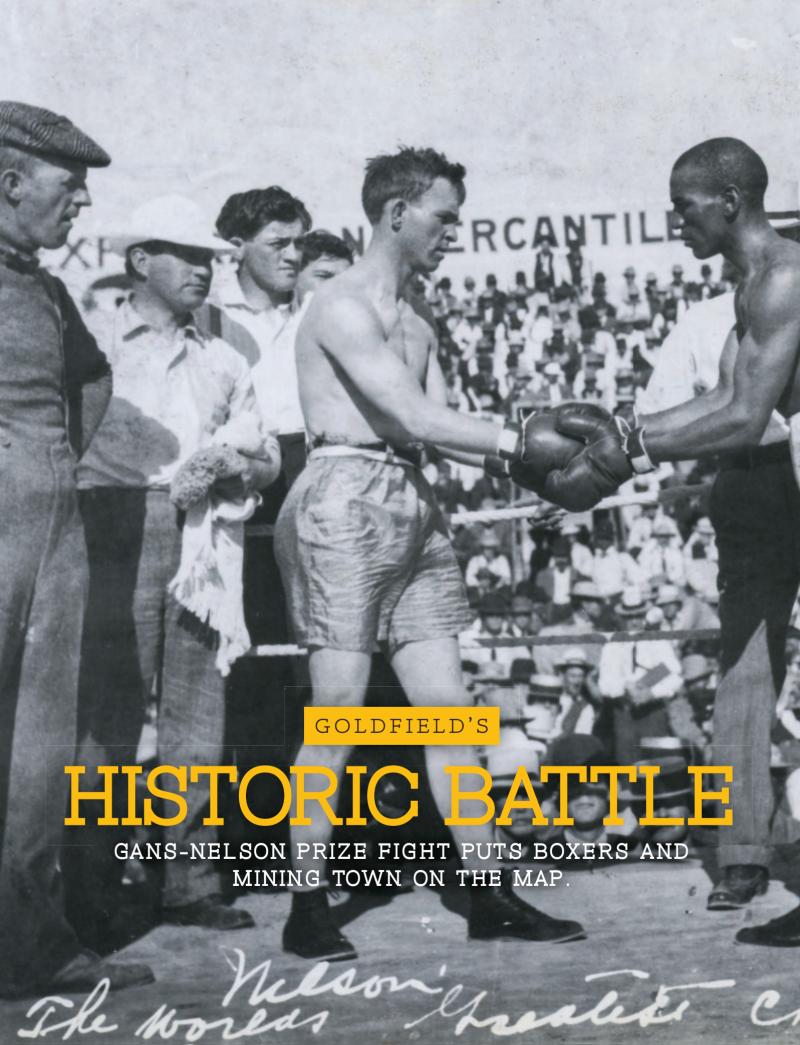
Furthermore, the tribe agreed that the lake should forever carry the name of this hero of heroes, thus Lake Tahoe was born.

#### THE LEGEND LIVES

Though the legend of The Ong does have a happy ending, the legend still lives on in modern times. While the beast is gone, its nest still rests at the bottom of Lake Tahoe. Contemporary legend maintains that this is the reason why those who drowned in the lake tend to never rise to the surface, awaiting the day when The Ong may return yet again.







#### BY DAVID MCCORMICK

The thermometer was toying with the century mark on Sept. 3, 1906 in Goldfield, when two men touched gloves in the center of the ring. The fight was now underway. It was the favorite—Oscar "the Battling Dane" Nelson vs "the Rank Faker" Joe Gans, as the local press described

him. Although Gans was the light-weight champion, Nelson was the favorite of the crowd amassed, as he was white, whereas Gans was black. Some newspapers of the day judged the crowd as numbering 15,000; in actuality it was a bit less than half that number at 6,072,

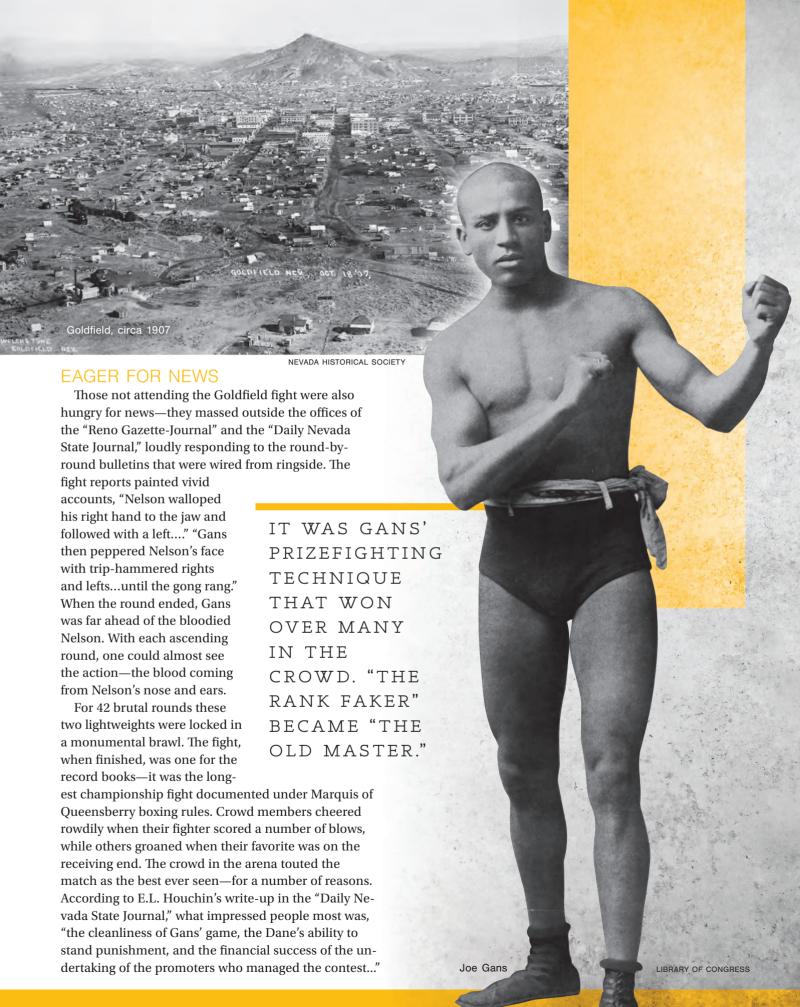
half that number at 6,072, but still enough to fill the hastily built open air arena. The purse was huge some saying as much as \$33,500—one third going to Gans and two thirds going to

Nelson. The fight went to 42 rounds before it ended.

Although the crowd weighed heavily in favor of Nelson at the opening round, as the fight progressed, it became apparent the contest was no longer a white and black affair—skin color was no longer an issue. During the fight, the crowd seemingly moved in Gans' favor. His superior boxing expertise seemed too much for Nelson. Although Nelson consistently carried the attack, it was Gans scoring most of the punches. Nelson was proving to endure devasting punishment; the pummeling he withstood from Gans' fists would have put most men down. But at the end of the almost three-hour contest, Gans was declared the winner. Nelson, losing badly, purposely struck a low blow, dropping Gans to the mat; but his malevolent efforts didn't pay off. He was disqualified for the low blow.

Although both men received beatings, it was Gans' prizefighting technique that won over many in the crowd. "The Rank Faker" became "the Old Master."

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

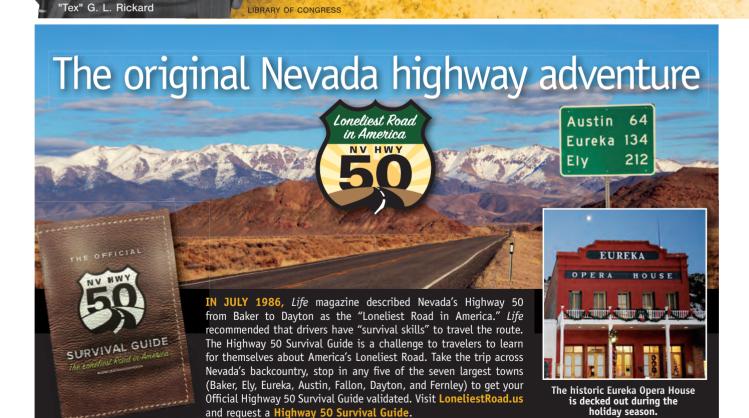


#### MORE THAN JUST A PRIZE FIGHT

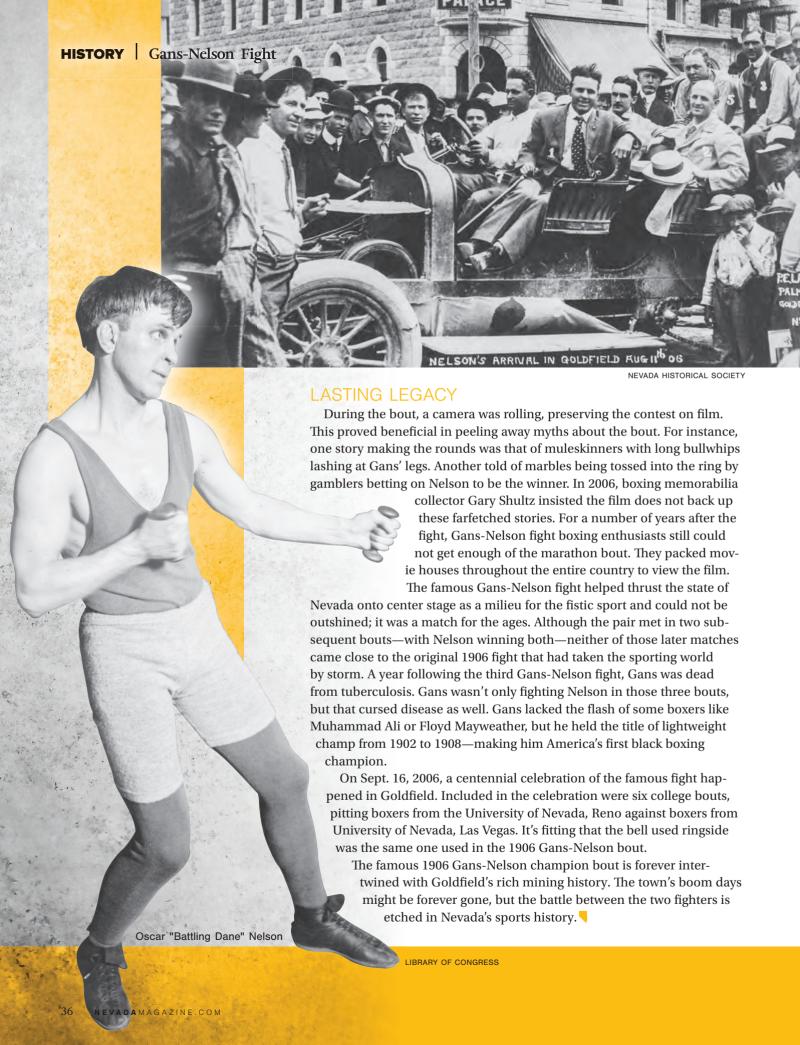
The bout was promoted by "Tex" G.L. Rickard, owner of the Northern Saloon in Goldfield. Rickard was a native of Texas, who, by the time of the Gans-Nelson fight, considered Nevada his home. Rickard arrived early on in Goldfield when gold was first discovered there. When word of the proposed bout hit the dirt

streets of Goldfield, many balked at the idea. Rickard, turning aside naysayers, went among the business and mining men, and within no time had acquired the purse of around \$30,000 for the fight. By the conclusion of the famous fight, Rickard took in almost \$70,000 in receipts for the bout. As of 1909, this was still the highest grossing American boxing gate that would not be surpassed until the Jefferies-Johnson fight that took place in Reno in 1910.

There was an ulterior motive in staging the bout in Goldfield—lure people into the community, thus, increasing the number of people willing to buy gold stocks. The official program highlighting the fight, proved this motive true. The headline "We know of a LISTED STOCK which will DOUBLE in price in the next 30 DAYS" was placed on the inside cover of the program and touted the business of Geo. F. von Polenz & Co. of Goldfield. Also listed within the program were the 60-plus members of the Goldfield Stock Exchange. At the time of the fight, Goldfield was a booming community with a population of between 15,000 and 20,000. Nevada itself was flourishing with more than 80 million dollars invested in Nevada stock in 1906.



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# NUGGETS

CASINOS ROCK THE VALUE OF A WILD WEST NAMESAKE.

BY MEGG MUELLER

Anyone traveling through Nevada may have noticed a common occurrence beyond the majestic mountains, stunning views, and neon lights. For frequent travelers of the Silver State, there's another sign you're in Nevada: seeing a casino with the word nugget in the name.

There are 13 casinos across the state that use the word nugget in their name. The word gold appears in the name of 12 casinos (15, if you include golden), so clearly, the idea of paying homage to Nevada's mining history was a no-brainer for many casino owners. And while the names might be the same, each Nevada nugget has its own story.





SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVEL NEVADA

#### GOLDEN NUGGET LAS VEGAS

One of the oldest casinos still in operation across the state, The Golden Nugget in Las Vegas was opened in 1946 by mobster Guy McAfee. Known as the Golden Nugget Saloon when it opened, it was the first structure in Vegas to be built intentionally as a casino. In 1973, Steve Wynn took over and added two hotel towers, one in 1977 and the other in 1984. The renovations have continued, and today the property is an anchor of Downtown Las Vegas. Make sure to find the world's biggest golden nugget in existence—and the biggest found with a metal detector—tucked away in the casino. Found in Australia, the "Hand of Faith" is almost 61 pounds and was bought by the Golden Nugget for more than 1 million dollars.

#### Golden Nugget Las Vegas

129 Fremont St. Las Vegas, NV 89101 goldennugget.com/las-vegas 702-385-7111



#### GOLDEN NUGGET LAUGHLIN

Laughlin's Golden Nugget began life in 1968 when it was opened as the Bobcat, the second casino in the new town. It changed hands a few times, and in 1988, Mirage Resorts bought the property and renamed it the Golden Nugget. In 2005, Landry's Restaurant, Inc., became the owner of both Golden Nuggets, and the Laughlin property has seen a property-wide renovation.

#### Golden Nugget Laughlin

2300 S. Casino Dr. Laughlin, NV 89029 goldennugget.com/laughlin 702-298-7111

#### JERRY'S NUGGET CASINO

Jerry's Nugget Casino opened in 1964 when owners Jerry Stamis and Jerry Lodge purchased the Town House Bar in North Las Vegas and converted it to an 80-by-80-foot casino. In 1968, the owners bought their nearest competitor, the Bonanza Club, and added an additional 10,000 square feet. Jerry's was one of the first casinos to cater to the local market, and it maintains that focus today.

#### **Jerry's Nugget Casino**

1821 Las Vegas Blvd. N. North Las Vegas, NV 89030 jerrysnugget.com 702-399-3000



#### AN AWFULLY TASTY BATTLE

The debate about the origin of the Awful Awful will likely rage as long as there are staunch supporters of northern Nevada's famous burger. What is known is the sandwich—as it was

known at the time-was offered at the Carson Nugget as early as March 1954.





An advertisement for the new casino in a newspaper from the day shows the price of the double-patty colossus was just 55 cents. The recipe most certainly came to Nevada with Dick Graves and Jim Kelley, who it's said served it in his Idaho properties. When the pair bought The Nugget Casino in downtown Reno in 1954, it was also on the menu, as it was at Kelley's Tahoe Nugget when he opened that property. Not surprisingly, the Nugget in Sparks has also offered the Awful Awful since it opened in 1955.

The Nugget in Reno is now the Little Nugget Diner, which in 2010, went head to head with the Sparks Nugget on the Food Network's "Food Wars" to see who had the best version of the burger; the Little Nugget Diner won.

Each location serves a slightly different version of the burger than was described in the 1954 ad but each is a winner.

# SILVER NUGGET CASINO & EVENT CENTER

The Silver Nugget
Casino in North Las
Vegas was built in
1964 and still exudes a
classic Las Vegas vibe. In 1966,
the Silver Nugget was one of
the first casinos in Las Vegas
to have female card dealers.
Today the casino offers gaming,
a sports book, bowling, live
entertainment with a focus on
Mexican music, and monthly
rodeo events.

### Silver Nugget Casino & Events Center

2140 Las Vegas Blvd. N. North Las Vegas, NV 89030 silvernuggetlv.com 702-399-1111



#### PAHRUMP NUGGET HOTEL AND CASINO

In 1959, the site of the Pahrump Nugget was occupied by a cotton gin from the Pahrump Ranch. Owned by Golden Entertainment since 2006, it has the largest sportsbook in Pahrump, and is the town's only AAA 3 Diamond-rated hotel.

#### **Pahrump Nugget Hotel** and Casino

681 State Route 160 Pahrump, NV, 89048 pahrumpnugget.com 866-751-6500





#### WENDOVER NUGGET HOTEL AND CASINO

The Wendover Nugget began life in 1931, when William Smith took advantage of the newly passed bill that made gambling legal in the state and added a casino to his service station, calling it the Stateline Casino. The casino changed hands over the years, even closing in 1982 before being reopened three years later. In 2002, new owners renamed it the Stateline Nugget, and in 2004, it took its current name. Wendover Will-the 63-foot-tall neon cowboy sign that greets visitors to Wendover—originally stood at the Stateline Casino where it debuted in 1952. It was donated to the city when the property became the Wendover Nugget.

#### **Wendover Nugget Hotel** and Casino

101 Wendover Blvd. West Wendover, NV 89883 wendoverresorts.com 800-848-7300

#### JIM KELLEY'S TAHOE NUGGET

Jim Kelley opened the Tahoe Nugget in Crystal Bay back in 1962 and it remains one of the oldest family-owned casinos in Nevada. Kelley's sons Jim and Jeff now run the property. The original building was destroyed by a fire in 1978, but a new building soon replaced it. Northern Nevada's famous Awful Awful hamburger can be found here (see sidebar on page 42). The casino features about 120 of the latest slot and gaming machines and has a poker room.

#### Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget

20 State Route 28, Crystal Bay, NV 89402 775-831-0455



#### FERNLEY NUGGET

One of the more recent nuggets, the Fernley Nugget opened in 2008 and was the first Nevada casino built specifically with no smoking allowed. Located in the small northwestern town of Fernley, the non-smoking choice seemed surprising but was based on what the owners saw was a unique business opportunity. It has proved a successful venture.

#### **Fernley Nugget**

190 East Main St. Fernley, NV 89408 nuggetcasinos.com 775-575-5777

#### **FALLON NUGGET**

First opened in 1962 by Otto Louf, the Fallon Nugget was a small casino, 3,000 square feet, with one table and just 19 slot machines. In 1966, the property grew when Louf purchased the bankrupt Pastime Club next door, and then in 1969, Louf purchased another bankrupt property, the Palace Club. The large Nugget sign on the building—installed in 1973—hides the facades of the properties Louf bought. The interior walls were removed to make room for the casino floor. Louf sold the property to his son in the late 1970s. and today it is owned by Nugget Casinos, which owns 13 properties across northern Nevada including the Fernley Nugget.

#### **Fallon Nugget**

70 S. Main St. Fallon, NV 89406 nuggetcasinos.com 775-423-3111





#### SILVER SPRINGS NUGGET

Also owned by Nugget Casinos, the Silver Springs Nugget opened in 2001, making it the second casino in the small town. The property started with 100 machines and a restaurant and still caters to a mostly local clientele.

#### Silver Springs Nugget

1280 U.S. Route 95A N. Silver Springs, NV nuggetcasinos.com 775-577-4263

#### CARSON NUGGET

Dick Graves opened the Carson Nugget in March 1954, and it was one of the most prosperous casinos of the day. Graves sold the property to the Adams family in 1985, and it remained with them until they sold it in 2015 to Dean DiLullo. DiLullo has renovated the property, adding a coffee and wine bar, Italian bistro, and a James Bond-themed vodka bar along with a comedy club drawing headliner entertainment. The eighth and final Batmobile replica is on display at the casino and it makes an appearance during Carson City's annual Nevada Day parade. The Carson Nugget serves as the backdrop for the TV show and subsequent film "Casino Boss." DiLullo wrote the scripts for a show based on the life of a casino owner and actual experiences he's had in the business. "Saturday Night Live" alum Joe Piscopo plays the lead character, and the film will debut at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. Future episodes will also be filmed at the casino.

#### **Carson Nugget**

501 N. Carson St. Carson City, NV 89701 ccnugget.com 775-882-1626

#### NEVADA NUGGET, DAYTON

The Nevada Nugget has been catering to the entertainment needs of one of Nevada's oldest communities since 2007. Carson Nugget owner Dean DiLullo bought the small property in September 2018, and has been slowly upping the offerings. The small location can grow in size, and DiLullo plans on doubling the amount of slot machines next year. It already includes a sports bar with big-screen TVs, and serves the Carson Nugget's famous chili.

#### **Nevada Nugget**

6 Retail Road Dayton, NV 89403 facebook.com/NV-Nugget-305756480182495 775-246-7000



#### NUGGET CASINO RESORT, SPARKS

The Nugget in Sparks opened in 1955 as a coffee shop with a few slot machines, the vision of Dick Graves, who had just opened the Reno Nugget. In 1958, Graves opened a new restaurant, The Golden Rooster, and to commemorate the occasion, he commissioned a 14-pound gold statue of the eatery's namesake. The government confiscated the bird in 1960, however, for violating a 1933 law that made it illegal for Americans to own any gold except jewelry and dental fillings. A young Paul Laxalt fought the government's case, and the bird was released two years after its incarceration. The golden rooster was returned to his place of honor.

John Ascuaga bought the casino from his boss in 1960, and ran it for five decades before it was sold in 2013. Ascuaga sold the rooster at auction in 2014 for \$234,000. Marnell Gaming, LLC now owns the property.

#### **Nugget Casino Resort**

1100 Nugget Ave. Sparks, NV 89431 nuggetcasinoresort.com 775-356-3300

Nugget Casino Resort

#### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP. **MANAGEMENT & CIRCULATION**

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401 N. Carson St., Ste. 100, Carson City, NV 89701

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www.WINNEMUCCA.com

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THE WESTERN FOLKLIFE CENTER presents

# THE 36th NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY



January 27 – February I, 2020 · Elko, Nevada

#### TICKETS ON SALE NOW

nationalcowboypoetrygathering.org

888-880-5885

POSTER ART Marion Coleman, Trail Blazers, 2013







During this two-day workshop, participants will explore the intersection of arts and implicit biases in creative work spaces and assess how cultural assumptions are developed, sustained, and reinforced is arts and cultural planning.

**NOVEMBER 6 & 7** HISTORIC FIFTH ST. SCHOOL, LAS VEGAS \$45 - REGISTER AT 775.687.7117



nvartscouncil.org | 775.687.6680

Funding for the Nevada Arts Council is provided by









n 1855, Mormon missionaries built an adobe fort along a spring-fed creek in what would become the Las Vegas Valley, creating the first permanent, non-native settlement in the valley. Now a Nevada state park, the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park features historic remains, along with a host of artifacts. The park offers a multitude of special events for kids and adults, including arts-and-crafts projects and Dutch oven cooking demonstrations.

#### **PLAN YOUR TRIP**

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park 500 E. Washington Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89101 parks.nv.gov, 702-486-3511

November and December events include:

Ranger Campfire - Visit the fort and enjoy all things fall. Join a ranger by a campfire, sip some hot cider, and learn about the fascinating history of the site. WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m.-noon

Native American Basket Craft - Southern Nevada has a rich history of beautiful Native American baskets, and guests can make their own basket replica using a paper cup and raffia.

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Dutch Oven Cooking Demonstration** - Watch park staff follow in the footsteps of the pioneers with a Dutch oven cooking demonstration. Follow the cooking process and sample the tasty dishes.

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 16; Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-noon

**Adobe Brick Demonstration** - Join a ranger and learn the basics of how to build adobe bricks using dirt, sand, dried vegetation, and water just like the pioneers did. All ages welcome.

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-noon

Make Your Own Dream Catcher - Learn how to keep bad dreams away by making your own dream catcher. Supplies will be provided by the fort.

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Paint with a Ranger** - Follow in the footsteps of countless other artists who have found inspiration at the fort. Watercolor paints, paper, and brushes are provided in this fun activity for the whole family.

WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-noon

Where Las Vegas Began - Take a tour of the birthplace of Las Vegas. This guided walk-through covers the timeline of settlement on the site and includes a discussion of historical visuals, artifacts, and natural resources.

**WHEN:** Saturday, Dec. 21, 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m.

Make Your Own Petroglyph - Petroglyphs are found all over southern Nevada and form an important reminder of the area's past. Learn about this significant but fragile resource and make a petroglyph out of plaster to take home. All supplies will be provided.

WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 28, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



# SINGER-SONGWRITER ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL DATES TO IMMERSIVE RESIDENCY.

n September, Christina Aguilera returned to Las Vegas for her exclusive headlining residency show. The multi-platinum singer-songwriter has announced 10 additional dates through March 2020 for "Christina Aguilera: The Xperience" at Zappos Theater at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino.

Designed exclusively for Zappos Theater, "Christina Aguilera: The Xperience" is a multi-sensory immersive experience engaging the audience with enigmatic vocals, spectacular visuals, and surprising scents. Aguilera brings her audience through a journey of her music, showcasing some of her global hits including "Genie in a Bottle," "Beautiful," "Dirrty" "Lady Marmalade," and "Ain't No Other Man."

Christina Aguilera is a six-time Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter renowned for her powerful voice and hit songs. Throughout her career, she has sold more than 43 million records worldwide. Aguilera has achieved five No. 1 singles on the Billboard Hot 100 chart making her the fourth female artist to top the chart over three consecutive decades. She has received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and holds the prestigious honor of being the only artist under the age of 30 included in "Rolling Stone" magazine's list of the 100 greatest singers of all time.

#### ALSO AT PLANET HOLLYWOOD

Gwen Stefani, Nov. 1-2

Florida Georgia Line, Nov. 6, 8-9, 12

Shania Twain, Dec. 6-7, 11, 13-14, 18



#### **WHERE**

Zappos Theater at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino



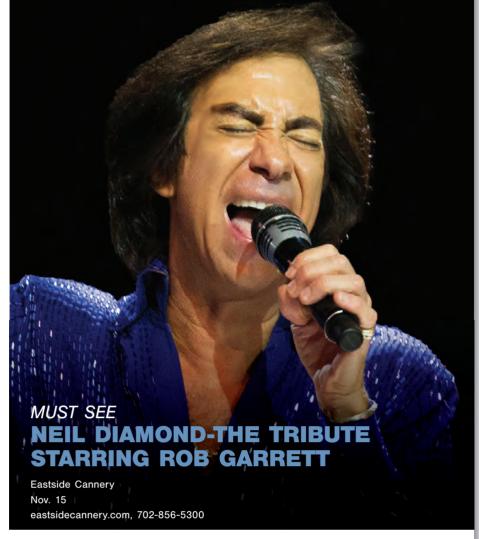
#### WHEN

Dec. 27-28, 30-31 Feb. 2020: 26, 28-29 March 2020: 4-6



#### **TICKETS**

caesars.com, 866-919-7472



Known as the "King of Diamonds," Neil Diamond tribute performer Rob Garrett began singing and playing the guitar at the age of 13. In 1974, his parents moved him from New York City to Las Vegas where he later formed the group Rock 'n' Roll Heaven, performing oldies and classic rock hits at various Las Vegas entertainment venues.

Garrett went on to pursue a career as a musical impersonator in 1994, paying tribute to the legendary, multi-talented artist Neil Diamond. The tribute performer continues to impress fans with his remarkable recreations of Neil Diamond's classic hits, including "You Don't Bring Me Flowers," "Cracklin' Rosie," "Song Sung Blue," "Love on the Rocks," and "Sweet Caroline (Good Times Never Seemed So Good)."

As one of the most popular Neil Diamond tribute performers, Garrett has received several awards for his outstanding tribute shows, including being the first tribute artist to receive the Tribute Artist of the Year Award by the Entertainment Consumers Exchange in 2013.

#### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In December, entertainment icon Dwight Yoakam makes his Wynn Las Vegas debut with a six-night residency, "An Evening with Dwight Yoakam & The Bakersfield Beat." Visit wynnlasvegas.com for full list of dates.



TICKETS

wynnlasvegas.com, 702-770-9966

Comic performer Jeff Dunham is bringing his brand-new international tour "Jeff Dunham: Seriously!?" to The Colosseum at Caesars Palace Nov. 3 and Dec. 1. Dunham is joined by his hilarious cohorts: Peanut, Walter, José Jalapeño, Bubba J., and Achmed the Dead Terrorist.



#### **TICKETS**

caesars.com, 866-227-5938

## HOTTEST SHOWS

#### **SARA BAREILLES**

Mandalay Bay Nov. 1 mandalaybay.com 702-632-7777

#### **GUNS N' ROSES**

The Colosseum Nov. 1-2 caesars.com 866-227-5938

#### **FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH**

Hard Rock Nov. 1-2 hardrockhotel.com 702-693-5000

#### **OLD DOMINION**

Hard Rock Dec. 4-5 hardrockhotel.com 702-693-5000

#### JIM GAFFIGAN

Wynn Dec. 5 wynnlasvegas.com 702-770-9966

#### **GARY ALLAN**

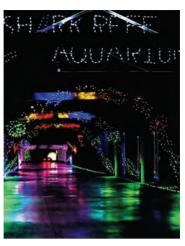
Hard Rock Dec. 6-7 hardrockhotel.com 702-693-5000

#### **CHRIS ISAAK**

Wynn Dec. 30-31 wynnlasvegas.com 702-770-9966

#### MAROON 5

Mandalay Bay Dec. 30-31 mandalaybay.com 702-632-7777



Nov. 8-Jan. 5, 2020

#### **GLITTERING LIGHTS** Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Las Vegas glitteringlightslasvegas.com, 702-222-9777

Jingle that sleigh to Las Vegas Motor Speedway-only 10 minutes from Downtown Las Vegas-for Glittering Lights, Nevada's largest holiday drivethrough light show featuring more than 3 million lights amongst a 2.5-mile course that intertwines through the speedway.



Nov. 14

#### THE ROW MASTER CLASS SERIES

THE ROW, Reno therowreno.com 775-786-5700

THE ROW invites its guests to go beyond their favorite restaurant at the Eldorado, Circus Circus, and Silver Legacy and explore the craft behind some of its most famed delicacies during a hands-on experience with its new Master Class series. The quarterly series is led by THE ROW's Executive Chef Ivano Centemeri. The first class in the series, World of Pasta 101, is held on Thursday, Nov. 14 at 5:30 p.m.

#### 1-3 DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Springs Preserve, Las Vegas springspreserve.org, 702-822-7700

#### 2 38 SPECIAL

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

#### 2 BATTLE MOUNTAIN CHUKAR TOURNAMENT

landercountytourism.com, 775-635-1112

#### 2 WAGS & WHISKERS GALA

Peppermill, Reno nevadahumanesociety.org, 775-856-2000

#### 5-7 NEVADA OPEN

Palms and CasaBlanca golf courses, Mesquite visitmesquite.com, 877-637-7848

#### 6 HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

Reno Events Center, Reno harlemglobetrotters.com, 775-335-880

#### 9 LAMOILLE FALL CRAFT FAIR

exploreelko.com, 775-738-4091

#### 9-10 HOLIDAY FINE ART & CRAFT SHOW

Boulder City Parks & Recreation Building, Boulder City bouldercityartguild.com, 702-280-3985

#### 11 VETERANS DAY PARADE

Virginia City visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

#### 15 CHEECH & CHONG

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

#### 15-16 HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Eureka Opera House, Eureka visiteurekanevada.com, 775-237-6006

#### 23-24 MARK WILLS

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

#### 23-24 THANKSGIVING TURKEY SHOOT

Eureka Opera House, Eureka visiteurekanevada.com. 775-237-6006

#### 23-Dec. 28 (select dates) POLAR EXPRESS

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

#### **27** BRET MICHAELS

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

#### 28-29 NCAA CONTINENTAL TIRE LAS VEGAS INVITATIONAL

Orleans Arena, Las Vegas orleansarena.com, 800-745-3000

#### 29 RODNEY CARRINGTON

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

#### 29-30; Dec. 7-8, 14-15 **CANDY CANE EXPRESS**

Virginia City visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

#### 30 GARY ALLAN

Atlantis, Reno atlantiscasino.com, 775-825-4700

#### 30-Dec. 1 'SESAME STREET LIVE!'

Orleans Arena, Las Vegas orleansarena.com, 800-745-3000



Nov. 16-Dec. 24 (select dates)

#### **POLAR EXPRESS**

Eastgate Depot, Carson City vtrailway.com, 775-291-0208

This holiday tradition magically transports pajama-clad families to the North Pole from Carson City. Once onboard, hot chocolate and treats are served and families can relive the story's magic in a one-hour journey all the way to the North Pole filled with music from the original motion picture soundtrack and a cast of familiar characters.



Dec. 13

#### 'NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS' PARTY IN THE PARK

Petrack Park, Pahrump eventbrite.com, 775-537-5515

descend upon Petrack Park to enjoy gift vendors, face painting, food and drinks, raffle, and entertainers. The evening wraps up with a screening of "Nightmare Before Christmas" on a 30-foot screen. Tickets are available for \$5 person, or families up to six for \$20.

#### 2-4 FESTIVAL OF TREES

Elko

exploreelko.com, 775-738-4091

#### 5-17 NATIONAL FINALS RODEO

Las Vegas nfrexperience.com, 702-260-8605

#### 6 CHARLIE DANIELS BAND

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

#### 6-7 SPARKS HOMETOWNE CHRISTMAS

Victorian Square, Sparks cityofsparks.us, 775-353-5555

#### 6-7 WARRANT

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

#### 7 LAS VEGAS GREAT SANTA RUN

Downtown Las Vegas opportunityvillage.com, 702-259-3741

#### 9 SNOWFLAKE FESTIVAL & PARADE OF LIGHTS

EIKO exploreelko.com, 775-738-4091

#### 13 DANIEL TOSH

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

#### 14 RENO SANTA CRAWL

Downtown Reno renosantacrawl.com

#### 13-15 'THE NUTCRACKER'

Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6610

#### 14 JAMEY JOHNSON

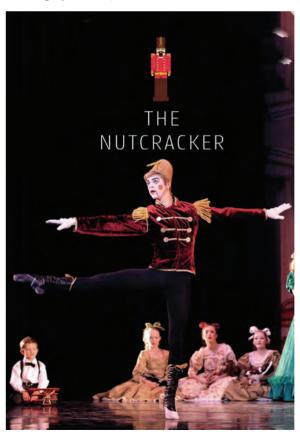
Grand Sierra Resort, Reno grandsierraresort.com, 775-789-2000

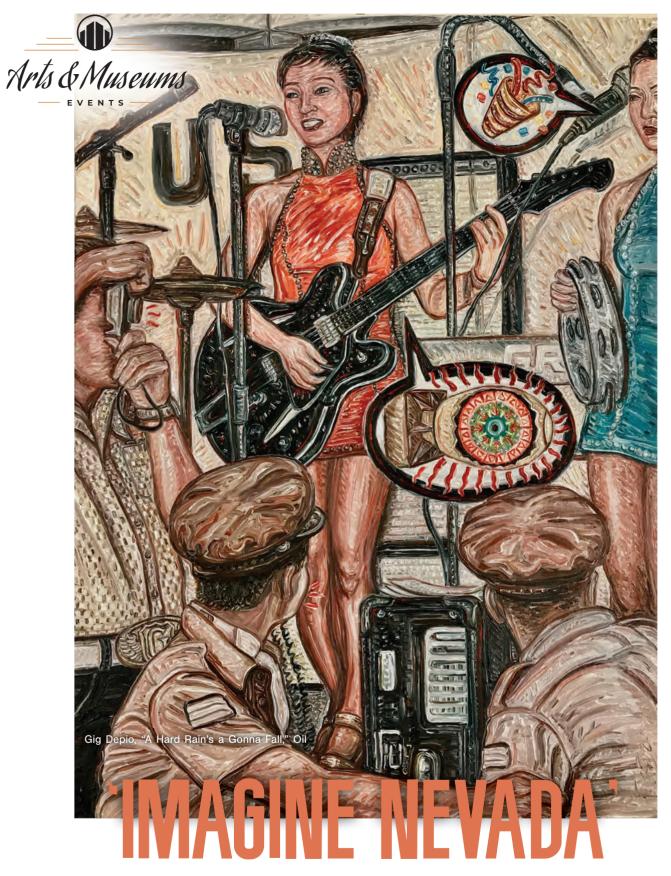
#### 19-25 'HOLIDAY DREAMS'

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

#### 28 KEN JEONG

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





NEVADA ARTISTS COLLABORATE TO ARTICULATE THE LAS VEGAS EXPERIENCE.



Jeff Fulmer, "Prickly Poppy," Acrylic

Nevada Humanities presents "Imagine Nevada: Nevada Artists and Poets Celebrate 10 Years of Illustrated Word Exhibitions," in partnership with the Las Vegas Book Festival. "Imagine Nevada"—on display at the Nevada Humanities Program Gallery in Las Vegas through Nov. 26—brings Nevada artists and poets together to collaborate on works that articulate the Las Vegas experience. The exhibition features Nevada artists Jazmine Adair, Montana Black, Gig Depio, Jeff Fulmer, Mary Hill, Anne M. Hoff, Sean Jones, K.D. Matheson, Fernando Reyes, Logan Riley, Eric Vozzola, and Valentin Yardanov. Featured Nevada poets include Angela Brommel, Ms. AyeVee, Harry Fagel, Jarret Keene, Heather Lang-Cassera, Joan Robinson, and Elizabeth Quiñones-Zaldaña.

"There has been an array of unexpected pleasures working with all the artists and poets who over the past 10 years have taken time to create and share their work with us," says Bobbie Ann Howell, program manager of Nevada Humanities. "Works that give us insight into the creativity and beauty that thrives in our state and has connected us more strongly with each other."

Nevada Humanities is one of 56 independent, nonprofit state and territorial humanities councils affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. With offices in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada Humanities creates public programs and supports public projects statewide that define the Nevada experience and facilitate the exploration of issues that matter to the people of Nevada and their communities.



Logan Riley with Heather Lang-Cassera, "Desert Hockey," Mixed Media

#### **ARTIFACTS & ARTISTRY**

'SPY PILOT: FRANCIS GARY POWERS, THE U-2 INCIDENT, AND A CONTROVERSIAL COLD WAR LEGACY'

National Atomic Testing Museum, Las Vegas Nov. 16 nationalatomictestingmuseum.org, 702-794-5151

#### 'TEN'

Left of Center Gallery, Las Vegas Through Nov. 30 leftofcenterart.org, 702-647-7378

#### 'ANDREA ZITTEL: WALLSPRAWL'

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno Through Dec. 31 nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

#### 'DAVID MAISEL: PROVING GROUND'

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno Through Jan. 12, 2020 nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333





Nevada Humanities Program Gallery, Las Vegas



WHEN

Through Nov. 26



INFO

702-800-4670



WORTH A CLICK

evadahumanities.org

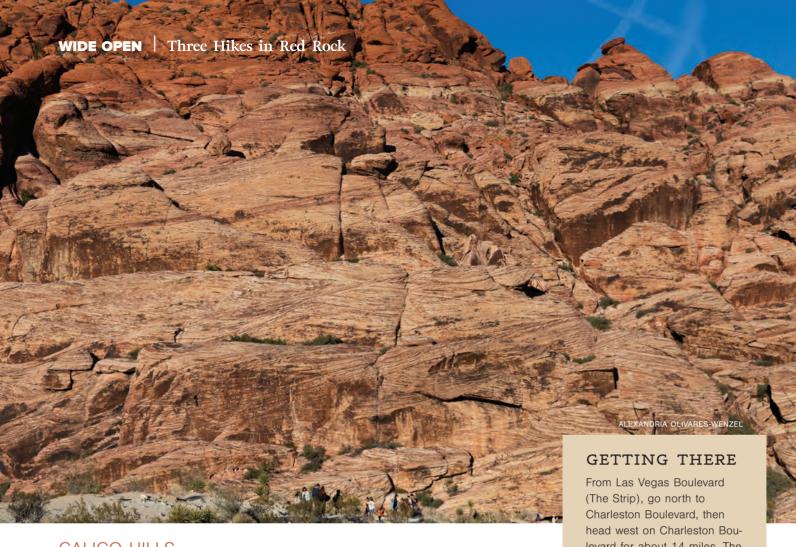


Red Rock National Conservation Area offers boundless beauty, plentiful wildlife, and miles of trails.

BY LORI SMITHSON

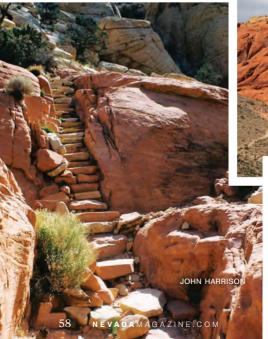


The Red Rock National Conservation Area sits on the west side of Las Vegas, just 14 miles from The Strip. A combination of wind and water over millions of years have shaped unique sandstone and limestone formations that provide recreation and memories. With 26 trails to choose from, Red Rock Canyon gives Vegas hikers of all ages a place to get outside. While not yet familiar with all of the trails, there are three that make me forget I live in the middle of Sin City.



#### CALICO HILLS

At Calico Hills, the first trailhead, enormous scarlet-, coral-, and biscuit-colored sandstone formations pile on top of each other like marshmallows squished together by giant hands. Nothing grows in these fantastical sandstone formations except the occasional bit of scrub brush and it is this contrast of elegant color and bleakness that make Calico Hills one of the most impressive hikes and most photographed sites in Red Rock.







levard for about 14 miles. The entrance is on the right.

From Fremont Street (Downtown), go south on Las Vegas Boulevard to Charleston Boulevard, hear west on Charleston Boulevard about 14 miles. The entrance to Red Rock Canyon is on the right.

From Boulder City, take Interstate 11 north to Interstate 215. Take Interstate 215 west to Charleston Boulevard, Go west on Charleston Boulevard. The entrance is on the right.

From the north, take Highway 95 South to the Interstate 215. Take Interstate 215 west to Charleston Boulevard, Turn west on Charleston Boulevard. The entrance to the park is on the right.

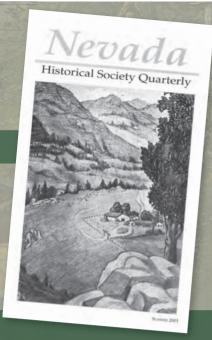
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The Nevada Historical Society Quarterly is a peer reviewed journal.

The Journal publishes articles about Nevada, the Great Basin and the West.





**Contact the Managing Editor** 

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# THE SPIRIT OF THE GOLD RUSH!



# **DEATH VALLEY '49ERS ENCAMPMENT**

[NOVEMBER 4-10] Celebrate the spirit of 1849 and welcome the wagon trains just as they did during the days of the gold rush. This 5 day event includes Western Music, Art Show, Crafts, Off-road Tours,

**Parade, Cowboy Poetry and more!** And, located just 7 miles from Death Valley, **Beatty, Nevada** is the perfect place to stay and play while enjoying the Death Valley '49ers Encampment.

JUST 98 MILES NORTH OF LAS VEGAS ON HIGHWAY 95.
Made possible by a Nevada Commission on Tourism grant, www.travelnevada.com





ALEXANDRIA OLIVARES-WENZEL

November through February 6 a.m.-5 p.m.

March and October 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

April through September 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

One-day passes are \$15 for cars, \$10 for motorcycles, and \$5 for bicycles or pedestrians. America the Beautiful annual passes are honored for free entry or can be purchased at the gate. Peak entrance hours are 9 a.m.-noon.

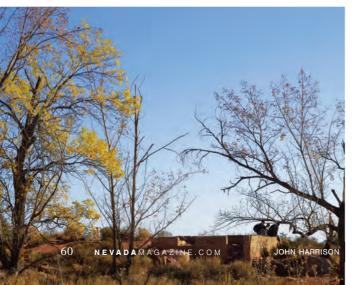
#### PINE CREEK

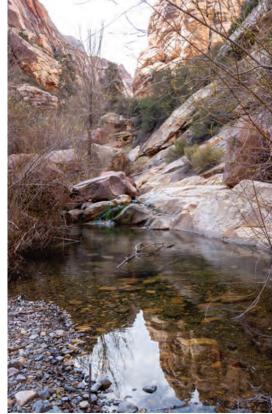
Farther down the one-way road that winds through Red Rock, the Pine Creek trail is also very popular, but an early start ensures that hikers can beat the crowds. On this trail, old growth Ponderosa pine trees can be found near an icy creek with a

meadow of dancing grasses and an old pioneer homestead just beyond the creek. Bees get drunk on the many spring flowers in bloom. Mescalito—a pyramid formation of black and red sandstone that points to the sky—teases hikers into thinking it is easy to reach but

more than enough beau-







KAREN BROWN-GORDON



#### LA MADRE SPRINGS

Not as easily accessed as Pine Creek and Calico Hills, the La Madre Springs trailhead is reached only after a half-mile walk up a loose, rocky road. It is well worth the walk to hike the wild, dense La Madre wilderness. Juniper, willow, pine, and mesquite trees crowd each other for a place in the sun. Sandstone cliffs on the right and limestone cliffs on the left look close enough to touch. In early morning the only sounds are birds tuning up for the day. Desert fox and bighorn sheep hang out in this wild place and once, on this trail, a white deer and I startled each other, only one of us delighted with the encounter. At the end of the 3.6-mile trail, the La Madre Springs provides icy cold water to wet a neckerchief, soak tired feet, or watch for wildlife.



#### EXPLORE IT ALL

Red Rock Canyon hosts 500,000 visitors annually, many of them from out of town and unfamiliar with the desert. High temperatures and dehydration are a serious threat for inexperienced hikers and signs advise that copious amounts of water be carried. Coming off



PHOTOS: LORI SMITHSON

the La Madre Springs Trail one very warm morning, I stopped a red-faced elderly woman with binoculars around her neck and shoes more suited to mall walking than hiking.

"Are you ok?" I asked her. "Do you need water?" She assured me she was fine and had plenty of water. "I'm just a little out of shape for birding season this year," she said. "I've been coming here every year since I was a girl."

I watched her walk slowly up the steep trail, knowing that she had a challenge ahead of her and admiring her grit.

Red Rock Canyon lures Las Vegans and visitors alike to step outside the city and into a majestic panorama of adventure.

#### **PLAN YOUR HIKE**

Red Rock National Conservation Area 1000 Scenic Loop Drive Las Vegas, NV 89161 redrockcanyonlv.org, 702-515-5350



# CHAPTER 2 PART 12: GOD'S OWN COUNTRY

BY ERIC CACHINERO

12,054 miles. That figure is just a bit shorter than half the circumference of the Earth. It is also the distance I have driven in 2016 and 2019, entirely within the state of Nevada, searching for ghost towns.

I've spent nearly 300 hours in the car and used 700 gallons of gas to seek out more than 70 ghost towns. I've drank 36 cups of coffee, eaten 36 breakfast burritos, and spent 36 days on the road. I've encountered at least 3 flat tires, and





The Sprucemont district is a ghost town gold mine. Megg and I first explore the remains at the Standard Mine, which include a series of remarkable stone walls, before driving further up the canyon toward the Ada H Mine. The remains at Ada H include some decrepit wooden shacks, which we poke our heads in before the intoxicating beauty of the canyon lures us higher and higher into the mountains. It's like we're playing hide and seek with these historic structures. As we continue on, the road becomes steeper and more treacherous, but the historical offerings continue to reveal themselves, so higher we go.

We soon arrive at the apex of our climbthe Kille Mine. **Exploratory** tailing piles dot the hills like a series of oddly placed sandboxes, though the main mine isn't



ERIC CACHINERO

hard to mistake. The massive horizontal gash in the Earth appears as if it was caused by the ground simply opening





folklife.

The NVFolkFAN Initiative celebrates the ways that cultural identity is expressed and adapted, artistically and aesthetically, within and between cultural communities.

We invite you to join us in a quest to "find your folklife"—and to share it with your friends, your neighbors, and your families.

FIND YOURS @NVARTSCOUNCIL.ORG



nvartscouncil.org | 775.687.6680

Funding for the Nevada Arts Council is provided by



NATIONAL ARTS

"I've explored high-elevation ghost towns before, but this mineshaft, with its evergreen border, looks so foreign compared to others I've seen in the state."

up and swallowing itself whole. I stand on the edge of the pit and day dream that a set of jagged teeth and tentacles reveal themselves, and I'll be face to face with the Sarlacc pit, as Luke Skywalker was in the famous "Star Wars Return of the Jedi" film, with Jabba the Hut cheering my inevitable demise.

Unluckily for Jabba the Hut, that doesn't happen, and we continue on

There's a bunch of cool old machinery and buildings at Black Forest to explore, but my favorite feature is the mineshaft that descends horizontally into the mountain. I've explored high-elevation ghost towns before, but this mineshaft, with its evergreen border, looks so foreign compared to others I've seen in the state.





The following morning, we depart Wells and aim toward State Route 226 north of Elko. We pass the Taylor Canyon Resort—a great rural watering hole and haven for hunters—before driving toward Jack Creek, located on the north end of the Independence Mountain Range. We pause there briefly to enjoy the scenery and solitude.

The region is somewhat lacking in ghost towns, but it makes up for it in beauty. Ranch fields are filled with antelope, creeks run down every other canyon, and clusters of aspen splash across the hills. We drive north on Maggie Summit Road before we reach our first ghost town of the day—Aura.

The townsite at Aura was plated in March 1906 after a nearby gold discovery. By 1907, the town had stores,

saloon, post office, school, homes, and the "Concentrator" newspaper. Aura acted as the supply point for nearby mines, though it quickly faded as the ore ran dry.

There isn't anything left at Aura except one medium-sized stone building with a missing roof. It's couple roll
casts, I find
myself with a
shimmering
rainbow trout
on the other
end of my line."

Within a

relatively unimpressive, but the surrounding views are incredible. Megg and I snap a few photos before continuing over Maggie Summit until we hit pavement again.

Once we connect with State Route 225, we head south, and because we're on our "lunch break," we manage to do a little bit of fishing on the Owyhee River. The river flow is fast considering we're in the heat of summer, but that doesn't put a damper on our day. Megg and I tie on our flies, and each pick a spot along the bank. Within a couple roll casts, I find myself with a shimmering rainbow trout on the other end of my line.

We fish for a bit longer before it's time to punch the time clock yet again and continue north to seek out more ghost towns. The next destination on the list is Rio Tinto.

Rio Tinto is, unfortunately, a major bust. Private property signs send a clear warning, so we retrace our steps back out to the highway and head north through Moun-



PHOTOS: ERIC CACHINERO

tain City, and eventually all the way to Owyhee, located right on the Nevada-Idaho border.

From there we head southwest



much nonexistent, but the drive is pleasant and the views are spectacular.

As the sun begins to fade, we make the long drive back to Elko, where the famous Basque cuisine at The Star Hotel awaits (see page 24).

#### NIRVANA

I'm proud to say that there are very few roads in this state that I haven't driven, and today, I check State Route 233 off that list. Megg and I head north toward the small town of Montello, where we explore for a bit, then drive to

our first ghost town of the day-Tecoma. A solitary faded sign lets us know we've reached the site.

Tecoma was founded, some sources claim, by the Central Pacific Railroad in 1869. By the early 1870s, the town had grown

to about 100 residents, and had many of the amenities of a frontier town. It acted mainly as a train shipping and maintenance stop, though by the 1920s and '30s, nearby Montello would take over as the train stop, and Tecoma became abandoned.

More interesting than the town's history, is its involvement in unique feats of intercontinental travel. The site was not only

was visited by a man by the name of George A. Wyman. In 1903, Wyman became the first person to make a transcontinental crossing of the United States by motorized vehicle. More impressively, he made the trip on his 1902 California Motorcycle Company motorized bicycle. The motorcycle had a 200-cc engine that ran off 30-octane gasoline (modern cars typically use 87-octane), wooden rims, a leather-belt drive, used a standard steel bicycle frame, and could travel up to 25 mph. Wyman made the trip from San Francisco to New York City in 51 days. He carried a surprisingly small amount of gear, including

> warm clothes, water bottle, spare oil and gasoline, a Kodak Vest Pocket camera, tools, and a .38-caliber Smith & Wesson revolver. Given that Wyman rode a majority of this distance either on or next to the railroad tracks, his visit to Tecoma makes sense.

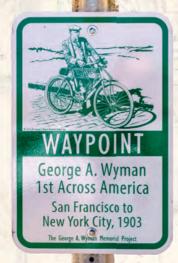


#### PROMISED LAND

No trip would be complete without Megg and I careening

miles and miles into the desert unknown, chasing ghost towns we're not even sure exist, and this one is no exception. After driving back to Montello, we head north toward the ghost town of Delano, which is at the end of about 36 miles of dirt road. The area is scenic, though unfortunately, most of the property is privately owned by area ranchers.

The drive is slow-going, both due to varying road conditions and the fact that we continuously have to stop to allow dozens of dopey bovines to move out of the path of our vehicle.



#### WIDE OPEN Ghost Towns

After a bit more exploration, we set our sights on home, and begin to make the long drive back to northwestern Nevada. We're treated to another spectacular Nevada sunset as we drive, and are lucky enough to see the final fleeting pastels fade from the sky.

# Tatte from the sky.

ERIC CACHINERO

#### **FDFN**

The Jack Creek and Maggie
Summit area that I visited on the second day of this trip is a tempest of memories for me. It is where my family used to hunt when I was a child. It is where I

harvested my first deer. It is where some of my earliest remembrances came from. It's where I was taught my love for nature and the outdoors. It is where my mind travels when I think of the most magnificent place in the world. It is where my memories of my grandfather live.

When I started this ghost town series in 2016, my grandfather Paul Earl McKee Jr. joined me on the first trip. He sat next to me as we began the very first mile; a solitary mile in a journey that would turn into 12,054 of them. Surely neither of us could have known at the time the odyssey that would manifest.

We finally make our way to where we believe Delano to be, and besides finding a large rusted water tank, there's nothing... This is especially frustrating because of how far we traveled to get here, and how intensely remote the area is. Just as we're about to give up, though, we spot a couple mine remnants on a distant hill, so we decide to chase after them. As we're driving and hiking in the area, we luckily spot the remnants of Delano, and breathe a sigh of relief that the travel wasn't all for nothing.

Delano mine shaft

In spring 1872, a Native American showed prospectors an ore discovery in the area that would become Delano, and the rush was on. Though some big investing companies showed interest in many of Delano's mines, nothing of much value was ever recovered, and the town produced just enough ore to keep it running through the decades. At times, the only business operating in Delano was the saloon. From 1920-1960, the town held a population of between 30-50, though production and population would completely fade before the decade ended. In the 1990s, most of the ghost town's numerous wooden structures were destroyed and lost forever to a wildfire.

We find a surviving steel headframe and the Delano mineshaft, which are both spectacular artifacts. The headframe is still in great condition, while the mineshaft descends into the earth at a 45-degree angle; its opening reinforced by a massive metal cylinder. Peeking down into the mineshaft makes me equally excited and nauseous. It is a place a person definitely wouldn't want to accidentally fall in to.

Delano

ERIC CACHINERO

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

WIDE OPEN **Ghost Towns** TRAVEL DELANO I.OG □ COLUMBIA BUEL CORNUCOPIA MONTELLO D MILES □ METROPOLIS TOANO 🗆 1,362 TECOM CORRE D DINNER STATION DAYS □ TOBAR FORT HALLEC 3 □ SHAFTER WEST WENDOVE LAMOILLE RUBY CITY PALISADE GHOST SHEPHERD'S STATION STANDARD SPRUCEMONT TOWNS SAFFORD 93 BLACK FOREST DOLLY VARDE BULLION CITY - JIGGS KEY I lost my grandfather to cancer on March 16, 2018. As painful as the memory is, it seems appropriate to end YEAR this journey in his name; to put the final mile to rest with the same passion as the first began. Much of this journey can be

**GHOST TOWNS VISITED IN THIS ISSUE** 

#### **VISITED GHOST TOWNS**

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER'19 ISSUE** ADA H KILLE

**AURA BLACK FOREST** DELANO

MONARCH STANDARD TECOMA

but what I experienced while getting there. I'll end this odyssey with one of my grandfather's favorite quotes. I think it's fitting, because this journey—while it hasn't been easy—has shown me a mountain of grace, a whole lot of art, and even a trout or two.

"To him, all good things—trout as well as eternal salvation came by grace; and grace comes by art; and art does not come easy." —Norman Maclean, "A River Runs Through It and Other Stories"

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TRAVEL LOG

MILES

6,330

DAYS 15.5

**GHOST** 

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attributed to him, and the beauty he saw in the world.

I've written before that ghost towns are just an excuse to get out and explore the natural beauty of Nevada, and this fact reigns truer than ever. Ghost towns are incredible skeletons of history, but most of my memories during these past couple years are not what I found in the towns themselves,



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#### BY MEGG MUELLER

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 have highlighted 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 have honored 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: Wells.



Mother Nature has tried to have her way with the northeastern town of Wells. Fires and a powerful earthquake have done their best to level the micropolitan burg about 50 miles east of Elko, without success. So too did the winds of change, when the town was all but bypassed by progress, but in the face of it all, Wells has persevered and maintained its charm while keeping a weather eye on the future.

### RIVER OF LIFE

The Humboldt River flows for 290 miles through Nevada's Great Basin region. It begins in Wells, and flows not to the sea, but to the Humboldt Sink past Lovelock. Its headwaters, naturally, attracted the attention of those who came upon the river at the northern tip of the Clover Valley.

The lush valley was utilized by Shoshone, trappers, and wagon trains for hundreds of years before the Central Pacific Railroad put it on the map in 1869. The Humboldt River provided the perfect water stop for the steam locomotives, and by 1871 the town had grown to about 300 people and included a Wells Fargo office, saloon, hotel, and general store.

Massive fires tried to raze the town in 1877, 1881, and 1900. Each time, Wells rebuilt. Because the only work in the area came from the railroad, local ranches, and some nearby mining, Wells never experienced a population boom like so many other Nevada towns.

The town continued to be an important stop for the railroad, however. It was a helper engine station, allowing trains to put on additional locomotives as needed to climb the Pequop Mountains to the east.



### FEATURE | True Grit

During the 1940s, however, the steam engine was fading from the railways. Powerful diesel engines took their place and Wells was no longer needed as a helper station. By the 1970s, the railroad was no longer a main economic driver for the town.

As the railroad's role diminished, the area ranches and mining operations continued to support the town, as did its location as a major transportation route across the state. Wells sits at the junction of U.S. Route 93—running north from Arizona to Canada—and Interstate 80, which traverses the country from California to New Jersey.

RENO

CARSON CITY (95)

ROAD TO OPPORTUNITY

Wells has long capitalized on its opportune location, catering to thousands of travelers each day. Gas stations, truck stops, and restaurants dot the east end of town, beckoning weary drivers. Getting people to stop is fairly easy, but the plan in the early 2000s was to increase reasons to visit in the first place. The buildings in the historic downtown were being spruced up with a walking tour for tourists as the goal. Bringing people away from the highway exits with a place to explore and learn about the town's history was the future, but alas, Mother Nature hadn't finished with Wells vet.

93

Wells

50

93

93

LAS VEGAS

15

6

95

95

95

DEATH VALLEY

80

On the morning of Feb. 21, 2008, an earthquake hit the town. With a magnitude of 6, it originated just 5 miles from town, and its powerful shaking damaged or destroyed more than





"A lot of our efforts are going into making Wells a place you want to come visit and getting people out to events."

30 buildings. Many were the historic buildings in downtown. It was one more setback, and the town is still recovering from the loss. A new plan is underway for economic stability.

Mindy Carter is president of the Chamber of Commerce, and to her, bringing the community of about 1,300 together is key.

"We have a lot of new plans. We are focusing on business and community development," she says. "A lot of our efforts are going into making Wells a place you want to come visit and getting people out to events."





MEGG MUELLER

The support of the townspeople is crucial, and Mindy notes that Wells has a lot of diversity in its residents, from young families to retirees. Creating events that include the entire community brings more people to town, gives residents a sense of pride, and enriches the quality of life in Wells. These things all translate into a stronger town.

### STABLE FOOTING

Since the earthquake and the crumbling of the historic district, Wells has diversified its economic base to include a 160-acre industrial park that offers multiple transportation opportunities at a natural crossroads. The town's population has fluctuated very little in the last few decades, with ranching, mining support, and the service industry keeping Wells moving forward.

"We are very diverse in how we flourish economically," Mindy notes. "We have a lot on the horizon. We've been working on the older buildings, getting them ready for possible development. We also just started the Main Street Program this year."



# Your Favorite Nevada...

Each issue, we're giving you a chance to let us see Nevada through your eyes. We'll pick a theme, and you share your favorite family-friendly photo! We'll publish as many as we can in our new readers' gallery.

### January-February 2020 theme:



Cellphone shots are fine, but images must be at least 1 megabyte in size. This opportunity doesn't come with a paycheck, but you could be published in *Nevada Magazine*! If we choose your photo, we'll send you a copy of the magazine for bragging rights.

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Email your photo to kspilker@nevadamagazine.com by Nov. 15, 2019. Please submit only one photo. Email subject line must contain "Your Favorite Nevada" to be considered for inclusion in our readers' gallery.



MEGG MUELLER

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KIPPY S. SPILKER

### **FEATURE** True Grit



MEGG MUELLER

## "Get off the exit, and drive through town. See what we have to offer."

Revitalizing the downtown area will hopefully attract visitors to stay a little longer. The area has always been a recreational hub for anglers, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts drawn to area lakes and rivers. It's those folks, and the ones stopping to fill up along the crossroads, that Wells wants to encourage to take a look around.

"It's a pretty great little town. I think people don't really give us a chance...they hit the exits, and that's it," Mindy explains. "I would like for people to know we have a whole town of things to see in between those two exits. Get off the exit, and drive through town. See what we have to offer."

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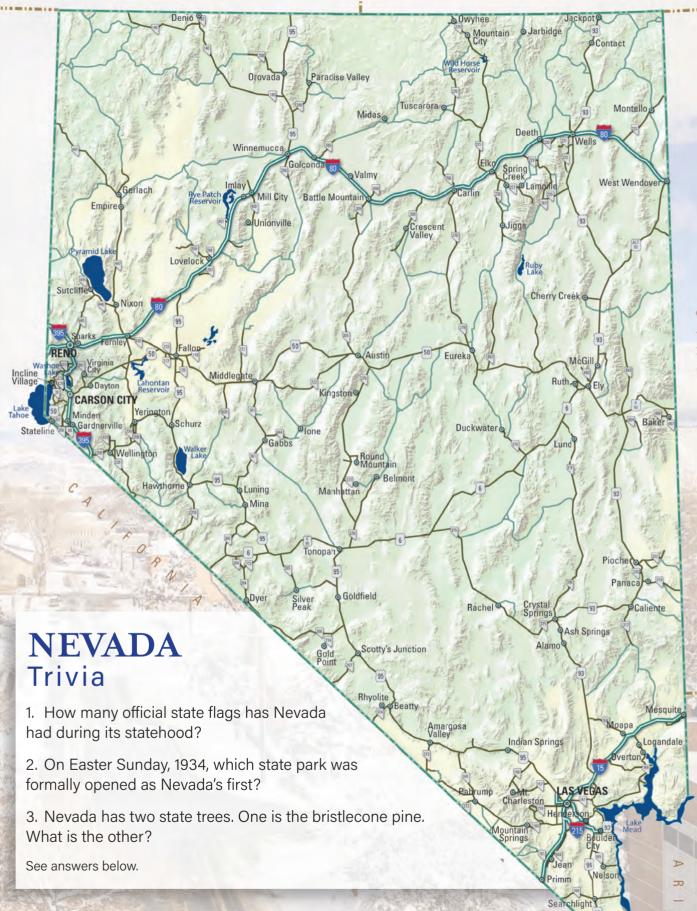
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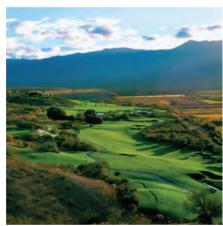






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