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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

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Tahoe-Pyramid Trail

30



18

VISIONS



26

HISTORY



2019 Great Nevada Picture Hunt

36



72

WIDE OPEN

Up Front

- 6 Eldorado buys Caesars, new Tahoe trail, restaurant news, & More

History

- 22 Candy Dance Turns 100

Events & Shows

- 49 International Camel & Ostrich Races

50 Eagles

- 52 Statewide Events & Shows
- 54 Tim Burton at the Neon Museum

Scavenger Hunt

- 64 2019 Silver State Scavenger Hunt Winners

Wide Open

- 66 Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge



Feature

- 80 True Grit: Caliente

In Every Issue

- 3 Nevada Wide Web
- 4 Editor's Note & Letters
- 16 Only in Your State
- 88 State Map

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WEB EXTRAS



► **Mystery of M Cave:** What began as an ominous YouTube comment has since turned in to the tale of one of Nevada's most mysterious disappearances. In 2014, a rugged veteran desert hiker named Kenny Veatch posted a comment on a YouTube video detailing his encounter with a cave he discovered in the desert near Nellis Air Force Base. "The entrance to the cave was shaped like a perfect capital M. As I began to enter, my whole body began to vibrate. The closer I got to the cave entrance, the worse the vibrating became. That was one of the strangest things that ever happened to me." YouTube users encouraged Veatch to return and mark the cave's location, and he tried to oblige; however, the trip would be his last. Veatch disappeared while attempting to locate M cave. He was never found. Did Veatch fall down an abandoned mine shaft or succumb to the elements? Did he discover M cave and the secrets that lie within?

By Eric Cachinero

► **Yesterday: The Day of the Gunfighter:** Nevada's quintessential author, Robert Laxalt, crafted a story of the lore and intrigue of the gunfighter in the Old West. Laxalt covers how the gunfighter became a romanticized and wily character, and the truth was rarely held as lofty as the ideal of this mythic man. This story first appeared in our Fall 1964 issue. By Robert Laxalt



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We're working hard to upload every issue of *Nevada Magazine* ever created. We now have every issue from **1936-1984** 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.



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FEATURED VIDEOS

Visit our YouTube channel to see a video of ghost town exploits and the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail.



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!



I have a new favorite county in Nevada.

I'm pretty sure I'm not allowed to say that, but hear me out. In the time that I've been editor, my favorite county has changed many times. All 17 of our counties have been at the top of my list at one time or other...some more frequently than others, but each stands represented in my mind.

This month, I'm firmly in love with Lincoln County. Yes, by coincidence it's the county I most recently visited. But that shouldn't take away from what I'm saying. Sure, I'm mercurial, but always with good reason and this trip provided me with plenty of good reasons. Many of those reasons became stories in this issue, so I won't revisit, but I will say the landscape and the people are what did it for me. There is so much beauty in this county it just won my heart.

Working on my trip plans for next issue, and well, stay tuned...there might be a new leader on the clubhouse wall. It's just the way it goes here; wherever I visit in Nevada, I fall in love.

I LOVE WHAT I SEE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

This issue is all about the love, in my opinion. The 2019 Great Nevada Picture Hunt always makes me swoon with images familiar and new, I see Nevada through the eyes of our brave photographers and fall in love with my home all over again. This year's contest winners start on page 36.

History comes in many guises, and this issue we look back at the 100th anniversary of the Genoa Candy Dance and also the Lazarus-like town of St. Thomas. Those stories start on page 22 and 26, respectively.

On page 30, I have the pleasure of telling the story of the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail and the remarkable 16-year journey its founder has been on to get the trail completed. It's a story about a labor of love.

Our 2019 Silver State Scavenger Hunt has come to a close, so check out the intrepid adventurers who combed the state looking for our natural wonders. They can be found on page 64.


Megg Mueller, Managing Editor
mmueller@nevadamagazine.com

ERIC CACHINERO

LETTERS

EDUCATION CAN BE FUN

We never fail to learn something new when reading *Nevada Magazine*. We love this magazine!
— **Maggie and John Costanza**, Boulder City

NEW FANS

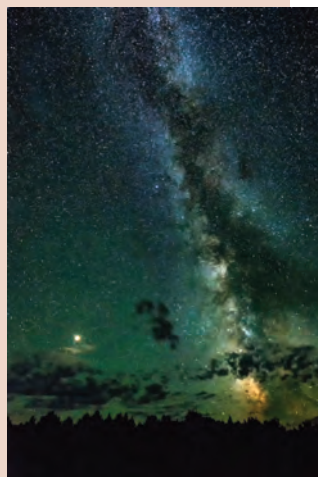
I love the writing style and how they convey a story to us. I also very much enjoy the absolutely gorgeous photography. My wife and I really have enjoyed looking into *Nevada Magazine*. So much so that we'll be reading it and keeping up-to-date well into the future.
— **Andrew and Lesley Patterson**, via Facebook



I am a recent subscriber to the magazine. I haven't subscribed to a magazine in at least 15 years. I purchased several issues leading up to subscribing, and have been blown away each and every issue! The stories and historical content are engaging. The pictures are absolutely gorgeous.
— **Dan Stanley**, Las Vegas

WHAT A VIEW

Great articles and some truly amazing photography!
— **Jason Krodel**,
via Facebook



CONTRIBUTORS

JOYCE HOLLISTER

Joyce Hollister, former publisher and editor of *Nevada Magazine*, is an occasional freelance writer and proofreader for the Nevada State Senate. She and her husband Gim enjoy camping around Nevada and volunteering for events, most recently at the Stewart Indian School's Father's Day Powwow. ■ PGS. 22-25



MICHELE SINAGRA

Michele Sinagra grew up at Lake Tahoe, which inspired a love of nature and exploration. She graduated from University of California, Davis with a degree in international relations, traveled the world, and later worked in travel consulting where she met her Argentinian husband in Acapulco. Work brought her to Las Vegas 26 years ago, and together with their daughter, they made Nevada home. Now retired, her passion for exploration continues.

■ PGS. 26-29



PETER PEARSALL

Peter Pearsall is a writer, photographer, and naturalist from Seattle. His work focuses on conservation issues, particularly those concerning public lands in the United States. Peter currently serves as the Visitor Services Specialist at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in southern Nevada. ■ PGS. 66-71



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

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.

Up Front

MERGERS

Northern Nevada's Eldorado Casino buys Caesars

Reno's Eldorado Resort Inc. has bought Caesars Entertainment Corp. in a deal worth \$17.3 billion in cash and stocks. The merger creates the largest U.S. casino company, with 60 properties across 16 states. The combined company will retain the Caesars name, but will be headquartered in Reno.

The Eldorado Casino opened in 1973 by the Carano family, helmed by father Don. The Carano family is still the largest shareholder of the Eldorado, and son Gary Carano will retain his title as chairman. Eldorado's

Chief Executive Tom Reeg and the rest of the Eldorado's management team will lead the combined company. Before the merger, the Eldorado owned 26 properties in 12 states.

The merger will also bring the ownership of Harrah's back to Reno. Bill Harrah started his gaming empire in 1937 with a small bingo parlor in Reno. The company was purchased by Holiday Inn in 1980, which then purchased Caesars in 2005.

eldoradoreno.com, 775-322-1538



TRAVEL

McCarran International Airport adds a flight of new services

EL AL Airlines now operates a weekly nonstop flight to Las Vegas on a 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft. The Tel Aviv-to-Las Vegas flight arrives at 11:15 a.m. on Fridays, with the return route scheduled on Saturdays at 10:45 p.m.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is operating three weekly flights between Amsterdam and Las Vegas. Flights are operated with Dreamliner equipment.

American Airlines has applied to the U.S. Department of Transportation to operate a nonstop route from Tokyo's Haneda airport to McCarran. The service would begin summer 2020 and make it the only nonstop route from Japan to Las Vegas. Tokyo is the host of the Summer 2020 Olympics in July and August.

Viva Aerobus Airlines has added new direct service from Monterrey, Mexico. The service runs with two weekly flights. mccarran.com, 702-261-5211



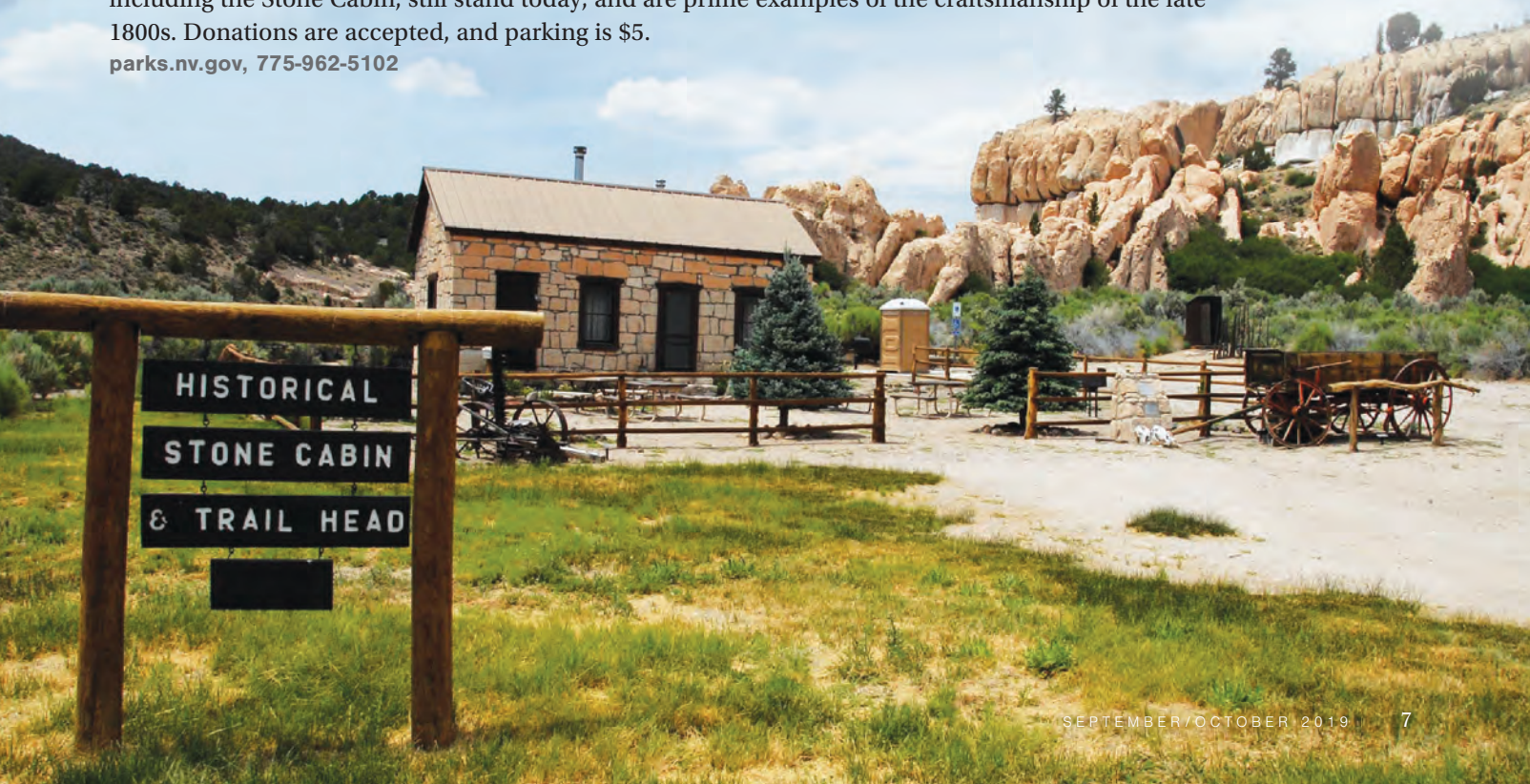
TOURS

Historic stone cabin tours offered at Spring Valley

Step back in time and experience life as the early pioneers did at the old Stone Cabin in Spring Valley State Park. On the first Saturday of the month—the next tour is Sept. 7—the park in southeastern Nevada, near Pioche, offers free tours of some of the park's historic cabins.

In 1864, Mormon pioneers settled in the area that is now known as Spring Valley State Park. The first weeks were difficult, as they lived in their wagons until homes were built. Some of these homes, including the Stone Cabin, still stand today, and are prime examples of the craftsmanship of the late 1800s. Donations are accepted, and parking is \$5.

parks.nv.gov, 775-962-5102



UP FRONT



■ **Las Vegas Ballpark** recently won top honors during the 2019 MiLB Triple-A Best of the Ballparks fan vote. The park was chosen over Southwest University Park, home of the El Paso Chihuahuas, Triple-A affiliate of the San Diego Padres. More than 85,000 fans voted, and after several close rounds, the Las Vegas Ballpark won. thelvbballpark.com, 702-943-7200

■ SecretBurger announces **Picnic in the Alley** on Oct. 6, celebrating the fierce females of Las Vegas' culinary scene. Confirmed chefs include Rooster Boy's Sonia El-Nawal, Blau & Associates' Elizabeth Blau, Locale's Nicole Brisson, Hell's Kitchen's Jennifer Murphy, and La Strega's Gina Marinelli. Set for the Alley, across from the newly restored Fergusons Downtown, the Picnic offers food, drink, entertainment, and more. secretburger.com, 702-948-4190

■ Internationally renowned **magician Hans Klok** takes over Las Vegas with more than 50 electrifying illusions packed into a 70-minute show at the Excalibur Hotel & Casino. In a new, state-of-the-art, immersive showroom, audiences will be mesmerized by this family-friendly, fun-for-all-ages magical adventure. excalibur.mgmresorts.com, 702-597-7600

■ **Jimmy Kimmel's Comedy Club** at The LINQ Promenade has officially launched. The club captures the spirit of classic Vegas with late-night shows, surprise guests, high-end casual cuisine, and memorabilia. The club will showcase comedians ranging from household names to up-and-coming talent curated by Kimmel. linq.com, 702-777-2782

■ An IV hydration lounge known for its presence at major music festivals and sporting events including BottleRock Napa Valley, Spartan World Championships, and Reno-Tahoe Odyssey has its first permanent location in Reno. **Rapid Recovery** is made up of nurse practitioners and nurses who provide IV hydration, vitamin infusions, and injections in a relaxing and beautiful space. rapidrecoveryhydration.com, 775-737-9717



GRANITE CONSTRUCTION

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Lake Tahoe gets new bike, pedestrian trail

The Tahoe East Shore Trail—between southern Incline Village and Sand Harbor State Park—is now open. The trail includes nearly 3 miles of 10-foot-wide paved pathways for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized use. It has six bridges, the longest at 810 feet, and has 17 vista points and 23 interpretive panels. At its northern end, the path rises approximately 150 feet above the average Tahoe lakeshore elevation, yet maintains an accessible grade to be family-friendly. Dogs are allowed on the path with leash, and the path is open from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

Roadside parking is prohibited on State Route 28 between Sweetwater Road and south of Sand Harbor State Park as marked by signage. Approximately 90 parking spots with direct access to the path are available at three parking lots located alongside State Route 28 in Incline Village near Ponderosa Ranch Road. The parking spots will be free initially before transitioning to paid parking. Revenues will be used to operate and maintain the trail and parking.

The path is a major step in a future multi-use trail circling Lake Tahoe. tahoetransportation.org/sr28, 775-589-5500





Discover

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UP FRONT



Atlantis Casino Resort Spa Reno and Monarch Casino Resort Spa Black Hawk have a new loyalty program, **Monarch Rewards**. The program allows people to earn tier points and comp dollars at both Atlantis Casino in Reno and Monarch Casino in Black Hawk, Colorado. Membership is free. atlantiscasino.com, 775-825-4700

The **Las Vegas Book Festival** returns to downtown Las Vegas Oct. 19 at the Historic Fifth Street School. The annual festival is free and open to all ages. Nevada's largest literary event celebrates the written, spoken, and illustrated word. In its 18th year expect well-known authors, programs for all ages, poetry, workshops, music, exhibits, panel discussions, and more. lasvegasbookfestival.com

The **Vegas Golden Knights** are set to build and operate an indoor ice hockey facility in downtown Henderson. The facility will be built on 3.2 acres currently occupied by the Henderson Convention Center, which is being demolished. The new facility is tentatively scheduled for completion by July 2020 with an estimated construction cost of \$25 million. nhl.com/goldenknights, 702-790-2663

In partnership with eight agencies that manage **Lake Tahoe's public beaches**, the nonprofit Tahoe Fund has launched a website to serve as a guide to more than 40 beaches that surround Lake Tahoe. From frequented hotspots to little-known hidden gems, the website offers information about how to get to each beach, where to park, hours of operation, and amenities and services offered, if any. tahoepublicbeaches.org

The **Nevada Commission on Tourism** approved \$1,017,790 in grant funding to rural tourism agencies. The Rural Marketing Grants program supports rural Nevada destinations in their marketing efforts. travelnevada.biz, 775-687-4322

UPGRADES

Sands Regency opens new buffet

Jacobs Entertainment has renovated the buffet at The Sands Regency, kicking off the first phase of more than \$50 million in renovations and redevelopment of the property.



The buffet has undergone a complete remodel including an upgraded state-of-the-art kitchen, larger eating area, and a dedicated elevator that will take guests directly to the dining area. It has a contemporary Tahoe feel and design, with food stations to satisfy every craving, including Asian, Mexican, American, and Italian with

an extensive dessert selection. The buffet also includes both a pasta and a prime rib carving station.

The \$50 million transformation also includes a \$20 million remodel of the 225-room West Tower. sandsregency.com, 775-348-2200

PUBLIC ART

Downtown Container Park hosts interactive art installation

Downtown Container Park in Las Vegas has unveiled a community art installation: The Pixel Sticker Room. Guests can take part in decorating a stark-white living room-style set that acts as a canvas with brightly colored stickers to mimic a pixelated work of art that is ever evolving.



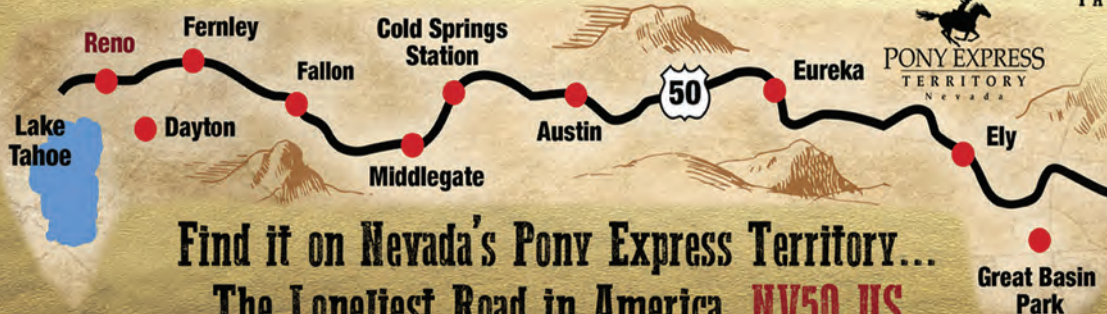
The Pixel Sticker Room aims to encourage the support of small businesses, engage the community in interactive art, and invites guests to embrace adventure. Guests make their own sticker contribution by reaching varying levels of spending at one or more of the many small businesses, boutiques, restaurants, and bars located within Container Park.

downtowncontainerpark.com, 702-359-9982

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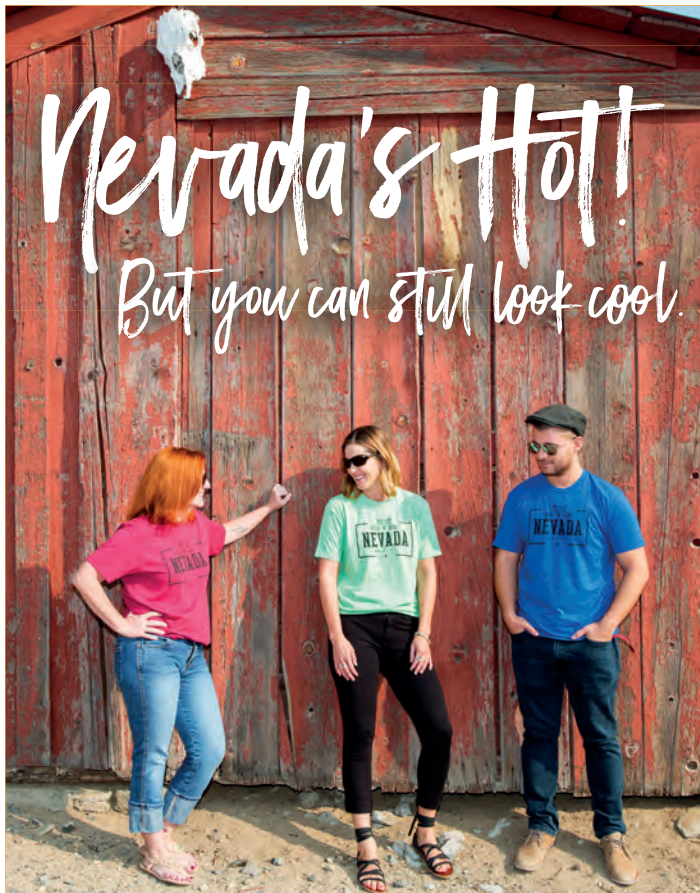


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■ **The Neon Museum's** next phase of development—Neon2020—involves the acquisition of the Reed Whipple Cultural Center, directly across Las Vegas Boulevard. This 32,000-square-foot addition doubles the museum's size and will provide space for an indoor gallery, storage for its ever-growing collection of vintage Las Vegas signs, plus classrooms and future administrative offices. The first phase of remodeling is slated for completion in early 2020. neonmuseum.org, 702-387-6366

■ **Lee Canyon** in southern Nevada will build a new 10,000-square-foot Hillside Lodge that will transform the resort's year-round guest experience. The Hillside Lodge will boast outdoor heated terrace and patio dining spaces, a ski-in, ski-out bar for Vegas' best après, a bistro with reimagined food and beverage options, a grill for everyday resort fare, and expanded restroom facilities. The lodge is expected to open in December 2019. leecanyonlv.com

■ **Vegas Superkarts** by Exotics Racing is a brand-new go-kart attraction, offering a true racing experience. Las Vegas visitors can drive the new fleet of 4-stroke, gas-powered Sodikart SR5 270 CCs on the city's longest, widest, and fastest outdoor go-kart racetrack. vegassuperkarts.com, 702-802-5690

■ **The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office** listed both the Battle Mountain Grammar School in Lander County and the Oats Park Grammar School in Fallon in the Nevada State Register of Historic Places. Designed by renowned Nevada architect Frederic DeLongchamps in the early twentieth century, both historic schools reflect the tradition of education in rural Nevada. shop.nv.gov, 775-684-3448

■ With 19 consecutive wins, the **Atlantis Steakhouse** is the longest-running northern Nevada winner of "Wine Spectator's" Award of Excellence. Bistro Napa Restaurant is the second longest-running northern Nevada winner with its 18th consecutive "Wine Spectator" Award of Excellence. The "Wine Spectator" competition is a worldwide event. atlantiscasino.com, 775-825-4700

RESTAURANT ROUNDUP

Tasty dining and imbibing news from Las Vegas

Roy Choi is bringing limitless Korean barbecue to The Strip with the launch of All-You-Can-Eat Mondays at **Best Friend** inside Park MGM. Diners can sink their teeth into limitless sizzling plates of Best Friend's six flavorful meats—from the melt-in-your-mouth spicy pork to sweet and smoky barbecue ribeye steeped in bulgogi marinade. parkmgm.com, 888-769-2464



Best Friend

TRAVIS JENSEN

Real Awesome Food Park has been launched in the heart of Downtown Las Vegas. Set at the lot on 9th and Fremont every Friday and Saturday from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., Real Awesome Food Park will bring the neighborhood locally crafted food trucks serving savory and sweet bites for everyone to explore and enjoy. realawesomefood.com, 702-701-0220

Flights, a tapas-style restaurant with an impressive cocktail menu, has



Mac & cheese from Flights

opened on the Las Vegas Strip at Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino. The aviation-themed restaurant offers signature flights that showcase ingredients such as ahi tuna, shrimp, French fries, and more, and preparations including ceviche, skewers, and salads served in three different styles. This unique culinary treatment allows guests to experience a multitude of flavors

in a single dish. flightsrestaurants.com, 702-268-7264

It'Sugar has opened a U.S. flagship store on The Las Vegas Strip. The 6,000-square-foot store, located across from the Bellagio Fountain, offers the candy and novelty products the brand is known for. Among thousands of confections, customers will find everything from over-the-top indulgences to ridiculously funny specialty items—like the world's largest boxes of Nerds, exclusive candy lines with entertainment properties like "Saturday Night Live" and "Stranger Things," and exclusive Elvis PEZly PEZ dispensers. itsugar.com, 702-765-9360



It'Sugar

Water Grill has opened its doors at The Forum Shops at Caesars Palace. For more than 30 years, Water Grill has delivered a remarkable dining experience through its devotion to quality seafood and culinary skill. Focusing on first-of-season seafood, Water Grill prides itself in offering a broad selection of fin fish, oysters, crustaceans, and shellfish to its guests. watergrill.com, 702-832-4777

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■ Genoa's annual summer **Concerts on the Green** continue with a show Sept. 8 by the Groove Foundry. The band plays an eclectic mix of jazz-funk-acid attitude with gospel-infused vocals. genoanevada.org, 775-782-8696

■ The **Plaza Hotel & Casino** in Las Vegas has transformed more than 100 hotel rooms and suites on the top floors of the North Tower. The new Luxe Rooms feature laminate flooring with area rugs and a barn-door entry into reimagined bathrooms with custom vanities, oversized walk-in showers, quartz counters, and a blend of dimensional tiles. plazahotelcasino.com, 702-386-2110

■ **Caesars Entertainment Corporation** was nationally recognized for the fifth consecutive year as one of the "Most Community-Minded Companies" by Civic 50, a Points of Light initiative. The Civic 50 provides a national standard for companies with annual revenues of at least \$1 billion and showcases how they use their time, skills, and other resources to improve the communities in which they do business. caesars.com/corporate, 702-405-4300

■ Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group announced **R.U.N**—the entertainment group's first live-action thriller, premiering at Luxor Oct. 24. R.U.N is an unprecedented entertainment experience, using live-action performance, cutting-edge technology, and multimedia to explore the world of stunts. runlasvegas.com, 702-352-0221

■ The Nevada Humanities Exhibition Series opens a new exhibition, "**Dry Wit**," at the Nevada Humanities Program Gallery in Las Vegas through Sept. 25. Bringing together painting, sculpture, illustration, and photography from the museum's collection, "Dry Wit" explores the contrasts that unite us as we create this assemblage city we call home. nevadahumanities.org, 702-800-4670

GAMING

Circa Sports opens at Golden Gate

Las Vegas casino owner and developer Derek Stevens officially launched his new sports betting venture, Circa Sports, within the all-new sportsbook at Golden Gate Hotel & Casino.

Steven's "guests first" philosophy will be seen throughout Circa Sports. Led by a team featuring the finest oddsmakers in the city, Circa Sports will bring top-notch customer service to visitors, appealing to betting novices and sharps alike. In addition, the Circa Sports mobile app is now available to add convenience to what will be a competitive



wagering menu—from daily games and events to futures.

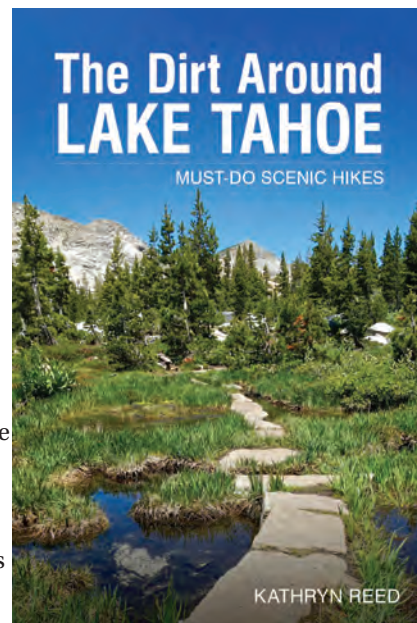
The 1,297-square-foot sportsbook at Golden Gate features a state-of-the-art video wall, LED boards displaying betting odds and two betting kiosks. circasports.com, 800-426-1906

BOOKS

The inside scoop on hiking Lake Tahoe

In her nine years as owner/publisher of "Tahoe Now," Kathryn Reed wrote extensively about her hiking adventures in the Lake Tahoe area. Her self-published book, "The Dirt Around Lake Tahoe: Must-Do Scenic Hikes," takes readers on a journey to dozens of trails throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin and beyond.

The guidebook has a rating system for scenic quality and difficulty, plus a variety of trails. Every shore of Lake Tahoe is covered, as well as popular and obscure trails just outside of the Lake Tahoe Basin. There are trails for everyone who likes to explore the outdoors; some are flat, some not so much. Descriptions include what time of year to explore the various areas, historical facts, and details about fun discoveries along the way. kathrynreed.com





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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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

International Car Forest
of the Last Church
Goldfield, NV 89013

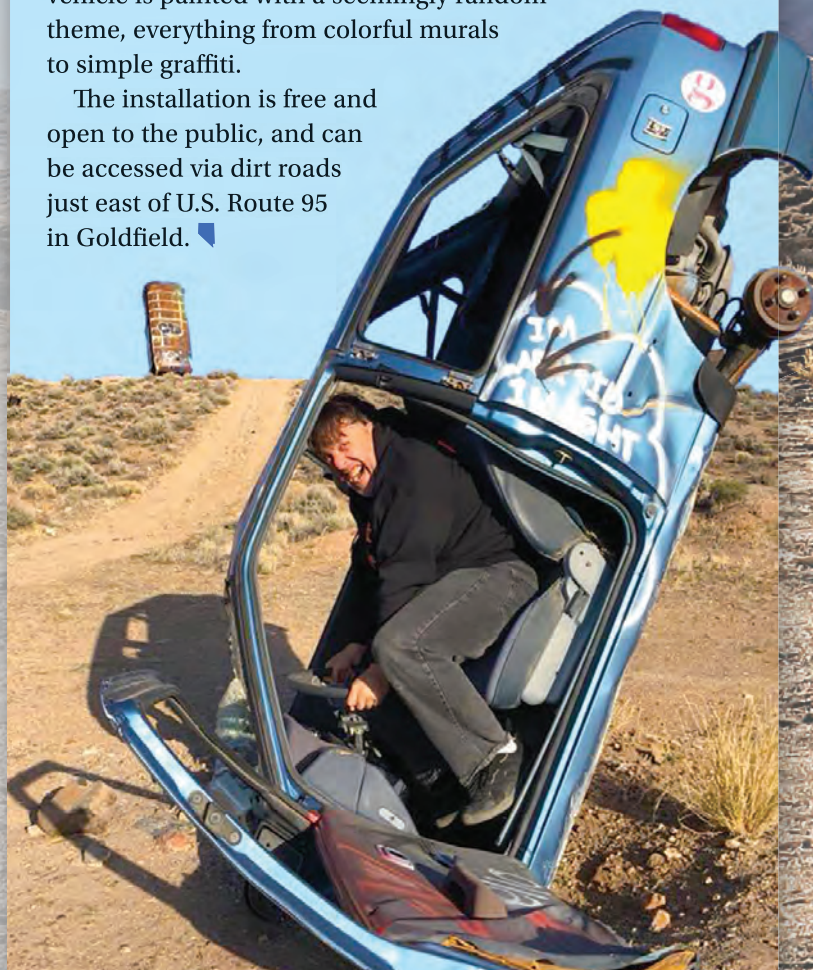
Is an abandoned car in the desert in violation of leave-no-trace ethics? If you think about it, it's made of everything that came from the earth, just assembled differently. Iron ore is mined to make steel, which is used for the frame and body panels; glass windows are just heated sand; gasoline is made from crude oil, which formed from ancient plants and animals; even rubber tires and plastic dashes are just modified forms of naturally-occurring materials.

While the argument's a bit of a stretch, desert folk tend to be used to seeing abandoned vehicles in random locations across the state; so much so, that we often accept them as being a part of the natural landscape. We sometimes just ignore them. But when they're assembled en masse, they tend to be a bit harder to ignore.

Especially when a rusted-out school bus is assembled vertically, almost as if it fell from the sky and became lodged in the Earth. Or when a spray-painted limousine is stacked atop an old ice cream truck. Or when around 40 other half-buried vehicles seem to have congregated like they're attending Sunday Mass.

The International Car Forest of the Last Church, as the aforementioned amalgamation has become known, is the brainchild of artists and Goldfield residents Mark Rippie and Chad Sorg. Rippie planted the first seed (a vertically assembled car), which was admired by Sorg, who was so inspired by the sight that he moved to Goldfield in 2011 to help Rippie expand the project. The collaborations resulted in a large collection of delicately balanced trucks, cars, and vans, sprawled about a modest dirt section of Goldfield. Each vehicle is painted with a seemingly random theme, everything from colorful murals to simple graffiti.

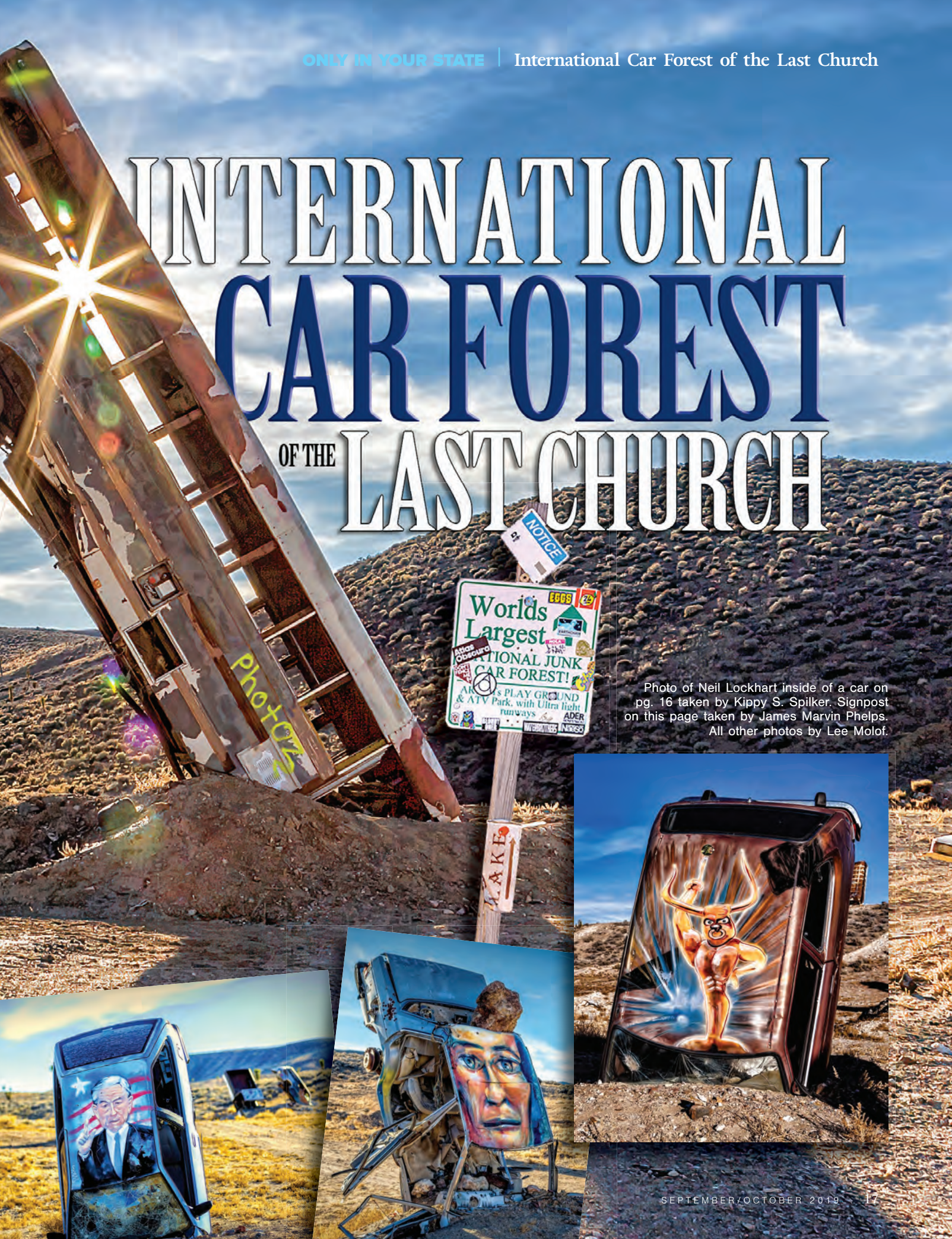
The installation is free and open to the public, and can be accessed via dirt roads just east of U.S. Route 95 in Goldfield. ▀



INTERNATIONAL CAR FOREST OF THE LAST CHURCH



Photo of Neil Lockhart inside of a car on pg. 16 taken by Kippy S. Spilker. Signpost on this page taken by James Marvin Phelps. All other photos by Lee Molof.







VISIONS



LARRY BURTON

Pages 18-19: Anthony Cupaiuolo captured this photo of his dog Emmie enjoying the crystal-clear waters by Bonsai Rock on the east shore of Lake Tahoe.

Left: "As I worked around the pond, I noticed this garter snake so I collected a few images," Larry Burton says. "When I checked exposure on the first couple, I saw something amiss on the snake's head, and after closer examination realized what I had: a happy accident in a really cool place."

Below: Paige Shaw captured this image of barn doors marked with cattle brands in Minden. "For 100 years, this served as the local blacksmith shop (including V&T Railroad maintenance). The smithy made brands for area ranchers and tested them on his doors."

Opposite page, top left: "Cathedral Gorge State Park preserves a dramatic landscape of eroded soft bentonite clay covering more than 1,600 acres in Lincoln County," says Dave Hammaker. He snapped this shot at Miller's Point, located within the park.

Opposite page, top right: Steffanie Thornock caught this image at Panaca Warm Springs. "We've held sprint triathlons there, and my kids have fished and caught pollywogs in the spring."





DAVE HAMMAKER



STEFFANIE THORNOCK



FACEBOOK GROUP CHOICE

Rick Mosher snapped this image of a white-faced ibis at Swan Lake in Lemmon Valley. "This was captured shortly after buying my new lens and I was still trying to figure out how to use it," he says.

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



RICK MOSHER

JOIN OUR NEVADA PHOTOGRAPHERS FACEBOOK GROUP
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100 YEARS OF CANDY

Images on this page are of the types of hard candies that may have been served historically at Candy Dance. These days, you'll find divinity, peanut brittle, English toffee, dark-chocolate peanut clusters, almond bark, cookies-and-cream bark, fudge, and chocolate-dipped pretzels.



JULES/WIKIMEDIA

Lottie Juchzter and
Ione Fetic, 1978

JAY ALDRICH

CANDY DANCE

Centennial event honors
volunteers and founder.

BY JOYCE HOLLISTER

For 100 years, streetlights have illuminated Genoa—Nevada's oldest settlement—thanks to a group of dedicated townsfolk.

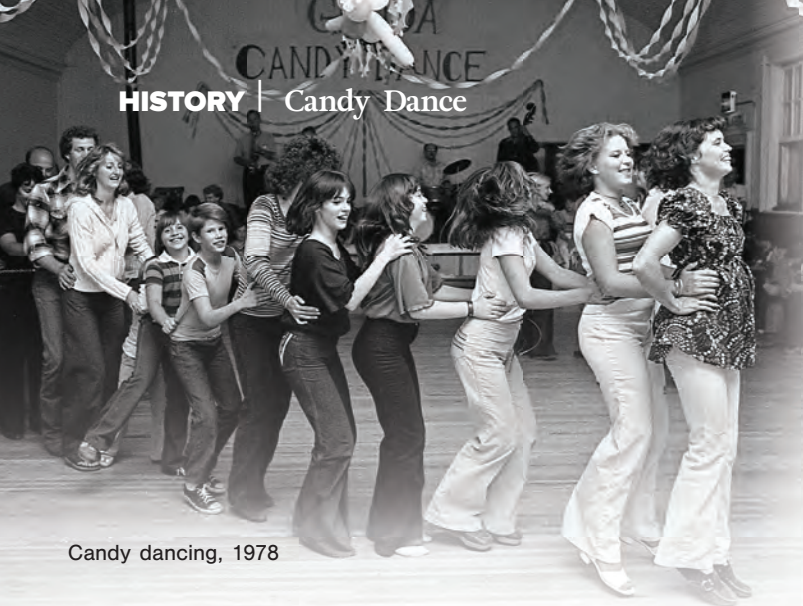
In 1919, Lillian Virgin Finnegan and her aunt Jane Raycraft Campbell encouraged the 200 or so townspeople to hold a dance in what is now the Genoa Town Hall to raise funds for streetlights. Young ladies passed trays of free homemade candy, and after the dance, a midnight supper was served at the Raycraft Hotel.

Today, on the last full weekend of September, Genoans make and sell candy for the two-day Candy Dance Arts and Crafts Faire, which draws between 30,000 and 50,000 visitors to the town, population around 900.

This year, the centennial Candy Dance honors the dance founder and the hundreds of volunteers who have kept the lights on for a century. The highlight of the celebration is a 7-foot bronze statue of Finnegan and a carved bas-relief representing volunteers lit by a restored original streetlight (see sidebar, page 25).



Lillian Virgin Finnegan



Candy dancing, 1978

It is said that Finnegan's idea for the fundraiser came from a dance she attended on a cruise where waiters passed trays of candy, although no one seems to know where the cruise was, or if in fact it was held on an ocean-going vessel or a riverboat.

No matter.

The idea caught on and the dance, supper, and candy making continued, even through the Great Depression and World War II, when sugar and gas rationing merely put a small dent in the fun. The popular northern Nevada occasion drew visitors from all over the West after the two-day arts and crafts fair was instituted in the 1970s.

CANDY DANCE MEMORIES

With or without a fair, Candy Dance has always been special for Genoans and considered a highlight of the fall social season.

As a girl, fourth-generation resident and town historian Billie Jean Rightmire, 86, helped make candy at home, and in the 1940s she dug potatoes on the Trimmer Ranch to earn money to buy dance clothes.

"I would wear out the Sears catalog looking for a new skirt or a new top," she remembers.

A decade later, Billie Jean was sporting a catalog outfit when she met Don, her husband-to-be, at the dance.

Rancher Lisa Lekumberry is a Genoa native and long-time Candy Dance hand.

"There are always a lot of people helping," she says. "I remember my grandma and all the older ladies with trays passing candy around the dance."

She also recalls doing a lively bunny hop with fellow dancers in the town hall, originally the Raycraft Hall.

By the time Lisa was candy co-chairman in the 1980s, the candy process had changed from women making candy at home to groups working together in the Genoa Volunteer Firehouse kitchen. She and co-chairman Thelma Schenk persuaded the town to buy two gleaming copper kettles for making fudge.



Candy dancing, 2012

CANDY IS DANDY...

The handmade preservative-free Genoa candy sells out quickly. For the centennial, candy makers produced 3,200 pounds of divinity, peanut brittle, English toffee, dark-chocolate peanut clusters, almond bark, and cookies-and-cream bark. The volunteers now have four copper kettles for cooking fudge.

"We make three different kinds of fudge: plain, walnut chocolate, and peanut butter," candy chairman Dee Dykes says. "We usually do a limited number of chocolate-dipped pretzels decorated with sparkles."

The biggest seller is a mixed package of fudge and divinity. Prices range from \$5 for pretzels to \$17 for mixed boxes. The candy is sold in the Town Hall along with Genoa-related merchandise and centennial memorabilia by—you guessed it—dedicated volunteers.

...BUT THE FAIR BRINGS IN THE BUCKS

The Candy Dance became a moneymaker with the advent of the fair. The proceeds pay for the streetlights' electric bill, plowing snow off the streets, and keeping the town spiffy.

Fair-goers browse some 300 stalls accupied by craftspeople and fine artists at Mormon Station State Historic Park and nearby streets from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Packed booths display handmade pottery, jewelry, clothing, leather goods, country crafts—and lots of tie-dye.



PHOTOS: JAY ALDRICH

You can find Western hats, soaps, lotions, candles, scarves, handbags, decorated mirrors, blown glass, paintings, photography, and wood and metal yard art.

Until the fair closes each day, food vendors hawk barbecue, Indian tacos, kettle corn, ice cream, margaritas, sodas, deep-fried delicacies, and root beer. The Genoa Volunteer Fire Department's six volunteer firefighters and a gaggle of hard-working supporters sell Italian sausage sandwiches in a booth with two bars.

Lake Tahoe acoustic duo Ike and Martin along with a full band will belt out modern classic rock at the Genoa Town Park, and the Liberty Food and Wine Exchange presents summer favorites for dinner on Saturday, 4:30 to 10 p.m. Some guests plan to wear 1919 period clothing.

Regular price is \$32. For \$52, VIPs receive a commemorative centennial glass and can park for free with their tickets. A shuttle transports VIPs to and from the dance. Reservations are recommended.

Each day, the Douglas County Sheriff's Posse and Jacks Valley Elementary School nonprofits charge \$5 to park in the lots at the south, east, and north entrances to Genoa on Genoa Lane and Jacks Valley Road; shuttles to the town center are free. Drivers can park along the sides of these roads, if vehicles do not obstruct traffic.

IT'S ABOUT TIME

Alison and Roger Grey recruit vendor hosts who help the arts and craftspeople put up booths. Volunteers operate the Genoa information station at the center of town and set up and assist during the dinner and dance.

"I'm glad they are being honored," says Alison, who with husband Roger, is in charge of overseeing volunteers. "Honestly, we couldn't do this without them. The candy making alone, that's huge."

Town manager JT Chevallier says honoring Candy Dance volunteers is long overdue. The town's staff of two could not mount such a large event without considerable help.

"It's only achievable because of our volunteers," JT says. ■

SATISFY YOUR SWEET TOOTH

Candy Dance Arts and Crafts Faire
Sept. 28-29; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Free admission, parking \$5

Dinner and Dance
Sept. 28; 4:30 p.m.-10 p.m.
\$32; VIP, \$52
genoanevada.org, 775-782-8696

COMMUNITY RAISES FUNDS FOR STATUE OF CANDY DANCE FOUNDER

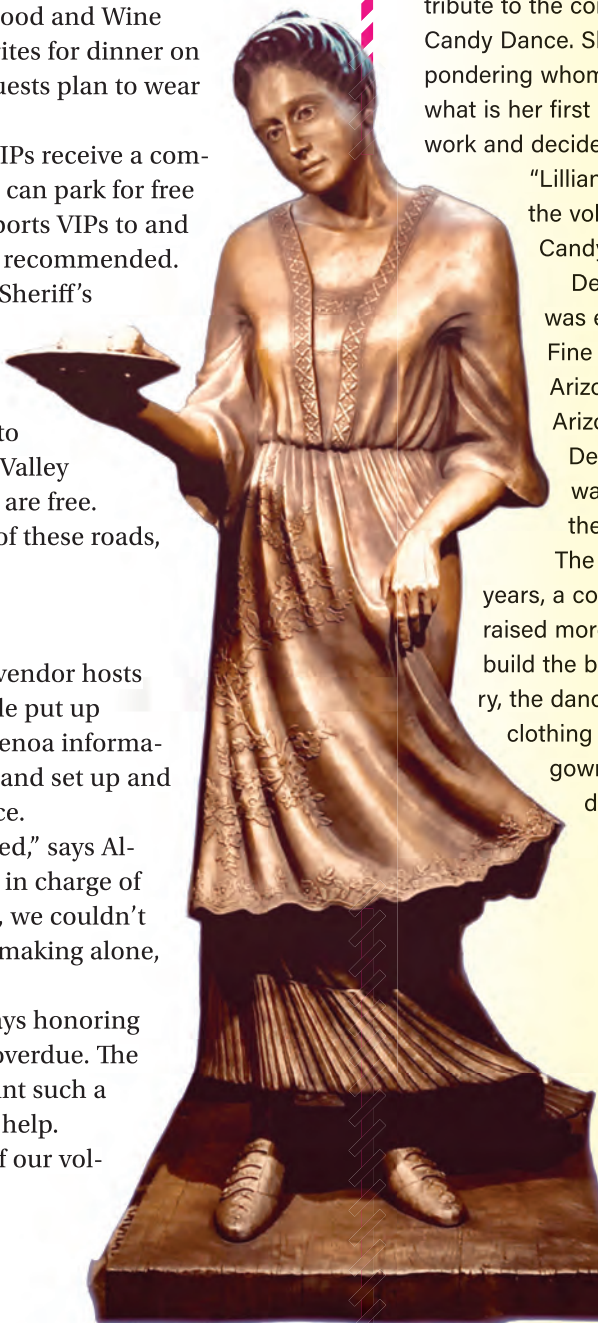
Topping off the 2019 celebration, a new 7-foot bronze statue of Candy Dance Founder Lillian Virgin Finnegan and bas-relief honoring all Genoa Candy Dance volunteers now occupies the corner of Nixon and Main Streets.

In 2016, Genoa sculptor Debrine Smedley wanted to contribute to the coming centennial Candy Dance. She had been pondering whom to portray in what is her first large outdoor work and decided on Lillian.

"Lillian represents all the volunteers and has been an icon for the Candy Dance," she explains.

Debrine began with a small clay model that was enlarged in Styrofoam at the Bronzesmith Fine Art Foundry & Gallery in Prescott Valley, Arizona, near her second home in Scottsdale, Arizona. After the foam was covered with clay, Debrine sculpted the fine details. The figure was molded in rubber and cast in bronze in the lost-wax process.

The artist donated her time, and in three short years, a committee including her husband Larry raised more than \$30,000 to cast the statue and build the base. Debrine researched the town's history, the dance, and the life of Lillian, as well as period clothing so she accurately could depict Lillian's gown and shoes. She also designed the 2019 dance poster.





ST. THOMAS

Ghost town tells a tale of resurrection and fortitude.

BY MICHELLE SINAGRA

St. Thomas seems an unlikely name for a Nevada ghost town. It conjures up Caribbean fantasies of powdered sugar beaches, crystalline waters teeming with marine life, and warm balmy breezes. But this St. Thomas lies in the harshness of the Mojave Desert and its existence is as unlikely as its name. St. Thomas is the story of disappearing and reappearing acts and of final emergence.

The notoriety of St. Thomas is all due to Lake Mead. But the history of the town dates back even further than the lake's creation and it's that repeated resurgence of this place that is so intriguing.



St. Thomas School, May 13, 1934



Remainder of the schoolhouse

DENNIS DOYLE



SHAUN ASTOR

RESURRECTION

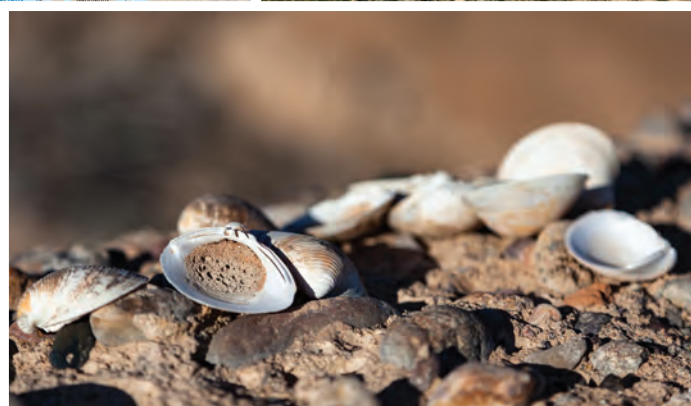
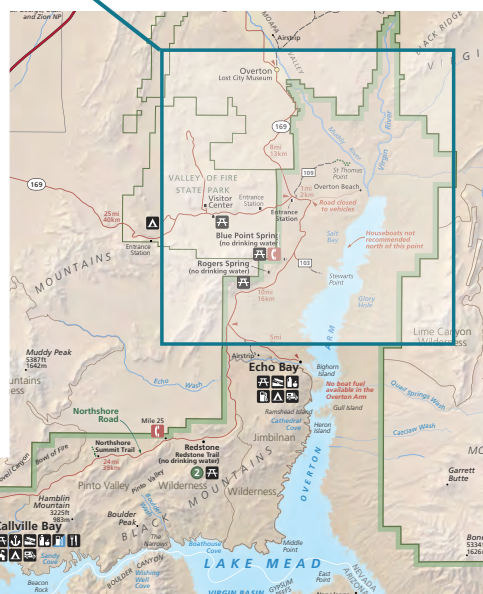
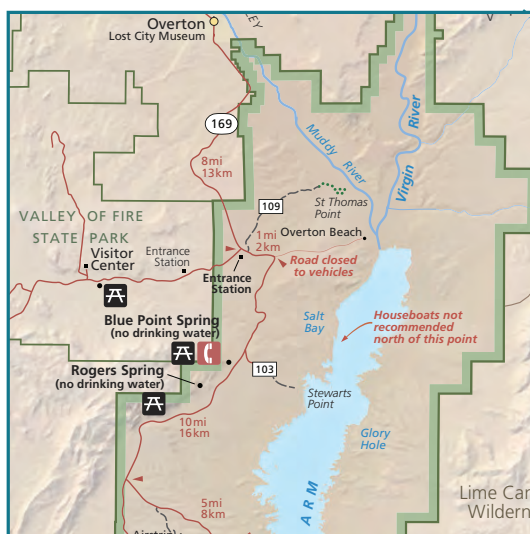
St. Thomas, like most everything in this part of southern Nevada, lies in an area that was first inhabited by the Anasazi people. They chose the location because of the fertile soil that sits at the convergence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers. Mormons were the first pioneers to actually settle in St. Thomas and put the town on the map. They arrived in 1865 and established a farming community. These hardworking folks thought that they had settled in Utah; imagine their surprise (and anger) when Nevada officials came to collect three years of unpaid property taxes. Refusing to pay, in 1871 they packed up their belongings, burned their homes to the ground, and left for the Great Salt Lake.

By 1880, new settlers gave life to St. Thomas once again, and the population hovered steadily around

several hundred for many years. St. Thomas again emerged as a bustling salt-mining and farming community. At one point there were up to 500 residents who built homes, a church, school, grocery store, ice cream parlor, and even a hotel. Huge cottonwood trees lined the streets and served as shade during the brutally hot summers. With no electricity or running water, these residents lived a simple life.

But in the 1930s, plans moved forward for the construction of the Boulder (now Hoover) Dam. Their tranquil lives were disrupted when they were notified that their community would be inundated by the waters of Lake Mead. Evacuations began slowly, and in 1934, the government prepared to move the town's cemetery. By 1937, the water was 12 miles from the town, and crops were still being grown as tenacious settlers refused to abandon their homes.

In June 1938, as the waters encroached, the last settler climbed from his door to his boat, set his house on fire, and paddled away from his home. St. Thomas hid beneath 60 feet of water for decades until the recent drought. As water levels in Lake Mead receded, St. Thomas re-emerged in 2002.



JAMES MARVIN PHELPS

IT'S HERE, FOR NOW

One of the best parts about getting to St. Thomas is, well, getting there. Northshore Road is a two-lane ribbon of a road that weaves through the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Just minutes north of Las Vegas, it feels like another world. Yes, in summer, it may be the closest thing to an inferno: dry and seemingly lifeless. But in the reprieve of cooler months, when you can roll your car windows down to feel the warmth of the sun and the caress of the breeze, every twist and turn of this drive is a delight.

The layers of rolling hills—black, grey, tan, and orange—create a patchwork that spreads on for miles as you pass near Bowl of Fire, Redstone Dunes, and Valley of Fire. There are occasional glimpses of Lake Mead, its deep azure creating a sharp contrast between the mountains and the deep blue of the sky.

Today, the National Park Service has embraced this little gem and given the town and its past residents the honor due them. They maintain the 3-mile dirt road that ends on a small bluff. From there, exploring the town is all on foot by way of a 2.5 mile-walking loop. Interpretive signs are posted all along the way and tell the story of these hearty people, this unique place, and its history.

Walking along the dirt path to the town, there are seashells scattered everywhere, a reminder that this town was once like the fabled Atlantis. Most of the buildings are just foundations, but looking at the water cisterns, the bulging tree stumps, and steps leading up to rubble, it is easy to imagine children playing in front of the school, mothers purchasing goods at the grocery store, and families strolling to the ice cream parlor to refresh themselves in the warm evenings under the shade of the cottonwoods.

It confounds the mind to think about how these people lived without so many conveniences and yet how hard it must have been to turn their backs on their homes, their community, and unique lifestyle. Sometimes, thanks to ghost towns, history puts things into perspective. ▀

VISIT WHILE YOU CAN

St. Thomas
Lake Mead National Recreation Area
nps.gov, 702-293-8990

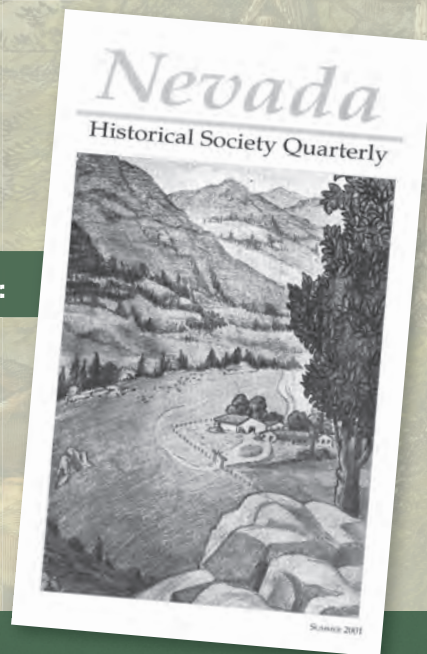
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TAHOE-PYRAMID

TRAIL



**Bi-state trail will span 114 miles,
connecting Lake Tahoe and Pyramid Lake.**

MEGG MUELLER

Eric Cachinero crosses the Truckee River on the Fleish Bridge near Farad, California.

BY MEGG MUELLER

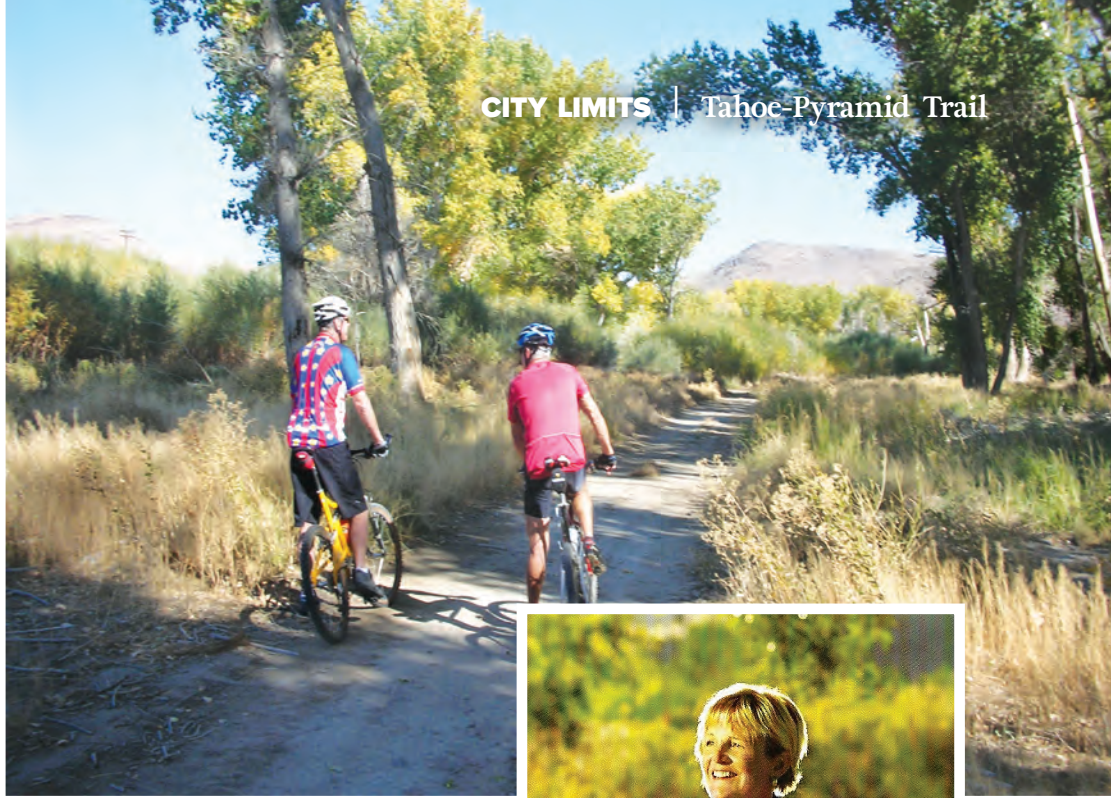
Lake Tahoe is the largest alpine lake in North America, known for its clear, crystal-blue waters created by snow melt from the surrounding mountains. Pyramid Lake is an endorheic salt lake—a prehistoric vestige of the once great Lake Lahontan—that sits in the desert about 100 miles northeast of Tahoe.

These two disparate bodies of water are joined by a common thread—the Truckee River. The Truckee is the only outlet of Lake Tahoe, flowing northeast for 121 miles from Tahoe City, California, through the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range into Nevada where it ends its journey at Pyramid Lake.

For 21 years, Janet Phillips kept track of the Truckee River in her job as director of water resources for Sierra Pacific Power Company (now NV Energy). After she retired in 2001, her love for the river took on a new life.

“It’s a beautiful river and there should be a path next to it,” she says. “I think people should appreciate what we have here. It’s a unique and wonderful thing.”

Knowing the river as intimately as she did, she knew there were many established trails, access roads, and paved paths in the cities the river flows through, but they were unconnected. She envisioned a trail that parallels the river from its start to its end, and the idea for the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail was born.



The Mustang-to-USA Parkway section is 10 miles of mostly flat dirt trail.



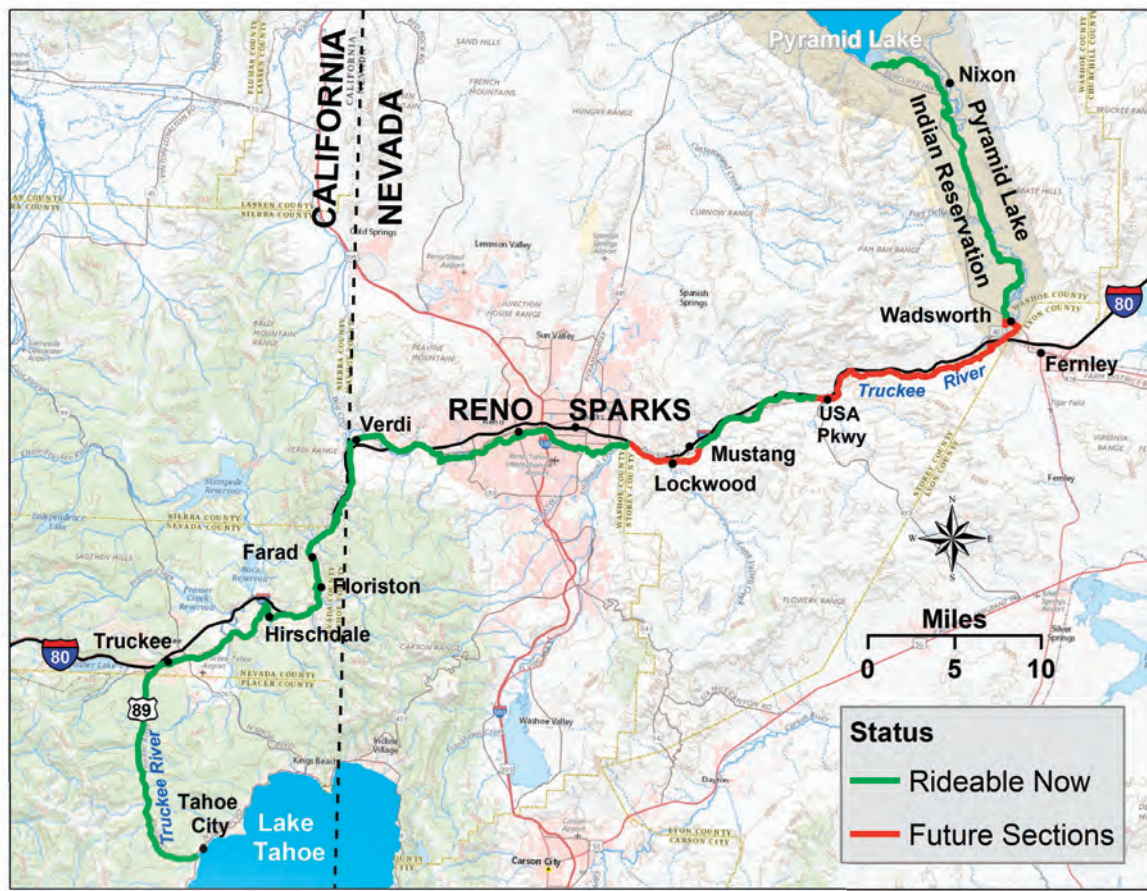
Janet Phillips

JEFF ROSS



PHOTOS: TAHOE-PYRAMID TRAIL

The Mogul-Verdi section of trail connects Reno to Verdi.



STEP BY STEP

Janet first started scouting a trail in the Truckee Canyon back in 2003. She admits she was naive when she thought how long it would take to complete the 114-mile trail.

“Frankly I didn’t think putting a path in would be that hard. I looked down and saw a dirt road, and I thought five years max. I had no clue how hard this would be,” she admits. “It’s probably a good thing, because if I’d known how hard it would be, I wouldn’t have done it.”

Word got out about her dream, and volunteers started offering help. In 2005, the group—then called the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway—became an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (The name was changed to Tahoe-Pyramid Trail in 2018 to better reflect the variety of trail users).

The first project the group undertook was a 1-mile path that would connect Reno and Verdi. Already a popular local ride, cyclists were previously forced to use Interstate 80 to complete the ride. In 2005, the section was completed, funded by almost \$400,000 in grants and donations, plus hundreds of volunteer work hours.





Pyramid Lake Shoreline

TAHOE-PYRAMID TRAIL

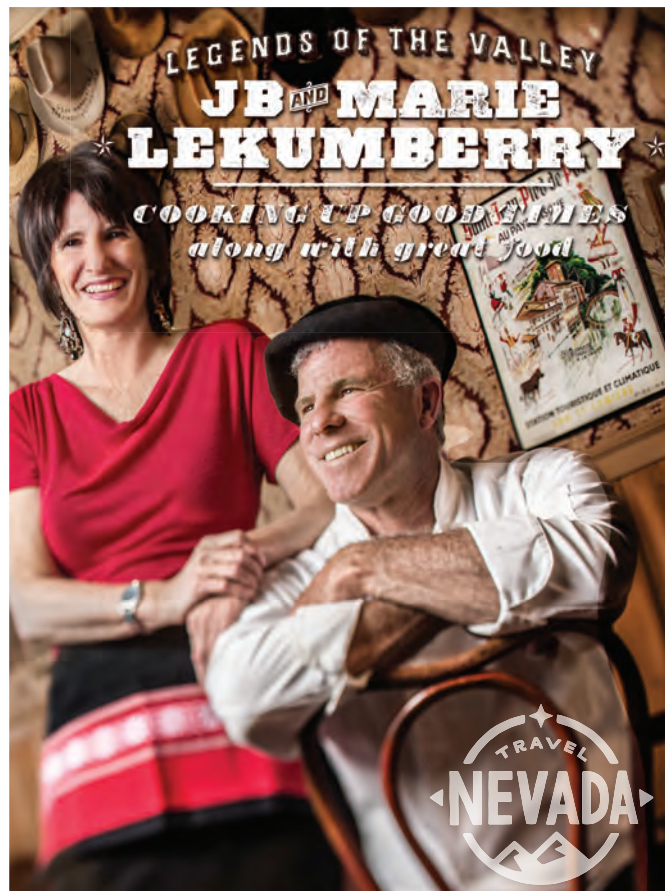
IF YOU BUILD IT

Today the trail is 80-percent complete, with the final section of the Truckee Canyon finished just this August. From Tahoe City, California to Sparks, the trail is a collection of paved paths, dirt and paved roads, and singletrack trails. The section from Sparks to Pyramid Lake has 33 miles of completed dirt trail, including 23 miles on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation, but there are two segments that have not been as easy to plan and build as Janet had hoped.

“People assume because we’ve made progress every year on the upstream side, building a mile or two of trail each year, that it’ll be like that going east. I’m not so sure it’s going to be like that at all. We may have a hiatus on the progress,” she notes.

At issue is private landowners who are not interested in having the trail through their property. The organization has been focused on completing the Truckee Canyon for the last few years, but in 2020, Janet will again take up the cause for this eastern section of the trail, and this time around, she’s got some unexpected support.

The Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center—home of Tesla, Apple, Zulily, and Switch, among others—has already granted permission for the trail on a



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HUNGRY?

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT GARLIC BREATH MAY HELP LUBRICATE THE ART OF CONVERSING? WHEN EVERYONE AT THE TABLE IS UNDER ITS INFLUENCE THEN IT LIKELY DOES BECAUSE AT THE JT BAR & DINING ROOM ON MAIN STREET, THE TABLE IS SET FOR BIGHEARTED PEOPLE WHO APPRECIATE OLD WORLD MASTERPIECES AND A SIDE ORDER OF NEWFOUND FRIENDSHIPS. THE KIND OF SPIRIT THAT RUNS RAMPANT IN CARSON VALLEY.


CARSON VALLEY
NEVADA

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portion of its property, and Janet has heard from a group of outdoor enthusiasts who work at Tesla. They are interested in how they can help get the trail extended out from Sparks to the USA Parkway so they can ride to and from work. These types of partnerships could be key when it comes to working out differences with the property owners. Janet is sympathetic to their concerns, which run the gamut from encouraging homeless camps to fire risks and vandalism.

"It's hard to convince some people about the benefits of the trail," she says. "We've promised at some locations to put up a fence so people stay on the trail and not wander into someone's property."

"Fire risk is a legitimate concern. There are very few trees, it's dry. No camping is the rule, but who's going to enforce that? It's challenging for sure," she continues.

AN END IN SIGHT

Challenges notwithstanding, Janet hopes to have the trail completed by 2025. It's an ambitious plan, but for one as tenacious as she, it's not unthinkable. As the trail nears completion, interest in the organization is ramping up. Buzz is building in the outdoor recreation community, trail usage is increasing, and volunteer numbers are starting to grow. A private company in Truckee, California—Dirt Gypsy Adventures—is offering shuttle rides for users who want to complete the 15-mile section from Hirschdale, California to Verdi without having to do the return trip.

While Janet has been the driving force behind the efforts for the last 16 years, without the volunteers and community support, there would be no trail. Janet estimates that



TAHOE-PYRAMID TRAIL
The trail through Reno and Sparks is all paved and family-friendly.

A Wish Comes True

BY MEGG MUELLER

I've always looked out car windows and wondered where the roads I'd see in the distance go to. I wonder what's over that next ridge, or what's down in that canyon. Growing up in Reno with family in northern California, the drive over Interstate 80 was a consistent part of my childhood. I'd catch glimpses of the Truckee River coursing past, and wonder, how do you get down there?

Now I know. In June, Associate Editor Eric Cachinero and I grabbed our mountain bikes and rode the Floriston to Verdi section of the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail, and I was down in that canyon, racing with the river for 10.8 glorious miles. The trail defied all expectations; it undulated in a gentle yet persistent manner, with plenty of singletrack for fun. The sections of dirt road were a respite and while there is one short but very gnarly steep climb, as long as you can walk, you can ride this trail no problem.

Hikers and runners along the way confirmed what we were discovering. The trail is a gem, hidden from the road at times, closer to freeway in others, but all with gorgeous views of the canyon and river. At times we were high above the freeway and river, feeling like we part of a special club that has access to such sights. Other times we were mere feet from the river, which on our June morning was raging with the snowmelt of summer still flowing strong.

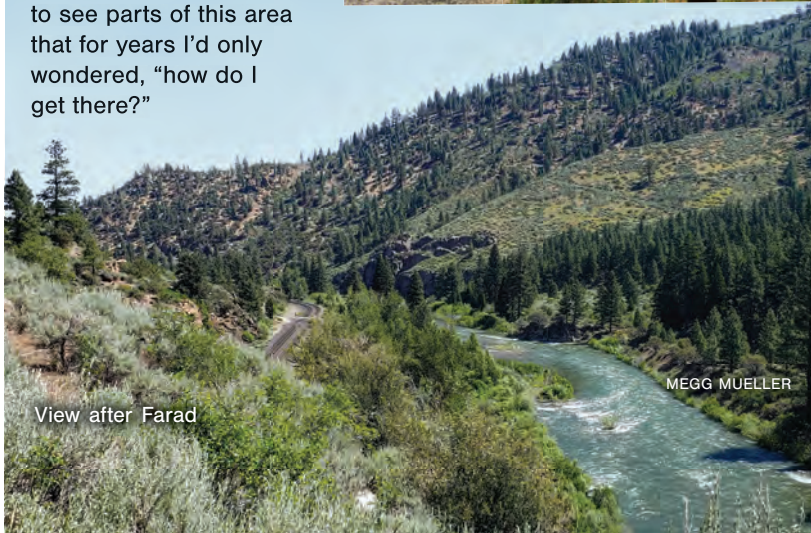
The trail was well marked with clear signage, and maps from the organization's website showed the elevation changes clearly. There are informational signs along the trail, giving glimpses into the history of the river and the power stations along it. There were plenty of areas offering shade and a place to rest or have a snack. When the river is calmer, I can picture trail users resting with their feet in the water, or even taking a swim. Maybe even bring that portable fishing rod for a chance at some Truckee trout.

In the fall, the Wadsworth to Pyramid segment will be on my to-do list. This area offers less shade, so for me, it's a cooler-weather ride. Regardless of the section I will ride, I know for certain this is an incredibly special opportunity to see parts of this area that for years I'd only wondered, "how do I get there?"



Farad Station

ERIC CACHINERO



View after Farad

MEGG MUELLER



TAHOE-PYRAMID TRAIL

Stiles were built over existing fences along the Wadsworth-to-Nixon section of the trail on the reservation.

will be paid staff to manage the programming and maintenance aspects of the trail, much like the Tahoe Rim Trail Association.

But endings are not what Janet's focus is today. It's seeing that last section in the Truckee Canyon completed, getting more signage in place along the finished segments, and making sure those segments are well-maintained. Once the upstream portion of the trail is entirely complete, then it's time to get the word out even more and promote the trail.

Janet's convinced that giving people a great experience on the finished segments of trail will help with the efforts to convince the downstream stakeholders this trail is nothing but a positive asset to the community.

From a tourism standpoint, the Reno-Sparks area is basically the halfway point of the trail, and Janet envisions people flying to the area to stay in a hotel, perhaps one that offers a shuttle to either end of the trail. Folks will ride from Tahoe City to Reno, she believes, stay the night, then do the Reno to Pyramid section the second day. It's certainly an amazing athletic feat for anyone to accomplish, and in today's active world, it's anticipated trail users will flock to the once-completed trail.

While the dream of completing the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail in five short years is long past, the extraordinary vision to one day be able to follow the Truckee River from beginning to end is almost here. And it's a day Janet Phillips will continue working toward until she sees her dream become reality. ▀

VOLUNTEER, RIDE THE TRAIL

Tahoe-Pyramid Trail
tahoe.pyramidtrail.org
 775-825-9868



ERIC CACHINERO



Merriam-Webster defines photography as “The art or process of producing images by the action of radiant energy and especially light on a sensitive surface (such as film or an optical sensor).” While this definition certainly describes the act of creating an image, it leaves out the most important factor in the whole equation: the photographer.

The images you are about to experience didn’t simply come from a camera arbitrarily aimed at a particular subject, rather they were created through the passion and artistic perspective of the person behind the lens. We all know Nevada is beautiful, but it’s the photographers’ ability to capture this beauty using infinite perspectives that really makes the state shine.

We offer a sincere thank you to all of the photographers that submitted images for consideration in our annual photo hunt. It’s a daunting and challenging task selecting our favorites each year, though it’s always a pleasure viewing each and every entry.





Lee Molof, 1st Place: As this year's first-place winner of the Great Nevada Picture Hunt, Lee Molof reminds us that sometimes some of the most beautiful things in life must come to an end, though through photography, can become immortalized. "The Historic Twaddle-Pedroli Ranch in Washoe Valley dates back to the 1800s. It was a popular photographic subject for locals until the tragic Little Valley Fire destroyed the wood buildings in October 2016. Fortunately, the stone buildings survived. I was fortunate enough to capture this shot before the fire. I spent many a shoot there from 2014-2016, and really miss the historic wooden buildings."



Jackie Gorton, 2nd Place: "Walker Lake is a desert gem, and there is an abundance of desert bighorn sheep that call nearby Mt. Grant home. This particular photo was taken just off the road. Getting the shot involved a short climb to gain a little more elevation, but the view is always an amazing reward even if the sheep don't stick around for a photo. Blessed to live in Nevada."



Anthony Montoya, 3rd Place: "Fishing just below the Wild Horse Reservoir Dam made me realize just how massive the structure is. Having my DJI Mavic Pro drone handy, I knew it would be the perfect opportunity to capture both sides of the structure, including the curvature and flow of both the road, reservoir, and Owyhee river below. The end result is one of my favorite shots of one of Nevada's hidden beauties with a different perspective."


 ABE BLAIR

PORTRAITS/PEOPLE

Abe Blair, 1st place: "Garrett Yrigoyen (from the "Bachelorette") out for a cruise with friend Mandii Marie in the Sparks Marina on the SUP boards. We spent a few days photographing all around the Reno area showcasing all of the amazing outdoor activities that can be done within the city. On this morning, these two paddled around the marina and enjoyed the fun and unique neighborhood that reminds you of Venice, Italy."


 PAIGE SHAW

Paige Shaw, runner-up:

"It's a tradition—and one might say a rite of passage—to line up at the Main Street Barber Shop in Gardnerville for a haircut. For years Barber Dan has groomed young and old alike. Five-year-old Blake had been patiently waiting for his turn when he was told to hop up on the booster. Grinning from ear to ear, sitting tall like the men before him, Blake got his ears lowered and enjoyed every moment."

LANDSCAPES



JANIS KNIGHT

Janis Knight, 1st place: "A friend was visiting and she wanted to take a drive and see some Nevada scenery on a fall afternoon. She'd never been to Pyramid Lake, so I got a permit and we drove out there. Pyramid Lake looks a little different every time you see it. The sky suddenly darkened to the south and some amazing thunderheads started to roll in. I managed to get one shot that actually had lightning in it before it started to rain."

TOM JONES, IV



Tom Jones, IV, runner-up: "Feb. 21 dawned with the Las Vegas valley wrapped in snow and more falling. I took a drive to Red Rock Canyon to witness this rare occasion and to grab some photographic remembrances. Around 11 a.m., the storm broke, showing some mountains and a bit of blue sky. I was struck during my editing session with the simplicity of the composition and the fortunate timing."



ROBERT ROLLINS

2019 GREAT NEVADA PICTURE HUNT

CITIES/TOWNS



Robert Rollins, 1st place: "The fireworks show in Virginia City had many viewers, one of which happened to be a rattlesnake that watched the show from the cemetery, unknown to me from underneath the tripod legs of the camera. He was very kind, however, in not biting me and I finally noticed him as he was crawling away into a nearby sage bush."



LEE MOLOF

Lee Molof, runner-up: "The Micca Saloon in historic Paradise Valley is quite a building with many great stories to tell, if it could only speak. It is quite photogenic, and this side view of the place caught my eye on a visit there in 2017 while attending the Shooting the West symposium in nearby Winnemucca."

MOBILE PHONE



Vivian Powers, 1st place: "These black-eyed Susans stood out while the sun was going down one night; they were so vibrant they almost glowed. I didn't have my Nikon with me and knew I had to grab my phone and take the shot. It took a few tries, but I finally got what I was visualizing."



Gretchen Baker, runner-up: "This huge cave entrance looks out toward old Lake Bonneville, which like ancient Lake Lahontan, was one of the giant lakes in the Great Basin during the last Ice Age. Paleontologists have found bones of animals that used to live here, including the teratorn—a giant bird with a wingspan of 16-18 feet. I love to come up here and think about how different the plants, animals, and climate were only 10,000 years ago. And I imagine the teratorn taking off toward the lake to go find her dinner."

EVENTS



DAVE HARRISON

Dave Harrison, 1st place: "The Nevada Day Parade is always so much fun. The pageantry and diversity are a photographer's dream. I chose a vantage point where I could minimize the distractions in the background, when the troupe of colorful dancers came by. The grace and fluid motion of the woman in white was so beautiful!"



LAURA DESIMONE

Laura DeSimone, runner-up: "Nick Troutman, a former world freestyle champion, competed in the men's freestyle finals of the Reno River Festival in 2019. The Reno River Festival takes place Mother's Day weekend as kayakers and paddlers of all types inundate the Truckee River Water park in downtown Reno."

WILDLIFE



Kelley Piccinini, 1st place: "I went to the Desert National Wildlife Refuge early in the morning in search of migrating birds. I was standing by a tree stump waiting for hummingbirds, when I heard a rusting in the leaves. This beautiful guy scampered to the top of the log to survey his territory. He was so beautiful and majestic looking. He stayed for several minutes and seemed to pose for me."



LARRY NEEL

Larry Neel, runner-up: "I saw two adult kit foxes north of Eastgate Station in the brush on the north side of the highway. During that time the kits appeared—as many as five—and the one in this photo was a runt just half the size of its siblings, but it was quickly evident that the runt was Mom's favorite."



LONG EXPOSURE



Steve Lee Hamel, 1st place: “Modern technology has made it possible to easily track the moon and Milky Way on our smartphones. This has allowed for dreaming photographer’s like myself to envision, plan, and—weather permitting—arrive at the perfect time to capture the photo we have imagined. It is in moments like these when all the elements come together harmoniously that almost feel like magic.”

STEVE LEE HAMEL



STEVE LEE HAMEL

Steve Lee Hamel, runner-up: “I’ve had my eye on this bridge since before it was finished. I have driven over it many times and contemplated the best way to photograph it.”

UNDER 18



JENNA GARRISON

Jenna Garrison (age 15), 1st place: "Dyer has a sense of natural and untouched beauty. The crisp air makes for great views of the desert landscape. All of the bright orange and yellow flowers among the sagebrush add a pop of color to the otherwise arid desert. Also, the expansive clear blue skies are truly one of the most beautiful sights."

Art Director's Note: Our judges were so impressed by the quality of photography from our younger submitters, they simply couldn't decide between these two runners-up.



CAMDEN JACKSON

Camden Jackson (age 10), runner-up: "I had seen the adult owls on a previous ride and decided to take Camden out to see if we could find them. We found their burrow and were watching, when this little baby came out. Camden has become quite the photographer and loves taking pictures and captured this photo. He also has an incredible eye for being able to spot wildlife." —Camden's grandmother, Carol Jackson



KALEIGH TAYLOR

Kaleigh Taylor (age 8), runner-up: "I was camping with my family and we took our two side-by-sides out for the day. We zoomed over to Belmont where I got a great picture of the Highbridge Mill. It was cool. I got to explore the inside of the building. It has been there a really long time."

We want to thank our generous sponsors, who each year make it possible for us to share wonderful experiences and prizes. This year's sponsors are:



Eagles & Agriculture. A uniquely Nevada event, Eagles & Agriculture is set in the Carson Valley amid nature's dance that brings predator birds to the area as calving season begins. The photo opportunities are endless. The winner receives entry to the event, which includes tours, a Falconer's Dinner, and photography workshop, plus a two-night stay at the Carson Valley Inn.



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



Shooting the West Symposium. This annual event in Winnemucca brings together legendary photography instructors and eager participants for a week of classes and outings. It truly is the "Nevada Photography Experience." The winner receives entry to the symposium—a \$145 value—plus a \$200 credit to attend workshops.



Action Camera. Operating in Roseville for 34 years, Action Camera brings more than just a retail camera store to Reno as they also provide classes, workshops and other services. Whether you're a pro, hobbyist, or complete beginner they are interested in helping you get the most out of your gear, and are providing gift certificates for the winners.



HOME MEANS NEVADA CO

Home Means Nevada. The quintessential Nevada brand, Home Means Nevada apparel is a must for anyone who truly knows what that means. Gift certificates are provided for the winners.

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A STATE APART.

COWBOYS, BIKERS, AND FLOOZIES... OH MY!



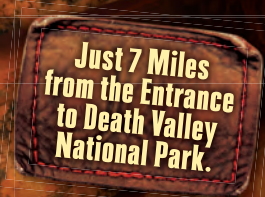
Beatty Days is our biggest annual event with Live Music, Chili Cook-off, Car Show, Bike Poker Run, Parade, Tombstone 2K & 5K, Old West Shootouts and Historical Reenactments, Bed Races and a lot more family entertainment. So come on out for some friendly folk, great food and old-fashioned small-town fun!

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www.travelnevada.com



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- 630 TOWN OF TONOPAH
- 634 CALIFORNIA TRAILS INTERPRETIVE CENTER
- 638 NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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- 1007 CACTUS CREEK PRIME STEAKHOUSE

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- 2301 GREAT BASIN NATIONAL HERITAGE

AUTOMOTIVE

- 2502 LAND ROVER/JAGUAR RENO & LAS VEGAS

TELEVISION PBS

- 2701 KNPB CHANNEL 5



INTERNATIONAL CAMEL & OSTRICH RACES

QUIRKY EVENT CELEBRATES ITS 60TH YEAR IN HISTORIC VIRGINIA CITY.

Virginia City is known for two things: silver and quirky special events. The International Camel & Ostrich Races first took place in Virginia City 60 years ago this September, and the tradition has ingrained itself as a piece of the town's identity. Sept. 6-8, celebrate the event that brings camels, ostriches, zebras, and a whole host of other critters to this historic mountain mining town, along with the daring jockeys to race them and crowds to cheer them on.

The first camel race in 1959 was the result of a rivalry between the "Territorial Enterprise"—Virginia City's newspaper (known for being Mark Twain's first writing gig)—and the "San Francisco Chronicle." The editor of the "Territorial Enterprise" printed a fictitious story about camel races in Virginia City as a hoax, and the editor of the "Chronicle" reprinted it. The following year, not happy about being made a fool, the "Chronicle" sent

a team to race in Virginia City with a camel borrowed from the San Francisco Zoo, thus beginning a tradition.

"Even though this event has lived for 60 years, we see it as more than just a tradition," Deny Dotson, director of tourism for the Virginia City Tourism Commission, says. "While we continue to improve the event year after year with more shows, more features, and more fun for the whole family to enjoy, we don't want to lose sight of the history of the event and our town."

The International Camel & Ostrich Races take place at the Virginia City Arena and Fairgrounds, located on F Street. For the first time, in 2019, Hot Camel Nights offers a Friday evening race, giving attendees the opportunity to beat the September heat and enjoy Virginia City's nightlife afterward.

Tickets are available now online at visitvirginiacitynv.com.



WHERE

Virginia City Arena and
Fairgrounds, Virginia City



WHEN

Sept. 6-8



TICKETS

visitvirginiacitynv.com,
775-847-7500



WORTH A CLICK

visitvirginiacitynv.com

EAGLES



RENOWNED ROCK BAND PERFORMS
ICONIC ALBUM 'HOTEL CALIFORNIA' IN ITS ENTIRETY.

GEORGE HOLZ

For three nights, the Eagles—Don Henley, Joe Walsh, and Timothy B. Schmit, with Deacon Frey and Vince Gill—perform its iconic album “Hotel California” in its entirety during the band’s only North American performances of 2019. Each night’s concert—Friday, Sept. 27, Saturday, Sept. 28, and Saturday, Oct. 5—takes place at MGM Grand Garden Arena. The show also includes an additional set of the band’s greatest hits.

“Hotel California” is the third best-selling U.S. album in history, recently certified 26-times platinum. After its release in 1976, it topped the charts and won two Grammy Awards for “New Kid in Town” and “Hotel California.” Several of the songs from the album have not been performed since the original “Hotel California” tour.

In today’s faddish, fractured, rock landscape, the Eagles retain an appeal that transcends both generation and genre, cementing the band’s role as enduring musical icons. As the best-selling American band of the ’70s, and one of the top-selling acts of all time, the Eagles have sold more than 150 million albums worldwide, scored six No. 1 albums, and topped the singles charts five times.

ALSO AT MGM GRAND

**Iron Maiden with
the Raven Age, Sept. 14**

MANÁ, Sept. 14

Jonas Brothers, Oct. 18

Jimmy Buffett, Oct. 19



WHERE

MGM Garden Arena



WHEN

Sept. 27-28; Oct. 5



TICKETS

mgmgrand.com, 877-880-0880

HOTTEST SHOWS

BILL BURR

The Cosmopolitan
Sept. 6
cosmopolitanlasvegas.com
702-698-7000

DURAN DURAN

The Cosmopolitan
Sept. 7-8
cosmopolitanlasvegas.com
702-698-7000

MALUMA

Mandalay Bay
Sept. 14
mandalaybay.com
702-632-7777

SMOKEY ROBINSON

Wynn
Sept. 18, 20-21
wynnlasvegas.com
702-770-9966

CHRIS TUCKER

Wynn
Sept. 28
wynnlasvegas.com
702-770-9966

MEEK MILL AND FUTURE

Mandalay Bay
Oct. 5
mandalaybay.com
702-632-7777

STONE TEMPLE PILOTS AND RIVAL SONS

Hard Rock
Oct. 6
hardrockhotel.com
702-693-5000

LAS RAGEOUS

Downtown Las Vegas Events Center
Oct. 18-19
dlvec.com
702-388-2101



MUST SEE WILLIE NELSON

The Venetian
Oct. 18-19, 22-23, 25-26
venetian.com, 702-414-1000

DAVID MCCLISTER

American icon Willie Nelson headlines a limited Las Vegas engagement, "Vegas On My Mind," at The Venetian Resort Las Vegas inside The Venetian Theatre, Oct. 18-19, 22-23, 25-26.

With a six-decade career, this iconic Texan is the creative genius behind the historic recordings of "Crazy," "Red Headed Stranger," and "Stardust." Willie Nelson has earned every conceivable award as a musician and amassed reputable credentials as an author, actor, and activist. He continues to thrive as a relevant and progressive musical and cultural force. In recent years, he has delivered more than a dozen new album releases, released a Top 10 "New York Times" bestseller, received his 5th degree black belt in Gong Kwon Yu Sul, launched his cannabis companies Willie's Reserve and Willie's Remedy, and graced the covers of "Rolling Stone" and "AARP The Magazine."

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In celebration of Mexican Independence Day weekend, The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas welcomes Latin superstar Daddy Yankee to The Chelsea stage on Friday, Sept. 13.


TICKETS

cosmopolitanlasvegas.com, 702-698-7000

The Metarama Gaming + Music Festival takes place Oct. 19-20 at the Las Vegas Festival Grounds. This destination festival represents a first-of-its-kind showcase of the latest marquee gaming, esports, and live music talent, providing two full days of non-stop action and entertainment.


TICKETS

metaramafestival.com, 512-674-9300



**GREAT RENO
BALLOON RACE**
Rancho San Rafael
Regional Park, Reno
renoballoon.com,
775-384-2554

The Great Reno Balloon Race is the world's largest free hot-air ballooning event. In early September, you can look up into the Reno skies and see a rainbow of hot air balloons soaring about. From its humble beginnings in 1982 with just 20 balloons, The Great Reno Balloon Race has taken flight with up to 100 balloons each year.

Sept. 6-8



**WORLD HUMAN-POWERED
SPEED CHALLENGE**
Battle Mountain
whpsc.org, 775-635-1112

The World Human-Powered Speed Challenge returns to Battle Mountain Sept. 8-14 for its 20th year, as the world's fastest bicycles attempt to break the human-powered land speed record. The 4,619-foot altitude road provides riders a 5-mile acceleration zone, enabling them to reach their maximum velocity before being timed over a 200-meter distance.

Sept. 8-14

SEPTEMBER

**Through Sept. 1 VIVA LAS VEGAS II CAT
SHOW**

Rio-All Suite Hotel, Las Vegas
jazzycats2019.com

**Through Sept. 2 BEST IN THE WEST NUG-
GET RIB COOK-OFF**

Nugget, Sparks
nuggetribcookoff.com, 775-356-3300

6-8 INTERNATIONAL CAMEL & OSTRICH RACES

Virginia City
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

7 9/11 MEMORIAL MT. GRANT CHALLENGE

Mt. Grant, Hawthorne
grantchallenge.org

11-15 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AIR RACES

Reno-Stead Airport
airrace.org, 775-972-6663

12 HALL & OATES

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

13-15 SILVER STATE ART FESTIVAL

Fuji Park, Carson City
nevadagourdsociety.org, 619-995-2475

14 GHOST

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

14 JARBIDGE ARTS COUNCIL WINE WALK

Jarbridge
visitjarbridge.com

14 LAS VEGAS HEART WALK

Sunset Park, Las Vegas
lasvegasheartwalk.org

14 MARSHALL TUCKER BAND

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

14 PROSPECTORS DREAM WINE WALK

Austin
austinnevada.com, 775-964-2200

21-22 'PETER PAN'

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

24 OATBRAN BIKE TOUR

Stateline
bikethewest.com, 800-565-2704

25-29 STREET VIBRATIONS FALL RALLY

Reno-Sparks & Virginia City
roadshowsreno.com, 755-329-7469

**26-28 GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK ASTRONO-
MY FESTIVAL**

Great Basin National Park
nps.gov, 775-234-7331

26-29 PAHRUMP FALL FESTIVAL

Petrack Park, Pahrump
visitpahrumpp.com

28-29 GENOA CANDY DANCE

Genoa
genoanevada.com, 775-782-8696

27 ROB THOMAS

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

27-29 LAS VEGAS GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas
lvgef.com, 702-221-8245



Oct. 12

**PARK TO PEDAL-
EXTREME NEVADA 100**
Kershaw-Ryan State Park
parktoparkpedal.com,
775-684-2770

Riders enjoy miles of scenic beauty as they ride along Nevada's first Scenic Byway, Highway 93. Peddle past the 1920s mission-style depot in the railroad town of Caliente and through the historic mining town of Pioche. The tour includes four of Nevada's state parks: Kershaw-Ryan, Cathedral Gorge, Spring Valley, and Echo Canyon, and wraps up with a Dutch-oven feast.



Oct. 19

**LAS VEGAS BOOK
FESTIVAL**

Historic Fifth Street School,
Las Vegas

lasvegasbookfestival.com

The Las Vegas Book Festival (LVBF) returns to downtown Las Vegas Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Historic Fifth Street School. The annual festival is free and open to all ages. The LVBF is a celebration of the written, spoken, and illustrated word. It will celebrate its 18th year with well-known authors, programs for readers of all ages, poetry, workshops, music, exhibits, panel discussions, and more.

4 AMERICA

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

4 FITZ & THE TANTRUMS

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

4 PAUL ANKA

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

4 ROB SCHNEIDER

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

5 CLINT BLACK

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

5 THE EXPERIENCE HENDRIX TOUR

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

5 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OUTHOUSE RACES

Virginia City
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

11 ENGELBERT HUMPERDINK

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

11 GODSMACK

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

11 WILLIE NELSON

Nugget Event Center, Sparks
nuggetcasinoresort.com, 800-648-1177

11-13 LAKE TAHOE MARATHON

Lake Tahoe
laketahoemarathon.com, 530-559-2261

12-13 GREAT ITALIAN FESTIVAL

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

12-13 LAS VEGAS 3ON3

Las Vegas Festival Grounds, Las Vegas
registerlasvegas3on3.com

17 TYLER, THE CREATOR

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

25-27 BEATTY DAYS

Beatty
beattynevada.org, 775-553-2424

26 CARSON CITY NEVADA DAY PARADE

Carson City
nevadaday.com

26 TENACIOUS D

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

26-27 JARBIDGE HALLOWEEN

Jarbridge
jarbridge.org



Nevada Day Parade

LARA ROBB

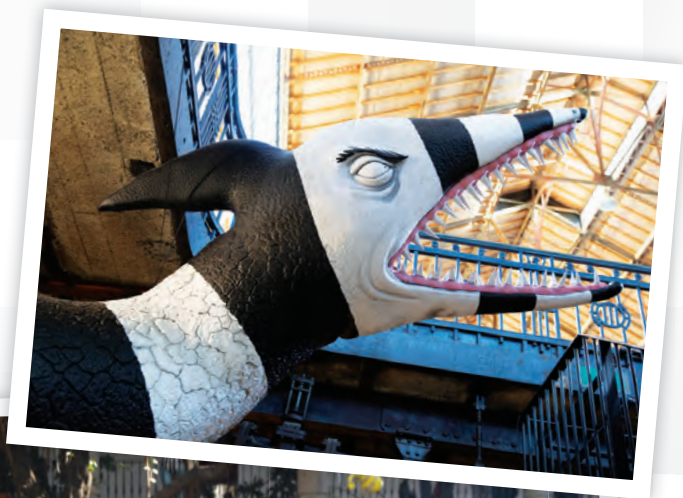


EXHIBIT DISPLAYS THE DISTINCTIVE ART
OF VISIONARY CREATOR.





For the first time in nearly a decade, renowned American film director, producer, artist, writer, and animator Tim Burton stages an exhibition of his original fine art in the U.S. Installed at the Neon

Museum in Las Vegas, "Tim Burton @ the Neon Museum" will be available to view at the museum's outdoor Boneyard exhibition space, in its North Gallery, and at the City of Las Vegas' Boneyard Park across from the museum's visitor's center. The exhibition is comprised of a combination of new work as well as previously exhibited pieces and is on view from Oct. 15 through Feb. 15, 2020.

Created to take advantage of the museum's unique open-air

exhibition spaces, the large-scale installation works are integrated with the museum's collection. Burton intends for the exhibition to serve as a retrospective of his own creative history, as well as a celebration of his affection for the Neon Museum. The gallery is genuinely site-specific and unlike any other exhibition Burton has ever staged.

"To say we're flattered that Mr. Burton has chosen our museum for this exhibition would be an understatement," says Rob McCoy, president and chief executive officer of the Neon Museum. "But when you think about it, Tim is one of the few artists who can match the great imagination of Las Vegas."

Credited with bringing the first worldwide attention to the Neon Museum's collection in his film "Mars Attacks!," Burton's exhibitions have drawn millions of patrons around the world in cities such as Melbourne, Los Angeles, Paris, Prague, Tokyo, São Paulo, and Mexico City. His exhibition at MoMA in New York City drew more than 800,000 visitors, making it the third most attended exhibition ever.



ARTIFACTS & ARTISTRY

'NEW CROP 2019'

CCAI Courthouse Gallery, Carson City
Through Sept. 26
arts-initiative.org, 775-267-3295

THE MAGIC OF DISCOVERY FUNDRAISER

DISCOVERY Children's Museum, Las Vegas
Oct. 12
discoverykidslv.org, 702-382-3445

'GEORGIA O'KEEFFE: LIVING MODERN'

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
Through Oct. 20
nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

'THE ART OF JACK MALOTTE'

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
Through Oct. 20
nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333



WHERE

The Neon Museum,
Las Vegas



WHEN

Oct. 15-Feb. 15, 2020



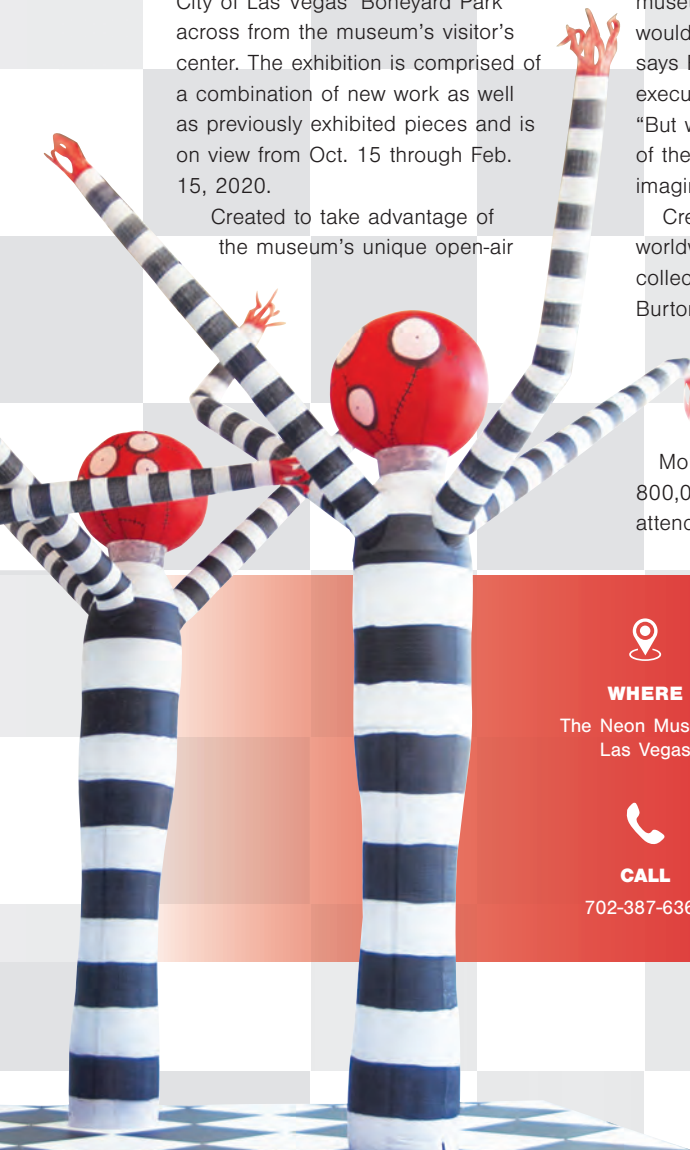
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A Mint, a Coin Press, and a Coin

Historic press recreates liberty seated half dollar for sesquicentennial celebration.




The Carson City Mint, circa 1880

BY MYRON FREEDMAN

Nevada's significant role in our country's westward expansion was fueled by the phenomenal energy accompanying the discovery of the Comstock Lode's rich ore deposits. Among official federal services that were in demand for a stretching United States was the availability of money. As a result, in 1863, while Nevada was still a territory, a case was made to Congress to establish a U.S. Mint near the great bonanza and they obliged. Not for the first time was a mint located near an ore strike. Short-lived mints had been located in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Dahlonega, Georgia for that reason.

The Carson City Mint, designed by Alfred B. Mullett (who also designed the San Francisco Mint, and U.S. Assay, and Post Offices), was largely constructed by 1868, the year it also received its first coin press. However, new dies from the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia did not reach Carson City until late 1869, and the first CC coins were finally struck in February 1870. At the time, it was one of only three mints in the entire country to be operating and it was the smallest, both in size and equipment with one coin press.

Coin Press No. 1—a 6-ton, steam-powered behemoth that shipped from its manufacturer in Philadelphia—crossed the isthmus of Panama, shipped again up the Pacific coast to San Francisco, and moved over the Sierra by both train and wagon, all the way to Carson City.



That first press, No. 1, was the only one on the job from 1870 to 1875, and it made everything from dimes to \$20 gold pieces. Eventually, three presses would be used to mint almost \$50,000,000 in gold and silver coinage before the Carson City Mint issued its last coin in 1893. After closing, the Carson City Mint building survived, thanks to the state and a visionary man named Judge Clark Guild, who led a campaign for the former mint to become the first state museum.

What if that first coin press managed to survive? And, what if it then found its way back to the Mint it first served in? Oh, to once again hear the 19th-century sound of a giant flywheel bringing some transformative tonnage to bear on an unsuspecting silver blank, instantly sculpting plain metal to ornate minted art. Could history be more alive?

Stand by to hear what the fates have allowed. Only in Nevada will you find this heritage marriage still engaged. Coin Press No. 1 is still with us.

Having undergone repairs in 1878 in the nearby repair shop of the V&T railroad, the press was stamped by the talented machinists with a new, brass manufacturer plate proclaiming the V&T restoration work of old No. 1. Once Carson City's Mint closed, that press was sent to operate in other mints; eventually ending its working life in the 1950s in San Francisco. Ready to be scrapped, it was the V&T plate that alerted everyone to its provenance, and connected the dots leading to a historic reunion.



The Mint 150 Liberty Seated Release Party was held Aug. 1. The first planchet is placed by volunteer Woody Davis. A limited number of the replicas were minted at the event.

PHOTOS: ALEXANDRIA OLIVARES-WENZEL

TOGETHER AGAIN

The Carson City Mint and Coin Press No. 1 are now center stage at the Nevada State Museum for the sesquicentennial of the rarest minting duo on planet Earth. To celebrate the ingenuity, technology, art, and sheer history represented by these two phenomenal artifacts—and to mark this unique anniversary period—the museum is issuing a special silver medallion: a replica of the first half-dollar coin minted on the very same coin press in the very same Carson City Mint. The new, 1870 CC Liberty Seated Half Dollar, sculpted by retired U.S. Mint engraver Tom Rogers, is a limited, replica edition minted with Nevada silver, thanks to support from the Coeur Rochester mining company.

The story of the CC half dollar, first minted on Coin Press No. 1 in April of 1870, is fascinating. The original design was

created by Christian Gobrecht,

third chief engraver of the

U.S. Mint. Born in 1785

in Hanover, Pennsylv-

ania, Gobrecht's

ancestors on his

mother's side

went back to the

Plymouth Colony in 1642. He apprenticed as a clockmaker and first

worked as an engraver for a clockworks company in Baltimore, then later

as an engraver of banknotes for a Philadelphia company. He was also

an inventor and created a tool to reproduce relief on a plain surface,

something engravers would have found useful. There is evidence that Go-

brecht did some work for the U.S. Mint as early as 1823 after the death

of the first Chief Engraver Robert Scot, though it was William Kneass who

became the second chief engraver, a position Gobrecht sought. Gobrecht

was performing work for the Mint when Kneass suffered a debilitating stroke

in 1835 and was then made second engraver. He would have created the

Liberty Seated design during this period. Kneass died in 1840 and Gobrecht

was appointed chief engraver of the U.S. Mint by President Van Buren on Dec. 21,

1840. He held the position until his death in 1844.

The basic Liberty Seated obverse design was used on many coin de-

nominations from 1839 to 1891 (125 dates and varieties) and consisted

of the figure of Liberty clad in a flowing dress and seated upon a rock.

Gobrecht based his design on sketches from the American painters

Thomas Sully and

Titian Peale. Peale's

father was Charles

Wilson Peale, who

constructed the first

museum in the West-

ern Hemisphere, yet

another historical con-

nection that enriches the



Christian Gobrecht



KIPPY S. SPILKER



The Mint 150 Liberty Seated Release Party

PHOTOS: ALEXANDRIA OLIVARES-WENZEL

meaning attached to this replica produced by Nevada's mint-museum. In her left hand, Liberty holds a pole topped by a Phrygian cap. This was a popular Neo-classical symbol depicting a cap given to freed Roman slaves and represents the pursuit of freedom. Her right hand rests on a Union shield inscribed with the word "Liberty." The shield has 13 stripes for the original colonies and represents freedom's defense. Though the figure of Liberty did not change, there were many design variations on both the obverse and reverse of the half dollar. The 1870 CC half dollar was the fourth and last of these types and known as "Motto Above Eagle" for the added banner above the eagle containing the phrase "In God We Trust."

The original coin was 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper, a common alloy at the time that made a mint-able yet sturdy metal. It was minted from 1870 to 1878, but the smallest coinage was the first in 1870 at 54,617 coins. This low number increases its value for collectors. Today, coins of average condition can be found for under a \$1,000. The few existing mint condition coins can fetch upwards of \$70,000, with one collector paying \$172,500 at a 2011 auction.

I'm often asked about the value of the medallions we strike on Coin Press No. 1. Though pure silver, the real value lies not in their precious metal. Rather, each one is a collectible artifact from an absolutely unique historical rarity, and bearing a CC mint mark, it's a link to an unparalleled historic Nevada legacy. Our half dollar silver replica is one way to experience the beauty of Christian Gobrecht's original design, and to take part in the phenomenal heritage marriage of the Carson City Mint and Coin Press No. 1 during the duo's sesquicentennial. Truly, a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Myron Freedman is the director of the Nevada State Museum in Carson City.

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM, CARSON CITY

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NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL

enriching the lives of all Nevadans

PUBLIC PURPOSE

Celebrating 52 years of service, the Nevada Arts Council (NAC) was established as a state agency in 1967 to enrich the cultural life of the state by supporting, strengthening, and making excellence in the arts accessible to all Nevadans. The NAC is one of America's 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies that ensure that every community in the U.S. receives the cultural, civic, economic, and educational benefits of the arts. The NAC supports Nevada's rural communities, enlivens its public spaces, promotes health and healing, sparks economic growth, drives educational success, fosters inclusion and equity, reaches low income communities, creates opportunities for artists, and serves the public. The NAC, a division of the Department of Tourism and Cultural affairs, receives funding from the State of Nevada, the National Endowment for the Arts, and other private and public sources.

The arts are a vital asset that improve the quality of life throughout Nevada communities. The arts foster critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, and connections to our rich culture and heritage. The NAC, through its programs and many partnerships, actively works to connect diverse art, artists and arts organizations to audiences in the streets, galleries, museums, theaters, and classrooms found throughout our urban and rural communities.

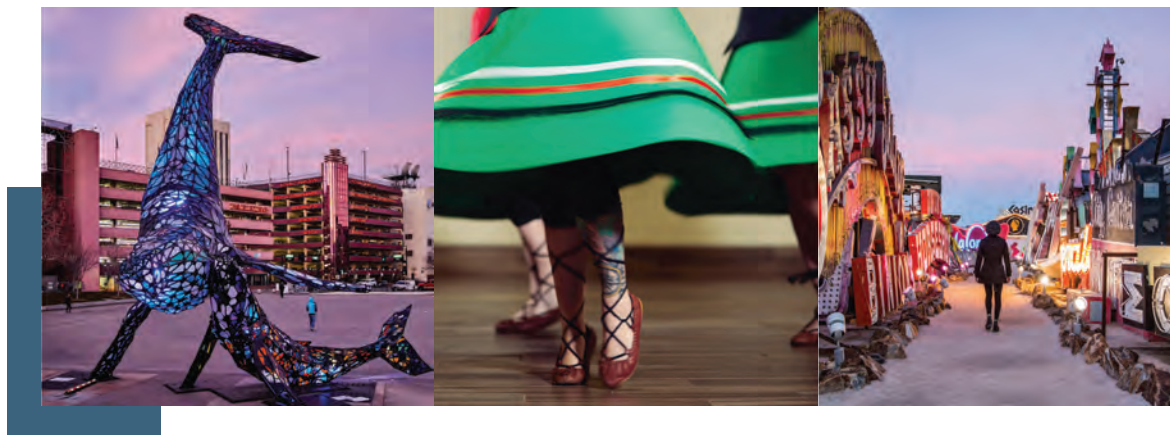
**NEVADANS BELIEVE THE ARTS
PROVIDE MEANING TO THEIR LIVES
AND MAKE THEIR COMMUNITIES
BETTER PLACES TO LIVE.**

75% believe the arts
help students perform
better academically

70% believe that creativity
enhances success in
the workplace

62% believe that the arts
improve healing and the
healthcare experience

Source: Americans Speak Out About The Arts in 2018 Ipsos Public Affairs Survey on behalf of Americans for the Arts



NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL

What We Do:

The NAC encompasses six program areas that work together and independently to effectively serve our diverse statewide constituency.

Artist Services - Honors and showcases the work of Nevada's contemporary literary, performing, and visual artists to the public through exhibits, grants, and outreach programs. Provides resources to artists for career development. Helps Nevadans understand the vital role that artists contribute to a creative workforce.

Arts Learning - Supports the goal of lifelong learning in the arts by promoting and expanding quality arts education opportunities for all Nevada citizens. Has three program focuses that include Arts Education, Arts Integration, and Arts for Social Development.

Community Arts Development - Supports Nevada's nonprofit arts and culture organizations, municipalities, public institutions, and tribal governments with programs and services aimed to elevate the arts and cultural infrastructure and organizational capacity statewide.

Folklife - Supports the folk and traditional arts activities of individuals, organizations and communities through grants, consultations, producing and documenting projects and exhibitions, and technical assistance.

Grants - Reflects a significant commitment by the State and the Federal Government to support the creation of arts and access to the arts for its citizens. In FY18, the Grant Program awarded \$1,020,595 to 309 grantees in counties throughout the state. If the state were to lessen NAC's budget, grant awards would be severely affected.

Public Information / Arts Initiatives - Oversees Nevada Arts Council Board engagement, partnership initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and special projects that promote Nevada's arts industry, support the agency's mission and goals and strengthen the state's cultural infrastructure.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports
arts and cultural production contributed

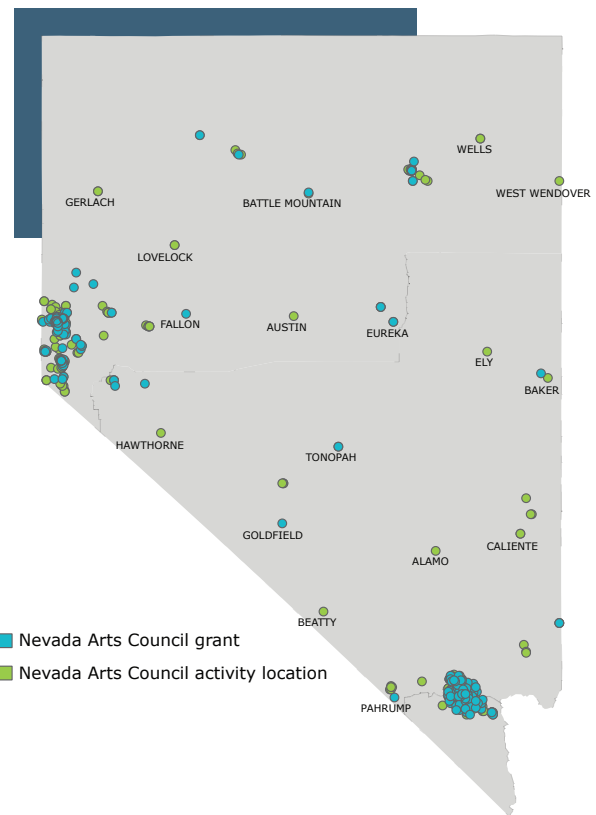
\$7,019,075,000

and is **4.7%** of Nevada's GDP

contributing to

41,308 JOBS

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis State Arts and Cultural Production 2016



2018 PROGRAM & GRANT RESULTS

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SCAVENGER HUNT

the SILVER STATE SCAVENGER HUNT Results

The 2019 hunt has officially come to a close.

The 2019 Silver State Scavenger Hunt took dedicated adventurers tens of thousands of miles collectively around the state, exploring some of Nevada's most incredible natural wonders. Participants searched near and far to complete the hunt, collecting memories and crossing off places of the state they've never visited before.

We would like to thank those who participated in this year's hunt. And to those wanting to participate in next year's hunt, we'll see you in 2020!

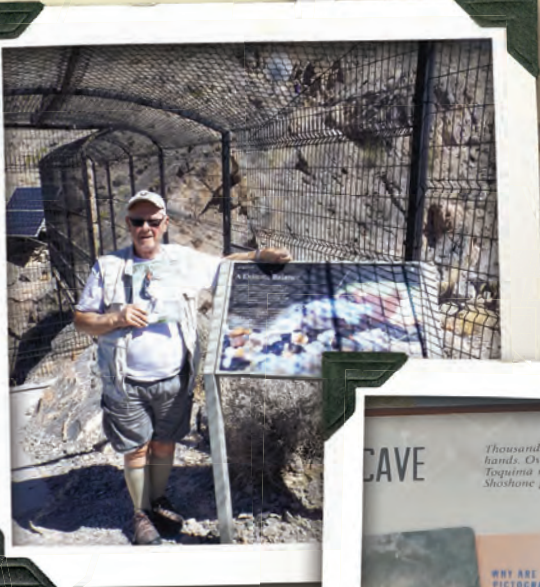
A special thanks to Land Rover for providing the prizes for the Silver State Scavenger Hunt!



Northern Zone Land Rover Winners
Dee & Cheri Boskie



Southern Zone Land Rover Winners
Kenny Retzl & Family



We'll see you next year for
the 2020 Silver State Scavenger Hunt!



ASH MEADOWS

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Unique landscape is getting a new lease on its old life.

BY PETER PEARSALL

In a remote corner of southern Nevada, groves of ash and mesquite trees shelter spring-fed pools of warm, crystal-clear water that are a boon for native wildlife, some of which are rare and found nowhere else on Earth. This unexpected fertile patch—Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge—is where the desert springs to life.

Located in one of the hottest and driest regions of North America, the 50-odd springs and seeps at Ash Meadows together discharge almost 11,000 gallons of water per minute, making it the largest remaining oasis in the Mojave Desert.

DEEP WATERS

The waters springing forth at Ash Meadows come from an ancient aquifer far below the Earth's surface. Thick layers of porous limestone act as an enormous sponge, storing precipitation that may have fallen many thousands of years ago, when southern Nevada was a vastly

different place. More than 3 million years ago, a cooler, wetter climate prevailed across the Great Basin until the late Pleistocene (around 12,000 years ago), creating vast lakes and marshes that covered the valley floors. Mammoths, giant sloths, and saber-toothed cats roamed those verdant expanses and pinyon and juniper forests carpeted the surrounding mountains.

As the climate warmed, the wetlands dried up and most of those Pleistocene species disappeared. The remaining water, locked in limestone thousands of feet below ground, persisted through the eons. Forced upward by pressure, heat, and impermeable layers of rock, the water slowly percolates to the surface along faults to emerge at springs. Ash Meadows is a major discharge point for a more-than-600-square-mile regional aquifer underlying southwestern Nevada.

These springs have flowed continuously for thousands of years, sustaining wildlife and humans alike with year-

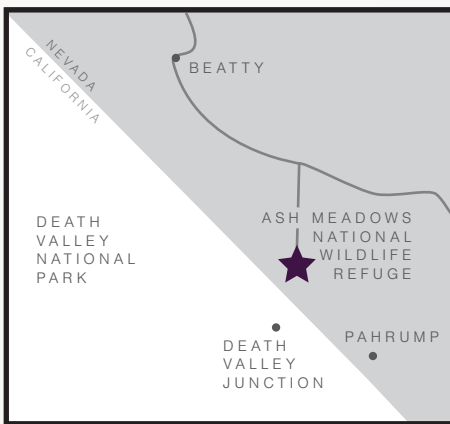
round water. As the Pleistocene waters receded, the springs became islands of water in the desert, serving as refugia for aquatic species such as pupfish, springsnails, and naucorids (an endemic aquatic insect). Over time, each isolated population adapted to the specific conditions of their natal spring to become a unique species: Warm Springs pupfish, Crystal Spring springsnail, and Ash Meadows naucorid. To date, 26 species of plants and animals are known to occur only at Ash Meadows, a degree of endemism nearly unmatched in the Northern Hemisphere.



Ancestors of the Newe and Nuwuvi tribes (also known as the Western Shoshone and Southern Paiute, respectively) were likely the first humans to settle in this area, engaging in small-scale farming and availing themselves of the ample natural resources: resident and seasonal game; plant materials for food, medicine, and textiles; and of course the clear, often-geothermally heated water. Their descendants remain closely connected to the area and consider the springs, marshes, and uplands at Ash Meadows to be deeply sacred and significant places.

An elder from the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe spoke about the region in a study for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, saying, “We didn’t travel in from other areas to be here, [at] Ash Meadows. We were placed here. This is the area we have to protect...for future generations, people of all sorts.”

The longevity of the springs and their ancient waters, mainly their persistence through thousands of years of climatic change, can give the overall impression of permanence. The truth is that these



springs, and desert springs generally, are among the most fragile ecosystems of the West.

THE HUMAN PROBLEM

The first Euro-Americans arrived at the Ash Meadows area in the 1830s and their numbers increased steadily after the 1850s. Newe and Nuwuvi lived alongside these immigrants at Ash Meadows for a time, sharing resources and knowledge of the area. But the immigrant tide was unrelenting and the indigenous inhabitants, decimated by introduced diseases, were eventually displaced. Thus began a different chapter in the human history of Ash Meadows, one in which the waters were seen not as a shared resource but as property, to be developed and utilized to the fullest extent.

The 1891 Death Valley expedition, one of the earliest explorations of the area by Western scientists, traveled along the Amargosa River drainage and spent several days in the Ash Meadows area. In a journal entry dated May 30, 1891, naturalist Clinton Hart Merriam wrote of the area, “The valley takes its name Ash Meadows from the presence of a small ash tree about many of

the springs...The soil is too alkaline to be of any use for farming—hence the springs go to waste.”

Despite the unsuitability of the soil, the water proved too irresistible for enterprising humans. Substantial human modifications to the Ash Meadows area likely began in the early 1900s and accelerated in the 1950s-1970s, as agricultural developments in the area increased demand for irrigation water. In the 1960s, the expansive marshes of Carson Slough in the northwest corner of the refuge—habitat for migratory birds and the endemic Ash Meadows montane vole—were drained and mined for peat. Riparian vegetation was cleared and alkali meadows were plowed under to make room for fields of alfalfa, cotton, and even asparagus. Spring channels were straightened, deepened, or buried in pipes to expedite delivery to crops.



PHOTOS: ALAN NYIRI

Introductions of non-native species also contributed to the resource damage at Ash Meadows. By the 1950s, mosquitofish, crayfish, melania snails, bullfrogs, and sailfin mollies were established in most of the springs at Ash Meadows, and sportfish such as largemouth bass and green sunfish were introduced to the reservoirs. The endemic Ash Meadows killifish, as well as at least two endemic spring snail species, were likely driven to extinction by these introduced predators.

Don Sada, an emeritus research professor specializing in spring ecology at the Desert Research Institute in Reno, was a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist in Nevada in the 1970s. He vividly recalls the widespread degradation of habitat in the Ash Meadows area during that period.



ALAN NYIRI

"It was very difficult to witness," he says. "Back in those days, I didn't think there was any chance for native fishes and invertebrates in the springs. I reached a point where I thought I would never go back to Ash Meadows, it was that bad."

Sada was among a core group of scientists and conservationists in the 1970s and '80s that was intent on protecting the unique habitats of Ash Meadows. At that point, the area had already been the stage for an intense legal battle regarding the fate of a small, unique, extremely isolated fish: the Devils Hole pupfish.

A TINY SAVIOR

When Devils Hole was added to what was then Death Valley National Monument by presidential proclamation in 1952, federal protections for wildlife did not yet exist. By the 1960s, groundwater withdrawals for irrigation in Ash Meadows and nearby Amargosa Valley were causing the water level in Devils Hole to drop, imperiling the fish's only habitat. In 1967, as both the water level and the pupfish population continued to fall, the species was listed as federally endangered under the nascent Endangered Species Act. After a Supreme Court decision in 1976 ruled that the federal government was entitled to reserve water rights for protection of the pupfish, large-scale agricultural activities in the area were effectively halted.

But the protection of Devils Hole and its pupfish did not extend to the endemic species dwelling in and around the springs of Ash Meadows. After agricultural production waned following the 1976 Devils Hole decision, real-estate developers began taking an interest in Ash Meadows. In the late 1970s, plans were drawn up to create a 50,000-person resort community near the springs, complete with gridded streets and an artificial lake. According to studies done by the U.S. Geological Survey during this period, water use by this planned community would've exceeded the annual discharge rate of Ash Meadows by 370 percent.

It took the concentrated efforts of those like Don Sada and others from tribal and conservation groups to convince lawmakers and the public that Ash Meadows was unique, significant, and—like



Devil's Hole

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Devils Hole—equally deserving of federal protection. After a hard-fought process, Ash Meadows was eventually acquired by The Nature Conservancy in February 1984, under agreement that the land be transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and protected as a National Wildlife Refuge.

While finally under the auspices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, work to recover the varied species and habitats at Ash Meadows was only beginning. By the time Ash Meadows NWR was established on June 18, 1984, almost all of the area's springs were heavily altered by human activity. The manipulation of spring flow, the removal of native vegetation, and the introduction of non-native species all served to impair the ecological processes that had previously governed life at Ash Meadows. The fine-tuned balance of adaptation and speciation, of life lived on a razor's edge under extreme conditions, was all too easily thrown off-kilter by human intervention. Now—again at the hands of humans—those processes are being restored, year by year.

Efforts to restore natural hydrology and native vegetation communities to the springs at Ash Meadows began in the 1990s and continue today. Longstreet Spring, Crystal Spring, Kings Pool, and the Warm Springs area are among the major restoration projects undertaken in recent years. With approval and funding, other springs

will eventually be restored.

Ash Meadows, a truly one-of-a-kind place, has been spared the fate of so many other treasured natural areas

in the West: undervalued, overused, and eventually left to waste. The protection of Ash Meadows' unique flora and fauna, its rich human history, and its many springs and wide-open spaces for all to enjoy is a legacy that will hopefully be passed on for generations to come.

As the writer Chris Norment sums up in his book "Relicts of a Beautiful Sea," "At Ash Meadows it is possible to understand something of isolation and evolution, islands and sanctuaries, the harmful press of exotic species, habitat destruction and restoration, the ebb and flow of Pleistocene waters, extinction and resilience, the misguided use of the desert's water, and how a few dedicated people can put things right." ▼

DISCOVER THE REFUGE

Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

610 Spring Meadows Road

Amargosa Valley, NV 89020

[fws.gov/refuge/ash_meadows](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/ash_meadows), 775-372-5435



PHOTOS: SHAUN ASTOR



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Upcoming Events:

Iron Horse Cookery Cook-Off: September 1

Farmers' Market: September 4 & 11

Star Train: September 6 (**SOLD OUT THROUGH 2020**)

Race the Rails: September 7 (Bike Race)

Silver State Classic: September 13-15 (Open Road Race)

Take it to the Lake: September 21 (Half Marathon & 10K)

Great Basin Astronomy Festival: September 26-28

Haunted Ghost Train: October 5, 12, 19, 25 & 26



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ODYSSEY OF A GHOST TOWN EXPLORER

CHAPTER 2

PART 11: FIRE
& BRIMSTONE

Panaca Summit Charcoal Kilns

BY ERIC CACHINERO

Oily indigo smoke billowed from a circular opening in the top of a strange beehive shrine, marking the near completion of a process as foreign as the 1800s Nevada frontier had ever seen. Weeks prior, cords of juniper and pinyon were lain into the rocky tomb, set ablaze, and cooked in the oxygen-starved environment, as observant eyes kept watch of the smoke, and attentive hands operated a series of flues. At first, the smoke burned white, then yellow for a couple days, then dark blue, marking the completion of the process.

An uninformed Nevada frontiersman who witnessed these makeshift mausoleums may have attributed the colossal bulbous structures to the occult, maybe even gone as far as to believe they were a portal to the underworld.

But their true purpose was far less ominous.

Charcoal kilns played an important role in the early days of Nevada prospecting, and their sentinel skeletons exist as a reminder to their significance. Charcoal was desired because it burns much hotter than wood, and allowed prospectors to smelt their silver and gold ore, separating the precious metal from the waste rock.

Nevada has several sites where these charcoal kilns can be found. Some, like the Ward Charcoal Ovens near Ely, were major operations, while others were lesser-known and more primitive.

BURNING SUNSET

After driving from Carson City to southeastern Nevada, Managing Editor Megg Mueller and I find ourselves racing up a washed-out dirt road to reach the Panaca Summit Charcoal Kilns before the fleeting daylight leaves us blind. As luck would have it, a band of wild horses let us know we've reached the two kilns, just as the last flakes of golden light fade into the night sky.

The kilns at Panaca Summit were built by pioneers in the mid-1870s, and were used to support the nearby silver mills at Pioche and Bullionville. The kilns owe their roots to skilled stonemasons that quarried rhyolitic tuff from area outcroppings, before shaping the rocks and assembling them with mud and mortar into the familiar shape. The giant ovens were operated by Swiss and Italian woodcutters—known as the carbonari—who perfected the charcoal-making process in Europe and brought their skills to the Nevada mining camps. Around the turn of the century, the mills at Bullionville closed, and the charcoal kilns were abandoned.

We poke around the kilns for a bit, in absolute awe at their size. Each stands about 20-feet tall, and is in remarkable shape considering its age. Impressively, the musty aroma of stale charred wood can still be smelled in each kiln, though remnants of campfires inside may be to blame. The sun sets completely just as we start our descent to Wright's Country Cabins in Pioche, our ghost-town base-camp for the next two nights.



SMOLDERING SUNRISE

We're on the road early, headed north out of Pioche for the ghost town of Jackrabbit, which is conveniently located just off U.S. Route 93—so we think. A Nevada historical marker lets us know we've reached the site, though tall juniper and pinyon pines camouflage the town's remains, leading us on a bit of a search before concrete ruins let us know we've reached the townsite.

Jackrabbit's story, if true, begins with one of the luckiest Nevadans in the state's history. Lore maintains that a prospector bent down to pick up a rock to throw at a jackrabbit, only to find himself holding high-grade silver. After the initial discovery on the east side of the Bristol Range in 1876, a modest town sprung up, with all the era comforts. Jackrabbit was said to be the last whiskey stop for travelers heading south to Pioche. The booming town would see a drop in ore production during the 1880s



Jackrabbit

MEGG MUELLER

that almost led to its demise. A 15-mile narrow-gauge railroad was built between Jackrabbit and Pioche in 1891, which led to a brief increase in mining, but by 1893, operations had mostly come to a halt.

For such an old

ghost town, there's much to explore at Jackrabbit. The highlight is the massive mineshaft, complete with ore cart tracks that protrude and twist from the giant hole. On this hot day, standing next to the barbed-wire fencing, the rushing cold air coming from the mineshaft feels like someone turned on the world's most-powerful air conditioner. The air even has a creepy mist to it, leading us to keep our distance after the initial discovery. In addition to the mineshaft are remnants of a suspended aerial tram used to transport ore to Jackrabbit from the nearby silver camp of Bristol. We spend quite some time at Jackrabbit before pressing on to our second charcoal kiln site of the trip: Bristol Well.

KILN TRIO

Bristol Well (sometimes written Bristol Wells) is a short drive from Jackrabbit. As the heat of the day begins to set in,

I'm reminded of the absolute dryness that engulfs this area. That, coupled with an overabundance of pesky flies, leaves me in admiration of the pioneers that called this place home. As we drive, we spot several structures in the distance, letting us know we've reached the town.

Bristol Well is not to be confused with the nearby Bristol mining camp, which, according to several online sources, is a ghost mine now deemed to be hazardous to human health and is located on private property. Bristol Well, on the other hand, was the support community for the Bristol mining camp, providing well water for mining activities. In 1872, a furnace was built to treat silver-lead ore from the nearby mines, and by 1880, the town had a five-stamp mill, smelter, and three charcoal kilns. By 1890, copper was being recovered from nearby mines, leading to a population of around 400. Mining activity continued intermittently over the years, before fading out during the late 1910s.

The kilns at Bristol Well are equally impressive to those at Panaca Summit, though they are in a bit rougher shape. The tops and sides of the kilns are eroding or breaking, likely due to people climbing on them. Nevertheless, their strangely intoxicating beauty is undeniable. It's odd that these manmade objects stand out like a sore thumb against the desert background, yet almost look as though they belong.

Bristol Well

MEGG MUELLER



Jackrabbit

ERIC CACHINERO

THE JUDGE

We head back to Route 93, and make the more-than-50-mile-round-trip journey to the ghost town of Atlanta, which turns out to be a major letdown. From there, we decide to make the long journey to the ghost town of Fay. After passing through the beautiful Echo Canyon State Park, we continue east, weaving across a small creek and through dense canyons before reaching a place called Deer Lodge, located close to the Nevada-Utah border.

Deer Lodge was formed in the late 1800s as a mining camp, though it never really grew much beyond a feed store, saloon, and post office, which only operated for two years. Deer Lodge and the nearby mining camp of Fay would fade at the same time, though the former would last thanks to the Hackett family, who shifted their livelihood from mining to ranching after the silver dried up. The Hacketts would raise several generations at the remote ranch at Deer Lodge, even opening an official school on the property. Because the Hacketts had five school-aged children in the late 1920s, and more than five children were required to become an official school, several other area children were boarded at the ranch to keep the school open. The Hackett family



Inside Deer Lodge

ERIC CACHINERO



Gate outside Deer Lodge

MEGG MUELLER

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Deer Lodge

MEGG MUELLER



ERIC CACHINERO

lived at the Deer Lodge ranch through 1959, before it passed amongst a host of private buyers over the years.

Deer Lodge is unlike any place I've been before. It's incredibly beautiful, yet strangely eerie. A wood and wrought-iron gate adorned with several bleached animal skulls gives off an unpleasant welcome, which is easy to ignore when traversing the towering aspens and bubbling brook. The two-story ranch house is massive, though its fallen into disrepair. Evidence of squatting over the decades is obvious. The deeper we go, the more silent we become. I lack the words to describe how something can be so sinister yet interesting at the same time. The words "CRAMPUS AND THE VIRGIN" are painted atop one bedroom door, and "THE JUDGE" is written on another. This place truly feels haunted.

We decide not to make a major effort to push on to Fay. The road is narrow, and our vehicle isn't capable. We make the long journey to nearby Caliente, where we grab a bite to eat before retiring for the night.

THE WIDOWMAKER'S NEIGHBOR

Breakfast is enjoyed on the road the following morning, as we head southwest toward the ghost town of Delamar—also known as the widower due to the deadly silica dust produced in its mines. But Delamar isn't in our sights this trip, rather we seek its neighbor Helene.

Located just 1 mile to the north of Delamar, the Magnolia Gold Mine gave rise to the tent camp of Helene around 1892. Though the operation was much smaller than that of neighboring Delamar, Helene had a post office and a newspaper, called "The Ferguson Lode." The town was only active for a couple years, fading before the start of the 20th century.

There are several remnants of the town of Helene, including stone buildings, wooden mining structures, and the entrance to the Magnolia Gold Mine. The remains aren't particularly spectacular, though the view is incredible. Megg and I photograph the mine entrance and an assortment of blooming cacti before pressing on.



MEGG MUELLER

Helene



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HAPPY HIPPIES

We soon find ourselves barreling up yet another dirt road, this time just on the edge of the Mt. Irish Petroglyph site near Hiko. The area isn't new to Megg and me, as we've been here before years ago, and were turned around due to the incapable vehicle we had taken. This time we're back with a better vehicle, ready to traverse the absolute sea of petroglyphs that surrounds the road as we search for the ghost town of Logan City. We stop



Petroglyphs

and photograph

petroglyphs several times on the way up the canyon before a surprisingly colorful building lets us know we've reached our goal.

In 1865, rumors of Colorado River silver lured prospectors from the not-so-nearby mining camp of Austin, all the way to the southern river. Much to their disappointment, the prospectors found nothing, and were led back to Austin by a Native American, who took them on a route near Mt. Irish. There, the prospectors stumbled upon a rich silver ledge, though when they tried to mine it in June of the same year, they were attacked by

Native Americans and forced to abandon. By fall, the prospectors were back, establishing a more-permanent camp, and grew to a population of more than 300 by 1866. By 1869, most of the veins ran dry, and the population moved to the prosperous Pioche.

There's not much left of the ghost town to be seen, save several smaller stone structures. There is, however, remains of a house that appears to have been built around the 1960s. Rocks have been stacked, mortared, and painted in a colorful rainbow of hues. A chimney and even remnants of electricity and plumbing can be found in the house, though it's obvious it hasn't been occupied for some time. Painted on one of the interior walls reads the words "ALUM-ALITE ROCK-HOUSE." I accept that the former residents were getting incredible kicks from things I'll never know. We soon set our sights on home, and begin making the long journey back.

ANCIENT CRAFT

Charcoal making is dated back to around 4,000 B.C., when ancient Egyptians and Chinese used it for smelting copper. During those days, charcoal was produced by stacking wood, covering it with damp clay, and allowing it to burn slowly. Shortly after, it was discovered that heating copper and tin with charcoal and alloying them would create bronze, which gave rise to the Bronze Age. So much charcoal was used during the late Bronze Age, that forests were near decimation in some parts of the world. Next up was the Iron Age, in which charcoal was used to create widespread iron tools and weapons. Then, sometime during the 9th century, a Chinese alchemist mixed charcoal with saltpeter and sulfur, creating the revolutionary substance gunpowder.

It's no wonder this incredible ingredient made its way to the Nevada frontier. Next time you fire up your barbecue grill, take some time to appreciate the incredible substance that made smelting possible and allowed Nevada to be called the Silver State, instead of the Silver Ore State. ▀



House at Logan City

PHOTOS: ERIC CACHINERO

TRAVEL LOG

MILES

1,244

DAYS

2.5

GHOST TOWNS

7



KEY

★ GHOST TOWNS VISITED IN THIS ISSUE

VISITED GHOST TOWNS

4 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER '19 ISSUE

PANACA SUMMIT
JACKRABBIT
BRISTOL WELL
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LOGAN CITY



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TRUE GRIT

CALIENTE

Railroad town is riding a new wave of economic prosperity.



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 are highlighting towns in Nevada that have that core strength. Not all towns in Nevada have huge shiny tourist draws; many exist along the highways that traverse our state but aside from getting gas or grabbing food to go, they are easily overlooked. Nevada roads go on forever. Small towns appear on the horizon, but are often quickly in the rearview mirror with little more than a passing thought about the town's existence. And while tourism is the state's largest industry—and the focus of this magazine—it is not why all towns in Nevada exist. This year, we honor some of those towns that defy easy description but stand tall in the desert, refusing to give into the sways of economic hardship or the passing of time. These towns bloom in the dirt, and they embody true grit. This issue: Caliente.

“The so-called civilization of man and his works shall perish from the earth, while the shifting sands, the red looming walls, the purple sage, and the towering monuments, the vast brooding range show no perceptible change.”

Zane Grey wrote that toward the end of his life. The prolific Western author was reportedly waxing poetic about the future, but given that the Conaway Ranch in Caliente was a favorite writing spot of his, it's easy to believe he was speaking of the permanence of nature's beauty in this southeastern Nevada town.

Tucked along the north-south route of U.S. Route 93, close to Utah but still firmly in Nevada, Caliente is a surprising find on what can be a lonely road. It is no surprise, however, that settlers found this lush landscape tucked amid rugged canyons and sweeping mountain ranges and decided to call it home.

LIVING OFF THE LAND, AT FIRST

The first settlers of the meadow were ranchers and farmers, taking advantage of the creek that fostered towering cottonwood trees and the natural hot springs in the area as

early as the 1860s.

The area was known as Dutchman Flat, and then Culverwell, after the Culverwell brothers who provided hay from their ranch to nearby mining operations. For close to three decades, dairies, orchards, and lush farmlands defined the Meadow Wash Valley where Culverwell was located. But progress was about to arrive, along with the town's future.



LESLIE KEHMEIER/TRAVEL NEVADA

The Transcontinental Railroad crossed the U.S. in 1869, and the need for a north-south line between Los Angeles and Salt Lake City would soon become apparent. Railroad executive E.H. Harriman of the Union Pacific and Oregon Short Line recognized the windfall of sharing the West's agricultural and mining boons with the East and in 1899, began building a line from Utah toward Culverwell. However, mining magnate William Clark began his own line, the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad and the two raced toward southern Nevada, each determined to build his railway first.

The canyons surrounding the Meadow Wash Valley and Culverwell were also determined; only one railway would have sufficient room to navigate the canyon. Clark and Harriman waged a brief railroad war of political posturing and downright skullduggery: it's said one line would lay track by day while the other would pull up the tracks each night. Local legend has it one of the Culverwell brothers, William, had had enough of the fighting and using a two-barrel shotgun, convinced Clark and Harriman to come to an agreement, which they did.

RIDING THE RAILS

The newly-christened town of Caliente—named for the area hot springs—saw its first train in 1901, and the north-south line was completed in 1905. Caliente was the largest town in Lincoln County by 1910 with almost 1,800 residents, 47 saloons, two hotels, and four barber shops.

The railroad continued to be the major employer of Caliente until the 1940s, when the division point was moved to Las Vegas. The population dwindled as residents followed the railroad jobs, and today, Caliente is home to about 1,100 people. Union Pacific still runs freight trains through town and past the 1923 Mission-style depot, but while it's

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"THE SALT LAKE ROUTE" will soon complete the gap between Calientes, Nevada, and Daggett, California, making a through line, Salt Lake to Los Angeles and seaboard, and place Salt Lake within 24 hours of tidewater.

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Stops on the Right: Ophir, Stockton, Milford, Frisco, Modena, Lund & Calientes (With Stage Connections for), Beaver, Cedar City, St. George, Pioche, Delamar (And All Mining Camps).

Map: SAN PEDRO, LOS ANGELES and SALT LAKE RAILROAD COMPANY.

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Newspaper ad, 1903

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Completion of the tracks in 1905



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still a big employer, the town has had to move on.

"We've kind of converted away from the railroad. Once, 90 percent of our people were working there, but it's more automated now, so that's changed," Caliente Mayor Steve Rowe explains.

Steve grew up in Caliente—a lifer, as he puts it—and his family has been in the area since the 1880s. He's seen the town change over the years and its focus shift to different enterprises, but there's one thing that's never changed, and that's how much he loves Caliente.

"It's beautiful and charming," he says. "I grew up hunting and fishing and running around in the hills. I still see deer in my backyard, and I can still take a drive and not see anybody for hours."

The area's beauty and outdoor offerings are not lost on the town's residents, and Steve says while the Caliente Youth Center, the Nevada Test Site, and the railroad are all important employers, tourists may be a key to the town's future.

"We're definitely working to bring in more tourists," Steve says.

RIDING THE TRAILS

Lincoln County is home to five state parks, all within a 50-mile radius of one another and all within an hour of Caliente. Seemingly endless trails run along the ridges and through the hills surrounding the town, lending themselves to off-road adventures, both motorized and human-powered. The scenery changes from red clay



Workers constructing bike trail

to white volcanic ash cones to pine forests, leaving no wonder why the area is already a popular ATV and UTV destination with annual races like the Knotty Pine 250, among others.

"It's an amazing place for desert racing," according to resident and business owner Dana Lee Freund.



Caliente Railroad Depot



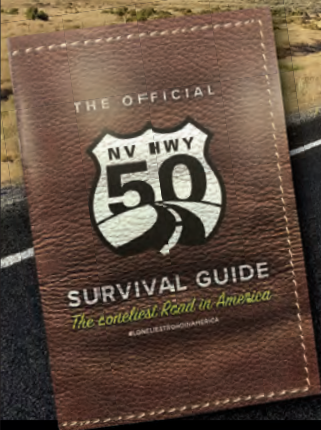
LESLIE KEHMEIER/TRAVEL NEVADA

Dana moved back to Caliente recently, something she and her husband always planned on. They opened a couple businesses in town, including a bike shop, and she immediately noticed a difference after her 10-year absence.

"There are so many people from foreign countries coming through here," she notes. "Some are traveling from Zion, Utah to Vegas, or coming from Vegas to do the trails, or having a daycation. They are bringing friends from California who are bringing friends from Brazil. We've had people from France, Spain, Croatia, Japan, Germany, and Switzerland coming here to ride in the state parks."

While Dana was away, the mountain bike community discovered Caliente. About 2012, the local chapter of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) began sharing the word about the area's potential. The land surrounding the town was ripe with trail possibilities and in 2017 trail building was underway. According to the IMBA website, 43 miles of trails, from "beginner-rated, introductory flow trails to rocky, technical, mountain-bike only single-track (some of it directional)" have been designed.

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“By this fall, some 20-plus miles will be ready,” Steve says. “We have a pump track that’s part of one of the parks now, and the trailhead is right at the park, too.”

Steve notes the community has been behind the development of Caliente as a mountain bike destination, but he also knows that in order to have bike tourism as a viable economic driver, the trails will need to be maintained.

“It could be a problem, but we want to keep them in top shape and we’re working with volunteer groups,” he says.

CHICKEN OR THE EGG

The Catch-22 for Caliente—as it is for many small towns—is that in order to attract people to things like mountain biking opportunities, you have to have the infrastructure to support tourist visits.

“We could use more hotels, it’s true,” Dana admits. “That’s always been our downfall because we can’t host larger events. But we have the infrastructure. We have a new restaurant, Side Tracks, and there’s pizza and craft beer, and we have a mobile coffee shop. People are stopping here to ride.”

As the community moves toward increasing its tourism appeal, other options are still being looked at. Steve mentions there are grow facilities being built for the marijuana industry that he hopes will bring in some tax revenue. Dana mentions there are people moving into Caliente and buying closed businesses, plus there’s property development happening that could be a resort in the near future. Like most people who live in small towns, the question about do they want to see growth is met with a resounding yes, but with caveats.

“Tourism is a big future. I don’t want to see huge growth, but definitely growth is needed, and tourism is perfect,” Dana says. “People come and then they leave. I see tourism enhancing our life here in a good way. I run a social media magazine here in Lincoln county and it has all our local events and it’s shared all over the place. We say, ‘Come to Caliente; the secret is out.’”

As Caliente continues to diversify its future strategies and focus on tourism as a means of economic viability, Steve echoes the need to get the word out about what the town has to offer. Lincoln County and Caliente are working on advertising and getting the word out, which he believes is key to his town’s success. ▀

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Mountain bikers riding by Tepee Rocks

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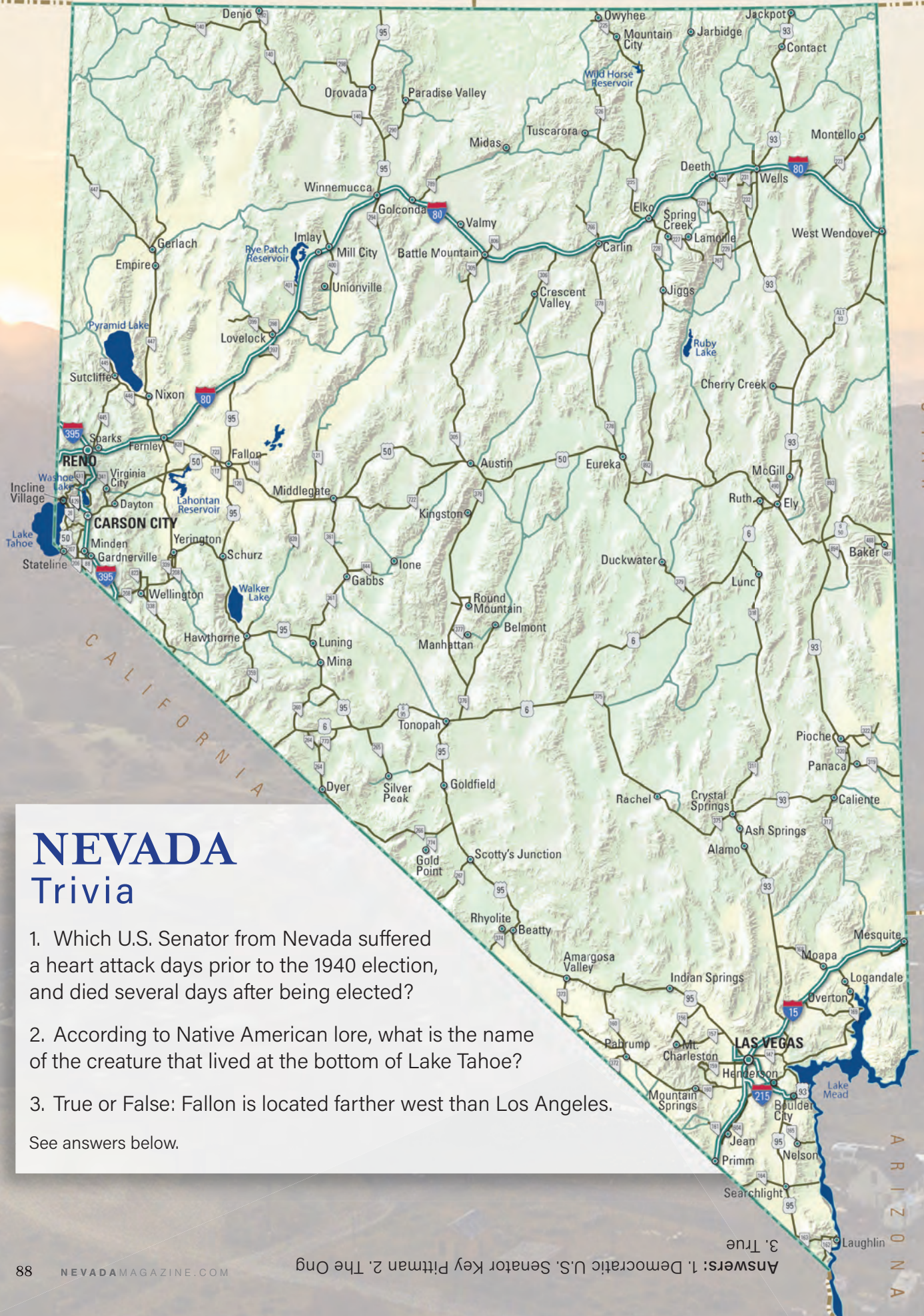
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NEVADA Trivia

1. Which U.S. Senator from Nevada suffered a heart attack days prior to the 1940 election, and died several days after being elected?
2. According to Native American lore, what is the name of the creature that lived at the bottom of Lake Tahoe?
3. True or False: Fallon is located farther west than Los Angeles.

See answers below.

Answers: 1. Democratic U.S. Senator Key Pittman 2. The Ong

3. True



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