

NEVADA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

M A G A Z I N E

Tour Around Nevada

Roadtrip:
Central Nevada

Guide to

National Cowboy Poetry Gathering

U.S. \$4.95 • CANADA \$8.95



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2015

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SM

DINNER SERIES



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Don't miss out on these amazing events in 2015! In its 11th year, our wine dinner series has surpassed expectations, hosting some of the finest wineries from across the globe. The Cactus Creek Prime Steakhouse will host four of these dinners in 2015 alone. Our popular Beer Dinner series will continue this year at the Branding Iron Café, which will include a four course meal with accompanying beer! We look forward to serving you!

Stay tuned for more details. For reservations, please visit www.bonanzacasino.com/reservations.

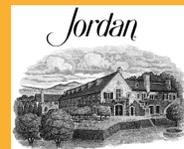
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5-TIME WINNER



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Culinary Institute of America, Greystone
June 8, 2015



New Belgium Brewing
July 25, 2015



Tour of France
October 5, 2015



Samuel Adams
October 24, 2015



Caymus Vineyards
December 7 & 8, 2015

contents

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

DEPARTMENTS

Up Front

8 Reno Provisions, Hard Rock Hotel Lake Tahoe, New Flights, Veterans Memorial, & More.

Visions

18 Pony Up, Ides of Autumn, Twinkle Sky, & Our Facebook Photography Group's Finest

City Limits

22 New Year, New Vegas

Wide Open

26 Sloan Canyon

32 First-Timer's Guide to National Cowboy Poetry Gathering

History

36 Silver State, Gold Records

Cravings

42 Tonopah Brewing Co.: Tasty Reminder of the Past

47 Tournant Pop-Up Restaurant

Events & Shows

49 Winter Steam Spectacular

50 Rascal Flatts

52 Statewide Events & Shows

53 White Pine Fire & Ice Show

54 'Then and Now'

IN EVERY ISSUE

3 Nevada Wide Web

4 Editor's Note & Letters

6 Know Your Nevada, by Brian K. Krolicki

7 Nevada Map

80 One More Day

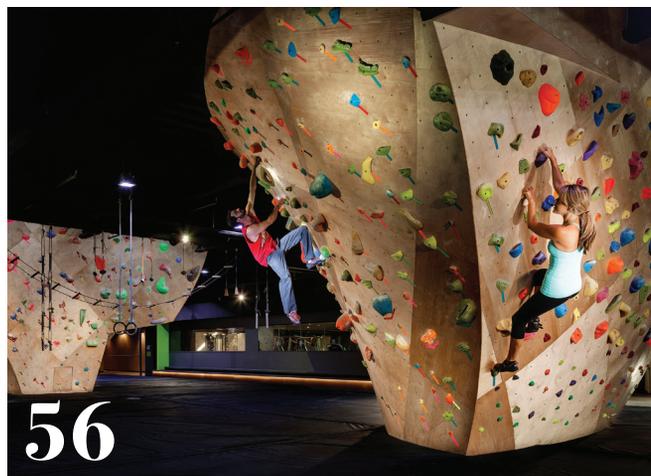
Cover Photo: Jack Freer

A rustic cabin covered in snow in Gold Point.

FEATURES

WHITNEY PEAK HOTEL

Downtown Reno's latest property scales new heights in lodging, dining, and adventure with its non-smoking, non-gaming venue.



FRONT AND CENTER

Bisecting the state from Denio to Laughlin, the drive is 664 miles. Child's play. The Nevada Magazine team drove more than 1,200 miles around the center of the state on a roadtrip that explores the heart of Nevada.



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NEVADA A WORLD WITHIN.
A STATE APART.



NEVADA

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015
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We asked our staff: What's your New Year's resolution?



I resolve to come up with a better resolution for 2016.
- Sean

To not procrastinate and be more focused with my goals and tasks. - Adele



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STATE OF NEVADA

Governor: Brian Sandoval

NEVADA
A WORLD WITHIN.
A STATE APART.

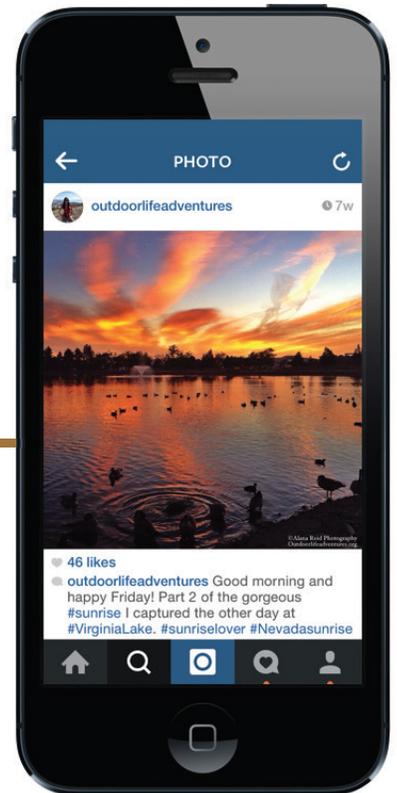
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DIAMOND PEAK



FEATURED
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#nvmag for a chance to be featured in future issues of *Nevada Magazine*.

WEB EXTRAS

► Winter is here, and with any luck, so is the snow. Check out our 2015 **All-Snow, All-the-Time Guide**, with plenty of cold-weather fun—from skiing and boarding to skating and sledding. And for the non-snow lovers, we'll include a few things for you, too.



MT. ROSE SKI TAHOE



MT. ROSE SKI TAHOE

► More "Love Letters to Nevada" from our readers.



TOUR AROUND NEVADA 2015

Six years ago, 12 towns were voted as your favorite in Nevada. It's time to do it again, and see if there will be any repeat winners, or if some new challengers emerge. Each issue, we'll write about the town that receives the most votes, plus we'll visit and present them with a special plaque and a customized *Nevada Magazine* cover. **Send your vote to editor@nevadamagazine.com with the town and "Tour Around NV" in the subject line.** Reno, Las Vegas, and Ely are not eligible. Only one vote per email address each voting session, and for full rules and information, visit nevadamagazine.com/tour.



CONNECT WITH US

'Auld Lang Syne,' take two

When I think of 2015, I must admit I think of "Back to the Future." I can't believe it was 30 years ago that, at the end of the movie, Doc Brown's DeLorean took off for a magical world of time travel and hoverboards. The second film is the one set mostly in 2015, but the very idea of the world, 30 years into the future, was forever imprinted on me.

And here we are. The time went by so quickly, I could believe it was time travel if it weren't for all the wrinkles on my face. In 1985, I was a year out of high school with my life before me. Today, I'm readying for the arrival of my first grandchild, and yet I still feel as if the world is before me, even though there are parts so far in the rear-view mirror they have become too faint for even my bifocals.

The world before me (mostly) fits into the borders of Nevada, and I am so excited for 2015. I've been on the job since April, and much of my work thus far has been carrying on the amazing agenda set forth when 2014 began. This year, the slate is clean and the entire *Nevada Magazine* team is creating a new vision, new plans, and new ideas for the new year. Don't worry, we aren't changing for change's sake; throughout this year we will take a fresh look at every element of the magazine and ask if it's still the best way to present our great content to you. If the answer is yes, we'll leave it alone. If the answer is no, we'll tweak it or toss it...whatever works best.

You might not even notice some of our changes, but hopefully they will make the magazine even more enjoyable to our long-time readers, and possibly engage a new audience. Some changes may be more obvious, such as our year-long Tour Around Nevada series (see page 74). As ever, we listen carefully to feedback, so anytime you see something you like or dislike, remember a feature you used to love that seems to have been removed, or just have an idea for a story, we're just a phone call, email, or letter away.

My only resolution this year is to respect the past. As I've traveled the state, I've encountered innumerable situations that remind me just how close the past seems to remain. In Rachel, there was a phrase uttered by a stranger that used to be a signature of my mother and grandfather, but I haven't heard in years; in Tonopah, I saw a man leaving a restaurant I was eating in and realized I'd known him almost my entire life. He was in Tonopah on his way back to Reno from Las Vegas, and just happened to stop at the Tonopah Brewing Co. (see page 42) on my first-ever visit.

That was in just one trip. Eric Cachinero and I drove more than 1,200 miles on our last outing (see page 62), and the glimpses of the past we see when we visit any Nevada town, city, landmark, or ghost town, are one of the reasons we take such long trips. Once you step into the past, it's hard to not keep driving in search of the next revelation. Finding my own past was an unexpected consequence of this job, and I revel in that. It serves as a reminder that each of you has your own past with *Nevada Magazine*, and it deserves respect. We will move forward this year, but we will not forget where we've been.



IN THIS ISSUE

Along with the aforementioned stories, on page 22 we venture into the newest developments hitting the north end of The Strip to see what's being reborn this year. Just a short distance from there is a completely different side to the area; Sloan Canyon (see page 26). As home to one of the country's largest concentration of petroglyphs, this oft-overlooked adventure is a gem.

Far from its infancy, the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko will celebrate its 31st year delighting crowds from across the globe, and on page 32, we've created a first-timer's guide for you city slickers. There is a trivia test, but we won't grade you.

After our 16-month sesquicentennial series, we decided to take a light-hearted look at history for this issue, spinning out a story on page 36 about the role rural Nevada has played for musicians through the years. See if you know the hit records that include nods to the Silver State.

A look inside all that is Reno's Whitney Peak Hotel rounds out this issue, and if you haven't seen this innovative property, add it to your list. It will take your breath away and make you reconsider what you can expect from the Biggest Little City in the future.

Megg Mueller, Managing Editor
mmueller@nevadamagazine.com

Love Letters To Nevada

As promised, a few more of the many “Why I Love Nevada” letters:

Dear Editor,

There are so many reasons to love Nevada. Wow, where do I begin...

There are majestic mountains in Nevada. Magnificent wild mustangs live in Nevada, which soothe the soul when one watches them. Nevada has a treasure in historic Genoa, Virginia City, and the Comstock Lode.

I love the rich mining history of Nevada, and my family’s involvement in that history. There are stories of Nevada told in the rustic metal sculptures along the freeways.

Nevada has wonderful cool summer nights and bright sunny days; snow in the mountains and sun in the valleys.

A great cowboy culture lives in Nevada, and that cowboy spirit comes alive in the cowboy poetry and music festivals, cowboy hats and cowgirl boots.

These are the things that make me love Nevada and being a Nevadan.
– Linda Kozak

I have a confession. I have been engaged in an ongoing love affair with Nevada ever since I was 7 years old,



RSCVA

with my nose pressed against the car window glass, peering out at miles of majestic surging mountains as I traveled across this seemingly endless, vast expanse of my new home. It happened as I first scuffed my cowgirl boots along the wooden, planked walkways of Virginia City and heard the clear bells of St. Mary church ringing out over the canyons. And the moment I scrambled out of the car and gazed at the clearest, most piercing blue lake I’d ever seen, Lake Tahoe. I’ve been enchanted since.
– Marie Nygren

Read more of Marie’s story at nevadamagazine.com.

Nevada has more stars than Hollywood and the entertainment is electric. The dry climate and sparse population is perfect for night photography.
– Miles Shaylor

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.



St. Mary in the Mountains

NEIL LOCKHART

CONTRIBUTORS

JOANNA HAUGEN



JoAnna Haugen is a full-time freelance writer based in Las Vegas. She has written extensively about Las Vegas and the Southwest for several print and online publications including *WestJet’s up!*, *SilverKris*, *AFAR Media*, *CNNGo*, *BBC Travel*, *AAA Highroads*, *Thrillist*, *Vegas Magazine*, *Luxury Las Vegas*, and *Desert Companion*. JoAnna is also the Las Vegas editor for *Travel Weekly* and has worked on guidebooks related to Las Vegas. Learn more about her work at joannahaugen.com. ■ PGS. 22-25

GREG MCFARLANE



Originally from Vancouver, Canada, Greg moved to Nevada at the age of 25 and regrets not doing so years earlier. Behind the wheel of his trusty 4x4, he’s traversed the state from Alamo to Zephyr Cove and from Denio to Laughlin, yet concedes that he’s still barely made a dent in Nevada’s 110,567 square miles. Greg’s work has appeared in *Nevada Magazine* since 2011. He lives on the outskirts of Las Vegas (more like Metro Mount Charleston, really), where he shares several acres with his girlfriend, three cats, some quail, a few rabbits, and the occasional coyote. ■ PGS. 26-31

NELLIE DAY



Nellie Day is a freelance writer who lives smack-dab in the middle of the Las Vegas Strip. When she’s not finding fodder for her locally based stories, Day’s writing focuses on craft beer and spirits, commercial real estate, and travel. Day recently became a published author, with an entry in “Chicken Soup for the Soul: Finding Your Inner Strength.” She obtained her master’s in journalism from USC. Though she no longer lives in Los Angeles, Day and her surly bull terrier remain avid Trojan fans. She is very thankful PetSmart makes both jerseys and cheerleading outfits for portly canines. ■ PGS. 36-40

Lt. Governor Krolicki says goodbye



CHRIS MATTHEWS

Dear Friends,

As I write my last column as your lieutenant governor, it is with a bittersweet pen. For the past 24 years, I have had the wondrous privilege of walking into the State Capitol Building to go to work — an honor that is as special to me today as it was on that chilly day in January of 1991 when I began my “temporary” duties as the chief deputy state treasurer. What was intended to be a 90-day favor to the newly elected State Treasurer Bob Seale in the aftermath of a tragic airplane crash, has turned into an unexpected career of public service spanning two incredible decades. I believe public service is a noble calling, and my tenure as state treasurer (1999-2006) and lieutenant governor (2007-2014) has been among the greatest joys of my life. I will always be grateful to the citizens of Nevada for placing their trust in me to serve as a constitutional officer for 16 years. Alas, it is time for me to chase new adventures as I find myself the first individual in Nevada’s history to be term-limited twice.

I will continue to pursue my efforts on behalf of Nevada, such as my ongoing role as chairman of the Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition—a dedicated group with a passion to return the Winter Olympic Rings to the Lake Tahoe region. Through these amazing years, I’ve had the immense pleasure of representing Nevada and her people across the country and the world as chairman of the Nevada Commission on Tourism and as chairman of the Nevada Commission on Economic Development. During my tenure we saw Nevada thrive exponentially, interrupted by a brutal bout of economic harshness, only to regain our footing and flourish yet again. Our state’s current economic prospects shine brightly.

The engine that elaborately laid the economic and cultural foundations of our great state and which continues to strategically drive Nevada’s vibrant economic outlook is tourism —an industry I have been proud to represent. This industry attracted 52 million visitors to our state during the past year. From the glittering lights of the Las Vegas Strip to the exquisite beauty of Lake Tahoe, from the jagged peaks of the Ruby Mountains to the engineering marvel of the Hoover Dam, Nevada offers limitless experiences. With tourism offices in China, Canada, Mexico, Europe, South America, and Australia, we share Nevada with the world, and I am proud to have

played a part in opening our state to a new set of global travelers. I cannot adequately convey the profound respect, admiration, and fondness I have for the gifted and talented individuals who serve in our tourism industry. Through their ingenuity, hard work—and a pinch of tourism magic—they have made Nevada one of the greatest travel and adventure destinations in the world.

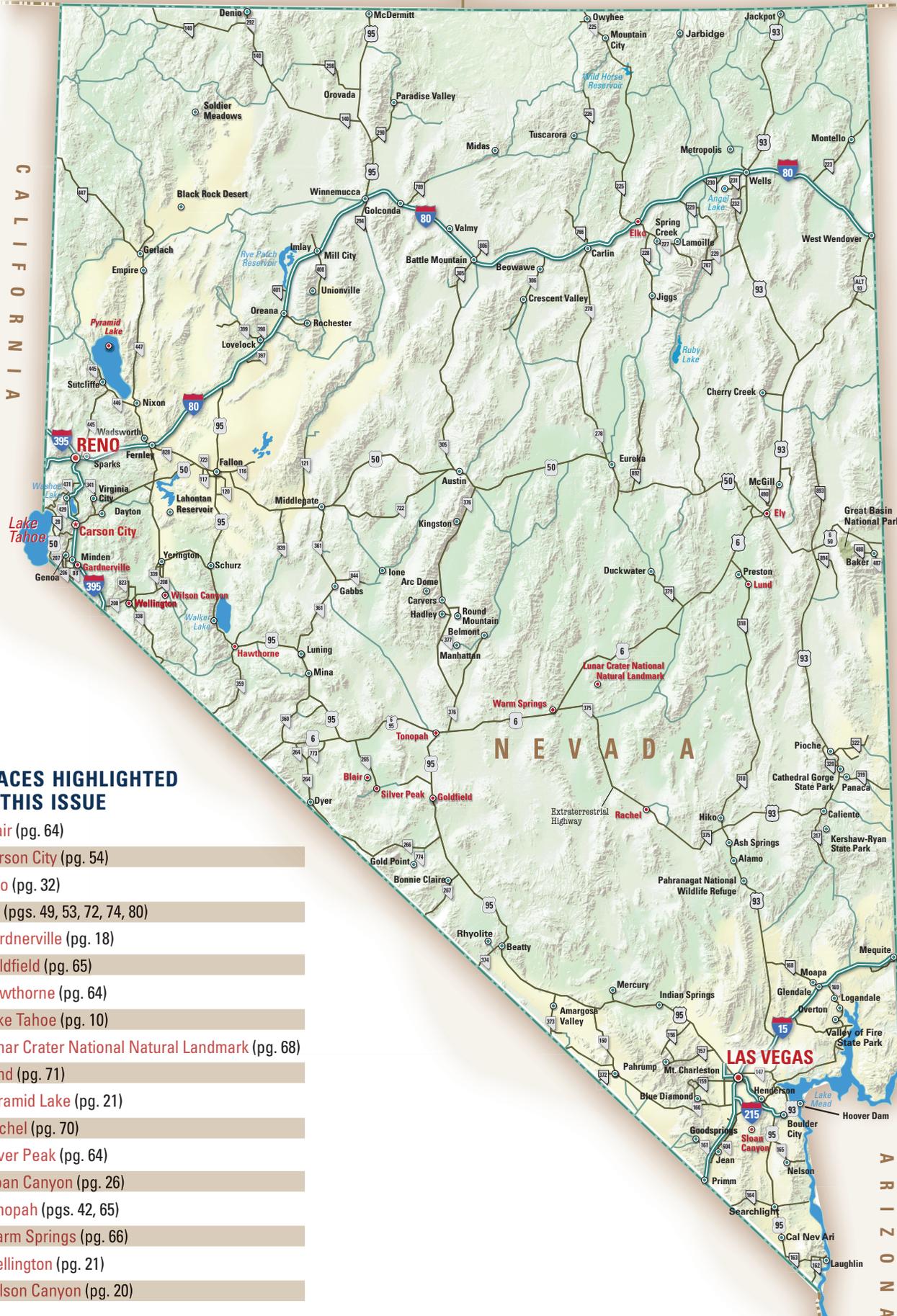
While many of my official duties have focused on how to benefit Nevada beyond our state’s borders, this past year has included a once-in-a-professional-lifetime opportunity to celebrate all that is within our borders. I am of course speaking about serving as chairman of the Nevada Sesquicentennial Commission which oversaw the year-long celebration of our state’s 150th birthday—a truly unique experience and a wonderful conclusion to my decades of public service. Our inspired NV 150 Commissioners and staff coordinated more than 500 (!) officially sanctioned sesquicentennial events, allowing us to revisit and discover so many special elements throughout our state, but even more importantly, provided the pretext to “touch” the many colorful and wily characters who built our unique state—both past and present. What a perfect excuse to spend the year hanging-out with Mark Twain—thank you McAvoy Lane! I hope you enjoyed 2014’s “Know Your Nevada” columns that highlighted many of these grand celebrations.

As I reflect over the past 24 years, I feel contented fulfillment that my “temporary” assignment is only now ending. Public service isn’t always easy, but it has never been so important. Lieutenant Governor-elect Mark Hutchison will most ably fill my shoes, as he assumes his new tourism responsibilities and will benefit greatly from the gifted NCOT staff and commissioners. Thank you one final time for the profound opportunity to perform a modest role in our state’s tourism efforts—it has been a time I will forever cherish. Godspeed to you all.

Brian K. Krolicki
Lieutenant Governor
Chairman—Nevada Commission on Tourism & Nevada 150 Commission
ltgov.nv.gov

CALIFORNIA

UTAH



PLACES HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS ISSUE

- Blair (pg. 64)
- Carson City (pg. 54)
- Elko (pg. 32)
- Ely (pgs. 49, 53, 72, 74, 80)
- Gardnerville (pg. 18)
- Goldfield (pg. 65)
- Hawthorne (pg. 64)
- Lake Tahoe (pg. 10)
- Lunar Crater National Natural Landmark (pg. 68)
- Lund (pg. 71)
- Pyramid Lake (pg. 21)
- Rachel (pg. 70)
- Silver Peak (pg. 64)
- Sloan Canyon (pg. 26)
- Tonopah (pgs. 42, 65)
- Warm Springs (pg. 66)
- Wellington (pg. 21)
- Wilson Canyon (pg. 20)

ARIZONA



CHRIS HOLLOMAN

Above: Reno Provisions' opening night—in December 2014—was well attended, and gave guests the chance to sample Estee's innovative cuisine. Right: Chef Mark Estee.



JAMIE KINGHAM

CRAVINGS

Mark Estee opens Reno Provisions

A renovated downtown building is now home to Reno Provisions, a mixture of cafeteria, bakery, butcher, pasta production, and more. Local chef Mark Estee's latest culinary endeavor is unlike any in the area.

"Reno Provisions is a beginning and final destination under one roof," Estee says. "Our goal is to adapt and implement the simple principals of vertical integration to food, beverage, and service, while creating a first-of-its-kind culinary experience in downtown Reno. It stands as a model of a community working together."

The concept brings together shopping, dining, and food education in one eclectic location. Guests can dine in the cafeteria or take home packaged restaurant staples from the market, each integrating whole animal butchery and root-to-stalk philosophies. A retail area is set to have unique pantry items, kitchen tools, cookbooks, and local artisan works.

Directly adjacent to the retail area is the demo kitchen, which features a state-of-the-art cooking facility for recipe testing, education and demonstration, cook-offs, high-definition filming, and more. A hub for culinary creativity, the space serves up learning opportunities for even the youngest of chefs. The lower level hosts the butcher shop, bakery, and pasta production in a 12,000-square-foot section.

Estee is one of the leaders of Reno's sustainable food movement, and is the chef/owner of Campo Reno, Campo Mammoth, chez louie, Heritage, Glenbrook Club, and two Burger Me! restaurants. renoprovisions.com, 775-336-1091

NEVADA BOOKS

“Logan: The Honorable Life and Scandalous Death of a Western Lawman”

By Jackie Boor, Cable Publishing, cablepublishing.com, 715-372-8499, 269 pages

REVIEW BY JANET GEARY

What started out a family mystery turned into one of the most interesting Nevada history books I have ever read. Not only is the life story of former Nye County Sheriff Tom Logan fascinating, the research that went into this book is unbelievable.



Sheriff Tom Logan seated and deputies - circa 1904

sense of the once-booming town of Tonopah and the surrounding county at the turn of the century. It's a great read for any Nevada lover or history buff and will keep you turning the pages until the mystery of Tom Logan's life and death is solved—or is it?

Excerpt from “Logan: The Honorable Life and Scandalous Death of a Western Lawman”

“The discovery of gold generated the bulk of lawlessness that made the West wild and the Colt six-shooter often more powerful than any law book stored on a shelf. Between 1850 and 1890, approximately 20,000 men were killed in gunfights, an all-too-frequent method for settling disputes. Sheriffs could at-will declare a renegade desperado as ‘bearing the wolf’s head,’ thereby granting permission to kill on sight as they would a wild animal. Translation: Wanted dead or alive, legal rights optional.

“Sheriffs were usually elected to office, although occasionally appointed. Previous law enforcement experience was not required, but both job and life depended heavily on being a quick study. Entrusted to tackle vice and all manifestations of disorder, the frontier sheriff relied on personal prowess, gut instinct, steady nerves, and recurrent strokes of ingenuity. He also had to be amply skilled with a sidearm, proficient with horses, and able to round up a posse in swift fashion. Some were certainly more capable than others, and more than a few succumbed to bribery and other corrupt enticements. Still, history attests the majority stood firm and stalwart in their oaths to protect and serve. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, these often forgotten lawmen served at the forefront of converting unruly encampments into civilized municipalities. With constantly evolving duties, they fought and cajoled, jailed and punished, sacrificed and bled for the common good.

“And some, like Sheriff Tom Logan, died in the line of duty.”

There should be no doubt that the author, Jackie Boor, took great pains in telling the true story of her great grandfather—the legendary Sheriff of Nye County from 1899 to 1906— and his untimely death.

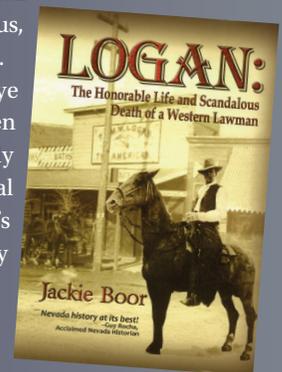
My suggestion; read the acknowledgements and chapter notes first so you get a sense of what Boor accomplished in not only telling the story of the murder of Tom Logan, but also the subsequent trial and acquittal of the man who shot him.

Famous names from Nevada's past—such as Pat McCarran, “Diamondfield Jack” Davis, and George Wingfield—are main characters in this true story of murder and politics. Even Wyatt Earp had a role, along with many other former residents of Nye County and beyond.

The research is impeccable, and the book reads like a novel, full of historic photos that only Logan's descendants could provide. The letters Tom wrote to his daughters and the political cartoons peppered throughout the book were my favorite parts, although I also found the trial transcripts to be riveting.

I had the opportunity to meet Jackie not long ago and got a sense of the love of family that drove her to tell this story. Her enthusiasm was contagious, and after reading this book, I know why.

If you want to know more about Nye County history, this book will enlighten you, because even though it's mainly about Tom Logan, the reader gets a real





◆ After 372 hours and 10 minutes of nonstop live music, **Ri Rá Las Vegas**—at The Shoppes at Mandalay Place—may have set the world record for the Longest Concert by Multiple Artists. Final review by Guinness World Record is pending. The pub hosted nonstop live music with no more than 25-second breaks between songs and five-minute breaks between sets for nearly 16 days. rira.com, 702-632-7771

◆ The heart of the Las Vegas Strip is an ice skaters' paradise with a real ice skating rink at Caesars Palace Las Vegas. Guests can skate over the iconic Caesars Palace fountain through Jan. 11. **Caesars Chalet** includes entertainment and special activities, plus seasonal food and beverage offerings. caesarspalace.com, 866-227-5938

◆ **Silver Legacy Resort Casino** has been selected as the winner of a 2014 Orbitz Best in Stay Elite Award for being the highest-rated hotel in Reno. The 2014 Orbitz Best in Stay Awards honor nearly 400 top-rated hotels in 75 popular destinations based on reviews by Orbitz customers. silverlegacy.com, 800-687-8733

◆ The Eldorado Resort Casino installed dedicated electric vehicle charging stations in partnership with **Tesla Motors' Destination Charging** program, which gives high-power wall connectors that offer more than twice the power of a typical charging station. In addition to the two Tesla High-Power Wall Connectors, are two 60-amp universal chargers to offer guests a range of electric vehicle charging options. All four stations are located on the ground floor in the Eldorado parking garage and are available to guests for charging on a first come, first served basis. To charge the Model S for its full 265 miles of range takes just four-to-five hours. eldoradoreno.com, 775-786-5700



HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO LAKE TAHOE

HOTELS

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Lake Tahoe announces opening date

The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Lake Tahoe continues to move ahead with its \$60 million renovation and redesign with an anticipated VIP grand opening on Wednesday, Jan. 28. Reservations are available for booking for Jan. 29 and beyond.

The property will feature 539 rooms and suites rooted in rock 'n' roll art and memorabilia, with unparalleled views from tower rooms of Lake Tahoe or Heavenly Valley, four new restaurants, several bars, a 25,000-square-foot casino and a variety of live indoor and outdoor entertainment. hardrockcasinolaketahoe.com, 844-588-7625



RENO-TAHOE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

TRAVEL

Reno-Tahoe airport gets new international flights

Reno-Tahoe International Airport recently announced that Mexican low-cost carrier Volaris began service between Reno and Guadalajara, Mexico, in December 2014. The service runs twice weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays, and marks the first scheduled international flight for Reno since 1999.

The northern Nevada airport has also landed its first-ever regularly scheduled non-stop airline route to Europe. Starting in December 2015, Thomas Cook Airlines will offer two flights a week to London's Gatwick Airport. The flights are seasonal, running from December to April. renoairport.com, 775-328-6400



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◆ The November issue of *Condé Nast Traveler* revealed the results of its 27th annual Readers' Choice Awards, naming the **Top 10 Hotels in Las Vegas**. In order from No. 1 to No. 10, the winners are: Wynn and Wynn Encore, The Palazzo, Mandarin Oriental, Bellagio, The Cosmopolitan Las Vegas, Four Seasons Hotel, The Venetian, M Resort, Aria, and Delano Las Vegas.

cntraveler.com

◆ **CRAVE American Kitchen & Sushi Bar** is now open in Summerlin. This is CRAVE's 9th nationwide location and the first in the West. CRAVE is a 2011 Wine Spectator Award of Excellence winner for its wine list. craveamerica.com, 702-878-5505

◆ Wild Horse Reservoir hosts the annual **Wild Horse Trout Derby** on Feb. 14-15. Cash prizes will be given for the longest fish caught each day. Wild Horse Reservoir—located 67 miles north of Elko—boasts some of the state's lowest winter temperatures. parks.nv.gov, 775-385-5939

◆ Join the **Tahoe Rim Trail Association** for guided winter hikes, snowshoe treks, winter camping events, and more. Locations vary around Lake Tahoe, including a moderate snowshoe hike of two-to-four miles on Feb. 21 from Castle Rock Loop, and a Feb. 28 snowshoe hike to "meet" the legendary Snowshoe Thompson. That event meets at the Harrah's Lake Tahoe Casino rear parking lot. The Tahoe Rim Trail Association also hosts special full-moon hikes and a sweetheart sunset snowshoe for members only. tahoerimtrail.org, 775-298-4492



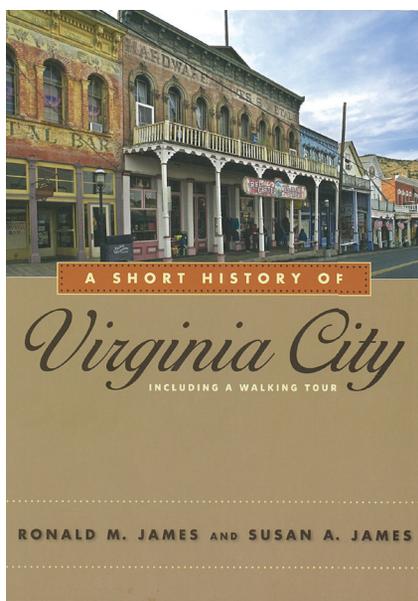
NICOLE CARLSEN

SESQUICENTENNIAL

Nevada sets sing-along record

The Nevada 150 Commission announced it has received official verification Nevada has set the record for the Most People Singing a State Song at Once with 45,553 Nevadans participating. As one of the celebrations' culminating the state's 150th birthday events, #NevadaSings provided Nevadans an opportunity to join together to demonstrate state pride by singing a rendition of "Home Means Nevada." Participants entered their video or photo proof singing with co-workers, friends, family, schools, and businesses at more than 500 locations.

recordsetter.com/nevadasings, 775-687-0645



MUSEUMS

Lecture series: 'A Short History of Virginia City'

The Nevada State Museum will host special guests Ron and Susan James on Jan. 22 as part of its Frances Humphrey Lecture Series. The pair will sign their new release, "A Short Story of Virginia City," from the University of Nevada Press after the lecture. Ron James was recently inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame and recognized for his strong connection to the state of Nevada and his significant contribution to the state's literary culture. On Feb. 26, the series features "Nevadans: The Spirit of the Silver State" by Stanley Paher which also includes a book signing after the lecture. Paher is a Nevada writer and historian. His latest book aims to memorialize Nevada's first 150 years of historical, economic, and cultural development, including many twists and turns. museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-4810

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SHOPPING

Las Vegas Harley-Davidson opens

Las Vegas Harley-Davidson has opened on the famed Las Vegas Strip, steps away from the Welcome to Las Vegas sign. The new store commemorated its grand opening with an all-day celebration and custom motorcycle raffle in November.

The 65,000-square-foot venue features a dealership, rental services, retail shop, service center, and riding academy, all under one roof.

At the grand opening, a 2014 FLHX Harley-Davidson Street Glide was awarded. The bike was created to celebrate the state's 150th anniversary. All ticket proceeds were donated to Nevada 150 Foundation, Inc. lasvegasharleydavidson.com, 702-431-8500

HISTORY

Las Vegas Veterans Memorial home announced

The Las Vegas Veterans Memorial Foundation announced a partnership with the State of Nevada that includes building a memorial on the grounds of the state's Grant Sawyer Building, near the corner of Washington Avenue and Las Vegas Boulevard North near Downtown Las Vegas.

When complete, the Las Vegas Veterans Memorial (LVVM) will be a world-class monument and will serve as a reminder to all to forever honor the heroism and spirit of those who have served and will serve in our nation's military.

The LVVM will feature 18 statues surrounded by granite memorial walls in a park-like setting. In addition to providing a place for reunion, reflection, and healing, the memorial will provide an important educational tool for parents and schools.

lvvm.org, 702-858-5886



◆ **Tropicana Laughlin Hotel & Casino** officially unveiled its new bingo room with a ribbon cutting in October. The Trop Bingo room is a key feature in the resort's recent casino renovations. The tropical-themed bingo parlor features seating for 214 players, 80 Planet Bingo portable electronic handheld units, bingo monitors, and beverage stations within the enclosed 4,950 square feet on the casino floor.
troploughlin.com, 702-298-4200

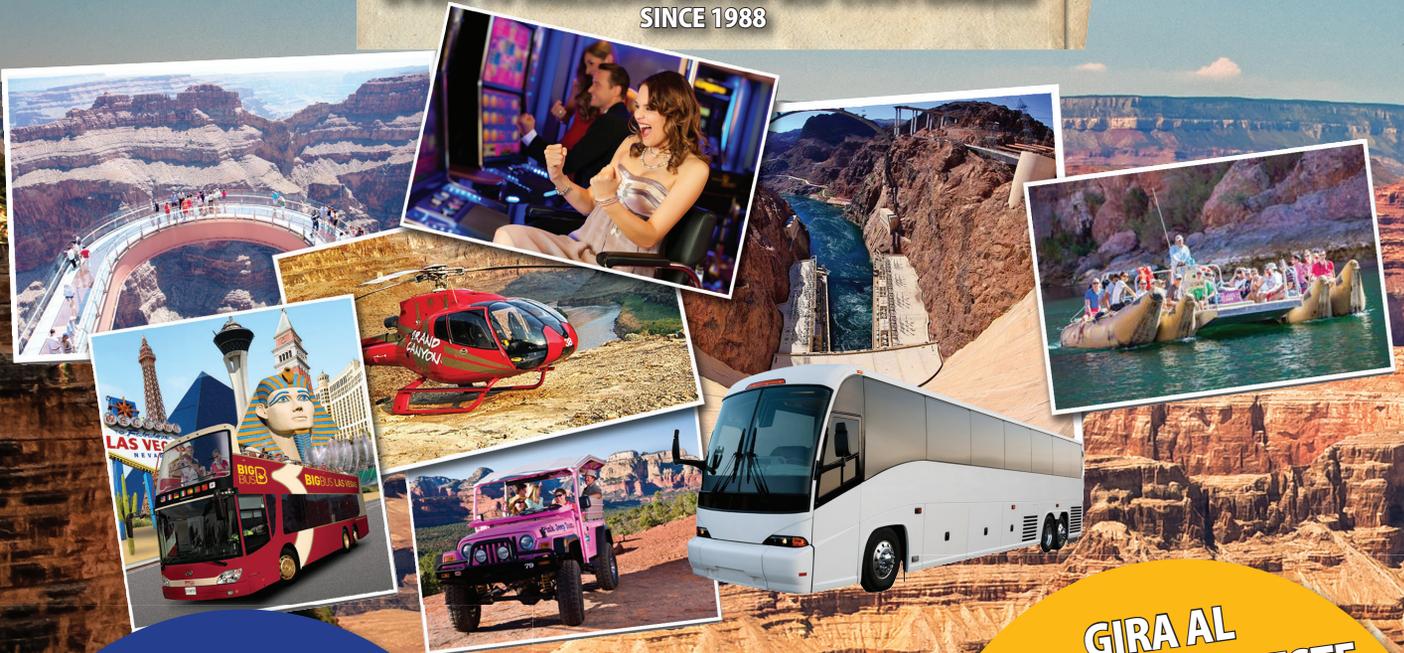
◆ **Le Rêve The Dream**—the aquatic and aerial show at Wynn Las Vegas—approaches its 10-year milestone in 2015. The production has introduced a unique installment that incorporates spectacular water, fire, and projection technologies. The \$3-million scene includes 172 high-powered fountains, 120 individual LED lighting fixtures, and 16 fire-shooting devices.
wynnlasvegas.com, 702-770-9966

◆ The 26th annual **Ranch Hand Rodeo Weekend** happens Feb. 25-March 1 in Winnemucca. Prizes will be given to the best in saddle bronc riding, steer stopping, wild mugging, trailer loading, team roping, ranch doctoring, team branding, and cow dog trials. Some events are free.
ranchrodeonv.com, 775-623-5071

◆ **ARIA Resort & Casino** has teamed up with Las Vegas' own Sin City Brewing Company to create a special-edition pale ale that is only available at the AAA Five-Diamond resort. The full-bodied Sin City Extra Pale Ale is served on tap. Sin City Brewing Co. is a Las Vegas-based craft brewery launched in 2003.
sincitybeer.com, 702-732-1142

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Pony Up

There's something special about photographing a piece of history that outdates Nevada itself. During a Nevada Pony Express Riders outing in the Pine Nut Range in Gardnerville, Reno photographer Kristen Kabrin captured this exceptional shot. "It was a windy, cloudy day, and as we were getting ready to head out, the last of the riders was heading down the ridge," Kabrin says. "The clouds, rider, and horse all made for a magical moment."

PHOTO BY KRISTEN KABRIN

See more of Kabrin's work at pixoto.com/kkabin





THE IDES OF AUTUMN

Photographer Lori Hibbett captured these fantastic fall colors during an outing in Wilson Canyon—located between Yerington and Smith Valley. “I walked to the shore where the afternoon light was providing wonderful backlighting to the golden-yellow leaves,” Hibbett says. “Wilson Canyon is a beautiful location for finding magnificent cottonwoods displaying fall colors. Usually the last weekend in October to early November is best.”

PHOTO BY LORI HIBBETT

See more of Hibbett's work at [flickr.com/photos/50091407@N04](https://www.flickr.com/photos/50091407@N04)

ART DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Each issue, *Nevada Magazine* Art Director Sean Nebeker chooses a photo submitted via e-mail or Facebook to be showcased on this page. E-mail your photos to snebeker@nevadamagazine.com.



FB GROUP CHOICE

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

WOOD & RUST

“I thought to myself, now this is Nevada,” says Carson City photographer John Peckham II when describing his wagon shot taken while exploring dirt roads near Wellington. “The treeline behind the wagon formed a great backdrop and made the scene look like it had just stepped off the pages of a Louis L’Amour novel,” he adds. “I feel lucky to have captured this beautiful old wagon and its many stories.”

PHOTO BY JOHN PECKHAM II

See more of Peckham’s work at tahoeshooter.com



STAFF PICK

Each issue, the staff of Nevada Magazine chooses a photo submitted via e-mail or Facebook to be showcased on this page.

TWINKLE, TWINKLE

“A few friends of mine regularly go on sunrise and stargazing excursions,” says Reno photographer Lee Pfalmer, “so I joined them on this trip to Pyramid Lake to try my hand at astro photography.” Pfalmer does an excellent job at capturing both artificial light provided by Reno and natural light provided by the moon in the same shot.

PHOTO BY LEE PFALMER

See more of Pfalmer’s work at leepfalmer.com

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF SLS LAS VEGAS

The SLS stands on the grounds of the old Sahara. The lot in the forefront is set to house MGM Resorts International's Festival Grounds.

New Year, New Vegas

Exciting changes reenergize the north Strip.



BY JOANNA HAUGEN

Almost everyone has a story about Las Vegas' iconic Sahara Hotel. Abbott and Costello appeared together for the very last time on Sahara's lounge stage in 1956, and The Beatles stayed at the hotel in 1964 when they first performed in Las Vegas. Over the years, dozens of other performers and celebrities walked through the doors of the Sahara Hotel, so when its doors closed for good in May 2011, it really was the end of an era.

In the years leading up to the Sahara's closing, attention had already shifted mid-Strip, where new properties were opened or renovated and foot traffic on Las Vegas Boulevard was heaviest, and the north end of The Strip was practically a ghost town.

With the Aug. 23, 2014, opening of SLS Las Vegas in the Sahara's footprint and the May 2015 opening of the MGM Resorts Festival Grounds across the street, things seem to be changing, and the north Strip may be poised for a renaissance.

SLS: A HIP, HAPPENING HOTEL

Those familiar with the Sahara will notice nods to the past when they walk into SLS Las Vegas, a resort by the hospitality brand sbe. The property's nightclub, LiFE, is housed in the former showroom and the tiered seating and exposed catwalks have been left intact.



The elevated DJ stage is where the Rat Pack used to perform. Throughout SLS, the carpeting features scenes from the Vegas of years past.

However, despite sitting in the Sahara footprint, the 1,620-room property is almost completely new. With a \$415-million renovation under its belt, SLS feels fresh with tasteful graffiti covering the walls and quirky design elements such as monkeys entwined in the logo, crocodile heads hanging on the walls, and chandeliers made out of antlers. The property's unique design is the work of world-renowned French designer Philippe Starck.

Nightlife is the big draw, with three different venues. SLS introduced Sayer's Club—a popular performance lounge in Los Angeles—to the Las Vegas market when Lenny Kravitz performed opening night. LiFE nightclub is trendy with aerialists who hang suspended above the dance floor and table seating, while Foxtail—a 10,000-square-foot lounge that opens to the pool—has an edgier vibe.

Award-winning chef José Andrés is the culinary director at SLS, leading the resort's restaurants that rival anything else found on the Strip. Bazaar Meat is a high-end steakhouse, but there are also sev-

eral mid-range options including Griddle Café—a breakfast favorite complete with scratch-and-sniff wallpaper. Umami Burger breaks tradition and serves as both a sports book and a beer garden, with outdoor seating perfect for people watching.

French designer Philippe Starck is responsible for the playful, evocative style of the SLS. Artistic photos liven up an elevator; French designs complete the property's Lux tower rooms; and whimsical touches, like monkeys, are everywhere. "Everywhere you put your eyes, there will be a subtle surprise, something that will open your mind, will open your eyes," Starck recently said.



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slslasvegas.com, 702-737-2111

MGM RESORTS FESTIVAL GROUNDS: A SITE TO CELEBRATE

The Umami Burger beer garden is practically front-row seating for the concerts and events coming to MGM Resorts Festival Grounds. The 49-acre space opens with the City of Rock, an open-air concert infrastructure custom-made to host the inaugural Rock in Rio USA music festival. The massive music and entertainment venue will be equipped to receive about 80,000 people each day of the two-weekend event, which features rock musicians including headliners No Doubt, Metallica, and Linkin Park on May 8-9, and pop musicians such as Taylor Swift, Ed Sheeran, and Bruno Mars May 15-16.

The City of Rock will have five stages, including a main stage; and an electronic dance music stage; streetscapes representing the United States, Brazil, and the United Kingdom; and amusement park rides, all set against a backdrop of international food, music, and art.

While the City of Rock and Rock in Rio USA are opening the MGM Resorts Festival Grounds with full gusto, this is just the first of many events MGM Resorts International plans to host in this space.

“Part of the reason we’re developing that site is to attract new



events that will drive additional tourists and guests to Las Vegas,” says Chris Baldizan, senior vice president of entertainment at MGM Resorts International.

Las Vegas has become an increasingly popular destination for festivals, and with a goal of holding six to eight events on the grounds per year, this piece of property holds immense potential for the north end of The Strip. MGM Resorts International has owned this land for many years, and the timing of the construction is coincidental but well-suited to the bigger picture of development in the area in general.

“The more activity there is on the north end of The Strip, the more that site will benefit, and the more that we do on that site, other properties around the north end will benefit as well,” Baldizan says. “We really feel this is going to be a great addition to The Strip and to Las Vegas in general.”

An artist's rendering of the coming City of Rock, to be built at the MGM Resorts Festival Grounds. At left: The Griddle offers more than just breakfast; try a pancake boozy shake with one of the more than 20 varieties of exotic pancake options.



MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL

STAY TUNED...

SLS Las Vegas and MGM Resorts Festival Grounds may be the first to kick-start the north Strip renaissance, but other projects are expected to join them in the coming years.

- Genting Group's \$4 billion Resorts World, located slightly south of SLS Las Vegas, is expected to begin construction in the fall and open in phases over the next two to three years.

- Billionaire James Packer has acquired controlling interest of the former Frontier site and, in partnership with former Wynn president Andrew Pascal, plans to build a new resort in the space with construction beginning in 2015.

- Cunningham Group has released details of its plan to build All Net Resort and Arena—a 44-story resort with a multi-purpose arena—which is scheduled to open in 2017.



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SLOAN CANYON

Petroglyphs paint a glimpse of ancestral southern Nevadans.

STORY & PHOTOS BY GREG MCFARLANE



It's hardly a secret that Las Vegas is the definitive destination for gambling and entertainment; not to mention cuisine and nightlife. But...prehistoric rock art?

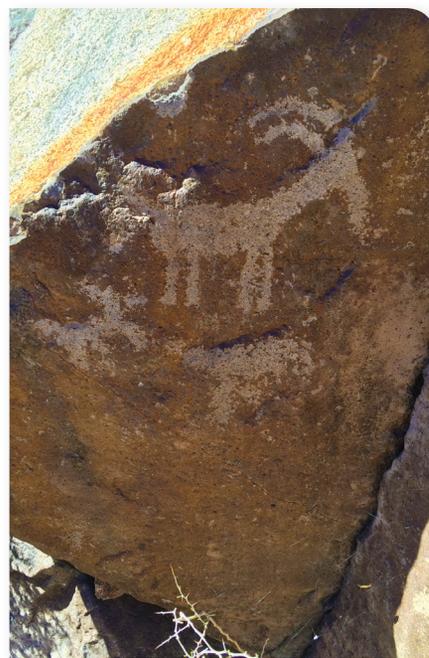
Sloan Canyon—a mere 13 miles south of the Las Vegas Strip—contains one of North America's largest concentrations of petroglyphs. More than 1,700 images adorn the canyon walls, waiting to be explored by anyone willing to hike a few miles of moderately challenging terrain and step back into a world barely touched by civilization.

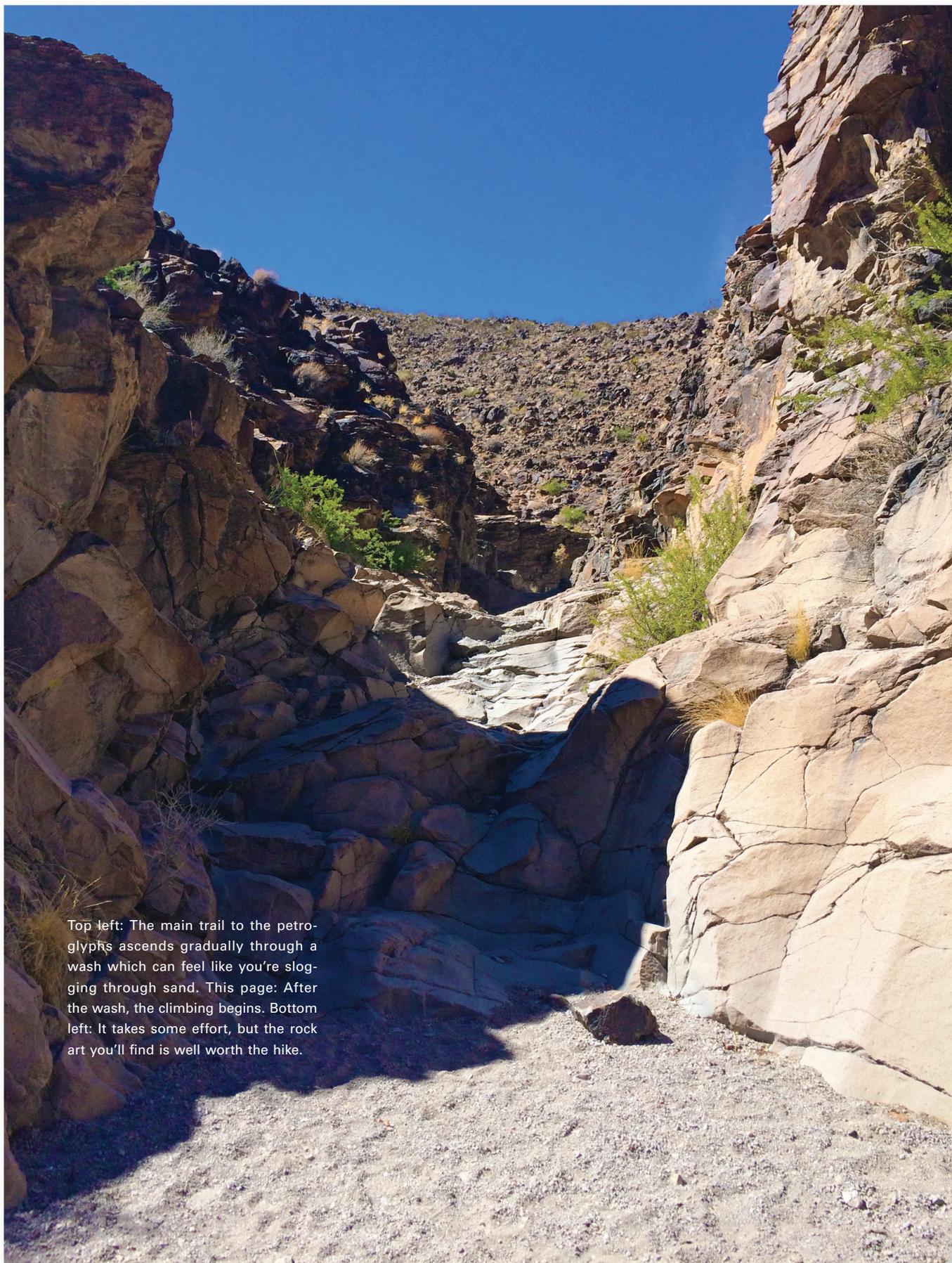
In 2002, the site was designated as a National Conservation Area (NCA)—one of only 16 in the U.S.—and with good reason; archeological troves like Sloan Canyon don't come around every day...or even every millennium. Researchers believe the petroglyphs weren't created as a single project, but rather the work of various peoples from about 2000 B.C. to as recently as the onset of white explorers.

The entrance to the NCA is less than a mile and a half from the southern reaches

of the Anthem Highlands residential development in Henderson. Although it's on the doorstep of civilization, Sloan Canyon is lightly traveled. The Bureau of Land Management claims an average of 80 visitors a day, but a glance at the sign-in book makes that estimate seem generous. On a cloudless and windless early fall afternoon, this author spent several hours at Sloan Canyon and encountered a grand total of four humans. They were outnumbered by the jackrabbits, which seemed inconvenienced by the intrusion.

Sloan Canyon covers 76 square miles, much of which is accessible only by the most intrepid hikers. Some of the unimproved roads leading there can be formidable, with the occasional smooth patch interspersed with football-sized rocks that will test the resiliency of any SUV's axles.





Top left: The main trail to the petroglyphs ascends gradually through a wash which can feel like you're slogging through sand. This page: After the wash, the climbing begins. Bottom left: It takes some effort, but the rock art you'll find is well worth the hike.



Note: No motorized travel is allowed within the North McCullough Wilderness portion of the canyon.

The sign-in book and an accompanying map at the entrance mark the start of the trail network. The trails are easy to navigate, with no route-finding required. The major trail to the petroglyphs begins in a wash filled with rubble, making the first few hundred yards something of a slog for hiking boots. To see wildlife, arrive around dawn or dusk. Desert bighorn sheep—a favorite subject of the petroglyph artists—congregate along the southern extent of the trails, resting precipitously on the slopes and mocking the slow bipeds below.

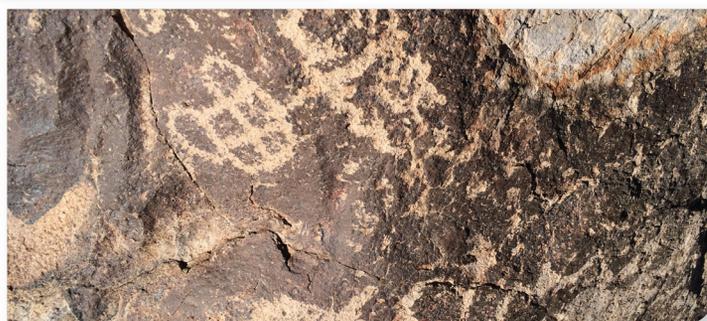
The path to the petroglyphs is exposed, with negligible shade throughout much of the day. A little more than a half mile into the hike, you'll reach a marked fork. Continue south on trail 100, or bear west on trail 200, which loop and rejoin each other. The following directions assume you'll be doing the loop clockwise.

Trail 100 involves a modest elevation gain. Hiking poles help on the scree part of the trail, but aren't vital. In fact, they'll just get in the way when negotiating the brief scrambles that mark the approach to the petroglyphs. Hikers must climb over





A small representation of the myriad rock art in Sloan Canyon. While the petroglyphs are predominantly abstract, you will find examples of anthropomorphic and zoomorphic art along the walls. For more information on the petroglyphs, visit friendsofsloan.org.



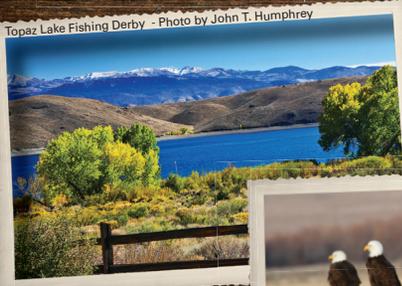
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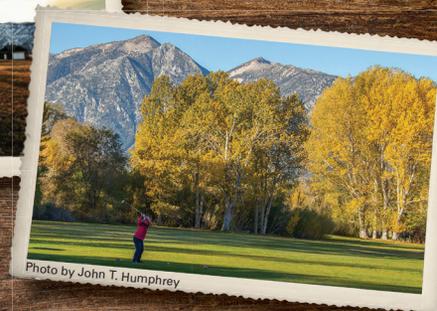


Photo by John T. Humphrey



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Visiting Sloan Canyon is best done with a high-clearance four-wheel-drive vehicle. The area has no facilities, so bring plenty of water, sunblock, and be sure to pack out whatever you bring in.

three dry waterfalls, the last of which is slick enough to potentially compromise one's footing and offers little margin for error. A short, unaccompanied hiker can be in for a challenge. Proceed slowly and purposefully: this quiet, remote gully is no place to dislocate an ankle. Although yelling for help will produce a rich echo.

Approximately one and a quarter miles from the parking area, the petroglyphs begin. They're unmistakable: the images are remarkably well preserved, thanks to both the resiliency of the rocks and their out-of-the-way location. Even in the Ancestral Puebloan era, Sloan Canyon had few visitors. But no matter in which century you happen to hike the area, it goes without saying that responsible visitors keep their hands on their cameras and off the petroglyphs.

The works depict human figures, animals, and the occasional eerie geometric design that a fanciful imagination might regard as a record of alien contact. Many of the petroglyphs are abstract; their meaning not immediately evident to anyone but the long-dead artists. The most notable appear on a single east-facing wall that serves as the gallery's foyer. These renditions of hunters, gatherers, and their quarry are aligned in a canyon bed that traverses north-south. The result is that the contrast between rock surface and patina changes as the sun traces its arc overhead from mid-morning to late-afternoon, making for a different set of images with each hour. Among the most compelling petroglyphs are the representations of riders on horseback, doubtless signifying the arrival of the Europeans who were to forever transform the surrounding area. ▀

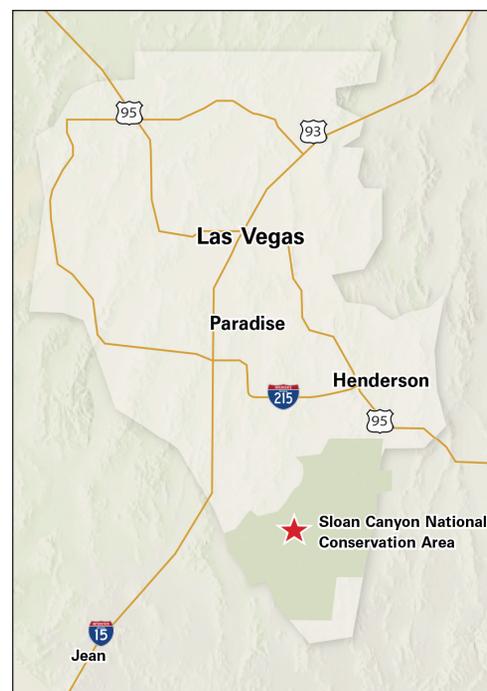
Getting There

There are several ways to get to Sloan Canyon, each of varying difficulty. Whichever one you choose, you'll need a high-clearance vehicle. Four-wheel drive isn't mandatory, but it never hurts.

The official BLM directions describe the straightest, bumpiest route. From Interstate 15, take exit 25 and head east one block to Las Vegas Boulevard. Continue north for .1 miles, to an unmarked dirt road, and go east. Follow the power lines for 4.1 miles. The poles are numbered. At pole 12084, you'll see a small marker indicating the conservation area. Turn right, head south 1.1 miles and you'll reach the gate. Park and walk.

There's a much easier, less publicized route that begins on the outskirts of Henderson. From the intersection with Volunteer Boulevard, head south on Via Inspirada, which, 1.2 miles later, makes a pronounced left turn and becomes Bicentennial Parkway. Heading east for 500 yards, you'll cross over a wash. Immediately turn south and continue on an unmarked dirt road. Seriously, the road is right next to the wash; if you continue on Bicentennial Parkway to Via Firenze, you've gone too far.

Drive alongside the wash for 1.1 miles, at which point you should see the aforementioned power lines. Turn right (west) over the flood channel (don't worry, there's an overpass) and follow the power lines .3 miles to pole 12084.



National Cowboy Poetry Gathering: First-Timer's Guide

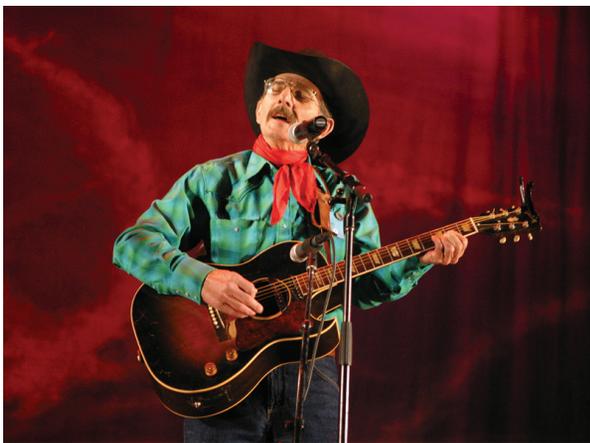
Tips to help you get your cowboy on, correctly.

BY MEGG MUELLER

For 31 years, the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering (NCPG) in Elko has drawn cowpokes and urban cowboys alike to its lyrical blend of the Wild West, the spoken word, music, and more. Evolved from the earliest storytelling of the buckaroos who ranched and rode the western U.S., the art form has earned an international audience.

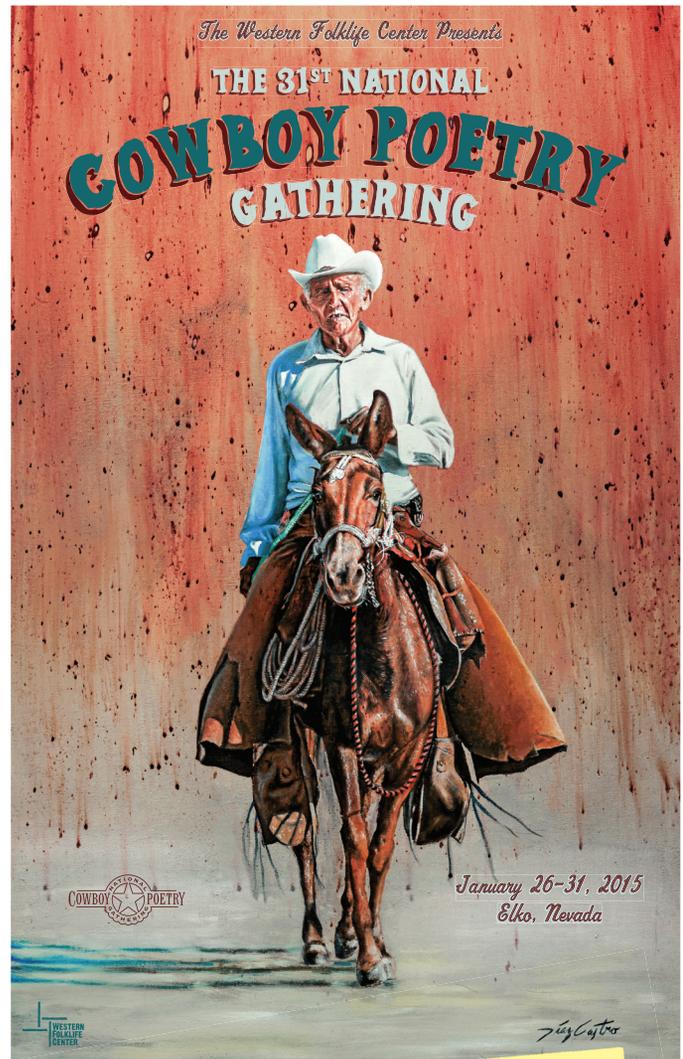
But how do you “do” Cowboy Poetry? A glance at the program shows workshops in writing, gearmaking, cooking and more; special sessions and discussions, exhibits of western art and gear; films about the West; lectures by prominent speakers; panel discussions of issues facing the rural West, open-mic sessions, ranch dances, and late-night jam sessions. Phew.

To assist, we reached out to some knowledgeable folks; Elko residents, attendees of multiple NCPGs, and others. Check out their tips to help you saddle up, and make your first gathering the best it can be.



ALL PHOTOS BY CHARLIE EKBURG

Bob Petermann from Montana is a poet, singer, and songwriter. He was a featured performer at the Gathering in 2007.



What about the weather?

Elko is in eastern Nevada. Translation: the daily high is just 37 degrees, so the chances of ice and snow are pretty high. Don Newman of the Elko Convention and Visitor's Authority reminds visitors: "If it snows, although your new leather-sole cowboy boots will look great, slip-and-slide is the result and you look like a crazy dance is taking place."

Darcy Minter of the Western Folklife Center agrees and notes that walking between some venues can be dicey in the winter weather. She recommends traction devices that slip over your shoes (she likes Yaktrax brand) to make sure you don't take a spill.

Where should I eat?

The Star Hotel is renowned for Basque food (it's also Governor Brian Sandoval's favorite), but unless you're with a party of eight or more, seating may be tough. Best bet: "If you can get to Elko early in the week, you'll get in," says Gretchen Ericson who will attend her 10th NCPG this year, "but Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights are a zoo (even if you just want a Picon punch)."

Not in the mood for beef? Well don't tell a cowboy, but Elko has three sushi restaurants, too; head over to the Flying Fish or Kabuki for something different. Try Luciano's Bar and Restaurant for Italian.

The experts say...

Gretchen Ericson, 10-year attendee:

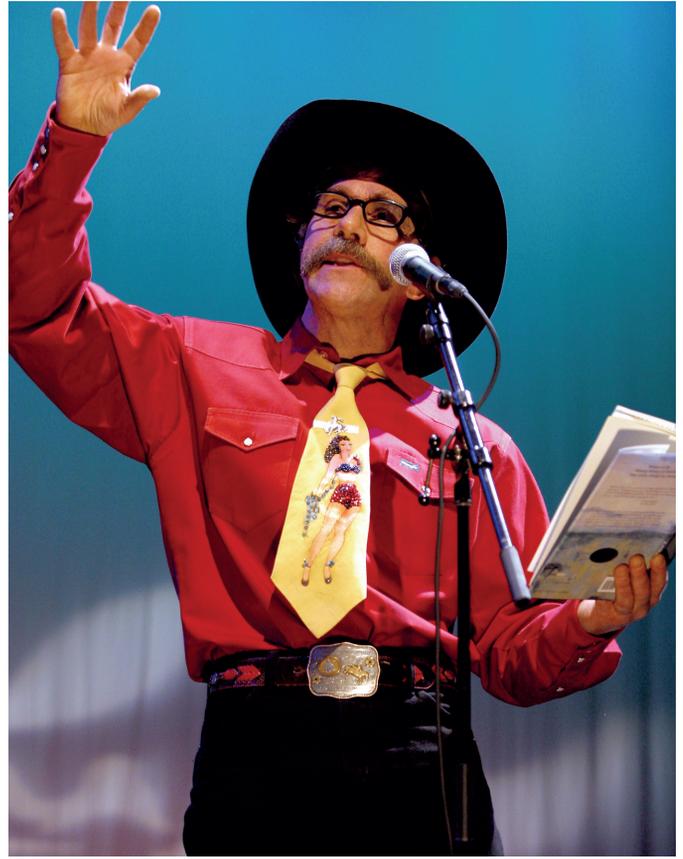
- Hang out at the G3 Bar; it's a great place to people watch and you just might run across Baxter Black or Don Edwards.
- Use the shuttle bus; you never know who you might meet.
- Bring a seat cushion for events at Elko High or Flag View Middle schools. The seating at the high school is bleachers and the middle school seating is folding metal chairs.
- Don't miss the Wild Women art show; it's at the Duncan Little Creek Gallery and Bar all weekend.

Darcy Minter, communications director of the Western Folklife Center:

- If you don't know the artists or what you might like, buy a pass and go see as many things as you possibly can.
- There are three great dances, even a midnight dance. Can't dance? Take a workshop!
- Relax; there's lots of trial and error the first time. Talk to the amazing volunteers at the WFC or Elko Convention Center for guidance.

Don Newman, executive director of the Elko Convention and Visitor's Authority:

- Give yourself plenty of time for dinner before the start of the next show.
- Check out the gear shows, trade shows, and art shows.
- Night owls can catch some great jam sessions throughout the town.



Above: Cowboy Paul Zarzyski has entertained the crowds many times at NCPG, and will perform this year. Below: Doris Daley, Yvonne Hollenbeck, and Kristyn Harris take the stage.



Buy Cowboy Gear

J.M. Capriola
500 Commercial St.
Elko, NV 89801
775-738-5816

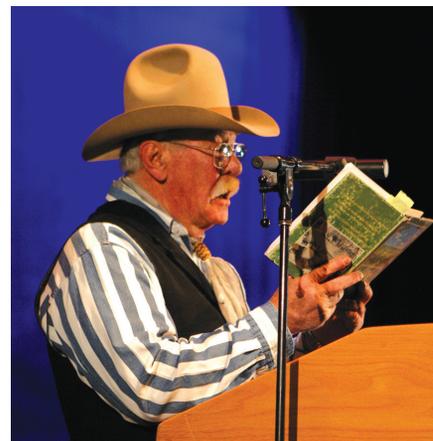
DM Bar and Ranch
1020 E. 4th St.
Reno, NV 89512
775-329-9107

Mary Jo's Glitzy Cowgirl Boutique
236 Silver St.
Elko, NV 89801
775-753-6800

Tip's Western Wear & Saddlery
185 Melarkey St.
Winnemucca, NV 89445
775-623-3300

Take Cowboy Poetry IQ test

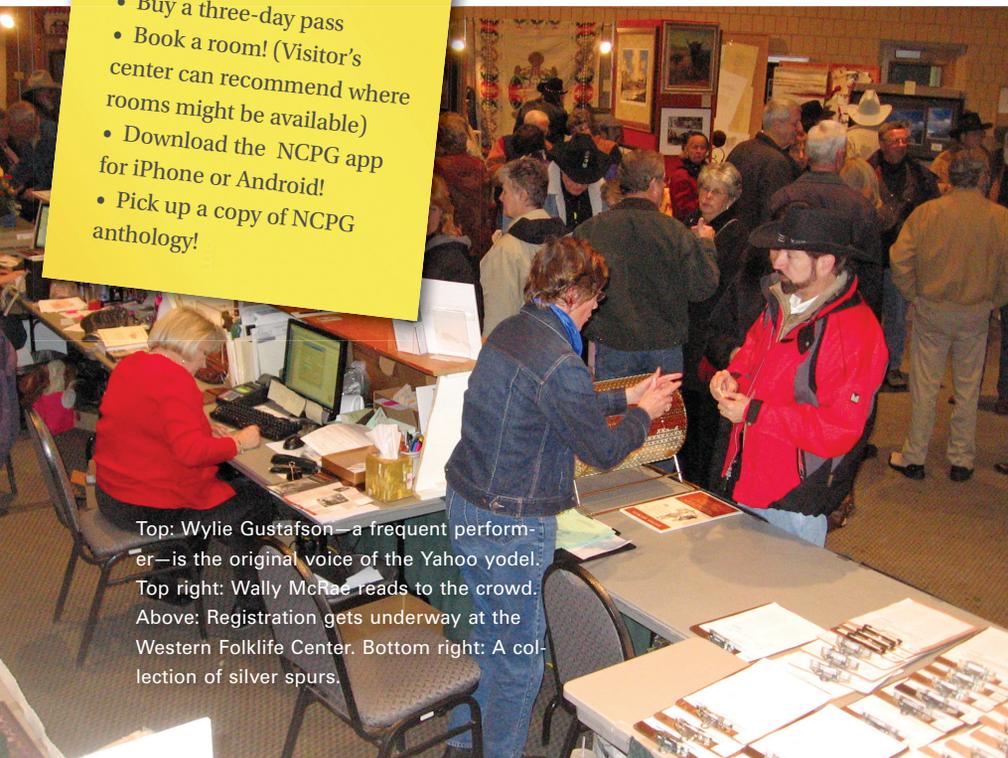
1. When did the event start?
2. How far is Elko from Reno? Las Vegas?
3. Who gave the keynote address in 2009?
4. How old is this year's youngest performer?



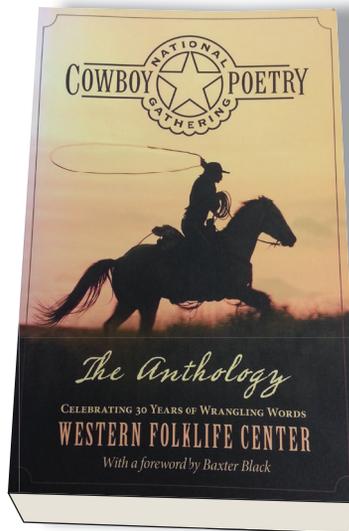
PHOTOS: CHARLIE EKBURG

To-Do

- Buy a three-day pass
- Book a room! (Visitor's center can recommend where rooms might be available)
- Download the NCPG app for iPhone or Android!
- Pick up a copy of NCPG anthology!



Top: Wylie Gustafson—a frequent performer—is the original voice of the Yahoo yodel. Top right: Wally McRae reads to the crowd. Above: Registration gets underway at the Western Folklife Center. Bottom right: A collection of silver spurs.



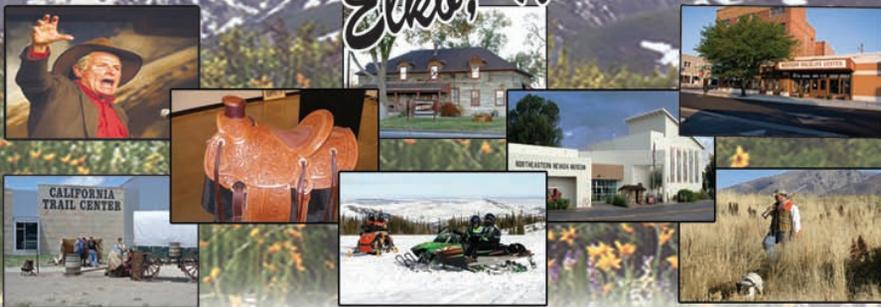
Important numbers!

Western Folklife Center
775-738-7508
Elko Visitor's Center
800-248-3556

Answers: 1. 1985 2. 289 miles, 431 miles 3. Sandra Day O'Connor 4. 11

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January 20-February 8, 2015

31st Annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering
January 26-31, 2015



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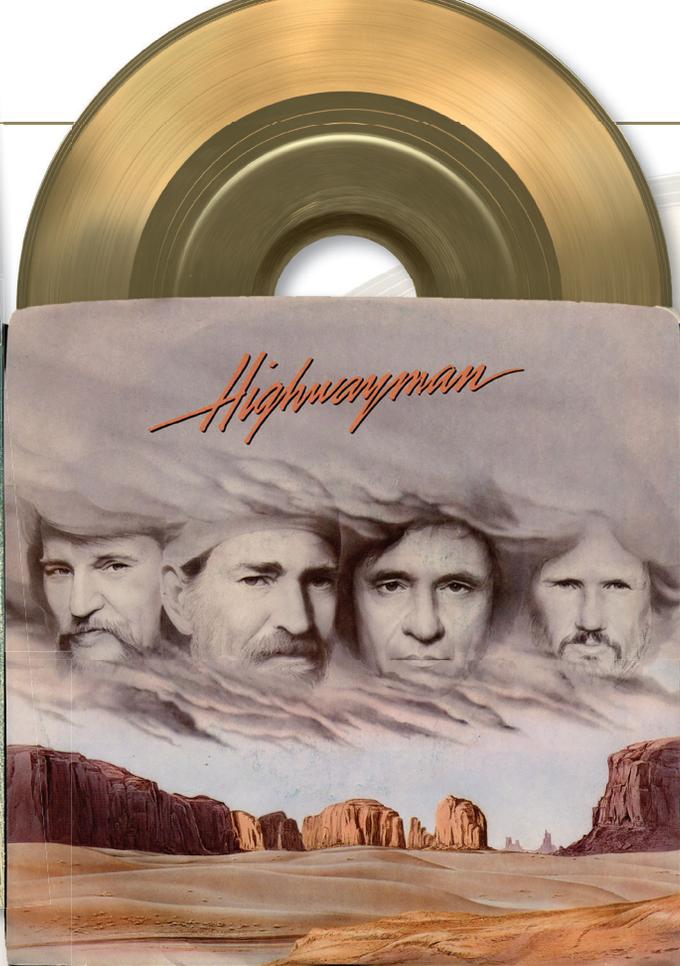
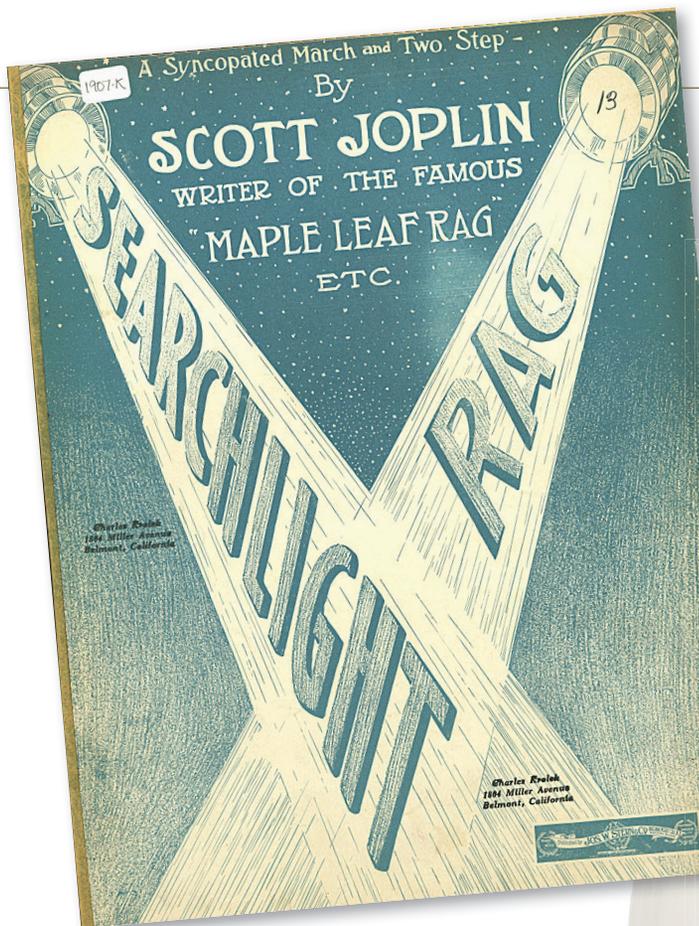


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SILVER STATE. GOLD RECORDS

NEVADA'S MUSICAL LEGACY STRETCHES BACK MORE THAN A CENTURY.

BY NELLIE DAY



ERIK KABIK

Nevada leaves a lasting impression on people for many reasons. Case in point: Nevada has been a keen source of musical inspiration for more than a century.

Just ask Dan Reynolds, lead singer of Imagine Dragons—an American indie rock band from Las Vegas—who has admitted there would be no band without Sin City. Or Brandon Flowers, frontman of Las Vegas American rock band The Killers, who told attendees at the 2013 Life is Beautiful festival that many of the band's songs took place on the very Downtown Las Vegas streets they were standing on.

Both bands also used Las Vegas as inspiration for some of their latest music videos. Imagine's "Demons" juxtaposes footage from a concert the band played at The Joint inside the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino with a series of touching vignettes about supposed audience members. The Killers' "Shot at the Night" is filmed entirely in Las Vegas. It prominently features the Cosmopolitan, as well as parts of Downtown Las Vegas.

LOVE FOR THE RURALS

While Las Vegas, Reno, and Lake Tahoe have certainly nabbed their fair share of musical notoriety, what's even more astounding is the number of smaller towns and lonesome Nevada highways that have also managed to grab the spotlight for a lyric or two. From Scott Joplin to Johnny Cash, it seems everyone has a song—and a soft spot—in their hearts for the Silver State.

1907: It all started when Scott Joplin named his ragtime composition “Searchlight Rag” after the Nevada town. His colleague and fellow composer Tom Turpin had regaled Joplin with stories about growing up in Searchlight and his many prospecting adventures in the unincorporated southern Nevada town.

1964: Songwriter Steve Gillette’s little sister Darcy had an unfortunate run-in with a horse when she was 12. The incident led to the song “Darcy Farrow,” in which a young girl suffers a fatal fall while riding her pony. The song evolves into a tragic love story that spans the Carson Valley. Darcy’s bright eyes are compared to the “pretty lights” out in Yerington, her beauty so vast, they still sing her praises in Truckee and Virginia City. The song was co-written with Tom Campbell and most famously performed by John Denver on his “Rocky Mountain High” album.

“DARCY FARROW”

Where the Walker runs down to the Carson Valley plain,
There lived a maiden, Darcy Farrow was her name
The daughter of old Dundee and fair was she
And the sweetest flower that bloomed o’er the range.
Her voice was sweet as the sugar candy
Her touch was as soft as a bed of goose down.
Her eyes shone bright like the pretty lights
That shine in the night out of Yerington town.
They sing of Darcy Farrow where the Truckee runs through
They sing of her beauty in Virginia City too.

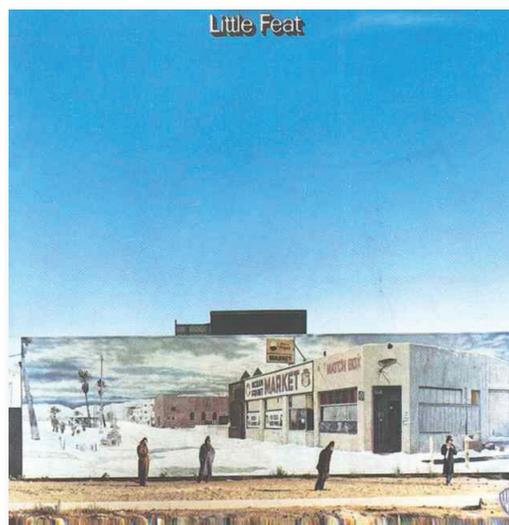
1971: Nevada’s famous for its long, open highways. Most coast-to-coast truckers know this to be true. They also know life on the road can be lonesome, a feeling the driver in Lowell George’s “Willin’” is all too familiar with. While trying to get his mind off “Alice, Dallas Alice,” the poor soul gets caught up in smuggling cigarettes and other unscrupulous items from Mexico. The trucker keeps his load moving, hoping to evade the law as he drives from Tehachapi to Tonopah. The song originally appeared on the debut album for Little Feat, where George served as guitarist and singer. It was also performed by Linda Ronstadt on her 1974 album, “Heart Like a Wheel.”

“WILLIN’”

I’ve been from Tuscon to Tucumcari
Tehachapi to Tonopah
Driven every kind of rig that’s ever been made
Driven the back roads so I wouldn’t get weighed

1978: Though the protagonist in Jimmy Webb’s “Highwayman” takes on four different reincarnations by the time the song is through, one thing is for sure: he’s a traveling man. In addition to being a highwayman, sailor, and starship captain, our traveler also turns out to be a construction worker in Boulder City, where he works on Hoover Dam.

Glen Campbell recorded the song in 1978, but its real claim to fame happened in 1984 when Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, and Kris





TOREY MUNDKOWSKY

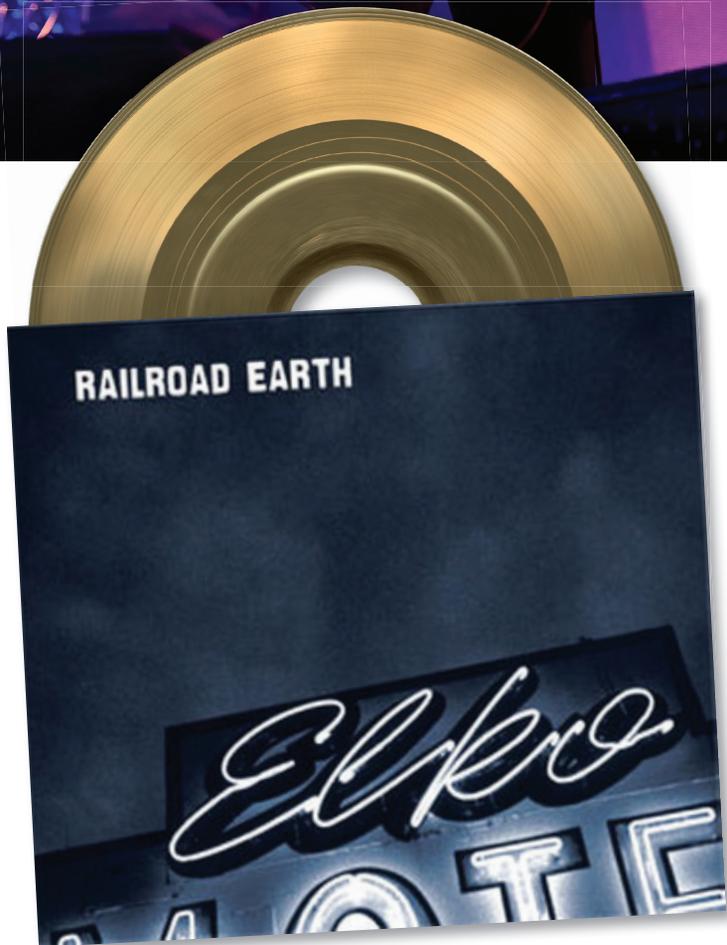
The Killers' frontman Brandon Flowers at the Life is Beautiful Festival in Las Vegas, the band's hometown.

Kristofferson recorded "Highwayman." Each performer adopted one of the four personas; Jennings served as our beloved dam builder. The quartet soon became known as The Highwaymen, famous for a sound known as outlaw country.

"HIGHWAYMAN"

I was a dam builder across the river deep and wide
Where steel and water did collide
A place called Boulder on the wild Colorado

1996: Johnny Cash was a man known to enjoy the road. That good time didn't stop with The Highwaymen. It continued right through 1996 when he recorded his rendition of "I've Been Everywhere." By the time that track was laid down the song had, in fact, been everywhere. It began its journey in 1959 when the original version, which featured a list of Australian towns, was recorded by Geoff Mack. Hank Snow adapt-



ed it for American audiences in 1962. Today, the catchy trend of listing well-known cities, states, provinces, and other landmarks has resulted in upwards of 20 covers.

The narrator in the American version is hitchhiking to Winnemucca when a kind trucker offers him a ride. We soon find out this isn't his first brush with Nevada, as he regales the driver with a list of his cities past, including Reno.

“I’VE BEEN EVERYWHERE”

I was totin’ my pack along the dusty
Winnemucca road,
When along came a semi with a high an’
canvas-covered load.
“If you’re goin’ to Winnemucca, Mack, with
me you can ride.”
And so I climbed into the cab and then I
settled down inside.

1998: Center Divide’s entire debut album, “Lovelock to Winnemucca,” is inspired by the band’s experiences out West. The album opens with “Lovelock,” a song about a heartbroken man on a lonely road heading to Winnemucca. Like some of the travelers mentioned above, he finds himself on a highway that stretches for miles, providing too much time for a guy to contemplate a broken heart.

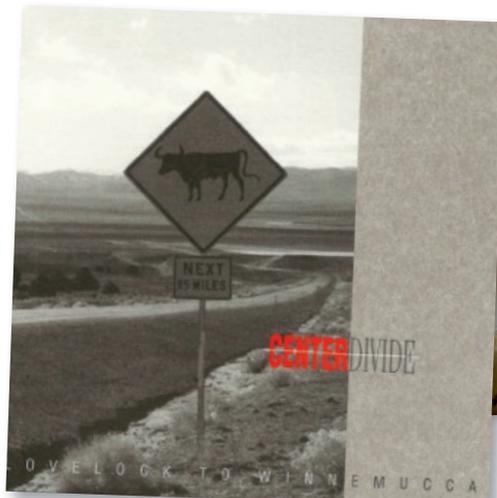
As one might predict, the album closes with “Winnemucca.” Though the city is never mentioned by name, it’s assumed that when the narrator encounters the forlorn traveler who whizzes by, they have indeed reached their destination.

“LOVELOCK”

If you ever drive
From Lovelock to Winnemucca,
It’s a good idea to pack
your cares along
The desert’s big and wide
Those mountains stand far apart
There’s a whole lotta room to lose
a broken heart



SONY BMG



Johnny Cash, top, sang about shooting a man in Reno just to watch him die during his performance of “Folsom Prison Blues” at the penitentiary in 1968.



2006: The city that serves as Railroad Earth's fourth album title is no stranger to the band. The newgrass sextet usually spends the night in Elko after driving to or from California. The band stated it was always grateful the rooms in Elko were cheap, the bars were 24 hours, and the casino, well, existed. You would be too if you were making the 7.5-hour trip from the rocky, coastal destination of Devil's Slide.

"ELKO"

Been a long hot desert ride
Wasatch, Bear River, Devils Slide and Elko
Poor boy you're bound to cry

2007: There is no love lost for Lovelock in the first half of Hot Buttered Rum's "Limbo in Lovelock." The narrator's car has broken down, he's lovelorn and to top it all off, it's snowing. But sometimes it's the little things in life that bring great pleasures. Like a burger, or a few smiles here and there. By the end of the song, the narrator has found both at the Cowpoke Café.

The final lyrics are based on the band's actual experience in Lovelock. Though the restaurant's sign advertised culinary "special of the day," the five members left convinced it was the teenage employees' smiles that were the real specials that day. The song appeared on the band's 2007 album, "Live in the Northeast."

"LIMBO IN LOVELOCK"

Well just outside of nowhere
Mile marker 105 You'll find yourself in Lovelock
where the game is to stay alive
Get yourself a burger down at the Cowpoke Café
Where the gals have quite a smile, it's the special of
the day

2007: Dance Gavin Dance was inspired to name its debut full-length album "Downtown Battle Mountain" after stopping in the unincorporated town between Winnemucca and Elko. The post-hardcore band had observed that the entire downtown area of Battle Mountain consisted of one gas station and suddenly, an album title was born. The tiny town of less than 4,000 received a second nod in 2011 when Dance Gavin Dance released its fourth album, "Downtown Battle Mountain II." 



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Tonopah Brewing Co.

Barbecue and brews serve as a tasty toast to the town's mining heritage.

BY MEGG MUELLER

Driving between Reno and Las Vegas can be a long, dry trip. The Nevada desert stretches for miles in between major (and even minor) cities along U.S. Route 95, and after a while, even the sight of ghost towns can set your mind to thoughts of sumptuous meals and thirst-quenching libations.

Avoid succumbing to any mirages, and schedule a stop at the Tonopah Brewing Co.

Before you think, "A brewery in Tonopah?" consider this: The first permanent stone building in the town was the Wieland Brewery, built in 1901. Part of that structure still stands—and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places—as a monument to the role beer played to the

area's mining population. Above: Take flight with a sample of brews. Top right: A window into the brewing room allows diners to watch the magic happen. Bottom right: The dining room is warm and inviting.

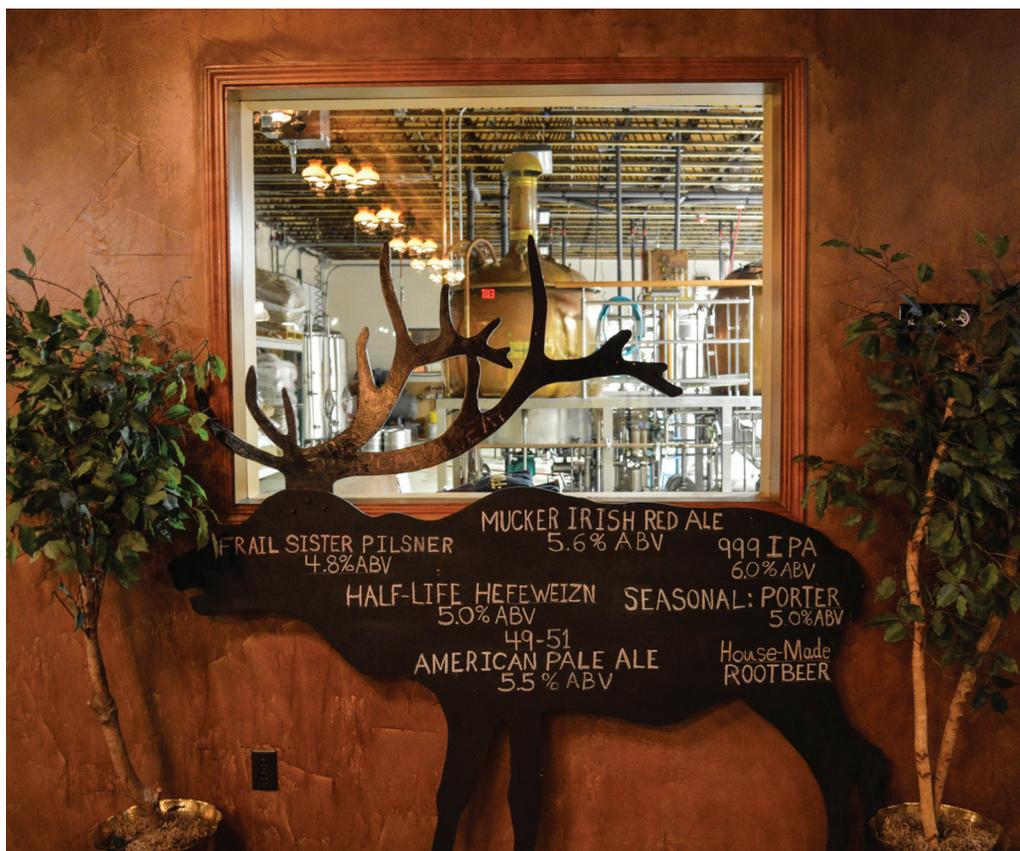
area's mining population.

"The idea of the brewery came about as we familiarized ourselves with the history of the town, and realized back in 1900, beer was the working man's champagne in this tough mining town," says brewery owner Nancy Cline.

Nancy and husband Roger also own Tonopah's famous Mizpah Hotel—which they



PHOTOS: ERIC CACHINERO



refurbished and reopened in 2011—along with several California wineries. When they opened the brewery in August 2014, they clearly had those early days in mind. Nancy's family is among Tonopah's earliest settlers, and her discovery of the family history spurred the decision to buy the hotel and open the brewery.

"If there is a place that embraces the Nevada spirit of tenacity, independence, and pioneer spirit, it is Tonopah. The reality of its placement in the middle of Nevada can't help but remind visitors of the perseverance and drive of those hearty men and women who have gone before us," Nancy says.

Joining the Clines is brewmaster Lance Jergensen, whose own nod to Nevada's mining heritage is evident in his subtly crafted European ales and lagers. Jergensen has been brewing beer for more than two decades, and his career path has included 10 years at New Belgium Brewery, plus numerous breweries of his own including Reno's Pigeon Head Brewery.

Heavenly Hops, Gorgeous Grains

Jergensen crafts beers with a more subtle taste, owing to his time studying beer-making in Denmark. He creates crisp, clean flavors that harken to the brews originally served to Nevada's immigrant miners. Add to that the fact that the hops and grains he uses are grown in Nevada, and you've got some tasty local brews.

The current menu includes a hefeweizen with hints of banana and clove; a pilsner that strikes the perfect note and never wavers; an Irish red ale so smooth and charming it feels like silk; an India pale ale with an excellent malt transfusion; and an American pale ale that carries its sparkling top note to a discreet dry finish.

Are you thirsty yet? Good, because I'm not finished.

While those five beers cover almost the entire spectrum of flavors, Jergensen also crafts one special and one seasonal



brew. On our visit, the seasonal brew was a chocolate coffee porter that tasted like an adults' more; not so sweet as it was flavorful and rich. The special offering was a pomegranate hefeweizen. At first sip, I couldn't distinguish the pomegranate but I tend to favor the heavier beers so my palate is used to being bombarded. After comparing it to the regular hefe however, the subtle notes of the fruit revealed themselves and were a tasty complement to the wheat beer's dry finish.

Drinking seven beers in one sitting isn't advisable, but you really have to taste them all, so do as we did and order the beer flight. For \$7, you can taste all seven beers in an ample 2-ounce serving. Whether you try one at a time, sip from each, or pair with your meal and compare how each reacts to the food, you can't go wrong.

Speaking Of The Food...

Perhaps second only to my love of great beer is my fondness for great barbecue, so



Top left: The 310-gallon fermenters are part of the custom-made brewing system, as are the 310-gallon copper storage kettles (bottom right). The beef brisket (bottom left) and pulled pork (upper right) arrived ready to be doused with our choice of sauces.



PHOTOS: ERIC CACHINERO

the menu at Tonopah Brewing Co. was pretty much custom made for me, or so it seemed. Vegetarians beware; you're stuck with a house green salad or fried pickle chips for options. But for the carnivores out there, hold on to your hats, because the choices of ribs, pulled pork, beef brisket, and other morsels could cause you to eat to the pain as I did. My taster-in-crime, associate editor Eric Cachinero, had the beef brisket while I opted for pulled pork. We passed on appetizers, but we still left as full as a parade float.

It was the sauce's fault, I tell you. On each table you'll find the brewery's signature sauces, created from recipes by chef and brewery manager Richard Weathers. Ranging from perfectly sweet to packing heat, these sauces were meant for pouring on everything... so we did. While Eric concocted his own blend of hot, sweet, and vinegary sauce using the options before him, I opted for different sauces for each bite; blob of Sweetheart, bite of pulled pork. Drizzle of Saloon Kick made for a tasty steak fry. Swirl of Nuclear Test Site (yowza!) laced with Sweetheart, added a sweet kick to a bit of pulled pork and green beans. And so it went. Until the very last drop.

Weathers has been in the food business for more than 30 years, and he created the menu from his experience living in the South. He generously shares his culinary bounty; you can buy the sauces, you can buy meats by the pound, and soon you should be able to buy the beers. The brewery plans to bottle its beers and sell them in Nevada and California in 2015.

Our visit was early evening on a Wednesday, and while there were just a few folks when we entered, I realized that during my delicious feast, the restaurant had almost filled with diners mingling with miners, miners chatting with travelers.

Oddly, one of those travelers was from my past, and to see him so completely by chance was unexpected and wonderful. It was also a reminder—like the brewery itself—that the past is never far behind. And that the lure of great beer and great barbecue is enough to bring the past and the present together in one delectable adventure. ▾



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| Ash Springs | Death Valley | Goldfield | | Rachel | Shoshone | Yerington |



Tournant Pop-Up Restaurant features dishes that revolve around a theme. Far left: Chefs meticulously prepare colorful dishes. Carne asada (top), braised short rib tamales (above), and agua chiles (left), are just a few creative items served.

Tournant Pop-Up Restaurant

Themed dinners spice up the Reno restaurant scene.

STORY & PHOTOS BY ERIC CACHINERO

Fresh. Local. Delicious.

You can often find these words bouncing around The Biggest Little City's ever-evolving culinary scene. Though certainly none of them are new, they are being revisited in imaginative ways. And what is more imaginative than themed dinners using fresh ingredients, featuring local guest chefs, serving up delicious drink and food pairings, "popping up" at new locations around Reno?

Tournant Pop-Up Restaurant is at the forefront of this innovation, presenting a new take on how Reno dines. The restaurant hosts bi-monthly, multiple-course meals, giving diners a chance to dress in theme and try new tastes. Each dinner pops up in a different location, each with its own exciting dishes and theme.

If you decide to dress up and dine out at a Tournant dinner, be sure to show up hungry. In early November, Tournant held a Dia De Los Muertos dinner at Little House on Center St.—a new restaurant in Midtown. The dinner was comprised of a five-course traditional Mexican feast accompanied by festive garb. Featured

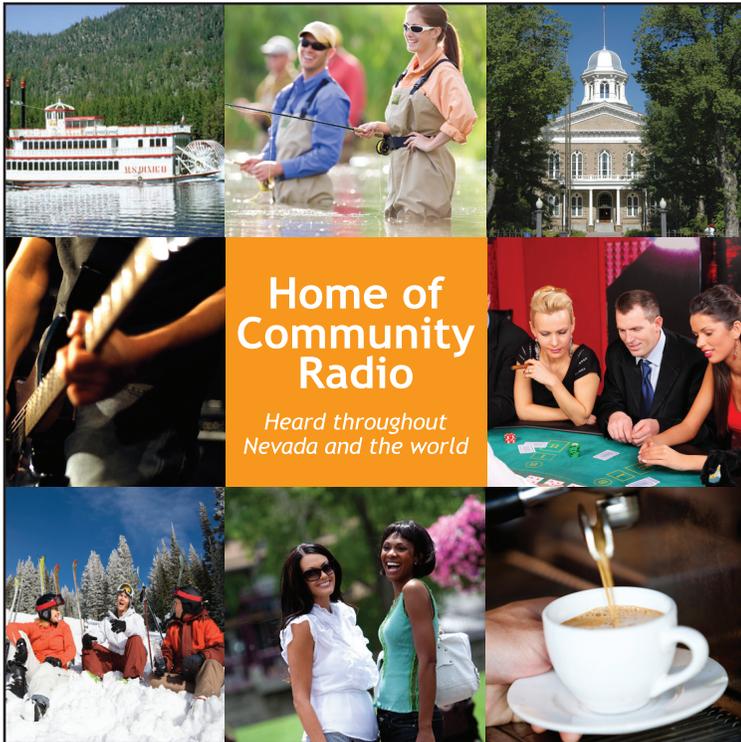
dishes included agua chiles, carne asada, braised short rib tamales, and candied pumpkin with Bunelos, to name a few. Accompanying drinks included Micheladas, Horchata with a kick, Champurrado, and others. Vegetarian options are also available for each course.

At the heart of this culinary venture is Ben Deinken, founder and head chef of Tournant. Along with chef planner Carri von Savoye—who is in charge of creating cocktail, wine, and beer pairings for each entrée—Deinken's restaurant taps into local talent, as well as his own. Each dinner features a guest chef from the local restaurant scene, who is brought in to add their own spice to the mix.

To reserve a seat at the next pop-up dinner, register online at tournantpopup.com, or call 775-400-3855. You can also check out facebook.com/tournantpopup.

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- 121 Town of Pahrump
- 122 Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority
- 133 City of West Wendover
- 135 Nevada Silver Trails

HOTELS

- 205 Mizpah Hotel
- 259 Whitney Peak Hotel

BED & BREAKFASTS

- 401 Nevada B&B Guild

ATTRACTIONS, GALLERIES, & MUSEUMS

- 624 Ely Renaissance Society
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EVENTS/SHOWS

- 704 Nevada's Cowboy Country

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- 904 Sightseeing Tours Unlimited
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- 2701 KNPB Channel 5

WINTER STEAM SPECTACULAR

HISTORIC RAILWAY SETS SCENES FOR WINTER LOCOMOTIVE SHOOTS.



Hidden in the high desert of eastern Nevada is a time capsule like no other—the Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Landmark (NNRY) in Ely. And, during the first two weekends in February, the Winter Steam Spectacular photo shoot makes time travel seem possible. NNRY invites photographers to set their watches back a century, and photograph railroading as it was in the past.

The event provides world-class photographic opportunities to capture steam locomotives pulling vintage freight and passenger cars that are original to the railroad. Locomotives pulling wooden cars—some of which date back to 1872—will be operating in organized run-bys, night photo ops, and working equipment demonstrations. The train crews will be donning period dress, adding to the experience.

The event features all original railroad equipment, sporting original paint schemes, and operating in their original settings, including running on the original track that was graded and laid a century ago.

Billowing white clouds of steam plus plumes of black and gray smoke towering above the canyons and valleys, make this a rare opportunity. Participants in previous years have won numerous photo contests, capturing timeless scenes of a historical railroad that is second to none.

The event takes place on Feb. 6-8 and 13-15. Tickets can be purchased at nnry.com, but hurry, because the event sells out quickly each year.—*Nevada Northern Railway*

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Winter Steam Spectacular
Nevada Northern Railway National Historic
Landmark, Ely
Feb. 6-8, 13-15
nnry.com, 866-407-8326

'RASCAL FLATTS VEGAS RIOT!'

HARD ROCK HOTEL WELCOMES FIRST COUNTRY RESIDENCY.



Chart-topping music group Rascal Flatts is bringing the first country residency—"Rascal Flatts Vegas Riot!"—to The Joint inside Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas with nine shows between Feb. 25 and March 14.

Comprised of Gary LeVox, Jay DeMarcus, and Joe Don Rooney, Rascal Flatts is the most-awarded country music group of the past decade with eight consecutive studio albums debuting at No. 1. The gold-certified title track from the band's most recent chart-topper, "Rewind," marks Rascal Flatts' 15th No. 1 single.

Rascal Flatts has earned more than 40 trophies from the American Country Awards, Academy of Country Music Awards, American Music Awards, Country Music Association Awards, People's Choice Awards, and more. In 2012, the group reached a new milestone with more than 7 million concert tickets sold and recently wrapped up its 35-city Rewind Tour 2014.

"We are thrilled to be playing such a storied venue as The Joint at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas," DeMarcus says. "We're so excited to do something so different for us. You will experience Rascal Flatts in a way you've never seen us before—up close, intimate, and personal, and we promise you one thing...it's going to rock!"

WHERE

The Joint inside Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas

WHEN

Feb. 25, 27-28; March 4, 6-7, 11, 13-14
Showtime: 8 p.m.

TICKETS

hardrockhotel.com, 702-693-5583
Starting at \$39.50

WORTH A CLICK

rascalflatts.com

ALSO AT THE JOINT

Seether & Papa Roach, Feb. 7
Trailer Park Boys: Ricky, Julian,
and Bubbles, Feb. 22

las vegas shows



DANIEL A. SWALEC

DON'T MISS 'JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT'

The Smith Center for the Performing Arts
Jan. 20-25
thesmithcenter.com, 702-749-2348

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"—one of the most enduring shows of all time—is coming to The Smith Center for the Performing Arts Jan. 20-25. Directed and choreographed by Tony Award winner Andy Blankenbuehler, this new production features Broadway/television star Diana DeGarmo ("Hairspray," "Hair") as The Narrator and Broadway star Ace Young ("Grease," "Hair") as Joseph.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" is the irresistible family musical about the trials and triumphs of Joseph, Israel's favorite son. The first collaboration of composer Andrew Lloyd Webber ("Jesus Christ Superstar," "Phantom of the Opera," "Cats") and lyricist Tim Rice ("Jesus Christ Superstar," "The Lion King"), Joseph blends pop, country, and rock into an uplifting, technicolored story of epic proportions.

Retelling the Biblical story of Joseph, his 11 brothers, and the coat of many colors, this magical musical is full of unforgettable songs including "Those Canaan Days," "Any Dream Will Do," and "Close Every Door."



On the heels of a successful three-year residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, Caesars Entertainment and AEG Live have announced the extension of Elton John's "The Million Dollar Piano" residency for another three years. thecolosseum.com, 702-866-1400

Las Vegas productions "Million Dollar Quartet," "Rock of Ages," and "Jersey Boys" will be dark Jan. 5-11. Normal schedules are set to resume on Monday, Jan. 13.

SHOWS OF INTEREST

JOE ROGAN
The Mirage
Jan. 2
mirage.com
702-792-7777

WILLIE NELSON
House of Blues
Jan. 9-10
houseofblues.com
702-632-7600

ERIC CHURCH
The Chelsea
Jan. 16-17
cosmopolitanlasvegas.com
702-698-7000

STYX
The Palms
Jan. 18
palms.com
702-942-7777

DANIEL TOSH
The Mirage
Jan. 23-24
mirage.com
702-792-7777

BRITNEY SPEARS
Planet Hollywood
Jan. 28, 30-31; Feb. 4, 6-7, 11,
13-14, 17-18, 20-21, 25, 27-28
planethollywoodresort.com
855-234-7469

BURT BACHARACH
The Smith Center for the
Performing Arts
Jan. 30
thesmithcenter.com
702-749-2348

BILLY IDOL
The Chelsea
Feb. 21
cosmopolitanlasvegas.com
702-698-7000



Glittering Lights

EVENTS

GLITTERING LIGHTS

Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas
Through Jan. 4
glitteringlightslasvegas.com
702-222-9777

MESQUITE MOTOR MANIA

Mesquite
Jan. 16-18
mesquitecarshows.com, 702-643-0000

FIREWORKS EXPRESS

Nevada Northern Railway, Ely
Jan. 17
nnry.com, 866-407-8326

ROTARY ICE FISHING DERBY

Cave Lake State Park
Jan. 24
elynevada.net, 800-496-9350

MESQUITE BALLOON FESTIVAL

Mesquite
Jan. 24-25
casablancasort.com, 702-346-7529

NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Elko
Jan. 26-31
westernfolklife.org, 888-880-5885

USA SEVENS INTERNATIONAL RUGBY TOURNAMENT

Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas
Feb. 13-15
usasevens.com, 914-831-6200

WILD HORSE TROUT DERBY

Wild Horse Reservoir
Feb. 14-15
parks.nv.gov, 775-385-5939

EAGLES & AGRICULTURE

Carson Valley
Feb. 19-22
carsonvalleynv.org, 775-782-8144

UTV WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DESERT CLASSIC

Laughlin
Feb. 20-22
bitd.com, 702-457-5775

MARDI GRAS VEGAS

Springs Preserve, Las Vegas
March 7
springspreserve.com, 702-822-7700

SHOWS

KOOL & THE GANG

MontBleu, Stateline
Jan. 1
montbleuresort.com, 775-588-3515

MYSTIC INDIA

Eldorado, Reno
Through Jan. 4
eldoradoreno.com, 800-648-5966

MADAME HOUDINI

Eldorado, Reno
Jan. 14-April 19
eldoradoreno.com, 800-648-5966

AARON LEWIS

Peppermill Concert Hall, Wendover
Jan. 17
wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

THE GUESS WHO

MontBleu, Stateline
Jan. 31
montbleuresort.com, 775-588-3515

THE WOOD BROTHERS

Whitney Peak, Reno
Jan. 18
cargoreno.com, 775-398-5400



The Wailin' Jennys

THE WAILIN' JENNYS

Nightingale Concert Hall, Reno
Feb. 5
unr.edu/pas, 775-784-4278

ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES

Whitney Peak, Reno
Feb. 13
cargoreno.com, 775-398-5400

ALAN JACKSON

Edgewater Casino, Laughlin
Feb. 21
edgewater-casino.com, 702-298-2453



St. Paul & The Broken Bones

MC CLUSTER

WHITE PINE FIRE & ICE SHOW

FROZEN-SCULPTURE COMPETITION HEATS UP AT CAVE LAKE STATE PARK.



NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

From Jan. 16-18, Cave Lake State Park near Ely hosts its hottest—and coldest—event of the season. The White Pine Fire & Ice Show gives artists a chance to show off their sculpting skills during the Snow and Ice Sculpture Competition. Participants craft piles of ice and snow into creative sculptures of all shapes and sizes—everything from castles to the Loch Ness Monster. Other events include ice skating, campfires, fireworks, ice bowling, sledding, and more.

Cash prizes are given to the top three winners in the sculpture competition. Registration forms and more information can be found at elynevada.net. Event is weather permitting, so call 800-496-9350 before planning your trip.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

White Pine Fire & Ice Show
Cave Lake State Park
Jan. 16-18
elynevada.net, 800-496-9350

DON'T MISS

Sheep Dip Show

The annual Sheep Dip Show returns to JA Nugget in Sparks Jan. 9-10. As northern Nevada's premier satirical roast of politicians and newsmakers, the Sheep Dip Show fundraiser has been leaving audiences in stitches for a half a century. To date, the organization has raised nearly half a million dollars for advertising education, and charitable and arts organizations.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Sheep Dip Show
JA Nugget, Sparks
Jan. 9-10
sheepdipshow.org



'THEN AND NOW'

ARTISTS BLEND DISTINCT ELEMENTS AT OXS GALLERY IN CARSON CITY.

Wood and neon are among the elements used in abstract form at the latest Nevada Arts Council exhibit at OXS Gallery in Carson City. "THEN AND NOW: Works by Elaine Jason & Maria Arango-Diener"—two Governor's Arts Awards Visual Arts Commission Artists—features works that exemplify the diversity of contemporary visual arts in Nevada.

In Arango-Diener's woodcut prints, the wood grain, paper texture, and ink consistency lend themselves to the style and subject matter found in her prints. The abstract forms that connect Jason's neon sculptures relate to the aesthetics of sculptural constructivism and the layering of events and places in her life. Using power tools, acrylic paints, and found objects in her studio, she creates art that delivers the abstraction of forms, colors, and luminous neon light.

Managed by Nevada Arts Council's Artist Services Program, OXS—the Office eXhibition Series Gallery—features artists who have been recognized by the agency through its artist fellowships, Governor's Arts Awards Visual Arts Commissions, and exhibits from the agency's Nevada Touring Initiative-Traveling Exhibition Program.



PLAN YOUR TRIP

"THEN AND NOW"

OXS Gallery

716 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701
nac.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-6680

Arts Commissions, and exhibits from the agency's Nevada Touring Initiative-Traveling Exhibition Program.

The free exhibit runs through Jan. 23.

EVENTS & EXHIBITS

"UNNATURAL SELECTION"

Las Vegas City Hall Grand Gallery, Las Vegas
Through Jan. 15
artslasvegas.org, 702-229-1012

DAVE EGGERS: "INSUFFERABLE THRONE OF GOD"

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
Jan. 17-July 25
nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

"SILK & SINEW" EXHIBITION

CCAI Courthouse Gallery, Carson City
Through Jan. 22
arts4nevada.org, 775-721-7424

INTERNATIONAL FILM WEEKEND

Carson City Community Center, Carson City
Feb. 5-7
arts4nevada.org, 780-225-3262

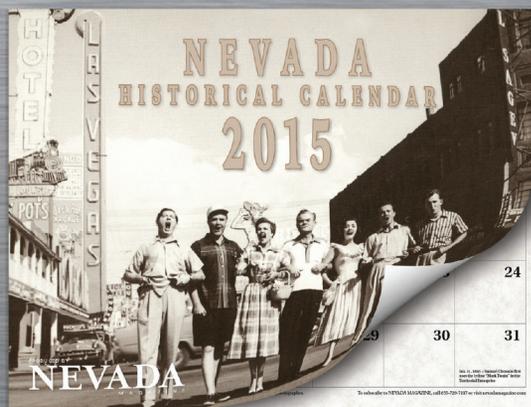
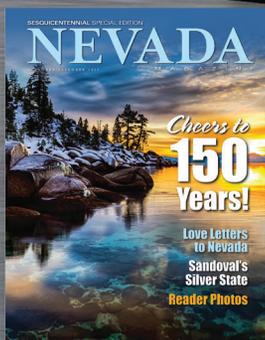
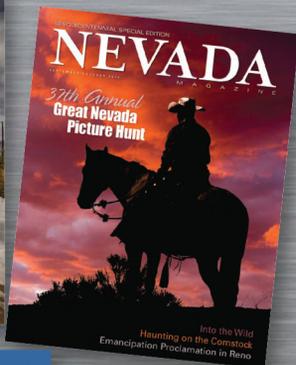
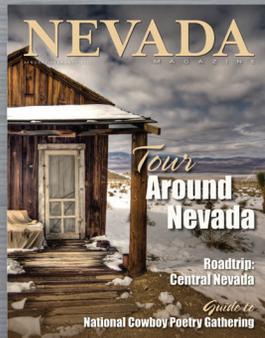
DANIEL MCCORMICK & MARY O'BRIEN WATERSHED SCULPTURE

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
Through April 5
nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

"YESTERDAY & TODAY"

UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum, Las Vegas
Through May 30
unlv.edu, 702-895-3381

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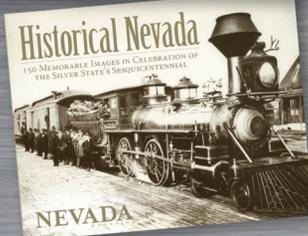
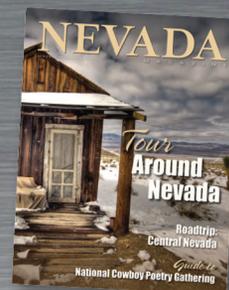
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NEVADA

MAGAZINE

Telling the Silver State's story since 1936.

Whitney Peak Hotel

Reno's latest property scales new heights in lodging, dining, and adventure.





WHITNEY PEAK HOTEL

BY ERIC CACHINERO

Smoke-filled casino floors; been there. The familiar chiming of slot machines; done that. Downtown Reno is ready for new life. The Biggest Little City needs a breath of fresh air, and Whitney Peak Hotel is answering that call.

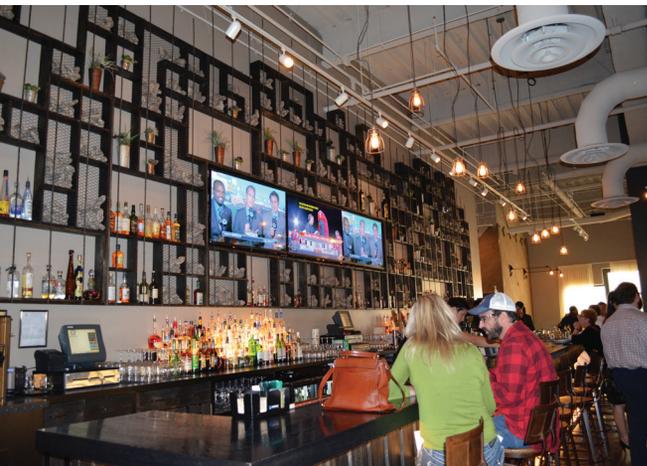
As Reno's only luxury, boutique, non-smoking, non-gaming hotel, Whitney Peak caters to those with active lifestyles searching for exceptional food, fun, and fervor. The hotel aims to "bring the outside in," and its earthy undertones accomplish just that. Each of the 157 guest rooms incorporates elements of the Reno-Tahoe area's outdoors, with meticulous attention in the details. The organic feel is accentuated by Heritage, BaseCamp, and Cargo, the hotel's restaurant, climbing walls, and live concert venue, respectively. With all the additions to downtown Reno, it's no wonder that Whitney Peak is creating such a buzz.



JEREMY FUKUNAGA



JEREMY FUKUNAGA



MEGG MUELLER

THE DIGS

The natural beauty of the Reno-Tahoe area is indisputable, and the guest rooms at Whitney Peak capture this beauty elegantly. With the Sierra Nevada Mountains in mind, the flats incorporate warm, golden hues and natural wood. The windows provide panoramic views of the surrounding areas, while the walls are adorned with local photography. Guest rooms are available with either two double queen beds or one king-sized bed, and each comes with a HD flat-screen television, sitting area and working desk, complimentary Wi-Fi, in-room safe, and more.

The suites—located on the 16th floor—offer a bit more luxury for adventure seekers. At more than 600 square feet, these spacious and comfortable rooms offer a separated living room and bedroom. In addition to the aforementioned guest room amenities, suites include larger televisions, a parlor, and in-room bar.

For those seeking a bit more privacy and comfort, there is also a concierge level and lounge. Whether using it for business or pleasure, the space offers guests complimentary breakfast, light snacks, evening hors d'oeuvres, and libations.

Eric's Advice: Take some time to relax in the seats positioned next to the windows. The space provides excellent views of the Reno area, both day and night. Also, treat yourself to a cup of coffee or tea made by the in-room Keurig brewing systems. Lastly, see if you can recognize where in Reno the photos on the walls were taken.

THE GRUB

Anyone who's tried renowned chef Mark Estee's cooking knows why it has become so successful in Reno—it's darn delicious. Estee's fresh and often bold tastes meld well at Whitney Peak's Heritage restaurant. Heritage features a seasonal, Northern Nevada-influenced menu that changes daily, much of which is cooked using a custom-made, wood-fired grill and rotisserie. The menu highlights ingredients provided by local ranches and farms.

Heritage is open daily for breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, and dessert. While the breakfast menu sticks to more conventional morning food—omelets, espresso, etc.—the lunch and dinner menus are a bit more adventurous. Hush puppies, Basque braised beef tongue, pan-seared scallops, and a large selection of colorful salads all make for a tasty midday nosh. The dinner menu boasts a large selection of appetizers and entrées, including ceviche; roasted bone marrow; pear salad; and lamb, chicken, and beef prepared in a number of different ways.

And let's not forget the bar. Both lunch and dinner have their own custom drink menu, offering a generous variety of local and regional drafts, imported beers, and specialty cocktails.

Eric's Advice: While certainly not for the timid pallet, the roasted bone marrow acts as a flavorful and oily spread for the accompanying crostini. Pair it with the Whitney's Old Fashioned—a cocktail classic garnished with burnt orange peel and brandied cherry. For an entrée, the pan-seared scallops are savory and cooked to perfection. And for dessert, the S'mores at the Arch arrive with their own flame, allowing diners to roast marshmallows tableside.

Anyone who's tried renowned chef Mark Estee's cooking knows why it has become so successful in Reno—it's darn delicious.



PHOTOS: CHRIS HOLLOMAN



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THE ROCKS

After—or more practically before—you’ve had your fill at Heritage, the hotel’s climbing wall and bouldering park need to be conquered. BaseCamp—Whitney Peak’s world-class climbing facility—is home to the world’s tallest artificial climbing wall, as well as a 7,000-square-foot indoor bouldering park. The climbing wall—measuring in at 164 feet tall—scales the outside of the building, giving those brave enough to conquer it a rush, and an occasional gasp to the onlookers gazing up at those crazy enough to climb.

In addition to the climbing wall and bouldering park, BaseCamp also features a world championship climbing area, the only official 15-meter speed wall in the U.S., and 17 separate belay stations. Those who wish to exercise but not necessarily climb can take advantage of the comprehensive fitness center. Yogis can get their fix, too, in yoga classes that are available both to hotel guests and the public.

Eric’s Advice: The indoor bouldering park is exciting, but take some time to check out the outdoor climbing walls. There are routes of varying difficulty that appeal to beginners and experts. The 164-foot tall climbing wall is serious business, but can be conquered by amateurs, as exhibited by the 13-minute ascent by Editor Megg Mueller’s boyfriend Ross Loudon during our stay.

THE TUNES

If the night winds down and you’re still seeking adventure, head over to Cargo to have your face melted by one of the concert venue’s state-of-the-art audio, video, and lighting productions. The 1,000-person capacity venue showcases a diverse assortment of different musical genres, including local talent and big-name acts. The room is equipped with a full-service bar featuring domestic and craft beers, as well as locally inspired cocktails. The space is also available to host private events, corporate meetings, weddings, and more.

Eric’s Advice: The concert venue provides great seating and standing room, so find a place that you feel comfortable and take note of the room’s acoustics. The bar is positioned with a great view of the stage, so don’t worry about missing any of the action while grabbing a drink. Also, check out the lighting, as it adds a great deal to the ambiance.



MEGG MUELLER



JEREMY FUKUNAGA



PLAN YOUR TRIP

Whitney Peak Hotel
255 N. Virginia St.
Reno, NV 89501
whitneypeakhotel.com, 775-398-5400

INDULGE

Not many Reno hotels cater equally to the local and the visitor, but the Whitney Peak is not like other Reno hotels. Its hospitality secures its position to provide equally to the hour-long or week-long visit, its ambiance complements the new face Reno is moving toward, and its features set it apart as a fresh spin on a city that always has an eye out for the next big thing. ▾



UPCOMING CONCERT SCHEDULE

THE WOOD BROTHERS

Jan. 18

LUKAS NELSON & PROMISE OF THE REAL

Jan. 30

CRASH KINGS & MY GOODNESS

Jan. 31

BIG SMO w/ HADEN CARPENTER

Feb. 11

ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES

Feb. 13

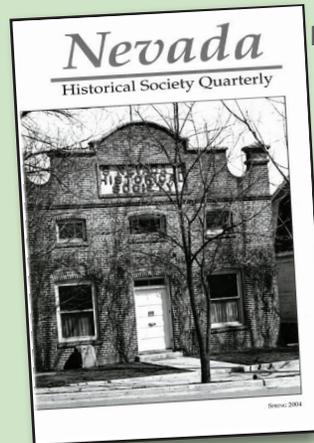
GRANGER SMITH w/ EARL DIBBLES JR.

Feb. 14

UMPHREY'S MCGEE w/ THE REVIVALISTS

March 8

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BY MEGG MUELLER & ERIC CACHINERO

A

series of unexpected and delightful moments. This is the appeal of a ridiculously long roadtrip.

For our latest adventure, Associate Editor Eric Cachinero and I chose another ambitious trip. Last September, we wrote about our trip to Nevada's remote northwest corner, so this time we decide to venture inward and drive 1,200 miles around the state's south central portion, with the optimistically named Extraterrestrial Highway as our center point. Eager for an adventure with a hint of the incredulous, we have no idea we'll find that before we drive a single mile.

Our itinerary includes dirt roads and remote towns, yet we find ourselves staring at a small compact car with what appears to be 4 inches of clearance. A snafu at state motor pool left us without a four-wheel drive, and it was either take the compact (did I mention the obnoxious decals?) or cancel the trip. Eric and I aren't very good at being derailed, so we load up, promise to be as careful as possible, and hit the highway.



AN AUSPICIOUS START

As we're driving out of Reno, the phrase "what are the odds?" is uttered about our bizarre little car. It won't be the last time we say it. We head east on Interstate 80 and make a right turn on U.S. Route 95 in Fallon, on our way to Blair and Silver Peak. As we approach Walker Lake, we spy a herd of bighorn sheep 100 yards from the road; what are the odds? Apparently pretty good, as these sheep are well-known to pretty much everyone we mention it to. Our last trip we saw two from 700 yards; here it feels like we could feed them they are so unconcerned with our presence.

As we come around a bend, the sight of the Hawthorne Army Depot hits me and I feel like I'm thrust back to the Cold War era. Filling most of the valley, the 147,236 acres of row after row of buildings built in 1930 is impressive and slightly unsettling. The Gabbs Valley Range—like most in Nevada—is a gorgeous backdrop so we settle into the scenic drive to Blair, the trip's first ghost town. We shoot south on State Route 265, and for miles there is nothing but vistas before us...unless you count the massive mining operation in the distance. The only lithium mine in the U.S., Rockwood Lithium can be seen from almost anywhere in this sweeping valley. We're heading that way, but first we turn toward Blair on a dirt road just past the Silver Peak cinder cone, a massive formation of black volcanic rock that looks like it's been dropped out of nowhere.

The road to Blair is graded, with just a slight berm between you and the structures. The slight berm stops our car, however, so we park and hike up the hill. Blair was born in 1906, and was quite prolific in its short life. Mining all but disappeared by 1916, and today you'll find the remnants of stone buildings and the mining mill's foundation. Still, we don't see any other people or cars during our time here, and you can imagine the miners in this small town feeling engulfed by the magnitude of the valley and ranges before them.

Pictures taken, we fly down the road to Silver Peak, a speck of a town that is home to most of the lithium mine's workers and little else,



Opening spread: Trucks kick up dust on Groom Lake Road as the sun sets. Clockwise from top: The ghost town of Blair is comprised of several stone and cement structures that stand out among the miles of desert that surrounds them. The Goldfield Hotel was constructed in 1907-08, and was considered the most remarkable hotel in Nevada at the time of its completion. An abandoned and decaying gas station in Silver Peak serves as a reminder of the town's boom-and-bust past.



MEGG MUELLER



ERIC CACHINERO



ERIC CACHINERO

before we take another dirt road that will connect us back to 95 and the town of Goldfield. The road is very wide and graded smooth, taking you through the heart of some of the mining operation's evaporation ponds. We haven't hit the ET Highway, but driving through the mining area is a little spooky, what with the massive trucks barreling down the road toward you and signs that warn of possible sink holes ahead. We proceed with caution.

Goldfield, like Blair, had a brief mining boom plus tenure as Nevada's largest city in 1903. By 1910 it was all but over, but unlike Blair, Goldfield refused to disappear. The Santa Fe Saloon and Motel—opened in 1905—is still in operation, but sadly the famously haunted Goldfield Hotel has been shuttered, and currently isn't offering tours. Still, the town is showing signs of revival;

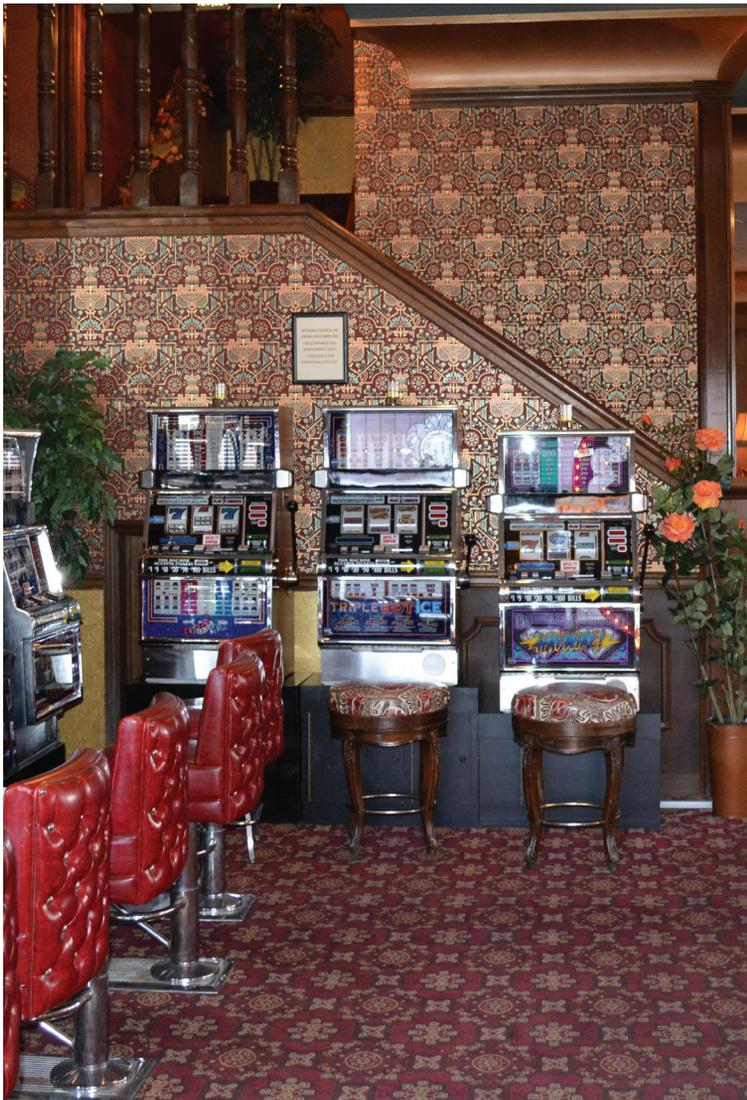
The slight berm stops our car,
however, so we park and hike
up the hill.

trading posts and shops, hawking pieces of the past, have sprung up amid the gorgeously historical buildings. We stop and chat with Bill Vanderford at his eponymous store, and he confirms the town's new life; he and his daughter plan to open a café

onsite in the next year. Vanderford's wares of gold nuggets, bags of dirt that may or may not contain gold, and jewelry lend themselves to the stories this longtime prospector tells as we window shop. Alas, our per diem doesn't allow for any splurges, but Bill is an amiable and knowledgeable host and the stop is well worth it. We wander around, shoot more photos and talk about what life must have been like "back in the day" as we often do.

It's been a full day of driving, photo shoots, rock hunting, and discoveries, and we're ready for our last one of the day; the wondrous Mizpah Hotel in Tonopah. It's a short drive north on 95 to the "Queen of the Silver Camps" and I'm excited to stay the night in this reportedly haunted hotel. The Mizpah—built in 1907—was revamped and reopened in 2011, and it's a sumptuous step back in time. The building is replete with stained glass, rich mahogany, plush velvet, and friendly ghosts. My beautiful room is, alas, not on one of the floors frequented by spirits, but Eric's room is smackdab in the middle of spook central. He seems less excited about his good fortune than I am, but declines my offer to change rooms.

I don't know if it was the insanely comfortable rooms or the food-induced coma we found ourselves in after dining at the Tonopah



MEGG MUELLER



ERIC CACHINERO

The interior of the Mizpah Hotel (top) in Tonopah features some earlier-Nevada décor. Above: Water rushes downhill toward the ghost town of Warm Springs.

Brewing Co. (see page 42), but in the morning we both report no spectral sightings. Next time I'm going to ask for the Lady in Red's room. But wherever you stay here, Tonopah exudes its rich mining history from every door.



ASPHALT, DIRT, REPEAT

To me, Nevada is a living, breathing being; a beauty as wise and seasoned as the ancient objects and artifacts that compose it. And it is through this beauty, that our Silver State marches valiantly on, and by the exploration and protection of this masterpiece that it receives its life. Much like blood cells that traverse the labyrinth of arteries and veins that fuel our bodies with life, our vehicles traverse the labyrinth of highways and dirt roads. Nevada needs Nevadans as much as we need it. It is this symbiotic relationship that fuels my desire to never cease exploring, respecting, and fueling this life force that we are so fortunate to share.

These thoughts swirl as I awake from a much-needed night's sleep at the Mizpah. Maybe it's the traditional Wild West decor that gets my Nevada pride flaring more than usual, but something in me knows I am ready for the road ahead. Mizpah means "watchtower" in Hebrew, but it also denotes an emotional bond between two people that are separated, so it's maybe no coincidence that I feel very welcome within its walls.

With a scant breakfast in hand, we hit U.S. Route 6, destined for uncharted territory for both Megg and I. The drive begins as many typical Nevada road trips: a cooling cup of cheap, black coffee; the mellifluous drone of tires on pavement; and miles and miles of wide open spaces—a scene to which I've become accustom. Only in this part of the state there are even more wide open spaces, so we take our time driving, occasionally pulling our catastrophe of a state vehicle to the side of the road for photo ops.

Our first roadside destination is Warm Springs—a ghost town at the intersection of U.S. Route 6 and State Route 375. The site consists of an abandoned bar and café, a crude swimming pool and bathhouse, and several other formations and structures. The bathhouse sign displays a very rigid "KEEP OUT," emitting a less-than-friendly welcome. The source of the springs can still be viewed, but be warned, it's much too hot to enter.

After a quick drive north and about nine miles of dirt road, we approach Lunar Crater National Natural Landmark. Having not done our homework on what caused the crater (I want to believe it was an atom bomb), we arrive uninformed. We stumble upon an out-of-state couple named Florian Maldonado and Kerry Safford, who—unbeknownst to all four of us at the time—would end up being our exploring partners for the remainder of the day. After



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This page: Lunar Crater National Natural Landmark is the result of volcanic activity in the region. Opposite page: The Chemetall Foote Lithium Operation (top) is the only mine of its kind in the U.S. Florian Maldonado and Kerry Safford (below) stand on the rim of Lunar Crater.

some conversation, we discover that Florian is a research geologist, and is able to tell us how the crater was formed. Here's the rough version: gas and pressure built up underground over a long period of time, which eventually erupted and left a massive crater. After exploring the rim of the giant hole in the ground, we say goodbye to Florian and Kerry and head back in the direction of Warm Springs.

I get goose bumps as we start driving on State Route 375—famously known by its popular name: The ET Highway. We're not on the highway long before we decide to trudge our two-wheel drive Focus off-road in search of a ghost town called Adaven, which—like moths to flame—we search out simply because its name is Nevada spelled backwards.

Traveling back roads in Nevada can sometimes be a very lonely venture, as you can often travel hundreds of miles with-

out seeing another soul. But, much to our surprise, we're not off the highway for more than 20 minutes before we see another car in the distance. We pull up alongside, only to be reunited with Florian and Kerry. After a quick exchange of words and directions, we say goodbye to them once again, and head off into the hills in search of the elusive Adaven ghost town.

The road greets us with some relatively rough going—very easy to find when driving dirt roads with an inadequate clearance. As we come upon where we think the ghost town should be we hear another vehicle approaching from behind. "It's Florian and Kerry again!" Megg says. Sure enough, our new friends decided to search for the ghost town, too. We decide to explore the road ahead with them, in hopes that the dirt road we are on will spit us out somewhere near the town of Rachel, where we are to spend the night.



ERIC CACHINERO



WIKI COMMONS



MEGG MUELLER

We eventually find Adaven, which doesn't really amount to much, save a few modern ranch houses and fields used for farming. We take note of the abundance of no trespassing signs near the ghost town, and decide to keep heading down the road to a vast and seemingly unforgiving expanse named Garden Valley.

Now at this point, I'm hesitant to admit this to Megg, but I'm lost. Not just lost like took a wrong turn and can go back lost, but seriously, have no idea which random road to pick lost. To put this into perspective, we are in the middle of the Nevada desert, roughly 100 miles from any town, with a vehicle that is grossly incapable of handling the roads we're traveling, following a couple we just met, and the sun is setting. Our situation is almost laughable. Luckily, Florian believes we are heading in a direction that will eventually put us on a highway, so we put our

Now at this point, I'm hesitant
to admit this to Megg, but
I'm lost.

The iconic Extraterrestrial Highway sign (below) welcomes visitors to Rachel. The bar and gift shop at the Little A'Le'Inn (right) in Rachel provides visitors with drinks, food, and souvenirs. Opposite page: Associate Editor Eric Cachinero and Managing Editor Megg Mueller pose in front of a fake UFO in their ET Highway attire.



ERIC CACHINERO



trust in him and continue heading into the vastness.

After what seems like hours and just before I convince myself the road never ends, we reach pavement, and I've never been happier to see it. We end up coming out just north of Hiko. After saying another quick goodbye to Kerry and Florian, we find ourselves back on the Extraterrestrial Highway en route to Rachel.

It's dark when we arrive in Rachel, but the presence of the famous town is felt as strong as ever. We head inside the Little A'Le'Inn—the traditional and only place to stay when visiting the closest habitation to Nellis Air Force Range. The building consists of a bar, restaurant, gift shop, and hotel lobby all mixed into one. The room is filled with locals and tourists, all winding down after a long day. We are promptly greeted by a couple burgers and a couple friendly locals, including Rachel resident Pat Jordan, who kindly tells us everything we need to know about the town. Pat has been living in Rachel officially since 2009, but he discovered and fell in love with the town more than a decade prior. Pat epitomizes small town, rural Nevada in his friendly approach to make out-of-towners feel welcome. One piece of advice stands out above the rest. "Don't drive at night, you will die," Pat says. We, of course, heed his advice.

As I'm chowing down on my Alien Burger and listening to Pat talk about the town and how he ended up there, I feel a hand tap me on the back. I twirl my barstool around, only to see none other than Kerry and Florian, who decided to also stay at the hotel. We spend the evening conversing and looking to the sky in hopes of seeing a UFO before we retreat to our rooms for the night.



LAW OF ATTRACTION

Rachel, where you wake up and wonder if last night really happened, or if aliens took over your body. Nonetheless, it's time to pay the pip-

er or at least settle our bill and head out. As we head to the restaurant, our pal Pat is coming to find us; he's got someone for us to meet. We're heading to the Mt. Irish Wilderness and the White River Narrows Archaeological District in search of rock art, and we're itching to get going, but Pat insists; we are so glad he did.

Pat introduces us to Lincoln County denizen and author Bob Clabaugh. Over coffee, Bob not only tells us where to find the best petroglyphs, he gives us a trail guide to Mt. Irish rock art he and his wife Penny wrote for the Bureau of Land Management. What are the odds? It's a great surprise, but wait, there's more. Bob and Penny also wrote two books on rock art—"Sacred Sites: Rock Art of Lincoln County, Nevada" and "Pahranagat Man: Nevada's Mysterious Anthropomorph"—which he gives us as a gift. We get more directions, advice, and laughs, and we leave feeling full despite having not eaten. Rachel gives us more than we bargained for, and it insinuates itself into our bones. Unless that was the aliens.

"Don't drive at night,
you will die,"

Something possesses us as we head out, and our car finds itself on an incredibly straight, ridiculously long dirt road leading seemingly nowhere. We can't resist driving to Area 51, and owing to the fact there is a dirt cloud in front of us, neither could someone else. We continue but we keep our distance...partly because our car is filling with dust at a prodigious rate.

After a long time, and many discussions of whether this was a good idea, we come around a corner and spy a large white SUV on a hill, pointed in our direction. The next bend reveals the locked gate, or more accurately a few specifically worded signs



ERIC CACHINERO



FLORIAN MALDONADO

letting us know further travel would not be wise. But we are not alone; the car in front of us turns out to be a rental with a couple from England who made the drive up from Las Vegas just to see the famed Area 51. What are the odds? We chat a bit, and we all notice the white SUV is now turned to face us again. It's up a hill, and just far enough away the only thing you can make out is two visors pulled down. The signs say photos are prohibited, but our friends ask if we'll take their picture in front of the signs...and get the SUV in the background. Eric quickly obliges, and we all act brave while bolting for our cars.

Back on pavement, we fill up at Ash Springs—the first gas in the area—and following Bob's directions, we off-road it up to the Mt. Irish petroglyphs. It's about 7 miles before we stop, and the car is glad. The road is fine, but there are some healthy rocks and ruts. There are plenty of signs, so it's easy to find the art once you start hiking. The rock faces are impressive alone, but as canvas to prehistoric art, they take on a reverential feel. It's heady to imagine the stories being told thousands of years before. It's estimated the area was occupied from 1000 B.C. to the 1860s.

Next up, the White River Narrows Archaeological District, north on State Route 318. There's a sign as you enter the district, but it might as well have been petroglyphs for all we could glean from it. The terrain is unremarkable and typical; we can't help but wonder what the big deal is. What a difference a few miles makes; we find ourselves amid towering rock formations that mimic a tiny Grand Canyon. Deep cuts, sheer faces, and aggressive outcroppings are everywhere...only in a manageable space. We stop at Weepah Springs to hike into the canyon, because it is there and we need to move. Only the most aggressive of 4WD would make it in the canyon, but on foot it is eerily silent; we don't see a single animal despite the prime habitat and solitude.

We're heading to Lund, a place we know nothing about except we've never been there which is enough. It's our final night, and

go walking in search of photos; the light is doing an incandescent dance, with clouds parting for shocking streams of sun, then slapping back together as if they are curtains quickly shuttered. I feel like I'm witnessing creation as I snap away.

I head back to find Eric's lost a lure, but not his ambition. He reties, and comes up with a small bass. I name it sushi, and he tosses it back, satisfied. The sun comes out in earnest, and we pack up and head to the Lane's Ranch Motel just outside Lund. After our crazy Rachel night, we both admit to being nervous about what we might encounter, but are ecstatic to find the motel has huge, clean rooms, and the diner serves some of the best burgers we've ever eaten. Another gem in the seemingly endless expanse that is rural Nevada, and it appears, the odds are ever in our favor.



RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED ELK

I peel apart the curtains in my hotel room to dull and dreary skies, which are sharply contrasted by the mountain of biscuits, country gravy, scrambled eggs, and bacon that greets me at Lane's Ranch Café. As soon as we hit the highway en route to Ely, a wave of excitement comes over me as I realize we're now in elk country. Between rubbernecking while searching for elk and taking in scenery I've never seen before, a faint, crackly radio station—the first of any substance we've heard in two days—begins to materialize through the speakers. It's a familiar tune that I instantly recognize: Christmas music. So here we are, looking for elk, singing Christmas carols in the middle of November.

We make a quick pit stop in Ely before we begin heading southeast on Highway 50 toward a piece of Nevada history that has been on my places-to-visit list for quite a while—the Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park. About 10 miles off the highway, and just past a sign that offers live buffalo for sale, we begin to see the familiar outlines of the charcoal ovens taking shape in the distance.



PHOTOS: MEGG MUELLER

Clockwise from above: The six beehive-shaped structures at Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park measure 30-feet high and 27-feet in diameter at the base. A Ford Focus climbs a rocky trail in Mt. Irish Wilderness. Associate Editor Eric Cachinero fishes at Adams-McGill Reservoir.

From 1876-79, the charcoal ovens were used to create fuel to power smelters that melted the ore extracted from the area’s surrounding silver mines. The ovens were loaded with juniper and pinyon pines, which were ignited and turned to charcoal—a process which took about 10 days. Eventually, due to depleted ore deposits and a shortage of available timber, the ovens were phased out.

The six beehive-shaped structures are more magnificent in person than a photograph could ever capture. The anomalous stone ovens seem to have a commanding presence over the valley—keeping watch comparable to the Praetorian Guards of ancient Rome. Each structure is as intricate as the next, both strapping and fragile in their stature.

Megg and I are mostly silent as we explore the ovens, taken aback by their presence and beauty. I occasionally break the silence by entering each oven and testing its acoustics by howling out a loud “whoop!” Due to their symmetrical nature, the reverberation is incredible—and if you visit, be sure to check out number three; it’s the best.

We head back out to the highway, stopping at an “elk viewing station” alongside Highway 50, but to our dismay, the elk didn’t much feel like being viewed that day. As we contemplate setting our sights on home, we see a massive rock cliff in the distance that catches our attention, so we decide to go check it out.

Following the rock leads us to Cave Lake State Park—an unplanned stop, but certainly worth it. The beautiful alpine reservoir provides fishing, boating, swimming, and in the winter, the White Pine Fire & Ice Show (see page 53). We don’t stay long, but promise ourselves we’re going to come back and catch a fish, or 10.

And so another stellar road trip winds down, leaving us with a whole lot of Highway 50 to reflect on our journey. That’s the best part about Nevada roadtrips; they’re like chicken soup. They sure do taste great and they’re darn good for the soul. ▀

BY THE NUMBERS

- Number of days: **4**
- Total miles driven: **1,236**
- Off-road miles: Approx. **150**
- Counties visited: **11** (*Washoe, Storey, Churchill, Lyon, Mineral, Esmeralda, Nye, Lincoln, White Pine, Eureka, Lander*)
- Extraterrestrial sightings: **0**



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100 N. Main St., Tonopah, NV 89049
mizpahhotel.net, 775-482-3030

Little A’Le’Inn

9631 Old Mill St., Rachel, NV 89001
littlealeinn.com, 775-729-2515

Lane’s Ranch Motel

State Route 318, Lund, NV 89317
775-238-5246

Winnemucca

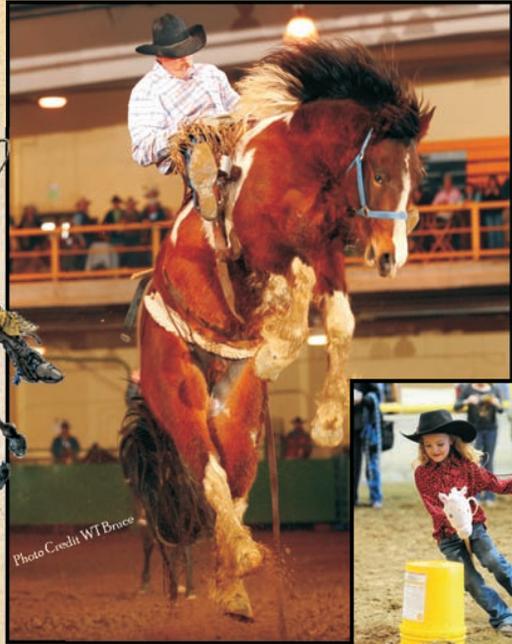
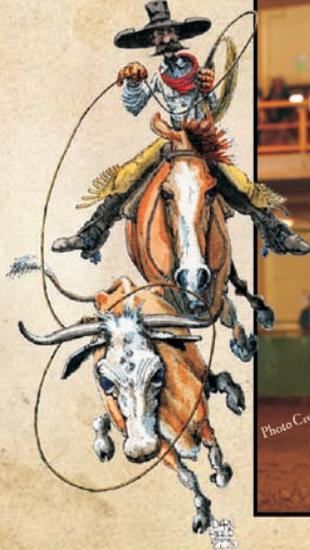
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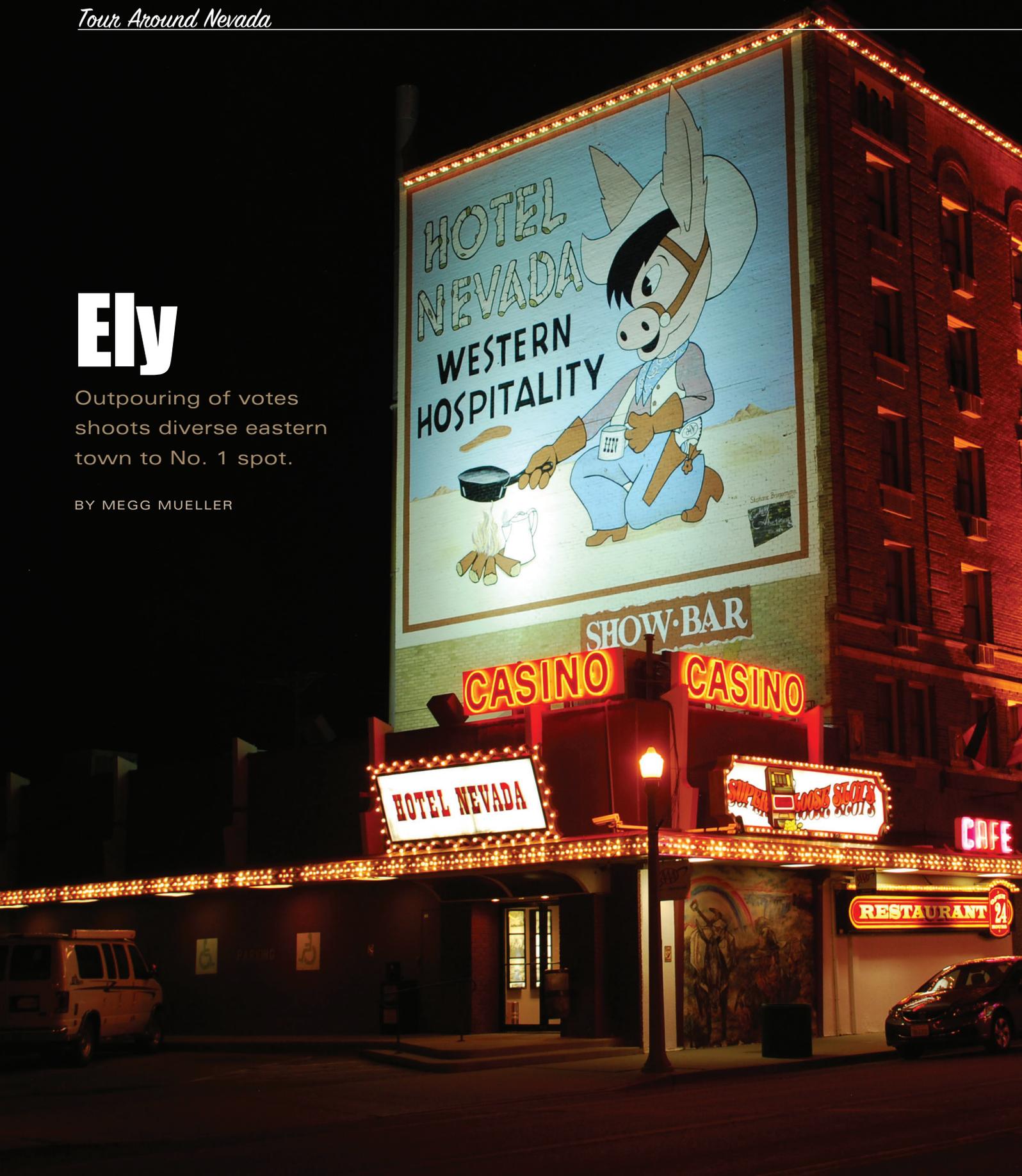


R&B
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Ely

Outpouring of votes shoots diverse eastern town to No. 1 spot.

BY MEGG MUELLER





LARRY BURTON

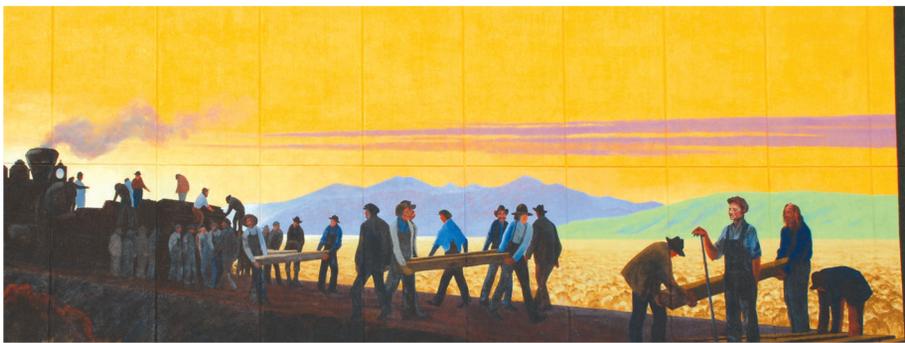
When the votes were counted and Ely was revealed as the first winner of the

Tour Around Nevada 2015, no one in the *Nevada Magazine* office was surprised. Not only did Ely take honors in our 2010 Tour Around Nevada campaign, but in April 2014, Ely played host to the annual Rural Roundup tourism conference which many of us attended. This small eastern Nevada town pulled out all the stops to show attendees just how beautiful, charming, and diverse it was.

Mission accomplished.

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

More than a century later, the railroad is still an essential part of the community—today it serves tourists instead of miners. In addition to scheduled events and tours of the railroad grounds, NNRY offers specialty rides such as January's Fireworks Express, October's Haunted Ghost Train, and the incredibly popular holiday-themed Polar Express. There are numerous other ways to experience the century-old rail cars, such as taking a turn behind the throttle of a



PHOTOS: LARRY BURTON

steam or diesel locomotive, or stargazing with rangers from nearby Great Basin National Park.

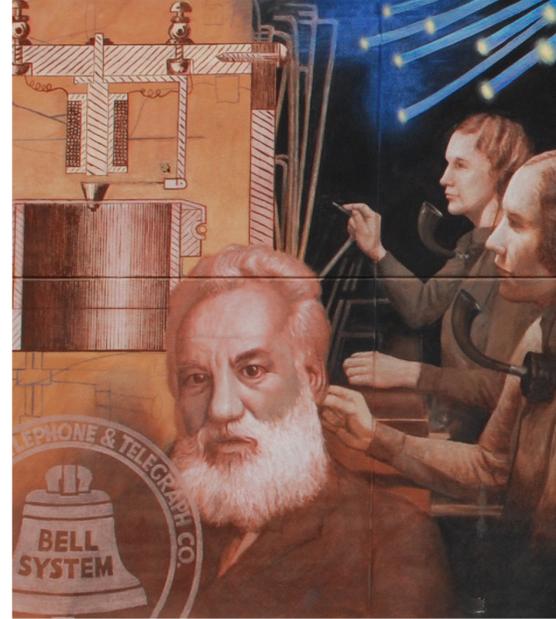
Another reason locals are so proud of their town is the Renaissance Village. This collection of historic buildings reflects the various cultures upon which Ely was built, with such buildings as the Asian House, the Greek House, Spanish House, etc. The village is open Saturdays, June through September, and acts as a cultural trip back in time. This year's annual Wine Walk is July 25, and guests can purchase local artisan crafts and sample ethnic cuisines at each of the houses before a no-host dinner.

The White Pine Public Museum features a model of one of the 12,000-year-old "Cave Bears" found in the area in 1982, along with American Indian artifacts, a historic doll collection, and a cell from the former Ely City Jail. The museum hours are noon-4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, during the winter.

Driving into downtown Ely from Inter-

state 80, heading east, can make even the non-history buff's jaw drop. By the time your head stops spinning from all the 1900s architecture, you've probably reached the historic Hotel Nevada & Gambling Hall. Once the tallest building in Nevada, the Hotel Nevada opened in 1929 and still exudes the feeling of the rural west. For blocks, the early 1900s construction is engaging enough, but in 1999, the Ely Renaissance Society commissioned murals be painted on buildings around town. Along with sculptures, they tell the story of the city's ethnic heritage and culture in a really big way. Today, the Art Walk covers 11 blocks and 29 pieces of art that pay homage to the theme, "Where the World Met and Became One."

The geography of the area plays no small part in the fervor Ely lovers have for the town. Nestled by the Egan and Schell Creek mountain ranges, Ely is an outdoor paradise for hunters, sportsmen, and nature lovers. According to



The Ely Renaissance Society Sculpture Park is the center of the Art Walk. The murals spread across 11 blocks.



**Voted Favorite Town
in Nevada Magazine's Tour
Around Nevada, 2015**



Nevada Northern Railway



The Great Bathtub Boat Races

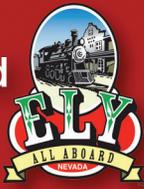


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- * 20+ Murals tell this story
- * Renaissance Village celebrates early life of different ethnics
- * Art Bank shows how artists have interpreted this area for the last century

hookandbullet.com, there are about 338 ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, and reservoirs within 12 miles of Ely, giving ample places to fish and recreate to your water-loving heart's content. Elk are prolific in the area; so much so there's an elk viewing station just 11 miles south of Ely, complete with shaded viewing areas, charcoal barbecue stands, and informational signage.

Need more reasons to visit Ely? Consider some of the comments that came with the votes:

"I have always liked Ely. Maybe because it is off the beaten path and not on an interstate, or because it is surrounded by elk country." – Brian Iverson

"I want to vote for my hometown of Ely...(back in 1938)...great people, attractions and history. From the train to the Hotel Nevada (my Dad was bellhop there)." – Gordon Horsley

"Ely is one of the most remote towns in Nevada (closest Walmart is in Elko 190 miles, one way) and has: Comins Lake, Illipah Reservoir; the McGill Pool; Garnet Hill; fishing; hunting; 18-hole golf course; camping; bowling; mountain biking; cross country skiing; ice skating; petroglyphs; pictographs; horse racing; a historic movie theater; casinos; and Success Loop. But what I love most about Ely are the God-fearing, hardworking folks." – Paula Day

"Ely—so far out, it's in! Great place to see and be!" – Karen Cazier

IF YOU GO

Ely is the eastern-most stop in The Official Highway 50 Survival Guide, produced by Travel Nevada. After you get the guide stamped by five participating towns along The Loneliest Road in America, you receive a certificate. For more information, visit travelnevada.com or call 775-687-4322.

The Fireworks Express. Right: Downtown Ely.



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MATTHEW B. BROWN



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Ely: Ovens and Caves, Fire and Ice

THERE'S MUCH MORE TO EASTERN NEVADA THAN MEETS THE EYE.

One more day. It's something many vacationers and travelers wish they had, but seldom take even when they do. It's no secret that we're all busy, and getting back home a day early can make getting ready for the week that much easier. But staying just one more day can mean the difference between a quick glimpse and a comprehensive experience. So take the time to live your adventure to the fullest, and do something special on your one more day. You owe it to yourself.

If you find yourself in Ely, and you're looking for a couple one-more-day ideas, give one—or all—of these a try:

Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park

Located approximately 20 miles southeast of Ely, the park is renowned for its six beehive-shaped structures. Read more on page 72.

Cave Lake State Park

This year-round park offers recreational opportunities including fishing, camping, boating, swimming, hiking, and more. Read more on page 72.

Great Basin National Park

As home to some of the world's oldest trees, an impressive cave system, and Nevada's only glacier, Great Basin National Park is a majestic Silver State treasure.



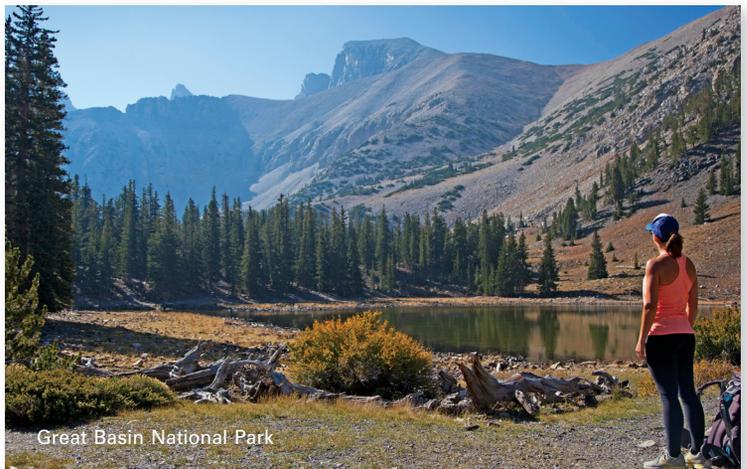
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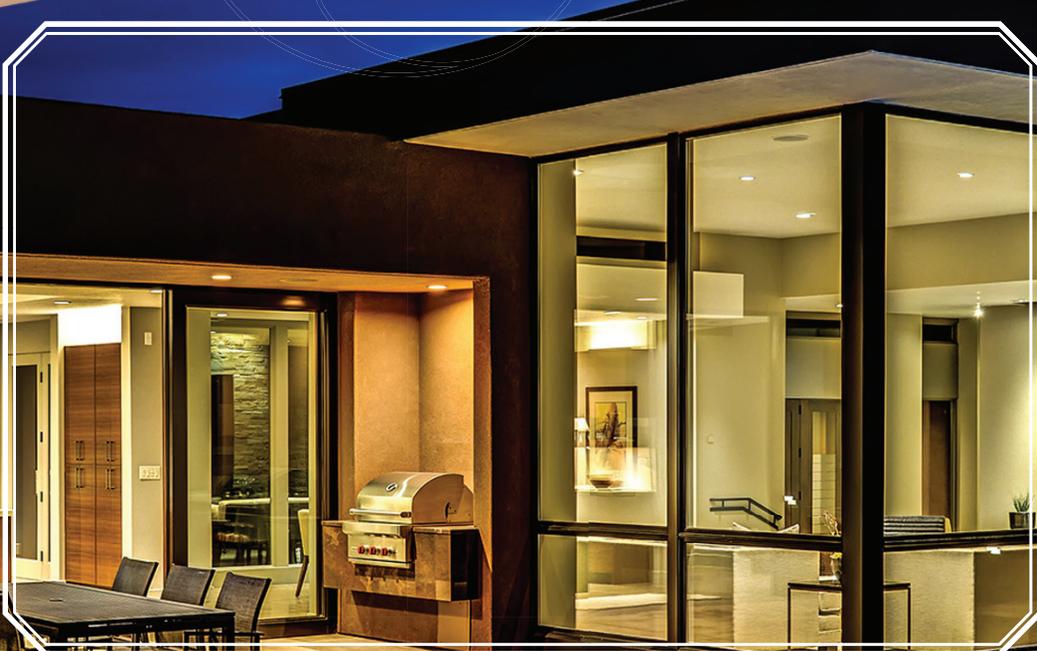
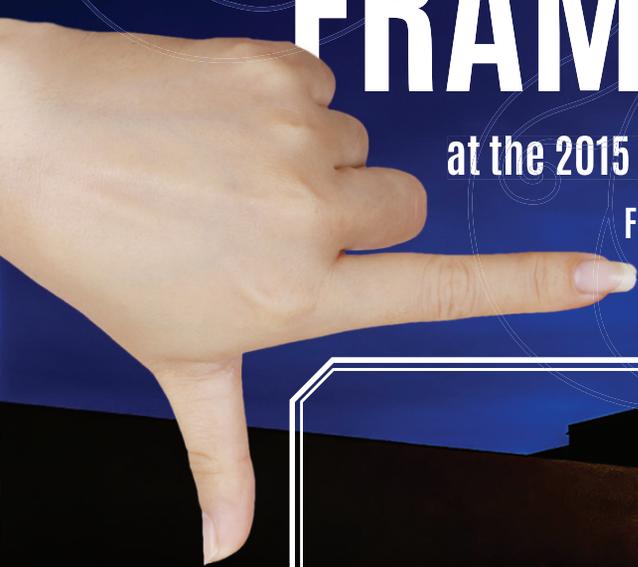
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