NEVADA
MAGAZINE
JULY/AUGUST 2015
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BURNING THROUGH HISTORY
JETPACKS
IN PAHRUMP
MOUNTAIN BIKING
IN THE SILVER STATE
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AUGUST 22, 2015-JANUARY 10, 2016

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Albert Bierstadt, *Twilight, Lake Tahoe*, circa 1870s. Oil on canvas, 37 x 52 inches. Private Collection

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Inside NEVADA MAGAZINE

Up Front
8 Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, Diving at Lake Mead, Artown, & More.

Wide Open
36 Night in the Country

History
40 Valley of Fire

Events & Shows
49 Fourth of July Events
50 Las Vegas Country Superstars
52 Statewide Events & Shows
54 Wild Art

Special Section
72 Tour Around Nevada

In Every Issue
3 Nevada Wide Web
4 Editor's Note & Letters
7 Nevada Map
78 One More Day
80 Then & Now

Cover Photo: Bjorn Burton
The sun sets across the magnificent rusty glow of Valley of Fire State Park.

NEVADA
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NEVADA
A WORLD WITHIN.
A STATE APART.

On NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM

WEB EXTRAS

Wheezer Dell was the first Nevada-born baby who grew up to play baseball in the big leagues. Born in Tuscarora in 1886, he pitched for more than a dozen teams over the course of an exemplary 18-year career. He pitched for Brooklyn in the 1916 World Series, and is in the Pacific Coast League Hall of Fame. Read about how the fastballer got his nickname, what the newspaper clippings insinuate about his short stint with the St. Louis Cardinals, and the answers author David Toll found in scrapbooks created by Dell's wife Eleanor. **By David Toll**

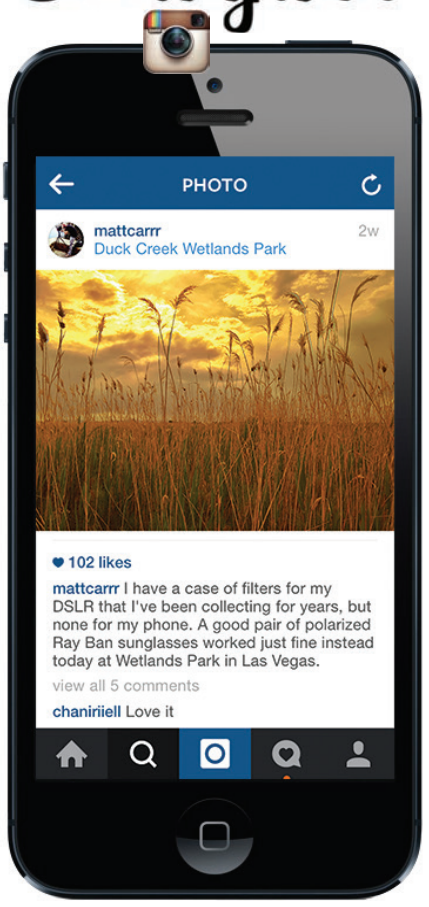
In this issue, we cover some great **mountain biking** trails in the Silver State. Print space confines us but we were compelled to add a few more, plus some amazing news for mountain biking in Nevada coming up. Check it out online. **By Megg Mueller, contributors**

STEVE MORESI

TOUR AROUND NEVADA 2015

Six years ago, 12 towns were voted as your favorite in Nevada. It's time to do it again. 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. Ely, Gardnerville, Las Vegas, Minden, Reno, Tonopah, and Virginia City are not eligible. Only one vote per email address each voting session, and for full rules and information, visit nevadamagazine.com/tour.

FEATURED Instagram



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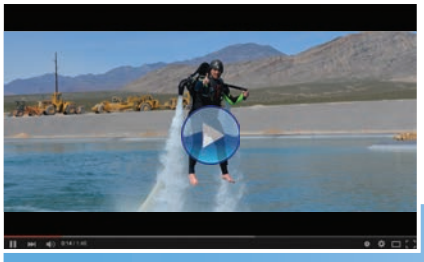

FEATURED VIDEO

Check out the high-flying fun at **Jetpack America**! Visit **nevadamagazine.com/jetpack** to watch Associate Editor Eric Cachinero and Flight Center Manager Chris Wilson show their aerial skills!

Home, Sweet Home!

KIMBERLY BELL

This time last year, I was writing my first Editor's Note for JA14 (The Long Road Home). That's how we refer to our issues: JA14 = July/August 2014. The fact that I can write JA14 without hesitating shows how much I've learned this year. From acronyms to style guides, it's been a heck of a ride on my long road home.

I wrote about Eric, our associate editor, and all his contributions last issue. This issue, Carrie Roussel and Danny Miller each wrote a story. Danny is our senior graphic designer and a wild and crazy mountain biker, so when I suggested he take his turn at the keyboard, he jumped on his saddle and down the trail he went (read that story on page 62). Carrie is our circulation manager; chances are if you're a subscriber you've talked to this incredible woman. She's also a big fan of country music, so when the topic of Yerington's music festival—Night in the Country—came up, she threw her hat in the ring for a chance to write about one of her favorite weekends with her family (see page 36).

My journey home was to my family, and that's what *Nevada Magazine* is for me now, too. Everyone on the staff lives, breathes, and loves Nevada, and brings such a wealth of information to the process of creating each issue. It's a sense of working together to create this very cool magazine that is our binding tie.

As I write this, my first granddaughter Maggie is on a plane, headed toward Nevada. She is just 3 months old and lives in Maryland…for now! But she will love Nevada. Families are a huge part of our lives, and a very large part of this magazine. Our inaugural Silver State Scavenger Hunt is proof of that. There's still time left to get in on this great contest; it ends July 31. We've received amazing photos of people traveling Nevada, covering it from north to south. One of those photos was from Kimberly Bell, who is taking her triplets with her on her scavenger hunt! Now that's a family adventure.

MORE IN THIS ISSUE

Proof you can never judge a book by its cover, we found a world of adventure in the very cool town of Pahrump (page 30). If you think high-flying fun is only found in the city, guess again.

Our first state parks were dedicated in 1935, and on page 40, we take a look at one of the most geologically fascinating ones: Valley of Fire. We visit the fun side of dining libations in this month's Cravings, with a chat with a sommelier at a fine Las Vegas steakhouse; he is a self-proclaimed cork dork, and I think you'll enjoy his take on wining and dining. Read it on page 55.

Our latest Tour Around Nevada winner is on page 72. The vote was clear this time, and there's no arguing with the rabid fans of… well, you'll just have to turn the page to find out.

Megg Mueller, Managing Editor
mmueller@nevadamagazine.com

CONTRIBUTORS

MARISSA **FINETTI**

As an editorial contributor for more than 10 years, Marisa Finetti has penned stories on nudist colonies and Caribbean travel as well as Googie architecture and stand-up paddle boarding. But perhaps what whets her appetite most are food and wine pieces, and those about industry superstars. See more of her work at marisafinetti.com. ■ PGS. 56-61

JEFF **MOSER**

Jeff Moser was born in Carson City and has lived in and explored the area his entire life. He enjoys hiking, backpacking, and mountain biking, and loves to share his photos and stories in the hopes of encouraging others to get outdoors and enjoy our great state.

■ PGS. 62-71

ERIK **MONTVILLE**

Erik Montville has been living in the Las Vegas area since 2001. An avid bicyclist, he's married to a wonderful Las Vegas native who tells him what Vegas life used to be like, and he has two beautiful kids who he plans to say the same to someday.

■ PGS. 66-71

NOW THAT'S LOVE

Love your magazine. I have subscribed for hundreds and hundreds of years. Well, anyway, I'm a long-time lover from Texas of your wonderful state!

Mrs. Bunny Fredericks, Seguin, Texas

JUST CLICK YOUR HEELS

Love my *Nevada Magazine*, and loved your article on Elko and the Ruby Mountains (even if wasn't on page 70). Having lived there, (and having had a one-woman art exhibit at the Northeastern Nevada Museum), I commend you for featuring this special area. We spent many a day in Lamoille Canyon and the Rubies, awed by their quiet beauty. We hiked snow trails and fished alpine lakes as well as pristine, snowmelt-fed streams. If my precious family weren't all in the South now, and my husband were to say, "Let's move back," my immediate response would be, "Wait...I'll get my toothbrush."

Carole Wilson Modlin, Lawrence County, Tenn.

WRITER OF THE PURPLE SAGE

I love reading *Nevada Magazine* and viewing all the beautiful photos. Here's one I took on the Lake Mead north shore road toward Moapa Valley.

David Hardy,
Henderson

DAVID HARDY

WINDS OF CHANGE

As a longtime Nevada lover, I look forward to each issue, which reminds me of past journeys or future adventures. I love Nevada's desert winds. My grandfather mined in Rhyolite 110 years ago and I still feel his presence when visiting the ghost town, where the dry desert winds still blow, just like back then. Gold found, masses arrive, and the desert winds blow. Fortunes made, town booms, and the desert winds blow. Recession hits nation, mines close, and the desert winds blow. Buildings crumble, everyone gone, and the desert winds blow.

Craig MacDonald, Orange County, Calif.

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

Let us know how we're doing! 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.

EUREKA, NEVADA!

Looking for a unique place to hold your next meeting, convention or retreat? Come to the Eureka Opera House in Eureka, Nevada. The Opera House offers historic elegance with full convention and meeting services.

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WELLS, NEVADA
2015 Major Summer Events

July 4 - Wells Town Parade
Kids Fun At The Park
Red White and Blue Golf Tournament
Fireworks at Dark

July 11 - Angel Lake Fishing Derby
Barrel Races

July 24-27 - 28th Anniversity Wells Fun Run Car Show

July 31 - Ruby Mountain Relay

Chimney Rock Golf Course

August 1 - Wells Annual Rib Cook Off
Wells Junior Rodeo Ruckus

The Wells Golf Course, Swimming Pool, and Park Are Open To The Public All Season

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THE SILVER STATE SCAVENGER HUNT

Let the exploring begin! The inaugural Silver State Scavenger hunt is now in full swing, but there's still time to enter. Don't forget to share your adventures with us on Facebook, Twitter, Google +, and Instagram by using #nvmaghunt. Remember, the first 100 people to complete the hunt will receive a free copy of our *Historical Nevada* coffee table book.

We split the state into two zones—Northern and Southern—and chose 14 notable places in each. Simply pick a zone, visit 10 of the 14 locations in that zone, snap a photo of yourself holding the **MAY/JUNE 2015 or JULY/AUGUST** 2015 issues of *Nevada Magazine* at each location, and email all 10 photos to us at nvmaghunt@gmail.com by July 31, 2015.

By submitting your photos, you'll be entered to win one of two Land Rover Wheels Events. The adventure puts you in the driver's seat of a Land Rover vehicle with the chance to navigate some of Nevada's backcountry. Trained technicians will be on hand to assist drivers and breakfast and lunch will be catered.

OFFICIAL DESTINATIONS

NORTHERN ZONE

HISTORICAL MARKER 152	GERLACH
HISTORICAL MARKER 259	THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION, CARSON CITY
HISTORICAL MARKER 51	SCHELLBOURNE
HISTORICAL MARKER 59	STOKES CASTLE
HISTORICAL MARKER 80	EUREKA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
HISTORICAL MARKER 167	VALMY
HISTORICAL MARKER 109	LAMOILLE VALLEY
HISTORICAL MARKER 30	WASHOE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RENO
HISTORICAL MARKER 48	TUSCARORA
WENDOVER WILL	WEST WENDOVER
HISTORICAL MARKER 144	FORT MCDERMITT
HISTORICAL MARKER 219	GLENBROOK
HISTORICAL MARKER 145	UNIONVILLE PERSHING COUNTY
HISTORICAL MARKER 54	WARD MINING DISTRICT

SOUTHERN ZONE

HISTORICAL MARKER 15	TONOPAH
HISTORICAL MARKER 14	GOLDFIELD
HISTORICAL MARKER 206	HIKO
HISTORICAL MARKER 224	KYLE (KIEL) RANCH, LAS VEGAS
HISTORICAL MARKER 56	VIRGIN VALLEY, MESQUITE
HISTORICAL MARKER 249	UNION PACIFIC DEPOT, CALIENTE
HISTORICAL MARKER 97	MANHATTAN
HISTORICAL MARKER 5	PIOCHE
HISTORICAL MARKER 133	FISH LAKE VALLEY
HISTORICAL MARKER 6	EL DORADO CANYON
HISTORICAL MARKER 102	GOODSPRINGS
HISTORICAL MARKER 92	CANDELARIA AND METALLIC CITY
HISTORICAL MARKER 174	BLAIR
HISTORICAL MARKER 41	PUEBLO GRANDE DE NEVADA

FOR COMPLETE RULES, VISIT NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM/SCAVENGERHUNT

PLACES HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS ISSUE

- Gardnerville (pgs. 72, 78)
- Hoover Dam (pg. 80)
- Lake Mead (pg. 12)
- Lake Tahoe (pgs. 8, 21)
- Las Vegas (pgs. 50, 56)
- Minden (pgs. 72, 78)
- Pahrump (pg. 30)
- Reno (pgs. 10, 14, 20, 54)
- Sand Mountain Recreation Area (pg. 18)
- Spring Mountain Ranch State Park (pg. 21)
- Valley of Fire State Park (pg. 40)
- Yerington (pg. 36)

Up Front

Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival

For 43 years, the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival has presented the finest adaptations of the Bard under the stars at Lake Tahoe's Sand Harbor State Park. This year, grab your family and friends for the romantic tragedy that is "Romeo and Juliet." Performances run July 10 through Aug. 23.

Also, for the first time in nine years, the festival will have two mainstage productions; in addition to "Romeo and Juliet," the company will also be performing the world's longest running musical, "The Fantasticks." Both productions will be performed in rotating repertory by a single company of actors Tuesdays through Sundays at 7:30 p.m.

The festival's setting is unparalleled; the backdrop of Lake Tahoe under a summer sky, coupled with tasty dining options or the ability to pack your own gourmet picnic has made this event one of northern Nevada's favorites. Along with the plays, a Monday Night Showcase features such diverse music acts as the Reno Philharmonic, Sierra Nevada Ballet, soloists, orchestras, and more. This year, Summer Encore Showcase performances will run Aug. 27 to Sept. 12.

laketahoeshakespeare.com, 800-747-4697

JOY STROTZ

NEVADA BOOKS

"BLOWING Circa 1868: A FRAWC (Farcical Romantic Adventure Western Comedy)"

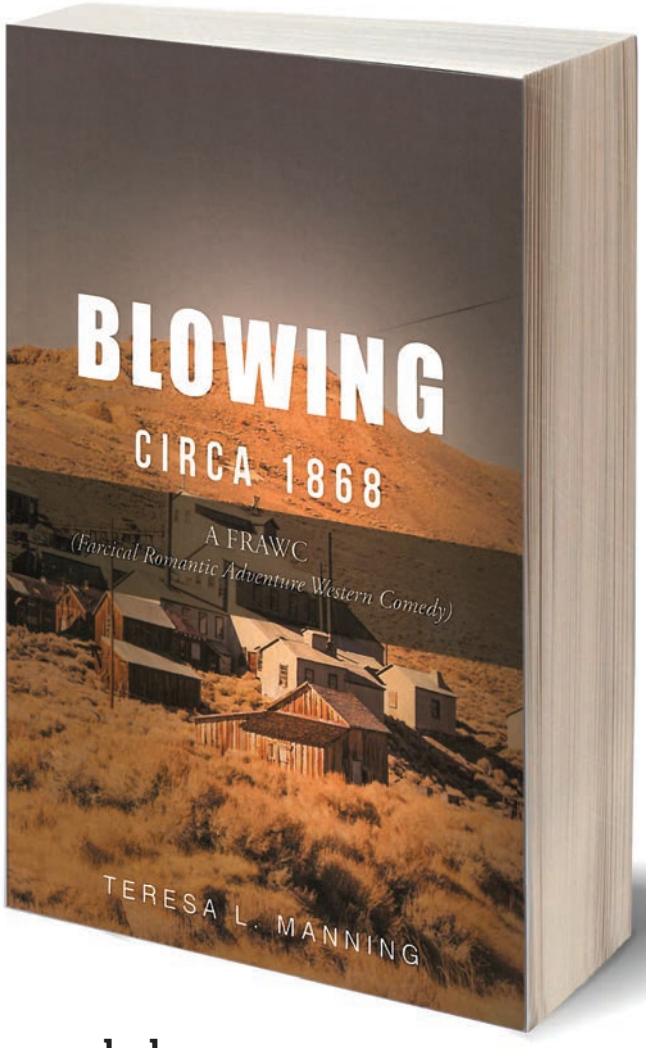
By Teresa L. Manning, Page Publishing, pagepublishing.com, 800-204-6099, 192 pages

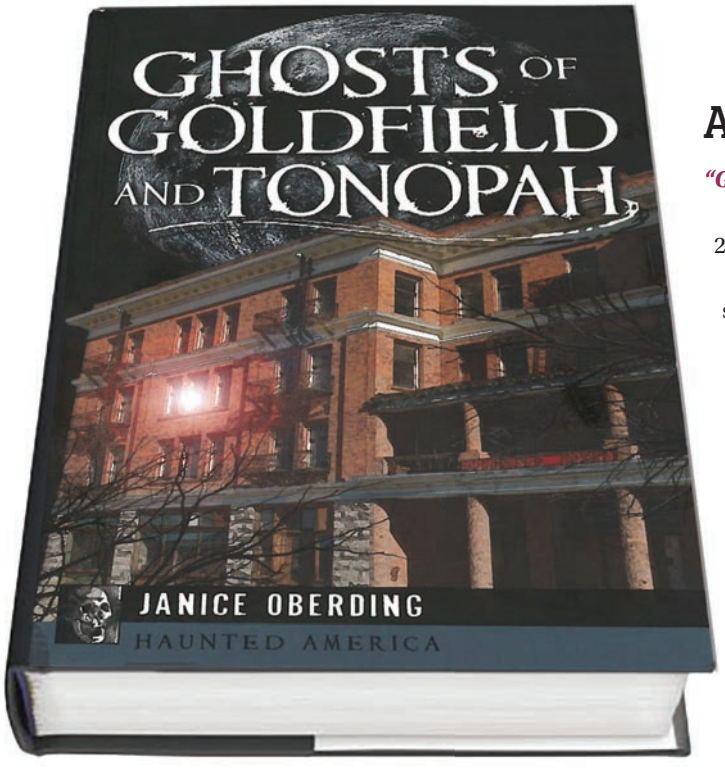
REVIEW BY JANET GEARY

I've heard books referred to as "beach reads" many times and wasn't sure what that meant until I started this book. "BLOWING" would definitely qualify as a book that would be a light vacation read, but one that you were always happy to get back to. What a fun story about two young girls—Rose and Pearl—making their way in Nevada during the years after the gold rush.

After their parents pass away, the two teachers find themselves traveling westward, with plans to settle in San Francisco. However, after a difficult stagecoach ride from the Great Salt Lake, they are bruised, sore, and tired of stagecoach travel. Taking a leap of faith, they decide to stay in the fictional town of Blowing, Nevada, located outside Virginia City.

Author Teresa L. Manning displays a wonderful sense of humor in describing the escapades of these two daring young women and the characters they encounter. The descriptions of their romantic encounters with some of the locals caused several laugh-out-loud moments. I really hope Manning is planning a second installment; somewhere along the way, Rose and Pearl became friends of mine.





Also on shelves

"Ghost of Goldfield and Tonopah"

By Janice Oberding, The History Press, historypress.net, 888-313-2665, 128 pages

Echoes of prospectors, forlorn widows, and politicians linger in the streets and historic remnants of Nevada's former boomtowns. In the throes of early financial disaster, the Silver State had little to entice newcomers, or discourage residents from leaving. Jim Butler's silver discovery at Tonopah changed everything. With a subsequent gold discovery near Goldfield, the rush was on, and from these burgeoning mines, Nevada's early leaders amassed their wealth and power.

Paranormal historian and Nevada resident Janice Oberding shares firsthand accounts of ghostly encounters in the Goldfield and Mizpah Hotels and uncovers the history behind the mysterious cowboy ghost, the haggard hitchhiker, and other eerie local tales.

Battle Born Buzz

South Lake Tahoe businesses, casinos, and lodging—encouraged by the burgeoning economy—are set to spend more than $150 million in improvements and new construction this summer. Edgewood Tahoe Lodge, Harrah's Lake Tahoe, MontBleu Resort Casino, shopping centers, bike parks, and more will invest heavily in enhancing in the visitor experience during the next year. **tahoesouth.com, 800-288-2463**

The **Nevada Northern Railway – McGill Depot** has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Nevada Northern Railway built the McGill Depot in 1910 to serve as the passenger and freight hub for the town of McGill during its days as a prominent center of Nevada's copper mining economy. **dcnr.nv.gov, 775-684-2700**

Reno eNVy celebrated its 10th anniversary in May, and to honor the milestone, the brand created a line of Battle Born apparel. The irreverent local clothing line was started by Scott Dunseath after he sold 60 T-shirts at the Reno River Festival in 2005. Dunseath's shop in downtown Reno is now home to the Reno Visitor's Center, as well as his brand. **renoenvy.com, 775-682-3800**

The first-ever **Fantasy Sports Combine** will be held July 17-19 at Wynn Las Vegas and Encore. The combine will offer game-changing insights and strategies on how to win daily, weekly, and season-long leagues. Attendees can learn tips from championship-winning coaches, legendary general managers, world-class professional athletes, and sports media personalities. **fantasysportscombine.com**

The **Goodsprings Ghost Hunt** was awarded Trip Advisor's 2015 Certificate of Excellence as a result of its consistently positive reviews from Trip Advisor users. The tours include a shuttle from Las Vegas to Goodsprings, a visit to the Pioneer Saloon, a tour of the streets of Goodsprings, and more. **goodspringsghosthunt.com, 702-677-9015**

PHOTOS: COURTNEY CARTER

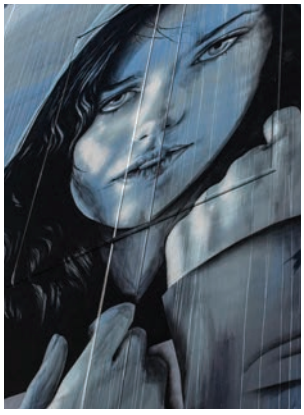
ART

Whitney Peak Hotel creates an art park

Over a three-day period in early May, Christina Angelina created the "Face of Reno," an emotional portrait on the side of the Whitney Peak Hotel's parking garage. To coincide with Reno's inaugural sculpture festival, Christina—an internationally known artist—was commissioned to turn the side of the building into a work of art. She's known for her detailed, realistic murals.

On the opposite side of the building, local artist Erik Burke used the wall to create a mural which he titled "Blueprint of a Mother."

The Whitney Peak Hotel is Reno's only non-smoking, non-gaming luxury property. It is home to Heritage Restaurant, Cargo Concert Hall, and BaseCamp climbing wall. **whitneypeakhotel.com, 775-398-5400**



PHOTOS: WHITNEY PEAK HOTEL

Mother Nature's THEME PARK

BOULDER CITY
Nevada
A world away FOR A DAY

Head over to your neighboring town of Boulder City for a change of pace. Sure, it looks peaceful. But all around town, there are people zip-lining down canyons, waterskiing on Lake Mead, and mountain biking along miles and miles of rugged trails. Just swing by to start flying by the seat of your pants. **VisitBoulderCity.com**

Battle Born Buzz

Silver City Arts is hosting a fine art exhibit on July 18 at the Silver City School House. The show will include artwork by Walter McNamara, Mick Sheldon, Joan Arrizabalaga, Dick Peitz, Gus Bundy, Lucy Nieder, Mike Hess, and many others. Silver City is located minutes from Virginia City in northern Nevada. **775-847-0742**

The first annual **Artisan Craft Expo** will be held at the South Point Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas July 9-11. The art expo will feature 82 classes taught by professional artists and innovative industry leaders on many disciplines. The expo also will offer nearly 50 booths and 20 tabletops in the exhibition hall. **artisancraftexpo.com, 800-217-4527**

Downtown Las Vegas welcomed the city's first **parklet**, a 160-square-foot nature spot. Replacing a single parking space, the parklet is located at the corner of Sixth Street and Carson Avenue. It was built with recyclable materials and features colorful accents, seating with built-in games, and educational information about local wildlife. The parklet was created and built through the collaboration of Downtown Project, Iowa State University (ISU), University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), Resort Gaming Group, and The Nature Conservancy. **downtownproject.com**

The Mob Museum will host a summer camp for kids ages 11 to 14. Called Special Agents of Summer, this immersive and interactive experience takes place July 27-31. Participants will learn about the history and techniques used by law enforcement to tackle organized crime. The camp also will include one-on-one interactions with defense attorneys, prosecutors, IRS criminal investigators, and law enforcement officials. **themobmuseum.org, 702-229-2734**

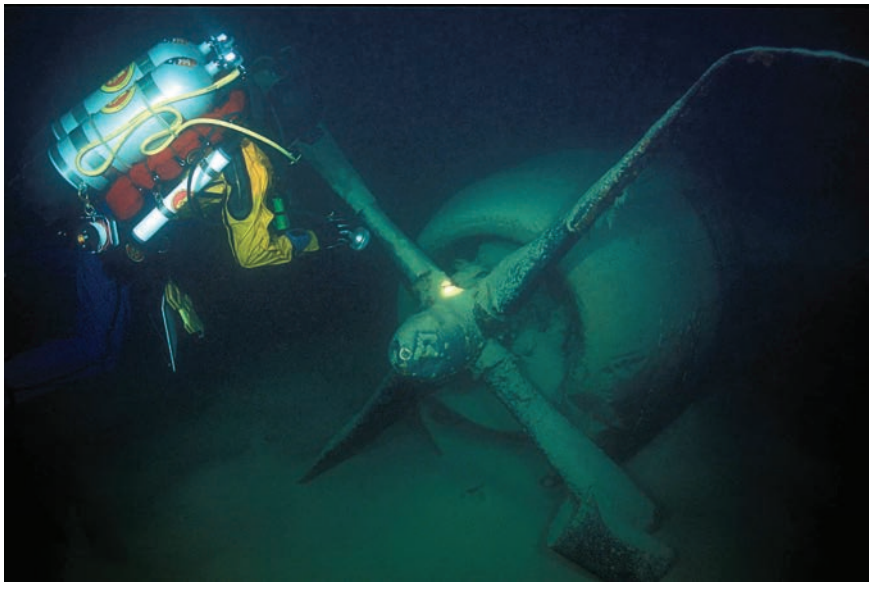
PETS

Take your pup to supper

WILD RIVER GRILLE

Wild River Grille has announced the return of Dinner with your Dog each Monday throughout the summer months. This longstanding event benefits local nonprofits providing services to animals in northern Nevada, including the Shakespeare Animal Fund in May and June, and the SPCA of Northern Nevada in July, August, and September.

Wild River Grille is inviting local dog owners to grab their leashes and enjoy an afternoon or evening with their canine companion on the seasonal riverside patio, while 10 percent of their check will go back to the charities. **wildrivergrille.com, 775-284-7455**


NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HISTORY

Dive for history at Lake Mead

The National Park Service has authorized Scuba Training and Technology to provide dive tours of the B-29 Superfortress Bomber that is submerged 118 feet deep in Lake Mead. The guided dives mark the first time in six years visitors have been able to dive on the aircraft. The plane crashed into Lake Mead July 21, 1948, while engaged in high-altitude atmospheric research. The crew of five survived the crash, but the plane was lost in the depths of the lake. It was discovered by local divers in August 2001. **divetheb29.com, 928-855-9400**

2015 great nevada picture hunt

2014 Grand Prize Winner
Eleanor Preger

2014 2nd Place Winner
Robert Petersen

Attention, Nevada photographers!

The 2015 Great Nevada Picture Hunt is now underway and we've made some changes! For 38 years, we've highlighted the most beautiful images from around the Silver State, captured by local photographers. You don't have to make your living shooting photos; you just have to love Nevada and her wonderful scenery and people. Winning entries will be published in the September/October 2015 issue and on our website.

NEW: This year, we will have 10 categories, we're changing our submission format to Flickr, and we're allowing a maximum of 10 photos per photographer. Photographs for this year's picture hunt may be submitted for the following categories:

- **Cityscape**
- **Rural town**
- **Black & White**
- **Long Exposure**
- **Natural light**
- **Event**
- **Landscape**
- **Wildlife**
- **Portrait/People**
- **Mobile phone**

SEE: NevadaMagazine.com/GNPH

Deadline: Wednesday, July 15, 2015, 5 p.m. Pacific

NEVADA MAGAZINE

EVENTS

Artown For Midtown: The People Project

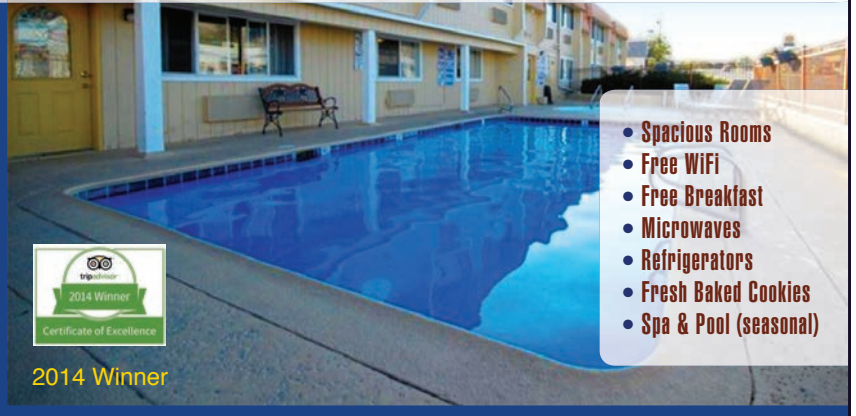
Each July, Reno turns into Artown with a month's worth of music, art, dance, and other cultural experiences; almost 500 individual events, exhibits, and workshops in all. This year, Artown celebrates its 20th anniversary with more than 70 percent of its events and performances free to the public. In Artown's collaborative spirit, a joint public art project has been created this year between Midtown and Artown. The result is Artown For Midtown: The People Project. More than 50 life-size statues have taken on their own personalities through their artists and will be on display at Midtown businesses during July. **renoisartown.com, 702-263-9797**

Battle Born Buzz

The 5th Annual **Aviation Roundup**—held at the Minden-Tahoe Airport—will feature the US Air Force Thunderbirds. The show will be held Aug. 22-23. Also performing will be such aerobatic acts as Team Rocket, Bill Stein, Kyle Franklin, Matt Younkin, Manfred Radius, and Dan Buchanan. **aviationroundup.com, 775-782-9871**

The American Century Championship—aka **Celebrity Golf**—at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Club July 14-19 is offering free tickets for U.S. military. The annual tournament will play host to more than 80 celebrities, from Aaron Rodgers, Charles Barkley, Jerry Rice, Steve Young, Roger Clemens, and Bode Miller to Larry the Cable Guy, Kim Alexis, Willie Robertson of "Duck Dynasty," and Kevin Nealon. For the second year, all active duty, reservists, National Guard, and veterans can receive two complimentary tickets, including one for a guest each day of the tournament. **tahoecelebritygolf.com, 530-544-5050**

The Best in the Best



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GRAND CANYON SOUTH RIM TOUR

- Photo stop at Hoover Dam
- National Geographic Visitors Center and IMAX Theater
- Visit Bright Angel Lodge and Mather Point lookout
- View the widest and deepest parts of the Grand Canyon

~~$180~~ | $90

Add IMAX $15
Add Pink Jeep $99
Add Helicopter $195

GRAND CANYON WEST RIM TOUR

- Photo stop at Hoover Dam
- Experience both Eagle and Guano lookout points
- Visit the Hualapai Village & Hualapai Ranch
- See Native American Dancers and Wild West shows
- View the historic new Skywalk

~~$215~~ | $124

Add Skywalk $35
Add Helicopter/Boat $205
Add Helicopter/Boat/Skywalk $240

HOOVER DAM

HOOVER DAM EXPRESS TOUR

- Photo stop at The Las Vegas Sign
- Up to 2 hours at Hoover Dam
- Government Guided Interior Tour
- Departs twice daily
- Access to the Newly Opened Visitors Center, Museum, Monuments, and Gift Shop

~~$72~~ | $42 Add Heli $99

HOOVER DAM DELUXE TOUR

- Photo stop at The Las Vegas Sign
- Up to 2 hours at Hoover Dam
- Government Guided Interior Tour
- Access to the Newly Opened Visitors Center, Museum, Monuments, and Gift Shop
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- *Includes Lunch*

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- Government Guided Interior Tour
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- 90 Minute Lake Mead Cruise
- Includes Lunch

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Black Canyon River Rafting $145
Bootleg Canyon Zip Line $159
ATV Driving Experience $199
Hollywood Tour $199
Vegas Balloon Ride $275

ATVs traverse the rolling desert hills of Sand Mountain Recreation Area as the sun decorates the clouds above. | Photo By Mario Lopez

A budding spring tree is silhouetted against a pallet of pastel sunset colors at Rancharrah in Reno. | Photo By Kurt Molnar

A man snaps a photo of himself while basking in the sun at Sand Harbor State Park. | Photo By Martin Gollery

Blooming springtime wildflowers contrast an old, rock cabin at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. | Photo By Christopher J. Batt

Facebook Group Choice

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

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

18th ANNUAL READERS' SURVEY

To choose "the best" is a tough endeavor in a state as great as ours. Nevada is home to so many top restaurants, shows, attractions, golf courses, etc...we have just about run out of superlatives. That's where you come in; each year, our readers vote for their favorite things about Nevada. We added some new categories this year, designed to highlight the family-friendly aspects of our state.

Because we're such a large state, we've split Nevada—for contest purposes only—into three areas; North, South, and Everywhere Else, which includes our rural regions and our not-so-rural, but not-quite-urban cities.

Thank you to all who voted, and congratulations to each of this year's winners. Be sure to remind your friends to visit nevadamagazine.com and look for the 2016 Best of Nevada survey in March of next year.

And the Winner is...

C. Fisher from Henderson, NV, is the lucky voter that won the TAHOE SOUTH GETAWAY PACKAGE!

THANK YOU to the following Travel Partners for sponsoring our 2015 Best of Nevada Readers' survey and for their generous contributions to the Tahoe South Getaway gift package: The Ridge Tahoe, Heavenly Lake Tahoe Gondola, Bleu Wave Cruises, Borges Sleigh and Carriage Rides, Hard Rock Café Lake Tahoe, and Tahoe South!

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to all of our readers for voting!

Gilley's, Sparks

Bachi Burger, Las Vegas

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

BAR

NORTH: Gilley's Saloon, Dance Hall & Bar-B-Que, Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks

SOUTH: Fireside Lounge, Peppermill Resort Spa Casino, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Splash, Aquarius Casino Resort, Laughlin

BUFFET

NORTH: Toucan Charlie's Buffet & Grille, Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno

SOUTH: Studio B Buffet, "M" Resort, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Windows on the River, Aquarius Casino Resort, Laughlin

BURGERS

NORTH: Rosie's Café, Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks

SOUTH: Bachi Burger, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Café Aquarius, Aquarius Casino Resort, Laughlin

BACHI BURGER

CASINO

NORTH: Peppermill Resort Spa Casino, Reno

SOUTH: Red Rock Casino Resort Spa, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Carson Valley Inn, Minden

EVENTS

NORTH: Hot August Nights, Northern Nevada

SOUTH: First Friday, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Polar Express, Nevada Northern Railway, Ely

GOLF

NORTH: Red Hawk Golf & Resort, Sparks

SOUTH: Tournament Players Club, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Edgewood Tahoe, Stateline

HOTEL

NORTH: Peppermill Resort Spa Casino, Reno

SOUTH: The Venetian Resort Hotel Casino, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Mizpah Hotel, Tonopah

MUSEUM

NORTH: Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum, Reno

SOUTH: The Mob Museum, Las Vegas

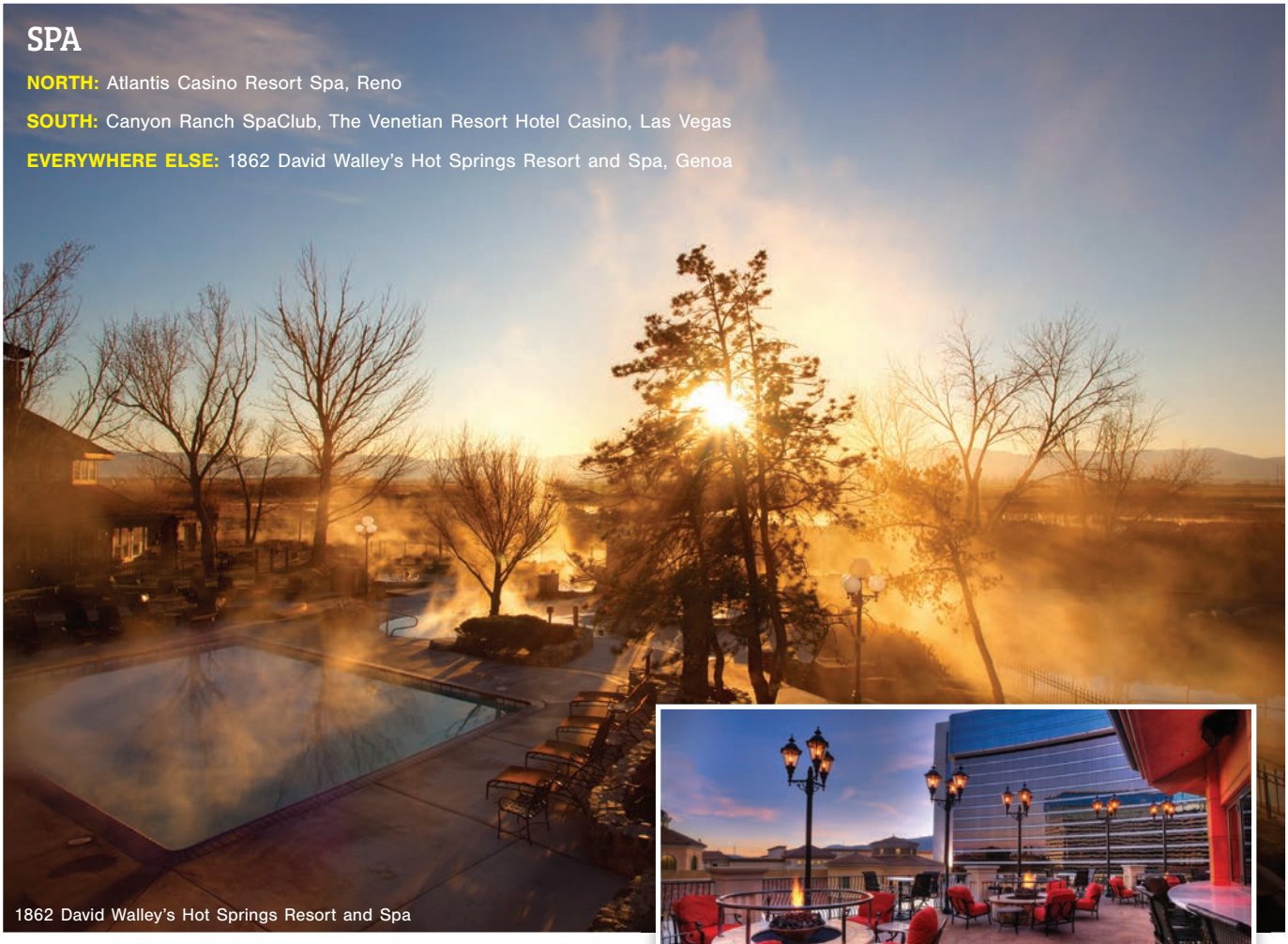
EVERYWHERE ELSE: Nevada State Museum, Carson City

SPA

NORTH: Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno

SOUTH: Canyon Ranch SpaClub, The Venetian Resort Hotel Casino, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: 1862 David Walley's Hot Springs Resort and Spa, Genoa



1862 David Walley's Hot Springs Resort and Spa

Edge Nightspot

NIGHTCLUB

NORTH: Edge Nightspot, Peppermill Resort Spa Casino, Reno

SOUTH: Drai's Nightclub, Cromwell Boutique Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Gold Diggers, Golden Nugget, Laughlin

RESTAURANT

NORTH: Cactus Creek Prime Steakhouse, Bonanza Casino, Reno

SOUTH: Michael's Gourmet Room, South Point Casino, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Symphony's Restaurant, Pahrump

PLACE TO SHOP

NORTH: The Summit, Reno

SOUTH: Downtown Summerlin, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Laughlin Outlets, Laughlin

SHOW

NORTH: Madame Houdini, Eldorado Showroom, Eldorado Resort Casino, Reno

SOUTH: Jersey Boys, Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Night in the Country, Yerington

STATE PARK

NORTH: Lake Tahoe State Park

SOUTH: Valley of Fire State Park

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Cave Lake State Park

TOUR COMPANY

NORTH: Patty's Tours
pattystours.com

SOUTH: Maverick Helicopters
maverickhelicopters.com

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Pot A Gold Stables, Laughlin

WINERY

NORTH: Tahoe Ridge Winery

SOUTH: Pahrump Valley Winery

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Churchill Vineyards

Cave Lake State Park

TRAVEL NEVADA

FAMILY FRIENDLY

FAMILY-FRIENDLY ADVENTURE

NORTH: Wild Island Family Adventure Park, Sparks

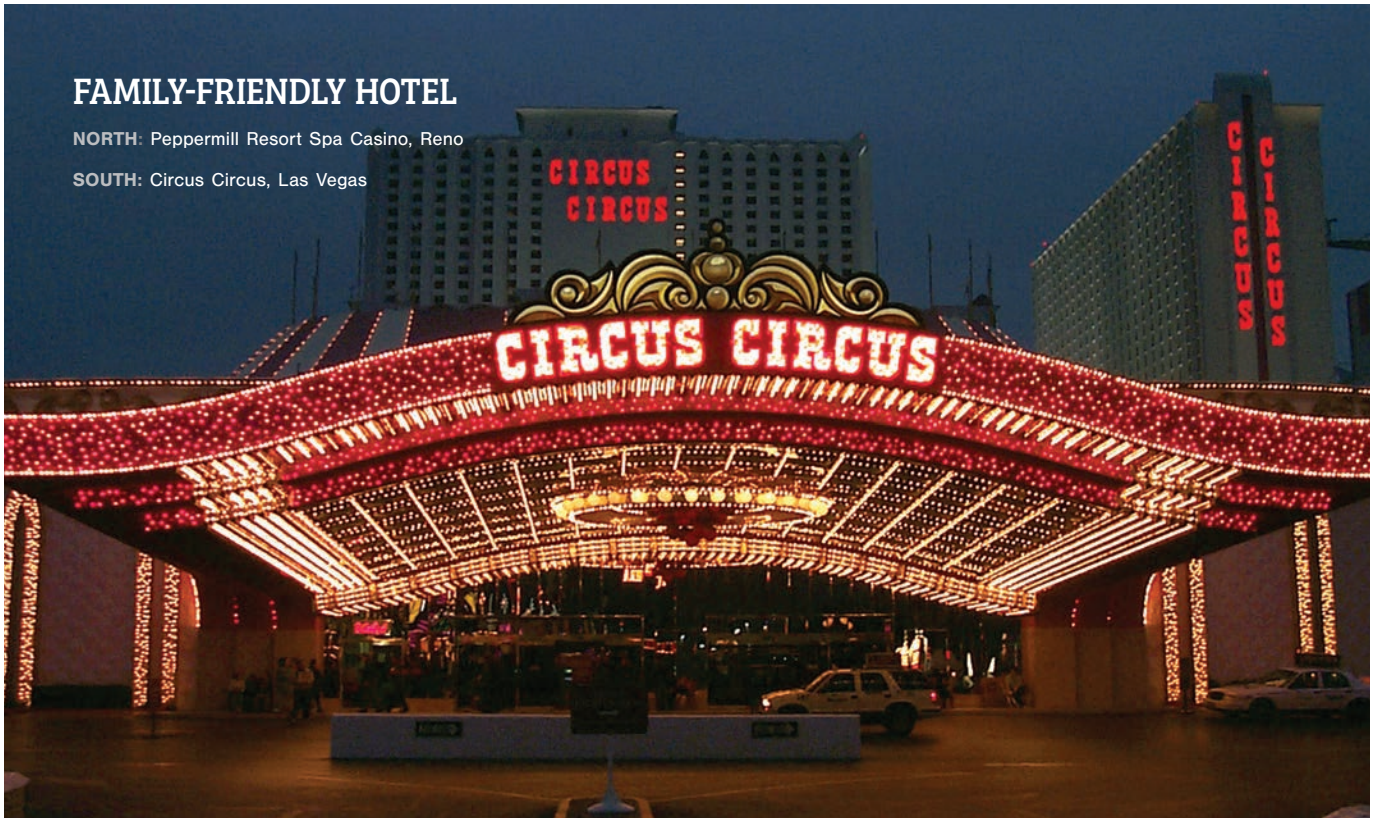
SOUTH: Lion Habitat Ranch, Henderson

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Nevada Northern Railway, Ely

FAMILY-FRIENDLY HOTEL

NORTH: Peppermill Resort Spa Casino, Reno

SOUTH: Circus Circus, Las Vegas



PAUL MANNIX, FLICKR

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NORTH: Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum, Reno

SOUTH: DISCOVERY Children's Museum, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Carson City Children's Museum, Carson City

TRAVEL NEVADA

FAMILY-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

NORTH: Toucan Charlie's Buffet & Grille, Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno

SOUTH: Rainforest Café, MGM Grand, Las Vegas

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Red's Old 395 Grill, Carson City

FAMILY-FRIENDLY SHOW

NORTH: Circus Circus, Reno

SOUTH: Blue Man Group, Monte Carlo Las Vegas Resort and Casino

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Gun Fight in Virginia City, Wild West Shows

Red's Old 395 Grill, Carson City

MEGG MUELLER

NEVADA MAGAZINE'S
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2015

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THE MISSION IS PURE FUN 60 MILES WEST OF LAS VEGAS.

BY ERIC CACHINERO

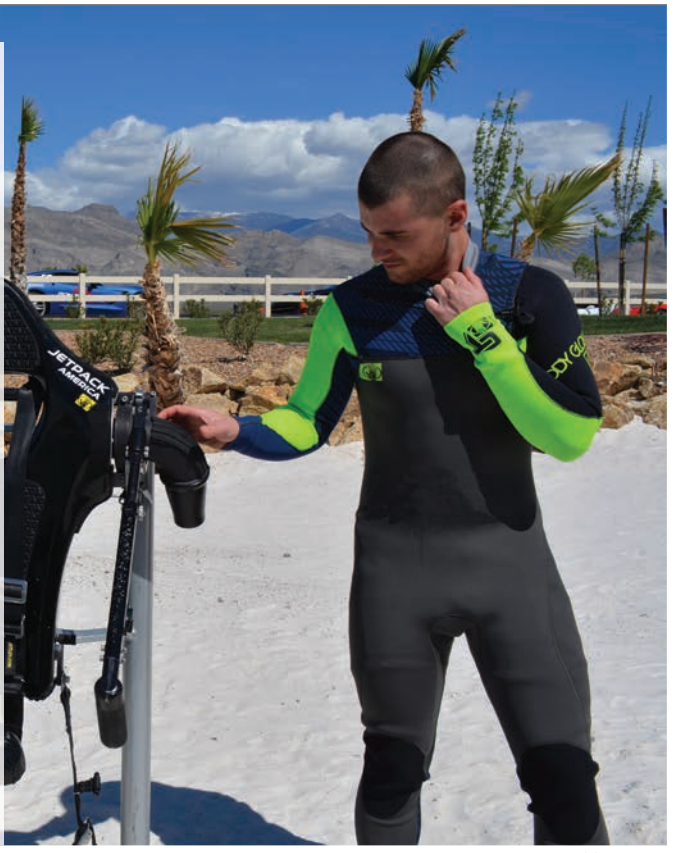
Jetpack America Flight Center Manager Chris Wilson shows some impressive aerial acrobatics while flying over the natural-spring reservoir in Pahrump.

ERIC CACHINERO

Pahrump: the only city in Nevada that will turn you into James Bond after a single visit. OK… while that statement is mostly a silly hyperbole, there is a bit of truth to it. When I first watched the original James Bond actor Sean Connery make his great jetpack escape in 1965's "Thunderball," I knew I wanted to fly like that someday. And when I found out this futuristic technology is available to the average Joe in Pahrump, I was all in. Plus, with two amazing wineries in town, what better way to get grounded after a jetpack flight than a glass of wine—or possibly a good martini (shaken, not stirred)?

Do I have your attention yet, 007?

Of the tens of millions of annual Las Vegas visitors, only a fraction make the hour-long drive from The Strip to Pahrump to escape the casino royales and explore a different side of southern Nevada. Wineries, jetpacks, and even a firearms training institute make Pahrump an outstanding option for anyone wanting to feel like they're in an action movie.



MEGG MUELLER

SKYFALL

I had absolutely no idea what to expect when I first found out I would get to fly in a water jetpack. I've been prone to some broken bones and scars throughout my life, so I couldn't help but wonder if this jetpack would lead to the same perilous end. I was dead wrong. The folks at Jetpack America in Pahrump did a fantastic job of making sure I didn't, in fact, fall from the sky.

Located at Spring Mountain Motorsports Ranch in Pahrump, Jetpack America offers water jetpack flights for anyone wanting to soar above this oasis in the desert. The jetpack facility opened in October 2014, collecting water from a natural spring in the desert. The man-made pond is used for jetpacks and paddleboards, and is complete with a silky, white-sand beach.

In March, I met up with Flight Center Manager Chris Wilson, who showed me the ropes of jetpack flying. Chris fitted me with a wetsuit and walkie-talkie helmet, and taught me a bit about how the jetpacks fly.

The pack receives its lift from attaching a long hose to a Jet Ski engine, and allows the user to control direction by pulling on each of the pack's control arms.

"Be sure not to grip the control arms too tight," Chris says.

The advice turned out to be some the most important I would receive that day, given that my death grip on the control arms was turning my knuckles white before we even got started.

Before I blasted off, my mind flashed to an internet video a friend had showed me a while back, of people on water jetpacks diving like dolphins. Following the same way a dolphin instinctually glides through the ocean waves, the peo-

> "Soon I watched my feet leave the surface below me and I was completely above the water."

MEGG MUELLER

Top: Nevada Magazine Associate Editor Eric Cachinero examines a jetpack before embarking on his flight. Above: Eric gives a thumbs up during his jetpack flight.

ple on the jetpack were diving below the surface and popping back above the water, only to submerge and resurface several times.

I wanted to do that.

The flight started off slow, with Chris controlling the throttle and ensuring I could properly flip myself over in case I lost control of the pack. After that, I was airborne. Just a couple inches off the water at first, but soon I watched my feet leave the surface below me and I was completely above the water. I was surprised at how simple flying was. Being able to hear Chris through my helmet made maneuvering the pack much easier than it otherwise would have been.

"Turn a bit left, alright now I'm going to bring you up a bit higher," Chris tells me through the helmet.

Some small tricks and maneuvers came first: walking on water, flying around the perimeter of the spring. Then, before I knew it, I was flying about 20 feet up and feeling pretty comfortable. Chris brought me back down so I could attempt to dive like a dolphin. I would say the maneuver was half successful, as I was submersed one or two times before painlessly—and very ungracefully—losing control and wiping out underwater.

My solo ride was a blast. All in all, I did feel like James Bond and a superhero while I was flying, but there's one more popular culture character I certainly cannot leave out. I'm not entirely sure Marvin the Martian ever did have a jetpack, but I sure felt like him. The helmet and neon green on my wetsuit sealed the deal.

Jet Pack America offers many different flight time packages. They also offer tandem rides so children as young as five can act like their favorite superhero. Chris told me they've flown people in their 80s, as well as people with disabilities.

JETPACK AMERICA

ERIC CACHINERO

Left: The flight center offers white, sandy beaches and cool, blue water, great for jetpacks, paddleboards, and sunbathing. Above: Flight Center Manager Chris Wilson blasts off while demonstrating some of his jetpack moves. Opposite page: Pahrump Valley Winery houses an in-house restaurant and wine-tasting room.

PHOTOS: ERIC CACHINERO

MEGG MUELLER

FROM NEVADA WITH LOVE

I was tired and hungry by the time we reached Pahrump Valley Winery, yet excited all the same to finally be visiting a place I've heard so much about. Plus, what's better than wine tasting and excellent food when you're tired and hungry?

We were greeted by our gracious host for the evening: Pahrump Valley Winery Owner and Winemaker Gretchen Loken. Gretchen and her husband Bill took over the winery in 2003, proving that tasty, award-winning (60, to be exact) wines can be made in the desert.

Gretchen gave us the grand tour, walking us through the budding vineyards and spacious event area before bringing us to where the real magic happens: the winery. "One of the most rewarding parts about winemaking is that I'm still learning more every single day," Gretchen said while she gazed up at a massive wall of charred-oak wine barrels.

There's something inherently unique about the smell of a room that is used to make wine, the scent is personally one of my favorites. Cold, damp, bitter, woody; you know the smell. After Gretchen told us more about the winemaking process, we decided to taste for ourselves.

It would have been borderline blasphemous for me not to try wines made from 100 percent Nevada grapes. Barbera, red, floral, citrus, plum, nose, Syrah, tannin; the terminology and adjectives were somewhat overwhelming. I'm not going to pretend to be a wine snob, but I can attest that for someone with a relatively scant knowledge of wine, every sip I tried was darn delicious.

After being properly educated on the finer points of Nevada wines, it was time for dinner. The upscale casual in-house restaurant—Symphony's—is open daily for lunch and dinner, serving seafood, pasta, sandwiches, steaks, and everything in between.

We had our fill of Black Angus steaks and Nevada wine, and departed to our hotel for the night. Even though we'd had quite a day in this desert oasis, it felt like we had barely scratched the surface. There is one thing we learned for certain, though: Pahrump is well suited for both British Secret Service agents and the casual out-of-towner.

Pahrump Valley Winery Owner and Winemaker Gretchen Loken offers up tastes of the winery's many delicious wines.

ERIC CACHINERO

FLY AND DINE

Jetpack America
Spring Mountain Motorsports Ranch
3601 State Route 160
Pahrump, NV 89048
springmountainmotorsports.com, 775-727-6363

Pahrump Valley Winery
3810 Winery Rd.
Pahrump, NV 89048
pahrumpwinery.com, 775-751-7800

ONE WINERY IS NOT ENOUGH

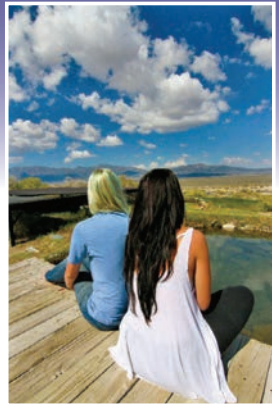
Having one winery in Pahrump is impressive, but two? In 1988, owner Jack Sanders created Sanders Family Winery, which has grown into a Renaissance Tuscan-style winery, visitor center, and performing arts amphitheater. Sanders Family Winery offers educational tours, tastings, and can cater to large parties, weddings, and tour groups. **sanderswinery.com, 775-727-1776**

THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN

Staying true to the James Bond theme, Pahrump also is home to Front Sight Firearms Training Institute—one of the leading firearms and self-defense schools in the country. The institute offers a multitude of firearms training courses, including defensive handgun, tactical shotgun, precision rifle, and even martial arts courses. A rope and rappel facility also allows guests to climb up, over, and all around obstacles, and even speed down 1,000-foot zip lines. Courses must be reserved in advance by visiting **frontsight.com**, or by calling **800-987-7719**.

Visit **nevadamagazine.com/jetpack** to see videos of Eric Cachinero and Chris Wilson during their jet pack flights.

AUSTIN, NEVADA:
Austin, Oh I Love Austin...



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The Band Perry

Night in the Country Music Festival:

First-Timer's Guide

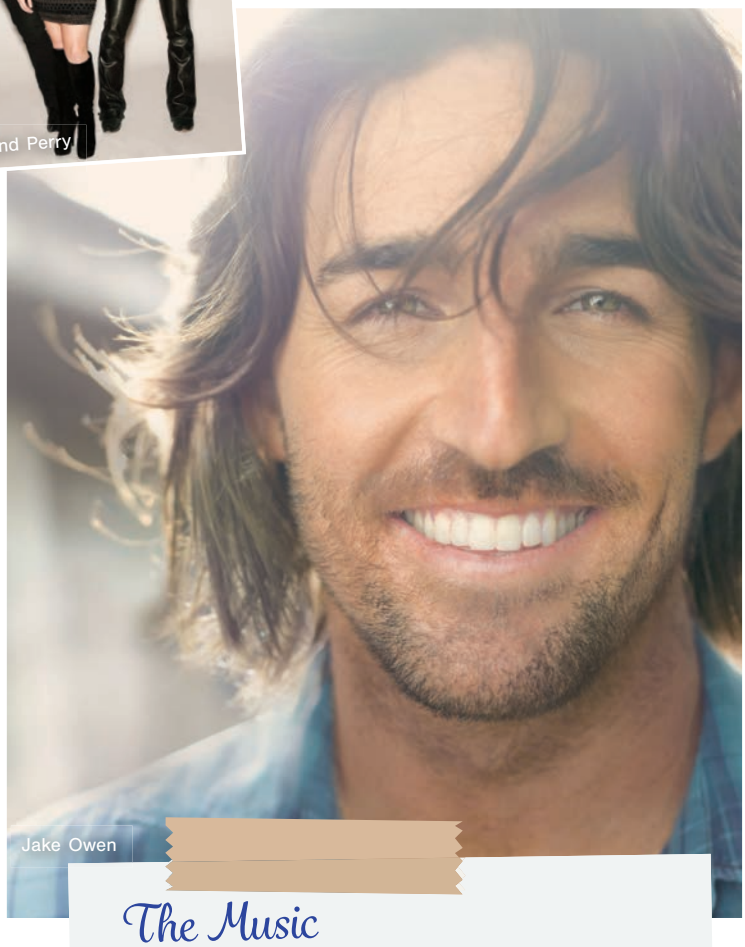
CAMPING, COUNTRY TUNES, AND CRAZY TIMES RULE AT ANNUAL EVENT.

BY CARRIE ROUSSEL

If you love country music and you live in Nevada, you've probably already heard about northern Nevada's Night in the Country Music Festival (NITC). For those not yet in the know, hang on to your hats, because we're here to fill you in.

The three-day music festival started in 2002 with just 900 attendees and has grown every year since. With an expected crowd of more than 30,000 fans this year, NITC is once again slated to be Nevada's second largest rural event behind Burning Man; it's also the longest-running country music festival in Nevada, attracting visitors from more than 36 states. This year's event is July 23-25 and will again be held at the Lyon County Fairgrounds in Yerington. The festival is produced by the Boys & Girls Club of Mason Valley and is the organization's largest fundraiser.

This year's event will offer up its biggest music lineup ever, so you won't want to miss a moment. Check out these tips on how to make *your* night in the country perfect.



Jake Owen

The Music

The kick-off party starts at 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, at the Full Moon Saloon—the event's second stage—which also hosts the all-night after party for those willing and able to play until the sun comes up.

Five acts will take the main stage each night this year. Music starts at 4 p.m. with opening acts that include Parmalee, Old Dominion, Joe Nichols, and more. The crowd is sure to be revved and ready for Friday night's headliner The Band Perry and Saturday night's Jake Owen. So y'all better be ready for a "barefoot blue jean night."

Tickets range from two-day general admission to Superfan, VIP, and Club 149 options, each with perks; the best offers include access to an air-conditioned tent serving gourmet food and drinks with the possibility of meeting every band member and artist on the bill.

The Digs

Two camping options—the huge Party-Zone campground and the more reserved Quiet & Family campground—are available. Be warned; tickets and campsites sell like hotcakes on the open trail, so make sure to purchase early for 2016 (sales start on-site July 25 for those attending this year's event with general online sales following not long after).

While this is definitely an adult event, it's also kid friendly. The quiet-zone camping will let you get some shuteye between shows, and there's enough room for kids to spin and twirl to the music. As with anything, keep a close eye on your little ones, ensure they have enough food and water to keep them powered up for the fun, and know that not everyone is watching out for youngsters. Many attendees await this annual event to let loose and get wild; it's possible your kids may take in more than you imagined. If you are prepared for it, however, then break out the little cowboy boots and hats and get ready for the fun.

Weather

Mid-July in northern Nevada is absolutely perfect for an outdoor country music festival and cut-off jean shorts. Evenings cool to perfection, and if you're dancing up a storm you're sure to keep plenty warm. Daytime temperatures can be quite toasty with that desert sun beating down, so stay well hydrated (we're talking water here, folks), and find shelter in the shade of your campsite or a big hat.

PHOTOS: NIGHT IN THE COUNTRY

Dining

If you're camping, bring supplies to last the weekend, but know that restaurants and grocery stores are available in Yerington and the locals welcome the boost to the economy. New this year, breakfast will be available to the general public at the Full Moon Saloon on Saturday morning from 9-11 a.m. Purchase includes a drink and a plate of hot breakfast food. Or, go the VIP ticket route and you get catered dinner from 4-8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, plus Rise & Shine breakfast on Saturday from 9-11 a.m.

Extras

- Extreme Bull Riding: noon until 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 25 (tickets sold separately but included in VIP package).
- Full Moon Saloon is the all-night party venue; don't miss it!
- Showers, ice, food, and drinks for sale onsite.

Trivia

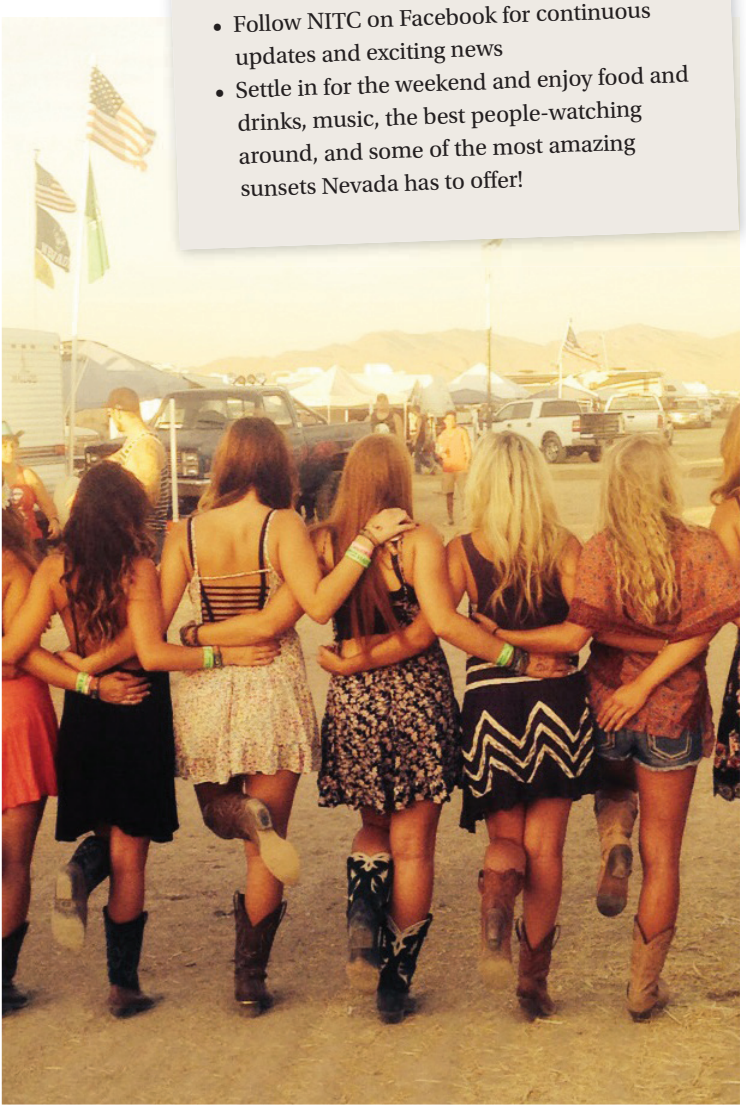
1. When did the event start?
2. How far is Yerington from Reno?
3. From Las Vegas?
4. What was the first year camping was allowed?
5. What year did superstar Blake Shelton headline?
6. How much of the Boys and Girls Club of Mason Valley budget comes from NITC?

Answers

Trivia Answers: **1.** 2002 **2.** 80 miles **3.** 370 miles **4.** 2007 **5.** 2010 **6.** 25 percent

To-Do

- Buy tickets early
- Reserve a campsite
- Follow NITC on Facebook for continuous updates and exciting news
- Settle in for the weekend and enjoy food and drinks, music, the best people-watching around, and some of the most amazing sunsets Nevada has to offer!

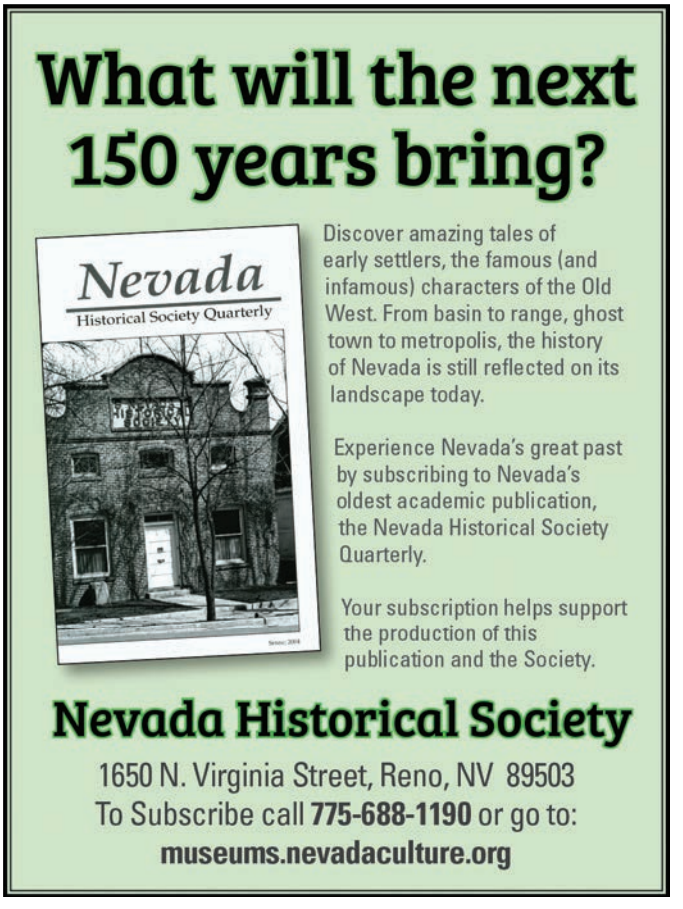


DETAILS

Night in the Country Music Festival
nightinthecountry.org
775-463-5114

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Mason Valley
bgcmasonvalley.org

PHOTOS: NIGHT IN THE COUNTRY

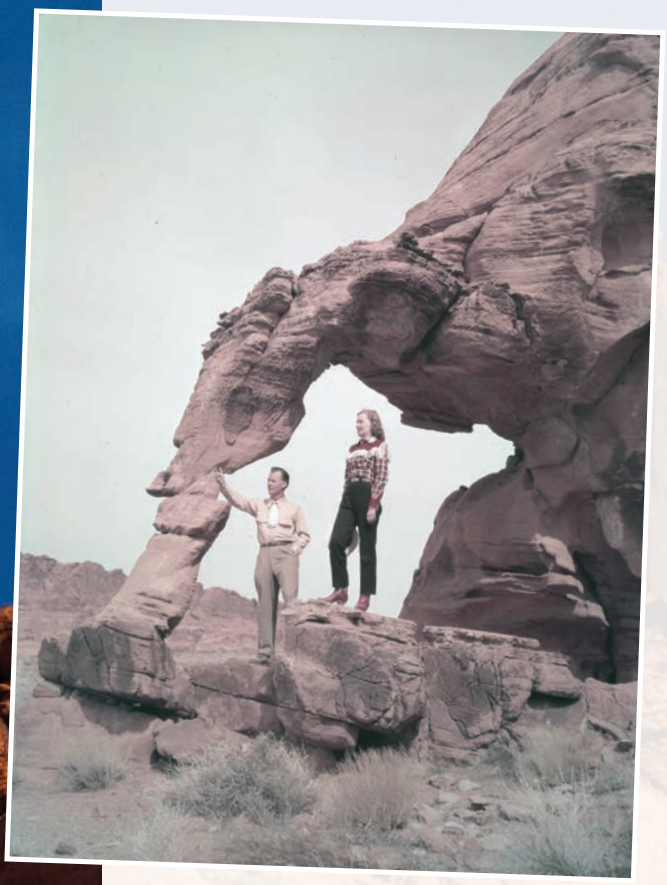


The Spark that Ignited a Valley of Fire

THE BEAUTY OF THIS NEVADA STATE PARK BURNS BRIGHT.

PAULA GESSLER

Left: Arches are among the many impressive geological features that comprise Valley of Fire State Park. Below: The park has been aweing visitors through the ages, as exemplified in this historical photo.

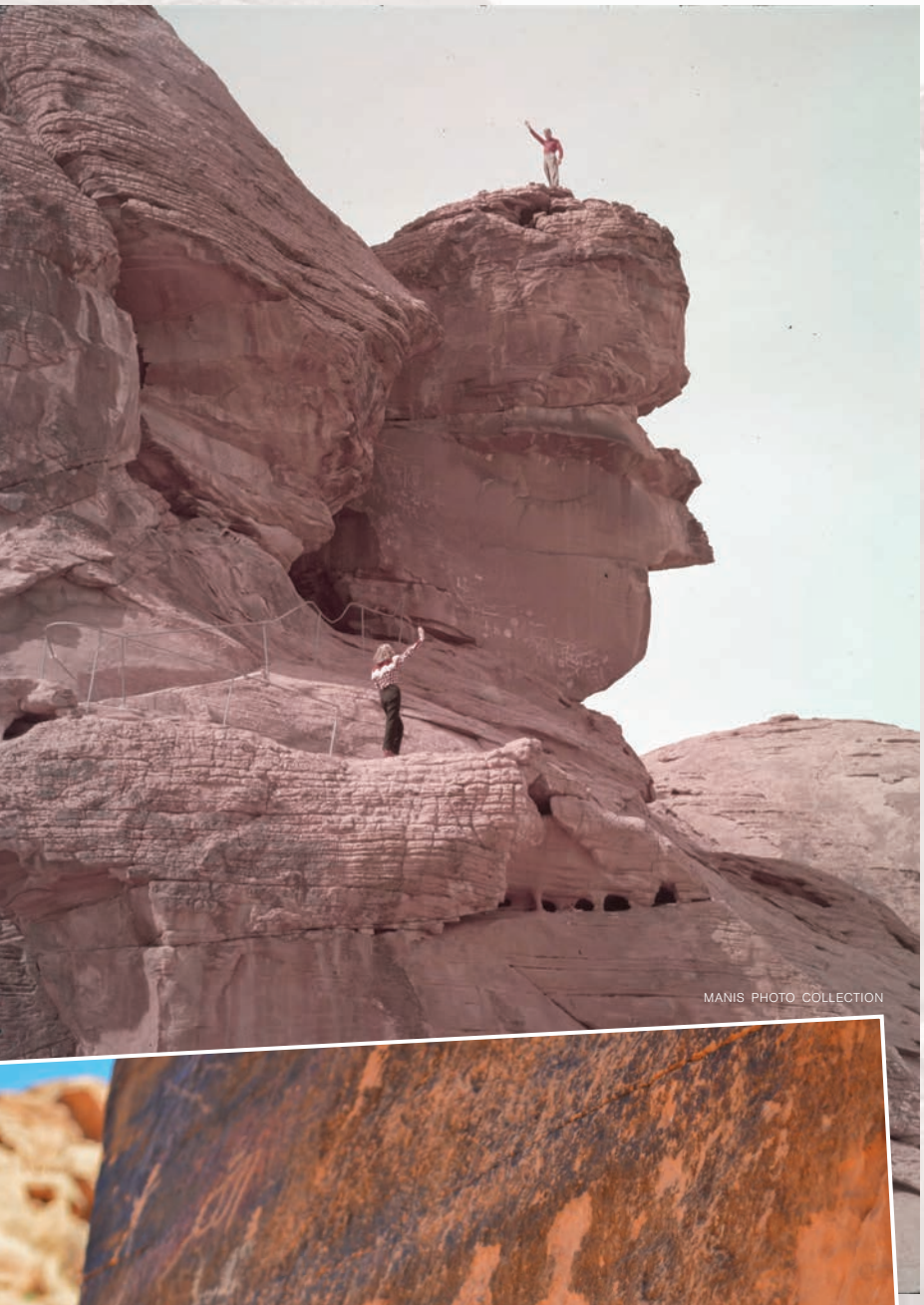


MANIS PHOTO COLLECTION

BY ERIC CACHINERO

Fire is a truly wondrous element. It can be used to heat, cook, forge, ignite, power, illuminate, and even sustain life. But it's not flames that light up Nevada's first state park, rather millions of years of geologic activity that gives the landscape its rusty glow.

Valley of Fire State Park—located some 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas—stands out as some of the most remarkable geological features in the state. The park's beauty is undisputed by those who've had the pleasure of setting foot upon the magnificent, yet unforgiving country. The area is little changed from the times when ancient Nevadans and travelers documented their experiences via petroglyphs on the canyon walls.



MANIS PHOTO COLLECTION

ERIC CACHINERO

SAND TO SPARK

When dinosaurs roamed the lands that would eventually become Nevada 150 million years ago, Valley of Fire began to form. Great shifting sand dunes swirled and collected in the area, before other minerals and pressure combined to create the red, pink, orange, tan, and white sandstone that the park has become known for. After millions of years, complex uplifting, faulting, and erosion carved crevices, arches, and myriad other distinct formations, giving Valley of Fire its famous features. In fact, quite ironically, it's this erosion caused by water that had more to do with giving the appearance of fire than did flames.

According to Nevada State Parks, the region was visited by Basket Maker people and later the Anasazi Pueblo—and the evidence lingers. Ambiguous artistic etchings line many of the park's sandstone walls, showing ancient evidence of hunting that occurred in the area. Because of the lack of water in the region, prolonged habitation is doubtful, although hunting, food gathering, and religious ceremonies are believed to have taken place in Valley of Fire from 300 B.C. to 1150 A.D.

STOKING THE FLAMES

It wasn't until the mid-1930s, however, that Valley of Fire gained its official designation. In conjunction with the National Park Service, the Civilian Conservation Corps built the park's first roads and campground facilities (cabins still remain in the park today). According to Valley of Fire Park Ranger Chris Johnson, this was followed by an early dedication of Boulder Dam-Valley of Fire State.

"It was prematurely dedicated on Easter Sunday 1934 by local citizens," Chris says.

What resulted was the official creation of Boulder Dam-Valley of Fire State Park on March 26, 1935. Though Nevada's first four state parks (Beaver Dam State Park, Cathedral Gorge State Park, Kershaw-Ryan State Park, and Valley of Fire State Park) were established by concurrent legislation, Valley of Fire has long been recognized as the first because of its premature designation.

Top left: In this historical photo, two people wave to each other while standing atop Atlatl Rock. Left: Petroglyphs can be found in many different locations throughout the park, and relay messages from past visitors.

A road winds through the rocky terrain of Valley of Fire State Park. Though roads lead visitors to many of the park's most incredible features, miles of hiking trails exist for those wishing to stick to the dirt path.

ANDERS SORENSON

BURNING THROUGH THE DECADES

In the decades since its inception, Valley of Fire has ignited its way to national attention. The park has become a popular destination for shooting music videos and films, including "Transformers," "Total Recall," and "Star Trek Generations," where Captain Kirk fell to his death inside the park.

The 1966 Burt Lancaster Western "The Professionals" was also filmed in the park, and a wooden shack frame—pieces of the original movie set—remains for visitors to see. The scene took place in an area now referred to as White Domes—a remarkable display of vibrant sandstone, slot canyons, and caves. Chris explains that, in some instances, film production in the park has lent itself to the overall design of the park.

"The film was actually responsible for much of the initial creation of the road," he says.

ERIC CACHINERO

BJORN BURTON

ERIC CACHINERO

CONTEMPORARY COMBUSTION

The park has many features that set it apart from the miles of surrounding desert. Atlatl Rock shows an outstanding example of well-preserved petroglyphs, featuring an early depiction of an atlatl—a notched stick used to throw primitive spears. Elephant Rock is pretty much exactly what it sounds like—a rock that looks like an elephant. From the correct angle, the arch looks like an elephant's head, trunk, and body were turned to stone by Medusa herself. Fire Canyon is a must see while visiting Valley of Fire. The deep-red sandstone is contrasted by the off-white colors of the adjacent Silica Dome.

In addition to the geological features, Valley of Fire offers group-use areas, picnic areas, and a visitor's center complete with gift shop and museum. The park has two campgrounds, which hold a combination of primitive sites and RV sites and are available seasonally on a first-come, first-served basis. Several hiking trails are also available, but be sure to check with the visitor's center before embarking. True to its name, Valley of Fire summer temperatures can exceed 120 degrees. Come prepared if hiking or camping.

"Roadrunners, coyotes, and lizards are pretty common," Chris says. "It's also not uncommon to see a desert kit fox rummaging in the campgrounds at night."

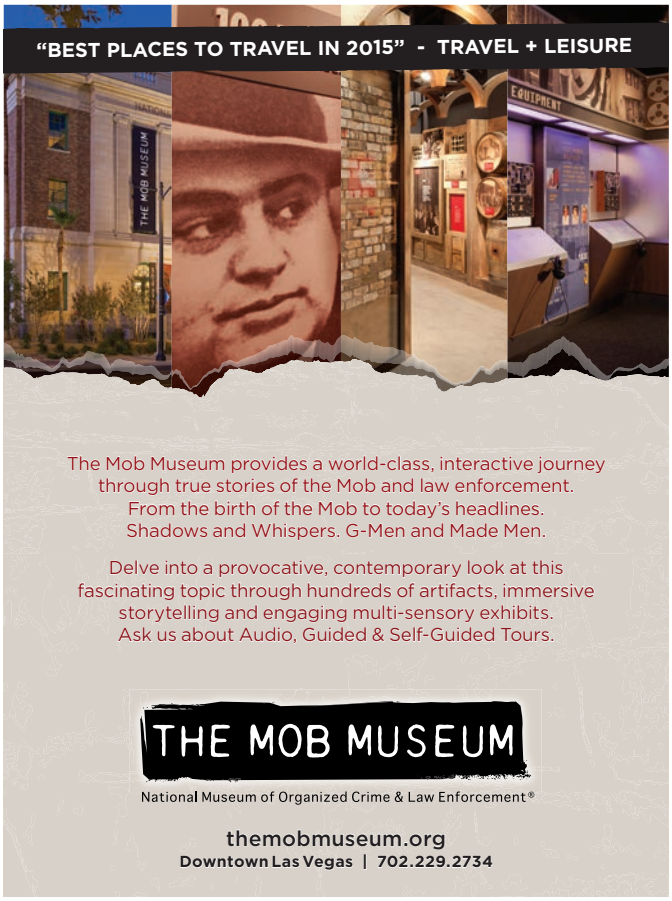
Nevada's state animal and reptile—desert bighorn sheep and desert tortoise, respectively—also call Valley of Fire home. Beyond even-tempered foxes and sheep, the park is home to several different types of rattlesnakes. Though generally rare, keep an eye out for these venomous snakes.

COME ON BABY, LIGHT MY FIRE

One of the beautiful things about Valley of Fire State Park is the absolute scope and size of the explorable areas. You could spend a lifetime climbing rocks and traversing canyons, and still not see them all. If visitors maintain a respect for the natural balance of this gem, it will continue to fuel the flames of adventurers for years to come.

Clockwise from above: These stone cabins were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and were designed as a shelter for visitors before the park was officially dedicated. Valley of Fire Park Ranger Chris Johnson walks through one of the park's slot canyons. A large rock shines during one of the park's famous sunsets. Valley of Fire visitor Jillian Brune poses with Elephant Rock, arguably the most famous feature in the park.

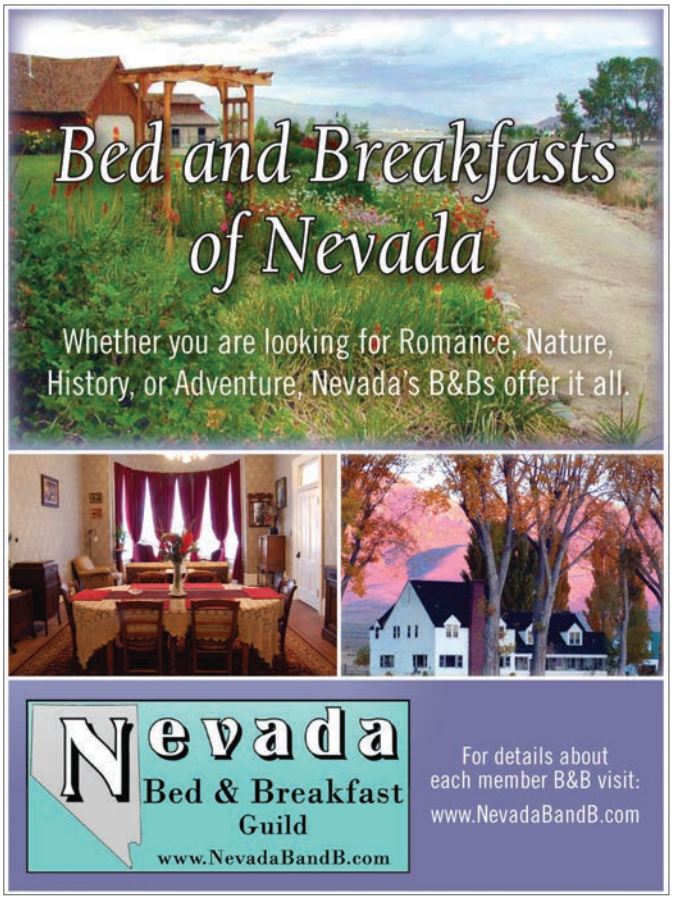
ERIC CACHINERO



SPARK ADVENTURE

Valley of Fire State Park
29450 Valley of Fire Rd.
Overton, NV 89040
parks.nv.gov, 702-397-2088

WILLIAM CARR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Whether you are looking for Romance, Nature, History, or Adventure, Nevada's B&Bs offer it all.
Nevada Bed & Breakfast Guild
www.NevadaBandB.com
For details about each member B&B visit:
www.NevadaBandB.com

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2015
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Thank you for your votes!
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(775) 687-4810 • museums.nevadaculture.org
$8 adults, children 17 & under and museum members FREE!

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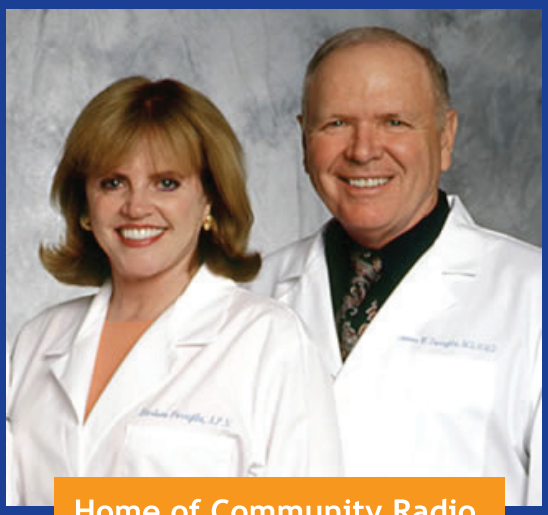

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110 Elko Convention & Visitors Authority
112 Nevada Commission on Tourism
114 Las Vegas Territory
117 Winnemucca Convention & Visitors Authority
119 Pony Express Territory
121 Town of Pahrump
122 Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority
128 Wells Chamber of Commerce/ Trails of the 49ers Interpretive Center
135 Nevada Silver Trails

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212 Circus Circus Reno
214 South Point Hotel Casino Spa
220 Best Western Hi-Desert Inn
232 Eldorado Resort Casino Reno
259 Whitney Peak Hotel

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401 Nevada B&B Guild

ATTRACTIONS, GALLERIES, & MUSEUMS

628 Nevada State Museum
634 California Trail Interpretive Center
636 Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum
637 The Mob Museum
638 Nevada Historical Society
640 Nevada Museum of Art

EVENTS/SHOWS

704 Nevada's Cowboy Country
738 Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival

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904 Sightseeing Tours Unlimited

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1004 Pahrump Valley Winery
1007 Cactus Creek Prime Steakhouse

RETAIL SHOPPING

1210 Scheels
1217 Scolari's Food & Drug Company

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2401 America Matters/ Fox News Radio
2402 KCEP Power 88FM

TELEVISION PBS

2701 KNPB Channel 5

FOURTH OF JULY EVENTS

THE SILVER STATE KNOWS HOW TO SHOW ITS PATRIOTIC SIDE.

There are as many ways to celebrate patriotism in Nevada as there are stars in the sky. Whether you're in to rocking out to Americana music in Genoa or watching fireworks shooting off a moving steam train in Ely, the Silver State has a plethora of Fourth of July celebrations to fit your needs. Take a look at the events below to plan your patriotic holiday.

PHOTOS: NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION
Austin
austinnevada.com, 775-964-2200

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION
Las Vegas
vegas.com, 866-983-4279

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION
Mission Hills Park, Henderson
cityofhenderson.com, 702-267-2171

4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS EXPRESS
Nevada Northern Railway, Ely
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

4TH OF JULY PARADE & FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR
Virginia City
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

4TH OF JULY WEEKEND
Jarbidge
jarbidge.org

DAMBOREE CELEBRATION
Boulder City
bcnv.org, 702-293-9256

FERNLEY 4TH OF JULY
Fernley
fernley-4th-of-july.com, 775-575-7163

GENOA AMERICANA CELEBRATION
Mormon Station State Park, Genoa
genoaamericana.com, 775-783-3517

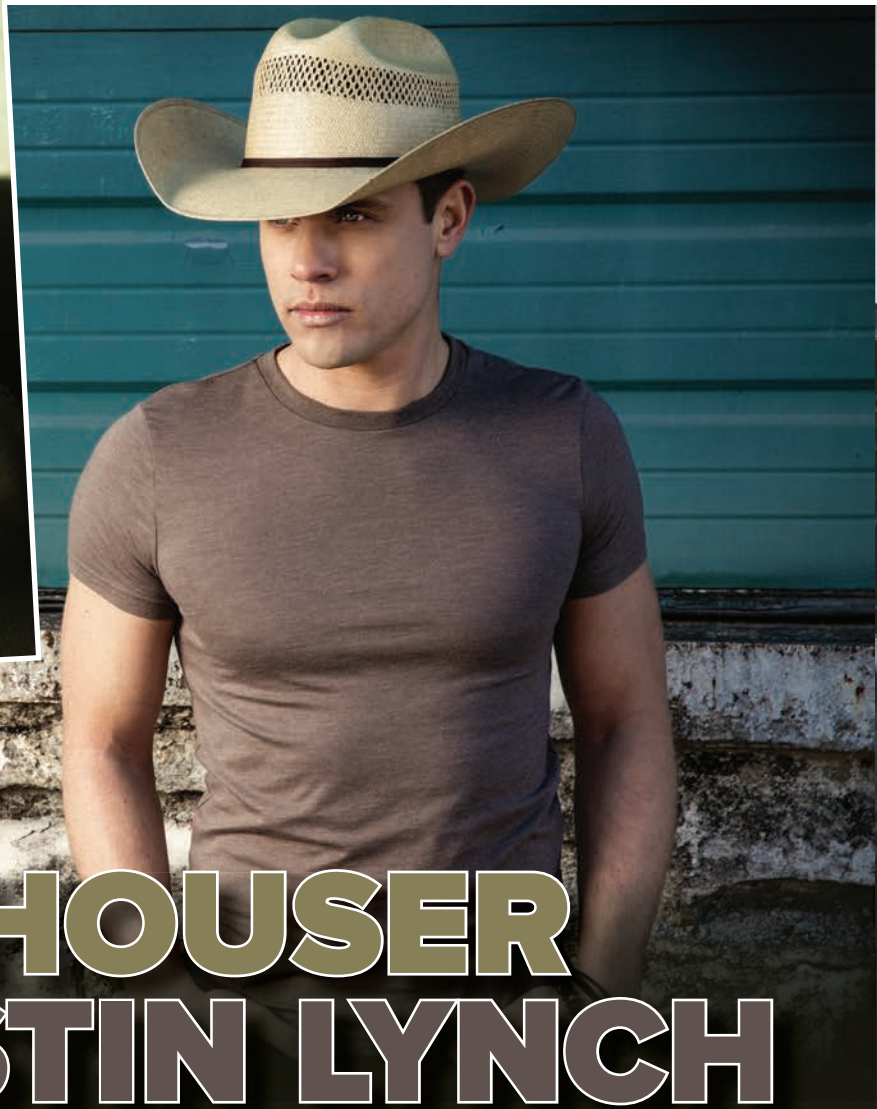
OLD-FASHIONED 4TH OF JULY
Eureka
eurekacounty.com, 775-237-6006

PICNIC IN THE PARK
Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon
churchillcounty.org, 775-423-7733

ROCKETS OVER THE RIVER
Laughlin
visitlaughlin.com, 800-425-8445

STAR SPANGLED SPARKS
Victorian Square, Sparks
janugget.com, 800-648-1177

Randy Houser



RANDY HOUSER and DUSTIN LYNCH

COUNTRY SUPERSTARS MAKE THEIR WAY TO MANDALAY BAY.

American country artists Randy Houser and Dustin Lynch will break off from Luke Bryan's wildly popular "That's My Kind of Night Tour" to bring their distinctive sounds to the stage at the Mandalay Bay Beach for a performance Friday, Aug. 28 at 9 p.m.

With an inimitable voice the *New York Times* describes as "wholly different, thicker, and more throbbing, a caldron bubbling over," Houser has racked up four smash hits and more than 3 million in singles sales to date with his Stoney Creek Records album "How Country Feels." He topped the charts with the title track "Runnin' Outta Moonlight" and "Goodnight Kiss," which was his first No. 1 as a songwriter, and earned critical acclaim for his powerful delivery of the Top 5 hit, "Like a Cowboy."

Since releasing his platinum debut single "Cowboys and Angels," Dustin Lynch has launched onto the country music scene. Racking up more than 20.5 million views on YouTube/ VEVO, soaring to No. 1 on the MTV Music Meter, and selling 2.4 million digital singles, the Tennessee native brings a fresh combination of traditional influences and edgy intensity to the genre.

WHERE
Mandalay Bay Beach

WHEN
Aug. 28

TICKETS
mandalaybay.com, 702-632-7777
Starting at $39.50

WORTH A CLICK
randyhouser.com
dustinlynchmusic.com

ALSO AT MANDALAY BAY

311, July 3-4
Iration & Katchafire, July 17
Ziggy Marley, July 31
Stephen Marley, Aug. 4
Fall Out Boy & Wiz Khalifa, Aug. 7

MUST SEE
AEROSMITH
MGM Grand Garden Arena
Aug. 1
mgmgrand.com, 702-891-1111

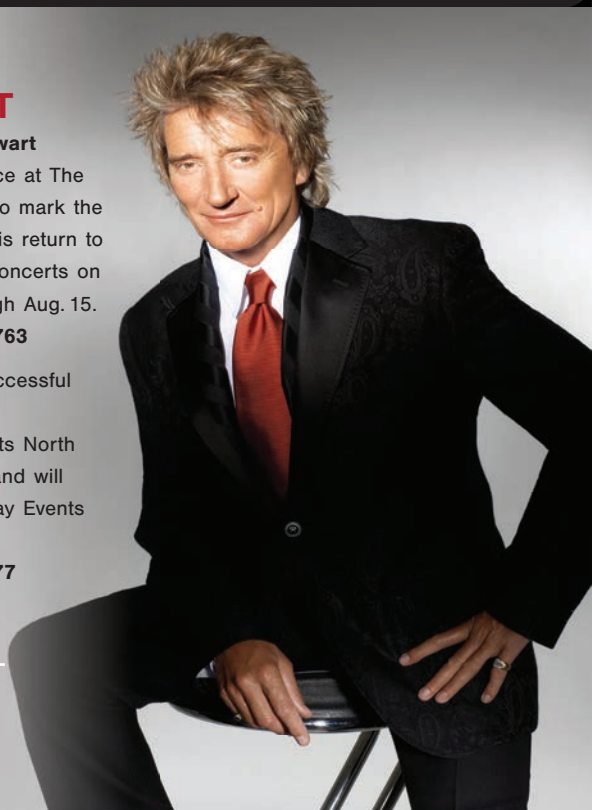
Following its wildly successful 2014 "Let Rock Rule" tour, Aerosmith—one of rock music's greatest live acts—returns to the MGM Grand Garden Arena Saturday, Aug. 1. The band—consisting of Steven Tyler, Joe Perry, Joey Kramer, Tom Hamilton, and Brad Whitford—will perform a set of their career-defining biggest hits.

Aerosmith is a living part of American music history, having sold more than 150 million albums worldwide and been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. They are the recipients of countless awards including four GRAMMYs, eight American Music Awards, six Billboard Awards, and 12 MTV Video Music Awards. With scores of multi-platinum albums, Aerosmith continues to inspire generations to get their wings, get a grip, and just push play. It's no wonder why they are one of the most beloved bands of all time.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In February, rock icon **Rod Stewart** celebrated his 100th performance at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace. To mark the milestone, Stewart announced his return to Las Vegas for eight additional concerts on select dates from July 28 through Aug. 15.
thecolosseum.com, 866-320-9763

Following an overwhelmingly successful first leg, **Ariana Grande's** "The Honeymoon Tour" is extending its North American run through summer and will make a stop at the Mandalay Bay Events Center Saturday, Aug. 29.
mandalaybay.com, 702-632-7777



HOTTEST SHOWS

MARIAH CAREY
The Colosseum at Caesars Palace
July 8, 11-12, 15, 18-19, 22, 25-26
thecolosseum.com
702-866-1400

THIRD EYE BLIND & DASHBOARD CONFESSIONAL
Hard Rock
July 11
hardrockhotel.com
702-693-5583

DIRTY DANCING
The Smith Center for the Performing Arts
July 14-19
thesmithcenter.com
702-749-2335

ALICE IN CHAINS
Palms
July 18
palms.com
866-983-4279

BARENAKED LADIES
The Cosmopolitan
July 18
cosmopolitanlasvegas.com
702-698-700

DAVID ALAN GRIER & TOMMY DAVIDSON
Treasure Island
July 24
treasureisland.com
702-894-7111

SLIGHTLY STOOPID
The Cosmopolitan
Aug. 14
cosmopolitanlasvegas.com
702-698-700

PETER FRAMPTON & CHEAP TRICK
Hard Rock
Aug. 22
hardrockhotel.com
702-693-5583

JULY

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Aug. 1

Aug. 23

3
TANYA TUCKER
Carson Valley Inn, Minden
cvinn.com, 775-782-9711

Check out page 49 for a list of Fourth of July events.

4-6
NATIONAL BASQUE FESTIVAL
Elko
exploreelko.com, 775-738-6854

10-Aug. 23
LAKE TAHOE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
Sand Harbor State Park
laketahoeshakespeare.com, 775-832-1616

17
AN EVENING WITH KEB' MO'
Whitney Peak, Reno
cargoreno.com, 775-398-5400

NIGHT SKY STAR TRAIN
Nevada Northern Railway, Ely
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

18
AL PACINO
Peppermill, Reno
peppermillreno.com, 775-826-2121

CARSON CITY GHOST WALK
Carson City
carsoncityghostwalk.com, 775-348-6279

COMSTOCK CLASSIC CAR SHOW
Virginia City
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

31-Aug. 1
GOLDFIELD DAYS
Goldfield
goldfieldnevada.org, 775-485-3560

31-Aug. 2
RANCH HAND RODEO
Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon
visitfallonnevada.com, 775-423-4556

MATTHEW B. BROWN

1-Aug. 1
ARTOWN
Various locations, Reno
renoisartown.com, 775-322-1538

9-11
ARTISAN CRAFT EXPO
South Point Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas
artisancraftexpo.com, 702-734-0070

11
CSI: ANIMAL ARK
Animal Ark, Reno
animalark.org, 775-970-3111

14-19
AMERICAN CENTURY CHAMPIONSHIP
Edgewood, Tahoe
tahoecelebritygolf.com

17-18
A.V.A'S "VORTEX" ROCK BALLET
Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno
avaballet.com, 775-762-5165

23
38 SPECIAL
Carson Valley Inn, Minden
cvinn.com, 775-782-9711

31
PAUL THORN BAND
Whitney Peak, Reno
cargoreno.com, 775-398-5400

31-Aug. 9
HOT AUGUST NIGHTS
Virginia City/Reno/Sparks
hotaugustnights.net, 775-356-1956

31-Aug. 16
LAKE TAHOE SUMMERFEST
Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village
tahoesummerfest.org, 775-298-0245

AUGUST

2
KINGSTON DAYS
Kingston
austinnevada.com, 775-964-2200

4-Nov. 15
SALTORIYA
Eldorado, Reno
eldoradoreno.com, 775-786-5700

6-9
ROUNDUP REGATTA
Laughlin
visitlaughlin.com, 800-425-9255

7
BILLY IDOL
Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
grandsierraresort.com, 800-501-2651

SUMMERLAND TOUR
Whitney Peak, Reno
cargoreno.com, 775-398-5400

11
ART AT DARK
Animal Ark, Reno
animalark.org, 775-970-3111

ERIC CACHINERO

20
R5
Henderson Pavilion, Henderson
thehendersonpavillion.com, 702-267-4849

21-22
CARS, STARS, & GUITARS
The Resort on Mount Charleston, Las Vegas
carsstarsguitars.com

30
SAND HARBOR SHARKFEST
Sand Harbor State Park
sharkfestswim.com, 415-868-1829

30-Sept. 7
BURNING MAN
Black Rock City
burningman.org

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

6
HOT AUGUST NIGHTS POKER RUN
Virginia City
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

7-23
JAZZ & BEYOND-CARSON CITY MUSIC FESTIVAL
Various locations, Carson City
jazzcarsoncity.com., 775-883-4154

14-16
BOWERS MANSION BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL
Bowers Mansion, Washoe Valley
bowersbluegrassfestival.org, 775-233-0122

INCLINE VILLAGE ART FESTIVAL
Preston Field, Incline Village
westcoastartists.com, 818-813-4478

21-28
RAILROAD REALITY WEEK
Nevada Northern Railway, Ely
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

29
CANFEST
Peppermill, Reno
canfestbeer.com

TASTE OF THE COMSTOCK
Virginia City
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

MARCELLO ROSTAGNI

WILD ART

ARTOWN HOSTS TWO ENVIRONMENTAL ART SHOWS IN JULY.

"After the Storm"

"Clearing Sky"

PAINTINGS: CRYSTAL DIPIETRO

Nevada's wild and often rugged basin and range topography provide spectacular subject matter for Nevada artists. Oil painters, watercolorists, photographers, and sculptors draw inspiration from the landscape, often developing a deep connection with their surroundings and bringing close observations of nature to their canvases and images.

Reno's month-long Artown celebration features two conservation art shows during the second and fourth weeks of July. Participating Nevada artists will donate part of the proceeds from their work to help protect and preserve the wild lands that inspire them.

The Nevada Land Trust's (NLT) "Art of Conservation - Open Spaces and Special Places" show is in its third year and originated from a partnership between NLT and a local group of "plein air" (open air) painters. These artists organized "paint-ins" on location at Winnemucca Ranch Road near Pyramid Lake to bring attention to proposed development there. The two entities have been collaborating ever since.

"I can't think of a better way to share the significance of these wild areas to a broader audience than through the hearts and minds and hands of these participating artists and craftsmen," says Co-Executive Director Alicia Reban. The NLT show is set to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in south Reno, Friday, July 24 and Saturday, July 25.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Executive Director Shaaron Netherton is a serious art proponent and believes that art is a way to bring the natural beauty of Nevada to the public. "Art is a pathway to the soul of wild Nevada," she says. "By sponsoring the Wild Nevada show, we hope that it sparks curiosity for people to not only visit our wild lands, but to protect our public lands for future generations."

"Wild Nevada"—Friends of Nevada Wilderness' second annual art show and sale—will host an opening reception on Saturday, July 11 at its Sparks location. The exhibit runs July 11-31. *—Maria Denzler*

GET WILD

"Art of Conservation - Open Spaces and Special Places"
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Reno
July 24-25
nevadalandtrust.org, 775-851-5180

"Wild Nevada"
Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Sparks
Art show and sale: July 11
Exhibit: July 11-31
nevadawilderness.org, 775-324-7667

Visit renoisartown.com for more.

ARTIFACTS & ARTISTRY

FRANCES HUMPHREY LECTURE SERIES: FRIENDLY FALLOUT
Nevada State Museum, Carson City
July 23
museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-4810

PASTEL PAINTING WORKSHOP
St. Mary's Art & Retreat Center, Virginia City
Aug. 21-24
stmarysartcenter.org, 775-771-8528

THE ARTWORK OF CARLOS CÉSAR DÍAZ CASTRO
Western Folklife Center, Elko
Through Sept. 12
westernfolklife.org, 775-738-7508

DINOSAURS: LAND OF FIRE AND ICE
DISCOVERY Children's Museum, Las Vegas
Through Sept. 13
discoverykidslv.org, 702-382-5437

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- Regional airport • Nevada-style entertainment
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ELKO AREA UPCOMING EVENTS:

- National Basque Festival-*July 3, 4 & 5, 2015*
- Silver State Stampede-*July 10 & 11, 2015*
- Ruby Mountain Relay-*August 31 & July 1, 2015*
- Elko County Fair & Horse Races-*August 29 thru September 7, 2015*
- Elko Classic Car Show-*September 11 & 12, 2015*
- Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival-*September 24-27, 2015*

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Savvy Sommelier Uncorks Delicious Adventure

CARNEVINO'S KIRK PETERSON PAIRS WINE WITH FOOD...AND PEOPLE.

BY MARISA FINETTI

Carnevino opened in January 2008, and is known for exceptional steaks and incredible wines. Its atmosphere includes high ceilings, Italian marble, and antique furniture for a grand and dramatic dining experience. Inset: Kirk Peterson, Carnevino's sommelier. Peterson photo by Craig Finetti.

CARNEVINO ITALIAN STEAKHOUSE

It's well past lunch, yet a seductively plated dish of braised quail in cognac reduction is placed before Kirk Peterson. Along with two other sommeliers, a chef, and a culinary director, he attempts to identify the perfect wine pairing. While taking sips from several glasses and sharing small bites from this regional Italian creation, Kirk soon recognizes its match. "Lacrima di Morro. Final answer," he declares.

This is a day in the life of Kirk, beverage director of Batali & Bastianich Hospitality Group (B&BHG). He oversees the purchase, education, and sales of wine, liquor, and beer for all four of B&BHG's Las Vegas restaurants. Kirk's days (and nights) are, in part, spent tasting and smelling, all in an effort to provide guests at Carnevino Italian Steakhouse—inside The Palazzo Las Vegas—with the best possible marriage of food and wine.

"Really, what I do for a living is buy and sell wine, but in the context of matching food from the most talented chefs," Kirk says, whose slightly quirky persona radiates a mix of entertaining wit, intelligence, and a splash of mystery.

The job requires a deep knowledge, derived from years of study and innumerable tasting experiences. It also takes passion. With unflinching instinct, he displays an almost encyclopedic command of "50-cent words" about the intricacies of sight, smell, taste, sense of place, history, and culture of virtually any wine—and food, for that matter.

But that's not all. Kirk is as polished in wine service as he is eloquent in story-telling. When guests sit down at Carnevino, they are handed a jumbo-sized menu where his wine list takes up much of the real estate; approximately 750 wines are noted. While some may find the list to be daunting, Kirk insists on dismissing any feelings of inferiority.

"It's terrible that people find selecting a bottle of wine so stressful sometimes," Kirk says.

He recommends talking openly.

"You might not immediately understand why I'm asking if you like cherries or rosemary or ripe peaches, but there is a reason," he explains.

As a result, not only will you like the wine, but it will certainly be an optimum pairing for one of the classic offerings at Carnevino, such as the 90-day dry-aged, bone-in rib-eye steak.

Carnevino is famous for its meats, which are all-natural, hormone- and antibiotic-free, and hand selected by professional "meat maestro" Adam Perry Lang. Together with Mario Batali's pastas and fresh, seasonal Italian specialties, the restaurant could also easily be considered one of Las Vegas' best Italian restaurants.

"It's not like you're buying a Jimi Hendrix song; it's like buying his guitar."

A GLASS FOR EVERY TASTE

Kirk's international wine list complements Carnevino's cuisine. Like a journey across the globe, it's comprised of a generous treasury of unfamiliar varieties such as Pigato and Xinomarvro, to more recognizable Cabernet Sauvignons and Merlots. Guests will find moderately priced by-the-glass and bottles, alongside the Burgundy region's exclusive single-vineyard bottling from Domaine de la Romanee-Conti.

"It sells for $31,000, but we are also talking about a vineyard with an 800-year track record," he says. "In a good year, they will produce 5,400 bottles for the entire world. It's not like you're buying a Jimi Hendrix song; it's like buying his guitar."

If that's not intriguing enough, how about a sparkling wine aged for 13

RAISE A GLASS

Carnevino Italian Steakhouse
The Grand Canal Shoppes
3325 S. Las Vegas Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89109
carnevino.com, 702-789-4141

PHOTOS: CARNEVINO ITALIAN STEAKHOUSE

months on the sea floor, 200 feet below the surface off the coast of Portofino, Italy? For guests that truly want to discover hidden treasures—accompanied by stories that have depth—they've come to the right place.

Kirk takes pride in finding wines of rare and limited quantities. This was proven during his recent sales visit with a winemaker and distributor who came to present him with red wines from Napa. Peterson's eyes scan the order sheet, as he marks an asterisk next to an item, and inquires, "Have you sold this one to anyone else?" The representative reassures Peterson that Carnevino is his usual first stop. "Then, I'll take everything you have, please."

Winemaker Joe Bastianich, left, and Chef Mario Batali have opened four restaurants together in Las Vegas.

Visit **nevadamagazine.com/carnevino** to find a recipe for Carne Cruda "Alla Piemontese."

BREAKING SOME RULES

He may be one of the most respected Italian wine experts on the West Coast, but it didn't happen suddenly. The avid music lover, who has been with B&BHG for eight years, is originally from Yerington. The 39-year-old self-proclaimed "cork dork" says he developed his sense of taste and smell early on, appreciating food and wine long before he was of drinking age.

"My parents were exceptional cooks," Kirk says, "And, there was always that idea that we would drink something appropriate with our food."

When he moved south to attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Kirk was frequently found at restaurants ordering wine with his Discover card and a fake ID.

"The vast majority of my initial education came on the other side of the table," Kirk says. Thereafter, he took courses through the International Sommelier Guild and is now a certified sommelier pursuing the title of master of wine.

His developed sense of taste and smell has contributed to the success of his career, and placed emphasis on enlightening his clientele on how to truly savor food and wine.

"One thing that I find somewhat fascinating is, when I watch most people eat food, they don't actually smell it. Smelling is part of the overall experience—as it is in wine—because you can only taste five things," he says.

So, why not heighten the olfactory experience and go against some rules? For example, he suggests enjoying bubbly wines in larger-bowled glasses, which allow for more collection of aromas.

Kirk loves every opportunity to debunk wine myths. From food pairings, to etiquette, his quiver is full. He finds it interesting that people in general still insist on pairing fish with white wine. In actuality, there are red wines that complement fish, according to him.

"It's tannin that clashes with fish, not the color red," Kirk says.

He believes that choosing wine should be a pleasurable experience and tries to make it simple for his guests.

"I'm their easy button," he says. "I think it's also important to offer a style that they are looking for, more than a particular brand."

Ultimately, if a guest discovers a new favorite wine, all the better, since pairing wine with people is just as gratifying as pairing wine with food.

"Turning people on to new things is perhaps the greatest satisfaction of all," he says.

And to that, he and his guests can raise a glass.

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Pairing it up at Carnevino

THE DISH: HEIRLOOM TOMATO CAPRESE

Jason Neve

Culinary Director Chef Jason Neve: "A staple of the Carnevino Summer menu, we pair the ripest and most mouthwatering heirloom tomatoes sourced from local farms and farmers markets with handmade Di Stefano Burrata made fresh daily. Along with a touch of basil pesto, Maldon salt and Aceto Manadori, it's the perfect start to a summer meal."

THE WINE: FEUDI DI SAN GREGORIO FIANO DI AVELLINO 2012

Kirk Peterson: "If it grows together, it goes together. This classic dish from the island of Capri pairs perfectly with the Fiano grapes grown in the hills above Avellino in Campania. It's fresh and aromatic, with hints of citrus, verdant herbs, and hazelnut with a clean, mineral finish."

THE DISH: CHARRED CORN WITH PICKLED PEPPERS AND LIME SALT

Jason: "No other vegetable says summer quite like mouthwatering, fresh sweet corn. Charred on the cob over open flames and then removed, the corn is tossed with pickled peppers to bring just a little spice and acidity to contrast all that sweetness, and lastly a bit of lime infused sea salt to round it all out."

THE WINE: PAOLO BEA "SANTA CHIARA" UMBRIA BIANCO 2011

Kirk: "To match the impact of the charred corn, while still remaining vibrant enough to compliment the pickled peppers and lime salt, an unconventional approach is needed and Santa Chiara definitely delivers. This unique blend of Grechetto, Malvasia, Chardonnay, Sauvignon, and Garganega sees extended skin contact and all-natural winemaking practices, granting it a softness, weight, and generosity of flavor that is distinctively appropriate."

PAIRING PHOTOS: CRAIG FINETTI

THE DISH: SUMMER BERRY TART

Jason: "Strawberry cake layered with pistachio cream and strawberry gelee, topped with sweet late summer berries bursting with flavor, finished with raspberry sorbet, edible flowers and candied hazelnuts."

THE WINE: MARENCO PINETO BRACHETTO D'ACQUI 2013

Kirk: "Ripe, floral, sparkling, and sweet, this Piedmontese dessert wine has something for everyone. Copious strawberry, red raspberry, and rose aromas alongside a mousse-like texture mirror and compliment the flavors of the tart while refreshing the palette."

The Ride Stuff

McClellan Peak

NEIL LOCKHART

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JEFF MOSER

Mountain biking was once the domain of young thrill seekers; today, everyone has a fat-tire bike. From retirees to teens, the desire to get off the asphalt and see more of the land has spurred the creation of myriad trails and an impressive stewardship toward our public lands. According to the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), eight western states—including Nevada—receive $6.2 billion in economic benefits from cycling annually.

Hills or valleys, lush or rocky, easy or difficult…there's a single-track for you in Nevada. While the northern part of the state is well-known to hikers and mountain bikers, southern Nevada should not be overlooked. When the snow flies up north, head south for some perfect temperatures. Austin, Caliente, Elko, Eureka, Ely, too; if you're looking for a place to spin your wheels, you've come to the right state. Here are but a few Nevada trails for your fat-tire pleasure. Ride on!

STEVE MORESI

Showgirl Trail

PHOTOS: DAVID JAGET

SOUTHERN NEVADA

Showgirl Trail
BY ERIK MONTVILLE

A great location in southern Nevada is somewhere you'd least expect to ride: at 8,000 feet elevation. Mt. Charleston—40 minutes from Las Vegas—is one of the highest peaks in the Spring Mountain range. The local U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Great Basin Institute, and Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association (SNMBA) are working together to developing a singletrack system in the range.

Showgirl Trail

The first completed section is the aptly named Showgirl Trail. Beginning at the Juniper Trailhead located at 8,100 feet on Lucky Strike Road (Hilltop Campground) leading to Angel Peak off of Highway 158 (Deer Creek), the new singletrack winds down into high desert that isn't what you would expect after riding in the vast lower valley. Tall pines keep it 20-30 degrees cooler than the desert floor. Typical summer days are in the high 70s. The trail winds up, down, in, and out of the tall giants, climbing to a peak locals call the "round-a-bout" due to the remnants of an old highway. This is the high spot at 8,250 feet, and it's all downhill from there!

Another link trail is in progress to complete the entire Showgirl Trail. In the meantime, the trail ventures down the old highway bed, which can be very fast, and onto a trail called Tin Can—a twisty, windy trail that is shadowy and deep within the forest. This trail crosses Telephone Road and onto Showgirl again.

A moderate, short climb brings you to a few more miles of downhill, which slowly ventures into open high desert. Winding back and forth, with short climbs thrown in to keep you honest, you drop out under State Route 157 at approximately 5,800 feet, more than 2,400 vertical feet of elevation drop. This trail is best suited as a shuttle, but those who have the desire to grind out the climb will be rewarded with amazing mountain views, lots of shade, and a wonderful downhill back to the car. Showgirl is considered intermediate with a few areas of exposure but mostly fun, twisty singletrack.

Bristlecone Loop
BY ERIK MONTVILLE

Bristlecone Loop lets you experience what it's like to ride at 9,400 feet of elevation. There are two ways to ride the trail: counter-clockwise and "the other way." The trailhead is approximately 16 miles up State Route 156 (Lee Canyon), very close to the ski resort. Starting at 8,400 feet, going counter-clockwise takes you up three miles of forest road, allowing you to acclimate to the thin, fresh air. The trails exiting Bristlecone along this route are for foot traffic only, so heed the warning!

Bristlecone Loop

DAVID JAGET

During the fall months, the aspen groves turn a wonderful yellow/orange and it's amazing to see them mixed in with the evergreens. At the three-mile mark, a very short, steep hill appears. This is the beginning of the singletrack. Take in the majestic views; then a short climb brings you to the highest spot allowed for mountain bikes in southern Nevada: 9,400 feet.

This trail has some exposure (areas with steep drop-offs) along a few spots, and no one has ever been knocked for walking anything, so take precaution. You can gain speed pretty quick, so watch for the trees; they catch handlebars easily and without warning.

The trail winds through more low level aspen groves before exiting near Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort. Take the pavement back to the car and this completes an approximately seven-mile loop. Bristlecone is rideable April-October, and considered intermediate due to the exposure and technical, rocky portions. It's best ridden in the morning when foot traffic is low.

Cottonwood Valley

DAVID JAGET

Cottonwood Valley
BY MEGG MUELLER

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area—about 50 minutes west of Las Vegas—is home to the Cottonwood Valley trail system. The Late Night trailhead is off State Route 160, west of the intersection with State Route 159, and has ample parking and pit toilets.

Red Rock, well, it's a gorgeous place in late spring. Head southwest from the parking lot to 3-Mile Smile, which takes you under the highway via a tunnel; there's also a trailhead near the toilets. The ride to Badger Pass—is a gentle, but consistent climb (about 660 feet of elevation gain) on easy singletrack.

There are no fewer than 12 connecting trails in this system, so the choice of descent is yours. There are great trail signs at intersections, but best to go with someone in the know or get a map from SNMBA's website. The ride down the lower half of Red Valley, toward White Rhino, includes switchbacks, technical spots, rocky terrain, and incredibly fun, swoopy sections…these hills have it all. Well they don't have trees, so ride early and avoid summer; go higher when it's hot (try Showgirl Trail or Bristlecone Loop).

Head back to the north side of the highway, and take the upper tunnel to connect with a trail that runs parallel to the highway which you can take back to the parking lot. This loop is about eight miles.

The real beauty of the ride, however, demands you ride along the famed red sandstone hills on the Late Night Trail. Look for the infamous duck tree located off the Inner Loop on the aptly named Rubber Duck Trail, then ride back to the parking for a total of a little more than 14 miles.

Cottonwood is a mountain biking paradise, with just about every type of terrain imaginable and some of the most gorgeous geological features you'll ever see. It is not to be missed.

Clear Creek Trail

PHOTOS: JEFF MOSER

NORTHERN NEVADA

Clear Creek Trail
BY JEFF MOSER

One of Carson City's newer trails, Clear Creek is almost 10.5 miles long (21 miles out-and-back), and gradually climbs and descends along its length at a comfortable 5-percent grade. The trail is easy to ride, but a few sandy sections, moderate exposure, and overall mileage may challenge beginners. The elevation ranges between 4,950 and 6,200 feet.

To get to the trailhead, head west on Jacks Valley Road just south of Carson City. The official trailhead is at Jacks Valley Elementary School, just a mile west of U.S. Route 395. An alternate trailhead with parking is just a half mile further to the west. This is where most mountain bikers start.

From the alternate trailhead, go through the gate by the information kiosk. Follow the dirt road west a short ways and make the first right on the road that climbs the hill. Immediately you'll see a sign that directs you onto the Clear Creek Trail singletrack. The trail begins with a gentle climb, meandering up the hill through the high desert sagebrush.

After a couple miles, you'll enter the trees. It's less sandy here, and winds through the woods with frequent views of the valley below. Although the trail crosses many dirt roads along the way, the Clear Creek Trail is always clearly marked.

For those looking for a shorter ride, Knob Point makes a good turnaround spot just seven miles in (half a mile less from the alternate trailhead). Perched at 6,050 feet, Knob Point offers spectacular views of Jacks and Carson Valleys a thousand feet below. Keep an eye out for the sign to this scenic lookout.

From Knob Point, it climbs north towards Clear Creek. Along the way there's rolling terrain, a few switchbacks, and challenging rock features. Eventually the trail reaches the high point where it crosses the south fork of Clear Creek near some prominent granite boulders. The sound of the creek and the shade of the aspens make this a nice spot to rest.

The trail then descends to Clear Creek Road—an old cracked asphalt road that parallels U.S. Route 50 above. Many people turn around here to keep it in the dirt and avoid additional climbing. The official trail descends another one and a half miles down the old roadbed and terminates a short ways after this, losing 190 feet of elevation in the process. Those looking for more mileage and climbing may enjoy this final section.

The descent back to the Jack's Valley trailhead is a fun one! Occasionally it opens up for some fast riding, but frequent sharp turns will test cornering skills and keep your speed in check in many sections.

PHOTOS: JEFF MOSER

Flume Trail
BY DANNY MILLER

The Flume Trail is one of the most photographed rides in the Lake Tahoe area. It's not super technical, but there are quite a few difficult climbs. The elevation runs from 6,400 feet to almost 8,200 at the trail's peak. My riding partner, Jeff Moser, kept saying, "It's worth the pain." He may have only said it once or twice but his words echoed in my head all day.

Best to get an early start as this is an all-day adventure, and the ride is 14 miles one-way. Most people ride this as a shuttle ride (weather depending), but off-season the shuttle is not available, so start at the Tunnel Creek Café—the site of the old Ponderosa Ranch. You'll pedal up steep, long fire roads, but can stop at all the historical landmarks. Each stop allows a rest and offers epic views.

The trails are well-marked, but grab a map from the Tunnel Creek Café so you can choose the trails that best suit your skill level and time. About four miles in, Jeff added a detour to the Red House Flume trail—there's some great places to check out, like Red House and cool abandoned buildings—which is just over three miles long. Connect to either the Sunflower Trail for singletrack with switchbacks or take Sunflower Hill Road for an easier option.

From here, you can connect back to the Flume Trail and ride to Spooner Lake parking lot, turn around and head back up for another 14 miles. Or join with the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) which heads to Spooner or has a couple options that connect back to the Flume Trail. If you choose the TRT, just know it can be challenging and you need a bit more skill to handle rocks, steps, and so on. Walk if you have to.

The Flume Trail is an intermediate ride, but if you are afraid of heights or get nervous around steep drop-offs, this might not be the best option. But the views will take your breath away so stop often to take photos of the lake and breathe in the fresh air.

If you circle back to the Tunnel Creek Café, you can have a great meal and a cool beverage, while chatting about how this is one of the best rides you have ever been on. It's worth the pain!

BRENT RYMAN

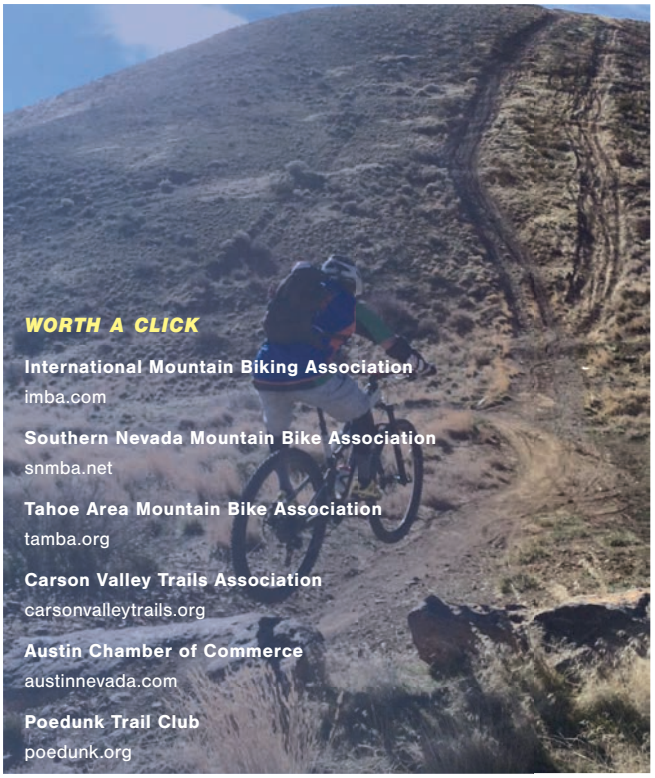
Keystone Canyon
BY MEGG MUELLER

Peavine Mountain wraps around Reno's west side, and its rocky, mule deer-laden hills are covered with miles of trail. In the last 10 years, the trails have been taken in hand by the Poedunks—an IMBA-affiliated club that has led trail building efforts at Peavine. The result is more than 40 miles of non-motorized, authorized trails from which to choose. There's very little shade on Peavine, making this area great for early season rides. The signage has improved greatly (thanks, Poedunks), but the best part is you can take a different trail just about every time, and as long as you're prepared and keep your directional wits about you, you can seemingly ride forever.

The trailhead at Keystone Canyon—north off McCarran Blvd., about three miles west of N. Virginia Street—offers parking and a portable bathroom. From here, the trail winds north into the canyon for what seems like an endless amount of options. You can opt for the connector trail over to the Evans Canyon trail; the fork in the road is just two-tenths of a mile. This takes you over a hill (nice bench at the top with great views), and over to Evans, where you can ride up and loop back to Keystone, or continue north up into the hills.

Make no mistake, riding Peavine is all about the uphill. Keystone Trailhead sits below 5,000 feet elevation, and Peavine Road near the mountain's peak is almost 6,600 feet. Mountain biking in northern Nevada is most-often this way; long climbs followed by that most awesome of payoffs, the screaming downhill.

Peavine has some swoopy trails—most notably Bobsled—but largely this is rocky, fairly technical singletrack. Beginners with strong lungs and fortitude can easily ride Peavine, however; all you have to do is turn around when you get tired and go downhill.



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ERIC GERKEN

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CENTRAL NEVADA

Pony Express

This beginner/intermediate loop follows a section of the Pony Express mail route through Emigrant Pass. The 10-mile loop begins in downtown Austin and climbs to Austin Summit; elevation gain is 1,300 feet. The trail heads north along a rocky two-track and through some grassy spring areas. A sharp left and you're on to the Pony Express route. Once you reach the pass, it's a fast and fun descent to Highway 50.

AUSTIN CHAMBER

Castle Loop

Castle Loop in Austin is an easy 4.5-mile trail with very little elevation gain (400 feet). It's great for beginnes and kids, plus it allows advanced riders a warm up for longer rides or gives riders passing through a chance to see some of the area's trail possibilities. The ride starts and ends at Austin Park. Austin rides adapted from austinnevada.com.

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PHOTOS: MEGG MUELLER

Minden and Gardnerville

TOGETHER OR ALONE, TWIN TOWNS ARE TWICE AS NICE.

BY MEGG MUELLER

Laurel and Hardy. Batman and Robin. Simon and Garfunkle. Bogie and Bacall. Synergy occurs when two equally exceptional sides join to form a whole; the result is more than just the sum of two parts but an entirely new creation. Minden and Gardnerville are separate, unique, and rich towns, and for the last four rounds of 2015 Tour Around Nevada, they have been in the Top 5 each time. This time, however, there was no mistaking the outcry for these two towns, and despite asking folks to vote for their favorite town…our readers rarely voted for just one, so congratulations to Minden, and congratulations to Gardnerville.

"They go hand-in-hand with each other," A.J. Frels, executive director of the Carson Valley Visitors Authority, says. "Along with promotions and attractions, the towns are sitting right next to each other so it's hard to know when you go from one to the other. But they just work so well together."

Settlers poured into the bucolic Carson Valley as early as 1841, but the towns took their time in forming. Gardnerville is the older sister; it was developed in 1879 when Lawrence Gilman purchased property from town namesake and early settler John Gardner. Minden began stirring in 1856, when young rancher H.F. Dangberg bought his first property. Dangberg donated land and eventually convinced the V&T Railroad to house its terminus in Minden in 1905, and the town incorporated shortly thereafter. There's just no point rushing perfection.

Like much of Nevada, many of the towns' first non-native settlers were of European descent, but Minden and Gardnerville also were home to a thriving Basque population. Today, restaurants such as the J.T. Basque Bar & Dining Room still serve a bustling clientele, while the Overland Hotel—opened in 1902 by Basque settlers—is undergoing renovations and plans to reopen as a farm-to-pub restaurant this year. The history of the Basque people is integral to the towns' futures, also.

"We're looking to see how we can bring more of that to the forefront. How that would tie into some of the things we're doing in the future," A.J. says.

No view of the future is without a look at its past; so protective of its small-town authenticity, a McDonald's wasn't built in the town (Minden) until 1982.

HOME ON THE RANGE

The Carson Valley made an obvious stop for many settlers as they migrated west. Lush, verdant fields spread as far as the eye can see against the high, jagged peaks of the Sierra Nevada and Pine Nut mountains. Farmers and ranchers are still abundant here, as they were when the valley was first settled.

The rich, fertile land is home to Corley Ranch and Jacobs Family Berry Farm, just two companies that grew successful businesses from the ground up. Blind Dog Coffee, Alpen Sierra Coffee Company, and Killer Salsa are among the other food-based companies that make the valley their home.

Ranching gave birth to the annual Eagles and Agriculture event, which gives photographers and visitors a chance to tour valley farms in order to see the raptor migration that occurs during calving season.

DOWN ON MAIN STREET

One of the reasons for the area's homey feel is Main Street Gardnerville program. Part of a national program, the nonprofit group's mission statement is clear: "Experience the Past, Enrich the Present, Embrace the Future." From flower baskets adorning light poles to a community garden, Main Street Gardnerville works to enhance the beauty and viability of its downtown area.

"Members of the community come together to make it happen whether it's a promotional event, a special project, or through financial support," Paula Lochridge, Main Street Gardnerville program manager, explains. "If the community supports it, it thrives. Our supporters take great pride in our downtown and it shows."

Business owners and residents have come together to preserve and create the area's engaging atmosphere, and the results are catching. Minden is in the process of becoming part of the national Main Street Program, too.

Above: Jobs Peak looms over the Carson Valley. Below: The GE Family Concert Series in Minden Park is a huge draw each summer.

In It Together

The complementary aspect of Minden and Gardnerville is as much by design as serendipity. For special events, such as Carson Valley Days, Christmas, or Fourth of July celebrations, the participation is carefully blended for maximum fun.

"Gardnerville will do a run in the morning and the chalk competition," A.J. says about the Fourth of July party. "Then Minden will do a parade around the park. They work together."

Although team spirit often rules, each town has features that make it a stand-out in its own right.

PHOTOS: MEGG MUELLER

MINDEN

Minden is home to the Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park, where four generations of Minden's founder lived. Much of the family and Carson Valley history has been preserved, and the ranch today has a park where live music and many other events happen during the warmer months. The Minden-Tahoe Airport is a general aviation airport that is home to some of the country's best soaring, thanks to unique thermal patterns and the outrageous views afforded by the valley and Lake Tahoe. Minden Park—located in the center of town and the heart of its social gatherings—hosts strong performance and visual arts as well as summer concerts in the park. The Carson Valley Inn—one of the larger casino-hotels in the area—is in Minden, as is the C.O.D. Casino—built in what was the oldest car dealership in Nevada.

GARDNERVILLE

Special events are no stranger to Gardnerville's Heritage Park. Movies in the Park; Blankets, Burgers & Brews; Oktoberfest; and Carson Valley Christmas Kickoff are all held here. Gardnerville's Main Street is packed with boutiques that offer treasures not found at big box shops, like the more than 250 wines at Battle Born Wine shop, or a piece of history at one of the four antique shops. Gardnerville is also home to the recently revamped Sharkey's Casino.

From the views to the small-town feel to the history and the charm, Minden and Gardnerville have an appeal that is undeniable. For A.J., however, the appeal is something much more organic.

"People ask me what the best asset is in our area. It truly is our people," A.J. says. "We have gorgeous scenery and mountains but it's really our people and the love for the Carson Valley."

Opposite page top left: The Farmer's Bank of Carson Valley recently reopened as headquarters of Bently Enterprises. Bottom: Shops such as Polka Dots line Gardnerville's streets. This page: Classic cars stage a summer event in Minden. The Overland Hotel's neon sign.

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Heritage Park in Gardnerville is home to Movies in the Park each summer.

Minden
Established: 1905
Population: 3,001
Elevation: 4,724

Gardnerville
Established: 1879
Population: 5,656
Elevation: 4,751

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MEGG MUELLER

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TOUR AROUND nevada 2015

Nevada Magazine will visit one Nevada community per issue and present the town with a Tour Around Nevada plaque and commemorative cover. The towns covered are determined by reader vote! Send your vote to editor@nevadamagazine.com with the town and "Tour Around NV" in the subject line. Ely, Las Vegas, Reno, Tonopah, Minden, Gardnerville, and Virginia City are excluded. Voting for the September/October 2015 issue closes Friday, July 10.

MINDEN AND GARDNERVILLE: THE TWIN TOWNS

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 Minden or Gardnerville and you're looking for a one-more-day idea, give these a try:

HIKE, RIDE, FLY

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HIKING:

Fay-Luther/Jobs Peak Ranch Trail System: This trail system connects the Fay-Luther and Jobs Peak Ranch trailheads, which are three miles apart. The system features approximately nine miles of loop and connector trails to choose from. The Interpretive Loop provides informational signs about the area. The trailhead can be accessed from two different locations on Foothill Road.

OHV AREA:

Gardnerville Ranchos Gravel Pits: Located off Tillman Road, this OHV area consists of a large gravel pit and play area. The locations contains novice terrain for young riders to learn on, as well as some more challenging pits with steep climbs and bigger jumps.

GLIDER FLIGHTS

Located at the Minden-Tahoe airport, Soaring NV takes adventurers to the skies to experience high-flying views of the Carson Valley and surrounding areas. The company offers everything from leisurely glides over Lake Tahoe to the Tahoe Wild Ride—a 30-minute ride that takes participants on loops, rolls, and inverted flight.

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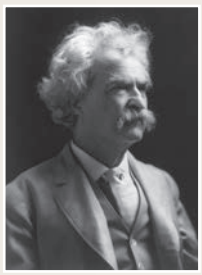


History never repeats itself, but the Kaleidoscopic combinations of the pictured present often seem to be constructed out of the broken fragments of antique legends.— **Mark Twain**

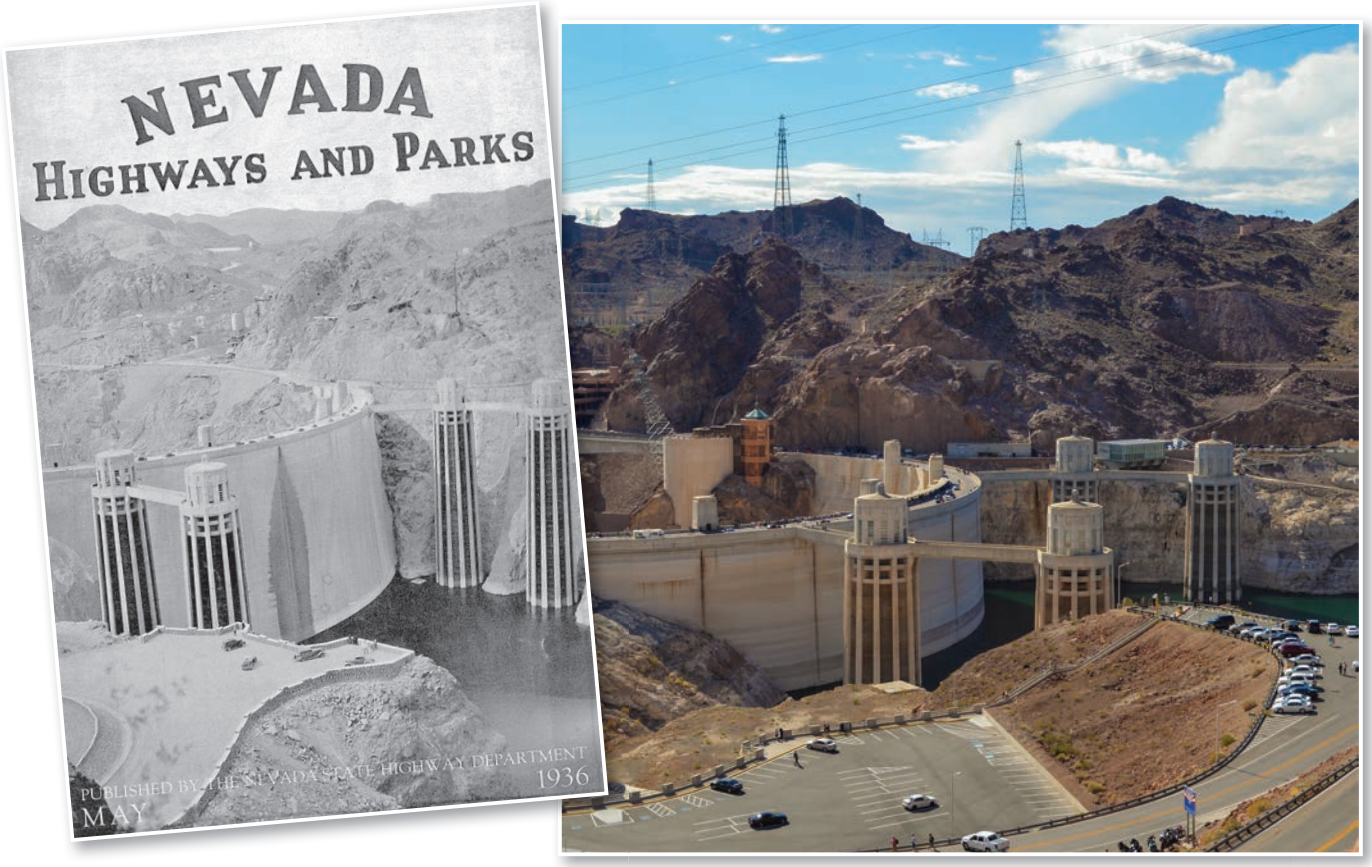
Then & Now: Boulder/Hoover Dam

HISTORIC ENGINEERING FEAT STANDS STRONG FOR NEARLY 80 YEARS.

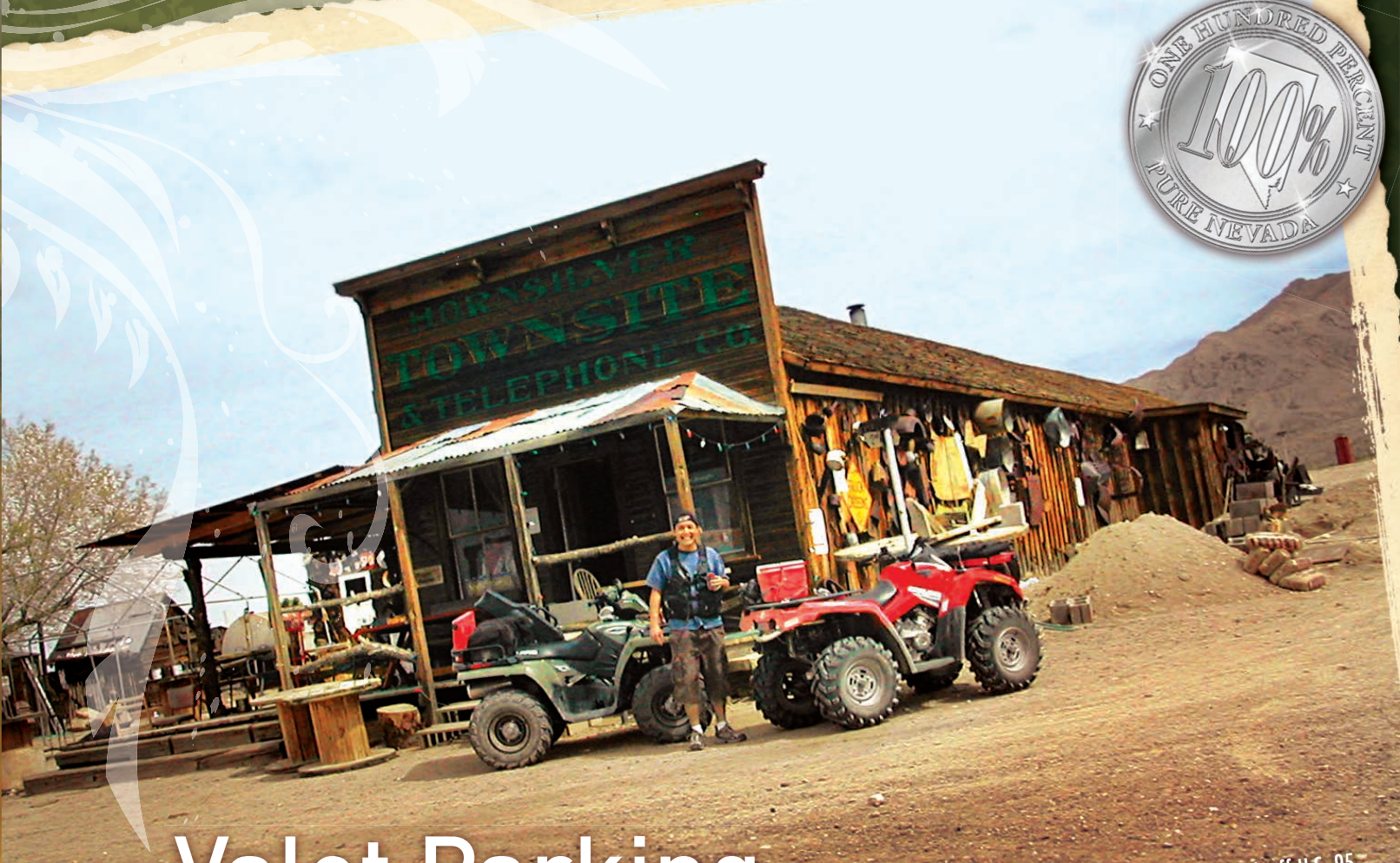
BY ERIC CACHINERO

We love historic places in Nevada, and we really love comparing them to what they looked like decades—sometimes even more than a century—ago. It's very humbling discovering a place that held so much history may be just outside your back door.

In May 1936, Hoover Dam (known as Boulder Dam until 1947) made its debut on the cover of *Nevada Highways and Parks* (now *Nevada Magazine*). Nearly 80 years since its dedication in September 1935, the dam still stands strong and continues to draw visitors from around the globe to experience its majesty. Keep an eye out for a story on this historic dam in the September/October 2015 issue of *Nevada Magazine*.



ERIC CACHINERO



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