



CONTENTS | FALL 2021

UP FRONT

- 6 Shuttles to Raiders and Knights Games, New Theater Coming, & More

HISTORY

- 24 Echo Bay Resort
44 Temple Emanu-El Turns 100

CRAVINGS

- 30 Side Track

WIDE OPEN

- 36 Hiking the Ruby Crest Trail

EVENTS & SHOWS

- 49 Nevada Ballet Returns
52 Statewide Calendar

SPECIAL SECTION

- 56 2021 Great Nevada Picture Hunt

CITY LIMITS

- 68 Animal Sanctuaries

FEATURE

- 76 Desert Caves
86 Pyramid Lake

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 3 Nevada Wide Web
4 Editor's Note & Letters
16 Your Favorite Nevada...
18 Visions
96 State Map

Fall is the perfect time to (you guessed it) fall in love with Nevada. From autumn festivals to the first blushes of snowfall, the Silver State is ready to embrace its seasonal wardrobe and show off its colors in a whole new light.



FROM THIS

TO THIS

INCREASED CONTENT VARIETY & QUANTITY



QUICK HITS

- 10 Nowhere But Nevada
18 Eye Candy
20 Food: Basque Delights
24 Sagebrush Saloons
26 Weird Nevada
30 Uncommon Overnights
32 Museums

ROAD TRIPS

- 38 Road Trip Roundup
40 Death Valley Rally
42 Lake Tahoe Loop
44 Free-Range Art Highway

FEATURES

- 46 What's in a Name?
How Nevada towns earned their monikers
52 Arts & Culture
Mural districts, opera houses, and performing arts venues
62 State Parks
Five state parks that dive into Nevada's history
68 Legendary Nevadans
Wyatt and Virgil Earp: From Tombstone to Tonopah

- 72 Nevada's State Animals
Five iconic animals that exemplify the Silver State
76 Spring Break Getaways
Roundup of the perfect spring vacation spots
82 Outdoor Recreation
Hike and backpack throughout the year, plus tips on cycling, fishing, and stargazing
88 Rural Wranglers
Adventures in and around the railroad town of Caliente
94 Towns with Spirit
Amazing remains of Delamar, plus 5 ghost towns you can't miss
100 Rock Out
Discovering gems and minerals in our rockhounding paradise

PLANNING GUIDE

- SHOPPING & LEISURE
106 Golf Courses
108 Scenic Byways & Drives
110 Local Buys: Battle Born Pins
RESOURCES
112 Events Calendar
114 Special Events: Dam Short Film Fest & WinterFest
116 Wedding Chapels
118 Myth vs. Fact
119 Recreate Responsibly
120 CVA Directory

Late winter and early spring in Nevada are a mixed-bag of goodies; from snow-covered hills in the north to perfectly balmy temps in the south, you'll also find carpets of wildflowers and if you're lucky, you'll spot a new batch of wildlife babies.

COVER

Artist Name, description
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

- 122 What's New?
Brand new attractions in Reno and Las Vegas
124 Coming Soon
Sneak peek of upcoming issues and web-only stories
128 The Final Word
A conversation with artist Melissa Melero-Moose

Up Front

SPECIAL EVENTS Summer events back throughout Nevada

After a quiet 2020, this summer will see the return of many signature special events. As ever, make sure to confirm dates and times before you go.



Ensemble: Mi Ni Woy

Artoons, now in its 26th festival season, generally hosts more than 500 events at more than 120 venue locations, across the northern Nevada area for the entire month of July. The family-friendly event hosts a number of headliners, along with such series as Discover the Arts, Monday Night Music Series, and more. This year's primary venue has been changed to accommodate a more spacious and safer event due to pandemic precautions. Headliners include Ensemble Mi Ni Woy on July 11, Konom Quartet on July 15, and Kelly Mc on July 22. artoons.org, 775-322-1538

The **American Century Championship** returns to South Lake Tahoe July 9-11 for its 32nd edition with its best-ever field competing for \$600,000 and fundraising for charity at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course. Justin Timberlake, Tony Romo, Aaron Rodgers, Patrick Mahomes, and Charles Barkley headline a field of more than 80 sports and entertainment stars competing in the 54-hole championship. americancenturychampionship.com

The **Reno Chalk Art & Music Festival** is back and bigger than ever. This year's event is set for July 9-11 in the west parking lot of the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa. Over the course of three days, amateur and professional artists will transform pavement into masterpieces while they battle for prizes in categories such as best use of color, best use of 3D, and best reproduction of a master's work. atlanticasino.com/chalk, 775-825-4700



Chalk Art by Maribeth McFady

Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival hosts beautiful balloons in the skies above Elko July 23-25. rubymountainballoons.org

The **Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival** is back at Sand Harbor July 17-Aug. 22 with performances of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" along with its showcase series events. laketahoshakespeare.com, 775-832-1616



Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival

Hot August Nights returns to Virginia City July 30-31, and to Reno Aug. 3-7. Parades, show-in-shines, concerts, and everything that makes this decades-old event way more than a car show. hotaugustnights.net, 775-356-1958



Great Basin Astronomy Festival is set to share the incredible dark skies the national park is known for on Sept. 9-11. Even if you don't have your own telescope, make your way to eastern Nevada for this unique event. spa.gov/abn, 775-234-7331



Great Basin Astronomy Festival

The racuous and totally unique **International Camel & Ostrich Races** are set to run Sept. 10-12 in Virginia City. visitorsingcity.com, 775-847-7500



International Camel & Ostrich Races

The **STIRL National Championship Air Races**—aka the **Reno Air Races**—takes to the sky once again Sept. 15-18. The only race of its kind, its decades-old event way more than a car show, at speeds that exceed 500 mph. airraces.org, 775-875-6653



Music festivals are back, with **Life is Beautiful Las Vegas** leading the way. Lots of music, tons of art, and the chilliest vibe anywhere is the hallmark of this event which is set for Sept. 17-19. Green Day, Billie Eilish, and Tame Impala are this year's headliners. lifeisbeautiful.com

Street Vibrations Motorcycle Festival is a celebration of music, metal, and motorcycles, offering poker runs, entertainment, ride-in shows, stunt and bike shows to more than 50,000 riding and enthusiasts. Set in multiple locations around the Reno-Sparks area, the event happens Sept. 23-26. streetvibrations.com/ve_fall.php, 775-329-7469



Street Vibrations Motorcycle Festival

FROM THIS

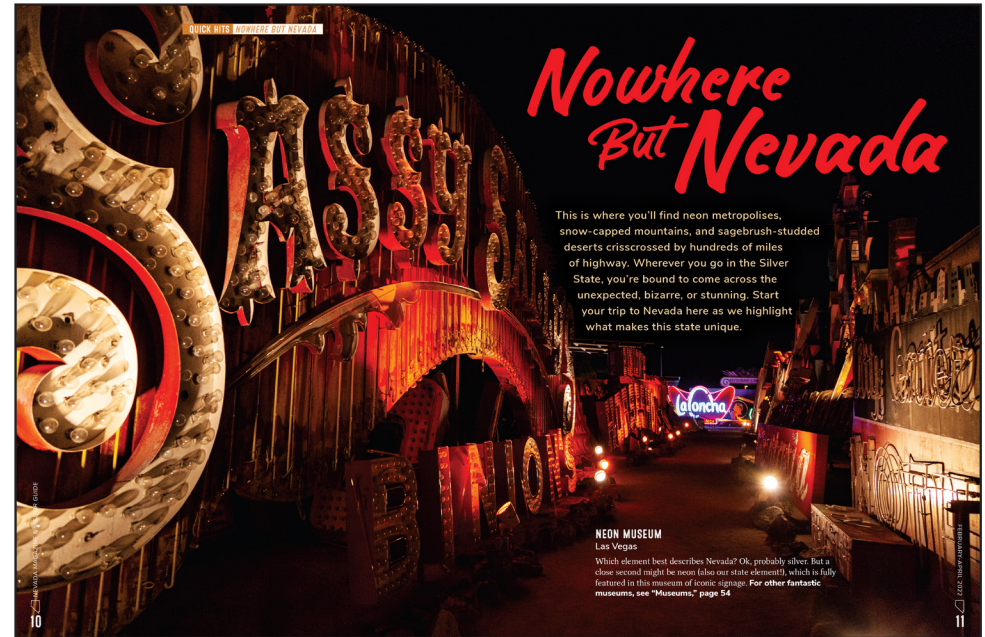
TO THIS

Nowhere But Nevada

This is where you'll find neon metropolises, snow-capped mountains, and sagebrush-studded deserts crisscrossed by hundreds of miles of highway. Wherever you go in the Silver State, you're bound to come across the unexpected, bizarre, or stunning. Start your trip to Nevada here as we highlight what makes this state unique.

NEON MUSEUM Las Vegas

Which element best describes Nevada? Ok, probably silver. But a close second might be neon (also our state element), which is fully featured in this museum of iconic signage. For other fantastic museums, see "Museums," page 54.



INCREASED DYNAMIC GRAPHIC INTEGRATION

Where the WILD THINGS Are

These wild icons define the Silver State.

While the bald eagle serves as a national emblem for the U.S., the states tend to take icons to a new level. Sure, there's a state animal in Nevada, but there's also a reptile, fish, and even a state insect. Without further ado, here are five creatures that Nevadans choose to embody the spirit of the state.

STATE ANIMAL (1873)—DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP
Ovis canadensis nelsoni
It's tough to think of a better mascot than the desert bighorn sheep. These survivors are perfectly at home in harsh environments and thrive in treacherous terrain. Their willingness to adapt to difficult conditions is the secret to their success: few predators are willing to meet these nomads on equal footing. The bighorn sheep is often found on canyon cliffs, deep ravines, and steep washes.

The bighorn's horns are a sophisticated design that give it a gravity-defying ability to scale cliffsides and narrow precipices. The curved shape allows for easy gripping on rock surfaces as narrow as 2 inches. As if that wasn't enough, these animals can make leaps of more than 20 feet.

**TRAVEL NEVADA
PICK TIP**
Boulder City's Human-Way Park is popular for its herds of bighorns. Some of the best sightings are at Valley of Fire State Park, just after sunrise or later in the afternoon.

WHAT MAKES 'EM TICK
Male desert bighorn sheep have C-shaped horns that never stop growing. The horns are made of keratin—like your fingernails—which envelops a bony center. When quarrying, ram can callus it (spiral) up to 50 mph.

STATE BIRD (1967)—MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD *Sialia currucoides*

Nevada's avian representative is well chosen—and not just because its powder-blue plumage matches our state flag. Preferring to nest at elevations between 5,000-12,000 feet, the bluebird finds itself at home in the state's numerous mountain ranges. If you're looking for its prime habitat, stay clear of thick forests, and instead look for meadows with scattered trees and perches.

FEATURES WILD THINGS



MALTING Though they enjoy nuts and seeds, mountain bluebirds are primarily carnivores, eating a meal of grasshoppers, ants, and beetles.

**TRAVEL NEVADA
PICK TIP**
Spot these birds in the Sierra Nevada near Reno and in the Rubicon and Lunella Canyons near Elko. Kingbird Canyon north of Austin is also prime territory, as is Mt. Charleston in the summer.

Missing the state fossil? See page 61.

STATE FISH (1983)—LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT *Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*

The Lahontan cutthroat trout is Nevada's ultimate ecological comeback story. For thousands of years, this fish—native to the waters in and around Pyramid Lake—was a vital food source for the Paiute and others living in the Great Basin. By the late 1800s, however, settlers began overfishing and removed spawning grounds with the construction of dams. By 1943, the trout population was believed to be gone.

In the late 1970s, biologists discovered a species of trout inhabiting two creeks on Pilot Peak, which straddles the Utah-Nevada border. DNA testing verified these trout were in fact Lahontan cutthroats that someone must have brought to the remote mountain. In 2006, the Lahontan Cutthroat trout was reintroduced into Pyramid Lake, Walker Lake, and rivers and streams throughout the state.

**TRAVEL NEVADA
PICK TIP**
Fishing at Pyramid Lake requires a license from the Nevada State Department of Wildlife licenses.

Photos: Don Heston (Bighorn), Nevada Department of Wildlife (Bluebird & Trout), Lauren Heston (Bighorn) on rock, Stefan Heston (Bighorn)

THE DIFFERENCES
Unlike other trout, the Lahontan cutthroat thrives in alkaline waters. They're identified by their greenish-gold scales, black spots, and orange-red markings on their throat.



GOLDWELL OPEN AIR MUSEUM Beatty

A gloriously bleak version of Leonardo Di Vinci's painting "The Last Supper" hangs out in the desert near Beatty at the Goldwell Open Air Museum. Seven cultural and historic single with a museum and a giant window, only in Nevada. Learn more about these visages along the Free-Range Art Highway road to page 44.



BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK Gabbs

How often do state parks give visitors a tour of the past—twice? Here, you can explore the well-preserved ghost town of Berlin, then jump a few million years back in time by coming face-to-face with Nevada's state fossil, the ichthyosaur. See "State Parks," page 62.



DESERT TORTOISE Southern Nevada

The desert tortoise is the ultimate desert survivor, so no wonder it became the state reptile. These long-lived creatures reside throughout southern Nevada, and while they're shy and reclusive, you're guaranteed to spot a few at nature preserves near Las Vegas. See "Wild Things," page 72.



PICON PUNCH Northern Nevada

The beautifully better Banquet American Edition is one of Nevada's most famous cocktails. To find out which restaurants serve this cultural creation, see "Banquet Restaurants," page 20.



BOOMTOWN

Many of the peddlers carrying their ware to Pioche were Mormons from Utah. Newly formed Nevada had financial wealth from gold and silver holdings, but lacked for almost everything else. Utah had an abundance of produce, meat products, and a sundry of other items needed in nearby Pioche, so what could be better?

However, no matter how promising this idyllic financial position appeared, the Mormon peddlers from Utah crossed into Nevada en route to Pioche under threat of being waylaid by brigades. The freighters and coach drivers were often unaware of thieves concealed among a clump of trees, until they jumped out with guns in hand. But those who made it through the gauntlet to Pioche found success. Pioche had the most ravenous appetite for goods of all the Nevada mining camps inside the reach of southern Utah. And as such, it drew purveyors of myriad supplies from the Utah counties of Beaver, Iron, Millard, and Washington. It was a daily spectacle of wheeled conveyances coming to town: immense freight wagons with long processions of freight animals were seen unloading goods at the various stores, and stagecoaches carrying payrolls lined the main street.

The discovery of rich deposits of silver ore in 1864 began to put a Nevada community on the map. But it wasn't

until 1870, that it became known as Pioche. It was that year that F. L. A. Pioche began mining operations in earnest—for that effort, the community was affixed with his name. By 1872, more than \$5 million in ore was extracted from the Pioche mines. As with many mining communities, Pioche's life span was short lived—by 1886, the boom ended, leaving Pioche nearly empty, a mere shadow of itself. By 1950, with the closing of the last mines, Pioche faded into partial dormancy. The town had begun with a small population of 250 residents, but when the news of huge silver deposits hardened, Pioche soon swelled to at least 6,000 souls. Many undesirables—claim jumpers, card sharps, and soiled doves—flooded the area. Their main forte was to separate miners from their money.

With residents such as these, Pioche earned its reputation as the "most lawless camp in the old west—rivaling even Tombstone in Arizona."

An article in the April 6, 1870 "Elko Independent" tells the tale of Pioche. "Excitement High; cut-throats and thieves plenty."

THE ELKO INDEPENDENT.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 1870.

FROM ELK DISTRICT.—A friend has shown us a letter from Pioche City, in which affairs there and in the district are thus summarily described: "Excellent high, cut-throats and thieves plenty; mining camp looking better every day; new locations are being made daily; Pioche City has a population of 250 men, 4000 women and 1 black, with more expected; town property held enormously high, as far as the ore is concerned it is certainly extraordinary in every respect, the judges being well settled in date and property walls, and nothing but mineral between walls."—*Review.*

INCREASE OF TRAVEL.—Saulberry & Gilmer, the great Western stage men, who have the mail contract renewed to them for the next four years from this city to the northern Territories, owing to the greatly increased travel to Montana of late, have commenced running daily four-horse coaches from this place; and if the travel increases at the same rate it has of late, they will be compelled to put on a double line soon.—*Review.*

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. at their next session will take steps to have the boundary line between Humboldt and Lander definitely established. There seems to be a difference of opinion as to which of the two counties



Pioche, 1872

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Written on the back of this photo from 1872: "Pioche, Nevada just prior to the time the 'Million Dollar Courthouse' was built. Note the official hanging platform at the bottom just left of center. The condemned stood on a plank balanced between the vertical supports and it was then kicked off the supports."

Pioche also became the perfect place for road agents who knew when traders' wagons were empty, their pockets full of proceeds, and they were setting off for home. The criminals were also somehow privy as to when a stagecoach was heading into town, with treasure boxes full of gold coin. One of those skulking the route was Charles A. "Jack" Harris. Harris' specialty was robbing Wells Fargo & Company stages. The stagecoaches carried large payrolls of hard currency with which to pay employees of the mines and other businesses. Harris had his repertoire down to a science: he would come out of the shadows without warning and ambush a stage en route to Pioche. After ordering the stage to stop, he sent them on their way unharmed, minus the payroll. It was all so smooth a transfer he rarely needed a gun. Armed with the highway

Pierson and Ames, were accompanied by a man known as "Pilgrim." It's not known how it came to be that he joined the two traders but what is known is that, somewhere along the route, he attacked the two. Pilgrim got the drop on Pierson and Ames and shot them both with their own guns. One died instantly; the other was mortally wounded. The killer then separated the two men from their valuables, and rustled one of the horses and lit out for the unknown. There was little chance that he could be caught.

Along with freight wagons, the stagecoaches provided rich targets for the highwaymen. A stagecoach traveling from Pioche to Salt Lake City, on Oct. 24, 1870, was held up by desperados brandishing weapons. They demanded the stage driver toss down the Wells Fargo strong box. They then ordered the passengers from the stage.

FEATURES: LEGENDARY NEVADANS

When he wasn't working, he and Josephine enjoyed wandering the hills around town, prospecting and looking for the next big strike.

There are stories—likely urban legends—about Wyatt's stint as a lawman in Tonopah. One such tale: when informed he shouldn't shoot anyone except out of self-defense, Wyatt said that he would be the judge of

when "self-defense" starts. Another tale goes that claim jumpers were working a mine when a man arrived and told them to leave at once. The miners indignantly asked who this man thought he was and told him to mind his business. When the figure responded, "I'm Wyatt Earp," the claim jumpers fled.

In summer 1903, Wyatt and Josephine decided they'd had enough of Tonopah. They sold their share in The Northern and slowly made their way to California, prospecting throughout Esmeralda County on their way. In all, their Nevadan adventure lasted a little less than two years.

THE END OF AN ERA

Goldfield—originally called Grandpa—began as an offshoot of Tonopah. Perhaps one of Nevada's most famous boomtowns, Goldfield would grow into Nevada's largest metropolis by 1906 with 30,000 residents—its sister town 30 miles north would hardly reach 5,000.

Virgil Earp and his wife Allie moved to Goldfield in 1904. Virgil decided he too would start a saloon, but found he didn't have enough cash in a town where everything was expensive. He turned to gambling and soon found himself down to his last few dollars.



To make ends meet, Virgil returned to law enforcement, serving as deputy sheriff and working security at a saloon called The National. These positions were honorary, however. Virgil was in his early 60s and suffered chronic pain from his hard-fighting lifestyle.

In 1905, Goldfield suffered a pneumonia outbreak, and Verge—as the "Tonopah Sun" called him—died at the age of 62. His last words to his wife on October 19 were, "Light my cigar, and stay here and hold my hand."



WYATT EARP CIRCA 1903

Josephine and Wyatt continued wandering the West, doing what made them most happy: prospecting. They settled in California, and toward the end of Wyatt's life, set to work memorializing the lawman's career.

Two years after Wyatt's death in 1929 came the best selling, semi-true biography "The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp." The nascent American movie industry—recognizing the public's appetite for Wild West legends—immortalized the Earp brothers, and they would be portrayed on the silver screen throughout the 20th century.



GOLDFIELD IN 1905

Courtesy: The Nevada State Historical Society

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Goldfield was once called the World's Greatest Gold Camp and still stands as a monument to the gold rush days of Nevada. Visitors are encouraged to take the self-guided Historic Walking Tour of the town. Don't miss the Goldfield Historic High School or the Esmeralda County Courthouse, and while you're at it, consider signing up to become a member of the Goldfield Historical Society.



Access the walking tour booklet and map

CLEANER,
MORE
APPROACHABLE
DESIGN
(WITH MORE CALLS TO ACTION)