

Mint Edition

Newsletter of the Nevada State Museum, Carson City
Nevada Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs

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Nevada State Museum Gets into Halloween Spirit



Volunteers Judy Anderson (left) and Suemi Atherton dress ghost miners for the celebrations. Photo: Laurel Rogers

by Brett Fisher

A year ago, the Nevada State Museum decided that the Governor's Mansion shouldn't have all of the Halloween fun in October, so we joined with the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada to host a spooktacular block party for the community. We already knew that Nevadans love Halloween almost as much as they do Nevada Day, but we didn't think a thousand visitors would come through our doors in one evening. And yet, they did!

So successful was last year's block party, in fact, that we just had to do it again. Only this year, we're going bigger . . . and getting even deeper into the Halloween spirit!

Thanks to a generous donation, our exhibits and facilities staff went batty obtaining and fabricating Halloween props that are sure to delight visitors.

above: Detail from an *ofrenda* in the Dema Guinn Concourse, Día de los Muertos, 2023. Photo: Brett Fisher.
right: Decorated skull from 2023. Photo: George Baumgardner

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“Halloween brings out the Mardi Gras in some of us,” said Exhibits Manager Laurel Rogers. “A lot of our team members love the spooky season.”

She said the Halloween projects have also added some devilish hijinks to the usual workday. “Staff have enjoyed hiding various animatronic props throughout the museum to scare the living day-lights out of each other,” Rogers laughed. “This gives us the opportunity to really let loose and be creative, while interacting in a lighthearted way.”

The Nevada State Museum is partnering again with the Children’s Museum of Northern Nevada for another family-friendly Halloween Block Party on Friday evening, October 18, from 5 to 8 p.m. There will be trunk-or-treating in the north parking lot behind the Museum Store and along Anne Street at the Children’s Museum of Northern Nevada; Creepy Crawly Critters Curator’s Corner in the Dema Guinn Concourse; and a haunted ghost town and mine walkthrough.



Friday’s block party is non-scary. This includes the displays as well as the costumes of Museum staff, volunteers and visitors. But all bets are off the very next night on Saturday, October 19, with the all-new Haunted Mint fright night scare from 6 to 9 p.m. for visitors 13 and over only. There will be jump scares and other frightening Halloween surprises not suitable for young children. Cost is \$10 per person.

The Haunted Mint is a ghoulish adventure telling the story of Nevada’s mining legacy in a way that only Halloween can bring out.

“This is going to be like Disney’s Haunted Mansion meets Pirates of the Caribbean meets Old West Frontier Land,” Rogers explained, “with our own unique Nevada flair.”

Clockwise from upper left: Exhibits Manager Laurel Rogers works on a vulture skeleton prop.
Photo: Jim Grey

Exhibits Preparator David Ornellas builds a coffin prop.
Photo: Jim Grey

A skeleton vulture sits atop miner’s helmets that have been painted to look rusted and spooky.
Photos: Laurel Rogers

Finished coffin with skeleton props. Photo: Laurel Rogers



Día de los Muertos: An Event for Everyone

by Brett Fisher

For the past 18 years, the Nevada State Museum in Carson City has hosted the annual Día de los Muertos celebration in recognition of Latin culture and its contributions to the Silver State.

This year the Museum decided to collaborate with Visit Carson City, the Brewery Arts Center, and the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada to expand Día de los Muertos as a community-wide festival.

"Día de los Muertos recognizes the influence of Latin culture throughout Nevada's communities, so it makes sense for the celebration to include festivities that all of Carson City can participate in," said Nevada State Museum Director Josh Bonde.



Día de los Muertos ("Day of the Dead") is a traditional Mexican festival combining elements of the ancient Aztec civilization with Spanish Catholicism introduced in Mexico by 16th century missionaries. It's a time to remember loved ones who have passed on and celebrate their lives.

From sacred, deeply personal *ofrendas* (altars) thoughtfully decorated as memorials, to music, dancing, feasts, and storytelling, Día de los Muertos creates a strong connection between the living and the departed.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for us to really connect with the community," said Bonde. "It also complements our mission to promote the cultural history of Nevada."

The *ofrendas* presentation is scheduled for Friday, November 1 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Dema Guinn Concourse. Mexican hot chocolate, pan de muerto and pan dulce will be served.

The heart of the celebration occurs Saturday, November 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Nevada State Museum with indoor and outdoor activities, including live music and dancing performances, a family storytime collaboration with the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada, crafts, and face painting.

The Brewery Arts Center will host an evening concert Saturday as well.

Admission to the Museum is free on Friday evening and all day on Saturday.

left: Coloring activities and face painting from Día de los Muertos 2023 celebration. Photo: Brett Fisher
right: Dancers from Día de los Muertos 2023 celebration. Photo: Brett Fisher





Wainscoting and hand painted oak graining on wood door inside the Mint building.
Photo: Brett Fisher

Perspectives

by Mary Covington, Registrar

In the Nevada State Museum’s Autumn 1974 newsletter, published by the Docent Council, director Tom Layton reported: “The restoration of the first floor of the Mint Building continues to bring the natural wooden wonders of the 1870s out from beneath many coats of blue paint. The restoration effort is being strengthened by a promise of technical assistance from the San Francisco Mint Museum, whose architectural consultant has now made two visits to Carson City. Thanks to the artistry of our own Hope LaCombe, we will be able to swap the San Francisco Mint a set of Hope’s coin plaques in exchange for several sets of engraved and solid cast bronze United States Mint doorknobs, escutcheon plates and door hinges. Our next great concert in the restoration effort will be to duplicate the hand painted oak graining originally present on the doors and base boards.”

During Autumn 2024, the Museum continues to upgrade, restore, and reinvigorate our surroundings with construction of the new Natural History exhibit, the Basketry Gallery exhibit, and an incoming Mineral exhibit.

Return of the Carson City Mint Coin Show



Dealers and customers interact during the Carson City Mint Coin Show at the Nevada State Museum on September 20, 2024. Photo: George Baumgardner



Allen Rowe of Northern Nevada Coin talks with a customer. Photo: George Baumgardner

by Brett Fisher

After an absence of several years, the Carson City Mint Coin Show returned to the Nevada State Museum in September. Numismatists, both dealers and collectors alike, from as far away as Florida attended the two-day show. Even Coin Press No. 1 got into the act, minting its venerable 1870 Liberty Seated half-dollar replica medallion during the event. Northern Nevada Coin co-hosted the show. Owner Allen Rowe said the dealers attending were very pleased with the turn-out and look forward to the show coming back again next year.

Calendar of Events

Check www.carsonnmuseum.org/events for more detailed information



October 2024

Saturday, October 5

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Saturday, October 12

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Friday, October 18

Halloween Block Party with Children's Museum of Northern Nevada, 5–8 pm

Saturday, October 19

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Saturday, October 19

Haunted Mint Fright Night Scare, 6–9 pm, admission \$10

Thursday, October 24

Frances Humphrey Lecture Series, TBD, Dema Guinn Concourse, 6:30–7:30 pm

Friday, October 25

Free admission for Nevada Day, 8:30 am–4:30 pm

Saturday, October 26

Free admission for Nevada Day, 8:30 am–4:30 pm

Saturday, October 26

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

November 2024

Friday, November 1

Día de los Muertos *ofrendas* presentations, Dema Guinn Concourse, 5–7 pm

Saturday, November 2

Día de los Muertos celebration, 10 am–3 pm

Saturday, November 2

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Saturday, November 9

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Saturday, November 16

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Thursday, November 21

Frances Humphrey Lecture Series, TBD, Dema Guinn Concourse, 6:30–7:30 pm

Saturday, November 23

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Thursday, November 28

Museum closed for Thanksgiving

Saturday, November 30

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm



December 2024

Saturday, December 7

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Saturday, December 14

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Saturday, December 21

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Wednesday, December 25

Museum closed for Christmas Day

Saturday, December 28

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Efforts to Restore 1967 Chevrolet Pickup Shift into Gear

by Brett Fisher

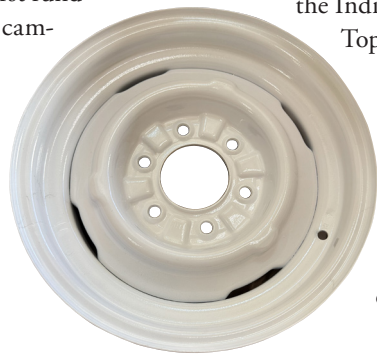
Restoration work on the Nevada State Museum's classic 1967 Chevrolet Stepside Pickup has begun in earnest. The Silver State Industries automotive shop, located at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center in Carson City, has disassembled the vehicle and inspected every piece of it, NSM Facilities Supervisor Albert Depew said.

"The truck has been completely broken down and all of the parts thoroughly inspected," he said. "Everything has been sandblasted and either primed or powder coated."

Some parts, like the wheel rims, have already been restored. Depew said he recently picked up the like-new rims that just had four brand-new tires mounted to them. The Chocolate Shoppe in Gardnerville, a Museum Store vendor, donated the new treads for the restoration project. Depew said Silver State Industries can now begin reassembling the vehicle.

"With the new tires and rims, they can make it a rolling chassis and really begin the rebuild," Depew said.

Getting the classic '67 Chevy pickup to the restoration stage has been nothing short of a team effort. Museum Store Manager Cayce Weislow and the Friends of the Nevada State Museum organized the first fund-raising events to launch the restoration campaign. The Nevada State Museum Car Show and White Elephant Rummage Sale were held on June 29. Proceeds raised were put toward the pickup's restoration costs. The Friends also held the Tin Cup Roundup barbecue at the Nevada Governor's Mansion on September 21 to raise money for the project.



inset: Newly restored tire rim for the 1967 Chevrolet truck. Photo: Albert Depew



above: David Ornellas (left) and Jim Grey secure the truck for transport to Northern Nevada Correctional Center in Carson City. Photo: Albert Depew

The 1967 Chevrolet Stepside Pickup had pulled the mobile museum trailer during the last year of the mobile museum program, which operated from 1954–1968. The pickup was then utilized for general museum business during its remaining years of state service until eventually parked and left untouched at the Indian Hills Curatorial Center annex off Topsy Lane in South Carson City.

Long-term Museum plans for the restored vehicle include reinstating its state service as a mobile ambassador in promoting Nevada history and culture, as well as entering it in the annual Nevada Day Parade through downtown Carson City.



from top above: Disassembled parts of the truck ready for restoration. Photos: Courtesy Northern Nevada Correctional Center.

Education Programming is a Valuable Resource for Schools

by Mahal Moon, Curator of Education

The classroom should be a space where all students feel safe, curious, and empowered to succeed. The Education team at the Nevada State Museum proudly offers three docent-led tours and fifteen rotating Discovery Lab workshops designed for students of all ages and abilities. Our programs introduce learners to the Nevada State Museum as an integral part of their local learning ecosystem, fostering interaction and a deeper understanding of our cultural and natural history collections.

According to the 2023 Annual National Snapshot of United States Museums, a survey conducted by the American Alliance of Museums, “Forty percent of respondents are seeing fewer students from K–12 in-person field trips” (Merritt, 2023) following COVID shutdowns. Many institutions attribute this decline to setbacks in literacy and math skills, requiring significant additional instruction time from formal educators to compensate for lost learning. In

the 2023–2024 school year, the Education team at the Nevada State Museum served over 12,000 K–12 students. The support of our members is vital in communicating to local educators that the Museum is a valuable resource, and that time spent here is beneficial for their students.

Field trips are available for groups of up to 60 students and their adult chaperones during regular museum hours, Tuesday through Friday. To book a tour, please contact the Education Office at 775-687-0653 or via email at NSMEducation@nevadaculture.org. Transportation reimbursement is available to all public schools in Nevada through the Division of Museums and History. For more information on accessing these funds, please reach out to the Education Office.

right: Volunteer Pat King leads an *Under One Sky* school tour. Photo: NSM staff



Welcome to Our Newest Nevada State Museum Members!

New Members

Gary Anderson
Ken & Akrista Aslin
Louise Baier
Dana Brown
Greg & Sybil Caldwell
Carl Chism
Shaul Dadon
Erin, John, Hendricks & Joleen Davis
Matthew & Shaondra Dobbs
Douglas Dow
Mary Giesler
Julie Gingrich & Kelly Sullivan
Ian & Mikaela Hodge

Stacy Hughes
Michael James
Rachel & R. M. Jones
Kassie Kirch
William Lawrance
Shane S. Lott
Sabrina & Brennon Martinez
Steve K. Matsumura
Taylor Mayfield
Carol & Terry McCallum
Bren & Kevin McClean
Mary McGrath
William & Fawn Michel
Kevin Milburn
Chai & Daniel Nelson

Paul Newnham
Donna O’Hearn
Steven Palladino
Greg & Lora Pedersen
Thomas Pepper
Nathan Porter
Patricia Prehn McCracken
Cheri & Manel Rodriguez
Sandy & Dale Schneeberger
Howard Skerry
Linda Stevenson-Dunlap
Jean Thierman
Lynna Walker & Bev Schroeder
Denise Wessell
Deborah & Daryl Yee Litt

Enhanced Memberships

Benefactor
Nancy Cerceau
Mary McGrath

Contributing
Gary Anderson
Joyce B. Smith

Sustaining
Lynn Bremer
Janellen Brock
John Fewell & Alex Wager
Lesley & David Grossblatt
W. G. Hohlt

Betty Hulse
Christine & Michael Kees
Marilyn Lindsey
Debbie Mailey
Suzanne Mettler
Jeannette Miller
David P. Montagner
Jon & Janet Nowlin
Nathan Porter
Sandy & Dale Schneeberger
Susan Thompson

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Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile
 Research Center
 775/687-6173

Anthropology Resource Center
 775/687-0665

Bretzlaff History Resource Center
 775/687-0696 or 775/687-0697

Natural History Resource Center
 775/687-0661

The Nevada State Museum in Carson City is an agency of the Division of Museums and History within the Nevada Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs. The museum engages diverse audiences in understanding and celebrating Nevada's natural and cultural heritage.

State of Nevada
 Joe Lombardo, Governor

Nevada Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs
 Brenda Scolari, Director

Division of Museums and History
 Dan Thielen
 Division Administrator

The Friends of the Nevada State Museum, a 501(c)(3) private nonprofit organization, supports the museum through volunteer assistance, fundraising, and advocacy. For more information contact Jim Spain, Chair at spainnopain@charter.net

The Nevada State Museum publishes the *Mint Edition* newsletter for the purpose of highlighting museum exhibits, education programs, special events, and collection activities.

Museum members receive the *Mint Edition* as a benefit of membership if they provide an email address.

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Members
 Children (17 & under) Free
 Adults \$10

Memberships:
 \$45 individual
 \$75 family
 \$125 sustaining
 \$20 senior/veteran discount on any membership level

Open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Tuesday through Sunday
 Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day

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