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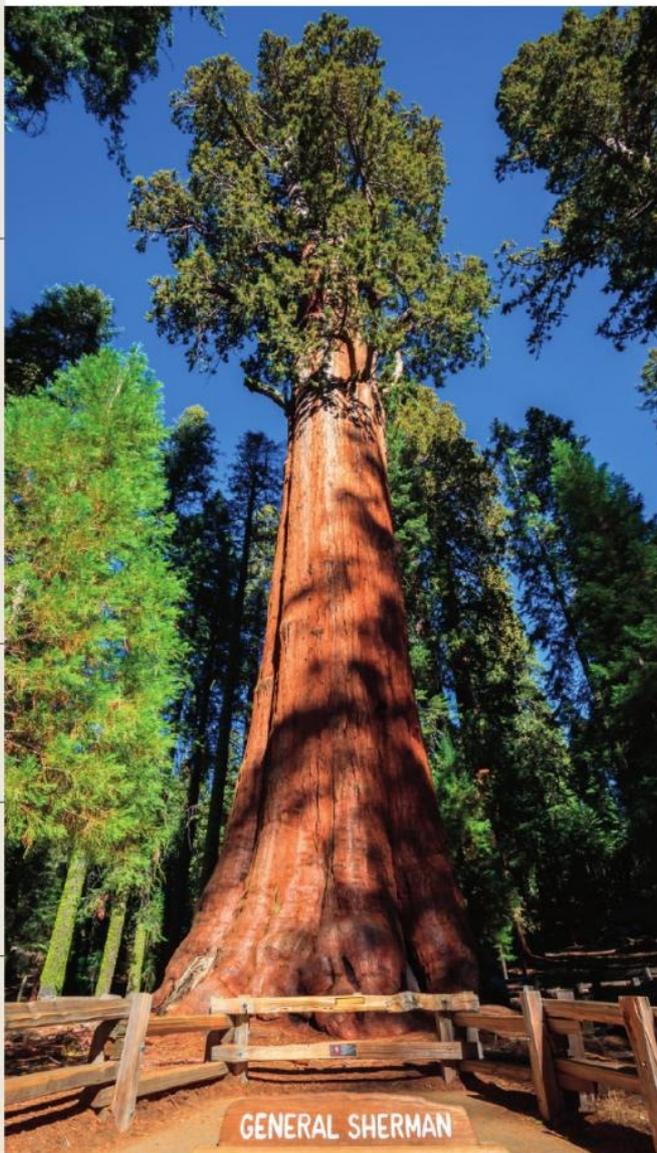
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Cover: Top PGA pros will play at Chambers Bay, south of Seattle, during the U.S. Open, June 18–21. Photo by David Cannon / Getty Images.



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80 AIR TIME
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Brad Tilden, Chief Executive Officer

A Toast—to the Planet



Our own Joe Sprague's got a passion for Alaska and the Pacific Northwest—and for beer! Here he shares how we're tapping into some special partnerships this month to raise a glass for Mother Earth.

—Brad Tilden

Raise your hand if you like beer. If your arm shot up, I'm with you. Like a lot of folks, I really enjoy a nice craft beer: an amber, a pale ale and, increasingly, an IPA. Enjoying the hoppy deliciousness of a microbrew is another example of how great it is to live in this beautiful corner of the world. With Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington rating among the top 10 states in the nation for microbreweries per capita, there's a strong argument to be made that this is the center of the craft-beer universe.

True story: The first beer I ever enjoyed (after turning 21, of course) was an Alaskan Amber. I was home from college for the summer, and when I opened the refrigerator at my parents' house in Juneau, there was this cool-looking brown bottle with a picture of a fishing boat on it. The beer could not have been fresher, having been brewed only a couple of miles away at what was then a new concept—a microbrewery. The Alaskan Brewing Company was one of the first craft breweries in the country and has been going strong now for nearly 30 years. I've been a fan almost as long.

Our team here at Alaska Airlines has been delighted to serve Alaskan Brewing's award-winning beers on our flights for nearly 10 years. Not only does Alaskan Brewing make world-class beer, but we share their roots in Alaska, their entrepreneurial spirit and their focus on environmental sustainability. Alaskan Brewing supports the cleanup and preservation of waterways and coastlines from Alaska to California and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast, using a percentage of sales of the company's Icy Bay IPA to fund grants for environmental projects through the initiative Coastal CODE (Clean Oceans Depend on Everyone).

This month we're partnering with Alaskan Brewing on addi-

tional efforts to keep our communities green. We'll be offering their tasty Icy Bay IPA on all of our flights where we serve alcohol. As usual, the beverage will be complimentary on flights operated by Horizon Air. Alaska Airlines will be offering the beer for only \$5. In addition, the airline will be giving \$50,000 to The Nature Conservancy to support its respected efforts to protect and restore the Emerald Edge on the coastlines of Washington and Alaska.

While this is a fun way to promote Earth Month, Alaska takes very seriously its commitment to be the airline leader in environmental stewardship. Our employees are proud of the fact that the International Council on Clean Transportation has named us the most fuel-efficient airline in America for four years in a row, and that our industry-leading onboard recycling efforts help reduce our environmental footprint.

These efforts include teaming up with others to foster new approaches to caring for the environment. A great example comes out of the University of Washington's Foster School of Business. The Alaska Airlines Environmental Innovation Challenge takes place this month, bringing together innovative and entrepreneurial college students from around Washington—40 teams applied this

year, to be pared down to 22 finalists. Students create actual prototypes, like new catalytic converters for marine engines, digesters that turn spoiled produce into fertilizer and a technology to recycle cotton clothing into new fabrics. The folks at the UW call it a "science fair on steroids." These students showcase their passion as well as their innovation as they compete not only for prize money, but to be leaders themselves in making a difference for our environment.

We salute these students, along with our friends at the Alaskan Brewing Company. Perhaps even better than a salute would be a toast—with an Icy Bay IPA, of course! Thanks for flying with us.

—Joe Sprague, Senior VP,
Communications and External Relations

Read more about Alaska Airlines' efforts toward environmental stewardship at alaskaair.com/sustainability.





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FAIRBANKS, AK

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More than 70 bird species find sanctuary in the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge

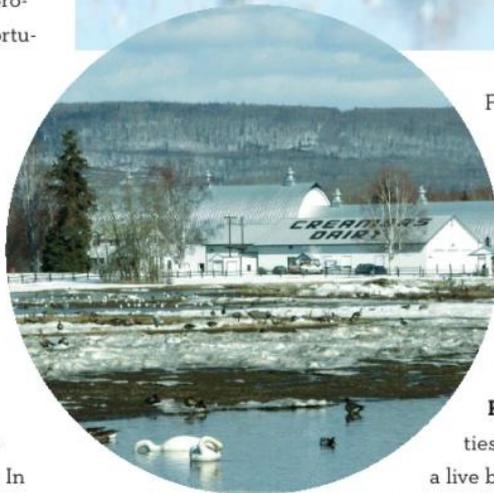
Each year, birds migrating north in the spring and south in the fall find shelter in the fields, forests and wetlands of the 2,000-acre **Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge**.

Located in Fairbanks, the refuge provides stopover safety for species such as pintails and golden plovers, as well as summer-long protection for species such as sandhill cranes, shovelers and mallards, and year-round sanctuary for species such as chickadees, redpolls, ravens and owls.

A 3-mile network of trails, with a variety of observation platforms, provides bird-watching opportunities. Visitors might also spot some of the refuge's 30 mammal species, ranging from moose and fox to mink, woodchuck and the northern flying squirrel.

Creamer's Field was originally a dairy farm, founded in the early 1900s and used as a haven by more and more waterfowl over the years. In 1967, a community fundraising effort preserved 300 acres of the closing farm for waterfowl habitat. The Alaska Fish and Game Department subsequently began managing the fields, and in the 1970s, the conservation area was expanded and designated a state wildlife refuge. It is open year-round. Refuge supporters include Alaska Airlines.

Visitors can learn more about the refuge at the **Farmhouse Visitor Center**. In addition, volunteer naturalists from the nonprofit Friends of Creamer's



Field are leading **guided walks** on Tuesdays and Thursdays to the end of May, and daily, except Sundays, in the summer. The refuge also will be the base for the **Spring Migration Celebration**, May 2, and the **Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane**

Festival, Aug. 28-30, with activities such as bird-research talks and a live birds-of-prey program. Contact:

adfg.alaska.gov and creamersfield.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cranes engage in dancing, which includes various behaviors such as bowing, jumping, running, stick or grass tossing, as well as wing flapping. Though it is commonly associated with courtship, dancing can occur at any age and season. —Source: *International Crane Foundation* (savingcranes.org)



SANDHILL CRANES: TOP AND BOTTOM: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM; CREAMER'S FIELD: CENTER: BARBARA LOGAN; FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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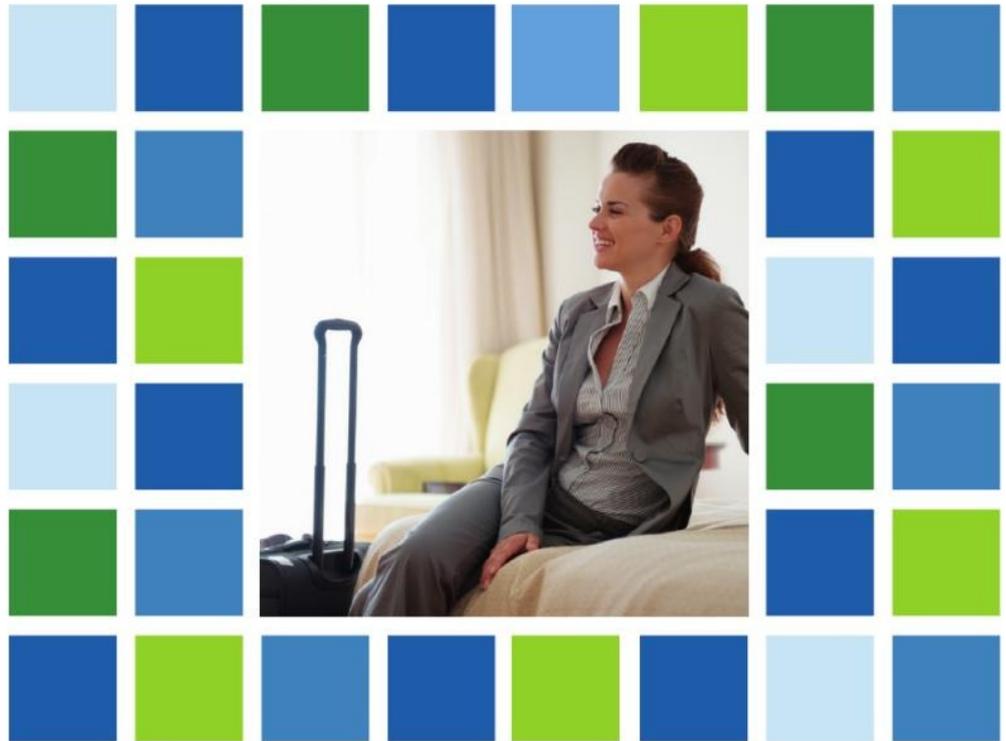
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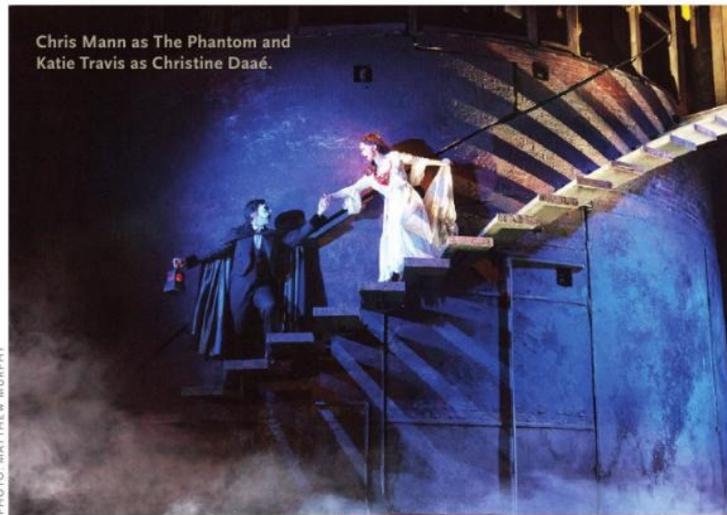


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SEATTLE, WA, AND PORTLAND, OR

Spectacular new *The Phantom of the Opera*

Reinvented production is captivating audiences



Chris Mann as The Phantom and Katie Travis as Christine Daaé.

PHOTO: MATTHEW MURPHY

Since *The Phantom* first celebrated the music of the night in Andrew Lloyd Webber's 1986 world premiere of *The Phantom of the Opera*, the production has become one of the most successful musicals in the history of theater.

Nearly three decades later, a new version—with reinvented staging, choreography and scenic design—is captivating audiences. The new touring production retains the original Tony-winning costume design and Andrew Lloyd Webber's original score. Chris Mann (a finalist on the second season of *The Voice*) plays The Phantom, with award-winning vocalist Katie Travis as Christine Daaé.

The new production will be on

Based on Gaston Leroux's early-1900s novel, Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* has been seen by around 140 million people in 30 countries. —Source: thephantomoftheopera.com

stage in **Seattle, April 30-May 10, as part of the Broadway at The Paramount series (stgresents.org)**. Alaska Airlines is the official airline sponsor of the series, whose upcoming productions also include *Wicked*, July 8-Aug. 2; *Pippin*, Aug. 18-23; and *Annie*, Sept. 20-26.

The new *Phantom* will be in **Portland, Oregon, May 13-23, as part of the Broadway in Portland series (broadwayinportland.com)**, whose official airline sponsor also is Alaska Airlines. —Michele Andrus Dill



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▲ More than 30 world-renowned photographers, painters, sculptors, writers, filmmakers and musicians tell the story of vaccines in the online exhibit "**The Art of Saving a Life**," commissioned by the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** (artofsavingalife.com).



▲ **One of the largest wildflower shows in the Western Hemisphere**—featuring more than 600 species and varieties of Central California Coast wildflowers—will take place April 17-19 at the **Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History** in Monterey County (pgmuseum.org).

The U.S. Rowing—sanctioned **Oregon Association of Rowers 2015 Covered Bridge Regatta**,

April 11, 18 and 19 in the Eugene area, will include junior, collegiate, open and master's crews from the West Coast (oarowing.org).



HILLARY HARBOR PHOTOGRAPHY

▲ Chicago actress **Hillary Clemens**, whose credits include films, commercials, and guest-starring in an episode of *Chicago Fire* last year, will make her **Seattle Shakespeare Company debut as Desdemona in Othello**, April 29-May 17 (seattleshakespeare.org).

Taste the first release of new vintages during **Spring Release Weekend** in Eastern Washington's **Walla Walla Valley**, May 1-3; winemakers will be available to introduce their wines and talk about the winemaking process (wallawallawine.com).

GENOA, NV

Cowboy music

Beloved Western/vaudevillian/yodeling entertainer **Sourdough Slim** (right) will be among the headliners at the annual **Genoa Cowboy Festival**, April 30-May 3.

Genoa, population 250, is Nevada's oldest settlement. Located about 20 miles east of Lake Tahoe, it was founded in 1851 as a trading post to



serve people heading to the California goldfields.

The festival will also feature musicians such as **Lacy J. Dalton & The Dalton Gang**; cowboy poets such as **Larry Maurice, Bimbo Cheney** and **Ken Gardner**; and **chautauquas** reenacting the lives of famous figures in Western history. Contemporary Western art will be on display, and Dutch-oven enthusiasts will give demonstrations of mid-19th century cooking, plus **free samples of stew and chili containing local organic beef**. Contact: 775-782-8696; genocowboyfestival.org. —Tanya Friedland

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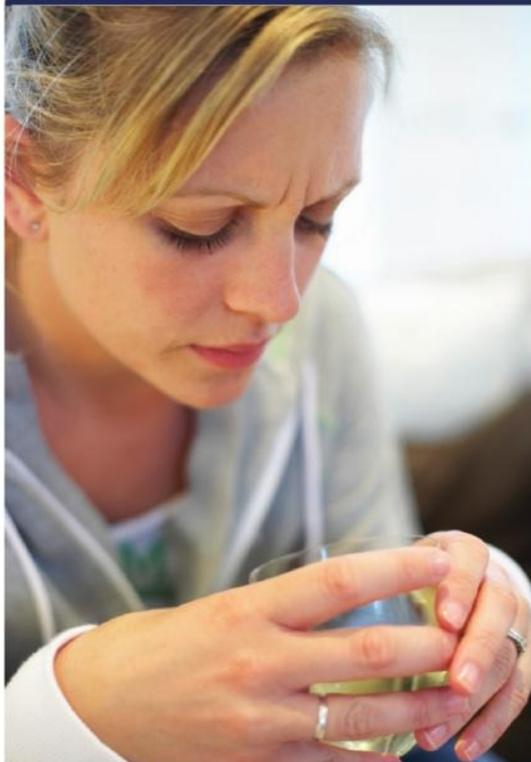
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* Based on results of a verified, independent survey of former patients (success measured as total abstinence for one year and assessed by self-evaluation), against published success rates from verified, comparable studies of other medical institutions.
** Model representations of real patients are shown. Actual patients cannot be divulged due to HIPAA regulations.



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PORTLAND, OR

PHOTO COURTESY ALASTAIR MUJR. GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL OPERA. 2010



Golden voices for a golden anniversary

In the early 1960s, **Portland Opera** presented its first production in the auditorium of a local high school. This year, as the opera company celebrates its golden anniversary, nearly 3,000 ticket holders a night will watch world-class performances at impressive venues such as the Keller Auditorium.

Portland Opera's five decades of growth and success have included two world premieres and several American premieres, two commercial recordings, and collaborations with international opera companies. The 50th-anniversary season

The Rake's Progress will feature the above scenery and costumes (shown here in a Glyndebourne Festival Opera production) by English visual artist David Hockney. Hockney's art and production designs also are being exhibited at the Portland Art Museum, April 18-Aug. 2 (portlandartmuseum.org).

will include *Show Boat*, May 1-9; *The Rake's Progress*, June 11-14; and *The Elixir of Love*, July 17-Aug. 1, which will spotlight Portland Opera's Resident Artists Program, designed to help launch talented young singers. Contact: 503-241-1802; portlandopera.org. —Tanya Friedland

WASHINGTON STATE

Student teams from universities across Washington state are competing in the Alaska Airlines Environmental Innovation Challenge this month, showcasing innovations that have the potential to solve pressing environmental problems.



The annual challenge is presented by the Buerk Center for Entrepreneurship at the Foster School of Business, University of Washington (eic.washington.edu).

SEATTLE, WA

Luly Yang Couture, at The Fairmont Olympic Hotel in Seattle, and Seattle-based **Greenvelope** have collaborated on a new line of digital stationery based on Luly Yang fabrics, jewels and designs (greenvelope.com/luly-yang and lulyyang.com).



NILS NILSEN / IRONMAN



COEUR D'ALENE, ID

People from across the globe will compete or cheer for racers during the **Coeur d'Alene**

Marathon, May 24, and the **Ironman Coeur d'Alene** triathlon (a previous year's race is shown above), June 28, amid some of the country's most spectacular scenery (coeurdalene.org).

MAMMOTH LAKES, CA

Talented emerging filmmakers will showcase their work during the **Mammoth Lakes Film Festival**, May 27-31, with 50 films expected to be screened (mammothlakesfilmfestival.com).

RIGGINS, ID

Roaring on the river

Exciting whitewater jet boat races take place each year in the Idaho town of Riggins, about 100 miles southeast of Lewiston.

The Salmon River Jet Boat Races, featuring approximately 15 jet boats from throughout North America, will be April 17-19 this year, with a boat show and welcome barbecue on April 17, followed

GARY RITTER / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES



by racing on April 18 and 19. In addition, fireworks will light up the sky over the Main Salmon River the night of April 18.

The powerful jet boats will race upstream and downstream, and take on rapids, vying for the fastest time—and reaching speeds of up to 140 mph—in what has been described as “the NASCAR of the river.”

The Salmon River Jet Boat Races, marking their 31st year, are among the longest-running river jet boat races in the country.

The Riggins area is also known for exceptional fishing, hiking, canoeing, kayaking and rafting. Contact: 208-628-3320; rigginsidaho.com.

—Tanya Friedland



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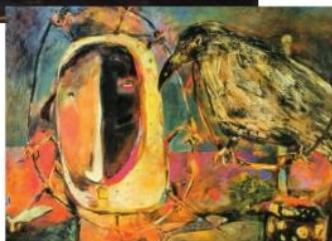
MISSOULA, MT

Culturally intriguing

Paintings merge diverse global influences



Mythology, literature and history influence the art of **Blackfeet artist Jeneese Hilton**, who during extensive international travels noticed commonalities between the philosophies and spirituality of other cultures and her own Native American heritage. Her art thus reflects a mix of cultures. For instance, *Janus Near Two Medicine*, top, incorporates the name of the Roman god of gateways, beginnings and transitions; the Two Medicine area of Glacier National Park (land once owned by the Blackfeet); and a subtle yin and yang symbol between the horses. *Raven Reviewing Modern*, above, features an important Blackfeet mythological symbol next to a Cubism-style face. Hilton has gifted 18 of her expressive works to the **Missoula Art Museum's** permanent collection, which will showcase them in a special exhibition, "Raven Reviewing Modern," April 3-Aug. 22 (missoulaartmuseum.org).



Additional Missoula-area attractions

International Wildlife

Film Festival: Includes features, shorts and documentaries from filmmakers around the world, April 18-25 (wildlifefilms.org).



A Carousel for Missoula: 38 hand-carved horses and two chariots, and the largest band organ in continual use in the U.S. The organ's 400 square wooden pipes make the music



of 23 instruments and 45 musicians (carouseformissoula.com).

Missoula Children's Theatre and Missoula Community Theatre:

Musicals, dramas, comedies and children's programming; the children's theater also tours worldwide (mctinc.org).



Montana Brewery Tours: Visit craft breweries in the Missoula area for tastings and a behind-the-scenes look at brewing (mtbrewtours.com).



Go to destinationmissoula.org for information on

numerous additional attractions, along with activities such as **fishing, hiking, running, biking, birding, golfing, river rafting and hot-springs soaking.**



Energy savings? Grocery Aisle 6.

Ken Groh (right)
Supermarkets Director
and Facilities Manager
Rosauers Supermarkets, Inc.

Ann Carey (left)
Commercial Account Executive
Avista Utilities

Selling bread and bananas may not seem complicated. But in the grocery industry, the profit margin is just pennies on the dollar and often there are competitors on every corner. Success requires insight into consumer trends as well as tight controls over store costs—one of the biggest being energy use. It's why Rosauers Supermarkets partners with Avista on energy efficiency.

Considered one of the most innovative grocery chains in the Northwest, Rosauers first opened in 1934 during the Great Depression, when Mert Rosauer purchased a small grocery store in Spokane. Despite the economy at the time, his store quickly became a success.

Eventually, the company added superstores with full-service pharmacies. It also established

Huckleberry's Natural Market, Spokane's first grocer to offer a full array of natural and organic foods. Today, Rosauers operates 22 stores in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Successful growth, however, has only increased its need to save energy.

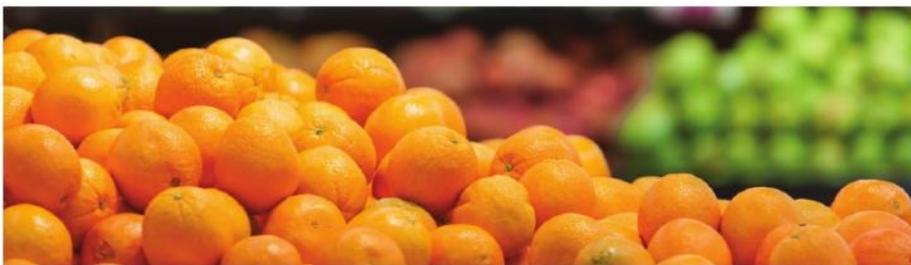
"Energy for heating, cooling and store lighting is one of a store's highest operating costs," says

Rosauers Supermarkets Director and Facilities Manager Ken Groh. "But it's also one we can more easily control, especially with energy-saving rebates and incentives from Avista."



Rosauers fine tunes everything from lighting to refrigeration temps using a simple touch-screen computer.

Rosauers has been committed to energy efficiency for over 20 years and, through Avista, takes advantage of the Energy Smart Grocer Program. Avista helps all types of large energy users but adopted a specific grocer program because most stores have similar efficiency opportunities. In the program, Avista provides a facility assessment as well as rebates



New LED track lighting lets Rosauers more precisely aim lamps, so less lighting is needed to make products look great.

and incentives to offset the costs of making energy-efficient upgrades.

Rosauers recently received \$106,000 in Avista rebates and incentives to complete energy upgrades for one project alone (a recent remodel

of one of the company's stores). Because the changes were extensive and completed all at once, they also saw the immediate, total effect on their energy bill.

"The store reduced its electrical use by 14 percent," says Groh. "Over the last two years alone, it's saved us over \$50,000 in energy costs."

Rosauers' store strategy began with switching its lighting from 4-lamp fluorescents, high-bay HID's and neon to higher efficiency, high-output 3-lamp fluorescents and low-watt LED track lighting. Now only a third of the floor lights stay on after hours, and all case lighting is turned off, leaving just enough light for night workers. The directional LED track lighting also requires less light to make products look appealing and generates less heat which preserves shelf life.

Rosauers upgraded refrigerated cases throughout the store, too, by installing fans with electronically commutated motors (ECMs). Unlike

shaded-pole-motor fans which have heavy metal blades, ECM fans are lightweight plastic so use less energy and create less unwanted heat.

"They're more expensive, but Avista rebates help offset that," says Groh,

"and the money you save in energy consumption offsets the cost."

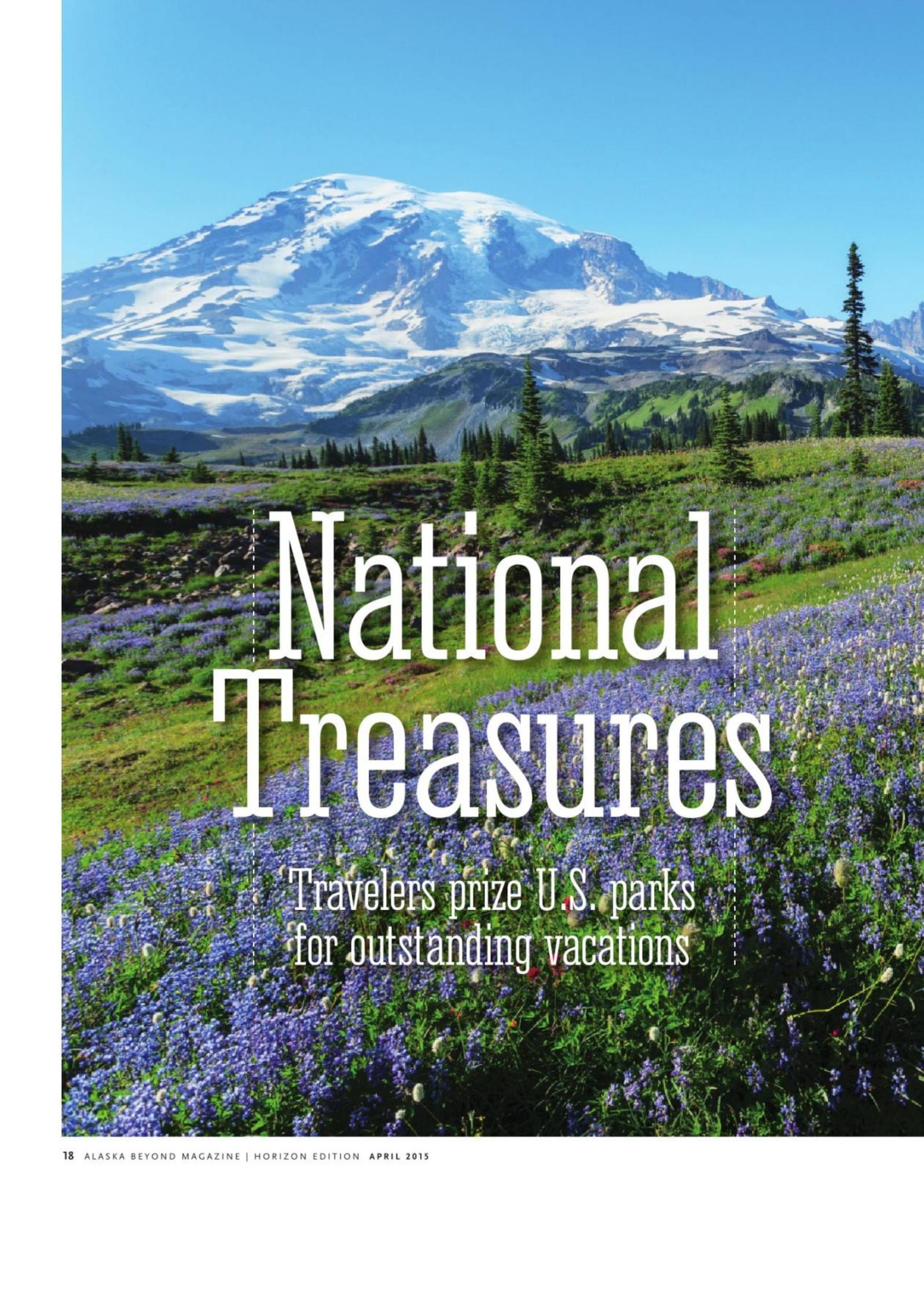


Higher efficiency ECM fans are now used on cases that need a steady air curtain to keep cold air from escaping.

ECM fans were also installed in the freezer cases, as were more energy-efficient doors. Unlike the older doors which were fully heated to keep from freezing shut, the new doors save electricity by using only a bit of heat along the frame.

To maximize energy efficiency store-wide, Rosauers also uses an automated energy management system to control everything from lighting schedules and comfort levels to refrigerated-case temperatures. The computerized system even sounds an alarm if a refrigeration case isn't running properly to help prevent product loss.

Along with the greater energy savings, Groh is very happy with the store upgrades, especially the lighting: "Everything looks a million times better," he says. "It was well worth the money."

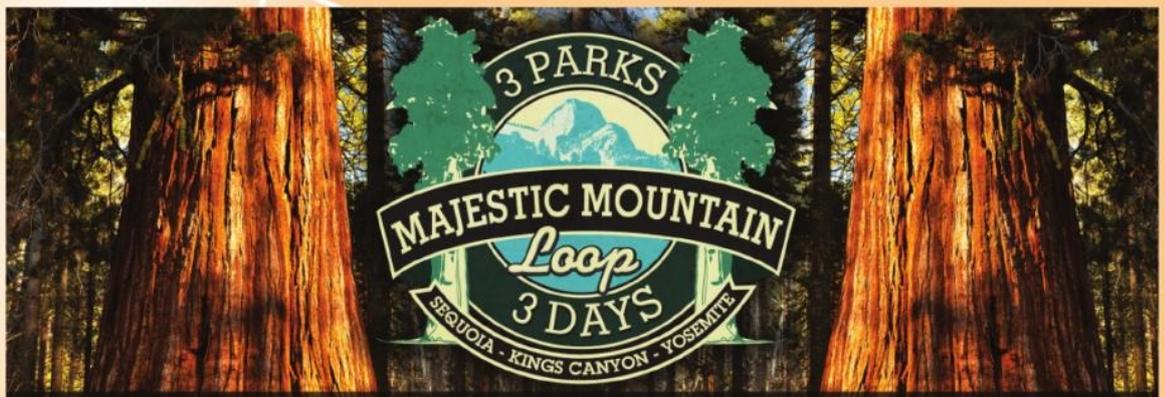


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in Mount Rainier
National Park.



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Sequoia National Park

- STOP 1 - CRYSTAL CAVE
- STOP 2 - GIANT FOREST MUSEUM
- STOP 3 - MORO ROCK
- STOP 4 - TUNNEL LOG
- STOP 5 - GENERAL SHERMAN TREE



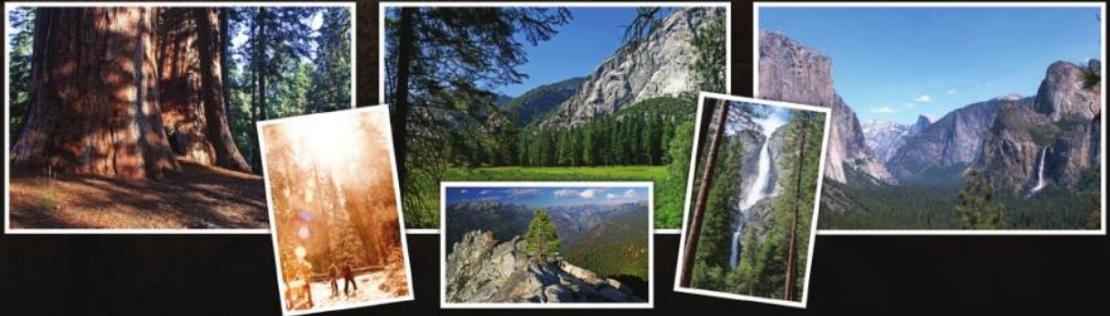
Kings Canyon National Park

- STOP 1 - GENERAL GRANT TREE
- STOP 2 - ZUMWALT MEADOW
- STOP 3 - PANORAMIC POINT
- STOP 4 - KINGS CANYON
- STOP 5 - WUKSACHI LODGE



Yosemite National Park

- STOP 1 - MARIPOSA GROVE
- STOP 2 - WAWONA PIONEER VILLAGE
- STOP 3 - GLACIER POINT
- STOP 4 - TUNNEL VIEW
- STOP 5 - YOSEMITE VALLEY



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From hiking mountain trails to viewing wildlife, from admiring wildflowers to gazing at spectacular lakes, visitors to national parks enjoy inspiring, invigorating and memorable activities. The beauty and variety of these protected lands have made them top attractions for travelers worldwide. Writers Mark Grossi, Matt Villano, Lee Juillerat, Jean Arthur, Terry W. Sheely and Eric Lucas share information and experiences related to some of their favorite national parks.



Living giants in Sequoia National Park.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

By Mark Grossi

Established: *Sequoia NP*, 1890; *Kings Canyon NP*, 1940 (a smaller parcel of what is now Kings Canyon National Park was established as General Grant National Park in 1890); nps.gov/seki

Air gateway: Fresno, CA (the sister parks are connected by Highway 180 and the Generals Highway).

Notable: *Sequoia NP*: Contains the largest tree in the world, the General Sherman Tree, as measured by trunk volume: more than 52,500 cubic feet. The highest peak in the Lower 48 states, Mount Whitney, at 14,494 feet, is also in the park. *Kings Canyon NP*: Glacially carved Kings Canyon is nearly 8,000 feet deep, while the General Grant Grove of sequoias includes the General Grant Tree, the second-largest tree in the world as measured by trunk volume: 46,608 cubic feet. In 1926, the tree was named “the nation’s Christmas tree” by President Calvin Coolidge.

Interesting: Together, the parks boast 275 caves, and seasonal guided tours of marble Crystal Cave,

with its stalactites and stalagmites, are offered. Numerous lakes are located in the glacially sculpted granite of the parks’ High Sierra terrain.

Memorable experience: One June several years ago, my wife, Sue, and I decided to visit Sequoia, the nation’s second national park, to ascend the 400 steps carved into Moro Rock, which we had last explored as teenagers. It was a rigorous but not overwhelming climb in the brisk, pine-scented air, up and up those steps, which the Civilian Conservation Corps built in the 1930s. The stairway is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The payoff for our quarter-mile, 300-foot-elevation-gain trek to the top of the 6,725-foot granite dome was a view of the jagged Sierra spine

A scenic view from Sequoia National Park’s Moro Rock.



ABOVE: MICHAEL RUCKER / GETTY IMAGES; RIGHT: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

and breathtaking canyons. It was like looking at a master painting. To the east, 13,584-foot Black Kaweah stood with other soaring mountains. Below, we could see the rounded tops of 2,000-year-old sequoias in the park's Giant Forest, and to the west, in the distance, the verdant San Joaquin Valley.

Fresno-area writer Mark Grossi is the author of Longstreet Highroad Guide to the California Sierra Nevada. Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) offers flights to Fresno from Seattle, Portland and San Diego.

Yosemite National Park

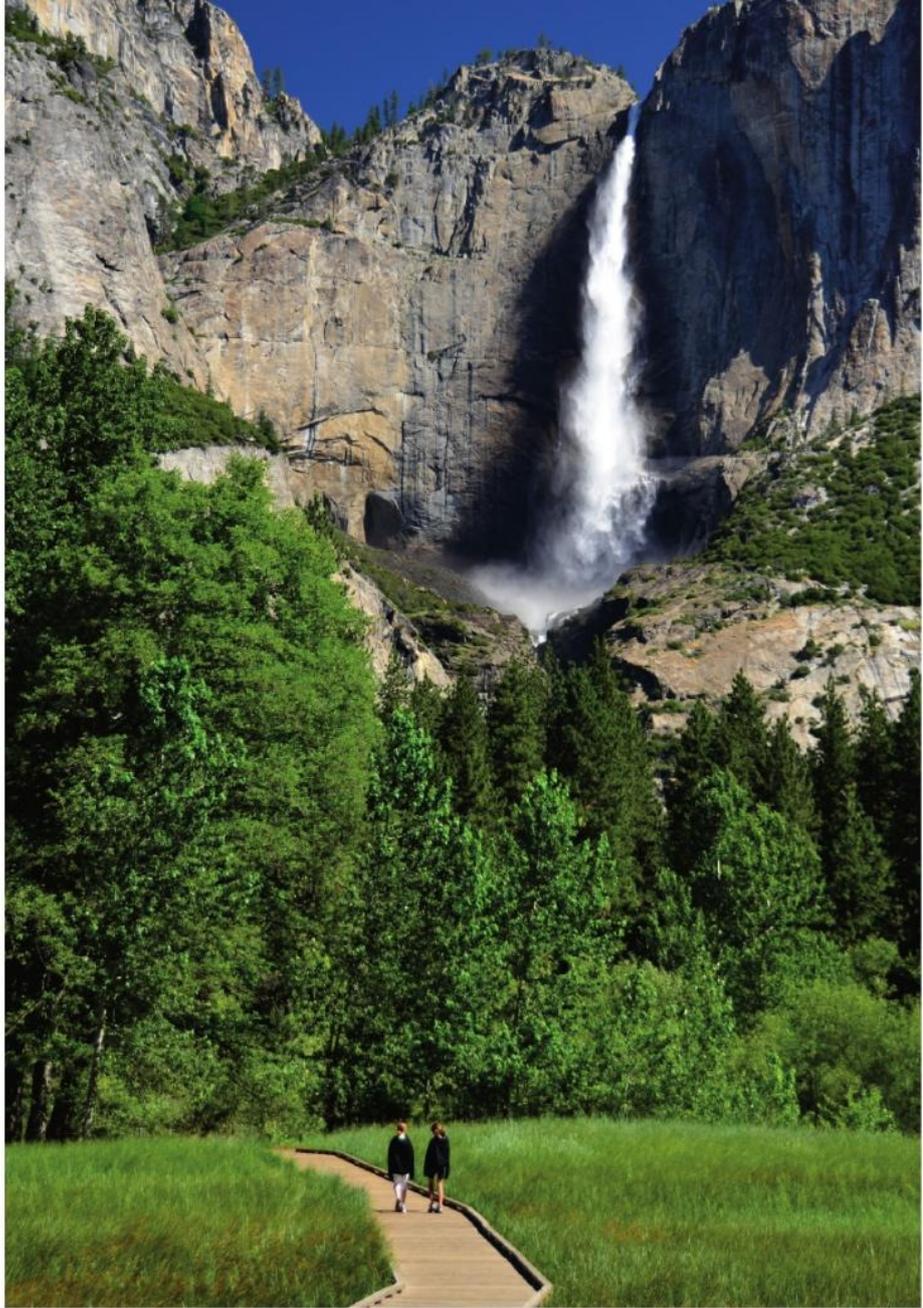
By Matt Villano

Established: 1890; nps.gov/yose

Air gateways: Fresno (year-round) and Mammoth Lakes (seasonal), CA.

Notable: October 1, 2015, marks the 125th birthday of the national park, which is the third-oldest park (after Yellowstone and Sequoia) in the National Park System. Some of what is now Yosemite National Park was first protected in 1864 via the Yosemite Grant, the first federal action to preserve land for the public. Earlier this year, two men climbed the sheer Dawn Wall face of 3,000-foot El Capitan—the world's largest granite monolith—using just their hands and feet, with gear such as ropes employed only to arrest a fall. It was the first time climbers achieved this feat.

Interesting: Formations such as El Capitan and Half Dome were sculpted by glaciation; in fact, rivers and glaciers carved into granite to create the entire Yosemite Valley. In late spring and early summer, waterfalls thunder throughout the park. At breathtaking Yosemite Falls, water travels a total of 2,425 feet from the top of the upper falls to the bottom of the lower falls. In the



TOP: DANITA DELIMONT / GETTY IMAGES; BELOW: ALAN COPSON / GETTY IMAGES



northwestern corner of the park, Hetch Hetchy Reservoir holds fresh water for the city of San Francisco.

Memorable experience: Last spring my wife and I took our daughters—then ages 4 and 2—to Yosemite for the first time, and the girls loved touring Yosemite Valley by bike. Waterfalls! Deer! Rivers! Towering rock walls! The kids took it all in from their chariots (the bike trailers my wife and I towed) and from short hikes, oohing and aahing and pointing at every instance of the park's natural beauty. We locked our bikes to racks at most of the trailheads.

The park has 12-plus miles of paved bike trails, and we felt that most of the major access routes had wide lanes, making travel around the valley simple, safe and convenient from our lodgings at the historic Ahwahnee Hotel. We brought our own bikes, but visitors can rent bicycles and bike trailers on a first-



come, first-served basis, early spring to late fall, at Curry Village and Yosemite Lodge. During the busy season—late April to early November—be sure to arrive early in the day so that the rental bikes aren't already all signed out.

Another option is to rent bikes in Mammoth Lakes, about 45 miles southeast of the park's Tioga Pass Entrance, and take them with you via the storage compartment of a Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System bus (yarts.com), which runs between Mammoth Lakes and the park each summer. YARTS will also have summer service to the park from Fresno Yosemite International Airport. In addition, multi-sport/multiday tours with a bicycling component in the park are available from companies such as Backroads (backroads.com), which even has a family-tour option.

Sonoma County writer Matt Villano is the author of several guidebooks. Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) offers flights to Fresno and Mammoth Lakes, serving both the east and west Yosemite entrances.

Crater Lake National Park

By Lee Juillerat

Established: 1902; nps.gov/crla

Air gateway: Medford, OR.

Notable: The stunning blue lake for which the park was named was created after 400,000-plus-year-old Mount Mazama experienced a series of mega-eruptions during an approximately 48-hour period and then collapsed, forming a caldera, approximately 7,700 years ago. The lake—the result of rain and snowmelt filling the caldera—is the nation's deepest, with a maximum depth of 1,943 feet. The water is so blue because it is relatively pure. Water molecules with no sediments, algae, pesticides or pollution will absorb all the colors of the spectrum except the blues, whose wavelengths bounce back and make the water appear blue, explains the park service. There have to be enough water molecules to absorb all the other colors, which is no problem for the 4.6 trillion-gallon lake. Crater Lake Lodge, at the edge of the caldera, is celebrating its 100th birthday this year.

Interesting: Snow—averaging around 44 feet a year—is likely from sometime in September through June (although this year the snowpack has been low), creating a winter wonderland for ranger-led snowshoe hikes, typically offered on weekends, late November to late April. During the summer, boat tours circle the lake, with options to visit Wizard Island, a cinder cone that erupted after the caldera began to fill with water.

Left bottom: Half Dome from Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park.

Left top: Yosemite Falls, one of the world's tallest cataracts.

Below: A panoramic view from Crater Lake National Park.



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A herd of bison and a colorful hot spring (below) at Yellowstone National Park.

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The many hiking options include a section of the Pacific Crest Trail, while the challenging but rewarding 1.1-mile Cleetwood Cove Trail, with an elevation loss of nearly 700 feet, provides the only lake-shore and swimming access.

Memorable experience: Thirty-three-mile Rim Drive around the lake is a visitor favorite, and I like to relax and enjoy the view aboard the Crater Lake Trolley (craterlaketrolley.com). Each of the three 25-passenger trolleys makes two-hour lake circuits from late June or early July to mid-October. Park rangers provide information on subjects such as area geology, Klamath Indian legends about the lake's creation, and the park's role in the book and movie *Wild*. The trolleys also stop at various viewpoints, such as Mirror of Heaven, Watchman Peak and Twisted Tree. My favorite is the Phantom Ship overlook, named for an island whose 170-foot rocky spires look like ship masts.

Southern Oregon writer Lee Juillerat has authored several books about the Crater Lake area. Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) offers flights to Medford via Seattle, Portland and Los Angeles.

Yellowstone National Park

By Jean Arthur

Established: 1872; nps.gov/yell

Air gateways: Bozeman and Billings, MT.



Notable: Yellowstone, the world's first national park, has an estimated 10,000 thermal features, including the world's largest collection of geysers—more than 300. These include Old Faithful, which spouts water up to 184 feet approximately every 91 minutes. The world's tallest active geyser, Steamboat—reaching 300 feet or more during its rare major eruptions—is in Yellowstone, as well. The park also has the largest concentration of mammals in the Lower 48 states; wildlife includes grizzly bears, black bears, bison, elk and wolves. In addition, about 290 waterfalls 15 feet or taller flow year-round.

Interesting: The park owes its distinctive character to volcanic activity, including three major volcanic eruptions over the last 2 million years. The center of the park is a caldera formed about 640,000 years ago and then largely filled in by lava flows. Heat-loving microorganisms are respon-

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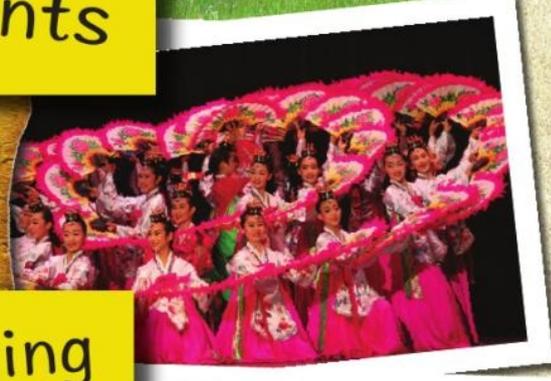
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sible for the brilliant water colors at many sites in the park.



Memorable experience: My family and I recently explored the Porcelain Basin—in the Norris Geyser Basin area of the northwestern part of the park—amazed at the brilliantly tinted pools, spouting steam vents and pungent sulfur bouquets.

At the tiny Norris Geyser Basin Museum, we purchased a trail guide, then set out on the boardwalk, pausing to watch three bison about 300 yards away. Porcelain Basin is named for its white color, resulting from sheets of siliceous sinter formed after hot water containing a lot of silica was spouted to the surface by a geyser or bubbling hot spring, and landed on the ground. When the water flowed away or evaporated, the silica remained.

Siliceous sinter looks like snow, and we thought it was an interesting counterpoint to the geysers and hot springs. We marveled at pools of cyan, magenta and curry yellow on our way to Crackling Lake, a viridescent pond of boiling water.

One of the hottest geothermal features in the basin is the Black Growler fumarole, up to 280 degrees Fahrenheit. As my 21-year-old son, Bridger, pointed out, it lives up to its name. “Sounds like a pirate saying arrr,” he noted as steam and gases forced their way from the vent.

Bozeman writer Jean Arthur's most recent guidebook is Top Trails: Glacier National Park: Must-Do Hikes for Everyone, published in 2014. Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) offers flights to Bozeman and Billings via Seattle and Portland.

Mount Rainier National Park

By Terry W. Sheely

Established: 1899; nps.gov/mora

Air gateways: Seattle and Yakima, WA; Portland, OR.

Notable: At 14,410 feet, Mount Rainier is the highest peak in the Cascade Range, and the most glaciated, with 25 named glaciers on its slopes. It creates the headwaters for six rivers. Ninety-seven percent of the park is wilderness, including old-growth forests more than 1,000 years old

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and heather communities up to 10,000 years old.

Interesting: Each year, thousands of people successfully climb Mount Rainier (preparation and conditioning are key). Naturalist John Muir—who reached the top of Mount Rainier in 1888—subsequently wrote: “The view we enjoyed from the summit could hardly be surpassed in sublimity and grandeur.”

Memorable experience: Last year, during a summer “wildflower hike” in afternoon sun above a bank of valley clouds, I spied a plate-size patch of pinkish shooting stars amid a cluster of lupines near bird’s beak lousewort. On a nearby low hill, a linger-



Mount Rainier overlooks a palette of petals.

SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

ing patch of snow bordered a mix of white avalanche lilies and yellow glacier lilies.

I was on a paved path, just a few hundred yards from the Paradise Visitor Center, at the edge of a rolling wildflower meadow that was lighting up the mountain in bursts of yellows, reds, blues, purples and greens. Flowers blossom quickly behind seasonally retreating snow lines in the park, with hundreds of wild varieties springing into bloom—many rarely seen at lower elevations and never in such overlapping carpets of color. My short walk from the visitor center was aided by two guidebooks, identifying unusual surprises such as the tiny deep-purple heads of penstemons clumped on pale green lichens in





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Dick Hannah



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Denali National Park's majestic mountain.

a split of lava rock a few yards uphill.

Flower season in the park typically starts in forested lowlands in May, peaks in subalpine meadows from mid-July into August, and gradually transitions to colorful fall foliage. I come here year after year, glorying in tapestries of flowers as breathtaking as the gleaming white crown of the mountain above them. For information on what's in bloom at a given time, go to nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/wildflower-status.htm.

Puget Sound-area writer Terry W. Sheely is the author of numerous fishing and travel guides. Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) offers flights to Seattle, Portland and Yakima.

Denali National Park & Preserve

By Eric Lucas

Established: 1980 (Mount McKinley National Park, containing only part of Mount McKinley, called Denali—"the high one" in the Athabaskan language—was created in 1917, and Denali National Monument, containing the rest of the mountain, was created in 1978; in 1980, the two were joined as Denali National Park & Preserve); nps.gov/dena

Air gateways: Fairbanks and Anchorage, AK.

Notable: Mount McKinley is North America's highest peak, at 20,320 feet. A single 92-mile road, most of it unpaved and accessible only to seasonally operated park buses, bisects 6 million acres of wild land. Visitors may spot wildlife such as grizzly bears, caribou and Dall sheep in the park.

Interesting: Denali's base is at an eleva-

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tion of about 2,000 feet on its southeast side, and the summit is 18,000 feet above, giving the mountain the world's largest vertical rise among peaks that are entirely above sea level. (Mount Everest's base is at about 17,000 feet and its summit at 29,000-plus feet, making its base-to-summit height just over 12,000 feet.) The only amphibian species in the park, the small wood frog, burrows into decaying leaves and freezes solid in the winter to survive; it thaws in the spring, and organs such as its lungs and heart start working again.

Memorable experience: Once I've absorbed the grandeur of something as magnificent as the park's mountain, it's sometimes worthwhile to turn my focus to smaller delights. That's what I did one sunny, crisp, late-summer morning on Denali's north side near Kantishna, where during a tundra hike I knelt to pick cranberries, huckleberries and crowberries for a later-in-the-day snack. The ground-hugging bushes were starting to turn to autumn's amber, vermilion and persimmon; the berries blended sweet and tart perfectly, and I filled my cap with them.

The only sound was the occasional distant cry of geese flying south after stopping at Wonder Lake. And when I stood up with my harvest of berries and turned back toward the mountain, a caribou bull, 5 feet tall at his shoulders, stopped atop a nearby rise to see whether I was cause for worry. Framed against northern Alaska's powder-blue sky and Denali's ivory expanse, the caribou provided an indelible image that I access whenever I want to feel inspired or solaced by our amazing natural world. ■

Seattle writer Eric Lucas is the author of numerous guidebooks, including Michelin Must Sees: Alaska. Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) offers the most flights to Alaska, including Anchorage and Fairbanks.

For more information on U.S. national parks, see nps.gov; for information on Canadian national parks, see pc.gc.ca.

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Dr. Upton, the Medical Director of the Anti-Aging Center at PRO Sports Club, has been practicing medicine for over 17 years. He became inspired by anti-aging through this extensive experience with preventative medicine.



AT AGE 61 I'M JUST BEGINNING

I had been going to a naturopath and started HRT a few years ago. It worked for me, until my naturopath informed me that I'd been on HRT too long and my health risk was increasing with use. She set me up on an unsuccessful regimen to wean me off and I finally gave up.

A year later (after suffering night sweats from fear rather than hot flashes), I was informed that the new information on the medical scene indicated bio-identical hormones (unlike bio-similar) were perfectly safe and may even have many health benefits. She suggested I do some homework and make a decision for myself.

The Anti-Aging program had recently opened at PRO Sports Club. I had already been through the 20/10 weight loss program and respected the club's professional approach to health. I took some friends and went to the Anti-Aging introductory seminar. I wondered what the program might have to offer that my naturopath wasn't already providing. After some more research, I decided to work with Anti-Aging expert Dr. Joe Upton.

I was so glad that I chose the Anti-Aging program. Using a combination of natural herbs and bio-identical hormones tailored to my needs, I was soon on a healthy path.

But it didn't stop there. The Anti-Aging program included state-of-the-art testing of my cardiovascular system, bone density, the health of my skin, and much more. The results helped me make improvements in my exercise plan, skincare regimen, and select supplements most beneficial for my health. There is a synergy of good health that explodes with an approach like this.

While some of my friends are talking about winding down their lifestyle, at age 61, I feel like I'm just beginning. With a new career as an author and speaker (Define Your Life – Design Your Home), I have the energy and stamina to keep up with my dreams.

I'm a firm believer that excellent health makes everything in life more enjoyable. The Anti-Aging program at PRO Sports Club has been an excellent partner in my pursuit of healthy living.

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Chambers Bay Golf Course, site of the 2015 U.S. Open, will be a worthy challenge

By Jim Moore

This June, the golf world will turn its collective gaze to a picturesque—and virtually treeless—swath of green fairways, swales, sandy mounds and hillocks along the shores of Puget Sound.

Chambers Bay Golf Course in University Place, located about 10 miles southwest of downtown Tacoma and about 40 miles south of Seattle, will host the U.S. Open, June 18–21. The championship is often considered the most difficult of professional golf's four major annual championships. It is a test of skill, stamina and concentration that is only rivaled by the British Open.

At many professional tournaments, players may need to shoot 15 under par or even 20 under par to win. At the U.S. Open, the courses are so challenging that if you can shoot even par, you often will have a chance to win the championship.

That describes Chambers Bay to a tee. The par-72 course, which will be reconfigured to be a par-70 during the championship, is going to play very tough and long—about 7,800 yards, depending on how the United States Golf Association (USGA) configures certain holes. It is a links-style course that has much in common with the classic seaside Scottish courses where the game was developed and the British Open is played.

The track has little in common

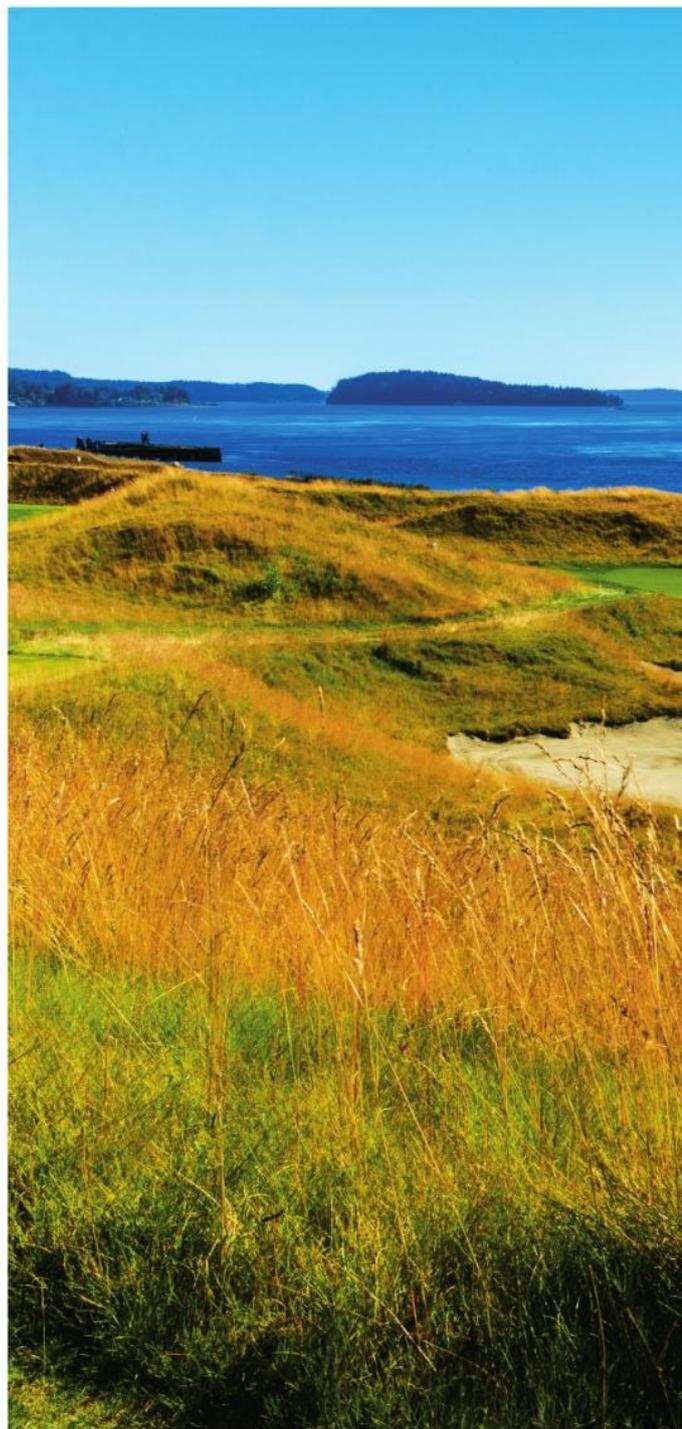
with the perfectly manicured, tree-lined layouts that we most often see here in the United States. At least one scribe has even given Chambers Bay the moniker “America’s St. Andrews” because of the Puget Sound–area layout’s perceived similarities to the historic Scottish course.

What the players will find when they arrive in June is a layout by Robert Trent Jones II that is a natural fit to the contours of the waterfront property. *New York Daily News* sports columnist Hank Gola played Chambers Bay last fall and wrote a glowing review that sang the layout’s many praises, even writing, “The course appears to have been there forever.”

A Links Layout

As with all U.S. Open courses, the fairways will be narrower and the rough will be longer than at just about any other tournament. The USGA wants to reward accuracy and penalize wayward shots. However, Chambers Bay will be a surprise for many of the players and viewers, who may be expecting lush green surroundings and majestic Douglas firs, which are the norm at Northwest courses.

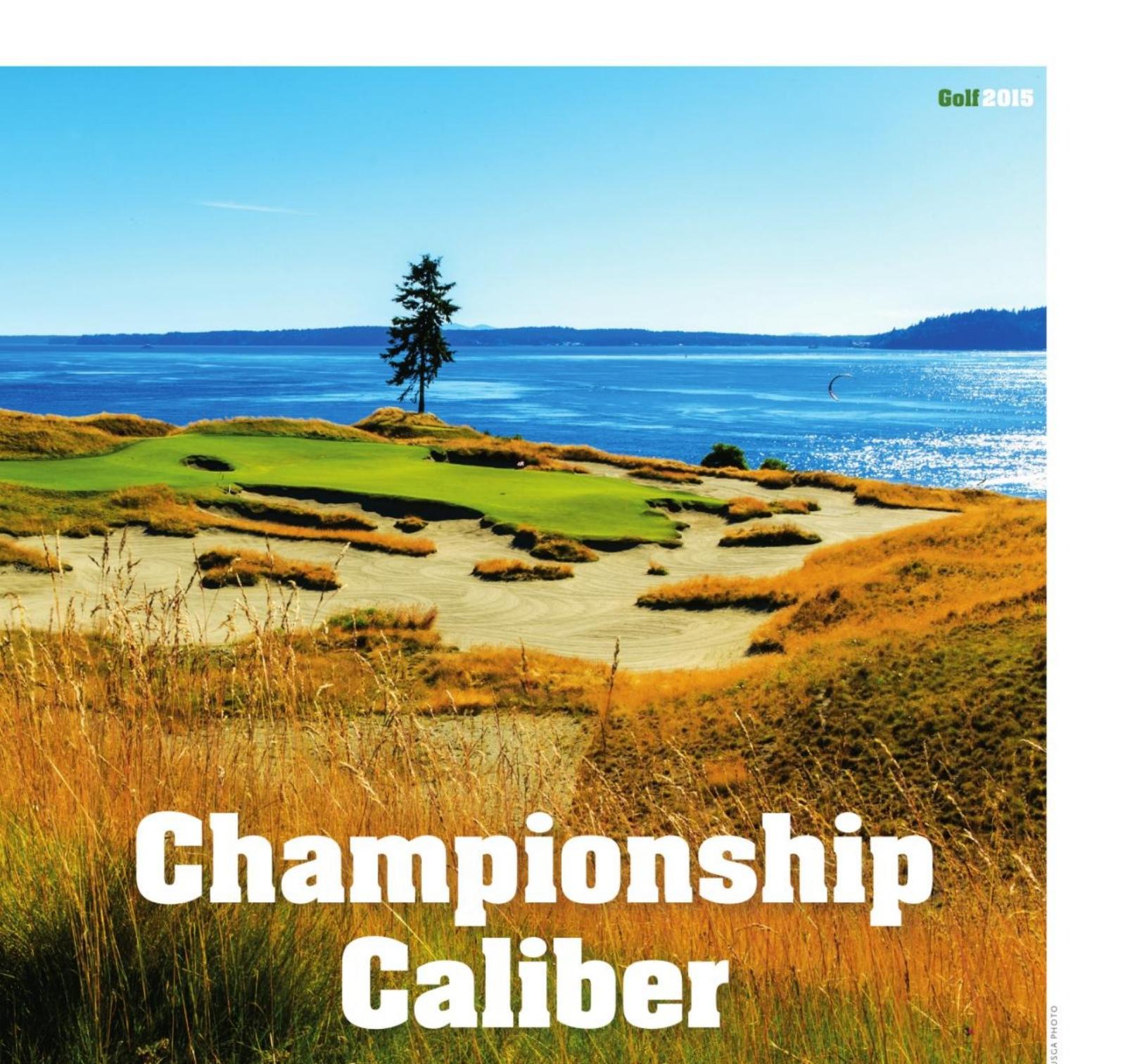
Like a true linksland course, there are no trees in play. One iconic lone fir tree stands far behind the 15th green and, unless one of the pros makes a major mistake, will not be a factor. The absence of trees comes with benefits for those attending the championship. Nothing will obscure



views of the action or the scenery. At many places on the course, patrons can watch golfers tee off on one hole and putt out on another.

To the uninitiated, the course may have a slightly scruffy look, which is due, in part, to the many sandy areas and natural landscaping. It is also the result of fescue grass being used for the fairways, greens and rough. When fescue is allowed to grow, it

The lone fir behind the 15th green at Chambers Bay Golf Course has become one of the layout's iconic images.



Championship Caliber

USGA PHOTO

becomes a golden-red color, giving these areas a dried-out appearance.

Every shot will require more thought than on a conventional track. From the first tee to the last green, Chambers Bay won over USGA officials with its variety. On many holes, players will have to decide whether they should hit high approaches to the flagsticks in hopes of getting the ball close to the cup or try low

approaches that land short and bound onto the putting surfaces, a style often used at the British Open. There are other holes where the sloped greens will require players to land their approaches away from the flagsticks and allow the balls to funnel downhill toward the holes.

“Ultimately, it means that the players with the best imagination, the players who know Chambers Bay,

have studied Chambers Bay, are really going to have an advantage,” USGA Executive Director Mike Davis says.

The USGA has also made changes to the course, including to the par 3s. The tee box on the par-3 ninth was moved, and the hole was lengthened to 220 yards. The par-3 15th will be an interesting hole to watch, with the length varying from 145 yards one day to an amazing 245 yards the next.



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Players to Watch

Also, for the first time in U.S. Open history, certain holes—the first and the 18th—will alternate between being played as a par 4 and a par 5. When the tees on the first hole are placed back to create a par 5, the tees on the 18th will be moved forward, creating a par 4. On other days, when the first hole is configured as a par 4, the 18th will be played as a par 5.

Finishing in Style

What a finishing hole the 18th should be. Expect plenty of drama on this mammoth layout that will play about 600 yards when configured as a par 5 and 520 yards when fashioned as a par 4. From the tee box, the players will see plenty of trouble anywhere they aim their drives.

Bunkers and swales guard the landing areas for drives, as well as second shots, with one yawning fairway pot bunker near the green that is so deep it has steps for players to use when getting in and out.

Running along the right side of the fairway is an extended bunker that is sure to swallow many errant drives. Next to the bunker, in the rough, are a series of distinctive concrete walls and pillars that are the remnants of the site's industrial past.

If the 18th fairway weren't difficult enough, wait till the players reach the difficult short grass. Davis says the multitiered green has the most undulations and humps of any putting surface on the course.

The weather may also match the British Open more than the usual U.S. Open venues, where heat and humidity are often a factor. Along Puget Sound, expect a little bit of everything—rain, wind, sun and clouds. It could be warm, but probably not humid.

The USGA's Davis is a fan of Chambers Bay, and says he loves the course's sandy site. "If a golf course is built on sand, it is always going to be better than if it was built on heavy soils and clay, because it drains bet-



Ryan Moore.

DAVID CANNON / GETTY IMAGES

Among tour players with ties to the Northwest, Tacoma native **Ryan Moore** has the best chance of qualifying for the U.S. Open and contending for his first major championship at Chambers Bay Golf Course.

Moore, who was born in Tacoma and raised in nearby Puyallup, not far from where the course is

located, was a highly successful amateur player, winning the U.S. Amateur, the Western Amateur, the U.S. Amateur Public Links and the NCAA Individual Championship in one miraculous golf season in 2004. He has gone on to win four PGA tournaments and earn more than \$20 million since joining the PGA Tour in 2005. Moore has played Chambers Bay several times over the years, including during a 2007 Skins Match with Bubba Watson and fellow Tacoma native and touring pro Michael Putnam.

Moore's knowledge of the layout and local conditions might give him an advantage over other members not familiar with the links course. As of mid-March, Moore was 28th in the Official World Golf Rankings. He has to remain among the world's top 60 to qualify for the tournament.

Other local favorites include Michael Putnam and his younger



Dustin Johnson.

MIKE EHRMANN / GETTY IMAGES

brother, Andrew Putnam. Both are members of the PGA Tour after finding success on the Web.com Tour. They were born and raised in Tacoma and still live in the area. However, the two were not eligible as of mid-March and may have to go through the qualifying process of playing local and sectional tournaments to be part of the 156-player field.

Leading the pack of players who are expected to be contenders this year is the world's top golfer,

Rory McIlroy, who, at the age of 25, will be seeking his second U.S. Open trophy and his fifth major championship. Others who are expected to be in contention this year include Jason Day, Rickie Fowler, Jim Furyk, Sergio García, **Dustin Johnson**, Graeme McDowell, Patrick Reed, Justin Rose, Adam Scott, Jordan Spieth, Henrik Stenson and Bubba Watson. Another player to watch is Martin Kaymer, who won the 2014 U.S. Open at Pinehurst by eight strokes over Fowler and Erik Compton. Only six players in history have won back-to-back U.S. Open championships. Will Kaymer, who also won the 2010 PGA Championship, be the seventh?

Fan favorite **Phil Mickelson** is also expected to be in the field at Chambers Bay. Mickelson, who has won five major championships, has never won the U.S. Open but has finished second in the tournament an astounding six times.

Then there is Tiger Woods, who hasn't won a major championship since beating Rocco Mediate in a playoff at the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines. Woods has won 14 major championships and remains four behind Jack Nicklaus, the all-time leader. However, early in 2015 Woods was still struggling to return to form after undergoing back surgery in 2014.

—Jim Moore



Rory McIlroy.

FRED VUICH / GETTY IMAGES



Phil Mickelson.

SAM GREENWOOD / GETTY IMAGES

QUALIFYING FOR THE U.S. OPEN

Tour players qualify for the U.S. Open field if they are among the top 60 point leaders, including ties, in the Official World Golf Rankings, as of June 1. Players also qualify if they have won the U.S. Open in the past 10 years or have won one of the other majors in the past five years; were part of the 30-player field at the 2014 Tour Championship; were one of the 10 players with the lowest cumulative scores at the 2014 U.S. Open; or were one of the last three winners of The Players Championship. The winner and runner-up of the 2014 U.S. Amateur Championship also qualify, if they remain amateurs at the time of the U.S. Open.

Pros who don't already qualify can join about 10,000 applicants from around the world who will compete in a series of tournaments to fill about 70 positions. The pros as well as the amateurs with a 1.4 handicap or better compete in one of 111 local 18-hole tournaments played in the United States. The top 500 or 600 players move on and join about 500 other players, who were exempt from the first round, to compete in one of the 36-hole sectional qualifying tournaments located around the nation, Europe and Japan. Approximately 70 players from the sectional qualifying tournaments will win places in the field of the U.S. Open. —Jeff Bond

ter," he says. "You get a bounciness to a golf course. ... You think about what's going to happen when your ball lands, where it's going to roll."

The use of fine fescue on the entire course also factored into the USGA's decision to choose Chambers Bay for the host of the U.S. Open. "[The ball] bounces and rolls on fescue," Davis says. "There's almost a skid to the ball, and it just makes for more enjoyable golf that requires more imagination, and it's more thought-provoking for a championship. When you get that combination of sand and fescue, it's really a great one-two punch."

Breaking the Rules

Despite all the praise for Chambers Bay, the choice of the course as the site of the U.S. Open was a major surprise to the golf world. Only the most respected courses, with extensive histories, are usually considered

to host America's national golf championship. It's virtually unheard of for a relatively unknown municipal course to be chosen.

Chambers Bay was able to break all the rules. The course opened in June of 2007 and was chosen as the site of the 2010 U.S. Amateur Championship and the 2015 U.S. Open a mere eight months later. The course's background is also much different from the pedigree of most Open venues. Over the years the site has been home to many industrial operations, including sand and gravel mines.

Another issue for Chambers Bay was that the PGA Tour has no regularly scheduled events in Washington state. The Champions Tour has an annual tournament in the state: The Boeing Classic at TPC Snoqualmie Ridge. Otherwise, the PGA has not hosted a regular tour event

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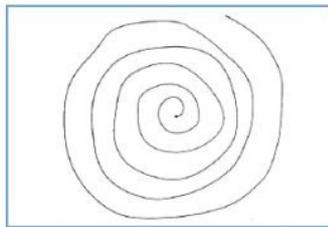
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in the area since the 1960s, and the LPGA Tour has not been here since the 1990s. Sahalee Country Club on the Sammamish Plateau, east of Seattle, did host the 1998 PGA Championship and the 2002 World Golf Championship–NEC Invitational. However, there have been no PGA tournaments in Washington since.

Chambers Bay ended up hosting the 2015 U.S. Open thanks to a mix of luck and planning. Former Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg gets much of the credit for the course having been built. After the sand and gravel mines shut down operations in 2003, the site's reclamation began. The sandy area, originally known as Chambers Creek was perfect for a golf course, and Ladenburg, who is now a Tacoma attorney in private practice, determined golf was the best way for the land to generate revenue.

However, his plan was larger than just a quality public course. He wanted a layout that would attract golfers from around the world and even perhaps host a U.S. Open Championship. The success of the 2002 U.S. Open at Bethpage Black, a public course in New York state, had also inspired Ladenburg.

Famed course architect Robert Trent Jones II agreed that the site had the potential to be a U.S. Open-worthy course. Jones even had golf bag tags created with the inscription "Chambers Creek, Site of the 2030 U.S. Open."

However, Ladenburg knew it would be difficult to reach such a goal.

"I told my staff, 'Remember, there are about 14,000 courses in America and the U.S. Open has been played on less than 50. Do the math. We have to do everything perfectly to host a U.S. Open.'"

Throughout the course's development, Ladenburg invited key members of the USGA to visit the site and give their opinions. Davis conferred with architect Robert Trent Jones II about the course and came to agree that Chambers Bay had all the elements required for a major venue, including a local government and a course architect willing to do whatever was necessary to bring a U.S. Open to the area.

Beyond developing a unique links layout in the Puget Sound area, the course

was designed with a much larger footprint than most 18-hole courses, allowing room for grandstands and an estimated 50,000 attendees to walk the track without interfering with play. Ladenburg's team went to other golf events and measured the size of the corporate tents to make sure they could be accommodated at Chambers Bay.

Then, in December 2007, Davis called Ladenburg to say that the Winged Foot Golf Club in New York state—site of five U.S. Opens, including the 2006 championship—had voted against hosting the event in 2015. Ladenburg sent an official invitation for the USGA to hold the championship at Chambers Bay the same day. About three months later, Ladenburg got the call that his course had been chosen to host the 2010 U.S. Amateur and the 2015 U.S. Open.

"I was criticized by a lot of people for this project. I had spent a lot of political capital to get the course built," Ladenburg says. "It was a huge political risk. But without risk there is no great reward."

The 2010 U.S. Amateur event was a success, and the region's golf enthusiasts have made the USGA feel at home. The championship round tickets sold out at a record pace, and volunteers filled 4,500 positions in two days. As of mid-March there were only a limited number of practice-round tickets still available.

As for the future, the USGA has already announced that they look forward to developing a long-term relationship with Chambers Bay and the Northwest.

"We feel it's a great site," Davis says of the Pierce County course. "There's the excitement in the community we want, and we would like more U.S. Opens to come [to Chambers Bay]. The course is too unique not to have more U.S. Opens. We want to come back." ■

Jim Moore is a writer and a co-host of the radio show "Danny, Dave and Moore" on 710 ESPN Seattle.

Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) flies daily to the Seattle-Tacoma area. For more information on Chambers Bay, the site of the 2015 U.S. Open, go to chambersbaygolf.com.

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By Jeff Wallach

Just as we can rely on spring to arrive each year, we can also rely on a variety of golf manufacturers to tout new designs and technical innovations to help with everything from weather protection to injury prevention and, of course, perfect ball launch and trajectory for the new golf season. The following are a few of the most interesting items being pitched (and chipped) at golfers this year.

For those who want to try a new way to maneuver around the course, you can now pedal between shots on **The Golf Bike** (thegolfbike.com), a wide-tired bicycle with a back rack to carry your clubs. If you would rather surf between holes, try the **Golf-Board** (golfboard.com), a motorized four-wheel surfboard that resembles a wide scooter. Winner of the best new product at the 2014 PGA Merchandise Show, the GolfBoard totes you and your golf bag as if you were riding on a grassy wave. While it requires some balance, this cool innovation promises to reduce the time it takes to play a round, reduce turf wear and attract a younger audience. The **Golf Skate Caddy** (golf-skatecaddy.com) is a similar ride. However, it offers a seat and will rev up to 12.5 miles per hour.

Driving for Show

Known more for wedges and irons, **Ping** is introducing three versions of its new **G30 Driver**. The standard

edition has a higher moment of inertia (MOI), meaning that the weight of the club is distributed in such a way that it is more forgiving of bad shots.

The club also features turbulator technology—a crown feature that improves aerodynamics and reduces drag like a spoiler on a race car. The black metal ridges on the black crown also frame the ball nicely. The SF Tec version should help players who tend to miss the shot to the right—a polite way of saying slicers. The LS Tec is a low-spin version for better players who create faster clubhead speeds (ping.com).

From **Wilson Golf**—a brand that is once again becoming a technology

leader—comes the **D200**, the lightest adjustable driver in the marketplace. The club is designed to deliver the most distance on all hits, even those off-center ones.

“It was tough to get all this great technology into such a small, lightweight package,” says Michael Vrska, Wilson’s global director of innovation. However, they managed, and the club features an adjustable hosel that offers three lofts and six shot shapes, from standard to draw (wilson.com).

Nike’s highly adjustable **Vapor Driver**, available in three models (Speed, Pro and Flex) and with different shafts for low, mid and high



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LPGA star Michelle Wie swings an all-Volt Nike Vapor driver with distinctive green highlights.

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From top:
Ping G30 Driver,
Wilson D200 and
the Nike Vapor
Speed Driver.

launches, is one of the sleekest new drivers on the market. Its electric-green highlights shouldn't distract from the big stick's new FlexFlight technology, which integrates a new carbon-enhanced backing that moves the club's weight to maximize ball speed and provide distance while forgiving off-center hits. All that will make more sense when you smash your first drive off the tee—and even more sense if your contact with the ball isn't quite perfect (nikegolf.com).

Power from the Fairway

The new **E8** adjustable fairway woods from **Tour Edge's Exotics** line combine inspired design, state-of-the-art

manufacturing, and the highest-grade materials in a fairway wood, with more adjustability than in an early presidential candidate. Tour Edge's brazing process binds titanium and steel in a way that creates a lighter club, and a revolutionary laser-beam bonding process adheres the cup face to the body.

The technology ensures accurate minuscule welding points, causing the ball to spring off the clubface with greater power (touredge.com).

Cleveland Golf's new **CG Black Hybrids** use lower-swing MOI and a lower center of gravity to increase launch angles. By lowering the MOI, the clubs offer a higher head speed

and greater distance with the same effort (clevelandgolf.com).

The first thing you'll notice about the new **Vapor Irons** from **Nike** is the most alluring grip you've ever felt on a golf club. The Vapors come in Pro, Pro Combo and Speed versions.

The Pro Combos combine the shorter irons from the Pro set and longer irons from the more-forgiving Speed set. Nike's innovation is to shift the center of gravity more toward the toe of the club.

The result is that the irons resist twisting on off-center hits and produce less vibration, thus offering more forgiveness and greater distance (nikegolf.com).

Clockwise from below: The Nike Vapor Iron, Mizuno's JPX-850 Iron and the Ping Glide Wedge.

Six years in development, the **JPX-850** forged irons from **Mizuno** incorporate boron into the company's Grain Flow Forging process to help the new clubs overcome the distance limitations of traditional forged irons.

The materials are 30 percent stronger, allowing for a thinner face and greater ball speeds. The clean, sleek clubface—Mizuno's thinnest ever—is strategically reinforced by a power frame cavity that moves weight to the corners of the clubhead for maximum forgiveness to accompany increased distance. Mizuno's new clubs prove you don't have to give up distance to play forged irons.

Mizuno also offers more than 10 shafts and 25 grips, so you can find just the right fit (mizunousa.com).

Around the Greens

Ping debuts its silky **Glide** wedges this season in three

sole widths to accommodate players with different types of swings. Those with steep attack angles will benefit from the W or wide version. The wider sole delivers more bounce and is more forgiving. The clubs come in two different groove geometries for varying wedge lofts—the higher lofts deliver more spin. The attractive chrome finish also sheds water well (ping.com).

If you are unhappy with your putter, **Cure Putter** may have the answer. The company's RX models are adjustable in two ways: First, you can change the lie angle (the angle at which the shaft

extends from the putter head to your hands). Second, you can adjust the head weights by adding or removing metal discs at the back of the putter heads. Cure also helps eliminate torque or twisting during the putting stroke, thus increasing the likelihood of center hits (cureputters.com).

Helpful Accessories

Spring golf is not always the warm, dry activity we'd like it to be. **Jones Golf Bags** help those of us who are willing to rough it by playing in actual weather. Jones has been producing iconic old-school single-strap bags since 1971. They feature a vintage flair without frippery and are made for golfers who walk and carry their clubs. This year Jones unveils two all-weather bags that resist the elements. My favorite is the stand bag version, featuring seam-sealed zippers, an easily





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gripped handle, a full-length outer-wear pocket and an exterior umbrella sleeve. It even includes a velour-lined valuables pocket and club dividers that are topped with faux fur. The dividers stay dry underneath a snap-on hood (jonesgolfbags.com).

While most golfers think of compression in terms of the power applied to the golf ball by the club-head, **Zensah** offers compression with several new wearable technologies. The compression arm warmers, as well as the full-sleeve tops and socks, are designed to help stabilize and support muscles, promote blood flow and deliver more oxygen to cells

to help them work more efficiently. The products are designed to reduce swelling, help prevent muscle tears, speed recovery and decrease the



delayed onset of soreness. Athletes in other sports (think Dwyane Wade of the NBA's Miami Heat) have been wearing a similar arm warmer for years. Zensah now produces an argyle-patterned sock, which is targeted at the golfing audience (zensah.com).

Supporting my long-held notion that golf can be an adventure sport (especially when you go searching for errant shots), I've discovered that the best golf pants ever created were actually designed for rock climbers. **Prana's** stretch **Zion Pant** might be surprised to be included in the golf gear category, but I have found no better or better-looking brand for playing golf.

The four-way stretch fabric resists abrasions (when your backswing



includes dodging a cactus, for example), dries quickly and travels well.

The Zion also comes in a lined version and one that converts to shorts when you unzip the lower pant legs. Prana's

focus on preserving the environment and supporting local communities fits with golf's focus on sustainability and conservation (prana.com).

Adding to the various gadgets that help you know distance and locations on the golf course, **Sony's** new **Smart-Watch 3** offers a free one-year download of **Golfshot's Pro GPS app**, allowing you to access crucial information on the course without the clumsiness of consulting



From left: The Cure Putter, the Zensah argyle compression socks and the Jones Golf Bag.

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Puzzle on page 70.

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a phone or range finder. The app presents hole details and distances to hazards and the pin. It keeps score and even offers recommendations on club choice. The app has a high-resolution and highly visible screen with voice, touch and gesture input options. Off the golf course, the SmartWatch 3 stores music, provides weather and travel information, reminds you of appointments and much more (golfshot.com).



Sony's new SmartWatch 3 offers a free year of the Golfshot Pro GPS app.

New Ways to Play

With the number of golf rounds played each year going down, many in the industry are looking for alternative forms of recreation to help increase golf's popularity and keep the sport healthy.

A new sport getting plenty of attention is **footgolf**, which involves kicking a soccer ball on existing golf courses. Of course, this game also requires a 21-inch "cup" in the place of the usual golf hole.

A new startup called **FlingGolf** (fling-golf.com) sells a product that's more lacrosse stick than golf club for utilizing golf courses in yet another way. Rather than flinging your 3-iron in anger, use the patent-pending **FlingStick** to launch a traditional golf ball as far as 200 yards with a jai alai-like throwing motion. The sport is made for walking since you only need one club, and, if you are careful with your aim, it can be played alongside traditional golfers. When your ball is on the green, you can use the side of the FlingStick like a putter.

We will have to wait and see whether footgolf or FlingGolf ever catch on with the general public. In the meantime, those of us who still enjoy pursuing the royal and ancient game the old-fashioned way will have plenty of new gadgets and equipment to try out on our favorite courses. ■

Jeff Wallach is a Portland, Oregon-based freelance golf journalist.

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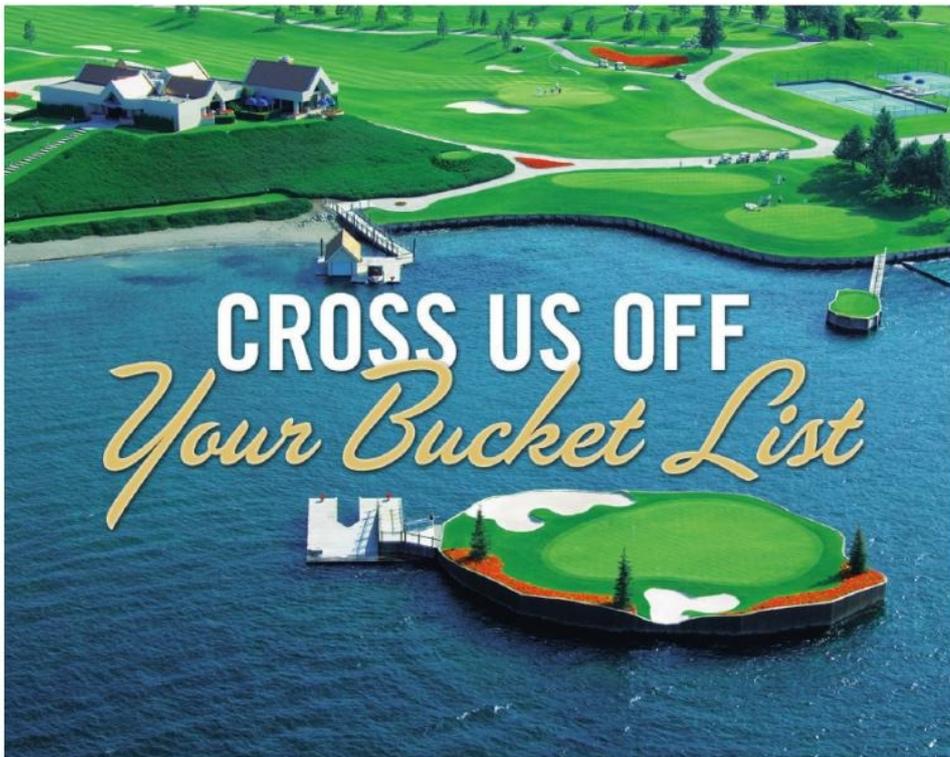
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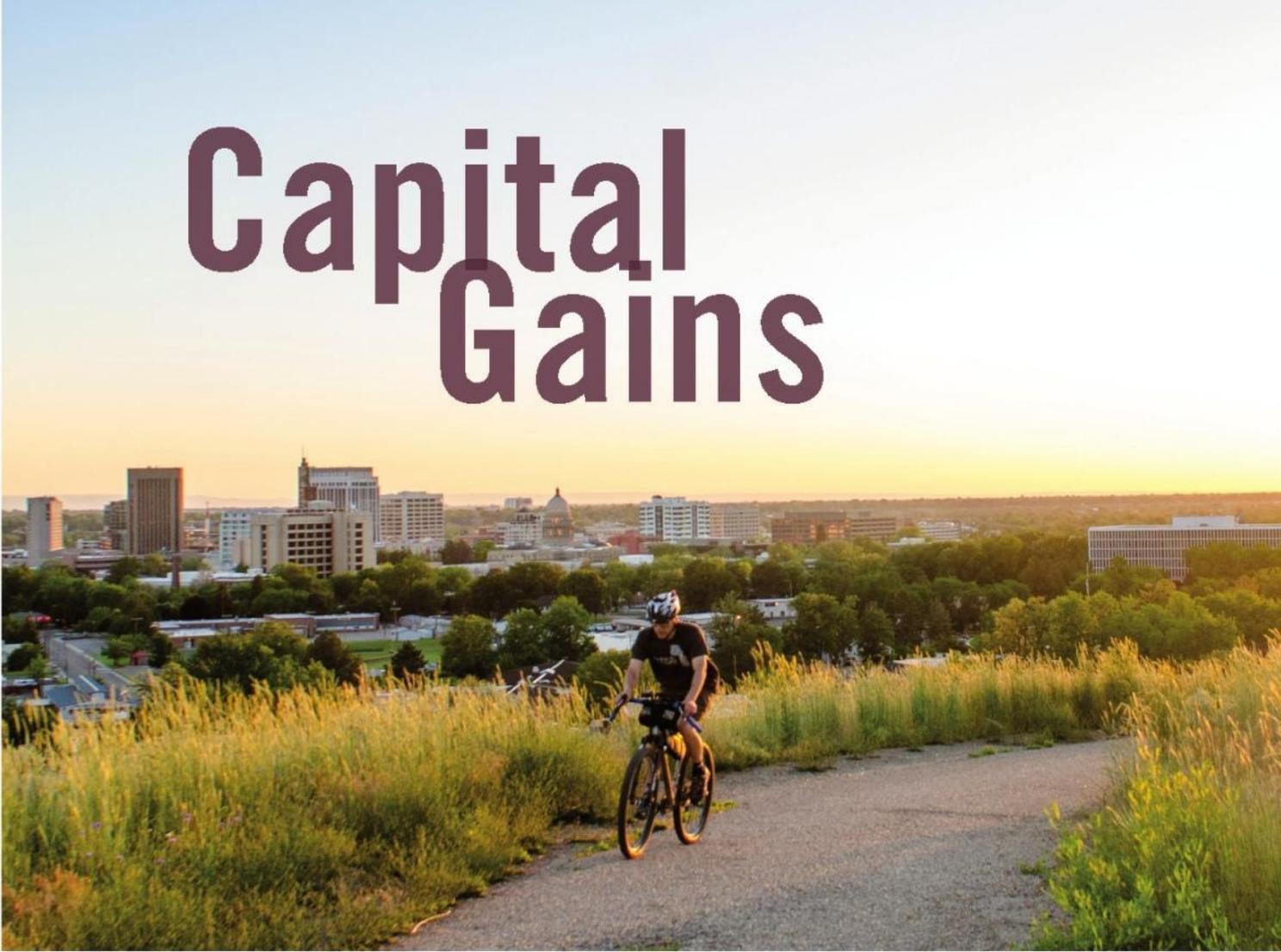
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Clockwise: The Boise Foothills north of downtown offer many miles of trails. A fisherman casts on the scenic Boise River. The Idaho State Capitol building was constructed with local sandstone.

JARED SPICKELMIER / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES





The foothills are a Gem State treasure, offering more than 150 miles of hiking/mountain-biking trails as part of the multiagency Ridge to Rivers system, which includes connections to the Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area for summer and winter sports.

Despite CJ's desire to get going, I stand my ground, admiring the view. From my sagebrush promontory, I watch downtown Boise and the Treasure Valley wake up. The sunrise gleams off the Capitol Building's terra-cotta dome, and the soft morning light illuminates several more landmarks: Julia Davis Park, the rows of trees marking the Boise River Greenbelt path, and the skyline of the flourishing downtown business district.

Last year the Boise area was No. 1 in *Time* magazine's list of American regions that were "getting it right." The magazine lauded the City of Trees for becoming "a techy boomtown with a thriving cultural scene." In addition, *Time* noted, "an economy boosted by megagrocer Albertsons, the multinational Micron Technology and the potato giant J.R. Simplot has helped jump-start a fast-growing real estate market."

The Huffington Post named Boise one of the "Best Under-the-Radar Destinations of 2015," and CNN listed Idaho in a lineup of "10 Dare to Go" adventures. "The spectacular scenery of this overlooked state can hold its own with anybody's," CNN noted. "Start in the summertime in Boise—a handsome city with a compact, lively downtown," the report recommended, and then visit the "pristine beauty of [the state's]

mountainous midsection and forested panhandle."

Another recent accolade went to downtown Boise's Fork restaurant, which emphasizes local and Northwest cuisine. In January, Fork was chosen as No. 7 on the *Men's Journal* list of "10 Best Brunch Spots in America."

The Boise area's superb restaurants, cultural opportunities and outdoor recreation bring me back many times a year, and during each mini or extended vacation, I discover new things to see and do, as well as

Visitors appreciate Boise's recreational assets

BY BUDDY LEVY



STEVE BLY / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES

My breathing quickens as I reach the top of the hill for which 63-acre Camel's Back Reserve is named. I pause for a break, inhaling the clean, dry air. My black lab, CJ, tugs at her leash, annoyed that I've stopped. She's eager to continue our early morning 3-mile-loop run in the Boise Foothills north of downtown.



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revisiting old favorites. On this weekend trip, I'm enjoying some of the many scenic urban sites—exceptional attractions in and around the city, starting with the early morning splendor of the foothills. CJ whines and yanks me on up the trail, reminding me that I have a full, fun-filled agenda, so I'd better get moving. Below are 10 ideas for your own visit to this extraordinary destination.

The Capitol Building—The state's most historic and iconic building dates back to 1905, when construction began on the 208-foot-tall central portion. Local sandstone was shaped to suggest the stacked-log structures of Idaho's pioneer era. The building has been expanded, renovated and restored over the years, and was rededicated in 2010. Windows and skylights direct sunlight to the interior, where marble surfaces reflect it. **Architect John Everett Tourtellotte** wanted to capture "the great white light of conscience." Also unique: The capitol is heated by geothermal water. **Guided and self-guided tours** are available (capitolcommission.idaho.gov).

Julia Davis Park—This 89.4-acre park, flanked on the south by the Boise River, is the city's oldest and



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Above: Bicyclists cross a bridge in the Boise River Greenbelt.

Left: Boise has many parks and green spaces that offer recreation and relaxation.

most diverse: home to the **Zoo Boise**; the **Boise Art Museum**; the **Idaho Black History Museum**; and the **Discovery Center of Idaho**, which provides hands-on fun that inspires learning in science, technology, engineering and math. Also enjoy the park's walking paths, rose garden, six tennis courts, pond and paddleboat rentals (parks.cityofboise.org).

The Boise River Greenbelt—

A 25-mile paved, tree-lined urban pathway winds through the city, connecting pedestrians and cyclists to many popular riverside parks. Wildlife abounds—look for heron rookeries in the trees along the path, and for **Idaho Birding Trail** signs to help you identify the numerous bird species (parks.cityofboise.org). Fishing-related shops such as the Idaho Angler (idahoangler.com) rent fly



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Additional Claims to Fame

#1 Lowest business-location costs in the Pacific U.S., "Competitive Alternatives 2014," KPMG's Guide to International Business Location Costs (competitivealternatives.com).

#1 "10 Best Fields in College Football," USA Today, October 2014 (fanindex.usatoday.com/2014/10/13/the-10-best-fields-in-college-football).

#4 "Best Travel-Worthy State Capital," USA Today, December 2014 (10best.com/awards/travel/best-travel-worthy-state-capital).

#9 "Top 100 Best Places to Live 2015," Livability.com, September 2014 (livability.com/best-places/top-100-best-places-to-live/2015).

#10 "Most Happy States in America," WalletHub, September 2014 (wallethub.com/edu/most-least-happy-states-in-america/6959).

#11 "35 Best U.S. Cities for People 35 and Under," Vocativ, December 2014 (vocativ.com/interactive/culture/society/livability-index-2014).



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Above: Kathryn Albertson Park has unique interpretive signs.

Right: The southwestern region of the Idaho Birding Trail is home to species such as the western tanager.

Far right: The Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial is a place for reflection.

rods, reels and waders for river recreation. Ada County Parks & Waterways (adacounty.id.gov/parks-waterways/barber-park) provides **summer raft, tube, kayak, paddle** and life-jacket rentals at Barber Park in partnership with Epley's Boise River Rentals. Inner tubes are available for purchase. Nominal-fee shuttle service runs from Ann Morrison Park back to Barber Park for those doing the 6-mile float between the parks.



STEVE BLY / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES

Human-made rapids and waves attract kayakers and standup paddleboarders to the **Boise River Park** along the Greenbelt. Bring your own gear, or rent at Idaho River Sports near the park. Or, just enjoy the action from the viewing platform.

Boise State University (boisestate.edu) also lies along the Greenbelt path, and is home to the **Morrison Center for the Performing Arts**, where the Broadway in Boise series—whose sponsors include Alaska Airlines—showcases top productions.

In addition, the trail runs past the city-owned **Warm Springs Golf Course**, open year-round, weather permitting, and known for its spacious fairways. The

adult peak-season weekend rate is just \$31 for 18 holes, and on Saturdays and Sundays starting at 4 P.M., parents with a child can play for just \$8 a person (warmspringsgolfcourse.com).

Kathryn Albertson Park—

One of the dozen or so parks along or near the Greenbelt, Kathryn Albertson Park is a 41-acre “walking park” in the city’s heart. It has ponds, fountains, canals, two island gazebos, thousands of

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trees and plants, and a wetland area. It's perfect for quiet contemplation. **Footpaths** are wide and paved, and **colorful informative signs**, describing environmental and wildlife themes, are inlaid in large rocks.

Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial—Opened in 2002 along the Greenbelt, it's the first memorial in the United States to honor Anne Frank. A **life-size statue of Anne** is surrounded by quotes etched in marble, reading areas, a writing table, a depiction of part of Anne's annex, and the entire Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Visiting the memorial is a moving experience (wassmuthcenter.org/the-memorial).

Eco Art on Eighth—Boise's public art is a major attraction, with a collection now exceeding 100 works. Three pieces installed on Eighth Street downtown, and dedicated in September, are related to the environment, designed to create awareness and dialogue about the natural world. **Heliotrope** is an 18-foot-tall vertical steel sculpture, with climbing living ivy vines. **Virgo** features steel discs, representing constellations, that are embedded in a red-brick sidewalk. **Litharac-nium** is a 16-foot-tall steel sculpture that represents

enlarged plankton, reminding viewers that Boise, through its air and watershed, is connected to the ocean, and that plankton provide "critical life support for the marine food chain," according to the Boise Department of Arts & History. The sculpture invites us to remember that "our survival is connected to the care we provide to our waterways and atmospheric systems" (boiseartsandhistory.org).



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A Basque flag hangs above part of the vibrant Basque Block.

Basque Block—The Boise area boasts a large Basque community, whose members preserve, celebrate and share their unique heritage. Savor salt cod, paella and other delicious representative fare at **Leku Ona**, **Bar Gernika** and **The Basque Market** in the Basque Block on Grove Street downtown (boisebasques.com and thebasqueblock.com). Visit the **Basque Museum and Cultural Center** (basquemuseum.com) to learn about shepherders, boarding houses and the history of Basques in the United States. **The Jaialdi Festival**, one of the largest Basque festivals in the world, is presented every five years, and will take place July 28–August 2 this year,

bringing traditional music, singing, dancing and sports competitions to Boise (jaialdi.com).

The Egyptian Theatre—Boise's premier historical theater was founded in 1927 and is in the heart of downtown, at the corner of Capitol and Main. Live music, plays, opera, films, literary readings—some-

thing is always happening in this impressive space decorated with Egyptian-style architectural details in lavish columns, panels, murals and sculptures. **Opera Idaho** will present *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at the theater on May 8 and 10 (egyptiantheatre.net).

Old Idaho Penitentiary State Historic Site

—Now a museum complex, the imposing sandstone compound, which opened in 1872 and sits on 4 acres, offers a self-guided walking tour and a large collection of historical arms and military memorabilia. **Guided tours** are available at select times on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Special events include “Singin’ in the Slammer Karaoke Night,” June 12 this year (history.idaho.gov/old-idaho-penitentiary). The nearby **Idaho Botanical Garden** showcases themed gardens, including English, Herb, and Lewis & Clark Native Plants (idahobotanicalgarden.org).

Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center

—Learn about the high-desert environment of the Boise Foothills. The grounds of the sustainably built learning-center building include native, drought-tolerant grasses and wildflowers. A pollination garden, beehives, self-guided interpretive trails and a → *Continued pg. 58*



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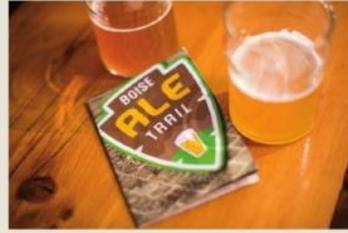
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Downtown Eagle—The Boise suburb has a Western feel, with replica gold rush–era facades for buildings such as the Eagle Hotel, now comprising office space and a retro candy store. Rembrandts Coffee House and art gallery is also popular. Zen Bento and The Stuffed Olive are favorites for lunch (eaglechamber.com).



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Boise Ale Trail—This network of nine craft breweries within 10 miles of each other provides the opportunity to sample sublime beers from brewing companies such as Payette, Sockeye and 10 Barrel. A number of trail venues also feature pubs/restaurants (boisealetrail.com).



STEVE BLY / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES

Bardenay—Described as “the nation’s first restaurant distillery,” Bardenay, located in downtown Boise’s Basque Block, with a second location in Eagle and another in Coeur d’Alene, distills premium vodka, gin and rum. Pair excellent soups, salads, satays and entrees with local spirits (bardenay.com).

World-Class Rapids—Enjoy rafting an hour north of Boise on the Payette River and about three hours north of Boise on the Main Salmon River. Riggins, Idaho, a gateway for rafting trips on the Main Salmon, has been called “the whitewater capital of the world.” Visit the Idaho Outfitters & Guides Association website (ioga.org) for more information on rafting trips and outfitters.
—B.L.



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Snake River Wine Tours

In 2006 I learned that a former student of mine at Washington State University, a young woman named Melanie Krause, had started a winery back in her hometown of Boise. I was intrigued. I knew that Washington and Oregon were producing award-winning, even world-class, wines,



CHAD CASE / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES

but Idaho wasn't quite there yet. It is now.

Melanie's winery—which she runs with her husband, Joe—is called **Cinder**, named for the volcanic remnants in the soil of many Idaho vineyards. Cinder—which produces about a dozen varietals, from Chardonnay to Mourvèdre—is one of nine wineries within a short drive of downtown Boise that are part of the **Snake River Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA)**, officially designated by the U.S. government in 2007 and now boasting more than 30 wineries and nearly 50 vineyards.

Snake River AVA vines, influenced by the volcanic-ash soils and by the long daylight hours during the growing season, produce grapes with super-concentrated fruit flavors, in many varietals: Chardonnay, Viognier, Syrah, Riesling, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and more.

Don't miss **Koenig Vineyards, Ste. Chapelle Winery, 3 Horse Ranch Vineyards** and, of course, Cinder Wines. Be sure to check tasting-room times in advance. To plan a self-guided tour (with a designated driver), visit idahowines.org for maps showing wineries and vineyards, including subregions such as the **Sunny-slope Wine District** in the Nampa-Caldwell area. Or, opt for an organized tour through a company such as The Boise Party Bus (boisepartybus.com), Idaho

Winery Tours (idahowinerytours.com) and Winery Seekers (wineryseekers.com).

Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area

High overhead, a prairie falcon soars on spring thermals, scanning the region for prey. The 485,000-acre Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, on a sagebrush steppe about 20 miles south of Boise, provides refuge for an estimated 800 pairs or so of raptors that live here year-round or migrate here each spring to mate, nest and raise offspring—one of the world's largest concentrations of nesting birds of prey.

Prime time to see 24 species—including prairie falcons, northern harriers (such as the one below), ferruginous hawks and great horned owls—is early morning or early evening from mid-March through June. Recommended viewing locations include **Dedication Point**, an overlook on the rim of the Snake River Canyon. A quarter-mile trail with interpretive signs offers insights about the birds, geology and other wildlife. Keep your binoculars and a portable bird guide

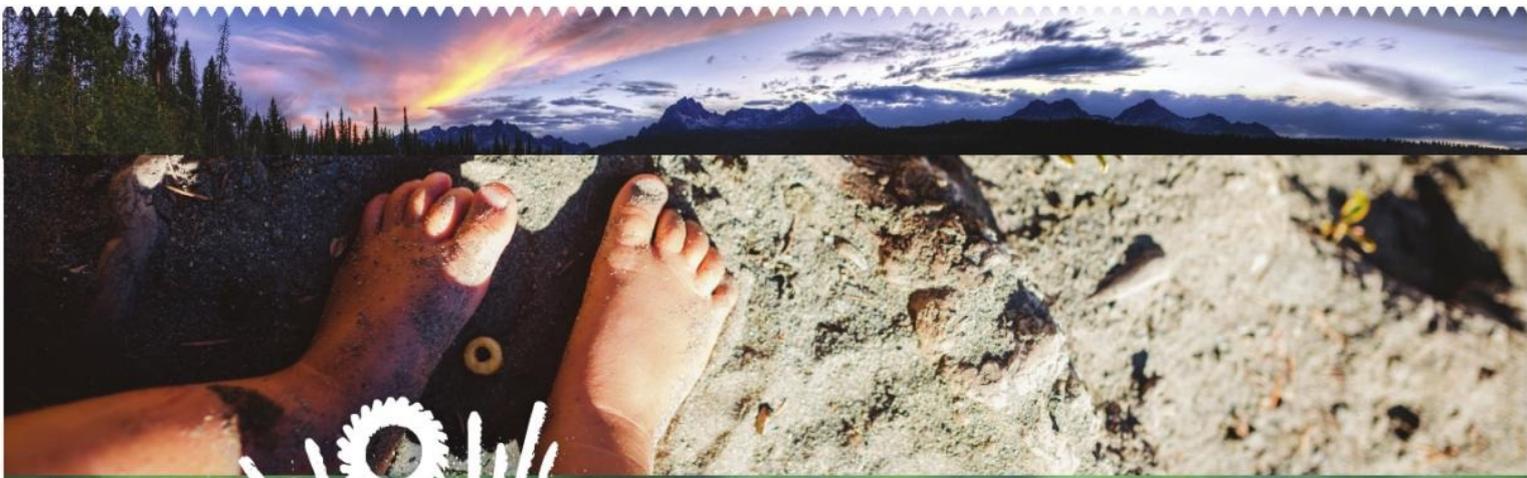


JOSHUA HENSON / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES

at the ready. The last time I was there, I saw northern harriers, eagles and the small but magnificent kestrel.

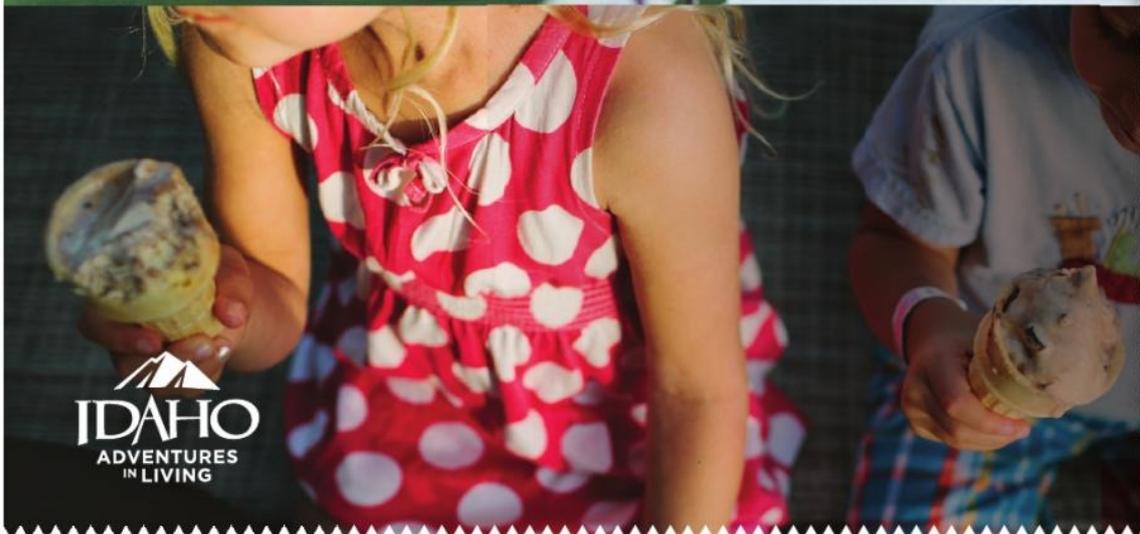
In addition to looking for raptors, visitors can kayak, canoe, powerboat or fish on the Snake River and in the **CJ Strike Reservoir** in the recreation area (blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/birds_of_prey_nca.html).

Before or after touring the conservation area, it's fun to stop by the 580-acre campus of the **World Center for Birds of Prey**, privately owned and operated by The Peregrine Fund, and located on a hilltop →



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outside of Boise, about 20 miles north of the conservation area. Exhibits and year-round live-raptor demonstrations provide up-close views and more information about the magnificent birds (peregrinefund.org).

Bruneau Dunes State Park

Soft sand gives way beneath my feet as I churn upward toward the top of a 470-foot

CHAD CASE / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES



mound, **one of the tallest freestanding sand dunes in North America.** I remember coming here as a teen while growing up in Idaho, and how the run back down the steep dune's face was so exhilarating, my friends and I did it again and again.

Four decades later, as I near the summit, youngsters **zoom down on rented "sand boards"**—like snowboards, but for riding sand. I crest the narrow ridge and take in the 4,800-acre vista, including

the tree-lined lakes at the foot of the dune. A lone coyote scampers across the desert hardpan in the distance.

Located about 65 miles southeast of Boise, Bruneau Dunes State Park is a unique day excursion. Tromp around the dunes; fish for bluegill; swim; and pop into the visitors center for information about insects, fossils, wildlife and the geological formation of the dunes over the last 20,000 years. You can rent sand boards at the visitors center.

The **Bruneau Dunes Observatory**, open seasonally, offers free tours and solar viewing an hour before sunset, plus nominal-fee telescope use for night-sky viewing (parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/parks/bruneau-dunes). —B.L.

Continued from pg. 54

"Story Trail" are entertaining and informative. **Free family-oriented programs** are offered on the second Saturday of each month, year-round, except in August, and **free adult Sunset Series programs** are offered every second Wednesday, year-round. You can also park in the lot adjacent to the center to access the Ridge to Rivers trail system, and trails such as Lower Halls Gulch and Kestrel (bee.cityof-boise.org/foothills and ridgetorivers.org). ■

Buddy Levy lives in Moscow, Idaho.

Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) has the most flights to Boise, with service from numerous cities, including new flights from Spokane starting Aug. 24. For information on the region, see boise.org, visitsouthwestidaho.org and visitidaho.org.

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By Carey Sweet



Wines for Summer Entertaining

MOMENTS

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Around this time each spring I start planning my annual summer luncheon for cherished friends, creating a list of the dishes to make it a memorable occasion. I'll serve creamy deviled eggs, crudités featuring vegetables fresh from my Sonoma County garden, local cheeses, grilled wild Alaska salmon, and peach short-cake showcasing organic fruit from Dry Creek Peach & Produce in Healdsburg. And for a family atmosphere, I'll invite each guest to bring a dish to share. Everything will be savored in the warm sunshine at a long, communal table dressed with flowers from area growers.

Also central to the celebration will be wine, because I know that a delicious and delightful gathering demands excellent pairings. My guests have come to expect some longtime favorites such as aperitif Bellinis with **sparkling wine from Iron Horse Vineyards or J Vineyards & Winery**, both members of the Wine Road, Northern Sonoma County association, and marvelous **Rosé of Pinot Noir** from Healdsburg-based **MacPhail Family Wines** to pair with the tangy goat cheese and rich salmon. With those wines ordered well in advance, I turn my attention to additional options. Fortunately, the choices are numerous, thanks to outstanding winemaking throughout the West. Expert production by viticulturists and vintners in California, Washington,

Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia allows me to pick the perfect pairings. Deciding which wines to serve becomes part of my party-planning fun, and a labor of love.

Wines for a Summer Potluck

I have no idea what dishes my guests will bring each year, but that's OK. There are superb wines available for a potluck because they are versatile enough to go with just about everything. Each of the wines below was crafted to be food-friendly and exquisitely balanced so that there's not too much alcohol or tannin to trample delicate flavors in lighter summer dishes. These wines also provide excellent dryness and acidity against ripe fruit to keep diners' palates refreshed.

Chateau Ste. Michelle 2013 Eroica Riesling, Woodinville, WA. "Riesling is perhaps one of the most versatile wines for food," says head winemaker Bob Bertheau.



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"It is a flavorful, refreshing wine that pairs well with a wide array of dishes, including cheese, fruit, crab cakes and seafood, as well as dishes with a little spice, like Thai food, Mexican food and Indian curries."

In Chateau Ste. Michelle's 2013 Eroica, sweet lime and tangerine aromas are backed by subtle mineral notes, with mouthwatering acidity that is beautifully balanced by juicy Washington Riesling grapes.

Inman Family Wines Russian River Valley Pinot Gris and Chardonnay, and OGV (Olivet Grange Vineyard) Estate Pinot Noir, Santa Rosa, CA. "These all work well with many dishes, so you can easily create a mix-and-match wine-pairing menu," says owner and winemaker Kathleen Inman. "For example, golden, savory *gougères*—cheese puffs—will enhance almost any wine: Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris or Rosé. The wines also love crab and scallop cakes."

King Estate 2011 Backbone Pinot Noir, Eugene, OR.

This multifaceted wine blends King Estate grapes with grapes from other vineyards in the Willamette Valley. "One vineyard might show a deep red fruit, while a different vineyard may produce a spicier character," says King Estate winemaker Kevin Sommelet. "The unique qualities that each vineyard brings create a really complex wine that works well with so many foods—it's rich with nuances of black cherry, leather, spice and anise."

Wines for Other Types of Entertaining

In addition to wines that work well with lots of different dishes, I appreciate suggestions for wines that pair exquisitely with specific items. Below are ideas from experienced winemakers. Many wineries even post recipes on their websites, with recommended pairings, that can help a host or hostess with successful entertaining.

Summer Hors d'oeuvres on the Patio, Deck, Dock or Boat

Recommendations from Inman Family Wines, Santa Rosa, CA (inmanfamilywines.com)

Salad of roasted Chioggia and golden beets with mixed organic baby greens served in mini pastry cups or on crostini: Inman Family Wines Endless Crush Rosé of Pinot Noir 2014. "The Endless Crush Rosé, which is made from our organically farmed OGV Estate Pinot Noir, is a fabulous choice," says Inman, "since the bright acidity, and the intriguing wild strawberry, blood orange, kiwi, watermelon-rind and mineral flavors pair so well with spicy foods and with salads that have a citrus- or vinegar-based dressing. And the beautiful pale color is so attractive in the sunlight, whether on a patio or boat, at a beach or in the vineyard."



Mini spinach quiches: Inman Family Wines 2013 Russian River Valley Pinot Gris. "This is a warm-weather favorite, and particularly delicious with oysters and clams if you are planning a seaside picnic," Inman says of this wine that blooms with aromas and flavors of white flowers, citrus and stone fruit. "But one of my favorite pairings is a spinach-quiche bite, featuring a rich, tender custard of eggs and cheese, which plays well with the bright, fresh, floral fruit of the Pinot Gris. The hint of nutmeg in the wine nicely picks up the nutmeg in the recipe, too."

Thin-sliced, bite-size portions of grilled pork tenderloin with Jamaican jerk sea salt rub and zucchini slaw: Inman Family

Wines Whole Buncha Love 2013 Pinot Noir. "If you are looking for a red wine that's just a little bit wild for your al fresco culinary adventure, our newest Pinot Noir, Whole Buncha Love, is a 100 percent whole cluster [hence the name] Pinot, which like the Rosé and the Pinot Gris is organically farmed on our property," Inman says. The entire grape bunch, including its stems, is fermented for extra complexity, silky texture and flavor roundness. "This wine pairs effortlessly with smoked fish, salumi and cheeses, and will also stand up to barbecued items," Inman says. "I love grilling a pork tenderloin, then slicing it thinly and serving it as a nibble with a range of salads."

Summer Barbecue

Recommendations from Chateau Ste. Michelle, Woodinville, WA (ste-michelle.com)

Grilled Pacific salmon or chicken breast: Chateau Ste. Michelle 2013 Pinot Gris. Brimming with fresh flavors of juicy pear, melon, stone fruit and a hint of spice, this wine



'The enjoyment of wine is very personal. You don't have to be an expert—you just need to trust your own taste.'

—washingtonwine.org/wine-101



is an approachable, excellent choice. “This Pinot Gris style falls between the lighter, citrusy Italian Pinot Grigio and the richer, rounder Pinot Gris from Alsace [France],” says assistant winemaker David Rosenthal. “The grapes retain that beautiful acidity that makes Pinot Gris such a beautiful food wine with seafood and pastas, even in light cream sauces.” The natural crisp acidity of the refreshing, flavorful wine also complements grilled chicken, and even fruit and cheese.

Barbecued burgers, ribs and hot dogs: Chateau Ste. Michelle 2011 Indian Wells Red Blend. “An easy-to-enjoy red blend from warmer-climate vineyards in Eastern Washington, this is an ideal pairing with grilled meats, and a great match for barbecued ribs,” says head winemaker Bertheau. “It reflects the rich, round, powerful style of Washington fruit, highlighting eight varietals in a true example of the art of blending.” Crafted in luscious, opulent New World style, the wine offers jammy boysenberry flavors, for a distinctively rich, full-bodied flavor profile, he says.

Meat and vegetable kabobs: Chateau Ste. Michelle 2012 Syrah. Ideal ripeness and complexity with lush, concentrated character come together for what Bertheau calls

“an approachable, fruit-forward wine.” Its soft but confident flavor stands up well to beef, grilled salmon, pork and chicken that are enlivened with herbs such as basil, oregano, rosemary and thyme. Winery executive chef Janet Hedstrom likes this wine with robust kabob vegetables such as mushrooms, Walla Walla sweet onions, tomatoes, and red and green bell peppers.

Northwest Clambake or Fish Fry

Recommendations from Burrowing Owl Estate Winery, Oliver, BC (burrowingowlwine.ca)

Northwest clambake: Burrowing Owl Estate Winery 2012 Pinot Noir. The Pinot Noir pairs marvelously with a Northwest-style clambake, showcasing the region’s Dungeness crab, mussels and clams cooked over a firepit on the beach, says Burrowing Owl brand ambassador Sophie Laurent. The hearty ingredients, such as seafood, sausage, onions, corn, pota-



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toes and carrots, in a clambake dish go well with the Pinot's complex earthy character, which is imbued with notes of clove and sage.

"The grapes are estate grown in Oliver, in one of the Okanagan Valley's warmest terroirs," Laurent says. "The extra sun and heat of the area add volume and intensity to the grapes' natural acidity. Clambake is very flavorful, combining seafood with starchy components that bring weight to the dish. When Burrowing Owl's Pinot Noir is served slightly chilled (63°F), its silky texture complements the dish wonderfully while adding brambly, soft spice and vanilla undertones to the flavors."

Add some celery and fennel to the bake, and Burrowing Owl's 2013 Chardonnay will be a perfect match, too, Laurent adds, since the wine has ample acidity, along with intense exotic and nutty aromas to support hardy flavors.

Fish fry: Burrowing Owl Estate Winery 2013 Chardonnay. This wine boasts lemon, peach, honeydew melon and subtle vanilla-custard oakiness, plus a finish with a hint of caramel—flavors that waltz with fried fish. Laurent notes: "Fried fish has extra weight thanks to the cornmeal, or cracker-and-egg, or milk batter, so a Chardonnay fermented in oak, with lees stirring, has the needed body."

Burrowing Owl's Pinot Noir also can pair well with fried fish, she says. "If you like your fish with malt-vinegar

mayonnaise, the mouth-filling Pinot Noir has the fruit to play with a savory-sweet note. Whether you choose the Pinot Noir or the Chardonnay—or both—for your event, either wine will offset the fatty side of the fry. Serve the wines chilled—55°F for the Chardonnay and 63°F for the Pinot Noir."

Summer Picnic

Recommendations from King Estate, Eugene, OR (kingestate.com)

Cheese, seafood and salads: King Estate Domaine 2013 Pinot Gris. King Estate winemaker Kevin Sommelet likes this wine for a wide variety of dishes, touting its bright palate of green apple, citrus and tropical fruits. "Our Oregon style has a more crisp, elegant presentation and a little more acidity than the classic, rich Alsatian style. Our Pinot Gris' increased acidity is a wonderful attribute with food," Sommelet says. "It's fantastic with so many lighter recipes, and even has enough body to work well with dishes that many people would typically pair a red wine with, like smoked chicken or charcuterie."

Ham sandwich with Dijon-honey mustard: King Estate 2011 Hyland Pinot Noir. "Maybe you think you don't want



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to break out a great bottle from your cellar for a simple picnic, but the Hyland is such a great choice with picnic fare that I can't resist," says Sommelet. "It's a very light, elegant Pinot Noir with great acidity and structure, and a bright pomegranate note on the palate. Really great with many foods."

Cheeses, potato salads, chilled shrimp, seafood dip: King Estate Signature 2013 Pinot Gris. The fresh lemon, honeysuckle and orange blossom-honey flavors are graced with a hint of rose water, balanced

with a racy acidity. "When I am choosing wines for a picnic, I typically find that simplicity is the most successful approach," Sommelet says. "This is really crisp and refreshing, and downright delicious for a summer day."

Summer Movie Night: In-Home or Under the Stars

Recommendations from 3 Horse Ranch Vineyards, Eagle, ID (3horseranchvineyards.com)

Movie repast: 3 Horse Ranch Vineyards

2012 Single Vineyard Syrah. "Most of our wines are dry and fruit-forward," says Martha Cunningham, who owns the winery with her husband, Gary Cunningham, "so

we would recommend starting your movie night with hot roasted chicken, barbecued brisket or grilled London broil, along with bacon potato salad, a wedge of smoked cheddar and a crusty loaf of bread. The Syrah complements all those dishes



because of its full-bodied richness, and a nice tannin structure showing off spice and black pepper, plus some blackberry and raspberry on the nose."

Buttered-and-salted popcorn and salted chocolate-covered caramels:

3 Horse Ranch Vineyards 2011 Reserve Riesling. Consider the above for a little pairing fun. "The Riesling is off-dry, with very low residual sugar, so it's just slightly sweet," says Cunningham. "It has no tannins, and has low alcohol and moderate acidity, so it won't clash with the popcorn and caramels." Fruit flavors are balanced by bright spices and the acidity, complementing savory and subtly sweet snacks, she says.

Summer-Desserts Celebration

Recommendations from Maryhill Winery, Goldendale, WA (maryhillwinery.com)



Port volcanoes with biscotti: Maryhill Winery 2008 Vintage Port. This dish from winery owner Vicki Leuthold is simple: Hollow out a scoop of the best vanilla ice cream you can obtain. Pour 1/4 cup of Maryhill Port into the well. Crush two or three biscotti cookies and sprinkle over the top. Serve with more Maryhill Port.

"This is a traditionally made Port from the true Port varietals of grapes we grow," says Leuthold. "A blend of Tinto Cão, Sousao, Touriga Nacional and Tempranillo are all co-fermented, and aged 23 months in seasoned oak."

The Port adds depth to the simple ice cream, bringing warm aromas of toasted

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raisin bread and dark cherry, with a finish of blackberry cobbler and caramel. "This Port is particularly nice with this treat not only because the Port is in the well of ice cream, but because the not-too-sweet aspect of the biscotti balances nicely with the sweet dessert wine," Leuthold says.

Stuffed peaches: Maryhill Winery 2012 Moscato di Canelli. Leuthold loves this wine, in a pretty blue bottle, for its soft textures and floral nuances. Its layered charm begins with aromas such as kiwi, orange sorbet and sweet summer peach, building to a palate-pleasing mélange of golden raisin, macadamia nut and vanilla.

Leuthold's dish is equally multifaceted, comprising peaches stuffed with a mixture of peach pulp, egg yolk, mascarpone, crushed walnuts, crushed biscotti, Maryhill Moscato di Canelli and melted butter. Each stuffed peach is drizzled with more Moscato, and baked until golden. "The slightly sweet dessert wine is a perfect partner with the peach's acidity and the creamy aspect of the rich filling," Leuthold says.

Strawberry Rosé pound cake: Maryhill Winery 2014 Rosé of Sangiovese. A simple dessert soars when partnered with this vivid-pink, off-dry beauty that features sweet floral notes of sun-ripened strawberry, watermelon and caramel, and a crisp, balanced finish. You can make or purchase the cake, then top it with strawberries that have been soaked in the Rosé of Sangiovese and coated with sugar. Dollop the cake and strawberries with real whipped cream. ■

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Boise Convention & Visitors Bureau
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Central Oregon Visitors Association
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Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce
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Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce
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Majestic Mountain Loop
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www.masterparking.com

Oregon Wine Board
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Salmon River Chamber of Commerce
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Sonoma County Tourism
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Southwest Idaho
www.visitswidaho.com

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Visit Seattle
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Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)
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Please take a moment to review the following information to ensure that everyone on board the plane has a safe and comfortable trip

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Seat backs and tray tables must be in the upright, locked position during taxi, takeoff and landing.

All carry-on baggage, including laptop computers, must be stowed under a seat or in an enclosed overhead bin upon boarding and prior to landing, as directed.

Pets must remain in their carrier for the entire flight. The carrier must be stowed under a seat for taxi, takeoff and landing.

USING YOUR DEVICES

Flight attendants will advise of any portable electronic device restrictions on the ground or in the air. Please observe our portable electronic device policies:

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- › Laptops (must be stowed for taxi/takeoff/landing)
- › Tablets/smartphones (Airplane Mode after door closure)
- › Wireless mouse/keyboard
- › e-readers
- › Media/CD/DVD player
- › Noise-cancelling headphones
- › Cell phones (prior to door closure only)

Not Allowed During Flight



- › Voice calls of any kind, including VoIP
- › Devices with cell service enabled
- › AM/FM radios or TVs
- › Personal air purifiers
- › Remote-control toys
- › Electronic cigarettes

IT'S THE LAW

Interference with crew members' (including flight attendants') duties is a violation of federal law. Under the law, no person may assault, threaten, intimidate or interfere with crew members in the performance of their duties.

Smoking is not permitted on any Horizon Air flight.

Child-restraint devices must bear the FAA approval sticker.

Seat-belt extension use is not allowed in exit rows for the safety of all passengers due to the possibility of entanglement by the extensions.

Horizon Air prohibits the use of items that do not meet Federal Aviation Regulations or Company regulations, including the use of seat-belt extensions not provided by Horizon Air.

UPON LANDING

Please remain seated until the plane comes to a complete stop and the seat belt sign has been turned off.

Use caution when opening an overhead bin, as items may have shifted during flight.

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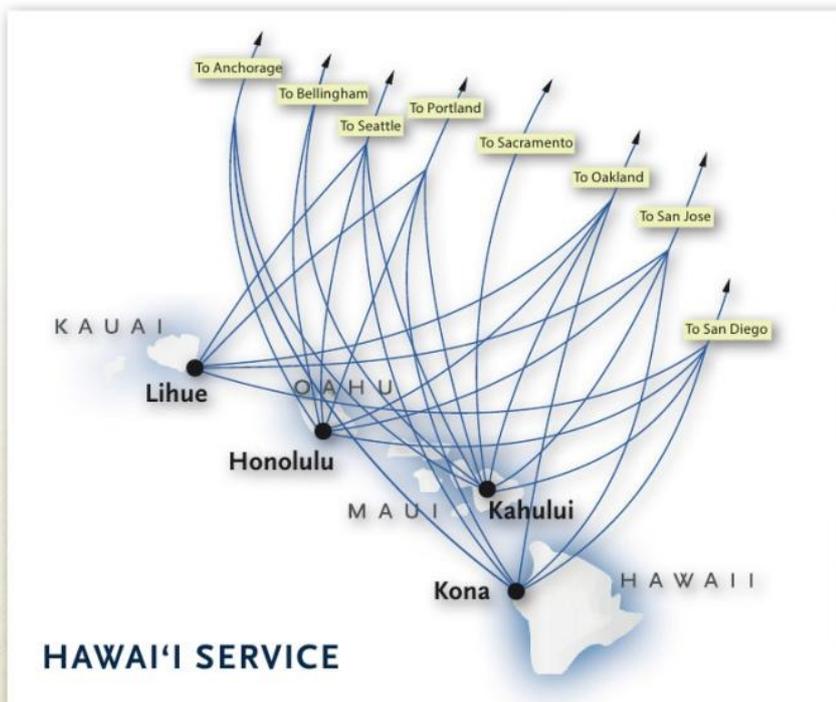
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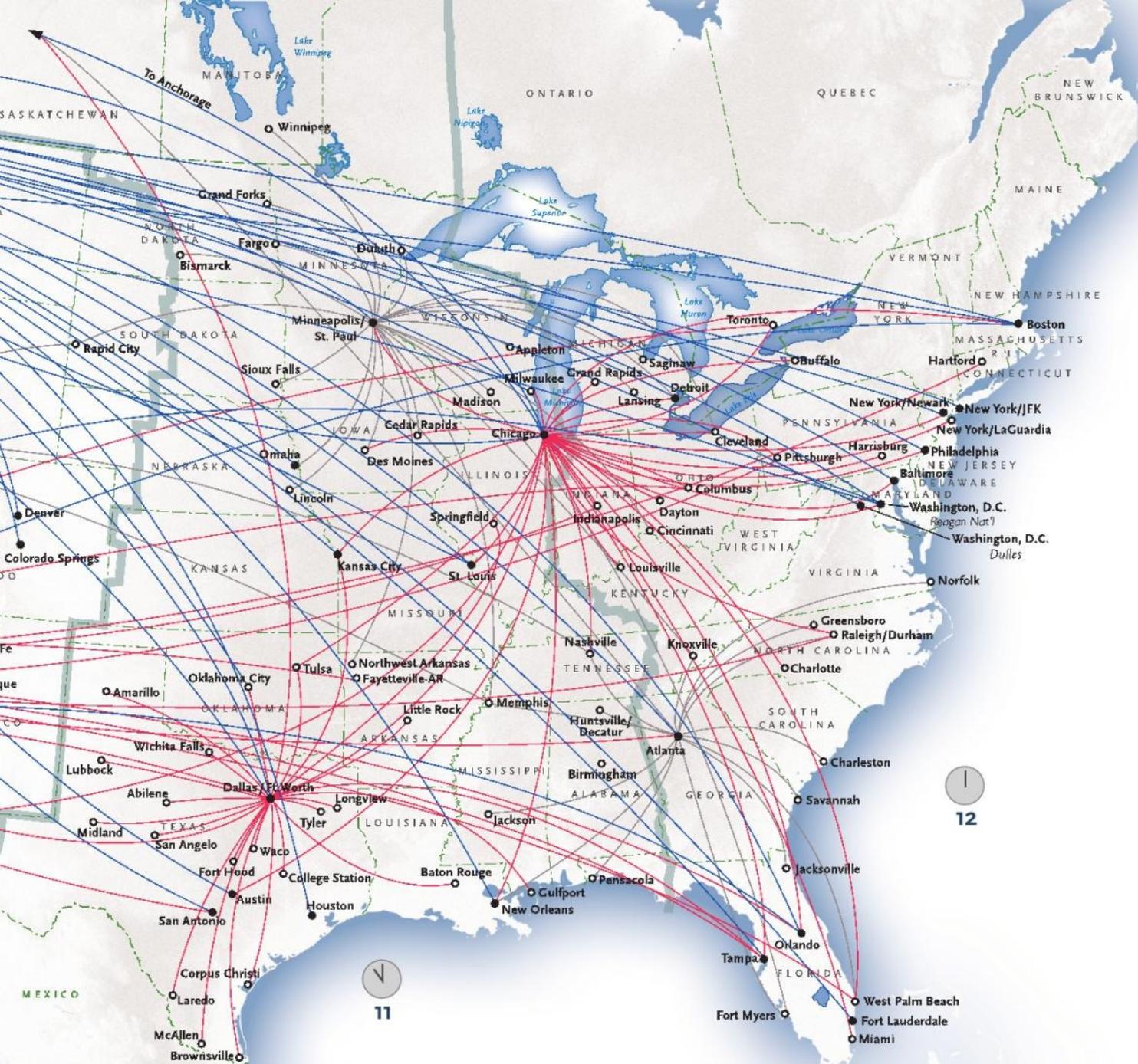
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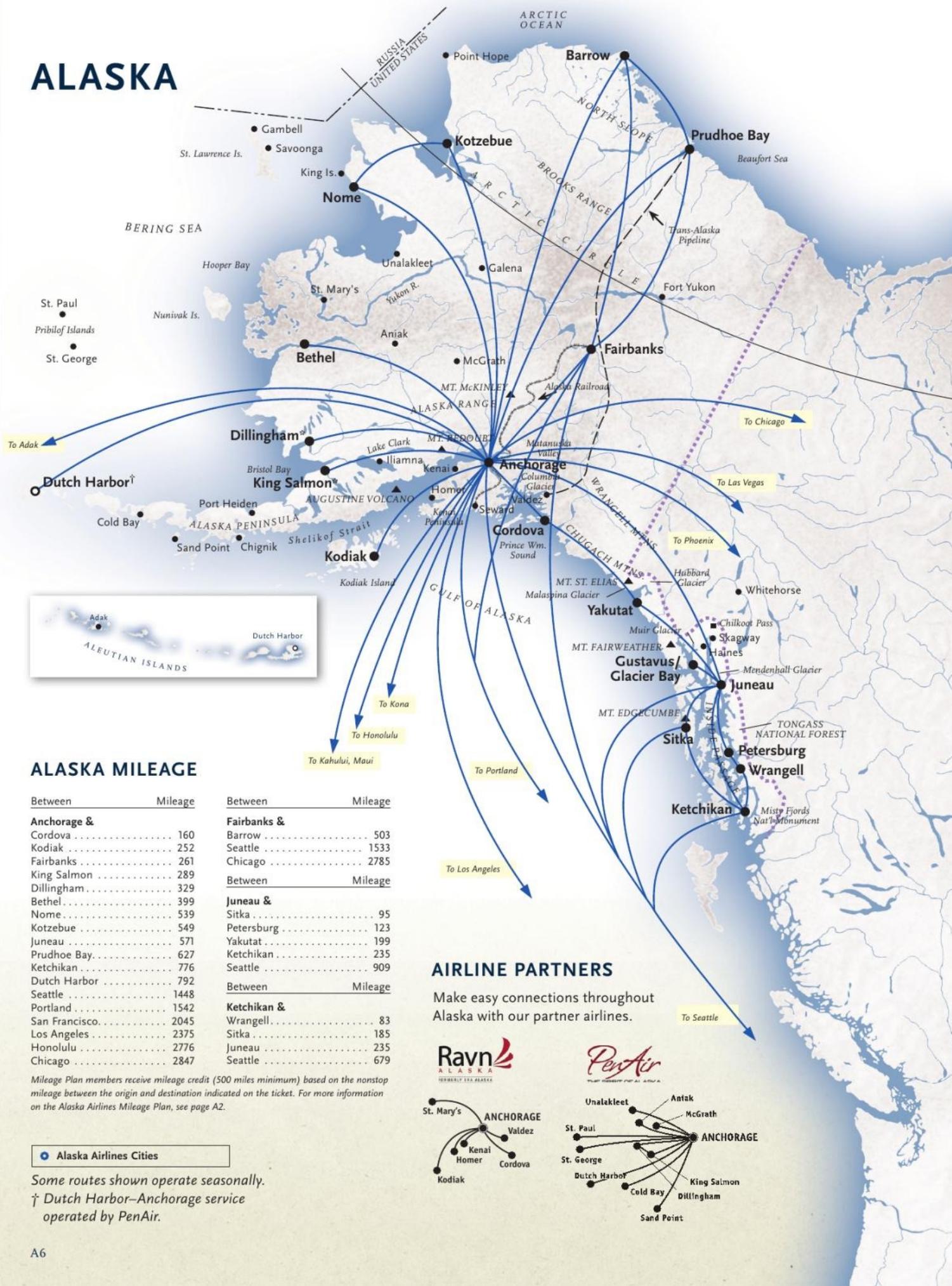
Between	Mileage
Seattle &	
Boston	2496
Denver	1024
Honolulu	2677
Los Angeles (LAX)	954
Fort Lauderdale	2697
New York City/Newark	2401
Phoenix	1106
San Diego	1050
San Francisco	678
Washington, D.C.	2306
Portland &	
Los Angeles (LAX)	834
Phoenix	1009
San Diego	933
San Francisco	550

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Route	Service Begins
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Seattle–Milwaukee	July 1, 2015
Seattle–Oklahoma City	July 1, 2015
Seattle–New York/JFK	Sept. 16, 2015

ALASKA



ALASKA MILEAGE

Between	Mileage
Anchorage &	
Cordova	160
Kodiak	252
Fairbanks	261
King Salmon	289
Dillingham	329
Bethel	399
Nome	539
Kotzebue	549
Juneau	571
Prudhoe Bay	627
Ketchikan	776
Dutch Harbor	792
Seattle	1448
Portland	1542
San Francisco	2045
Los Angeles	2375
Honolulu	2776
Chicago	2847

Between	Mileage
Fairbanks &	
Barrow	503
Seattle	1533
Chicago	2785
Between	Mileage
Juneau &	
Sitka	95
Petersburg	123
Yakutat	199
Ketchikan	235
Seattle	909
Between	Mileage
Ketchikan &	
Wrangell	83
Sitka	185
Juneau	235
Seattle	679

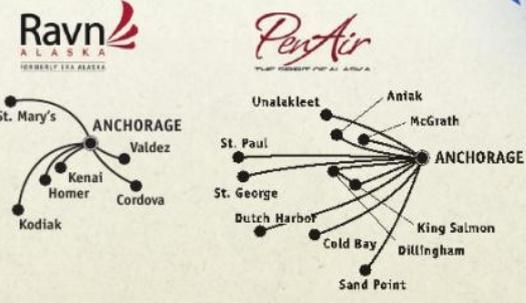
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● Alaska Airlines Cities

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† Dutch Harbor-Anchorage service operated by PenAir.

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Home Sweet Home

A true story about staying put, sort of | BY NANCY O

IN 1996 I moved into a tiny house on a wonderful street in Seattle. It was a lot like the neighborhood where I grew up in the '60s. My new environs came with impromptu barbecues, a basketball hoop, up to 40 kids at a time playing kick the can in the street, and a weekend-long block party complete with a giant waterslide. I raised my son, Leo, now a sophomore at Western Washington University, there.

A few years before we moved in, the residents collectively decided to plant both sides of the street with flowering cherry trees, and each spring the display could rival the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC. Except for the section in front of my house—because, I was told, the prior owner would glower from the blinds if anyone so much as paused in front of the house.

Since my yard had no trees, it became the soccer, football and baseball field. I had no lawn due to the constant flow of team sports, and to my amazement, I sustained only one broken window.

Two-and-a-half years ago, I met Dave. He also fell in love with my neighborhood ... and, fortunately, with me. Eventually we got engaged. It was clear we would need a bigger house. My home was just a bit more than 800 square feet, and my kitchen was my art workshop, photo studio and sewing room. Dave loves to cook and wanted a fully functioning place to do it.

We started driving around nearby streets, looking from the car until our necks hurt. It became our favorite Saturday-afternoon date, followed by dinner at our favorite neighborhood restaurant to talk houses. We wanted to be close to our current location, with its wonderful walks, great dining spots and Sunset Hill Park, which offered a view of the Olympics and amazing sunsets.

When Dave's son Jack got accepted to the University of Washington, it was time to make our hunt official. We began meeting our Realtor after work, touring open houses, and driving around in search of newly installed for-sale signs. What began as a fun pastime started to feel like a chore. We loved or hated—not in

unison—various aspects of the homes we explored. One house had a floor that sloped so much from the front door to the kitchen in back, it could have used a handrail. Another house seemed the one—until we went into the “lower floor” and Dave's head touched the ceiling. We saw horrible remodels, several homes that were too far away, many that were too small, a few that were too big and even a house that felt haunted. At one point our Realtor mentioned that she had emailed info on 500-plus homes that seemed to fit our criteria.

After a yearlong quest, we finally found our house. It had space for a studio for me and a gourmet kitchen for Dave. We had the whole place decorated in our heads. We could imagine hosting dinner parties there and even getting married in the backyard. It

was such a phenomenal house that we, and 10 other people, put an offer on it. We came in second.

Trying to find ways to soften the blow, our Realtor called to remind me of a few details that were less than ideal and that it just wasn't meant to be.

I was still heartbroken. I didn't want to look at any more houses. I couldn't stop thinking about the lovely 1910 details, the vintage brass doorknobs, the well-preserved original wood doors, the leaded-glass windows.

Then, one sunny day this past January, as my neighbor across the street was washing his car in his driveway, he asked if I had heard that the people next to him were relocating to London and would be putting their house on the market.

We were offered a private tour. The historic charmer had a view of the sunset from the upstairs, lovely 1930s original details, coved ceilings, wood doors with glass doorknobs, a studio for me and a work space for Dave, a big open kitchen with an attached dining room, and a backyard where we could throw a big housewarming celebration ... and where maybe future grandkids would play.

Soon we will be moving into our new home, right across the street from my old one.

The perfect house in the best neighborhood.

Nancy O is the art director of this magazine.



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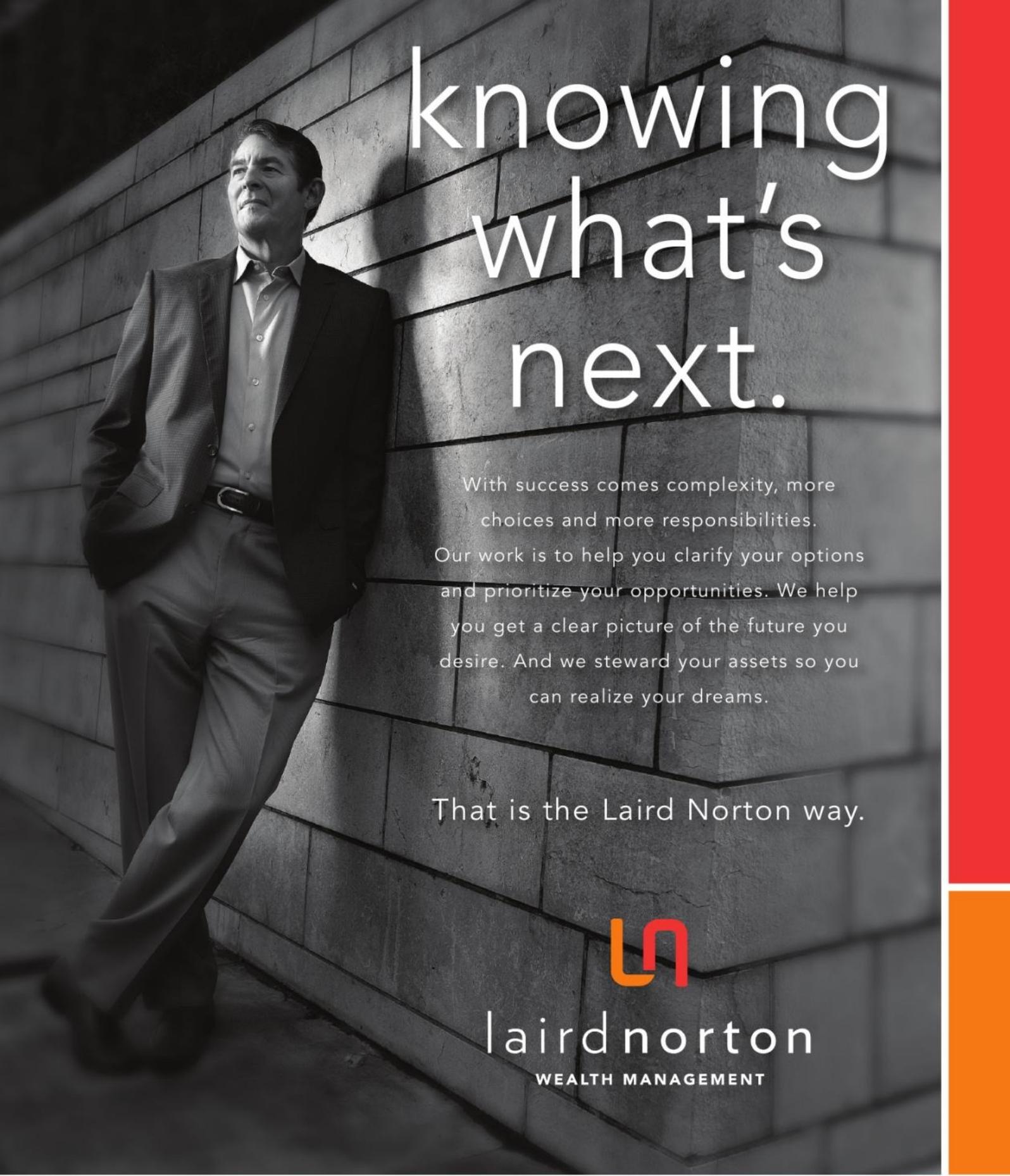
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