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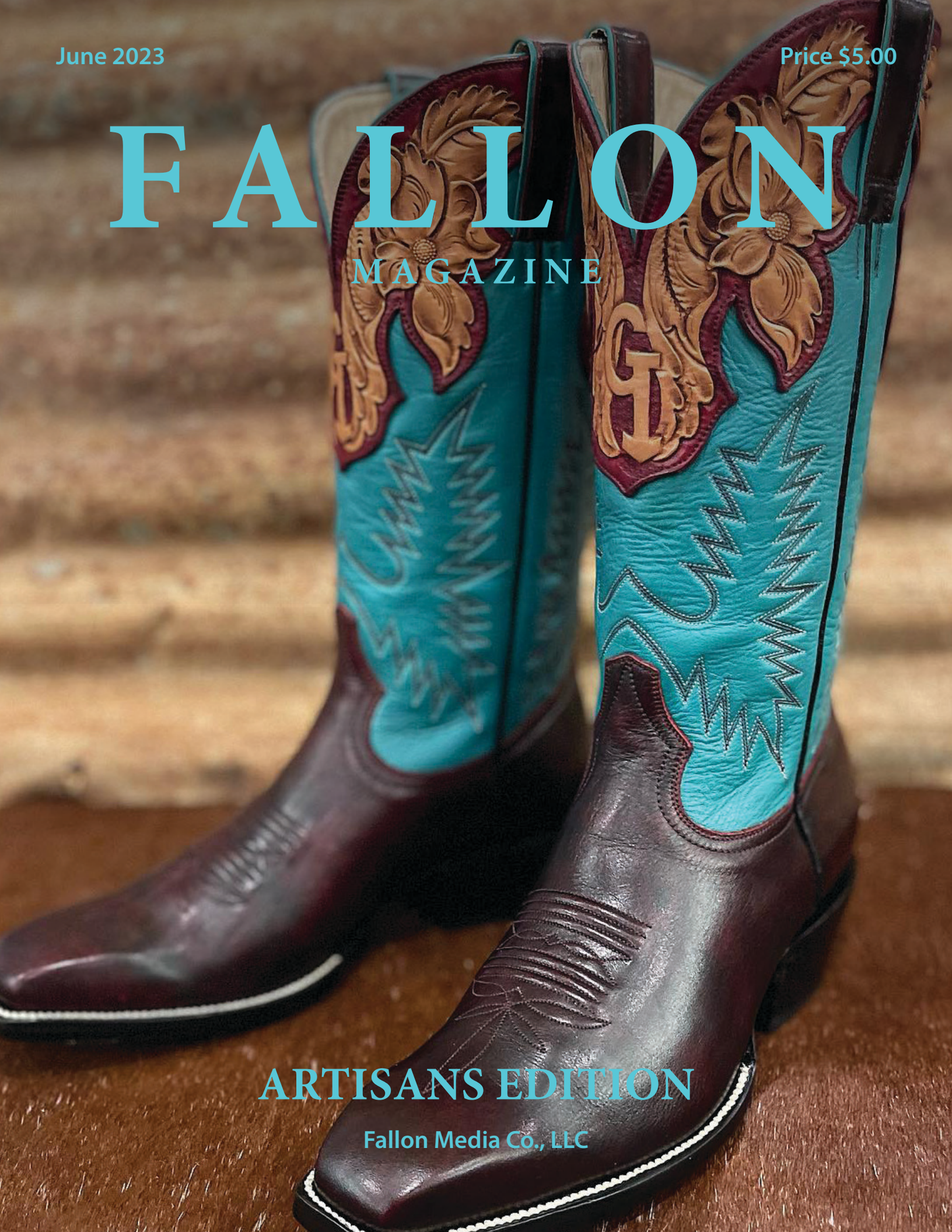
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Meet the Staff



Rachel Dahl

Rachel Dahl is a 1987 grad of Churchill County High School and received her BA from the University of Nevada. She continued on, receiving her MA in Political Science, and has served the Fallon community as a city councilwoman, and director of economic development. She taught high school and middle school English as well as Core Humanities at the University of Nevada, and Political Science at WNC. She is mother of three and grandmother of one.



Leanna Lehman

Leanna Lehman is a Fallon girl, born and raised. She started writing for The Fallon Post in February 2019. Her first novel was published in 2015 and she has had articles featured in First for Woman and Women's World Magazines, PopSugar, Chick Lit Central, and Chispa Magazine. Leanna is a lover of all things Western Nevada as is working on a Nevada photography collection as well as new fiction and non-fiction projects.



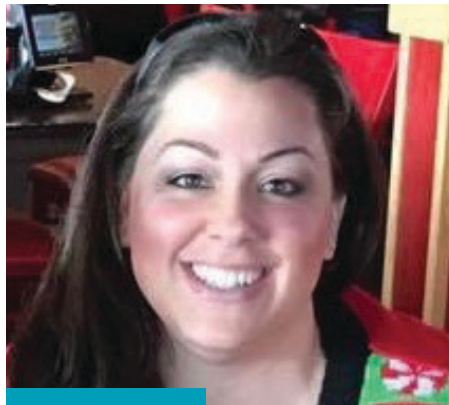
Jo Petteruti

Jo Petteruti moved to Fallon from Rhode Island in 2007 after a successful 31-year career in Information Technology. She is the original owner/builder/designer of Jo's Stillwater Tea Room and is now retired from that endeavor. She is an avid football fan and even worked as a security person for the New England Patriots for one season. She now spends her time volunteering in many capacities around town, including in her new role as a reporter for The Fallon Post.



Bill Post

Bill Post came to us from Oregon after a 35+ year career in broadcasting both radio and television and serving for 7 years in the Oregon Legislature. He calls himself a “recovering politician”. He loves to talk and he loves people. He and his wife Colleen love their new life in Fallon and have fully embraced “the Nevada Way”. They fell in love with Fallon after many trips here over the years and decided to make it their home in 2021.



Erin Griffin

Erin Griffin, started working for San Bernardino County at 17 while attending college for accounting. She advanced to the DUI/DEJ program by 20 and by 28 met her loving husband, moved to Fallon, and gave birth to three beautiful children while bookkeeping for various businesses in Fallon & Fernley. She actively volunteers with Oasis Academy and is the Treasurer for the FOA Board while her husband is involved with Fallon Youth Baseball.



Melessa Camilon

Melessa Camilon is from Fallon, Nevada and has over nine years of design experience. She is a freelance graphic and web designer as well as a multimedia designer for The Fallon Post. She received her Associate of Applied Science in Graphic Communications from WNC in 2016 and a Bachelors of Applied Science in Graphic Information Technology from ASU in 2022. For fun, she enjoys gardening, cooking, and playing with her two cats.

Fifty Bucks and a Hotel in Mexico

How Skiver Bootmakers Reintroduced Art to the American Cowboy Boot

By *Leanna Lehman*

As the old saying goes, behind every successful cowboy is a wife with a good job in town. While it may not have quite the same ring to it, in the case of Ty Skiver, the saying goes more like this: “Behind every successful custom bootmaker is a good woman with an eye for detail, a passion for preserving America’s cowboy culture, and

killer social media and marketing instincts.”

If you haven’t met Ty Skiver and Darcie Spero of Skiver Bootmakers now is your chance. Ty, a cowboy, and Darcie, the daughter of a cowboy, who has a wife with a good job in town, have spent the last few years bringing Ty’s artistry from small niche custom bootmaking into the limelight. Or, more aptly – into the arena.



While bootmaking and leather crafting are not

always thought of as art forms, nothing could be further from the truth. Leather crafted in the form of art dates back to 1,300 B.C. Since that time, leather has been painted, dyed, and decorated, all in the name of art. Further, the art of bootmaking in America dates back over 150 years to the Chisolm Trail cattle drives.

Growing up in Big Piney, Wyoming, Ty cut his teeth on bull ropes and BS. Riding his first calf at age four at a hometown rodeo, he was well on his way to a life behind the bucking shoots. As soon as he was old enough, he began riding colts for local ranchers. By high school, Ty was riding broncs and was fully immersed in the cowboy way.

It was during these early years that Ty discovered his love for leatherwork which led him to an opportunity to work for local saddle maker Ron Reese. Before long, he took an interest in tooling leather, the process by which intricate designs are carved into a piece of leather with the help of tools like awls, bevelers, and groovers. This can also include using stamps to imprint designs into a pattern. Tooling is where most of the artistry in leatherworking lies and where Ty found his passion.

Starting with the basics, Ty made wallets and belts using his few carving tools. Eventually, he learned how to make chaps and saddles. However,





like many young men, Ty found himself chasing adventure instead of a traditional career. Although for cowboys and pirates, those can be one and the same. So, off went Ty to meld the two together. By the early 1990s, he had become a professional bareback rider and was making his mark across Wyoming and the West.

After a few years and a few hundred wild and woolly horses, Ty elected for the PRCA early retirement plan and left bronc riding to return to his roots in leatherwork. Lucky for him, while he had been working the rodeo circuit, his old mentor Ron Reese had been working in Utah,

learning to build boots. Back in the business and under Reese's tutelage, Ty made his first pair of boots.

Once again pursuing his passion, Ty sought out top-notch bootmaker Gary Tucker after seeing his work in a book in the mid-90s. According to Ty, Tucker began working for the famous bootmaker M.L. Leddy in 1964 in San Angelo, Texas.

Starting out sweeping the shop floor, Tucker eventually became one of the most sought-after cowboy bootmakers of his time. By 1996, Ty had tracked Tucker down and asked him to teach him his methods. Through Tucker, he began learning the old ways of boot construction like how to measure a foot correctly, and the finer points of the craft of bootmaking.

In 2012, Ty was crafting designs for Lucchese Boots, the well-known San Antonio bootmaker. From there, he moved on to Old Gringo Boots and eventually became a freelance boot designer.

But despite his love for leatherworking, life got in the



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way. While he continued in his craft and supplemented his income with ranching, Ty's work remained relatively small-scale, which is not uncommon for saddle makers and leather crafters of all types.

In 2016, Ty was heading to the National Finals Rodeo, NFR, with his wife Wendy, to watch his stepson R.C. Landingham compete in bareback riding. In search of a nice pair of boots, Ty came up dry. Virtually nothing of merit could be found with a good leather sole. Finally, he decided to re-sole an old pair of his own boots. That was when Ty decided to pursue boot-making more aggressively.

A few months later, Wendy passed away after a long battle with cancer. Uninterested in a return to ranching, Ty continued to pursue his love of leatherworking. "I wanted to make real boots," said Ty. So, he set off on his journey in earnest.

A few years after losing Wendy, Ty ran across a long-time family friend, Darcie Spero. Darcie, a Fallon native, is the daughter of Vaughan and Kim Bendickson, who was a saddle maker and leather craftsman for many years. Darcie was no stranger to cowboy and ranch life. Growing up in roping arenas and standing on the backs of bucking shoots, she learned how to saddle a horse from the wheel well of a two-horse bumper-pull trailer. The cowboy way ran as deeply in her veins as it did Ty's. Coincidentally, her parents lived that aforementioned scenario - the one about successful cowboys and wives with good jobs.



The match was a fine one and still is. However, Ty's journey from where he was when they joined forces to where they are today has not always been a smooth one. Even though he had recently begun working with the incredibly talented bootmaker Fernando, that did not mean Darcie was fully on board when Ty announced on a moment's notice that he was heading to Mexico to find a way to get his boots made the way he wanted. His goal was to design, create, and do the artistic leather work and let someone else handle the structural component.

After airfare and lodging, Ty had \$50 left to his name to last the week. "But I got a free lunch and dinner at the hotel," joked Ty. During his stay, he made a pair of boots with Fernando, with whom he had become acquainted as an old connection at Lucchese. He was so impressed with the boots that he ordered 12 pairs on the spot. Unfortunately, when it was time to pay for them three months later, Ty was out of funds, and it was Darcie who picked up the bill.

Once Darcie became a part of the enterprise, things began to shape up for Skiver Bootmakers. Call it synergy, good luck, or pure old-fashioned hard work the magic of



Ty and Darcie together became a sight to behold. As they gradually developed an online presence, the entire dynamic of their budding custom boot business began to change. Ty's artistry and craftsmanship paired with Darcie's business and marketing acumen, took them to a whole new level. They brought 400 pairs of boots to

their booth at the 2022 NFR in Las Vegas. A far cry from the initial dozen pairs he had ordered on a wing and prayer.

In addition to his booming boot business, Ty makes custom chaps each year for over 12 top-ranking competitors at the NFR. With each passing year, his artistry evolves, and his work becomes more sought after than ever – a testament to his years of experience, raw talent, and dedication to his craft.

Traveling to rodeos and events across the west, as well as working with locals in their Fallon shop, Skiver Boots are becoming a highly prized item in professional rodeo circles. Their boots are extremely customizable, with most pairs less expen-



sive than full custom handmade boots. Darcie often helps customers find the perfect fit for what will usually turn into what they call the most well-made, comfortable boots of a lifetime.

With designs sporting everything from business logos to hunting motifs and much more, the masterful artistry in Ty's boots is undeniable. If a customer can imagine it, Ty can probably build it. And if a custom-designed tooled pattern and vibrantly died color combination is what you're after, the sky – or rather the Skiver is the limit.

Find Skiver boots on Facebook @SkiverBootmakers or visit www.skiverboots.com. Photos by Darcie Spero.

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Carving a Path to Healing: One Woman's Transformative Artistic Journey

By Leanna Lehman

Carve out. It is a familiar phrase, often associated with finding time or space for something amidst the chaos of daily life. But the carving took on a much deeper meaning for one resilient woman in a small Nevada town. Victoria Crystal, a local mom, and volunteer discovered that by sculpting wood, she could bring something unexpected to life and chisel away at the painful experiences that burdened her.

Victoria's journey began after her home was ravaged by fire not once but twice, leaving her grappling with profound loss. Somehow, she was determined to stay positive while being a wife and mother to her young children.

Little did she know that an even greater tragedy awaited her—a nightmare that surpassed her imagination. On New Year's Day 2012, Victoria's daughter, Alyssa, fell victim to violence at the hands of a man that would later be infamously dubbed the I-80 strangler. Although Alyssa miraculously survived the attempted strangulation, she vanished without a trace later that same year.

Faced with Alyssa's inexplicable disappearance, Victoria embarked on an exhaustive search for her daughter, reaching out to law enforcement, tribal leaders, friends, and family. For ten agonizing months, she scoured jails, hospitals, and morgues across Nevada and the Southwest to no avail. "It seemed like no one was taking any action," she recalled. "I felt like I was going crazy,"

Amid this harrowing ordeal, a twist of fate introduced Victoria to an unexpected source of solace. She stumbled upon a fallen branch beneath an ancient cottonwood tree during a Saturday four-wheeler ride with her husband. "Look, it's a silly horse," Victoria remarked to Shawn, who did not see a horse, silly or otherwise. Unbeknownst to her, that seemingly insignificant limb would become her escape.

In pursuit of that split second vision, Victoria began carving, and Silly Horse became one of her earliest wooden creations, shaped with whatever rudimentary tools Shawn had on hand. Clothed in a blanket of despair, she ventured outside to their shop, letting the wood guide her hands. Piece by piece, the wood revealed its secrets, transforming into distinct works of art.

The intricate details of Victoria's carvings, at times all but imperceptible to the naked eye, bear witness to her artistic vision. It is almost inconceivable that some of these pieces were crafted solely with a screwdriver. Over time, Victoria tried carving with a basic chop saw that hung from the shop wall. "Don't do that," she laughs now, reflecting on the far-from-OSHA-approved practices of the past. Resourceful as ever, she took over Shawn's DeWalt Grinder and made do with sandpaper for cars or whatever mate-





rials were within reach. “I couldn’t find my daughter, and I felt like I was losing my mind,” Victoria recalled. So, she focused her mind on something else.

Carving became Victoria’s therapy, a life raft in a stormy sea of despair. Eventually, she found her daughter in a jail cell in Gallup, New Mexico. No arrest report or charges have surfaced regarding Alyssa’s incarceration, leaving Victoria convinced that the Bureau of Indian Affairs played a role in her daughter’s disappearance and placement behind bars.

Unbeknownst to Victoria, wood carving had long been recognized as a powerful form of expression and therapy. It is well-documented that trauma, in all its forms, can leave deep emotional scars; wood carving, however, provides a tangible and transformative experience, allowing individuals to process their trauma profoundly. For her, it became a way of healing through touch and storytelling through artistry,

In the years following Alyssa’s return, Victoria faced additional hardships. Her daughter’s mental health deteriorated, culminating in a diagnosis of schizoaffective disorder,



Photos courtesy of Victoria Crystal.

der, a condition marked by psychosis and extreme mood disorders. She fell into a relentless cycle of worry, concern, and tireless advocacy for her daughter. Furthermore, she was nearly crushed between a railroad car and her vehicle, leaving her in a wheelchair for a time and enduring extensive rehabilitation.

Despite the setbacks, Victoria persevered. As her injuries healed and she regained her mobility, she returned to her therapeutic practice of wood carving. Guided by the healing nature of her craft, she allowed the wood to reveal its hidden tales. Whether miniature bowls and spoons, flower petals, or a long and lanky Persian cat with a slender tail and one ear flopped over, each piece became part of her. Victoria had learned to surrender to the wood’s wisdom rather than forcing art from within.

From a therapeutic standpoint, wood carving offers a tactile experience that engages the body and mind. It can create a sense of connection to an object and restore a measure of self-control. Such hands-on therapies can help individuals rediscover themselves, releasing pain, tension, and frustration. Victoria did not initially consider her practice art therapy at the time, but looking back, she can see the solace and refuge it provided.

Unfortunately, further devastation awaited Victoria. After enduring multiple hospitalizations, bouts of homelessness, and the birth of her son Colt, Alyssa tragically lost her life in a hit-and-run accident in Reno in 2020. While it can be said no one fully recovers from that type of loss, Victoria has chosen to do what she has always done, forge ahead. Though not a cure-all for the profound grief and emotional turmoil caused by catastrophic loss, art therapy offered her a soothing diversion.

Wood carving has become an integral part of Victoria’s healing journey. As she carefully carves away at the wood, a transformation unfolds—not just for the branches, limbs, bark, or blocks of wood, but for Victoria herself. While she now wields a Dremel and other precise carving tools, Silly Horse remains close to her heart, a cherished symbol of her resilience.

With four adult children out on their own, a husband and two young sons at home, Jessie (8) and Tyler (12), as well the baby – Colt (3), Victoria has her hands full. Yet, she still manages to donate her time and resources to the community and advocate for those she loves. Her story is a profound reminder that the human spirit can soar even in the face of unimaginable adversity. As for now, Victoria continues carving out new paths toward healing, one intricate stroke at a time.





All Schools Bicentennial Mural

By Marilyn G. Moore

Anyone who has been by the Churchill County Museum in downtown Fallon, Nevada, has seen the fantastic mural that graces our front window, and some of you even helped with its creation. For those curious about its history, read on to learn its origin.

It all began with a call for professional Nevada artists to submit proposals for permanent artworks to celebrate the Bicentennial in Nevada in the December 10, 1975 edition of the Lahontan Valley News. These proposals could be in any medium, prints, watercolors, oils, mosaics, murals, sculptures, acrylics, etc. The proposals were submitted to the County Bicentennial Art Committees for consideration. Artists must state if they would be available to consult on the project personally if selected.

The Bicentennial Art Committee in Churchill County decided to take a unique approach. They chose to turn the art project into a school project involving a large part of the community, and it would take the form of an 8' x 24' mosaic that would be placed at the front of the museum. The project, titled the "All Schools Bicentennial Mural," in the March 10, 1976 edition of the LVN, would be completed in multiple phases.

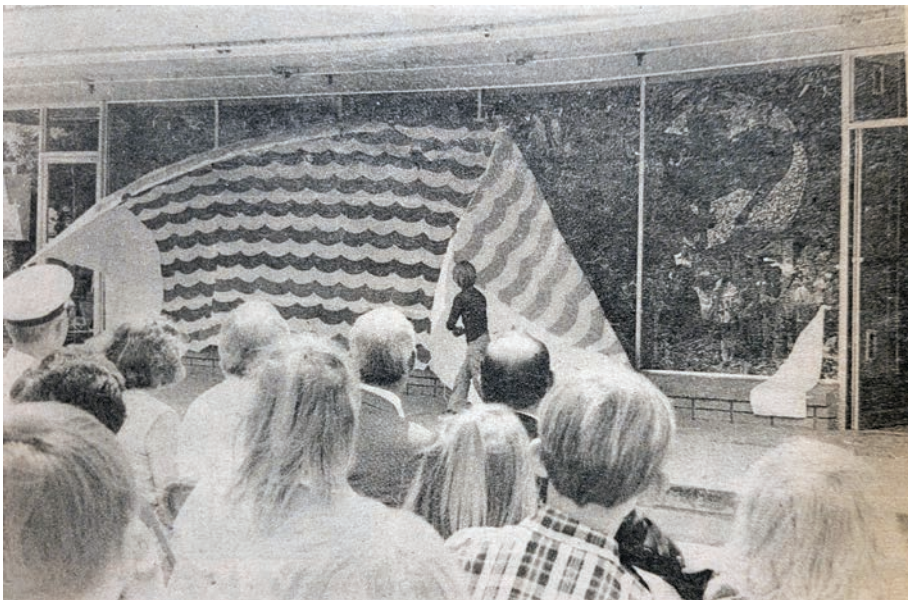
The first phase would be a design competition inviting all current and former Churchill County School District students to participate. At the same time, grades K-3 had a

collection competition for mosaic materials. The materials included brown glass, purple glass, cobalt glass, "pretty" rocks (i.e., obsidian, flint, quartz. Wonder stones, opalite, etc.), and common plain rocks.

At the end of the design competition, it was too difficult to pick one from the 15 fantastic artists, so art teachers Jim Sheppard, Sylvia Guidici, Louise Evans, and Susan McCormick decided to select parts of the different designs to use in the mural. The student who placed first in overall design was Darlene Mulcahy, and the student who placed first in topics was Matt Lister. The students who placed second in topics were Helen Kingston, Susan Hale, Wanda Hicks, and Melinda Keefer. Finally, the students who received honorable mentions were Barbara Fallis, Margo Hall, Jim Defilippi, Tim Regan, Rex Albusu, Jim Pryean, David LaRance, Michael Hinz, and Leonard Brown.

The Minnie Blair art students sorted through and cleaned the stones and glasses collected by the younger students, while the high school ceramics students made the tile used in the mural. Vocational carpentry students cut and reinforced 4x8 plywood panels that fine arts students later drew the mural design on. The work started toward the end of March and was completed in May, with the dedication set for May 28, 1976, at 2 p.m.

About 100 people showed up for the dedication, and with the help of a student, the mural was unveiled. Those who were present for the dedication were taken step-by-step through the mural's design to show each detail com-



piled in the murals format.

This is one of the community's largest and most complicated projects involving over 2,500 Churchill County students of different grade levels across two years in the different stages of this project. The mural still graces the museum's front window, and we still have visitors that come into the museum to this day telling us how they helped with the project.



Photos courtesy of Churchill County Museum.

Desert Air Jewelry Maker Extraordinaire

By Marie Nygren

It has been three years since Shannon Myers started working on her passion, creating original jewelry. As a young girl, she was introduced to the artistry of silversmithing by one of her father's friends. In 2019 she attended jewelry-making classes. Some of her best teachers were fellow artists. Newly retired, Myers created inventory and an online market, strategically managing her up-start business, Desert Air Jewelry, amidst covid restrictions. It continues to thrive. A small-town country girl her entire life, she brings the influences of being raised on a ranch to her work and business. This shop is gaining momentum and prestige. Recently her story and jewelry were showcased in an article in Cowboy Lifestyle Magazine.

Myers loves making jewelry. She says, "It's about the creativity and varied stones. I take traditional style and make it new and different." Each piece is made simply, uniquely, and always handcrafted without the use of machines. Most jewelry today is made using machines, but she works from scratch from start to finish. The silver inscriptions and stampings are equal in importance to the stone settings, and whether it is a cactus, a flower, or a geometrical shape, all are exquisitely detailed. Turquoise from Nevada mines, agate, jaspers, opals, and petrified wood are used in her settings. The origin is known for every stone. Myers is amazed at what the earth gives us. Each stone has energy, either positive or negative, and she can feel it. Sometimes a stone is set aside and not used because of the energy it transmits.

Myers's philosophy is to create custom heirloom pieces in her fashion and design. The process takes many hours, and those hours of ef-



“I make art for me. I love it. I want my art to be affordable.”

fort are not often recognized in the ending price, but she says, “I make art for me. I love it. I want my art to be affordable.”

Of importance to Myers is supporting other small businesses, through her stone and silver purchases and needs. She feels strongly about the connection of people working together and helping one another.

Her studio is in the basement of her lovely home. It has an eclectic grouping of comfy, loved furniture and a long workbench where personal designs are created and turned into reality. Sometimes she experiences an amazing long workflow, but at times has a “jewelry block.” That’s when Myers knows it is time to get out of the house and return to nature. She is inspired by nature, especially the beautiful desert landscape filled with so many rich colors and textures. They are components in all her jewelry.



An “Earth and Sky” ring was created after time spent in scenic Nevada.

Myers knows future possibilities are endless. Her next goals include learning how to cut and polish stones, taking silver stamping classes, and continually learning from other amazing jewelry artists.

Shannon creates custom pieces for weddings and is skilled at reworking pieces, like turning a large necklace into a smaller one with a matching bracelet.

For private lessons in silversmithing and jewelry making, contact Myers at 775-427-8115.

Myers fine art jewelry is available at Desert Air Jewelry, 40 E. Center Street in Fallon, and online at Desertairjewelry.com. Or look for Shannon’s beautiful creations at the Back Roads Vintage Market.

“Jewelry tells a story,” Meyers said. “May it someday be a story you tell.”





The Gypsy Soul of Local Artisan Jerri Fry Cornu

By Victoria Crystal

Art is everywhere. So why not in custom, handmade shoulder bags and purses? Local artisan Jerri Fry Cornu has found a creative outlet for her love of art, leather, and fashion. She began making her purses in 2018, quite by accident, when a friend brought her a picture of a shoulder bag she liked and said, “You can do this!”

At the time, she was doing vinyl and embroidery work for various companies in Merrill, Oregon. Almost immediately after finishing her first custom project, Jerri realized this was her passion. Soon after, My Gypsy Soul was born, and she could scarcely keep up with the demand for handmade creations. Continually expanding her vision, Jerri’s designs continue to awe. Mixing leather, hides, fabrics, metals, silver, and other textures, each purse becomes a unique work of art.

Jerri has been a Fallon resident for 47 years, minus the two that she lived and operated her business, My Gypsy Hides, in Oregon. Her unique one-of-a-kind bags are shipped everywhere, some as far away as New York and Italy.

Find Jerri on Facebook @MyGypsySoul.

“Art is the stored honey of the human soul.

- Theodore Dreiser”

“No great artist ever sees things as they really are. If he did, he would cease to be an artist.”

- Oscar Wilde



Photos by Jerri Fry Cornu.

Churchill County's Oldest Art — The Grimes Point Petroglyphs

By Marie Nygren

The Elusive Lizard

This spring, I posted on Fallon 411 a petroglyph photo, taken at Grimes Point. One of the comments received asked, “Did you see the petroglyph of the lizard”? It piqued my interest and I again journeyed to Grimes Point to find this lizard. But to no avail. Did this petroglyph even exist? Time to do some sleuthing at the Churchill County Museum. I searched through a fat file on this archeological site and there it was, a photo of the lizard. I now challenge you, readers, to find it, photograph it, and email it to me at flowerchildmn@hotmail.com. The first person who responds with the photo wins a gift certificate for dinner at the historic Overland Hotel.

The Mystery – Art, Maps, Magic, or Graffiti?

Tens of thousands of years ago, Lake Lahontan, not to be confused with Lahontan Reservoir, covered parts of three states, with depths up to 900 feet in some areas. By about 9,000 years ago, the lake had mostly disappeared. If you travel around the areas the lake once covered you can see what looks like multiple bathtub rings, layers of sediment left behind in the cliffs as the lake dried revealing its earlier boundaries. At Grimes Point, you can see the horizontal water lines on the northeast range. This terrain nourished an abundance of plant and animal life, which supported the Native American Tribes residing here.

You can travel 11 miles east of Fallon on Highway 50, “The Loneliest Road in America,” to see the petroglyphs that were created by these people. There is a self-guided interpretative trail to follow, constructed by the Youth Conservation Corps.

Petroglyphs are the etchings and scratching marks on a rock's surface. The scar is lighter than the original color. At Grimes Point, there are several hundred boulders alive

with these ancient petroglyphs. There are categories such as “Great Basin Pecked,” which are abstract designs such as zigzags and swirls. Some are stylized and look like people, plants, or animals. Another category, “Pit and Groove,” are crater-like depressions or elongated grooves.

But what do these markings mean? It is a mystery studied and contemplated by archeologists. Are they constellations? Rituals for successful hunts? Maps? Graffiti? No one will ever truly be able to understand these intriguing expressions. What we do know is that petroglyphs are considered one of the oldest forms of art.

Sadly, in the last 20 years more archeological sites have been destroyed than in the last 200 years. Under the Archeological Resources Protection Act, anyone defacing petroglyphs will face a steep charge of up to \$20,000 for a first offense. Please enjoy and help protect Churchill County's petroglyphs.



Photo by Marie Nygren.



Spinning Yarns

Fiber Arts in the Desert of Nevada

By Rachel Dahl

Claudia Porter spins yarns. Not stories out of thin air, but beautiful, soft yarn that she uses to create beautiful, soft clothing along with magnificent, braided rugs. She and her husband Jerry, along with Steve and Karen Evans own Fiber Works, LLC in Fernley where they combine the fiber from Evans Alpacas in Fallon and Black Rock Mountain Alpacas in Fernley and process that fiber into an array of yarns fit for any fiber artist.

Those yarns and the many creations they are used to make, are sold in the Black Rock Mountain Alpacas shop on the Porter farm in Fernley as well as the Evans Alpacas shop in Fallon at the Evans farm. Both shops carry the products Claudia makes by hand after the fiber is milled right here in Nevada.

“Is this what I thought I would be doing in retirement,” said Jerry. “No!” says he resoundingly with a laugh.

Born and raised in Fallon, Jerry retired from a career in the electronics industry after several years on the east coast and in Silicon Valley. He brought Claudia home to Nevada where they settled in Fernley five years ago, building a beautiful facility to house their 13 Suri alpacas, merino sheep, a guard llama, several turkeys, and their peacocks.

“She said I needed something to do,” said Jerry, grinning.

The Porters and Evans like alpaca fiber because it is heat resistant, hypoallergenic, and it wicks moisture. The Evans currently have 20 alpacas along with two mini donkeys, horses, turkeys, peacocks, and two parrots.

“To practice any art, no matter how well or how badly, is a way to make your soul grow, for heaven’s sake. So do it.”

– Kurt Vonnegut



for about a year.” Their mill was manufactured by a Canadian company that sent a crew to Fernley to deliver, build, assemble, and train the Evans and Porters in a 1,500 square foot space, complete with a tumbler where the fiber begins the process to the winder where the final product becomes a skein of yarn.

The mill is made up of 13 separate pieces of large, industrial equipment, each one used for a tedious step in the timeless art of making fiber that for centuries was done by hand. From the tumbler, the fiber goes through the washing process which normally takes 24 to 48 hours but depending on the animal, in certain circumstances has taken up to two weeks. The clean, dry fiber then goes to the picker and is blown into the collection room, onto the separator, through the carder, then the draw frame, and on to the spinner, the pleyer, the cone winder, and finally the steamer to set the twist. Claudia also has a wet felter and a needle felter for making dense, thick pieces for winter clothing and rugs.

The mill is capable of generating the lightest finger-weight to heavy rug yarns and cording all available in the Fernley and Fallon on-farm shops along with beanies, socks, hats, slippers, needle felting kits, and so much more. Claudie even sends yarn to a woman in Texas who weaves horse blankets that are also available. Over the years the Black Rock Mountain Alpacas have won impressive awards and now the Fiber Works yarn is winning equally impressive awards.

And of course, there is now a storage container full of fiber waiting to be processed and the mill is a year out to complete processing. The phrase “find a need and fill it” is in full force in the Nevada desert.

alpaca fiber for Claudia’s creations, they quickly learned that all the existing mills had a one to one-and-a-half year wait for processing. Processing exotic fibers has become a strong cottage industry across the country brought about by small farming lots or hobbyists with one or two animals. Typically, the fiber is from alpaca, angora goats which is mohair, llama, and most sheep wools ranging in lot sizes by the animal from three to six pounds.

Traditional industrial fiber mills don’t handle small lots as that equipment is geared for volume, and for the most part large, industrial mills have been outsourced to China. The few industrial mills still operating in the U.S. today mostly manufacture synthetic fiber.

So, Claudia and Jerry began researching and Claudia attended a symposium where presenters said there was a need for more cottage mills. “We studied everything,” said Claudia, “and we figured out how to do it, and we planned



Fallon Media Photo Contest

Categories:

- Landscape
- Street photography
- Wildlife
- Country western life (ranch, farm, agriculture, rodeo, etc)
- Pets

Rules:

- Two entries per category.
- Include your name, address, and phone number.
- Each image must have a title.
- Contest is open to all ages.
- Contest is open to all skill levels.
- Email entries to “Media Photo Contest” at flowerchildmn@hotmail.com.
- Contest ends July 25, 2023.
- Winners will be announced the beginning of August.

Prizes:

Grand Prize, First place and honorable mention images will be printed in the Fallon Post. All winners will receive a Fallon Post subscription for a year. First place winners will receive swag bags with gift certificates and other goodies. The grand prize champion photo will also receive a guided photo tour led by two professional photographers sharing special places and photo tips.

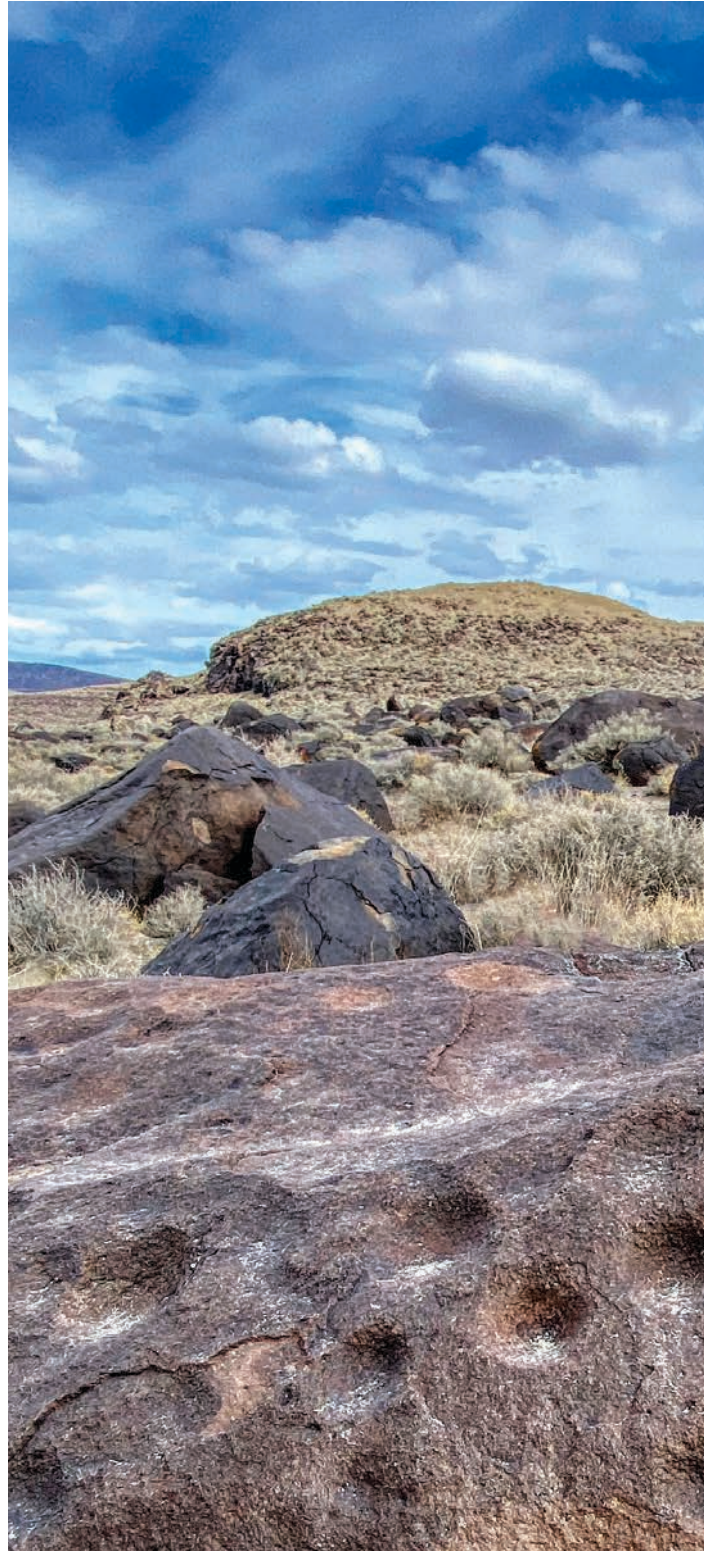


Photo by Marie Nygren.

Churchill County Provides Artists Opportunities

Plenty of talent here in the Lahontan Valley

By Anne McMillin, APR
Churchill County Public Information Officer

Churchill County has long supported local artists and arts in general through several initiatives and programs designed to bolster the image of arts and culture in the community.

Community Art at the Pennington Life Center

The William N. Pennington Life Center hosted a reveal event on March 30 of its new community art project.

Funded through a grant from the Nevada Arts Council, this large format painted canvas depicts life in the Lahontan Valley.

Led by professional artist Patricia Sammons, community members donated their time to learn various painting techniques taught by Sammons and painted the various

panels representing different aspects of our local rural lifestyle which hang as a permanent installation in the multi-purpose room at the Life Center.

Museum Murals

The Churchill County Museum initiated a program to see the blank wall on the south side of its building at 1050 S. Maine Street transformed with murals representing different aspects of rural life in this community. The six, new “Our Community, Our Stories” murals depict the area’s agriculture history, rodeo lifestyle, Navy presence, special events, nature trails and its indigenous peoples.

Museum Curator Marilyn Moore is the project lead and has lined up volunteer artists Kat Hull, Kenyen Hicks and Cody Deegan to design the murals in conjunction with experts on each of the themes. Each artist had access to the museum’s photo archives to help guide their creative license.

“We are looking for volunteers to help us paint the mu-





“rals,” Moore said, “no experience needed as we have each mural graphed out similar to the paint-by-number format.” Three murals are completed: indigenous people, special events (the City of Fallon Christmas Tree lighting) and the rodeo. The NAS Fallon mural is started and painting is picking up now that the weather is improving. The nature trails mural has been graphed out on the wall and the final agriculture mural design is complete. Moore is hopeful the entire project can be completed by the end of the summer, weather permitting.

Those who want to volunteer to paint may contact Moore at the museum: (775)423-3667. Those who volunteer will be able to place their handprint under the mural on which they worked.

This effort is supported by a Nevada Humanities matching grant. Special thanks to local organizations like Kent’s Lumber Supply, Louie’s Home Center and the Churchill Community Coalition for their donations of paint and supplies.

Library Exhibits Local Art

The Churchill County Library reaches out to various artisan groups and artists every few months to change the art on its walls. It has partnered with Churchill County School District, the Flying Artists, Creative Aging Artists and individual artists, among others, for a revolving display of various art techniques.

The library partnered with the Churchill County High School ceramic arts class and the Fallon Chamber of Commerce to host the Empty Bowls event on April 16. Those who made a non-perishable food donation to the Chamber’s Karma Box project or a cash donation to the Churchill Library Association received a bowl of soup, a slice of bread and kept the hand-made bowl.

Empty Bowls is a movement by artists to raise awareness for hunger in the community. The event is sponsored by the Churchill County High School Ceramics Class students who made and donated the bowls, the Fallon Cham-



ber of Commerce Karma Box and the Churchill Library Association.

‘Celebrate Us’ Art on Walls of County Administration Building

The ‘Celebrate Us’ art project allows local artists of all ages and skill levels to display their works on the walls of the Churchill County Administration Building at 155 N. Taylor Street in Fallon.

Exhibits rotate several times a year. Current featured artists include Larry Neel, Marie Nygren, Edith Isidoro-Mills, Valla Torvik, Dennis Doyle, Caroline Kwas, Kristen Kabrin and Tatiana Sozvirskaya working in photography, charcoal and mixed media.

Community Support for Churchill Arts Council

Churchill County Commissioners regularly support the offerings from the Churchill Arts Council with an annual donation from its community support fund. In fiscal year 2022-23, the \$8,000 donation will support programming and educational endeavors at the Oats Park Art Center.



Young Chautauquas Perform Locally

By Jo Petteruti

The Young Chautauqua program ran from March until mid-May at the Churchill County Museum where there was a total of seven program participants, ages 11 to 17. All of them had met weekly for the past several months with instructor Glen Perazzo of Churchill County High School, Jennifer Jones the Churchill County Museum Education Curator, and other museum staff to learn how to become a Chautauqua performer. They continually researched their chosen characters, discovered the history of Fallon, and learned to refine their presentation. This year's theme was centered around Fallon and local historical figures, including Francis Hooper, Jim Richards, Dr. Virginia Smith, R.L. Douglass, Carl Dodge, and Laura Mills.

By definition, a Chautauqua is a combination of education and entertainment in the form of plays, concerts, and lectures. When first interviewed for an earlier story in *The Fallon Post*, Perazzo said, "They will first learn about one of these characters and will then become one of these characters." On May 31, three of these young performers had the opportunity to do just that and brought their show on the road to the Highland Village.

Jones said, "Performing at Highland were brother and sister, Finn and Rosie Holencik ages 13 and 11, and Hayden Diegel age 13. Finn chose to feature Jim Richards as his character, an early pre-Fallon founder when it was colloquially known as 'Jim's Town.' Rosie chose Francis Hooper, an esteemed member of the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, and Hayden chose Dr. Virginia Smith, the first female doctor in Fallon. This little troupe did such a wonderful job. The residents were so engaged and really drawn into the storytelling."

Jones arranged the May 31 performance with Stephanie Hernandez, the Highland Village Activi-



Finn and Rosie Holencik, and Hayden Diegel in character at the Highland Village. Photo by Jennifer Jones.

ties Director for an audience of 30 to 40 people consisting of residents, staff, friends, and family. She said the Young Chautauquas may also be featured at the Churchill County Museum Association's annual meeting in July if the performers are available.

Jones added, "This was our first annual Young Chautauqua Program at the Churchill County Museum. The second program will begin in March 2024 for ages 12 to 18. We will also be starting an Adult Chautauqua Program soon with a performance scheduled for later this year at the Fallon Theatre, and details on that will be coming soon."

Art and Soul Sisters

Pam Yost and Misty Weston – From Mixed Media to Mixed Drinks

By Leanna Lehman

Great things often have auspicious beginnings: caterpillars metamorphosing into butterflies, coal transforming into diamonds, and so forth. The Cranberry Cottage is undoubtedly one of those remarkable phenomena. What initially started as a hobby craft painting and a modest online endeavor has now blossomed into one of Fallon's most treasured gems, like the shop's exterior, which is now adorned with flourishing flowers boxes, alive with color, offering a glimpse of the enchanting wonders within.

But fear not, dear reader, for this is not a mundane business chronicle merely showcasing the fabulous items displayed within the charming storefront at 25 S. Maine Street. Instead, prepare yourself for an artsy, artistic, and artisanal tale that narrates the journey of two exceptional women who joined forces to create beauty, impart their craft, and share inspiration with the entire community.

Let me introduce the perpetually smiling fine artist Pam Yost and her ever-so-adorable business partner, Misty Weston. These two ladies are like two peas in a pod, a pod that overflows with an abundance of color, texture, vibrancy, and atmosphere. Behind the seemingly quaint facade of a small-town boutique lies the Cranberry Cottage, a place that transcends expectations. It not only welcomes all who enter with its cheerful and cozy ambiance but also serves as an ever-evolving exhibition of boundless artistic talent.

Pam Yost is an artist, both in skill and in heart. From the sounds of it, her artistic inclination has been an integral part of her being since birth. Some of her earliest memories are of sitting at her grandfather's knee, Duane Schottel, a masterful oil-on-canvas landscape artist. Pam's artistic flair seems as vital to her as breathing itself. She achieved the prestigious honor of being the first-place winner in



Pam Yost, left, next to bestie and business partner, Misty Weston. Photos courtesy of Cranberry Cottage.

“Art is everywhere, I am always learning, even from those who aren’t artists.”

the National Wildlife Art Contest during her first and second-grade years. “I’ve always had art in my life,” she passionately states. “I love it.”

Pam’s commitment to her craft is evident in her extensive studies with renowned artists nationwide. Through these experiences, she has honed her fine art skills and developed her unique artistic style. Even now, Pam continues to grow and learn, eagerly absorbing knowledge from various sources, whether through personal interactions or web-based classwork. “Art is everywhere, I am always learning, even from those who aren’t artists,” Pam says, “My mind is always open to new.”

She initially started selling her artistic creations online in 2011. Before long, her talent caught the attention of locals, and she found herself showcasing her wares at Just Country Friends. However, it took only a short time for Pam to outgrow her space, leading her to relocate the Cranberry Cottage to Maine Street. From the old barber shop to the former bank building, the tiny boutique continually seemed to outgrow its space. Finally, the perfect spot materialized. Pam settled the Cottage at 25 S. Maine, where the shop is flourishing in its new locale.

Enter Misty Weston, Pam’s business partner and a masterful furniture artist described affectionately by Pam as “amazing.” And indeed, she truly is. Her artistic prowess is so extraordinary that other creators have been known to purchase her custom creations and attempt to sell them as their own, commanding a significant price increase. Besides her painting talents, Misty has been crafting unique jewelry for as long as she can remember, skillfully incorporating various mediums to create one-of-a-kind pieces.

If that were not enough, Misty and Pam have ventured



into silversmithing, freeing themselves from the limitations of others’ creations to bring their concepts to life.

And as if their creative endeavors were not keeping them occupied, they embarked on an entirely new venture. “We wondered how we could draw more people downtown and make it more fun,” Pam revealed. Serendipitously, or perhaps not, after a trip to San Diego, Misty became captivated by the area’s charming “sip and shop” lounges and hidden speakeasies. And just like that, patio parties and craft cocktails began taking over a small section of Maine Street as their speakeasy project started to take shape.

In July of last year, the Cranberry Cottage Crew—Pam and her husband Brett, along with Misty and her fiancé Paul—commenced the transformation of the store’s back storage space. Utilizing the very paints they sell in the store



and tackling all the work themselves, they dedicated their efforts to crafting an authentically decorated space with an atmospheric setting reminiscent of a prohibition-era backroom drinking establishment. The baseboards were salvaged from an 1880s Lovelock farmhouse, Misty rescued the fireplace surround from Reno's iconic Mapes Hotel, and the antique couch once graced Reno's old Riverside Hotel. Furthermore, they incorporated unique vintage pieces from their own homes to furnish the space, and thus the room began to take shape. "It's all about providing an authentic experience," explained Misty.

The Cranberry Cottage Crew has evolved into a close-knit family—camping, traveling, dining, laughing, and creating together. They even went so far as to introduce themselves to a live lobster named James at the Las Vegas market. Their greatest aspiration is to share their love of art and their love of the community. "Our customers become family," the duo expressed. "We want them to come here, gather supplies for their projects, and unleash their creativity to their heart's content. We do not keep our tips, tricks, and techniques secrets," they agreed.

This year, the Cottage will host the Cantaloupe Festival painting project, and numerous classes are available for anyone interested. "We are only limited by our imagination," Pam affirmed, suggesting that creativity knows no bounds. More classes are planned with notable guest artists such as Toni Venturacci, an extraordinary Western artist, and Teri Reed, a glass artist specializing in dichroic glass. "We wanted to create a beautiful culture and a space that everyone can enjoy," Pam said. "And to allow people to go home and go crazy with their art."

Art and soul sisters, indeed.





Photo courtesy of Amethyst Freibott and Garrett Kalt.



Churchill Graduate Launches Social Impact Business

By Rachel Dahl

Former Churchill County High School Student Body President Garrett Kalt ('14) started a business to help organizations create social impact through strategic communications and resource development.

"I attribute my passion for service and community to my small-town upbringing," said Kalt. "The life lessons I learned in Fallon helped shape this business."

According to their website, People First Communications provides an array of services including campaign management, grant writing, project management, website design, and social media content creation.

Kalt started the business with his wife, Amethyst Freibott. Collectively, they have managed over 20 campaigns and have raised over \$1 million for nonprofits. They have more than ten years of professional communication and project management experience.

"At the moment, our business is the two of us and most of our work is done remotely," said Kalt. "As a new business, we rely heavily on referrals and really appreciate people keeping us in mind for their organization's communication, project management, and fundraising needs."

People First Communications is currently serving the City of Good and Kessler Keener Foundation. Kalt said they are accepting new clients and encouraging potential partners to view their website.

After graduating high school, Kalt attended Washington State University where he met Freibott. He went on to earn his master's degree at the London School of Economics and work for the Nevada Governor's Office, and two different nonprofits in Boise, Idaho.

To learn more about People First Communications, visit their website and social media profiles: Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Garrett Kalt was born and raised in Fallon. His parents, Alan and Kieran Kalt, and grandmother Starlene Hanifan currently reside in Fallon. His siblings Tharon and Stacy Kalt live in Reno.

The Native American Powwow

— *The Artistry of Regalia and Dance*

By *Leanna Lehman and Elayne Ernst*

Native American Powwows have been around for centuries and are a rich part of Native American culture and history. As part of tribal ceremonies, powwow dancers tell stories through dance the traditional attire – or, more specifically, regalia, is as integral as the dance. Each dance has a unique history, born in long-held tribal traditions and heritage. When performed, the dance and dancers become a vibrant, visual celebration of art in motion.

The first intertribal powwow was the Ponco Powwow, which took place in Oklahoma in 1879. Now, most powwows include dances from multiple indigenous tribes, bringing together a tapestry of tradition and culture.

The art of the dance is the cornerstone for powwows, with each dance telling a different story and bringing indigenous heritage and tradition to life. One traditional dance is the men's Fancy Dance, which relies on the skillful movement of the dancer's footwork and harmony with the other dancers. It is believed to have been developed by the Ponca tribe in the 1920s, when the tribe constructed their own dancing arena in White Eagle, Oklahoma. Usually performed by men, the dance is loosely based on a war dance, aiming to preserve and honor tribal culture and religion. The Fancy Dance is often very competitive, testing the dancers' endurance to the extreme. In some completions, the dancers would perform until one gave out.

The Fancy Shall Dance, also known as the Butterfly Dance, emerged in the early 20th century in the Northern Plains. It became a complement to the men's Fancy Dance. Telling a tale about renewal and rebirth, the story follows a butterfly overwhelmed by grief at the loss of her mate, who died in battle. In a state of deep sadness, she laid aside her beautiful wings for a drab cocoon. Not wanting to be a burden to her people, she journeyed around the world. Alone and disheartened, she passed the world by, unable to see the beauty around her. One day, she happened to glimpse the beautiful stone beneath her feet. Somehow, that stone moved her from her desolation. Its beauty transformed and healed her sorrow, causing her to lay down her cocoon and take up her lovely colorful wings again. She was so happy she began to dance,

giving thanks for another chance to be again.

Usually performed by women, Fancy Shall dancers imitate the butterfly's movements, using graceful, fluid movements. The shawl, which shows off delicate embroidery and ribbon work, is the most important and extravagant piece of clothing in this dance, representing the butterfly's beautiful wings. The shawl is also accompanied by showy regalia and artistically handcrafted beaded yokes, hair clips, wrist cuffs, and bracelets.

The art of regalia is vast, ranging from simple attire to elaborate adornments that are handcrafted, each bead, feather, or pattern carefully chosen to tell a story of its own and reflect the cultural identity of the storyteller. Regalia is often constructed from vibrant, textured materials, bringing a flurry of colors to the arena. The detailed leatherwork, beadwork, and quillwork are usually handed down from generation to generation. As each piece of regalia unfolds, the detail and artistry become undeniable.

A new style of regalia was created in the 1930s. Quite different from traditional regalia, it included long Johns with bells attached to the knee up to the waist, beadwork harnesses, arm bustles with white fluff, beadwork harnesses, and feathers. Modern regalia and the beautification of its artistry are constantly evolving while embodying the ancestry, tradition, and culture of many indigenous tribes; it never fails to tell a story.



Photo taken at the 2023 Moving Forward Together Powwow. Photo courtesy of Nevada Newsgroup.

Highland Estates of Fallon



- All Utilities (except phone)
- Buffett Style Dining
- Housekeeping Services
- Maintenance Services
- Flat Linen Laundry Services
- WiFi and Satellite TV
- Life Enrichment Program
- Full-Service Hair Salon
- Library, Media Room
- AJ's Fitness Membership

Not-For-Profit Provider

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570 North Sherman

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Welcome to Highland Village of Fallon Retirement Community where you can retire with ease. We offer Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care and more. Our Independent Living community offers spacious apartments, and convenient services where you can enjoy your freedom at an affordable price. Starting at \$1,800 a month and we offer our apartments on a month-to-month basis that includes utilities, meals, and light housekeeping services.

In our Assisted Living community we make sure you always have the assistance and reminders you need to live your independent lifestyle. We personalize all of your care needs. We offer services such as our AJ's Fitness Center to get you on track to good physical health. We also have daily events including bingo, coffee hour, group exercise classes and more.

Highland Village of Fallon is a retirement community that helps to keep you young.

Our Services

Estates Retirement Apartments

Highland Estates is an all-inclusive retirement complex with spacious apartments. At the Estates we offer our tenants freedom, comfort, convenience, and affordability.

Highland Inn Assisted Living

Here at Highland Inn, we offer Assisted Living services for those who enjoy an independent lifestyle but need assistance and reminders in daily activities. Financial assistance may be available for those who qualify.

AJ's Fitness Center

AJ's Fitness is just another way that the residents can reach and maintain their optimum levels of function. Our fitness center is outfitted with strength training and endurance equipment, which allows for an easy individualized strengthening workout.

Memory Lane – Fitness for the Mind

Our Memory Lane – Fitness for the Mind program has been developed to uniquely focus on an individual's strengths. We then apply those strengths to personalized therapeutic programs, which will exercise existing memory function.

