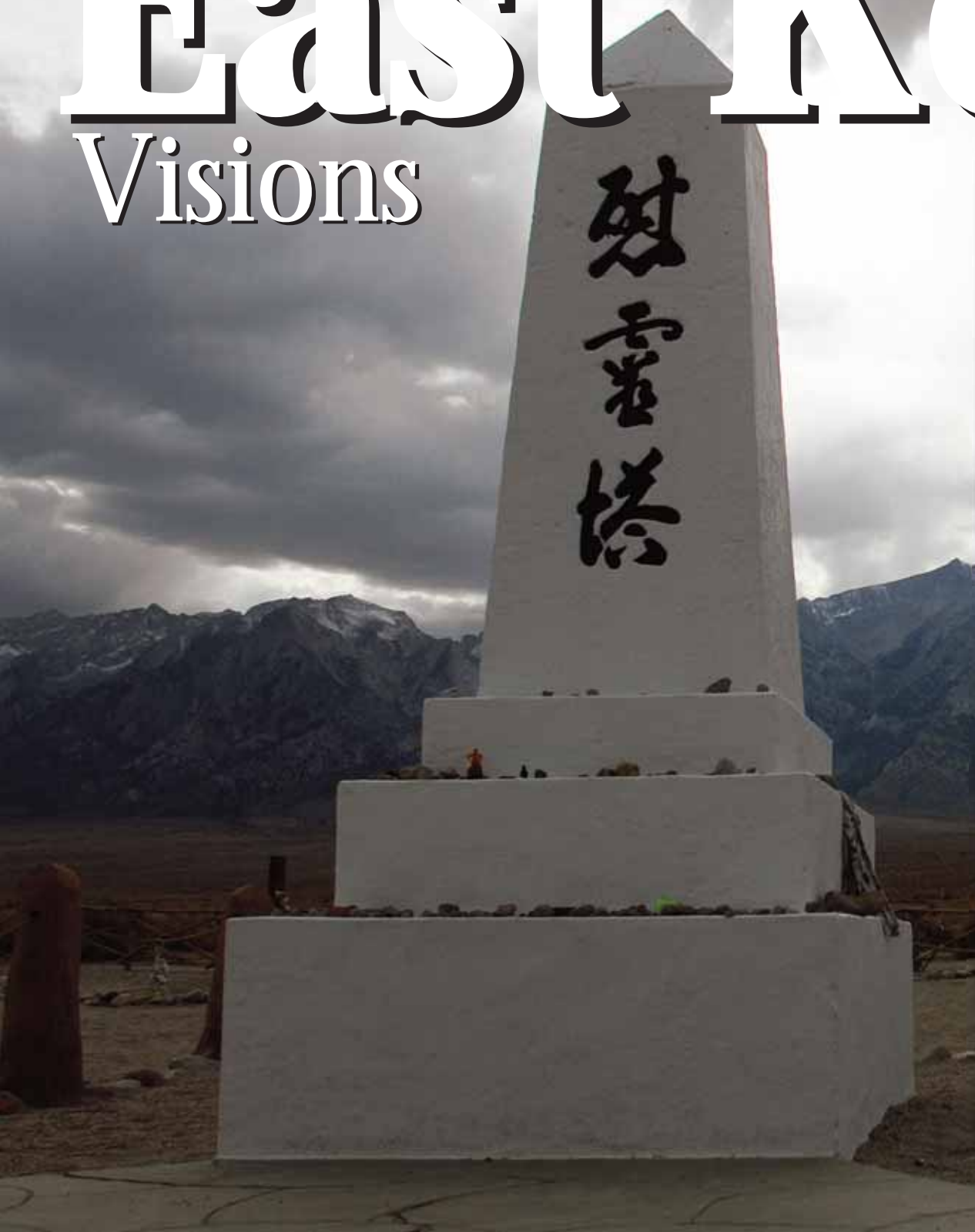


Spotlight: Day tripping in East Kern

April 2016

East Kern

Visions



Sodalicious at Indian Wells Brewery



*The
story
of the
Laws*



Extraordinary Diaz Lake

East Kern

Visions

April 2016

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**For this issue,
we take a look at
things to do
within a day's drive
(or less) of East Kern.**

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On the cover: The Soul Consoling Tower at Manzanar Cemetery

PHOTO BY JOHN D. BENNETT



PHOTO BY JOHN D. BENNETT

Already a successful craft beer maker, Indian Wells Brewery recently branched out into the craft soda market, partnering with the Rocket Fizz Soda Pop and Candy Shops Company. They also offer an array of souvenir t-shirts and other goodies, as well as indoor and outdoor seating, making it a great family rest stop along Highway 14 between State Route 178 and U.S. Highway 395, west of Inyokern.

Sodalicious

Indian Wells Brewery branches out into craft soda

BY JOHN D. BENNETT

If you have a hankering to step out of your soda comfort zone, Indian Wells Brewing Company has you covered. A successful craft beer maker, they are

now also becoming one of the largest craft soda makers in the United States.

"Coca Cola advertises that they sell 51 flavors internationally, but they're never under one roof," said Indian Wells Brewery Co-Owner Rick Lovett. "Jones' soda pop has 15 in their lineup right now and

SEE SODA, 4

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PHOTO BY JOHN D. BENNETT

An open viewing window allows visitors to get a look at the brewing and bottling process. Rumor has it that viewers who perfect the 'sad puppy dog look' while watching the process will be rewarded with a free (age-appropriate) bottle fresh off the assembly line.

SODA

Continued from 3

here we are with hundreds."

You read that right, hundreds. These aren't your daddy's flavors either - well, that's not entirely true. They do offer traditional soda-flavored soda, some old standbys like root beer and older standbys like cream soda and even sarsaparilla.

Those with a more adventurous palate some of their 140-strong (and already heading toward 200) flavors include: bacon; apple pie; dirt; grass; sour apple; black licorice; Buffalo wing; peanut butter and jelly; chocolate; cucumber; John Lemonade; pumpkin pie; Rosa's arroz con leche; Burros churros and Jorge's horchata to name just a few.

"People will come in here and buy 24 different silly flavors and then they will

use them at birthday parties in a blind taste test for kids," said Lovett. "Kids get a kick out of it. You give them root beer or cherry and, of course they recognize that. Then you give them corn on the cob flavor. It's just really fun, because they would never expect that."

The Sour Apple soda was inspired by Lovett's grandson who asked if he could recreate the flavor of sour apple candy. "Half of the other flavor ideas came from my criminal justice students when I taught at Burroughs High School," said Lovett.

In 2010 Lovett and co-owner Greg Antonaros teamed up with Rocket Fizz (www.rocketfizz.com) and started down the path of becoming the single largest producers of different flavored soda pops in the world! Currently the partnership between the two companies have created 144 flavors and over 200 labels that are distributed in all 50-states in the USA and Canada, Mexico and many overseas accounts.

"We've kind of lit things on fire in the soda pop world," said Lovett. "We're

chasing the soda pop business for a lot of reasons, the number one reason is because it presented itself as an opportunity and we just followed that lead."

If you need another excuse to visit, it can also be an educational experience. The spring at Indian Wells - where all the water for bottling operations come from — is a California Historic Landmark.

After five days' travel from the Argus Range, the Manly-Jayhawker parties of 1849 — traveling from Salt Lake City, through Death Valley — found their first water at this Indian waterhole on the Joseph R. Walker Trail of 1843, according to the California Office of Historic Preservation website.

Located at 2565 State Highway 14, Inyokern, California 93527, Indian Wells Brewing Company is open from 10 a.m to 5 p.m. seven days a week. They offer indoor and outdoor seating areas with a separate snack shack open from Labor Day to Memorial Day.

For information, find them on Facebook, the web (www.mojavered.com) or call 760-377-5989.

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Kern River Valley events

* Denotes tentative date.

May

- 1* - KRVA Mural Art Attack at G3 Gallery-11019 Kernville Rd.- Kernville - 1-2* - Annual Spring Arts & Crafts Fair - 7 am to 5 pm - Circle Park - KRVA - 760-379-2844
7 - 34th Annual Sirretta Street Swap Meet - Kernville - 760-376-2629
7 - 17th Annual KRV Classic Car Show & Pet Parade - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Kernville - Rotary Club - Paul at (760) 417-1008
8* - Nuui Cunni Spring Gathering - Cultural Center - 760-549-0800
15* - Armed Forces Day Lake Clean Up- Keepers Of The Kern - 9 a.m. - Information Barbara Hinkley - 760-376-2963. Meet at 9 a.m. at Old Isabella Campground - Lake Isabella.
15* - 19th Annual KRV Historical Society "History Day" - Kernville - 760-376-6683. At the Kern Valley Museum - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission Free

16* - Kern Valley Community Orchestra Concert- 4:00 Pm - Kernville School - Information Bill O'Hara- 760-376-4461. Donations accepted at the door. Children no charge. Light refreshments served.

29* - Ladies Of The Elks 7th Annual Dog Show 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Elks Park - Pam Stewart: 760-376-2762

29* - 50th Annual Havilah Days Celebration 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Havilah - Janet: 760-379-2636

June

1* - 9th Annual Sequoia National Forest South Butterfly Count - Preserve - 760-382-1260 bbarnes@lightspeed.net

6* - 29th Annual Kids' Fishing Derby, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fish And Game Habitat Club - Elaine 760-417-0950. Free to Kids 4 to 15. Trophies, Prizes, Free kids lunch and free drawing - Wofford Heights Park

7* - 13th Annual California Amphibian & Reptile Celebration 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Kern River Preserve

7* - Lake Isabella Bass Club Tournament - Matt Smith: 760-223-3898

15 - 26th Annual Whitewater Wednesday - Kernville - Riverside Park - 760-376-2629

20 - 7th Annual Powerhouse Ride - Society of Riders - Information 661-321-9882
21-22* - 7th Annual Kernville Mule & Donkey Show - Jake's Place - Kernville - 760-378-2222

July

4 - Annual Fireworks Display- Lake Isabella - 760-379-5236. Celebrate Independence Day with a beautiful display of fireworks, seen from any lake area.

5* - 14th Annual North Fork Krv Butterfly Count - Preserve - 760-382-1260 bbarnes@lightspeed.net

29-30 - Carnival Fun At Mt. Mesa Park - Mt. Mesa - Lauren: 760 417-0363

August

9* - Annual Kern Valley Hummingbird

Celebration - Kern River Preserve - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - 760-378-2029

16* - Lake Isabella Bass Tournament- Lake Isabella - Sherry Jordan 760-417-2702

29 - 28th Annual Rubber Ducky Race - Kernville / Riverside Park - Exchange Club - 760-379-7785. Rubber duck races with prize payouts for heat races (\$25-\$75) and main event (\$250-\$1,000), plus specialty races sold race day only, deep pit BBQ, music, kids games and face painting, concessions, door prize drawings and drawings for 43" HDTV, \$500 shopping spree and \$500 in cash. Most years the heat races are sold out prior to the event so purchase early.

29* - Annual Kern Valley Airport Day - 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Kern Valley Airport - Raven Aviation - 661-345-7755. Private, Civil, Military & Emergency aircraft. Displays, and scenic flights - Admission Free

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PHOTOS BY DEBORAH MLLS
ABOVE: Located just off U.S. 6, five miles from U.S. 395 in Inyo County, you will find the Laws Railroad Museum. This museum transfers you back to a time when the railroad station was at the center of the action in many western towns. A 1909 Baldwin 4-6-0 engine 39 and various types of cars, looks like it is ready to take the travelers to the journal to that shall meet their desires. **LEFT:** The first building you see is one of the original 1883 Depot and Loading dock which are filled with all kinds from Railroad memorabilia and model trains.



The story of the Laws

By Deborah Mills

One day is all it takes to travel back in time and experience the beautiful area of the outskirts of Bishop. A visit to the Laws Railroad Museum allows you to take a walk back in time to the 1800s when the Carson and Colorado Railroad Company held in its incorporation to a new beginning.

"They planned to run the narrow gauge railroad from Mound House, Nevada, and the Carson River to the Colorado River, calling it the C&C Railroad," according to the Laws Railroad Museum website. "It never reached the Colorado

SEE LAWS, 15

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California City, Mojave, Boron, Tehachapi and Randsburg events

CCAC Art Show

First weekend in May, Central Park
CaliforniaCityParksAndRec.com

Desert Tortoise Days

First weekend in May, Central Park
DesertTortoiseDays.org

Fireworks Fourth of July

Central Park, California City

Mojave Gold Rush Days

Third weekend of September,
MojaveMuseum.org

Randsburg Western Days

Third weekend of September
Randsburg.com

20 Mule Team Days, Boron

First weekend in October

Renaissance Festival

Third weekend of October,
Central Park, California City
CalCityRenFair.org

Visiting Mojave and surrounds

On the western edge of the Mojave desert and the eastern foothills of the Tehachapi mountains, Mojave is uniquely located at the cross-roads of two major highways and is central to many aviation, historical, and natural treasures and activities.

Our list below samples just a few of the unique opportunities available to those who visit Mojave.

History

Soledad Mountain Mining District – Southwest of Mojave on Silver Queen Road off Highway 14. Gold and silver mining location since the 1890's. Plans are underway to revive the historic Golden Queen Mine.

The mining ghost towns of Garlock, Randsburg, and Johannesburg in the Rand Mining District. Take Highway 14 25 miles north to the intersection of the Red Rock-Randsburg Road to visit historic mining communities of Rands-

burg and Johannesburg.

Famous Tehachapi Loop railroad site – west of Tehachapi, visible from Freeway 58 near Broome Road interchange, and on Tehachapi-Woodford Road. Historic railroad loop designed by William Hood in 1876 to help the Southern Pacific Railroad gain the summit of Tehachapi Pass. Perhaps the most famous railroad engineering site in the United States.

Tehachapi Heritage League and Museum

Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park
Antelope Valley Indian Museum
Desert Tortoise Natural Area
Red Rock Canyon State Park
Jawbone Canyon
Kern River Valley
Lake Isabella
Tehachapi Mountain Park
Saddleback Butte State Park
Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area
Trona Pinnacles
Afton Canyon Natural Area
Mojave National Preserve

Northern Mojave Visitor Center and Death Valley Tourist Center



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Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage

By Jessica Weston

It's an anniversary, but not necessarily a happy one. Every year hundreds of people make the pilgrimage to the Manzanar National Historic Site to commemorate a dark chapter in American History and pay tribute to those who survived it.

Manzanar National Historic Site is located at 5001 Highway 395 and was the site of one of ten concentration camps in which Americans of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated during World War II.

Since 1969, people have been making annual pilgrimages to the site.

This year's events will take place April 29 through May 1. All events are free.

On Friday, April 29, the Friends of Eastern California Museum will host a public reception from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Eastern California Museum at 155 Grant Street in Independence.

The Manzanar National Historic Site Visitor Center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It will open at 9 a.m. April 30 and May 1.

This year's ceremony starts off with a performance by the UCLA Kyodo Taiko drummers beginning at 11:30 a.m. April 30 in the Manzanar Cemetery. This will be followed by the procession of camp banners and the main program at noon.

This year's theme is Kodomo No Tame Ni: For The Sake Of The Children – Liberty and Justice For All.

Dr. Cathy Irwin, author of *Twice Orphaned: Voices from the Children's Village of Manzanar*, will be the keynote speaker. (At May 1 at 10 a.m. Irwin will present a special program in the Manzanar Visitor Center.)

Maytha Alhassen, a contributing au-

PHOTO BY JOHN D. BENNETT

One of the restored guard towers at Manzanar National Historic Site.

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SEE MANZANAR, 9

Sacred Space

Life at Manzanar was uncertain, but the prospect of dying behind barbed wire, far from home, may have been unthinkable. On May 16, 1942, Matsunosuke Murakami, 62, became the first of 130 men, women, and children to die in camp. He and 14 others, most infants and older men without families, were laid to rest in this cemetery outside the barbed wire fence in an old peach orchard from Manzanar's farming era. Here, in the shadow of majestic Mt. Williamson, their somber funerals and memorials were attended by hundreds of mourners.

While some deceased were sent to hometown cemeteries, most were cremated and their ashes held in camp until their families left Manzanar. Güichi Matsumura, an internee who died in 1945 while exploring the Sierra, is buried high in the mountains above you.

Today, only six graves here, including Matsunosuke Murakami's, contain remains; families requested the removal of others after the war.



I REI TO

The Japanese Kanji characters read "Soul Consoling Tower." Master stonemason Ryozo Kado, a Catholic, and Buddhist minister Shinjo Nagatomi designed this iconic monument as a permanent tribute to Manzanar's dead. Kado built the obelisk with the assistance of Block 9 residents and a young Buddhists' group, funded by 15-cent donations from each family in camp. Rev. Nagatomi carefully inscribed the monument's characters—including "Erected by the Manzanar Japanese, August 1943" on the west side.

While Rev. Nagatomi and Ryozo Kado live on in the memories of family and community, Kado also left his legacy in cement and stone. He built the sentry posts at the camp entrance and other camp features in his distinctive "faux wood style." Compare the posts surrounding this monument to those near the sentry posts and look for other examples of Kado's craftsmanship around Manzanar.



An interpretive marker explains the sacred spaces at Manzanar National Historic Site

PHOTO BY JOHN D. BENNETT

MANZANAR

Continued from 8

thor to I Speak For Myself: American Women on Being Muslim, will be a featured speaker at the ceremony April 30.

The program will include the traditional interfaith service and Ondo dancing. Park rangers will be on hand afterward to offer walking tours to those wishing to explore Manzanar.

The Manzanar At Dusk program will take place between 5 and 8 p.m. April 30 At the Lone Pine High School gymnasium at 536 S. Main Street in Lone Pine. This is co-sponsored by Nikkei Student Unions at various California Universities. "Through a creative presentation, small group discussions, and an open mic session, participants will have the opportunity to interact with incarcerated in attendance and others to

hear their personal stories," according to the committee's blog.

Visiting the on-site museum is an intense experience in itself. In former years, survivors of "camp" (as they call it) have acted as docents for the event, telling personal stories to augment the many displays. The museum also features reconstructed rooms, displays giving historic background, and a

movie presentation with historic footage from the era. There is also a gift shop with many books and videos documenting the area's heritage.

Comfortable walking shoes are advised, as well as layers of clothing for weather changes. Sanitized toilets and water will be available on site and during the pilgrimage.

It is also good to be aware that Man-

azanar is at an altitude of 3,500 to 4,000 feet above sea level.

Restaurants are available in nearby Lone Pine as well as in Independence and Bishop but there is no food service on site at Manzanar, so packing a lunch is advised.

For more information on the Manzanar pilgrimage call 323-662-5102 or email

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A view, looking west, of Diaz Lake. The Sierra Nevada grace the lake, just behind the campground.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER LIVINGSTON

Diaz Lake provides a scene out of the ordinary

By Christopher Livingston

With fishing in full swing, the Eastern Sierra has a bevy of popular spots to throw out a line. One of them, located eight minutes south of Lone Pine, right off Highway 395, is the 80-acre Diaz Lake.

Once a small creek where water was provided for cattle and vegetables maintained by the Diaz family, the lake as we know it was the result of a large seismic event in the late 1800s. The earthquake dropped the ground 20 feet. With more space to fill for the creek, it eventually turned into a lake.

Going to the lake, right off the highway, there's a small parking lot. Heading to the right takes you to the north-eastern section of the lake, which is the popular fishing location. (Fishing and

swimming from the dock are discouraged.)

Six different types of fish are at the lake: rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, alpers trout, catfish, bluegill and carp.

Throughout April, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) stocked Diaz Lake regularly with rainbow trout. The week of April 17 was the most recent it was at the lake.

Heading to the left from the parking lot takes you around to the campground, located on the western end of the lake. There, the grounds are sectioned off, ensuring that people have adequate space to park their vehicles.

There is a fee for camping at the lake: \$14 per day for docking an RV and \$10 a night for motorized watercraft. There are no shower facilities,

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SEE DIAZ, 13

Bishop Mule Days Celebration

May 24 through 29

Every Memorial Day weekend since 1969, the town of Bishop, nestled on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains, comes alive with the annual presentation of Mule Days. The outfitters and packers of the region wanted an event to start off the packing season and the businessmen wanted to draw vacationers to the Owens Valley. What began as an informal gathering and a test of skills, has grown into a fun filled, world class event.

There is no way to actually describe Mule Days. It is part mule show, part test of skills, and part Wild West show. It is an event the likes of which are held no where else in the world. Over the five days of the event, there are 14 shows featuring over 700 mules with their trainers, riders and packers. In excess of 30,000 fans converge on the Tri-County Fairgrounds and the Mike Boothe Arena to watch the events and visit the exhibitors. The fourteen mule shows consist of: Western, youth, English, cattle working, gaited, coon jumping, racing, musical tires, gymkhana, packing, shoeing, chariot racing, team roping and driving. For most competitions, veteran announcers, Bob Tallman and Bob Feist, take the microphone to both educate and entertain crowds.

In addition to competitive events, Mule Days has many other featured events to expand the experience. Country Music stars take the stage Thursday night, and on Saturday, spectators take to the streets of Bishop to watch the longest running non-motorized parade in the U.S. There's also Barbecues, country dances and an arts and crafts show.

Mule people are determined to prove that anything a good horse can do, a good mule can do better. From trail riding to show classes, mules can do it all with the grace unique to these animals. Steer roping and stopping, an event normally reserved for quarter horses, is another highlight of Mule Days. Cowboys will have the opportunity to prove their roping and riding skills astride some of the best working

mules in the United States.

A world class equestrian event promoting the legacy, heritage and talents of the mule.

Website: <http://www.muledays.org>

Special Events at Mule Days 2016

In addition to competitive events, Mule Days has many special events and activities to enhance your overall experience:

Wednesday May 25 • 5 PM • Charles Brown Auditorium

Opening Night Supper • Entertainment 2015 Western Music Association Entertainer of the Year Dave Stamey

Entertainment sponsored by Denny's

Thursday May 26 • 9:30-10:15 AM • Mike Boothe Memorial Arena

School Day Show for local elementary school children

Free Show, Open to Everyone!

Thursday May 26 • 10:30 AM • Tallman Pavilion

Zoetis Animal Health Clinic, topic to be announced

Thursday May 26 • 7:30 PM • Charles Brown Auditorium

Concert • Widely known for his enduring 1975 crossover hit "Wildfire" Michael Martin Murphey will headline the Mule Days "Back to our Western Roots" Concert.



Sponsored by Justin Boots and KIBS-FM 100.7

Friday May 27 • All-Day • Pink Shirt Day
In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness

Friday May 27 • 4 PM • Charles Brown Auditorium

Mule Days Barbecue • Entertainment

Playhouse 395 performs "Singing Through the West"

Saturday May 28 • All-Day • Patriot Day. In honor of past and present Military Personnel. Wear your Red, White & Blue proudly!

Saturday May 28 • 10 AM • Main Street, Bishop
Mule Days Parade

Saturday May 28 • 8:30 PM • Charles Brown Auditorium

Mule Days Adult Country Dance • Entertainment The JD Priest Band returns in 2016 to rock the house once again.

Sunday May 29 • 10 AM • Charles Brown Auditorium
Cowboy Church

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Mammoth Mountain/Mammoth Lakes



Monster Energy Mammoth Motocross

June 17 through June 25
Seven days of thrilling competitions

at the infamous Mammoth Motocross "track", this event cannot be missed. Riders have ventured to six qualifying locations around California on their Road to Mammoth.

Mammoth Motocross is the summer's best spectator sport where the energy and adrenaline are contagious and with seven days of thrilling competitions, this event cannot be missed. Riders have ventured to six qualifying locations around California on their Road to Mammoth and are more than ready to bring home a coveted Mammoth Bear trophy.

Visit MammothMotocross.com

Mammoth Festival of Beers & Bluesapalooza

August 4 through August 7 / All day

A four day event among the pines showcasing the best craft breweries in the country and top blues performers.

A four day event among the pines showcasing the best craft breweries in the country and top blues performers. The musical lineup includes legends and up-and-coming blues greats.

mammothbluesbrewsfest.com

11,053' Full Moon Summit Party

September 17 / 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

A unique summer experience at the summit of Mammoth Mountain. Ride the Panorama Gondola to the top of the Sierra at dusk to watch the sun set and the September full moon rise, then party under the full moon and celebrate the end of summer. The top of the mountain will be buzzing with indoor/outdoor fun including a lighted glow walk to the Lakes Basin Overlook, music, food and drink stations, and a guided nature walk with the Eleven53 docent.

Dates: Saturday, September 17, 2016

Time: 5:30pm-8:30pm

Event Tickets

Adult/Youth/Senior: \$25.00

Kids 12 & Under: FREE

Cali4nia Passholders: \$15

Includes gondola ride and all Full Moon Summit Party activities at Eleven53. Limited capacity.

mammothmountain.com

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PHOTOS BY JOHN D. BENNETT



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER LIVINGSTON

A southern-facing view of the campground, which provides abundant space for visitors to spend time and fish.

DIAZ

Continued from 10

but it does have a restroom.

Even for those who don't fish or camp, Diaz Lake's relaxed atmosphere makes it a resting spot seemingly off the beaten path. There is a playground near the dock and an abundance of picnic tables.

Wildlife is also prevalent at the lake, from raccoons to snakes. Animals typical of the Eastern Sierra, such as coyotes and sidewinder rattlesnakes, are located at the campground, but they are nocturnal. During the day, one can see the red-winged blackbird or a raven flying around and singing.

Although the lake was quiet during the second-to-last week of April, it was still a tourist destination. While strolling on the dock, there was Tobias, a visitor from Berlin, Germany, who was staying in Lone Pine while embarking on a journey of the Western United States.

One thing, he noticed, was the brownness of the water. "The water is not so ... clear," he remarked before

taking photos of the scenery.

The reason behind the off-color water: the lake is fed by underground springs and lacks an inlet and outlet. Because of that, plus the high mineral content in the water, the lake has a brownish hue to it.

The lake is open year-round, with events such as the Early Opener Trout Derby on the first Saturday in March. For more information, contact the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce at (760) 876-4444.



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RIDGECREST AREA MUSEUMS

Maturango Museum

Founded in 1962, the Maturango Museum is an important educational and cultural resource. In addition to the exhibit galleries, which feature the natural and cultural history of the Upper Mojave Desert, the Museum sponsors many programs and tours, including tours to the world-famous Coso petroglyphs. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily 100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555 (760) 375-6900

China Lake Museum

The China Lake Museum of Armament and Technology showcases missiles and other defense technology developed by the scientists and engineers here at China Lake. The docents, many of them retired scientists,



share their experiences as you follow the evolution of weaponry from WWII to the present. Open Mon - Fri 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (760) 939-3530

Historic USO Building

The Historic USO Building first

opened on October 13, 1945 to serve the sudden influx of military and civilian personnel due to the opening of the new Naval Station at China Lake. Since then, it has served the community in many capacities, including court house, fire department and dance hall. Inside you will find photos and artifacts about the birth and growth of the Indian Wells Valley as well as a gift shop with local art and books. Open Mon-Sat 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 230 W. Ridgecrest Blvd. (760) 375-8456

Rand Desert Museum

The Rand Desert Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and sharing the historic cultural resources and architectural history of the Rand Mining District. Here you can learn about the myriad of small towns that boomed to life during California's mining era. Open weekends 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 161 Butte Ave., Randsburg, CA 93554 (760) 371-0965

Trona

The Searles Valley Historical Society was founded in 1979 as a non-profit corporation. They showcase the mineral mining history of the Argus Range at five locations: The Old Guest House Museum, Searles Valley History House, Trona Railway Mu-

seum and Caboose, and Argus Fire Station. Open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to noon 13193 Main St. Trona, CA 93592 (760) 372-5222

Boron Museums

The Boron Twenty Mule Team Museum memorializes the famous 20-mule teams and the production of boron in the Mojave Desert. Indoor and outdoor exhibits include a Santa Fe Railroad Depot. The Museum also serves at the Boron Chamber of Commerce. Adjacent to the Boron Museum is the Vernon P. Saxon Aerospace Museum, exhibiting rocket science history and a real F4C Phantom fighter jet. 26962 Twenty Mule Team Rd., Boron. Open 10am-4pm, 7 days a week, free admission, (760) 762-5810

Kern Valley Museum

The Kern Valley Museum houses artifacts from the prehistoric times to the present. In addition to local historical information, they also have a large geological and fossil exhibit, mining and ranching artifacts, and an interactive history of the Edison hydroelectric plants. Open 10am-4pm Thurs - Sun 49 Big Blue Rd., Kernville (760) 376-6683

Museum of Western Film History

The Alabama Hills above Lone Pine have been named "Hollywood's Backlot," with over 100 years and 700 films to it's credit. Learn more about Lone Pine's movie heritage right here. Exhibits include the recent installment of the dentist wagon from Quentin Tarantino's "Django Unchained" and new exhibit for the 75th anniversary of the Lone Ranger, as well as a large collection of memorabilia, gift shop and a movie theater showing daily documentaries. Open 10 am- 6 pm Mon-Sat (Sundays 10-4) 701 S Main St, Lone Pine (760) 876-9909. Adults \$5, kids/members/military free.

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PHOTO BY DEBORAH MILLS

Open arrival at the Laws Railroad Museum and Historical Site it feels like you stepped back in time. The scenery and the rough-scale businesses make you have traveled to an back in the days when a railroad depot was the new state of art technology.

LAWS

Continued from 6

River but stopped at Keeler, California. It has often been referred to as "the railroad that was built 300 miles too long or 300 years too soon."

"As the word was out that the railroad would run east of the Owens River, people started to arrive at what is known now as Laws. A new railroad town was built. It took three years for the rails to be laid from Mound House to Laws, with the first train arriving in April of 1883. The depot, agent's house, section boss's house, outhouses, water tank and turntable were all ready when it arrived.

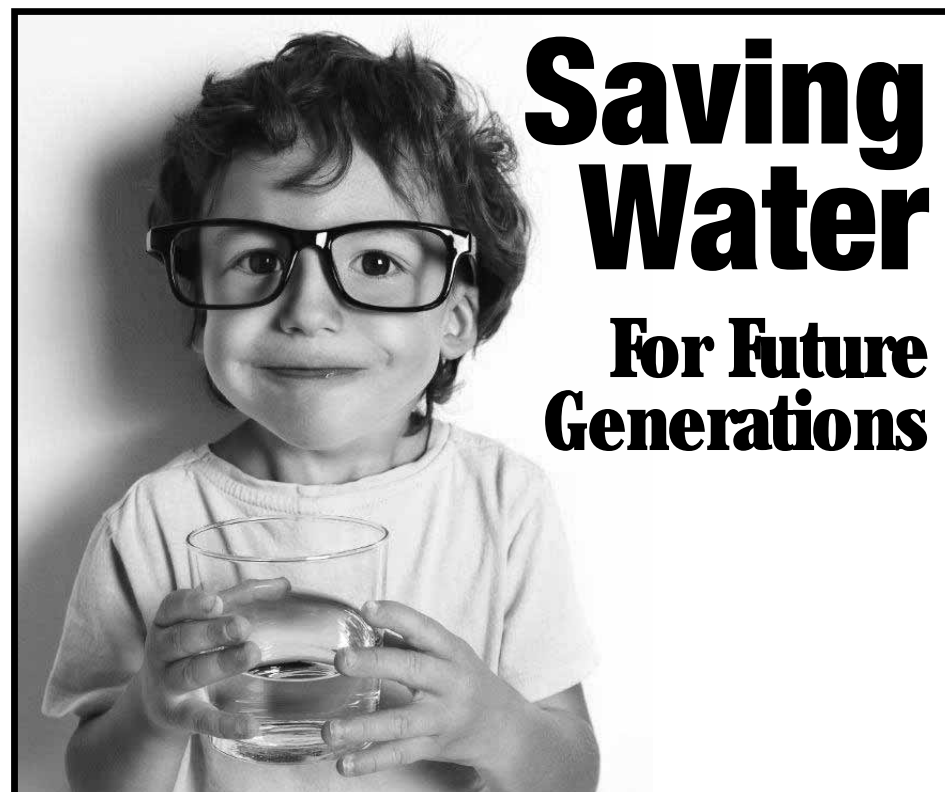
"In addition to the railroad buildings other construction quickly followed which included many homes, barns, and corrals, two general stores, a rooming house, eating house, hotel, boarding house, pool hall and dance hall, blacksmith shop, post office, barber shop, powder magazine and warehouses. Several industrial buildings followed later. Many ranches surrounded Laws and used the railroad to ship their crops. The decline and demise of Laws and

the railroad were the result of the local mines closing, trucking becoming cheaper than rail freight and the city of Los Angeles buying most of the valley for the water rights. By 1959 when the railroad ceased operation, there was no trace of any of the buildings at Laws as they had all been torn down for salvage. Only the depot, agent's house, oil and water tanks and the turntable survived. All the other buildings you see at the museum today were doomed for destruction locally but were saved by being moved to the museum grounds. (compiled from the "Story of Laws" by Clarabelle Hawkins.)"

Whatever the charm it is brings 43 different venues on an 11 acre parcel of land that is surround by the mountains draped with white snow, know as 'Old Tom', that graces the spring fauna which is the foundation of the arrival.

Upon arrival, just abut 5 miles from the little town of Bishop by taking the Hwy 6 off of Hwy 395. Once on the turn off you take a lazy five mile ride putting you smack dab in the heart of a time when life was so much different yet simpler in many ways.

Visit www.lawsmuseum.org for more.



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