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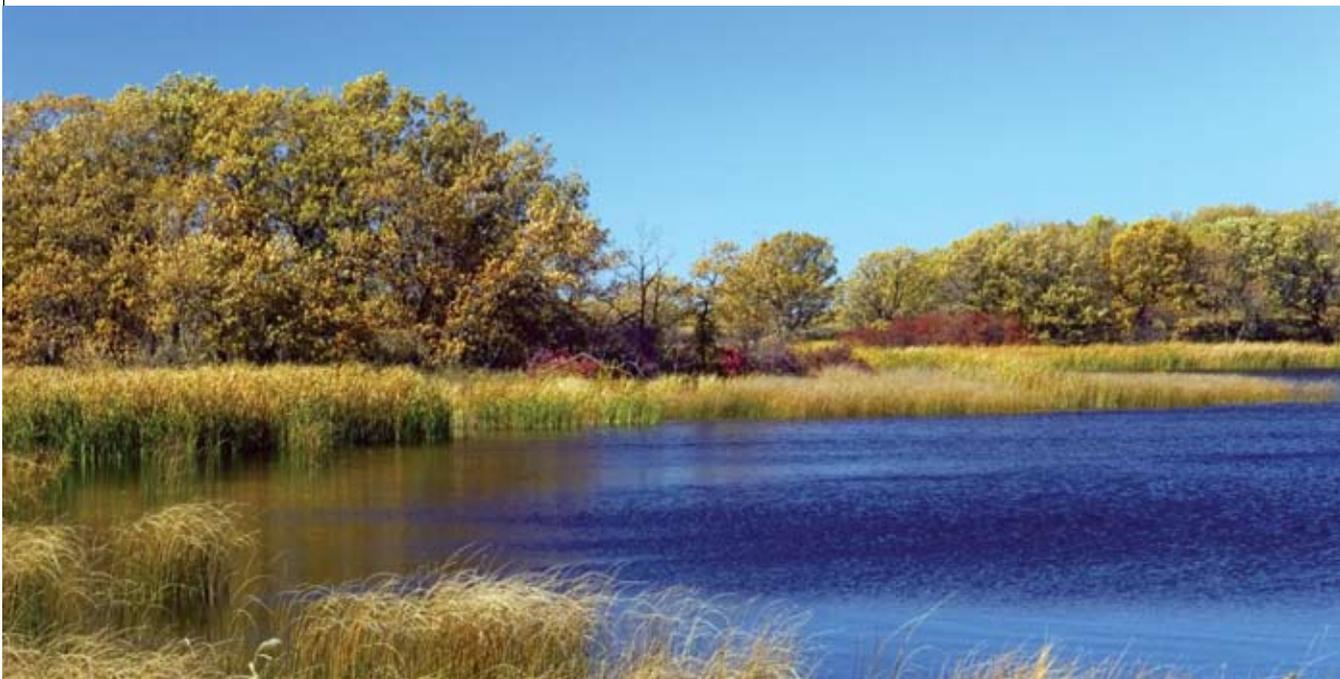
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Spring/Summer Edition 2016

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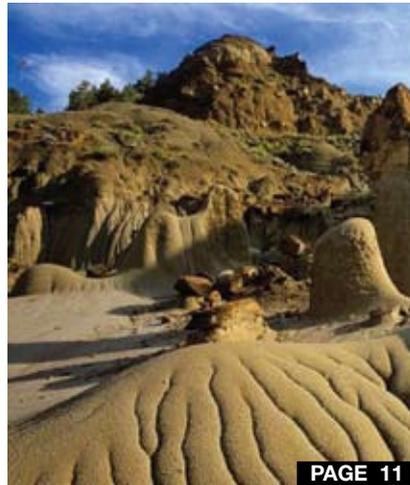


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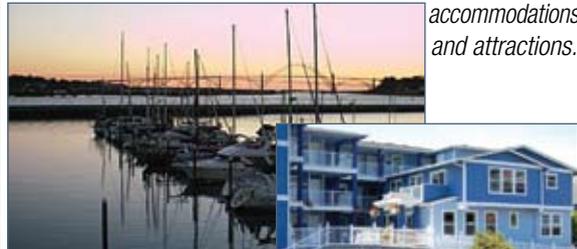
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Apples ready for harvest in South-Central, WA.
Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS.

Veterans Memorial Museum Chehalis, WA “They Shall Not Be Forgotten”

The Veterans Memorial Museum, located in Chehalis, WA, began in 1997 at a storefront in Chehalis, WA. From this humble beginning through perseverance and the help of membership moneys and donations, they were able to open their new facility in 2005. This facility, featuring a 9,000 square foot main gallery, 85 display cases and hundreds of displays honoring our veterans, is visible from Interstate 5 just off Exit 77.

The museum also features a military history reference library with thousands of volumes. There is also a gift shop and a “USO” where you can enjoy a cup of coffee and converse with local veterans.

Many veterans returning from war bury emotions deep inside their minds and hearts and do not learn how to reconcile with them until 20 to 50 years later. Unfortunately some never are able to come to grips with these emotions. One of the major goals of the Veterans Memorial Museum is to sponsor events such as these to help the HEALING process begin.

Desert War Veterans Day

On June 18th they will be honoring the veterans of the Desert War. The guest speaker will be a Global War on Terrorism Purple Heart recipient.

Civil War Battle and Remembrance

On the July weekend of the 9th-10th they will continue their recognition of the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. They will be having another large battle and encampment not far from the Museum. These are really exciting events as you watch the battle unfold, learn about life in the 1860’s from the living historians and learn about the featured battle.

Vietnam Veterans Day

On the August 6th the Veterans Memorial Museum will continue its recognition of the veterans of the Vietnam War.

Visit the Veterans Memorial Museum

The museum is open year round Tuesday-Saturday from 10AM to 5PM, and from June 1st through Labor Day in September, it is also open on Sundays from 1PM to 5PM.

All of the museum’s programs are intended to HONOR those who serve or have served our country. The freedom our citizens and our County currently have is a direct result of the millions of American servicemen and women who have served their country in peace and war!

For more information, call (360)740-8875 or visit their website at www.veteransmuseum.org.

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Welcome To Ontario, Oregon

Home of "America's Global Village Festival"

Ontario, Oregon is nestled on the lush banks of the Snake River and is proud to be the first Oregon city you encounter when traveling west from the Idaho border. Once you enter the uniquely rugged landscape of the Treasure Valley, you will come to understand why many people never want to leave. Those who choose to live here understand the meaning and importance of a quality, family oriented lifestyle.



Thus, the community reflects the energy, distinction, and diversity of its surrounding geography and residents.

And speaking of diversity, this year the Ontario Chamber of Commerce will host the 16th annual America's Global Village Festival in Lions Park on June 4th – the first Saturday in June. The festivities begin at 10:00 a.m. with a multicultural parade through the park followed by a flag ceremony.

The Festival celebrates the authentic cultural villages of African, Basque, German, Hawaiian, Japanese, Mexican, Pioneer, Scottish and Native American cultures. Each village features food, arts and crafts, cultural demonstrations and free youth activities. The main stage will highlight cultural entertainment throughout the day.

Upon entering the park for the Festival, visitors will be given a souvenir passport. With each visit to the villages, the passport will be stamped. When children have a full passport, they will receive a free prize. Adults who turn in a complete survey will have a chance to win one of two \$50 gas cards.

While Ontario is the kind of laid-back town you dream about when you want to get away from the hectic schedule of a busy, big city lifestyle, it also boasts

a myriad of recreational activities for all ages, interests and skill levels within driving distance from its downtown area. Here you can enjoy mountain biking, hiking, golfing, camping, sport fishing, bird watching, kayaking, river rafting, horse-back riding and much more. Ontario is situated only two hours from four separate ski resorts, including the world renowned Tamarack Ski Resort in Cascade, Idaho.



You can not only downhill ski to your heart's content, but also snowmobile, cross country ski and ice skate as well. There are also 61 acres of lush parks within the city if you're looking for a place to just relax and enjoy the landscape.

Ontario is a town where you will find the people are genuine, authentic, friendly, and down to earth. It is a town with a fascinating history, rich traditions, and a diverse population. It is also a place filled with things to do, places to see, and four distinct and beautiful seasons, so any time you choose to visit will be the perfect time. Visit us on our website at www.ontariochamber.com RH



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The Newberry Monument was designated in 1990. Over 50,000 acres available for your exploration and enjoyment. Drive to the top of 8,000' Paulina Peak, over-looking the Newberry Caldera, Paulina and East Lake!

The Lava Lands Visitor's Center/ Lava River Cave & Lava Cast Forest - about 15 minutes north of La Pine on Highway 97.

The Outback Scenic Highway - Highway 31 takes you from La Pine into the Great Basin where you can see and explore the fascinating Fort Rock formation, Hole in the Ground and Crack in the Ground. Continuing, you go through Silver Lake, Summer Lake, and Paisley to Lakeview. Each town offers a different perspective of mountains, hills, flat lands, forests and streams.

The Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway - A 66 mile drive from Mount Bachelor, Broken Top and alpine lakes south through the Deschutes National forest to Crescent Lake.

South and North Twin Lakes - just 20 minutes west of La Pine. Enjoy camping at South Twin Resort featuring a lodge, restaurant and boat rentals.

Things to do in La Pine:
Join us for Frontier Days and La Pine Rodeo in July and Jade's Jazz Festival in August. Activities include

Rock Hounding, Hiking Trails and Horse Trails, Boating, Fishing and Hunting, Wildlife, Water Falls, Camping, Lakes, Streams and Rivers, Mountain Biking, Snowmobiling, Snow Shoeing, Warm/Hot Springs, Obsidian Flow, Geological Formations, Archeology, History, Mountains and the High Desert!

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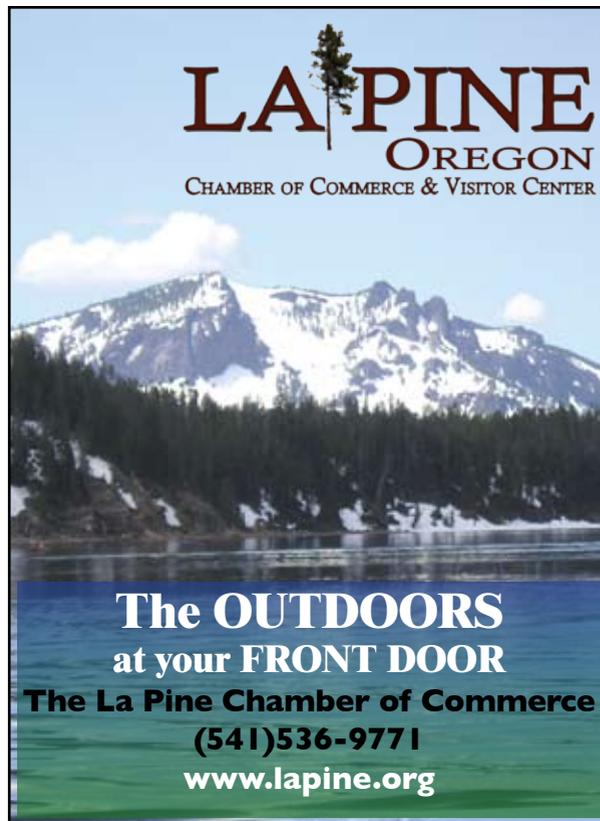
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Jefferson County, MT.
Photo by: Gary Kramer,
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Welcome to our little corner of Big Sky Country!

The Glendive Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture welcomes you to our little corner of Big Sky Country! Glendive, a thriving community that still offers that small-town hospitality, is tucked between the Yellowstone River and the Badlands. Come see the part of Montana that offers a much different landscape than the Western part of this beautiful state.



We are the proud home of Makoshika State Park which is Montana's largest state park with just over 11,000 acres of primitive terrain and is home to many dinosaur fossils. We welcome you to walk the same trails once roamed by the mighty dinosaurs. Bring your camera to capture the wildlife that call this oasis home such as eagles, turkey, vultures and deer. Once your hike in the park is over, head over to the historic Bell Street Bridge. No longer open to motorized traffic, this is a wonderful way to view the infamous Yellowstone River by strolling at your own pace across this ¼ mile bridge.

If you'd like to learn more about Glendive's history, take a trip in time at the Frontier Gateway Museum. They boast items from clothing to farm equipment to photos from eras gone by. If that doesn't take you far enough back into time, visit one of the area's dinosaur museums. Ever wonder what a 38-foot Tyrannosaurus Rex looks like? Well, here's your chance! Visit the Makoshika Dinosaur Museum and be amazed by the giant that once roamed the earth. Next stop should be the Glendive Dinosaur and Fossil Museum, the largest of its kind, where you will find many full size dinosaur and fossils exhibited and ready to be enjoyed by all!

If you want to get a glimpse of what farm life is all about, you've come to the right place! Glendive is considered the agricultural hub of Eastern Montana and Western North Dakota! Head down any country road and see the farms & ranches that Eastern Montana is known for.

For more information on the area, please stop in and visit us at the Glendive Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture and we will be more than happy to help make your visit here as enjoyable as possible! Enjoy your time in Glendive...where good people are surrounded by badlands!

RH

Follow us on  for Glendive News & Events



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Don't forget to bring your swim trunks! Days Inn West Yellowstone offers an indoor pool with a 100 foot water slide along with hot tubs to relax in after a hard day of exploring all of the natural wonders around us.

Summer time, West Yellowstone is known for its "blue Ribbon trout Streams" in the surrounding area. You can always try your hand at fly-fishing in Yellowstone National Park, Henry's Fork of the Snake River, or the Madison and Gallatin Rivers. Just ask our front desk staff and they can help you select a fly-fishing guide. We have some of the best in the world just 2 blocks away!

Winter time, Days Inn West Yellowstone works with Traveler's Snowmobile Rentals providing top-of-the-line Polaris snowmobile rentals, guided tours and snowmobile/room packages. We offer a variety of snowmobile adventures from "soft" to "heart pounding".



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How to Become a Beacon of Positivity and Change

Kimber L Russell

As a manager, one must understand who they are, what they represent, how they fit in with the culture of their community and company, as well as what motivates them. In return, we must challenge those who follow us to learn, embrace, and act upon the roads of development that led us to knowing what our purpose is in life personally and professionally. As a leader and manager there must be a collaboration and connection within a team. Being able to guide and develop individuals personally and professionally allows for deep relationships that yield efficiency, dedication, honesty, and growth.

Managers and leaders must acknowledge that the world is ever-changing and that we all have something to learn each and every day. Diversity and inclusion is what make relationships work; however, the foundation of leadership and work relationships stem from the acknowledgement that we are purposeful, that we are worthwhile, and that we value one another. These foundations are then fostered and grown by the giving and receiving of new skills, abilities, knowledge, and problem solving tendencies.

Actionable items that lead to finding out who your employees are and what drives them can be completed in five easy and efficient steps.

One- Have each team member complete a bucket list. In an open and comfortable environment, allow them to share. This allows management as well as employees to embrace similarities

and differences of activities and relations to personality types.

Two- Promote work/life balance by encouraging team members to check items off of the list.

Three- Lead by example and get out in the world, check off some items, and make a difference.

Four- Don't let the passion die. Revisit the list every few months and add to it. Share with those closest to you to ensure that you are growing both personally and professionally.

Five- Forget the excuses, forget the what-ifs, and forget what doesn't help us grow. Hindrance is the worst enemy in creating and implementing change.

As a manager it is essential for one to lead by example. By implementing the five actionable items listed above and choosing to be present and engaged, managers promote a positive attitude while inside and outside the office. Not only does an employee need to rely on the strength of the manager but they also need to rely on the power of the manager's positivity and attitude.

"If I don't do it, someone else will." This simple phrase will always keep the manager and employee in the frame of mind that no one is irreplaceable and ninety-eight percent of change and productivity stems from a positive attitude. Attitudes are contagious; ensure that, as the manager or team leader, you are spreading an attitude that will do "good" and increase productivity, culture, cohesiveness, and trust.

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Rushmore Express Inn & Family Suites: Doing Business Differently

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Business with Integrity

Any business owner knows how easy it is to take short cuts. Taking the easy way out isn't always a bad thing. But businesses can compromise their core values on hard decisions by choosing the simple, easy solution rather than doing what they know to be right. At Rushmore Express, we are committed first and foremost to business with integrity in every aspect. We hold to our values and make our decisions based on those values, even when those decisions affect our bottom line.

Beyond "Service with a Smile"

It's one thing to say that service is our #1 priority...which, well, it is. But for Rushmore Express, we think this should go without saying. We believe all people are valuable, be it our guests or our staff. We are committed to treating you like family and doing what we can to make your stay with us an exceptional and unforgettable experience. Feedback is always welcome so that you can help us to do this better.

Profit to Non-profit

For Rushmore Express, "profit" means something different. Rushmore Express Inn & Family Suites is a supporting organization to The Keystone Project, a non-profit organization based locally in South Dakota that focuses on training, equipping and mobilizing leaders worldwide. This means 100% of profits from Rushmore Express go directly into

the organization to develop leaders, particularly in countries that are less accessible or economically developed. Instead of viewing profit as how much we can take in throughout a given year, we think of it as how much we can give away.

Promoting Leadership Development Through Internship

Over retaining our staff, we care even more about developing our staff. Rushmore Express provides paid summer internship opportunities for college students every year, offering an opportunity to build a resume and gain practical work and leadership experience in the process of making major life decisions.

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Fargo Air Museum

"Located just off I-29 interstate, The Fargo Air Museum is an easily accessed pet friendly, must-stop location. North Dakota's premiere aviation destination, the Fargo Air Museum is home to aircraft of all eras - from the modern Global Hawk unmanned reconnaissance drone with an impressive 100 foot wingspan to the "most accurate recreation of a Wright Brothers' flyer the Smithsonian Institute has ever seen." A "flying" museum, many of the airplanes occasionally take to the sky, a unique feature not found in the vast majority of the nation's air museums.

Displaying more than just its many aircraft, military memorabilia and exhibits, the Fargo Air Museum also

houses one of the midwest's largest Aviation libraries. Call ahead to book your privately guided tour or choose to explore both aircraft hangars and discover it all on your own.

events and has quickly become a local favorite for hosting wedding ceremonies and receptions.

Located across the street from the FargoDome Stadium, the Museum is



Educational day-camps, speakers and seminars can also be found for flight fans of all ages to enjoy. The museum also is home to an extensive gift shop featuring toys, jewelry, clothing, home decor, books, dvds and much more, ensuring you'll find the perfect gift for any aviation enthusiast. The Fargo Air Museum is a fantastic choice for a unique venue for corporate & private

surrounded with dining opportunities and is conveniently just moments away from the Fargo's Hector International Airport. The Fargo Air museum can be found at 1609 19th Ave N, Fargo North Dakota and reached by phone at 701-293-8043. For more information, please visit www.fargoairmuseum.org and "Like" it on facebook to keep current on all upcoming events and exhibits." RH

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Welcome to Beulah, North Dakota

Located on the south shore of Lake Sakakawea, Beulah is a bustling community with a lot to offer visitors. You will find everything you need to make your stay

that provides fun for the whole family, dining to suit all tastes, and friendly service throughout our community.

You will find culture and history throughout the area that provides rec-

Historical Museum where the exhibits trace back time to the early settlers and their lives.

Lake Sakakawea is located just minutes away from Beulah and offers a wide range of water-based recreational activities and facilities. Beulah Bay and Dakota Waters Resort provide a full range of amenities and services for both camping and fishing enthusiasts. RH



comfortable. Beulah offers adventure for everyone, including golfing, the beautiful Lake Sakakawea, unique energy & mine tours, museums, recreational facilities, a new water park

reational opportunity and adventure for the entire family. Explore the unique wildlife museum which hosts trophy's from all over the world, the history of Mercer County can be discovered at the

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Sodbuster Days in Fort Ransom. Photo courtesy: Valley City CVB

Valley City, North Dakota

Unique to the typically flat lands of North Dakota is the mile wide 300 foot deep glacial meltwater trench called the Sheyenne River Valley. Found only an hour west of North Dakota's largest city (Fargo) on I-94, it is a short trek to Valley City to take in the beauty of a natural river valley and enjoy the history and beauty of the region. The Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway, a 63 mile drive, showcases the area with 28 interpretive panels. You can explore the history, geography, geology, nature and take in the stories of the Norwe-

gian immigrants that developed the valley.

Begin in Valley City at the Rosebud Visitor Center and view the one of a kind 1881 Northern Pacific Superintendent's railcar. Specialty shops sprinkle Valley City and you can enjoy the City of Bridges tour. Fort Ransom, a village south on the byway, hosts

Sodbuster Days. You can experience farming with horse drawn equipment. North of the byway, travel to Cooperstown to visit Oscar Zero, a cold war missile site. Go down into the missile silo and see how our military lived during those dramatic times. Come and enjoy the beauty and hospitality of eastern North Dakota!

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Elk City, Oklahoma

Where the Roads to the Past and Future Meet

Elk City is the epitome of Oklahoma and its rich heritage. From the establishment of what was once a rural community in 1901, the development of Route 66 as the nation's first highway system to world champion cowboys, Elk City represents the heart of the great state of Oklahoma.

For entertainment, visitors can "get their kicks" at a variety of museums including the **National Route 66 Museum**, **Old Town Complex** and the one-of-a-kind **Transportation Museum** which gives a great education in the history of how automobiles, trains and plains impacted travel in the United States. **The Farm and Ranch Museum** showcases decades of equipment used to harvest crops in the second largest industry in the state and the **Blacksmith Museum** takes you back

to a time forgotten.

Elk City also hosts plenty of events each year for tourists and visitors to enjoy. From the **Southwest Farm and Home Expo** in April, the award winning annual **PRCA Rodeo of Champions** on Labor Day weekend, the **Fall Festival** in September featuring the best in arts and crafts and the **Oklahoma National Junior Heifer Show** in November brings visitors from all over to showcase their stock. The largest Christmas light display in Southwest Oklahoma, **Christmas in the Park**, brings back old fashioned family traditions with train rides on the candy cane express, old fashioned horse-drawn carriage rides, light tours and of course, kids of all ages enjoy riding the **Centennial Carousel** or the **Choctaw Miniature Train**.

Elk City's vibrant downtown shopping district boasts everything from

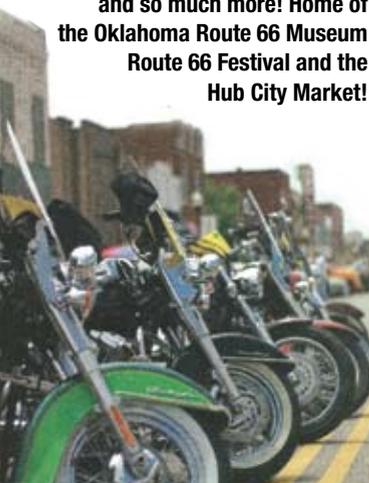
rustic cowboy décor to boutiques showcasing the latest in fashion. Make a day of shopping in Elk City during **Route 66 Days** in June, the **Sizzlin' Summer Sidewalk Sale** in July and scare up some frightful deals during **Moonlight Madness** in October.

Be sure to bring a hearty appetite as Elk City offers a variety of restaurants guaranteed to satisfy everyone from cowboys to city slickers. When you're ready to hang your hat, Elk City has over 850 rooms for the visitor to choose from.

Located on Interstate 40, Elk City's endless blue skies, rich rolling hills and red earth make this community a great place to hang your hat any time of year. So plan your trip to Elk City and let us share our Western Oklahoma's hospitality. RH



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Perryton, Texas. A small town community with big-city spirit! Located in the Northeastern Texas Panhandle, we are the Wheatheart of the Nation! Perryton is a proud community that strives to be the best and provide the best. We tell our visitors that what makes Perryton unique is something that can't be purchased, it's the people! The people of Perryton are generous, caring, and very hospitable



to everyone they meet. Which is why Perryton doesn't just satisfy tourists, it creates a culture of loyal customers who keep returning to Perryton based on the quality of products and customer service they receive. Too often towns of our sized are plagued by empty storefronts and boarded windows, but not Perryton. Our Main Street, much like our community, is full of life! People are often awed by the beauty of our Downtown Main Street and astounded by the spectrum of goods we have to offer. Whether searching for furniture, flowers, or food, Perryton truly has something for everyone!

For more information on Perryton, please visit www.perryton.org, www.ptnchamber.com, or contact the Chamber of Commerce at 806-435-6575 or at ptnchamber@gmail.com.

We hope to meet you soon!

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Photo courtesy: Dalhart Chamber of Commerce

Discover Dalhart, TX

Situated in the northwest corner of the TEXAS Panhandle, no matter what time of year you visit Dalhart there is always something FUN!!

Rita Blanca Lake Area – Features prime bird-viewing year round. Improved trails for hiking, horseback riding, running or just walking are accessible year round weather permitting. RV Hook-ups are available along with picnic tables, playground facility, large Pavilion for large outdoor gatherings and the Rita Blanca Disk Golf Course. The Texas Parks & Wildlife stocks the nearby fishing pond in the winter months with trout. In the spring the City hosts a fishing derby for the local kids.



The XIT Museum is a great place to stop. The museum offers a wealth of history and features a unique wildlife exhibit, cheese making exhibit, farming, ranching and pioneer exhibits and more. The museum is currently working on an exhibit so visitors can learn about the Dust Bowl. There is also a large archive of information about the Dalhart Army Airfield, XIT Ranch, business history, photographs and much more. The museum is open Tuesday – Saturday each week, www.xitmuseum.org

The largest and most-well know community celebration is the Annual XIT Rodeo & Reunion still going for nearly 80 years. The event originated when ranch hands from the XIT Ranch decided to get together to swap stories and rodeo. Now, the three-day festival held the first Thursday, Friday & Saturday in August features the world's largest free barbeque, nightly PRCA Rodeo, dance, XIT Melodrama and free pork chops and more. Other activities included Fiddlers Contest, Street Parade, Antique Tractor Pull, XIT 1k & 5k run/walk, Mud Bogs, Arts & Crafts Show and more. www.xit-rodeo.com

The Jewel of the Plains, the La Rita Performing Arts Theatre, nestled in Downtown Dalhart is the home of the XIT Melodrama held during the annual XIT Rodeo & Reunion. Other performances about once a month include poetry gatherings, local productions and various programs from area WTA&M University. This 1920's movie theatre has been fully restored to its full grandeur and is a great venue for singers & musicians. For information and upcoming shows visit www.larita.org or call 806-244-5646.

These are just a few of the highlights, learn more at, www.dalhart.org

RH

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Alice, Texas

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Annual Events

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March: Texas Proud in Pecos

June: Golden Girl of the Old West Revue

Little Miss Cantaloupe Pageant

Old Timer's Reunion

West of The Pecos Rodeo

July: Night In Old Pecos/Cantaloupe Festival & Food Show

Aug: Annual Cantaloupe Fly-In

Sept: 16 de September Festival

Oct: County Fall Fair & Livestock Show

County Sheriff's Posse BBQ Coo-Off

Dec: Annual Christmas Parade

Christmas Lighting & Fireworks

Visit our Facebook Page

Pecos Area Chamber of Commerce/CVB

Pecos, Texas

The Hot Spot for adventure in Far West Texas

There in the heart of West Texas sits the community of Pecos with a friendly western smile waiting to invite you to come in find the true cowboy in you.

With its rich history of cowboys and rodeo, Pecos has one of the best historical attractions in West Texas, the West of the Pecos Museum. Over 50 rooms occupying three floors of western heritage, artifacts and West Texas lore can be found in it describing the proud history that is the roots of this Pecos community and the surrounding area. Speaking of preserving history, just a couple of blocks south of the West of the Pecos Museum there is a place that exists just for the auto historians.



The Memory Lane Car Museum takes you back in time with their excellent antique auto collection for your enjoyment.

With Pecos also known as Home of the World's First Rodeo there is a certain pride in wearing cowboy boots on an everyday basis. Back in 1883, on Independence Day, local cowboys with great skill decided to compete in the world's first Rodeo right there in Pecos! Now, annually cowboys from all over gather in the historical Buck Jackson Arena to compete in Rodeo action for that coveted recognition four exciting nights in the West of the Pecos Rodeo. What a site it is! Visitors from all over the world travel to this laid back, friendly community to celebrate Rodeo heritage. And speaking of cowboys, located in the Pecos Area Chamber of Commerce/CVB is the Texas Rodeo Hall of Fame where cowboys from Pecos and the area have been inducted in recognition for their Rodeo accomplishments. While you are out in the west drop in for a visit, spend some time and walk away with your own western smile, compliments of Pecos, Texas.

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Hon-Dah Resort-Casino

The White Mountains of Arizona has always been a unique place. There's always been something a little different about the area and almost always in a good



way. Sure they have the occasional Bigfoot sighting and UFO abduction, but it also contains some of the most jaw-dropping vistas in the state. Scenery that Barry Goldwater once described as, "a little piece of Heaven that God let fall to Earth."

To most of us, the cool air alone is Heaven. So with Senator Goldwater's words in mind, may I suggest a destination that has come to be known as the jewel of the White Mountains - Hon-Dah Resort Casino.

Hon-Dah Resort Casino has always distinguished itself as the premiere White Mountain destination surrounded by the great outdoors. With over 128 well-appointed rooms, fine dining and amazing buffets, pals a level of hospitality that many higher-profile resorts could take a lesson from, the resort has been quietly building a reputation for excellence for years.

The Casino hosts over 800 slot machines with over 100 new ones in place. Check out the poker room and its weekly schedule of tournaments, LIVE entertainment 6 nights a week, including Munday Fun day which features headline comedians. And don't forget about the culinary choices. From casino snacks to fine dining and buffets (and room service), the Hon-Dah Resort Casino has established itself as the informed choice as "home-base" for a White Mountain Getaway.

Take a break from the heat and visit Hon-Dah Resort Casino and check out the coolest spot in Arizona. RH

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Photo by: H. Hartsook

Albuquerque, New Mexico

From its birthplace in historic Old Town in 1706, Albuquerque has grown from small pueblos and Spanish farms to one of the Southwest's premier metropolitan centers. Albuquerque is New Mexico's largest city with just over 750,000 residents. Built on the diversity of Spanish culture and Native American tradition, Albuquerque is home to world class cultural events, unique attractions, a vibrant heritage, 16 museums, shopping, outdoor recreation, spectacular hot air ballooning, and championship golf courses.

Experience New Mexico's rich cultural history as you hike among the ancient cliff dwellings and petroglyphs to learn about the lifestyles and beliefs found in the area's earliest civilizations. Albuquerque is the gateway to Pueblo Indian culture. Learn about the state's 19 Indian pueblos at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Indian dances, artist demonstrations and bread baking take place at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center every weekend. Experience living cultural tra-

ditions on a guided tour of Acoma Pueblo just 45 minutes west of Albuquerque.

Albuquerque is a four-season destination with 310 days of sunshine per year. This provides visitors with endless possibilities for outdoor activities under a clear blue sky. A hot-air balloon ride in the "hot air balloon capital of the world" is unlike any other experience; balloon rides are offered throughout the year. Get a bird's eye view of the Rio Grande Valley by riding the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway from 6,500 feet to more than 10,000 feet. Once at the top, hit the trails for hiking and exploring. Take in a view of more than 11,000 square miles on a clear day.

The climate and high desert landscape are ideal for hiking, biking and golfing. Set out for a hike along one of many trails winding through the Cibola National Forest on Sandia Peak or challenge yourself with a ride on a mountain bike over the rugged terrain. Combine the mile-high elevation and varied landscape of central New Mexico with warm sun, low humidity and very affordable green fees, and you have a fantastic golf destination.

For the authentic New Mexican experience, be sure to sample some chile. New Mexico's state question, "Red or Green?" refers to the type of chile you prefer. Add some spice into your life and order "Christmas style" and you'll get both red and green chile on your plate. Albuquerque offers a variety of dining options from a quaint and casual atmosphere to an elegant fine dining ambiance.

For more information, visit www.visitalbuquerque.org

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Saratoga/Platte Valley

By: Stacy Crimmins, Executive Director

In the pristine Platte Valley, you will find areas where you can hike without crowds, hear creeks rushing by, smell the scent of evergreens, or listen to aspens sway in the wind. Want more? Immerse yourself in the free hot pool, where legend has it that these waters were enjoyed by ancient Indian tribes.

Winding through the town of Saratoga is the Upper North Platte River. The Encampment River flows through Riverside and feeds into the Platte River. These rivers boast some of the best Blue Ribbon trout fishing anywhere.

Travel the boardwalk at the Storer-Saratoga Lake Wetland Project, nesting habitat to many bird species and adjacent to the popular Saratoga Lake. While in the area, you can tour the National Fish Hatchery.

The Town of Encampment has a rich mining history, and at the Grand Encampment Museum, you can relive the past through colorful exhibits and authentic cabins. Displays and dioramas at the Saratoga Museum also illustrate times gone by, offering interpretive presentations as well as a beautiful outdoor pavilion.

Shopping the Valley is a unique opportunity with specialty shops to fill every need. Whether looking for something special for you, your family or your horse, you'll find it here.

The breathtaking Sierra Madre and Snowy Range Mountains majestically surround the Valley. Ideal for hiking, camping and wildlife gazing in the summer, these mountains are also perfectly suited for wintertime cross country skiers and snowmobilers with over 300 miles of groomed trails.



For more information about the Platte Valley and our community events, visit www.saratogachamber.info or call 307-326-8855.

RH



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DEVIL'S TOWER

Colonel Dodge was said to be credited for giving Devil's Tower its name, as he said that the Indians call it "The Bad God's Tower", hence calling it Devil's Tower.

Rising over 1200 feet into the Wyoming sky, Devil's Tower is located 29 miles northwest of Sundance, WY. There are several different theories on how exactly Devil's Tower was formed. Some say it is an extinct volcano, although no evidence of volcanic activity in the area. The Tower is approximately 60 million years old and is slowly eroding.

The area of Devil's Tower National Monument is a sacred place for Indians. The tribes who hold this massive formation sacred all have different legends on the Tower. Many of them involve young children playing around the area of the Tower (before it was a tower). A bear sees them and chases them when the girls climb onto a large rock. They pray to the Great Spirit to help them, and the rock slowly starts getting larger and larger. The columns that you see on the side of the tower are made from the bear's claws as he was trying to reach the girls while the rock was growing.

Another myth about Devil's Tower is that many years ago, three Indians were hunting near the tower. They discovered a tunnel under the Tower and they proceeded to explore. What they found was a lake, which was surrounded by mounds of

gold. They had no way to transport the gold so they hid the entrance and made plans to return. They never did. Nobody has ever found a passageway underneath the Tower, but the Black Hills area is known for their many caves.

Climbing Devil's Tower is also a very popular activity. More than 4,000 climbers visit the Tower each year. The first person to reach the summit of Devil's Tower was a local rancher named William Rogers on July 4, 1893. With help from Willard Ripley, they made a 350-foot ladder, securing it into a vertical crack up the mountain. Exactly 2 years later, William Rogers' wife duplicated his climb to be recorded as the first woman to reach the summit. Some parts of that ladder are still visible. If you're planning on climbing the Tower, make sure you have a solid plan on your decent! On Oct 1, 1941, professional parachutist George Hopkins parachuted to the top of the Tower, but the rope he was planning on using for his decent landed on the side of the mountain, out of Hopkins' reach. He spent 6 days on the top of the Mountain as airplanes dropped blankets and food to him. Finally, a group of professional mountain climbers rescued him. If you're not into climbing the Tower, there are trails to go exploring on, and they range from easy to difficult. Also, make sure you keep your eyes out for all the wildlife in the area of Devil's Tower.

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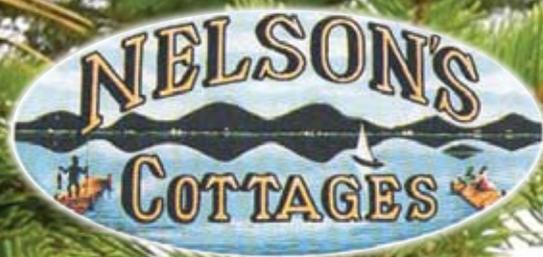
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