



2023 California Trail Days

More than 600 visitors dig into interpretive experience

Visitors get hands on with the interactive displays and volunteers that helped create life-long experiences at the California Trail Days in June.

Photo by Paul Gregory



By Steven Hrdlicka

The California Trail Days event held on June 3-4 drew 657 visitors to the California Trail Interpretive Center

(CTIC). The 30 individual stations set up for the event were made possible by participants from a variety of partners. This year, outdoor stations included the Shoshone Village,

Blacksmithing, Cooking, Axe Throwing, Pioneer Chores for children, Packing a Horse, and the coveted Jr. Ranger Activity Station.

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Hankins elected as Vice President of OTCA



Helen Hankins

Helen Hankins, a native of Idaho, has been involved with national historic trails since the mid-1990s. Her initial involvement (1995-2007) was as the District Manager for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Elko, NV Office. During this period, Helen was the primary BLM official working with

local stakeholders and the Congressional delegation to make the dream of the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko a reality.

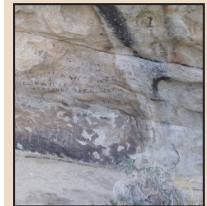
This involved significant work with the local leaders who conceived, promoted and obtained much of the funding for the project.

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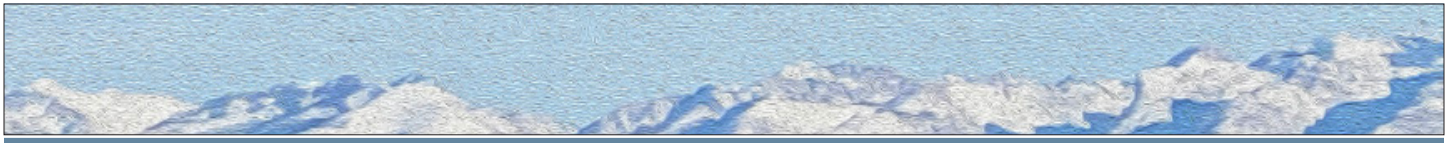
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From the President

Summer adventures and opportunities abound

Hot Hole Interpretive Panels— This past winter, someone backed into or drove into the interpretive panels at the Elko Hot Hole. These panels were installed last year to tell the stories of the emigrants who camped at this location and to talk about the local geology. Kevin Lee has obtained a quote to repair the supports for the panels and the repair work will soon be underway.

MET Mapping on the Greenhorn Cutoff was a tremendous success in early June. Under the leadership of Dick Waugh and Dave Loera from the California Nevada Chapter of OCTA, several members of the Alliance and other interested parties spent three days in the field tracing the route of the emigrants along the Greenhorn Cutoff. This route which leaves the main Humboldt Valley about ten miles west of Elko traverses sloping hillsides and a convoluted series of canyons of varying widths when they feared or learned that the water level was too high in the Humboldt. Thousands chose this route to minimize crossing the river if the water was too high. More than 100 artifacts were discovered through OCTA's MET Mapping process. Many were definitive artifacts from the emigrant wagons and oxen. This included a lynch pin, ox shoes, a wagon wheel hub, wagon wheel bearings, forks, a spoon, leaded cans, square nails and

many other items. Many of the artifacts were discovered along a slight trail trace identified by Don Buck but which was highly visible on a Lidar image. More research is needed to confirm if the image visible on Lidar was the primary trail used by the emigrants in this area.

The BLM Field Work Authorization request to MET Map along the Hastings Cutoff in eastern Nevada is still under review. The local office has received comments from the National Park Service but none from the State Historic Preservation Office. These comments, when all are received will have to be handled by the BLM's NV State Office in Reno since the Elko Office has no archaeologists at the present time.

The premier of the "Preserving Gravelly Ford" virtual tour has been shown at spring events in Carson City and Elko. It was also featured at the OCTA Spring symposium and at Trail Days in Elko, NV in June. It will be available on DVD in the near future. The video has received very positive reviews and plaudits for its content and message. We are fortunate that John Winner and Leah Brady were such eloquent speakers about the trail history and preservation and the Native American perspective.

Work on final transfer of the Gravelly Ford Conservation Easement from Nevada Gold Mines to

the Nevada Land Trust is in the final stages of title review and title transfer.

The annual Trail Days at the California Trail Interpretive Center was a wonderful event. Several board members took advantage of the re-enactors and presenters to learn more about the California Trail. Helen Hankins volunteered for both days at the Shoshone Camp where she talked about tools, weapons, cooking and shelters used by the Shoshone during the emigrant period.

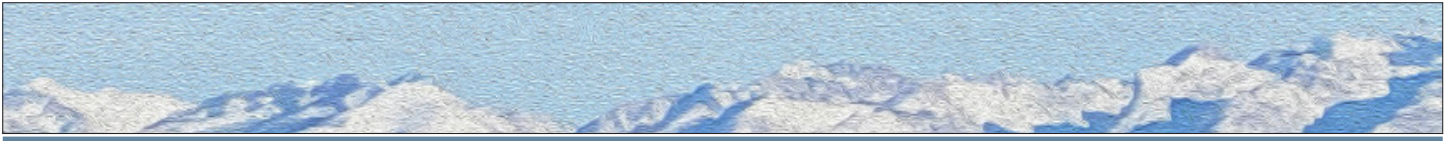
In early April, President Helen Hankins attended the Elko County Commission meeting to support Elko County submission of an NDOT Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant for a feasibility study for a regional bicycle path from Carlin to Lamoille. On June 21, CTHA partnered with the Elko Trail System Initiative, the NV Outdoor School and the California Trail Interpretive Center to host a Family Bike Ride. The event began and ended at the Trail Center. Amanda Halsey gave a brief overview of the California Trail at the beginning of the event. It was well attended and more community rides will be scheduled in the coming months to continue to foster interest and support in the regional bicycle multi use path.

Dave Sexton, Paul Brownlee, Thomas Valencia and Curtis Calder have been successful in accomplishing the work of the Marketing Committee.



**Helen Hankins,
President**

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DIGGING INTO HISTORY

MET Mapping the Greenhorn Cutoff

By Helen Hankins

In the last twenty years, several OCTA members including Dick Waugh, Helen Hankins, Dave Fullerton and Mike Mauser have hiked the Greenhorn Cutoff between the G1 and G3 Trails West Markers. The distance between G1 and G2 is 4-5 miles. Some Carsonite posts have been placed along this section of the trail. Many were reset in 2021 before the OCTA convention.

Don Buck, a premier OCTA mapper, mapped the Greenhorn Cutoff in the 1970s by using only diaries, topographic maps, and his in-depth understanding of where wagons would and could go and were likely to go. Based on this he plotted the emigrants' route up a certain canyon, which modern mappers have come to question. This route is visible on a Lidar image but there is another route through a different canyon that appears to stand out more boldly on the image.

The objective of the June 5-7 MET Mapping trip was to actually verify the location of the Greenhorn using metal detectors and OCTA's standard MET Mapping techniques. The intent was to map the area identified by Don Buck as the most likely route and to map the area which showed up so prominently on the Lidar. Both were accomplished.



Courtesy photo

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Dave Sexton with a wagon part he recovered along the Greenhorn Cutoff on June 5.



Talks of a new permanent exhibit at CTIC

By Steven Hrdlicka

Dialogue between a representative of the Western Shoshone and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) began on Friday, May 19. The opening of this dialogue is significant because of the tensions between the BLM and Western Shoshone (both in recent years and historically speaking, going back to the creation of the BLM in 1946).

Tom Valencia, BLM Supervisory Park Ranger of the California Trail Interpretive Center, and Mary Gibson, Executive Director of Noowuh Knowledge Center, met to discuss a potential permanent exhibit at the California Trail Interpretive Center (CTIC). The Noowuh (Shoshone) Knowledge Center is a cultural and educational nonprofit organization in Elko. More information about Noowuh K.C. can be found at <https://www.noowuhkc.org/> The exhibit will aim to acquaint visitors to the CTIC with the Ruby Valley Treaty.

This year marks the 160th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty at Fort Ruby, which is a vital aspect of both Western Shoshone history and Trail History in Nevada.

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Explore Elko Website: [Native American History in Elko](https://exploreelko.com/things-to-do/culture/native-american-history/)
<https://exploreelko.com/things-to-do/culture/native-american-history/>



Photo by Larry Burton, AIANTA

Monument for the Ruby Valley Treaty on Harrison Pass.

The Treaty of Ruby Valley

(The text on the plaque concerning the Treaty reads:) In the early 1800s the Western Shoshone people were conducting raids against American settlers traveling along the Humboldt River and the Overland Trail. The Federal Government established Fort Ruby to provide security for the settlers against the native peoples. The United States negotiated treaties with the Shoshone with the intent to secure gold sources in the west to prosecute the Civil War. The Chiefs would allow free passage of Americans along the routes through Shoshone country, establishment of US military posts and rest stations for travelers and maintaining rail lines and other services and mining in the area. The Western Shoshone agreed to become ranchers or farmers on Reservations that would be assigned to them when the President "deemed it expedient." In exchange the Shoshone would receive twenty annual payments worth \$5,000 in the form of cattle and other goods. The initial payment was the only one ever made.

Though the Treaty gave rights of passage to the settlers, the Western Shoshone never agreed to becoming part of the United States. They have never ceded rights to the land and have taken legal action to stop Federal and State actions to govern their lands. There are several ongoing lawsuits attempting to establish Tribal sovereignty to this day. The Treaty of Ruby Valley has been the primary document cited guaranteeing Tribal ownership of disputed lands.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Community gathers to ride along historic trails

By Dean Straight

Being an avid cyclist for most of my life has always afforded me the opportunity to ride in different venues, locations, and with different people. That lifestyle has, more or less, always resulted in riding with people that were focused on going long distances as fast as possible.

When I had the opportunity to ride and volunteer for the California Trail Family Bike Ride, I did so knowing that this may be an opportunity to see what riding looked like in Elko.

I was absolutely stunned by the numbers of people that showed up in the middle of the week at 9 a.m. to ride from the California Trail Interpretive Center along the side road next to I-80.

Families and volunteers from the Elko Bike Alliance, Nevada Outdoor School, and California Trail Heritage Alliance, along with staff from the California Trail Interpretive Center all pitched in to provide an amazing learning experience.



Courtesy photos

Pictured here are just a handful of the members of the community and their families that came out to ride during the Family Bike Ride on June 21.

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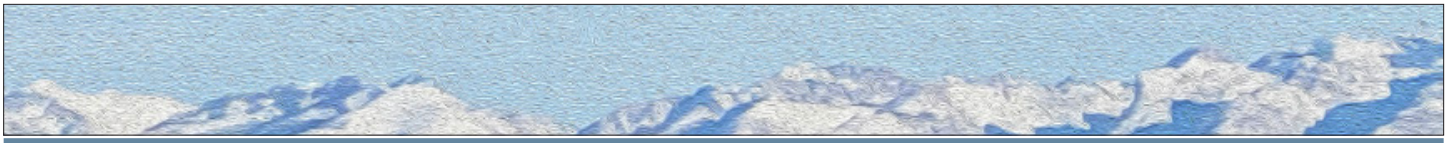
It is hoped that the exhibit can be introduced to coincide with the date of the signing of the Treaty on October 1.

In addition to this, the annual Ruby Valley Treaty Conference will be held this year at Great Basin College on September 29 through Oc-

tober 1. Please be sure to check the Humanities Center at GBC website for more information on speakers and sessions at <https://humanities.gbcnv.edu/>

The Ruby Valley treaty has been gaining attention recently. An impressive plaque which relates some of

the history of the Treaty was recently installed on Harrison Pass, overlooking Ruby Valley (see image) in 2021. A permanent Ruby Valley Treaty exhibit at the CTIC would represent a vital step towards the telling of a more comprehensive history of the California Trail in Nevada.



Programs and events at the California Trail Center

By Amanda Halsey

It's no secret that the Pandemic of 2020 changed our society in many ways. No one was exempt from the far-reaching effects of social distancing, closures, and isolation. Since then, it has been a scar on our community that heals more and more with the passage of time. However, the so called "new normal" has been an adjustment for many businesses, artists, travelers, and so on. The California Trail Interpretive Center is no exception. We have had a drastic drop in numbers regarding visitation and community participation. I have now been employed here for a little over a year and have heard countless times by travelers, "We came by before, but you were closed".

The pandemic closed our doors from March 2020 to April 2021. This was a blow that would take us a long time to recover from. I remember my very first program, I wanted to read a bit of "Patty Reed's Doll" by Rachel K. Laurgaard and make clothes pin dolls with the public. Three people showed up to this program. I was pleased with the success. A year later I have grown in my interpretation skills, I have learned how to advertise, and what the public is most interested in and am happy to report that the latest program I lead brought out 50 participants nearly reaching the capacity of our humble South Fork Room. These drastic changes in numbers are thanks in part to the healing we have all had to do since the time of the worldwide shutdowns, as well as to the growing staff here at the Trail Center. We have



Courtesy photo

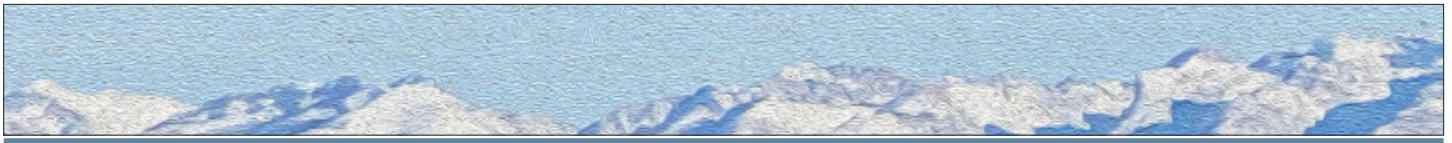
Members of the state and community meet to discuss the steps needed to advance planning for a multi-use trail connecting the California Trail interpretive Center and Elko.

learned how to adjust to the changes that the pandemic brought but also how to make those changes work for us. The staff here at the center are some of the most creative, passionate, and enthusiastic people I have ever had the pleasure of working with.

We are now entering the dog days of summer 2023 and things are starting to look like they were before the world changed, but perhaps even better. Our visitation is rising each month, the public is reaching out to us with interest, not wanting to miss out on the next free event. We are building engagement opportunities that have never been done in Elko before. Some of our upcoming programs include a Perseid meteor shower viewing party, hand crank "pioneer ice cream", the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, as well as youth summer day camps run by our affiliates, Nevada Outdoor Schools.

Outside of these exciting events we are also working diligently to reach those who are still unable to travel to us by using our social media platforms. As of late we have been working on a few series titled Memoir Mondays, Wilderness Wednesdays, and Frontier Fridays. We use these themes to write short and interesting posts that help keep our history and culture alive as well as hopefully igniting an interest in our story and our center.

Watching and being a part of the center adapting, growing, and overcoming obstacles this past year has truly been a fulfilling experience for me. Therefore, I would like to extend a hand to you. If you are interested in seeing our passionate staff, experiencing our unique programming, or even volunteering your time and skills, come on out to the California Trail Interpretive Center and see what all we have to offer.



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Photo by Paul Gregory.

The blacksmithing station, Trail Days, 2023.

Inside the Trail Center, attendees could catch a talk on the “Anatomy of a Wagon” by Frank Torrich, member of the California-Nevada chapter of OCTA, as well as view a documentary on Gravelly Ford substantially made possible by John Winner (also of the CA-NV chapter of OCTA).

Visitors could also participate in sewing as the pioneers did, as well as watch Shoshone basket weaver Leah Brady practice the ancient craft of weaving willow into beautiful (and functional) artistic creations.

Interpretive volunteers stationed at a table in the CTIC plaza greeted everyone as they arrived to the Trail Days event. After receiving a schedule of events, visitors would typically begin their walk through the stations to the south of the greeting table, where a set of steps lead down from the plaza and onto the land. Here visitors encountered a Shoshone Village.

This year I spent lots of time in the Shoshone Village for two reasons.

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CITY OF ROCKS

Idaho OCTA hosts spring outing

By Helen Hankins

2.5-billion-year-old Greens Creek granite, carved into spires, cliffs, arches and other features through eons of geologic processes, served as the perfect backdrop for Idaho OCTA's 2023 spring outing to the City of Rocks. More than 25 trail lovers joined Idaho OCTA president Jerry Eichhorst in the City of Rocks to learn more about the fascinating trail history of this part of Cassia County.

Bands of Shoshone, Bannock and Paiute roamed this area for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans. Trappers investigated the area in the early 19th century. Emigrants, heading west in the 1840s followed trails used by both Indians and trappers.

Emigrants traveling on the California Trail would generally "noon" or camp on Circle Creek in the City of Rocks. Bernard J. Reid shared his impressions of the area in August 1849:

"Another 2 miles enter a rocky dell 4 miles long by a winding road running among the most grotesque rocks standing out single in the valley, or grouped fantastically together. There were sphynxes and statues of every size, and haystacks and wigwams and castles, and towers, and pyramids and cones and projecting turrets and canopies, and leaning

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Photos by Helen Hankins

Above: Rock wall with inscriptions of emigrants. Below: An interpretive sign about the pictographs at Castle Rock State Park.

Castle Rocks State Park Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Pictographs - a form of communication

Images on rock or rock art were produced by many cultures worldwide. Petroglyphs are pecked or incised into the rock and pictographs are painted. Both types are found in this region, displaying images of animals, people, geometric designs, and natural features.

Pictographs can serve a variety of purposes. They are visual reminders of events or serve to transmit information about the environment. These images may be communication between human(s) and the supernatural or between two or more people.

Perhaps the images here were created during a healing ceremony, a vision quest, or a prayer to the creator, to spirit helper, or to hunted animals. They might be symbols or a sign-marking the way, reminders of a vision and not meaningful to any other individual.

These pictographs were identified in 2003 by a park ranger and have been professionally documented. This documentation included the photographs below, taken with polarized light to capture pigment not visible to the unaided eye. Still unknown are the originator(s), age of the images, and the material used to paint the rock.

Can you find the designs in the photographs on the rock?

Thank you for helping us preserve these rare reminders of ancient human history by staying behind the fence and not touching the rock.



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The first reason is that I completely missed this part of Trail Days last year. The second is because I wanted to know more about hot-rock cooking, a process of cooking with rocks in baskets and underground.

In the center of the village, a fire was burning, and in the fire sat a number of baseball-sized rocks. The rocks reach incredible temperatures in the fire to provide plenty of heat for cooking. Volunteers demonstrated basket cooking by dropping the hot rocks into baskets full of water, which immediately caused the water to boil. It was quite a sight. The rocks (typically basalt rocks) could be used in this fashion for around 10-12 boils. Quartzite rocks only last for about 2-3 boils.

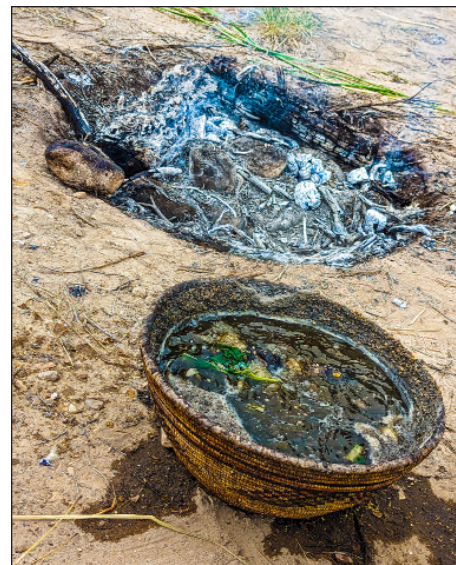
Meanwhile, cactus was also being de-spined and roasted. I tried a bit of this roasted cactus and received a prickly sensation in my throat. Like spiny aloe going down, the cactus has a neutral flavor.

Aside from being used to boil water in baskets, the heated rocks make earth-oven cooking underground possible. The process is efficient, and leads to very tender results! Like a Hawaiian *imu*, a pit is dug out of the ground and firewood is placed into the pit and lit. Rocks are then piled onto the fire and heated like described above. Once the rocks are up to temperature, the fire is extinguished and the pit is lined with grass. Food (meat, vegetables like onions, dough for cakes or biscuits, etc.) is placed on top of the grass, and then more vegetation is



Photos by Paul Gregory

Above: Visitors spend time at the Shoshone Village. Below: Photo of a basket used in hot-rock cooking, and an exposed earth oven.



piled on top of the food. Lastly, the whole thing is covered back up with dirt. Earth-oven cooking was commonly used for many years, since,

as Tim Murphy observed, the advent of pottery only came to the area 1,200-1,400 years ago.

Helen Hankins and Tim Murphy volunteered at the Shoshone Village during the event. Murphy, a retired local archaeologist with the BLM, demonstrated these cooking techniques to visitors and talked about the cooking process and Shoshone culture in general. Murphy, a familiar face in Trail Days events, participated in Trail Days back even before the CTIC had been established. He and Louis Whitney (a Shoshone Elder) built the first Shoshone Camp at the CTIC 15 years ago.

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It was located up against the hill to the southwest of where the Trail Center currently resides (where the Axe Throwing and Archery stations are now set up). This location is less exposed and most likely where actual camps would have been found.

Murphy also spoke at length about the construction and use of wikiups as well as other kinds of wind-break sun shades. Constructing a wikiup begins by clearing a suitable ground space and gathering willow branches, which grow along the nearby Humboldt. The branches are then trimmed and joined into a pattern forming a dome. The frame is then thatched with sagebrush. The wikiups provide lots of shade as well as allow for a cool breeze as they do not completely block the wind.

Moving on from the Shoshone Village, I spent some moments talking to James, a participant in Trail Days who represented the Department of Forestry. The Forestry Station featured all sorts of saws from various time periods as well as other kinds of equipment emigrants likely carried on their wagons, such as manual drills. James shared his knowledge by teaching the basics about saws. Honestly, I had no idea just how much there is to saws. In a nutshell, there are two basic kinds of wood cuts: cross cutting and rip cutting (or in other words: cutting across the grain or with the grain) as well as various tooth styles and saw types. Common tooth styles include the Lance



Photo by Paul Gregory

Jeff More, Tim Murphy, and Helen Hankins pictured standing in front of a wikiup frame in the Shoshone Villiage station.

tooth, Champion tooth, and Perforated Lance tooth.

Having wandered around some more outside among the droves of children seeking to earn their Jr. Ranger Badges at various booths

set up for the purpose, I headed inside the Trail Center and found the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) ta-

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ble set up in the Great Basin Room.

There Larry Burton provided background on how AIANTA is partnering with the BLM to draw tourist attention to Native American sites of interest (for information on AIANTA, see: <https://www.aianta.org/blm-and-aianta-partner-to-promote-nevada-tribes-along-the-california-national-historic-trail/>)

In addition, Burton spoke about some of the history and controversy surrounding the Ruby Valley Treaty and gave visitors directions for how to get to Fort Ruby from Harrison Pass.

Next to the AIANTA station, Leah Brady worked with a small piece of willow about the size of a silver dollar. Brady, a local Shoshone basket weaver, was just starting to make a new basket when I arrived. When asked about the process of basket weaving, Brady replied, “it starts small.” I find there to be a lot of wisdom within this short statement, wisdom that speaks even beyond basket weaving. In any event, the intricate weaving work was mesmerizing to watch, and quite peaceful.

The process of weaving baskets begins with slender willow pieces, which I learned are increasingly difficult to find in the area (most willow has become “trash willow,” according to Brady). Restrictions upon the regular gathering of willow along the Humboldt has adversely impacted the quality of the willow in the area.



Photo by Paul Gregory

Two U.S. Forestry participants demonstrate how to successfully make a crosscut using a two-person Lance tooth saw.

The slender pieces are prepared for basket weaving by being split into three strands. The core is then removed, as is the skin, though the skin can be left on for certain kinds of uses (like for weaving bird traps).

Next, the willow is soaked to be made pliable so it can be twisted into a weave. This twisting technique differs from the over-and-under type of weave common in other Na-

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tions. Baskets can be waterproofed with pinyon pitch.

In addition, I learned about tule, which is also known as bulrush and can be found abundantly in Ruby Valley. Brady, who referred to bulrush by its Shoshone name *saiippe*, said that although this thicker branch does not form as tight of a weave, it is quite strong and very water resistant.

The Western Shoshone often used *saiippe* to construct boats, homes, and fishing rods. Lastly, we all spoke a little bit about environmental concerns and the shrinking population of pinyon pines. The pine nut was a staple for the Western Shoshone, until mass deforestation and restrictions became increasingly common.

The impressive list of partners who participated to make Trail Days a success this year includes the American Indian Alaskan Native Tourism Association (AIANTA), Stewart Indian School, US Forest Service (USFA), Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Trails West, Oregon California Trail Association, Ruby Mountain Fiber Folks, The Cowboy Arts and Gear Museum, Northeastern Nevada Museum, and the Owyhee Combined School.

If you have not had a chance to visit the CTIC for Trail Days, you should definitely put it on your calendar for next year!



Photos by Paul Gregory

Visitors learn about the culture and tools associated with the California Trail emigrants.





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columns, and so on throughout a thousand varieties of fantastic shapes.”

Some of these emigrants used axle grease to leave their names on the rocks. Many names have disappeared due to weathering but many remain for visitors to interpret.

In recent years, Idaho OCTA has conducted several trips to the City of Rocks. Based on the review of diaries, maps, and countless days walking the traces of the trail, a few sites were identified as potential grave sites of emigrants.

In 2022, cadaver dogs confirmed the presence of organic material at these locations. A primary objective of the 2023 trip was to undertake careful testing of two of the locations under the supervision of an archaeologist. Initially, a rectangular site was established using twine and steel corner pins. The elevation was determined and measurements from the level to the ground surface were taken. Initial excavation efforts removed dirt a few centimeters resulting in a flat surface parallel to the plane of the twine. Subsequent excavations were completed at the rate of 10 cm each. At the point 10 cm was excavated, the site was photographed. All materials from the excavation were screened for any evidence of any artifacts or remains. Excavation stopped at a point near bedrock. No remains or artifacts were found in either of the two.

While the excavations were ongoing, OCTA members had the opportunity to visit Pinnacle Pass. Because this area is on private land and



Courtesy photo

Members of the Idaho OCTA explore a region along the emigrant trails.

not always available for OCTA site visits, it was a special treat. The pass is through granite cliffs and boulders and is barely passable with a wagon. Gouges from the iron covered wagon wheels can be seen in the granite along with rust stains .

Dr. John Hudson Wayman reported July 12, 1852 that: “This City is walled in on every side with towering granite mountains, some peaks shooting athwart the sky like towering domes. While hundreds of piles, peaks, steeples and domes, of all shapes possible in the distance looking like an old dilapidated City”.

On Friday, the group visited Register Rock, one of the 22 sites in the area specifically protected because of the emigrant signatures. The group also went to the site of a cave discovered by a park employee last year to try and determine if it was Sarcophagus

Cave, drawn by J. Goldsborough Bruff when he was at City of Rocks between 1849-51. Although many opinions about the cave being the same one that he depicted were offered, no hard conclusion was reached.

Part of the group visited Castle Rock State Park and enjoyed an interesting interpretive trail about the volcanic and metamorphic history of City of Rocks. One of the interpretive signs showed how special photography using a variety of filters could depict native American pictographs that are no longer visible to the naked eye. Similar photography of emigrant inscriptions is ongoing in the City of Rocks National Preserve.

Yet again, Idaho OCTA has shared an important part of the history of the California Trail and enhanced and enriched this part of American history for us all.



MAPPING continued from Page 3

Right: A photo of a hand-forged wheel hub ring recovered by mappers on June 6.



Given that no artifacts were discovered in the canyon Don Buck mapped, and tens of artifacts were found in the canyon prominent on the Lidar image about a mile away, it appears that the latter was the way that most if not all of the emigrants went. More research needs to be done in local records to see if the history of the canyon can be determined. More field work will also be required before this hypothesis can be appropriately verified.

Overall, the MET Mapping expedition over the three days was a huge success. Several ox shoes were discovered, as were many other wagon parts like parts of axles, square nails, lynch pins, and wheel hubs. Other artifacts such as period silverware, barrel hoops, and leaded cans were also recovered for a grand total exceeding 100 artifacts.

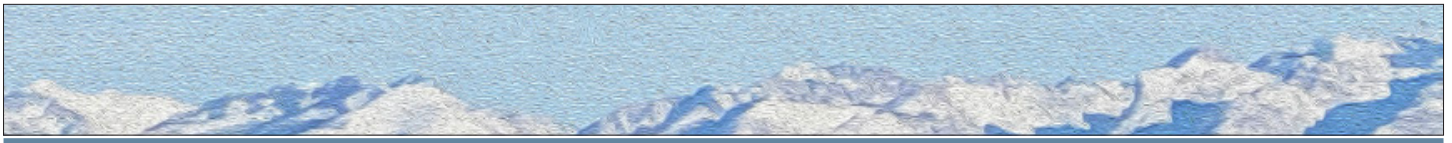
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Please send all news items and articles to Steven.Hrdlicka@gbcnv.edu The deadline for fall issue submissions is September 15.

California Trail Center partnerships on the web

- www.facebook.com/pages/California-Trail-Center-Foundation/157116030992463
- <http://www.californiatrailcenter.org/>
- www.emigranttrailswest.org
- www.octa-trails.org www.appl.org
- www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_programs/blm_special_areas/



OCTA continued from Page 1

She also worked internally with BLM staff and contractors in the design and construction of the center and its exhibits.

Subsequent to her retirement in 2013, Helen has served as the President of the California Trail Heritage Alliance (CTHA) which was originally established by the founders of the Trail Center to continue advocacy and support of it. In this role, Helen has worked with an outstanding Board of Directors which includes many OCTA members on education and trail preservation projects.

She has obtained permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the BLM Nevada State Office for MET mapping on the Hastings Cutoff. Helen and her husband Mike Mauer have participated on several MET

mapping crews in recent years. She has overseen efforts to obtain marketing grants for the Trail Center which have totaled nearly a half million dollars in the last ten years.

Other grants submitted during her presidency have supported the purchase of five educational trunks containing replica pioneer tools and clothing for use in northern Nevada classrooms and at the Trail Center. Additionally, infrastructure grants have been obtained to increase lighting in the Trail Center plaza and to install safety fencing and interpretive panels at the Elko

Hot Hole. The latter was a favorite nooning stop for the emigrants. Helen has volunteered hundreds of hours at the Trail Center presenting programs to children and adults and has been a long-time participant at the annu-

al Trail Days and Pioneer Christmas activities. She has provided support to John Winner and OCTA in the effort to establish a Conservation Easement at Gravelly Ford and part of the California Trail near Beowawe and to see the completion of a virtual tour. Most recently, CTHA has worked cooperatively with the City of Elko and the National Park Service to place directional signs for motorists pointing the way to the Hot Hole.

Helen co-chaired the successful OCTA convention in Elko with Duane Jones, in 2021 which included multiple bus tours, a hike on the Greenhorn, private vehicle tours, and many outstanding speakers. Helen has served on the OCTA national board since 2018 and is a lifetime member of OCTA and member of the Legacy Society.

In her 42-year career with the BLM, Helen worked as a geologist and later as a manager and leader in several western states, Alaska and Washington D.C. She retired from the BLM in 2013 after serving as the BLM Colorado State Director.

Helen, and her husband, Mike, who now reside near Elko, Nevada, have hosted 11 Rotary Youth Exchange students and raised two dogs and many cats. In addition to OCTA, Rotary and Toastmasters, Helen is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

SUMMER continued from Page 2

A grant from the Elko County Recreation Board for \$60,500 was approved. A grant for an additional \$14,500 from Travel Nevada is pending review. Final documents for the 2022-23 Travel NV grants have been submitted to the state. Curtis has obtained \$5,000 in funds from the City of Elko.

Marlene Goddard, Helen

Hankins, Curtis Calder and Dave Sexton have been working with Wells Fargo Bank since early June to complete the required paperwork which will authorize Curtis to handle CTHA's financial transactions with the bank. We sincerely appreciate all of Marlene's hard work over the last six years as our treasurer – she has been an invaluable asset.

Since the last Wagon Tongue, Nicholas La Palm has joined the CTHA Board. Nicholas was working at the California Trail Interpretive Center as the NV Outdoor School historian and interpreter. After taking a position with the Friends of the Black Rock, Nicholas has relocated to Reno and has agreed to serve on the CTHA Board.



CTHA Membership Application

Join your friends and neighbors and become a supporter of the California Trail Interpretive Center. Every membership supports the California Trail Interpretive Center and Trail preservation. When you join other enthusiasts to become a member, or renew your membership, you directly support interpretation, education, and special events at the California Trail Interpretive Center, and help preserve the Trail and its history for the benefit of current and future generations.



Annual Memberships: ____New ____Renewal
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/ST/Zip: _____
 Email: _____

All members receive the informative electronic newsletter, electronic updates about special events and activities and a 10% discount at the California Trail Interpretive Center store. Invitations to one or more special events are extended to the Supporter membership levels and above.

Level	Individual	Family	Supporter	Partner	Lifetime
Special Events			1	2	3
Cost	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$200

*Special Events may include presentations, workshops, tours, exhibit previews or other activities. Individuals who choose to make a donation equal to or greater than \$250 will receive recognition, if desired, on the Donor Wall in the California Trail Interpretive Center.

PAYMENT: ____Check __Visa __MC __ Amount \$ _____
 Card No. _____ Exp. ____/_____
 Date _____ Signature _____

Make Check Payable to:
 California Trail Heritage Alliance, P.O. Box 1778, Elko NV 89803



Want to donate?

In addition to becoming a member of the California Trail Heritage Alliance, individuals or businesses may also make a donation to the California Trail Heritage Alliance.

For donations greater than \$250, the donor can choose to be publicly recognized on the donor wall at the California Trail Interpretive Center.

Recognition levels are as follows:

California Trail Interpretive Center Donor Wall recognition levels

Level name	Donation amount
Pioneer	\$250 to \$499.99
Trail Blazer	\$500 to \$2,499.99
Wagon Master	\$2,500 to \$4,999.99
Empire Building	\$5,000 or greater

Contact information

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