

# Visitors Guide

**McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park • Lassen Volcanic National Park  
Thousand Lakes Wilderness • Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway • North State Waterfalls  
Modoc County isn't at the End of the Road, but Rather the Beginning  
ALL THIS & MORE THROUGHOUT NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA  
Shasta County • Lassen County • Modoc County & Places Beyond**

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# Burney Falls State Park more popular than ever

**M**arlon Sloan, a park interpretive specialist at the McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, has some advice when coming to visit the majestic Burney Falls and surrounding area.

“Come midweek or show up early if you’re coming on the weekend and have a Plan B or C,” he said.

When the coronavirus pandemic shut down normal, everyday life in 2020, people began to look for outlets. With no movies, dining and other indoor activities, a wave of people looked outdoors to find adventure and escape the house – including some who had never ventured on a trail, to a park or in the wilderness.

The park recorded its largest attendance ever two years ago with more than 350,000 visitors passing through the main gate. Last year, even with nearby forest fires in August making for smoked-filled skies, the still had its second largest recorded visitation of more than 300,000. Prior to the record being set in 2020, attendance totaled around 250,000 a year with most of those visiting between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

On this year’s Memorial Day weekend, the park was at capacity yet vehicles could be seen parked on both sides of Highway 89 for more than a mile in either direction of the park entrance.

The congestion doesn’t make for safe conditions as the highway speed limit along that stretch



Highway Photos / The Intermountain News

**Motorists ignore the No Parking signs along Highway 89 leading to the state park entrance. Photo above is looking north while the inset photo is a view looking south along the highway during a summer weekend.**

is 65 mph with little or no shoulder available for walking.

For those visiting this year, Sloan has outlined some of the things to watch for.

**TRAIL CLOSURES** – The trails going downstream from Rainbow Bridge are still closed due to unsafe conditions and erosion. These include the PSEA trail on the West side and the Creek Trail on the East side of the creek.

If you want to walk down to the lake you can still take the Rim trail off the Rim Camp Road just

north of the Falls Parking lot. The trail is a moderate 1.5 miles through pine forest before joining up with the safer portions of the Creek Trail.

**CLEAN-UPS** – The Pioneer Cemetery and the road to it has been struck hard with pine beetle infestation and many of the Ponderosa Pines have not survived and made the road and surrounding areas looking less than its best.

But we’ve invested quite a bit of time removing much of the downed wood as well as cleaning

–Continued on Page 4

# Fishing all year at McArthur-Burney Falls

—From Page 3

and trimming the vegetation at the cemetery itself, making the experience of walking there much more pleasant as the forest gives way to open oak woodland while the infestation runs its course.

When the pine beetles move on to greener pastures, the pine trees will come back just as they have for millions of years in this cycle of ecological succession. On the trail is the hike and bike camp for Pacific Crest Trail hikers as well as the only wildflower meadow in the park that is active during wet springtime. Look for the tree hollowed out by lightning on the first half of the trail.

**ONLINE** — The pandemic curtailed our in-person interpretation presence these past couple of years and we hope to start up many of our programs again this year. In the meantime guests and fans can find our presence online at our Facebook and YouTube sites (look for the full name as well as the hyphen) as well as through the parks web-

site [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).

## NO MORE FISHING SEASON AT BURNEY FALLS!

The rules changed last year to allow fishing above and below the falls year-round. Below the falls the regulations are year-round: Barbed hooks only, no bait — artificial lures only, and always catch and release.

Above the falls the same regulations are in place for part of the year but from the last Saturday in April until the 15th of November, California Fish and Wildlife starts stocking the creek above the falls with planter trout and those fishing above the falls can use regular hooks with regular bait (no live fin bait), catch and keep 5 fish per day.

Down at Lake Britton the rules are unchanged, year-round fishing for warm water fish, small-mouthed bass, crappie, bluegill, etc. All those above the age of 16 must have a valid fishing license to fish anywhere in California.

Come to the Visitor Center and add your

thoughts and names to our Guest-to-Guest binder for everyone to see and share. The store inside the park is open and plans call for popular activities like the Saturday campfire program, including the Dutch oven cooking, to return.

"We hope to have Heritage Day in fall," he said of the October celebration. "It's free with a lot of wonderful activities."

Located near the park entrance, the Visitor Center is typically open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays through Mondays. From May through Labor Day, the center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays. A 17-minute park orientation video regularly plays in the Visitor Center theater. Additionally, the exhibit area allows visitors to learn about and experience the region's nature, ecology, history, geology and culture. Souvenirs of local artists and crafters are available to remember your visit.

Once inside the park, visitors can explore not just the crown jewel of the park — Burney Falls — but multiple trails and Lake Britton to the north via the Rim Trail.

"A lot of people miss Lake Britton," he said. "A couple miles down the road it's like a whole different park with fishing, camping, canoeing on a beautiful serene lake."

Canoe tours are scheduled to return as guests tour Burney Creek Cove to learn the park's history, visit geological formations and watch the varied wildlife in their natural habitat.

In addition, a fleet of watercraft is available for rent in the park, including canoes, fishing boats, party barge, kayaks and paddle boats, a service especially handy for enjoyment of Lake Britton. For those who want to wet a line, Lake Britton's varied catches include brown, brook, and rainbow trout, catfish, bluegill and crappie.

And while you explore both Burney Falls and Lake Britton, you can also extend your hike along the world-famous Pacific Crest Trail, which cuts through the park. PCT thru-hikers can be seen throughout the park, resting and refueling before continuing on their trek north to the Washington/Canadian border or traveling south to the California/Mexican border.

"The PCT hikers are always super friendly and interesting," he said, adding jokingly that those interested in talking to them should stand upwind.

And what should happen if you get to the park and the "full" sign is up?

"You can go to Burney, shop or have a meal. Subway Cave (underground lava tube) is a half hour south," he said. "There's Fall River Mills and places like Fort Crook Museum to visit before you come back." And while the policy of limiting visitors might be disappointing, Sloan said the purpose is to keep the park pristine for future generations.

"The more people that come the greater our vigilance has to be — after all, our resources are natural," he said.

## PARK HISTORY

The Mount Shasta Power and Water Company and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) purchased land along the watershed in the Fall River Valley to control water rights in the early 1900s, including significant land from the ranching McArthur family.

—Continued on Page 6



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McArthur Burney Falls Memorial State Park is one of the more than 270 park units encompassing 1.4 million acres of land managed by California State Parks. Also included are more than 280 miles of coastline, 625 miles of lake and river frontage, nearly 15,000 campsites and 3,000 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails. McArthur Burney Falls consists of 611 acres of land under direct ownership, 74 acres under a use agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and 225 acres leased from Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

# Park is one of the oldest in the system

–From Page 4

Fearing that Burney Creek could be next for hydroelectric development, Scott McArthur acted to purchase the 160 acres surrounding Burney Falls. He transferred the land to his brother and sister-in-law, Frank and Ethel McArthur. They in turn gifted the property to the State of California in memory of their parents, John and Catherine McArthur, for one dollar in May 1920.

The state of California had no procedure for accepting land donated for recreation with restrictions. Frank McArthur kept travelling to the capital to bring the gift to the attention of the legislature. In 1922, finally, the property was transferred to the

Division of Forestry. No further action was taken until a fire burned through the property in 1924.

Finally, thanks to continued advocacy by Frank, a custodian, local John ‘Jack’ Allen, was assigned to manage the area and the park was first named McArthur Memorial Park.

## THE FALLS

Burney Falls remains the main attraction of the park, cascading down the 129-foot face of the cliff into a 22-foot-deep pool. More than 100 million gallons of water flow over the falls daily, feeding Lake Britton to the north.

Designated a National Natural Landmark in 1984, Burney Falls is believed to have been called

the “Eighth Wonder of the World” by President Theodore Roosevelt.

The park has more to offer than the popular falls photography or hiking down to the base of the waterfall, with the trail to the bottom of the falls including displays and explanations of the surrounding forestry and geology.

This park is one of the oldest in the State Park system as mentioned earlier, dating back to 1920, when Frank McArthur gave 160 acres of land to the state in honor of his parents, John and Catherine McArthur.

Over the years the park has expanded to its present size of 565 acres.



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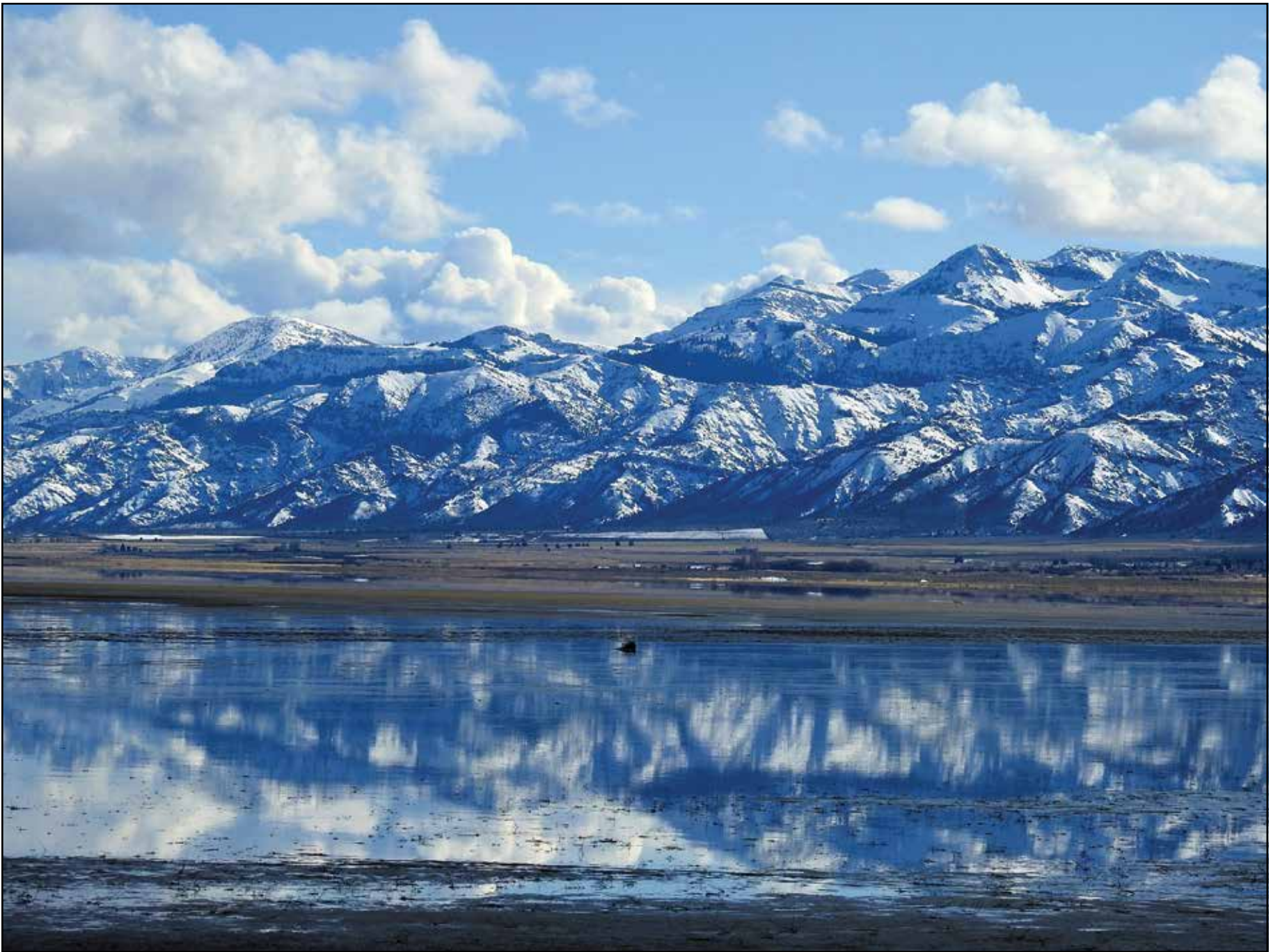
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The snow covered Warner Mountains taken from Surprise Valley looking west.

# Modoc County is not the end of the road, but rather the beginning

By JEAN BILODEAUX  
*Writer & Photographer*

Whereas cartoon strips or animation features may depict the end of a road as marked with a sign stating, "The End," there's no such sign at the end of Highway 299. But when the end is in sight a sign does warn travelers, "Next services 100 miles. Winter travel not advised."

A few miles later Highway 299 ends. Not wanting to drive on a gravel road for the next 70 miles, most tourists will turn around. Upon turning toward the west, Highway 299 then becomes the beginning, not the end. It's the beginning of discovery and adventure.

The first thing the visitor sees is the majes-

tic landscape they just drove through and most likely didn't notice. Snow covered peaks rise in an abrupt volcanic escarpment from the floor of a valley. Plumes of steam mark the locations of hot springs boiling to the surface. They are a reminder of the volcanic eruption that occurred here in the 1950s. It was a time when the area did not appear on California road maps. The Surprise Valley Hot Springs Resort is built around some of these springs and even comes with a private outdoor hot tub with each room.

Remnants of the Lassen-Applegate pioneer trail can be seen and walked just as they were in the 1800s. Herds of wild horses roam the east side of the valley. Three large lakes stretch the

50-mile length of the valley. Driving further west, green meadows and cattle share the land with elk, deer, antelope, big horn sheep, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, bears, eagles, and hawks. One can only imagine crossing into a time warp, into the past.

After spending days or weeks crossing the high deserts of northwestern Nevada, the pioneers were astounded to find this oasis nestled against a huge mountain range. It's no wonder that the settlers in covered wagons named the place Surprise Valley.

Nestled at the base of the mountains is the small town of Cedarville. A huge brick building domi-

*—Continued on next page*

# Traffic jams, but only for cattle drives

*—From previous page*

nates Main Street. It's a building that has seen 138 years of activity, once a trading post, a mercantile, and a meeting place. It has not changed, nor has it been 'beautified' to meet tourist or television expectations. It looks the same as it did in 1884.

Traffic jams occasionally occur, but only when herds of cattle are driven down Main Street. Children walk their cows or goats down the streets in preparation for the county fair. A pig may be seen herding some chickens through town. Cars slow down for the deer crossing Main Street and drive around the town dog napping in the middle of the road.

Driving north or south, streams flowing down the mountain sides are filled with trout and petrified wood, hiking trails abound. Near the village of Davis Creek are the obsidian mines. Once used by Native Americans to make their arrowheads and spears, the mines are now open to the general public to find the very rare rainbow obsidian.

Imagine a child stooping to pick up a black glassy rock only to see it start to glow in a myriad of brilliant colors. Or perhaps watch a rock hound chip an arrowhead. Permits to hunt for the beauti-

*—Continued on next page*



The Cressler Bonner building dominates Main Street in Cedarville, and remains the same as it was in 1884. Traffic jams never include cars. The elevator in the building still works after 138 years of use.

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Surprise Valley is a birder's paradise. A squadron of avocets are attacking a golden eagle that ventured into their territory. Bald and golden eagles, hawks, geese, snow geese, sandhill cranes are just a few of the species of birds that call the area home.

# Area has been designated as having one of the seven darkest skies in the world

—From previous page

ful rocks are free and may be obtained at the U.S. Forest Service offices in Cedarville or Alturas.

Although the county has the reputation of being a high desert area, the lands are filled with lakes, not only in the mountains but in the plateaus.

Whether hiking or riding horseback one can only stand in amazement at the edge of the turquoise waters of Patterson Lake, a cirque lake formed high in the Warner Mountains during glacial times. For those less venturesome, near by is Blue Lake that has vehicle access, picnic sites, and a dock. Other lakes dot the landscape, inviting fishermen to try their luck. A wildlife refuge harbors thousands of birds traveling the Pacific Flyway.

Snowboarding, downhill and cross-country skiing are winter sports enjoyed less than a mile from the highway. The hill is small but challenging. First time children skiers are outfitted and given lessons for free. Lines are practically non-existent. Cross-country skiers have miles of trails to enjoy. More can be learned about the ski hill by visiting Cedar Pass Snow Park on Facebook.

The adventures don't end at sunset. In 2019 the area was designated by the International Dark Sky

Association as having one of the seven darkest skies in the world. One visitor near the Massacre Rim Dark Sky Sanctuary pitched his tent near the beginning of Highway 299 and took a nap while waiting for the stars to appear.

"I woke up about 11 p.m., stepped out of my tent and became disoriented. Stars were everywhere, filling the sky, reflecting in lake waters, it was as if I'd been transported into another universe. Surrounded by starlight, at first I couldn't determine up from down. It was beautiful."

Each summer a Dark Skies Festival is held in and near Cedarville. Astronomers bring their telescopes to share, events and classes are held for all ages.

The more scientifically oriented astronomers and photographers from around the world gather to study the night sky at an event near Adin, a small community on Highway 299. A visitors night is held where the public is invited to attend. After all, how many places on earth can a 10-year-old child step down after looking through a giant telescope and announce to her school friends, "That is the most beautiful globular cluster I've ever seen. Take a look." Both professional and amateur

astronomers also stay at the Likely Place Golf and RV park where camp sites include telescope pads and an 18-hole golf course.

These are just a few of the activities and things to see at the end of the road. Limited space does not allow explanations of why the USGS, NASA, Mars Mission crews, geophysicists, geologists, historians, and archaeologists, both governmental and private also work at times in the area. Each has a story, each are on adventures, discovering more about their fields of study, about their world and beyond. Most are happy to share what they're doing with interested viewers.

Perhaps the most enlightening discovery for all who venture to the end of 299 is that the area is not really the end, but the beginning, the beginning of adventure and beauty in a land filled with intrigue and wonder.

This is not an area where there's lots of people, in fact in some places you may be the only person you'll see all day. A safety rule is to tell someone where you'll be going and when you expect to return. Take extra water, a blanket, and fuel your vehicle's tank, realize that many places do not have cell phone coverage.

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# Play safely while the water works

**Fish, boat and swim with a friend for safety.**

**Be aware of your surroundings.** Hydro operations can unexpectedly change water depth, flow speeds and temperatures. Know a path to higher ground.

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**For more information on PG&E water safety, visit [pge.com/safety](http://pge.com/safety).**



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Lassen Peak, in left photo, and the two peaks of Mt. Shasta and Shastina, in right photo, all visible on the Volcanic Scenic Legacy Byway.

# VOLCANIC LEGACY SCENIC BYWAY

## *Add this one to your road trip bucket list*

A showpiece of the American highway system, the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway slices a breathtaking path through Northern California and the Intermountain area.

Stretching from Carter Lake in Oregon to the shores of Lake Almanor, the Byway is a 500-mile sojourn that's wonderful to take in whole, but can also be divided into segments.

The southern-most portion of the Byway takes visitors around Lake Almanor and even guides travelers on a circuitous trip around the whole of Lassen Volcanic National Park. That portion offers sweeping views of pine forest, high-desert plateaus and unparalleled views of Lassen Peak and Mt. Shasta off in the distance.

### LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK

The Byway slices through the heart of Lassen park (check not only for weather conditions, but to ensure Highway 89 is passable as snow typically closes the road through the park from November through June or July).

Highlights along the way include the smoldering Sulphur pots of Bumpass Hell, the trail access to the Lassen Peak summit and the trailhead to King's Creek Falls.

The journey through the park can take a few hours or day, depending on whether you're up for a leisurely drive or interested in seeing everything the park has to offer.

Outside of Lassen Volcanic National Park, the Byway continues a nearly 70-mile journey from Old Station to McCloud.

One of the most serene stretches of the Volcanic Scenic Legacy Byway, the area along that portion offers stops along the way as well as an expanse of open road perfect for rolling the windows down and just listening to nature rush by.

### OLD STATION TO MC CLOUD

One of the most beautiful portions of the Byway is the 70-mile jaunt between Old Station and McCloud. Sparsely populated, the route is a remote drive through a California backcountry that's a perfect day trip or a multi-day adventure.

Lined on both sides by forest, the meandering road sees a smattering of traffic most days.

The first stop on the 70-mile trek would be to wet a line in Hat Creek, one of the country's best trout fly-fishing streams. Great campgrounds and vacation rentals can be had in and around Hat Creek and Old Station, the perfect jumping off point for a day of fly fishing.

Farther down Highway 89, just past the Highway 44 turnoff, is Subway Cave. The volcanic lava tube offers visitors a chance to trek through the one-third mile cave.

On a sweltering north state day, the Subway Cave also offers a respite from the heat as the cave is a constant 46 degrees, even in the summer months.

Don't forget to bring a flashlight and sturdy shoes to explore this marvel of nature.

The journey continues until Highway 89 intersects with Highway 299 near Burney.

This is the access to the Intermountain area of Fall River Mills, McArthur, Bieber and beyond.

It's also the way to The McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, home to the falls that President Theodore Roosevelt is said to have called the "Eighth Wonder of the World."

In addition to the splendor of Burney Falls, the Volcanic Byway also winds past Lake Britton and the bridge used in the 1980's Rob Reiner-directed film "Stand By Me."

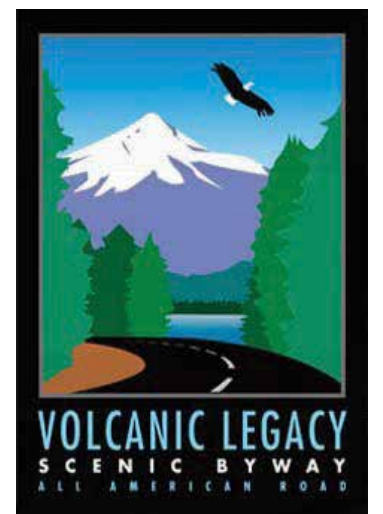
And as most of the stops along the Old Station-to-McCloud portion of the Volcanic Scenic Legacy Byway, the stops in the Burney/Fall River area could take hours or days to explore, depending on your timetable.

Back on the road heading to McCloud, don't blink or you'll pass the old logging town of Bartle, complete with the Bartle Lodge, a one-stop restaurant/bar. Stop in for a burger and conversation with the barkeep, a grizzled, but amiable guy named Rufus.

As you approach McCloud, there's a turnoff for McCloud Falls that's a perfect stopping point to see a trio of cascades. The popular Lower Falls is a heavily frequented swimming hole in the summer where the hearty jump from its edges into a chilly pool below. The Middle and Upper falls offer breathtaking views with easy access to both.

From McCloud, the Volcanic Scenic Legacy Byway winds up past Mount Shasta, through tiny towns on Highway 97, into Oregon with the terminus at Crater Lake.

And whether you have time for a portion or all of the Volcanic Scenic Legacy Byway, chance are you'll see something new – no matter how many times you've driven it.



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**Eiler Lake is one of seven major lakes in the Thousand Lakes Wilderness Area.**

# Crater Peak dominates Thousand Lakes Wilderness

**L**ocated within the southern portion of the Cascade Mountain Range is 16,335 acres of contrasting topography. Thousand Lakes Wilderness is midway between the town of Burney and Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Volcanic and glacial formations, rocky ravines, mountain slopes, open meadows, and stands of lodgepole pine and red fir define the Wilderness. It is dominated by 8,677 foot Crater Peak, the highest point on the Lassen National Forest, and is a reminder of the glacial action that eroded Thousand Lakes Volcano and created the many small lakes and ponds scattered throughout. The lowest point in the Wilderness occurs at the base of the volcano at 5,546 feet.

The seven major lakes that lie within the Wilderness valley contain trout. Several species of wildlife make their home in the Wilderness.

The more permanent residents are black-tailed deer, black bear, pika, pine marten, northern goshawk, spotted owl, pileated woodpecker, and Clark's nutcracker. Even elk have been known to visit occasionally.

Another critter worth mentioning is the mosquito. At times they are thick and hungry. It would be advisable to carry insect repellent in your pack. The summer use period is June 15 to Oct. 15, although early spring could open up the lower areas by Memorial Day.

Your experience will be enhanced and impacts lessened by avoiding weekends, holidays, and heavily used areas. Snowstorms can arrive unexpectedly and hypothermia is a concern anytime of the year.

## TRAIL ACCESS

Trail access is available at three trailheads; Tamarack, Bunchgrass and Cypress. Magee Trail is no longer maintained. Full detailed descriptions of trailhead access are available on a new topographic map.

There are smaller road junctions that are not mentioned on this map and new roads due to logging and private property in the area.

If in doubt, stay on the main road indicated and continue to watch for intersections at the mileages given. Road signs are not always present.

## PLANNING & PACKING

Things you might want to take along include waterproof matches, extra food, extra clothing, a

first-aid kit, flashlight, space blanket (a blanket made of light, heat reflective material), pocket knife, sunburn protection, insect repellent, toilet tissue, candle, compass, and maps.

Maps are the "street signs" of the Wilderness. Bring plenty of them. A topographical map is an essential backcountry orientating tool.

The elevation lines tell the story of the land and can give you a mental picture of the area.

If you become lost or disoriented, the best way to familiarize yourself with the lay of the land is to climb the nearest ridge or peak. Start by orienting your map to the north, by compass, and pinpointing your exact location.

From there continue on your planned course checking your map and compass regularly.

**Water Filter:** The crystal waters can be deceiving. They look clear, cold, and inviting but should never be taken for safe drinking water. Giardia is the hidden hazard.

The best way to protect yourself from the microscopic organism is to carry a water filter with you. Boiling for three to five minutes will also destroy Giardia and other water organisms.

**Feed for Pack Animals:** Thousand Lakes Wilderness has limited areas for forage. To protect the wilderness, users are encouraged to pack in (certified weed free) supplemental feed for their animals.

## LEAVE NO TRACE

Lassen National Forest recommends the use of "NO TRACE" camping techniques. "NO TRACE" camping is an attitude that leads to enjoyment of the wilderness without changing or damaging it.

Remember, "in the wilderness, you are the visitor."

**The Campsite:** As you search for a comfortable site, look for one that won't be damaged. Fragile areas such as lakeshores and damp meadows should be avoided.

In order to perpetuate a high quality wilderness, PLEASE camp at least 100 feet away from water and trails.

**Campfires:** If you do build a campfire in a previously unused site, you can minimize the impact by not building a rock ring and using a small pit dug in sandy soil.

Carefully check the ashes by feeling them with the back of your hand to be sure the fire is com-

pletely out. Bury the ashes and replace the soil, plants and rocks that you removed from the hole.

Fire patrols cannot fully prevent human-caused fires without the help of Forest visitors, please be careful with the use of fire.

Campfire permits are required for campfires, cookstoves and lanterns that require fuel. Please check for campfire restrictions that may ban the use of campfires during very hot, dry conditions.

**Cleaning up/Sanitation:** There's one general rule to remember: IF YOU CAN PACK IT IN FULL, YOU CAN PACK IT OUT EMPTY. Anything left behind creates an eyesore and a hazard to the local wildlife. Materials made of aluminum, plastic or glass will not break down in the soil and animals will dig them up, so please don't bury them.

**Horses and Pack Stock:** Thousand Lakes Wilderness has limited areas for forage. To protect the wilderness, users are encouraged to pack in (certified weed free) supplemental feed for their animals.

Pack and saddle stock should be picketed at least 100 feet away from water, trails, campsites, and meadows. Only tether horses to trees for short periods as hooves can cause damage to tree roots and plants.

**On the Trail:** With the increase in popularity of back country travel, it is more important than ever for everyone to follow the rules of common courtesy and good mountain manners.

A wilderness outing can offer many things; but most people seek solitude, peace and quiet.

To protect plants and prevent soil erosion, stay on the trail in single file. If you come across a fallen tree or other obstacle, notify local officials as soon as possible. Cutting blazes on trees will leave permanent scars.

With our help, our children's children will have the opportunity to know this wild and rugged country.

Wilderness makes up 8 percent of the Lassen National Forest's 1.2 million acres and Wilderness management is only part of the Forest's multiple use story.

For more information, contact the Hat Creek Ranger District at P.O. Box 220, Fall River Mills, CA 96028, (530) 336-5521.

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# LET SLEEPING FAWNS LIE

*CDFW urges public to leave deer fawns alone*

Late spring and early summer is the peak time for California's deer herds to give birth to fawns, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is issuing a reminder to well-intentioned

people to not interact with the baby deer – even if they find one that appears to be abandoned.

Adult female deer often stash their fawns in tall grass or brush for many hours while they are out foraging for food.

"Each year dozens of fawns across the state have their lives shortened by well-meaning residents," said Axel Hunnicutt, Siskiyou unit biologist with CDFW's Northern Region.

"For the first several weeks of their lives, young deer are left for extended periods by their mother as a survival strategy. People who interfere with this process always mean well but end up disrupting nature and the life of both mother and fawn."

Each year, CDFW and wildlife rehabilitation facilities are called to assist with fawns that have been removed from the wild by concerned members of the public recreating outdoors.

With limited long-term placement options in zoos or other wildlife sanctuaries, the animals often have to be euthanized since they lack the survival skills to be released back into the wild and can become dangerous and difficult to keep as they become bigger.



To report an injured, sick or suspected orphaned fawn, contact your local CDFW regional office directly.

Anyone who removes a young animal from the wild is required to notify CDFW or take the animal to a permitted wildlife rehabilitator within 48 hours.

Only a limited number of wildlife rehabilitation facilities are licensed to accept fawns. It is both illegal to feed deer and keep deer in your personal possession. Both crimes are misdemeanors, each subject to penalties of up to \$1,000 and/or six months in jail.



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# There are other nearby fun waterfalls besides the crown jewel

**T**he crown jewel of Northern California waterfalls is the magnificent cascade of Burney Falls at McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park. But there are other brilliant and fun waterfalls to be seen and played in throughout the north state and Intermountain area.

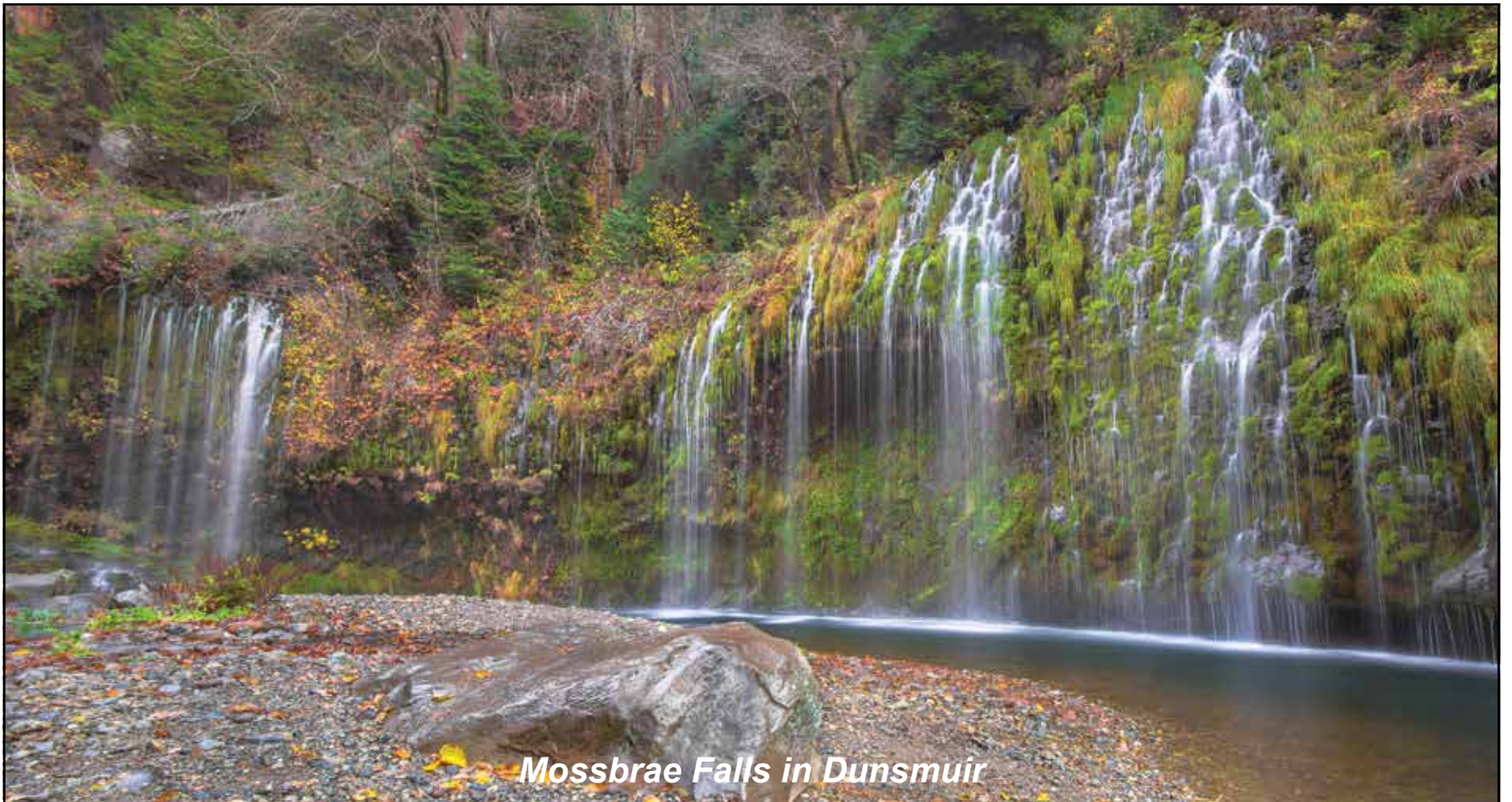
Burney Falls is a 129-foot cascade of water that's the centerpiece of the park. You can see the falls from the upper viewing area or climb down a paved path to the pool where the falls collects and then drifts downstream into Lake Britton. President Teddy Roosevelt is rumored to once called Burney Falls the "Eighth Wonder of the World," and you can see for yourself by taking the 1.3-mile trail that circles the falls.

## *McCLOUD FALLS TRIO*

The other "upper echelon" waterfalls in area are the three cascades of the McCloud Falls. (Lower McCloud Falls is pictured here)

The trio of falls offer different and distinct traits and all are easily accessible by car with a short walk.

Upper Falls spills out of a rock canyon and looks powerful despite its 25-foot high fall. Middle Falls is the largest and widest of the three falls. It spills about 75 feet down its rock face. You can watch the falls from a viewing area or hike down to the pool that collects the falls. The water is icy, even in the summer, but hearty souls will swim in the collection pool.



Lower Falls, near the Fowlers Camp-ground, is not just the final of the three falls; it's a go-to spot in the summer. Lower Falls is only 20 to 25 feet tall, but years of erosion have created a deep pool that attracts thrill-seekers to jump into.

A rock path allows for an easy climb back up to jump again. If you do want to take the plunge, water shoes are advisable.

Among the most popular waterfalls in the region – especially with the younger crowd – are Hatchet Falls and Potem Falls. Each falls offers a luxurious swimming hole along with the opportunity to a bit of falls-diving if you're hearty enough.

#### **POTEM FALLS**

Potem Falls is a 70-foot spill into a 100-foot wide pool that's perfect for cooling off during the sweltering summer months. Off Fenders Ferry Road, between the towns of Round Mountain and Montgomery Creek, Potem is a short hike from the unmarked trailhead nearly nine miles off Highway 299.

Hatchet Falls, whose real name is the Lions Slide Falls, is a smaller waterfall, but the draw is definitely the swimming hole and fallen tree that serves as ladder and jump-off point into the chilly pool the falls creates.

A short trek off Big Bend Road off Highway 299 from an unmarked trailhead leads

you to the stunning views of the falls and the cobble-dammed pool.

#### **CLARK CREEK FALLS**

Lesser known, but still worth the trip are Clark Creek Falls, Montgomery Creek Falls and Pit River Falls.

Clark Creek Falls is a hidden gem and most who already know about it do their best to keep it quiet – information about the falls is equally scarce on the internet. Shhh. Clark Creek Falls are about 30-feet high and crash down into a pool ripe for a chilly dip or a jump off a rock ledge nearby. You have to access the falls and pool below from Lake Britton as the land above the falls is private property. The cove is located northwest of the lake across from the beach at McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park.

On Lake Britton, near Dusty Campground at the east end of the lake and the "Stand By Me Bridge" are a couple of other cascades to explore.

#### **MONTGOMERY CREEK FALLS**

Montgomery Creek Falls is found less than a quarter-mile off Highway 299 on the road named for the falls. Prettier to look at than swim in, Montgomery Creek Falls pass through a narrow slot and fall about 15 to 20 feet into a rapidly moving churn of whitewater dotted with rocks downstream.

#### **PIT RIVER FALLS**

The Pit River Falls offer expert kayakers a chance to paddle into Class III and IV rapids through a nearly seven mile ride before the chance to plunge 20 feet or so from three separate falls – the Right Side Slide, the Center Chute or the Left Side Fish Ladder. You can view the falls from the Vista Point overlook just west of Fall River Mills.

#### **MOSSBRAE FALLS**

Mossbrae Falls is a picturesque as Burney Falls is brilliant. Located in Dunsmuir, Mossbrae Falls spills into the Sacramento River seemingly out of the rocks that guard the river. Only 50 feet tall, the impressive thing about the falls is its width – nearly 200 feet.

"Mossbrae has to be one of my favorites because it's unique, wide and just comes out of the side of the mountain," said Leon Turnbull, who runs the waterfall website [waterfallswest.com](http://waterfallswest.com).

"On the gorgeous scale, it's definitely a 10."

Access issues have plagued Mossbrae Falls from being a true must-see site in Northern California. In 2010, Union Pacific closed access to its tracks, which lead to the falls.

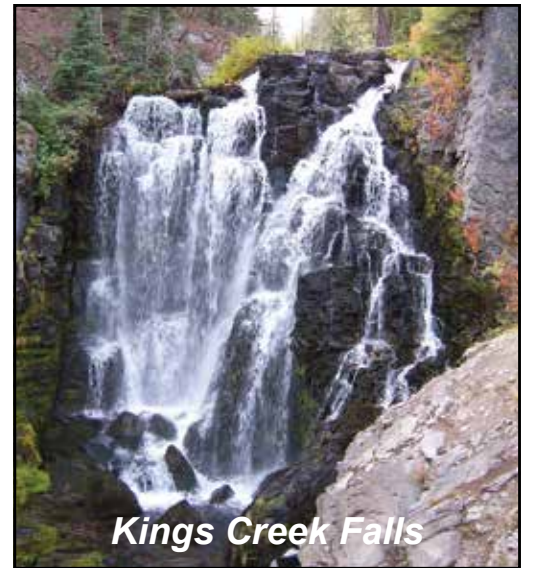
The railroad, citing safety concerns, is said to cite those who walk along the tracks to access the falls. Hiking organizations, the city of Dunsmuir and the railroad have been



*Pit River Falls*



*Potem Falls*



*Kings Creek Falls*



*Middle McCloud Falls, is the largest and widest of three falls off of Highway 89 south of McCloud*

## Many picturesque waterfalls from which to choose

working for a solution ever since.

“It’s very beautiful, but we can’t even advertise it,” said former Dunsmuir Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Richard Dinges. “If a trail were to open up, it would definitely be a boon and benefit for the city.”

Nearby Mossbrae Falls is Hedge Creek Falls, a walk-behind cascade that’s a short walk from a parking lot off Interstate 5 in Dunsmuir.

After seeing the falls, a trail leads down the canyon to a beautiful spot along the Sacramento River.

“It’s like the ‘Jungle Cruise’ at Disneyland – you can walk behind a huge wall of water,” Dinges said.

### CASTLE CRAGS

Two amazing falls in far northern Shasta County in the Castle Crag area are Burstarse Falls and Root Creek Falls. Spring and early summer are the best times to see many waterfalls in the north state, but that’s especially true of Burstarse Falls. The 6.4-mile roundtrip hike is moderate with nearly 1,000 feet of elevation gain, but the trek is worth it.

Burstarse Falls, about 80 feet high, drops straight off the granite face and splits into a magnificent spray as it hits the rocks three-fourths of the way down the falls.

The trail to Root Creek Falls is a spur off the trail to the Castle Dome inside the Castle Crag State Park.

A relatively easy and flat hike, the payoff is spectacular. The falls cascades down several tiers with the Castle Dome framed at the top of the falls.

### LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK

There are numerous waterfalls inside Lassen Volcanic National Park, but one of the more popular and beautiful is Kings Creek Falls. A 2.4-mile moderate roundtrip hike, Kings Creek Falls is a cascade that falls down a fern-filled canyon.

The trailhead is on the road to the summit, so access is limited to when the park service opens the road. Even with the below average snowpack this season hikers should still make Kings Creek Falls worth a look.



*Aerial view of Burney Falls, dropping 129 feet to the pool below*



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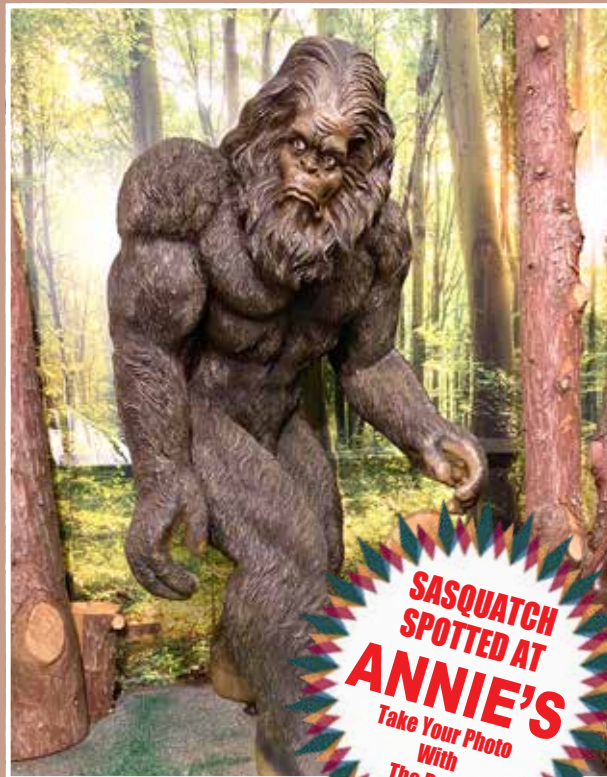
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