

## Farmer

Richard Schmitt operates Silver Valley Farm, where families can go for a pumpkin patch, corn maze and other fall activities. Learn more by visiting [www.silvervalleyllc.com](http://www.silvervalleyllc.com).

### It's a new pumpkin patch?

Yes, we originally had a lot on the corner of Pyramid and Los Altos for a couple of years there, and the whole plan was to move it out to the farm.

### Where is it?

I'm right off of Pyramid. I think it's about 15 miles north of the Nugget, where Pyramid starts. ... It's 3995 Bacon Rind Road.

### Every grocery store has pumpkins for sale. Why would people want to take a drive up there?

To put it in a nutshell, it's about the kids. Get them out in the fall season, getting out to enjoy and have fun with what's out there. You can go to the grocery store and get your typical pumpkin. We have about 45 different varieties—a lot of them that people have never seen before. ... We also have a lot of entertainment that's fun for the kids. We've got everything from the classics, the hayrides, the corn maze. The corn maze takes a couple of hours to get through. It's pretty intense. We also have bounce houses. We also have a huge obstacle course. I think it's a 65-foot-long obstacle course that you can run both directions—for the kids. ... We have a



30-foot-tall slide, that's just massive, that the kids go crazy for. We have a mining flume that's about 300 feet worth of area ... with a mill and everything. Kids get to pan for gold in that. We have a giant mining tire jungle that has massive mining tires they get to climb on.

### What food are you offering?

We do a little bit of concessions. It's nothing crazy, though. ... We do cotton candy, caramel apples, popcorn and drinks and whatnot—just to keep everyone from getting too hungry if they're out there having fun. A lot of families will come out for the full day.

### Do the drinks include beer or wine or anything?

No. We don't do alcohol. We try to keep it focused on the kids.

### That's nice. So, give me some pro-tips when picking out a pumpkin?

Well, it really just comes down to aesthetics and what people are looking for in the look of the pumpkin—because we have so many different ones. We have all different kinds of colors, different shapes, I mean, just everything you can think of. It's really a scavenger hunt. You go out there, and there's five acres of pumpkins, and you can just go to town on seeing everything that's out there. We have everything from very large pumpkins to skinny and long pumpkins. We have orange pumpkins, pink pumpkins, blue pumpkins. If you can think of it, we've got it, basically.

### What's the biggest pumpkin you've got out there?

Well, I think as far as ones that you can get for everybody, we've got some out there that are probably 60, 70 pounds. ... And we've got ones with massive stems on them. I have ones with stems that are up to six inches across. They're huge. Like I said, it's kind of a free-for-all.

### When you had the lot in town, were you still running the farm out there?

Yeah ... so, half of the farm is still a Christmas tree farm. That's why I originally started that farm. I have the first choose-and-cut Christmas tree farm here. It takes obviously several years to grow trees, especially here in Nevada. So we have, probably, a few more years before we open that side to the public. □

## NOTES FROM THE NEON BABYLON

BY BRUCE VAN DYKE

## Forever Grateful

When we talk about the greatest songwriting teams in rock 'n' roll, we of course invariably begin with John and Paul, and Mick and Keith, and Elton and Bernie, and so on and so forth. But often, folks forget about San Francisco's finest, a team that wrote a bunch of eternally terrific tunes, and that's Bob and Jerry, a.k.a. Hunter and Garcia, the main songsmiths for the Grateful Dead.

Robert Hunter just moseyed on down that old Mortality Trail last week, or, as he wrote in "He's Gone" (a song that may have been a response to the death of Pigpen in '73 ... or the departure of their crooked manager), "like a steam locomotive, rollin' down the track, he's gone, gawnnnnnn and nothing's gonna bring him back." Hunter was 78, and a truly brilliant and beloved guy.

"Lady finger, dipped in moonlight, writing 'What for?' across the morning sky," from the song "St. Stephen."

"Think this through with me, let me know your mind, Whoa oh, what I want to know is, are you kind?" from "Uncle John's Band."

"And it's just a box of rain, I don't know who put it there, Believe it if you need it, or leave it if you dare," from "Box of Rain."

"There is a road, no simple highway, between the dawn and the dark of night. And if you go, no one may follow, that path is for your steps alone," from "Ripple."

"Shall we go, you and I, while we can? Through the transitive nightfall of diamonds," from "Dark Star."

"I can tell your future, just look what's in your hand, But I can't stop for nothin', I'm just playin' in the band," from "Playing In The Band."

"Tell me all that you know, I'll show you snow and rain," from "Bird Song."

"Well she can dance a Cajun rhythm, jump like a Willys in four wheel drive, she's a summer love for spring, fall and winter, She can make happy any man alive," from "Sugar Magnolia."

"Sometimes the light's all shinin' on me, other times I can barely see, Lately it occurs to me, what a long, strange trip it's been," from "Truckin'."

Hunter wrote the unforgettable lyrics, and Jerry wrote the memorable music—most of the time. (Bob Weir and Phil Lesh wrote some of the fab melodies.)

Hunter was presciently courteous enough to write his own farewell. "Goin' home, goin' home, by the waterside I will rest my bones, Listen to the river sing sweet songs to rock my soul," from "Brokedown Palace." □



## WARNING:

QUITTING SMOKING NOW  
GREATLY REDUCES SERIOUS RISK  
TO YOUR HEALTH.

## CIGARETTES PREMIUM BRANDS

Marlboro Red	\$6.44 pack	\$63.44 carton
Camel Box/99s	\$6.36 pack	\$62.59 carton
Winston	\$5.91 pack	\$58.14 carton
American Spirit	\$7.40 pack	\$73.04 carton
Nat Sherman	\$8.77 pack	\$43.45 carton

## CIGARETTES VALUE BRANDS

L. Ducat	\$3.91 pack	\$38.10 carton
Eagle 20	\$4.01 pack	\$39.10 carton
Silver Cloud	\$4.04 pack	\$39.39 carton
King Mountain	\$4.38 pack	\$42.83 carton

## Smokeless Tobacco

Copenhagen	\$5.24 can	\$24.62 roll
Skool	\$5.14 can	\$24.12 roll
Grizzly Wintergreen	\$3.86 can	\$17.74 roll
General Snus	\$5.28 can	\$24.59 roll

## Alternative Products

Zyn	\$4.11 can	\$18.09 roll
Vuse Vibe	\$19.95 device	\$9.99 refill cartridge
My Blu	\$19.95 device	\$8.99 refill cartridge
Juul	\$33.49 device	\$13.99 4 pk pods

## VAPOR PRODUCTS & DEVICES

Salty Man / Revolve / Suorin / Omni / Voodoo

## CBD PRODUCTS

CBD Vapor Liquids / Tinctures / Assorted Products



Reno: 90 Auto Center Dr. 852-4010  
Behind Mercedes Benz of Reno

Reno: 2001 E. 2nd St. 329-0275

Reno: 901 Golden Ln. 329-6299

Sparks: 1962 Pyramid Way 353-2140

Verdi: 1-80, Exit 2 345-2620

Spanish Springs: **NEW LOCATION!**  
7655 Pyramid Way 424-4165

We **strictly** enforce no sales to minors.  
Ask about our **Low-Price Guarantee.**  
Prices subject to manufacturer change without notice.