



ROAD TRIPPIN'

Or: How I Survived 15 Days in a Car from Kenosha to LA

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If you've ever wanted to see people do an actual spit take, tell them you're driving to California — especially when the Golden State is being



ELIZABETH SNYDER

swamped by “atmospheric rivers,” causing flooding, mudslides and road closures.

Still, we decided to push ahead with this road trip, determined to stay cheerful and flexible.

We were heading west to Los Angeles to visit the Academy of Motion Pictures Museum (my pick) and the Petersen Automotive Museum (my husband Rex's pick). The hope of warmer weather was a bonus.

In the back seat was Seamus, our “greyhound of a certain age,” who was probably just hoping to score some road snacks.

On a day said to be unlucky, we loaded up our Subaru Forester and headed west on Friday, Jan. 13.

Every trip comes with its own adventures. Here are some of ours:

■ **On the way:** As we headed west to the Golden

By the numbers

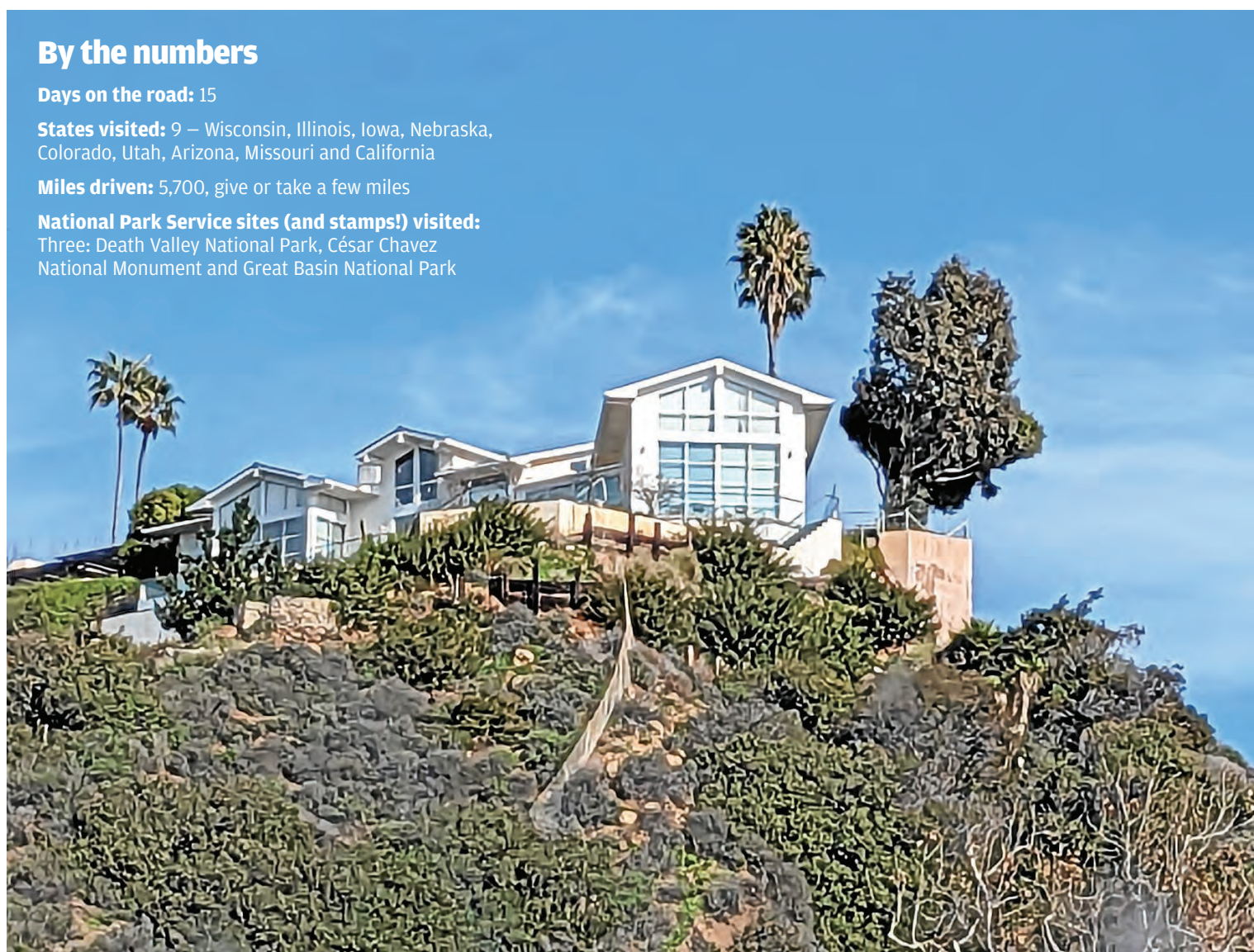
Days on the road: 15

States visited: 9 — Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Missouri and California

Miles driven: 5,700, give or take a few miles

National Park Service sites (and stamps!) visited:

Three: Death Valley National Park, César Chavez National Monument and Great Basin National Park



ELIZABETH SNYDER, KENOSHA NEWS

Los Angeles real estate is out of my price range, but dreaming is free, right? his house is perched on a hill overlooking Malibu Beach.

Please see **SNYDER**, Page D3



ELIZABETH SNYDER, KENOSHA NEWS

Liz Snyder gets close to the “Bruce,” the star of the “Jaws” films, at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles.

Museums? In LA? WHO KNEW?

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La La Land is more than just sushi bars and beautiful people sipping gluten-free cocktails at the pool — despite what you might see on Instagram.

The city boasts some world-class museums, with several of them clustered on what is called Miracle Mile.

What you'll find:

■ **Academy Museum of Motion Pictures:** If you've come to Los Angeles to hold an Oscar — yes, a real one — this is the place. Inside are seven floors of exhibit space, with temporary exhibits on the history of Black cinema and

“The Godfather” trilogy among the current offerings. You can also get a good look at the mechanical shark from “Jaws” and don't miss the outdoor terrace with views of the Hollywood Hills. (While we were out there, a woman next to me said, “I'm going to have my next wedding here.”) Note: The Oscar Experience is an extra \$15. You get to hold the Oscar statue and make an “acceptance speech,” which will be sent to you as a video. Remember to thank your agent!

■ **Petersen Automotive Museum:** You can't miss this

Please see **MUSEUMS**, Page D4

Seeing stars: Don't skip the dopey tourist stuff

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When you're in Los Angeles, make sure to do some of the dopey tourist stuff. You'll thank yourself later.

Attractions include:

■ **Santa Monica Beach:** Here you'll find the famous Santa Monica Pier, with its amusement park (containing a National Historic Landmark — the 1922 Looff Hippodrome Carousel) and an expansive, well-tended beach. A great way to see the area is by renting an ebike (\$30 an hour), which you can ride on the paved, two-mile path, passing attractions including Muscle Beach and Venice Beach.

■ **Studio tour:** We opted for the Warner Bros. Tour (mainly because the Paramount Tour, home to “Star Trek,” was sold out). It was



The Warner Bros. Studio Tour includes a photo op on the famous “Friends” Central Perk couch.

Please see **STARS**, Page D5

Park it: Catching our ‘white whale’

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On every trip we take in the U.S., my husband, Rex, and I try to add a few more stamps to our National Park Passport collection.

This time, we hit three National Park Service properties: the César Chavez National Monument and Death Valley National Park in California and — the big one — Great Basin National Park in eastern Nevada.

This was our “white whale,” a park that had eluded us for two decades.

It's in a remote location and



ELIZABETH SNYDER, KENOSHA NEWS

National Park junkies Liz Snyder and Rex Davenport finally make it to Great Basin National Park in Nevada.

Please see **PARKS**, Page D6

Garden Club hosting free program

The Four Seasons Garden Club is hosting the program "Re-create Your Yard as a Gardener: How to Make it Happen" Wednesday at Gateway Technical College, 3520 30th Ave.

The program is 7 to 9 p.m. March 1 in Gateway's Madrigano Auditorium.

Jeff Epping, director of horticulture at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, is presenting the program.

Epping has "taken many of the ecologically minded gardening concepts and award-winning garden designs from around the country and incorporated them into his own small home garden," program organizers said.

The presentation begins at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6:30 p.m.. After the program, Epping will answer questions from audience members.

This program is one of the club's outreach events for 2023.

Admission is free. Registration is available online at Eventbrite. For more information, email Karen Taskonis at rtaskonis@wi.rr.com.

Pardon my pleonasm

Exploring wonderful world of redundancy

In the "Ghostbusters" movies, the eponymous heroes blast ghosts and otherworldly beings with their proton packs, and the ghosts explode into a mess of slimy green ghost goo.



CURTIS HONEYCUTT

This goo is called ectoplasm. I first encountered ectoplasm through Hi-C's companion drink, Ecto Cooler, in elementary school whenever I brought my lunch.

Ultimately, Ecto Cooler couldn't hold a candle to the greatness of Kool-Aid Blasts and Capri Suns. The late 1980s and early '90s were a wild time for brown-bagging it, though my kids refer to anyone born before 2000 as people "born in the 1900s."

On the theme of "words that end in '-asm,'" I'd like to discuss pleonasm. While "pleonasm" sounds like something that would ooze from goblins in the "Ghostbusters" reboot, it's actually a language term referring to a fun, limited-edition flavor

of redundancy. Pleonasm is using more words than necessary to convey meaning, whether done intentionally (for emphasis) or unintentionally.

More simply stated, pleonasm is when someone uses a redundant expression. For instance, when playing "Goldeneye 007" on the Nintendo 64, my friend Brandon always yelled, "Kill him dead!" And then he'd either eat a handful of Gushers or Bugles. Remember, this was the late 1900s.

I think pleonasm is hilarious. For my day job, I write plenty of blog article titles and email subject headlines, so I chuckle anytime I see pleonasm in the wild.

The most common use of pleonasm I've observed is when a company offers a "free gift" to dangle a new subscription to a potential customer. While I get it, the definition of a gift is something that doesn't cost the recipient anything.

Noticing pleonasm is a gift — and a curse.

Pleonasm works well to emphasize a sentence. For example, "I saw it with my own eyes" or "heard it with my own ears" is something you'll hear from eyewitnesses after a tornado,



Bill Murray's character is slimed with ectoplasm in "Ghostbusters." In the grammar world, pleonasm has nothing to do with slime and everything to do with being redundant.

alien abduction or international weather balloon in the sky. "I saw the Canadian low orbit spy balloon" is much less emphatic than "I saw the Canadian low orbit spy balloon with my own eyes." The latter sentence conveys more weight and importance.

While pleonasm adds intentional emphasis, it often shows up unintentionally. Examples include "true facts," "new beginnings," "past experience" and "novel idea."

Thanks for indulging my past memories of long ago.

As an added bonus, these video games and movie franchises are returning, and now it's déjà vu all over again.

Curtis Honeycutt is an award-winning syndicated humor columnist and author. Connect with him at curtishoneycutt.com.

Rihanna: From Super Bowl to Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rihanna will follow-up her soaring Super Bowl halftime show with a performance at the Super Bowl of movies — the Oscars.

Producers of the telecast said the music superstar will sing "Lift Me Up" from "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

"Lift Me Up," with music by Tems, Rihanna, Ryan Coogler and Ludwig Göransson and lyric by Tems and Ryan Coogler, is nominated for original song. It is Rihanna's first Oscar nomination.

Earlier this month, the Barbadian superstar, dressed in a bright red jumpsuit, plowed through 12 of her hits in 13 minutes, at the Super Bowl at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona. The performance doubled as an announcement to the world that she was pregnant with her second child.

Hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, the 95th Oscars will air live on ABC and broadcast outlets worldwide on March 12.

Among Oscar competitors that Rihanna faces is Lady Gaga, who was nominated for "Hold My Hand" from "Top Gun: Maverick." Lady Gaga co-wrote the song with BloodPop and it's her fourth nomination; she won an Oscar in 2019 for "Shallow" with Bradley Cooper.

Another nominee is Diane Warren, who received her 14th Oscar nomination through her song "Applause" from "Tell It Like a Woman." The prolific songwriter was recognized with an honorary Oscar at the Governors Awards last year.

Other best original song nominees are M.M. Keeravaani's "Naatu Naatu" from "RRR," which was written by Chandrabose, and "This is a Life" from "Everything Everywhere All at Once." The latter track was created by Mitski, David Byrne and Ryan Lott, who along with his band Son Lux was also nominated for best original score.

Jonas Brothers bringing hits to Broadway

ALEXANDRA DEL ROSARIO
Los Angeles Times

The Jonas Brothers are ready to burn up Broadway with an upcoming five-night residency in New York.

Hours after releasing a new single, "Wings," on Friday, the trio announced that they will perform March 14-18 at the Marquis Theatre on Broadway.

"Your boys are back in town," the band said on Instagram.

While the Jonas Brothers — Kevin, Joe and Nick Jonas — are working on new music, their stay at the Marquis Theatre will revisit the band's early work. According to the announcement, "Each night will be focused on a different album and we'll be playing all the hits."

For the first night of the residency, the Jo Bros. will focus on their self-titled "Jonas

Brothers" album, released in 2007. "S.O.S," "Hold On" and "When You Look Me in the Eyes" are among the featured songs.

The subsequent shows will spotlight 2008's "A Little Bit Longer," 2009's "Lines, Vines and Trying Times" and 2019's "Happiness Begins."

The brothers will end their Broadway stint looking forward, with their last night dedicated to "The Album," their forthcoming release that drops May 5.

"Believe us when we say you won't want to miss these shows," the caption said.

The Broadway announcement comes less than a month after the Grammy nominees, who got their start on the Disney Channel in the early aughts, received their star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"This is a testament to the love and support of our fans, our family and our friends



AP PHOTO

The Jonas Brothers are promising to play "all the hits" during their Broadway residency.

who have been with us every step of the way," Kevin Jonas, the eldest brother, said at the January ceremony.

He continued: "You have been the driving force behind everything we do and we could not have done this without you, so thank you."

SUDOKU

Level 1 2 3 4

2/26/23

Solution to Last Week's puzzle

7	1	2	6	4	8	5	9	3
4	3	8	9	5	7	6	2	1
9	5	6	3	2	1	8	4	7
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8	4	5	1	3	2	7	6	9
2	7	3	8	6	9	1	5	4
5	2	4	7	8	3	9	1	6
1	6	7	5	9	4	3	8	2
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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

BRAND AWARENESS
By Chandí Deitmer

- ACROSS
- 1 Lawn game similar to pétanque
- 6 iPad download
- 9 Tear
- 13 Old-Fashioned option
- 17 Post-surgery regimen
- 18 In close combat
- 20 Ton o'
- 21 Southwestern snapshot gallery?
- 23 Like Chartres Cathedral
- 24 Drummer Ringo
- 25 Inert gas
- 26 Diver's need
- 27 "Cool your jets"
- 30 Alerts to some party planners that their guests have arrived?
- 33 Red tide bloom
- 34 Drag show accessory
- 35 Puts in
- 36 tie
- 37 Skating biopic starring Margot Robbie
- 40 Ending for sub- or ex-
- 42 "Nailed It!" host Nicole
- 43 "Over the Rainbow" composer
- 44 One searching for a river crossing?
- 47 blues: genre that originated in Mississippi
- 49 Actor Mahershala
- 50 Yale grads
- 52 "Look on the bright side!"
- 56 Troves of getting-to-know-you questions?
- 64 Audio giant
- 65 Passage cleared by a neti pot
- 66 PBS-funding org.
- 67 Play-
- 68 Like lechón asado
- 69 "No ifs, ___ or buts"
- 70 Flipped bar tables?
- 75 Private aye
- 77 Daredevil Knievel
- 78 "Beach House" singer Carly Jepsen
- 79 Fawned (over)
- 82 Veto a very large corsage?
- 89 Some IRAs
- 92 Vampire's curfew
- 94 Nursery cry
- 95 French star
- 96 Pointless event at the Olympics?
- 97 Napa product
- 98 Small slitherer
- 100 Last president to keep a White House cow
- 101 Entertainment at a tailgate party?
- 107 mitzvah
- 108 Quarantees
- 109 Meat salad in Lao cuisine
- 110 Pontificate
- 112 Lay into
- 113 Political movement against free enterprise, or a way of reading this puzzle's long answers?
- 118 Rummikub pieces
- 119 Familiar turf
- 120 Hyper
- 121 Rich rocks
- 122 Agape
- 123 Many OCS grads
- 124 Cicely who wrote the 2021 memoir "Just As I Am"
- DOWN
- 1 Wireless support, maybe
- 2 Ref. that could be considered hi-def.?
- 3 Comedian Margaret
- 4 Taxi waiting area
- 5 "Likely story"
- 6 Pulsating
- 7 Wretch
- 8 Veterinary patient
- 9 Thorny flowers
- 10 Set of values
- 11 When the sun is highest
- 12 Bank acct. addition
- 13 "I'm normally more humble than this ..."
- 14 Gas additive
- 15 Excited
- 16 Includes
- 19 Color quality
- 20 Epithet for Shiva
- 22 Oom-
- 23 Tour stops
- 26 Tennis great Agassi
- 27 Oliver Twist, for one
- 28 Palo ____, California
- 29 Assistant with a hunch?
- 31 chips
- 32 Picked out of a lineup, briefly
- 38 Quite a spell
- 39 Wheel shaft
- 41 Male title derived from "brother"
- 42 Hat edge
- 43 Supped
- 45 Steiny instrument
- 46 Above-the-street trains
- 48 Scale divs.
- 51 Pro or con
- 53 Basketball commentator
- 54 w/o delay
- 55 Cozy spots
- 56 "Mercy me!"
- 57 French film
- 58 Winds down
- 59 Plans to go public?
- 60 Actor Watanabe
- 61 Roof overhang
- 62 Japanese drama
- 63 ___ party
- 68 Storage box
- 70 ___Magnon
- 71 Tony-winning musical "Dear ___ Hansen"
- 72 Nero Wolfe creator Stout
- 73 Oodles
- 74 "Mercy Mercy Me" singer
- 76 Apple platform
- 80 Takes care of a draft
- 81 Great ___
- 83 Sheep trills
- 84 "You're too kind!"
- 85 Rotund stove
- 86 "Glass Onion" filmmaker Johnson
- 87 ___ Romeo: sports car
- 88 Hairy legend
- 89 Cite
- 90 Like many summer concerts
- 91 ___ strength: measure of tolerance
- 93 "Let's see ..."
- 97 Noisy bird in a dome-shaped nest
- 99 Hazards
- 102 Bow-toting deity
- 103 Tempting words in Wonderland
- 104 Bawled
- 105 School basics
- 106 Lab rodent
- 111 Stretched thin
- 113 Cry of discovery
- 114 IM pioneer
- 115 ___ "Raining Them": Mia Jam remake celebrating the gender spectrum
- 116 Sign for a crowded house
- 117 Guy

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR EVEN MORE PUZZLES

Snyder

From D1

State, we stopped at the World's Largest Truck Stop, on I-80 in Iowa, which has never closed since opening in 1965. (Judging from our friends' Facebook comments, we were among a small set of people who had never been to this truck stop before.)

■ Rocky Mountain high:

As much as I love our own Lake Michigan — and I do, dearly — there are not many sights more exciting than seeing the Rocky Mountains looming in the distance. Wisconsin has many beautiful areas, but nothing like the mighty Rockies.

■ **Oh, so grand:** Driving on I-70 in Colorado, I'm reminded that not all interstates were created equal. You'll pass snow-topped mountains and ski resorts — Vail! Aspen! Snowmass! — not to mention numerous tunnels carved out of the mountains. Here's a bit of history: In 1905, a Colorado state senator hoped the winding mountain road would be part of what he called “a grand boulevard stretching across the nation,” referring to the 12.5-mile gorge known as Glenwood Canyon. Today, the canyon road is “the most celebrated section of the interstate highway system” (according to their rest stop signage).

■ **The wonders of modern travel:** We left Kenosha at 7 p.m. Friday and, 24 hours later, we were eating dinner just outside of Golden, Colo. That trip used to take months. Now, as long as you're willing to drive all night, you can make it through five states in one day.

■ **Fun with names:** There is no shortage of quaint names for U.S. locales. The best one I saw on this trip was Parachute, Colo. The worst? Silt, also in Colorado. And here's a truly baffling one: The No Name Rest Area on I-70, also in Colorado. Isn't calling it “No Name” giving it a name?

■ **The green scene:** California is famously a “green” state when it comes to auto emissions standards and other environmental laws, but, thanks to all the recent rain, the state's landscape — mountains, hillsides and valleys — was a bright, vibrant green, too. (A welcome change from our winter “blah.”)

■ **Delta dawn:** Delta, Utah, is a nice little town, but, oh, the smell! When we woke up the next morning, the air was definitely sour. We're guessing it was from all the oil fields in the area.

■ **And speaking of the energy industry:** We stayed in a motel in Delta filled with energy company workers and road crews — and their big rigs. When we went to breakfast at the leisurely time of 8 a.m., they had cleared out hours earlier, judging by the now-empty parking lot. Another clue? Almost every person I passed walking around the night before was wearing a hard hat.

■ **The steps not taken:** Rather, not recorded. I forgot to bring my Fitbit charger with me, so after the first day, I have no record of all the steps I took over those two weeks — from hiking up to the Griffith Observatory to schlepping suitcases to second-floor motel rooms. I tried to keep a running total in my head, but I lost count after 300,678 steps. This leads me to wonder: If a step is taken and no Fitbit



ELIZABETH SNYDERV PHOTOS, KENOSHA NEWS

Liz Snyder enjoys a vacation pastime: Taking selfies on the coast in Pismo Beach, Calif.



Left: One reason to visit Pismo Beach, Calif.? Palm trees! Right: One of the Pismo Beach, Calif., “locals” hangs out on the town's fishing pier.



Four trips in one

If you're wondering just how big — and diverse — the United States is, drive from the Midwest to California.

You'll pass through prairies, mountains and deserts before getting to the Pacific Coast.

We enjoyed a sunny, beach sojourn in Pismo Beach, Calif., walking oceanside cliffs and watching surfers off the fishing piers. The town is filled with surf shops, open-air seafood restaurants and even a monarch butterfly winter gathering place.

Then we had four days in busy Los Angeles before visiting the peaceful desert of Death Valley National Park and the red rock regions of Utah.

And both ends of the journey included drives through a mountainous winter wonderland, topped with snow-kissed evergreens.

All this, without leaving the good ol' U.S. of A.

tracks it, was I really moving?

■ Someone owes me a Dilly Bar:

Usually on vacation, I strive to eat ice cream every day, going so far as walking through the dark woods at 11:30 p.m. in Yellowstone National Park to visit a snack bar and hit that day's quota. On this vacation? Not even close. I had one measly ice cream sandwich, and that was a free perk at a Holiday Inn Express. But I did eat avocado every day while I was in California, which I now declare is the Golden State's equivalent of ice cream.

■ **OK, I get it now:** After driving across Kansas — twice! — I understand better why some people cling to the idea that the earth is flat. You'd believe it, too, if all you saw was the endless prairie of the Sunflower State. Seriously, would it hurt to add



The famous Pismo Beach, Calif., sign

some trees, Kansas?

■ **I need a five-letter word for “rapper with the most Billboard Hot 100 songs”:** Scoff all you want, but a stack of People magazines — and their crossword puzzles — got us through Iowa, Nebraska and

even Kansas. As a bonus, I now know more about the various “Real Housewives” franchises than I care to admit.

Have a question or a comment?
Email Liz at esnnyder@kenoshanews.com or call her at 262-656-6271.

‘Ruffing’ it

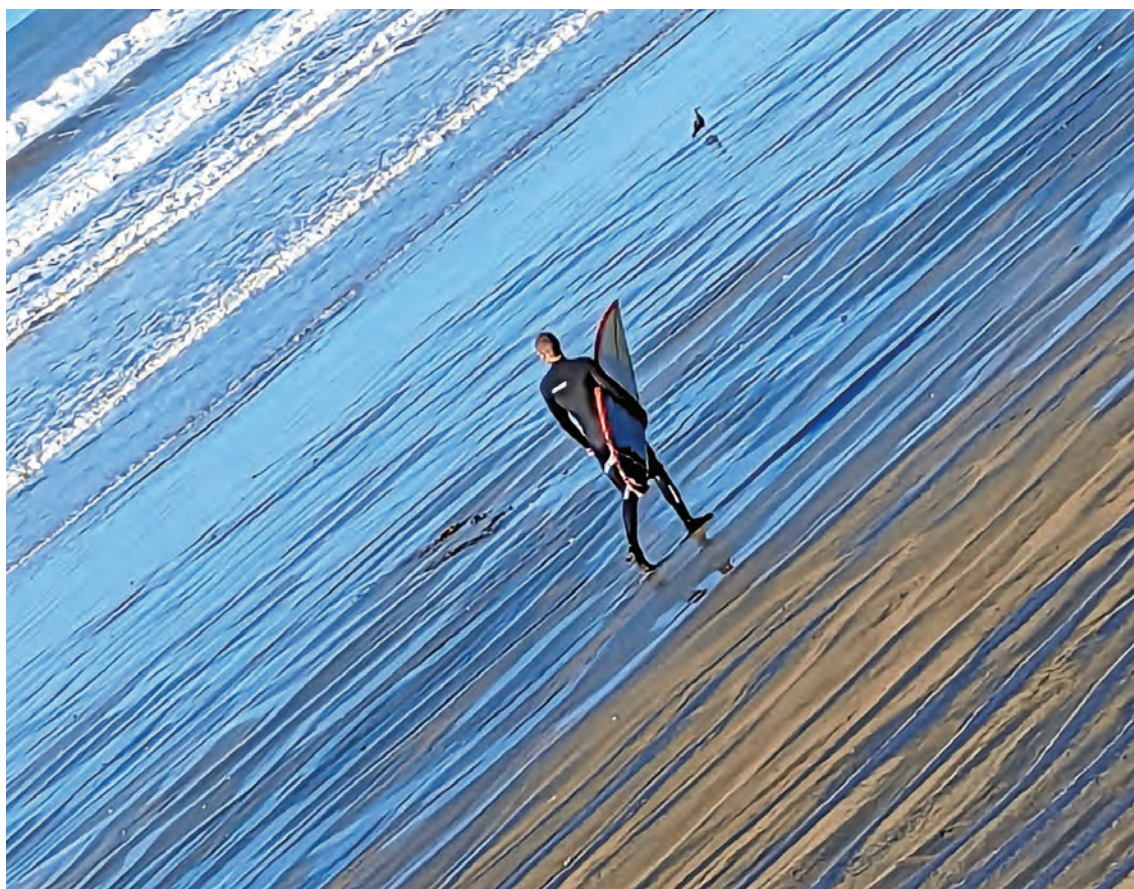
We took our “older gentleman” greyhound, Seamus, with us on this road trip, which means we had to make room in the car for a 75-pound dog, along with his food, treats, bed, bowls and plenty of bottled water.

Did I mention we were all packed into a Subaru Forester? A few tips for traveling with furry friends:

Book it: We made a reservation for Seamus to spend two nights in a kennel on Hollywood Boulevard while we toured museums. (I asked him to be on the lookout for celebrity pets like, say, Brad Pitts' pugs.)

All together now: We either had to do almost everything as a threesome — which works great for walking in state parks but not so great for other activities — or take turns popping inside indoor spaces.

Traveling in style: Every time Seamus got antsy, I reminded him that while he was traveling in Business Class — lounging on his dog bed — I was riding up in Coach, on a front seat, cramped by bags, snacks and everyone's jackets.



Left: A common sight in Pismo Beach, Calif.: A surfer on the beach,

Right, top: Driving in the Rocky Mountain region? Enjoy the breathtaking scenery.

Right, bottom: Fun with tunnels: The highway goes through the Rocky Mountains in Colorado.



Museums

From D1

building, with its exterior wrapped in a mesh of stainless-steel racing stripe ribbons, lit by glowing red LED lights. Inside are three floors loaded with all kinds of vehicles, including one-of-a-kind “super cars” worth millions, and cars from the movies. Don’t skip the History floor, which takes you on a trip through California’s love affair with the automobile. And if you’re like me and can get queasy in a rocking chair, you might want to pop a Dramamine before trying the racing car simulator. (Trust me on this.)

■ **Los Angeles County Museum of Art:** The seven-building complex contains about 100,000 items, dating from ancient times to the present. The museum’s modern art galleries showcase several works by Picasso. Photo stop: Outside the museum is the massive “Urban Light” sculpture by Chris Burden. The 2008 installation consists of restored street lamps from the 1920s and 1930s, most of which once lit the streets of Southern California. It looks stunning as the sun sets.

■ **La Brea Tar Pits and Museum:** The famous bubbling black tar pits are right next door to the art museum, in Hancock Park. You’ll know you’re close when you smell the tar. Millions of bones have been found here since 1913, and you can see the skeletons of extinct creatures (including a giant sloth) inside the museum.

■ **What’s in a name:** “Miracle Mile” was coined in the 1930s, when this section of Mid-Wilshire Boulevard was developed as a high-end commercial strip, designed to serve automobile customers rather than pedestrians.

■ **Look around:** This part of Wilshire is also lined with Art Deco buildings, including the El Rey Theatre, built in 1936, and the May Company Department Store’s landmark Streamline Moderne building, which was completed in 1939 and is now home to the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures.



REX DAVENPORT, KENOSHA NEWS

Yes, that’s real Oscar Liz Snyder is holding at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. And, no, she didn’t get to keep it! **Right, top:** The Petersen Automotive Museum is filled with hundreds of rare and exotic vehicles. The most popular photo stop? Lightning McQueen from the “Cars” movies, of course. **Right, middle:** Liz Snyder and Rex Davenport enjoy one of the best parts of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures: the outdoor terrace, with great views. **Right, bottom:** The “Urban Light” sculpture is a popular photo spot and is especially stunning at sunset, when the lights turn on.

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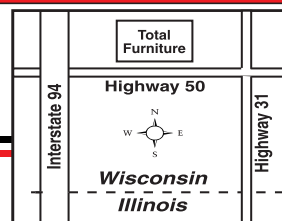
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ELIZABETH SNYDER PHOTOS, ELIZABETH SNYDER

Rex Davenport sits in Sheldon's "spot" on "The Big Bang Theory" set, part of the Warner Bros. Studio Tour.

Stars

From D1

a blast and features the coffee shop from "Friends" and Sheldon and Leonard's living room from "The Big Bang Theory." As we rode the tram around the backlot of the largest working studio, I was most excited to see the school from "Abbott Elementary."

■ **Griffith Park:** The views of the Hollywood sign alone are worth a visit. A bonus is the famous (and free) observatory. There are numerous hiking trails in this 4,100-acre park, if you are so inclined. Also here: The

famous Hollywood Bowl, with outdoor concerts in the summer (though not in January) and the Los Angeles Zoo.

■ **Hollywood Walk of Fame:** Take a stroll on Hollywood Boulevard and read the names of your favorite celebrities, from Hollywood legends to a beagle named Snoopy. I stopped and snapped a photo of myself with George Gershwin's star. I feel I owe him, since I've been playing his music for decades with the Kenosha Pops Concert Band.

■ **Chinese Theatre:** Along the Walk of Fame is the historic theater, with its courtyard filled with the handprints and foot-

prints of famous people from all eras: John Wayne, Marilyn Monroe, Paul Newman, the Marx Brothers and even our own Mark Ruffalo. The Kenosha native is part of an "Avengers" cement block. The tradition started almost 100 years ago, in 1927, when it was Grauman's Chinese Theatre.

■ **El Capitan Theatre:** This beauty, built in 1926, is right on Hollywood Boulevard. It's home to all the Disney movie premieres and, on a regular day, you can pop in and catch a film in a grand theater where the film industry started.

■ **Shopping!** When in LA,



The Griffith Park Observatory has been taking visitors to the heavens since 1935.



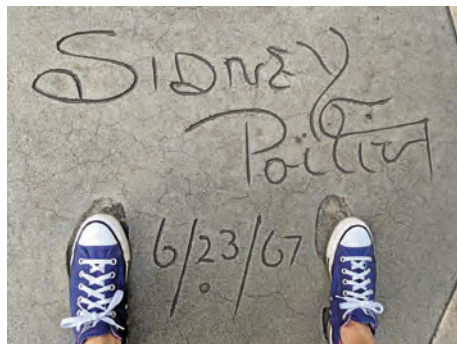
REX DAVENPORT, KENOSHA NEWS

Liz Snyder discovers she and Meryl Streep have the same size hands, outside the famous Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.

take part in our national pastime and give yourself a little retail therapy. Especially fun: The souvenirs in Hollywood shops, including "Oscars" for everything

from "Best Teacher" to "Best Dog Mom."

■ **Eat up:** Also a must-do in Los Angeles? Grabbing fast food from In-n-Out Burger.



Left: Snoopy has his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. **Middle, left:** Kenosha native Mark Ruffalo is one of the stars whose handprints can be seen outside the famous Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. **Middle, right:** Liz Snyder plants her feet in the footprints of a Hollywood legend: Sidney Poitier, outside the famous Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. **Right:** Liz Snyder plants her feet in the footprints of Capt. Picard himself: Patrick Stewart, outside the famous Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.



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ELIZABETH SNYDER PHOTOS, KENOSHA NEWS

Great Basin National Park is an isolated place of stark beauty.

Parks

From D1

had remained just out of reach on previous treks.

■ **How isolated is this place?** It's "only" 250 miles from Death Valley National Park. "If we drive four hours from here, we can make it," I told Rex, as we mapped out our journey back to Wisconsin from Death Valley. Realizing we'd likely never be closer, we headed to Great Basin.

■ **What's in the 77,000-acre park?** Mountains, lakes, deserts, caves and even a glacier. What's not there? People. We were visitors No. 10 and 11 for the week. The park averages about 130,000 visitors each year, making it one of the least visited national parks in the U.S. Lucky for us, the Lehman Caves Visitor Center is open all year. However, the cave tours don't start until March 1, so we watched the park film, chatted with the rangers and enjoyed the serenity of this quiet place, which became a national park in 1983.

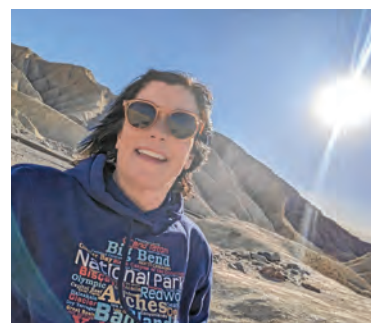
■ **Kenosha connection:** We find (or more) on every trip. This one comes from César Chavez National Monument: Labor leader Walter Reuther — the



Rex Davenport visits Badwater Basin in Death Valley National Park.

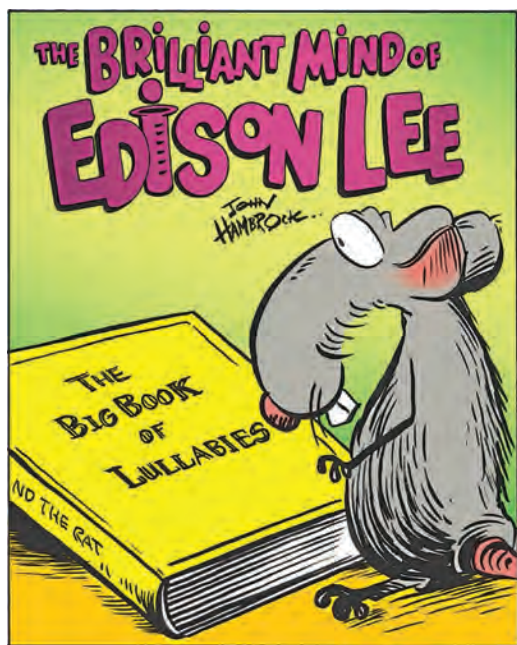
namesake for one of our local high schools — visited striking farmworkers in 1965. That's why he's part of the timeline in the national monument, located at Chavez's former home and office.

■ **Travel tip:** Winter is a wonderful time to visit Death Valley National Park. The vistas are still as stark, but the scorching temperatures are downright moderate. In fact, I wore a jacket when hiking the Golden Canyon trail. A jacket! In the hottest place on the planet!



Hiking in Death Valley National Park while wearing a national park hoodie? That's a perfect day for Liz Snyder.

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