

IRAQ: 1,000 AND COUNTING • FALL TV: BEST & WORST

# Newsweek

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**POLITICS & MONEY**

# THE SLIME CAMPAIGN



How Both Sides Are Using  
The **527 Loophole** to Throw Mud  
And Turn Out the Vote

COMPLIMENTS OF  
NEWSWEEK



**CORN ON THE CURB:**  
The palace in South Dakota



Girl”—this burlesque museum houses a collection of pasties, lip prints and bejeweled G-strings. Helendale, 15 miles southwest of Barstow, 29053 Wild Road, 760-243-5261, exoticworldusa.org

**COLORADO**  
**UFO Watchtower**

No abductions have been reported (yet!) at this man-made lookout spot for the extraterrestrial. The tower is located in the San Luis Valley, often referred to on “The X-Files”; it’s 200 miles south of Denver, so bring a tent and stay the night. 2502 County Road 61, Hooper, 719-378-2271, ufowatchtower.com

**FLORIDA**  
**Drive-In Church**

Offering two services on Sundays (8:30 and 10 a.m.), the Christian church—converted from an old drive-in movie theater—encourages visitors to join in its unique worship. Pull up, grab a communion wafer, then tune in to 88.5 on your FM dial. 3140

S. Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach Shores, 386-767-8761, driveinchurch.net

**HAWAII**  
**World’s Largest Maze**

A two-acre garden with seven-foot-high hibiscus hedges. Don’t get lost as you try to find the pineapple-shaped center. 64-1550 Kamehameha Highway, 808-621-8408, doleplantation.com

**IDAHO**  
**Potato Museum**

Highlights include a two-foot Pringle, potato hand lotion and a spud signed by Dan Quayle. Bring a friend, because each pair of visitors gets a free box of dehydrated hash browns. 130 N.W. Main Street, Blackfoot, 208-785-2517, potatoexpo.com

**KANSAS**  
**World’s Largest Ball of Twine**

Made from more than 7 million feet of sisal twine, this work in progress measures roughly 40 feet in circumference and weighs almost nine tons. Cawker City on Highway 24 (100 miles northwest of Abilene), 785-781-4713.

# Set Your Sites

Visit a Kremlin-like palace made out of corn or feed ostriches by hand. These wacky roadside attractions are worth a stop.

BY DAVID LAHUTA

**T**HE OPEN ROAD CALLS, BUT ARE you ready to answer? Alongside America’s purple mountain majesties and amber waves of grain lie some of the nation’s lesser-known treasures—like the world’s largest ball of twine, a museum with a two-foot potato chip and a 65-foot elephant named Lucy, constructed of wood and tin. Road trippers, mark your maps:

**ALASKA**  
**Santa Claus House**

Sleigh bells ring year-round in North Pole, Alaska—where you’ll see reindeers Dasher and Blitzen, not to mention jolly Saint Nicholas himself. Hand over \$7.50 for the deed to an inch of snow-covered land—a bargain even the Grinch wouldn’t complain about. 101 St. Nicholas Drive, 800-588-4078, santaclaushouse.com

**ARIZONA**  
**Ostrich Ranch**

Near Picacho Peak, this ranch has hatched more than 1,100 ostriches. With \$2 feed, you’ll



have them eating right out of your hand. Exit 219 on Interstate 10, 520-466-3658, roostercogburn.com

**CALIFORNIA**  
**Tallest Thermometer**

This state is known for its hot times—and it’s got the world’s largest thermometer to prove it. Drivers who pass Baker, Calif., on Interstate 15 must look up 134 feet for readings. Don’t get a neck cramp.

**Exotic World**

Once the home of dirty dancer Jennie Lee—the “Bazoom

**Budget Travel**

Not there yet?  
The top 22 spots to scout out on your next road trip.



## Family Travel

### LOUISIANA

#### Gator Park

Watch hundreds of alligators wrestle over chicken parts. Then chomp on gator sausage and kebabs in the food court and shop for gator wallets and boots in the gift shop. Southeast of Shreveport, off Highway 1, 380 Old Bayou Pierre Road, Natchitoches, 877-354-7001, alligatorshow.com

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Museum of Bad Art

Clashing colors—described in tongue-in-cheek captions—are displayed in a museum “dedicated to the collection, preservation, exhibition, and celebration of bad art in all its forms.” 580 High Street, Needham, 781-444-6757, www.museumofbadart.org

### MINNESOTA

#### Jolly Green Giant

The 55-foot-tall Jolly Green Giant—along Interstate 90—has a smile that’s 4 feet wide and a shoe size, 78, they won’t carry at your local Foot Locker. Intersection of I-90 and Highway 169, Blue Earth Area Chamber of Commerce, 507-526-2916.

### MISSOURI

#### Café With Flying Rolls

Raise your hand at Lambert’s Café in Sikeston, and a server will pitch a wheat roll from across the room. Credit the practice to owner Norman Lambert, who was once so busy he couldn’t walk the rolls—he tossed them instead. 2305 E. Malone Street, 573-471-4261, throwedrolls.com

### NEW JERSEY

#### Lucy the Elephant

Lucy is so big that she was once converted into a four-bedroom summer home. Built in 1881, she was intended to draw developers to South Atlantic City. Since then, Lucy has tolerated thousands of visitors who poke her stomach. 9200 Atlantic Avenue, Margate, 609-823-6473, lucytheelephant.org

### NEW YORK

#### Jell-O Museum

Long before Bill Cosby starred in the ads, Jell-O had already paved the way for modern American merchandising. To build his brand, patent owner Orator Woodward advertised in Ladies’ Home Journal in the early 1900s, gave free samples to housewives a short while later and even had the treat

served to immigrants on Ellis Island. Among other items, the gift shop sells boxer shorts (\$16) that read WATCH IT WIGGLE SEE IT JIGGLE. 23 E. Main Street, LeRoy, 585-768-7433, jellomuseum.com

### OKLAHOMA

#### Blue Whale

The 80-foot concrete whale, built by Hugh Davis, was an anniversary present for his wife, Zelta. It’s been beached on Route 66 for more than 30 years. Catoosa Chamber of Commerce, 918-266-6042.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Shoe House

This three-bedroom, ankle-high-shoe-shaped house was built in 1948 by Mahlon Haines—a self-made millionaire nicknamed the “Shoe Wizard of York County.” By the way, no old woman resides there, in case you were wondering. 197 Shoe House Road, Hellam, 717-



COURTESY OF BLUE EARTH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HUGE FUN:**  
Jolly Green  
is located in  
Minnesota

840-8339, jarrettsville.org/family/shoehouse.htm

### SOUTH CAROLINA

#### South of the Border

With its 200-foot-tall Sombrero Tower and smiling mascot, Pedro, this monument to Mexican kitsch has attracted road trippers since 1949. What started as a small beer stand has expanded into 15 shops, an amusement park (called Pedroland), six restaurants, campgrounds and a hotel. Interstate 95 at Highway 301, Hamer, 843-774-2411, pedroland.com

### SOUTH DAKOTA

#### Corn Palace

America’s answer to the Kremlin—with turrets, onion domes and minarets—is covered with thousands of bushels of corn, grasses and grains. The exterior is refurbished annually during harvest time (August through September), but its interior features year-round historic corn murals. 604 N. Main, Mitchell, 866-273-2676, cornpalace.org

### TEXAS

#### Cadillac Ranch

Off Interstate 40, just west of Amarillo, 10 Cadillacs are half buried, with their tail fins up. Created in 1974 by a collective of artists called Ant Farm, it’s a tribute to America’s most beloved cruiser. But this isn’t sacred art, so bring along some spray paint.

### VERMONT

#### Ice Cream Flavors Graveyard

For every popular flavor of Ben & Jerry’s ice cream—Cherry Garcia, Chunky Monkey—countless others don’t survive. The cemetery in Waterbury features headstones for rejects like This Is Nuts and Miz Jelena’s Sweet Potato Pie. Still awaiting a final resting place: Hunka Burnin’ Fudge and Economic Crunch. Route 100, 866-258-6877, benjerry.com

### WISCONSIN

#### House on the Rock

Perched atop a tall rock spire, the House on the Rock in southwest Wisconsin mixes architectural enthusiasm with an eclectic collection of just about anything you can imagine—suits of armor, model airplanes, pipe organs and even a pyramid of life-size fiberglass elephants. 5754 Highway 23, Spring Green, 608-935-3639, thehouseontherock.com