

NEVADA

MAGAZINE

February 2002

INSIDE:
Complete Guide to
Events & Shows in Nevada

Ski Vacations

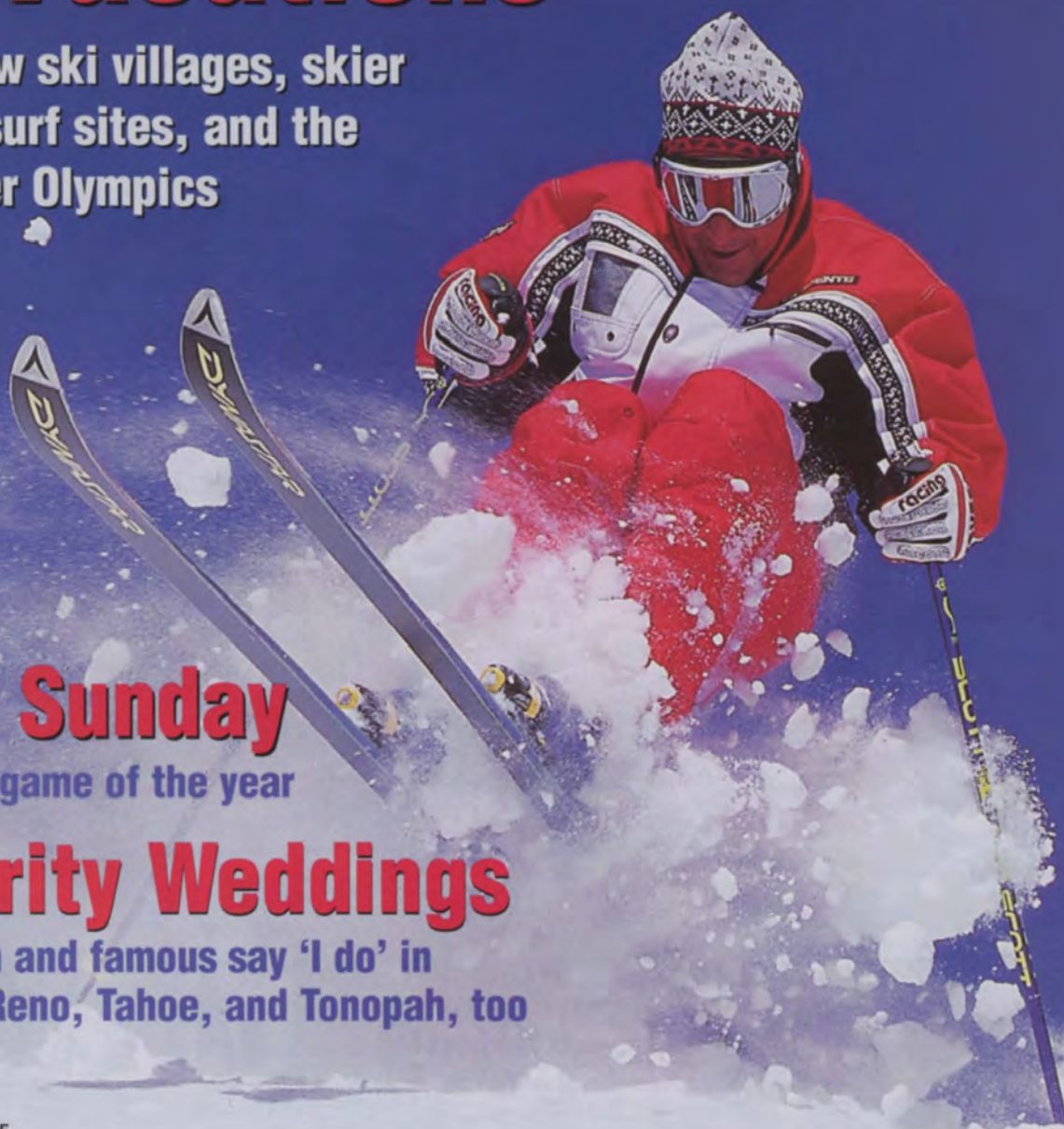
Tahoe's new ski villages, skier bargains, surf sites, and the 1960 Winter Olympics

Super Sunday

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Matt Hamrell rides fresh snow at Squaw Valley

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"Tonopah was close enough to Las Vegas, and it was a good place for him to hide out."—Tonopah resident Bob Perchetti on Howard Hughes' secret marriage to Jean Peters in 1957



On the Cover:
Ski instructor Matt Hamrell plunges through the snow at Squaw Valley.

Photo by
John Clausen

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Family History

Everyone should have a family-history book like *Fifty Miles From Home: Riding the Long Circle on a Family Ranch*. In their new collaboration published by the University of Nevada Press, photographer **Linda Dufurrena** and her daughter-in-law, writer **Carolyn Dufurrena**, portray a way of life that is rapidly disappearing. The two women live on a sheep and cattle ranch with their husbands and children about 75 miles northwest of Winnemucca. Carolyn, a schoolteacher, says she and Linda wanted to preserve family stories in their book, but they also hoped to explain why anyone would love living and working miles from the nearest town.

"It's a community," Carolyn says. "It's a community not like any other. It's old people down the road and kids that take old ladies their mail. It's a colorful way of life, and it deserves to go on." *Fifty Miles From Home* includes stories about haying, rounding up cattle, and neighbors helping each



Carolyn Dufurrena (left) and Linda Dufurrena depict life on their family ranch in *Fifty Miles From Home*.

other. In this issue we present "Blizzard," which describes the rescue of ewes and lambs in a snowstorm.

The two women have collaborated on several projects and operate dufurrena

and dufurrena Adventures, an eco-touring company. Working with her mother-in-law is fascinating, Carolyn says. "Linda doesn't think like anyone else. The book has been a very long process, and we've both come to know each other in a way you don't usually get to know your mother-in-law. I've learned to express myself. I've learned to appreciate the way she expresses herself, which is very often not verbal but through her images."

Linda's photographs of ranching and Nevada landscapes are exhibited and sold internationally, and she often takes her camera when she goes out with her husband and children as they work in early morning and late afternoon and in all kinds of weather. The main objective of *Fifty Miles From Home*, she says, is to talk about extended families on ranches in Nevada. "We want people to know we love the land," Linda says. "We wanted some of these stories to be told." —Joyce Hollister

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Letters

Trekkie gifts, Dayton yodeling, and a *Gunsmoke* character

Artist's Rendering

I enjoyed the Nevada Historical Calendar for the year 2000. Enclosed is a ballpoint-pen drawing (at right) that I drew from the calendar. The drawing was inspired by the April 2000 photograph from the Gary Elam Collection that depicted autos and wagons on C Street in Virginia City during the 1920s. Hope you enjoy it.

H.W. Gidley Jr.
Las Vegas

H.W., thanks for the art.—Ed.



The 2000 Nevada Historical Calendar inspired H.W. Gidley Jr. to draw this scene showing Virginia City's C Street in the 1920s.

Beam Him Up

Nevada has so much to offer. It was nice to read about the Deep Space Nine Promenade near Star Trek: The Experience at the Las Vegas Hilton ("Roadside Attractions," Nov/Dec '01). I didn't even know this place existed

until I read your publication. As a Star Trek fan, I don't really consider myself a Trekkie, but I now know that I need to visit this establishment. I can see why this

a great find. The food was wonderful, like the Surprise Soup (you figure out what it is made of). The beer was great, and Mia is a gem. It was our friend's birthday, so

would be a Trekkie's delight.

What better way to celebrate Christmas than by boarding the State Railroad Museum's Santa Train and maybe later stopping by Reno's Rink on the River. Nevada truly has it all.

George Roberts
Lehigh, OK

Dining in Dayton

I read your magazine cover to cover every issue. In the Sept/Oct issue's "Dining Out" section I read Wilma LaRocca's item about Mia's Swiss Restaurant in Dayton, and we took friends out there while we were on vacation in September. What

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Mia yodeled. He turned the shade of a beet, and we all had a good laugh at his expense. After dinner (we got there early and had a small crowd) Mia took us upstairs and showed us where basketball was played once. Thanks for covering small, out-of-the-way places like this. We would never find them on our own. Thanks also goes to Mia. I hope she never changes.

Larry and Jan Polmateer
Bothell, WA

Keep Our Song

Why should the state song, "Home Means Nevada," be changed, as suggested in Ray Downing's letter in last issue's "Nevada Almanac"? I think the song is beautiful and so true.

I was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey. I spent 60 years there and never knew there was a state song. I moved to Carson City 20 years ago. I soon heard Nevada's song and thought it lovely. I quickly learned it and sing it every chance I get. Please do not change it.

Elsie Devaney
Carson City

Elsie, we're happy you like "Home Means Nevada." New Jersey, we have discovered, has an unofficial state song, "I'm From New Jersey," by Red Mascaras, that has been sung in the Garden State for about 30 years. You can find the song at www.njstatesong.com.—Ed.

Role Reversal

Reading "Roadside Attractions" in the Nov/Dec issue, I was somewhat surprised to see that you attribute to Buck Taylor the role of Festus in *Gunsmoke*. I am sure that Ken Curtis and many *Gunsmoke* fans would be surprised to know this. Buck Taylor played the role of Newly on *Gunsmoke*. Just thought I would point this out.

David Cottrell
Peace River, Alberta, Canada

Newly Discovered

The item "Buckles and Bows" in last issue's "Roadside Attractions" stated that "artists include Buck Taylor, who played Festus on *Gunsmoke*." Festus was played by Ken Curtis, and Buck Taylor played Newly, if memory serves me correctly.

Gene Anthony
Vancouver, WA

David and Gene, thanks for setting the record straight.—Ed.

How to Submit Letters: Readers are encouraged to send letters regarding stories and photos in the magazine. Write "Letters to the Editor," Nevada Magazine, 401 N. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701-4291. Fax 775-687-6159. E-mail editor@nevadamagazine.com.

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Roadside Attractions

King Tut at the Luxor, sledding near Ely, and Mark Twain.

Success in the Snow

ELY—Even though there may be snow on the ground, you can still enjoy driving the **Success Summit Loop** through the Schell Creek Range east of Ely. People sled and cross-country ski in the hills and meadows along the road.

In addition, you can skate and ice fish on the reservoir at Cave Lake State Park, 15 miles south of Ely on State Route 486. From Cave Lake, the Success Summit road continues north for 32 miles and loops back to U.S. 93 five miles north of McGill. In winter, elk and deer come down from the high country in search of food. The animals can be seen easily, says resource forester Barbara Walker of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest's Ely office. The drive leads through stands of Douglas fir, white fir, and spruce. The road is not plowed in the wintertime but generally is open to four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Walker says that many tourists are repeat visitors to the Success Summit Loop. "A lot of nonlocal people will see the sign and stumble upon it, and it becomes a favorite place for them to visit," she says.

In April and May, wildflowers carpet the meadows, making a spring trip especially colorful.—*Joyce Hollister*

Kids sled down a hill near the Success Summit Loop.



Seeing Stars

RENO—Casino showrooms aren't the only place in Reno to see stars. The **Fleischmann Planetarium and Science Center** gives visitors a view of the galaxy with free telescope viewing on clear Friday and Saturday nights. Observers see star clusters, nebulae, and phases of the moon. "Jupiter and Saturn are in the late evening sky in January," planetarium director Art Johnson says. "They are two of the most beautiful planets for telescope viewing." Star shows and large-format nature films are shown daily in the SkyDome. Through January 28, the star show *More Than Meets the Eyes* celebrates how much you can see in the sky with amateur equipment or the naked eye, Johnson says. You also can discover the world of *Wolves* in the second feature. *Oceans in Space* and *Journey Into Amazing Caves* begin February 5.

The double-feature show lasts about 80 minutes. Visitors should allow time to try the hands-on exhibits and visit the gift store. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors and children under 13. For show and telescope viewing times call 775-784-4811 or visit <http://planetarium.unr.nevada.edu>. The museum is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The Fleischmann Planetarium is located at the corner of North Virginia and 16th streets, one and a half miles north of downtown on the University of Nevada, Reno campus.—*Susan Elbe*



The Fleischmann Planetarium in Reno offers skywatching, star shows, and big-screen films.



Replicas of King Tut's artifacts are displayed in the King Tut's Tomb and Museum at the Luxor.

sands of simulated precious stones. King Tut's Tomb and Museum at the Luxor is open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Admission is \$5. Call 702-262-4555 for details.—*Joyce Hollister*

Replicas Fit for a King

LAS VEGAS—Few people have toured King Tut's tomb in Egypt, but Luxor visitors can get an idea of what archaeologist Howard Carter saw when he opened the tomb in 1922. The Luxor presents a full-scale replica of King Tutankhamun's burial site in the **King Tut's Tomb and Museum** inside the Pharaoh's Pavilion.

The artifacts were reproduced in Egypt, using gold leaf, linens, precious pigments, and 3,300-year-old techniques. The pieces are positioned in the museum as they were discovered by Carter, who searched the Valley of the Kings for six years before finding the site underneath the tomb of Ramses VI.

King Tut died at age 19 in 3332 B.C. after reigning for 10 years. His hastily planned tomb was filled with items he would need in the afterlife—chariots, beds, chairs, oil lamps, boats, food, and beverages. Among the tomb's most beautiful treasures are four golden statues and the king's gold-leaf coffin decorated with hieroglyphics and thou-

High-Flying Art

LAS VEGAS—From Fremont Street to Charleston Boulevard, the **Aerial Gallery** takes art to the streets. Forty original works reproduced on five-foot banners hang from light poles along Las Vegas Boulevard, a stretch of road flanked by motels and wedding chapels. Richard Hooker of the city's Cultural Affairs Division says that more than 30,000 people a day see the outdoor show, now in its second year.

The project has three elements, says Hooker. "First, to bring more visibility to the arts downtown. Second, to celebrate and support the community of local artists who live and work here, and third, to enhance Las Vegas Boulevard, which connects the arts district at the south end of town to the cultural district at the northern end."

The banner artists include painter Robert Beckmann, known for his Nevada-inspired atomic cloud and slots series, photographer Catherine Angel, and other artists, poets, sculptors, and songwriters whose lyrics are printed on a few of the pennants. Stretching just over a mile, the Aerial Gallery makes a lovely evening walk through the oldest part of Las Vegas. Starting from the "Horse and Rider" neon sign at the entrance of the Fremont Street Experience, visitors can walk south and admire the art shown in this different kind of exhibition. It's a look at an alternative side of Las Vegas, and best of all, it doesn't cost a dime.—*Lola Brown*



Artist Matt Brandvik's banner waves in the breeze over Las Vegas Boulevard as part of Aerial Gallery.

Traveler's Advisories

Sierra Arts Has New Home

Reno's **Riverside Artist Lofts** building, formerly the Riverside Hotel, is the new home of **Sierra Arts**, a nonprofit foundation, and the **Sierra Arts Gallery**. The gallery will feature Loren Staley's exhibit, "Installation Art: Sculptural Forms of Wood, Wicker, and Fabric," in January and February. Sierra Arts will sponsor "Concerts in the Gallery" at noon on Fridays beginning January 4. The Riverside Artist Lofts building is located at 17 South Virginia Street, and the Sierra Arts offices are open weekdays. Call 775-329-ARTS or visit www.sierra-arts.org for details regarding exhibitions or the concert series.

Lake Mead Is Lower

Officials at **Lake Mead National Recreation Area** are telling boaters to be more vigilant this winter as they cruise the lake created by Hoover Dam. Water levels are 10 to 20 feet lower than usual because of drought, so rocks are closer to the surface. Two park boat launch ramps, in Government Wash next to Las Vegas Wash in Nevada and Pearce Ferry in Arizona, are closed and unlikely to reopen until later in the spring, according to public affairs officer Bert Byers. "It's not offsetting the enjoyment factor," he says, "but we are telling people to exercise caution."

Airport Security

Visitors departing **Nevada airports** will find heightened levels of security in force as they are elsewhere in the country. Passengers are asked to arrive at least two hours before departure to allow enough time to park, check in, pass through security checkpoints, and find airline gates. Each passenger is limited to one carry-on bag and one personal item such as a purse, briefcase, computer case, or backpack. Hand searches of checked baggage and carry-on baggage will be performed at ticket counters and at security checkpoints. Passengers may not carry sharp items, including knives of any sort, scissors, nail clippers, and files. Potential weapons such as golf clubs, ski poles, and baseball bats are also prohibited.

Photo identification will be required. Only ticketed passengers will be allowed through security checkpoints, and electronic-ticket customers must have printed itineraries or receipts verifying flight information. E-ticket procedures vary by airline. Travelers should call airlines ahead of time to ensure the flight information is correct. For more security or parking information, visit the Web sites www.mccarran.com for McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas or www.renoairport.com for Reno-Tahoe International Airport.

Surfing Nevada

Skiers and snowboarders can learn about Lake Tahoe and Las Vegas-area skiing, rentals, events, and room and ski bargains at several sites on the Web.

Ski.renolaketahoe.com, sponsored by the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (800-FOR-RENO), features resorts located within an hour's drive of the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. You can find out the day's weather for both Reno-Sparks and Lake Tahoe and review descriptions of the area's 15 alpine and eight cross-country resorts as well as phone numbers and Web sites.

The Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority (800-AT-TAHOE), which is based at South Shore, offers **virtuallaketahoe.com**. Among its features are a free travel planner, toll-free reservations, maps, and real-estate information. Tahoe Sky Cam gives you a live video-cam image of Lake Tahoe from the top of Harveys. You can subscribe to the LTVA's online newsletter and follow links to hotels, motels, and rentals.

Visitors to **gotahoe.com** can get a free Lake Tahoe travel planner and learn about accommodations, ski hills, rental shops, and area attractions. The site allows you to ask for more details via "Questions About



Skilaketahoe.com is one of several helpful Tahoe ski sites.

Tahoe?" powered by LivePerson. Weather conditions and forecasts are featured. Gotahoe.com is sponsored by the Lake Tahoe, Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau (800-GO-TAHOE).

Six of Tahoe's biggest resorts have formed a group known as Ski Lake Tahoe (800-588-SNOW) and sponsor **skilaketahoe.com**, a flashy site filled with lots of big, beautiful photos of the region. The site offers links to the Web sites of Alpine Meadows, Heavenly, Kirkwood, Northstar-at-Tahoe, Sierra-at-Tahoe, and Squaw Valley USA and to dozens of other sites helpful to travelers to Lake Tahoe.

For the Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort, try **skilasvegas.com** to obtain information about the season (November to April), rates, ski school, snow report, resort history, and telephone number for hotel packages. The colorful trail map shows the runs, lodge, and chalet.

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Lakeside Attractions



Guests at Terrible's RV park in Pahrump can swim, kayak, and fish on a seven-acre lake.

PAHRUMP—Terrible's Lakeside Casino has an RV retreat on Homestead Road in Pahrump, four miles west of State Route 160. The 159 landscaped pads offer hookups, cable television, and patios, but the best attraction is Terrible's seven-acre lake. Guests can go kayaking and pedal-boating, lounge on a sandy beach, or swim in the lagoon. Anglers can hook large-mouth bass, and current catches are running about five pounds. There's also some catfish.

In spring and summer, entertainment is

scheduled in an outdoor amphitheater next to the lake. Events have varied from a Hawaiian luau and live bands to a bluegrass festival.

Terrible's nearby casino offers slots, video poker, restaurant, and lounge, all open 24 hours a day. RV park rates are \$11.95 Sunday through Thursday and \$13.95 Friday and Saturday from September to April and \$11.95 from May to August. Pahrump is located 62 miles west of Las Vegas. Call 888-558-5253 for more information or reservations.—Larry L. Cantrall

Hotel Harbors History

RENO—Chamber pots, liquor bottles, tobacco pipes, and other 140-year-old items found in the ruins of the Old Corner Bar at Piper's Opera House in Virginia City are on display in the hotel lobby of the Silver Legacy.

Archaeologists found more than 100,000 artifacts in the 1997-98 excavation at Piper's directed by Kelly Dixon of the Comstock Archaeology Center. The high

point of the collection is a two-foot-tall, English stoneware carbon water filter whose 59 pieces were glued together by volunteer Dan Urriola of Reno.

"The water filter is clearly the eye-grabber of the exhibit, and it is historically significant," says State Historic Preservation Officer Ron James. Archaeologists know Virginia City's water was undrinkable during the 1860s silver boom, but contemporary writings didn't mention how residents solved that problem before a water system was built in 1873. "What did they drink for a decade? It wasn't just beer and whiskey," James says. The Old Corner Bar offered filtered water to patrons during the 1860s and early 1870s, and James surmises that other saloons did the same.

Also in the display are European mineral-water jugs, a spittoon, painted vases, a cribbage board, and ale and wine bottles—one with its cork and wine intact. A dressing room possibly was located



Dan Urriola repairs the water filter found in the Old Corner Bar.

above the saloon, James says, accounting for the wash basins, water pitchers, and chamber pots found in the rubble. Visitors can push a button to start a taped explanation of the items in the exhibit, which will appear at the Silver Legacy indefinitely.—*Joyce Hollister*

Mark Twain's Birthplace

STATEWIDE—Samuel Clemens first became known by his pen name, Mark Twain, in 1863 when he worked as a \$25-a-week reporter for Virginia City's *Territorial Enterprise*. His time in Nevada is featured in the first episode of Ken Burns' two-part, four-hour documentary *Mark Twain*, which will air at 8 p.m. on January 14 and 15 on public television stations across the U.S.

The segment on Twain's two-year Nevada stay is named "Roughing It," the title of the book that Twain wrote describing his journey by stagecoach to Nevada Territory in 1861 and his adventures in the



Samuel Clemens (above in 1907) took his pen name while working as a Virginia City reporter.

silver camps, San Francisco, and Hawaii. "It's in Nevada that he's seeing the world far beyond where he grew up for the first time," Dayton Duncan, the film's coproducer, says. "If Missouri is the birthplace of Sam Clemens, Nevada is the birthplace of Mark Twain."

Archival photos from the 1860s were obtained from the Nevada Historical Society in Reno for the Nevada portion of the film. The General Motors-sponsored documentary joins others in Burns' series on exceptional Americans, among them Lewis and Clark and Susan B. Anthony. Burns is also known for *Civil War and Jazz*.

—*Joyce Hollister*

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SIGHTSEEING SLEDDING SHOPPING

Celebrity Marry

By Kathy Espin

They sneak into Las Vegas, frequent the Marriage License Bureau in the wee hours, get married in a wedding chapel, and vanish into the night, hoping no one notices.

This is often the scenario when celebrities marry in Las Vegas. The liberal marriage laws (no blood test, waiting period, or residency requirement), the town's proximity to Los Angeles, and the availability of a willing parson at any hour have made Las Vegas a popular spot for celebrity weddings. Most, but not all, of the notable newlyweds come to Nevada to avoid the media spotlight.

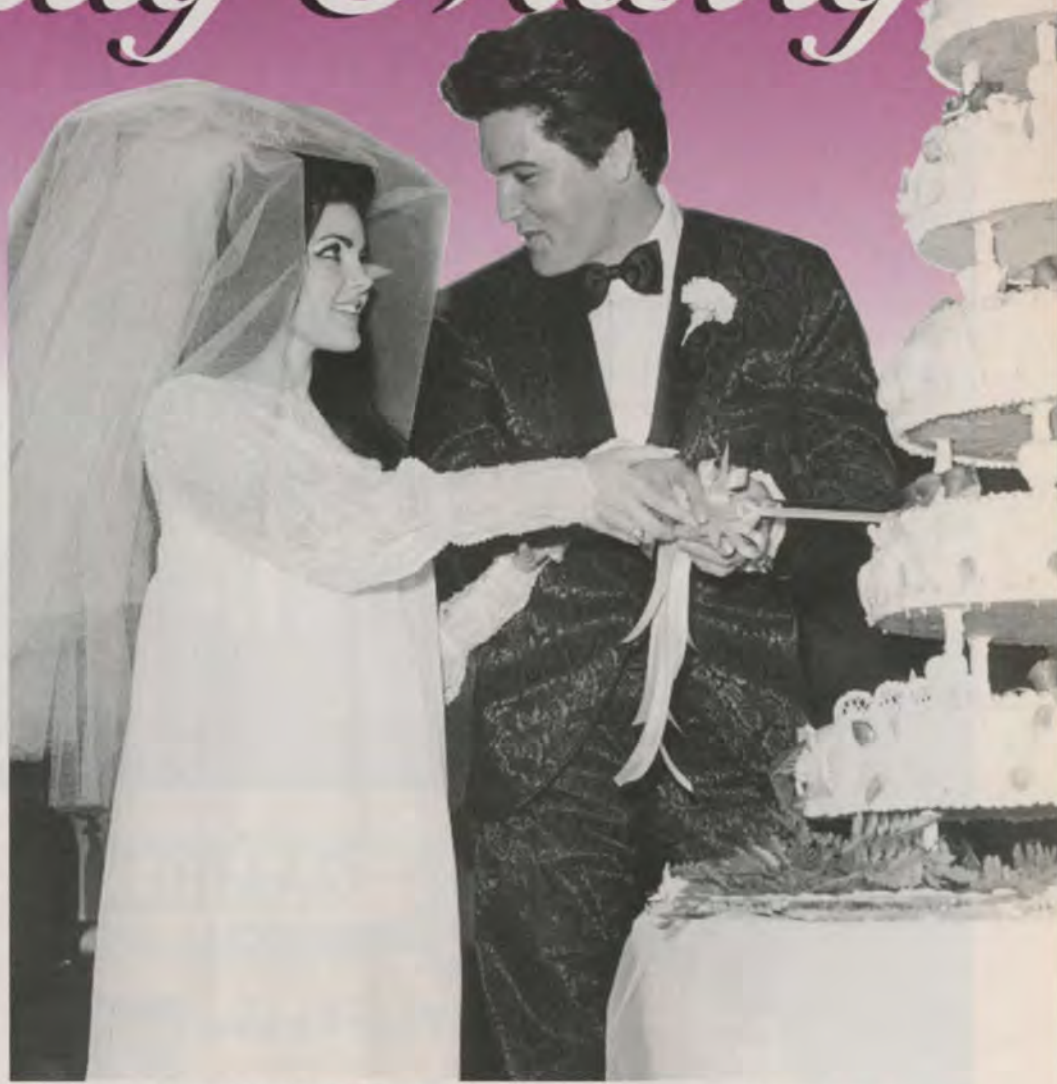
That was not the motive for the one celebrity wedding witnessed by this writer. As the public-relations director at the Stardust Hotel in 1991, I was drafted as wedding coordinator for Jan Berry of the '60s beach-music duo Jan and Dean. Berry decided at the last minute (or so they said) that he would marry Gertrude Filip on stage during a concert in the hotel ballroom. The idea, of course, was to make as much publicity hay out of the event as possible.

For the wedding, all I had to provide, overnight, were the flowers, a minister, a small reception, and, of course, media coverage. The bride already had her

*Most, but not all,
notable newlyweds come
to Nevada to avoid the
media spotlight.*

dress, although I have never figured out why. (I always travel with a full-length bridal gown and veil, don't you?)

You may remember that Jan Berry was the guy who sadly lived out the lyrics of the pair's hit song "Dead Man's Curve," suffering near-fatal injuries in an automobile accident in 1966. This tragic note



Priscilla and Elvis cut the cake following their 1967 wedding at the Aladdin before flying away in Frank Sinatra's private jet.

lent a bit of flair to the festivities that allowed me to interest *Entertainment Tonight* in covering the story. A camera crew was installed in the back of the audience with instructions to be ready for the ceremony at the end of the set.

As in any wedding, things didn't go quite as planned. At the last second it was decided that the wedding would take place when the band finished playing "Dead Man's Curve" due to its emotional significance. Fortunately, the gentlemen on the camera crew were not out on one of their funny cigarette breaks, so when "Dead Man's Curve" ended and "Going to the Chapel" began, they were ready.

The wedding was lovely, and the reception was nice, too. The pastry chef had created a huge sheet cake decorated in an outlandish and intricate beach theme with a white-chocolate bride and groom

riding a tiny surfboard. While staging a publicity photo of best man Dean Torrence sharing a toast with the groom, I discovered that Berry couldn't drink alcohol due to his injuries and Torrence hated champagne. The toast was made with apple juice in one champagne glass and Heineken in the other.

Celebrity toasts have been a Las Vegas tradition since silent-movie "It" girl Clara Bow and Rex Bell, the cowboy star and future Nevada lieutenant governor, exchanged vows here in 1931. Other Vegas celebrity couples have included Zsa Zsa Gabor and George Sanders (1949), Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward (1958), Elvis Presley and Priscilla Beaulieu (1967), George Hamilton and Alana Collins (1972), Bruce Willis and Demi Moore (1987), and Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob Thornton (2000).

No-Round

From Betty Arable to Billy Bob Thornton, the rich and famous have found various ways to say "I do" in Las Vegas.

In fact, Las Vegas has hosted about 500 celebrity weddings, according to Dan Newburn, author of *Stars Married in Las Vegas*. Newburn, a local minister, political figure, and former special-projects editor for the *Las Vegas Sun*, became interested in the subject when he was drafted as a wedding-chapel minister by casino mogul Elaine Wynn, wife of Steve Wynn, when the hotel owners opened a chapel at Treasure Island. During his brief tenure Newburn conducted several celebrity ceremonies himself, including the marriage of former boxing champ Ingemar Johansson. Newburn became curious about celebrity weddings, and the result was his self-published book, which sold out.

"I think people are fascinated with celebrities," Newburn says. "I think basically people have a latent voyeuristic streak in them, and they like to peek in on other people's lives. I do, too."

Most big-name stars want their weddings quiet and unpublicized, says Greg Smith, owner of the Little Church of the West, Las Vegas' oldest wedding chapel. Now in its third location, across the Strip from Mandalay Bay, the Little Church of the West was the site of the Jolie-Thornton nuptials. Smith says, "They called up and asked the price [of a wedding], then said OK. Three hours later they just walked across the street from the Four Seasons, got married, then walked back."

Smith says he would never notify the press of an impending celebrity wedding unless asked to do so. He recalls that Redd Foxx turned his wedding to Ka Ho Cho in 1991 into a major media event by inviting every journalist in town.

On the other hand, when Richard Gere and Cindy Crawford married at his chapel in 1991, Smith didn't know who the bride and groom were until they arrived. "They said it was a celebrity, and if they saw any press hanging around, they wouldn't come in." Gere and Crawford were dressed casually, Smith says. "They said they were having dinner [in Los Angeles] and got to talking about it. They

just got on one of Disney's planes and came here and did it." The couple asked that photos be taken but insisted on taking the film with them.

The Little Church of the West was located at the Last Frontier in 1943, when Betty Grable, the actress and World War

ding took place at 4 a.m., and the couple drove to Los Angeles right after their wedding breakfast.

A classic impromptu Vegas wedding took place on Veterans Day, 1998, when basketball player-author Dennis Rodman married *Baywatch* babe Carmen Electra at the Little Chapel of the Flowers after a night of serious partying. Just nine days later Rodman was looking for a legal loophole, claiming he had been too intoxicated to know what he was doing. In February, Rodman announced that he and Electra (real name: Tara Patrick) were happily married but living in separate homes. By April, the marriage was over, if indeed it had ever begun.



Actor Joseph Cotten, at the Dunes in 1955, may be reminding Rita Hayworth and Dick Haymes (above right) about their wedding at the Sands two years earlier, when reporters outnumbered guests. At right, Betty Grable and Harry James, who wed in Vegas, unwind poolside during an El Rancho engagement.

II pinup, married bandleader Harry James. The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* reported that more than 100 residents got up in the middle of the night to get a glimpse of Grable as she waited at the train station for James to return from Mexico with his fresh divorce. "The fans who gathered to see the highly publicized Miss Grable saw nothing but the silhouette of her head as the limousine in which she had hidden while waiting for the train whisked her and her husband-to-be away from the madding throng and out to the Last Frontier," the article said. The wed-





Comic actor Oliver Hardy married Lucille Jones, a script girl 22 years his junior, at the Las Vegas home of A.W. Ham in 1940. The marriage proved to be a happy one.

Last March the real Erin Brockovich (who was made famous by actress Julia Roberts' portrayal in the film *Erin Brockovich*) and her husband, actor Eric Ellis, renewed their vows at the Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel. The occasion was their second anniversary, and they chose a "Blue Hawaii" theme based on the Elvis Presley movie. The chapel was decorated with palm trees and tropical flowers. While an Elvis impersonator sang "Can't Help Falling in Love," Brockovich walked down the aisle with two hula girls as attendants. The couple exchanged rings

The real Erin Brockovich and her husband, Eric Ellis, renewed their vows while an Elvis impersonator sang "Can't Help Falling in Love."

during "The Hawaiian Wedding Song." Appropriately, they boogied to "Viva Las Vegas" after the ceremony.

Some celebrities want a nice, quiet wedding but don't mind having details leaked to the press afterward. A few even let the chapels use their names in advertising. The Little White Chapel, for example,

has Joan Collins' and Michael Jordan's names in lights. (There once was a life-sized cutout of Jordan that couples could pose in photos as an ersatz wedding guest.)

Minister and chapel owner Charlotte Richards says Collins and Jordan gave their permission. "Joan Collins told me, 'Charlotte, when I leave this place, you can tell the world if you want,'" Richards says, and she has. Same story with Jordan when he married Juanita Vanoy in 1989. "His name will always be in lights," Richards says. "He was very casual, in his dress and his attitude. It was about 12 years ago, just when he was becoming a star. He was very, very nice. I asked him if I could use his name, and he said yes."

Ceremonies don't always go smoothly. When *Partridge Family* star David Cassidy married actress Kay Lenz at the Little Church of the West in 1977 the service was delayed about 15 minutes while the limo driver was dispatched to retrieve the marriage license from the hotel. In 1965, Judy Garland took actor Mark Herron as her fourth husband for real after the groom had announced a year before that they had already married in a ceremony in China. Garland issued a quick denial of the Asian wedding because she was not yet divorced from husband number three, Sid Luft.

Celebrity vows often earn major press attention. Fifty-year-old Frank Sinatra married 21-year-old Mia Farrow at the Sands in 1966, about a year after Farrow's mother, Maureen O'Sullivan, had told the press, "He should be marrying me."

In 1967 Elvis Presley married his girlfriend of several years, Priscilla Beaulieu, at the Aladdin. Elvis had met Priscilla while he was stationed as a GI in Germany. At the time of their marriage Elvis was 32, Priscilla 21. The ceremony took place in the suite of the hotel's owner, Milton Prell, a friend of Elvis' manager, Colonel Tom Parker.

The wedding of movie star Rita Hayworth and singer Dick Haymes made news at the Sands in 1953. The actress, who usually avoided the press, invited re-

porters to the ceremony. "A group of newsmen and cameramen...outnumbered the invited guests to the affair," according to the *Review-Journal*.

The wedding almost turned into a movie scene when the groom's newly divorced wife, Nora Eddington Flynn,

Joan Collins told chapel owner Richards, "Charlotte, when I leave this place, you can tell the world if you want."

booked a suite at the Sands for the event. The ex failed to show after friends talked her out of attending. Otherwise, Hayworth and Haymes might have wished they had sneaked in and out of town.

Kathy Espin is a Las Vegas writer.

Wedding Bell Dues

Couples heading to the altar can obtain marriage licenses at courthouses around Nevada. A Nevada marriage license is good for one year, and you can use it to be married anywhere in the state.

Be sure to bring cash to buy your marriage license, which is available at the county courthouse. Also bring legal identification such as a valid driver's license, current passport, or copy of your birth certificate. A marriage license costs \$50 in Clark and Washoe counties. Clark (Las Vegas) accepts traveler's checks, but Washoe (Reno and Incline Village) doesn't.

In **Las Vegas** (702-455-4416) marriage licenses are available from 8 a.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday and 24 hours on Friday, Saturday, and holidays. The **Reno** marriage license bureau (775-328-3275) is open 8 a.m. to midnight daily, including holidays. In **Carson City** (775-887-2087) the marriage office is open daily except Thanksgiving and Christmas, and a license costs \$60, including a framable copy and small gift. Lake Tahoe has two Nevada marriage bureaus. The Douglas County office in **Stateline** (775-586-7290) is open daily; a license costs \$50, with a framable copy for \$10 more. In **Incline Village** (775-832-4166) the Washoe County office issues licenses for \$50, same as Reno.

Tales of Three Weddings



Toni Tennille and Daryl Dragon greet well-wishers after renewing their vows in Virginia City.

The Captain and Tennille, Mike Love, and Howard Hughes found love and marriage far from the glitter.

By Wilma LaRocca

Toni Tennille and Daryl Dragon wanted a quick, simple marriage ceremony when they flew to Reno on November 11, 1975. As the Captain and Tennille, they recently had won a Grammy for "Love Will Keep Us Together." The timing seemed right. Tennille says, "We'd been together since 1972, and everybody probably thought we were married."

A Las Vegas wedding would have meant a shorter trip from their California home, but Tennille ruled that out. "We didn't want to get married in Las Vegas," she says. "A Las Vegas wedding implied to us a union that had not been carefully considered." Instead, they preferred Reno's high-desert setting. After landing at the Reno airport they headed to Virginia City. Tennille explains, "Virginia City was quaint and charming and fit our requirement for a special place."

But it was Veterans Day, and the courthouse was closed. They found a clerk, working on her own time, who issued them

a marriage license. She told them to look for Ed Colletti, Virginia City's longtime justice of the peace: "Just walk down C Street and ask at every saloon. You'll find him." Tennille and Dragon found the judge and a local resident to serve as a witness. Fifteen minutes later, wearing jackets and jeans, the recording stars were married in the wedding chapel of the Silver Queen saloon.

The Captain and Tennille eventually moved to the Reno-Tahoe area and in 1995 renewed their vows at the Silver Queen. The event was a bit more formal; afterward, guests sipped champagne and listened to a string quartet at a Delta Saloon reception. Today the Dragons enjoy the quiet life at their home in Washoe Valley. "We've traveled a lot," Tennille says, "and there's no place we like better than Northern Nevada."

Tennille explains, "Virginia City was quaint and charming and fit our requirement for a special place."

Many other singers, actors, and generally well-known people have tied the knot in the Reno-Tahoe area and in rural Nevada. Most are attracted by the scenery and the chance to get away from it all while saying "I do."

Lake Tahoe provided the backdrop when Mike Love, the Beach Boys' lead singer and a Tahoe resident, mar-

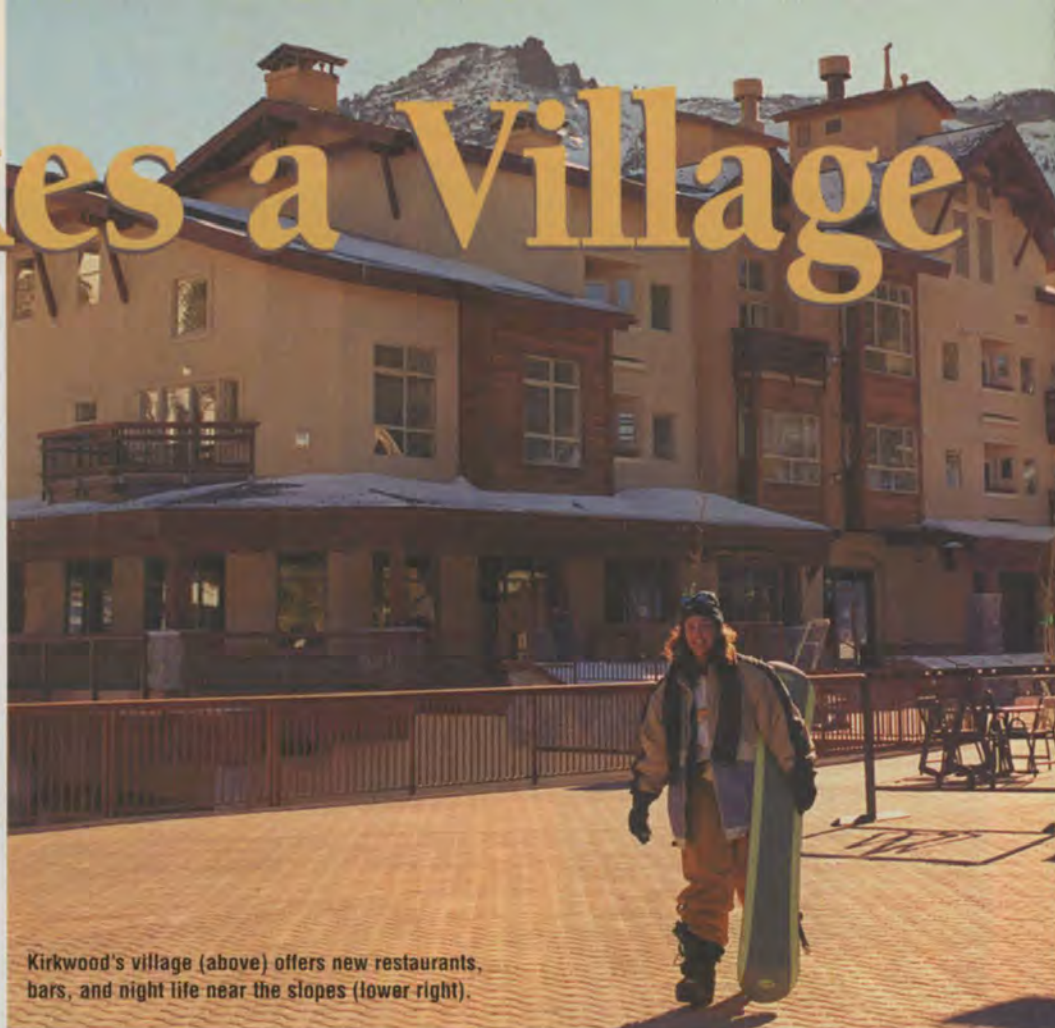
ried Jacquelyne Peisen in Incline Village on April 24, 1994. Besides Love's bandmates, there were more 400 guests, according to Dream-Maker chapel owner Juliette Howell, who arranged the wedding at a private estate. Love had invited all the ex-presidents—Nixon, Reagan, Ford, and Bush—and their RSVPs required federal agents to secure the site and fingerprint everyone involved, including hairdressers and food handlers. Howell recalls,

(Continued on page 75)

It Takes a Village

Skiers will find trendy diversions and more hang time at new base lodges at Heavenly, Squaw, and other Tahoe resorts.

By John Stearns



Kirkwood's village (above) offers new restaurants, bars, and night life near the slopes (lower right).

Finishing that last run, you schuss to the edge of the heated plaza, pop off your skis, and walk into a restaurant bustling with fellow skiers. The environment feels San Francisco-hip, but it's 6,000 feet higher than the Bay. There are nonskiers, too: guests in street clothes, businesspeople on lunch breaks, vacationers from around the world.

Outside, people head to other trendy eateries, shops, and bars. Skaters carve ovals on a central ice rink. Skiers and boarders sip hot drinks around open fire pits. Above the ground-level buzz, vacationers watch from their condo decks.

Welcome to the new base-lodge experience of Lake Tahoe. Designed to be hang-outs in summer as much as winter, these "ski-in/ski-out" attractions create a sense of place, a personality at the base to complement the mountains above.

"Part of the ambiance is new places to relax, new places to dine, new places to shop after hours," says Carl Ribaud, executive director of Ski Lake Tahoe, a cooperative marketing organization that includes six major resorts. "I think it becomes a total vacation experience."

Tahoe's lodge and village projects will amplify a skiing and snowboarding experience already juiced with electrifying views

and terrain. Heavenly, Squaw Valley USA, and Kirkwood are building new restaurants, condos, shops, and ice rinks in village-like settings designed to enhance the mountain-getaway atmosphere. Northstar-at-Tahoe also plans major base improvements.

The new villages and lodges will make great resorts even better, says Julie Ardito, a Reno skier and public-relations executive who likes the off-slope extras associated with the more trendy resorts. "I want to be able to ski in an area that's known for its choices," Ardito says, and the Tahoe projects will provide that. She predicts, "We're going to be on par with the Colorados and the Whistlers," referring to the renowned resorts of the Rockies and British Columbia.

That's right: The projects have people talking about Tahoe and the world's best skier destinations in the same breath.

Like many recreational skiers, Ardito loves the sport but doesn't necessarily want to ski all day. A good half-day is often perfect. Then she looks for options for the afternoon and evening. "It really is about added value," Ardito says. "I'm not just looking for the on-hill experience." The villages' top-name restaurants will have huge appeal, she says. "That's what's going to make it sweet for me."

Heavenly, whose terrain crosses the

Nevada-California state line, stands only a couple of miles from Stateline's neon-lit casinos but has lacked a focal point at its base. That is changing thanks to projects built around the \$23-million Heavenly Gondola, which whisks skiers, snowboarders, and sightseers from U.S. 50 to the upper slopes and an observation deck. When the gondola opened in December 2000, it instantly provided a symbolic connection between the mountain and city. South Lake Tahoe feels like a ski town these days.

Take a short walk west of the state line, and you'll see two huge projects by Marriott Vacation Club International rising on both sides of the gondola. Ground-floor restaurants and shops will be complemented by an ice rink, movie theaters, transit center, and other attractions being built next door in the Park Avenue Project, a \$300-million slice of South Lake Tahoe redevelopment. The Park Avenue Project, including Marriott's features, will have about 35 shops and restaurants.

The two Marriott properties are scheduled for completion in November 2002. Marriott's Timber Lodge will offer 261 timeshare units by the week. Marriott Grand Residence Club will be a 199-villa quarter-share facility in which people own a unit for



13 weeks a year, with penthouse units selling for up to \$550,000.

Across the lake at Squaw Valley USA, Intrawest—the developer and operator of village-centered resorts like Whistler/Blackcomb in British Columbia—is completing the first phase of a large ski-in/ski-out village. When ground was broken for the Village at Squaw Valley in mid-2000 after years of planning, resort founder Alex Cushing said it would help take Squaw to a higher level. “Building a village is not bricks and mortar,” he said. “Building a village is an art.”

The four-phase, \$250-million project is designed to create the ambiance of a European village with California style. The village will add 78 shops and restaurants topped by several floors of condominiums, about half of them rented like hotel rooms. First Ascent, the 139-unit first phase scheduled to begin opening at Christmas, will offer the Balboa Cafe, a bistro with San Francisco-style dining and an extensive wine list. There will be clothing shops, a home-elements shop run by the operators of Truckee’s Mountain Hardware, and

Nantucket Natural Oils, where customers can create their own aromas.

Like Heavenly’s and Squaw’s additions, Kirkwood’s new plaza offers chances to people-watch, shop, and dine while soaking up the high-Sierra sun. But the initial situation was different at Kirkwood because of its remote location, 30 miles south of Lake Tahoe. The resort was more in need of an adrenaline shot after sunset.

“Kirkwood, like a lot of places, was always known as...a great place to ski, but at four o’clock you better find a nice book and fire because that was the extent of it,” says Tim Cohee, the resort’s president.

The solution began with stylish slopeside lodging built over the last several years. Kirkwood has new restaurants and bars and a central plaza. An ice rink and fitness center were targeted for completion this winter. The familiar Cornice Cafe is being converted into a ski-and-sports bar with live music on Saturdays.

Northstar officials hope to break ground on a new and expanded village by about May 1. The project calls for 200 lodging units, about 100,000 square feet of commercial space, fire pits, an ice rink, spa, and year-round conference center.

“We really want to create almost a college-town atmosphere,” similar to the feel of Boulder, Colorado, says Julie Maurer, vice president of marketing for Northstar’s parent company, Booth Creek Ski Holdings, Inc. Northstar envisions a village that attracts a wide range of people who see the mountain as a place for recharging and camaraderie, she says.

Overall, nearly \$1 billion in direct or associated projects are remaking the lodge experience at the big Tahoe resorts. These ski villages are places to see and be seen, to swap tales of harrowing runs, to eat and imbibe—all amid some of the country’s most beautiful runs and mountain views. ❧

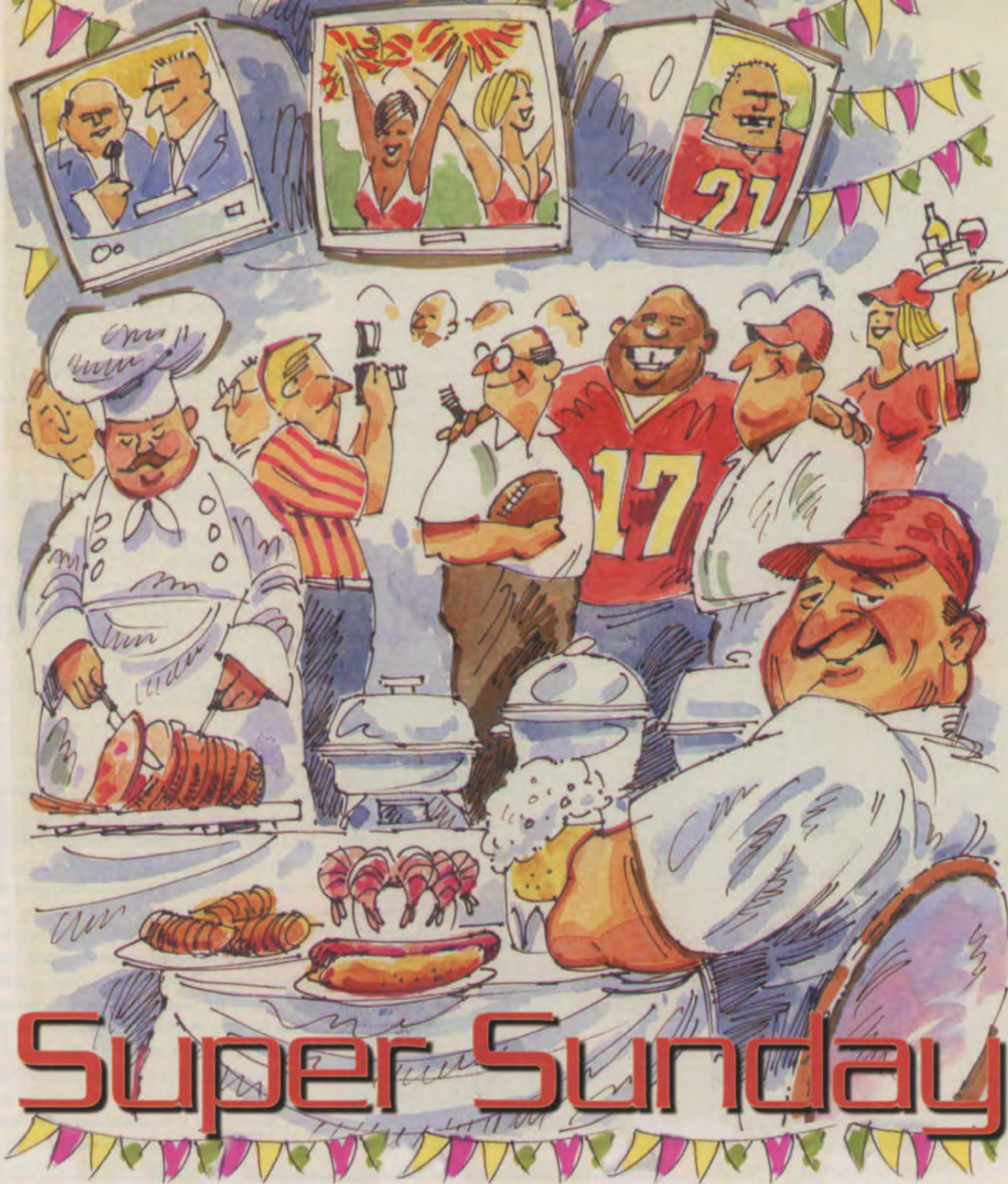
John Stearns is a skier and a senior business reporter at the Reno Gazette-Journal.



These “ski-in/
ski-out” attractions
are designed to be
hangouts in summer
as much as winter.

Skiing Tahoe

Skiers and snowboarders can learn more about Nevada and Lake Tahoe ski resorts from several sources. The **Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority** (800-FOR-RENO, www.ski.renolaketahoe.com) has news on ski bargains and details on area ski resorts. Also contact **Ski Lake Tahoe**, a group of the lake’s six biggest ski resorts (800-588-SNOW, www.skilaketahoe.com). The **Lake Tahoe, Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau** (800-GO-TAHOE, www.gotahoe.com/winter) focuses on the north shore, and the **Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority** (800-AT-TAHOE, www.virtualtahoe.com/skitahoe) is based at the south shore. See “Traveler’s Advisories” on page 9 and “Tahoe Ski Bargains” and “Skiing Around the State” on pages 38 and 39.



The Super Bowl is the biggest sports-wagering day of the year, even for a bettor who always chooses the dog.

By Jack Bulavsky

Julian Smolens knows baseball. He also knows basketball and the horses. But what the 77-year-old Las Vegas knows best is football, and nothing gets him more energized than preparing for a bet on the Super Bowl—the biggest betting sports event of the year in Nevada.

"I don't have an exact system or any-

thing like that," said Smolens, known to his friends and associates as Big Julie. "I look at each team, study their offensive and defensive statistics, and review how they played the last couple of games leading up to the Super Bowl. I just have some fun placing a bet, and I usually win."

Well, good for Julie. For me, the Super

Bowl is a completely different experience. I usually lose. That's because I look at the two teams and simply lay my money on the underdog. Unfortunately, my underdog usually turns out to be a dog. It's my upbringing. My high school and college sports teams never won a championship, and I learned at an early age to root for the

less-touted team. Take last year's Super Bowl, when I bet on the New York Giants. It turned out to be a close game, but the Baltimore Ravens won, and I lost.

So each year I contribute to the \$70 million that Nevada sports books take in from the Super Bowl. While much of the largesse comes from regular bettors, novices wager a large percentage on this national sporting event. (Because of the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Super Bowl has been rescheduled for February 3; the game normally is played on the last Sunday in January.)

The betting is not limited to who will win the game and by how many points. There are "proposition" bets on which player will score the first touchdown, whether there will be a field goal in the second quarter, or whether the quarterback will throw an interception before half time. There may be as many as 20 of these proposition bets, and plenty of bettors are willing to take a chance on them.

Including me. I laid a few bucks on a proposition bet last year that backup Ravens quarterback Tony Banks (an underdog) would get into the game and take a few snaps. Oops. Lost again.

At least I'm in good company. Even full-time bettors have lots of chances to get carried away in the big-game atmosphere.

"There's nothing like the Super Bowl," said Joe Lupo, race and sports book manager at the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas. "It is the single largest event we have, not only from the sports book's point of view, but from the entire casino's. It's a holiday weekend that begins about one week before the game itself. We bring in our high rollers, and there is one party after another."

Up and down the Strip, in Reno, and throughout Nevada, casinos hold public and private parties and bring in former football heroes to create a festive environment. Over the years, I've met Ed "Too Tall" Jones, the Dallas Cowboys defensive star; Jim Plunkett, the quarterback who guided the Oakland Raiders to two Super Bowl victories; Frank Hawkins, the Las Vegas who played fullback for the Raiders; and Roger Craig, the famous 49er running back. The ex-players sign autographs and pose for photos with fans who may or may not know exactly who they are. But that doesn't matter. It's the Super Bowl.

I've heard the Eldorado Hotel in Reno throws a good party. Hotel vice president



The ex-players pose for photos with fans who may or may not know exactly who they are. But that doesn't matter. It's the Super Bowl.

Glenn Carano is a former Dallas Cowboy quarterback who won a diamond-studded Super Bowl ring. He calls in many of his old teammates and transforms the downtown hotel into a football fan's paradise.

"Once we finish with New Year's Eve, we have all month to prepare for the game," said Rick Murdock, the Eldorado's vice president of sales and casino marketing. "That includes planning events for women, scheduling collegiate boxing on the Friday night before the Super Bowl, and preparing for our public and private parties. All I know is that once Sunday rolls around, it's an all-day football love affair."

Every Super Bowl is popular with bettors, but the teams closer to Nevada usually generate greater interest. "When



the San Francisco 49ers appeared in all those Super Bowls in the '80s, I know business was great in Reno, and it was terrific here," Lupo recalls. "I'm a neutral observer in all this, but it's great for business if San Francisco, Oakland, San Diego, or Phoenix make it to the big game."

The big game means big food, especially if you're invited to a private casino party. During my early Super Bowl betting years, I was content with the \$1 hot dogs that

came with complimentary potato chips and chocolate chip cookies. Later, as my bets increased and I got to know a few people, I discovered that the food is much more elaborate behind closed doors.

Don Ross, executive director of catering for Bally's and Paris in Las Vegas, has supervised private Super Bowl parties for 10 years. "Many of our parties are based around the two participating teams," said Ross. "When Baltimore played last year, I featured Maryland crab cakes. I look for food connected to the city or region the team represents. In the end, we put out everything but the kitchen sink."

More than 3,000 guests attended Ross' parties last year, and he expects the same kind of crowd this February 3. His menu will include fruits and salads, turkey and brisket of beef carving stations, shrimp, egg rolls, fried chicken, sub sandwiches, ice cream sundae stations, French pastries, and top-of-the-line wines. Ice carvings of the Vince Lombardi Super Bowl Trophy and football helmets with team insignias will grace the buffet tables. "When they come in to sit down," said Ross, "their tables are set in linen with team colors while buckets of popcorn, pretzels, and beer are waiting for them. And I haven't even mentioned the souvenirs. It's a great party."

In the meantime, Smolens is home watching the game with his son-in-law and having a bowl of chili. "I've been to all the parties, and they're a lot of fun, but this is how I prefer watching the game now," Big Julie told me. "I usually wait until all the commotion is over before going down and picking up my winnings."

Winnings? I wonder what that's like. ▮

Jack Bulavsky, a feature writer and gridiron fan who lives in Henderson, is already looking at several dogs for this year's Super Bowl. He likes the Pittsburgh Steelers.

BLIZZARD



A surprise early lambing makes for a long winter on the Dufurrena family ranch in northern Humboldt County, as described in this excerpt from *Fifty Miles From Home*.

Photos by Linda Dufurrena, Text by Carolyn Dufurrena

Once the sheep leave for the winter country, they are gone. Each day the trail takes them further south, one, two, three long valleys away, down gravel, and then not even gravel, roads. Someone drives down every few days to move the herder's camp, in winter a little white metal house on wheels; take him a pair of boots, some oil, and more batteries. It is vast empty country, even by our standards, those valleys that fringe the Black Rock play.

"Oh, not until March," the man who sold them the new sheep had assured them. "They won't lamb till March, maybe early April." It should have been a good deal, those older ewes. Buster and Hank had agreed, and now the sheep are well on their way to the winter country. The truck rumbles south, heater roaring, trying to keep up with the wind. It's an arctic wind,

stronger by the hour, blowing in the seams and cracks, chilling the windows.

The ruts are frozen today, so the trip is rough, but my brother-in-law Hank won't get stuck. The horse trailer creaks along behind. We passed the last of the widely scattered ranches the better part of an hour ago. The road snakes through low gray hills, an interference of little waves between mountain ranges. As the snow starts to spit, we come upon a small enclosure, steel posts and wooden pallets, in the middle of this empty place. In it are perhaps 10 ewes, huge with winter wool—and lambs.

A sheep does not show the closeness to her lambing in the same way as other animals. She will carry lambs five months, but a month from parturition looks like three, and although these sheep should not be close to lambing, some have al-

And so the
ewes kept
lambing, in the
winter desert,
life coming
against all odds,
against all
common sense.

ready given birth, and the rest of them could start at any time.

Hank stands in the icy wind, untying the makeshift gate with freezing fingers. He wades into the bunch, lifting the old ewes into the trailer. They are stubborn, resentful. They just want to find a bush to tuck their lambs under, but there is no cover here. It's not lambing country. The lambing grounds are two months and 70 miles slow grazing up the trail to the north. No one would choose this, but this is where they have found themselves, the sheep and the men who care for them, and there is nothing for it but to get through it. The last old ewe lies stubbornly, huge, a gray lump on frozen earth. "Come on, get in the trailer. Stand up." My brother-in-law's hands are red, cracked. The wind flings pellets of snow sideways. Soon the storm will be on us.

The ewe groans. In two hours he could have her home in the comparative warmth of the barn, straw on the floor, a pallet

pen, a heat lamp, companions chewing hay next door. The first lamb slides halfway out in one push. "Oh, hell," says Hank, more a prayer than a curse. He shuts the door of the horse trailer. I walk to the cab to see if there is something to use for a towel. I come back shaking the dust out of an old gray sweatshirt crammed down behind the seat. The first lamb is out, sopping, quivering in the thickening storm. I remember the frozen corrals at home, a tiny white lamb frozen solid to the ground before he could stand up.

The men stand in a knot around the ewe, waiting. It doesn't take long. In a few minutes the second lamb slips out. The ewe still lies, staring at something in the distance.

"They can't live, can they?" I ask, looking at the frozen earth that has received the early babies. Hank sighs. "They can take a lot." One huge hand clangs open the trailer door. The lambs' heads wobble. Incredibly, they woosily clamber to their

Hank spent
that winter
ferrying the old
ewes home,
through wet
snow, flat tires,
failing fuel
pump.

Herder Juan Hernandez and a pair of well-laden burros follow a flock of sheep (below). Ewes huge with winter wool struggle in the snow (opposite page).





Hank Dufurrena carries a leppy—a motherless lamb—bound for a warm new home in the barn.

feet as Hank sinks his other hand into the deep wool of the ewe's shoulder, one knee under her. He levers her 180 pounds into the trailer. The two lambs stand, feet apart, shaking their heads, tasting the dry, cruel, desert snowstorm. The wind blows harder. We lift the babies in next to their ancient mother, shut the door on them, and turn for home.

And so the ewes kept lambing, in the winter desert, life coming against all odds, against all common sense. Hank or his father Buster, or both of them, made the drive, once, sometimes twice or three times a day. Sometimes it seemed as though there had never been any other existence than lifting the ewes in the freezing cold, into the horse trailer, into the back of the pickup. Hank tied a string around the leg of the ewe, and around the corresponding leg of the lambs, to identify the pairs. They seemed to forget each other in the first day of their common life: a string around a front leg of this pair, around the neck of that one with twins, would help straighten out the load at the

other end of the road. Load up, bump off up the road, hours to the ranch, unload, come back, move the panels and the steel posts from their frozen place between low hills to another frozen place between other low hills.

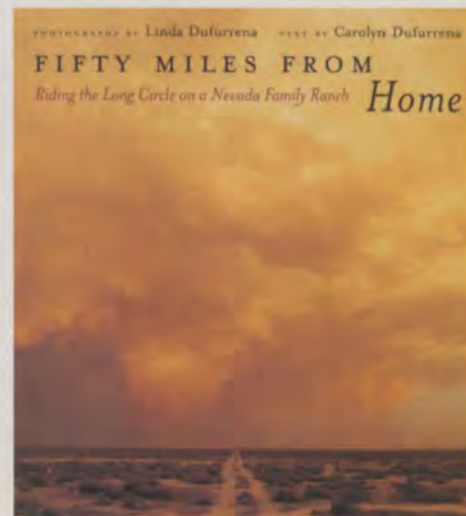
The band moves like a slow cloud across the desert landscape, southward before the winter wind. Ewes that lamb cannot be left behind to rest, as a lambing ewe should be allowed to do. The lambs cannot travel for a day or two, but in this country they will not survive a day or two in isolation. Coyotes, bobcats, cougars are all hungry in winter.

So Hank spent that winter ferrying the old ewes home, through wet snow, flat tires, failing fuel pump. Once home, lifting them out of the truck, into the barn, building the honeycomb of wooden pens that will shelter them—and separate just the one ewe and her lambs from the others—until they learn each other's warmth and smell. Fresh hay, another pan for water, another stretching extension cord, and another heat lamp wired to the beam or to the nail in the wall. Build the pen, unload the sheep, feed and water, gas up

the truck, and go again. January, February, March. This day was only one day in a long string of days, the product of all the days that had come before, a foreshadowing of days that were to come. But the sun still made its progress through the sky, and each day it warmed the earth a little more. The sheep turned around at last, and made their long, slow way back north, to the home ranch, to the lambing grounds, to the relative kindness of the spring. ▢

Linda Dufurrena is a Denio rancher and photographer and a founder of Shooting the West, the photography symposium that takes place in Winnemucca each March. Her daughter-in-law, Carolyn Dufurrena, is a rancher, writer, geologist, and King's River Valley School teacher. Both are longtime contributors to Nevada Magazine, Range, and other publications. They also operate an eco-tour company, dufurrena and dufurrena Adventures.

The preceding is an excerpt from their new book, Fifty Miles From Home: Riding the Long Circle on a Nevada Family Ranch, published by the University of Nevada Press. Presenting a vivid personal portrait of the Dufurrena ranch and the people connected with it, Fifty Miles From Home (176 pages, 122 color photos, \$34.95, hardcover, ISBN 0-87417-443-0) is available from bookstores and from University of Nevada Press, Mail Stop 166, Reno, NV 89557-0076; call 877-682-6657 or visit www.nvbooks.nevada.edu.



NEVADA *Events & Shows*

Nevada Magazine's Guide to Entertainment and Attractions in the Silver State

Jan/Feb 2002



Impersonators: The Real Thing

Nevada's celebrity look-alikes
find success and satisfaction by
portraying their favorite stars

Graham Patrick becomes Elvis in
"Legends in Concert" at the
Imperial Palace in Las Vegas.

Photo: Steve Spatafore

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Seeing Double

Through the magic of makeup and costumes, celebrity look-alikes get a taste of fame

By Kim Pryor



Carrie Sachs (top left) reflects on Reba McEntire, Sharon Haynes (above) sings as Patsy Cline, and Lori Legacy (right) plays Dolly Parton in "Honky Tonk Angels" at the Gold Coast in Las Vegas.



As the cowboy hoisted Lori Legacy over his shoulder and carried her off the casino stage, the surprised singer-impersonator wondered what to do. Legacy, who was portraying Dolly Parton, resorted to humor. "I'm busted," she called to the audience. "Let's get abreast of the situation."

Fortunately, security intervened before the cowboy could rustle Legacy out the door. Even though the incident took place in Elko 14 years ago, Legacy still laughs at the memory.

"Staying in character for me has always been easiest when it's off the cuff and when something goes awry," says Legacy, who per-

forms as Parton in "Honky Tonk Angels" at the Gold Coast in Las Vegas. "That's when Dolly really comes out, and I'm able to say or do something that I probably wouldn't normally do as myself."

Legacy is one of more than 100 celebrity look-alikes who appear in Nevada showrooms. Through the magic of makeup, mannerisms, and costumes, these entertainers transform themselves from moms, dads, and otherwise regular folks into celebrities such as Madonna, Elvis Presley, Reba McEntire, and Michael Jackson. Many impersonators describe themselves as shy. However, once night falls and the look-alikes leave their daytime lives behind, they get a taste of fame

and fortune—even what it's like to be chased by autograph-seeking fans.

Impersonator shows are popular for many reasons. Some showgoers just like the music. Others imagine their favorite performers, deceased or otherwise, are there on the stage. And you can't beat the price when compared to expensive superstar concerts.

"Some of the appeal also might be that there's a part of all of us who want to be that star up on stage," says Walter!, a female impersonator who added an exclamation point to his name. He portrays Carol Channing and Shirley MacLaine in "Carnival Cabaret" at the Lake Tahoe Horizon. He says, "If you were going to put me in makeup, who do you think I could look like?" People say that a lot. They think, 'Hmm, maybe I could do that.'"

That's what most celebrity impersonators think when they start their careers. In 1994 Corrie Sachs was singing in Las Vegas lounges and in the show "Viva Las Vegas" when Donnie Moore, producer of "American Superstars," told her, "I think you could do Reba." Sachs put on a red wig, saw her resemblance to Reba McEntire, and joined the show's cast four months later. She has appeared as McEntire in several Las Vegas impersonator shows, including "Country Fever" at the Golden Nugget and currently "Honky Tonk Angels."

Eddie Moss impersonates Michael Jackson in the Lake Tahoe Horizon's "Carnival Cabaret." As a toddler, Moss constantly was told he looked like Jackson. Then, on Halloween in 1995, he dressed like the one-gloved star. "People said, 'Wow!' and 'Ooh!' and 'Aah!'" Moss recalls. "I had job offers and people telling me, 'You should do it for a living.'" Moss, then residing in Southern California, went from flipping burgers in McDonald's to working as a Michael Jackson

Johnny Potash needed more than makeup to perform as Charlie Daniels in "American Superstars." He gained 20 pounds for the role. "The hardest part is trying to keep that weight from getting any greater than it already is," he says.



Johnny Potash plays a mean Charlie Daniels in "American Superstars," Melissa Totten is the Material Girl in "Legends in Concert," and Jim LeBoeuf (below) offers his "Tribute to Elvis."



look-alike. His job: impersonating a statue at the Hollywood Wax Museum. Once in a while he'd jump down from his pedestal to startle visitors.

Moss himself was startled during a trip to Japan in 1997 when he drove around dressed as Jackson, waving to people. Thinking they were seeing the real King of Pop, a horde of Jackson's fans followed Eddie to his hotel. Outside the lobby, security guards held back screaming fans. The hotel staff moved Moss to his own floor.

"I kept going to the window and waving at everybody," Moss says. "People were throwing up notes. I had to remove the makeup and disguise myself as myself so people wouldn't recognize me."

Elvis Presley died in 1977, but he plays every night in big shows and one-man tributes in Las Vegas. Graham Patrick, who portrays Elvis in "Legends in Concert" at the

Imperial Palace, was four when he saw an *Elvis on Tour* TV special at home in Ireland. "I loved everything about the way he wore his clothes, his hair, the way he sang," Patrick says. "I would study myself doing his smile in a mirror."

At 17, Patrick moved with his family to Canada, where he formed a band. He decided to do an Elvis impersonation show after he saw a friend perform a Garth Brooks tribute. Patrick dyed his light-brown hair black, borrowed some '50s clothing from his manager, and began his career as Elvis in Toronto. He learned how to camouflage his Irish accent while speaking on stage.

Most impersonators spend hours watching videos, scrutinizing and mirroring every gesture and habit of their chosen performer. When Eddie Moss decided to impersonate Michael Jackson, he watched countless concert videos, including one in which Jackson

taught Michael Jordan the moon walk. "It got to the point where my mother would say, 'No, you missed something there! Go back!'" Moss recalls. Lori Legacy studied Dolly Parton tapes to learn how to copy Parton's speaking voice. "Dolly sings when she talks," Legacy says. "She's always up and down and all around. It took me the longest time to figure that out."

Of course, appearance is critical to pulling off an authentic imitation. Legacy looks more like a PTA mom than the buxom blonde singer she portrays. Her thin build, wispy blond hair, and girlish features are a far cry from Dolly's busty build, big hair, and fuller face. Originally, Legacy used balloons to replicate Dolly's big bustline. One night, one of the balloons sprang a slow leak, and by the end of the show it had deflated. She joked to the audience, "I'm Dolly's half sister." After that fiasco, Legacy had a special bra made.

To transform himself into Carol Channing and Shirley MacLaine, Walter! uses makeup and a technique called shadowing that enhances cleavage. Makeup also helps Moss morph into Michael Jackson. "I have Michael's features, but I don't have his face, so I have to paint his face onto mine," Moss says. "You're not drawing Michael's makeup. You're actually trying to re-create that person's face."

Johnny Potash needed more than makeup to perform as Charlie Daniels in "American Superstars" at the Stratosphere. Already an accomplished fiddle player, Potash didn't think he needed to be as visually correct as other cast members, but the show's producers wanted him to look as much like Daniels as possible. Potash, therefore, gained 20 pounds for the role. "The hardest part is trying to keep that weight from getting any greater than it already is," he says.

Costumes are as important to Elvis Presley impersonators as they were to the King himself. For Jim LeBoeuf, there's a certain cost of dressing for his "Tribute to Elvis" at the Riviera. He owns 12 costumes, some of which are worth \$4,000. In addition, he wears sunglasses designed by Dennis Roberts, who made Elvis' eyewear. And there are other expenses.

"I spend about \$25 or \$35 a week on teddy bears," LeBoeuf says. Initially, he copied Elvis' habit of rubbing scarves over his sweaty face and neck and tossing them to women in the audience. But some recipients didn't understand that the gesture was a tribute to the King. LeBoeuf says, "Everybody understands a free teddy bear. People come now expecting it. This is my way of showing one portion of Elvis' generosity that everyone remembers him for."

Although some impersonators try to replicate every detail of a celebrity's performance and mannerisms, others, like LeBoeuf, don't

perform a carbon copy. Sharon Haynes, who stars as Patsy Cline in "Honky Tonk Angels," also is not concerned with re-creating every detail of her star's personality. Twelve years ago in Nashville, she recalls, she first performed as Patsy Cline with the Jordanares,

who sang backup for Cline and Presley. Haynes was nervous about being compared to Patsy, but Ray Walker of the Jordanares took her aside.

"You're so much like her as far as your looks and vocals," Walker reassured Haynes.



Frank Marino as himself.



Frank Marino as Joan Rivers.

Where to Find Double Identity

The following is a sampling of the celebrity impersonator shows playing in Las Vegas, Laughlin, and Lake Tahoe showrooms. Times and prices are subject to change, so be sure to call ahead for information.

"The Dream King" starring Trent Carlini as Elvis plays the Boardwalk Casino Holiday Inn's Lighthouse Showroom at 8:30 p.m. Tues.-Sat. Tickets are \$29.95 plus tax. Call 702-730-3194.

"The King in Concert" plays daily at 4 p.m. at the Elvis-A-Rama Museum, 4301 Industrial Road. The cost is \$14.95, or \$22 with a tour of the museum. A second tribute show, "All Shook Up," appears daily at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$37.75. Call 702-309-7200.

Fitzgerald's Second Floor Events Center hosts Michael Kennedy's **"Tribute to Elvis,"** which plays at 7, 8, and 9 p.m. Thurs.-Sun. Admission is free. Call 702-388-2400.

If you're looking for a little country, **"Honky Tonk Angels,"** a tribute to Patsy Cline, Dolly Parton, and Reba McEntire, among other stars, plays in the Gold Coast Showroom at 8 p.m. Wed.-Sun. The cost is \$14.95 plus tax. Call 702-367-7111.

"Legends in Concert" at the Imperial Palace appears at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Tickets are \$34.50. Call 702-794-3261.

At the Lady Luck the **"Stars of the Strip"** come out at 2 and 3:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. The show is free with the purchase of one cocktail at \$5.95. Call 702-477-3000.

At the Danny Gans Theatre in the Mirage, the man of many voices, **Danny Gans,** performs at 8 p.m. Tues.-Thurs. and Sat.-Sun. Tickets cost \$80. Call 702-792-7777.

"Rock and Roll Legends," a celebrity trib-

ute to stars such as Paul McCartney, Stevie Nicks, and Neil Diamond, plays at the New Frontier daily at 4 p.m. except Friday. Tickets are \$21.95. Call 702-794-8200.

"Hunka, Hunka, Burnin' Love" will entertain Elvis fans at the Plaza Hotel at 8 p.m. Tues.-Sun. Admission is \$38.45. Call 702-386-2444.

The Riviera's La Cage Theatre presents **"An Evening at La Cage"** starring Frank Marino in the female-impersonator production at 7:30 p.m. Wed.-Mon. The cost is \$29.95 plus tax. Also, **"Tribute to Elvis"** with Jim LeBoeuf plays in the Le Bistro Lounge from 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Tues.-Thurs. There is a two-drink minimum. Call 702-794-9301.

"The Rat Pack Is Back" appears in the Sahara's Congo Room at 6:30 and 9 p.m. Mon. and Wed. and 8 p.m. Tues. and Fri.-Sun. Tickets are \$49.95 for general admission. Golden Circle tickets are \$57.50, which includes one drink. Call 702-737-2515.

"American Superstars" at the Stratosphere's Broadway Showroom plays at 7 p.m. Sun.-Tues. and 7 and 10 p.m. Wed., Fri., and Sat. Tickets are \$32 and \$42. Call 702-382-4446.

In Laughlin, the Flamingo Laughlin's Club Flamingo entertains guests with **"Reflections of the Rat Pack"** at 7 and 9 p.m. Fri.-Wed. Tickets are \$12.95. Call 702-298-5028.

At Stateline, **"Carnival Cabaret"** plays the Golden Cabaret at the Lake Tahoe Horizon at 8 and 10 p.m. Tues.-Thurs. and Sun. (\$14.95) and Fri. and Sat. (\$15.95). Call 775-588-6211.

"Yeah, Yeah, Yeah, A Tribute to the Beatles" starring Rain will appear at Harrah's Lake Tahoe Wed.-Thurs. and Sat.-Mon. January 23-March 31 in the South Shore Room. Tickets cost \$29. Call 800-427-7247.—Jason Hanson

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Performing as the Temptations, the group Tribute presents the Temps' great Motown moves and songs as part of the rotating "Legends in Concert" cast at the Imperial Palace.

"Don't even worry about trying to be like her. Be yourself." It worked. Afterwards he told Haynes, "The minute you stepped on that stage tonight our hair just stood on end. We got the pricklies. It was like seeing a ghost. It was like Patsy was there."

Some impersonators carry off their roles so realistically they're often mistaken for the real celebrities. In airports, when people see Donald Burton's jacket emblazoned with "Tribute: Salute to the Temptations," suddenly the five singers are surrounded by Temps fans. Even after seeing "Legends in Concert," some audience members cling to the illusion. "No matter how you tell them you're not the real Temptations, there's people who actually just don't want to hear that," says Burton. "In their eyes, they are taking pictures and talking to the real Temptations."

Sometimes the real stars appear after the show. Michael Jackson himself saw Eddie Moss at the Hollywood Wax Museum in 1996. Afterward, Jackson invited Moss to meet him in a magic shop, where they spent two hours looking at merchandise. Jackson, says Moss, left with \$40,000 in magic tricks.

When Moss returned home, there were two messages on the answering machine from Jackson. Moss says Jackson was so quiet and soft-spoken he could hear only some of his words, but apparently Jackson enjoyed the performance.

At the Sahara, Sammy Davis Jr.'s widow Altovise once watched "The Rat Pack Is Back," in which Doug Starks played her late husband.

"That was an interesting night because being in front of her as Sammy was a weird feeling," Starks says. "She said she enjoyed it. She said I had the mannerisms down." Davis' widow gave Starks fashion tips, calling

attention to the blue suit that Starks wore in the show.

"Sammy would not have worn that suit," Altovise Davis told him. "If everybody else had on tuxes, he would have had on a tux."

"That suit," Starks says, "has not been back on stage."

For many impersonators, it takes more than makeup and mannerisms to create an authentic take on the original. It also requires the proper mindset.

"Right before I go on stage, I feel like Madonna," says Coty Alexander of "American Superstars." "When you're impersonating, you're acting. Sometimes you're really into it, and the character overcomes you. When you impersonate someone every night, your facial expressions actually change."

Hunter, a Cher look-alike in "Carnival Cabaret," says he takes advantage of his "rubber" face. "I have one of those faces that everybody thinks I'm their cousin in Michigan," Hunter says. "And I'm noticing that I'm evolving as I'm aging. I look more like Cher as she does now than in the '80s."

Although celebrity impersonators may resemble their counterparts on stage, off stage their lives are far removed from the glamorous Hollywood lifestyle. Lori Legacy likes to bake, make crafts, and spend time with her insurance adjuster husband, Jim Hunt, and her three-year-old son and kindergarten-aged daughter. "We raised our children on country music," says Legacy. "In fact, when my daughter hears Dolly on the radio, she tells me, 'Mom, you're on the radio again.'"

Kim Pryor is a freelance writer based at Lake Tahoe. She has been told she could impersonate Goldie Hawn or Mary Chapin Carpenter.

Events Note

Cowboys in the Kitchen

Chefs teach gourmet buckaroo cooking at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko. **By Jim Fisher**

When 8,000 poets, musicians, and fans of the American cowboy descend on Elko January 26 to February 2 for the 18th National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, not everyone will be there just for rhyme and song. For some folks, the big attraction will be three cooking workshops taught by ranch cooks and range-savvy

Chicken Marabella Has Fabuloso Sabor or Fabulous Flavors

Ingredients for eight people:

- 8 large chicken breasts
- 1 package of pitted dried prunes
- 12-ounce jar of queen Spanish olives stuffed with minced pimento
- 4 to 5 bay leaves
- 3/4 cup virgin olive oil
- 1 bottle (750 ML) hearty red wine
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon mustard of your choice
- Pinch each of basil, tarragon or parsley, rosemary, salt, and fresh ground pepper
- 4 to 8 cloves garlic

Method:

In a deep kettle or Dutch oven blend all ingredients except chicken.

Wash the chicken and then submerge in sauce; refrigerate overnight or at least six hours. Separate chicken from sauce. Gradually bring sauce to simmer; stir intermittently. Heat a large lightly oiled skillet and brown chicken on all sides. Place chicken in kettle or Dutch oven with sauce. Cover and let simmer about 10 minutes or until chicken is tender. Serve with rice.

—Joyce Vetter

chefs. "The cooking classes have been very popular since they were first offered in 1992," says Deborah Fant, the gathering's manager. "A few years ago, we offered only two cooking classes. We had enough reaction from participants that we quickly returned to offering at least three courses."

Instructors may be professional ranch or restaurant chefs, home cooks, or even cowboy poets and musicians. Past instructors have included popular "Polish Cowboy Poet" Paul Zarzyski, singer-songwriter-actor Tom Perlman, and the Gillette Brothers, a guitar-playing duo from Texas. The Gillettes took the students outdoors, scraped snow off the ground, and used Texas-grown mesquite for the fire in their Dutch-oven cooking class.

This year's workshops illustrate the variety of dishes taught over the years. First, Mariddle Craig and Charlotte Antonio, sisters from the White Mountain Apache tribe in Arizona, will teach students how to make Apache camp bread and mutton stew. Next, songwriter and trail cook Joyce Vetter of Graeagle, California, will show how to cook chicken Marabella and bake bread in a Dutch oven. Vetter combines her instruction with guitar playing and singing. Last, members of the Elko CattleWomen's Association will share their favorite recipes for tongue, steak salad, and sweet-and-sour meatballs.

Some students take the classes annually. Annette McKenzie and Sue Jensen have attended them each year since '92, riding the train from their homes in Vacaville, California, over the Sierra to Elko. "The classes are fun because you are always learning something new from different ethnic backgrounds," says Jensen. "Some of my

favorites have been casserole recipes from Wales, unique Christmas cookies, and classes taught by chefs from some of Elko's finest Basque restaurants." Bruce Caldwell travels each year with his wife, Lois, from Ontario, Canada, to attend the courses. He has the reputation of being the best chopper and slicer among the participants.

Instructors who are used to preparing meals for ranch hands offer tips for cooking for crowds. One helpful bacon technique:



Joyce Vetter samples hot biscuits during her cooking classes last year.



Vetter shows how to bake Dutch-oven biscuits over a campfire.

Instead of frying strips in a skillet, cook several pounds of bacon on a jelly-roll pan in the oven.

The three half-day workshops start on Tuesday, January 29, at the Elko Presbyterian Church kitchen. Each workshop is limited to 30 participants, and the cost is \$61 per class. Call the Western Folklife Center, 775-738-7508, for tickets to the cowboy cooking classes. □

Jim Fisher of Sisters, Oregon, is a retired forester and public relations director with the Oregon Department of Forestry. He and wife Dorene have attended the Cowboy Poetry Gathering's cooking classes for the past 10 years.



Nevada Events

January and February events in Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe, and Rural Nevada.

open-mike participants perform. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Americana Indian Show • Jan. 18-20 • Jewelry and collectibles. Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, 520-526-9332.

Black and White Ball • Jan. 19 • Dancer Chita Rivera is the honoree for the Nevada Ballet Theatre's an-

Downtown Party

On New Year's Eve the Fremont Street Experience in downtown Las Vegas will present entertainment on two stages, fireworks, food and drink specials, and a light-and-sound show under the giant canopy. Other cities and towns throughout the state will hold celebrations to salute the arrival of the new year.

nual evening of dinner, dance, and entertainment. Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 702-243-2623, ext. 230.

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration • Jan. 19-21 • Activities and entertainment TBA in the Las Vegas area.

Charleston Heights Jazz Concert • Jan. 20 • Local and internationally known musicians. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-313-6778.

At the Cinema: *Marius et Jeannette* • Jan. 22 • Romantic story about the keeper of an abandoned cement works and a poor single mother. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Laughlin Desert Challenge • Jan. 24-27 • Off-road race includes the Laughlin Leap, a high-jump competition for trucks known for its spectator thrills. Laughlin, 800-452-8445.

An Evening With Friends • Jan. 25 • Local talent performs in a variety show. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Bridal Show • Jan. 25-26 • Everything for the big event. Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 702-368-0088.

Ailey II • Jan. 26 • Dance program. Performing Arts Center, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Las Vegas Woodwind Quintet • Jan. 27 • Concert at 3pm. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

At the Cinema: *Dreamlife of Angels* • Jan. 29 • Story of the friendship between two penniless women

Bumper to Bumper

Racing at close quarters, competitors in the Laughlin Desert Challenge tackle the rugged terrain around the Colorado River community 95 miles south of Las Vegas. A highlight of the January 24-27 event is the Laughlin Leap, a high-jump competition for trucks.

Nevada communities offer a great variety of events this winter. In the Las Vegas area, actor-singer Mandy Patinkin performs a concert at UNLV. Nevada Opera presents "The Marriage of Figaro" at Reno's Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, and snow lovers can join the Elko Winter Celebration. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following statewide events for January and February. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times.

Las Vegas Territory

New Year's Eve Celebrations • Dec. 31 • Parties and activities hosted by communities and resorts throughout the state.

Family New Year Celebration • Dec. 31 • Dinner cruise aboard the *Desert Princess* paddlewheeler, followed by festivities at Lake Mead Cruises Landing, Lake Mead, Boulder City, 702-293-6180.

African American Cultural Focus • Jan. 5 • Discussion of African culture. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Regional Cheerleading Competition • Jan. 5 • United Spirit Association event brings together

cheerleaders from the region. Cashman Center Theatre, Las Vegas, 800-886-4872.

Mandy Patinkin • Jan. 6 • Tony- and Emmy-winning performer in concert. Performing Arts Center, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

At the Cinema: *Oliver, Oliver* • Jan. 8 • A French film about a family torn apart when their son, five-year-old Oliver, disappears. Years later, a young man returns, claiming to be Oliver. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Dynamic Trombone Quartet • Jan. 13 • Traditional and contemporary music. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Bootleg Canyon: Downhill and Dual Slalom • Jan. 13 • Mountain bike racing open to all classes. Boulder City, 702-293-2453.

The Family's Guide to the Orchestra • Jan. 13 • Program includes themes from *Superman* and *Gladiator* as well as "Capriccio Italien" by Tchaikovsky. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

At the Cinema: *Life and Nothing But* • Jan. 15 • A World War I French army officer meets a woman who is searching obsessively for her husband. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Cruise Night • Jan. 18 • Las Vegas Cruisin' Association. Location TBA, Las Vegas, 702-260-6960.

Poets' Corner • Jan. 18 • Established poets and

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Nevada Territory Map

To assist you in your travels through Nevada, the state has been divided into the following territories:

- Reno-Tahoe Territory
- Cowboy Country
- Pony Express Territory
- Pioneer Territory
- Las Vegas Territory
- Indian Territory

with few prospects. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Thomas Hampson • Feb. 1 • Baritone performs in concert. Performing Arts Center, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Woodworking Show • Feb. 1-3 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 405-842-3277.

Cheerleaders of America • Feb. 2 • Open championship. Cashman Center Theatre, Las Vegas, 800-252-4337.

African American Cultural Focus • Feb. 2 • Discussion of African culture. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Super Bowl Parties • Feb. 3 • Nevada casinos and watering holes offer parties with food, drink, and prizes for football fans.

Las Vegas International Marathon • Feb. 3 • More than 8,000 runners and walkers compete in the 36th annual marathon and half-marathon. Call for location. Las Vegas, 702-240-2723.

Cauliflower Alley Club • Feb. 7-9 • 37th annual gathering of past, present, and future boxers and wrestlers. Riviera, Las Vegas, 573-265-3266, ext. 33.

Sports Collectible Show • Feb. 8-10 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 715-445-4612, ext. 318.

Kawasaki Team Green: Laughlin U.S. Hare Scrambles • Feb. 8-10 • Motorcycle desert race for points. Colorado Belle is the host hotel, Laughlin, 702-457-5775.

"Characters of the Comstock" • Feb. 8-10 and 14-17 • The Rainbow Company's musical production based on Nevada's history. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

"Of Mice and Men" • Feb. 8-10 and 14-17 • John Steinbeck's story of friendship during the Great Depression. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Bootleg Canyon: Downhill and Dual Slalom • Feb. 10 • Mountain bike racing open to all classes. Boulder City, 702-293-2453.

National Collegiate Cheerleading Championships • Feb. 10-11 • Cashman Center Theatre, Las Vegas, 800-886-4872.

Valentine's Day Dance • Feb. 14 • Big-band music. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

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2002 EVENTS CALENDAR

- Spring Wings Bird Festival, May 10-12
- Fallon Air Show, June 15-16
- Silver State Int'l Rodeo, July 2-7
- Fallon Stampede Pow Wow, July 12-14
- Nevada Motocross Championship, Aug. 9-10
- Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival, Aug. 30-Sept. 2
- Desert Oasis Music Festival, Sept. 27-29
- Wings Over The Valley Hunting Festival, Sept. 27-29
- Fallon Harvest Days & Nevada State Picnic, Oct. 11-13

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The Cowboy Spirit of Nevada

Buckaroos share stories and songs during the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko January 26 to February 2. The event is filled with workshops, jam sessions, and poetry recitations.

Valentine's Day Cruise • Feb. 14 • Romance is the theme for the dinner-dance excursion aboard the *Desert Princess* paddlewheeler. Lake Mead, Boulder City, 702-293-6180.

SamulNori • Feb. 15 • The four dancing percussionists have been the subject of several books. Performing Arts Center, UNLV, Las Vegas, 705-895-ARTS.

Cruise Night • Feb. 15 • Las Vegas Cruisin' Association.

tion. Location TBA, Las Vegas, 702-260-6960.

Volleyball Tournament • Feb. 15-18 • Southern California Volleyball Association event. Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 909-296-9595.

Desert Dash Heat Wave Race • Feb. 16 • Triathlon-style challenge combining running, bicycling, and canoeing. Check-in from 6-8am at the Special Events Beach, Lake Mead. Race begins at 10am. 702-431-4858.

Celebrating Sarah Vaughn: Diane Reeves • Feb. 17 • Jazz vocalist. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

"Shining Bow" • Feb. 20 • Opera based on the life of Frank Lloyd Wright. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Puttin' on the Ritz • Feb. 20-23 • \$150,000 slot tournament. Westward Ho Casino, Las Vegas, 800-223-1709.

Sportsmen's Boat, RV, and Travel Show • Feb. 21-24 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 702-736-5958.

Hoover Dam Dance • Feb. 23 • Circle 8's Square Dance Club dances at Hoover Dam at 9am and from 7-10:30pm at the Boulder City Recreation Center. Boulder City, 702-565-8372.

Choreographers Showcase • Feb. 23-24 • Original works by some of Las Vegas' best choreographers and dancers. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

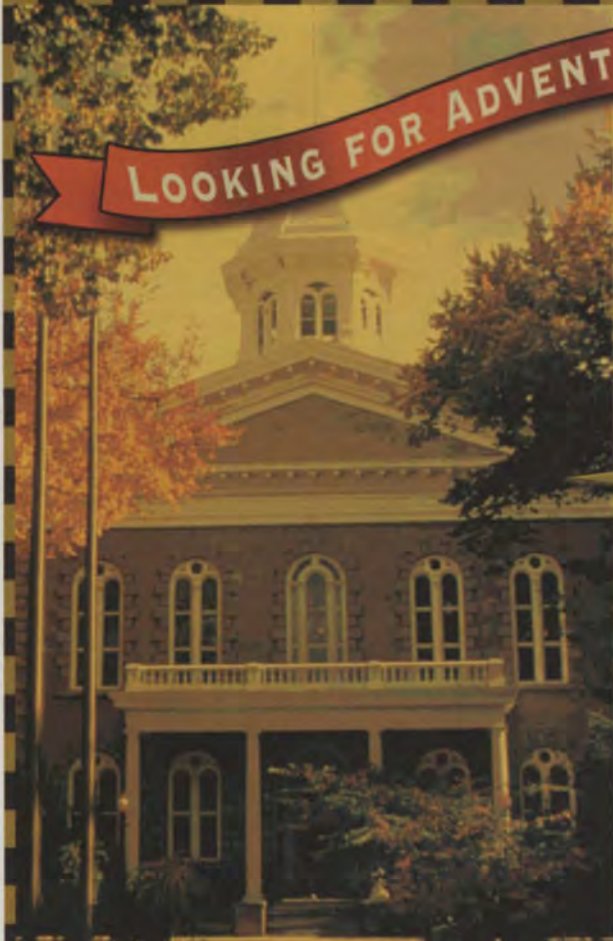
Pennzoil's World of Outlaws • Feb. 28-March 2 • Outlaw sprint cars race on the dirt oval track. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

New Year's Eve Celebrations • Dec. 31 • Parties and activities hosted by communities and resorts throughout the state.

New Year's Eve Celebration • Dec. 31 • Fireworks. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Galaxy Trio • Jan. 4 • Classical jazz featuring violinists Moshe Hammer and Lenny Solomon and pi-



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Elko Winter Celebration

Photos by Cynthia A. Delaney

Ice fishing and wine tasting—it's not your usual combination, but at the Elko Winter Celebration on Presidents Day weekend you can choose from these and more than 30 other events.

The celebration begins with fireworks, bonfires, barbecue, and torchlight parade on Friday night, February 15. On Saturday and Sunday, you can take a snowmobile tour or a horse-drawn carriage ride, ski, watch sled races, or go snowshoeing. You can visit an art show and sample wine and cheese.

At last year's carnival, visitors enjoyed carriage rides (top right) and ski racing (middle right). The Ice Fishing Derby at Dunn's Wildhorse Resort (below right) was another popular attraction, as was the Ugly Dog Contest (below left).

The Winter Olympics take place February 8-24, and visitors are invited to stop in Elko on their way to Salt Lake City. Call 800-243-ELKO or visit www.elkocva.com.





A Classical Performance in Reno

The Reno Chamber Orchestra performs the music of Mozart, Martinu, and Geminiani during its spring concert on January 26 at the University of Nevada, Reno. Appearing with the orchestra are outstanding musicians and soloists Phillip Ruder, John Lenz, and James Winn.

anist Bernie Senensky. Community Center, Carson City, 775-246-5783.

"The Lion in Winter" • Jan. 4-6 and 11-13 • King Henry is faced with a dilemma: His three sons want

to rule and he and his wife can't agree on which offspring is best suited for the role. Reno Little Theater, Reno, 775-329-0661.

Soup and Shoe • Jan. 6 • Guided snowshoe hike

with hot soup and bread provided. Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, 30 miles south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.

Directions 2002 • Jan. 9 • Steve Forbes of *Forbes Magazine* is the keynote speaker for Northern Nevada's economic forum. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 775-337-3044.

Winners Weekend Slot Tournament • Jan. 11-13 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

Win 'n Smile • Jan. 12-13 • Slot tournament. Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-215-7721.

Reno Philharmonic • Jan. 13 and 15 • Pianist Jean-Philippe Collard performs selections from Rachmaninoff and Beethoven. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.

Washo Basket Weaving Demonstration • Jan. 16 • Sue Coleman displays and demonstrates the Smokey family's Washo baskets and art. Carson Valley Museum, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

Winterfest Keno Tournament • Jan. 18-19 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Antique Show and Sale • Jan. 19-20 • Benefit for the Carson Valley Pops Orchestra. Sierra Nevada Golf Ranch, Genoa, 775-782-4951.

Show Me the Money • Jan. 19-20 • Slot tournament. Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration • Jan. 19-21 • Activities and entertainment TBA in the Reno-Sparks area.

Olympic Torch Relay Celebration • Jan. 20 • Torchlight parade, fireworks, and a street party. Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-4462.

2002 Winter Olympics Torch Relay • Jan. 21 • The torchbearers arrive at the Reno Arch at noon, followed by an Olympic celebration. Downtown Reno, 775-3345-2414.

University of Nevada Boxing • Jan. 25 • Boxers represent the University of Nevada, Reno, UNLV, Air

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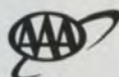


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Sparks

Force Academy, San Jose State, Santa Clara, UC Berkeley, and Arizona State. Eldorado Hotel, Reno, 800-648-5966.

Spring Concert • Jan. 26 • Reno Chamber Orchestra performs the music of Mozart, Martinu, and Geminiani with soloists Phillip Ruder, John Lenz, and James Winn. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-348-9413.

Kinder Cup Challenge • Jan. 26 • Races for children six and under. Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-4462.

Reno/Tahoe Winter Wine and Ski Expo • Jan. 31 • Countdown to the Olympics features tastings from more than 50 wineries, dozens of restaurants from the Reno-Tahoe area, Sierra ski resorts, ski and snowboard celebrities, silent auction, and other activities. All proceeds benefit the Jimmie Heuga Snow Express for Multiple Sclerosis. Atlantis, Reno, 800-723-6500.

Diane Ferlatte • Feb. 1 • Storyteller presents multicultural stories and songs. Cal-Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, 530-546-4602.

North Lake Tahoe USASA Snowboard Series • Feb. 2-3 • Amateur snowboarders compete on a slopestyle course on Feb. 2; giant slalom course on Feb. 3. Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Incline Village, 800-404-9213.

Super Bowl Parties • Feb. 3 • Nevada casinos and watering holes offer parties with food, drink, and prizes for football fans.

Soup and Shoe • Feb. 3 • Guided snowshoe hike with hot soup and bread provided. Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, 30 miles south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.



Telling Stories

Storyteller Diane Ferlatte appears January 26 in Yerington and February 1 at the Cal-Neva Resort in Crystal Bay. The performer weaves music and tales from multicultural events.

February Slot Tournament • Feb. 3-4 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Keno Tournament • Feb. 3-5 • \$200 entry fee. Eldorado, Reno, 800-777-5325.

After Dinner Theater: "The Yellow Jacket Fire" • Wednesdays, Feb. 6-27 • One-act play based on the Yellow Jacket Mine fire of 1869 in which 39 Comstock miners lost their lives. Gold Hill Hotel, Gold Hill, 775-847-0111.

Beausoleil • Feb. 7 • Cajun-zydeco band in concert. Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6145.

After Dinner Theater: "Sue Ellen's Parlour House" • Thursdays, Feb. 7-28 • One-act comedy for adults set in a high-class brothel located in historic Virginia City. Gold Hill Hotel, Gold Hill, 775-847-0111.

Winners Weekend Slot Tournament • Feb. 8-10 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

Firearms Engravers and Gunmakers Exhibition • Feb. 8-10 • Showcase craftsmanship in wood and steel. Event includes seminars, buffet, and auction. Silver Legacy, Reno, 307-587-4297.

Fat Choy • Feb. 9-10 • Slot tournament. Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-215-7721.

Kirkwood Pursuit Race • Feb. 10 • Two Nordic races: 10K classic race, 10K skate race. Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, 30 miles south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.

Honest Abe Keno Tournament • Feb. 12-13 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Valentine Sweetheart Race • Feb. 14 • Pairs race for prizes that include a diamond pendant and ring. Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, 775-586-4462.

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ONGOING EVENTS

All events are color coded according to territory (see map on page 31).

Reno-Tahoe Territory **Pioneer Territory**
Cowboy Country **Las Vegas Territory**
Pony Express Territory **Indian Territory**

Art Shows & Exhibits

Live in Lost Wages: Thru Jan. 6. Alissa Ward mixed-media show representing her experiences in Las Vegas. Rainbow Library Gallery, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

El Favor de los Santos: Mexican Retablo Painting: Thru Jan. 13. Exhibition of 375 retablos, small religious works usually painted on tin plates. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Sights of the Sirens: A Creative Odyssey: Thru Jan. 13. Artists Joy Snyder, Karla Rehm, and Kathryn Gilbert present their collages and mixed media. Enterprise Library, Las Vegas, 702-269-3000.

Aristotle Georgiades: Thru Jan. 13. Mixed-media sculpture. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

This Contest Is for Real Hands: Rodeo

Photographs of the 1930s: Thru Jan. 13. Black-and-white photographs by Western photographer Otha Hartley capture the drama of old-time rodeo. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Charlene Laughing: Thru Jan. 15. Weavings by the Native American artist. West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

Stories From the Sagebrush: Thru Jan. 15. Original artwork by Ron Oden from the book *Stories From the Sagebrush*, written by Don Cox with photos by Jean Dixon and produced by the Reno Gazette-Journal and the Nevada Humanities Committee. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Elko County Art Club Fall Show: Thru Jan. 15. Annual juried fine-arts exhibition. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Little Wheels, Big Dreams: Pedal Car Memories: Thru Feb. 3. Pedal car exhibit. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Jorge Arcos: Thru Feb. 15. Oil and acrylic paintings. Left of Center Art Gallery, North Las Vegas, 702-647-7378.

Paintings by Rick Hyman: Thru Feb. 23. Traveling exhibition features works by the Las Vegas resident from his book, *My Texas Family: An Uncommon Journey to Prosperity*. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Cowboy Up! One Hundred Years of Rodeo: Thru March 10. Exhibit chronicles the history of rodeo with memorabilia, art, and photographs. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

Picasso: 25 Years of Edition Ceramics: Thru March 25. Sixty-five plates, bowls, pitchers, vases, and plaques created by Pablo Picasso from the



Las Vegas artist Rick Hyman shows his paintings at the Reed Whipple Center. Above: "Women in the Field."

Edward and Ann Weston Collection. Nevada Museum of Art, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-329-3333.

Loren Staley: Human Form, Historical Elements: Jan. 7-Feb. 15. Each piece is comprised of a found object re-created on rusty metal. Sierra Arts Gallery, Riverside Artists Lofts, Reno, 775-329-ARTS.

Helen Murphy: Jan. 14-March 9. Photography exhibit. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

The Nevada Quilt Odyssey: A Quilt Exhibit in Three Parts: Jan. 18-Sept. 28. Historic quilts will be displayed Jan. 18-March 30, contemporary quilts from the Truckee Meadows Quilt Guide from April 12-June 22, and the works of creative quilters can be seen July 12-Sept. 28. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

Constance Ehrlich: Jan. 24-March 6. Artist uses satire, whimsy, darkness, and humor in her paintings to convey feminist issues. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Dean Burton: Feb. 1-28. Photography exhibit. Stillwater Hall Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Powwow: Native American Celebration: Feb. 3-April 28. Photography show features 54 works by Andrew Hogarth covering 17 years. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Gabriel Brandt: Yellow Street and 4th Avenue: Feb. 25-April 5. Exhibition by Las Vegas artist. Sierra Arts Gallery, Riverside Artists Lofts, Reno, 775-329-ARTS.

Feelin' Groovy: Rock and Roll Graphics, 1966-70: May 12-Aug. 18. One hundred posters and

handbills trace the development of the psychedelic style. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

George Washington: A National Treasure: June 28-Oct. 27. President's painting is on tour from the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Plays, Lectures, Tours

Jazz Jam Series: Tuesday night sessions. Bananas Niteclub, Reno, 775-786-9735.

Weekend Science Series: Saturday lectures on natural history and science from 10am-3pm. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-346-DINO.

Hidden Cave Tours: Jan. 12 and 26 and Feb. 9 and 23. Guided tour of Hidden Cave archaeological site includes self-guided tour to nearby Grimes Point petroglyph site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 775-423-3677.

Gold Hill Hotel Tuesday Night Lecture and Dinner Series: "Debunking More Nevada Myths: Where Does the Truth Lie?" Guy Rocha on Jan. 22. "Wild West Train Adventures," Mark McLaughlin on Jan. 29. "Overview of America's Civil War as Told Through Music," George Noble on Feb. 5. "Gold Hill: A History in Pictures," Doug McGuide, on Feb. 12. "Silver Mountain: The Next Comstock," Fred Holabird on Feb. 19. "True Encounters: Ghost Hunters on the Comstock," Kristin Hamlet on Feb. 26. "As Alf Doten," Jerry Aaron on March 5. "Buck Nimy: Cowboy Artist," Phil Earl on March 12. Gold Hill Hotel, south of Virginia City, 775-847-0111.

Sporting Events

Rink on the River: Thru Feb. Outdoor ice skating by the Truckee River features public and group skating. North Virginia St., Reno, 775-334-2262.

UNLV Men's Basketball: The Runnin' Rebels play Jan. 19 v. Wyoming, Jan. 21 v. Colorado State, Feb. 3 v. DePaul, Feb. 9 v. BYU, Feb. 11 v. Utah, Feb. 13 v. Florida International, Feb. 23 v. San Diego State, Feb. 28 v. Air Force, March 2 v. New Mexico. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-UNLV.

UNLV Women's Basketball: The Lady Rebels play Jan. 2 v. Texas Corpus Christi, Jan. 4 v. Northern Arizona, Jan. 10 v. San Diego State, Jan. 24 v. Air Force, Jan. 26 v. New Mexico, Feb. 14 v. Colorado State, Feb. 16 v. Wyoming, Feb. 28 v. BYU (Thomas and Mack), March 2 v. Utah (Thomas and Mack). Mountain West Conference Tournament is March 6-9. Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-895-UNLV.

University of Nevada Men's Basketball: Wolf Pack plays Jan. 3 v. Tulsa, Jan. 5 v. Rice, Jan. 12 v. Fresno State, Jan. 24 v. Louisiana Tech, Jan. 26 v. SMU, Feb. 14 v. Boise State, Feb. 16 v. Texas-El Paso, Feb. 28 v. Hawaii, March 2 v. San Jose State. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 775-784-6900.



The Nevada Museum of Art displays Picasso pottery in Reno's Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts.

University of Nevada Women's Basketball: The Lady Wolf Pack plays Jan. 17 v. Texas-El Paso, Jan. 19 v. Boise State, Jan. 31 v. Rice, Feb. 2 v. Tulsa, Feb. 9 v. Fresno State, Feb. 19 v. San Jose State, Feb. 24 v. Hawaii. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 775-784-6900.

Outdoor Markets

Silver State Market Place: Outdoor vendors on third weekend of the month at Sam Boyd Stadium. Las Vegas, 702-386-7927

Henderson Farmer's Market: Thurs. at Convention Center. Henderson, 702-565-2181

Las Vegas Farmer's Market: Wed. at 2-6pm, Bruce Trent Park. Las Vegas, 702-683-GROW.

"The Marriage of Figaro" • Feb. 15 and 17 • Nevada Opera presents the tale of Figaro and his fight to keep Susanna from his lecherous employer. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-786-4046.

Kinder Cup Challenge • Feb. 16 • Races for children six and under. Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-4462.

All You Can Eat Crab Feed • Feb. 16 • Cocktail party 5:30pm, dinner 6:30pm. CVIC Hall, Minden, 775-782-3416.

Phillip Ruder/James Winn Faculty Recital • Feb. 16 • University of Nevada Music Dept. performance.

Playing in Lovelock

Lovelock hosts a chautauqua featuring Reno's Fred Horlacher as Brigham Young on January 24.

A month later, Wayland Pickard will display his talents as a pianist-satirist-singer-impressionist.

Both performances take place in the Pershing County Community Center.

Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6145.

Dollar Slot Marathon • Feb. 16-18 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

UNR Orchestra Concerto Concert • Feb. 21 • University orchestra concert. Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6145.

Boat, Sport, and RV Show • Feb. 21-24 • Seminars, displays, and the annual Nevada State Duck Calling Contest. Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, 775-892-7469.

University of Nevada Boxing • Feb. 22 • West-East invitational. Eldorado Hotel, Reno, 800-648-5966.

"Rumors" • Feb. 22-23, March 1-2, and March 8-9 • In Neil Simon's farce a dinner party turns to disaster when the host has his earlobe shot off. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976 for information.

Annual Shooting Weekend • Feb. 22-23 • Sporting clays, five-stand, and trap shooting, and a game feed. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983, ext. 625.

"Crossing Delancey" • Feb. 22-24, March 1, and March 8-9 • Modern romantic comedy. Reno Little Theater, Reno, 775-329-0661.

Mount Gay Rum Barbados Challenge Series • Feb. 23 • Lake Tahoe bartenders compete in snowboard and ski races. Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-4462.

Clash of the Titans • Feb. 23-24 • Blackjack tournament. Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Carnival of the Animals • Feb. 24 • Concert by the Carson City Symphony featuring pianists Alexander Tutunov and Kristina Foltz. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

Bart Bash Slot Tournament • Feb. 24-27 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

Queen of Hearts Blackjack Tournament • Feb. 25-27 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

Joseph Phelps Winemaker Dinner • Feb. 27 • Fine dining with wines. Atlantis, Reno, 800-723-6500.

Symphonic Band/Washoe County School District Honor Band Concert • Feb. 27 • Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6145.

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Ford Downhill Championships • Feb. 28-March 2 • Former Olympic and World Cup skiers compete for the titles. Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Rural Nevada

Millennium Moments New Year's Celebration • Dec. 30-31 • Hayrides, bonfire, movie specials at the theater, kids' fireworks, refreshments at Churchill County Fairgrounds. New Year's Eve party at Fallon Naval Air Station with fireworks and continental breakfast. Fallon, 775-423-4556.

New Year's Eve Celebrations • Dec. 31 • Parties hosted by communities throughout the state.

New Year's Sobriety Powwow • Dec. 31 • Safe and sober activities. Walker River Tribal Gym, Schurz, 775-773-2048.

Countdown in Downtown • Dec. 31 • New Year's Eve celebration. Idaho Street, Elko, 775-738-1240.

Sno-Goers Midnight Run • Dec. 31 • New Year's snowmobile party with prime-rib dinner and a sleepover. Boy Scout Camp, 25 miles south of Elko, 775-738-3412.

New Year's Day Fun Run • Jan. 1 • 5K run, stumble, walk. Downtown, Fallon, 775-423-4556.

Second Annual Western Fundraiser • Jan. 19 • Concert by Lacy J. Dalton, steak dinner, and silent auction. Boys and Girls Club of Mason Valley, Yerington, 775-463-1783.

"The Toad Prince" • Jan. 24 • Presentation by the Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre. Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 775-635-5444.

"Brigham Young: The Lion of Zion" • Jan. 24 • Chautauqua features Fred Horlacher of Reno as the Mormon leader. Pershing County Community Center, Lovelock, 775-273-2005.

Thicker Than Water • Jan. 26 • Storyteller Diane Ferlatte weaves tales from everyday events. Jeanne Dini Yerington Cultural Center, Yerington, 775-463-1783.

National Cowboy Poetry Gathering • Jan. 26-Feb. 2 • Performers, workshops, dances, exhibits, and cowboy poetry sessions. Elko Convention Center and Western Folklife Center, Elko, 775-738-7508.

Copper Classic Ice Fishing Derby • Feb. 2 • Anglers try to hook tagged fish worth prizes with the largest cash award \$10,000. Cave Lake State Park, Ely, 775-289-3038.

Battle Mountain Annual Crab Feed • Feb. 2 • All-you-can-eat crab and dance to the music of Papa Clutch and the Shifters. Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 775-635-5444.

Elko Winter Celebration • Feb. 15-17 • Pack your woolies for ice fishing and cross-country and snowmobile races. Locations include SnoBowl ski area, Wildhorse Reservoir, Elko, and Lamoille Canyon. 775-738-4091.

Nevada • Feb. 22 • Literary reading, slide show, and photo exhibit by author Jon Christensen and photographer Deon Reynolds. The program relates to their recently published book, *Nevada*. Lyon County Administrative Complex, Yerington, 775-463-1783.

Wayland Pickard • Feb. 24 • Performer combines singing, satire, impressions, and his talents as a pianist. Pershing County Community Center, Lovelock, 775-273-2005.

Tahoe Ski Bargains

This winter Lake Tahoe resorts not only are showing off new million-dollar ski villages—they're also offering lots of bargain rates. You can find freebies if you're young or old enough to qualify. Several resorts offer interchangeable lift tickets for parents so one can ski or snowboard while the other watches the kids. Prices are subject to change, so it's best to confirm rates and any special conditions. Here is a sampling of bargains, beginning with Lake Tahoe's downhill resorts:

Alpine Meadows: A parent-child interchangeable lift ticket costs \$54; you can ski for a few hours and then give the ticket to your child, who can snowboard or ski the rest of the day. Night admission to the terrain park is included with a full-day lift ticket Thursday through Saturday. A lift ticket costs \$8 for skiers 70-plus, \$10 for ages seven to 12, and \$6 for children six and under.

Boreal: An adult lift ticket costs \$34, a night lift ticket \$20. Children pay \$10 any time. An 11-minute scenic helicopter ride over the Donner Summit area costs \$39 per person.

Diamond Peak: With a \$41 interchangeable parent's pass either parent can ski while the other attends to their infant children. Customized packages allow a family of four to ski for under \$100 a day. Twilight lift tickets cost \$17.

Donner Ski Ranch: A lift ticket is \$10 for an adult on weekdays and \$20 on weekends and holidays. Children five to 12 can ski any time for \$10 and seniors (60 to 69) for \$5. Seniors 70-plus ski free every day.

Heavenly: If you need to keep in touch on the slopes, Heavenly rents two-way radios for \$15 a day. Children staying at the day-care center get a snack and lunch; the cost is \$79.

Homewood Mountain: Lift tickets are \$25 and children 10 and under ski free Monday through Thursday on nonholidays. The season pass for seniors (60-plus) costs \$60, and for super seniors (70-plus) it's \$10. Children 10 and under ski free when a parent has a season pass. A season Lakeview pass (\$299) is good at Diamond Peak and Homewood Mountain Monday through Thursday on nonholidays.

Mount Rose-Ski Tahoe: Super seniors (70-plus) ski free at Mount Rose, and seniors (60 to 69) ski daily for \$25. Children under five ski free. There also are weekday bargains. On Bonus Monday you pay \$20 for a lift ticket when you present a ticket from the preceding Saturday or Sunday. Tuesday is a two-fer—two full-day lift tickets for the price of one. Wednesday is student day,



A skier heads downhill at Kirkwood Ski Resort.

offering student lift tickets for \$19. Thursday is Ladies' Day, with a full-day lift ticket for \$19. Snowshoes rent for \$12. Skis and snowboards for children five and under rent for \$5.

Northstar-at-Tahoe: Lift tickets for seniors 65 and over cost \$30, and seniors 70-plus pay \$10. Tubing enthusiasts pay \$16 for lift tickets. For children three to six, Minor's Camp costs \$65 and includes a lunch. Parents can purchase an interchangeable ticket so that one adult can ski while the other attends to the children.

Sierra at Tahoe: Kids five and under ski free. Skiers and boarders who buy an adult all-day lift ticket can take free intermediate-through-advanced lessons.

Squaw Valley: Children 12 and under ski for \$5. There's free night skiing and boarding with every full-day lift ticket, up to 12 hours per day. Squaw Valley's "Ski Your Pro" program offers lessons every hour on the hour.

Sugar Bowl: Kids who wear helmets ski for half-price—\$6—and local kids age six through 12 ski for \$5 any time.

Tahoe Cross-Country Skiing

Clair Tappaan Lodge: The lodge was built near Donner Pass in 1934 by Sierra Club volunteers. The trails are free to lodge guests. Backcountry nonmember trail fees are \$16. Guests bring their own bedding and towels. Sierra Club members pay \$41, nonmembers \$46, and children \$24 per night. Children under four stay free midweek. The lodge has a dining room, where breakfast and dinner are served family

style, and guests prepare their own brown-bag lunches. Take Interstate 80 to the Soda Springs/Norden exit, 2.4 miles east on Donner Pass Road. Park on either side of the road and take the footpath to the lodge.

Hope Valley: Resort has more than 60 miles of marked trails. The ski rental and lesson package is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children 12 and under. You can rent skis, boards, and boots. Every month there is a cross-country moonlight tour with hot drinks and dessert.

Kirkwood: Every Saturday morning at 9:30 there's a free 30-minute preview of skate skiing, with equipment and a lesson provided. A five-kilometer trail is dog friendly.

Northstar-at-Tahoe: Children under five ski free. A trail pass costs \$25 for adults, \$15 for children, \$5 for 70-plus seniors.

Mount Charleston

Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort: All-day lift tickets cost \$30 for adults and \$23 for children at the Lee Canyon resort, 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Snowboards rent for \$25, skis and boots for \$16.

Elko County

Elko SnoBowl: Elko's ski slope is open Friday afternoons, weekends, and holidays. The SnoBowl has a double chairlift and a rope tow. The beginner's slope and rope tow are free. Using the chairlift, students (high school and younger) ski all day for \$10, adults for \$15. Skis and boards can be rented at the Cedar Creek Clothing Company, 453 Idaho Street in Elko. Lift tickets are sold at the Elko Chamber of Commerce, 1601 Idaho Street, and at the Cornerstone Chevron Station on Fifth Street near the Interstate 80 overpass. Elko SnoBowl is located five miles north on Fifth Street; look for Snobowl Road.

Ruby Mountains: High in the Rubies east of Elko, the helicopter drops you in places where no skiers have gone before. The cost of \$2,850 includes three days of skiing, meals, and lodging. Call Ruby Mountain Heli-Skiing, 775-753-6867.—Wilma LaRocca



Skiing Around the State

A Guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin Ski Areas.

2001-2002 Downhill Skier's Guide

Area	Web Site	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical Feet	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Lift Price Adult/Y/Child	Rentals Skis/Board
TAHOE BASIN								
Alpine Meadows	www.skialpine.com	530-583-4232	8,637	1,800	14	25-40-35	\$54/\$27/\$10	\$27/\$35†
Boreal	www.borealski.com	530-426-3666	7,700	500	9	30-55-15	\$34/\$10	26/\$33†
Diamond Peak	www.diamondpeak.com	775-831-3211	8,540	1,840	6	18-46-36	\$41/\$33/\$15	\$20/\$32
Donner Ski Ranch	www.donneriskiranch.com	530-426-3635	7,751	750	6	25-50-25	\$20/\$10	\$18/\$28†
Granlibakken	www.granlibakken.com	530-583-4242	6,480	280	2	50-50-0	\$15/\$8	\$25/\$15
Heavenly	www.skiheavenly.com	775-586-7000	10,040	3,500	29	20-45-35	\$57/\$47/\$29	\$28/\$32†
Homewood Mountain	www.skihewood.com	530-525-2992	7,880	1,650	8	15-50-35	\$42/\$27/free	\$24/\$32†
Kirkwood	www.skikirkwood.com	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	13	15-50-35	\$49/\$39/\$10	\$24/\$30†
Mount Rose/Ski Tahoe	www.skirose.com	775-849-0704	9,700	1,440	5	30-35-35	\$45/\$35/\$12	\$28/\$28†
Northstar-at-Tahoe	www.skinorthstar.com	530-562-1010	8,600	2,200	12	25-50-25	\$49/\$39/\$10	\$28/\$16†
Sierra at Tahoe	www.sierratatahoe.com	530-659-7453*	8,852	2,212	12	25-50-25	\$50/\$40/\$10	\$27/\$34†
Soda Springs	www.skisodasprings.com	530-426-1010	7,352	652	4	30-50-20	\$22/\$16/\$10	\$26/\$33
Squaw Valley	www.squaw.com	530-583-6955	9,050	2,850	33	25-45-30	\$56/\$28/\$5	\$29/\$35†
Sugar Bowl	www.sugarbowl.com	530-426-9000	8,383	1,500	13	17-43-40	\$54/\$38/\$12	\$28/\$36†
Tahoe Donner	www.tahoeonner.com	530-587-9444	7,350	600	4	40-60-0	\$26/\$12	\$20/\$28†
AROUND THE STATE								
LV Ski/Snowboard	www.skilasvegas.com	702-385-2754	9,510	1,000	3	20-60-20	\$28/\$21/\$12	\$16/\$25†
Elko SnoBowl		800-428-7143	7,000	670	2	20-60-20	\$15/\$10	\$8/\$8
Ruby Mountains (Elko)	www.helicopterskiing.com	775-753-6867	Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing offers back country helicopter skiing; \$2,850 per person					

2001-2002 Cross-Country Skier's Guide

Area	Web Site	Phone	Trail (km)	Trail Fee Adult/Y/Child	Rental Adult/Child	Lessons Adult/Child	Day Lodge
TAHOE BASIN							
Clair Tappaan Lodge	www.sierraclub.org	530-426-3632	14	\$7/\$3.50	\$13/\$9	\$14	✓
Hope Valley		530-694-2266	100	none	\$15/\$9	\$35/\$25	✓
Kirkwood	www.skikirkwood.com	209-258-7248	80	\$19/\$14/\$6	\$18/\$10	\$40/\$35/\$25*	✓
Lake Tahoe Basin	www.r5.fs.fed.us/tbmu	530-573-2600	The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas.				
Northstar-at-Tahoe	www.skinorthstar.com	530-562-1010	65	\$25/\$15	\$10/\$15	\$30/\$18	✓
Royal Gorge	www.royalgorge.com	530-426-3871	330	\$25/\$12	\$17.50/\$9.50	\$46/\$28*	✓
Spooner Lake	www.spoonerlake.com	775-749-5349	91	\$17/\$8/\$1	\$17.50/\$8/\$1	\$38/\$25*	✓
Resort at Squaw Creek	www.squawcreek.com	530-583-6300	20	\$13/\$8	\$15/\$9	\$35*	✓
Tahoe Donner	www.tdxc.net	530-587-9484	103	\$19/\$14	\$17/\$14	\$15	✓
AROUND THE STATE							
LV Ski and Snowboard (Mount Charleston)	www.h5.fed.us/html	702-385-2754 702-873-8800 (USFS)	The Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions. The U.S. Forest Service has info on camping and avalanche conditions.				
Spring Valley (Eureka)	www.eurekacounty.com	775-237-5280	Ron Carrión at the Owl Club provides directions and information.				
White Pine (Ely)	www.nv.blm.gov/ely www.fs.fed.us/html	775-289-1800 (BLM) 775-289-3031 (USFS)	Ward Mt. and Loop Trails info. available from the BLM and U.S. Forest Service.				

* Includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons.

† Resort has a half pipe for snowboarders.

All downhill resorts have terrain parks unless otherwise noted.

All prices are subject to change. Call resorts for information about children's and seniors' programs.



Nevada Showguide

Where the stars and shows are playing in January and February.

Nevada's clubs and hotels offer big-name entertainment and production shows. This winter, "Cheval," a Cirque du Soleil production, has a tour stop at the Bellagio in Las Vegas, and Neil Diamond makes a rare appearance at the MGM Grand. Wynonna and Styx play the Reno Hilton and Caesars Tahoe. Here, *Nevada Magazine* presents a guide to featured performers. Showrooms often fill fast, so be sure to call ahead for show times and reservations.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Hacienda • 702-293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam.

HENDERSON

Joker's Wild • 702-564-8100: Live entertainment Wed.-Sun.

Hyatt Regency Lake Las Vegas • 702-567-6181: Piano music and hors d'oeuvres, 6-9pm Fri.-Sun.

The Reserve • 702-558-7000: Lava Lounge: Bands play Thurs.-Sat. Nils Lofgren Guitar Bar: Local guitar players are invited to jam 6-9pm.

Sunset Station • 702-547-7777: Club Madrid: New Year's Eve with Louie Louie, Dec. 31, 10pm, \$29.95 advance, \$44.95 at the door. Stuttering John Melendez, Feb. 2. Tommy Chong, March 2. Steve Smith and the Naked, April 26-27. America, Aug. 23. Jerry Tiffe and His Orchestra play 2-4pm Wed. Louie Louie plays at 10pm and midnight Wed. and 11pm and 1am on Fri.-Sat.

JEAN

Gold Strike Hotel • 702-477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands play nightly except Tues.

Nevada Landing • 702-387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Bands appear nightly except Wed.

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 877-333-WISH: Theater for the Performing Arts: Bryan Adams, Dec. 30. Broadway at the Aladdin: "The Who's Tommy," Jan. 15-20. "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" starring Ann-Margret, April 2-7. "Rent," April 23-28. "Guys and Dolls," May 14-19. "Blast!" Oct. 22-27. Sinbad's Lounge: Bands play until 3am. Music in the London Club Lounge. Blue Note Jazz Club: Jam Night, 9pm-2am Wed. Headliners TBA. Club Blue: DJs play midnight-6am Sat., 11pm-6am Sun.

Alexis Park • 702-391-4634: Jazz, Fri.-Sat.

Arizona Charlie's • 702-258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Jerry Tiffe Band, big band dancing, 4-7pm Fridays. The Checkmates: Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie will appear thru Dec. 31.

Arizona Charlie's East • 702-951-5800: The Lounge: The



Feathers Are a Girl's Best Friend

Now in its second year, the late-night adult revue "Skintight" at Harrah's Las Vegas features choreographer Mistinguett's trademark beaded and feathered costumes. Dance routines are set to rock 'n' roll beats and lively pop sounds in this Greg Thompson-produced show.

Edge, thru Dec. 31. Bands play 4-7pm Tues.-Sun.

Bally's • 702-739-4111 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.). Gladys Knight, Dec. 29-31. New Year's Eve tickets, \$75 and \$95. Indigo Lounge: Entertainment nightly except Tues.

Barbary Coast • 702-737-7111: Lounge: Elements, thru Jan. 6. Karaoke, 8pm-1:30am Mon.-Tues.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf.

(dark Wed.-Thurs.). Big Top: Cirque du Soleil's "Cheval," thru Jan. 6. Venue is located south of Bellagio and is specially constructed for the production featuring 30 horses as well as acrobats and dancers (dark Mon.-Tues.). Musicians play in the Allegro and Petrossian lounges and Baccarat Bar. Fontana Lounge: Jimmy Hopper (dark Mon.).

Boardwalk Casino Holiday Inn • 702-730-3194: Lighthouse

Showroom: "The Dream King," Elvis tribute revue, 8pm Tues.-Sat. thru Feb. 15. Purple Reign, 10:30pm Wed.-Sat. indf.

Boulder Station • 702-432-7777 or 800-683-7777: The Railhead: New Year's Eve with Yellow Brick Road, Dec. 31, 10pm, \$29.95 advance, \$39.95 at the door. Hal Ketchum, Jan. 11. B.J. Thomas, Jan. 26. Diane Schuur, Feb. 9. Keiko Matsui, April 2. Jerry Vale, April 26-27 and Nov. 1-2. Dance nights: Salsa After Dark, Tues.; Blues, Thurs.; Yellow Brick Road, 11pm-2:30am Fri.-Sat. Jerry Tiffe plays 2-4pm Tues. KIXX: Shooting Stars Karaoke, Tues. and Fri.-Sat.

Bourbon Street • 702-737-7200: Bourbon Street Theatre: Dr. Naughty, adult hypnotist show (dark Sun.). "I Love LaFong," comedy and ventriloquism.

Caesars Palace • 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Shadow Bar: Dancers and flair bartenders perform 8pm-2am Sun.-Wed. Caesars Magical Empire: Dinner and magic featuring Jeff McBride/Scott Alexander/Jon Armstrong, thru Jan. 5. Joseph Gabriel/John Shryock/Alain Nu, Jan.

'Bottoms Up' Is Still Fun

Visitors looking for an old-fashioned belly laugh can try "Bottoms Up," Breck Wall's comedy classic playing twice daily at Flamingo Las Vegas. The show's a little corny, but always entertaining.

8-Feb. 2. The Majestic/Daryl/Fernando Koepts, Feb. 5-March 2. Entertainment in the La Piazza Terrazza lounges and Cleopatra's Barge. Piano music, Galleria Bar and Café Lago.

Casino Royale • 702-737-3500: Café Trilussa: Piano music nightly (dark Tues. and Wed.).

Castaways • 702-383-9232 or 800-826-2800: Windjammer Lounge and Outer Bar: Bands play nightly.

Circus Circus • 702-734-0410 or 800-444-CIRCUS: Free circus acts from 11am to midnight.

Excalibur Hotel • 702-597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "Tournament of Kings," music-dinner show. Catch a Rising Star: Comedians perform nightly at 7:30 and 10pm. Court Jesters Stage: Strolling entertainers, 10am-10pm daily. Minstrels Lounge: Live bands and dancing. Music in the Regales and Camelot restaurants.

Fitzgeralds Holiday Inn • 702-388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Second Floor Events Center: Michael Kennedy's "Tribute to Elvis," Thurs.-Sun. First Floor Stage: Mike Lee, 8pm-1am Thurs.-Mon. Free shows.

Flamingo Las Vegas • 702-733-3333 or 800-221-7299: "Bottom's Up," 2 and 4pm, indf. (dark Sun.). Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre: "Second City," improv comedy sketches (dark Mon.).

Flamingo O'Shea's • 702-737-1343: Comedy Theater: "Hip-Nosis: Playin' With Your Head," starring Justin Tranz, R-rated comedy show, 9pm Tues.-Sat.

Four Queens • 702-385-4011 or 800-634-6045.

Four Seasons • 702-632-5000: Piano entertainment during Traditional Afternoon High Tea in the Verandah restaurant, 2-5pm daily.

Gold Coast • 702-367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): East Lounge: Kinda Dixie Jazz Band, noon-6pm. Bands play nightly except Mon. Gold Coast Showroom: "Honky Tonk Angels: A Tribute to Country's Great Ladies" (dark Mon.-Tues.). Latin Breeze, Fri.-Sat., indf. Ballroom dancing and free dance lessons with disk jockey Larry Taylor on Tues. Sunday Tea Dance Party with Larry Taylor. Free drama workshop, 9:30-11:30am Sat.

Golden Gate • 702-385-1906: Live piano featuring David Morris, Danny Sands, Bob Long, and Moses Hazen, noon-midnight. Jazz trio performs on Sun. and Wed. evenings.

Golden Nugget • 702-385-7111: Golden Nugget Showroom: Amazing Jonathan, comedy show, 10pm thru Jan. 31 (dark Mon.). Bands such as Flipside play in the Oasis Lounge nightly except Mon.

Hard Rock Hotel • 702-226-4650: The Joint: Entertainment TBA.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 702-369-5111: Clint Holmes Theatre: Clint Holmes, musical variety show (dark Sun.). Comedy Cabaret: Improv, nightly except Mon. "Skintight," musical production (dark Thurs.). Mac King Comedy Magic Show appears at 1 and 3pm Tues.-Sat. Carnival Court:

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Entertainment TBA. Music nightly in La Playa Lounge.
Imperial Palace • 702-794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert," celebrity impersonator show (dark Sun.). The (real) Fifth Dimension will appear in the Dec. 26-31 holiday shows. Kabuki Lounge: Bands play 4:30pm-2am.

Key Largo • 702-733-7777: Sand Bar Lounge: Bands provide live entertainment.

Lady Luck • 702-477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lady Luck Theater: "Stars of the Strip," comedy impersonators, 2 and 3:30pm Mon.-Fri. Lucky Louie's Lounge: Bands like the Press play Wed.-Sun.

Las Vegas Hilton • 702-732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Huey Lewis and the News, Dec. 29-31. Tickets start at \$50. Sheena Easton, Jan. 15-Dec. 29. Righteous Brothers, Feb. 12-March 3, May 29-June 16, July 16-Aug. 4, and Oct. 15-Nov. 3. Smothers Brothers, April 9-21, June 18-30, Aug. 13-Sept. 1, and Nov. 5-24. The NightClub: Society of Seven, thru Jan. 13. Dance bands play 11pm-3:15am Wed.-Sun. Jazz artists play 4-6pm Mon.-Fri. SpaceQuest: Public party on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31.

Luxor • 702-262-4400: Luxor Theatre: "Blue Man Group: Live at the Luxor," percussion theater. Pharaoh's Theater: "Midnight Fantasy," production show (dark Mon.). Ra Nightclub at Luxor: DJs Wed.-Sat. Nefertiti's Lounge: Entertainment nightly except Thurs.

Main Street Station • 702-387-1896 or 800-713-8933.

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Events Center: Andrea Bocelli, Dec. 29. Tickets \$400, \$300, \$200, \$95, and \$50. Mandalay Bay Theatre: "Storm," Latin production show (dark Tues.). House of Blues:



Where Did They Go?

The last stop for David Copperfield's "Unknown Dimension Tour" is the MGM Grand's Hollywood Theatre in Las Vegas through January 1. As a special attraction, 13 members of the audience may disappear and end up many miles from home (thanks to some magical travel agents).

Entertainment TBA. Dance music, 11pm Thurs.-Sun. Gospel Brunch, 10am and 1pm Sun. Live blues Thurs.-Sat. in the Courtyard. Bands play in the Island, Orchid, and Coral Reef lounges.

MGM Grand • 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111: EFX Theatre: "EFX Alive," starring Rick Springfield, special-effects production show (dark Sun.-Mon.). Grand Garden Arena: Neil Diamond, Dec. 30-31. Tickets \$150, \$85, and \$50.

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Happy New Year

Las Vegas visitors can celebrate the dawning of 2002 with Gladys Knight at Bally's Jubilee Theater. The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and four-time Grammy Award winner began her career as a performer at age four in church and celebrated 50 years as a singer in 1998. She plays Bally's December 29-31.

Hollywood Theatre: David Copperfield, Dec. 25-Jan. 1. La Femme Theatre: Topless Crazy Horse production from Paris (dark Tues.). Studio 54: Dancing nightly. Live entertainment in the Dome/Show Bar and Hollywood Brown Derby lounges.

The Mirage • 702-792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theater: "Siegfried and Roy," magic spectacular (dark Wed.-Thurs.). Danny Gans Theatre: Impressionist Danny Gans performs nightly except Fri. and Mon. Entertainment in the Lagoon Saloon and Corner and Baccarat bars.

Monte Carlo • 702-730-7000: Lance Burton Theatre: "Lance Burton, Master Magician" (dark Sun.-Mon.). Top 40, disco, country, and classic-rock dance music nightly in the Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery.

New Frontier • 702-794-8200: Roundtable Showroom: Rock and Roll Legends, impersonator revue of such celebrities as Paul McCartney, Stevie Nicks, and Neil Diamond (dark Fri.). "Thunder From Down Under," Australian male revue (dark Thurs.). "The Magic of David Darkstone," noon and 2pm (dark Mon.). "Ol' Blue Eyes," a tribute to Frank Sinatra, 5:30pm. Gilley's Saloon: Bands play nightly Tues.-Sat.

New York-New York • 702-740-6969: Broadway Theatre: "Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance" (dark Sun.-Mon.). The Village People/Rare Earth, Dec. 24-29. The Four Tops, Dec. 24-Jan. 6. Cabaret Theatre: Rita Rudner, 8pm Mon.-Sat. (dark Jan. 3-16). Richard Jeni, Jan. 3-16. Bands play in the Empire Bar. The N.Y.P.D. (New York Piano Duos) dueling pianos play 8pm-2:15am nightly in the Bar at Times Square.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Showroom:

Entertainment TBA. Bourbon Street Cabaret: Performers play nightly (dark Mon.).

Palace Station • 702-367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Laugh Trax Comedy Club: Comedians perform Thurs.-Sat. Sound Trax Nightclub: Bands play Thurs.-Sat. Jack's Irish Pub: Entertainers nightly except Tues.

The Palms • 702-942-7777: Entertainment in the Palapa Lounge, Island Bar, and Rain in the Desert nightclub. The ghostbar: Observation deck with city views.

Paris Las Vegas • 800-237-SHOW: Le Theatre des Arts: Tony Bennett, Dec. 29-31. New Year's Eve tickets \$125. Sinbad, Jan. 3-6. Wayne Brady, Jan. 11-13. Patti LaBelle, Feb. 7-10. Bands play in Le Cabaret Show Lounge (dark Tues.). Napoleon's Cigar Bar: Jazz trio plays nightly except Tues. Ortonique Restaurant: Jazz Wed.-Thurs. with Tommy Thompson.

The Plaza • 800-634-6575: Plaza Showroom: "Hunka, Hunka, Burnin' Love," Elvis impersonator revue starring Charles David (dark Mon.). "Le Cabaret," variety revue (dark Mon.). "Houdini Lives Again," magic show, 4pm Tues.-Thurs. Music in the Omaha Lounge.

Regent Las Vegas • 877-869-8777: J.C. Wooloughan Irish Pub: Entertainment Wed.-Sun. Addison's Lounge: Bands play Tues. and Thurs.-Sun. Karaoke Night, Wed.

Rio Suite Hotel • 702-252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Copacabana Entertainment Complex: The Scintas (dark Wed.-Thurs.). Earl Turner, Wed.-Thurs. Pavilion: Entertainment TBA. Masquerade Show in the Sky: Carnival-themed parade with exotic floats and costumes above the casino daily at 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10pm. Samba Theatre: Smokey Robinson, Dec. 27-30. Penn and Teller, Feb. 8-24. RioBamba Cabaret: Bands play nightly Tues.-Sat. Entertainment in the Ipanema Piano Bar and VooDoo Lounge. Club Rio: Nightclub open for late-night dancing Wed.-Sat.

Riviera • 702-794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," production show (dark Sun.-Mon.). Royale Pavilion: Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Dec. 31. La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues.). Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls Fantasy Revue," adult revue (dark Tues.). "Riviera Comedy Club," comedians appear nightly. Le Bistro Lounge: "Tribute to Elvis" with Jim LeBoeuf, 8pm Tues.-Thurs. Jazz on the Strip, Mon. Lon Bronson's All-Star Band, Sat. Bands play Fri.-Sun. in the lounge.

Sahara • 702-737-2515: Sahara Theatre: Magician Steve Wyrick, indf. (dark Tues. and Dec. 31-Jan. 13). Congo Room: "The Rat Pack Is Back" (dark Thurs. and Dec. 31-Jan. 6). Michael Holly Off-the-Wall Comedy Hour, 1 and 3pm (dark Fri.-Sat.). Entertainment also offered in the Casbar Lounge.

Sam's Town • 702-454-8048: Sam's Town Live: Entertainment TBA. Late Night: Music and dancing 11pm-3am Fri.-Sat. Roxy's Saloon: Bands play. Mystic Falls Park: Laser and water show at 2, 6, 8, 10pm.

San Remo • 702-739-9000 or 800-522-7366: Parisian Cabaret: Entertainment TBA. Bonne Chance Lounge: Entertainers perform nightly.

Santa Fe • 702-658-4900: The Lounge: New Year's Eve with V150. Tickets \$29.95 advance, \$39.95 at the door. Jerry Tiffe and His Orchestra, 7-11pm Wed. Bands play Fri.-Sat.

Silverton • 702-263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Rattlesnake



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Rickey's Saloon: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly.

Stardust • 702-732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Wayne Newton Theatre: Wayne Newton, Jan. 1-3. Chicago, Jan. 5-9. Andrew Dice Clay, Jan. 10-12. "Legendary Ladies of Rock 'n Roll," Jan. 16-19. Wayne Newton, Jan. 21-31 and Feb. 2-28. Bands play in the Stardust Lounge.

Stratosphere • 702-382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: Broadway Showroom: "American Superstars," impersonator revue (dark Thurs.). "Viva Las Vegas," musical revue, 2 and 4pm daily except Sun. Outdoor Events Center: Entertainment TBA. Entertainment in the Top of the World and Oasis lounges.

Suncoast • 702-636-7111: Showroom: Tony Orlando, Jan. 11-13. Tower of Power, Jan. 24-26. Charlie Prose, Feb. 16-17. Bands play nightly except Mon.-Tues. Jimmy Fitzgerald's Band plays for dancing on first Wed.

Terrible's • 702-733-7000: Stage Bar Lounge: Bands play Tues.-Sun.

Treasure Island • 702-894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère" (dark Mon.-Tues.). Music in Captain Morgan's piano bar. Hideaway Lounge: Music nightly.

Tropicana • 702-739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "The Best of the Folies Bergere" (dark Thurs.). "Illusionary Magic of Rick Thomas," 2 and 4pm daily except Fri. Tropics Lounge: "The Birdman of Las Vegas," 11am, 12:30pm, and 2pm except Thurs. "T Fox and the Fox City Show" (dark Mon.-Tues.). Celebration Lounge: Bands play nightly. Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly.

Vacation Village • 702-897-1700 or 800-658-5000: Koo Koo's Lounge: Bands play nightly.



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Venetian • 702-733-5000: Showroom at the Venetian: "Melinda: First Lady of Magic," indf. (dark Wed.). "Bravo," starring Charo, production show (dark Sun.).
Westward Ho • 702-731-2900: Crown Room: "Puttin' on the Ritz," dinner and show, Wed. and Sat., Jan. 13-March 16 (dark Feb. 20). Bands play nightly except Sat.-Sun. in the lounge.
Wild West Gambling Hall • 702-740-0000.

LAUGHLIN

Avi • 702-535-5555: Arrowweed Lounge: Bands nightly.
Colorado Belle • 702-298-4000: Bands play in the Boiler Room Microbrewery and Restaurant.
Edgewater • 702-298-2453: Kokopelli's Lounge: Music nightly.
Flamingo Laughlin • 702-298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo: "Reflections of the Rat Pack," Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr. impersonators (dark Thurs.). Flamingo Ballroom: Jerry Vale, Jan. 5. Heavyweight Boxing, Jan. 12. Charo, Feb. 9. Heavyweight Boxing, April 6. Amphitheater: Sawyer Brown, March 30. Grand Funk Railroad, April 25. Doobie Brothers, April 26-27.
Golden Nugget Laughlin • 702-298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Nightclub: Bands play. Karaoke on Tuesdays.
Harrah's Laughlin • 702-298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: Ayala, magic show, thru May 12. "Laughternoon in Laughlin," 2pm Tues.-Sat.
Pioneer • 800-634-3469: Gunfighter demonstration, 7pm Fri.-Sat.
Ramada Express • 702-298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theatre: "Always, Patsy Cline" starring Sally Struthers,

Jan. 5-10. "Jack Benny, Laughter in Bloom" starring Eddie Carroll, Jan. 19-24. Ray Price, Feb. 16-17. Lounge: Bands play nightly at the Ramada Express except Mon. Karaoke Madness, Mon. Train rides and the American Heroes Museum also are available at the Ramada Express.
River Palms • 702-298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Bands or DJ music nightly in the Bermuda Club Lounge. Karaoke with Don West, 4-7pm Wed.
Riverside Resort • 702-298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Debbie Reynolds, Dec. 27-30.

Memorial Concert for King

Martin Luther King Jr. will be remembered in a special memorial concert at the Atlantis Hotel in Reno January 20. The slain civil rights leader's birthday will be celebrated January 21, which is a national holiday.

Tickets \$32 VIP and \$27. Charlie Prose, Jan. 10-Feb. 14 (dark Fri.). Roy Clark, Feb. 19-24. Spirit of Ireland, March 4-17 (dark March 15). Mel Tillis, March 19-24. Chris LeDoux, March 28-29.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Comedy shows Fri.-Sat. when there is no headliner onstage. Bands entertain nightly except Mon. in the CasaBlanca Resort's Skydome Lounge.
Eureka Casino Hotel • 702-346-4646: Wild Cactus Lounge: Sonny D, Mon. and Wed. Fun Fool's Karaoke, Tues.

Bands play Thurs.-Sun. at the Eureka Casino's lounge.
Oasis • 702-346-5232 or 800-621-0187: The Boot Saloon: Video and live DJ, Fri. and Sat. Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club on Sat. Cabaret Lounge: Bands play.
Virgin River • 702-346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Bands play in the casino lounge nightly except Mon.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Fiesta Casino • 702-631-7000: Roxy's Theatre: Roxy's organist plays 5-9pm Tues. Bands play Fri.-Sat. in the Cabo Lounge.
Jerry's Nugget • 702-399-3000: Royal Street Lounge: Dance bands play Fri. and Sat.
Texas Station • 702-631-1001: Dallas Events Center: Najee, Jan. 12. The Armadillo: New Year's Eve with Loveshack. Tickets \$39.95 advance, \$49 at the door. Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm Sun. Loveshack, 10pm-2am Fri. and Sat.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Entertainment TBA. Stage Bar: Bands play Thurs.-Sun. Carolee's Comedy Club: Guest comedians, Fri.-Sat.
Primm Valley • 800-FUN-STOP: The Piano Bar: Pianist Thurs.-Sun.
Whiskey Pete's • 800-FUN-STOP.

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Bar: Bands play Tues.-Sun. in the Nugget's lounge.

Carson Station • Carson City, 775-883-0900: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Shannon Ballroom: Entertainment TBA. Cabaret Lounge: Shake, Rattle, and Roll, Dec. 31-Jan. 13.

Piñon Plaza • Carson City, 775-885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands play Wed.-Sun.

Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 775-782-3133: Live music and dancing, Fri.-Sat. Also, extensive displays of boxing, circus, and rodeo memorabilia.

Topaz Lodge • Topaz Lake, 775-266-3339: Bands Fri.-Sat.

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 775-825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Grand Ballroom: Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Concert, Jan. 20. Danny Marona, Feb. 22-24. Bands play nightly in the Center Stage Cabaret.

Boomtown • 775-345-6000: Boomtown Cabaret: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Club Cal Neva-Virginian • 775-323-1046 or 877-777-7303. Bands play on Fri. and Sat.

Circus Circus • 775-329-0711: Free daily circus acts, 11am-10:30pm.

Eldorado • 775-786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada). Eldorado Showroom: Paul Anka, Dec. 31. Tickets start at \$90. Brew Brothers: Bands play nightly at the microbrewery. Piano music in Roxy Lounge. BuBinga Lounge: Dance to DJs and bands.

Eddie's Fabulous '50s • 775-329-1950: Lounge entertainment. DJ music at Reno Live at Eddie's.



Country With Yearwood

Country singer Trisha Yearwood performs February 15 at the Hilton Theater in the Reno Hilton. Known as one of country's most creative female stars, Yearwood was working as a Nashville session singer in the 1980s when she was discovered by Garth Brooks.

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Fitzgeralds • 775-785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands like Big Tiny Little and Whiskey Ridge perform nightly.

Harrah's Reno • 775-788-2900 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Whisper," adult revue, 10pm Sun.-Tues, 7:30 and 10pm Wed., 10pm Fri., midnight Sat. (dark Thurs.). Gordie Brown, one-man theatrical production, 7:30pm Fri.-Tues, plus 9:30pm Sat. (dark Wed.-Thurs.). The Plaza at Harrah's Reno: Entertainment TBA.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 775-356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Celebrity Showroom: Roy Rogers and Norton Buffalo, Jan. 11-12. Ty Herndon, Jan. 31-Feb. 2. Simply Cole, Feb. 13. Don Rickles, Feb. 15-17. Simply Cole, Feb. 20. Mickey Gilley, Feb. 21-24. Simply Cole, Feb. 27. Rose Ballroom: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's. Flamenco guitarist Thurs. and jazz Fri.-Sat. in Restaurante Orozko.

Peppermill • 775-826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tahoe Grand Showroom: Joni Morris, Jan. 19. Bands play in the Cabaret Lounge.

Rail City Casino • Sparks, 775-359-9440: Side Track Lounge: Entertainers play on weekends.

Reno Hilton • 775-789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Pavilion: Styx, Dec. 30. Wynonna, Dec. 31. Tickets \$85 and \$70. Silver State Pavilion, Merle Haggard, Dec. 30. Hilton Theater: Smash Mouth, Jan. 18. Yo Quiero Comedy Jam starring Paul Rodriguez, Jan. 25. Trisha Yearwood, Feb. 15. Wayne Brady, March 1. The Moody Blues, March 29. "Carnival of Wonders," magic revue (dark Fri.). The Garage: Bands play nightly.

Sands Regency • 775-348-2200: Empress Lounge: Music nightly except Sun.-Mon. Comedians perform in the Just For Laughs Comedy Club (dark Mon.-Tues.).

Silver Club • Sparks, 775-358-4771 or 800-905-7774 (U.S. outside Nevada).

Silver Legacy • 775-329-4777 or 800-225-BASS (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: Patti LaBelle, Dec. 29. Johnny Mathis, Jan. 19. Dennis Miller, Jan. 26. Righteous Brothers, Feb. 1-2. Bill Cosby, Feb. 17. Rum Bullions Island Bar: Dueling pianos, Thurs.-Mon. Steel Rum Drums, Tues.-Sat. Comedians perform at the Catch a Rising Star comedy club (dark Sun.). Silver Baron Lounge: Piano music.

Sundowner • 775-786-7050.

Tamarack Junction • 775-852-3600.

Western Village • Sparks, 775-331-1069, 800-648-1170.

STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE
Bill's Lake Tahoe • 775-588-2455.

Caesars Tahoe • 775-588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: Wynonna, Dec. 29-30. Styx, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve show. Tickets \$75 and \$90. Carrot Top, Jan. 11-12. Smash Mouth, Jan. 19-20. Yo Quiero Comedy Jam starring Paul Rodriguez, Jan. 26-27. David Spade, Feb. 1-2.

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The Temptations, Feb. 22-23. Blues Traveler, Feb. 8-9. Wayne Brady, March 2-3. Nero's 2000 nightclub has live music, Cleo's Bar and Entertainment Lounge: Pianist Arthur Hervey.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: Jim Belushi and the Sacred Hearts, Dec. 30-31. Creedance Clearwater Revisited, Jan. 18-20. George Carlin, Jan. 25-26. Buddy Guy, Feb. 8-9. Willie Nelson, Feb. 15-17. George Thorogood, March 8-9. "Yeah, Yeah, Yeah: A Tribute to the Beatles," starring Rain, Jan. 23-March 31. Bands play in the Casino Center Stage.

Harveys • 775-588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: Cabaret: The Improv, comedy show (dark Sun.-Mon.). Geechy Guy, indf.

Lake Tahoe Horizon • 775-588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Golden Cabaret: "Carnival Cabaret," male celebrity impersonator revue (dark Mon.). Club Z: Dance music. Bands play in the Aspen Lounge.

Lakeside Inn • 775-588-7777: Entertainment TBA.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 775-832-4000 or 800-225-6382: Frank Sinatra Celebrity Showroom: TBA.

Crystal Bay Club • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0512: DJ Wed.-Sun.

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe • Incline Village, 775-832-1234: Bands play in the Regency Grand Ballroom. Lone Eagle Restaurant: Music, Wed.-Sat. Casino Stage Bar: Pianist, Wed.-Sun.

Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0455.

Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0660: Bands play nightly.

Rural Nevada

AMARGOSA VALLEY

Longstreet Inn • 775-372-1777: Weekend entertainment.

BEATTY

Stagecoach • 775-553-2419 or 800-4-BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play Fri.-Sat.

Exchange Club • 775-553-2368: Karaoke on Fri.

ELKO

Commercial Hotel • 775-738-3181: Bands play nightly.

Gold Country • 800-621-1332: J.R.'s Lounge: Entertainment on weekends.

High Desert Inn • 775-738-8425: Comedy show Fri.

Red Lion • 775-738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Club Max Showroom: Entertainment TBA.

Stockmen's Hotel • 775-738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada): Bands play in the Stockmen's Showroom.

ELY

Hotel Nevada • 775-289-6665.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 775-423-6031.

Fallon Nugget • 775-423-3111.

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 775-945-3322: Bands play in the casino lounge.

Joe's Tavern • 775-945-2302.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 775-755-2341.

Cactus Petes • 800-821-1103: Gala Showroom: Entertainment TBA.



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Bill Cosby, who combines a sharp wit and a TV father-figure image, brings his personal brand of humor to the Silver Legacy's Grande Exposition Hall in Reno on February 17

Horseshu Casino • 775-755-2321. Horseshu Cabaret: Entertainment TBA.

LOVELOCK

Ramada Inn/Sturgeon's • 775-273-2971: Center Club Showroom: Bands and karaoke are featured on weekends.

PAHRUMP

Mountain View Casino and Bowl • 775-727-7777: Bowling alley at the Pahrump casino.

Saddle West Hotel, Casino, and RV Park • 775-727-1111. Club West: Nightclub, 9pm Fri. Club West Comedy Corral, 8:30pm Thurs.

Terrible's Lakeside • 775-751-7770.

Terrible's Town Casino • 775-751-7777.

TONOPAH

Banc Club • 775-482-5409: Bands play Thurs-Sat.

Station House • 775-482-9777: Shotgun Willie's Saloon: Bands play nightly except Mon.

WENDOVER

Peppermill • 775-664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play nightly except Mon.

Rainbow Casino • 775-664-4000: Cabaret Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Red Garter • 775-664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada).

Silver Smith • 775-664-2231 or 800-354-3671: Jim's Bar: Live entertainment nightly except Mon.

State Line • 775-664-2221, 800-354-3671: Stateliner Lounge: Entertainment nightly.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 775-623-2511: Bands play nightly.

Model T Hotel • 775-623-2588. Bands play Wed.-Sun.

Holiday Inn Express • 775-775-625-3100.

Sundance Casino • 775-623-3336.

Red Lion • 800-633-6435.

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Irreverent Illusionists

Penn and Teller, who both live in Las Vegas, enjoy the perks of sub-stardom.

By Kathy Espin

Penn Jillette may regret having said this, but he claims he still enjoys being recognized and approached by fans in public. "We are at this wonderful level of sub-stardom where the world seems more polite and friendly," says Jillette, the larger, more vocal half of Penn and Teller, the magic act that specializes in dark comedy and bizarre illusions. Teller is the smaller, silent partner who goes by only his last name (even his mom calls him "Teller") and does not speak directly to the audience during the show.

After 27 years of touring, a syndicated television show, and countless appearances with Jay Leno, David Letterman, and Conan O'Brien, it's a wonder fans haven't become a nuisance. Maybe it's a matter of location. Penn and Teller both live in Las Vegas and will be playing 14 weeks this year at the Rio All-Suite Hotel.

Las Vegas fans, like those in Los Angeles and New York, are less likely to engage in celebrity gawking than residents of other locales, Jillette says. "In other cities, they have never seen anyone who is on TV, ever," he says. But Jillette says he still enjoys being approached by fans. "At our level it's really, really nice. As a rule, people are so pleasant and so polite. Sometimes you are in the middle of a conversation with someone, and you get interrupted, but if you want to have a private conversation, do it in private. I've never found that very bothersome."



Glitter City residents Penn Jillette (left) and his silent partner, Teller, will play the Rio 14 times this year.

Such down-to-earth friendliness has paid off. For instance, the official Penn and Teller Web site, sincity.com, is maintained and updated by fans. Jillette points out, "Of the celebrity Web sites, it's the oldest. Before Al Gore even invented the Internet, we were on it."

The two illusionists play dozens of cities every year. Jillette says Las Vegas audiences are more selective than most and harder to please, and he likes that. "George Carlin kind of explained this. When we go on the road and we are going to play say, Dallas, for example, the people in the front mezzanine section, those people looking up at us, will have bought their

tickets three months in advance," he says. "When it comes to a week before the show, that whole town becomes Penn and Teller. There is a constant awareness of what we do. By the time we hit the stage, there has been a week of prep work."

By contrast, for a 1,000-seat theater in Las Vegas, perhaps 75 tickets will be sold in advance. Most showgoers buy their tickets the day of the show. "They are wandering in to see Penn and Teller," he says. "When we hit the stage, the reaction is not 'wow.' The audience is tough to win over, and I really like that. The timing in Vegas seems more honest. They build along with the show."

Other performers may be loathe to try new material in Las Vegas, but Penn and Teller use Las Vegas audiences to test new tricks and jokes. "We will put in brand-new, intellectual, hard-to-do stuff in Las Vegas. If it's going great in Vegas, you know it's going to explode on the road."

At the beginning of each show Jillette tells the audience that he and Teller have been doing magic together for too many years, and they are sick of it. "So now we are moving into the field of religion and will be performing real miracles," he jokes. Nevertheless, the two are constantly brainstorming and trying new, bizarrely

Unlike other performers, Penn and Teller use Las Vegas audiences to test new material.

creative material. A card trick is performed with three-by-five-foot, 30-pound cards. The magicians don't just make a rabbit disappear. They put it through a chipper-shredder first.

"In performing, you have to do two things," Jillette says. "You must 100 percent please the audience, the audience you have chosen, and you must please yourself. There can be no compromise. You must be happy with every syllable."

Indeed, the irreverent illusionist seems happy with his show and with his life in Las Vegas. He and Teller moved here six years ago, and each has a home in the valley. Jillette says his house is known as "The Slammer" because "it looks like a prison on the outside but is like paradise on the inside." Jillette appreciates the desert life.

"I love the fact that they pay you to live here because you're subsidized by bad math," Jillette jokes about casino gambling. "I like that, at some level, there is a liberal feel to the town. And I like the weather a lot. I think there is a sophisticated kind of beauty. It's like living on the moon. Green things can't live here."

Show Notes

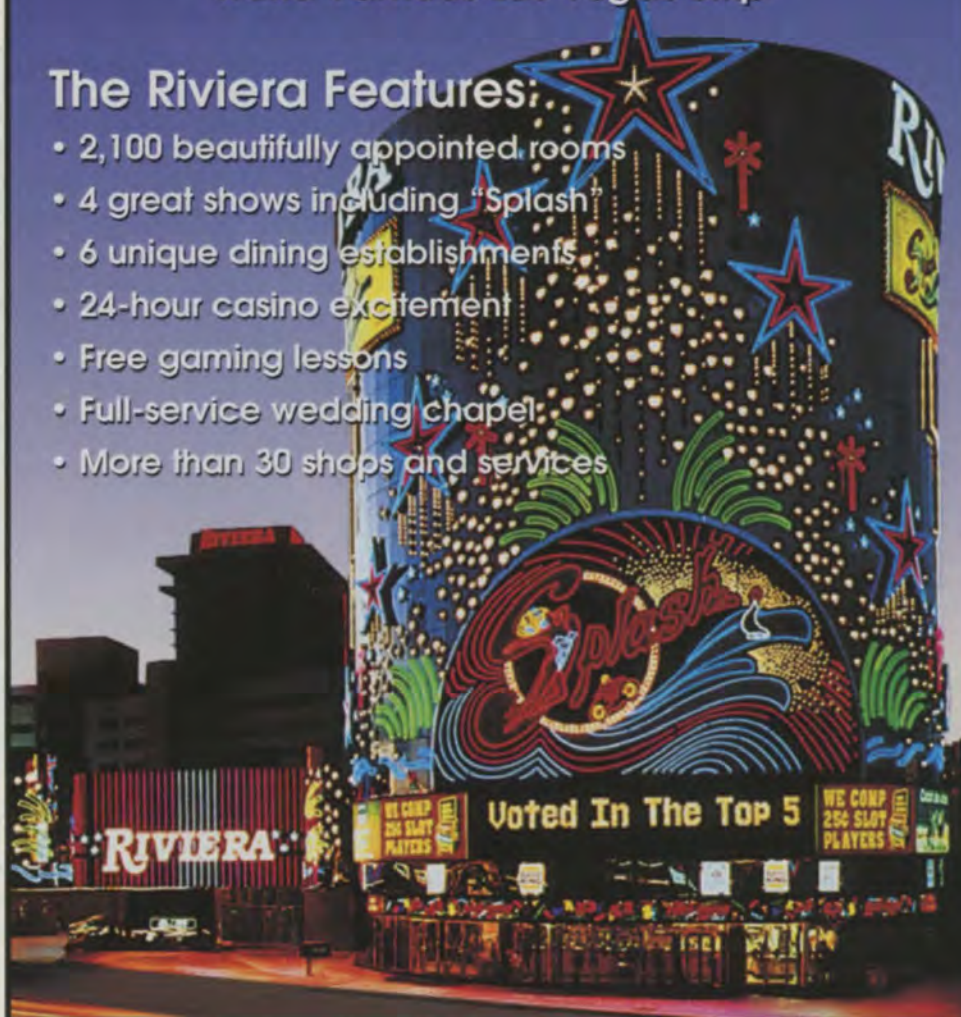
Penn and Teller perform nightly at 9 on February 8-24 in the Samba Theatre at the Rio All-Suite Hotel in Las Vegas. Tickets cost \$45, which does not include tax or drinks. Call 800-888-1808 or 702-252-7776 for reservations. ▀

Kathy Espin is a Las Vegas writer.

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Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Black Canyon River Raft Tours • 702-293-3776 for details.
Boulder City Historic District • Walking tours. 1305 Arizona St., 702-293-2034.

Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum • Displays and books on the dam's construction in 1930s. 1305 Arizona St., 702-294-1988.

Boulder Dam Hotel • 1305 Arizona St., 702-293-3510.

Colorado River Tours • Underground gold mine tour. Nelson, 702-293-4422.

Hoover Dam and Hoover Dam Visitor Center • Tours, theaters, exhibit hall, High Scaler Monument. U.S. 93, 702-597-5970.

Lake Mead Cruises • Excursions on Lake Mead. 702-293-6180.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Alan Bible Visitor Center • Visitor center is on U.S. 93 between Boulder City and Hoover Dam. 702-293-8990.

Skydive Las Vegas.com • Tandem jumps. 702-293-1860.
St. Jude's Ranch for Children • Chapel tours. 100 St. Jude's St., 702-294-7100.

HENDERSON

City of Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve • Self-guided or guided tours for more than 10 people of the 80-acre preserve. 2400 Moser St. off Sunset, 702-565-4264 and 702-566-2940.

Clark County Museum • 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 702-455-7955.

Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden • Tours. 2 Cactus Garden Dr., 702-458-8864.

Mountasia Family Fun Center • 2050 Olympic, 702-898-7777.

Ron Lee's World of Clowns • Tours. 330 Carousel Pkwy., 702-434-1700.

LAS VEGAS

Adventuredome • Covered park with rides and attractions. Next to Circus Circus, 800-444-CIRCUS.

A.J. Hackett Bungy • 810 Circus Circus Dr., 702-385-4321.

Bellagio • Fountain shows, art gallery. 702-693-7111.

CART Driving 101 • Indy-cars driving experience. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-651-6300.

Cinema Ride • Motion simulator rides. Forum Shops at Caesars, 702-369-4008.

Cowboy Trail Rides • Horseback riding. 702-387-2457.

Crystal Palace In-Line Skating and Hockey Complex • 9295 W. Flamingo, 702-253-9832.

Desert Demonstration Gardens • 3701 W. Alta, 702-258-3205.

Elvis-A-Rama Museum • 3401 Industrial, 702-309-7200.

Excalibur • Dragon battle in front moat, motion simulators. 702-597-7777.

Flamingo Las Vegas • Wildlife sanctuary. 702-733-3111.

Floyd Lamb State Park • Picnicking and fishing. 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 702-486-5413.

Flyaway Indoor Skydiving • 200 Convention Center Dr., 702-731-4768.

Forum Shops at Caesars • Hourly shows at Festival and



Wildlife Habitat at Flamingo Las Vegas

African penguins love the warm Las Vegas weather. The birds share the limelight at the Flamingo Las Vegas' wildlife habitat with Chilean flamingos, turtles, ducks, swans, and koi. The birds and animals live on islands surrounded by waterfalls and lush foliage.

Atlantis fountains. 702-893-4800 for more information.

Fremont Street Experience • Light show on the hour from dark to midnight. Downtown Las Vegas, 702-678-5600.

Gameworks • Climbing wall and arcade. Showcase Mall, 3785 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-597-3122.

Guggenheim Museums • Guggenheim Heritage features works of the masters. Guggenheim Las Vegas has the Art of the Motorcycle exhibition. Venetian, 702-414-4500.

Guinness World of Records Museum • 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-792-3766.

Hard Rock Hotel • Music memorabilia. 702-693-5000.

Harley-Davidson Cafe • Motorcycle memorabilia, Harleys, and other items on display. Las Vegas Strip, 702-740-4555.

Holy Cow! Casino • Brewery tours. 702-732-2697.

Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum • McCarran International Airport, 702-455-7968.

Imperial Palace Auto Collection • Classic and antique vehicles. 702-794-3174.

Laser Quest • 7361 W. Lake Mead, 702-243-8881.

Las Vegas Art Museum • 9600 W. Sahara Ave., 702-360-8000.

Las Vegas Club • Sports memorabilia. Downtown, 702-385-1664.

Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix • Go-kart track, roller coaster, super slide. 702-259-7000.

Las Vegas Motor Speedway • Guided tours. 702-644-4444.

Las Vegas Natural History Museum • From dinosaurs to desert creatures. 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 702-384-DINO.

Liberace Museum • Pianos and memorabilia. 1775 E. Tropicana, 702-798-5595.

Lied Discovery Children's Museum • Science and other

learning exhibits. 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 702-382-KIDS.

Luxor • Motion rides, IMAX Theatre, and King Tut's Tomb and Museum. 702-262-4000.

M&M's World • Museum and gift shop. Showcase Mall, 702-736-7611.

Madame Tussaud's Celebrity Encounter • Wax Museum. Venetian, 702-367-1847.

Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History • 4505 Maryland Pkwy., UNLV, 702-895-3381.

MGM Grand • Lion habitat open daily. 702-891-7979.

Mirage • Volcano and Siegfried and Roy Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat. 702-791-7111.

Mount Charleston • Recreation information. 702-222-1597.

NASCAR Cafe • Race cars displayed. Sahara Hotel, 702-734-7223.

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society • Lorenzi Park, 700 Twin Lakes Dr., 702-486-5205.

New York-New York • Roller coaster. 702-740-6969.

Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park • Home of 150 species, from apes to peacocks. 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 702-648-5955.

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort Historic State Park • Site of 1855 settlement. 908 Las Vegas Blvd. N., at Washington Ave., 702-486-3511.

Paris Las Vegas • Rides to the observation deck of the hotel's Eiffel Tower. 702-946-7000.

Planet Hollywood Las Vegas • Movie memorabilia. 3500 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-791-7827.

Race for Atlantis • IMAX 3D motion simulator. Forum Shops at Caesars, 702-893-4800.

Rainforest Cafe • Bird habitat and animated creatures. MGM Grand, 702-891-8580.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area • 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1921.

Richard Petty Driving Experience • Drive NASCAR-style cars. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-643-4343.

Rio Suite Hotel • Free carnival-themed sky parade. 702-252-7777.

Sahara Hotel • Speed: The Ride roller coaster, virtual-reality car racing. 702-737-2735.

Sam's Town Sunset Stampede • Water and laser show. 702-456-7777.

Santa Fe Station • Ice arena. 4949 N. Rancho Dr., 702-658-4900.

Scandia Family Fun Center • 702-364-0070.

Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay • Exhibit of sharks, sea predators, and aquatic creatures. Visitors can ask questions of divers. 702-632-7777.

Shelby American • Shelby Cobra auto museum and factory tour. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-643-3000.

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park • Red Rock Canyon, 702-875-4141.

Star Trek: The Experience • Las Vegas Hilton, 702-697-8700.

Stratosphere • Roller coaster, Big Shot ride, and Strat-O-Fair midway. 702-380-7777.

Treasure Island • Sea battle every 90 minutes from 5:30-10pm Sun.-Thurs. and 5:30-11:30pm Fri.-Sat. 702-894-7111.

Tropicana • Birds and gambling museum. 702-739-2222.

Venetian Hotel • Gondola rides on the hotel's Grand Canal. 702-733-5000.

Walker African-American Museum and Research Center • Exhibits and records, by appointment only. 702-647-2242.

Wetlands Park • Nature center and walking trails. 7050 E. Tropicana Rd., 702-455-7522.

Wet 'n Wild • Water theme park; closed for the season. 702-765-9700.

LAUGHLIN

Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area • Nature and water sports. Four miles south of Laughlin, 702-298-1859.

Colorado Belle • Cyber Roller Coaster and Boiler Room Microbrewery. 702-298-4000.

Colorado River Museum • Arizona Hwy. 95, 520-754-3399.

Davis Dam • Self-guided exterior tours. 520-754-3623.

Del Rio River Tours • 520-754-4391.

Grapevine Canyon • Seven miles west of Laughlin. Inquire about road conditions. 702-298-2214.

Laughlin River Tours • Colorado River, 702-298-1047.

Ramada Express • American Heroes Museum. 702-298-4200.

Riverside Resort • Classic cars, river tour boat, and bowling center. 702-298-2535.

MESQUITE

Virgin Valley Heritage Museum • 702-346-5705.

Oasis • Gun club, hayrides. 702-346-5232.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

The Planetarium • Community College of Southern Nevada, 702-651-4759.

U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds • Tour of demonstration squadron's facility, 2pm Tues. and Thurs. Nellis Air Force Base, 702-652-7200.

OVERTON

Lost City Museum of Archaeology • Ancient Pueblo culture in the Moapa Valley. 702-397-2193.

Valley of Fire State Park • 702-397-2088.

PRIMM

Primadonna Resorts • Roller coaster, water flume, cyber coaster and Turbo Drop rides, cars belonging to Bonnie and Clyde and Dutch Schultz, and Clyde's bullet-riddled shirt. 702-382-1111.

SEARCHLIGHT

Paddle River Art.com • Art gallery. 702-297-1540.

Searchlight Museum • Area history. 702-455-7955.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

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Nevada Northern Railway Museum

P.O. Box 150040, East Ely, Nevada 89315

For reservations and information:

(775) 289-2085 • www.nevadanorthernrailway.net

Children's Museum of Northern Nevada • Educational exhibits. 813 N. Carson St., 775-884-2226.
Kit Carson Trail • Walking tour. 775-687-7410 or 800-NEVADA1.
Nevada State Capitol • 775-687-5030.
Nevada State Library and Archives • State Constitution exhibit. 100 Stewart St., 775-684-3310.
Nevada State Museum • 600 N. Carson St., 775-687-4810.
Nevada State Railroad Museum • S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 775-687-6953.
Nevada Supreme Court • Tours. 775-684-1617.
Roberts' House Museum • 1207 N. Carson St., 775-882-2174.
Stewart Indian Museum and Cultural Center • 5366 Snyder, closed for remodeling.
Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum • 777 S. Stewart St., 775-887-2210.

DAYTON

Dayton State Park • 775-687-5678.
Dayton Historic Society Museum • Open weekends in the 1865 Old Dayton Schoolhouse on Shady Lane.

GARDNERVILLE

Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center • Old Douglas County High School on U.S. 395, 775-782-2555.
Sharkey's Nugget • Boxing memorabilia. 775-782-3133.

GENOA

Genoa Courthouse Museum • Closed for season. 775-782-4325.
Mormon Station State Historic Park • 775-782-2590.
David Walley's Hot Springs • 775-782-8155.

LAKE TAHOE

Hard Rock Cafe • Harveys, Stateline, 775-588-2411.
Heavenly Gondola • Stateline, 775-586-7000.
Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park • Sand Harbor, 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 775-831-0494.
M.S. Dixie II Paddlewheeler • Zephyr Cove, 775-588-3508.
Ponderosa Ranch • Seasonal hours. 775-831-0691.
Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler • Tahoe City, 530-583-0141.
Tahoe Rim Trail • 150-mile system. 775-588-0686.



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Tallac Historic Site • Closed for the season. South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-5227.

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Vikingsholm • Tours. 530-525-7232 for more information.
Zephyr Cove Resort • Cruises, boat rentals. 775-588-6644.

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Animal Ark • 10 mi. north of Reno on U.S. 395, then 12 mi. on Red Rock Road, 775-969-3111.
Bartley Ranch Regional Park • Hiking, horse arena, and one-room Huffaker Schoolhouse. 775-828-6612.
Fleischmann Planetarium • Stargazing programs. U of N campus, 775-784-4811.
Galena Creek Regional Park • Mt. Rose Hwy., 775-785-4319.
Harrah's Reno • Laser show nightly at the outdoor plaza. 775-786-3232.
Liberty Belle Slot Collection • Liberty Belle Saloon, 4250 S. Virginia St., 775-825-1776.
National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection) • 10 Lake St. S., 775-333-9300.
National Bowling Stadium • Tournaments and IWERKS theater. 300 N. Center St., 775-334-2695.
Nevada Historical Society Museum • 1650 N. Virginia St., U of N campus, 775-688-1190.
Nevada Museum of Art, E.L. Wiegand Gallery • During construction of new museum, gallery is located in the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 775-329-3333.
Kiddie Playland • Rides, picnicking. Idlewild Park, 775-329-6008.
Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk • 775-334-2077.
Reno Hilton • Water golf, Ultimate Rush thrill ride, putting course, go-kart center. 775-789-2000.
Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy • Classes. 1313 S. Virginia St., 775-329-5665.
Riverside Artist Lofts • Arts and cultural center. 17 S. Virginia St., 775-329-2787.
Sierra Arts Center Gallery • Gallery and offices. Riverside Artist Lofts, 17 S. Virginia St., 775-329-2787.
Sierra Safari Zoo • 10 mi. north of Reno at Red Rock Rd., 775-677-1101.
Silver Legacy • Giant mining machine and laser shows every hour. 800-MUSTSEE.
Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden • Rancho San Rafael Park, 775-785-4153.
Wilbur D. May Great Basin Adventure • Rancho San Rafael Park, 775-785-4064.
Wilbur D. May Museum • Rancho San Rafael Park, 775-785-5961.

PYRAMID LAKE

Numana Hatchery Visitors Center • 775-574-0290.

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John Ascuaga's Nugget • Ranchers' brands exhibit. 775-356-3300.
Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum • Local history, Southern Pacific train cars, 1864 Glendale School, Victorian Square, 775-355-1144.
Sparks Marina Park • Fishing, walking paths. 775-353-2376.
Victorian Square Fountain • Water shows. 775-353-2284.
Wild Island • Water park open in summer, miniature golf and raceway open year-round. Off I-80, 775-359-2927.

VERDI

Boomtown Family Fun Center • Motion-theater rides, Ferris wheel, and miniature golf. 775-345-8668.

VIRGINIA CITY

Assay Office Museum • 775-847-0777.
The Castle • 775-847-0275.
Chollar Mine • Tours of workings. 775-847-0155.
Fourth Ward School Museum • 775-847-0975.
Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum • 775-847-9394.
Mackay Mansion Museum • 775-847-0173.
Nevada Gambling Museum • 775-847-9022.
Piper's Opera House • 775-847-0433.
Ponderosa Mine • Tours. 775-847-0757.
Virginia and Truckee Railroad • 775-847-0380.
Virginia City Radio Museum • 775-847-9047.
Virginia City Tours • 775-786-0866.
The Way It Was Museum • 775-847-0766.

WASHOE VALLEY

Bowers Mansion Park • Park open year-round. Historic mansion of Comstock millionaires open seasonally. 775-849-1825.
Davis Creek Park • 775-849-0684.
Washoe Lake State Park • Birdwatching, windsurfing, fishing. East Lake Blvd., 775-687-4319.

Rural Nevada

AUSTIN

Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site • Self-guided tour with signs. 24 miles east of Austin on U.S. 50, 775-635-4000.

BEATTY

Beatty Museum • Mining exhibits. 775-553-2424.
Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Beatty. 775-553-2200.
Rhyolite • Historic bottle house and the Gold Well Open Air Museum sculpture exhibit. Four miles west of Beatty, 775-553-2424.

ELKO

Northeastern Nevada Museum • 1515 Idaho St., 775-738-3418.
Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge Wilderness Area • 775-752-3357.
Sherman Station Complex • Restored 1875 ranch, tours,

and greater Elko area visitor information. 775-738-7135.
Western Folklife Center • 501 Railroad St., 775-738-7508 for information.

Wild Horse State Recreation Area • 65 miles north of Elko, 775-758-6493.

ELY/GREAT BASIN PARK

Cave Lake State Recreation Area • 15 miles south of Ely, 775-728-4467.
East Ely Railroad Depot Museum • Tours. 775-289-1663.
Great Basin National Park • Hiking, camping, ancient bristlecones, and tours of Lehman Caves. Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 775-234-7331.
McGill Historical Drug Company • Call for tours of an old-fashioned drugstore. McGill, 775-235-7082.
Nevada Northern Railway Museum • Train rides on historic locomotives. 1100 Ave. A, East Ely, 775-289-2085 for more information.
Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site • 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely, 775-728-4467.

Boulder City Calendar of Events

April

Clark County Artist Show

May

Spring Jamboree & Craft Fair
Boulder City Folk Festival

July

Fourth of July Damboree

August

Street Party

September

Chautauqua
Rattlin' Rails Handcar Races
Wurstfest
Lake Mead Boat & Ski Races

October

Art In The Park
Country Store Sale
St. Jude's Ranch Celebration

November

Boulder City High School Rodeo
Community Tree Lighting

December

Doodlebug Bazaar Craft Sale
Christmas Parade & Santa's Party
Lake Mead Parade of Lights

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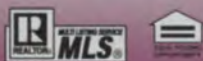
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White Pine Public Museum • Exhibits on history of Ely area. 2000 Aultman St., 775-289-4710.

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Eureka Opera House • Open for tours Mon.-Fri. or by appointment. 775-237-6006.

Eureka Sentinel Museum • 775-237-5010.

FALLON

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave • Tours. 1050 S. Maine St., 775-423-3677.

Fort Churchill State Historic Park • Eight miles south of Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

Sand Mountain • Giant sand dune 20 miles east of Fallon, 775-885-6000.

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Reno-Fernley Raceway • Paint ball games park. Fernley, 775-575-7217.

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Historic Buildings and Mining Tour • Telegraph Office, Florence Mine, and Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company Building. 775-485-3486.

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Mineral County Historical Museum • Exhibits on the history of the Hawthorne area. 400 10th St., 775-945-5142.

Walker Lake State Recreation Area • Fishing, camping, and birdwatching. 775-945-5896.

LOVELOCK

Giant Tufa Park • West of Lovelock, 775-273-7213.

Pershing County Marzen House Museum • Lovelock-area history. 775-273-7213.

PAHRUMP

Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Pahrump, which is 58 miles east of Furnace Creek. 775-727-5880.

Pahrump Valley Winery • Tours. 3810 Winery Rd., 775-727-6900 or 800-368-WINE.

PIOCHE/CALIENTE

Box Car Museum • Railroad and local history. Caliente, 775-726-3129.

Cathedral Gorge State Park • 10 miles south of Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Elgin Living History Schoolhouse Museum • Open for weekend tours or by appointment; 21 miles south of Caliente. Write Lynn Wood, Box 266, Caliente, NV 89008.

Kershaw-Ryan State Park • Three miles south of Caliente, 775-728-4460.

Lincoln County Historical Museum • Pioche, 775-962-5207.

Million Dollar Courthouse • Closed for the season. Pioche, 775-962-5182.

Spring Valley State Park • 775-728-4460.

Stone Cabin Living History Museum • One mile north of Spring Valley State Park, seasonal. 775-728-4460 for more information.

ROUND MOUNTAIN

Smoky Valley Museum • 1935 schoolhouse and assay equipment. Open second Wednesday of the month and by appointment. 775-377-2243.

SILVER SPRINGS

Fort Churchill State Historic Park • Eight miles south of Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

TONOPAH

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site • 50 miles north of Tonopah, 775-867-3001.

Central Nevada Museum • Tonopah-area history. 775-482-9676.

Tonopah Historic Mining Park • 775-482-9274.

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Buckaroo Hall of Fame • 775-623-2225.

Humboldt Museum • Area history. 775-623-2912.

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Casino Notes

News from hotel-casinoland. By Ann Henderson

Las Vegas Territory

Report Card: The **Bellagio** on the Strip has received the American Automobile Association's Five Diamond Award, thus becoming the first Las Vegas hotel and the largest resort in AAA history to be so recognized. The AAA lists approximately 40,000 hotels and restaurants, and the Five Diamond Award has been a coveted symbol of excellence for such establishments since its inception in 1977.

No Lines: The **Flamingo Laughlin** has installed a Perconta coin-sorting machine, which should reduce lines at change booths. The Perconta can exchange up to 2,000 unsorted coins per minute into currency. It will also accept bills and spit out coins in any denomination.

Lookin' Good: Extensive remodeling at the **Gold Coast** on West Flamingo Road in Las Vegas has brought changes to the show-

room, race and sports book, casino, front desk, buffet, and lounge.

More Changes: The **Lady Luck** in downtown Las Vegas has opened the new Corner Stage Lounge, completed casino upgrades, and remodeled the buffet to create a new seafood buffet.

Gettin' Ugly: An entertainment bar named after its inspiration, the movie *Coyote Ugly*, has opened in **New York-New York** on the Strip. Female flair bartenders were hired for their ability to insult customers and engage in endearingly outrageous behavior.

Stars on Ice: Showgoers attending "Splash" at the **Riviera** in Las Vegas will be watching Olympic-caliber performances. At night during "Splash," Jered Guzman performs on the ice with world silver medalist Cindy Landry-Davis. During the day, Guzman and partner Jennifer Don, who are ranked in the top five American pairs, perfect routines that may land them a spot in the 2006 Winter Olympics.

Montana Import: The **MacKenzie River Pizza Co.**, a Montana-based pizza chain, opened its first Las Vegas restaurant in the **Reserve** in Henderson. The 140-seat eatery, which received a Hot Concept Award from *Nation's Restaurant News*, reflects its Western roots with wood-beam décor. Diners can choose from more than 20 varieties of pizza such as the Angler, a trout-topped pie that sounds weird but tastes great.

Spirited Fun: The Mysterious Sporatto, based on a 16th-century spirit of Venice who donned a mask and mingled undetected at gatherings, has taken up residence at the **Grand Canal Shoppes** in the **Venetian**. The colorfully garbed Sporatto moves in and out of hidden doors and canals to surprise visitors to the Strip shopping mall.

Time Off to Play: Golf star and architect Jack Nicklaus chose the best 18 holes from his more than 200 Nicklaus-designed

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Month

May 2002

May 2002

May 2002

July 2002

Location

Fernley

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Yerington

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Lyon County Information Center

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The Sporatto, the reincarnation of a 16th-century spirit of Venice, often surprises Las Vegas visitors by moving in and out of hidden doors at the Grand Canal Shoppes in the Venetian.

courses worldwide for the inaugural **Bear's Best in Las Vegas**. The replicas on the public course represent a mix of terrain. The high-end Nicklaus links will specialize in group and convention business.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

A New Look: Caesars Tahoe refurbished 28 suites and remodeled four additional floors in the hotel tower. Other improve-

ments included a new air-conditioning system, VIP check-in, and a high-limit lounge. The property also opened the Aroma Café, which offers coffee, pastries, and sandwiches, and added meeting space to the current 16,000-square-foot convention area.

High-Limit Alert: The Carson Valley Inn in Minden has added a new high-limit slot gaming area to its casino. The special section offers \$5 and \$10 video and slot machines, and players are treated to tele-

visions, house phones, and personalized beverage service including champagne and splits of wine.

Southwestern Steaks: The Piñon Plaza in Carson City has unveiled the **Steakhouse** restaurant, an upscale eatery with seating for 83 in the restaurant and 23 in the lounge. The Steakhouse features Southwestern décor, back-to-back fireplaces, specialty dishes, and a designer bar and lounge.

Carson Opening: The Silver Dollar Casino, a small neighborhood casino offering slots and video machine play, has opened in Carson City.

More Slots: A recent expansion has doubled the size of the Slot World Casino from 10,500 to 22,000 square feet. The property on U.S. 50 East in Carson City also added 188 new slot machines.

Rural Nevada

On the Grow: Best Western Pahrump Station doubled in size when it added 48 queen, king, and handicapped-accessible rooms to the property's existing 42 rooms. Pahrump, located 62 miles west of Las Vegas on State Route 160, is a golf hub and home to Southern Nevada's only winery.

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Vacation Hot Lines

Where to call or write for Nevada travel tips.

When planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information. Also, Internet users can visit the Web sites listed. If you plan to stop by a chamber of commerce (C of C) office, chances are it will be open in the daytime Monday through Friday.

Statewide Information

Nevada Commission on Tourism: 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701; www.travelnevada.com; 775-687-4322 or 800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada.

Las Vegas Territory

Asian C of C: 900 E. Karen, No. C217, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 702-737-4300.

Boulder City C of C: 1305 Arizona, Boulder City, NV 89005; www.bouldercitychamber.com; 702-293-2034.

Boulder City Visitor Center: 100 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 702-294-1252; www.vegasfreedom.com.

Henderson C of C: 590 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, NV 89015; www.hendersonchamber.com; 702-565-8951.

Henderson Convention Center: 200 Water St., Henderson, NV 89015; www.cityofhenderson.com/convention; 702-565-2171.

Hoover Dam Visitors Services: Box 60400, Boulder City, NV 89006; www.hooverdam.com; 702-294-3524.

Jean Visitor Center: Interstate 15 South, Exit 12, Box 19470, Jean, NV 89019; www.vegasfreedom.com; 702-874-1360.

Las Vegas C of C: 3720 Howard Hughes Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89109; www.lvchamber.com; 702-735-1616.

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 3150 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109; www.vegasfreedom.com; 702-892-0711.

Latin C of C: 829 S. Sixth St., Las Vegas, NV 89125; www.LasVegasLatincc.com; 702-385-7367.

Laughlin C of C: Box 77777, Laughlin, NV 89028; www.laughlinchamber.com; 702-298-2214 or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada.

Laughlin Visitor Center: 1555 Casino Dr., Box 502, Laughlin, NV 89029; www.visitlaughlin.com; 702-298-3321 or 800-4LAUGHLIN.

Mesquite Area C of C: 850 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite, NV 89027; www.mesquite-chamber.com; 702-346-2902.

Mesquite Visitor Center: Interstate 15, Exit 122, 460 Sandhill, Mesquite, NV 89027; 702-346-2702, 877-MESQUITE.

Moapa Valley C of C: Hwy. 169, Box 361, Overton, NV 89040; www.moapavalley.com; 702-397-2160.

North Las Vegas C of C: 2290 McDaniel, North Las Vegas, NV 89030; www.nlvchamber.com; 702-642-9595.

Urban C of C (formerly Nevada Black C of C): 1048 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106; www.lvurbanchamber.org; 702-648-6222.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Carson City C of C: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701; www.carsoncitychamber.com; 775-882-1565.

Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701; www.carson-city.org; 775-687-7410 or 800-NEVADA-1 in U.S.

Carson Valley C of C and Visitors Authority: 1513 Hwy. 395, Gardnerville, NV 89410-5283; www.carsonvalleynv.org; 775-782-8144 or 800-727-7677 in U.S.

Dayton Area C of C: 200-B Main St., Box 2408, Dayton,



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Lamoille Canyon is one of many areas of the Ruby Mountains near Elko where snowmobilers will find miles of trails. Pristine spots await cross-country skiers and snowshoers in the Rubies, and heli-skiing is available for the adventurous who are looking for vertical descents of 2,200 feet or more.

NV 89403; www.daytonnvchamber.org; 775-246-7909.

Greater Reno-Sparks C of C: 1 E. First St., Reno, NV 89501; www.reno-sparkschamber.org; 775-686-3030.

Incline Village/Crystal Bay C of C: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; www.laketahoechamber.com; 775-831-4440 for travel information.

Lake Tahoe, Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; www.gotahoe.com; 775-832-1606 or 800-GO-TAHOE anywhere in U.S.

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 1156 Ski Run Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; www.virtuallake.com; 530-544-5050, 800-AT-TAHOE in U.S.

North Lake Tahoe C of C: 245 N. Lake Blvd., Box 884, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.tahoeinfo.com; 530-581-6900.

North Lake Tahoe Resort Association: 245 North Lake Blvd., Box 5459, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.tahoeinfo.com; 530-583-3494 or 800-824-6348.

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Box 837, Reno, NV 89504; www.renolaketahoe.com; 775-827-7600 or 800-FOR-RENO in U.S.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council: 98 Colony Rd., Reno, NV 89502; 775-329-2936.

South Lake Tahoe C of C: 3066 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; www.tahoeinfo.com; 530-541-5255.

Sparks C of C: 831 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431; www.sparkschamber.org; 775-358-1976.

Tahoe-Douglas C of C: Box 7139, Stateline, NV 89449; 195 Hwy. 50 at Round Hill, Zephyr Cove; www.tahoechamber.org; 775-588-4591.

Virginia City C of C: 131 S. C St., Virginia City, NV 89440; www.virginiacity-nv.com; 775-847-0311.

Cowboy Country

Battle Mountain C of C: Box 333, Battle Mountain, NV 89820; 775-635-8245.

Elko C of C: 1405 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801; www.elkonv.com; 775-738-7135.

Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV 89801; www.elkocva.com; 775-738-4091, 800-248-3556 outside Nevada.

Jarbridge Community Association: Trading Post, 72 Main St., Box 260072, Jarbridge, NV 89826; jarbridge@aol.com; 775-488-2315.

Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; 775-273-7213.

McDermitt Information: Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421; 775-532-8742.

Wells C of C: 395 Sixth St., Box 615, Wells, NV 89835; www.wellsnv.com; 775-752-3540.

Winnemucca C of C: 30 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; www.winnemucca-nv.org; 775-623-2225.

Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau: 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; www.winnemucca.nv.us; 775-623-5071 or 800-WMCA-NEV.

Pony Express Territory

Austin C of C: Box 212, Lander County Courthouse, Austin, NV 89310; 775-964-2200.

Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center: 150 Sixth St., Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; www.elynevada.net; 775-289-3720.

Eureka County C of C: 111 N. Main St., Box 1078, Eureka, NV 89316; 775-237-5484.

Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 775-423-4556 or 800-874-0903.

Fernley C of C: 70 N. West St., Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; www.fernleynevada.net; 775-575-4459.

Great Basin Business and Tourism Council: Information on Baker and Great Basin National Park. Box 166, Baker, NV 89311; 775-234-7323.

Greater Fallon Area C of C: 65 S. Maine St., No. B, Fallon, NV 89406; 775-423-2544.

Silver Springs EDASS (Econ. Dev. Authority of Silver Springs): Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 775-577-2069.

White Pine Chamber of Commerce: 636 Aultman, Ely, NV

89301; www.elynevada.net; 775-289-8877 for more information.

Pioneer Territory

Amargosa C of C: HCR 69-2, Box 401W, Amargosa, NV 89020; www.amargosavalley.com; 775-372-1515.

Beatty C of C: 119 E. Main St., Box 956, Beatty, NV 89003; www.governor.net/nv/as/bea; 775-553-2424.

Caliente C of C: Depot Building, Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 775-726-3129.

Gabbs Information: 509 Main St., Box 176, Gabbs, NV 89409; 775-285-4019.

Goldfield C of C: Box 219, Goldfield, NV 89013; Web site: members.xcom.com/gfldchamber; 775-485-3560.

Greater Smoky Valley C of C: State Route 376 at Carver's, Box 1977, Round Mountain, NV 89045; 775-377-2490.

Lincoln County C of C: Box 915, Panaca, NV 89042; www.lincolncountynv.com; 775-728-4282.

Mason Valley C of C: 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV 89447-2536; www.tele-net.net/lceda; 775-463-2245.

Mineral County C of C: 932 E St., Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; www.mineralcountynvchamber.org; 775-945-5896.

Pahrnagat Valley Chamber of Commerce: Box 421, Alamo, NV 89001; 775-725-3483.

Pahrump Valley C of C: 1301 Hwy 160, Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; www.pahrumpchamber.com; 775-727-5800.

Pioche C of C: Box 127, Pioche, NV 89043; 775-962-5544.

Tonopah C of C: 301 Brougner Ave., Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; www.tonopahnevada.com; 775-482-3859 for Tonopah information.

Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, 301 Brougner Ave., Tonopah, NV 89049; www.tonopahnevada.com; 775-482-3558.

Indian Territory

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada: 680 Greenbrae Dr., No. 265, Sparks, or Box 7440, Reno, NV 89510; 775-355-0600.

Indian Territory: Nevada Commission on Tourism, 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701; www.travelnevada.com; 775-687-4322 or 800-NEVADA-8.

State and National Parks

Death Valley National Park: Beatty Visitor Center: 307 Main St., Beatty, NV 89003; 775-553-2200. Park: Death Valley, CA 92328; 760-786-2331.

Great Basin National Park: Nevada Hwy. 488, Baker, NV 89311; www.nps.gov/grba; 775-234-7331.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; www.nps.gov/lame; 702-293-8907.

Nevada Division of State Parks: 1300 S. Curry St., Carson City, NV 89710; www.state.nv.us/stparks; 775-687-4370.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: HCR 33, Box 5500, Las Vegas, NV 89124; www.redrockcanyon.blm.gov; 702-363-1921.

More Outdoor Activities

Bicycling in Nevada: Nevada Department of Transportation: 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712; www.bicyclenevada.com; 775-888-RIDE.

Bureau of Land Management: Main office: Reno, www.nv.blm.gov; 775-861-6400; Las Vegas, 702-647-5000; Elko, 775-753-0200; Winnemucca, 775-623-1500; Carson City, 775-885-6000; Ely, 775-289-1800; Caliente, 775-726-8100; Battle Mountain, 775-635-4000; Tonopah, 775-482-7800.

Nevada Division of Wildlife: Main office: 1100 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89512; www.nevadadivisionofwildlife.org; 775-688-1500; Southern Nevada: 4747 W. Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89108; 702-486-5127.

Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510; www.pyramidlakefisheries.org; 775-476-0500 for Pyramid Lake Fisheries information.

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/hntf/; 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 775-331-6444; 2881 S. Valley View, Suite 16, Las Vegas, NV 89102; 702-873-8800; 2035 Last Chance Rd., Elko, NV 89801; 775-738-5171.

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Dining Directory

The following Nevada dining directory includes current magazine advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes, whether breakfast, lunch, and dinner (B, L, D) are served. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to \$10 (\$), \$11 to \$20 (\$\$), \$21 to \$30 (\$\$\$), and more than \$30 (\$\$\$\$). Nevada's area codes are 702 in the Las Vegas area and 775 in the rest of the state. Major credit cards are accepted at the restaurants unless otherwise noted.

Las Vegas Area

AMERICAN

Imperial Palace/Betty's Diner—794-3261. Shakes, malts, sundaes, sandwiches, soup, bakery. B, L, D. \$.
Imperial Palace/Burger Palace—794-3261. Burgers, fries, and other fast-food items. B, L, D. \$.
Imperial Palace/Emperor's Buffet—731-3311. Buffet carving station, roast baron of beef. B, L, D. \$.
Imperial Palace/Imperial Buffet—794-3261. Prime rib and champagne dinner nightly at the Imperial Buffet. B, L, D. \$.
Imperial Palace/Rib House—794-3261. Barbecued ribs, chicken, blackened entrees. D. \$\$.
Imperial Palace/Teahouse—731-3311. Carving station with prime rib. Weekend brunch. B, L, D. \$.
Riviera/Kady's Coffee Shop—794-9403. Coffee shop selections. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

ASIAN

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—794-3261. Mandarin and Cantonese cuisine, abalone, kung pao shrimp, roast duck. D. \$\$.
Riviera Hotel/Rik' Shaw—794-9537. Pineapple duck, orange roughy with black pepper sauce. D. \$-\$\$.

INTERNATIONAL

Riviera Hotel/Mardi Gras Food Court—734-5110. Nine quick-service eateries featuring international cuisine. B, L, D. \$, no credit cards.
Riviera Hotel/World's Fare Buffet—794-9400. International cuisines plus prime rib at the Riviera buffet. B, L, D. \$.

ITALIAN

Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, salads. L, D. \$.
Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano—794-9363. Lobster Francaise, fresh seafood. D. \$-\$\$\$\$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Imperial Palace/Embers—794-3261. Steaks and continental dishes, 28 menu choices. D. \$\$.
Imperial/Palace/Seahouse—794-3261. Alaskan crab legs, seafood salads. D. \$\$.
Riviera Hotel/Kristofer's—794-9233. Steak, seafood, and chicken. D. \$.

Reno-Carson Area

AMERICAN

Best Western Piñon Plaza Resort/Branding Iron Cafe and Margarita Saloon—Carson City, 885-9000.

Western favorites at moderate prices. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

Carson Nugget/Buffer—Carson City, 882-1626. Sunday champagne brunch, Saturday breakfast buffet, Friday seafood buffet. B, L, D. \$.

Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop—Carson City, 882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$.

Carson Station/Station Grill and Rotisserie—Carson City, 883-8400. Baby back ribs, fish specials. L, D. \$-\$\$.

Carson Station/Station Restaurant—Carson City, 883-0900. Homestyle cooking. B, L, D. \$.

Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 783-6650. Steaks, seafood, and nightly specials. D. \$.



Steak, poultry, and seafood dishes await guests in Victoria's Restaurant at the Silver Club in Sparks.

Carson Valley Inn/Katie's—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers, and breakfast specials. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

Carson Valley Inn/Michael's—Minden, 782-9711. Rack of lamb and seafood creations. D. \$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Farm House Coffee Shop—Sparks, 356-3300. Old-fashioned home cooking, omelettes, pancakes, and fried chicken. B, L, D. \$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Gabe's Pub and Deli—Sparks, 356-3300. Quick-service deli offers snacks, sandwiches, desserts, pastries. B, L, D. \$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, seafood Louis, Golden Rooster Room fried chicken. B, L, D. \$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Rotisserie—Sparks, 356-3300. Buffet, Sunday brunch. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

Peppermill/Food Court—Reno, 826-2121. Mexican, Asian, Italian, hamburgers, and salad bar. B, L, D. \$.

Peppermill/Island Buffet—Reno, 826-2121. Chicken,

seafood, prime rib, salads. B, L, D. \$.

Peppermill/Peppermill Restaurant—Reno, 826-2121. Hamburgers, salads, seafood, chicken. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

Silver Club/Town Square Restaurant—Sparks, 358-4771. Breakfast served all day. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

Silver Club/Port of Subs Deli—Sparks, 358-4771. Fresh deli sandwiches. B, L, D. \$.

ASIAN

Eldorado/Golden Fortune—Reno, 786-5700. Hong Kong-style cuisine. D. \$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. \$.

BASQUE

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. Fourth St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes, served family-style. L, D. \$.

BREW PUBS

Eldorado/The Brew Brothers—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet pizzas, ribs, barbecue shrimp, and sausages at the brew pub. L, D. \$.

CONTINENTAL

Peppermill/White Orchid—Reno, 826-2121. Filet mignon, seared ahi, medallions of elk, lobster. D. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado/Roxy—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet dishes include Chilean sea bass with Yukon gold potatoes and creamed spinach. D. \$.

Eldorado/Chefs Buffet—Reno, 786-5700. USDA prime rib, homemade pastas, Mongolian grill, salad bar, dessert bar. B, L, D. \$.

Eldorado/Choices—Reno, 786-5700. Deli, espresso bar, bakery, Asian Noodle Kitchen. B, L, D. \$.

Eldorado/Tivoli Gardens—Reno, 786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant. B, L, D. \$.

ITALIAN

Eldorado/La Strada—Reno, 786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine featuring a variety of veal, chicken, and seafood entrees. The restaurant has an award-winning wine list. D. \$.

Peppermill/Romanza Ristorante Italiano—826-2121. Osso Bucco Alla Romanza, Salmore Affumicato con fettuccini nere alla vodka, costolette D'Agnello, ravioli di zucchini dolci. D. \$.

Silver Club/Anna Maria's—Sparks, 358-4771. Italian cuisine served in a casual setting. D. \$-\$\$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Restaurante Orozko— Sparks, 356-3300. Veal medallions saltimbocca, braised lamb shank, paella valenciana. D. \$\$-\$\$\$.

Best Western Piñon Plaza Resort/ Steakhouse—Carson City, 885-9000. Specialty dishes include Southwestern shrimp, rack of lamb dijonaise, six cuts of steak. Wed.-Sun. from 5-10pm. D. \$\$.

Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—Carson City, 882-1626. Clam chowder, fish and chips, salmon burgers, pan roasts. L. D. \$.

Carson Nugget/Steak House—Carson City, 882-1626. Veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce, D, \$\$.

Eldorado/The Grill Steakhouse—Reno, 786-5700.
Prime rib, seafood, and grilled entrees. D. \$\$.
10000

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D, \$\$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak, and lobster: L, D, \$\$.

Peppermill/Steak House—Reno, 826-2121. Steaks, seafood, chicken, salads. D, \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$.

Silver Club/Victoria's—Sparks, 358-4771. Steak, prime rib, poultry, pasta and seafood. D. \$-\$\$.

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515.
Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. \$\$.

Harveys Tahoe/Llewellyn's—588-2411. Views of Lake Tahoe with contemporary cuisine. L.D. \$\$-\$\$\$\$.

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515.
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—Jill Stapp

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515.
Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. D. \$\$.
Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

FALLON: Stockman's Casino/Holiday Inn Express—423-2117. **Angelica's Steak House** offers steak, seafood, gourmet entrees, and nightly specials Tues.-Sat. D. \$\$\$.

The Coffee Shop serves B, L, D. \$.

FALLON: The Depot Casino—423-3233. Specializes in homestyle flavors—seafood, pasta, steak. B, L, D. \$.

LOVELOCK: Ramada Inn/Sturgeon's—273-2971. Coffee shop open 24 hours, family dining room. Fiesta Room supper club Tuesday-Saturday. Steaks, seafood, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. \$-\$\$\$.

PAHRUMP: Saddle West Hotel/Silver Spur—727-1111. T-bone steak dinner: Filet mignon and lobster, chicken cordon bleu, 8 oz. swordfish dinners. B, L, D. \$.

WINNEMUCCA: Model T/Casino Restaurant—623-2588. Chicken strips, chicken-fried steak, prime rib special, ribeye steak, fried prawns. B, L, D. \$.

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Photography by Joseph Royer

Naughty 'Whisper'

Erotic moves and new twists

on old tricks highlight this Harrah's

Reno show. **By Joyce Hollister**

Dancers clad in elegant and outrageous costumes maintain a whirling pace in "Whisper," the adult revue at Harrah's Reno.

Beautiful girls. Outrageous costumes. Slick choreography. That's what you'll remember after seeing "Whisper," the adult revue playing in Sammy's Showroom at Harrah's Reno.

Six tall, fantastically costumed female dancers open the show, entering one at a time through the door of an imagined nightclub, shimmying up and down, pouting at the audience. They are welcomed by three male dancers dressed in black. The "Whisper" dancers wear exotic wigs, hats, and feathers to match their many topless costumes, which seem to get skimpier and more outrageous as the show goes on. The jungle scene in which dancer Robin Miller, dressed as a cobra, slithers up and down a rope—and twirls around until you're dizzy—grabs your attention. It's like a marvelous circus act.

"Whisper's" dancing and hip-hop-influenced choreography create a whirling pace. Erotic bits guaranteed to embarrass Grandma include an orgy scene in which a bed rises with two women dancers *en flagrante*. It ends with the full company of mostly bare male and female dancers twisted on the bed as it descends beneath the stage in true "Don Giovanni" fashion. The dancers include Jennifer Casper, Jack Failla, Tammy Gibson, Sara Marantz, Adam Miltenberger, Leigh Murgatroyd, Paul O'Donnell, Kimberly Petros, Tracy Stanford, and Tracey-Lea Tait.

Magicians Nathan Burton and Sarah offer comic relief while providing new



Burton and Sarah add wit and charming illusions.

twists to old illusions. The pair performs mostly without words, but you know exactly what's happening in each trick—until you're fooled. Burton doesn't work with a top hat and rabbit as magicians used to do. Instead, he makes a ketchup bottle disappear from a paper bag. Sarah is as beautiful as the other women in "Whisper." She brings mischief and personality to the show and remains charming even as she clings to a giant pink hairdryer in a varia-

tion of the levitating-the-woman routine.

Recorded music features old songs like "Fever," Peggy Lee's '50s hit, and newer music, such as the theme from *Charley's Angels* by Destiny's Child. There are tunes from Prince, Patti LaBelle, and Ricky Martin. Singer and host Aisling Bowyer rotates in and out of scenes. The Irishwoman is known in Las Vegas as "the Voice," and, unfortunately, it's a very loud voice in this show—you can't always distinguish the words she sings. She does, however, add a dollop of elegance because her dramatic gowns are *not* topless.

If you want an hour's worth of light entertainment with more than a whiff of naughtiness thrown in, "Whisper" offers the ingredients: music, song, pretty girls, top-notch dancing. And a disappearing ketchup bottle.

Show Notes

Show times for "Whisper" in Sammy's Showroom at Harrah's Reno are 10 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday, 7:30 and 10 p.m. Wednesday, 10 p.m. Friday, and midnight on Saturday. The show alternates with impressionist Gordie Brown. Ticket prices are \$24.95 Sunday through Wednesday and \$29.95 Friday and Saturday. Harrah's Reno offers dinner-and-show packages. Call 775-788-2900.

Joyce Hollister is associate editor of Nevada Magazine.



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Father's Goose

A brazen goose joins the flock at a Reno church in this excerpt from a new book by **Rollan Melton**.

The Catholic flock was gathering at the entrance of St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral in Reno for Saturday afternoon Mass. The church organist/choirmaster/composer, Jim Bemis, arrived at 4:15 p.m. to begin preparing his music. But at the copper doors, he saw that a number of early-arriving elderly women were clustered. They seemed afraid to enter. Bemis hurriedly joined them, then suppressed a chuckle.

A large Canada goose was blocking the entrance. The noisy, feathered sentinel seemed bent on denying their entry.

Mustering what he calls his limited courage, Bemis fetched a copy of the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, opened it to its full width, and chased the goose down the steps to Arlington Avenue and Second Street.

Safe at last, or so they believed, the women hurried inside the cathedral. Bemis, bringing up the rear, glanced back to see the determined goose re-climbing the concrete steps. It again posted itself at the door.

Moments later, the organist was upstairs, readying for the service. But then he heard the honk of a goose coming from beneath the choir loft. He glanced below. There, amid startled gawks, was the brazen goose, behaving as though it owned the hallowed hall. It had waddled up the center aisle, as if proclaiming, "I am a guest. I am here to stay."

The congregation sat, some members laughing, yet nobody knowing what to do. Bemis got on the loft's intercom and informed Father Charles Shelton, "There is a goose heading toward the altar." Whereupon the priest emerged from the sacristy to assure himself Bemis wasn't playing a joke.

Father Shelton saw the touring goose, which now was almost to the altar. Then the goose saw Father Shelton, clad in white robe. The sizable bird did an about-face and retreated to the third pew. It perched itself next to a couple of bemused and bewildered churchgoers.

The service was about to begin.

Father Shelton marched over to the goose and spoke softly to it. The man of God still has not revealed precisely what he said, but Bemis believes it may have had something to do with, "Scram, or you may wind up as Thanksgiving dinner."

Father Shelton then strode north, back down the aisle, toward the entrance. The goose followed. Each marched head-on into the flow of still-arriving worshippers, who had come to pray. The marchers, confronted with a unique glimpse of a priest-geese parade, quickly parted to permit safe passage of the unusual couple. As the priest/geese hiked the aisle, musician Bemis couldn't resist. He struck up the organ with, "Go Tell Aunt Rhody the Old Gray Goose is Dead."



Now outdoors, the priest spent a minute, wisely dispensing the anti-geese gospel according to Father Shelton. Then he reentered the sacred cathedral—alone. He walked again to the altar, as the amused congregation smiled collectively.

Following the unusual mix of wonderment and merriment, the feathery visitor was a gone-geese.

Father Shelton returned to the altar, a man who had convinced all he is a worthy communicator with wild geese of the neighborhood. At this point, he turned to those attending Mass. Prior to starting the service, he delivered an 11-word summarization to listeners:

"If only the rest of the flock were quite so attentive." ▢

101
NEVADA
COLUMNS



**ROLLAN
MELTON**

Rollan Melton, a former Fallon printer's assistant and Reno newspaper publisher, has been a columnist for the *Reno Gazette-Journal* for the past 23 years. His most recent book, *101 Nevada Columns*, collects the best pieces he has written since 1987. This excerpt was first published October 26, 1997. *101 Nevada Columns* (312 pages, \$16.95, paper, ISBN: 1-890591-11-4) is available from the Nevada Humanities Committee, Box 8029, Reno NV 89507, and Nevada bookstores.

Lake Tahoe Hideaway

Tours soon begin at Thunderbird Lodge, a legendary lakeside estate.

By Joyce Hollister



Thunderbird Lodge has defied the snows of more than 60 winters thanks to its steeply pitched roof. The 19th-century-style retreat will soon be open for tours. At left: Owner George Whittell in the '30s.

This spring visitors can tour George Whittell's Thunderbird Lodge and see how the wealthy San Franciscan spent his summers at the Lake Tahoe estate beginning in the 1930s. Whittell, an eccentric Bay Area real-estate developer who spared no expense on his east-shore hideaway, built the lodge on a point two miles south of Sand Harbor.

"It's a legacy that George has left us of a bygone era," says Miki Dohemann, director of development for the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society, established in 1999 to maintain the site. "He spent thousands of dollars on it, and it has survived all these years." As a result, she says, tour-takers can explore a retreat that has not changed much since it was constructed more than 60 years ago.

The 19th-century-style lodge was built of

local granite and designed to Whittell's specifications by Reno architect Frederic DeLongchamps. Construction began in 1936 and was completed in 1939. Stonemason apprentices from Stewart Indian School in Carson City built the walls of the main house and many out-buildings. The masons laid stone walkways that meander around a three-story waterfall and fountain, several ponds, pines, and boulders.

Whittell insisted on a steeply pitched roof for his house, and the roof has defied heavy snows for six decades. Although the owner had the tastes of a late-19th-century aristocrat, he was a 1930s techie. He placed a state-of-the-art weather station above his bedroom, and the lodge had



an elevator, in-house telephone system, and hydro-electric plant. In the 1950s he installed a television surveillance system.

Tours will show visitors the main lodge, its base-

ment rooms, and the underground tunnel that leads to the boathouse where the *Thunderbird*, a 55-foot, mahogany powerboat, was berthed. A later owner of the *Thunderbird*, Bill Harrah, upgraded the yacht, and it could reach speeds of up to 70 mph thanks to the 2,000-horsepower, twin Allison airplane engines he installed. The yacht still plies the lake under the ownership of Thunderbird Charters and occasionally is docked in the boathouse.

The main lodge features a two-story, pine-paneled living room. A second-story



The sitting room in the Thunderbird Lodge main house features a three-sided gallery connecting the Whittells' second-story bedrooms (top). A 600-foot tunnel leads from the main lodge's basement kitchen to the boathouse (left). Stonemason apprentices from Stewart Indian School in Carson City constructed the buildings, walkways, and garden walls at Thunderbird Lodge (right).

gallery connects the two bedrooms—one for Whittell and the other for his French-born wife, Elia, whom he met in France during World War I. Anthony Soletti, an Italian-American metalworker, designed the black iron hinges, light fixtures, sconces, and firescreens. Metal deer, squirrels, and ducks adorn walls and chimneys. The ironwork, Dohemann says, "is another example of how George was interested in the smallest details."

The servants' bedrooms in the basement are decorated for the public tours with original and period furniture. Volunteers donated the 1930s and '40s

clothing and soap and toothpaste containers that are on display. The basement kitchen has all of its original equipment, including a marble-top work table, oversized porcelain sink, Wedgwood stove, and gas refrigerator. When Whittell and his wife stayed in the residence, servants prepared meals in the kitchen and carried dishes upstairs in the elevator.

Tour-goers will see where provisions were unloaded from a delivery boat and taken to the kitchen through the 600-foot tunnel. A circular staircase connects the tunnel to the notorious "card house," a stone building near the main lodge where

Whittell sometimes held late-night gambling and drinking parties. The tour also will visit the room in the tunnel where his African lion, Bill, occasionally slept. Whittell, whose main residence was in Woodside, California, took a few of his private zoo animals each summer with him to the estate, including several big cats and a baby elephant.

The modern addition built in 1985 by Jack Dreyfus, the Dreyfus Fund founder who purchased the lodge and 10,000 acres in 1972, will be rented for meetings. (The historic main lodge can be used for entertaining.) The lodge's next owner, Del

Tour-goers will visit the room where Whittell's African lion, Bill, occasionally slept.

Webb Corporation, swapped estate land for property in the Las Vegas area and made an interest-free loan to the not-for-profit Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society to purchase, renovate, and preserve the estate.

Thunderbird Lodge sits on a six-acre, federally designated historic site. The Whittell estate once comprised more than 40,000 acres of forest and 27 miles of shoreline, most of which now is managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Nevada Division of State Parks. Because Whittell, who died at age 87 in 1969, left the land undeveloped, it remains the most pristine area in the Tahoe Basin.

Thunderbird Tours

Visit www.thunderbirdlodge.org for details on the restoration and more photos of the historic Thunderbird Lodge. A hardcover book on the lodge, written by Ronald and Susan James and featuring archival photos and new images by Scott W. Klette, Vance Fox, and J.T. Ravize, will be published this spring. Call 775-832-8750 or write to the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society, Box 6182, Lake Tahoe, NV 89450, for information on the book, public tours, conference facilities, and volunteer opportunities. ■

Joyce Hollister is associate editor of Nevada Magazine.

Destination: *Fallon*

This Western Nevada community is home to cantaloupes, Navy jets, and historical attractions.

Photos by Ira Mark Gostin



Birdwatchers paddle canoes at the Stillwater wildlife refuge. Shoppers look over the produce at a Fallon farmer's market (top right). A child sits in the cockpit of a Navy jet at the Fallon Air Show (middle), and the NAS Fallon color guard marches in front of the historic courthouse in a Labor Day parade (bottom).



Fallon, known as "The Oasis of Nevada," is a rich agricultural community with strong historical roots. A great place for outdoor activities, special events, and historic tours, Fallon draws visitors from all over the U.S. and many foreign countries.

During the 1850s and '60s, exhausted travelers rested near present-day Fallon along the banks of the Carson River at a place called Ragtown—so called because of the clothes that could be seen drying on trees and shrubs. In 1860-61 Pony Express riders raced across the desert to deliver the mail. In the early 1900s, the Newlands Project, the first reclamation project in the U.S., diverted waters from the Truckee and Carson rivers to irrigate the desert, giving rise to

Fallon's farms and ranches. In 1942, the Army Air Corps built an airfield in Fallon. Later, the Navy used the airfield to train pilots going to the Pacific. Today, Naval Air Station Fallon is home to the Naval Strike and Warfare Center and the Top Gun training school.

Driving into Fallon on U.S. 50—which follows the old Pony Express route—you pass fields with cattle and horses. Corn, melons, and other crops as well as grass and alfalfa for livestock feed are grown here. Along the Carson River stand huge cottonwood trees that shine green in summer and golden in the fall. Outside the old town center you will find the traditional subur-





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ban landscape of fast-food restaurants, gas stations, motels, and big supermarkets.

Maine Street—yes, it's named for the state of Maine—forms the historic center of Fallon and is being renovated with a federal transportation grant. The street has been narrowed to two lanes. Old-fashioned lampposts, benches, and flowering plants make the three-block area inviting to visitors. The shops that occupy early-1900s brick buildings also juxtapose old and new. For instance, **Java World** offers fancy pastries, deli sandwiches, and gourmet coffee. **Openshaw's Saddlery** sells working gear for cowboys, such as custom-built saddles, ropes, bits, and reins. Several restaurants are within walking distance. **Center Street** also has restaurants and shops.

The restored **Churchill County Courthouse** sits on the corner of Williams Avenue (U.S. 50) and Maine Street. Opened in 1904, it is the only wooden courthouse in Nevada. You can pick up a walking-tour brochure for the historic downtown area at several locations: the **Churchill County Museum**, 1050 South Maine Street; the **Fallon Convention and Visitors Center**, 100 Campus Way; the **Greater Fallon Area Chamber of Commerce**, 65 South Maine Street; or **City Hall**, 55 West Williams Avenue.

The **Churchill County Museum** has been called one of the finest small museums in the

West. Admission is free to the 14,000-square-foot former supermarket that is packed with exhibits, documents, and artifacts showcasing the life of the Native Americans who inhabited the region for centuries and important area events that took place in the last 160 years. In the summer and fall, visitors may buy fresh produce, arts and crafts, food, and drink at the **Fallon Farmers Market** at the Valley Plaza Shopping Center from 4 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

Fallon casinos offer 24-hour gaming, and several motels and hotels provide accommodations. Among the gaming establishments are the **Bird Farm**, **Bonanza Inn**, **Churchill Station**, **Depot**, and **Stockman's** casinos on Williams Avenue (U.S. 50) and the **Fallon Nugget** on Maine Street. Visitors are welcome at such lodging places as **Best Inn and Suites**, 775-423-5554; **Bonanza Inn and Casino/RV Park**, 775-423-6031; **Holiday Inn Express/Stockman's**, 775-428-2588; and the **Microtel Motel**, 775-428-0300. RVers can stay at **Fallon RV Park**, 775-867-2332; **Hub Total**, 775-867-3636; or the **Churchill County Fairgrounds**, 775-423-7733.

Many events and celebrations take place at the **Churchill County Fairgrounds**. In July, top



Fallon hosts the Silver State International Rodeo in July.

young cowboys and girls compete in the **Silver State International Youth Rodeo**, and tribal members from across the country participate in the **Fallon Stampede Powwow** for a celebration of Native American culture. Other events include the **Desert Oasis Music Festival** and **Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival** on Labor Day weekend, and **Fallon Harvest Days** in October. The Fallon Convention Center hosts many activities such as the **Spring Wings Bird Festival**, which celebrates birding in the Lahontan Valley Wetlands and the Stillwater refuge with field trips and speakers, and the **Wings Over the Valley** hunters' and outdoor festival in September. For people with a taste for speed and excitement, the **Fallon Air Show** offers precision jet teams at Naval Air Station Fallon in June, and the drag racing season features top fuel dragsters, pro modifieds, and jet cars at **Top Gun Raceway**. Oval dirt track racing is offered at **Rattlesnake Speedway**.

For golfers, the nine-hole **Fallon Golf Course** meanders along the Carson River. The course includes a restaurant, club rentals, and a driving range and hosts many tournaments and events. Hunters will find Fallon a congenial town to start their trips into the mountains.

Lattin Farms, 1955 McLean Road, opens a five-acre corn maze in the shape of Nevada from mid-August to October. More than 48,000 people have visited the maze since 1998. The **Churchill County Arts Council** brings performers and artists to the city and helps produce free concerts in Oats Park. The council is working on adapting the historic **Oats Park School** for use as a theater, gallery, and exhibition hall.

Heading east on U.S. 50, you can visit **Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge**, where, depending on the season, you can view resident and migratory birds. Back on the highway, you will soon pass **Grimes Point** archaeological area, where rocks are covered with ancient petroglyphs. Twice a month groups meet at the Churchill County Museum to embark on tours of **Hidden Cave**, an important archaeological site. Twenty-five miles east of Fallon you'll find

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Sand Mountain, a 600-foot dune that is known to "sing," or moan, when you walk on it. The dune forms an off-road playground.

Tourists will find that Fallon townspeople offer old-fashioned Western hospitality at stores and businesses. For detailed information on Fallon area attractions and events, call the **Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority**, 800-874-0903 or 775-423-4556. More information is available on the Fallon community network's Web site, www.gofallon.com, or the Churchill County Museum's site, www.ccmuseum.org.

—Joyce Hollister



Fallon Directory

A&K Earth Movers, 1800 Auction Rd., was founded in 1957 by Kenneth "Kelly" Hiatt and his brother-in-law, Alfred Miller. Hiatt became sole owner in 1971. Today, his partners are sons Michael, Bart, and Scott. They employ 175 people and own 250 pieces of equipment. A&K has an office in Reno, operates an asphalt plant and a gravel pit, and does site preparation for large public and commercial projects. Call 775-423-6085.

CC Communications has provided telephone service to the residents of Churchill County since 1889. Owned and operated by Churchill County, the company offers more than 14,000 local access lines, long distance, high-speed DSL and dial-up Internet, cellular, and paging services, and soon will introduce interactive television. CC Communications, 77 N. Maine St.; visit www.cccomm.net.

Charter Communications is among the nation's largest broadband communications companies, serving 7 million customers in 40 states. Headquartered in St. Louis, Charter has more than 16,000 employees nationwide. Charter Communications purchased the local AT&T broadband cable system on July 1, 2001, and employs 360 people in Northern Nevada, including Fallon, Gardnerville, Lake Tahoe, and Elko. Offices in Fallon are located at 120 Freeport Circle. Call 888-954-8484 or visit www.charter.com.

The historic **Depot Casino Restaurant** building at 875 W. Williams Ave. served railroad passengers in Fallon from 1907 through the 1960s. In 1987, the depot was placed in its present location and reopened as the Depot Casino Restaurant. The June 27, 1907, issue of the *Fallon Eagle* called the depot "one of the handsomest and most commodious structures of the kind in state." Call 775-423-2411.

Fallon Auto Mall, 1351 W. Williams Ave., was established in 1956 as Anderson Ford-Mercury with 20 cars and 10 employees and operated by Howard and Pat Henning. Today, Howard and son Kurt are partners in the family business. Fallon Auto Mall has the exclusive Ford, Mercury, Toyota, Chrysler, Plymouth, Jeep, and Dodge car and truck lines in the area. The Hennings employ 60 people, and the lot holds 250 vehicles. Call 775-423-2171.

Holiday Inn Express, 55 Commercial Way, features an indoor pool, outdoor pool, heated Jacuzzi, fitness room, continental breakfast, and 59 deluxe rooms and suites. Television is available in the breakfast area and great room. Located next to Stockman's, the inn appeals to business travelers and has computers and fax machines in every room, meeting space, and an interviewing office. Call 775-428-2588.

Kent's Supply Center, Inc., formerly the I.H. Kent Company, 260 N. Maine St., 775-423-2126, celebrates 110 years of serving Churchill County. Ira Heber Kent opened his mercantile in 1892 in Stillwater. Today, Karla Kent operates with the same philosophy of commitment to community as her dad, Thomas I. Kent, his dad Ira L. Kent, and his dad Ira H. Kent. Kent's opened a store in Fernley in March 2001.

Lahontan Manufactured Homes, 4700 Reno Hwy., four miles west of Fallon, has the motto "Quality Homes, at Affordable Prices, From a Quality Dealer." The company can help buyers with every aspect of purchasing a home, from obtaining the financing and permits to the lot development. Purchasers can trade in their old homes for their down payments. Call 775-867-4700.

Stockman's offers a 24-hour casino with keno, blackjack, and more than 300 slots. The 24-hour coffee shop has daily specials. Angelica's Steak House, serving steak, seafood, and gourmet entrees, opens nightly at 5 p.m. and is Fallon's only upscale restaurant. Stockman's is located at 1560 W. Williams Ave., next to the Holiday Inn Express. Call 775-423-2117.

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The Hiatt Family, from left: Scott, Kelly, Bart, Mike.

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Celebrity Weddings

(Continued from page 15)



Hughes and Peters used pseudonyms on their marriage license.

"Then 48 hours before the ceremony Richard Nixon died, and so the ex-presidents and Connie Chung and Maury Povich, too, rushed to Southern California for the memorial service." Howell collected the presidential letters of regret, including Pat Nixon's, and gave them to Love.

After Love and Peisen exchanged vows, the sun was shining as guests boarded a Tahoe cruise ship for a two-hour tour before the reception. But a blizzard rolled in, and the captain had to stay on the lake another two hours before he could bring the boat to shore. Howell recalls, "There was a good supply of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on board. Nobody complained."

The Beach Boys sang, and the ship's band played the theme from *Gilligan's Island* while waves crashed against the hull. The ship pulled up on a beach more than a block away from the estate's dock. One at a time the guests walked 20 feet of planking that had been laid down as a makeshift dock. The reception began at 5 p.m., two hours late. Hairstyles and clothes had taken a beating, but not the party spirit. The Beach Boys, including Brian Wilson, played as the festivities went on and on. The party lasted till 5 a.m.

Howard Hughes, on the other hand, desired a simple ceremony when he wed actress Jean Peters in Tonopah on January 12, 1957. Hughes wanted to avoid publicity, and he succeeded.

"I believe that Hughes wanted to get away from Las Vegas and its reporters and newspapers," says Bob Perchetti, longtime Tonopah resident and owner of the Clown Motel. "Tonopah was close enough to Las Vegas, and it was a good place for him to hide out."

Hughes and Peters were married at the

L&L Motel (named for its owners, Leroy David and his sister, Leona) in Leroy and wife Angie's apartment over the office. Leona, now 95, says, "Ms. Peters went out into Angie's garden, where there were flowers blooming, and made herself a corsage." County Clerk Eudora Murphy issued the license under the names G.A. Johnson and Marian Evans. Justice of the Peace Walter Bowles performed the ceremony, and James Perry and D. Martin Cook were witnesses. Angie David prepared hors d'oeuvres for the small gathering.

Leroy and Angie David are both dead, but Perchetti, a friend and one-time business partner of Leroy, says the Davids remarked how beautiful Jean Peters was and that she and Hughes were both "very nice people and very polite." The couple stayed three days at the L&L. Hughes offered the Davids a week-end in Las Vegas, all expenses paid, but they declined the offer. Hughes and Peters divorced in 1971. Hughes died in 1976, Peters in 2000. Perchetti speculates that their Tonopah wedding explains why Hughes later returned to the Central Nevada town, bought a mine that employed many people, and spent millions there.

The L&L Motel is scheduled to be torn down, but Tonopah's downtown revitalization committee, spearheaded by Trish Rippie, hopes the motel office can be retained as a Howard Hughes Museum. A 20-by-20-foot mural has been proposed. If the museum is established, Tonopah visitors will be able to see where the bashful billionaire married the Hollywood actress—and kept it quiet.

Wilma LaRocca is a Nevada Magazine editorial assistant.

Chapel Bells

Here's a guide to Nevada wedding places.

By Laura Zimmerman and Susan Elbe

Chapel weddings in Nevada can be as simple or as formal as the bride and groom desire. Some fees cover chapel use only. Most chapels provide special packages with flowers, photos, music, and video. Some have formal wear or costumes. Hours, days, and time limits vary. St. Valentine's Day is the busiest marrying day of the year in Nevada. Following is a sampling of wedding chapels in the Las Vegas, Reno, and Lake Tahoe areas, with

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notes on celebrity weddings. Be sure to call ahead for information, and don't forget the marriage license.

Las Vegas

Aaron's Chapel of the Bells: 2233 LV Blvd. S., 702-735-6803. Seats 25 people. Flowers, photos, limos, rings, and transportation to the marriage license bureau. Seen in *Vegas Vacation* and *Honeymoon in Vegas*.

A Hollywood Wedding Chapel: 2207 Las Vegas Blvd. South, 702-731-0678, www.ahollywoodweddingchapel.com. Site of old nightclub, the Red Fez, frequented by Frank Sinatra. Music and champagne.

A Las Vegas Wedding Chapel: 727 S. Ninth St., Las Vegas, 702-383-5909, www.lvchapel.com. Traditional, Elvis, and outdoor ceremonies and Red Rock packages.

A Little White Chapel: 1301 LV Blvd. S., 800-545-8111. Online weddings, drive-through services, limos, salon use. Multilingual

ceremonies. Michael Jordan, Joan Collins, and Bruce Willis and Demi Moore were married here.

A San Francisco Sally's Wedding Chapel: 1304 LV Blvd. S., 800-658-8677. Olde Tyme, Western, Victorian, traditional, and modern themes. Formal wear rental.

A Special Memory Wedding Chapel: 800 S. Fourth St., 702-384-2211, www.aspecialmemory.com. New England-style chapel. Flowers, photos, videos, cakes, and honeymoon plans.

A Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel: 1205 LV Blvd. S., 800-574-4450. An Elvis impersonator is available for ceremonies. The chapel's motto is "Everyone who walks through that door is a star to us." Offers theme weddings and a stay at the Viva Las Vegas Villas Bed and Breakfast.

Bellagio Wedding Chapel: Bellagio Hotel, 702-693-7700. Private chapel seats 125. Multilingual ceremonies are available.

Caesars Palace Chapel: Caesars Palace, 800-634-6001 ext. 7422, www.caesars.com. Indoor and outdoor chapels, pianist. Roman characters escort guests or stand at attention.

Candlelight Wedding Chapel: 2855 LV Blvd. S., 702-735-4179.

Traditional packages, limo, Elvis look-alike. Whoopi Goldberg, Bette Midler, and Ray Liotta were married here.

Canterbury Wedding Chapel: Escalibur Hotel, 800-811-4320. Stained-glass cathedral. Medieval theme, costumes provided.

Chapel at Monte Carlo: Monte Carlo Hotel, 800-822-8651. French Victorian chapel with hand-painted murals. Packages include flowers and room.

Chapel by the Bay: Mandalay Bay Resort, 877-632-7701. Two tropical chapels, each seating 50 people. Ricky Martin's brother was wed here.

Chapel of Love: 1431 LV Blvd. S., 702-387-0155, www.chapelsoflove.com. Four different chapels. Dressing room available.

Chapel of the Fountain: Circus Circus, 800-634-6717. Catered receptions and ceremonies tailored for families.

Chapel of Your Dreams: 946 E. Sahara Ave., 702-734-3732. Packages include flowers, photos, use of salon, and a video.

Chapelle de Paris: Paris Hotel, 877-650-5021, www.parislavegas.com. Two chapels. Packages include an Eiffel Tower ceremony.

Cupid's Wedding Chapel: 827 LV Blvd. S., 800-543-2933.



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The Chapel at the Inn within the **Carson Valley Inn** specializes in complete wedding and reception planning including flowers, minister, photography, videotaping, and reception in the Shannon Ballroom. Reception menus from brunch to banquet are available through the inn's professional catering service. 1627 U.S. Hwy. 395 North, Minden, NV 89423, 800-321-6983, 775-782-9711, www.cvinn.com.

Caesars Tahoe offers two wedding chapels. The indoor chapel has a raised domed ceiling and airbrushed sky. An ivory grand piano accents the room. The outdoor chapel (June-Sept.) boasts a rose garden with fountains and Roman gazebo. Staff will assist with florals, photography, music, reception, limousine, and honeymoon suite. P.O. Box 5800, Stateline, NV 89449, 800-648-3353, 775-588-3515, www.caesars.com.

Reno's Chapel of the Bells is Reno's only five-star wedding chapel. Whether a small, intimate wedding or a large, elaborate one, a team of consultants will assist with every detail. All weddings are video-recorded. A floral shop, wedding boutique, and professional photography are on the premises. Indoor chapel or outdoor gazebo. 700 W. Fourth St., Reno, NV 89503, 800-872-2933, 775-323-1375, www.renochapel.com.

The **North Tahoe Conference Center** offers flexibility for a private ceremony or a celebration with 400. The Lakeview Suite offers panoramas of Tahoe and the Sierra and an expansive deck. An outdoor wedding can be designed. The staff specializes in ceremonies, receptions, and rehearsal dinners and can either cater or provide a fully equipped kitchen. 8318 N. Lake Blvd. (Hwy. 28), P.O. Box 69, Kings Beach, CA 96143, 530-546-7249, www.northlaketahoe.net.

Romance, elegance, and sophistication are found in a **Viva Las Vegas** traditional wedding ceremony, surrounded by stained glass and quaint wooden benches. Spectacular themed settings include the Elvis/Blue Hawaii package, in which Elvis performs the ceremony and sings his hit songs in a tropical scene. Whether Egyptian, Camelot, or Galactic, packages offer flowers, photos, video, and limo for a variety of budgets. Also, at **Viva Las Vegas Villas** couples can spend a night in the Elvis and Priscilla Suite with décor *all shook up* in gold lamé with a pink-Cadillac bed, or a Camelot-themed room with a drawbridge bed. Chapel and Villas are on the Strip, 1205 Las Vegas Blvd. South, 800-574-4450, 702-384-0771, www.vivalasvegaweddings.com.

Weddings of the West is a complete source of wedding professionals located in Northern Nevada and dedicated to making each wedding unforgettable. Started in Carson City, the nonprofit organization has expanded from four members in 1994 to 67 current businesses in the Reno, Tahoe, and Carson Valley areas. Brides can call 866-WESTWED or visit www.sierraweddings.org for complete wedding information.

www.cupidswedding.com. Three-camera video system with special effects program. Axel Rose was married at Cupid's.

Divine Madness Fantasy Wedding Chapel: 111 LV Blvd. S., 702-384-5660, www.fantasychapel.com. Five chapels, any style of ceremony available.

Emerald Gardens: 891 S. Rampart Blvd., 702-242-5700. Offers complete wedding coordination.

Graceland Wedding Chapel: 619 LV Blvd. S., 702-474-6655. Features an Elvis at every service. Jon Bon Jovi, Billy Ray Cyrus, and Lorenzo Lamas were married here.

Flamingo Garden Chapel: Flamingo Hotel, 800-933-7993, www.lv-flamingo.com/chapel. Chapel stands amid 15 acres of garden area with waterfalls, lagoons, and live flamingos.

Forever Grand Wedding Chapel: MGM Grand, 800-646-5530, www.mgmgrand.com. Two chapels, packages, photography, flowers, music, and honeymoon accommodations.

Island Wedding Chapel: Tropicana Hotel, 702-798-3778, www.tropicana-chapel.com. Luxurious, tropical setting with chapel and outdoor gazebo. Weddings are also held at scenic Red Rock Canyon.

Little Chapel of the Flowers: 1717 LV Blvd. S., 800-843-2410. Named Best Chapel in Las Vegas by *Nevada Magazine* readers in 2001. *Bride's* magazine named it the prettiest chapel in Vegas. Ceremonies can be broadcast live on the Internet and can take place on the floor of the Grand Canyon.

Little Church of the West: 4617 LV Blvd. S., 800-821-2452, www.littlechurchlv.com. The only historically registered chapel in Las Vegas; since 1942. Packages start at \$189. Greg Allman, David Cassidy, and Richard Gere and Cindy Crawford were married here.

Shalimar Wedding Chapel: 1401 LV Blvd. S., 800-255-9633, www.shalimarweddingchapel.com. Basic package for \$119 includes a garter, photos, and music. Located inside Howard Johnson's.

Silver Bells Wedding Chapel: 607 LV Blvd. S., 702-382-3726, www.silverbell.com. Same owner for 35 years. Themed, traditional, and horseback ceremonies. Burt Bacharach, Rodney Dangerfield, and Barbara Mandrell were married here.

Sweethearts Wedding Chapel: 1155 LV Blvd. S., 702-385-7785, www.sweetheartschapel.com. Packages begin at \$65 and include flowers, music, and video. A formal-wear shop is located on the premises.

Texas Station Wedding Chapel: Texas Station Casino, 702-631-8344. A basic package includes a wedding album, champagne, and hotel room.

Victoria's Wedding Chapel: 2800 W. Sahara Ave., 702-252-4565. Seats up to 125 people or more. All cooking, film developing, and flower arranging is done on the premises.

Wedding Bells Chapel: 2955 LV Blvd. S., 800-305-9040, www.weddingbellschapel.com. Chapel, gazebo, full bar, and Elvis, too. Jackson Browne was married here.

Wedding Chapel at the Rio: Rio Suite Hotel, 888-746-5625, www.playrio.com. Three chapels will handle up to 180 guests. Packages can be arranged by consultants.

Wedding Chapels at Treasure Island: Treasure Island, 800-527-6393. Couple can wear pirate costumes. Two chapels. Packages include rooms, flowers, and videos.

Weddings-Inter-Alia: 3743 LV Blvd., 702-795-1726. Specializes in small weddings but can handle up to 300 people. Two chapels, travel and honeymoon services.

Laughlin

Riverside Resort: 702-298-2535, 800-227-3849, www.riversideresort.com. Wedding packages, cruises.

Flamingo Laughlin: 702-298-5111, or 800-352-6464, flamingo-laughlin.com. Wedding packages, cruises.

Ramada Express: 702-298-4200, 800-243-6846, ramada-express.com. Wedding packages.

Colorado Belle: 702-298-4000, 800-47-RIVER, www.colorado-belle.com. Weddings.

Mesquite

CasaBlanca: 702-346-7529, 800-459-PLAY, www.casablanca-resort.com. Wedding packages, spa, golf.

Oasis: 702-346-5232, 800-621-0187, www.oasisresort.com. Wedding packages, spa, golf.

Virgin River: 800-346-7721, www.virginriver.com. Wedding arrangements.

Eureka: 800-346-4611, www.eurekamesquite.com. Wedding packages, golf.

Reno-Sparks Area

Adventure Inn Wedding Chapel: 3575 S. Virginia St., Reno, 775-828-2436, www.adventureinn.com. Two wedding chapels, outside gazebo.

A Beautiful Beginning Riverside Wedding Chapel: 200 W. Second St., Reno, 775-322-3474. Victorian-style chapel in the penthouse level of the Comstock Hotel. Services start at \$150.

Candlelight Chapel: 600 W. Fourth St., Reno, 775-786-5355, 800-714-3744, www.candlelight-wedding-chapel.com. Flowers, photography, and tuxedo and gown rental. Rings available. Celebrities married here include Ted Nugent, Sandy Duncan, and former Oakland Raider quarterback Jim Plunkett.

Celebration Wedding Chapel: Reno Hilton, 775-333-6699, 800-255-1771. Church-style. Packages \$300 to \$1,300. Flowers, video, photography.

Chapel of the Bells: 700 W. Fourth St., Reno, 775-323-1375, www.renochapel.com. Seats about 50 guests. Indoor chapel or outdoor gazebo. Photography, video, complimentary limo.

Courtyard Wedding Chapel: John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 775-356-3300, ext. 3549, 800-843-2427, www.janugget.com. Packages \$150 to \$500. Catering coordinators. Football-baseball player Deon Sanders and Black Panther leader Huey Newton were married here.

Heart of Reno Wedding Chapel: 243 S. Sierra St., Reno, 775-786-6882. Two chapels, free limo and music.

Now and Forever Chapel: 422 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks, 775-356-1122, www.foreverchapel.com. Basic \$139 package includes a 14-page photo album. T.G. Sheppard was married here.

Park Wedding Chapel: 136 S. Virginia St., Reno, 775-323-1770. Traditional chapel with seating for 40. Photographs.

Silver Bells Wedding Chapel: 628 N. Virginia St., Reno, 775-322-0420, 800-221-9336, www.silverbellsweddingchap.com. Silk flowers, photography, video.

Starlite Wedding Chapel: 80 Court St., Reno, 775-786-4949. Candlelight ceremonies, courtesy limousine service.

White Lace and Promises Wedding Chapel: 253 Truckee River Ln., Reno, 775-786-7020, 800-613-0348. Overlooks the Truckee River. Weddings also held in Wingfield Park.

Wildflower Village Chapel: 4395 W. Fourth St., Reno, 775-747-8848. Music, champagne, cake, bed and breakfast. The chapel is located two miles west of downtown Reno.

Lake Tahoe

Cal Neva Resort: Crystal Bay, 775-832-4000, 800-225-6382. Hotel focuses on weddings. Indoor and outdoor chapels. Staff caterer, florist, photographer.

Church of the Ponderosa: Ponderosa Ranch, Incline Village, 775-831-0691, www.ponderosaranch.com. Packages start at \$175. Large parties can rent entire ranch, April-October.

The Dream-Maker: 865 Tahoe Blvd, Incline Village, 775-831-6419, www.wedtaohe.com. On-location weddings. Florist, portrait studio. Chapel seats 45. Tom Selleck, rocker Steve Miller, and ABC News reporter John Quinones were married here.

Love's Lake Tahoe Wedding Chapel: U.S. 50 at Kingsbury Grade, Stateline, 775-588-8007. Walk-in services from \$100 to \$10,995, which includes three nights in spa suite at the Lake Tahoe Horizon, massage, and limousine for three days.

North Tahoe Conference Center: 8318 N. Lake Blvd., Kings Beach, 530-546-7249, www.northlaketahoe.net. Large and small ceremonies, indoor and outdoor. Receptions, catering available.

Wedding Chapel at Caesars Tahoe: Stateline, 775-588-4422, 800-833-4422, www.caesarswedding.com. Chapel, gazebo. Packages \$75 to \$20,000. Roseanne Barr was married here.

Wedding Chapel at Harveys: Stateline, 775-588-2411, 800-552-1022, www.harveystahoweddings.com. Alpine views.

Carson Area/Virginia City

Chapel at the Inn: Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-782-9711, www.cvin.com. Up to 100 guests. Rates begin at \$135 with minister. Reception room for up to 300.

Chapel of the Pines: 675 Fairview Dr., Suite 218, Carson City, 800-426-2858, www.chapelofthepines.com. On-location ceremonies.

Silver Queen: Virginia City, 775-847-0468. Chapel next to old-style saloon. Captain and Tennille were married here.

Laura Zimmerman of Las Vegas is a Nevada Magazine editorial assistant. Susan Elle is a Reno travel writer.

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Private Screenings

You, too, can test CBS's new shows at Television City inside the MGM.

By Joan Patterson



Inside Television City, CBS invites visitors to test-view sitcoms, judge reality shows, and relax just as they might at home—by watching TV.

The MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas is the T-Rex of casinos, a colossus that leaves tourists dazed, mouths agape, and wondering: Where was I? The MGM is just plain big. I mean, BIG. It is akin to those shopping malls with the bowling alleys and ice rinks and who knows what else.

I was reminded of this hugeness during a recent trek through the property. Even though I am a local and have traversed the MGM several times, the words, "Boy!" and "Jeez!" kept coming out of my mouth as if I were some rookie on her maiden tour. After all, the MGM houses a Studio 54 nightclub, a restaurant row, three showrooms, and a 14,000-seat arena. By the time I passed a bay of Family Feud slots beaming former host Richard Dawson's best smooches, it became clear why another giant, CBS Television, has decided to bring yet another element to the MGM monolith: Television City.

David Poltrack, CBS vice president for

research and planning, explains, "It is the one place in the country where you can get a socio-economic cross section of America with great geographic dispersion."

In other words, an awful lot of people of varying backgrounds walk through the MGM every day. Hence CBS's decision to create a permanent venue called Television City inside the casino with the goal of testing new shows.

Dressed in beige pants and powder-blue dress shirts, Television City employees approach casino pedestrians and ask them to watch TV programs. Screenings are held every 20 minutes, and the operation runs all day, seven days a week.

So far the participation rate has been good, with about 200 volunteers watching shows daily and as many as 800 when CBS has all four screening rooms up and running, Poltrack says. Last summer's viewers played a major role in choosing seven shows for the 2001 fall lineup. In fact, Las

Vegas' Television City has supplanted Los Angeles and New York City as the primary places to test-market CBS shows.

"The diversity of people visiting Las Vegas has increased with the diversity of the attractions that are there," Poltrack notes, adding the surveys "are just invaluable to us. We just get so much good information out of this."

During my recent visit to the MGM I decided to see what this new CBS project was all about. I left my car in the parking garage and walked through the heart of the casino past the restaurant row and followed the signs to the arena box office, the general vicinity of Television City.

There I found a souvenir shop stuffed with TV-logo merchandise and walls of video screens blaring everything from David Letterman reruns to MTV to promotions for a tell-all cable program about *Gilligan's Island*. I later learned that CBS is part of Viacom, which owns MTV, VH1,

Nickelodeon, and Paramount Television—hence the variety of test shows. Surrounded by booming TV screens of every size, I spotted a tiny booth.

"How do I sign up for the screenings?" I asked, looking a little too excited for a tourist killing time between buffets and pool-lounging.

Minutes later I was sitting inside what looked like a small lecture room with seven other volunteers: two middle-aged men in baseball caps, their wives, and a mother with two teenaged daughters. Each of us faced a thin computer screen. Hanging in the front of the room was a TV monitor as tall as a high-school freshman.

A kindly moderator named Zack told us we would spend the next 30 minutes watching a CBS fall pilot and then registering our opinion of the show on the touch-screen computers. Zack dimmed the lights, and, low and behold, we were in the middle of the largest casino in the world about to watch a TV situation comedy.

The show was about angst-ridden, boomer-generation males. It was hard to get a reading from the two boomer men in our group, who adjusted their baseball caps a lot amid a sea of jokes about low-carb diets and memory loss due to old football injuries. We women laughed at the same punch lines (usually centered around dieting and family stuff) while the teenagers seemed nonplussed by the whole exercise.

When the show ended, we turned to the computer screens and tapped in our vital statistics. The survey asked us multiple-choice questions about the effectiveness of the show's plot and the strength of the characters, followed by essay queries on what we would do to improve the program.

As the couple next to me sped through their questionnaire and left in a cloud of dust that said, "See ya, suckers," the rest of us struggled with computer lockups. Luckily, an extremely accommodating Zack kept us focused and not darting out the door for margaritas and buckets of nickels.

Finished with the questions, I found I was alone in the screening room with one of the middle-aged couples, who were from Tampa. Despite an outwardly lukewarm reaction during the show, they said they actually thought it was pretty good.

"I really enjoyed it," noted the 52-year-old husband. "I caught myself laughing quite often." He paused. "I thought some of the jokes were inappropriate for some of the younger viewers in there," he added, tugging at his cap. "I think there's

Zack dimmed the lights, and, low and behold, we were in the middle of the largest casino in the world about to watch a TV situation comedy.

a lot of juvenile things on TV these days."

So there you have it. Never underestimate the power of follow-up questions. I could have sworn Mr. Tampa Bay wanted nothing to do with the show, but that's why I'm not head of CBS.

I caught up with Zack, a retiree who moved to Vegas two years ago and loves his job. He's gotten pretty good at spotting the wanderers, the ones with lots of time on

their hands who seem open to a little adventure. He said, "I love meeting people and talking to people. That's what I do best."

I watched him approach a couple in shorts and tennis shoes, two tickets for the next screening in his hands, and I had to admit that I felt a twinge of jealousy. Just minutes ago the movers and shakers of CBS Television were being fed my opinion, not that of some nice, fanny-pack-wearing couple from Green Bay, Wisconsin. I turned to ogle the many TV screens outside the souvenir shop.

I chuckled at David Letterman lobbing BLT jokes at somebody's pet pig. I took a deep breath and realized that I had been part of television-in-the-making. No, I would not get my 15 minutes of fame by eating slugs on some reality show. Instead I would have the quiet satisfaction of knowing I had a hand in the fate of a show about four grumpy 50-somethings, even if the only thing I know about boomer males is to never tease them about their hairlines—or their baseball caps. ♡

Joan Patterson is a Las Vegas writer.

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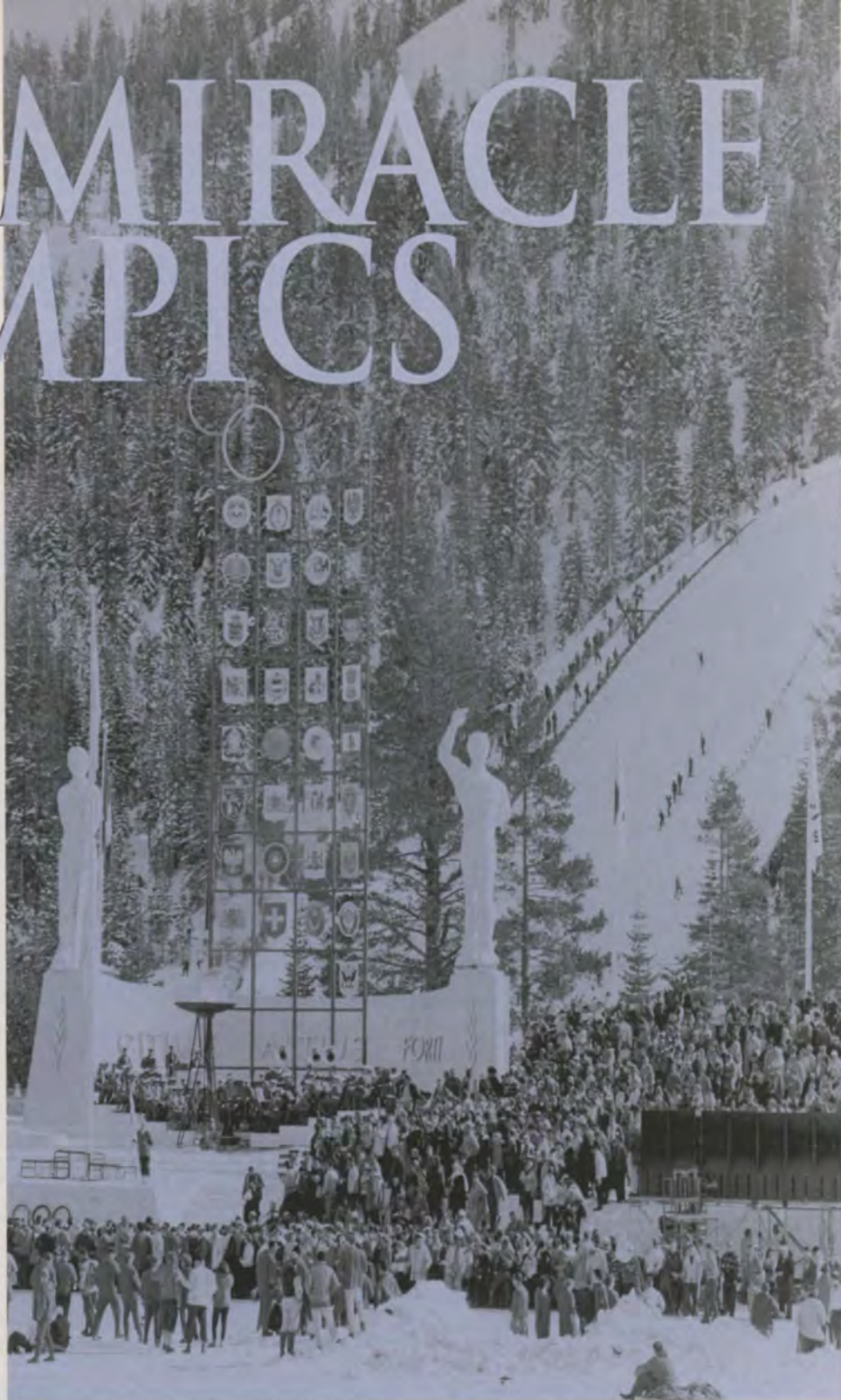
Squaw Valley in '60,
Alex Cushing's quest,
and the purest
Winter Games since
Mount Olympus.

**A Nevada Magazine
Classic by
Buddy Frank**

As Salt Lake City hosts the XIX Winter Olympics this February, athletes and spectators surely will witness an outpouring of patriotic spirit induced by both the events of September 11 and Salt Lake's theme of "Light the Fire Within." Some also will note the passing of the torch from the last Winter Games held in the Western states, the 1960 Olympics at the Lake Tahoe resort of Squaw Valley.

There really are two stories to be told of the Squaw Valley Olympics, both of them success stories. The first is a tale of an international snow job that resembled a desert land scheme, and the second is the celebration of a Games as aesthetically pure as any since the event left Mount Olympus. The two make an uncomfortable duet, but they are nonetheless as intertwined as the Olympic rings that still stand at the entrance to the high Sierra valley west of Reno.

Alex Cushing, the hero-villain of the first saga, deserted his New York law practice and headed west to Squaw Valley in the late 1940s. At that time Reno native Wayne Poulsen, a Pan Am pilot and for-



The Olympic flame burned at the Tower of Nations, which today stands at the valley's entrance. The Squaw Games were the first Winter Olympics to be televised as CBS paid \$50,000 for the American rights.

mer ski jumper, owned most of the property on the valley floor. He saw little harm in selling 600 acres to the socially prominent Easterner. With the help of a few investors Cushing formed the Squaw Valley Development Corporation and promptly erected a \$100,000 lodge at the base of KT-22's slope. However picturesque, the operation, with just one chairlift and a pair of rope tows, was in no league with the Sun Valleys and Lake Placids. But

when it came to landing the Olympics, other promoters would learn they weren't in the same league as Cushing.

It's not clear he was really serious when he submitted a proposal to host the Games in 1954. Just submitting that bid would guarantee some good press, and there was no doubt that Squaw could use it. Even in Reno, only 45 miles east, most residents were unaware the valley existed. Publicity seems to have been his likely



In an emotional ceremony, the captain of the underdog United States hockey team received the gold medal, flanked by the Canadian (left) and Soviet captains as well as I.O.C. President Avery Brundage (far left).

motive, since when he was asked to make a formal presentation before the United States Olympic Committee in New York, Cushing was totally unprepared.

With less than two weeks to organize his case for the January 1955 hearing, Cushing wasted no time enlisting the aid of California Governor Goodwin Knight and U.S. Senators Tom Kuchel and William Knowland. All three went on record supporting the project. And why not? They couldn't betray their state by refusing and had nothing to risk on a bid that seemed born of lunacy.

With endorsements flowing, Cushing sought financing. If supporters had suspected the red-haired lawyer could actually back up his boasts, they might have been apprehensive. They didn't, and Cushing walked away from the state legislature in Sacramento with a promise (however unlikely of being fulfilled) of a million dollars.

An imposing one-man delegation, Cushing used his six-foot-plus height and distinguished appearance to maximum advantage. He spoke eloquently to the U.S.O.C. of Squaw's virtues. Of an average snowfall of 35 feet a year. Of an Olympic Village built in a pristine Sierra meadow. Of a Games free of the commercialization of Aspen or Stowe. And of the advantage

in having the Games in the state of California, known for its hospitality. It didn't hurt that the nation's leading casino town (in those days it was Reno, not Las Vegas) was only an hour's drive to the east. Cushing enlisted Nevada's support to build a chalet for the press, called the Nevada Center, on the valley floor at

I.O.C. PRESIDENT AVERY BRUNDAGE VOWED TO YANK THE GAMES BACK TO EUROPE IF CUSHING COULDN'T DELIVER ON HIS PROMISES.

the base of the ski jump and adjacent to the speed-skating oval. (The chalet later served as a theater and today is Squaw's Far East Guest Center).

Much to the disbelief of the American skiing community, Squaw Valley won the right to represent the United States before the International Olympic Committee. It was a victory, but Cushing also met the first of many detractors to follow.

A losing bidder from Lake Placid squawked, "If you ask me, the whole place—Squaw Valley—is a figment of Alex Cushing's imagination."

Not a bad assessment since shortly afterward Cushing admitted, "Up to then, I was going mostly on palaver. I had won the first round, but the big problem was still ahead—how to sell Squaw Valley to the foreigners."

Part of that answer came during a chance meeting between Cushing and *Chicago Daily News* correspondent George Weller at a St. Moritz ski race. Weller was astonished to learn that thus far Cushing had secured only the American vote for Squaw. When Weller discovered that the entire delegation consisted only of the lodge owner and his wife, he was easily talked into joining the team.

Cushing quickly secured Weller a leave of absence from his newspaper duties and sent him off to hustle votes. Weller knew the European alpine powers generally controlled the site selection and that they had ordained Innsbruck, Austria, to receive the honor in 1960. However, there were actually 62 eligible delegates, many of them residing in countries where they've never seen snow. And Weller, with no reverence for the reigning European traditions, signed up every vote from the Caribbean to South America, votes from countries that had never sent a single athlete to the Winter Games.

Cushing then set about infiltrating Europe. In terms of facilities, he was well aware that Squaw Valley was dead last. But he used that position in the plus column.

He pled a case of U.S. poverty, a novel idea to Europeans tired of playing second fiddle to America's world power position. He went on to promise that the Winter Games would have an Olympic Village, much as the Summer Games always had. In the past, skiers and skaters had to share hotels and ski lodges with spectators and tourists. Squaw would be the most centralized competition in years. At Cortina in '56,

several of the events were in villages 18 miles away. At Squaw, activities would be huddled at the end of a two-mile meadow. "Restoring the Olympic Ideal" became the motto.

A bit of showmanship gained Cushing another edge. When the delegates assembled in Paris that summer, the three competitors—Innsbruck, St. Moritz, and Garmisch-Partenkirchen—set up their



Cushing, strolling near his Squaw Valley lodge, looked ahead to the Games despite European protests.

modest displays in the designated hall. But Cushing had commissioned a huge model depicting what Squaw Valley might become. When it arrived, it was simply too big to fit in the same room with the other exhibits. Thus delegates had to make a special trip to the U.S. Embassy to view Cushing's presentation in a setting devoid of comparison.

The combined efforts paid off. The South American delegates carried Squaw to a first round tally of 30 votes, with Innsbruck taking 24 and the other eight split. The second round produced just enough European defectors to give Squaw a 32-to-30 win over Innsbruck. It was the closest vote in history. But considering what had been accomplished in six months, it was a margin beyond belief.

The win must have seemed hollow to Cushing during the following four years. Squaw was under attack from all quarters. Innsbruck had already booked hotel reservations for the athletes expected in 1960, and town officials were furious. Newspapers abroad were describing the American bid as a "get-rich-quick real estate venture." There was also trouble at home. The original million-dollar pledge by California escalated to four million by 1958. When a request for another million surfaced six months later, the legislators howled. Even Cushing's neighbors were up in arms. Poulsen, who had no intention of turning his valley into a giant parking lot, fought Cushing wherever he could. A crisis of confidence peaked with a threat from Avery Brundage. Although an American, Brundage was president of

the I.O.C. and vowed to yank the Games back to Europe if Cushing couldn't deliver on his promises.

It's here that the second story begins, with the games buried in a mountain of controversy by January of 1960. The single point in Squaw's prospectus that seemed free from attack was the annual snowfall of 450 inches. No other mountain range could top the Sierra's abundance of white pow-

WALT DISNEY, SERVING AS DIRECTOR OF PAGEANTRY, FEARED THAT HALF HIS OPENING SHOW WOULD BE LOST IN A SNOWSTORM.

der, but as the Olympics drew near, there was only a marginal snow cover. Serious consideration was given to moving the downhill course to Slide Mountain-Mount Rose near Reno to take advantage of its higher altitude and better snow. There was even talk of organizing a mammoth caravan of snow-filled dump trucks to blanket KT-22 and Squaw Peak. The contingencies proved unnecessary as it finally began to snow, and snow, and snow. A

short clearing the week before the opening ceremonies degenerated into a raging blizzard on their eve.

By the morning of February 18, Walt Disney, serving as director of pageantry, feared that half his opening show would be lost in a snowstorm. There had already been an hour and a half delay while Vice President Nixon made his way up U.S. 40 behind a platoon of snowplows. As the athletes finally formed to march into Blythe Arena, the storm was so intense that visibility dropped to zero.

Suddenly, as if Disney had summoned a fairy godmother, the sun broke through the clouds and streamed into the arena. The Tower of Nations peaked out from the mist, framed in the background by the 80-meter jump hill. To the throng under the arena roof, it was a moving experience heightened by the release of 2,000 pigeons and a cloud of multicolored balloons. The official report of the California Olympic Committee called the moment "The Miracle of Squaw Valley." More would follow.

There was no doubt that it was the turning point. The facilities later became embroiled in a controversy over their disposition, but for those 10 days in February, Squaw Valley disappointed no one. The weather remained bright and clear for the competitions. For the first time since Cushing had his inspiration in 1954, Squaw Valley was calm and contested only by the athletes. The lack of commercialization had the desired effect, making the VIII Winter Olympics an inspirational model.

The competitions themselves had a profound effect on most Americans. Although the U.S. won no gold on the ski slopes, Squaw prompted an awareness of skiing which transformed the American sport from a minor to a multimillion-dollar recreational industry.

Buddy Werner had been a strong medal contender in the men's Alpine skiing events, but he fractured a leg earlier in the year, and his hopes were dashed. The downhill was left to Frenchman Jean Vuarnet. He came rocketing off the near-vertical slopes of Siberia Bowl in a curious "egg" position. His win was convincing enough to revolutionize ski technique; every downhiller tackling the 2002 course at Utah's Snowbasin will be in the aerodynamic tuck position that Vuarnet pioneered at Squaw Valley. (Also, the sunglasses Vuarnet wore were later named for him.) Switzerland's Roger Staub won the slalom on KT-22, as Tom Cochran of the U.S. missed a chance to become the

country's first male medal winner by only six-tenths of a second.

Just as Andrea Mead had four years before, the women grabbed the skiing spotlight. Penelope Pitou captured the hearts of the press with her nickname of Penny and her back-to-back silver medals in the downhill and giant slalom. Betsy Snite made it a clean sweep of the silver by taking second in the slalom.

The first gold came from under the suspended ceiling of Blythe Arena, site of the figure skating and hockey events. The building was an architectural marvel of the day and served as the valley's centerpiece. It also marked the first time Olympic skating events were held indoors, under a roof and on man-made ice.

New Yorker Carole Heiss, the figure-skating runnerup in '56 at Cortina, easily moved up to the gold with a strong all-around program. But her male U.S. counterpart, David Jenkins, had to fight his way back from a poor showing in the school figures. He did it with a dazzling freestyle routine for a sweep of the golds. Barbara Ann Roles added a third figure-skating medal with a bronze.

Blythe Arena had some additional excitement to offer before the solemn closing ceremonies. Just as Alex Cushing's plight had once seemed hopeless, so did the chances of the American ice-hockey team. The last-minute collection of collegiate skaters appeared to be pitifully outmatched by the defending champion Russians and the Canadians, who claim hockey as their national pastime.

Yet goalie Jack McCartan made an unbelievable 39 saves to get the Yanks by the Canadians in the third round, 2-1. Brothers Bill and Roger Christian helped break a 2-2 deadlock for the win in the final match against Russia. When it was over, the U.S. team had won six matches without a defeat and proudly displayed the gold medal before the Winter Olympics' first national television audience.

Miracles had become commonplace at Squaw Valley. ▀

Buddy Frank, a longtime skier at Squaw Valley and other Lake Tahoe resorts, was a member of the 2002 Reno-Tahoe Olympic Organizing Committee. He is executive director of gaming development at the State Line and Silver Smith hotel-casinos in Wendover, Nevada's gateway to the 2002 Winter Olympics. His story on the 1960 Games, the preceding "Nevada Magazine Classic," originally appeared in the Jan/Feb '80 issue.

A Nevada-Style Olympics

Bull riding, travel ideas, and an ugly dog contest are part of Nevada's Winter Olympics festivities.

Snow-sports fans attending the XIX Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City will find a number of Silver State connections to the Games. Communities in Northeastern Nevada are putting out a five-ring welcome along Interstate 80 and U.S. 50, and Wendover is offering daily bus rides to the Games, which are scheduled for February 8-24. In Salt Lake City a pro bull-riding and cowboy festival will give guests a look at Nevada's Old West traditions, and the Nevada Commission on Tourism will maintain a visitor center near the Olympics sites.

Gloria Hammelef, an Elko marketing director, is working with the Professional Bull Riders to stage the **Bull Riding Invitational**, part of a Western celebration at Salt Lake City's Davis County Fairgrounds on February 15-17. "We've got some really good stock coming in for the bull riding," Hammelef says. "Those bulls really love what they do." A top contender in the pro bull riding tour this season is John Wright of Elko.

Representatives from Elko, Ely, and Wendover and other Nevada towns are helping to plan festival events such as cowboy poetry, music, a pow-wow, Basque dance demonstrations, horse-training clinics, and a gunslinger shootout. Buses will provide transportation from several downtown sites. Tickets are available through Ticketron and www.ticketweb.com. Visit www.bullsonly.com for information about the bull riding.

Staff members from several Nevada visitor authorities and the Nevada Commission on Tourism will operate the **Western States Discovery Center** in downtown Salt Lake City. A joint venture with Utah and Idaho, the center will be open from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. every day from opening to closing ceremonies. NCOT tour and travel planner Erika Valente says, "We'll be giving away travel planners, brochures from all Nevada territories, state maps, and copies of *Nevada Magazine*. We'll be answering questions and are hoping to spark people's interest in a trip to Nevada." The visitor center will be in the Gallivan Plaza across from the Budweiser and Nike pavilions.

Olympic travelers looking for outdoor fun and maybe a bit of Wild West wackiness are welcome to attend the second annual **Elko Winter Carnival** on Presidents Day weekend, February 15-18, in Elko. Popular events include the Ugly Dog Contest, the Roadkill Barbecue, a fireworks display, bonfire,



Nevada will host a bull riding event at Salt Lake.

and torchlight parade on skis and snowmobiles. A cowboy ice hockey contest, art show, parade, sled race, carnival, and ice-fishing derby will be held. Call 800-248-3556 or visit www.elkocva.com for additional details.

The city of **Wendover** will sponsor a bus to Salt Lake City for visitors who stay in the Nevada-Utah border town and don't want to drive the 120 miles on Interstate 80 to the Winter Games. Buses will run daily, and people staying in Utah who want to visit Wendover are welcome to use the bus. Wendover and its largest hotel-casinos—the State Line, Silver Smith, Peppermill, Rainbow, and Red Garter—are sponsoring the program. Call 866-299-2489 for hotel reservations or information.

Several Lake Tahoe-area **athletes** hope to compete in the Winter Games. Among them are alpine skiers Daron Rahlves and Caroline Lalive of Truckee, Marc Sullivan of Tahoe City, and Jonna Mendes and Julia Mancuso of South Lake Tahoe. Freestyle competitors include Travis Ramos, Chris Hernandez, and Travis Cabral of South Lake Tahoe and Shannon Bahrke of Tahoe City, as well as Jonny Moseley of Tiburon who skis for Squaw Valley. Skiers who have been selected for the U.S. Disabled Ski teams, ready to compete at the Paralympics in Salt Lake City in March, are Kevin Bramble, Jennifer Kelchner, and Candace Cable of Truckee, Csilla Kristof of Las Vegas, and Alison Pearl of Reno.

The **Olympic torch** will enter Nevada January 20 at Crystal Bay and Incline Village before traveling to Heavenly Ski Resort near Stateline where a street party, parade, and fireworks are planned. On January 21, the torch will be carried over Kingsbury Grade to Genoa and Carson City and then on to Reno for a celebration at noon. Nevada residents will carry the torch to the Oregon border.

—Joyce Hollister



Nevada Almanac

Trivia, a new contest, and readers' state flag designs.

Nevada Trivia

Q Who was the first African American performer to headline at a major Nevada hotel?

A While other African American entertainers had previously performed in Nevada, including the Mills Brothers at the Nevada Biltmore in Las Vegas in 1946, singer Lena Horne was the first to headline at one of the large hotels when she appeared at the Flamingo on the Las Vegas Strip in January 1947

Q What two Nevada communities operate on Mountain Standard Time rather than Pacific Standard Time?

A The citizens of Jackpot, on the Nevada-Idaho border, and Wendover, on the Nevada-Utah line, set their clocks to Mountain Standard Time, which is the norm in those two neighboring states.

—from *The Nevada Trivia Book* by Richard Moreno (Gem Guides, 1998)

Contest

Nevada Landmarks

Name a river, lake, valley, mountain range, peak, town, county, state park, wildlife refuge, festival, and casino in Nevada that bear Native American names. (All names should be different, with no repeats, and related to Nevada or nearby tribes.)

Send your answer to Nevada Almanac, Nevada Magazine, 401 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701; fax 775-687-6159; or e-mail dave@nevadamagazine.com. Be sure to include your mailing address and daytime phone number. The first two readers who answer correctly will receive free one-year subscriptions.



Photo Finish Don Dondero noticed this serene slopeside scene and gathering of fashionable skiers while covering the 1960 Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley. The Reno photographer recalls, "The atmosphere was casual until the races started. Then it was 'Katie, bar the door.'" See page 80 for more of Don's photos of the trend-setting '60 Winter Games.



Map Facts: Snow Time

This winter photographers and skiers looking for scenic places to shoot or schuss will likely find snow on these peaks. Ten of Nevada's highest mountains, they range from 9,732 to 13,140 feet, altitudes where snow usually is in the forecast.

Reader Recommended

Reno Rendezvous: During a trip to Reno in August, a friend advised me of the Siena Hotel's opening. I ended up spending most of the week playing blackjack, dining in Lexie's, visiting the wine bar, and touring the Enoteca at the Siena. The concierge gave me a tour of the rooms, and I fell in love with the design and complete presentation of the facility. It is a definite change from the usual casinos with its architectural resemblance to Tuscany, Italy. I suggest that it be a must-see when a trip to Reno is in one's travel plans.—Kathy Nagel, Fresno, CA

Do you have a Nevada travel recommendation to share with other readers? Write Nevada Almanac, Nevada Magazine, 401 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701; fax 775-687-6159; or e-mail dave@nevadamagazine.com (be sure to include your town, state, and phone).



The Nevada State Flag: Designed in the 1920s in response to a statewide contest, Old Blue has been updated over the years but still flies high.

Nevada's State Flag:

A BANNER CONTEST

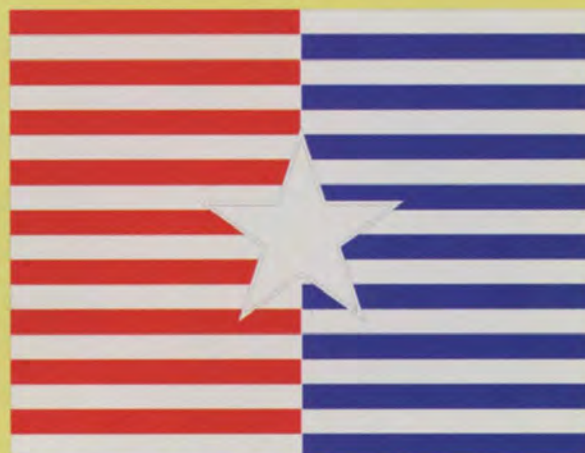
Don't mess with Nevada's current state flag. That's what many *Nevada Magazine* readers wrote in response to our contest asking for new state flag designs in the Sept/Oct "Nevada Almanac." The unofficial contest was prompted by the North American Vexillological Association's unflattering observations about our flag. While the vexillologists (*vexillum* is Latin for flag) ranked ours 55th out of 72 state, province, and territory banners, others felt that the group was out of kilter. "I found nothing amusing about this bogus group and their ranking, nor should a millisecond of anyone's consciousness be devoted to changing Nevada's flag design," wrote Leo Horishny of Sun Valley.

A number of readers, however, did take a crack at designing a new state flag. Creative elements ranged from snowcapped mountains to slot machines. After reviewing more than two dozen entries—including the inventive efforts shown on this

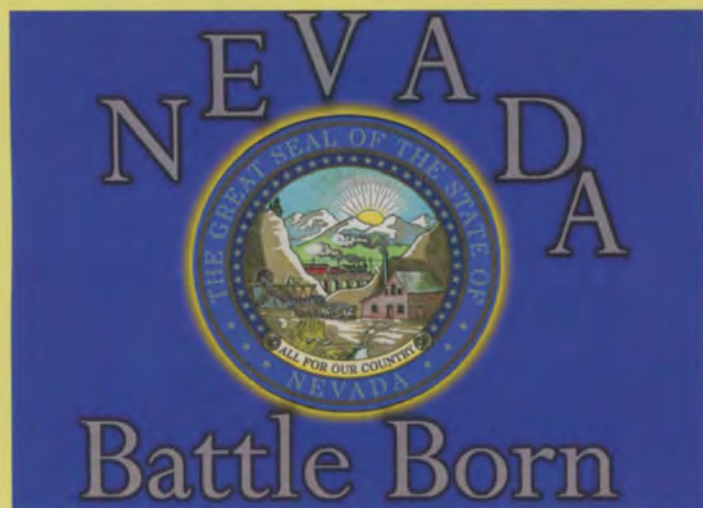
page—*Nevada Magazine* staff members selected the design of John C. Karp Jr. of Minden as the best. A retired defense contractor and member of the aforementioned North American Vexillological Association, Karp recently saw his flag appear in the *Utne Reader*. He incorporated the state's official colors, silver and blue, as well as the snowcapped mountains that give the state its name (*nevada* is Spanish for snowcapped). His winning design earned Karp a free one-year subscription to *Nevada Magazine* and the chance to run his flag concept up the pole of public opinion. Congratulations, John, and thanks to all who entered.—Richard Moreno



John C. Karp Jr., Minden: The first-place design employs the state's official silver and blue colors and namesake snowcap. Karp says the snowcap's shape suggests an arrowhead, symbolic of the state's Native American cultures, and the silver star represents Nevada's mineral wealth. The design reflects the vexillologist's preference for symbols instead of words.



Al Fortunato, Henderson: Red, white, and blue colors echo the U.S. flag while the single white star in the center recalls the star in the current state flag.



Hugh Asher, Gardnerville: This design also incorporates the state colors. The state seal sits on a blue background and is framed by the state's name and one of the state's nicknames, "Battle Born." The words are printed in silver.



Ronald Anderson, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma: The 17 stars and rays represent Nevada's 17 counties while the tree in the center is a piñon pine, the official state tree.

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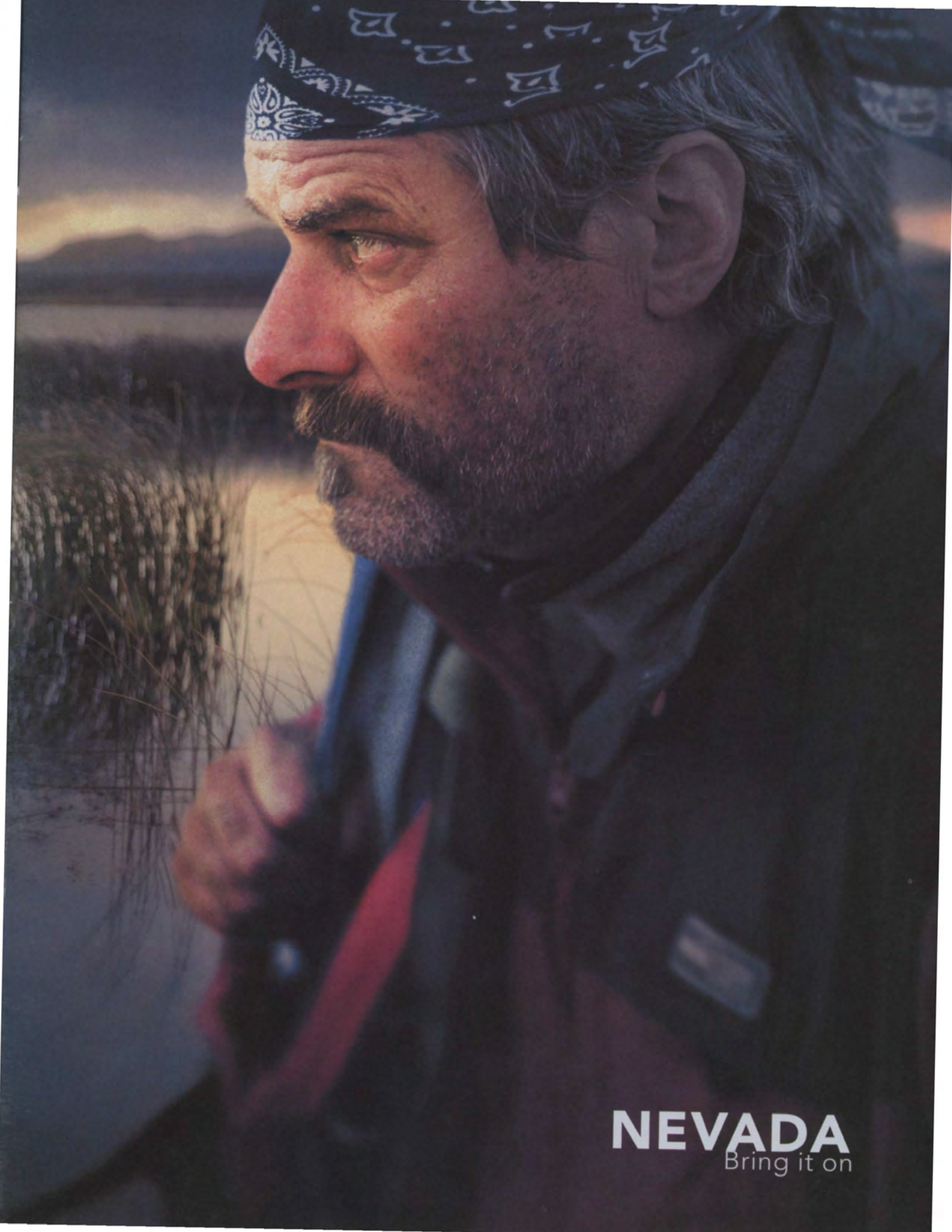
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