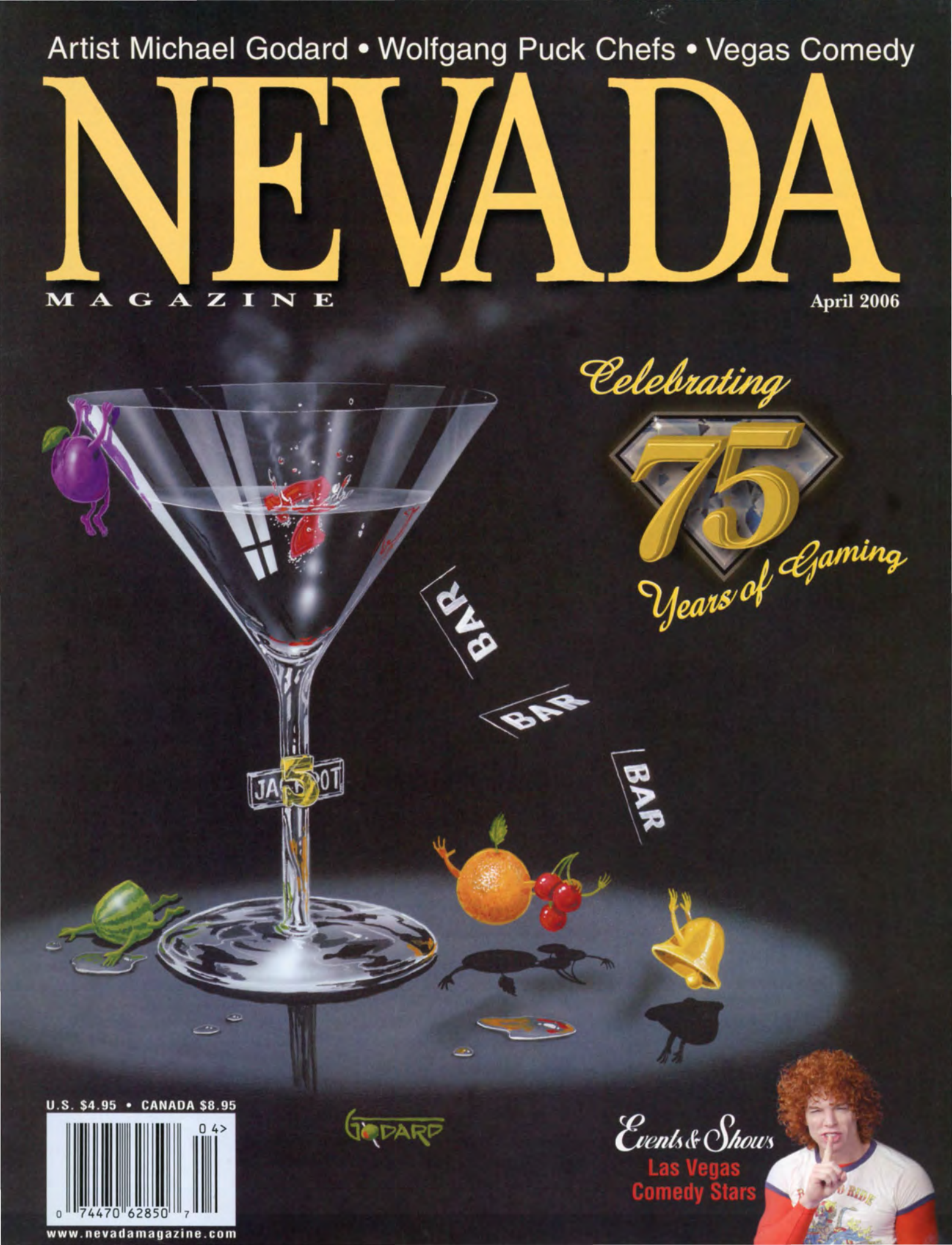
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NEVADA

MAGAZINE

April 2006

Celebrating 75 Years of Gaming

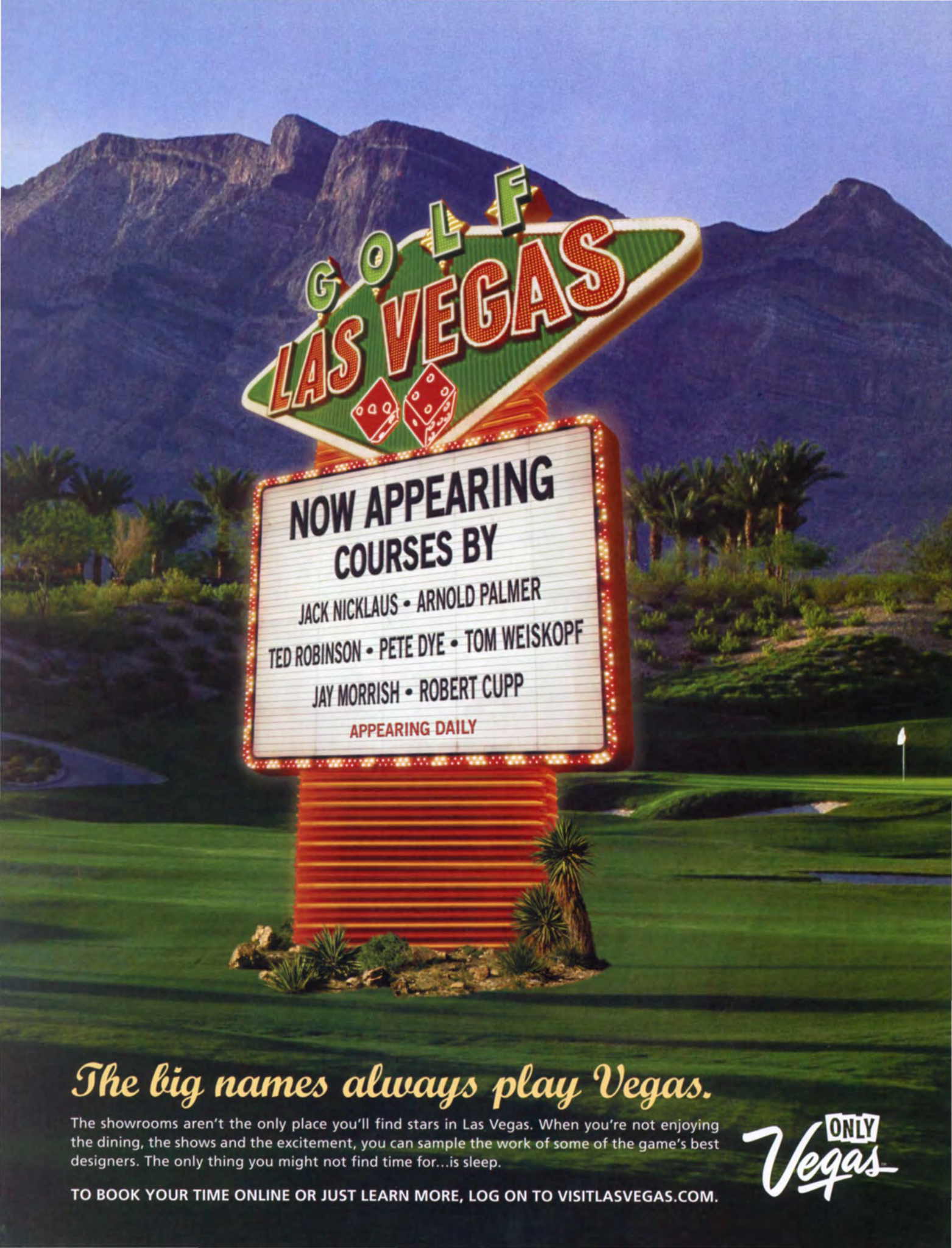


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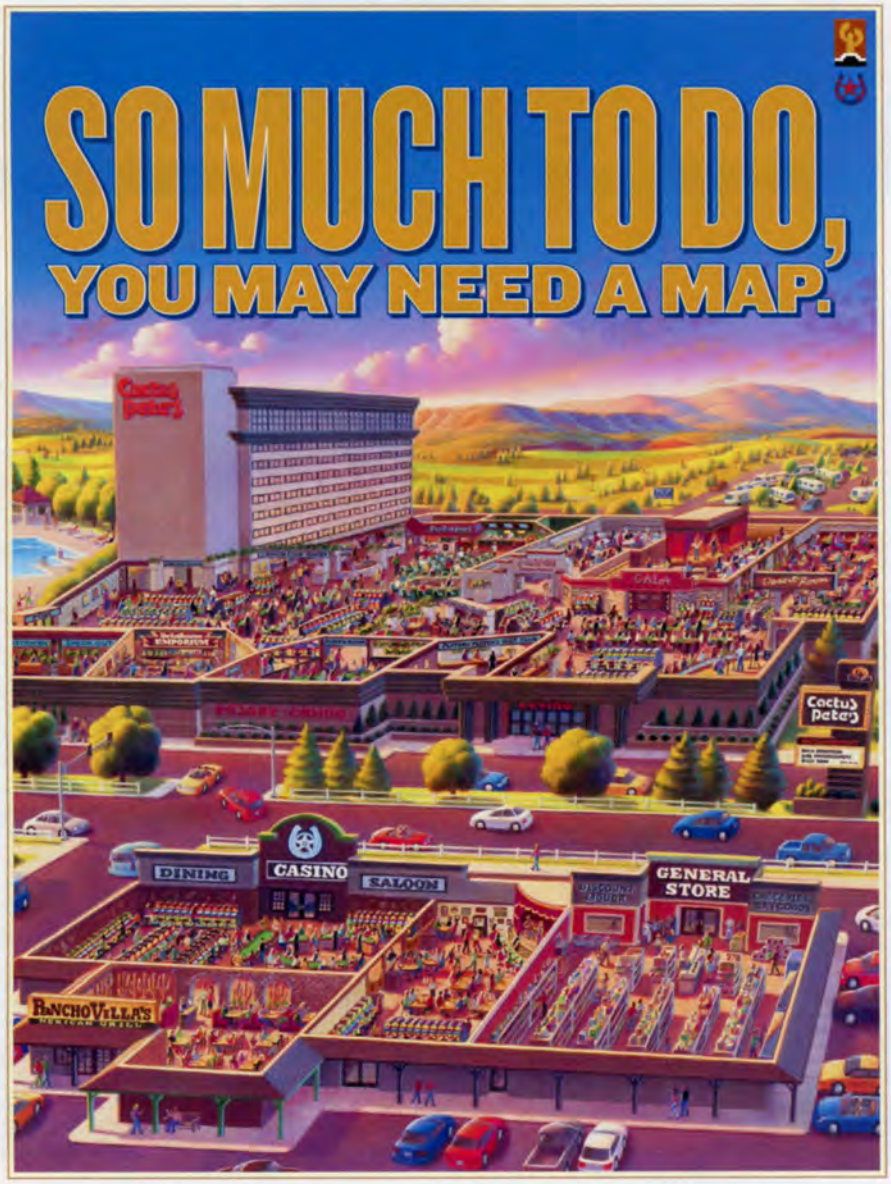
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PAINTING: Michael Godard (middle)

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Publisher's Note/Nevada Gaming's 75th

Seventy-five years ago, Nevada shocked the nation when it legalized gambling. While the decision was widely condemned at the time—there was even talk of recalling Nevada's statehood—the move led to the creation of modern-day Nevada.

With that in mind, in this issue we celebrate the diamond anniversary of Nevada gaming. Longtime *Nevada Magazine* contributor Deke Castleman notes the changes that have taken place since 1931, when the state agreed to allow wide-open casino gambling and lowered the residency requirement for a divorce.



Additionally, Jack Bulavsky chips in with a piece on the evolution of the slot machine and how electronic gaming devices have taken over the casino world.

This issue also contains the ballot for the annual "Best of Nevada" reader survey. We want to know what you think are the state's best hotels, casinos, restaurants, golf courses, parks, and entertainers. Please complete and sign your ballot and return it by March 31—we look forward to your response.

In "Nevada Events and Shows," we spotlight Las Vegas' top comedians. Veteran entertainment writer Mike Weatherford profiles the funnymen—and woman—who star nightly in hotel showrooms, including Carrot Top, George Wallace, Mac King, Rita Rudner, and Anthony Cools.

Prepare to be entertained.

Richard Moreno
Publisher

Contributors



Music and history teacher **Alan Rowley** of Wendover was glad to hear that his story "Frog Freakout" would appear in this issue. "In the past year alone," Rowley says, "I have had three plays rejected, one even by the Pilot Peak Little Theatre." Many of Rowley's comedies, however, have been performed to local acclaim by the Wendover Players, and his first drama, "A Plate of Cookies," brought audiences to tears last Christmas. Rowley keeps readers laughing with his weekly humor column in the *Wendover Times* and plans to reprint his collection of short stories, *Never Trust a Seedless Watermelon.*

Longtime park interpreter **Barbara Rohde** organizes outdoor programs for Cathedral Gorge State Park, a subject she discusses in "Grand Gulch." Although the park, located two miles northwest of Panaca, has been compared to the Grand Canyon, Rohde says that Cathedral Gorge doesn't overwhelm. "It has a very intimate feel, like it belongs to you," she says. Rohde leads day and moonlight hikes and educates campers about butterflies, bats, flora, and fauna. Her programs draw local residents, too. "I have some loyal fans," Rohde says. "They've given me inspiration for new programs."



Photographer **Craig Malburg** lives in Los Angeles, where he owns Jarlan Manufacturing, a custom sheet-metal facility. As a photographer, the mostly self-taught Malburg advocates flexibility. "When I'm struggling to get a shot, I think of Yahoo: 'You always have other options. So I look left or right, or behind me, and rethink my options." In "Always in Season," Malburg offers photos of the Bellagio Conservatory. Besides Las Vegas scenes he specializes in Nevada nature and wildlife. "I like to shoot the wetlands near Henderson, and Red Rock and Valley of Fire are favorites, too."

Bill Rowley, a history professor who teaches Nevada and environmental history at the University of Nevada, Reno, is the author of *Reclaiming the Arid West: The Career of Francis G. Newlands* and an upcoming book on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. In this issue's "The Big Quake" Rowley describes Nevadans' response to the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. He notes that Nevada communities quickly sent aid, the railroads transported supplies for free, and Congress passed legislation to give the city $1 million. Rowley adds, "The community and the government responded much more efficiently than they do to a disaster in our own times."

Letters

The "Loneliest Road."



Road Trips and Celebs

I was struck by last issue's excellent cover story on U.S. 50, "America's Loneliest Road Trip" by Richard Moreno. It is a useful guide for anyone who wants to travel the highway across the Silver State.

Susan Marg's "My Famous Valentine" piece on celebrity weddings was very good, too. It seems many people like reading about celebs, and in Nevada you get more than your share.

Al Holliday, Publisher
Pennsylvania Magazine

Fernley on the "Loneliest"?

I was astonished to read in "America's Loneliest Road Trip" that the western starting point for U.S. 50 is Fernley. I have traveled across the country on U.S. 50, and it goes from Ocean City, Maryland, to Sacramento, California. It does not go through Fernley.

When I lived in Maryland, I took Highway 50 to Ocean City every summer. The highway started about three blocks from the Atlantic Ocean. I used to read the road sign that said, "Sacramento 3,073 miles," and I always wanted to travel 50 across the country. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would move to Dayton, Nevada, and travel on Highway 50.

Gary Ryer
Dayton

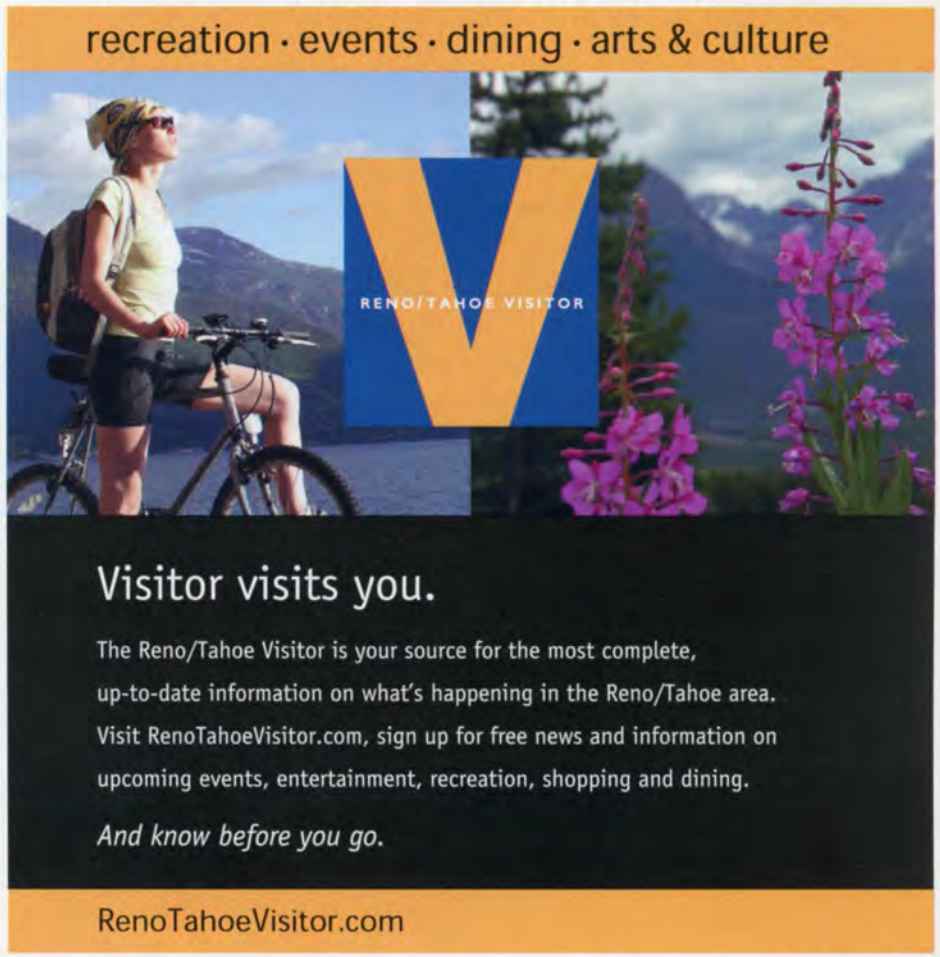
Gary, you are right. Fernley is located on U.S. 50 Alternate but was included in the story because Life *magazine in 1986 named the road from Ely to Fernley the "Loneliest Road in America." This year marks the 20th anniversary of that tongue-in-cheek designation.—Ed.*

Equal Time at Last

A year ago, you ran my letter complaining about how *Nevada* published stories on showgirls and didn't give us ladies a chance to "ogle" showboys. Then I received the Jan/Feb 2006 issue with "Girls' Night Out," the story about risqué male revues by Lyn Collier. Thanks. It's great. My hubby took a look and decided he needed to ret rid of his paunch!

Ann Zellmer
Lancaster, CA





Lake Mead Spectacular

Gail Bandini records last spring's striking desert flower show.



Las Vegas photographer Gail Bandini made a special trip to Lake Mead National Recreation Area last March to capture this scene near Hemenway Cove. "Because of all the winter rain, I knew there would be many more wildflowers than usual," she explains. While focusing on the brittlebush, she also included the contrast of desert and water at Lake Mead. Bandini took advantage of the low afternoon sun and used a 4x5 field camera with a 150mm lens and a polarizer. "I was glad the wind wasn't blowing, or the flowers would have been just yellow smudges," she says.

–Wilma LaRocca



Chefs' Specials

David Robins and
Christophe Ithurritze
create new
dishes for
Wolfgang Puck's
restaurants
in Las Vegas.

By Joyce Hollister





DR David Robins (left) studied broadcasting but decided to become a chef. He and Christophe Ithurritze (above) have been with the Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group in Las Vegas for 14 years.

When chef David Robins left San Francisco's top-rated Stars restaurant in 1992 for Wolfgang Puck's new Spago in Las Vegas, his colleagues were aghast.

"I got laughed out of San Francisco," Robins says. "We were the first to open a fine-dining restaurant in Las Vegas, and we took a lot of kidding." In the past 14 years, however, Las Vegas has become known more for gourmet dining than all-you-can-eat buffets.

"I consider Wolfgang the grandfather of the movement," Robins says. "He had the vision that Las Vegas could be a culinary capital."

As managing partner and corporate chef, Robins oversees development of new menu items at Puck's Vegas eateries—Spago and Chinois at the Forum Shops at Caesars, Postrio at the Venetian, Trattoria del Lupo at Mandalay Bay, and Wolfgang Puck Bar and Grill at the MGM Grand. His greatest responsibility, he says, is keeping quality high at all five restaurants.

"We believe in using simple products and wonderfully fresh ingredients," Robins says. "We buy the best fish available and prime meat from ranchers who are raising the cattle."

In the beginning, however, Robins had to educate Spago's customers to new menu items. "I came from a great food town where anything goes," he recalls. "We had a wonderful tuna sashimi that in the first month I sold only one a night. I couldn't understand it." Robins says gradually he won over diners unfamiliar with the dish. "Now it's the biggest item on my menu. I sell about 30 a night."

Chicken, pan-seared and dressed in garlic and parsley and served with mushrooms and garlic-potato purée, is another Spago favorite. "Chicken is always on our menu," Robins says. "It's a dish that every restaurant has, but not every restaurant puts passion into it."

For seafood lovers there are Hong Kong-style halibut with jasmine rice, Fresno chiles, scallions, and fresh ginger and seared yellow-fin tuna with Thai rice and baby shrimp, served with sweet red peppers and adorned with lemongrass and cilantro. Robins garnishes his Maine Lobster Risotto with shells used to make the lobster stock.

Robins says the success of an ethnic dish depends on the right ingredients. "If we do a Japanese dish, we use Japanese ingredients—if Italian, we use Italian." After a recent trip to Japan—Robins travels frequently to consult with chefs around the world—he decided to reinvent his tuna sashimi. "I realized I was straying away from the traditional style. I shifted to a lighter soy sauce with less salt, and I grated fresh wasabi to order to get a better result."



Maine Lobster Risotto garnished with shells.

Robins, who cooked to pay his way through college, likes nothing better than to throw together a few ingredients and invent a new dish, but says he's a novice at baking—and that's what corporate pastry chef Christophe Ithurritze loves. The

French Basque Country native developed one of Puck's most popular desserts, Melting Chocolate Cake.

Like Robins, Ithurritze emphasizes the importance of fresh, high-quality ingredients. He notes, "We get berries from Santa Barbara and peaches and nectarines from farmers' markets in Santa Monica. We get cream from Vermont and New York State."

Ithurritze obtains chocolate from France, where he learned to bake from his mother in the southern town of Bayonne and earned a degree from Les Rocailles culinary school in 1987. He has created many desserts since he joined Wolfgang Puck's Fine Dining Group in 1992, including his favorite, frozen honey-meringue nougat with white peach sorbet. "The peaches are small and come in a very short season, but the flavor is so much sweeter," he says.

Both chefs check on the Las Vegas Puck restaurants weekly. "We want to create consistency," Robin explains. "In the restaurant business, it's about taking care of customers. It's like people come into my living room every night, and I can really show them a good time."

Joyce Hollister is Nevada Magazine's *editor.*

Lobster Risotto & Melting Chocolate Cake



Melting Chocolate Cake with fruit and coffee ice cream.

Wolfgang Puck corporate chefs **David Robins** and **Christophe Ithurritze** offer two of their favorite recipes. Robins' risotto is one of Spago's signature dishes. Ithurritze's chocolate cake has a crispy, sugared crust. When you cut into the middle, melted chocolate oozes out.

Maine Lobster Risotto

Ingredients

1/4 cup peanut oil
1/2 medium onion (minced fine)
1 large garlic clove (minced)
1/2 cup dry white wine
2 cups Arborio rice
7 cups lobster stock (heated)
3 tablespoons olive oil
2 two-pound lobsters, steamed
1 pound medium shrimp
1 pound mussels, steamed
1 pound clams, steamed
1/2 pound asparagus
4 tablespoons (2 ounces) unsalted butter (chilled and cut into small pieces)
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese (optional)
Large pinch chopped Italian parsley
Salt and freshly ground pepper (to taste)
Fresh chervil and crisp fried artichokes for garnish

Method

Note: Making risotto requires your full attention. Though the rice can be partially cooked in advance and cooled, the finishing process is so precise that the risotto cannot wait for your guests, but rather your guests have to wait for the risotto.

In a medium-sized heavy saucepan, heat the peanut oil. Over a medium-high heat, sauté the onion and garlic just to soften, stirring all the while, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the rice and continue to stir, using a wooden spoon, coating the rice with the oil and onion.

Cook asparagus for 2 minutes in boiling water. Deglaze rice mixture with white wine and cook until the liquid is absorbed, stirring often.

Meanwhile, in a medium skillet, heat the olive oil and butter. Sauté shrimp for one minute. Add clams and mussels. Cut the lobster into bite-sized pieces and sauté with other seafood over medium-high heat. Add 1/2 cup of stock and cook just to soften, 3 to 4 minutes.

Pour three cups of stock into the rice, turn the flame to high, stir, and add a pinch of salt. Stir in the lobster and the remaining one cup of stock, as necessary, until the risotto is creamy, not runny. Remove from flame and vigorously beat in the chilled butter and the Parmesan cheese until completely dissolved. Stir in the parsley and season with salt and pepper to taste.

Presentation

Divide the risotto among four heated plates, top with crisp artichokes, and serve at once.

Melting Chocolate Cake

Ingredients

5 whole eggs
5 egg yolks
8 ounces all-purpose chocolate
9 ounces butter
3 ounces sifted cake flour

In a double boiler, melt the chocolate and the butter. In a tabletop electric mixing bowl with the whisk attachment mix the egg yolks, whole eggs, and sugar for eight minutes. At slow speed pour in melted chocolate and butter, scraping down the sides. Add flour and do not over mix.

Grease and sugar small ring molds and place on a baking sheet. Fill the rings halfway with the chocolate mixture and bake for 10 to 12 minutes in an oven preheated to 325 degrees. Unmold and serve immediately.

NEVADA MAGAZINE

Presents

Best of Nevada

2006 Official Ballot

Eighth Annual *Nevada Magazine* Readers' Poll

Cast Your Ballot!

Attached to this page is the eighth annual *Nevada Magazine* "Best of Nevada" ballot. We want to know what you think are Nevada's best places and attractions—so please fill out the form and mail it back to us before **March 31, 2006**. The results will appear in the July/August 2006 issue of *Nevada Magazine.*

Roadside Attractions

A **Comstock locomotive**, a $5,000 Las Vegas burger, and love in **Lovelock**.

V&T Engine Returns to the Comstock

The Virginia and Truckee Engine No. 18 is the major attraction at the **Comstock History Center** which recently opened on the site of the original V&T depot at Union and E streets in Virginia City. While no longer functioning, No. 18 can be wheeled outside on a length of track. The locomotive, also known as the *Dayton*, was built in 1873 and served Virginia City during its silver-mining heyday. In the mid-20th century, the locomotive appeared in several Paramount motion pictures.

The center is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday through Sunday and houses the Comstock Historic District Commission and library and will eventually provide space for traveling exhibits. In April, the center will host the Smithsonian's "Between Fences." Call 775-847-0419 for information.



The Virginia and Truckee Engine No. 18, also known as the *Dayton*, is the star attraction at the new Comstock History Center in Virginia City.

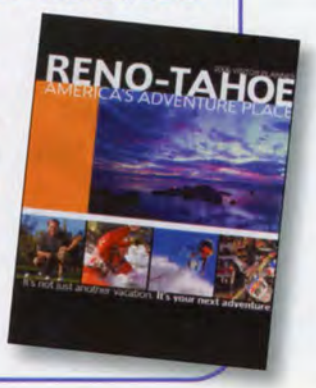


Burger Fit for a King

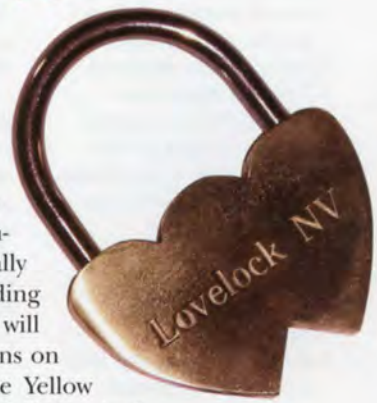
The $5,000 **FleurBurger 5000** is the fitting snack for a Las Vegas high roller. The Fleur de Lys at Mandalay Bay serves the fois gras and black truffle-topped Kobe beef patty on a brioche bun, garnished with Chef Hubert Keller's special truffle sauce. Accompanying the meal is Chateau Petrus 1990, poured into stemware imported from Italy. Call 702-632-9400 for information.

Reno-Tahoe Planner Released

The Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority recently produced the ***2006 Visitor Planner: Reno-Tahoe, America's Adventure Place,*** which offers information about area hotels, including prices and amenities, and numbers and Web sites for attractions ranging from dog sledding to whitewater rafting. For more information, go to www.visitrenotahoe.com.



Lock Your Love in Lovelock



Found that someone you want to be with forever? **Lovelock**, a small community 93 miles northeast of Reno on I-80, encourages visitors to participate in the ancient Chinese custom of symbolically locking their love on a never-ending chain. The Chinese say that love will endure as long as their lock remains on the chain. Commonly seen in the Yellow Mountains and at the Great Wall of China, lock-laden chains now are found in Florence, Italy, and Riga, Latvia. Couples can purchase a heart-shaped lock that bears the word "Love" at Lovelock's Chamber of Commerce and fasten it to the Lovers Lock chain at the Lovers Lock Plaza next to the Pershing County Courthouse. You can throw the key into a nearby Chinese vase. Call 775-273-7213 for more information.

PHOTO: Nevada State Museum (top)

Play Us a Song

Feel free to sing along at these five Las Vegas piano bars. **By Jennifer Prosser**

The bartenders are dishing up suds so fast they almost can't keep up. Smiling patrons are standing, arms linked, in a circle in the center of the room. It's so loud, you can't hear yourself think, but it doesn't matter—you automatically sing along. Welcome to the latest sensation to hit Las Vegas, the piano bar.

In the past year, Las Vegas piano bars have taken off faster than an *American Idol* finalist's career. These 88-key lounges allow fun-seekers to belt out a few songs, have a few drinks, and make new acquaintances. Following are five Vegas piano bars worth visiting.

The first notable piano bar in town, **The Bar at Times Square**, has attracted crowds at New York-New York (www.nynyhotelcasino.com) since the property opened in 1997. Every night, strangers hoist beers to their new drinking buddies as the pianists pit sections of the room against each other in a songfest. While Billy Joel tunes are welcomed, the stranger the adaptation the better. (Have you ever heard Madonna's "Like a Virgin" played rapid fire?) The young crowd gives the place a nightclub atmosphere.



The Bar at Times Square.

Harrah's Las Vegas traded its Strip-entrance lounge for the **Piano Bar**, and it's been a success since the blonde and beautiful twin sisters Kimberly and Tamara Pinegar opened to packed houses in fall 2004 (www.harrahs.com). Expect both current hits and classic favorites to sing along to. The fast-paced show draws well-heeled patrons in their 30s and 40s.

Looking for a bit of sophistication? Try the posh **Napoleon's Lounge** at Paris Las Vegas (www.caesars.com/paris/lasvegas), where pianists duel to classic hits from every era, from the Beatles to Van Halen. The plush, velvety seating and spacious lounge, which offers a cigar humidor, draws an older, male crowd.

He's been featured on Vegas TV specials, and rightly so—Ghalib Ghallab and his jazz band radiate style and good humor. He plays his own hits as well as pop, blues, and R&B standards at Caesars Palace's **Terrazza Lounge** (www.caesars.com/caesars/lasvegas).

"The Original Twin Piano Twins," Mark and Clark Seymour, indulge in keyboard antics without compromising their music. This touring show has played at many Nevada hotels, including the **Primm Valley Resort Piano Bar** (www.primmvalleyresorts.com). The pair are always a hit, but you probably won't recognize many songs if you're under 40.

Jennifer Prosser is a Las Vegas piano-bar fan.





Travel Briefs



Nevada's 25 Cents "Morning in Nevada," the new Silver State quarter depicting three wild horses, was released into circulation in January. Nearly 60,000 Nevadans voted for their favorite coin design, and the wild horses were chosen over miners, bighorn sheep, and ancient Indian artifacts. For more information, go to www.usmint.gov.

Après Ski Dining Squaw Valley ski resort has opened two new restaurants. **Six Peaks Grille** offers fresh produce, seafood, and steaks and is open daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Featured dishes are sirloin of Cervena venison and seared blackened colossal scallops. Call 530-581-6621 for details. **Sandy's Pub** is named after Sandy Poulsen, matriarch of Squaw Valley. After skiing or golfing, you can choose between pub-style appetizers and casual meals with microbrews and wine. Call 530-581-6617



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The National Monument to Basque Sheepherders is called "Solitude."

Basque Sculpture
at Rancho San Rafael

As you hike on the five miles of trails at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park in Reno, you are likely to come across the park's hidden jewel, the **National Monument to Basque Sheepherders**.

Carved by Basque artist Nestor Basterretxea, the abstract sculpture suggests a lone figure holding a lamb and is called "Bakardade," Basque for "Solitude." Former U.S. Senator Paul Laxalt, the son of a Basque sheepherder, was instrumental in establishing the monument, which also features a poem written by the sculptor and information about the lives of Basque people in the U.S.

The park land was purchased for the Washoe County park system in 1979 and named for the last owner, sheep rancher Raphael Herman. Rancho San Rafael has a 23-acre dog park, an arboretum, biking trails, and a self-guided nature walk. There are also picnic shelters, the Great Basin Adventure petting zoo, the Wilbur D. May Museum, and the old ranch buildings, now park offices.

The main park entrance is at 1595 North Sierra Street, and the north entrance is at the City of Reno Sports Complex, 2975 North Virginia Street, about a mile north of downtown Reno. The sculpture is located at the north entrance to the park. Call 775-785-4512 or go to www.washoecountyparks.com for more information.—*Merrie Leininger*

PHOTOS: Nevada State Treasurer's Office (top left), Merrie Leininger (top right)

1936-2006

NEVADA MAGAZINE Celebrates 70 Years

After World War II Americans hit the road, and Nevadans were ready to greet them.

During World War II, paper shortages caused the Nevada Department of Highways to shut down *Nevada Highways and Parks*, the precursor to today's *Nevada Magazine*. When the state magazine reappeared in January 1946, editor Fred Greulich took advantage of a renewed interest in travel with a lead story proclaiming, "Nevada Tourist Roads Are Calling You."

America was moving again, and so was the magazine. In the next two decades, the digest-sized publication grew to magazine size, offered color photos, and was mailed free to tourists.

Cover subjects ranged from movie-star ranchers to lonely vistas. The two covers of 1953 stood out. In January-June 1953 Las Vegas casinos appeared on the cover for the first time. Then the July-December 1953 cover showed a mushroom cloud, leading to a story on atomic testing in Nevada titled "Operation Doom Town."

Greulich retired in 1956 and handed the reins to Don Bowers, a former Fallon newspaperman. Bowers would be at the helm when the name changed to *Nevada Magazine* (which readers had been calling it anyway) in the 1960s.—*Joyce Hollister*



Oct.-Dec. 1949



June-Dec. 1953

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Flamingo LAUGHLIN

People

A Wells **pet owner** and an award-winning **Henderson student.**



Goofy eats leftover Halloween pumpkins.

A Genuine Pumpkin Eater



Scott Taylor has made a pet of a 3,700-pound steer.

Goofy was one day old when he joined a menagerie of farm animals on Scott and Julie Taylor's 11-acre spread south of Wells.

Thirteen years later, the Charolais-mixed breed steer stands out in any crowd. Taylor estimates that Goofy weighs about 3,700 pounds. The steer stands taller at the shoulder than a six-foot man and is longer than a full-sized pickup truck.

"We bottle-fed Goofy until he could eat hay and grain, but I think the reason he grew so big is because he is a fiend for pumpkins," Taylor says. "Every fall I take my truck around town the day after Halloween and pick up all the pumpkins people save for me. Goofy can eat a truckload of pumpkins in a few days."

Goofy also eats a 70-pound bale of alfalfa and a pail of cracked corn daily. Taylor, the manager of Wells' 4-Way Casino, Bar, and Restaurant, takes home about 50 pounds of salad-bar leftovers every day to feed his assortment of birds and livestock. "Goofy likes the baked potatoes best," he says.

Taylor has been told he could charge three bucks a head if he put Goofy on exhibit at livestock shows. "But I don't think it would be right to haul Goofy around and then keep him in a little stall. It just wouldn't be fair to him. He needs to be here at home. He's a pet."

—Elaine Swanson

Young Artist's Collage Wins Contest

Seven-year-old Clifford Richardson's origami skills paid off when the second grader won $250 in a *Titanic* art contest sponsored by the Tropicana in Las Vegas.

The contest was held in conjunction with "*Titanic:* The Artifact Exhibition," which is on display at the Strip hotel through March 5. Clifford used torn origami paper to create a collage depicting the luxury liner. Clifford's class from Selma Bartlett Elementary School in Henderson won a field trip to the exhibition, where Clifford was particularly interested in the ship's recovered whistles. Although the *Titanic's* history is not taught in the second grade, Clifford knows the important details: "It was a great big ship that hit an iceberg and sank very deep in the ocean."



Clifford Richardson and his award.

PHOTOS: Elaine Swanson (top left and right), Chris Leedham (bottom)







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The Nevada Wedding Association is an informational website providing you with everything you need to plan your wedding in Nevada

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www.nevadaweddings.org

We Did It Our Way

Th ngs have changed since **1931**, when Nevada **scandalized the nation** by legalizing gam ng **By Deke Castleman**

The gambling was almost an afterthought.

In early 1931, the Nevada Legislature passed a bill legalizing casino gambling, and on March 19 of that year Governor Fred Balzar signed the bill into law. Today, as we mark the 75th anniversary of gaming in the Silver State, gambling is so widespread that it's one of the great growth industries in the global economy.

But 75 years ago, Nevada was known only for its willingness—indeed, its eagerness—to embrace vice and exploit the foibles in the national character. In fact, another issue entirely had preceded gambling as Nevada's initial claim to renegade fame. What first separated Nevada from the prevailing national moral climate was, perhaps appropriately enough, divorce.

Nevada had hosted a handful of heavyweight championship boxing matches in the late 1890s and early 1900s, when prizefights were, for reasons of rectitude, banned in most other states. The matches were brief national attractions, with datelines from exotic locales like Reno, Carson City, and Goldfield.

But it was divorce that, starting in 1906, during an age when the dissolution of marriage was barely legal, put Nevada in the spotlight as a loose and libertine outpost on the country's Western frontier. For the next 25 years, Reno, in particular, led the land as the reigning Sin City.

Still, if boxing had been a blip and divorce a three-decade windfall, the







PHOTOS: James R. Dickinson Library, Special Collections, UNLV (top), Nevada Historical Society (middle)



Fireworks explode amid the New York-New York skyline in Las Vegas (above). Opposite page: Well-dressed gamblers gather at the Meadows, a 1930s Las Vegas resort (top). Boxer Jack Johnson (at right) poses with a sparring partner before his heavyweight fight with James L. Jeffries in Reno in 1910 (middle). Divorce-seekers often stayed at dude ranches such as the Daydream Ranch near Las Vegas (bottom).

next step Nevada took to stay ahead of national morals was a real doozy.

Wide-open casino gambling.

"Hoping a few investors might open more gambling halls to bring in the tourists with the divorcees," wrote Gabriel Vogliotti, author of *The Girls of Nevada* (1974) and a keen observer of the period, "the men who made Nevada notorious with the divorce law then legalized gambling." (In fact, on the same day that Governor Balzar signed the wide-open gaming bill, he signed into law the six-weeks residency requirement for divorce.)

In the 1930s, the Depression was in full swing, but Nevadans looked ahead. Prohibition was lifted in 1933. Divorces continued to draw visitors to disreputable Reno. Hoover Dam was attracting workers to the fledgling town of Las Vegas.

And Nevada held a monopoly on legally satisfying the powerful urge to gamble. It provided a sieve in civilization, a safety valve for the American pressure cooker, to which residents of other states could escape in order to let loose a little steam. In a complete turnaround of accepted behavior, when solid citizens at home crossed into Nevada, they morphed into naughty boys and girls, just as men considered criminals throughout the country became legitimate businessmen in Las Vegas and Reno.

Naturally, as more and more gamblers arrived, gambling became less and less an outrage. It happened slowly at first, but after a few decades other locales got in on the legitimized action. New Hampshire legalized the lottery in 1964. Atlantic City opened casinos in 1978. Iowa launched riverboats in 1990. Today, some sort of legalized gambling is offered in 48 states, 24 of which have casinos. Last year, 68 million Americans gambled legally.

Right now, gambling is at the peak of an expansion cycle in which the most expensive resort destinations in the world are being built by the greatest transfer of wealth over gaming tables ever witnessed in history. It has taken three generations, but the nation has fully followed the lead of a handful of Nevada lawmakers.

Now that divorce is as good as automatic and gambling has become the national pastime, you may wonder where Nevada will lead the country next.

Been to Las Vegas lately?

It's all about spectacle: billion-dollar themed hotels, any excuse for fireworks, the brightest light shows. Even the mayor rarely makes an appearance without two showgirls by his side.

It's all about entertainment: Broadway on the Strip, hundred-million-dollar production extravaganzas, hundred-million-dollar theaters, permanent superstar headliners, arena events, pop concerts, throwback lounges—the options cross all demographic groups and price ranges.

It's all, in a phrase, about instant gratification of the senses and appetites: dining fit for kings and queens, sophisticated and risqué stage shows, a proliferation of multipurpose nightclubs, spas on every corner, European sunbathing at the pools. Las Vegas is now taking on Paris, Bangkok, and Rio for the title of the Naughtiest City on Earth. In short, solid citizens still enjoy pleasures in Nevada that will take the rest of the country who knows how long to catch up to, if ever.

But that's as it should be. After all, Nevada has had a huge head start. Most other destinations would be only too tickled to become the visitor magnet Nevada has long been and continues to be.

One more thing's for sure: The U.S. of A. could do a lot worse than model itself after forward-thinking, trend-setting, morality-challenging Nevada.

Deke Castleman, senior editor of the Las Vegas Advisor, *is the author of* Whale Hunt in the Desert: The Secret Las Vegas of Superhost Steve Cyr *(Huntington Press, 2004).*

Nevada provided a safety valve for the American pressure cooker to which residents of other states could escape.

PHOTOS: Las Vegas News Bureau (top and opposite page bottom)

Nevada Gaming: Then and Now

Recalling some of the games, stars, characters, and hot spots that have made Nevada gaming a memorable bet since 1931

Swingers' Tee Time

Ever since golfers discovered swinging vacations at the Desert Inn and Dunes courses in the 1950s and '60s in Las Vegas, other Nevada hotel-casinos have built or acquired their own links. Today, you can pay green fees of up to $500 at exclusive layouts like **Shadow Creek** (MGM Mirage) in North Las Vegas and **Cascata** (Harrah's) in Boulder City. Depending on the season, the rates run $75 to $275 at the **CasaBlanca Golf Club** in Mesquite, **Primm Valley Golf Club** (MGM Mirage), and **Rio Secco** (Harrah's, Rio) in Henderson. Hotels throughout the state offer golf-and-room packages, with transportation to the course often included. For more on Nevada golf visit www.travelnevada.com.



Mamie Van Doren poses at the 1957 Tournament of Champions at the D.I.

Betting on the Border

At night, the lights of Nevada's border towns beckon travelers seeking casino excitement after long desert and mountain drives. The state's oldest state-line casino towns, **Crystal Bay** and **Stateline** at Lake Tahoe and **West Wendover** next to Utah, have offered games of chance since the 1930s. **Jackpot** was established in the 1950s. Hotel-casino construction launched booms in **Laughlin** and **Mesquite** in the 1980s and 1990s. Here's a tricky trivia question: Near which state line is Mesquite located? (Guess before you look at the map.)



1930

Apache Hotel

Apache owner "Colonel" Bob Russell devised clever PR ops for his Las Vegas hotel. Binion's occupies the site today.





Swank Spots

Fashionable '30s casinos included Tahoe's Cal-Neva Lodge and the long-departed Willows in Reno (left) and Meadows in Las Vegas.



Faro

Faro bank, popular card game of the frontier, offered close to even odds. Now extinct.

Riverside Hotel

Reno's Riverside, located next to the Truckee River, was owned by political boss George Wingfield, who held its first gaming license.

IN THE MOVIES

The Women

GAMES • HOTELS • ENTERTAINERS • MOVIES

PHOTOS: Las Vegas News Bureau (top left), Manis Collection, UNLV Library (middle left), Nevada Historical Society (right and bottom left)

Screen Games

From Elvis to Albert Brooks, Hollywood has Nevada's tables covered. **By Richard LeComte**



Hagerty and Brooks in *Lost in America.*

Whether it's the allure of the forbidden or the glamour and glitz, Nevada's resorts have long been popular settings for the movies. The following are a few of the more memorable films that have featured the good, the bad, and the ugly sides of the state's largest industry.

Spirit: More about cars than casinos, ***Viva Las Vegas*** (1964) turns Elvis Presley (and costar Ann-Margret) into emblematic spirits of the rock-around-the-clock lifestyle that gambling gave to Vegas.

Heists: The Rat Pack (Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Dean Martin, Peter Lawford, and Joey Bishop) filmed the original 1960 multi-casino-heist caper ***Ocean's Eleven*** by day while entertaining at the Las Vegas Sands by night. The 2001 remake also has lots of stars (George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Matt Damon, Brad Pitt, Bernie Mac, Don Cheadle), a more complicated caper, and even more gambling glitz.

Origins: Both ***The Godfather*** (1972) and ***Bugsy*** (1991) portray the mob-infested birth of numerous Vegas resort-casinos. In *The Godfather*, fictional Vegas founder Moe Greene (played by Alex Rocco) runs afoul of Michael Corleone (Al Pacino) and takes one in the eye. In *Bugsy*, Warren Beatty plays the high-spirited but doomed Bugsy Siegel in the grips of his Flamingo fixation. Annette Bening costars as Bugsy's girlfriend, Virginia Hill, and Ben Kingsley plays Meyer Lansky.

How-To: The first half (the good half) of ***Casino***, Martin Scorsese's 1995 dissection of how the fictional Tangiers casino worked in the '70s, plays almost as a documentary, albeit with graphic violence. Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone, and Joe Pesci star in the film, based on the book by Nicholas Pileggi.

The Underbelly: Two dark films, ***Hard Eight*** (1997) and ***The Cooler*** (2003), expose the flip side of casino action. Paul Thomas Anderson's *Hard Eight*, set in Reno, shows how scufflers play a casino for comps as a gambler (Philip Baker Hall) "adopts" a downtrodden younger player (John C. Reilly). Gwyneth Paltrow, Philip Seymour Hoffman, and Samuel L. Jackson also show up. Shot partly in Reno, *The Cooler* follows a loser (William H. Macy) hired by a casino boss (Alec Baldwin) to cool down hot streaks.

Road Trips: Both ***Rain Man*** (1988) and ***Lost in America*** (1985) feature a pair of seekers traveling across America who stop, with mixed results, in Vegas. *Rain Man's* Tom Cruise gets his savant-syndrome brother (Dustin Hoffman) to count cards at the 21 table. *Lost in America's* Julie Hagerty and Albert Brooks stop in Vegas on their RV quest to find America.

Just Plain Silly: Showing the lighter side of gambling, ***Honeymoon in Vegas*** (1992) pits commitment-phobic Nicolas Cage against high-roller James Caan in a battle over Sarah Jessica Parker, whom Cage "loses" to pay off a bet. The Flying Elvi also appear.

Deeply Obscure: And don't forget—or do forget—the Bowery Boys epic ***Crashing Las Vegas*** (1956), in which Huntz Hall acquires the ability to predict numbers.

Richard LeComte writes for the Reno Gazette-Journal.

1940

Blackjack



Blackjack, also known as 21, supplanted faro as a table favorite. The odds were good, and it was easy to learn. Hit me!



Mapes Hotel

Opened in 1947 Charles Mapes' 12-story Reno hotel-casino was Nevada's tallest building until the 15-story Fremont opened in Las Vegas in 1956.



El Rancho Vegas

When Thomas Hull built his resort on the Los Angeles Highway in 1941, the Las Vegas Strip was born.



The Stars Play Elko

Bandleader Ted Lewis launched big-name entertainment in Nevada when he appeared at the Commercial Hotel in Elko on April 26, 1941 The Commercial later booked Sophie Tucker (at left, with Maurice Chevalier in Las Vegas).

IN THE MOVIES

The Lady Gambles

GAMES • HOTELS • ENTERTAINERS • MOVIES

PHOTOS: Manis Collection, UNLV Library (bottom left), Las Vegas News Bureau (bottom right)

Mayme & Sons

With an assist from her odds-minded offspring, Mayme Stocker had the first gaming license in Las Vegas. **BY A.D. HOPKINS**

In 1931, Las Vegas' first casino gambling license went not to a mobster from back East but to a woman who endured a hot, dusty railroad town so her husband and sons could have steady work.

"Anybody who lives here is out of his mind," Mayme Stocker recalled saying on her arrival in Las Vegas in 1911. Mayme and her husband, Oscar, had three sons: Clarence, Harold, and Lester. The family grew tired of moving, so when Oscar was sent to Las Vegas as an engine foreman, they vowed to stay even if it turned out to be on the doorstep of hell.

"There were no streets or sidewalks, and there were no flowers, lawns, or trees," Mayme remembered in a 1948 interview.



Poker players match wits at Mayme Stocker's Northern Club in 1935.

In 1920, she opened the Northern Club on Fremont Street. Mayme was the original licensee, her son Harold explained, "because railroad men weren't supposed to have anything to do with things like that." Harold, who had learned to deal cards one summer in Tijuana, was part of the Northern from the start, and, according to him, so was gambling. In the 1920s, he said, five card games were legal: stud, draw, and lowball poker, "500," and bridge.

Harold credited his older brother, Lester, a professional gambler, with getting wide-open gambling legalized. "He tried in 1925 and couldn't get it open, and he couldn't in '27 or '29." In 1930 Lester called a meeting at a back table of the Northern. Present were some club owners, a city councilman, a high state official, a businessman booster, and two assemblymen, all of whom Harold Stocker declined to identify for the interview in 1981, two years before he died. According to Harold, one of the men said, "If I had some money to spread around, I could probably get it on."

They raised a $10,000 bankroll, Harold recalled. "So they got the legislator from Winnemucca, Phil Tobin, to introduce it, and the fellow took the money. I don't know who he gave it to. I don't know if he gave it to anybody. But the bill passed." (Assemblyman Tobin always said his only profit was three bottles of scotch whiskey. "I was just plumb sick and tired of seeing gamblin' going on all over the state, payoffs being made all over the place," he said in 1970.)



Mayme Stocker (right) with daughter-in-law Geraldine Stocker and a young relative.

After Oscar's death in 1941, Mayme left the Northern's day-to-day business to others. In 1945 she leased the place to Wilbur Clark, who later founded the Desert Inn.

Mayme Stocker built an elegant home in Las Vegas and every year enjoyed a birthday party given by her sons and friends. She died at age 97 in 1972.

A.D. Hopkins is a special projects editor with the Las Vegas Review-Journal *and the coauthor, with K.J. Evans, of* The First 100: Portraits of the Men and Women Who Shaped Las Vegas *(Huntington Press, 1999).*

1950

Craps
World War II veterans rolled dice with fervor in Nevada clubs.



John Ascuaga's Nugget
In 1955, Dick Graves opened the Sparks Nugget. Five years later John Ascuaga, its manager, bought the casino from Graves, his mentor.



Mary Kaye Trio
Guitar-playing Mary, brother Norman, and Frank Ross (left) pioneered the late-night lounge scene at the Last Frontier's Gay Nineties Bar in Las Vegas.



Riviera Hotel
A stunning nine stories high, the Riviera was the tallest resort in Las Vegas when it opened in 1955.



Liberace
became the highest-paid Vegas performer when he opened the Riviera in 1955 for $50,000 a week.

IN THE MOVIES

The Las Vegas Story

5 Against the House

GAMES • HOTELS • ENTERTAINERS • MOVIES

PHOTOS: Special Collections, UNLV Library (top right), Gladys Frazier Collection, UNLV Library (middle left), Las Vegas News Bureau (bottom left, middle, and right)

Remembering the Mob

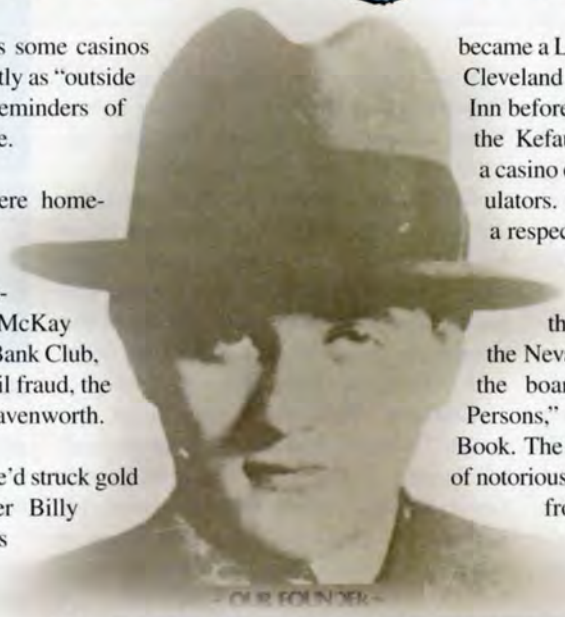
During gaming's formative years some casinos were run by men known discreetly as "outside interests." Here are a few reminders of Nevada gaming's mob-related heritage.

Graham and McKay

Bill Graham and Jim McKay were homegrown gangsters who met in booming Tonopah and moved to Reno in the 1920s. While engaging in money laundering and prostitution, Graham and McKay ran Reno's biggest gambling hall, the Bank Club, in the 1930s and '40s. Indicted for mail fraud, the pair eventually served six years in Leavenworth.

Don't Call Me Bugsy

Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel thought he'd struck gold when *Hollywood Reporter* publisher Billy Wilkerson needed help completing his dream hotel, the Flamingo, in Las Vegas. Backed by Eastern mob money, Siegel took over both the hotel and the dream, but he overspent wildly. On June 20, 1947 a few months after the Flamingo's debut, Siegel was found dead, riddled with bullets, in Beverly Hills, a man ahead of his time but behind on his payments.



Mobster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel proved to be an unwanted partner in Billy Wilkerson's Flamingo Hotel.

The Quiet Man

Morris B. "Moe" Dalitz was a Midwestern bootlegger who became a Las Vegas success story. Dalitz and some Cleveland racketeering pals took over the Desert Inn before it opened in 1950. He later testified at the Kefauver organized-crime hearings but as a casino operator gained the trust of Nevada regulators. Dalitz died in 1989 at the age of 90, a respected Las Vegas philanthropist.

The Black Book

The 1959 legislature established the Nevada Gaming Control Board and the Nevada Gaming Commission. A year later the board published a "List of Excluded Persons," which became known as the Black Book. The 11 men listed—described as "persons of notorious or unsavory reputation"—were banned from casino premises. State gaming officials continue to update the Black Book.

Giancana Non Grata

Despite his listing in the Black Book, Chicago mob boss Sam Giancana decided to enjoy a quiet getaway in July 1963 with singer Phyllis McGuire at the Cal-Neva Lodge, then partly owned by Frank Sinatra. However, Giancana was discovered by state gaming agents. As a result of the incident, Sinatra gave up his gaming licenses for the Cal-Neva Lodge and the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas.

Nevada Gaming by the Numbers

$200,500,000
Nevada's gross gaming revenue during fiscal year 1960.

$2,478,500,000
Nevada's gross gaming revenue during fiscal year 1980.

$9,598,509,951
Nevada's gross gaming revenue during fiscal year 2000.

1960

Keno
Female runners and electronic boards boosted the game introduced in the 1930s.



Circus Circus
Caesars Palace creator Jay Sarno opened Circus Circus in Las Vegas in 1968 with trapeze artists flying over slot players.



Frank Sinatra
and his pals Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. were at the top of the heap.



Harvey's Wagon Wheel
Harvey and Llewellyn Gross turned a former church-camp property at Tahoe into a restaurant-casino with gas pumps.

Harrah's Reno
Bill Harrah expanded his downtown Reno club with a 24-story, 326-room hotel in 1969.

Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret in *Viva Las Vegas*



IN THE MOVIES
- Ocean's Eleven
- The Misfits
- Viva Las Vegas

GAMES • HOTELS • ENTERTAINERS • MOVIES

PHOTOS: Las Vegas News Bureau (top, middle left and right), Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (bottom right)

Retro Resorts

You can celebrate Nevada gaming's **75th anniversary** by staying in one of these **classic hotel-casinos.** Call ahead to confirm rates and other details.



Ely's Hotel Nevada, a historic high-rise.

Golden Gate: The oldest hotel in Las Vegas, the 106-room Golden Gate occupies the old Sal Sagev (Las Vegas spelled backwards) and Hotel Nevada building, which dates to 1906. The Fremont Street casino serves a famous 99-cent shrimp cocktail. Rooms $32-$55. (702-426-1906, www.goldengatecasino.com)

Hotel Nevada: Built in 1929, the 61-room hotel-casino in Ely offers classic neon, exotic memorabilia, and top-floor suites named for celebrity guests like Gary Cooper and Wayne Newton. Rooms $25-$85. (888-406-3055, www.hotelnevada.com)

Flamingo Las Vegas: Today's 3,600-room Flamingo is a far cry from Bugsy's low-slung 1946 original, but the backyard with its pools, waterfalls, penguins, and flamingos has an old-style Catskills-meets-Vegas atmosphere. Rooms $85 and up. (800-732-2111, www.flamingolv.com)

Cal-Neva Resort: Perched on Lake Tahoe's north shore, the Cal-Neva dates back to gaming's early days. Frank Sinatra once owned a piece of this Crystal Bay lodge. The state line runs through the swimming pool. Rooms $89-$269. (800-CAL-NEVA, www.calnevaresort.com)

Caesars Palace: A replica of the statue "Winged Victory of Samothrace" still stands in the main fountain of this Greco-Roman resort, which retains the high-roller ambiance it exuded when it opened 40 years ago. In 1992 Caesars added more retail and restaurants in the Forum Shops. Rooms $89-$500. (800-634-6661, www.caesarspalace.com)

Harrah's Lake Tahoe: Bill Harrah, who opened his first Reno club in 1937 built this south-shore hotel with orders that each room have two bathrooms (with TVs), a convenience the casino owner thought would promote "good marital relations." The his-and-her loos, plus lake views, are still there. Rooms $119-$209. (775-588-6611, www.harrahs.com)

Riverside Resort: This is the site of the origins of the casino town of Laughlin—the bait shop, café, and motel on the Colorado River that Don Laughlin bought in the mid-1960s. The Riverside now has 1,404 rooms, a cruise ship, and the Loser's Lounge. Rooms $22 and up. (800-227-3849, www.riversideresort.com)

BLOWN AWAY

These famous Nevada hotels were demolished by wrecking ball or implosion. Their successors are noted (in parenthesis).



1993: **Dunes** (Bellagio), Las Vegas
1995: **Landmark** (as seen in *Mars Attacks!*), Las Vegas
1996: **Sands** (Venetian) and Hacienda (Mandalay Bay), Las Vegas
1998: **Aladdin** (Aladdin), Las Vegas
1999: **Harolds Club** and **Nevada Club** (Harrah's), Reno
2000: **Mapes** (civic skating rink), Reno, and Thunderbird/El Rancho, Las Vegas
2001: **Desert Inn** (Wynn), Las Vegas
2006: **Showboat/Castaways**, Las Vegas

1970



Slots

Dollar slots boomed as casino execs discovered they could make them looser and increase profits.



Harrah's Lake Tahoe

In 1973 Bill Harrah (at left, with Sammy Davis Jr.) opened a 250-room hotel above his Stateline casino. The cost was $125,000 per room, twice the luxury-hotel norm.

Cactus Petes

Since its start as a Jackpot slot spot in 1954, Cactus Petes has grown into a Vegas-style hotel-casino in Northeastern Nevada.

MGM Las Vegas

Kirk Kerkorian unveiled Las Vegas' first MGM (now Bally's) in 1973. With 2,100 rooms, it was the largest resort hotel in the world.

MGM Reno

The MGM Reno (today's Reno Hilton) was by far the biggest hotel in Northern Nevada when it opened with 1,015 rooms in 1978. A month later "Hello, Hollywood, Hello" debuted.



The King

Elvis Presley continually sold out the Las Vegas Hilton's huge showroom in the early 1970s. Left: Elvis with Priscilla and Tom Jones.

IN THE MOVIES

- Diamonds Are Forever
- The Godfather
- The Electric Horseman

GAMES • HOTELS • ENTERTAINERS • MOVIES

PHOTOS: Carolyn Fox (top), Las Vegas News Bureau (bottom)

Dine & Dance Classics

A number of fine restaurants and lounges date back to the days of JFK, Watergate, and 29-cent gasoline. Except for the absence of clouds of cigarette smoke, some of the places even look the same.

Harrah's Steak House has been a respected surf and turf purveyor for decades at Harrah's Reno (775-786-3232) You can sip a Mai Tai or Scorpion while dining on Mandarin duck at **Trader Dick's**, the Polynesian-style eatery at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks (775-356-3300) The Reno Peppermill's **Fireside Lounge** (775-826-2121) has a unique floating fire pit and umbrella drinks, as does the Fireside at the Las Vegas Peppermill (702-735-7635) Since the 1970s the **Summit** has offered fine dining, lake views, and lounge on the 17th floor of Harrah's Lake Tahoe (800-HARRAHS). Trader Dick's, with a 6,000-gallon tropical-fish aquarium, has a good lounge, too.



Prime rib at the Reno Peppermill's Steak House.

In Las Vegas, for years **Hugo's Cellar** in the Four Queens downtown has served gourmet food with two popular extras: a tableside salad cart and, for each lady, a long-stemmed rose (702-385-4011) Another venerable fine-dining spot is **Michael's** at the Barbary Coast on the Strip (702-737-7111) Chefs at the Las Vegas Hilton's **Benihana** have prepared Japanese dishes on hibachi tables since the hotel's Elvis era (702-732-5111) After dinner, you can keep your party afloat at **Cleopatra's Barge**, a classic Caesars Palace cocktail lounge with dance floor (702-731-7110) At the Rio you can dance all night at the **Club Rio**, which helped launch Vegas' nightclub era when it debuted way back in '94 (702-777-7777).

In Laughlin you can take in Colorado River views at the Riverside's **Gourmet Room**, one of the town's first fine-dining spots (702-298-2535) Laughlin's buffets include the Ramada Express' **Roundhouse Buffet** (702-298-4200) and the Colorado Belle's **Captain's Food Fare** (702-298-4000).

In rural Nevada, you can go dancing on weekends at various casino lounges. When bands play the **Winners** in Winnemucca (800-648-4770), they draw tourists as well as local residents from town and far-flung ranches. Same at the **Stockmen's** in Elko (800-648-2345).

You'll find old-fashioned casino deals in Searchlight, 75 miles south of Las Vegas. At the **Searchlight Nugget** draft beers are 50 cents, and a cup of coffee still costs a dime.—*David Moore*

Show Time

Today, several Las Vegas shows will take you back to Nevada's entertainment roots and the spirit of "Minsky's" and "Lido de Paris."



The feathered showgirls of **"Les Folies Bergere"** have performed at the Tropicana since 1959, when Lou Walters (Barbara's father) brought the production direct from Paris. Early shows are "covered," the late ones topless. Tickets $53-$64. (800-829-9034)

Another showgirl showcase is **"Jubilee!,"** a Donn Arden production, at Bally's since 1981. The *Titanic* sinks nightly. Backstage tours are available. Tickets $60-$80. (800-237-SHOW)

Stars of the past like Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, and Michael Jackson—or rather their look-and-sound-alikes—appear in impersonator shows. The original, **"Legends in Concert,"** has run at the Imperial Palace since 1983. Tickets $40-$60. (800-351-7400, www.imperialpalace.com)

Other long-running shows include **"Splash!"** and **"An Evening at La Cage,"** both of which opened at the Riviera in 1985. (702-794-9301)

1980

Sports Books
Lakers plus five, or Yankees straight up? Sports books grew with large-screen TVs and exotic bets.

Carson Valley Inn
Jeane and Patrick Mulreany opened their Minden casino-inn in 1984. Today the CVI has 153 rooms, three restaurants, and an RV park.



Bill Cosby
charmed audiences with his baggy sweaters, characters like Fat Albert, and a hugely popular TV show.



The Mirage
When Steve Wynn opened his 3,049-room Mirage, fronted by a volcano, it heralded an era of themed Las Vegas megaresorts.

Atlantis
The Farahi family's Golden Road Motor Inn in Reno became a Quality Inn in the late '80s, built a tower as the Clarion, and became the multi-towered Atlantis in the '90s.

IN THE MOVIES

Jason Robards Jr. in *Melvin and Howard*



Melvin and Howard

Rain Man

Pink Cadillac

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PHOTO: Universal City Studios (bottom right)

The Heyday of the Moulin Rouge



The **Moulin Rouge,** which opened in 1955, was the first Las Vegas hotel where patrons and entertainers of different races mingled. It closed after four months, but the Moulin Rouge was a hot ticket, with the Moulin Rouge Dancers (above) and stars like Lionel Hampton, Dinah Washington, and Les Brown appearing in the showroom.

Casino Animals

Celebrity Elephants: The elephants Bertha and Tina (and later Angel) starred in the 1960s, '70s, and '80s at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. The pachyderms, who lived in an elephant barn behind the hotel, performed the opening act each night in the Celebrity Showroom.

Tiger Time: Siegfried and Roy raised the white lions and tigers they performed with at the Mirage. Even after one tiger bit and severely injured Roy during a show on October 3, 2003, the pair continue to support the rare breeds.

Wild Portrait: Careful not to put their hands in the wrong place, guests could pose with the MGM lion at the original MGM Grand in Las Vegas in the early 1980s. The lion was unsedated, according to hotel officials.



Siegfried and Roy with their white lions.



Bertha and Angel at John Ascuaga's Nugget.

Shark Meet: Visitors can admire barracudas, piranhas, and a variety of sharks at the Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay on the Strip.

What a Bear: Standing in a glass case, a polar bear named White King has watched gamblers inside the Commercial in Elko since the 1950s. The former Alaska denizen stands more than 10 feet tall.

Horse in the House: Harold Smith, the free-spirited namesake of Harolds Club, occasionally rode his horse Bobby Sox into the downtown Reno casino.—*David Moore*

Nevada Gaming by the Numbers

$3,463,723,088
Table game win during fiscal year 2004.

$7,098,524,282
Slot win during fiscal year 2004, twice that of table games.

$10,562,247,370
Nevada's total gross gaming revenue during fiscal year 2004.

1990

Baccarat
High-rolling Asian "whales" bet millions at Las Vegas baccarat tables.



Silver Legacy
The silver baron-themed resort opened with 1,700 rooms and skyways to its downtown Reno neighbors, the Eldorado and Circus Circus.



"Mystère"
Cirque du Soleil launched "Mystère" at Treasure Island in 1993, with "O," "Zumanity," and "KÀ" to follow.



Luxor
The pyramid-shaped Las Vegas hotel unveiled 2,526 rooms and King Tut's Museum in 1993, the same year MGM Grand and Treasure Island opened.

Primm Valley Resorts
Primm Valley opened in 1990, followed by Buffalo Bill's in 1994. Together with Whiskey Pete's, the MGM Mirage hotel trio on I-15 at Primm boasts 2,664 rooms.

IN THE MOVIES



Tom Jones and Annette Bening in *Mars Attacks!*



GAMES • HOTELS • ENTERTAINERS • MOVIES

PHOTOS: Nevada State Museum and Historical Society (top left), Larry Turner (middle left)

The Reel Deal

Who would have imagined that Charles Fey's mechanical novelty, a **slot machine,** would one day take over the casino floor

By Jack Bulavsky



Charles Fey invented the Liberty Bell three-reel slot machine in 1899.

Seventy-five years have passed since the first pull of a slot machine after gambling was legalized in Nevada. In the last decades, pulling a handle has become touching a screen, and the clanging of coins into a tray has become a silent printed ticket.

Yet no matter how the game is played, one thing is certain: Slots have taken over the casino floor.

"Slot revenue started eclipsing table game revenues in the '80s," says Ed Rogich, vice president of marketing at International Game Technology, which has offices in Reno and Las Vegas. "After gaming was legalized, people had been coming to Nevada to primarily play table games. Now it's all about slots."

Actually, players have been pulling slot handles since 1899, shortly after the invention of the slot machine by Charles Fey in San Francisco. The first cast-iron, spring-loaded machines depicted cards and bells and dispensed coins. In 1910, all forms of gambling were outlawed in Nevada, but a 1912 law allowed slots to dispense tokens or gum. The machines were considered novelties, and even after wide-open gambling was legalized in 1931, it was the alpha-male table games of poker and craps that kept the players' interest.

Over time, technology changed the gaming environment. The use of electricity brought the slot machine into modern times. Fey's old mechanical slot gave way to a Bally electro-mechanical model with multiple coin play in 1964. During the 1970s, dollar slots and carousel slots became popular, and in 1978, Si Redd, founder of IGT, created the first video-poker machine. Five years later Bally's replaced circuitry with a micro-processor.

"Slots offer anonymity and a more personal one-on-one experience. They also allow a player to play at his own budget."

Wide-area progressives, the first being Megabucks, created by IGT in 1986, offered millions in jackpots to players on a multi-casino network of dollar slots.

Slot clubs rewarded customers for their loyal play, and in the 1980s those clubs became the casinos' most sophisticated marketing tools. Machines began to accept paper money, and coin jackpots morphed into printed tickets. Multi-line slots from Aristocrat Gaming appeared in the 1990s, followed by second-screen bonus play and the touch screen.

What draws players to these sleek, neon-lit, integrated computers that display colorful graphics of oil wells, tropical fish, Hollywood celebrities, television shows,

2000



Poker

Today, even casual players dream of playing in the World Series of Poker, like Wendeen Eolis (left), the first woman to finish in the money at WSOP—twice.

Peppermill

Last year the Reno Peppermill began a $230-million expansion, including a 17-story all-suite tower and a nightclub.



Celine Dion

has brightened "... A New Day" at Caesars Palace's 4,100-seat Colosseum since March 2003.

The Palms

At 428 rooms, the Palms is not a giant, but George Maloof's openness to nightclubs and MTV hijinks helped launch the "What happens here. " trend in Las Vegas.



Ritz-Carlton

In Henderson, the Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas opened in 2003 with 349 rooms, a spa, and proximity to top golf courses.

IN THE MOVIES

George Clooney in *Ocean's Eleven*



The Cooler

Ocean's Eleven

GAMES • HOTELS • ENTERTAINERS • MOVIES

PHOTOS: Liberty Belle Collection (top), David Lee Waite (middle left)



This machine dispensed gum after slot gambling was outlawed in 1910.

cartoon characters such as Betty Boop and Popeye, and the always beautiful Playboy bunnies?

"A slot machine is entertainment," says Rogich, "and for players, live table games create an environment that is intimidating, especially for casual or newer gamblers. Slots offer anonymity and a more personal one-on-one experience. They also allow a player to play at his own budget rather than taking on the best poker or crap player at a table."

Marcus Prater, senior vice president of marketing at Bally Gaming and Systems in Las Vegas, agrees. "In Las Vegas alone," he says, "there are over 40 million people coming through McCarran International Airport, and many of them have never been exposed to a serious casino table game. For them, slots can be more fun and just as interactive."

Prater's company, originally Bally Manufacturing, started selling slot machines in 1932, a year after gaming was legalized in Nevada. "For the first 40 to 50 years, slots were secondary to the table games, but that has shifted dramatically due to technology that makes the games more attractive," Prater says.

Ideas for new slot games are discussed daily at companies around the state. According to Prater, Bally Gaming has entered into a multi-year licensing agreement with video gamer Electronic Arts Inc. He says a series of slot machines, based on content from EA's popular online game destination Pogo.com, such as Greenback Bayou and Swashbucks, are being developed.

Another innovation reverses the concept of "hands-on." One of the joys of playing slot machines with real coins was cleaning your hands with one of those little antiseptic towelettes you picked up at the cashier's cage. Of course, you never just took *one*. Maybe seven or eight: two for your pocket, two for the glove compartment in your car, and the remainder as gifts for the kids.

Today slots increasingly employ TITO—ticket in, ticket out—a technology that combines ticket printers with traditional coin hopper pays.

It also keeps your hands very clean.

The system is programmed to pay out tickets only. However, the casino can program a machine to pay a portion of the payout in coins and the balance as a ticket. The ticket can be inserted into another machine, exchanged for cash, or used at a later time.

To TITO or not to TITO is no longer the question. Slots with handles are passé, except for the antique machines displayed



Players can take their winnings in the form of tickets from IGT's Carnival of Mystery.

at the Liberty Belle Saloon and Restaurant, opened by Marshall and Frank Fey, Charles Fey's grandsons, in 1958 in Reno. This museum to traditional slot machines is slated to close this summer, but through the end of May visitors will be able to see what it used to be like when gamblers played reel slots.

Jack Bulavsky is a Las Vegas writer.

Getting a Handle on the Future



The future of playing slot machines will involve a sequence like this.

You enter your favorite casino and insert your slot club card into a slot or video-poker machine. The system recognizes the card, welcomes you, and even may offer you a complimentary breakfast just for showing up that day.

Next, in its infinite wisdom, the system downloads a menu of your favorite games based on previous play. This means you can stay at one machine and play scores of different games. Meanwhile the computer network is handling as many as 3,000 slot machines on the casino floor. Very advanced stuff.

Also, one-dollar video poker machines, available everywhere during the week, become five-dollar machines on the weekends with the click of a slot boss' mouse. Slot directors can manage slots the same way table games are managed—reacting to increased demand on weekends so machines that are nickel become quarter, and quarter machines become dollar.

Personally, I don't care what they place on the gaming floor. Just don't take away I Dream of Jeannie.—*Jack Bulavsky*

PHOTOS: Liberty Belle Collection (top left), IGT (top right), ILLUSTRATION: Tony deRonnebeck (bottom right)





A QUARTER CENTURY AGO

IT BEGAN WITH A SMALL COMPANY TAKING ON THE GAMING industry's biggest competitors. Since then, IGT has become the world leader in the design and manufacture of games, platforms and systems. The next twenty-five years will present the gaming industry with many challenges and opportunities and IGT is well prepared to meet them head-on. On behalf of the 5,000 IGT employees around the world, thank you for your support

IGT
SILVER ANNIVERSARY
25 YEARS OF INNOVATION

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SPRING

Always in Season

Craig Malburg shoots every new garden display at the Bellagio Conservatory in Las Vegas.

Like many photographers, Craig Malburg finds the Bellagio Conservatory and Botanical Garden to be one of the most inviting attractions in Las Vegas. Sunlight floods the three-story, glass-domed atrium filled with row upon row of plants and flowers. A staff of more than 100 horticulturists prepares and maintains the garden, tucked on the first floor of the Bellagio. Trees, water fountains, a bridge, and music enhance the displays. Best of all for Malburg, a new exhibit appears every spring, summer, fall, and winter and on major holidays.

"I've always loved gardens, their different textures and colors," says Malburg, a Los Angeles resident who has photographed the conservatory in all seasons for the past five years. Sometimes visitors have to step around him as he kneels on the pathway, eye level with the blooms. "I need a shot that draws the viewer into the picture," he says. "So I do




FALL

what it takes, and I have to forget how silly I might look."

Malburg took the spring photo in the morning, kneeling at the edge of the walkway with his 28mm lens and a tripod, careful to hold the camera parallel to the ground to avoid distortion. He says it takes patience to get a clear shot because the garden, open 24 hours, attracts hundreds of visitors each day. "I hadn't planned to include the two people in the summer photo, but when they didn't move, and I saw more people were coming into the scene, I clicked the shutter." Later he realized that their presence improved the photo—they added scale.

Even though the plants are lit by natural and additional artificial light, photographers can use a flash to eliminate shadows. For late-afternoon shots, like the fall photo, Malburg synced his flash so it would fire at the end of a long exposure, taking advantage of the low ambient light.

In the garden photocomposition is another challenge. "Those lush displays should include as much as possible, yet remain clean and uncluttered," he says. In the winter photo he sought to keep the tall red pagoda from dominating the flowers and stream.

Malburg appreciates the fact that the Bellagio staff welcomes amateur photographers. "I come every time they have a new display," he says. "I try to capture the highlights of the season."—*Wilma LaRocca*



FROG Freakout

Our **frog-hunting** expedition near Wendover culminated in a ribbiting crescendo.

By Alan Rowley



I'd never been frog hunting before, so when my friend Rick suggested we head out to Ferguson Springs to try our luck, I said, "Sure." We filled Rick's old car with gasoline—his wife wasn't about to allow a bunch of dirty frogs in the new Toyota—along with waders, poles and nets, and a cooler containing a six pack of beer for Rick and a long day's supply of Diet Pepsi for me. Rick kissed his wife, Rhonda, and the five kids—ages eight, six, four, two, and one. ("Isn't he the odd one?" Rick said as he kissed the baby). We were off. Well, almost. We had to stop and buy a bundle of disposable diapers. "These are for Odd's End," Rick laughed as he threw the package in the back seat.

It was 18 miles west from Wendover on Interstate 80 to the turnoff for Ferguson Springs, and the old car drove like a champion. Rick, a car buff, bought the perfectly restored 1967 DeSoto from some guy who wanted it out of his back yard. The car even came with an eight-track stereo system and a box of tapes, collector's items now.

Soon we turned onto the dirt road and arrived at Ferguson Springs. The springs are the source of much of Wendover's water, and the surrounding wetlands were our goal. We parked alongside the water, stretched, and sat down to enjoy the sack lunches Rhonda had made. Rick finished a couple of cool ones, and I choked down my first soda of the day. I let Rick do the inventory as we pulled our gear from the trunk of the DeSoto.

"Did you put the gunnysacks in the back seat?" he asked.

Gunnysacks hadn't been on my list, so I told him, "No." We were now in trouble, he said, since gunnysacks were an important part of frog catching. "What are we going to put the frogs in?" Rick asked. "We can't just throw them in the trunk."

I can't remember who thought of the diapers, but together we decided it could work. We spread 10 diapers out on the ground and started the hunt.

Rick had been right. It was easy. With the nets dangling from the ends of our poles, the frogs didn't know what was coming, and the nets always seemed to be filled with big, ugly





frogs. As we captured each frog, we converged on one of the stretched-out diapers, wrapped the frog carefully into its folds, and used the sealing tape to close the package. In 90 minutes we had eight full diapers, which we gently placed on the back seat of the DeSoto. We were stinky, but we weren't going to offend the frogs because they stank worse than we did.

Rick and I said little as we headed home on the dirt road. We chugged up a slight incline and suddenly were back in the world of interstates and billboards.

Rick was able to keep the old car's speed almost down to the maximum regulation limit. While he drove, I rummaged. The glove compartment contained a cache of the eight-track tapes. I rejected Patsy Cline, Pat Boone, the Maguire Sisters, and Sergio Mendez and found, almost incongruously, "Finlandia." That was my choice. "This," I said, "is a Sibelius moment." I turned up the volume so it would surround us with its incredible beauty.

I had just begun to sing when I heard a loud "whap!" Rick yelled, and the car took a sickening swerve, crossing into the passing lane before he brought it under control.

"What happened?" I yelled. Before Rick could respond, a dark shape zipped by my ear and landed with a plop on the dashboard. It was a frog, and he didn't like where he had landed. Off he went again, flying between Rick and me into the back seat. I looked behind me, and as near as I could tell, there were four bundles of diapers either loose or about to be, and frogs were all over the seat. But they didn't stay there. Half a dozen jumped into the front, landing on the seat, in a lap, on the floor, against the dash, and improbably, on top of Rick's head. The car swerved again, but after brushing his right hand across the top of his head, Rick steadied the old DeSoto. I was flailing left and right as more frogs landed on or near me.



We converged on one of the stretched-out diapers and wrapped the frog carefully.

"Stop the car!" I yelled over the pulsating music.

"The brake won't go down," Rick yelled back. I bent over and saw a four-pounder wedged under the brake pedal. I leaned farther in an attempt to push him out when a cold, slimy frog landed on my exposed neck. I jerked up and almost knocked myself out in the collision with the dashboard. I also bumped the volume button, and Sibelius now reached a deafening crescendo.

I picked up the nearest frog to hurl him out the window. The window was closed, so he bounced back, landing in Rick's lap. We swerved again. An SUV containing a large family passed us warily. One person in the car pointed at us, and soon the whole crew was looking our way as we drove side by side. I didn't have a lot of time to watch as I was too busy flinging front-seat frogs into the back. I felt like Sisyphus and accomplished almost as much. Rick got his window open, and I threw a couple of frogs from the car. One actually hit the SUV, which immediately accelerated past us. The driver had shown a keen interest in the old DeSoto, frogs jumping back and forth, driver and passenger waving their arms madly, classical music playing at top volume, but when we started throwing frogs at his car, he scooted.

At this point I had my window down, too, and, while Rick was flinging the occasional frog through his, I was reaching and tossing as fast as I could, leaving a trail of dazed hoppers behind the car. At least two of the frightened frogs got me. If there is one thing I can't abide, it's being peed on by a frog. I turned in my seat, grabbed the full diapers, and heaved them out the window.

I threw until there wasn't anything left to throw. I slumped, exhausted, into my seat and used my last bit of energy to turn off the eight-track. Silence. Rick pushed the DeSoto into neutral, and we gradually came to a stop. A "ribbit," coming from the floorboard, broke the quiet.

I got out and leaned against the car. I don't remember if I actually saw a diaper hopping down the middle of the freeway or if it was just my imagination. Then a fat four-pounder jumped from the car, looked up at me, and hopped off into the sagebrush.

Rick leaned next to me. He was covered with dirt and frog tracks and stank like a swamp. We stood silently until Rick, looking out across the desert, said in his calmest voice, "Do you think they would have liked Patsy Cline a little better?"

Alan Rowley teaches at Wendover High School in Utah. He is a resident of Wendover, Nevada, where he reigns as champion chili cook.



ILLUSTRATED BY CALDER CHISM



San Franciscans flee the ruined city.

The Big Quake

By Bill Rowley

When **San Francisco** was devastated by an earthquake 100 years ago, Nevadans came to their **neighbors' rescue**.

In the early morning of April 18, 1906, much of San Francisco came crashing down. At 5:12 a.m. the city was struck by a strong earthquake—perhaps 6.7 on the Richter scale. By afternoon fires raged throughout the city, forcing more than 200,000 people to flee and leaving an estimated 3,000 dead.

As aftershocks rattled San Francisco that Wednesday morning a century ago, a number of Nevadans found themselves in the midst of the calamity. The most prominent was George Wingfield, one of the state's richest residents. The quake jarred the mining magnate awake in his room at the elegant Palace Hotel, where Nevadans of means stayed on visits to the city. His business trip turned into a perilous adventure as he joined the panicked mobs fleeing the city. A cartoon in the *Tonopah Daily Sun* pictured Wingfield in his nightshirt running into the street from the hotel, adding a dimension of humor to a serious situation.

"I lost no time in getting to the street, and no matter how long I may live, I will never forget the terrible scenes I witnessed on that awful morning," Wingfield said shortly afterward. "Men, women, and little children were rushing frantically about, almost crazed by the disaster, and for a time it seemed as though there was no place of safety to be found as the fire kept coming on at an awful rate."


THE TONOPAH DAILY SUN

WITNESSED MANY TERRIBLE SCENES OF RUIN

GOLDEN GATE CASINO IS DESTROYED

MERCHANT SHOT WITHOUT CAUSE BY HOODLES

ARMORED AUTOMOBILE FOR MEXICAN GOLD

REBUILDING STARTS BEFORE THE ASHES ARE COOL

George Wingfield is portrayed in the *Tonopah Daily Sun*.

By evening, telegraph dispatches and newspaper extras had alerted the nation to the extent of the tragedy. San Francisco lay in ruins, with soldiers from the Presidio under orders to shoot all looters.

Nevadans were among the first to send aid. The residents of Reno, Tonopah, Goldfield, and other towns rallied to send railroad cars filled with supplies and satchels stuffed with cash to their California neighbors. "If the stricken city needs help from Nevada, and if we can get supplies to her sufferers, I think the people of this section will respond with the greatest liberality," stated Reno Mayor N.E. Wilson the day after the quake. The mayor appointed a Central Relief Committee, which set a fundraising goal of $15,000, a generous commitment from a community of fewer than 8,000 people. Renoites raised the $15,000 in a week.

More aid came from the new Central Nevada mining camps, which had grown into small cities by 1906. Tonopah's board of

PHOTOS: Lee Brumbaugh Collection (top and opposite page), Nevada Historical Society (middle)

trade sent a delegation to San Francisco with $10,000 in cash. By early May, Tonopah citizens collected $15,000 and Goldfielders $5,000 in quake-relief funds.

The *Tonopah Weekly Bonanza* announced a visit from U.S. Senator George Nixon, who had hurried west on the news that the earthquake had destroyed Stanford University, where his son was a student. Nixon later found the young man safe in Oakland. The *Reno Evening Gazette* noted that Governor John Sparks, returning from a Texas visit, also was hurrying to the Bay Area to search for family members.

Many other Nevadans faced the same plight. In response, the Southern Pacific, the Virginia and Truckee, and other railroads offered free transportation to those who needed to go to the Bay Area to rescue relatives and to those fleeing San Francisco, Santa Rosa, and other devastated areas. When one refugee train stopped in the tiny railroad town of Carlin, it was greeted by townspeople who had prepared meals for everyone on board.

Carson City sent train cars loaded with food, clothing, tents, and $3,000 in cash to the Bay Area. More than 50 residents of Las Vegas—a tiny railroad town less than a year old—donated $165.50, and, according to the *Las Vegas Age*, "a fair-sized and thoroughly jolly crowd" raised another $25 at a benefit ball organized by the women of the Help One Another Club.

By the end of the emergency Reno had sent more than 25,000 loaves of bread, more than $6,000 in food donations, and $1,000 in canned goods and clothing. Renoites dispensed even more aid in their own community in an effort to feed, house, and employ survivors seeking shelter in the Truckee Meadows. The Western Pacific Railroad, under construction north of Reno, offered employment to the displaced.

The 1906 earthquake would strengthen Nevada's already close ties to the City by the Bay. After the rush to Washoe in 1859-1860, San Francisco capital had helped develop the rich silver and gold mines of Virginia City, rewarding investors who were known as "San Francisco-Nevadans." After San Francisco newspapers demanded a new government for the mining region, Congress created Nevada Territory in 1861, and statehood followed in 1864. Connected by railroad to the Bay Area in 1868, Northern Nevada became a veritable suburb of San Francisco.



The San Francisco Call Building burns in this contemporary drawing.

Shortly after the quake struck, Nevada's lieutenant governor, Lemuel Allen, issued a proclamation stating that the Silver and Golden states' interests were "so intermingled for the past 50 years that the material interests of the two states are practically identical." In the proclamation Allen, acting in Governor Sparks' absence, followed California Governor George Pardee in declaring a week-long "public holiday" to prevent a run on bank deposits. Later, Governor Sparks allowed the state's banks to reopen for a couple of days before extending the bank holiday to May 7

Economically, it was a crucial moment for Nevada. The state's economy had just been revived by the mining excitements in Tonopah, Goldfield, and Ely. Now the forces of nature had crushed San Francisco, the source of venture capital for so many Nevada mines. However, mining-industry fears were allayed by news reports that Charles Schwab, the steel magnate associated with Bethlehem Steel in Pennsylvania, "is supporting the Nevada stocks morally and financially."

Furthermore, many of Wingfield's operations were insulated from the possible financial panic in San Francisco. The year before, Wingfield and his partner, Senator Nixon, had struck a deal with Eastern capitalists, led by New York financier Barnard Baruch, to back their Goldfield Consolidated Mining Company.

When the devastation forced San Francisco to close its mining stock exchange, Reno, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, and Portland all offered to serve as the exchange's new headquarters. Their offers were declined.

Indeed, some Nevada business people saw opportunity in California's distress. "Instead of a financial stringency," one Reno newspaper reported, "bankers and merchants say Reno and Nevada will be favored with an accelerated business growth." The newspaper declared that "hundreds and perhaps thousands of wealthy Californians … will go into business and reside here." The report discussed economic-development themes that have been sounded repeatedly in Nevada ever since.

The last relief shipment from Reno left on April 26, but food donations were still solicited to feed people continuing to arrive from San Francisco. The Central Nevada camps established a relief center in Oakland where displaced Nevadans could obtain funds to return home.

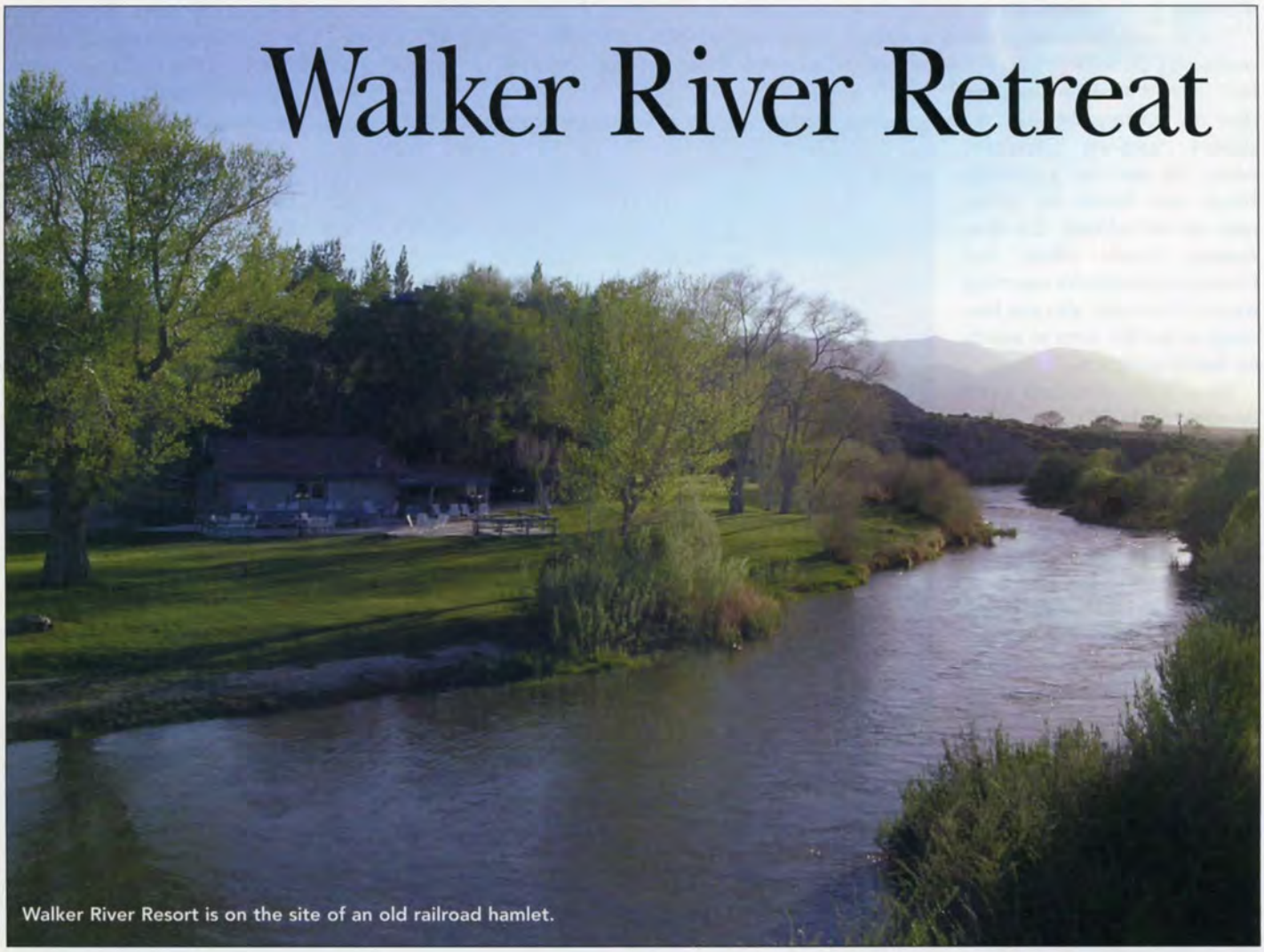
As Wingfield predicted, San Franciscans now planned to rebuild their city as the financial and cultural center of the West Coast. Upon his return to Goldfield, Wingfield declared, "The people down there are not made up of the stuff that gives up, and a bigger city than ever will grow beside the Golden Gate."

That it did, with the help of Nevada and an aroused and generous nation.

"I will never forget the terrible scenes I witnessed on that awful morning," Wingfield said.

Bill Rowley, who holds the Griffen Chair in Nevada and the West, is a professor of history at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Walker River Retreat



Walker River Resort is on the site of an old railroad hamlet.

Stan and Leia Simmons have created their own pool-party haven in Smith Valley. **By Karl Horeis**

The first time you drive the three miles off State Route 208 into Walker River Resort, you might find yourself thinking, "There's a resort out here?"

Rocky mountains and parched, rolling foothills are all you see until the last second. Then it hits you: an oasis nestled on a bluff above the Walker River. Tall cottonwoods stand next to ponds where RVers toss bread to ducks and cast for catfish. Other campers walk in flip-flops to the market to buy ice and charcoal.

On the river, kayakers and inner-tubists drift by. Nearby is a bring-your-own-livestock rodeo arena. The most popular place of all is the swimming pool with chaise lounges, a hot tub, and a huge steel barbecue made by the welding class at Smith Valley High School.

Manning the grill is Stan Simmons. He's smiling now, but his little stretch of the Walker River wasn't always paradise. When he bought the place in 1974, Hudson, the mostly empty railroad town on the site, was a "rattlesnake haven," he says. "When I first came out here, boy, there were so many rattlesnakes you just didn't want to go outside."

Hudson lived and died with the Copper Belt Railroad, which hauled ore from Ludwig to Wabuska between 1911 and 1947 The last resident was a reclusive artist named Hele Spearman. Before leaving she gave Stan a sculpture of the Madonna that stands in the Simmonses' bedroom today.



Stan and Leia Simmons usually join their guests by the swimming pool at cocktail hour. A hot tub sits to one side of the patio.

Stan and his wife, Leia, provide topographical maps for the dirt-bike and ATV riders who take short runs to Wilson or Burbank canyons or longer backcountry trips to ghost towns like Bodie. "We've got a lot of country to ride in," says Stan.

Recently, guest Orvis Box of Placerville,

PHOTOS: Karl Horeis (top), Joyce Hollister (bottom)

California, and his riding partner, Steve Allen of Citrus Heights, stayed in one of the resort's cottages on the bluff above the river. Built in 1993, the cottages have vaulted ceilings, air conditioning, and patios. As they cooked fettucine and sipped wine, Box and Allen recalled the changes they have seen over the years.

The **cliff-top lounge** also has a driving range A small patch of Astroturf outside the door faces two distant greens.

"I can remember when we'd be dirt biking, and we'd see these little trees Stan had planted. They were about this tall," Allen says, hand to his chest. "Now look at 'em." Outside, 60-foot cottonwoods swayed over the rooftops. Stan and Leia planted more than 1,000 cottonwoods and Russian olives to transform the bleak desert.

After dinner many guests walk over to Hele's Lounge, which is named after the artist. Overlooking the river, Hele's has a bar, slots, pool table, and occasionally live music by Buffalo Country, a local band.

The cliff-top lounge also has a driving range. A small patch of Astroturf outside the door faces two distant greens. Under a full moon, two young golfers hit balls toward the farther green, about 100 yards away. Zach and Jessica Deitrick live in Smith Valley. "Nice one!" Jessica calls after Zach whacks a ball onto the green.

For some folks in Smith Valley, Hele's Lounge is a hot spot all year. "In the winter we have potlucks every week," Leia says. "Boy, do we eat." From October to March the resort hosts pheasant and chukar hunters. Guides with dogs, bird cleaning, and ammo are available at the resort.

When summer rolls around again, it's time for Leia's pool parties. "We all wear leis and make pitchers of margaritas," she says. "We have a white legs contest—our albino sheepherder wins every year."

Karl Horeis is a former reporter for the Nevada Appeal *in Carson City. Nightly rates at Walker River Resort range from tent camping at $16 and RV hookups at $24 to cottages at $74 and $94. For information call 800-446-2573 or 775-465-2573 or visit www.wrresort.com.*

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Martini Magic

Las Vegas artist **Michael Godard** finds success with dancing olives and shimmering cocktail glasses.





Burning It Up: "Actually, I don't drink. I don't do drugs. But I love to play craps, and here the dice are hot. As for the olive, I wanted something fun."

In Michael Godard's paintings, impish green olives climb the sides of martini glasses and cavort on blackjack tables. Cards and poker chips look so realistic you expect to be able to pick them up.

Godard's combination of realism and surrealism doesn't appeal to some art critics, but that doesn't bother him. "I changed the art world and flipped it on its heels," the artist says. "Most people didn't take me seriously, but as soon as I hit the galleries, it went crazy."

The Las Vegas resident, who majored in fine art at UNLV and attended the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, later worked as an illustrator for major corporations. Five years ago Godard was broke and selling his paintings out of the trunk of a car. His break came when the band Dishwalla commissioned him to do a cover painting for their 2002 album, "Opaline." Rock stars and wealthy collectors now buy his work.

Godard has opened more than 40 Oh My Godard franchises, including his first gallery in the Desert Passage at the Aladdin on the Strip. His paintings, giclee prints, and posters are also found in high-end retail stores, and coasters, calendars, clocks, and poker sets are sold at www.michaelgodard.com.

When Godard is not painting, he tours with an entourage that might have art critics shaking their heads. "Most art shows are stuffy," he says. "Our theme this year is 'Magic, Mayhem, and Martinis. We've hired a professional magician and little people dressed as olives."—*Joyce Hollister*

PHOTO: Carlo Roncancio, Las Vegas (top)



Rose Roulette:
"Rose Roulette was a commission for someone who is into flying. As the white ball spins around, it gets really tired, but it can rest on a chair on number 5, the client's lucky number. The rose has a private meaning."



Poker Chips, Big Slick:
"This was a commission for a developer who also is a famous poker player. The 'lucky' coin symbolizes that gamblers are very superstitious."

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Snowperson contest results

Snow Faces

Winners of the Nevada Snowperson Photo Contest.

Thanks to all the readers who entered *Nevada Magazine's* recent **Nevada Snowperson Photo Contest**. The judges placed these photos in the top three because of their inherent Nevada qualities.

—Merrie Leininger



Tumblin' Tumbleweeds

Lisa Tolda of Carson City entered this photo of a Wild West tumbleweed snowman that greeted cars along a road in the Dayton area during the holiday season in 2004. Nevada's dry winters mean some traditions get a little high-desert twist.

Don't Fence Me In

Joy Beldin McDonough of Virginia City took this photo of a cowboy snowman that was perched on her deck. The cowpoke looks ready to ride with his hat and rope. Now all he needs is a snowpony.



That Fresh Pine Scent

While driving up Mount Charleston in the winter of 2004, Tom Bidlack of Queen Creek, Arizona, found this grinning snowperson in a picnic area near Fletcher Canyon Trail.



Nevada Events & Shows

Nevada Magazine's Guide to Entertainment and Attr

March/April 2006



Las Vegas Stars of Comedy

Carrot Top,
George Wallace,
Rita Rudner,
Anthony Cools,
The Amazing Jonathan,
and More

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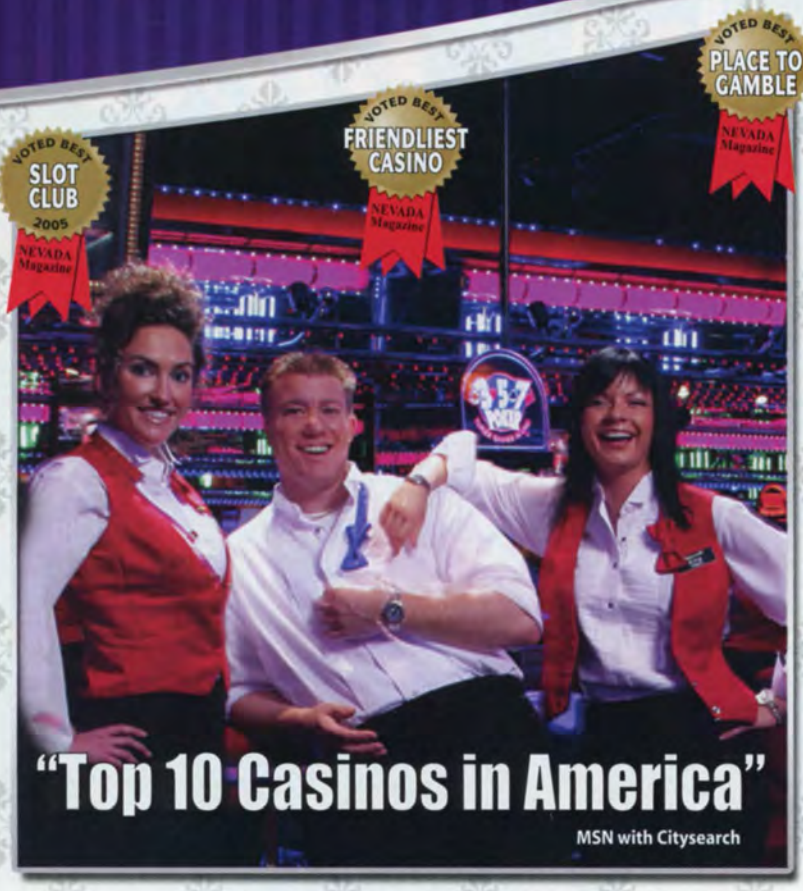
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STYX and "Shew"

What's new in Nevada entertainment.

By Richard Moreno

RENO PEPPERMILL BULKS UP: Construction has started on a 17-story, all-suite, curved glass hotel tower at the Reno ***Peppermill.*** The $230 million expansion includes a year-round, Tuscan-themed pool, more casino and convention space, a new spa and salon, a two-story nightclub, and increased seating at the popular Peppermill buffet and the Romanza restaurant.

NOTHING LASTS FOREVER DEPT.: In Las Vegas, it's so long to the ***Stratosphere's High Roller*** roller coaster and the ***Castaways Casino*** High Roller, which began operating in 1998, is apparently no longer scary enough for patrons of the world's highest amusement rides and will be replaced by "something even more exciting," according to Stratosphere officials As for the Castaways, the former Showboat Casino—its name from 1954 to 2000—was imploded in January by Station Casinos. No plans have been announced for the 26-acre site in Las Vegas where Fremont Street becomes the Boulder Highway.



The Reno Peppermill's $230-milllion expansion will include an all-suite tower.

WHAT'S NEW (IN LAS VEGAS) PUSSYCAT: ***Sir Tom Jones*** will appear in the ***MGM Grand's*** Hollywood Theatre on March 2-15 and April 27-May 10 The surviving members of ***Queen*** and former ***Bad Company*** front man ***Paul Rogers*** perform together at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on April 7 Illusionist ***David Copperfield*** is at the MGM's Hollywood Theatre on March 30-April 12, followed by comedian ***Dennis Miller*** on April 13-17 Funnyman ***Howie Mandel*** is at the MGM on April 18-26 ***STYX*** performs at ***The House of Blues*** at ***Mandalay Bay*** on March 4 while the Pretenders hit the stage on March 25 Hypnotist ***Anthony Cools*** has begun an extended run in the Minstrel Lounge at ***Excalibur*** ***"Menopause, The Musical,"*** a comedy about how women's roles have changed over the years, has begun an extended run at the ***Las Vegas Hilton.***

JUST FOR LAUGHS: The ***Mirage's*** Danny Gans Theatre has ***Jay Leno*** on March 3-4, March 31-April 1, and April 21-22 ***Dana Carvey*** on March 17-18 ***Damon Wayans*** on April 7-8 ***Brad Garrett*** on April 14-15 and ***Wayne Brady*** on April 28-29.


Damon Wayans, who starred in *My Wife and Kids*, comes to the Mirage in April.

CHANGES: Veteran Las Vegas entertainer ***Freddie Bell*** has replaced Sonny King as host of the informal weekend revues that take place at the ***Bootlegger Bistro***. King bowed out due to illness. The new show, called "Freddie Bell's Open House," will have the same format, with longtime Las Vegas entertainers dropping by late on Fridays and Saturdays to perform with Bell.

LIVING LARGE IN LAUGHLIN: The popular ***"Rhythm & Flair"*** and ***"Strip!"*** shows have returned to the stage at ***Harrah's Laughlin*** Harrah's has also expanded dining offerings at its ***Baja Blue Restaurant & Cantina*** and award-winning ***Fresh Market Square Buffet.*** ***The American Heroes Museum of Memories*** at the ***Ramada Express*** was slated to close in February. No announcement has been made regarding a relocation of the attraction devoted to veterans ***"A Really Big Shew, America's Favorite Variety Show,"*** hosted by Ed Sullivan impersonator ***Jerry Hoban*** (he appeared as Sullivan in *Pulp Fiction*), again appears at the ***Flamingo Laughlin***.

NORTH NEWS: ***Roy Clark*** plays ***John Ascuaga's Nugget*** on March 9-11 ***Cab Calloway Orchestra*** follows at the Nugget on March 15 ***Asleep at the Wheel*** is there March 24-25 ***Silver Legacy*** has ***Toni Braxton*** on April 8 ***Pioneer Center*** hosts the touring company of ***"Cats"*** on March 17-19 and ***"Oklahoma!"*** on April 21-23 ***MontBleu*** (formerly Caesars Tahoe) will have comedian ***Kathy Griffin*** on March 3 and ***Dana Carvey*** on March 24-25 ***Harrah's Lake Tahoe*** presents ***Camper Van Beethoven*** on March 4 and ***Skid Row*** on March 11.

AU REVOIR: A tourist stops at Valley of Fire State Park. He joins a tour group that heads into a canyon filled with prehistoric petroglyphs. The guide explains that archaeologists have been carbon dating the rock carvings and believe they are 5,003 years old. Impressed, the tourist asks how the guide can give such a precise figure.

"Simple," replies the guide. "The archaeologists determined the petroglyphs were 5,000 years old, and that was three years ago."

Richard Moreno is Nevada Magazine's *publisher.*

Stars of Comedy

A new crop of headlining comedians offer stand-up, magic, and hypnotism in Las Vegas showrooms.

By Mike Weatherford

Early in his stand-up comedy career, comedian George Wallace landed a 1981 gig as an opening act for Diana Ross at Caesars Palace. He says working Caesars so impressed him that he took a walk by the casino's famous outdoor fountains and wondered if his career would ever go higher or if he should quit while he was ahead.

He didn't, and now he can see those fountains from the other side of the Strip. As the headliner of a nightly show at the Flamingo Las Vegas, Wallace is one of many comedians who are now the stars instead of the opening act, and one of the few working that way year-round.

"I'm doing what I wanted to do when I started out as a comedian 29 years ago. I wanted to work Las Vegas," Wallace says. Jetlagged and weary of airports in the post-9/11 era, he decided to find out if he had built enough name value over the years to make a full-time go of it on the Strip.

It's the same leap Rita Rudner made in 2000, as did the Amazing Jonathan in 1998 and Carrot Top last year. A versatile group of comedians—ranging from conventional stand-ups to hypnotists and comic magicians—have become the Strip's new personality-driven entertainment.

"People who have come here the last four years, they're getting a little Cirqued out. But now



Rita Rudner



George Wallace



Anthony Cools

they have a choice," Wallace says, referring to Las Vegas' dominant player, Cirque du Soleil, and other Vegas options. "As I say every night on stage, they can go see the Blue Man or they can see the black man."

Show business has changed so much that the singing-dancing variety act has become a rare breed on the Strip. Only a few brave souls still try to perpetuate that tradition.

"So much of Vegas shows are the big productions that now it's almost unique to see a guy standing up there without a midget on a bicycle riding by," says Mirage headliner Danny Gans. Though he's an impressionist, Gans says the bulk of his show is comedy. And comedy is the driving force behind several other acts billed more by other genres, particularly comic-magicians Penn and Teller at the Rio and Mac King. King's popular afternoon show at Harrah's Las Vegas came after years of plying his offbeat magic act in comedy clubs. Though magic was his childhood fascination, the comedy club boom of the early 1980s provided the work.

"I was always trying to be funny, but once you start working these clubs with real comedians, the laughs have to come a little faster or you're just a magic act," King says.

Comedians also provide the bulk of the star power when it comes to the Strip's big-name celebrity entertainment. TV sitcoms have enabled Ray Romano, Kevin James, and

Comic Recollections



Las Vegas comedians remember their humble origins.

Q: What happened when you uttered your first swear word?

Rita Rudner: "I think my husband applauded."

George Wallace: "I was a little boy—I must have been five or six —and the milkman came with some chocolate milk. They tell me I said, 'My mama don't want no goddamn chocolate milk. I learned to curse from my uncle next door. My parents were church people."

Q: What was the least amount of money you received for a gig?

Rita Rudner: "A spinach salad. That's what they gave at the Improv, after your set. If you went on that night, you got food. You could choose between a hamburger and a spinach salad."

George Wallace: "I was one of the ones who could actually get a steak."

Carrot Top: "I was a regular contestant in amateur talent nights in South Florida. I would always win the comedy division, unless Larry the Cable Guy won. I would do it either for a Walkman or a night at the hotel. I gave the Walkmans away."

Mac King: "My first paid gig was a society birthday party in the early '70s. I got five bucks and all the cake I could eat. The next thing I did for money was for my grandfather's Kiwanis Club, and I still have a copy of the check somewhere. That was $30, but no cake."

Q: How did you handle your first heckler?

Rita Rudner: "The first time I was onstage, someone heckled me, and I said, 'I'm sorry, this is my first time onstage. Could you come back and heckle me when I'm more experienced?'"

Q: Did your teachers consider you the class clown?

Rita Rudner: "I was the class anesthesiologist. I was very boring, very quiet, and everyone always said, 'What's the matter with Rita?' because I never said anything. I didn't start talking until I was 25. I was a late talker. All I wanted to do was dance."

Carrot Top: "I was the class clown [who teachers thought] wouldn't amount to anything. I played drums always the entertainer. I used to do my Jimmy Carter impression when I was really small. I remember in high school I would dress up like Michael Jackson. My brother and I were both on the swim team, but I was the one that wouldn't focus. I would have more fun trying to make everybody laugh. I would pull my bathing suit way up and dive in."



Mac King: "I guess I was considered the class clown, but I went to a really different high school. I guess you would call it an open school—an experimental school with no separate classrooms or letter grades. It was the '70s, baby. One day I was protesting—I forget what I was protesting—but I wore shorts, a T-shirt, and a sandwich board and walked back and forth in front of the classrooms, hoping I would look like I was naked under the sandwich board. They all just thought that was the coolest thing ever."

George Wallace: "I was always telling jokes. Never was the class clown, but always the social director."


Mac King

David Spade to pack big rooms two or three times per year in Vegas.

Career comedians such as George Carlin and Howie Mandel can sell tickets based more on reputation than their TV work. Like Wallace, they are willing to "four-wall," or work without a financial guarantee from the casino, because their production expenses are low compared to those of a musical act.

When a tiger bite put a premature end to the career of Siegfried and Roy in October 2003, Mirage officials found Gans' 1,265-seat theater to be a perfect place to shore up the casino's entertainment lineup with major comedy names such as Jay Leno and Dana Carvey.

"I knew the room would be great for comics," Gans says. When former casino chairman Steve Wynn asked Gans what kind of theater he wanted, Gans told him "it was really important that the room be acoustically great, but also that people can see my face."

No matter what size the theater, many comedians like to banter with the audience. Rita Rudner is among the stand-ups who chat up the front row and develop running bits from the audience feedback.

"I love that personal contact, where I can focus. I like to focus on names and people," says Rudner, who appears at New York-New York. "I'm not someone who improvises a lot, so it just keeps me in the moment."

Mike Weatherford is an entertainment writer for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

The Lineup

Las Vegas' resident laugh-getters dole out jokes and torture "volunteers."

The Amazing Jonathan: This deranged, continuously profane act started as San Francisco street theater. Jonathan sets himself up as a magician—hence the billing—but the running joke is how little magic he actually gets around to, and how little of it actually works. He does, however, succeed in torturing an audience "volunteer" for the better part of 40 minutes. (Sahara, 702-737-2515)

Carrot Top: The best-known "prop comic" deals in visual punchlines and contraptions he pulls out of seemingly bottomless trunks onstage. He laughs at his own inventions, and before long, the audience does, too. (Luxor, 702-262-4400)

Anthony Cools: Hypnotists come and go in Las Vegas, but this one stands out. It's not so much what his subjects do but because Cools is funny in his own right. He has so many one-liners, he could probably do a straight comedy show if he had to. But it's much more fun to watch his double takes at the raunchy behavior his graphic act incites. (Excalibur, 702-597-7600; also see "Last Word," page 88.)

Vinnie Favorito: "Buckle Up," the poster advises, for a latter-day Don Rickles who likes to dole out the ethnic jokes while doing a high-wire act that largely eschews monologues in favor of winging his put-down humor. (O'Sheas, 702-697-2711)

Mac King: The star of a long-running afternoon show dresses like a ragtime-era hayseed in a plaid suit, greets the crowd with a big "Howdy," and reacts to his own illusions with wide-eyed wonder. It's all part of a carefully crafted comic persona that conjures the childlike atmosphere of a more innocent era. (Harrah's Las Vegas, 702-369-5111)

Ronn Lucas: Why work alone when you can let the puppet do the dirty work? Ventriloquist Ronn Lucas keeps a classic show business tradition alive with the help of a cute dragon named Scorch and a salty sidekick named Billy. (Rio All-Suite Hotel, 702-252-7776)

Penn and Teller: Penn is the tall one who never shuts up, Teller is the silent one with silent-movie facial expressions. The durable comedy team ushered in a more sophisticated era of Las Vegas entertainment with their macabre humor and intellectual approach. (Rio All Suite Hotel, 702-252-7776)

Rita Rudner: The genteel, slow-burn wit of this musical-voiced muse stands out on a Strip more devoted to crass male pursuits. But watch out. Behind the lady-like persona lurks wicked thoughts. (New York-New York, 702-740-6969)

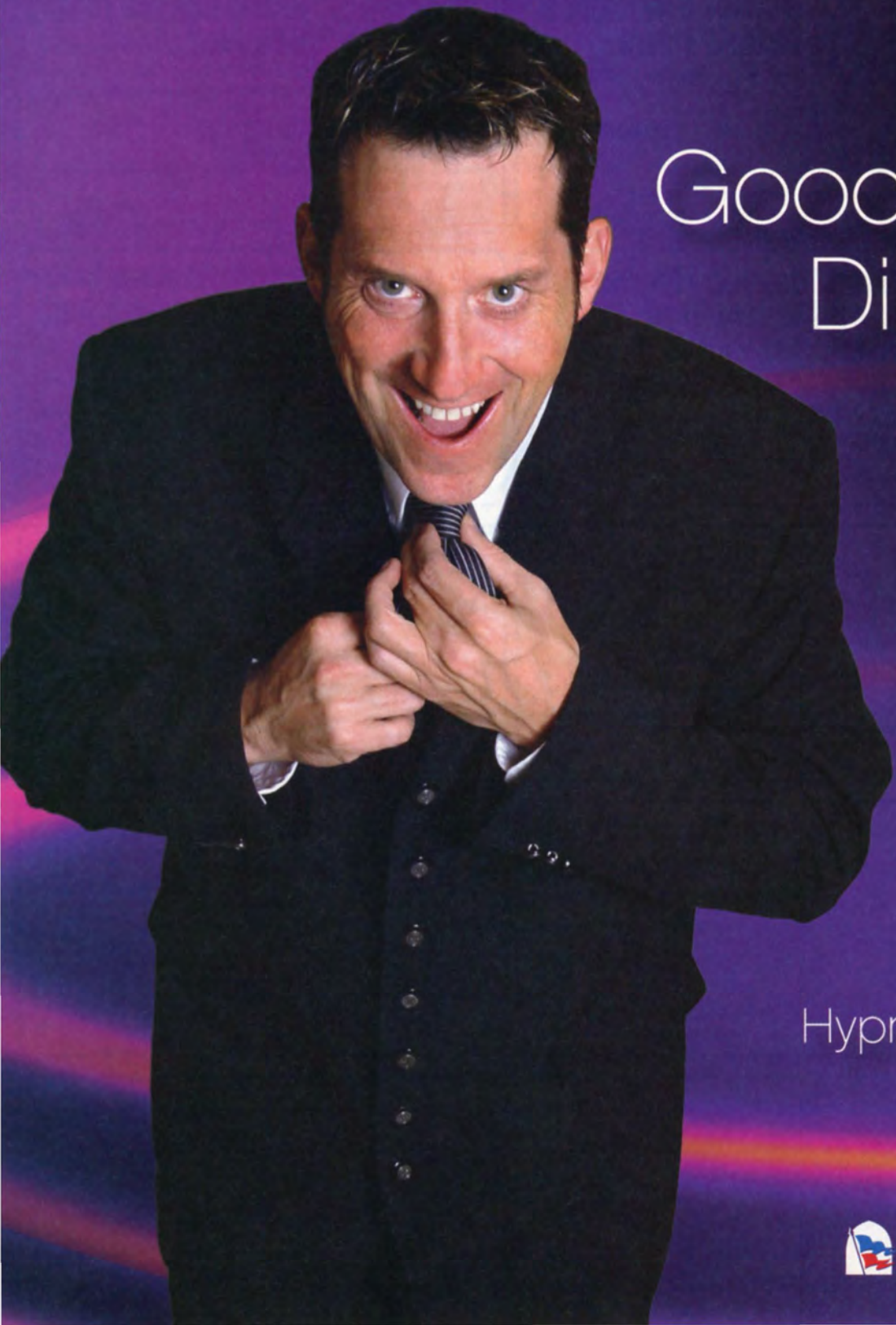
George Wallace: Jerry Seinfeld has been known to do walk-ons during his longtime buddy's performance. Wallace acts the grouchy old man, finding humor in the behavior of the young and old alike. "It's taking a little time," he says of his self-financed showcase, "but it's starting to be what I want it to be, the way Vegas used to be, when the entertainers would just walk out onstage [unbilled] and visit each other." (Flamingo Las Vegas, 702-733-3333)

—Mike Weatherford


The Amazing Jonathan

Anthony Cools

raw and uncensored



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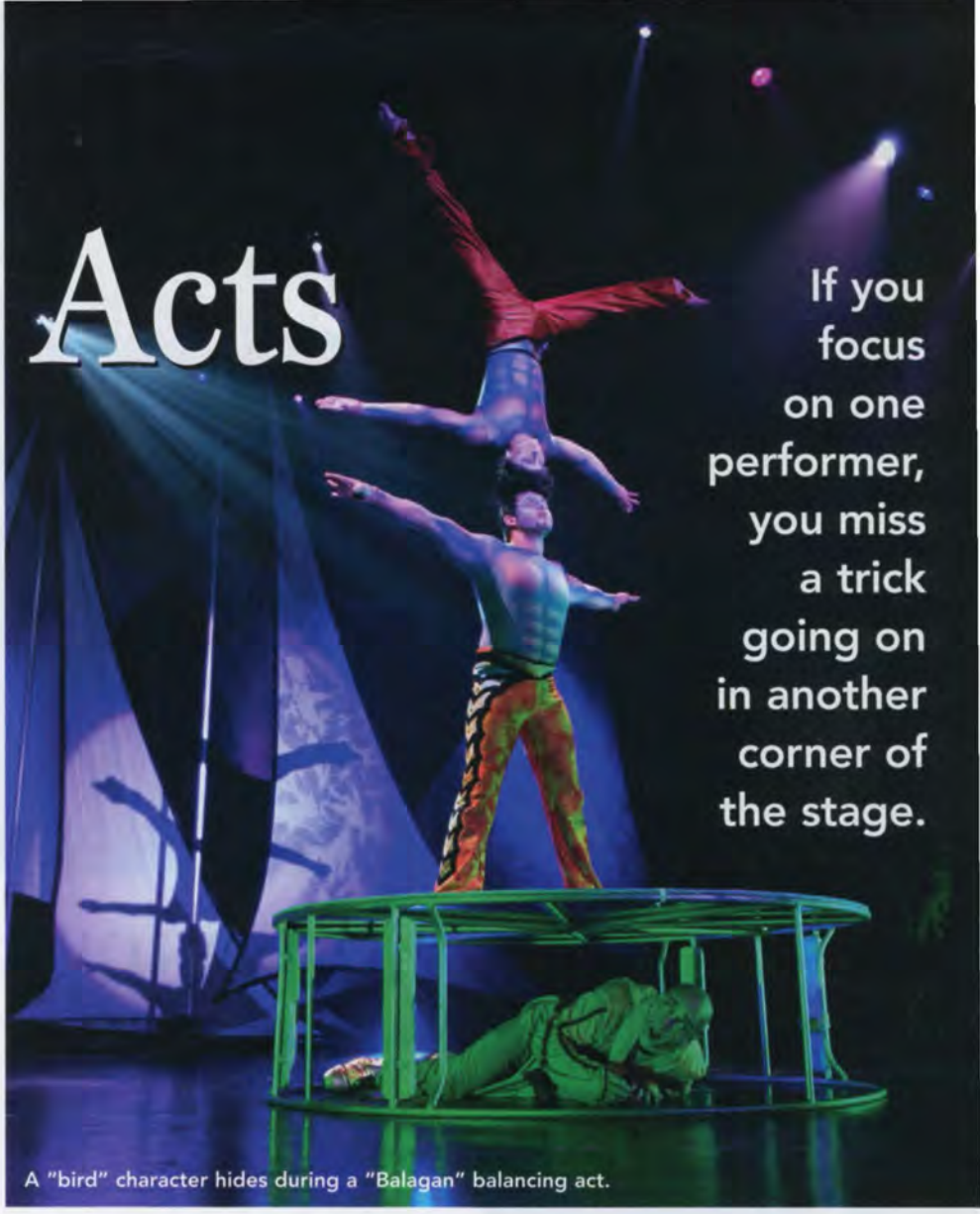
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Circus Acts

"Balagan" acrobats, clowns, and dancers offer a Cirque-like show at Reno's Eldorado

By Merrie Leininger



A "bird" character hides during a "Balagan" balancing act.

"Balagan" always surprises. When you think the acrobats couldn't jump any higher or tumble any faster, they do. When you think you know what the clown will be doing with that flaming torch, you don't.

The Cirque-style show at the Eldorado Hotel in downtown Reno is based on the European acrobats and artists who performed for money at the balagan, or marketplace, in old Russia, says producer Misha Matorin.

"The talented people would get together, and if they performed well, they would eat," he says. In this updated balagan, the audience seems more than willing to pay to see the performers.

Before the lights go down, English actor Jonathan Baker, playing the silent comic, trundles into the crowd carrying armfuls of oversized luggage. Baker makes a big show of dumping the bags on audience members, then pulls a patron out of his seat and turns him into a coat rack. Next, he spritzes a huge potted plant—and a nearby guest.

"He's the character who really connects with the audience," Matorin says of the Buster Keaton-like character Baker plays.

Like most circuses, "Balagan" doesn't have a discernible storyline. Acrobats appear in a swirl of colors, and creatures on stilts weave in and out. A scrawny bird carries an egg throughout the show. The egg grows larger and larger but never hatches. Old crones become young dancers, a cane turns into an umbrella, and a boy suddenly flies around the stage, suspended from two red banners. Polina Volchek, a young Russian gymnast in white tights, twirls a hoola-hoop. One hoop becomes two, then three, then seven—which she spins around her legs and waist and arms while she does handstands and backbends. Finally, she deftly spins what seems to be hundreds of hoops.

After a recent show, Volcheck said she likes Reno and performed at the Eldorado in 2003 in "Taganai," another Misha Matorin production. She says "Balagan's" cast members—aged 15 to 37 including fathers and sons and married couples—live in downtown apartments during the six-month run. On their one day off, they often take trips together to Lake Tahoe. The rest of the time, Volcheck is rehearsing. She said the hoola-hoop act is the result of a year of work.

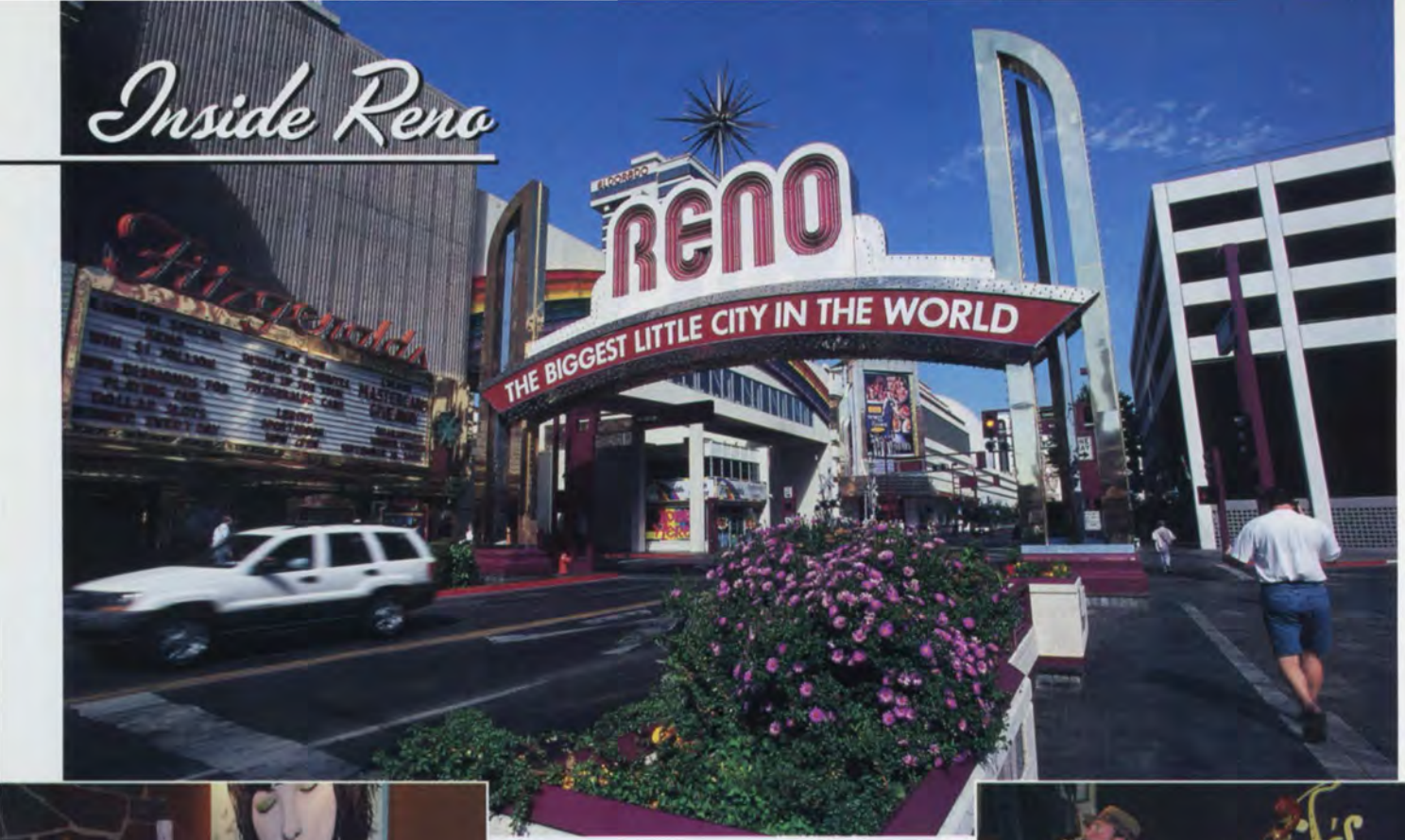
"Balagan" presents the audience with tough choices. If you focus on one performer, you miss a trick going on in another corner of the stage. Look at the big picture, and you miss the thrilling details. Matorin says this multi-layered, kaleidoscopic aspect of the show brings people back.

"Every time they see a show, they see something new," he says. "People are captivated because they always want something more to happen, and we give it to them."

Show Notes

"Balagan" plays nightly except Monday until July 2 in the Eldorado Showroom in Reno. Tickets start at $28.95, with discounts for seniors over 60 and children ages five to 12. For more information call the Eldorado at 800-648-5966 or 775-786-5700 or visit eldoradoreno.com.

Merrie Leininger is the assistant editor of the Reno Gazette-Journal's *Calendar, a weekly entertainment section.*




Chocolate fondu at the Chocolate Bar.

Company's Coming

Cool places where we take out-of-town visitors in Reno.

BY RICHARD MORENO


The New World Project at EJ's Jazz Cafe.

As I hung up the phone, I realized what I had just said. I had invited old friends from out of town to visit. What was I supposed to do with them during their stay?

Fortunately, I live in Reno, where there is no shortage of places to go or things to do. From kayaking on the Truckee River to enjoying a white chocolate almond truffle at the Chocolate Bar, Reno offers plenty of ways to keep your guests busy.

Gaming and Entertainment

Of course, nearly every visitor wants to take in at least a little bit of Nevada-style gaming, and there are lots of places to go. In downtown Reno, you can play slot machines, video poker, and table games at more than a half dozen major casinos including **Circus Circus, Club Cal Neva, Eldorado, Harrah's Reno, Sands, Silver Legacy,** and **Fitzgeralds.**


Louis Erreguible serves a picon punch at Louis' Basque Restaurant.

Beyond downtown, we often take friends and family to one of several stand-alone hotel-casinos, including the **Atlantis** and **Peppermill,** located south of downtown, the **Reno Hilton,** which is east of downtown, and **John Ascuaga's Nugget** in nearby Sparks.

Nearly all of Reno's resorts boast regular entertainment ranging from free lounge acts and long-running revues (like "Bareback" at Harrah's and "Balagan" at the Eldorado) to top performers like Jerry Seinfeld, Ray Romano, and Keith Urban, who have appeared at the Silver Legacy and Reno Hilton.

In the summer months, the **Reno Hilton's Outdoor Amphitheater,** which

seats 8,500, hosts contemporary acts such as Jack Johnson and Maroon 5 that appeal to the young crowd, and our boomer friends like to see classic rock stars like ZZ Top, Foreigner, and Heart.

Harrah's Events Plaza, an outdoor pavilion in the center of downtown, is another popular summer concert stage. Chuck Berry, Kool and the Gang, Blue Oyster Cult, and the Beach Boys have played the plaza.

The **Reno Events Center** has also become a popular entertainment venue since it opened last year. Recent performers have included Willie Nelson, Los Lonely Boys, and Brooks and Dunn.

For those who lean to the theatrical, the **Brüka Theater** (775-323-3221) in downtown Reno offers contemporary plays such as "Frozen," "The Underpants," and "Resident Alien." The **Reno Little Theater** (775-329-0661) mounts classic stage productions like "Rehearsal for Murder."

The **Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts** (775-686-6600) is home to the Reno Philharmonic, the Nevada Opera, and the "Broadway Comes to Reno" series, which this year features "Cats," "Oklahoma!," and "Hairspray."

Dancing/Clubbing

When our guests are looking for live music and lively dance floors, we often head to Reno's nightclubs. At the Eldorado's **BuBinga Lounge,** we enjoy the hot club sounds and cool drinks. **The Garage** at the Reno Hilton presents live bands nightly, with name artists such as Joe Bonamassa and A.J. Croce. Weekends you'll find dueling pianos at **Rum Bullions Island Bar** inside the Silver Legacy and jazz at **Roxy's Bar and Lounge** at the Eldorado. Singer Clairdee often appears at the **Sapphire Lounge** at Harrah's Reno.

Additionally, there are several smaller Reno clubs that cater to more eclectic tastes, including the **Reno Jazz Club** (775-322-5011) on Fourth Street. **EJ's Jazz Café** (775-324-9900) in downtown Reno presents entertainers such as the Mario Flores Latin Jazz Band and blues singer Donna Lynne.

Dining Out

When it's time to dine, the choices range from foie gras to fajitas. Reno's hotels offer some of the city's top restaurants, including:

Romanza Ristorante Italiano, the **Steak House,** and **White Orchid** at the Peppermill (800-648-6992). The White Orchid is a longtime winner of the AAA Four Diamond Award.

MonteVigna Italian Ristorante, Atlantis Seafood Steakhouse, and the **Oyster Bar** on the Sky Terrace at the Atlantis (800-723-6500).

Lexie's on the River at the Siena (775-327-4362).

Sterling's Seafood Steakhouse and **Fairchild's Oyster Bar** at the Silver Legacy (800-687-8733).

La Strada, Roxy's, and the **Brew Brothers** brewpub at the Eldorado (775-348-9271).

Art Gecko's Southwest Grill and **Kokopelli's Sushi Bar** at Circus Circus (800-648-5010).

Café Napa, Ichiban, and **Harrah's Steak House,** which has AAA's four diamonds, at Harrah's Reno (800-423-1121).

Andiamo and **Asiana,** two fine-dining spots at the Reno Hilton (800-748-9478).

Orozko, Trader Dick's, and the **Steak House Grill** at John Ascuaga's Nugget (866-265-7575).

Of course, that's not to say that fine dining is found only in the resorts. Other options include **Rapscallion Seafood House** (800-823-6638), **Luciano's** (775-322-7373), **La Famiglia Ristorante** (775-324-1414), **Lulou's** (775-329-9979), the **Washoe Grill** (775-786-1323), and **La**



PHOTOS: Opposite page: Larry Turner (top), Denise Barr (middle left and right), Joyce Hollister (bottom)





Brüka Theatre offers contemporary plays. Right: The White Orchid at the Peppermill.

Vecchia (775-825-1113). If our visitors want to go where the locals eat, we take them to family favorites like **Beto's Mexican Food** (775-324-0632), the **Little Nugget** (775-323-0716, home of the famous "Awful Awful" burger), the **Silver Peak Brewery** (775-324-1864), **Louis' Basque Corner** (775-323-7203), **Bertha Miranda's Mexican Restaurant** (775-786-9697), **Peg's Glorified Ham & Eggs** (775-329-2600), **Pirate's Pizza** (775-828-0900), or **Blue Moon Gourmet Pizza** (775-324-2828).

After dinner, we like to visit Reno's more casual dessert and coffee joints such as the **Chocolate Bar** (775-337-1122) and **Deux Gros Nez** (775-786-9400). The Chocolate Bar specializes in chocolate-flavored libations and desserts, while Deux Gros Nez is a hip coffeehouse with espresso and coffee as well as music, juice bar, pastries, and a largely vegetarian lunch and dinner menu.

Recharging the Batteries

Nothing gets the blood flowing like a massage. Fortunately, Reno has a number of European-style spas designed to pamper guests.

For example, at the **Peppermill Salon and Spa** (775-826-2121), guests can be treated to deep tissue massages and facials while the **Silver Legacy Health Spa** (775-329-4777) has 80-minute Swedish massages, Baltic-mud body wraps, and European rose body wraps.

The **Spa and Salon at Atlantis** (775-825-4700) has a full menu of treatments such as a pumpkin enzyme wrap and cinnamon and clove sugar scrub.

The **Siena Spa** (775-327-4362) provides massages, facials, and a variety of specialty packages ranging from an aromatherapy body wrap to chocolate mint body polish.

In Sparks, your visitors can relax at **Chonne's Salon and Spa** at John Ascuaga's Nugget (775-356-3485), which

Area Attractions

Many public parks, museums, and other attractions illustrate why Reno draws nearly five million visitors each year. One tip: the Sierra Spirit (775-348-RIDE) is a free bus system throughout downtown Reno with stops near most major hotel-casinos and attractions.

Here are several of the places where we like to take our guests:

Circus Circus Reno Arcade, an indoor midway with 33 classic carnival games, more than 75 arcade games, and free circus acts. This is a particular popular destination for visitors with kids.



The Nevada Museum of Art.

Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk, which offers a pleasant stroll on the banks of the river that flows through the center of downtown Reno.

Nevada Museum of Art (775-329-3333), a four-level, 55,000-square-foot building housing several art galleries. Recent shows have featured works by Auguste Rodin, Diego Rivera, and Edward Hopper.

National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection) (775-333-9300), which boasts more than 200 rare, vintage automobiles, including several one-of-a-kind models like the 1938 Phantom Corsair and the 1949 Mercury driven by actor James Dean in the film, *Rebel Without a Cause.*

Rancho San Rafael Park (775-785-4512), home of the Wilbur D. May Museum, the Great Basin Adventure children's theme park, and the May Arboretum.

Wild Island (775-359-2927) in Sparks is a water park with a dozen large and small slides, wave pool, float river, and other amusements. Adjacent is Adventure Golf at Wild Island, a Formula K Raceway, bowling alley, and roller coaster.

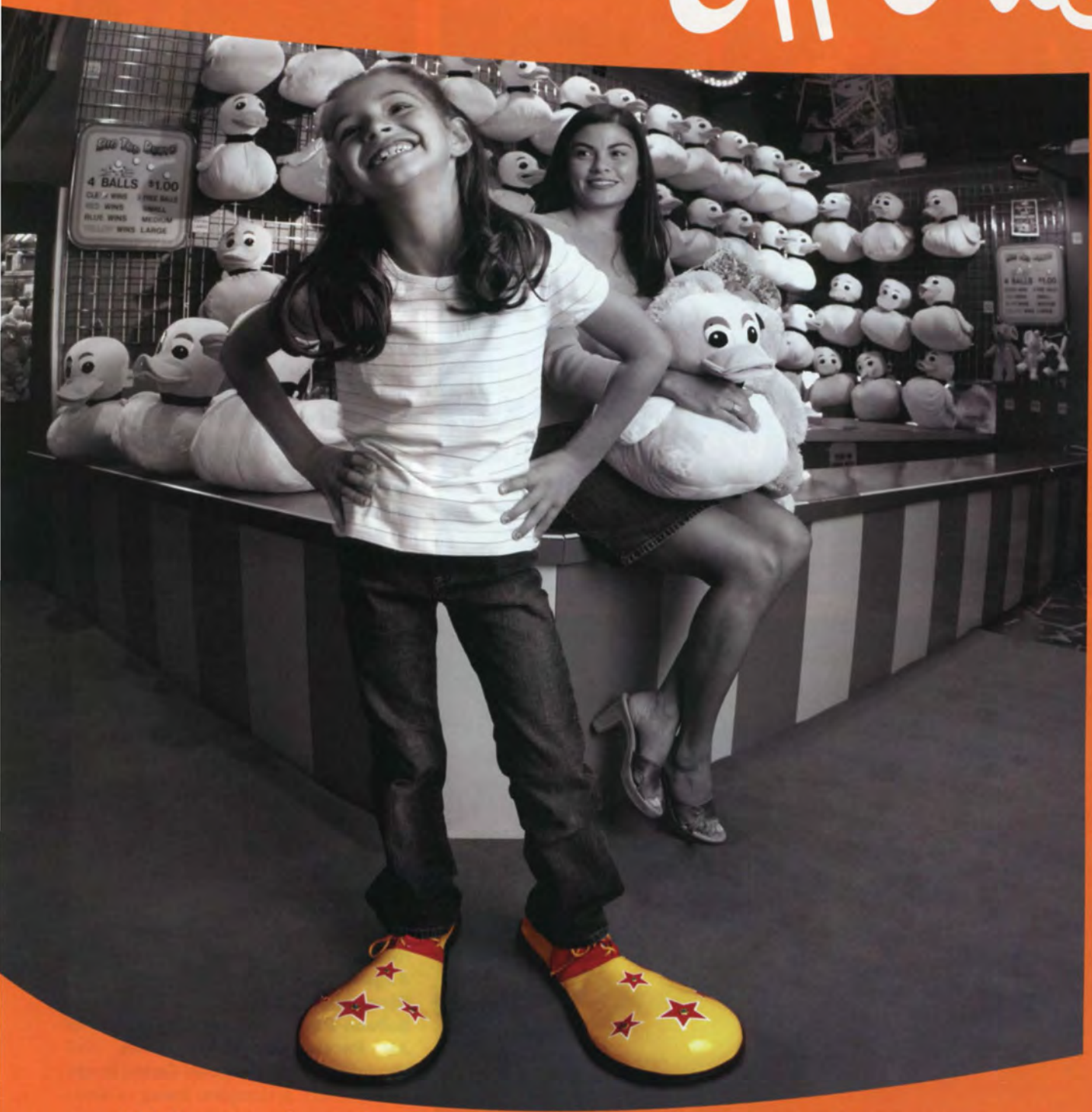


A view from the river walk.

Virginia City (775-847-7500), a 19th-century mining town located 24 miles southeast of Reno. This authentic Old West community is home to dozens of historic mansions, houses, and buildings. You can ride the Virginia and Truckee Railroad and tour Piper's Opera House or the Fourth Ward School Museum.

PHOTOS: Denise Barr (top left and middle right)

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Insider's Guide to Reno



Sierra Spirit transit system offers free rides.

has full and half-day pamper packages that include massage, facial, manicure, and hairstyling.

Recreation

As "America's Adventure Place," Reno serves as home base for a number of outdoor activities that might appeal to guests looking for something active to do. In the warmer months, we take visitors to the **Truckee River Whitewater Park,** the new public kayaking course through the center of Reno. Kayak and rafting rentals are available nearby.

Thirty miles southwest of Reno is **Lake Tahoe,** one of America's most beautiful alpine lakes. In addition to spectacular scenery, Lake Tahoe offers boating, sailing, water-skiing, mountain biking, and hiking in the summer and world-class skiing and snowboarding in the winter.

Special Events

Reno has a full schedule of events that appeal to a range of interests and ages. The area's most popular spring and summer annual events include **The Reno Jazz Festival** (April), **Reno River Festival, Cinco de Mayo** (May), **Great Eldorado BBQ, Brews, and Blues Festival, Reno Rodeo** (June), **Artown** (all July), **Hot August Nights, Nevada State Fair, Reno-Tahoe Open** (August), **Great Reno Balloon Race, National Championship Air Races, Street Vibrations,** and **Virginia City International Camel Races** (September). A complete listing of Reno events can be found in the Nevada Events & Shows section of each issue of *Nevada Magazine.*

For More Information:

Call the **Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority,** 800-FOR-RENO, or log onto www.visitrenotahoe.com.

Richard Moreno is Nevada's *publisher.*

PHOTO: Joyce Hollister

Fish Tales

Mermaids at the Silverton and a **dog's** life in Las Vegas. **By Ann Henderson**



Mermaids and mermen perform water ballets in the aquarium at the Silverton in Las Vegas.

Underwater Ballet

When the **Silverton** serves a seafood dinner and a show, it goes beyond your normal fare. Located on the southern outskirts of Las Vegas on I-15, the Silverton has been a favorite with truckers because of its proximity to a truck stop and for its reputation for serving good food in big-rig portions. Thanks to a $150-million expansion, the Silverton has been making some drastic changes.

The first of several planned updates is apparent when you step through the property's main entrance. On your right is a two-story waterfall and behind it a sportsman's dream, the 165,000-square-foot Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, where you can buy items ranging from NASCAR gear to every imaginable size of fishing line.

Next to the waterfall is the floor-to-ceiling, 117,000-gallon aquarium where showgoers can get nose-close to 100 species of saltwater fish. Entertainment starts daily at 1:30 p.m., when a diver hand-feeds greedy fish and stingrays and answers questions from the audience.

Mermaids and mermen perform nine different choreographed water ballets in "Azure," the main attraction, daily except Monday and Tuesday. Several of the 10 synchronized swimmers and their coach, Stephan Miermont, are ex-Olympians, and Miermont was an original cast member of Cirque du Soleil's "O" at the Bellagio.

At the Mermaid Restaurant and Lounge, you can sit in a high-backed chair, watch the fish and mer-people glide around the aquarium, and sip specialty drinks like High Tide, Blue Mermaid, King Neptune, and Shark Attack. The lounge has low, round tables but offers no ordinary bar food. Menu items include fire-roasted artichokes, iced shellfish, fried calamari, Southern fried catfish, Maryland crab cakes, and Baja fish tacos. The Mermaid Restaurant's most popular item is the artichoke and lobster dip, which is rich and cheesy. (The secret is the mascarpone cheese, says executive chef Bradley Owens.) If you'd like a copy of the Silverton's recipe, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Lobster and Artichoke Dip, Nevada Magazine, 555 E. Washington, Suite 5600, Las Vegas, NV 89101.

Show Notes: Free 10-minute "Azure" performances are offered hourly from 5 to 10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 2 to 10:30 p.m. Friday, 2 to 10 p.m. Saturday, and 1 to 7 p.m. Sunday. The fish swim up to be fed daily at 1:30, 4:30, and 7:30 p.m. For information call 702-263-7777 or visit www.silvertoncasino.com.



A fur collar makes a statement on the runway at Lush Puppy.



An elegant whippet models Lush Puppy's latest.

Dogs on the Catwalk

Fashion-conscious cats and dogs whining for the latest in cashmere sweaters, chew toys, or spa products are welcome at **Lush Puppy**, the new pet boutique at Mandalay Place, the shopping complex at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. Animal-wear designers like Juicy Couture make jewelry, feather boas, jeweled collars, sports jerseys, and boots. A sentimental crowd attended a fashion show at Lush Puppy's grand opening in January. Adoptable dogs from the animal shelter were paraded down the catwalk wearing Lush Puppy finery. It was one of those warm and furry evenings.

Ann Henderson is Nevada Magazine's *entertainment and events editor.*

PHOTO: Las Vegas News Bureau (middle)

Grand Gulch

You can stargaze at night and explore fantastic formations by day at **Cathedral Gorge State Park.**

By Barbara Rohde



The ravages of wind, water, and time have formed one of the most starkly beautiful areas in the Silver State. Cathedral Gorge State Park is a labyrinth of clay spires and cave-like recesses that resemble fanciful wedding cakes and gothic cathedrals.

"Panaca Gulch" was the name given to the park by the 1864 settlers of the town of Panaca, two miles south of Cathedral Gorge. But the terrain, which is typical high desert with rounded hills surrounding flat valley floors, hides the "Gulch's" real grandeur—an accessible, small-scale Grand Canyon.

As a park interpreter, I have called the gorge my workplace for nearly 20 years. Those who come to camp will find a pleasant tree-shaded campground with a grill and table at each site. Modern restrooms with showers are available year-round. Saturday hikes and night programs are offered from April through October, and visitors can learn about wildlife, wildflowers, edible plants, local history, and geology. They also can stargaze and take moonlight hikes. The Las Vegas Astronomical Society discovered the clear, dark skies of the gorge in 1986 and chose the area for their members' annual Star Party campout in September.

The park's program titles give you a hint of what you might learn. "Bats in Your Belfry," "Deer Me," "Creepy Crawly Critters," "Varmints," "Flying Jewels," and "Birds of a Feather" describe the wildlife found in the area. "Home Sweet Nevada" presents the area's past as seen through historic homes and structures. "Life Cycle of a Rock" discusses the geologic formation of the gorge, while "Mrs. Godbe's Gorge" details the history of the park during the 110 years since Mary W. Godbe renamed Panaca Gulch "Cathedral Gulch." The 1,608-acre area became a state park in 1935.

Another history program, "Where the Buffalo Roamed," tells of the mystery that surrounds one of the park's early inhabitants. In 1975 a California family discovered large bones and skulls poking through the hard clay mud of the gorge. They took some of the bones and a skull to be analyzed by the Roy Alf Museum in Claremont, California. The remains were identified as a bison, estimated to be 12,000 years old. Previously, bison were not

In 1975 a California family discovered **large bones and skulls** poking through the hard clay mud of the gorge.

Visitors can learn about wildlife, wildflowers, edible plants, local history, and geology.

PHOTO: Larry Angier





Layered clay formations at Cathedral Gorge State Park have formed majestic spires (opposite page) and recesses to explore on nature walks (above left). Park interpreter Barbara Rohde (above right) shares some of the area's mysteries with young visitors at a park program.

thought to have resided in Eastern Nevada at that time. After the bones were returned to the park in 1993, they were carbon-dated by the Desert Research Institute in Las Vegas and found to be only 600 to 800 years old. The archaeological find is on display in the park's visitor center, which celebrates its 10th anniversary in May.

When You Go

Cathedral Gorge State Park is located two miles northwest of Panaca, 11 miles south of Pioche, 16 miles north of Caliente, and 163 miles north of Las Vegas on U.S. 93. The park has 24 campsites. The visitor center has information on area attractions such as the Million Dollar Courthouse, Lincoln County Museum, and Boot Hill Cemetery in Pioche, the Box Car Museum in Caliente, the Elgin Living History Schoolhouse Museum, and the area's four other state parks—Beaver Dam, Spring Valley, Echo Canyon, and Kershaw-Ryan. For information call 775-728-4460 or visit www.parks.nv.gov.

Barbara Rohde is a park interpreter at the Regional Information Center at Cathedral Gorge State Park. Rohde resides in the farming community of Panaca.

Cathedral Gorge State Park

PROGRAM CALENDAR

APRIL

1 • April Fool's Hike, noon, easy, short.
8 • Adventure Hike, 9am, moderate, long.
15 • The Bunny Trail Hike, 10am, easy hike for kids.
22 • Flintknapping Demonstration, 2pm.
29 • Birds of a Feather, 7:30pm, slide program.

MAY

6 • Home Sweet Nevada, 8pm, slide program.
13 • Moonlight Hike, 8pm.
20 • Wildflowers of Eastern Nevada, 8pm, slide program.
27 • Life Cycle of a Rock, 8pm, slide program.
28 • Sunday Morning Geology-Nature Walk, 8:30-10am. Cookies and punch served 10am-3pm to celebrate visitor center's 10th anniversary.

JUNE

3 • GPS Workshop, 6:30-8pm, part of National Trails Day.
10 • Moonlight Hike, 8pm.
17 • Flintknapping Demonstration, 5:30pm.
24 • Stargazing, 8pm, viewing platform by Campsite 5.

JULY

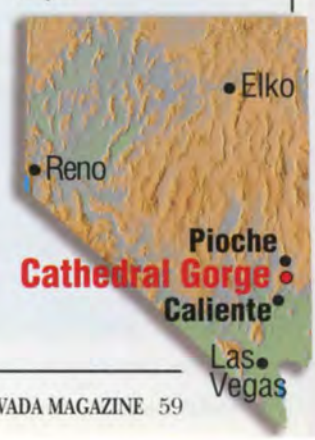
1 • Beat the Heat Summer Survival Tips, 7:30pm.
2 • Sunday Morning Geology Walk, 7:30-9am.
8 • Moonlight Hike, 8pm.
14 • Winged Jewels (butterflies), 8:30pm, slide program.
22 • Pioneer Days, Pioneer Ways, 7pm, slide program.
29 • Creepy Crawly Critters, 8:30pm, slide program.

AUGUST

19 • Where the Buffalo Roamed, 8:30pm, slide show.
26 • The First Campers, 8pm, slide program.

SEPTEMBER

2 • The Lost '49ers, 7:30pm, slide program.
3 • Sunday Morning Geology Walk, 8:30-10am.
9 • Dutch Oven Cook-Off, 5:30pm (4pm for participants).
16 • Varmints, 7:30pm, slide program.
23 • Las Vegas Astronomical Society's 20th Anniversary Star Party, 7:30pm, short, easy nature walk, 10am.
30 • Nuts About Pines, 7:30pm.



PHOTOS: Cathedral Gorge State Park

NEVADA Events & Shows

Nevada Magazine's complete guide to activities and entertainment. Call ahead to confirm details.

Las Vegas

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS

Events

"Intimate Apparel" • March 1-5, 8-12 • Struggles of an African-American seamstress. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 702-895-ARTS.

UNLV Women's Basketball • The Lady Rebels play March 2 vs. New Mexico. Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

A Wrinkle in Time • March 2 • Winter Youth Series film combines science fiction, fantasy, and adventure. East Las Vegas Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

The Roots of Rhythm • March 2 • Documentary traces the development of Latin music. East Las Vegas Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

First Friday in the Arts District • March 3 • Cultural block party, 6-10pm. Main St. and Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, www.firstfriday-lasvegas.org.

"Macbeth" • March 3-4 • Utah Shakespearean Festival presentation. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.

Kawasaki Team Green Laughlin U.S. Hare Scrambles • March 3-5 • Off-road motorcycle race. State Route 163, 10 miles west of Laughlin, 702-457-5775.

"Jack and the Bean Stalk" • March 4 • Missoula Children's Theatre presentation. Multigenerational Center, Henderson, 702-267-5819.

U.S. Army Field Band and Soldier's Chorus • March 4 • Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-267-5819.

UNLV Men's Basketball • March 4 vs. TCU. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.



Competitors race 44-foot Chinese war canoes April 15-17 at Lake Las Vegas in Henderson.



Faculty Solo Festival • March 5 • Music from the Baroque period to the 20th century. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.

Oscar Night America • March 5 • Benefit for the Arthritis Foundation. Bellagio, Las Vegas, 702-367-1626.

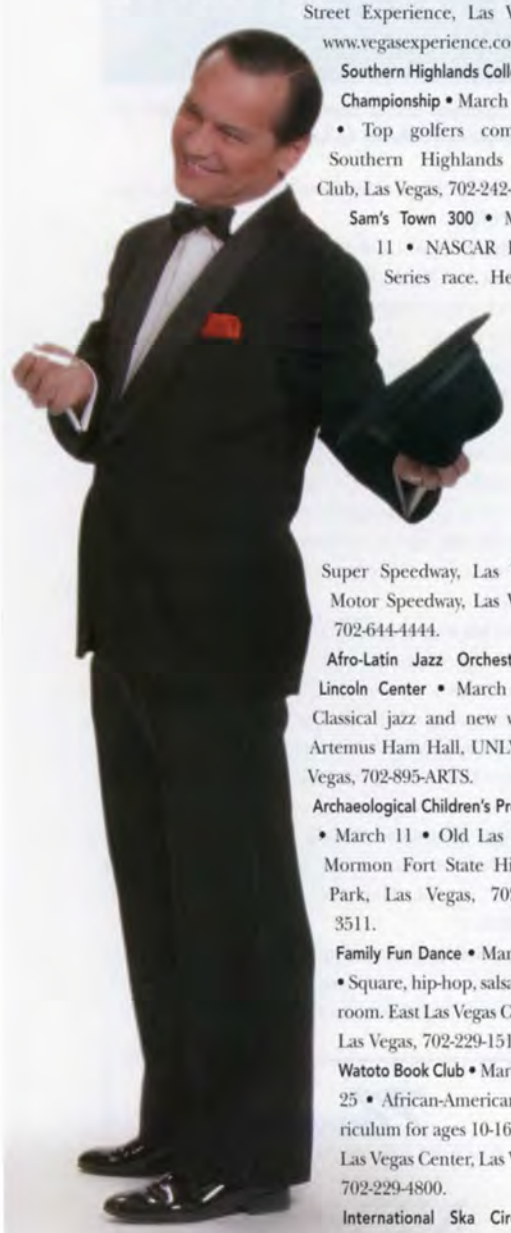
$70,000 From Laughlin with Love Slot Tournament • March 5-7 • Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 702-298-4000.

Annual Dam Dance • March 6 • 33rd annual square and round dance. Boulder City Recreation Center, Boulder City, 702-348-4906.

World of Outlaws • March 9-10 • Winged sprint cars race on the dirt track. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

"Snow Queen" • March 10 • BYU Ballet Company performs the Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale. Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 702-346-2787.

NASCAR Race Jam • March 10-12 • Concerts featuring Jason Aldean and David Lee Murphy held in conjunction with NASCAR Weekend at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, www.vegasexperience.com.



Streisand and Sinatra impersonators at the Riviera's Le Bistro Theatre.

Southern Highlands Collegiate Championship • March 10-12 • Top golfers compete. Southern Highlands Golf Club, Las Vegas, 702-242-3000.

Sam's Town 300 • March 11 • NASCAR Busch Series race. Held at Super Speedway, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra at Lincoln Center • March 11 • Classical jazz and new works. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Archaeological Children's Program • March 11 • Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Family Fun Dance • March 11 • Square, hip-hop, salsa, ballroom. East Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

Watoto Book Club • March 11, 25 • African-American curriculum for ages 10-16. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

International Ska Circus • March 11-12 • Government Center Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200 for further event information.



NASCAR Weekend brings drivers and fans to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway March 10-12.

UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400 • March 12 • NASCAR Nextel Cup Series race. Super Speedway, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Nevada Chamber Symphony • March 12 • Concert. Clark County Library Theater, Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.

Las Vegas Wind Quintet • March 12 • Classical music. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Nevada Jazz Orchestra Concert • March 12 • Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-313-6778.

$26,000 Golf Tournament • March 12-14 • Host hotel Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 702-298-4000.

Shamrock Shenanigans and April Shower of 7's Slot Tournaments • March 13-15 • Flamingo Laughlin, 702-298-5055.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration • March 16-20 • Parade, festival, block party. Water Street, Downtown Henderson, 702-267-2171.

St. Patrick's Day Party • March 17 • Tempest performs for the Irish block party. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, www.vegasexperience.com.

Student Dance Concert • March 17 • Variety revue. BackStage Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.

Sharon Lynn Academy of Irish Dance • March 17 • Noon performance. Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse, Las Vegas, 702-229-4614.

St. Patrick's Day Dance • March 17 • Big-band music. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

The Poets' Corner • March 17 • Established and open mike participants. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800 for information.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" • March 17-19 • Shakespeare's romantic story by the Nevada Ballet Theatre. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Lazer Vaudeville • March 18 • Comedy performance for families. Valley View Recreation Center, 705-267-5819.

Spring Festival • March 19 • Family picnic features food, entertainment, contests, music. Freedom Park, Las Vegas, 702-444-4526.

"The Wonders" • March 19 • Three women struggle to find a Jewish way of life in America. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Wednesday Night Street Wars and Motorcycle Madness • March 22 • Drag racing. The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Russian National Orchestra • March 24 • Program includes works by Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Giving Is Contagious Awards Gala • March 24 • Black-tie fundraiser features dinner, auction, concert by the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra. Wynn Las Vegas, 702-735-7001 for information.

Red Rock Rendezvous • March 24-26 • Rock climbing festival includes clinics for all levels of expertise, dinner buffet and demonstrations. More than 1,000 participants are expected to attend. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas. For a schedule of activities and prices call 800-829-2009.

"Take Me Out" • March 24-April 8 • Tony Award-winning play about a pro baseball star who learns a hard lesson about fame. Las Vegas Little Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-362-7996 for information.

Rita Coolidge • March 25 • Grammy Award-winning singer. Henderson Pavilion, Henderson, 702-267-5819.

Old Time Barn Dance • March 25 • Square dancing, mixers,



Grammy winner Rita Coolidge sings on March 25 at the Henderson Pavilion.

contras, waltzes, polkas. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Salsa Dance • March 25 • Latin music, pre-dance workshop. East Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

Monster Jam World Finals 2006 • March 25 • Monster trucks championship. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS for information.

Henderson Civic Symphony • March 26 • Program includes "Finlandia" and "Russian Easter Overture. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-267-5819.

Fortune Cookie Slot Tournament • March 26-28 • Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, 800-634-6441, ext. 2.

"Rent" • March 28-April 2 • Broadway play. Cashman Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-474-4000.

Big League Weekend • Dodgers vs. Mariners on March 30, Cubs vs. Padres on March 31-April 1. The major-league teams play at the home stadium of the Triple-A Las Vegas 51s. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 702-386-7200.

Laughlin River Stampede PRCA Rodeo • March 30-April 2 • More than 700 athletes compete. Events arena and city casinos, Laughlin, 702-298-2214.

Drag Racing • March 31 • Test 'n Tune and BF Goodrich Midnight Mayhem. The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Tayrona Theatre • March 31-April 1 • Spanish language comedy. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Invitational Native American Arts Festival • March 31-April 2 • Artists, dance, music, storytelling. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

"Parade" • March 31-April 2, 7-9 • Drama about the true story of the trial and lynching of Leo Frank, a man wrongfully accused of murder. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.



The Michael Burks Band appears in April at the Colorado Belle in Laughlin.

Drag Racing • April 1 and 29 • Short Line Express Markets Jr. Series and Jerry's Nugget Championship Series. The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444 for information.

Vocal Jazz Solo Night • April 4 • Program ranges from standards to Broadway. BackStage Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.

Clark County Fair and Rodeo • April 6-9 • PRCA rodeo, fine arts, small animal display, livestock show, entertainment, food. Fairgrounds, Logandale, 888-876-3247.

NHRA SummitRacing.com Nationals • April 6-9 • Drag racing. The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

"I Never Saw Another Butterfly" • April 7-9, 13-16 • Drama inspired by the writings of Jewish children in a concentration camp. Rainbow Company Youth Theatre, Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Candle Dipping Children's Program • April 8 • Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511 for further event information.

Las Vegas Philharmonic: "Ludwig van Beethoven: The Hero Strides Forth" • April 8 • Program includes "Triple" and "Eroica. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Regatta • April 8-9 • Nevada Yacht Club charity races. Lake Mead Marina and Resort, Lake Mead, 702-731-1024 for futher information.

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March 18 • United Way's St. Patty's Day Parade & Picnic

April 1-2 • Baker to Vegas Relay Race

April 28-30 • Chamber of Commerce BizExpo 2006

April 29 • Terrible's 250 Off-Road Race

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Riverwalk Art Festival • April 8-9 • Art for viewing and purchase. Casinos on the Colorado River, Laughlin, 702-298-4000.

Joe Williams Memorial Concert • April 9 • Fundraiser honors the late jazz singer and Las Vegas resident. Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, 800-675-3267.

LPGA Takefuji Classic • April 10-15 • Top women golfers compete in the pro event. Las Vegas Country Club, Las Vegas, 702-898-4653.

Informal Dance Concert • April 11 • Dance forms from jazz to Middle Eastern. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-4201.

Pioneer Gardening Children's Program • April 15 • Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Marie Laura Fagilde and Ricardo Roel • April 15 • Piano concert. Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.

Dragon Boat Festival • April 15-17 • Crews compete aboard 44-foot, solid teak Chinese war canoes. Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-267-2171.

Easter Sunday Breakfast Cruise • April 16 • Trip on Lake Mead aboard the *Desert Princess* paddlewheeler. Hemenway Harbor, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 702-293-6180.

BF Goodrich Midnight Mayhem • April 21 • Drag racing. The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

PSCA Spring Nationals and Top Comp Association • April 21-23 • Drag racing. The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, for further event information call 702-644-4444.



On March 16-20, Henderson will host a parade and festival celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

Earth Day • April 22 • Tree planting, demonstrations, programs. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

International Food and Folklife Festival • April 22 • Ethnic food, performances, crafts, children's activities. Government Center Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

Vamps: An Evening with Bebe Neuwirth • April 22 • Tony and Emmy Award-winning actress performs in concert. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Kevin Stout Quartet • April 23 • Las Vegas Jazz Society concert. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-313-6778.

Wednesday Night Street Wars and Motorcycle Madness • April

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26 • Drag racing. The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Laughlin River Run • April 26-30 • More than 60,000 Harley-Davidson fans gather for a motorcycle rally, concerts, poker run, competitions, vendors. Laughlin, 800-357-8223.

Mesquite Days • April 27-30 • Carnival, vendor booths, parade, fireworks, entertainment. Old Mill Park, Mesquite, 702-346-8732, ext. 0.

Show 'n Go Friday • April 28 • Drag racing. The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

World Series of Poker • April 28-May 11 • Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 702-785-6566.

Walk America • April 29 • Fundraiser for March of Dimes, Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-732-9255.

Boulder City Fine Arts Festival • April 29-30 • Works by 150 regional artists. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

Ongoing Events

The 24-Hour Show: Working 'Round the Clock in Las Vegas • Interactive permanent exhibit profiles the lives of casino workers—from cooks to wig stylists. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

Las Vegas Farmer's Market • Tues. at Gardens Park at Summerlin, Wed. at Bruce Trent Park, Thurs. at Centennial Hills Park, Las Vegas, 702-562-2676.

North Las Vegas Farmer's Market • Thursdays • City Hall Courtyard, North Las Vegas, 702-208-1074.

Historic Nevada Southern Railway Train Rides • Weekends • Seven-mile round trip lasts 45 minutes aboard 1911-era Pullman coaches. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City, 702-486-5933.



This oil painting by Dayo Adelaja is part of a show at Left of Center Gallery in Las Vegas through March 4.

Free Concerts • Tues.-Sat. • Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777.

Sunday Swing Show • 2-5pm Sundays for music, lunch, and dancing to 17-piece band. Italian American Club, Las Vegas, 702-317-7752.

Poker Tournaments • Daily • Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, 702-744-3261.

Poker Tournaments • Daily • Golden Nugget, Las Vegas, 702-385-7111.

Poker Tournaments • Daily • Binion's, Las Vegas, 702-382-1600.

CasaBlanca Gaming Tournaments • Keno on Wed. and Sat. Slots on Sun. CasaBlanca, Mesquite, 800-459-PLAY.

Oasis Gaming Tournaments • Keno on Mon., Fri., and Sun. Blackjack on Mon. Slots on Thurs. No limit hold 'em on Sun. Pizza and poker on Wed. Early Bird Poker Shootout on Mon.-Fri. Bad Beat progressive jackpot poker on Wed. and Sun. Oasis, Mesquite, 800-21-OASIS.

Virgin River Gaming Tournaments • Slots on Tues. and Thurs. Blackjack on Fri. Keno on Tues. and Thurs. Virgin River, Mesquite, 800-346-7721.

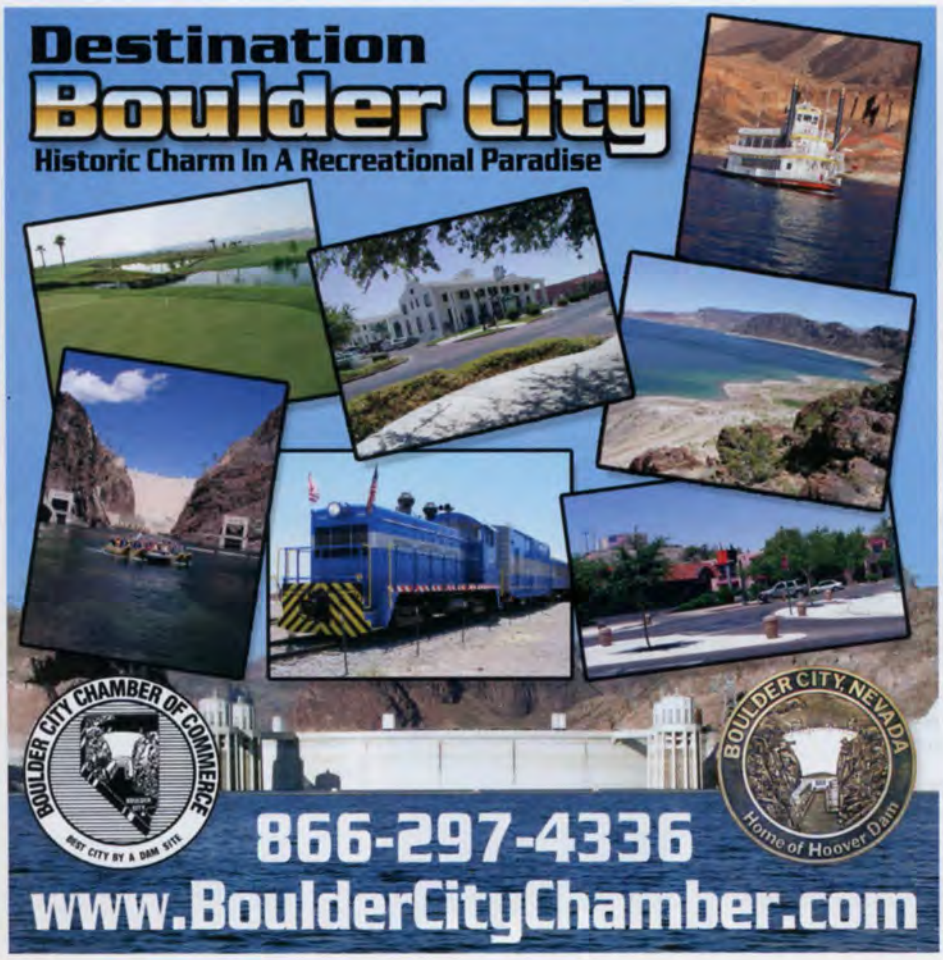
Keepers of the Flame • Thru March 4 • Alternative history of Las Vegas. West Las Vegas Arts Center and Left of Center Art Gallery, Las Vegas, 702-647-7378.

"On Golden Pond" • Thru March 5 • Broadway drama. Las Vegas Little Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-362-7996.

Recovered Views: African American Portraits, 1912-1925 • Thru March 12 • John Johnson photo exhibit. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Black Extravaganza: Part One: The Early Years • Thru March 12 • Photos pay tribute to black artists. Summerlin Library, Las Vegas, 702-734-READ.

Mr. Imagination • Thru March 19 • Collages and sculptures from found materials. West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, 702-734-READ.







The Corinthian Trio will be guest performers at the Las Vegas Philharmonic's April 8 concert, "Ludwig van Beethoven: The Hero Strides Forth," at UNLV.

Albert Yabo Stewart • Thru March 24 • African-American heritage exhibit. Multigenerational Center, Henderson, 702-267-5819.

Experience Nature in a Different Light • Thru March 26 • Photo exhibit by Marcella Brendible. Rainbow Library, Las Vegas, 702-734-READ.

Southern California Minimalism • Thru March 31 • Abstract paintings and sculptures. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Print Exhibit • Thru April 1 • Works by nationally recognized printmakers. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-228-6383.

Home Front • Thru April 2 • Photos by Laura Kleger. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Vivid Portrayals • Thru April 7 • Paintings, photographs, and prints by Las Vegas artists. Bridge Gallery, City Hall, Las Vegas, 702-229-4674.

Inspirations: A Tribute to Henry Harrison • Thru April 16 • Exhibit featuring Vegas artist Shirley Harrison. Spring Valley Library, Las Vegas, 702-735-READ for information.

Nevada Camera Club • Thru May 15 • Annual member exhibit of black and white images. Sunrise Library, Las Vegas, 702-734-READ.

Rock Art Tours • Second Sat. of the month thru May • Guided tours by the Nevada Rock Art Foundation to view ancient petroglyphs. Free tour includes an optional stop at the Lost City Museum in Overton, which has a $2 admission. Valley of Fire State Park, 60 miles northeast of Las Vegas via I-15. Reservations required, 702-804-6723.

Charlotte Lang Exhibit • March 1-31 • Ceramics, fiber, prints, watercolors. Lost City Museum, Overton, 702-397-2193.

Nevada Now I • March 1-April 30 • Exhibit showcases visual arts fellowship recipients. Marjorie Barrick Museum, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-3381.

Film Series with Culinary Themes • *Babette's Feast*, March 1. *Soul Food*, March 8. *Chocolat*, March 15. *Woman on Top*, April 5.

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Like Water for Chocolate, April 12. *Big Night*, April 19. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Sandstone Canyon Hike • March 4, 26, April 2, 8 • Moderate to strenuous three miles round trip. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, comfortable hiking shoes. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141 for more information.

Las Vegas Gladiators • Arena Football League team plays March 5 vs. Philadelphia Soul, March 10 vs. Grand Rapids Rampage, March 17 vs. Arizona Rattlers, April 2 vs. Los Angeles Avengers, April 8 vs. Nashville Kats, April 29 vs. Utah Blaze. AFL playoffs, May 20-21, 27-28, June 3-4, Arena Bowl XX, June 11, Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-731-4977.

Las Vegas Wranglers • The East Coast Hockey League team plays March 17-18, 21 vs. Alaska Aces, March 24 vs. Bakersfield Condors, March 25 vs. Utah Grizzlies, March 28 vs. Stockton Thunder, March 31 vs. San Diego Gulls, April 7 vs. Long Beach Ice Dogs, April 8 vs. Phoenix Roadrunners. Orleans Arena, Las Vegas, 702-471-7825.

The Woven Word • March 25-June 24 • English messages woven into traditional Native American artworks. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

"Cabaret" • March 30-April 30, dark Mon.-Tues. and April 16 • Tony Award-winning musical. Summerlin Starbright Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Wendy Adams • April 3-May 5 • Acrylic on canvas. Multigenerational Center, Henderson, 702-267-5819.

Playwright Festival • Three original plays for mature adults. "McGhan's Ragtown, April 6-9. "Pluck the Rose, April 13-16. "The Loggerheads of Lambhuna Drive, April 20-23. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Jazz Week • Combos on April 23 and 27, big bands on April 24, vocal jazz on April 26, and arrangers' holiday on April 28 featuring a 17-piece jazz band. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.

"Wait Until Dark" • April 28-30, May 4-7 • Dramatic thriller about a murderous con man and a blind woman. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Coming Events

2006 MiniMotoSX • May 5 • Las Vegas, 702-284-7777.

ArtFest of Henderson, • May 5-7, Henderson, 702-267-2171.

Las Vegas Philharmonic "Resurrection" Concert • May 6-7 • Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Nevada Passage Reality Show Water Sports Competition • May 13 • Laughlin, www.nevadapassage.com.

"The Little Mermaid" • June 2-4, 8-11 • Las Vegas, 702-229-6553.

CineVegas Film Festival • June 9-17 • Las Vegas, www.cinevegas.com.

Las Vegas NHRA Sportsman Open Drag Racing • June 17 • Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

2006 World Series of Poker • June 25-Aug. 10 • Las Vegas, www.worldseriesofpoker.com.

World Series of Poker • July 27-31 • Rio All-Suite Hotel, Las Vegas, www.worldseriesofpoker.com.

NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series • Sept. 23 • Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Pacific Street Car Association Street Car Super Nationals • Nov. 17-19 • Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Henderson's Terrible 400 Desert Race • Nov. 30-Dec. 3 • Henderson, 702-267-2171.

Shows



Funny man Wayne Brady will perform April 28-29 at the Mirage.

BOULDER CITY

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

HENDERSON

Casino MonteLago at Lake Las Vegas • 702-564-4766.

Green Valley Ranch • 702-617-7777: Jazz Club: Entertainment Fri.-Sat. Grand Events Center: Bill Engvall, Oct. 21. The District at Green Valley Ranch Outdoor Events, 702-564-8595: Entertainment TBA.

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

Joker's Wild • 702-564-8100: Free entertainment Fri.-Sat.

Ritz-Carlton Lake Las Vegas • 702-567-4700: Firenze Lobby Lounge: Florentine Tea daily from 2:30-5pm.

Sunset Station • 702-547-7777: Club Madrid: Al Stewart, March 25. Psychic Marlene Lombardi, April 6.

JEAN

Gold Strike Hotel • 702-477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands play in the casino lounge.

Nevada Landing • 702-387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Entertainment in the casino lounge.

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 702-785-5555 or 877-333-WISH: Aladdin Theater for the Performing Arts: Entertainment TBA. Aladdin Showroom: Aladdin house band Sunset Strip performs nightly. V Theatre at Desert Passage: Fab Four, dark Fri. "V," variety show. "X, adult revue. Call 702-932-1818. Steve Wyrick Entertainment Complex: Steve Wyrick Magic Show and Triq Lounge open in May. Entertainment in Sinbad's and Curve. Krave Nightclub: 702-836-0833: "The Fashionistas, adult musical, dark Wed. Desert Passage at Aladdin: Commander's Palace Las Vegas is home of the Museum of the American Cocktail. The Aladdin will become Planet Hollywood in late 2006.

Arizona Charlie's • 702-258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Touch of Silk, March 7-11. Smooth, March 14-18, April 25-29. Coasters, March 21-25. Vision, March 28-April 1. Rhythm Nation, April 4-8. Randy Anderson, April 11-22. Karaoke 8:30pm-1:30am Mon. Jerry Tiffe plays 4-7pm Fri.

Arizona Charlie's East • 702-951-9000: Palace Grand Lounge: Primetime, March 7-12. Daemine, March 14-19. Perfect Choice, March 21-26. Checkmates, March 28-April 1. Randy Anderson, April 4-9.

Bally's • 702-739-4111 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee! Theater: "Jubilee!, production show, dark Fri. Backstage Walking Tour at 2pm Mon., Wed., and Sat. Entertainment in the Indigo Lounge and Tequila Bar.

Barbary Coast • 702-737-7111: Barbary Coast Lounge: Pete Vallee as "Big Elvis, 3-6pm Mon.-Thurs. Bands perform Tues.-Sat.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O, indf., dark Mon.-Tues. Entertainment in Light, Caramel, Petrossian, Baccarat, and Fontana lounges and bars.

Binion's • 702-382-1600: Benny's Bullpen: Music TBA.

Boulder Station • 702-432-7777 or 800-683-7777: The Railhead: The Sell-Out Comedy Tour featuring Vince Morris, B.T., Louis Johnson Jr., and Billy D. Washington, March 3. Trick Pony, March 11. Gatlin Brothers, March 17. Wayman Tisdale, March 18. Stanley Clarke, April 7. Hal Ketchum, April 8. Morris Day and The Time, April 14-15. Blue Oyster Cult, April 28. Billy Currington, May 5. Don Williams, Sept. 29-30. Jerry Tiffe plays 2-4pm Thurs. KIXX: Shooting Stars Karaoke, Thurs.-Sat.

Caesars Palace • 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544: The Colosseum Showroom: Celine Dion stars in "A New Day...," March 1-5, 8-12, 16-19, 22-26, April 12-16, 20-23, 26-30 (call 877-4-CELINE). "The Red Piano" starring Elton John, March 28-29, 31, April 1-2, 4-5, 7-9 (888-4-ELTONJ). Jerry Seinfeld, May 12-13. Entertainment in the Shadow Bar, Café Lago, Terrazza Lounge, Cleopatra's Barge

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The members of Bon Jovi—David Bryan (left), Jon Bon Jovi, Richie Sambora, and Tico Torres—appear March 11 at the MGM Grand.

Nightclub, Viale on the Strip, Pure, and Galleria Bar.

Circus Circus • 702-734-0410 or 800-444-CIRCUS: Free circus acts 11am-11pm weekdays, 11am-midnight on weekends. Adventuredome Theme Park, 12pm-6pm.

Excalibur Hotel • 702-597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "Tournament of Kings," jousting-dinner show, daily. Merlin's Theatre: "Thunder From Down Under," all-male revue, dark Thurs. Minstrels Lounge: The Anthony Cools Experience, hypnotist, Thurs.-Tues.

Fitzgeralds • 702-388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Fitzgeralds Main Showroom: "The Rockin' Ass Show," starring Steve Connolly, Spirit of the King, 7pm, Thurs.-Mon. Larry G. Jones: The Man of 1,002 Voices, impersonator-comedian, 9pm, dark Tues.-Wed. Michael Colyar's Comedy Extravaganza, 9pm Wed. Bands play daily on the First Floor Stage.

Flamingo Las Vegas • 702-733-3333 or 800-221-7299: Flamingo Showroom: Wayne Newton, 7:30pm, dark Sun.-Mon., thru April. George Wallace, comedian, indf., performs 10pm, dark Sun.-Mon. Second City Theater: "Second City," improv comedy sketches, 8pm daily except Wed.,

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10:30pm Tues., Sat.-Sun. Bands play in Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville.

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): Lounge: Royal Dixie Jazz Band, 1-6pm Mon.-Fri. Bands play nightly except Mon. Gold Coast Showroom: "Forever Plaid," 7:30pm Tues.-Sun., matinee 3pm Sun., dark Mon. Latin Breeze, Fri.-Sat. indf. Ballroom dancing with disk jockey Larry Taylor 7-10pm Mon. Dance lessons 6-7pm at the Gold Coast.

Golden Gate • 702-385-1906: Piano 6pm-midnight.

Golden Nugget • 702-386-8100: Theatre Ballroom: Gordie Brown, musical impressionist, thru March 29, Sun.-Wed. Entertainment in the Oasis Lounge and ZAX Restaurant.

Golden Palm • 702-798-1111: Karaoke party, 10pm-4am.

Greek Isles • 702-737-5540: Star Theater: "Tribute to Frank, Sammy, Joey, and Dean," dark Fri. "The World's Greatest Magic Show," daily.

Hard Rock Hotel • 702-693-5066: The Joint: Korn, March 14. Scott Strapp, March 19. Fall Out Boy, March 30. Entertainment in Pink Taco, Simon Kitchen and Bar, and Body English Nightclub.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 702-369-5111 or 800-392-9002: Clint Holmes Theater: Clint Holmes, dark Sun. "Skintight," adult revue, dark Thurs. Mac King, comedy magic, 1 and 3pm, dark Sun.-Mon. Improv Theater: Comedy, dark Mon. Entertainment in Range Steakhouse Lounge, Toby Keith Bar and Grill, and Carnaval Court.

Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas • 702-853-BEER. Bavarian bands play.



Ladies' man Tom Jones headlines several times this spring at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Hooters Hotel and Casino • 702-739-9000: Entertainment in 13 Club, Martini Bar, Porch Dogs, and Nippers Pool Bar.

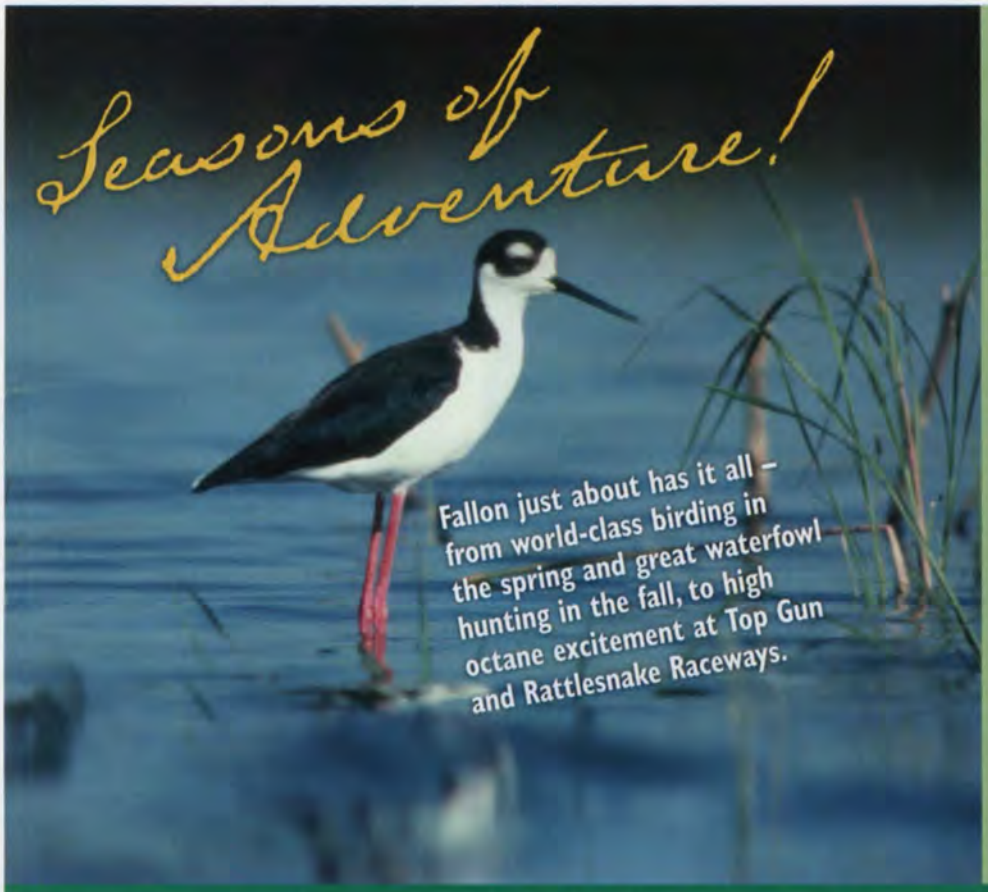
Imperial Palace • 702-794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert, impersonator revue, dark Sun. Casino Floor: Celebrity impersonators deal blackjack to gamblers. Entertainment in the Kabuki Lounge and Tequila Joe's. The "Be a Legend" Amateur Celebrity Impersonator Karaoke Contest is held quarterly.

JW Marriott Las Vegas • 702-869-2335: Plush Ultra Lounge and Supper Club: Music and dancing.

Las Vegas Hilton • 702-732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Barry Manilow stars in "Manilow: Music and Passion, March 1-4, 15-18, 22-25, 29-April 1, 12-15, 19-22, 26-29, May 17-20, 24-27, 31-June 3. Reba McEntire, May 3-7, June 7-18, July 19-30, Aug. 24-26. Johnny Mathis, May 12-13, Nov. 24-25. Donna Summer, June 23-24. Shimmer Cabaret: "Menopause, The Musical," dark Fri., matinees Wed., Sat.-Sun. Frankie Moreno Band, Wed.-Sun. Bands play nightly except Mon.-Tues.

Luxor • 702-262-4555: Luxor Theater: "Hairspray," Broadway musical, dark Wed. Atrium Theater: Carrot Top, comedy, dark Tues. "Fantasy," production show, dark Thurs. Entertainment in Nefertiti's, Ante Room, and Ra lounges and clubs. Movies are featured in the IMAX theater, and tours are available at the King Tut's Museum.

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Theatre: "Mamma Mia!," the Broadway musical based on the music of Abba, dark Fri. Mandalay Events Center: UFC 58 USA vs. Canada, middleweight title featuring Rich Frank and David Loiseau, and Georges St. Pierre vs. BJ Penn, March 4. House of Blues: The Academy Is, March 2. STYX, March 4. Third Day "Wherever You Are" Tour with David Crowder Band, March 10. The Black 17 Tour featuring Flogging Molly, March 18. UB40, March 24. The Pretenders, March 25. Take Action Tour, March 27. Comedy Central Live with Carlos Mencia, April 1. Gospel Brunch, 10am and 1pm Sun. Entertainment in Ivan Kane's Forty Deuce, the Mix, Red Square, Island, Rumjungle, Oba, and Coral Reef



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lounges and clubs. Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay open daily. Socrates Café: Book discussions, 7pm Tues.

MGM Grand • 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111: MGM Grand Garden Arena: Rolling Stones, March 4. Bon Jovi, March 11. Queen featuring Paul Rodgers, April 7. Billy Joel, April 8. 41st Annual Academy of Country Music Awards, May 23. KÀ Theatre: "KÀ," Cirque du Soleil production, dark Wed.-Thurs. Hollywood Theatre: David Copperfield, thru March 1, March 30-April 12. Tom Jones, March 2-15, April 27-30, May 1-10. Dennis Miller, April 13-17. Howie Mandel, April 16-26, May 11-17. La Femme Theatre: "La Femme, topless Crazy Horse production from Paris, dark Tues. Entertainment in Studio 54, Teatro Euro Bar, Tabu, Zuri, and Centrifuge lounges and clubs.

The Mirage • 702-792-7777: Danny Gans Theatre: Danny Gans, dark Sun.-Mon, Thurs, and Oct. 31-Feb. 7, 2007. Jay Leno, March 3-4, 31-April 1, 21-22, May 12-13, June 9-10, July 7-8, 21-22, Aug. 11-12, Sept. 22-23, Oct. 6-7. Kevin James, March 10-11, May 26-28, Aug. 4-5, Oct. 20-21. Dana Carvey, March 17-18. Ray Romano, March 24-25, May 19-20, June 23-24, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Oct. 13-15, Nov. 10-12. Damon Wayans, April 7-8. Brad Garrett, April 14-15. Wayne Brady, April 28-29, June 30-July 1, 14-15, Aug. 18-19, Nov. 23-24. David Spade, June 2-3, Sept. 1-2, Nov. 3-4. Entertainment in the Ava, Jet, Onda lounges. Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat: Hours are seasonal at the outdoor attractions.

Monte Carlo • 702-730-7000: Lance Burton Theatre: "Lance Burton, Master Magician, dark Sun.-Mon. Entertainment in the Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery and Houdini Lounge.

New Frontier • 702-794-8200: Gilley's Saloon: Free bull rides 4-9pm Mon.-Tues. and all night Wed. Mud wrestling 10pm Wed. Free line-dance lessons 7:30pm Thurs. Bikini bull riding midnight Fri.-Sat. Line dancing 9pm.

New York-New York • 702-740-6969 or 800-693-6763: The Broadway Theatre: "Zumanity," adult Cirque du Soleil production, 7:30 and 10:30pm, dark Wed.-Thurs. Cabaret Theatre: Comedienne Rita Rudner performs nightly. Entertainment in The Pub at Nine Fine Irishmen, Coyote Ugly, the Bar at Times Square, and Big Apple Bar lounges and clubs. Manhattan Express Roller Coaster, 11am-11pm Sun.-Thurs., 10:30pm-midnight Fri.-Sat.

O'Sheas • 702-7333-3333: O'Sheas Showroom: Buckle Up Vinnie Favorito Comedy Show, Tues.-Sat.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: The Orleans Showroom: Donny Osmond, March 2-5. Bill Engvall, March 9-12. Dionne Warwick, March 16-19. Sinbad, March 24-26. Chris Botti, March 30-April 2. Steven Wright, April 6-9. Boyz II Men, April 20-23. Engelbert Humperdinck, April 27-30. Ann-Margret and Company, May 11-14. Air Supply, May 25-28. Donny Osmond, June 8-11. Neil Sedaka, June 14-18. Orleans Arena: Chuck Norris presents World Combat League, March 3. Just Imagine: A John Lennon Tribute performed by Tim Piper, March 30. MiniMoto SX, May 5. Champions on Ice, Aug. 16. Entertainment in the Bourbon Street Cabaret and Brendan's Irish Pub.

Palace Station • 702-367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Sound Trax: Entertainment TBA.

The Palms • 702-942-7777: Entertainment in Rain, ghostbar, and the Lounge.

The Plaza • 800-634-6575: Plaza Theatre: Champagne Sunday Brunch, 10:30am-2:30pm. Guest celebrities drop in to entertain. Comedy Zone, comedians perform at 8pm nightly. Bands perform in the Omaha Lounge nightly.

Paris Las Vegas • 800-237-SHOW: Theatre des Arts:

Entertainment TBA. Entertainment in Le Cabaret, Napoleon's, and Risqué lounges and clubs, and the Ah Sin Restaurant. Eiffel Tower rides 10am-1am daily.

The Plaza • 800-634-6575: Plaza Theatre: Champagne Sunday Brunch, 10:30am-2:30pm. Guest celebrities drop in to entertain. Comedy Zone, comedians perform at 8pm nightly. Benny Baker, adult comic, dark Thurs.-Fri. Collin Foster, magic, dark Mon. Curtis Adams: Magic That Rocks, dark Mon. Bands perform in the Omaha Lounge nightly.

Rampart Casino at the Resort at Summerlin • 877-869-8777: Entertainment in Addison's Lounge and the Round Bar.

Rio All-Suite Hotel • 702-252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO: Samba Theater: Penn and Teller, comedy-magic show, dark Tues. Scinta Showroom: The Scintas, musical revue, dark Thurs. Ronn Lucas, comedian-ventriloquist, 3pm, dark Fri. Chippendales Theater: Ultimate Girl's Night Out. "Chippendales: The Show," dark Wed. Club Rio: "Erocktica Live! Sex, Sweat, and Rock 'n' Roll, dark Tues. Entertainment in Club Rio, VooDoo, Flirt, I-Bar Ultra, and Bikinis lounges and clubs. Calypso Room: "Tony 'n Tina's Wedding," off-Broadway interactive dinner theater, nightly. "Masquerade Show in the Sky": Carnival-themed parade above the casino daily at 4, 6, 8, and 10pm Sun.-Thurs., with additional shows scheduled at 7 and 9pm on Fri.-Sat. A high-end bowling, martini lounge, and café are scheduled to open fall 2006.

Riviera • 702-794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," production show, dark Fri., covered show 7pm Sat. La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue, dark Tues. Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls" adult revue, dark Tues. "Riviera Comedy Club," nightly. Le Bistro Theatre: "Neil Diamond Tribute Starring Jay White," Sun.-Thurs. Dr. Scott Lewis: Outrageous Comedy Hypnotist, Mon. "Barbra and Frank: The Concert That Never Was," impersonator show, Wed.-Sun. "American Storm," male revue, dark Mon. Le Bistro Theatre converts to Syn City, the Nightclub midnight-4am Wed.-Sun.

Sahara • 702-737-2515: Sahara Theater: "Buck Wild, country variety show, 9pm topless, dark Sun. Congo Room: Amazing Jonathan, bizarre magic, 10pm, dark Thurs. Coasters, Platters, and Drifters 7:30 p.m. nightly. Entertainment in the Casbar Lounge.

Sam's Town • 702-456-7777 or 800-897-8696: Sam's Town Live: Entertainment TBA. Music in Roxy's Saloon. Mystic Falls Park: Laser and water show at 2, 6, 8, and 10pm.

Santa Fe Station • 702-658-4900: Chrome Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Memphis Championship Barbecue: Rocksicle, 10pm Sat.

Silverton • 702-263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Showroom: Eddie Money, March 11. 38 Special, April 14-15. Twisted Sister, April 29. Herman's Hermits, June 3. Kool and the Gang, June 30-July 1. Asleep at the Wheel, Aug. 11. Mermaid Restaurant and Lounge: Mermaids perform in a 117,000-gallon saltwater tank, dark Mon.-Tues.

Stardust • 702-732-6325: Stardust Theatre: The Temptations and Four Tops, March 16-18, May 11-13. Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, March 22-25, May 24-27. Don Rickles, March 30-April 1. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, April 6-8, May 17-20. Rick Thomas Show, magic production, 2 and 4pm. Hypnotic Lounge: "Hypnosis Gone Wild, adult show nightly. "Hynolarious" starring Michelle Van Ree, Wed.-Sun. Starlight Lounge: Karaoke Mon. and Fri.

Stratosphere • 702-382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: Theater of the Stars Showroom: "American Superstars," impersonator revue, dark Thurs. "Viva Las Vegas," musical revue, 2 and 4pm daily except Sun. Entertainment in Images, Romance at Top of the World, and Crazy Armadillos lounges and clubs. Stratosphere Thrill Rides.

Suncoast • 702-636-7111: Suncoast Showroom: Glen Campbell, March 3-5. Ragus: The Irish Dance Show, March 10-12. Bill Acosta, March 17-19. Roger Williams, March 24-26. Ricky Van Shelton, March 31-April 2. Michael Franks, April 7-9. Kathy Griffin, April 14-16. Vicki Lawrence and Mama, April 21-23. The Lettermen, April 28-30. Tony Orlando featuring the Lefty Brothers Band and comedian Sammy Shore, May 5-7. Frankie Avalon, May 12-14. The Gin Blossoms, May 20-21. David Sanborn, May 26-28. Chris Botti, June 2-4. Sha Na Na, June 9-11. Connie Stevens, June 16-18. Jack Jones, June 23-25. Chuck Mangione, June 30-July 2. Entertainment offered in the Suncoast Lounge.

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

Treasure Island (TI) • 702-894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère, dark Mon.-Tues. Entertainment in Tangerine, Mist, and Breeze lounges and clubs. "The Sirens of TI" pirate show is performed daily outside the Strip hotel at 5:30, 7, 8:30, 10pm.

Tropicana • 702-739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "Les Folies Bergere, dark Sun. Dirk Arthur: Xtreme Magic, 2 and 4pm, Sat.-Thurs. Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop, stand-up comedy nightly. Entertainment in the Celebration and Tropics lounges. Las Vegas Historic Museum: Details the gambling, mobsters, entertainers, and brothels of Nevada.

Venetian • 702-733-5000: Blue Man Group Theatre: "Blue Man Group, percussion theater, nightly. "Phantom of the Opera" to open in June. Gondola rides on the canal.

Wynn Las Vegas • 702-770-7000: "Le Rêve, aquatic produc-

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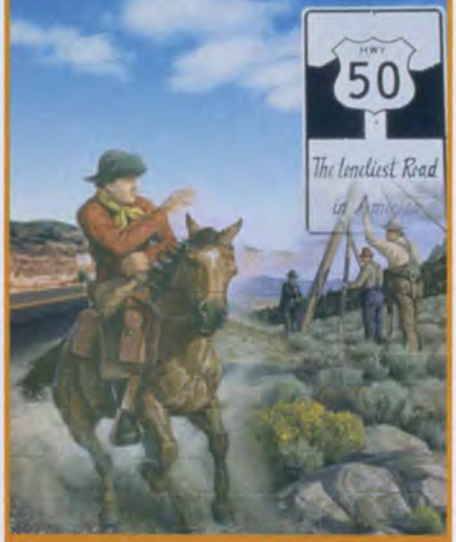


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"Hairspray" at the Luxor is the latest Broadway musical to open on the Las Vegas Strip.

tion, Sat.-Wed. Avenue Q Theater: "Avenue Q, Tony Award-winning musical, dark Wed.

LAUGHLIN

Avi Hotel • 702-535-5555: ArrowWeed Lounge: Bands play.

Colorado Belle • 702-298-4000: The Riverboat Ramblers Dixieland Band, Fri.-Sat., Country Battle of the Bands, April 1. Kenny Menard's Zydeco Band, April 8-9. Sixth Annual Battle of the Bands, April 15. Karaoke Contest, April 22. Michael Burks Band, The Nighthawks, John Earl and the Boogie Man Band, April 26-30.

Edgewater • 702-298-2453: Lounge: Bands play nightly.

Flamingo Laughlin • 702-298-5111 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo Showroom: "A Really Big Shew," tribute to Ed Sullivan, thru April 16. The Ballroom: Bobby Goldsboro, March 11. Flamingo Laughlin Outdoor Amphitheater: Trace Adkins, April 1. Engelbert Humperdinck, April 15. Foreigner, April 27. REO Speedwagon, April 28-29. Clint Black, May 20.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 702-298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Nightclub: Dinner and dancing to the music of the '40s and '50s on Tues. Bands play nightly.

Harrah's Laughlin • 702-298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: "Rhythm and Flair," dance styles revue. "Strip!" adult revue, dark Sun. and Wed. thru May 28.

Ramada Express • 702-298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theatre: Entertainment TBA. Caboose Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon. Karaoke Madness on Mon.

River Palms • 702-298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Bermuda Club: The Magic and Comedy of Berri Lee, 6pm Sat. Berri's Comedy Club, 9pm Tues.-Sat.

Riverside Resort • 702-298-2535 or 800-227-3849, ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Roy Clark, Feb. 28-March 5. Glen Campbell, March 7-12. Ragus: Irish Dance Spectacular, March 14-19. Ricky Van Shelton, March 21-26. Collin Raye, March 28-April 2. Seals and Seals, Sept. 12-17. Restless Heart, Sept. 26-Oct. 1. Charo, Dec. 27-31. Entertainment in the Lightning Strikes Nightclub.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Comedy Club: Weekends when no performers are scheduled. Entertainment in the Skydome Lounge.

Eureka Casino Hotel • 702-346-4646: Wild Cactus Lounge: Fun Fool's Karaoke, Tues. Bands play Thurs.-Sun.

Oasis • 702-346-5232 or 800-621-0187: Club Xtreme: Karaoke Tues. Dance music Wed., Fri.-Sat. Cabaret Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Virgin River • 702-346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Entertainers play in the casino lounge nightly except Mon.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Cannery • 702-507-5700: The Club: Sixties Mania, March 3-4. The Georgia Satellites, March 10. Mad About Mopars/The Fab, March 24. Pure Aloha Festival and Concert, March 31-April 2. Survivor, April 8. Li'l Elmo and the Cosmos, April 28. Mel Tillis and Roy Clark, April 29. Entertainment in Pin-Ups Bar.

Fiesta Rancho • 702-631-7000: Entertainment in Club Tequila and Cabo Lounge. Skating in the Fiesta Ice Arena.

Jerry's Nugget • 702-399-3000: Royal Street Lounge: Motown Fridays, Latin Explosion on Sat., dance music.

Texas Station • 702-631-1001: Dallas Events Center: The Oak Ridge Boys, March 3. Trace Adkins, March 31. The Armadillo: Kroakies Karaoke, Wed. Loveshack plays '80s music on Fri.-Sat. Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Entertainment TBA. Bands play weekends in Buffalo Bill's Stagebar. Funniez Comedy Club: Comedians Fri.-Sat.

Primm Valley • 800-FUN-STOP: Show Bar Lounge: Entertainment on weekends.

Whiskey Pete's • 800-FUN-STOP: Entertainment in Whiskey Pete's Show Bar Lounge.

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Why Is Tom Jones Not Unusual?



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Tom Jones is only one of many top stars that choose to perform frequently in Nevada showrooms. Want to see Tom, Elton, Celine, or Wayne? You can catch Tom at MGM Grand in Las Vegas March 2-15, April 27-30, and May 1-10. Find out where the others are appearing in the complete events and shows listings inside each issue of *Nevada Magazine*.

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Reno-Tahoe

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS



Singing felines take the stage March 17-19 when "Cats," Broadway's longest-running musical, appears at Reno's Pioneer Center.

Events

Chef to You Winter Wine Tasting • March 1 • Boutique wines, cheese, hors d'oeuvres. Jimmy G's Café, Gardnerville, 775-783-4873.

Squaw Valley Challenge #5 • March 2 • Recreational race open to skiers, snowboarders, and telemark racers. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Snow Festival Opening Ceremonies • March 3 • Parade and fireworks open North Lake Tahoe Mountain Mardi Gras. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Nevada SnowMaster Adventure Race • March 3 • Multi-sport competition includes Nordic skiing, orienteering, skiing, snowshoeing. Spooner Lake Cross-Country Ski Area, Lake Tahoe State Park, 530-546-1019.

Friday Night Jam • March 3 • Local talent competition. Boreal Mountain Resort, Donner Summit, 530-426-3666.

Keno Tournament • March 3-4 • Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-215-7721.

"Myth, Propaganda, and Disaster in Nazi Germany and Contemporary America" • March 3-4, 8-12 • Award-winning thriller explores political, economic, and philosophical values. Redfield Studio Theatre, UNR, Reno, 775-784-4046.

$20,000 Money Madness Blackjack Tournament • March 3-5 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Vans Tahoe Cup • March 3-5 • Snowboarders compete for more than $200,000 in cash prizes. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 800-GO-NORTH.

Professional Bull Riders Built Ford Tough Series • March 3-5 • Top 45 bull riders compete by invitation. Reno Events Center, Reno, 719-471-3008.

Mountain Mardi Gras • March 3-12 • 24th annual North Lake Tahoe Snow Festival has fireworks and torchlight parade, dog pull, snowman contest, Great Ski Race, polar bear swim, parades, daily specials at bars, restaurants, ski areas. North Lake Tahoe venues, 800-824-6348.

Suzi Bock Memorial • March 4 • Two giant slalom races raise funds for Stanford Hospital Bone Marrow Transplant Unit and UC Davis Alpine Ski Team. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-587-7517.

Soroptimists Savor the Flavor • March 4 • Wine, beer, food-tasting fundraiser. Genoa Lakes Golf Resort, Carson Valley, 775-782-4322.

Dummy Downhill • March 4 • Dummies are placed on skies and snowboards and sent racing down Show-Off Run. Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, Reno, 800-SKI-ROSE for event details.

Huega Snow Express • March 4-5 • Teams of three skiers, snowboarders, or telemarkers raise money for multiple sclerosis. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-582-4878.

Comstock Academy Awards Bash • March 5 • Mandarin Garden Restaurant, Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

Night of the Arts and Oscars • March 5 • Oscar night fundraiser for Sierra Arts includes dinner, music, dancing. Peppermill, Reno, 775-329-2787.

USSA Superpipe Division Championships • March 5 • Boreal Mountain Resort, Donner Summit, 530-426-3666.

An Evening With Oscar • March 5 • Tahoe Arts Project fundraiser buffet dinner, silent auction, Academy Awards telecast, entertainment, $60 per person. Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 530-542-3632.

Lucky O' Keno Tournament • March 5-6 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Reno Philharmonic • March 5, 7 • James Winn is guest pianist. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.

Lake Tahoe WinterFest Gay and Lesbian Ski Week • March 5-12 • Ski activities and entertainment. RuPaul headlines at a private party March 11 at the Hard Rock Café. Lakeland



Boarders will grab air at the WinterFest Gay and Lesbian Ski Week, March 5-12 at Tahoe.

Village Beach and Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 877-777-4950.

Southshore Soldiers Camp • March 7-10, 14-17, 21-24 • Instruction taught by pro snowboarders, nightly entertainment. Soldiers Terrain Park, Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 800-HEAVENLY.

Western Athletic Conference Tournament • March 7-11 • Men's and women's college basketball. Lawlor Events Center, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6900.

Leo Kottke • March 8 • Acoustic guitar concert. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Railroad History • March 8 • Program and discussion. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

"Macbeth" • March 8 • Utah Shakespearean Festival production. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

Great Chef's Race • March 8 • Cooking and skiing competition among restaurateurs. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 800-GO-NORTH.



Sourdough Slim yodels March 11 during the Cowboy Jubilee and Poetry in Carson City.

Billy Dutton Uphill • March 8 • 16th annual fundraiser. Participants ski, run, or snowshoe 3.2-mile climb to High Camp. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Executive Kidnap • March 9 • Fundraiser for Care Chest of Sierra Nevada. Reno, 775-829-2273.

"Cashier" • March 9-11, 16-19 • Comedy about an artist's summer job in the mailroom at the Internal Revenue Service. Lake Tahoe Community College, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4660, ext. 227.

Pacific Crest FIS Alpine Ski Races • March 9-12 • Slalom and giant slalom. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-7188.

Celebrity Special Olympics • March 10-11 • Athletes compete with celebrities. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 800-HEAVENLY.

"Resident Alien" • March 10-11, 17-18, 23-26, 30-April 1, 6-9 • Comedy. Bruka Theatre, Reno, 775-323-3221.

$7,500 Red, White, and Blue Slot Tournament • March 10-12 • Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 800-245-8667.

Blackjack Tournament • March 10-12 • Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Echo to Kirkwood Race • March 11 • Point-to-point ski and snowshoe race from Echo Summit to Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Center, Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.

Full Moon Snowshoe Trek • March 11 • Kirkwood Mountain Resort, Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.

Huckleberry Freestyle Competition • March 11 • Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, Reno, 800-SKI-ROSE.

Snowpremacy • March 11 • Skiers and boarders compete. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 800-GO-NORTH.

Cowboy Jubilee and Poetry • March 11 • Barbecue and performances by Sourdough Slim, Kent Rollins, Randy Pollard and Rush Creek, and Dennis Golden and Texas Tom Weatherby. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-1532.

Dummy Downhill • March 11 • Home-built dummies are launched off a jump. Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Incline Village, 775-832-1177.

Physicians' Spouses Rummage Sale • March 11 • Reno Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-829-1303.

Life-Link Six Summit Peak Pursuit and Backcountry Festival • March 11-12 • Advanced backcountry skiers and riders compete on Kirkwood's six peaks. Kirkwood Mountain Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.



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Snowbomb Sick and Twisted Contest • March 12 • Amateur slopestyle contest. Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Incline Village, 775-832-1177.

Kinder Cup Challenge • March 12 • Children six and under. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

St. Patrick's Political Fundraiser • March 12 • Traditional food. CVIC Hall, Minden, 775-782-8719.

Pinball Rally-Slope Style Event • March 12 • Skiers and riders compete. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 800-GO-NORTH.

Victorian Secrets • March 13 • Documentary film at noon. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

Special Olympics • March 13-16 • Fireworks. Kirkwood Mountain Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.

Roy Curtis' Reno of the 1920s • March 15 • Evening lecture series. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

"Agnes of God" • March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26 • Gold Hill Theater Troupe. Gold Hill Hotel, Gold Hill, 775-847-7500.

Squaw Valley Challenge #6 • March 16 • Recreational race open to skiers, snowboarders, and telemark racers. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration • March 17 • Green slopes, Irish music, and traditional dinner. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Jackpot Rail Jam Series Finals • March 17 • Prizes for the best tricks. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 800-HEAVENLY.

St. Patrick's Four-Leaf Clover Hunt • March 17 • Prizes. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 800-GO-NORTH.

"Cats" • March 17-19 • Long-running Broadway musical received seven Tony Awards. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 800-716-5331.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration • March 17-19 • Traditional food, music. Fitzgeralds, Reno, 775-785-3300.

$20,000 Slot Tournament • March 17-19 • Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Far West Ski Association Races • March 17-19 • Singles League's slalom and giant slalom championship. Kirkwood Mountain Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.

Marchtober Fest • March 18 • Keg tapping, music, games, dancing. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 800-GO-NORTH.

Puttin' on the Ritz • March 18 • Dinner, prizes, auction. Genoa Lakes Golf Club, Carson Valley, 775-782-8692.

San Francisco 49er Foundation Celebrity Ski Classic • March 18 • Football players, alumni, coaches, Olympic medalists, celebrities. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-7188.

15th Annual Mountain Oyster Fry • March 18 • C Street, Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

Three-Ring Circus • March 18 • Amateur snowboard and ski event for all ages, barbecue. Sierra-at-Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

V&T Leprechaun Train Rides • March 18-19 • Historic railcars travel from Virginia City to Gold Hill. F Street Depot, Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

Telegrass Festival • March 18-19 • Bluegrass music, telemark skiing. Sierra-at-Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

St. Patrick's Day Parade • March 19 • C Street, Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

Pot O' Gold Slot Tournament • March 19-20 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

World Series of Poker Qualifying Tournament • March 21-24 • Harrah's Reno, Reno, 800-HARRAHS.

Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge • March 22 • Ski and snowboard slalom race open to all ages and abilities. Sierra-at-Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Heavenly Jackpot Rail Jam Series • March 24, 31 • Night competition. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 800-HEAVENLY.

$20,000 Spring Tri-Game-A-Thon • March 24-25 • Reception and banquet. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711.

"A Couple of Blaguards" • March 24-25, 31-April 1 • Comedians Frank and Malachy McCourt. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

"Forever Plaid" • March 24-26, 31, April 1-2, 7-9 • Musical comedy about four singers who return to earth after their deaths to perform a last concert. Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 775-445-4249 for information.



Photographer Mark Vollmer exhibits his images of Nevada and the West April 2-30 at the Washoe County Library in Reno.

Full Moon Snowshoe and Nordic Tour • March 25 • Bonfire and hot chocolate. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 800-GO-NORTH.

Bud Light Ladies' Day • March 25 • Male skiers wearing dresses get discount lift tickets and compete in a beauty and the beast pageant and a drag race. Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, Reno, 800-SKI-ROSE.

Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge Family Race • March 25 • Intermediate terrain for all levels. Kirkwood Mountain Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7406.

Forum Youngblood Finals • March 25-26 • Snowboarders compete for a professional-athlete status. Sierra-at-Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Reno Chamber Orchestra • March 25-26 • Faure and Brahms. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-348-9413.

USASA National Championships • March 25-April 1 • Snowboarders and freestyle skiers compete in giant slalom, slalom, halfpipe, slopestyle, and Boardercross. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 800-GO-NORTH.

Copeland Sports Super Sunday • March 26 • Slopestyle skiing. Kirkwood Mountain Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.

East Fork Gallery Spring Reception • March 26 • Featuring Paula Cook. East Fork Gallery, Gardnerville, 775-450-2089.

World Poker Tour • March 27-30 • Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

PHOTO: Mark Vollmer



Music sweeps into Reno when Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" plays April 21-23 at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts.

The 1960s: Movin' and Groovin' History Symposium • March 29-April 1 • National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

North American Freeskiing Championships and Skier X • March 29-April 2 • Freeskiers and riders compete in-and-out-of-bounds area. Kirkwood Mountain Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.

Glen Plake's Gunbarrel 50 • April 1 • Skiers and riders cover 50 laps. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 800-HEAVENLY.

Spring Fest • April 1-9 • Music, beverage specials, children's activities. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 800-GO-NORTH.

Carson Chamber Singers Spring Concert • April 2 • Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

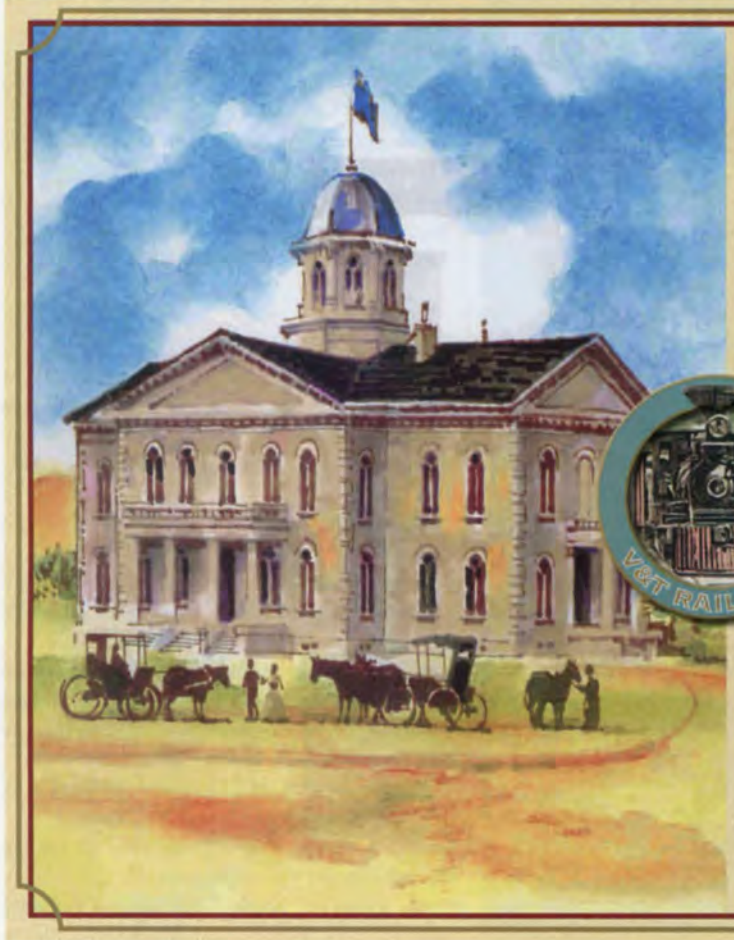
Dummy Gelande • April 4 • No live dummies allowed for this mad dash down the slopes. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 800-HEAVENLY.

Banff Mountain Film Festival • April 4-5 • Adventure films include skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, rock climbing, kayaking, mountaineering. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 775-851-5180.

Boomtown Saloon • April 5 • Evening lecture series. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

"The Magic Flute" • April 7 and 9 • Nevada Opera's presentation of Mozart's fairy tale about good and evil. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-786-4046.

$7,500 Blackjack Tournament • April 7-9 • Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 800-245-8667.



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Pond Skimming • April 8 • Skiers try to make it across a slush pond without getting wet. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 800-HEAVENLY.

USA Ski Bike Event • April 8 • Pro bikers throw tricks and compete in Boardercross-format events in this third stop in the nationwide Triple Crown Series. Sierra-at-Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Antique Show, Sale, and Appraisal Clinic • April 8-9 • Genoa Town Hall, Genoa, 775-782-4951.

Classical Guitarists of Northern Nevada • April 9 • Concert. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Pinball Rally-Slopestyle Event • April 9 • Skiers and riders compete. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 800-GO-NORTH.

$45,000 Basket of Bucks Slot Tournament • April 9-10 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Las Vegas 100 Years • April 10 • Documentary film at noon. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

Empire Ranch Golf Course 10th Anniversary Celebration • April 11-20 • $10 rounds. Advance reservations suggested. Empire Ranch Golf Course, Carson City, 775-885-2100.

Water and Timber to the Comstock, an Uphill Ride • April 12 • Program on the railroad transportation from the Lake Tahoe Basin to Virginia City in the 1800s. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

"Robin Hood" • April 12-14 • Theatrical presentation. Community Center, Carson City, 775-283-1684.

Tot Egg Hunt • April 13 • For ages three and under and four to five years old. Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-782-9828.

Jammin' XIII • April 14-16 • Slopestyle spring break party has pond skimming, big-air competition, rail jam, snow volleyball, golf, karaoke. Kirkwood Mountain Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7406.



Country singer Brenn Hill performs March 3 at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden.

Easter Egg Hunt • April 15 • Miners Park, Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

Pepper Memorial Classic • April 15-16 • Dog agility trials are a fundraiser for canine cancer. Fuji Park, Carson City, 775-425-2375.

Mad Hatter's Easter Parade • April 16 • C Street, Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

Easter Festivities • April 16 • Egg toss, fun race, egg hunt, Easter Bunny. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 800-GO-NORTH.

Easter Sunday • April 16 • Egg hunts, egg tosses, Easter Bunny. Sierra-at-Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Collegiate Nationals • April 20-23 • First college championship featuring more than 2,000 athletes from 40 colleges competing in wakeboarding, snowboarding, kayaking, triathlon, boxing, beach volleyball. Reno, www.CSTV.com.

"The Cotton Patch Gospels" • April 21-22, 28-29 • The Gospel is told in a setting of rural Georgia with country music. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

"Oklahoma!" • April 21-23 • Academy-, Emmy-, and Tony-award winning Broadway musical. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 800-714-5331.

$50,000 April Showers Slot Tournament • April 21-23 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Symphony and Harp Concert • April 22 • Jeremy Keppelmann, guest artist. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

Carson Valley Chili Cook-Off and Craft Fair • April 22-23 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-266-3468.

$15,000 Spring Fling Keno Tournament • April 23-24 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

World Series of Poker Qualifying Tournament • April 25-28 • Harrah's Reno, Reno, 800-HARRAHS.

Reno Jazz Festival • April 27-29 • More than 300 performances and clinics featuring the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra and 40 national jazz artists. Citywide, Reno, 775-784-4046.

Eagle Valley Muzzleloaders and Spring Rendezvous • April 28-29 • Mountain man primitive encampment. Call for directions. Carson City, 775-687-7410.

"The Dorms" • April 28-29, May 4-6 • Play about life's surprises. Bruka Theatre, Reno, 775-323-3221.

"Les Liaisons Dangereuses" • April 28-29, May 3-7 • Drama about pre-revolutionary French aristocracy. Redfield Proscenium Theatre, UNR, Reno, 775-784-4046.

Divas and Desserts • April 28-30 • Comedy presentation by Nevada Civic Light Opera. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

Virginia City Grand Prix • April 29-30 • Motorcycle race in the hills surrounding Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

Reno Philharmonic • April 30, May 2 • Soprano Evelyn de la Rosa is the guest performer. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.



Ongoing Events

Daily Poker Tournaments • No-limit hold 'em on Mon. and Wed., Omaha, Crazy Pineapple hi/lo on Wed., no-limit hold 'em sit and go, Fri.-Sat. Harrah's Reno, 800-HARRAHS.

Blackjack and Slot Tournaments • Daily. $5 entry fee. Circus Circus, Reno, 888-682-0147.

Gaming Tournaments • Blackjack, Mon. and Wed. Pai Gow poker, Tues. Three-card poker, Thurs. Atlantis, Reno, 775-825-4700.

Gaming Tournaments • Blackjack on Tues. and Sun. Pai Gow poker on Wed. Limit Texas hold 'em on Wed. No-limit Texas hold 'em on Sun.-Thurs. Slots on Thurs. Keno on Sun. Peppermill, Reno, 775-689-7114.

Gaming Tournaments • Blackjack on Mon. Video poker on Tues. and Fri. Siena Hotel, Reno, 775-337-6260.

Blackjack Tournaments • Tues. $20 buy-in and Fri. $10 buy-in. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 800-426-5239.

Gaming Tournaments • Shootout hold 'em, Mon.-Sat. Video poker on Thurs. No-limit Texas hold 'em on Tues.-Thurs.

Sit and go hold 'em Sun. Monthly $1,500 blackjack on the last Tues. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 877-783-7711.

Gaming Tournaments • Video poker Mon. Slots Wed. Blackjack Tues. and Thurs. Horizon, Stateline, 775-588-6211.

No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em • Daily, $25 buy-in. Eldorado, Reno, 775-786-5700.

Nevada State Museum Tours • Visitors can take behind-the-scenes tours of the anthropology, plant, and animal collections on the last Friday of each month. Registration required. Carson City, 775-687-4810.

The Work of Art • Changing exhibits. Reno-Tahoe International Airport, Reno, 775-328-6406.

Wine Walk on the River Walk • Third Saturday at 2pm. Free wine tasting at participating merchants with the purchase of a map and glass for $10. River Walk Arts District, Downtown, Reno, 775-337-1717.

Speed and Light: Early Racing Photography of Henri Meurisse • Thru March 6 • Photos of European races from 1903 to 1914. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Anne Frank: A History for Today • Thru March 11 • 56 panels created by the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. Washoe County Library, Reno, 775-849-1653.

Shadows of the V&T: The Art of Loren Jahn • Thru March • Pen-and-ink drawings of daily railroad operations. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Orphan Cars: Detours from Destiny • Thru April 26 • Cars with non-traditional style and design. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Tradition in Transition: Russian Icons in the Age of the Romanovs • Thru April 27 • Russian religious paintings. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.



Toni Braxton appears in the Silver Legacy's Grande Exposition Hall in Reno April 8.

Havens in a Heartless World: Virginia City Saloons and the Archaeology of the Wild West • Thru April 28 • Exhibit features the world's oldest bottle of Tobasco Sauce, circa 1870. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-8323.

Friday Night Teen Scene • Thru April 30 • Hoops, volleyball, arcade games. Grades six thru 12. Kahle Community Center, Stateline, 775-586-7271 for further information.

Modernism in American Silver: 20th Century Design • Thru May 14 • Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.

An Archeological Dig Through Women's Purses • Thru May 14 • Exhibition compares what women carried through the years. Sparks Heritage Museum, Sparks, 775-355-1144.

Great Basin Gallery's 20th Anniversary Exhibition • Thru May 26 • Featured Nevada artists are Jeff Nicholson, Jean LeGassick, and Ron Arthaud. Capital City Arts Initiative Courthouse Gallery, Carson City, www.arts-initiative.org.

Roy Curtis Exhibition • Thru May 31 • Photos by Reno photographer. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

Locomotive Stories of the V&T • Thru Dec. • Models, photographs, artifacts. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Children's Story Time • Thru Dec. • Thurs., Zephyr Cove Library, Zephyr Cove, 775-558-6411. Sat. and Mon. at Neighbors Bookstore, The Village Center, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-6296.

March Madness • March 1-31 • Outdoor education events sponsored by the Tahoe Rim Trail cover trail encounters and behaviors, health and hiking, trail artistry, environmental awareness. DWR Community Center, Incline Village, 775-298-0231.

Docent Guided Tours • March 1-April 30 • Tours at 10:30am and 1:30pm Mon.-Sat., 12:30pm Sun. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

The Artwork of Robert Cinkel • March 1-April 30 • Reno artist's Museum and Truckee River series. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

UNR Men's Basketball • The Wolf Pack plays March 2 vs. San Jose State, March 4 vs. Fresno State. Lawlor Events Center,

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UNR, Reno, 775-784-6900 for further game information.

Friday Night Expression Sessions • March 3, 17 • Competition format varies. Boreal Mountain Resort, Donner Summit, 530-426-3666.

Last Tracks • March 4, 11, 18, 25 • Appetizers and wine-tasting served before the last run of the day. Diamond Peak, Incline Village, 775-832-1177.

Alpine Spring Concert Series • March 18, 25, April 8, 15, 22, 29 • Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-4232.

The 1960s: Movin' and Groovin' • March 27-Oct. 16 • Decade that changed every aspect of our society from language to automobiles. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Mark Vollmer Photography Exhibit • April 2-30 • Landscape images of Nevada and the West. Washoe County Library, Reno, 775-327-8300.

Coming Events

Historic Preservation Weekend • May 12-14 • Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

Reno River Festival • May 12-14 • Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

"Hairspray" • May 16-21 • Reno, 800-714-5331.

Reno Rodeo • June 16-24 • 800-FOR-RENO.

AAU Girls Basketball National Championship • July 5-10, 12-16, 25-30 • Reno, 775-530-4779.

Hot August Nights • July 29-Aug. 6 • Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

46th Annual International Camel Races • Sept. 8-10 • Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

Lake Tahoe Marathon • Sept. 26-Oct. 1 • Lake Tahoe, 530-544-7095.



The '80s rock band Camper van Beethoven strolls into Harrah's Lake Tahoe on March 4.

Shows

CARSON CITY

Carson Nugget • 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Entertainers appear in the Nugget Show Lounge.

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

Casino Fandango • 775-885-7000: Bands play in the lounge.

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

CARSON VALLEY

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Shannon Ballroom: Brenn Hill, March 3. Cabaret Lounge: Chazz thru March 5. Shake, Rattle 'n Roll, March 7-12. Major Link, March 14-19. RETRoACTIVE, March 21-26. Hotel California: A Tribute to the Eagles, March 28-April 2. American Made Band, April 4-9. Manny B and the Rhythm Nights, April 11-16. Sixtiesmania, April 18-23. The Palmores, April 25-30. Sidro's Armada, May 2-7.

Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 775-782-3133.

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

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 775-825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Cabaret: Blackhawk, Little Texas, and Restless Heart, March 3-4. Powerlight and The Method, March 5.

Boomtown • 775-345-6000: Can-Can Theater and Dancehall: Bands appear Tues.-Sun.

Club Cal Neva • 775-323-1046 or 877-777-7303: Entertainment on Fri. and Sat.

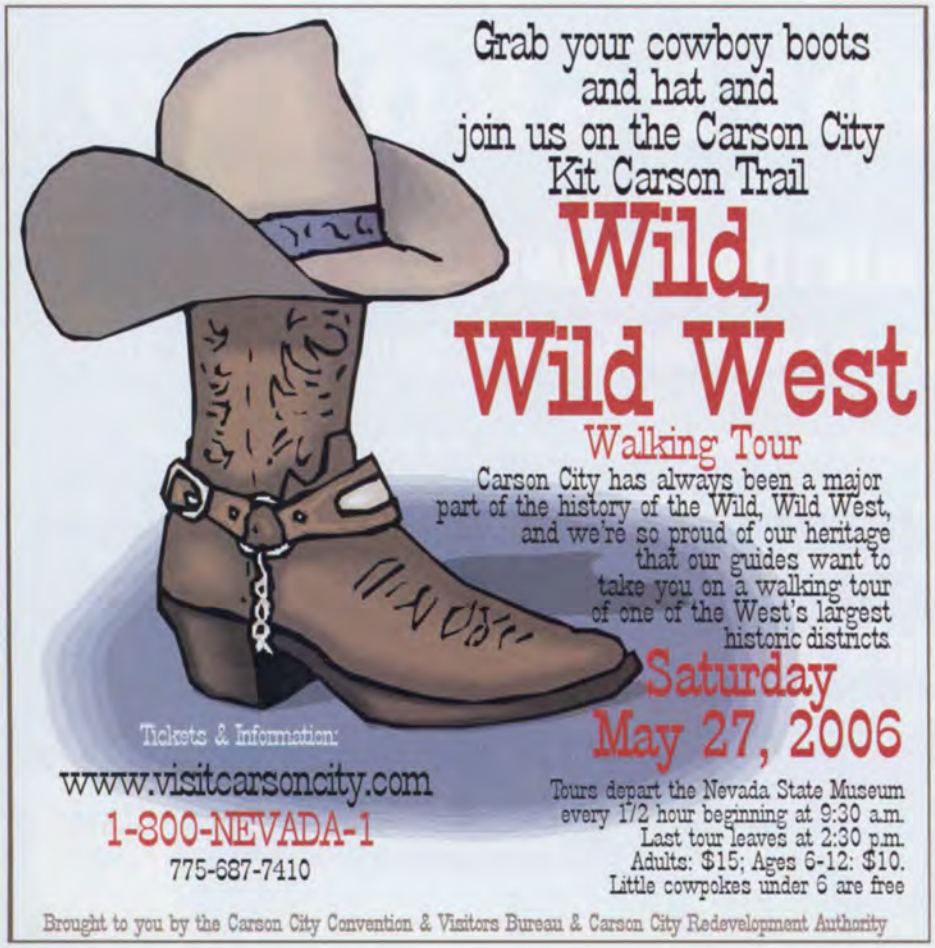
Circus Circus • 775-329-0711: Circus Cabaret: Entertainment except Tues.-Wed. Free daily circus acts, 11am-10:30pm.

Eldorado • 775-786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Eldorado Showroom: "Balagan," thru July 2, Cirque-style production, dark Mon. Entertainment in the Brew Brothers microbrewery, Roxy, BuBinga, and Casino Cabaret.

Fitzgeralds • 775-785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands perform nightly in the Fitz Showbar.

Harrah's Reno • 775-786-3232 or 800-HARRAHS: "Bareback, musical revue, thru July, dark Tues. "Chippendales: The Show," male revue, March 13-July 3. Bands play Fri.-Sat. in the Sapphire Lounge.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 775-356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Celebrity Showroom: Guy Lombardo Orchestra, March 1. Royal Swing Orchestra tribute to Frank Sinatra, March 8. Roy Clark, March 9-11. Cab Calloway Orchestra, March 15. Alan Parsons Live Project, March 17-18. Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, March 22. Asleep at the Wheel, March 24-25. Debbie Reynolds, March 31-April 1. Don Rickles, April 21-22. "Forever Tango," Broadway musical, June 6-July 2. Special Event: Banff Film Festival, March 4-5. Casino Cabaret: Entertainers like JoMama, Louie Fontaine and the



Rockets, Tony Vee, Buddy Emmer Band, Boogie Monsters, Colin Ross, Stew Stewart, and Laurie Thomas and the Trick perform. Bands play in Trader Dick's. Jazz on Wed., wine-tasting Thurs. in Restaurante Orozko Lounge.

Peppermill • 775-826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tahoe Grand Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Entertainment in the Cabaret Lounge, the Steakhouse restaurant, and on Fri.-Sat. the piano lounge.

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

Reno Events Center • 800-687-8733: Larry the Cable Guy, June 9.

Reno Hilton • 775-789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theater: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly in The Garage.

Sands Regency • 775-348-2200: Tequila Bar: Bands play Wed.-Sun. Comedians play in the Just For Laughs Comedy Club, dark Mon.-Tues.

Siena • 775-337-6260: Lexie's Lounge: Jammin' With the Siena Jazz Ensemble Tues.-Sat. Corky Bennett appears in the lounge Tues.-Sun.

Silver Club • Sparks, 775-358-4771 or 800-905-7774: Entertainment in the Casino Lounge.

Silver Legacy • 775-329-4777 or 800-687-8733 (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: Toni Braxton, April 8. Bill Cosby, May 13. Music in the Rum Bullions Island Bar. Comedians perform in the Catch a Rising Star Comedy Club, dark Mon. Silver Baron Lounge: Piano music.

Tamarack Junction • 775-852-3600.

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

STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

Bill's Lake Tahoe • 775-588-2455: William's Back Door Blues Club: Bands play from 9:30pm-12:30am Thurs.-Sat.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: Camper Van Beethoven, March 4. Skid Row, March 11. Entertainment in the California Bar, Casino Center Stage, and Altitude Nightclub.

Harveys • 775-588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: Harveys Cabaret: "Dancin' in the Streets, dark Mon.-Tues. thru March 31. Comedians like Judy Gold, Adam Ferrara, and Jackie Flynn perform in The Improv. Entertainment in the Cabo Wabo Cantina Lounge.

Horizon • 775-588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Golden Cabaret: Entertainment TBA. Bands play in the Aspen Lounge.

Lakeside Inn • 775-588-7777: In the Tavern: Entertainment to be announced.

MontBleu Resort (formerly Caesars Tahoe) • 775-588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus Showroom: Kathy Griffin, March 3. Dana Carvey, March 24-25. Entertainment in the Club Nero and Cleo's Lounge.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

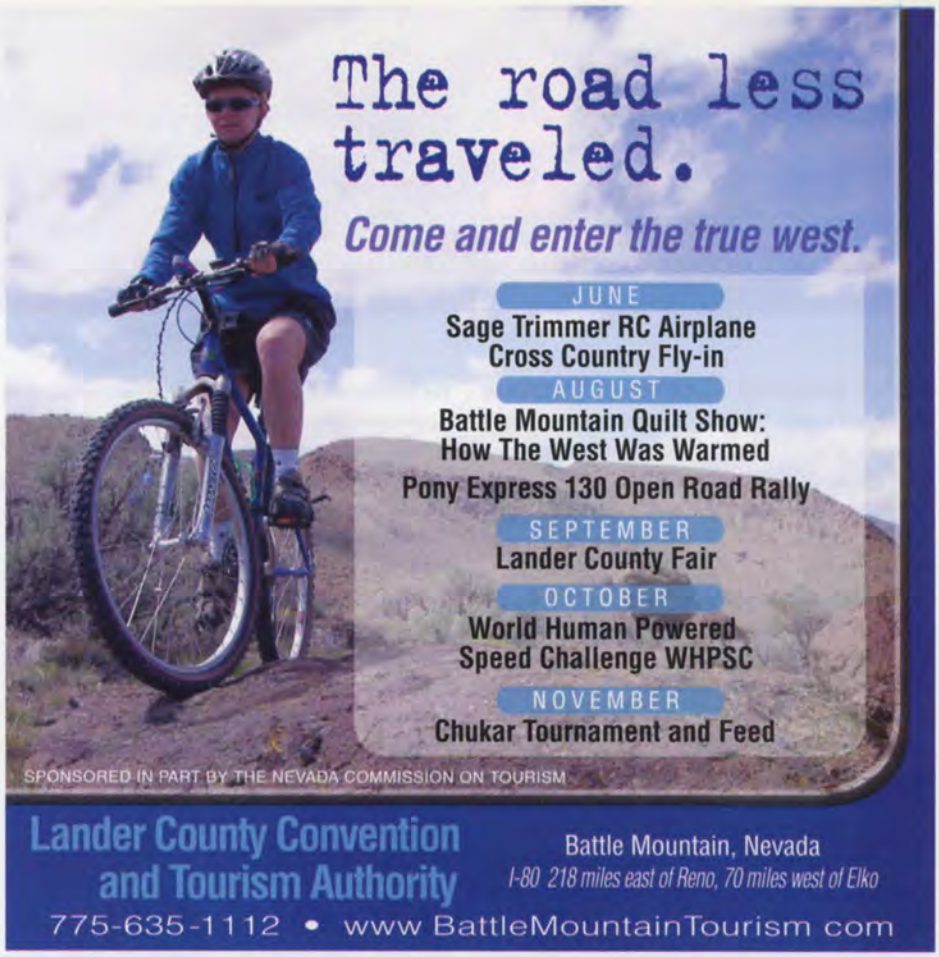
Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 775-832-4000 or 800-225-6382. Showroom: Entertainment TBA.

Crystal Bay Club • 775-831-0512: Casino Cabaret: Sons of Champlin, March 3. AC/DShe, March 10. Bonerama with Lil Brian and the Zydeco Travelers, March 17. Walter Trout, March 22. The Duhks, March 22. Pinetop Perkins, March 24.

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.

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

Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0660: Breeze Nightclub: T. Broussard and the Zydeco, March 10. Lyrics Born, hip-hop music, March 27. Performers like Patton Leatha, Escalade, and Steel Breeze Tues.-Sun.





FREE INFORMATION

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Tourism Authorities/Chambers of Commerce

101 Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce—High desert region, U.S. 50 (Loneliest Road in America), history, mountain biking, hunting. 775-964-2200, www.mountainsage.org.

103 Boulder City Chamber of Commerce—"The city that built Hoover Dam," golf, outdoor sports, and Lake Mead. 866-297-4336, www.bouldercitychamber.com.

104 Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau—Nevada's capital city has "Divine 9" golf courses, lodging, and gaming. 800-NEVADA-1, 775-687-7410, www.visitcarsoncity.com.

105 Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau/Seniors Strike Silver Cards—Discounts on lodging, meals, museums, recreation, gaming. 800-NEVADA-1, www.visitcarsoncity.com.

106 Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Authority—Genoa, Minden-Gardnerville, and Topaz Lake make up the Carson Valley. 800-727-7677, www.carsonvalleynv.org.

107 White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board, Ely—Bristlecone pines, Great Basin National Park, fishing, hunting, camping, golf, Nevada Northern Railway. 800-HY6-9350, www.elynevada.net.

108 Eureka Opera House—Built in 1880 and restored in 1993, the Eureka Opera House is located on U.S. 50 (Loneliest Road in America). 775-237-6006, www.co.eureka.nv.us.

109 Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority—Fallon is home to the Navy's Top Gun flight school, Sand Mountain, and Lake Lahontan. 866-4FALLON, www.fallontourism.com.

110 Elko Convention and Visitors Authority—In Northeastern Nevada on Interstate 80, Elko has outdoor recreation, history, hotels, casinos. Convention Center has 50,000 square feet of meeting space. Free Meeting Planner Guide. 800-248-3556, www.elkocva.com.

111 Jackpot Tourism—Located on Idaho border on U.S. 93, Northeastern Nevada resort town has entertainment, casinos, restaurants, golf. 775-755-2229, www.jackpot-nevada.org.

112 Nevada Commission on Tourism—Nevada's tourism authority guides the visitor to unlimited outdoor adventure and world-class resorts. 800-NEVADA-8, www.travelnevada.com for more information.

116 Lander County Convention and Tourism Authority—Battle Mountain, on I-80, is famous for its *Washington Post* appellation, "Armpit of America." For Battle Mountain information 775-635-1112, www.battlemountain.org.

117 Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority—Basque restaurants, outdoor adventure, history, events, nightlife, gaming, convention center. For information 800-962-2638, www.winnemucca.nv.us.

119 Pony Express Territory—The Pony Express Trail (1860-1861) parallels U.S. 50 (Loneliest Road in America) in Pony Express Territory. For additional information call 888-359-9449, visit online at www.ponyexpressnevada.com.

122 Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority—Information on restaurants, shopping, entertainment, events, gaming, lodging, golf. 877-VISIT-LV, www.vegasfreedom.com for more information.

124 Pahrump Valley Chamber of Commerce—Pahrump has outdoor activities, events, hotel-casinos, Pahrump Valley Winery, RV parks. 866-722-5800, www.pahrumpchamber.com for more information.

128 Wells Chamber of Commerce—Wells is the jump-off point for California-Oregon Trail sites. Hunting, fishing, golf, and trails. 775-752-3540, www.californiatrailinterpretivecenter.com.

129 Greater Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce—Five state parks, Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge, ghost towns, mining camps. 775-962-5271, www.lincolncountynevada.com for more information.

131 Mineral County Economic Development, Hawthorne—Located 130 miles southeast of Reno on U.S. 95, the area's regional theme is "America's Patriotic Home" with museums, ghost town exploring, riding, and hunting. Visit Walker Lake for fishing, birdwatching, and water-skiing. 775-945-5400.

133 City of West Wendover—Swimming, golfing, horseback riding, fishing, birdwatching, casinos, hotels, dining, and entertainment. 866-BZYC-ITY, www.westwendovercity.com.

Hotels/Casinos

202 Carson Nugget, Carson City—Video/slot machines, table games, keno, bingo, restaurants, buffet, gift shop, entertainment. 800-426-5239, www.ccnugget.com.

203 Carson Valley Inn, Minden—Hotel, motor lodge, RV park, convention center, wedding chapel, pool, spa, gift shop, four restaurants, and casino. 800-321-6983, www.cvinn.com for more information.

207 Imperial Palace, Las Vegas—On the Las Vegas Strip, the hotel-casino has 2,700 rooms, 10 restaurants, "Legends in Concert." 888-777-7664, www.imperialpalace.com for more information.

208 John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks—Off I-80, gaming, John's Club, eight restaurants, wedding chapel, pool, health club, convention facilities. 800-648-1177, www.janugget.com for more information.

209 Peppermill, Reno—Gaming, eight restaurants, 14 themed bars, free cabaret entertainment, pool, spa, salon, senior specials, 40,000 square feet of convention space. For more information 800-648-6992 (mention HN-VMAG4), www.peppermillreno.com.

212 Circus Circus Reno—More than 22,000 square feet of meeting and convention space and 65,000 square feet of gaming space. 800-648-5010, www.circusreno.com.

215 Saddle West, Pahrump—Rooms and suites, restaurant, buffet, RV resort, golf packages, convention facilities, Players Club, and slot tournaments. For information 800-433-3987, www.saddlewest.com.

218 Harrah's Laughlin—Themed after a Mexican resort, 1,571 rooms and suites. Slot players can enjoy Harrah's Total Rewards. Top-name entertainment in the showroom or amphitheater, five restaurants, activities on the river, meeting and banquet facilities. For information 800-HARRAHS, www.harrahs.com.

221 Flamingo Laughlin—1,900 rooms, conventions and weddings, gaming, entertainment, boat tours, tennis, fitness center, nine restaurants. Call 800-FLAMINGO, or visit online at www.flamingolaughlin.com for additional information.

222 Carson Station and Piñon Plaza Casino-Resorts, Carson City—Best Western. Carson Station has 92 rooms. For details 800-501-2929, www.carsonstation.com. Piñon Plaza has 148 rooms, 70 RV spaces. For details 877-519-5569, www.pinonplaza.com.

227 Atlantis Casino Resort, Reno—Concierge tower, 1,000 hotel rooms, health spa, nine restaurants, gaming, 24,000 square feet of meeting space. Mention NEVADA. 800-723-6500, www.atlantiscasino.com.

229 Cactus Petes Resort, Jackpot—Hotel has 300 rooms and suites, live entertainment, five restaurants, 26,000 square feet of gaming. 800-821-1103, www.cactuspetes.com.

236 Excalibur Hotel Casino Las Vegas—Fit for a King or Queen rooms, suites, spa and salon, themed restaurants, entertainment including Anthony Cools and "Thunder from Down Under." For group entertainment, visit www.showtimemarketing.com. For reservations 887-750-5464, www.excalibur.com.

244 Luxor Las Vegas—A 30-story bronze pyramid resort housing the world's largest atrium, 100,000 square feet of casino space, nightclub, nightly entertainment including Carrot Top, themed restaurants, and retail shopping. 888-777-0188, www.luxor.com.

Lodging

402 Lake Tahoe Accommodations—Management for rental properties, rental homes, or condos near skiing, golf, and lake. 800-544-3234, www.laketahoeaccommodations.com.

Shows

509 Anthony Cools, Excalibur Hotel Casino, Las Vegas—This high energy, adult performer brings comedy and hypnosis to Excalibur's Minstrel's Lounge nightly. For reservations call 702-597-7600, www.excalibur.com, groups reserve at www.showtimemarketing.com.

510 Carrot Top, Luxor Las Vegas—Carrot Top totes trucks of inventions and props on stage along with his brand of redheaded humor nightly at Luxor. Purchase show tickets 702-262-4400, www.luxor.com. Group tickets at www.showtimemarketing.com.

Attractions, Galleries, Museums

602 Liberace Museum, Las Vegas—The museum features jewelry, wardrobe, and costumes worn by the late Liberace, car collection, and pianos. 702-798-5595, www.liberace.com for more information.

603 Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely—Historic tourist train rides on 32 miles of track. Meetings on wheels for business and weddings. For additional information 866-40-STEAM, www.nnry.com.

605 Explore the Land of Midnight Stars, Tonopah—Named the "Best Place to See The Stars" in *USA Today*. Receive a free Tonopah Travel Guide, 775-482-9680.

613 Dig Mines/Virginia City CTA/Elko Convention Center—Visit Virginia

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City's historic Comstock Lode and travel I-80 to Elko to see modern mining at work in Nevada. Both offer lodging, events, shopping, tours, and adventure. Virginia City 800-847-4Fun, Elko 800-248-3556.

Events

701 Carson City Rendezvous—Nevada history celebration, June 9-11, 2006. Carson City Visitors Bureau sponsors events, concert, crafts, food. 800-NEVADA-1, www.visitcarsoncity.com.

702 Wild West Tour, Carson City—Carson City Kit Carson Trail event with tour guides. May 27, 2006. Focal point will be Nevada's political history. 800-NEVADA-1, www.visitcarsoncity.com.

703 The Solitudes, Pioneer Territory—Death Valley, Boundary Peak, mining towns, seven state parks and wilderness areas, mountain biking, skiing, hiking. For information 800-357-8754, www.pioneerterritory.org.

704 Nevada's Cowboy Country—Lovelock to Wendover, hotels, casinos, gaming, outdoor adventure, ranches, rodeos, Basque culture, gold mines. For additional information 877-626-9268, www.cowboycountry.org.

718 Lyon County Fly In & Air Fest—May 20 and 21, 2006. Salutes Women of Aviation at the Lyon County Silver Springs Airport, crafts, food, chili cook-off, pancake breakfast, 775-887-1204, www.lyoncountyflyin.com.

Weddings

801 Viva Las Vegas Weddings and Viva Las Vegas Villas—Chapel and villas offer traditional, themed, Elvis weddings, limo, flowers, photos. 800-574-4450, www.vivalasvegasweddings.com for additional wedding information.

804 The Nevada Wedding Association—A nonprofit organization that markets the various wedding regions in Nevada. For information on Nevada weddings and marriage services visit www.nevadaweddings.org or contact President Teri Sweeney at tsweeney@ridge-resorts.com.

Recreation

901 Lake Mead Cruises—Excursions on Lake Mead and near Hoover Dam, *Desert Princess* or *Desert Princess Too*, events, and weddings. 702-293-6180, www.lakemeadcruises.com.

902 Tonopah Historic Mining Foundation—Tonopah Historic Mining Park is on site of Belle and Jim Butler's 1900 claim. Self-guided tours. 775-482-9274, www.tonopahnevada.org.

905 Nevada Department of Transportation Bicycle Safety—Department has information on safety and statewide events and sells state bicycle jerseys. For additional information 775-888-RIDE, www.bicyclenevada.com.

911 Look Tours, Las Vegas—Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam by helicopter or airplane. Bus/van tours, horseback rides, riverboat combos. 800-LOOK-TOURS, www.looktours.com.

914 Awesome Adventure, The Ultimate Tour Company, Las Vegas—Custom adventure tours of all kinds—ATV, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Reservations 800-519-2243, www.adventureseekers.info. Mention NM32006 for discounts.

Restaurants

1001 Louis' Basque Corner—Authentic Basque food served family-style in downtown Reno, 301 E. Fourth St., since 1967. Open for dinner nightly and lunch Tues.-Sat. 775-323-7203.

Real Estate

1101 Liberty Realty Relocation Division—Relocate to Nevada with a team of specialists. For information on available homes, 800-296-1802.

1103 RE/MAX Ridge Realty, Koleen Peterson, Mesquite—Independent sales associate, call or email for information about homes in Mesquite. 702-499-7997, koleen@sisna.com.

Retail Shopping/Books

1203 Gamblers General Store, Las Vegas—Casino products, antique slots, books, chips, roulette wheels, and tables, which are sold in store and online. 800-322-2447, www.gamblersgeneralstore.com for further information.

Living in the Moment















Photos by Geoff Arnold and Elaine Swanson

Wells Chamber of Commerce

Wells

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Rural Nevada

EVENTS AND SHOWS

Events

Pick of the Remuda Cow Horse Sale and Trade Show • March 3-4 • Sale, demonstrations. Event Center, Winnemucca, 775-304-1748.

Ranch Hand Rodeo • March 4-5 • Working cowboys compete. Event Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-2220.

Halleck Bar Party • March 10 • Fundraiser honors the legacy of the Halleck family, ranchers who donated their 1800s-era bar on the condition it be used to serve Beefeater Gin at an annual party. Gin is free after a $20 admission. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

"Macbeth" • March 10 • Utah Shakespearean Festival presentation. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Shooting the West XVIII • March 10-12 • Photographic conference includes speakers, jam session, portfolio critique. Convention Center, Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Dunn's Wildhorse Perch Derby • March 11-12 • Cash prizes for the largest, longest, and smallest perch. Wildhorse Reservoir, 60 miles north of Elko, 775-758-5534.

Edlos: Bad Boys of A Cappella • March 17 • Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

St. Patty's Day • March 18 • Parade and picnic. Honeysuckle Park, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.

Rough Riders Gymkhana • March 18 • Equestrian competition. McCullough Arena, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.

Pahrump Gunfighters • March 26 • Old West re-enactments and skits. Dusty Flats, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.

St. Petersburg Quartet Concert • March 28 • Chamber music. Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-5475.

April Fool's Hike • April 1 • Ranger-led easy walk. Dress for weather and bring water. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Police Association Baker, Calif., to Las Vegas Run • April 1-2 • Relay run. State Routes 372 and 160. Pahrump, 775-727-5800.

First Occasional Lyon County Liar's Contest • April 1 • Fundraiser welcomes whoppers, tall tales, and yarns. Event includes prizes, dinner, drinks, and the chance to purchase a liar's kit, which includes the right to lie to everyone in attendance. Jeanne Dini Yerington Cultural Center, Yerington, 775-577-2069.

Manhattan Rhythm Kings • April 5 • Trio performs music of the '20s, '30s, and '40s. Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-5475.

"Arsenic and Old Lace" • April 7 • Presentation by Virginia City Muckers Theater. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Spring Cribbage Classic • April 7-9 • National competitors. Convention Center, Winnemucca, 800-648-4770, ext. 2148.

Adventure Hike • April 8 • Ranger-led four-mile round-trip over moderately rugged terrain. Dress for weather and bring water and a snack. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.



The Oak Ridge Boys will swing into "Elvira," one of the group's most enduring hits, when the Grammy and CMA Award winners appear March 10-11 at Cactus Petes in Jackpot.

Bunny Trail Kids' Hike • April 15 • Ranger-led hike. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Walker Lake Loon Festival • April 15 • Free boat and barge rides to view loons, lectures on the lake and Native American culture, food, entertainment. Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 775-945-8243.

Rough Riders Gymkhana • April 15 • Equestrian competition. McCullough Arena, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.

Annual Ranch Hand Rodeo • April 15-16 • Working cowboys compete. Spring Creek Horse Palace, four miles east of Elko, 775-753-6295.

Flintknapping Demonstration • April 22 • How arrowheads and spear heads were made from stone. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Pahrump Gunfighters • April 23 • Old West re-enactments and skits. Dusty Flats, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.

Symphony and Harp Concert • April 23 • Jeremy Keppelmann, guest artist. Oats Park Arts Center, Fallon, 775-883-4154.

Ruby Mountain Vintage Wine Tasting • April 28 • Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-1484.

Patrick Ball • April 28 • Celtic harpist and storyteller. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Terrible's Town 250 • April 28-30 • Off-road race. Pahrump, 775-727-5800.

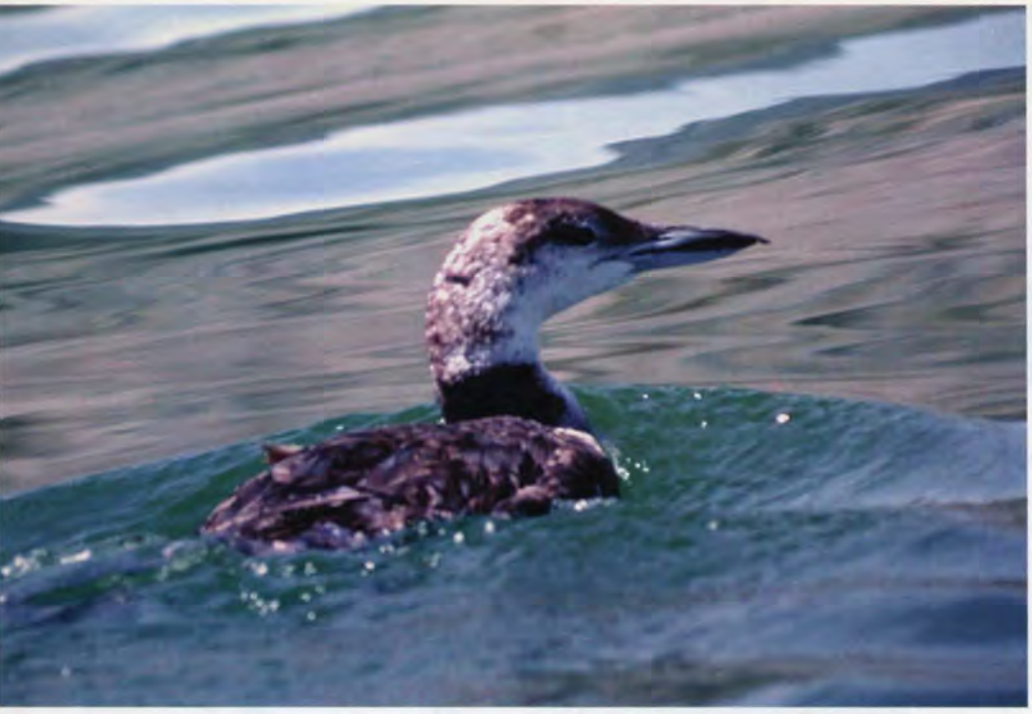
Ruby Mountain Symphony Concert • April 29 • Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-4187.

Birds of a Feather • April 29 • Slide program on Eastern Nevada's migratory birds. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Confederate Memorial Day • April 29 • Living-history military program honoring veterans by United Daughters of the Confederacy and Nevada Civil War Volunteers. Fallon Cemetery, Fallon, 775-423-8797.

Spring Fling • April 29 • Arts, crafts, flea market. Hawthorne Convention Center, Hawthorne, 775-945-3030.

Pahrump Gunfighters • April 30 • Old West re-enactments and skits. Dusty Flats, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.



The Walker Lake Loon Festival, April 15 in Hawthorne, immerses birders in viewings, lectures, Native American culture, and entertainment.

Ongoing Events

Goldfield Historical Firehouse and Museum • Antique equipment displayed on weekends. Goldfield, 775-485-6303.

Eye Opener Slot Tournament • 9am-noon Mon.-Thurs. Saddle West, Pahrump, 800-433-3987.

Nevada Artists • Permanent exhibit of works by such artists as Cliff Segerblom, Sharon Rhodes, Don Farmer, and Mildred Byers. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Saturday Night Fever Slot Tournament • 7pm, $10 buy-in. Saddle West, Pahrump, 800-433-3987.

Amy Hartell and Larry Turner Exhibition • Thru March 7 • Polaroid transfers and photographs. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Larry Bute Exhibition • Thru March 31 • Western art. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418 for more information.

Elko County Art Club Spring Show • Thru April 11 • Various media. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Hidden Cave Tours • March 11, 25, April 8, 22, May 13 • Guided tour of Hidden Cave archaeological site includes self-guided tour of Grimes Point petroglyph site. Meet at Churchill County Museum, Fallon. To confirm tour dates, call the Bureau of Land Management, 775-885-6000.

Andi Gaily Sand Paintings • March 7-July 5 • Exhibition by local artist. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Visual Arts in Hawthorne Exhibit • March 14-April 24 • Regional artists. Hawthorne Convention Center, Hawthorne, 775-945-3030.

Spring Historic Train Ride Schedule • April 15-16, 22-23, 29-30 • Departures at 9:30am and 1pm. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Sunset at Steptoe Wine Trains • May 28, June 11, July 3, Aug. 13, Sept. 4 • Wine and hors d'oeuvres. Also, special Steptoe Valley Flyer passenger train rides pulled by steam locomotive, June 18, July 17, Aug. 20, Sept. 17. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.



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Celtic harpist and storyteller Patrick Ball performs in concert April 28 at the Eureka Opera House.

Coming Events

Nevada Passage Reality Competition: May 8, Battle Mountain; May 9, Winnemucca; May 11, Austin; May 12, Pahrump. For information visit www.nevadapassage.com.

Elko ATV Jamboree • May 17-20 • Elko, 775-753-0550.

Run-A-Mucca Motorcycle Rally • May 26-28 • Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Lyon County Fly-In and Air Fest • May 20-21 • Airport, Silver Springs, 775-887-1294.

Winnemucca Basque Festival • June 10-11 • Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

Elko Motorcycle Jamboree • June 16-18 • Elko, 775-753-5929.

National Basque Festival • July 1-3 • Elko, 775-738-5386.

Silver State Stampede • July 6-8 • Elko, 775-738-7780.

Pictures of Elko: Preserving the Past to Ensure the Future • Art competition deadline November 1 • Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Shows

AMARGOSA VALLEY

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

BEATTY

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

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

ELKO

Commercial Hotel • 800-648-2345, ext. 498: Entertainers like Frisco, Hildiees, Saxy Lady, Corky and Jan, and Kip and Bo play in the lounge.

Gold Country Casino • 800-621-1332: Music on weekends.

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

Red Lion • 775-738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Showroom: Bands play nightly.

Stockmen's Hotel • 800-648-2345, ext. 498 (U.S. and Nevada): Bands like Midnight Riders, Octane, River Town, and Chasin Mason, Zito, Young Guns, and Rain play in the showroom.



Elko photographer Cynthia A. Delaney's picture of Basque dancers is one of her submissions to Shooting the West, the annual photo symposium, to be held March 10-12 in Winnemucca.

ELY

Hotel Nevada • 775-289-6665.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 775-423-6031.

Fallon Nugget • 775-423-3111.

Stockman's Casino and Holiday Inn Express • 775-423-2117.

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 775-945-3322: Music 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: Oak Ridge Boys, March 10-11. Ray Price, March 24-25. Danny Marona: Farewell Tour, April 7-8 and Aug. 18-19. 38 Special, April 21-22. Rich Little, May 5-6. Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, May 19-20. Ronnie Milsap, June 16-17. Bill Engvall, Oct. 27-28.

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

LOVELOCK

Sturgeons • 775-273-2971 and 888-234-6835: Center Club Showroom: Bands and karaoke are featured on weekends.

PAHRUMP

Pahrump Nugget • 775-751-6500.

Saddle West Hotel, Casino, and RV Park • 775-727-1111: Entertainment in the Club West Nightclub.

Terrible's Lakeside • 775-751-7770.

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

SILVER SPRINGS

Silver Springs Nugget • 775-577-4263.

TONOPAH

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

Tonopah Station Ramada Inn • 775-482-9777: Bands play on weekends.

WENDOVER

Montego Bay • 775-664-9100: Bands play in the lounge.

Peppermill • 775-664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Entertainers appear in the casino lounge.

Rainbow Casino • 775-664-4000: Bands play in the lounge.

Red Garter • 775-664-2111.

State Line Nugget • 775-664-2221.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 775-623-2511: Bands appear in the lounge.

Model T • 775-623-2588: Bands Thurs.-Sat., karaoke Wed.

Holiday Inn Express • 775-625-3100.

Sundance Casino • 775-623-3336.

Red Lion • 800-633-6435.

YERINGTON

Casino West • 775-463-2481: Weekend music.

Dini's Lucky Club • 775-463-2868: Weekend music.

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PHOTO: Cynthia A. Delaney

Anthony Cools

Hypnotism and **comedy** create an inhibition-free zone at the Excalibur in Las Vegas.

Comedy hypnotist Anthony Cools invites showgoers to join him onstage nightly at the Excalibur. Under hypnosis, they become exhibitionists as Cools sets up bizarre situations for his subjects to follow. Cools' show is adult fare, billed as "good, clean, dirty fun" that is "raw and uncensored."

A self-taught hypnotist, Cools began his show business career in 1994 while he was working as a disc jockey and managing a nightclub in Calgary, his hometown. When he's not performing, the 39-year-old relaxes with friends on his backyard patio.



Hypnotist Anthony Cools turns ordinary showgoers into exhibitionists capable of outrageous behavior at the Excalibur in Las Vegas.

For me, hypnotism is more than a job. I first became interested in hypnotism at age 14 after seeing Raveen, a hypnotist, perform in Canada. As a teenager I was intrigued by the idea of controlling people's minds. Since then I've read more than 300 books on the subject.

I decided to try hypnotism when I was managing the Dooie Stevens Nightclub in Calgary. I booked myself to give a free show on May 7 1994. I didn't sleep for three days before the big performance because I'd never hypnotized a person in my life. My volunteers went under without a whimper.

I walked off the stage and quit my job of eight years the next day. After spending the first nine years of my career touring North America, including stops in Mesquite at the CasaBlanca and in Las Vegas at the Stardust and Paris, I am now headlining at the Excalibur.

Some people may doubt hypnotism is real, but it's simple. Basically, I put to sleep the part of a volunteer's brain that governs right and wrong. Although my subjects are conscious, their inhibitions may be lifted. I can't predict how someone will act, which adds to the fun. After 11 years, something always happens onstage that gives me a big belly laugh. I love to make suggestions that are shocking, such as telling male volunteers they are the Chippendales and they can strip on stage (only down to their underwear, of course).

Working six nights a week doesn't afford me a lot of time to hang out, but when I'm in a party mood, I like to drop into Pure Nightclub at Caesars Palace. When I just want to chill out with a couple of close friends, we go to PT's Pub, have a few beers, and play some NTN (National Trivia Network).

I'm fascinated by flying, both real and radio-controlled planes and helicopters. My interest in radio-controlled aircraft grew out of boredom when I had gigs to perform in casinos in the middle of nowhere. I graduated to the real thing three years ago while working at the Grand Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi, where I took lessons and earned my pilot's license. What an amazing feeling it was to do my first solo flight.

Vegas has some terrific restaurants, so eating out is high on my list of things to do. By far my favorite is Sushi Fever, which is about 15 minutes west of the Strip on Sahara Avenue. I could eat there every day. My car knows the way to P.F. Chang's China Bistro. Is there a theme here?

When I decided to switch careers and become a hypnotist, one of my goals was to perform in Las Vegas. I love to make people laugh, and I am honored to do it on the Strip surrounded by so many fantastic entertainers. Two of them, whom I see over and over, are my friends Amazing Jonathan and Carrot Top. They always make me laugh—and that is the best part of my day.

Show Notes

Anthony Cools plays in the Anthony Cools Experience at the Excalibur on the Las Vegas Strip. Show time is 9 p.m., dark Wednesday. Tickets cost $47 $69, and $85.50, which includes tax and service fee. Beverages are not included. For tickets call 800-933-1334 or 702-597-7777 or visit www.excalibur.com.





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Ladies first.
What a gentleman.

A little time out on the lake.







I scored big points with this.

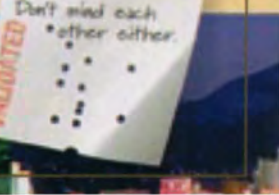
Locking our love in Lovelock — he scored big BONUS POINTS with this.



It was our first vacation but I bet it won't be our last.
I can rough it this gonna cut it,
And we're absolutely in love with Nevada.
Don't mind each other either.

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