NEVADA
MAGAZINE

December 2001

INSIDE: Complete Guide to Events & Shows in Nevada

Mesquite Mystique
A green-belt jungle of golf, gaming, and spas

Your Own Winter Olympics
Medal-winning ski runs at Reno-Lake Tahoe

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NEVADA

MAGAZINE • VOL. 61 • NO. 6 • NOV/DEC 2001

"Five million years ago, when the basin and range topography began to form, there were no mountains between Nevada and the Pacific Ocean, and this was a moist, fertile country."
—Jon Christensen in *Nevada*



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CasaBlanca Resort in Mesquite.

Photo by Richard Cummins

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A Season of Hope

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all of one's lifetime."

—Mark Twain

Like America, Nevada is a melting pot of cultures, religious beliefs, ethnic groups, and ideas. These differences, in fact, are part of what makes Nevada such an interesting place. Embracing and learning from people who are different is an American tradition—and one we must not abandon.

The recent tragic loss of life caused by terrorists' attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon has threatened to create an environment of fear. But fear can be our worst enemy. Tolerance and understanding are the cornerstones of our society—and what make us different from those who would seek to diminish our way of life. It is the blending of cultures and beliefs, whether Christian, Muslim, Judaic, or other, that has helped to make America a beacon of freedom for more than 225 years. And it is only through embracing our differences that we can remain a strong nation.

In recent months we have seen many of the divisions in our society overcome by the outpouring of love and support for those affected by the attacks. In Nevada that support has been exhibited in many ways. It was evident when Las Vegas Strip resorts dimmed their lights during a candlelight march attended by thousands of Nevadans and visitors. It was clear when the Fallon Junior Midget Pop Warner players donated money saved for awards and an end-of-the-season pizza party to the American Red Cross. It was displayed by Reno's firefighters, who spent a weekend standing on street corners, passing their rubber boots, and collected more than $180,000 in donations for the New York City Firefighters Relief Fund. And it can be seen in the hundreds of flowers, cards, and signs deposited in front of the replica of the Statue of Liberty at the New York-New York Hotel in Las Vegas.

Nevada may be more than 3,000 miles from New York City and Washington, D.C., but we have felt the pain. We also feel the hope. During this holiday season—traditionally a time of joy and celebration—let us take a moment to reflect on what makes our state and our country so great. As one-time Nevadan Mark Twain wrote, "We are called the nation of inventors. And we are. We could still claim that title and wear its loftiest honors if we had stopped with the first thing we ever invented, which was human liberty."

—Richard Moreno



Letters

The state flag, curious carp, and Burning Man.

Long May It Wave

I was upset to see *Nevada Magazine* asking for a new Nevada flag design in last issue's "Nevada Almanac." I am very proud to be a native Nevadan. I don't believe that the flag should be changed at all. Leave it alone. I suppose those same people would like to change our state song, "Home Means Nevada." Nevada is a beautiful state the way it is. Next, some people will ask for a new Liberty Bell because the old one has a crack in it and is worn! Our flag should stay the same. It's not an old blue bedsheet—it's our heritage.

Robert Swift
Henderson

"Battle Born" Beautiful

I am shocked that you would encourage a change to the Nevada state flag just because some "vexillologists" say it looks like a "blob on a bedsheet" ("Nevada Almanac," Sept/Oct '01). How about respecting Nevada's history? I would guess those who advocate changing our state flag know nothing of our history. Nevada became a state in 1864, during the Civil War, so I think "Battle Born" is appropriate, as are the silver star and two sprigs of sagebrush that are symbolic of our state.



The Nevada State Flag: Blob on a bedsheet?

Those of us who have lived here a long time are somewhat familiar with Nevada history. Our amazing growth in recent years has brought new people with new ideas, and that's fine, but let's have pride in Nevada history, too, and keep our beautiful "Battle Born."

Joan Swift
Retired Clark County Recorder
Henderson

Joan and Robert, thanks for your views. For other flag ideas see "Nevada Almanac."—Ed.

Carpe Diem

Richard Menzies' photo, showing two kids lying on their bellies watching the carp at Lake Mead Marina, brought me almost to tears ("Roadside Attractions," Sept/Oct '01). That was me, almost every day 30 years ago. I grew up in Boulder City. My father had a boat at the marina and also worked on many of the yachts owned by the big hotels. My sister and I would spend hours and hours trying to catch those carp with our bare hands. Tourists



would buy big bags of popcorn, and hundreds of carp would come to feed.

Only once did I catch one. I reached into the swarm of slimy fish, grabbed one underneath, and tossed it in the air. The carp landed on the dock and quickly flipped its way back into the water. Ah, the lazy days of summer.

Kelly (Sanderson) Hyatt
Reno

Louis and Buddy

I enjoyed Mike Weatherford's article on Louis Prima, "King of the Lounge," in the Sept/Oct issue. Another Vegas star who is quite an entertainer is Buddy Greco. He was a child prodigy and played with Benny Goodman at 16. Buddy has over 65 albums. In early November, he will perform with the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra.

Michael C. DiCorpo
Bedford Heights, OH

A Burning Issue

D. Brian Burghart's article "Burning Man" in the Sept/Oct '01 issue was a benign treatment of the annual drug festival. As Gerlach resident John Bogard, president of the Black Rock Rescue organization, says, the event causes "permanent damage to the once-pristine desert playa." The organization has appealed the Bureau of Land Management's approval of Burning Man to the Department of the Interior.

You undoubtedly know that Burning Man generates hundreds of unpublicized drug arrests over the Labor Day weekend each year, and that the biggest LSD bust in Nevada occurred at the festival's Black Rock City in 1998. Nevertheless, Burghart's only mention of drugs is his admission—buried in the middle of his article—that the drugfest "has generated more than its share of controversy because of open nudity [and] drug use..." Open nudity in the presence of young children, I might add.

Guy Farmer
Carson City

Clarification

Readers should note that the Golden Nugget special package mentioned in "Great Casino Deals" in July/August '01 is offered only through MGM Mirage Vacations; call 800-360-7111 for details.

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









Roadside Attractions

Star Trek gifts, celebrity wines, and the Cowboy Christmas Show.

Lights 'n Ice

RENO—The downtown **Rink on the River** will be the hub of Reno's Christmas festivities, Reno River Holiday. Located on the Truckee River at First and Virginia streets, the ice-skating rink is expected to open on Thanksgiving weekend and then host the December 1 holiday kick-off. Events begin with a morning ice-carving competition followed by the Festival of Trees decorating contest. Two blocks west on the Riverwalk, Wingfield Park will have displays of holiday lights depicting a waving Santa, a train station, and other scenes.

Christmas trees trimmed by businesses and nonprofit agencies will surround the ice rink throughout December. Admission is $5 adults, $3 seniors 55 and up, and $3 for ages three to 12. Drop-in hockey costs $8 per person. Skate rental costs $2. The rink is expected to be open through February. For skating schedules and other information contact Reno Parks and Recreation, 775-334-2260.—*Susan Elbe*



A locomotive and other scenes light up Wingfield Park and the Rink on the River in Reno in December.

The Boutiques Next Door

RENO—Every year Santa arrives early to the 200 block of **Vassar Street**, where rows of brick and stucco bungalows extend east of South Virginia Street in Reno. On November 11, several bungalows that have been converted into boutiques ring in the holidays with a joint open house.

Des Idées, a kitchen and bath accessory store, features holiday foods, place settings, and entertainment ideas in addition to kitchen gadgets that make good stocking stuffers. The store is open Monday to Saturday; call 775-348-9550 or visit www.desideesreno.com.



Bonnie J. Grellman started Des Idées 21 years ago. The store was the first of the Vassar Street shops.

Nearby, the conservative white house with dark-blue trim is actually a funky clothing store named **Concepts**. In addition to Diesel jeans, lariat necklaces, and Tuff Scentence makeup, the boutique carries special-occasion dresses. It is open daily; call 775-329-3359.

Between Concepts and Des Idées you'll find **Art Dogs and Grace**, an eclectic import-gift store reminiscent of the 1970s with an assortment of incense, Indonesian wood carvings, and tie-dyed clothing. Located in a former pet store, Art Dogs and Grace is open daily; call 775-324-2787

Across the street is **Chez Vous**, a gift store with a French country flavor. Wall clocks and architectural salvage pieces are offset by ornaments, musical Santas, and handmade tapestry and chenille stockings. The store is open daily; call 775-323-8687

The exterior of mauve, black, and white hints of the colorfully decorated furniture inside **Pipe Dreams**. Glass bowls and wall art carved from sheet metal are high-

Photos: Mark Vollmer (top), Joyce Hollister (bottom)

lighted by snowflake ornaments and accessories. Pipe Dreams is open Monday to Saturday; call 775-324-1122 for information.—*Susan Elbe*

Marilyn Merlot

CARSON CITY—Specialty wine shops in Carson City, Carson Valley, and Reno offer fine wines, gourmet foods, and custom-made gifts for the holidays.

At **Marlo's Ltd.** in Carson City, owners Marv and Lois Johnson sell wines from Pahrump Valley Vineyards and from Tahoe Ridge Vineyard and Winery in Carson Valley. They also sell wines from around the globe. "People from South Africa or New Zealand are always surprised to see wines from their homeland offered



Oenologists will find Dean, Marilyn Merlot, and Frank Sinatra at Bouquet and Bouquet.

in a shop in Nevada," Marv says. The shop carries gourmet foods and gifts. Marlo's, at 1000 North Carson Street, is open Monday to Saturday. Call 775-841-5610 or e-mail marloswine@gbis.com.

Bouquet and Bouquet in Gardnerville offers wines from Celebrity Cellars in Manteca, California. The wines are named for celebrities, and each bottle sports a portrait and short biography. Three Nevada favorites include wines dubbed Frank Sinatra, Dean (for Dean Martin), and Marilyn Merlot (Marilyn Monroe). The celebrity series costs about $20 per bottle. The shop, open Monday to Saturday at 1540 Highway 395, also sells flowers. To order call 775-782-2256.

Whispering Vine Wine Company in northwest Reno has more than 3,000 different wines on the shelves. Catered wine-

Traveler's Advisories

New Office, New Brochure

The **Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Authority** has a new address and a new brochure. The chamber in Gardnerville, 15 miles south of Carson City, moved across the street to 1513 U.S. 395. "We've doubled the tourist center area," says Suzanne Rosevold, the chamber's executive director. "We have a lot more wall space and a much larger gift shop—it's bigger and better for tourists." The new brochure is a glossy, 20-page publication with color photos, a calendar of major events, a list of all-season, outdoor recreational activities, and a location map. More than 60 restaurants are listed by cooking style from American to pizza. Places of historical interest are noted, along with art galleries, tours, entertainment, and gaming. Lodging, camping, and RV parks are included. To obtain the new brochure and a Carson Valley Guided Walking/Driving Tours brochure, contact the chamber at 775-782-8144 or visit www.carsonvalleynv.org. The visitor center is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and during the summer it's open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.



Olympics Bound?

Hotel rooms and transportation to events are available in **Wendover** for those wishing to attend the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City on February 8-24. "We have plenty of rooms," says West Wendover Assistant City Manager Chris Melville. The city of Wendover and its largest hotel-casinos—the State Line, Silver Smith, Peppermill, Rainbow, and Red Garter—are planning an Olympics bus program. Each day, visitors staying in Wendover can ride the bus to and from Salt Lake City, a 120-mile trip each way, during the Games. Melville says people staying in Utah can use the bus to visit Wendover. Call toll-free 866-299-2489 for information.

Surfing Nevada

How many workers were buried in Hoover Dam? Did Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid really rob a bank in Winnemucca? For several years, Nevada State Archivist Guy Rocha has written "Myth of the Month," an online column that reveals the truth behind many of the state's most popular legends and myths. Each of the meticulously researched columns is devoted to debunking or clarifying historical facts about the state—many of which, it turns out, aren't factual at all. To access Rocha's "Myth of the Month" column, visit **http://dmla.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/nsla/archives/myth/**. By the way, no one is buried in Hoover Dam, and neither Butch nor Sundance ever robbed a bank in Winnemucca.

Another worthwhile Nevada-history Web site is maintained by Shawn Hall, the director of the Tonopah Historic Mining Park and the author of such books as *Old Heart of Nevada, Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of Elko County; Romancing Nevada's Past: Ghost Towns and Historic Sites of Eureka, Lander, and White Pine Counties; and Preserving the Glory Days: Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of Nye County.* His Web site, **http://nvghosttowns.topcities.com**, is an electronic version of his book series. On the home page you'll find informative profiles of Nevada ghost towns—Hall adds a new one monthly—as well as ghost-town photos, a chatroom for ghost-town enthusiasts, and an online shop selling his books. Hall's site has had more than 57,000 visitors since 1999.

Package Deals

Caesars Tahoe offers all the pleasures of Rome for $89 per night at the Stateline resort Sunday to Thursday through December 13, depending upon availability. The package includes an all-you-can-eat brunch for two. The whirlpool tub room is offered with an upgrade. The special excludes holidays. For reservations, call 800-648-3353.

Midweek golf packages offered at the **Suncoast Hotel and Casino** in Las Vegas include one night's accommodations with a round of golf for one guest at one of four area courses and a complimentary admittance to the fitness center. Shuttle service is free to and from the golf course and the airport. The packages, from $129 to $229 per person, are based on double occupancy and subject to availability. Golf can be arranged for Angel Park, Badlands, Siena, and TPC at the Canyons. Call toll-free at 877-677-7111.

Welcome, 2002

Las Vegas' **New Year's Eve fireworks** will herald the year 2002 with even more spectacular choreography than last year's show, according to Las Vegas Events President Pat Christensen. The extravaganza will be produced by Fireworks by Grucci, which has organized state-of-the-art pyrotechnics for several presidential inaugurations and the Bellagio opening. Call the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority at 702-892-0711 or visit www.vegasfreedom.com for more information.



Photos: Shannon Montana (left), Gayland Anderson (bottom right)



Trekkies can use Ferengi makeup to portray Star Trek characters. The kit and other related items are available at the Deep Space 9 Promenade.

tasting parties held on Thursday evenings are free to the public. One tasting might offer a flight of zinfandels or chardonnays from a Napa Valley winery, and another could feature Spanish or Italian wines. The shop can be booked for private events, and gift baskets can be tailored to the buyer's tastes. The shop, at 3886 Mayberry Drive, is open daily. Call 775-787-9463 for information.—*Shannon Montana*

Merry Klingon to You

LAS VEGAS—To a dedicated Trekkie nothing says "I love you" like a $12,000 Klingon uniform tailored to his or her measurements. Those who boldly go to the **Deep Space Nine Promenade** next to Star Trek: The Experience at the Las Vegas Hilton will find some unique Star Trek gifts—70 percent of the merchandise is sold exclusively at this store.

Not all the prices are out of this world. A Star Trek flashlight key chain sells for $3. Everything you need to portray a Star Trek character is available, from a full Ferengi makeup kit to every-generation uniforms in adult, child, and baby sizes. There are special holiday stocking fillers and tree ornaments, and you can toast the season with a bottle of Klingon's Blood Wine.

Quark's bar and restaurant offers a rest from shopping and a chance to munch a quick Hamborger. Take your time over a James Tea Kirk cocktail or one of the many nonalcoholic beverages available from Quark's replicator. Since this is Las Vegas, you can even get married on the bridge of the *Starship Enterprise* with Klingon and Ferengi witnesses. For further information on the store call 888-697-TREK or visit www.ds9promenade.com.—*Lola Brown*

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Buckles and Bows

LAS VEGAS—For a holiday shopping experience for cowboys, rodeo fans, or anyone wishing to celebrate the American West, the official **National Finals Rodeo Cowboy Christmas Show** on December 6-15 is the place to go. More than 400 vendors sell everything from personally fitted cowboy boots to Western wear, buckles, spurs, official souvenirs, and Southwestern arts and crafts. The event coincides with the NFR, held December 7-16 at the Thomas and Mack Center.



Featured artists include Buck Taylor, who played Festus on *Gunsmoke*. Gary Parsons hand-crafts leather and silver gifts, including Harley-Davidson items that have been featured in the Neiman Marcus Christmas catalog. Parsons has created custom belt buckles for David Letterman and Tom Selleck.

Country-Western bands play, and replays of the previous night's NFR competition appear on big-screen TVs. Visitors may bump into well-known rodeo fans like past holiday-show attendees Billy Ray

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The official NFR Cowboy Christmas Show in the North Hall of the Las Vegas Convention Center is open to the public. Shuttle service is available from various hotels and locations. Check with hotel concierges for shuttle information. Call 702-260-8605.—*Elizabeth Nielsen*

Santa Rides the V&T

CARSON CITY—Santa Claus will ride the passenger cars and give candy canes to children on the Nevada State Railroad Museum's **Santa Train** December 8-9. The Santa Train will operate 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and admission to the museum will be free that weekend. The train will be pulled by a historic locomotive, steamed up especially for the occasion.

Also, adults will enjoy "Railroads and Photography: 150 Years of Great Images," a joint exhibition by the Center for Railroad Photography and Art and the Nevada State Railroad Museum, on display until January 6. Among the exhibit's 60 photographs is a picture of the Virginia and Truckee's No. 27 at the Carson City station taken by Ted Wurm on May 30, 1950, the day before the V&T closed. A 19th-century photo shows Chief Winnemucca and his family, including his daughter, Sarah Winnemucca, a Native American activist in the 1870s and '80s. The family stands in front of the Union Pacific Railroad's Photo Car, a traveling photography studio catering to rural customers.

The Nevada State Railroad Museum, located at 2180 South Carson Street, is open daily. Call 775-687-6953 or visit www.nsrm-friends.org for more information about the museum.—*Joyce Hollister*



Saint Nick gives candy to children on the Santa Train at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City.

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SIGHTSEEING SLEDDING SHOPPING

Photo: Bill Husa/*Nevada Appeal*

Your Own Winter Olympics



Illustration: Brad Diller

Can't make it to the Winter Games in Salt Lake? Then strap on the skis or snowboard and hold your own Olympics at Reno and Lake Tahoe.

By Sam Bauman

So you couldn't get tickets to the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Don't despair. Yes, you could watch the Winter Games on television this February, but there's a better alternative.

Stage your own Nevada Olympics in the Reno-Tahoe area. You can even provide your own media coverage. Just bring a camcorder, and you can replay the event at home for those less fortunate.

After transporting skis and boards, you and your family and friends can check into a posh hotel in Reno or Lake Tahoe and get ready to race. Of course, you don't have to actually race, but you can enjoy the kind of ski runs they'll be using in Utah and get a taste of what the Olympians face.

First, how about an opening ceremony? Nothing too elaborate. No need to march around carrying flags. Instead, meet your gang for breakfast at the Red Hut. You won't find it listed in the official guides, but the Hut on Kingsbury Grade in Stateline, above Lake Tahoe's south shore, is a locals' favorite. Besides, you can find out from the other customers what's the hot ski area of the day. Have Tabasco on your eggs like they do.

Opening ceremonies digested, here are some trails that will give you excitement that you'll never get from an Olympics telecast.

For the premier ski event, the downhill, the choices at Tahoe are endless. Just remember, unless you've got legs of steel like the Olympic racers, you don't have to try to break the sound barrier. The run should meet the demands of a downhill course: It has to be steep yet flatter in places to test the skier's all-around abilities. And it has to be long enough to exhaust most recreational skiers.

How about Squaw Valley, home of the 1960 Winter Olympics? You could race the 1960 men's downhill course from Squaw Peak. The old tram is gone, but there are high-speed quad lifts to get you there. This is not a run for weak knees: It's 10,154 feet long with a vertical drop of 2,467 feet. A little much?

OK, then try the Face at Heavenly Ski Resort, straddling Nevada and California.

High Camp at Squaw Valley offers ski schools, pool, and ice-skating rink (top). Christina Probert skis at Heavenly (left), while boarder Hunt Holliday seems to fly above the cornice at Mount Rose (right).

Photos: Larry Prosor (top and left), William Carr (right)


FILA
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You can do figure eights at Squaw Valley's Olympic Ice Pavilion.

Well, maybe not. The Face is awfully steep and chocked with moguls. Better take the Olympic Downhill run on the Nevada side. From the top of Stagecoach chair lift, head right, down Pepi's trail, which leads to the two-seater Olympic chair. Look over the trail as you ride up. There are some surprises on the ride down, so do like the pros and check out the run before racing it.

At the top of the lift (9,123 feet) you'll have to make a little climb to the starting hut and maybe pack the snow for a few yards between the hut and the trail. The Olympic Downhill trail will hurtle you a couple of thousand feet, straight and steep at first, then twisting in a gentle "S" leg before running under the North Bowl lift. The run steepens again before opening up for the final gliding flat, ending at about 7,000 feet. You'll want to do this early in the morning, perhaps during Heavenly's $28 early-bird special, a group outing that puts you on the slope 30 minutes before the morning crowd.

Next up is the Super G, slightly slower than the downhill, and with closer gates, but faster than the grand slalom. An ideal run for the GS would be the Slide Mountain side of Mount Rose Ski Resort, up the hill from Reno.

The base at Rose sits at 8,260 feet, highest in the Tahoe area. From East Bowl a four-seater takes you to the peak, 9,707 feet in the sky. The Central Pacific trail is steep but wide enough for plenty of gates. You'll have to use your ski edges to carve turns to keep under control, and the quad muscles will start burning halfway down. A slip here could send you tumbling a hundred feet before stopping, but the old adage, "if you don't get going too fast, you don't have to slow down," applies.

Now it's time for the giant slalom. You'll want some wide-open snow plus a slot or two. The gates are closer than in the Super G and the terrain a little easier to handle. You could do the '60s women's slalom at Squaw Valley—4,263 feet in length, 1,253 vertical feet down on Papoose Mountain—but you've already been to Squaw. You could go 30 miles south of Tahoe to Kirkwood, which is rapidly changing from a locals' favorite to a destination resort complete with condos and a village. Ride the Cornice chair to the top and take Zachary, a run that is deceptively steep.

You also can try Diamond Peak in Incline Village for the GS. From the base lodge at 6,700 feet, the view of Lake Tahoe is regarded as the best from anywhere on the lake. Grab the Lodgepole quad and then jump on the Crystal quad for the peak at 8,540 feet. You'll find lots of choices, but what you want is the Great Flume, steep enough to require tight control but not so steep that you can't negotiate the gates. About halfway down, the trail splits into three slots. Stay centered. This run can be a fooler—it looks easier than it is. You won't have time to get into a tuck.

Now the finale: the special slalom. Three choices: World Cup back at Heavenly, Battle Born at Diamond Peak, or the Kit Carson Bowl at Mount Rose. All three offer enough steeps to force tight turns but are not so vertical as to force you off the tracks in the flush gates. World Cup looks gentle, but it's easy to lose control and crash gates. Maybe you should try Rose's Kit Carson Bowl. This is a slice from the top of the new quad chair along a narrow track to the bowl and then down and down. It'll be fast but fun.

And there are other Olympic events. Whether you prefer figure skating individually or in pairs, you can rent skates and do your triple axels outdoors at the Olympic Ice Pavilion, part of Squaw Valley's High Camp. The mid-mountain complex, reached by cable car, has restaurants where you can wait for the judges' scores. You also can try the Rink by the River, the annual skate spot erected in downtown Reno.

For the luge, stop at Spooner Summit, where U.S. 50 meets State Route 28 on the east shore. Here the locals climb the hill and ride everything from bobsleds to cardboard cartons.

The lake's east shore offers two great

Ski Planning

Skiers and snowboarders can learn more about Nevada and Lake Tahoe ski resorts from several sources. The **Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority** (800-FOR-RENO, www.ski.renolaketahoe.com) has news on ski bargains and details on area ski resorts. Also contact **Ski Lake Tahoe**, a group of the lake's six biggest ski resorts (800-588-SNOW, www.skilaketahoe.com). The **Lake Tahoe, Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau** (800-GO-TAHOE, www.gotahoe.com/winter), which focuses on the north shore, and the **Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority** (800-AT-TAHOE, www.virtualtahoe.com/skitahoe), based at the south shore, also have lots of information on skiing, lodging, and area attractions.

choices for the cross-country event: the Spooner Lake Nordic area and the Diamond Peak vastness. At Spooner the trails are both gentle (the Meadow run) and demanding (a dozen miles up to Marlette Lake). But there's a nice lodge, and you can rent gear if you didn't bring the narrow skis. Diamond Peak put its cross-country routes in a big meadow with 35 kilometers of trails. The scenery is spectacular, so much so that you may just want to stop and gaze.

While it isn't an Olympic event yet, tubing is offered by Soda Springs, Alpine Meadows, and Heavenly. There's no skill involved, just lots of "whoops" and "wows" while you ride oversized inner tubes down banked bends.

And why not a freestyle snowboarding event? The boarders in your group can carve Olympic-like moves on half pipes at Northstar, Squaw, Sugar Bowl, Heavenly, and most other Tahoe ski areas.

Now it's time to hand out the medals. Forget the podium. Let's do it in Reno at one of the casinos, maybe the Peppermill, Atlantis, Silver Legacy, Eldorado, Reno Hilton, Harrah's, the Nugget—it may be hard to decide. All offer fine dining, gaming, great shows, and all the pampering you'll need after a week of racing.

Before the dinner visit a pawnshop and pick up some medals. Champagne would be the obvious toasting beverage, but a better choice might be hot mulled wine with plenty of spices. Have someone bring a camera to record the award ceremony for history.

After all, this is an Olympics you won't want to forget.

Sam Bauman of Carson City is a former ski instructor at Heavenly Ski Resort. A one-time foreign correspondent in Asia and Europe, he writes about skiing and other outdoor sports for the Nevada Appeal.



Skiing Around the State

A Guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin Ski Areas.

2001-2002 Downhill Skier's Guide

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

2001-2002 Cross-Country Skier's Guide

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

* Includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons.

† Resort has a half pipe for snowboarders.

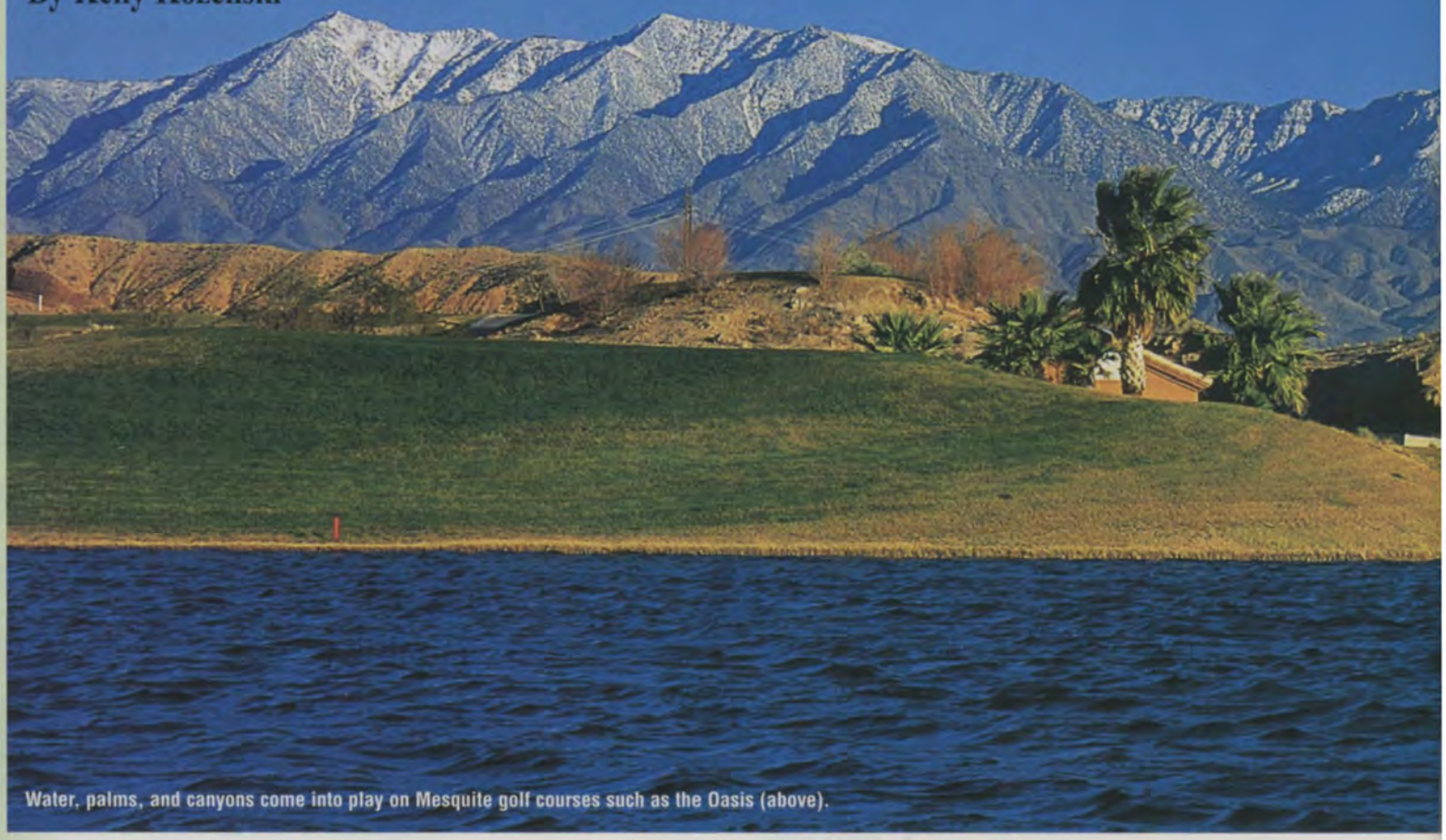
All downhill resorts have terrain parks unless otherwise noted.

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

The Greening of Mesquite

The booming border town offers a green-belt jungle of golf, gaming, and spas in the middle of everywhere.

By Kelly Kozeliski



Water, palms, and canyons come into play on Mesquite golf courses such as the Oasis (above).

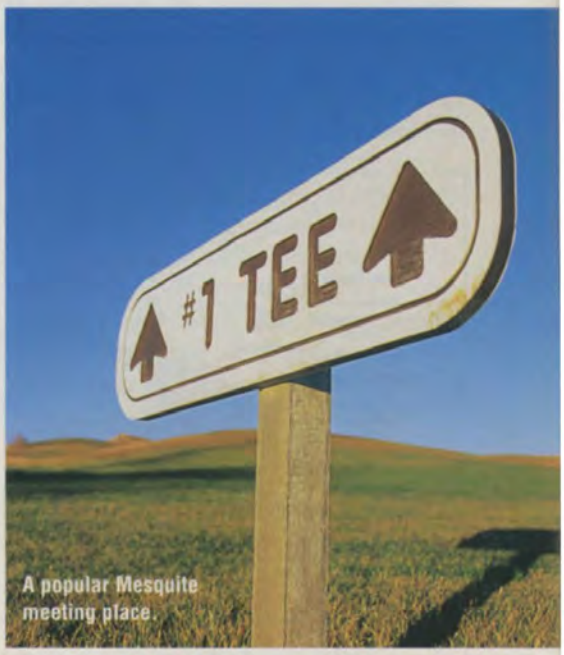
As travelers on Interstate 15 descend from Mormon Mesa to the Virgin Valley, they will see the town of Mesquite and the Virgin River in the distance. They also will notice something surprising in this arid landscape—acres of greenery. Waves of green roll across alfalfa fields in the afternoon breeze, and grassy fairways form green ovals on the town's golf courses. Palm trees dot the links and the grounds of hotel-casinos. For the desert traveler, the greenery offers a startling contrast to the valley's scrub brush and red-rock canyons.

Mesquite, population 15,500 and growing, has the appealing personality of an oasis. The heart of town consists of shops, restaurants, and other businesses, the kinds of small-town establishments for which Mesquite was best known before the Peppermill Resort, now the Oasis, began expanding in the early 1980s. The resort launched Mesquite's transformation from a quiet farming town to a golf and gaming destination.

"Mesquite is becoming a golf mecca, and it's a great retirement town," says Lex Hall, general manager of the Virgin River, the down-home Mesquite resort that advertises its location as "two coyote lengths from the interstate." Besides the hotels' offerings of golf, gaming, and spas, he says, "we still have the small-town atmosphere."

Townspeople host events as diverse as Mesquite Days, which includes a fair and rodeo, and a world-championship long-driving contest at the Palms Golf Course. The Mesquite Arts Council sponsors concerts, plays, and art shows.

Community ties are important, says res-



A popular Mesquite meeting place.

Photos: Richard Cummins (top and bottom)





Mesquite's farming traditions date back more than a century.

"Mesquite is becoming a golf mecca," says Lex Hall, G.M. of the Virgin River, the down-home Mesquite resort that advertises its location as "two coyote lengths from the interstate."

ident Liz Leavitt, as is the town's proximity to Las Vegas and several national parks. Leavitt moved here 11 years ago, when Mesquite's growing population had reached all of 3,000. Now executive director of the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce, Leavitt says, "I think a big attraction is that Mesquite is right in the middle of everywhere you want to go. We're 90 minutes from snow, from Zion National Park and Las Vegas. The Grand Canyon is only a few hours away. You can go a short distance and then come home to the traditional, small-town America."

Mesquite's appeal is not new to its big-city neighbors in Las Vegas. Gene Phillips says he used to think nothing of driving 80 miles for dinner. "We'd be sitting at work and decide to make a trip to Mesquite and the Redd Room [now Charmaine's] at the Oasis," says Phillips, co-owner of Custom Trucks in Las Vegas. "My wife, Tamara, and I love to eat there. The people, particularly the manager, Patty Andrews, are great." A creature of habit, Phillips always would order the same dish: veal piccata and baked sweet potatoes with honey butter. "Then we'd gamble a bit and be home by 11 p.m."

The interstate route that Phillips drives to Mesquite was known as the Old Spanish Trail when the Virgin Valley was colonized by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Floods thwarted early efforts to farm the area, but a beachhead was established in 1887 by Mormon pioneer Dudley Leavitt. Leavitt's family—he eventually had five wives and 51 children—was one of the first to try to irrigate what was called Mesquite Flat for farming. But because the flats stood above the Virgin River, irrigation was difficult.

Photo: Chris Leedham (right)



The Palms links, known for varied terrain and tee elevations, also have open views of the mountains.

Mesquite's largest resort, the 1,000-room Oasis offers the glitz of a Las Vegas casino. The Oasis also has its own ranch, where guests can go on a hayride, dine at a Western barbecue, and trapshoot.

Success finally came in the early 1890s when six young farming families built a seven-mile canal that tapped into the Virgin River in Arizona. The canal, also called the Ditch, still helps water Mesquite's alfalfa fields.

Today, history buffs will find artifacts of the valley's early residents at the Virgin Valley Heritage Museum. Displayed are Native American artifacts, farming tools and machinery, pioneer photographs, and clothing. Visitors also can see a non-Mormon whiskey still that a reclusive cattleman in nearby Gold Butte, Arizona, used in the 1930s.

The museum itself is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Located on the Old Spanish Trail, the structure was built in 1941 by the National Youth Administration. Take a close look, and you'll notice that the stones on the bottom of the building are smaller than the ones toward the roof. "The children were not as strong as the adults and were not that tall, so they used smaller rocks," says docent Jim Cheshier. "You can see above the door frame, bigger rocks were used. That's where the adults took over. It is just one more aspect that makes this building special."

Mesquite's newer architectural styles include palm-shaded lagoons and casino marquees. Driving in from Utah, motorists will encounter the Virgin River Resort close by the interstate. The Western-themed property provides more than 700 rooms, two pools, a $12,500 bingo jackpot, and nonweekend rates that start at $21.95. There are 50 hookups for RVs. Want to see a movie? The hotel has a cinema. It also has a 24-lane bowling center, where on Friday and Saturday nights illuminated bowling balls fly down the alleys while lasers, disco balls, and music heighten the cosmic mood.

"People can't spend all their time in the casino," G.M. Lex Hall points out. "We have four theaters with first-run movies. We have a huge arcade. Anyone can go bowling at the bowling center, from three years old to 99, and they do. It's great for

Photo: William Carr



Docent Jim Cheshier shows pioneer artifacts at the Virgin Valley Heritage Museum.

families." The Virgin River boasts another non-gaming attraction—the Krispy Kreme Doughnuts outlet that opened in the casino last year. Green-and-white polka-dot signs hover atop slot machines, advertising the popular pastries.

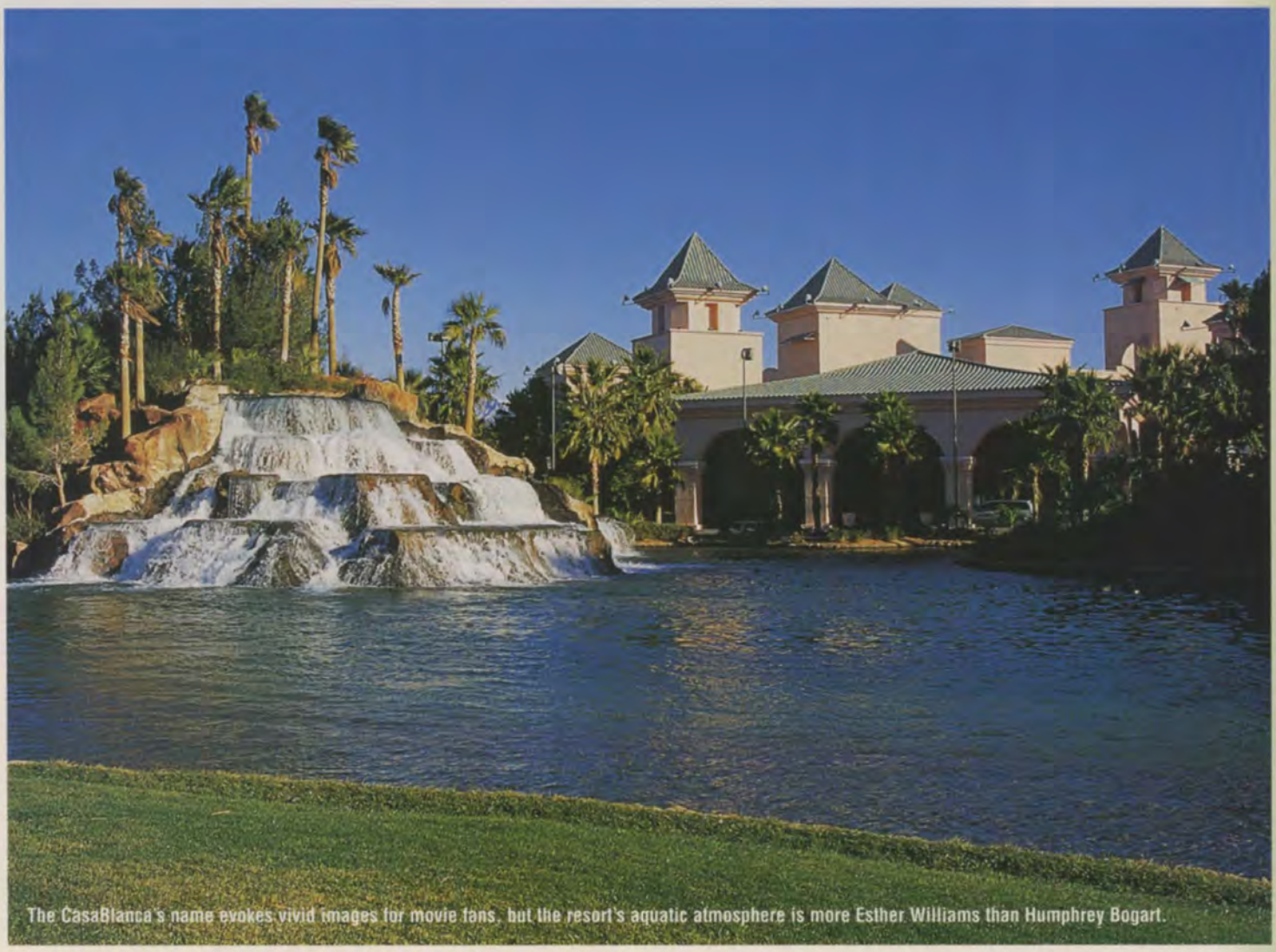
A block up Mesa Boulevard, the Eureka Hotel Casino has 210 rooms, a spa, two pools, and a Jacuzzi for relaxation. The Tumbleweed Cafe and Buffet serves a one-pound ham steak and eggs as fuel for action. Some regulars who are nonsmokers say the Eureka has the best casino air-ventilation system in town. The Eureka also offers wedding packages that include a minister, champagne, ceremony in the Zion Room Chapel or under the Courtyard Gazebo—everything except a marriage license, which couples can obtain at the Mesquite police station.

The 486-room CasaBlanca, opened as Players Island by entertainment mogul Merv Griffin in 1995, offers a hint of tropical paradise with lush foliage and waterscapes. Outside the hotel, a huge waterfall flows from an island into an 8,115-square-foot swimming pool. Sun lovers lounge at the lagoon.

Tucked behind the pool is a set of bungalows where the spa and salon are located. Step into the CasaBlanca Spa, and the smell of rosemary and lilacs engulfs you. Nearby, other patrons are soaking in a mud bath, enjoying brain-numbing massages, and reveling in Watsu treatments, during which they float in a warm pool while a relaxation therapist works the kinks out of their bodies.

The Oasis, with 1,000 rooms, is Mesquite's largest resort, offering the glitz of a Las Vegas casino with neon lights and black-tinted mirrors. Until recently the hotel was owned by Si Redd, founder of International Game Technology and a pioneer in video-poker and dollar slots. (Today the Oasis, CasaBlanca, and Virgin River are all owned by the Las Vegas-based

(Continued on page 90)



The CasaBlanca's name evokes vivid images for movie fans, but the resort's aquatic atmosphere is more Esther Williams than Humphrey Bogart.

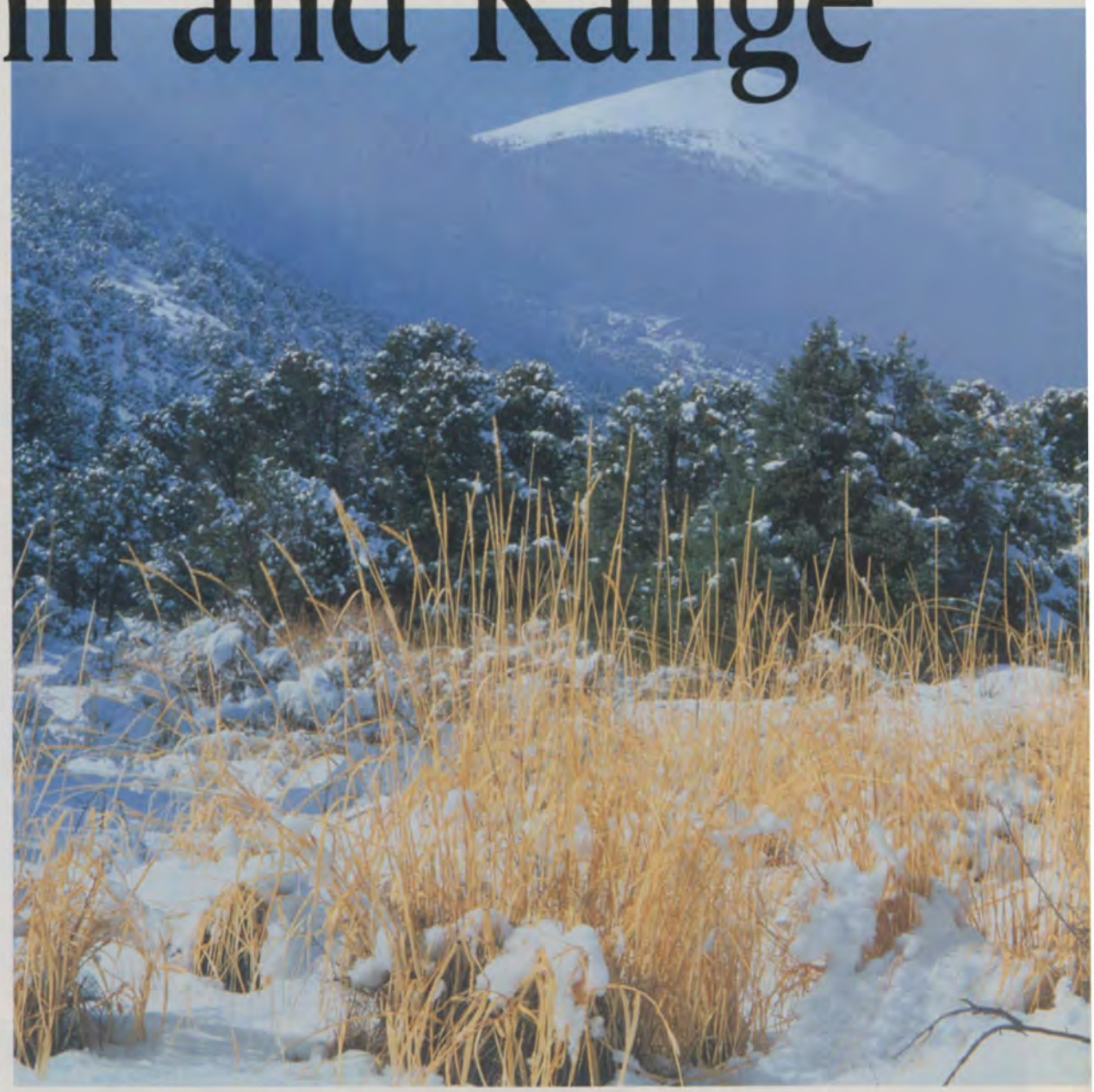
Photos: Chris Leedham (top), Richard Cummins (bottom)

Basin and Range

Created by monumental forces, Nevada's mountain ranges roll hypnotically across the state

Words by Jon Christensen

Photos by Deon Reynolds



The landscape casts a rhythmic spell. You can feel it, driving Highway 50 across the middle of the state. Grinding up a steep grade to the summit. Seeing a broad valley, then more mountains, one range after another, like waves to the horizon. Coasting down the other side and out across the wide expanse.

Basin, range, basin, range. It's hypnotic, like the sea.

"Each range here is like a warship standing on its own, and the Great Basin is an ocean of loose sediment with these mountain ranges standing in it as if they were members of a fleet without precedent," wrote John McPhee in *Basin and Range*, his classic book about Nevada geology.

The ranges swarm across the state in parallel ranks. Clarence E. Dutton, a 19th-century cartographer, compared them to an "army of caterpillars crawling toward Mexico." Nevada can boast that it has more mountains than any other state. In *Silent Cordilleras*, a 1978 survey, Alvin McLane counted 314 separate mountain ranges, 32 of which he named for the first time.

Nevada is part of the Basin and Range province, a section of the earth that is inexorably being pulled apart. Take one stride; that's the distance that Reno and Salt Lake City, on opposite sides of this geological province, move away from each other every century.

This land is stretched to the breaking point, and it is splitting apart at the seams. The mountain ranges are actually the upper edges of great tilted blocks of the earth's crust, broken along fault lines running roughly north and south. One side of each block tilts up, becoming a range, and the other side tilts down, becoming a basin that fills with erosion from the ranges on either side.

The parallel ranges now stick out like ribs on the body of a hungry dry land. But five million years ago, when the basin and range topography began to form, there were no mountains between Nevada and the Pacific Ocean, and this was a moist, fertile country. About two million years ago, the Sierra Nevada began to ascend, eventually rising nearly three miles into the





TRISH REYNOLDS

ABOVE: Globe mallow glows in Fort Churchill State Historic Park. FAR LEFT: Winter descends on Great Basin National Park. In the background stands 13,063-foot Wheeler Peak, the state's second-highest mountain. LEFT: The Lassen-Applegate Cutoff, known to 19th-century pioneers as the "Death Route," is part of the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area.

sky, creating a western wall that cut off the Pacific storms. The stage was set for Nevada to become a desert.

Such terrain was destined to appear impoverished, especially to eyes accustomed to the exuberant landscape of neighboring California. Even John Muir, that connoisseur of wildness, seemed to find Nevada a bit too rough for his taste: "When the traveler from California has crossed the Sierra and gone a little way down the eastern flank, the woods come to an end about as suddenly and completely as if, going westward, he had reached the ocean," Muir wrote during a trip to Nevada in 1878. "From the very noblest forests in the world he emerges into free sunshine and dead alkaline levels. Mountains are seen beyond, rising in bewildering abundance, range beyond range. But however closely we have been accustomed to associate forests and mountains, these always present a singularly barren aspect, gray and forbidding and shadeless, like heaps of ashes dumped from the sky."

I don't mean to quarrel with John Muir … well, perhaps a little. For I find him a provocative foil. Like many Nevadans, I too came from California. But I stayed and fell in love with Nevada's secrets—which are often hidden in plain sight. It just takes awhile to see them.

Jon Christensen has traveled throughout Nevada while writing for The New York Times, High Country News, Outside, *and other publications. He also edits www.GreatBasinNews.com and produces the public radio series* Nevada Variations. *He lives in Washoe Valley.*

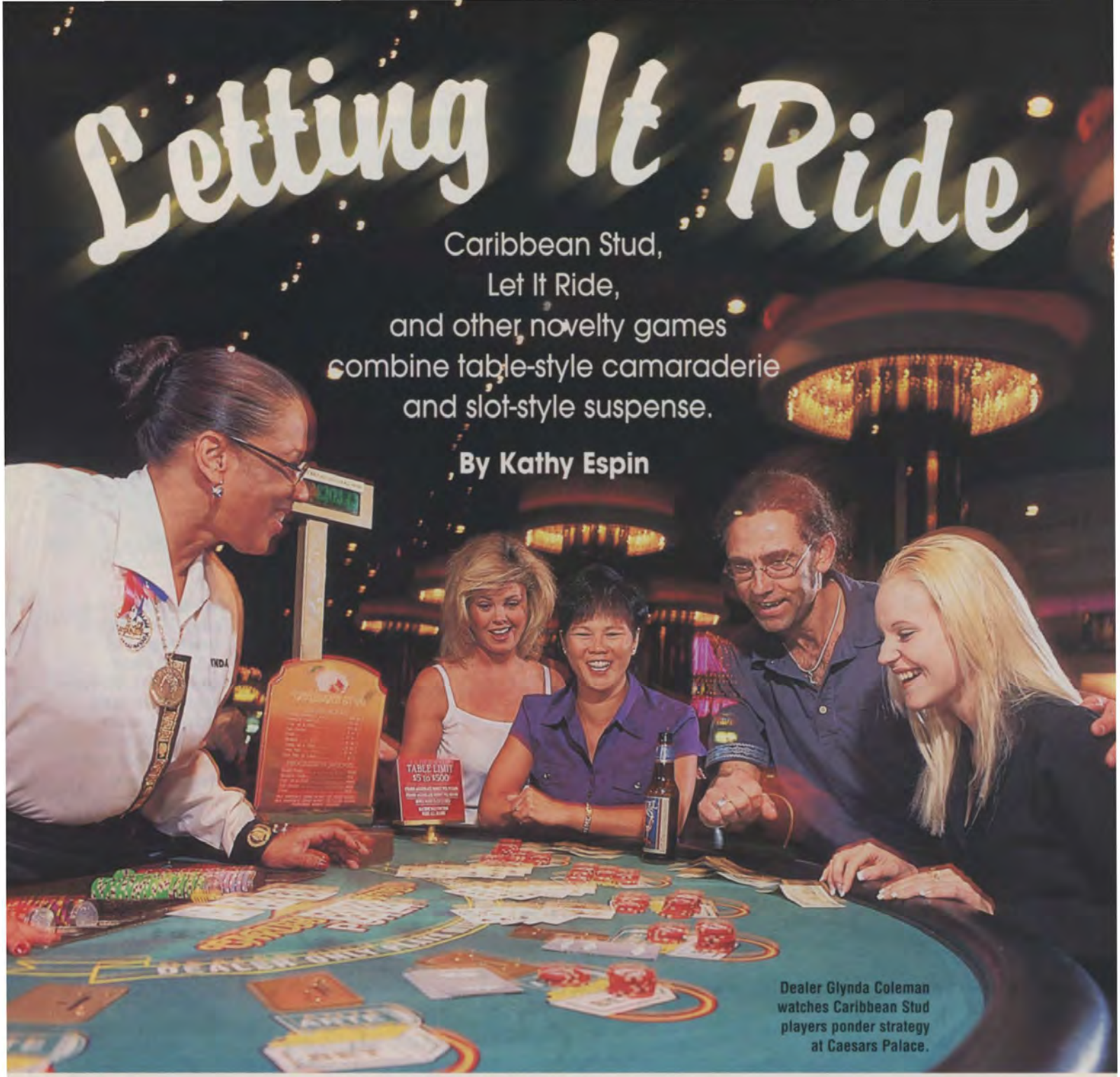
Photographer Deon Reynolds calls Oregon home, but he spends much of his time traveling the remote byways of Nevada capturing its beauty. Print *magazine recognized Reynolds with an Award of Excellence.*

The preceding article is excerpted from their book, Nevada, *recently published by Graphic Arts Center Publishing.* Nevada *(144 pages, 130 color photographs, one color map, $39.95, hardbound, ISBN 1-55868-608-8) is available from bookstores and the publisher, Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company, 3019 Northwest Yeon Avenue, Portland, OR 97296-0306; 800-452-3032; www.gacpc.com.*

Letting It Ride

Caribbean Stud, Let It Ride, and other novelty games combine table-style camaraderie and slot-style suspense.

By Kathy Espin



Dealer Glynda Coleman watches Caribbean Stud players ponder strategy at Caesars Palace.

Flashing signs announce jackpots. Computer-generated music erupts when a special prize is won. Players howl with delight when they hit a special combination.

It may look and sound like a slot-machine area, but the action is taking place at the end of the casino pit. There, gamblers are playing games like Let It Ride, Caribbean Stud, and Casino War—a new generation of casino contests that aim to combine the Monte Carlo-style glamour of table games with the Aunt Millie-style thrill of big jackpots.

Called exotics or novelty, specialty, or carnival games by casino insiders, most of the games have gained a place in Nevada casinos during the last decade. Most, such as Let It Ride, Caribbean Stud, Casino War, Spanish 21, three-card poker, pai-gow poker, and sic bo, are relatively easy to learn. Novelty games come and go (some, like Red Dog, keep coming back) but the current crop of exotics have several qualities in common. They offer bonuses, stiffer odds, and a slower pace, and most are based on blackjack or poker.

"A lot of people have learned to play poker on the video-poker machines," says Alan Abrams, an executive at the El Cortez in Las Vegas. "They enjoy the camaraderie of a table game where people interact with each other."

The games offer a certain comfort level, says Barney Vinson, casino floor supervisor at Caesars Palace and author of *Las Vegas: Behind the Tables.* Customers enjoy the idea that the games are played against the dealer, not against other players, as in casino card rooms.

"The intimidation factor has been diminished a lot," he says. "In a poker room, you don't know who you are playing against, and it can be expensive if you run up against the wrong person."

Photo: Steve Spatafore

Most of the exotics have been developed by firms such as Shuffle Master Gaming of Las Vegas and BET Technology of Gardnerville. Mixing research and inspiration, the companies create the rules, layouts, and payoff systems and market the new games to casinos.

The games' jackpots are a key attraction for players. Many jackpots are progressive, varying with how recently the prize has been won, just as on a progressive slot machine. "It's the combination of a Vegas table game and a slot machine, all in one," Vinson says. "You have the chance to win the regular game and a big jackpot."

There is a downside, of course, and that's the chance of losing. The odds of winning in some specialty games are worse than in standard casino games, Vinson points out. The house edge on craps and blackjack may be about one percent, whereas Caribbean Stud is about five percent and Let It Ride 3.5 percent. The house edge is higher on most novelty games because they are slower, so it takes longer for the casino to make a profit. While blackjack is dealt at about a hand per minute, it might take three minutes or more to deal a hand of pai-gow poker.

Many players like the slow pace. "With these games you can play for a long time and lose a limited amount of money," Vinson says. "Even though the house edge is higher, the game is so slow, your money lasts longer."

If you know what you're doing, that is. If casino classes aren't available, ask for help. Vinson says, "Find a dealer on a game you want to play who is not busy and ask, 'How do you play this game?' They are all pretty friendly, or they better be."

The following specialty games are commonly found in casinos in Las Vegas, Laughlin, Reno, and Lake Tahoe. The house advantages noted are approximate and will vary, sometimes widely, depending on the house rules, type of wager, and style of play. Some of the larger resorts distribute gaming guides with detailed rules. Just ask your (better be) friendly dealer or floor supervisor.

Let It Ride—In Let It Ride, a game developed by Shuffle Master Gaming in the early '90s, the gambler's fantasy comes true: You can take some of your money back if you don't like your cards. Initially, you make three bets on the table, and then you try to make the best five-card poker hand using the three cards dealt to you and the dealer's two cards. As the hand progresses, you can take back one or two of the bets. Winning hands are paid according to a schedule, ranging from even money (a pair of 10s or better) to 1,000 to 1 (a royal straight flush). A side bet, usually $1, makes you eligible for a jackpot. The house edge is 3.5 percent.

Caribbean Stud—This poker game originated in Caribbean casinos and was introduced to Nevada players in 1992. If your hand is better than the dealer's, you win according to a pay schedule. The dealer must have ace-king or higher, or you win the ante bet and the hand is over. A side bet qualifies you for a bonus jackpot if you make a flush or better. The top jackpot prizes are progressive. The house edge is 5.3 percent.

In Let It Ride, a game developed in the '90s, the gambler's fantasy comes true: You can take some of your money back if you don't like your cards.

Casino War—Just like the game you played as a kid, except here you are playing for money, not to win all the cards. If you have the high card, you win even money. Ties go to war (three cards down, one up), and you can make a new wager. After going to war, ties go to the player. Casino War was developed by BET Technology. The house edge is 2.88 to 3.7 percent.

Spanish 21—This game is based on blackjack, but with a twist—all the 10s have been removed from the eight-deck shoe. (The name derives from the fact that in Spain card decks have no 10s.) There are more options and payouts in Spanish 21 than in the standard game. The pay on a blackjack (an ace and a face card) is 3 to 2, just as in regular 21, but you are paid even if the dealer has a blackjack, too. A "match the dealer" bet increases your win if you match the dealer's up card. Bonuses are awarded for specific combinations adding up to 21, such as three sevens or six-seven-eight. The house advantage is 76 percent.

Royal Match 21—This game offers a side wager to blackjack, betting that the first two cards are the same suit. And if you begin the hand with a king and a queen of the same suit, you have a royal match, with a payoff of 10 to 1 or better. Developed by BET Technology, Royal Match 21 was approved by state gamers in 1992. The house edge is 3.77 to 6.67 percent.

Three-Card Poker—This Shuffle Master game is one of the most popular exotics. You can bet against the dealer, bet on your own hand, or both. In this game, three of a kind beats a straight, and a straight beats a flush. Pairs pay 1 to 1, a straight flush as high as 40 to 1. Bonuses are paid on top hands. The house edge is 3.3 percent for pairs-plus to 3.4 percent for the ante.

Sic Bo—An ancient Chinese game, sic bo is played with three dice. The object is to select the numbers, or a combination, that will appear on the rolled dice. Betting options and odds are shown on the table layout, just as in craps. The house edge is 2.78 percent and higher.

Pai Gow—A Chinese game that requires more experience and skill than other exotics, pai gow is played with tiles that resemble dominos. A dice roll determines who is dealt the first set of four tiles, which you arrange in two separate hands according to set combinations. If both of your sets beat the dealer's, you win. If both are ranked lower than the dealer's, you lose. Win one and lose one, and it's a push—neither side wins. Nine is the highest tile, and it is said that the game's name translates to "card nine." The house edge is 1.5 percent.

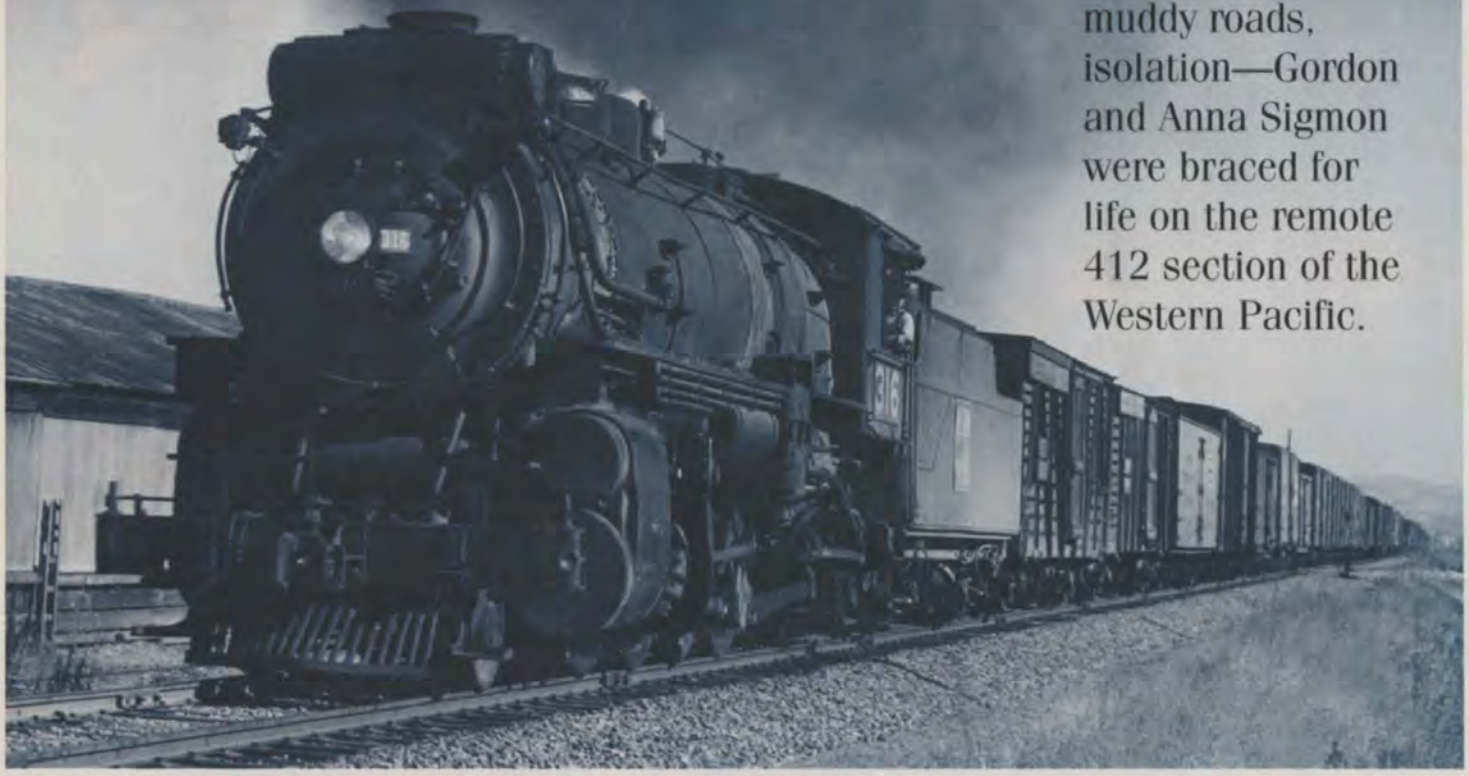
Pai-Gow Poker—This laid-back game combining Chinese pai gow and American poker is played with cards instead of tiles. After receiving seven cards, you make two poker hands, one of five cards and the other of two cards. If both hands beat the dealer's, you win. If both lose, you lose. If one wins and one loses, it's a push. A side bet qualifies you for bonus jackpots. Top bonuses are progressive. The house edge is zero to 2.85 percent.

It should be noted that in the spirit of casino novelty games, pai-gow poker offers an adrenaline-stimulating variation: The brave can take a turn serving as banker and bet against all the other players.

Kathy Espin is a Las Vegas writer and former casino executive.

Whistle Stop

Sandstorms, muddy roads, isolation—Gordon and Anna Sigmon were braced for life on the remote 412 section of the Western Pacific.



A Western Pacific locomotive runs the line between the San Francisco Bay Area and Salt Lake City.

"When I'm eligible for a section, I sure as heck hope it's not 412," Gordon Sigmon told Anna, his wife. Oh, but it was, and 60 years later, the 13 months they spent in the dust and mud of the Nevada desert remain fond memories for these two nonagenarians.

In 1941, desolate work sites belonged to low man on the railroad spike. When the Western Pacific Railway Company promoted Gordon from laborer to section foreman, 412 was his first permanent assignment.

The odd name referred to its distance, 412 miles, from the line's westerly origin, San Francisco. (The WP tracks extended from Oakland to Salt Lake City.) While the Sigmons lived there, the 412 whistle stop was renamed for the desert playa on which it stood—Smoke Creek.

When the order came, the Sigmons were stationed near Elko at Ryndon, where Anna was a schoolmarm. Neither had experienced 412, but they were game for the adventure. Or perhaps they were game because they *hadn't* experienced 412.

Anna recalls how she and Gordon hitched a trailer of household necessities to their '36 Ford, bundled up their two children, seven-year-old Norm and three-year-old Peggy, and set off on the all-day journey. Flanigan, a WP town north of Reno, was the last stop for supplies. They still had 28 miles to go—over Sand Pass, through Sano—some of it on no more than a tire-track trail.

It was eerily dark—moonless—when they supposed they'd arrived at Smoke Creek. The only contrast between the landscape and the rutted and dusty desert they'd been traveling was the red-and-green glow of two switch lights. Gordon pulled out a flashlight, and with their two kids in hand he and Anna crossed the tracks and located the section house.

Door locks? Not then. The Sigmons walked right into the four small, wood-floor rooms. Their home, sweet home offered cots with thin mats, a railroad stove, a sink with cold water, and a coal-oil lamp or two. They agreed reality would be best faced in a rested state. Perhaps a good night's sleep would help the looks of things.

They awoke the next morning to see how lucky they had been to arrive at night, when, in their exhaustion, they couldn't see how desolate Smoke Creek really was. "I thought we had absolutely hit the rock bottom of the world," says Anna. "It looked terrible."

Their yard wasn't exactly a gardener's dream. A few spindly bushes and trees surrounded a patch of sparse grass. The planked walk led them to two unadorned laborers' bunkhouses, a weathered coal house, and two wooden water tanks, wet from runoff. Privies leaned back from the wind like wary strangers. The only other thing breaking the monotony of the sand and sagebrush was the track itself. But they noticed that less than a mile away the terrain moved into sizable hills—not too bad of a view. They'd make do.

Their water, flowing from a canyon spring, traveled through a three-inch pipe to the two 60,000-gallon tanks. Except from the spring, the desert didn't provide enough liquid to spit. That's why Smoke Creek became a watering hole for the "Wobbly," as the men called the WP. The trainmen would stop, pull down a big pipe, set it atop the locomotive, and let 'er gush.

Gordon supervised 12 men. As section foreman, it was his job to oversee the laborers, take responsibility for maintenance and repair of the track, report to the com-

Photo: Nevada State Museum

at Smoke Creek

By Sally Bee Brown





Anna Sigmon at Smoke Creek in 1941—all dressed up and nowhere to go (left). Gordon, Peggy, and Norman pose in front of their section house 412 miles from San Francisco (above).

pany, and see that the men were paid. A lot of track needed replacing in the Smoke Creek area, which meant the railroad needed many strong backs to do the work.

Most of the crew were African-American. All the men were all single, except for one, Walt Arnold. His wife, a black seamstress named Marguerite, became a good friend of Anna's. The two spent long hours sitting on the lawn visiting, often while the laborers played with the Sigmons' two children. All workers, black and white, got along well.

Mr. Fox, the store proprietor in Gerlach, allowed the crew their groceries on credit. It was rare that the frugal families would even have meat, and if they did, it was Spam that graced the table. If they still had a grocery balance due come the next paycheck, Gordon deducted the debt before doling out the money. "All the people on the railroad would order their supplies through the same store, and once a month the Local brought them to us," says Anna. The Local train made a regular run between Winnemucca and Portola, California. "We couldn't get refrigerated items. Ice for our small icebox came once a week."

One day when the Local didn't stop, the brakemen on the train got behind two chunks of ice, opened the doors, and sent the blocks flying. Anna says, "It would have killed anyone standing around, and the children often played right there. Gordon got on the railroad phone and gave them hell."

Besides chickens that they raised themselves, venison was the only fresh meat available to the Sigmons. Gordon hunted deer in a canyon a couple of miles east, usually going with Walt Arnold, who helped with the skinning. They would hang the kill between the water tanks, where the overflow kept it cool.

Anna had written to the state school superintendent, Mildred Bray. "If I have to put my son in school, we will be 28 miles from my husband," she wrote. There would be no way they could get back and forth to visit Gordon because the desert was impassable from October till March due to winter rain and snow. "I have taught for six years. Would it be possible that I could instruct my son?" Miss Bray approved, on the condition of year-end achievement tests for Norm. Each day, Anna would gather toys to entertain curly haired toddler Peggy while she and Norm worked on his lessons.

Photos: Sigmon Family Collection

Norm recalls the lack of playmates in Smoke Creek, but "I don't remember being bothered by it," he says. When Anna finished teaching for the day, Norm and Peggy would walk the zigzagged sand fences or play with their dog or pet gull. The gull, probably from Pyramid Lake, hung around a small duck pond. One day a laborer, not knowing the gull was the children's pet, shot it.

The fences kept the sand off the track—until the sandstorms hit. Then nothing was left unscathed. The Sigmons experienced two of those storms. "We heard that we were lucky, as normally a summer brought five or six," Anna says. "But two were two too many for me."

One day, as she watered their modest yard, Anna looked up to see a huge, gray "wall" coming across the desert. A frightening sight, the wall of dust appeared solid. She gathered the children in the house and closed the windows, but that provided little protection. "We lit the coal-oil lamps and put wet cloths in our mouths," she says. The dust inside became so dense that the lights appeared as mere flickers. "You can imagine the storm's force to blow that thickly into the house. I tried not to show my fear to the kids."

But Gordon, several miles out on the job, was her biggest worry. Because of the wind's fury, he and the men didn't dare put their motorcars on the tracks. So they trudged home, hunched over the rails. They knew they had reached Smoke Creek when they saw the wet ground from the overflowing water tank. Anna says, "What a relief when Gordon walked in, although he was so covered with sand that he looked like a ghost." Anna and Norm spent the next day removing the sand from their small yard, avoiding the demise of the little greenery they possessed.

The Sigmons found a number of diversions at Smoke Creek. Anna and the kids enjoyed walking up the canyon. Geysers shot from holes drilled in the pipeline to ease the pressure from the abundant flow.

Up a ways, in a little ramshackle place, lived an old rancher named Tex. The railroad paid him $30 a month to keep the spring's inlet clean. A little further up the canyon, in another shack, lived Ol' Joe, who always told them he was going to hit gilded pay dirt. Joe had a strawberry patch that he gave over to Anna. She would cook a big kettle of food, carry it up to Joe's to share, leave him leftovers, and bring the pot back full of strawberries.



Gordon and Anna look forward to celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary in May. Above, they get a hug from son Norm at their Carson City home.

At home, Anna cooked their meals and baked all their bread, cakes, and pies on the small railroad stove. She says, "I canned—cold-packed—all kinds of food in pounded aluminum-ware kettles, a set I bought from a traveling salesman for $7 a month." Canned goods and dry staples were about all she had to work with.

Their leisure reading consisted of a series of Tarzan books, and they'd take turns unraveling the stories aloud. They bathed in a round tub, with the water heated from the stove. Then early to bed, as the kerosene lamps didn't give much light.

One Saturday Gordon decided to trade their '36 Ford (bought new for $800) for a pale-green '41 Ford (which cost $1,300) at the dealership in Reno. "I was upset because we just finished payments on the first one, and I didn't know how we'd handle more," says Anna. She hoped that Gordon would change his mind, but the next weekend, home came the new car of contention.

Winter hit, isolating them. Gordon built a garage for his treasure out of old railroad ties. It was Anna's job to move planks over the mud so Gordon could back the Ford into the garage for the winter. The sticky gumbo was so thick that Anna lost her shoes. "They're still out there," she says with a laugh.

December 7, 1941, changed the color of the automobile argument. News of Pearl Harbor bellowed over their battery-operated radio. New cars became impossible to buy, and the Sigmons heard rumors that the government might start confiscating them from private citizens. Anna was glad to see the Ford still there.

The trains provided a big source of the family's entertainment, and Anna and the kids never missed a chance to hear about the outside world. If the train stopped to take on water, down they'd go to chat with the men.

Mail delivery was via the Gerlach postmaster, Mr. Fox. "He was accommodating and would wrap our mail in butcher paper. Someone in the engine would take the bundle and give it to me when they stopped. If they didn't stop, they'd toss it."

That was their newspapers' route, too. "The passenger trains didn't stop, but the employees got to know us anyway, and sometimes two or three leftover papers would come flying off," Anna says. It was potluck—whatever papers the passengers were through reading.

After 13 months at Smoke Creek, the Sigmons left their section house in the Western Nevada desert for Ryndon in Elko County. The railroad provided a boxcar to move their belongings. Their trailer even rode inside—full of chickens. All except the setting hen. She rated special honors, riding in the Ford's back seat with the two kids and a dog.

From Ryndon, Gordon continued his WP career in Elburz and Proctor, and Anna taught school. When the railroad abolished all sections, he was transferred to Elko to work as a track inspector. There the Sigmons lived until his retirement.

Today Anna, 91, and Gordon, 92, and their children, Norm and Peggy, all reside in Carson City. No more will the dust of the Smoke Creek Desert burn their eyes. No more will their boots sink deeply in the mud. But memories still drift, like sand on the tracks, to simple times in a little whistle stop once called 412.

Sally Bee Brown of Bend, Oregon, is a freelance writer and a contributing editor to Passage-Maker Magazine. *She is Anna Sigmon's second cousin.*

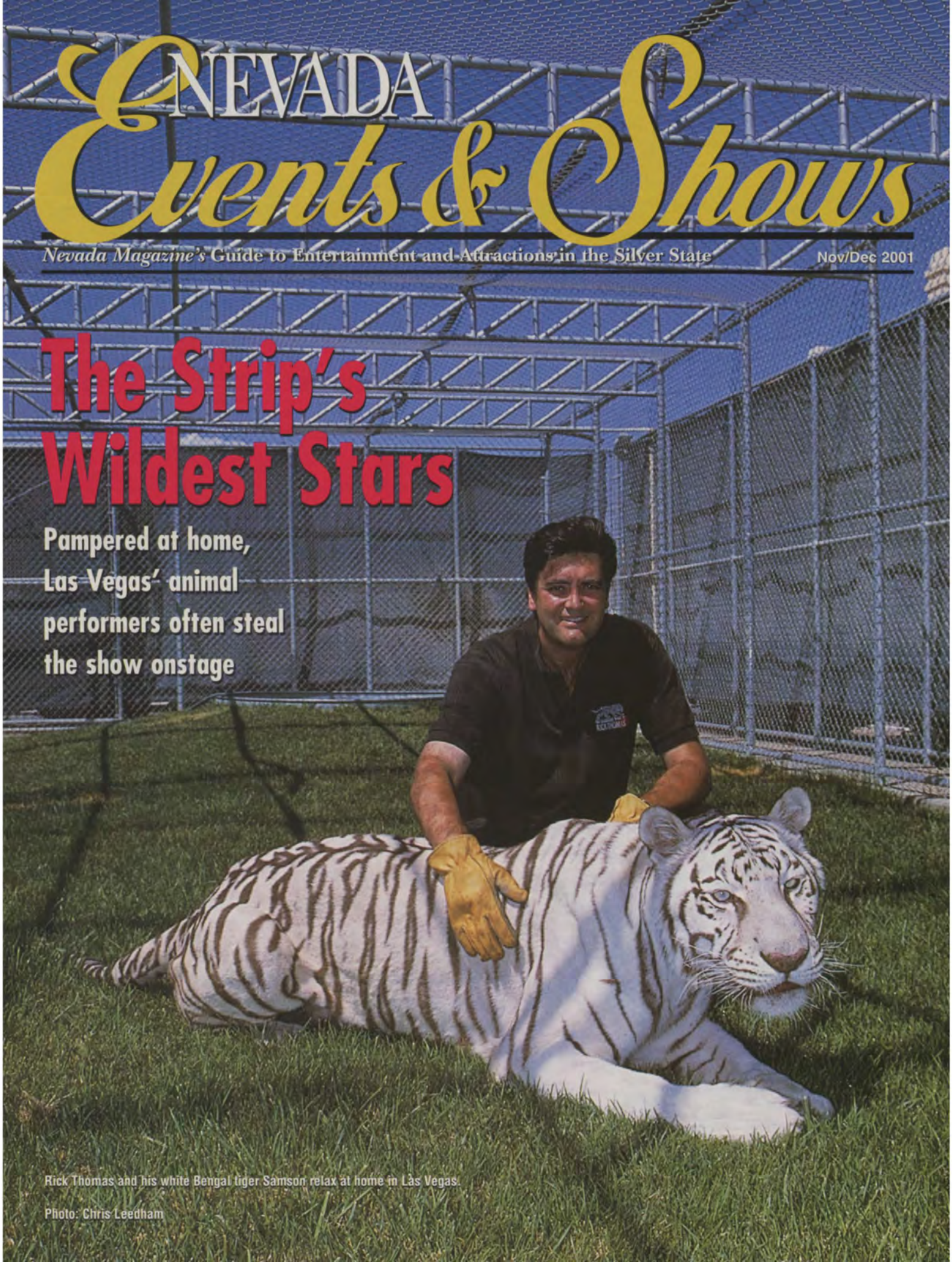


Photo: Sally Bee Brown

NEVADA
Events & Shows
Nevada Magazine's Guide to Entertainment and Attractions in the Silver State
Nov/Dec 2001

The Strip's Wildest Stars

Pampered at home, Las Vegas' animal performers often steal the show onstage



Rick Thomas and his white Bengal tiger Samson relax at home in Las Vegas.

Photo: Chris Leedham

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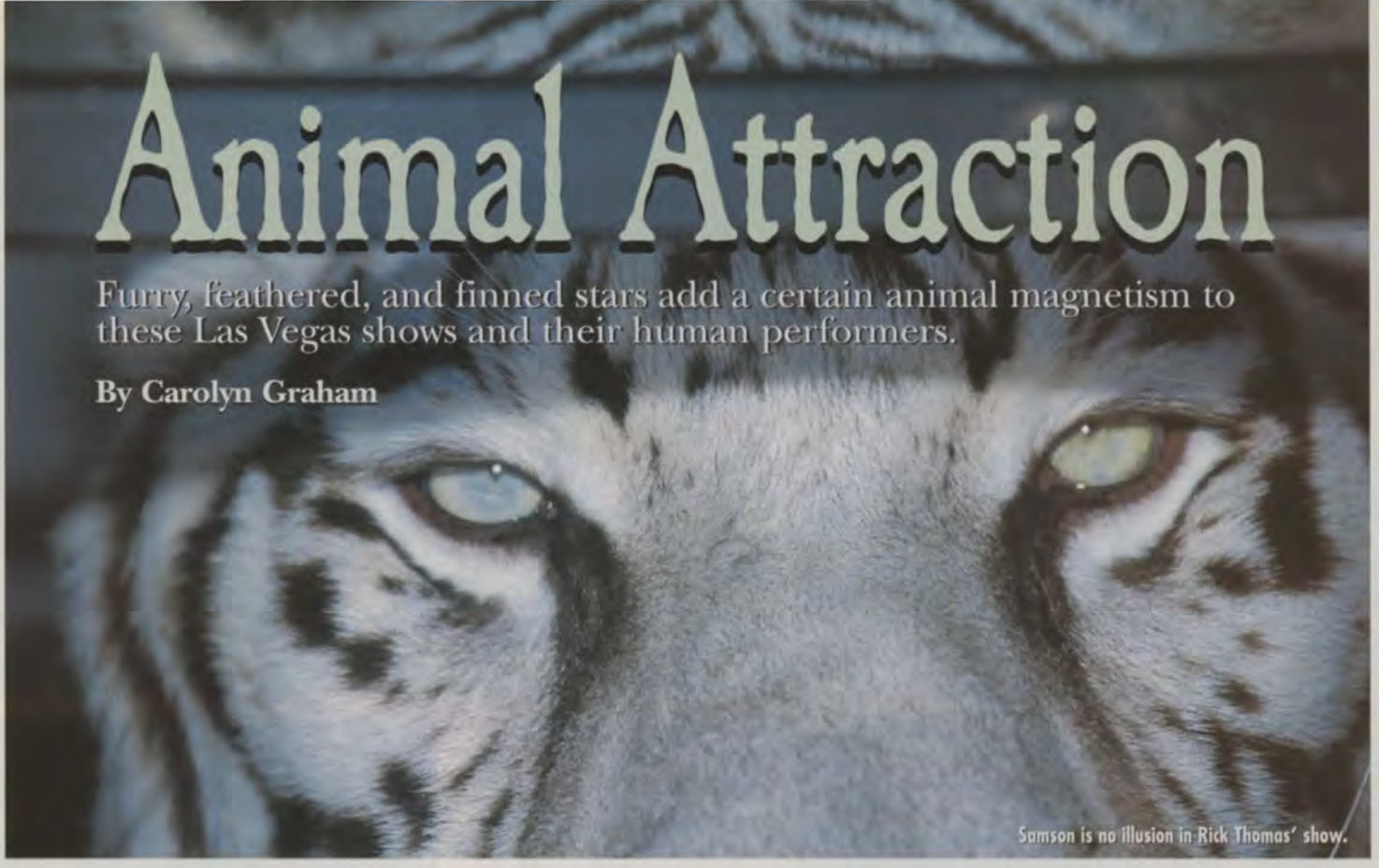
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Animal Attraction

Furry, feathered, and finned stars add a certain animal magnetism to these Las Vegas shows and their human performers.

By Carolyn Graham



Samson is no illusion in Rick Thomas' show.

The life of a Las Vegas star can be tough. First, there's the 11 a.m. wakeup call that precedes a full hour of bathing and primping. Then the handlers escort the star to her trailer, which is equipped with central air-conditioning (a must in the desert) for the 30-minute ride to the private dressing room next to the hotel-casino showroom. Then there's the pre-performance nap, during which staff members are warned they could be eaten alive if they disturb the talent. Following two afternoon shows, in which the total time spent onstage is 10 minutes, it's home for dinner—five pounds of steak tartar.

While this routine might not work for Madonna, it's purr-fect for a 400-pound Bengal tiger and many of the other animal performers who work in Las Vegas. These furry, feathered, and dorsal-finned headliners all receive star treatment. Onstage, they almost always steal the show, and afterwards they have their handlers eating out of their paws and flippers.

Showgoers in Las Vegas can catch a number of acts and attractions starring animals, from Siegfried and Roy's famous white tigers at the Mirage to the sharks of Mandalay Bay. Many of the shows are educational as well as entertaining. And in most cases the animals are as much a part of their handlers' lives as they are showroom stars.

> Thomas' tigers are driven to the Trop in a trailer with the license plate "CAT ILAC."

"The cats are not just a prop," says Rick Thomas, who performs illusions with white and tawny tigers in "The Illusionary Magic of Rick Thomas" in the Tropicana Hotel's Tiffany Theatre. "The moment I make a cat appear on stage, I'm no longer a magician. I'm a trainer."

Thomas not only shares the stage with the tigers. He and his wife and two children also share their Las Vegas home with the cats. On his two-acre property on the city's north side, Thomas trains, pampers, and plays with his exotic menagerie.

"People don't see the work that goes into this," says Thomas, who has worked with the big cats for the past 10 years. Thomas is involved in every aspect of the animals' lives, such as cleaning cages and driving the cats to the Trop (their luxury trailer has the license plate "CAT ILAC").

"They are animals. They are not potty trained," Thomas adds with a wry smile. "But if I'm not willing to get in there, I don't deserve to have them."

Thomas, a ballroom-dance champion in his teens, provides an entertaining, personal show in the Tropicana's Tiffany Theatre that incorporates graceful dance moves amid illusions that cover the standards, such as sawing a woman in half.

He trains the cats to know what to expect in the show—including the pyrotechnics that startle the audience when Thomas transforms a female dancer into a cat. Before, during, and after each performance Thomas' top priority is making sure his six Bengal tigers—Zeus, Maximillian, Morpheus, and Rocky (the tawny tigers), and Samson and Kira (the white tigers)—are well-fed, well-watered, and comfortable. Thomas admits, "They rule the roost."

Some animal shows emphasize education as much as show business. At Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay, visitors carry narration wands that describe such residents as the rare golden crocodiles from Thailand and the green-tree pythons that live in the mists, nearly within reach. Deeper inside the acrylic tunnel you can practically feel the velvet-gray underbelly of the black-tip reef shark and other ferocious-looking creatures as they circle overhead. At the

Photo: Chris Leedham





Joe Krathwohl, the Birdman of Las Vegas, and his giant birds of prey astound audiences during his midday shows in the Tropicana's Tropics Lounge (left). Away from the sharks and barracudas, a green sea turtle meets a human aquarist underwater at the Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay (above). Dolphins play in their saltwater habitat at the Mirage (right).



touch pool, visitors are encouraged to stick their hands in the water and stroke the horseshoe crabs and juvenile stingrays.

Behind the scenes, the creatures—more than 2,000 of them, representing more than 100 species—are studied and cared for by a team of "aquarists." Most are certified divers with degrees in biology. Monica Brazel, co-curator at Shark Reef, notes that an aquarist's day begins with observation. "Quite a bit of time is just spent looking at the water," she says.

Aquarists take the plunge at least twice a day. Brazel says the sharks tend to keep their distance—but the sea turtles like to nibble on divers' hair and earlobes.

Shark Reef residents eat as well as most casino customers do at the buffet—and in some cases they eat the same types of food, such as giant prawns and lobster tails. The reef's only live food is the brine shrimp served to the jellyfish. Whenever possible, feeding is by hand. Even the cranky crocodiles are hand-fed (from a very long feeding pole). Sharks, barracudas, and turtles receive their portions in designated corners of the tank. When they dive, the aquarists are equipped with special masks that allow them to answer visitors' questions while keeping an eye out for any stray barracudas.

Rick Thomas' showroom home, the Tropicana, is famous for the plumed showgirls of "Folies Bergere." By day, the Trop is known for birds of another feather. At midday the hotel's Tropics Lounge is center stage for Joe Krathwohl, a.k.a. the Birdman of Las Vegas. Krathwohl has taught his cast of tropical birds to ride scooters, fly through hoops, and sing arias—amazing feats for humans, much less birds.

"It's a matter of knowing how their brains work," says Krathwohl, a tropical bird expert and falconer who owns and trains the half-dozen birds that perform during the free shows. Obviously, it takes more than a bird brain to work with the show's huge birds of prey, such as a rare Andean condor that has a 10-foot wingspan.

Krathwohl shares his rural property in south Las Vegas with about 250 birds and animals, including several homing pigeons, a pair of African pie crows, a pair of Eurasian eagle-owls, and an Egyptian vulture. "A little bit of everything from all over the world," Krathwohl adds. He also has a black leopard named Ninja and a pair of sibling white tigers, Nash and Prima. The birds that perform in the show live at the Tropicana.

Krathwohl gets calls from Hollywood producers, Las Vegas entertainment directors, and other folks who need animals or exotic birds for movies, commercials, and special events. He has appeared with his birds on the *Tonight Show With Jay Leno*, and when Wrestlemania was in town at Caesars Palace, Krathwohl was asked to bring a vulture.

Photos: Chris Leedham (top left and bottom)

During his Tropicana show, birdwatchers gather in the lounge to see Lolita the Amazon parrot sing opera and Tiki the hyacinth macaw swing from his beak. Later, Krathwohl brings out Sheba, one of only eight bateleur eagles in captivity. The crowd gasps when Krathwohl introduces Vicki, an Andean condor—the largest flying bird in the world. The 30-pound bird dwarfs Krathwohl as she trots onstage and swoops up to a platform.

The Birdman of Las Vegas says he hopes his show is educational, especially regarding tropical birds (he sells his instructional videos after each show). He also takes pride in introducing humans to endangered and exotic animals, such as the condor and the eagle, that they otherwise might never see.

Education and conservation are emphasized at the Mirage's Dolphin Habitat. The 2.5-million-gallon saltwater tanks behind the hotel are home to 10 Atlantic bottlenose dolphins. This isn't Sea World—the animals do not jump through hoops for visitors. Rather, staff members talk to spectators while allowing the animals to behave as they would in nature.



Visitors can sit beside the tanks or linger in the underwater viewing area to watch the dolphins play and sleep. Assistant curator Gary Fox says more than half a million schoolchildren have toured the habitat since it opened in 1990.

Fox points out that although the dolphins don't perform a show, they are taught to respond to certain commands from trainers, which helps in research and care. While the trainers obviously enjoy playing with the dolphins, they spend most of their time studying the animals, which live in temperate and tropical oceans throughout the world.

Between conversations with visitors, the habitat's trainers conduct research about how dolphins communicate and other aspects of their marine life. It's an amazing accomplishment, given that these sea mammals are living at a hotel-casino hundreds of miles from the nearest ocean.

"Everybody loves dolphins," adds Tanya Flanagan, public relations manager for MGM Mirage. "And it's a great way to get an aquatic experience in the desert."

Carolyn Graham is a Los Angeles-based freelance writer who once had a talking parakeet.



Wild Stars On Stage

Siegfried, Roy, and their big cats have a lifetime contract at the Mirage.

Las Vegas visitors can see several shows starring members of the animal kingdom. Big cats and small birds are part of **"The Illusionary Magic of Rick Thomas"** at the Tropicana's Tiffany Theatre. Show times are 2 and 4 p.m. daily except Friday (dark November 9-16). Tickets for Thomas' all-ages show cost $16.95 for a table seat and $21.95 for a booth seat. Call 702-739-2411.

Joe Krathwohl, the **Birdman of Las Vegas**, appears with his feathered friends at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2 p.m. daily except Thursday at the Tropicana's Tropics Lounge. The show is free. Call 702-739-2411.

The 90,000-square-foot **Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay** is open daily from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets are $13.95 for adults, $9.95 for ages five to 12, and free for ages four and under. Call 702-632-4555.

The **Dolphin Habitat** at the Mirage is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends. Admission is $10 (free for children 10 and younger) and includes admission to **Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden.** When the Secret Garden is closed on Wednesday, admission to the Dolphin Habitat is $5. The **Royal White Tiger Habitat,** located at the entrance to the Mirage, is open 24 hours a day with no admission fee. Call 702-791-7111 for information on the animal attractions. If you want to the see the big cats in action, you can catch the **"Siegfried and Roy"** magic spectacular at 7:30 p.m. Sunday and Monday and 7:30 and 11 p.m. Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. Tickets cost $100.50 per person, including tax and two beverages. Call 800-963-9643 for reservations.

White tigers also appear in **"Jubilee!"** at Bally's. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday and 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. other days (dark Friday). Tickets cost $49.50 to $60. Showgoers must be at least 18 to see the topless production. Call 800-237-SHOW.

Fans of big cats can visit the **Lion Habitat** inside the MGM Grand. About five lions are rotated in the see-through enclosure, where a tunnel lets visitors look up at the lions lounging overhead. The habitat is open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; admission is free. Visitors can have their picture taken with a lion from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Tuesday. Photographs cost $20 for one 8x10 or two 5x7s. Call 702-891-7777.

"Lance Burton: Master Magician" presents magic involving white doves, geese, rabbits, and even a parakeet named Elvis at 7 and 10 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday (dark December 2-17) at the Lance Burton Theatre at the Monte Carlo. Tickets cost $59.95. Call 877-386-8224 for reservations.

The Flamingo Las Vegas features an assortment of birds near its lush **pool compound.** You'll find a group of African penguins as well as flamingos, ducks, and other birds. The attraction is free. Call 702-733-3111.

In Reno, magicians Kalin and Jinger create illusions with a tawny tiger and a black panther onstage in **"Carnival of Wonders"** at the Reno Hilton. The Hilton Theater show times are 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 p.m. Saturday, and 7 p.m. Sunday (dark Friday). Tickets cost $24.95 for adults, $14.95 for ages five to 12, and free for children four and under. Call 800-648-3568 for reservations.—*Carolyn Graham*

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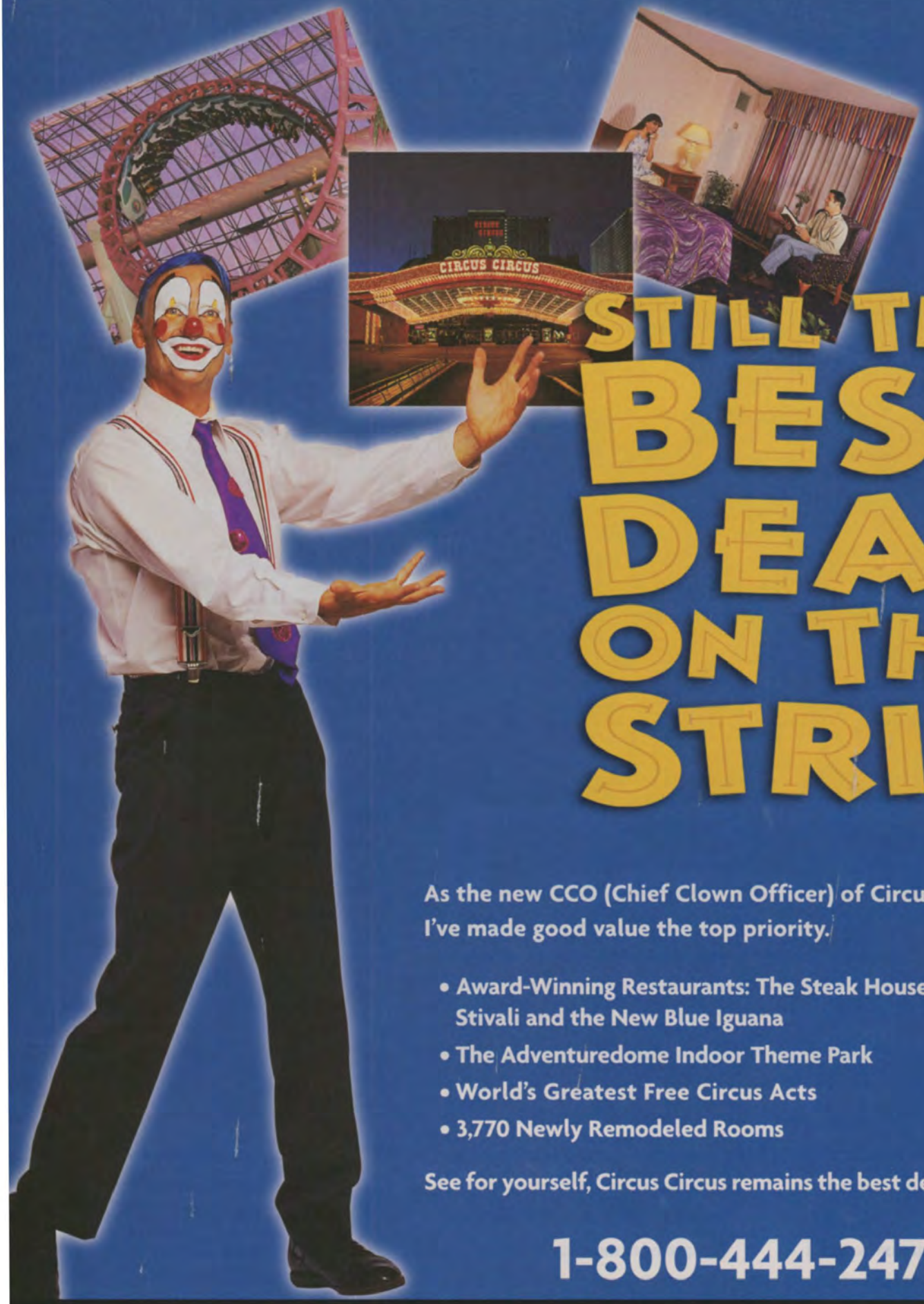
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Nevada Events

November and December events in Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe, and Rural Nevada.



Season's Cheer

Nevada hotels, such as Sam's Town in Las Vegas (above), don their holiday best in creative ways. Sam's Town's atrium, the resort's 25,000-square-foot showpiece of pathways, footbridges, animated animals, and a laser show, becomes a winter wonderland of lights and color in December. For our list of seasonal events from around the state see "Nevada Holiday Events and Festivals" on pages 38 and 39.

Nevada communities offer a great variety of events this winter. In the Las Vegas area, sprint cars compete in the Pennzoil World of Outlaws race at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Cowboy poets turn out for the Rhymers Rodeer in Minden, and rangers offer a winter-survival program at Cathedral Gorge State Park near Panaca. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following statewide events for November and December. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times.

Las Vegas Territory

President's Slot Tournament • Oct. 30-Nov. 1 • Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-6231.

$150,000 Slot Tournament • Oct. 31-Nov. 3 • Westward Ho Casino, Las Vegas, 702-731-2900.

One-Act Play Festival • Oct. 31-Nov. 4 • Three one-act plays written by students in the university playwriting program. Paul Harris Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

NHRA Federal Mogul Racing • Nov. 1-4 • Division seven drag racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444 for more drag-racing competition information.

"Frogz" • Nov. 2 • Leaping lizards, hopping frogs, and cavorting caterpillars offer family entertainment. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Rising Stars of Classical Music • Nov. 2 • Soloists Nokthula Ngwenyama and Awadagin Pratt perform. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

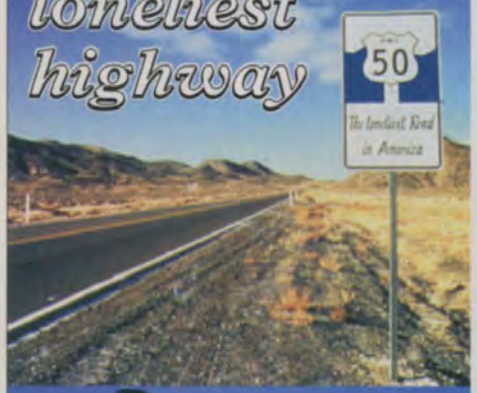
Pennzoil World of Outlaws • Nov. 2-3 • Winged sprint cars compete on the half-mile dirt track for a national title. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Laughlin Winter Sand Drag Nationals • Nov. 2-4 • Top fuel sand dragster competition in the Colorado River casino

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Nevada Territory Map

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

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

town. Avi Resort, Laughlin, 702-535-5555 for details.

Dick Wright Big Band • Nov. 3 • Dance to music from the 1940s-1960s. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Insects in Winter • Nov. 3 • Short hike to discover the world of insects. Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1921.

Mountain Man Rendezvous • Nov. 3-4 • Costumed members of the Spring Mountain Free Trappers present a primitive camp and events such as black-powder demonstrations, making ammunition, knife forging, beadwork, and storytelling. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

"The Last Album: Eyes From the Ashes of Auschwitz-Birkenau" • Nov. 4 • Discussion and book signing by author Ann Weiss. Chabad of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, 702-794-0090.

SCCA Rally Cross • Nov. 4 • Timed obstacle course. Jean Dry Lake Bed, Las Vegas, www.sanddrags.com.

76 Trombones + Four • Nov. 4 • Massed trombone choir plays classics and jazz standards. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Red Rock Rendezvous

The late autumn weather is beautiful at Red Rock Canyon west of Las Vegas, where rangers and volunteers conduct several November hikes and nature programs. See the events listing and call 702-363-1921 for more information.

Coffee Shop Sundays: Sid Hausman • Nov. 4 • Western Americana singer-songwriter. Free performance. Black Mountain Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Las Vegas Jewish Book Festival • Nov. 4-5 • Jewish literature for all ages. Fifth annual event. Chabad of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, 702-794-0090.

Bangarra Dance Theatre • Nov. 9 • Aboriginal and Islander dance. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

"Comedy of Errors" • Nov. 9-11 and 15-18 • Shakespeare's first play about the uproar that occurs when twins, separated at birth, move to the same town. Judy Bayley

Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS for tickets.

Robert Tree Cody and Xavier Quijas Yxayotl • Nov. 10 • Flutes, drums, and chants from Great Plains and Mexico are performed by natives. Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Old Bill Williams: Mountain Man • Nov. 10 • Presentation on the colorful life of Bill Williams, pioneer and horse thief. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

USO Show: Salute to Veterans • Nov. 10 • Revival of shows from World War II. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 705-565-2367.

National Import Racing Association • Nov. 10-11 • Drag racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Veteran's Day Slot Tournament • Nov. 10-11 • $79 entry. Flamingo Laughlin, Laughlin, 800-662-6004.

Coffee Shop Sundays: Songs of the War Years • Nov. 11 • Broadway veterans Gary Oaks and Lou Garcia lead an ensemble performing music from the Civil War to Vietnam. Valley View Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Dollars and Slots Slot Tournament • Nov. 11-13 • $800 entry, $30,000 first prize. Golden Nugget, Las Vegas, 702-385-7111.

"The Jewish Woman's Book of Wisdom" • Nov. 13 • Discussion and book signing by author Ellen Jaffe-Gill. MIS Hebrew Academy, Las Vegas, 702-794-0090.

Las Vegas Odyssey 2001 • Nov. 15-18 • Second annual wine tastings, cooking demonstrations, gourmet lunches, and dinners. Individual event tickets $75-$350; package tickets $325-$1,200. Various hotels and restaurants, Las Vegas, 888-335-2178.

Ramada Express International Rally • Nov. 15-18 • Cars race 160 miles on terrain ranging from mountain to desert. Laughlin, 702-298-8171.

Poets' Corner • Nov. 16 • Established poets and open-mike participants perform. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Cruise Night • Nov. 16 • Classics, street rods, muscle cars. Location TBA. Las Vegas, 702-260-6960.

$50,000 Blackjack Tournament • Nov. 16-18 • Entry fee $500, first place $25,000. Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-9222.

Reserve 250 • Nov. 16-18 • Trucks and cars compete off-road in a 40-mile, six-lap race. Call for location. Las Vegas, 702-452-4522.

Super Chevy Show • Nov. 16-18 • Drag racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Ice Box Canyon Hike • Nov. 17 • 2.5-mile moderate hike

The Olden Days

Black-powder demonstrations, knife forging, beadwork, and storytelling are a few of the old-time events that are scheduled for the Mountain Man Rendezvous, November 3-4, at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas.

Nevada Holidays

for holiday events and shows all around Nevada, see pages 38 and 39.

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Nevada Holiday Events and Festivals

A day-by-day statewide guide to Nevada's seasonal traditions.

Nevada communities offer a full slate of events designed to capture the holiday spirit during November and December. From unique craft fairs with Christmas boutique gifts to fireworks and chili feeds and productions of "The Nutcracker" in several locations, the following will help create lasting memories as you renew holiday traditions and gather with family and friends.

GiftTown • Nov. 10-11 • Arts and crafts provide an early start on holiday shopping. Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-4091.

Festival of Trees • Nov. 14-17 • Community celebration with decorated trees. Recreation Center, Mesquite, 702-346-3868.

Christmas Tree Auction • Nov. 16 • Decorated trees are auctioned to benefit the Boulder Dam Hotel restoration project. Community College of Southern Nevada, Boulder City, 702-293-7731.

Craft Fair Fantastic • Nov. 16-17 • Arts and crafts sale. Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 775-635-2374.

Valhalla Holiday Faire: Victorian Experience • Nov. 16-18 • Holiday crafts and gift items for sale. Tahoe Tallac Association, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

Boy Scout Christmas Craft Show • Nov. 17 • Holiday shopping. Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

Sparks Third Annual Turkey Trot • Nov. 22 • Start Thanksgiving morning with a run-walk. Sparks Marina Park, Sparks, 775-353-2291.

The Magical Forest • Nov. 22-Dec. 29 • Tenth anniversary of the decorated winter wonderland, open nightly from 5-10pm. Opportunity Village, Las Vegas, 702-259-3741.

"The Nutcracker" • Nov. 23-25 • Tchaikovsky's ballet performed by the Pinkerton Dance Company. Community Center, Carson City, 775-841-9597.

Victorian Christmas • Nov. 23-Dec. 24 • View decorations and gift items. Dake House, Genoa, 775-782-4951.

Rink on the River • Nov. 23-Feb. • Outdoor ice skating by the Truckee River. Downtown Reno, 775-334-2262.

Christmas Tree Lighting • Nov. 24 • Music and lighting of the community tree. Frank Crowe Park, Boulder City, 702-293-2034.

Holly Art • Nov. 24-Dec. 31 • All-media show featuring small gift items, decorative art, wreaths, trees. North Tahoe Art Center, Tahoe City, 530-581-2787.

Christmas Reception • Nov. 25 • Hand-painted ornaments, cards, and the works of 22 artists are exhibited. East Fork Gallery, Gardnerville, 775-782-7629.

"The Messiah" • Nov. 26 • The Christmas classic performed by Desert Chorale. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Festival of Trees • Nov. 26-30 • Bid on decorated trees, wreaths, and decorations. Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-4091.

Light the Night Holiday Spectacular • Nov. 28 • Lighting of the Ethel M Chocolates Botanical Cactus Garden with more than 100,000 lights. Event includes strolling musicians and sample chocolates. Garden will be lit through Jan. 3. Ethel M Chocolates, Henderson, 702-458-8864.

"A Christmas Tuna" • Nov. 30-Dec. 2 and Dec. 7-9 • Two actors play 22 roles in this screwy play about the small town of Tuna, Texas, and the citizens who play havoc with Christmas. The Actory, Reno, 775-331-9228.

Tea, Trends, and Tranquility • Nov. 30 • Holiday afternoon tea and fashions from Saks 5th Avenue. Four Seasons, Las Vegas, 702-369-5595.

Homes for the Holidays • Nov. 30-Dec. 2 • Decorated Reno homes are showcased. Call for directions. Reno, 775-787-9411.

Christmas in the Nighttime Skies • Dec. 1 • Fireworks, chili feed, caroling, and Santa. Kimberley Nurseries, Elko, 775-738-7135.

Nurses Bazaar • Dec. 1 • Holiday gifts. Convention Center, Elko, 775-753-7768.

Christmas Parade • Dec. 1 • Parade and photos with Santa. Nevada Highway and Colorado Street, Boulder City, 702-293-2034.

Douglas High School Craft Fair • Dec. 1 • 19th annual holiday event. Douglas High School, Gardnerville, 775-782-5136, ext. 1900.

Community Christmas Celebration • Dec. 1 • Parade downtown and Santa, Santa's workshop, and food at Civic Center. Battle Mountain, 775-635-8245.

Doodlebug Bazaar • Dec. 1 • Holiday gift and craft fair. Recreation Center, Boulder City, 702-293-0725.

Christmas Parade of Lights • Dec. 1 • Lighted holiday parade, strolling carolers, chestnuts roasting on street corners. C Street, Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Sparks 15th Annual Hometowne Christmas • Dec. 1 • Holiday parade, entertainment, photos with Santa, arts and crafts, and a tree-lighting ceremony. Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-353-2291.

Valhalla Holiday Gala • Dec. 1 • Dinner-dance in the Valhalla Grand Hall. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

Parade of Lights • Dec. 1 • More than 50 colorfully decorated boats parade from Lake Mead Marina to Hemenway Harbor and return. Lake Mead, Boulder City, 702-457-2797.

Christmas Tree Lighting • Dec. 1 • Carols, music, warm drinks, Santa Claus. Maine Street, Fallon, 775-423-4556.

Christmas Craft Show and Sale • Dec. 1-2 • Holiday gift-buying. Winnemucca Convention Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

Christmas Faire • Dec. 1-2 • Mulled wine, food, candy for sale. Art show, entertainment, decorations. Genoa Town Hall, Genoa, 775-782-8696.

Reno's River Holiday • Dec. 1-2 • Tree-decorating and ice-sculpture contests, caroling, entertainment, storytelling, arts and crafts, and Santa Claus. West Street Plaza, Reno, 775-334-2414.

"The Nutcracker" • Dec. 1-2 and 13-16 • Nevada Festival Ballet of Reno presents the premiere of a new production of "The Nutcracker" by the Nevada Ballet Theatre of Las Vegas. Includes sets and costumes by Paris-based theatrical designer Alexandre Vassiliev and magic effects by Lance Burton. Performances Dec. 1-2 at Caesars Tahoe at Stateline, and Dec. 13-16 at the Pioneer Center for the



Visitors to the Bellagio can marvel at the decorations.



Decorated boats ply the waters of Lake Mead December 1.

Photos: Gene Hertzog (left), Craig Malburg (right)



Opportunity Village's Magical Forest sparkles.

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Christmas on the Comstock • Dec. 1-24 • Events include a gingerbread house contest each weekend, Victorian Christmas decorations. Main streets, Virginia City and Gold Hill, 775-847-0311.

Jimmy Dickens: A Victorian Tree and Wreath Decorating Ceremony • Dec. 2 • Includes reading of "A Christmas Carol" by the Nevada Shakespeare Festival company. Fourth Ward School, Virginia City, 775-847-0975.

Holiday Open House • Dec. 2 • Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

Sounds of the Season • Dec. 4 • Holiday music performed by the Henderson Civic Symphony. Valley View Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Holiday Concert • Dec. 5 • Performance by Elko High School Band. Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-7281.

Henderson Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony • Dec. 6 • Convention Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Silver and Snowflake Festival of Lights • Dec. 6 • Lighting of the Capitol Christmas tree and all of downtown Carson City, music, caroling, and refreshments. Capitol Building, Carson City, 775-882-1565.

"Nutcracker Ballet" • Dec. 6-9 • Christmas classic starring Desi Arnaz Jr. as the Nutcracker. Boulder Theatre, Boulder City, 702-293-5001.

NFR Cowboy Christmas Gift Show • Dec. 6-15 • More than 400 exhibitors feature goods ranging from Western wear to PRCA official merchandise. Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, 702-260-8605.

Hometown Christmas Celebration • Dec. 7 • Fireworks, Santa, games, and prizes. Recreation Center, Mesquite, 702-346-5295.

Gazebo Lighting • Dec. 7 • Minden Park, Minden, 775-782-2444.

Parade of Lights • Dec. 8 • Night parade. Downtown, Minden-Gardnerville, 775-782-8144.

Country Christmas • Dec. 8 • Decorations, visit with Santa, children's parade. Downtown, Yerington, 775-463-2245.

Henderson Children's Christmas Parade • Dec. 8 • Water Street, Henderson, 702-565-8951.

Luminaria • Dec. 8 • Holiday music and program. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-293-2034.

Reno Chamber Orchestra • Dec. 8-9 • "Christmas Concerto" by Corelli and Handel's "Messiah." Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-348-9413.

Santa Train • Dec. 8-9 • Santa pays a visit during each ride of the steam-powered locomotive. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Henderson for the Holidays • Dec. 8-15 • Pay one ticket price ($3 adult, $2 senior or child) for all activities during the week. Call for a schedule. Various locations, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Holiday Treat Concert • Dec. 9 • Seasonal music performed by the Carson City Symphony and Carson Chamber Singers. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

Parade of Lights • Dec. 9 • Evening parade on Idaho Street. Elko, 775-738-7135.

Victorian Christmas Tour • Dec. 9 • Self-guided tour of 10 historic homes, which are decorated and hosted by costumed docents. Historic District, Carson City, 775-882-1805.

Choiraliers Christmas Concert • Dec. 11 • Holiday music. Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-7281.

Gingerbread House Contest • Dec. 13 • Christmas party. Elko County Library, Elko, 775-738-3066.

"The Nutcracker" • Dec. 14-16 • Presented by Sierra Nevada Dance. Location TBA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-546-4602.

Winterfest • Dec. 15 • Fireworks, chili feed, bonfire, band. Khaury parking lot, Spring Creek, 775-738-9248.

Chanukah Concert and Celebration • Dec. 16 • Annual family Chanukah activities, dancing, singing, and a concert by Jewish Jammin'. Jewish Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-794-0090.

"The Nutcracker" • Dec. 20-23 • Nevada Ballet Theatre of Las Vegas' new production includes sets and costumes by Paris-based theatrical designer Alexandre Vassiliev, magic effects by Lance Burton, and a 35-piece orchestra. Rio Suite Hotel, Las Vegas, 702-243-2623.

Ho Ho Homewood Toy Drive • Dec. 21 • Bring a new toy and ski for $9. Homewood Ski Resort, North Lake Tahoe, 530-525-2992.

Walt Boenig Big Band • Dec. 22 • Holiday music. Free admission. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Christmas Eve Torchlight Parade • Dec. 24 • Skiers snake down the ski slope carrying lighted torches. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Christmas Day • Dec. 25 • Good cheer and fellowship throughout the state.



Sparks Hometowne Christmas Parade launches holiday season.

Photos: Craig Malburg (top), Bob Goodman (bottom)



to discuss animals, geology, and plants. Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1921.

Searchlight Gran Prix • Nov. 17-18 • Motorcycle off-road race. Searchlight, 702-567-1317.

Roulette Tournament • Nov. 17-18 • $49 entry. Flamingo Laughlin, Laughlin, 800-662-6004.

U2 Concert • Nov. 18 • End-of-tour concert. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

Las Vegas Civic Symphony • Nov. 18 • Classic music concert. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Coffee Shop Sundays: The Good Times Band • Nov. 18 • Big band sounds of the '40s, oldies but goodies of the '50s and '60s, and a bit of country. Whitney Ranch Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Dr. Billy Taylor and Ramsey Lewis • Nov. 18 • Piano jazz concert. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Yankee Doodle Slot Tournament • Nov. 18-20 • Ramada Express, Laughlin, 800-343-4533.

Las Vegas Tourney • Nov. 19-21 • NCAA-exempted college basketball tournament featuring Texas-El Paso, Providence, Oklahoma State, Texas Christian, Austin Peay, Northwestern State, Siena, Arkansas, and Monticello. Valley High School, Las Vegas, 513-241-1900.

$28,000 Turkey Shoot Slot Tournament • Nov. 19-21 • Entry fee $250, includes room for two nights, welcome dinner, and awards breakfast. $10,000 first place. Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2222.

Where's the Turkey Slot Tournament • Nov. 20-21 • $79 entry. Flamingo Laughlin, Laughlin, 800-662-6004.

Nevada Holidays
for holiday events and shows all around Nevada, see pages 38 and 39.

Best of the Best

Rodeo's top 120 cowboys compete for $4.5 million in prize money during the National Finals Rodeo, December 7-16 in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Invitational • Nov. 22-24 • NCAA-exempted college basketball tournament featuring Illinois, Iowa State, Georgia Tech, Saint Louis, Hartford, Pennsylvania, Southern Illinois, and Eastern Illinois. Valley High School, Las Vegas, 513-241-1900.

2002-Model Motor Trend International Auto Show • Nov. 22-25 • Introduction of new-model cars. Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, 717-566-6100.

Black Doll, Gift, and Collectible Show • Nov. 23 • Fifth annual exhibit and sale featuring the works of doll makers and crafters. Continuous entertainment. Palace Station, Las Vegas, 647-2242.

Los Angeles-Barstow-Las Vegas Motorcycle Tour • Nov. 23-24 • Annual event not accessible to spectators. Las Vegas, 818-348-8381.

Evening of Dance • Nov. 24 • Callers and live fiddlers, music for square dancing, mixers, contras, waltzes, and polkas. Introductory lesson at 6:30pm. No partner or experience needed. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Predator and Prey • Nov. 24 • Program for children ages five-10. Short hike, games, and nature discussion. Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1921.

Las Vegas Region SCCA Autocross • Nov. 24-25 • Timed obstacle course event. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-897-3774.

Circus Freaks II • Nov. 27 • Performers from the Strip present a night of dance and performance art. House of Blues, Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas, 702-873-0191.

Best in the Desert Las Vegas 200 • Nov. 30-Dec. 2 • Off-road race with trucks, cars, quads, and motorcycles. Las Vegas, 702-457-5775.

"Endangered Species" • Nov. 30-Dec. 2 and Dec. 6-9 • Jason D. Martin's adventure tale of modern Native Americans attempting to reconnect with their past. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

"Jack and the Beanstalk" • Nov. 30-Dec. 8 • Nevada Theatre Company production of the children's classic. Nevada Theatre Company, Las Vegas, 702-873-0191.

Storytelling at Red Rock • Dec. 1 • Enjoy the scenic view and children's stories. Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1921.

Black Mountain Arts and Crafts Show • Dec. 1-2 • One-of-a-kind gifts. Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, 702-568-7835.

Winter Wonderland Video Poker Tournament • Dec. 4-5 • $109 entry. Flamingo Laughlin, Laughlin, 800-662-6004.

Winner Wonderland I • Dec. 4-6 • Slot tournament. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 800-343-4533.

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Shark Attack

Danny Botherson of the UNLV Runnin' Rebels passes around two defenders during a game against Cal-State Northridge. The Rebels play such opponents as BYU, New Mexico, Texas, Wyoming, Colorado State, and Utah at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas. The Lady Rebels basketball team plays most of its games in the nearby Cox Pavilion.

UNLV Symphony Orchestra Concert IV • Dec. 5 • Visiting artist David Breitman on fortepiano. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Evening With the Artists • Dec. 7 • Meet Nevada artists. Reception includes food, drink. Art Encounter, Las Vegas, 702-227-0220.

"The Emperor's New Clothes" • Dec. 7-9 and 13-16 • Rainbow Company Youth Theatre presentation of the fairy tale. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

National Finals Rodeo • Dec. 7-16 • Rodeo's top 120 professional athletes compete for more than $4.5 million in prize money. Many hotels have closed-circuit viewing and offer the chance to rub elbows with the best. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-260-8605.

Craps and Blackjack Tournaments • Dec. 8-9 • $49 entry. Flamingo Laughlin, Laughlin, 800-662-6004.

Winter Wonderland Slot Tournament • Dec. 11-12 • $79 entry. Flamingo Laughlin, Laughlin, 800-662-6004.

Let It Ride Tournament • Dec. 14-15 • Entry $149. Flamingo Laughlin, Laughlin, 800-662-6004.

Coin and Stamp Expo • Dec. 14-16 • Display and sale of stamps, jewelry, coins. Tropicana, Las Vegas, 818-997-6496.

Cruise Night • Dec. 15 • Classics, street rods, muscle cars. Location TBA. Las Vegas, 702-260-6960.

$75,000 Holiday Wishes Slot Tourney • Dec. 16-19 • Entry fee of $1,000 includes room for three nights, welcome reception, two breakfast buffets, and awards dinner; $30,000 first prize. Tropicana, 702-739-2222.

Caesars Palace Winter Wonderland Slot Tournament • Dec. 16-19 • $1,000 entry fee, $187,500 in prizes. Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 888-927-2758.

Holiday Toy Drive • Dec. 18-21 • Video poker tournament.

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2002 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

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ONGOING

All events are color coded according to territory (see map on page 36).

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

Museums and Exhibits

The Masters Re-Mastered: Thru Nov. 4. Paintings by David Bierke, Max Coyer, George Deem, and Koya Abe represent the history of art. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Edw Martinez: Los Dias de las Muertos: Thru Nov. 5. UNR art professor exhibits mixed media drawings that celebrate the Day of the Dead. Charleston Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Synergistically Speaking: Thru Nov. 7 Exhibit by Pahrump Valley Pottery Artisans. Gate "C," McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas, 702-455-4856.

Tim Gardner: Thru Nov. 10. Watercolors of "youthful and sometimes boisterous middle-class leisure activities." Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-1575.

Leaf-ings: Thru Nov. 13. Exhibit of photography, paintings, pottery, jewelry, and porcelain. East Fork Gallery, Gardnerville, 775-782-7629.

Marcia Keegan Exhibit: Thru Nov. 17 Photography of Pueblo Indians. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211

Taking Stock in Nevada: Mining Stock Certificates From Nevada Companies: Thru Nov. 18. Beautifully engraved certificates are exhibited with photographs, ore specimens, and mining artifacts. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Earth 2U: Exploring Geography: Thru Nov. 18. Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and National Geographic Society show covers exploration, origins of everyday things, and the impact of natural forces and population. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 702-382-3445.

Figures in Transition: Thru Nov. 28. Watercolors by Dottie Burton. Left of Center Art Gallery, North Las Vegas, 702-647-7378.

Metro Art: Thru Dec. 9. Exhibit of fine arts and crafts created by employees of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. West Charleston Library, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

Lost City Museum: Thru Dec. 13. Exhibit from the Lost City Museum in Overton deals with Native American tribes indigenous to Nevada. Whitney Library, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

A Reunion of Landmarks: The Paintings of Roy Powers: Thru Dec. 29. Paintings of notable buildings in Northern Nevada. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.



The East Fork Hotel in Gardnerville is the subject of one of the pieces in "A Reunion of Landmarks: The Paintings of Roy Powers" at the Nevada Historical Society through December 29.

Gene Speck: Thru Dec. 31 Paintings of the Great Plains, ranch scenes, and Indian encampments. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 775-324-2323.

Eleanor Beckert: Thru Dec. 31 Watercolorist is the Boulder City Art Guild's featured artist. Boulder Dam Hotel, Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

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

Art Club Fall Show: Thru Jan. 15. Juried fine arts exhibit. Elko County Museum, Elko, 775-777-7901

Alexander Calder: The Art of Invention: Thru Feb. 3. Rarely seen sculptures from 1926-76. Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art, Bellagio, Las Vegas, 702-693-7722.

Native American Heritage Month: Nov. 1-30. Display of items from the Lost City Museum dealing with Native American tribes indigenous to Nevada. Sahara West Library, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

Livin' in Lost Wages: Nov. 6-Jan. 6. Alissa Ward mixed media exhibit representing her experiences in Las Vegas. Rainbow Library Gallery, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

El Favor de los Santos: Mexican Retablo Painting: Nov. 8-Jan. 13. Exhibit of 375 retablos, small religious works usually painted on tin plates.

EVENTS

Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Leonard Gene and Annie Taylor: Nov. 8-20. Fine arts and jewelry in the Navajo tradition. Spring Valley Library, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274 for information.

Little Wheels, Big Dreams: Pedal Car Memories: Nov. 12-Feb. 3. Pedal car exhibit. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Charlene Laughing: Nov. 13-Jan. 15. Weavings by Native American artist. West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

Sights of the Sirens: A Creative Odyssey: Nov. 14-Jan. 13. Artists Joy Snyder, Karla Rehm, and Kathryn Gilbert present their collage and mixed media works. Enterprise Library, Las Vegas, 702-269-3000.

Aristotle Georgiades: Nov. 15-Jan. 13. Mixed media sculpture exhibit. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Anteaters: Fast Food Specialists: Nov. 17-Dec. 30. Traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit about the dining habits of Central and South American anteaters. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-384-DINO.

This Contest Is for Real Hands: Rodeo Photographs of the 1930s: Nov. 26-Jan. 13. Black-and-white photographs by Western photographer Otho Hartley capture the drama of old-time rodeo. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Paintings by Rick Hyman: Nov. 30-Feb. 23. Traveling exhibit features works by the Las Vegas resident from his book, *My Texas Family: An Uncommon Journey to Prosperity*. Reed Whipple Center, 702-229-6211

Poets, Poetry, Prose, Repose: Dec. 3-14. Exhibit of Las Vegas poets and their written works by photographer Joyce Hudson. Sawyer Office Building, Las Vegas, 702-836-3660.

Jorge Arcos: Dec. 4-Feb. 15. Oil and acrylic paintings. Left of Center Art Gallery, North Las Vegas, 702-647-7378.

Plays, Lectures, Tours

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

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

Hidden Cave Tours: Nov. 10 and 24 and Dec. 8 and 22. Guided tour of Hidden Cave archaeological site includes self-guided tour to nearby Grimes Point petroglyph site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 775-423-3677

Red Rock Canyon Food Drive: Dec. 1-22. Visitors who bring a non-perishable food donation, jackets, or blankets receive free park entrance. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1921

Sporting Events

University of Nevada Men's Basketball: The Wolf Pack plays Nov. 2 v. Global Sports, Nov. 9 v. Next Level Sports, Nov. 28 v. San Francisco, Dec. 1 v. Santa Clara, Dec. 8 v. Cal State Northridge, Dec. 12 v. Southern Oregon, Dec. 15 v. Portland State. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 775-784-6900.

UNLV Football: The Rebels play Nov. 3 v. Utah. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 702-895-UNLV for Rebels sports information.

University of Nevada Football: The Wolf Pack plays Nov. 3 v. SMU, Nov. 17 v. Fresno State. Mackay Stadium, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6900, ext. 263.

University of Nevada Women's Basketball: The Lady Wolf Pack plays Nov. 3 v. NWBL Elite, Nov. 24 v. San Francisco, Dec. 9 v. UNLV, Dec. 19 v. Utah, Dec. 28 v. Louisiana Tech, Dec. 30 v. SMU. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 775-784-6900.

UNLV Women's Basketball: The Lady Rebels play Nov. 8 v. National Team, Nov. 11 v. NWBL, Nov. 16 v. Cal State Fullerton, Dec. 19 v. Eastern Washington, Dec. 21 v. Tennessee Martin, Dec. 30 v. UC Santa Barbara (played in Thomas and Mack Center), Jan. 2 v. Texas Corpus Christi, Jan. 4 v. Northern Arizona, Jan. 10 v. San Diego State, Jan. 24 v. Air Force, Jan. 26 v. New Mexico, Feb. 14 v. Colorado State, Feb. 16 v. Wyoming, Feb. 28 v. BYU (Thomas and Mack), March 2 v. Utah (Thomas and Mack). Mountain West Conference is March 6-9. Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-895-UNLV.

UNLV Men's Basketball: The Runnin' Rebels play Nov. 10 v. Global Sports, Nov. 13 v. LA Stars, Nov. 17 v. Wisconsin, Nov. 20 v. Nicholls State, Dec. 1 v. Georgia Southern, Dec. 20 v. UNR, Dec. 22 v. Texas, Dec. 28 v. Tennessee State, Dec. 30 v. Old Dominion, Jan. 19 v. Wyoming, Jan. 21 v. Colorado State, Feb. 3 v. DePaul, Feb. 9 v. BYU, Feb. 11 v. Utah, Feb. 13 v. Florida International, Feb. 23 v. San Diego State, Feb. 28 v. Air Force, March 2 v. New Mexico. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-UNLV.

Lady Rebel Shootout: Nov. 24-25. Tournament play Tennessee Tech v. Seton Hall, and UNLV v. Sacramento State. Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-895-UNLV.

ET Bracket Points Racing and Junior Dragster Races: Fri. and Sat. nights thru Nov. Test and tune on Fri., points racing on Sat. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Farmer's Markets

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

Las Vegas Farmer's Market: Wednesdays at Bruce Trent Park. Las Vegas, 702-683-GROW for farmer's market information.



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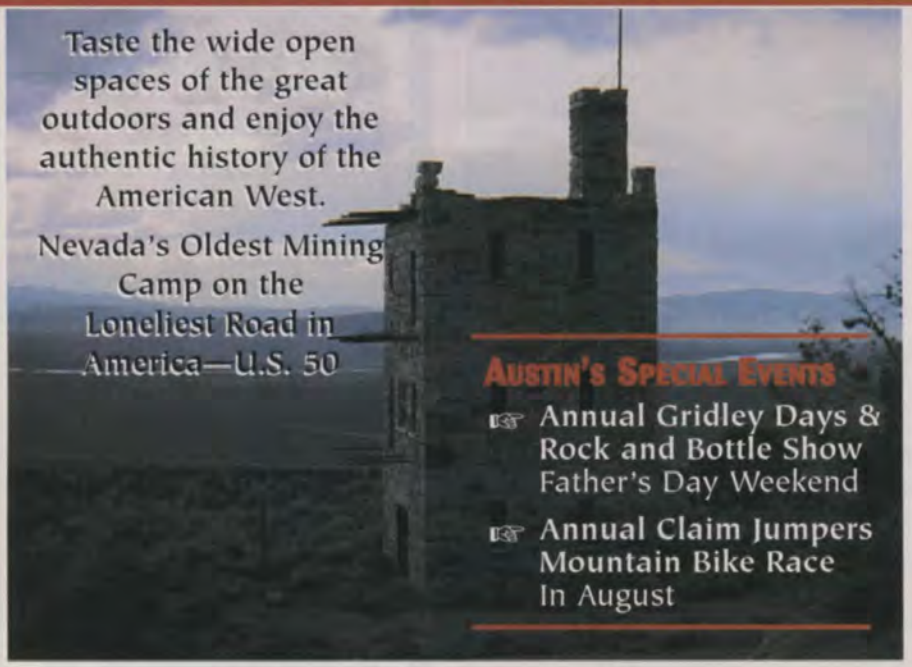
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Las Vegas Classic • Dec. 20-22 • NCAA-exempted college basketball tournament featuring Cincinnati, Purdue, Mississippi State, Texas A&M, Richmond, Southwest Missouri State, Illinois-Chicago, and Louisiana-Monroe. Las Vegas High School, Las Vegas, 513-241-1900.

Poets' Corner • Dec. 21 • Established poets and open-mike participants perform. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Winter Wonderland Slot Tournament II • Dec. 22-23 • $79 entry. Flamingo Laughlin, Laughlin, 800-662-6004.

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

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

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Taste for Travel • Nov. 1 • Chef's appetizer competition and travel auction. Reno Hilton, Reno, 775-829-2273.

"Julius Caesar" • Nov. 1-3 • A story of politics, Shakespeare-style. The Actory, Reno, 775-331-9228.

Rotary Brewfest • Nov. 2 • Beer tasting, food, music. Stockmen's, Elko, 775-777-3427.

"Death in England" • Nov. 2-3 • Mystery-comedy about Death paying a call to an English household and discovering he's in the wrong place. Elks Lodge, Reno, 775-329-0661.

Rhymers Rodeer • Nov. 2-3 • Fourteenth annual program of music, poetry, humor, and satire features Steve and Leslie Ide, Carl Finigan, Old West Trio, Sonny Hancock and the Grubline Riders, Tony Ilardi, and Ernie Fanning. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6625.

Rink on the Truckee

Outdoor ice skating begins November 23 and continues to February at the Rink on the River near Virginia Street in downtown Reno.

Reno Film Festival • Nov. 2-4 • Annual event focuses on new and Nevada-oriented films and celebrities. Downtown Reno, 775-334-6707.

Nevada Opera • Nov. 2 and 4 • Two presentations: "Suor Angelica" by Puccini is the story of a woman exiled to a convent. "I Pagliacci" by Leocavallo tells the dramatic story of traveling performers whose lives are changed. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-786-4046.

Tahoe Rim Trail • Nov. 3 • State-of-the-trail address, slide show, volunteer awards. North Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach, North Lake Tahoe, 775-588-0686.

"Princess Shahrazade and the Mighty Genie" • Nov. 8-10 •

Nevada Holidays

for holiday events and shows all around Nevada, see pages 38 and 39.

Children's production based on Arabian Nights tales. The Actory, Reno, 775-331-9228.

Wild Mango • Nov. 9 • Latin music concert, dinner, dance. Kings Beach School, North Lake Tahoe, 530-546-4602.

Gourmet Wine and Food Weekend • Nov. 9-10 • Wine reception, demonstrations, seminars, seven-course feast. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6611.

UNR Ski Swap and Sale • Nov. 9-11 • Swap benefits UNR ski team, drawings for lift tickets. Livestock Events Center Exhibit Hall. 775-825-6555 or 775-825-0712.

Football Theme Slot Tournament • Nov. 9-11 • $850 entry. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

Keno Tournament • Nov. 10 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

Veterans Day Parade • Nov. 11 • C Street, Virginia City, 775-847-0509.

"The Music Man" • Nov. 13-18 • Western Nevada Musical Theater presents the musical and its marches, barbershop quartets, and ballads. Community Center, Carson City, 775-445-4249.

Silent Voices • Nov. 15 • The Argenta Quartet performs music banned by Nazi Germany, including selections from Mendelssohn, Raimi, and Bloch. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6145.

2001 Fall Dance Program • Nov. 15-17 • Concert offers works-in-progress of students, faculty, and guest artists. Multiple locations, U of N, Reno, 775-784-4041, ext. 240.

Winners' Weekend Slot Tournament • Nov. 16-18 • $99 entry. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

Bingo Blowout • Nov. 17 • $85 entry. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

Squaw Valley Film Festival • Nov. 17 • Latest ski and snowboard films are screened on opening day. Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.



Really Big Race

A sellout is expected when the Pennzoil World of Outlaws Race takes place November 2-3 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway in Las Vegas. For information on how to see the winged sprint cars compete on the half-mile dirt track, call the speedway at 800-644-4444.

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Upcoming Events	Month	Location
Mother's Day Madness Team Roping	May 2002	Fernley
Fernley Fly-In	May 2002	Fernley
Spring Fling Car Show	May 2002	Yerington
Western States Corvette Conference & 4th Celebration	July 2002	Yerington

We also have museums, ghost towns, golfing, fishing, camping, boating, motocross, mountain biking, rock climbing, and much, much more!

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New Year's in Reno

Fireworks dance across the skies, marking the New Year's Eve celebration in Reno and the influx of ski-loving adventurers headed for the resorts at Lake Tahoe. The city's surrounding area offers excursions to historic sites such as Virginia City and even a round of golf for the fanatically devoted.

"Secret Garden" • Nov. 19-27 • Opera Theatre production of an orphaned girl who goes to live with her uncle and forms a relationship with a crippled boy. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6145.

Last Chance Blackjack Tournament • Nov. 30-Dec. 2 • $100 entry. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

Sands Regency Professional Bowlers President Pro Championships • Dec. 4-6 • Top six points winners and/or money-earners in the seven PBA regions. National Bowling Stadium, Reno, 775-334-2600.

Professional Bowlers Association Tri-Regional • Dec. 7-9 • Competitors from PBA northwest, west, and southwest regions. National Bowling Stadium, Reno, 775-334-2600.

Dollar Slot Marathon • Dec. 7-9 • $149 entry. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

Winter Wonderland • Dec. 8-9 • Slot tournament, $299 entry, $42,000 in prizes. Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-215-7721.

Soup and Shoe • Dec. 9 • Guided snowshoe hike with hot soup provided. Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, 30 miles south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.

USA Bowling National Amateur Championships • Dec. 9-14 • Competitions for six spots on Team USA to represent American in international amateur events. National Bowling Stadium, Reno, 775-334-2600.

Winners' Weekend Slot Tournament • Dec. 14-16 • $99 entry. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

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

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

Good Time Roundup

Cowboy music, poetry, humor, and satire are on the program for the 14th annual Rhymers Rodeer November 2-3 at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden. Events include a cocktail show, open-mike session, and dinner show.



Rural Nevada

Bracket Race • Nov. 3 • Test 'n tune grudge racing. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.

Colcannon • Nov. 8 • Acoustic Celtic folk music. Community Center, Lovelock, 775-273-2005.

Fall-Winter Safety and Survival Workshop • Nov. 10 • Learn ways to prepare for outdoor travel. Bring a picnic. Cathedral Gorge State Park, 775-728-4460.

Appraisal Fair • Nov. 10 • Identify and price antiques. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 775-423-3677.

Harvest Wine Tasting and Art Show • Nov. 10 • Winnemucca Convention Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-4477.

Sno-Goers Grass Drags • Nov. 10-11 • Side-by-side snowmobile racing. Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-738-3412.

Nevada Cattlemen's Association • Nov. 15-17 • Annual convention to discuss problems and propose solutions. Elko Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-9214.

Ricardo Lemvo and Marina Loca • Nov. 16 • Nine-member ensemble plays a combination of Afro-Latin rhythms. Convention Center, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Winter Is For the Birds Workshop • Dec. 9 • Learn about winter-resident birds and how to build feeders and birdhouses to attract them. Kershaw-Ryan State Park, two miles south of Caliente, 775-728-4460.

Winter Walk • Dec. 29 • Snowy or clear, ranger-led walk through the canyons. Bring a flashlight. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

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

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

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

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

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



A Wee Bit of Culture

Colcannon performs acoustic Celtic folk music during a concert November 8 at the Pershing County Community Center in Lovelock. Celtic groups often tour the state and perform in rural areas.

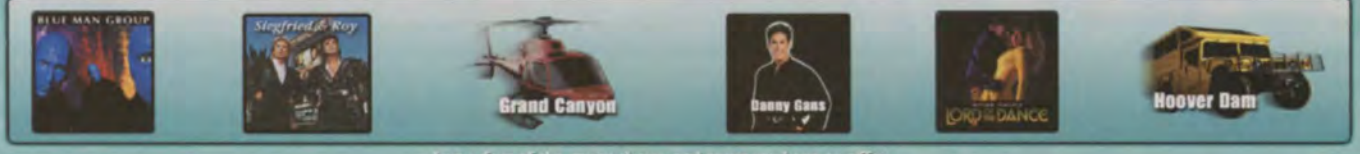
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Nevada Showguide

Where the stars and shows are playing in November and December.

Nevada's clubs and hotels offer big-name entertainment and production shows. This winter, Wynonna headlines at the Las Vegas Hilton and Caesars Tahoe, and Paul Anka plays New Year's Eve at the Eldorado in Reno. Here, *Nevada Magazine* presents a guide to featured performers. Showrooms often fill fast, so be sure to call ahead for show times and reservations.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

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

HENDERSON

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

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

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

Sunset Station • 702-547-7777: Club Madrid: Don Williams, Nov. 10. Dave Mason, Dec. 1. Eric Burdon, Dec. 7. Jerry Tiffe and His Orchestra play 2-4pm Wed. Louie Louie plays at 10pm and midnight Wed., and 11pm and 1am on Fri.-Sat.

JEAN

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

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

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 877-333-WISH: Theater for the Performing Arts: "Tommy," rock opera, Nov. 27-Dec. 2. Mannheim Steamroller: The Christmas Extraordinaire, Dec. 8. Sinbad's Lounge: Bands play until 3am. Music in the London Club Lounge. Blue Note Jazz Club: Jam Night, 9pm-2am Wed. Headliners TBA. Club Blue: DJs play midnight-6am Sat., 11pm-6am Sun.

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

Arizona Charlie's • 702-258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Yellowbrick Road, 9pm Mon. The Checkmates: Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie, thru Nov. 4. Destiny, Nov. 6-11. Coates Twins, Nov. 13-18. The Checkmates: Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie, Nov. 20-Dec. 2. Emerson Drive, Dec. 4-16. The Checkmates: Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie, Dec. 18-31.

Arizona Charlie's East • 702-951-5800: The Lounge: Gregg Peterson, thru Nov. 11.

Bally's • 702-739-4111 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.). Gladys Knight with Mark Curry, Dec. 29-31. Indigo Lounge: Entertainment nightly except Tues.

Barbary Coast • 702-737-7111: Lounge: Front Page, Oct. 31-Nov. 4. Susan McDonald, Nov. 7-11. Gregg Peterson, Nov. 14-18. Clifton James and the Edge, Nov. 21-25. Generation X, Nov. 28-Dec. 2. Lisa Hewitt, Dec. 7-16. Generation X, Dec. 19-23. Elements, Dec. 26-Jan. 6. Karaoke, 8pm-1:30am Mon.-Tues. except Dec. 10-11.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf. (dark Wed.-Thurs. and Dec. 7-18). Musicians play in the Allegro and Petrossian lounges and Baccarat Bar. Fontana Lounge: Jimmy Hopper.

Boardwalk Casino Holiday Inn • 702-730-3194: Lighthouse Showroom: "The Dream King," Elvis tribute revue, 8pm Tues.-Sat. (indf.). Purple Reign, 11pm Wed.-Sat. (indf.).



Swing, Swing, Swing

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy swings into Harrah's Lake Tahoe December 28-29. The band earned national recognition with its tune "You and Me and the Bottle Makes Three Tonight (Baby)." Fans often attend concerts wearing 1940s clothing and dance to music their grandparents loved.

Boulder Station • 702-432-7777 or 800-683-7777: The Railhead: Lacy J. Dalton, Janie Fricke, and Juice Newton, Nov. 2. Norman Brown, Nov. 10. Larry Diamond's Sixth Anniversary Ultimate Talent Search, Nov. 19. Rodney Carrington, Dec. 14-15. Bands play nightly except Sun., Tues., and Wed. Jerry Tiffe 2-4pm Tues. KIXX: Bands play Thurs. Shooting Stars Karaoke, Fri.-Sat.

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

Caesars Palace • 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Shadow Bar: Dancers and flair bartenders perform 8pm-2am Sun.-Wed. Caesars Magical Empire: Dinner and magic. Entertainment, La Piazza Terrazza lounges and Cleopatra's Barge. Piano music, Galleria Bar and Café Lago.

Casino Royale • 702-737-3500: Trilussa Showroom: Rick Spell-Master, comedian-hypnotist, thru Dec. 4 (dark Mon.). Cafe Trilussa: Piano music nightly (dark Tues. and Wed.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gold Coast • 702-367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): East Lounge: Kinda Dixie Jazz Band, noon-6pm. Bands play nightly except Mon. Gold Coast Showroom: "Honky Tonk Angels: A Tribute to Country's Great Ladies," Oct. 31-Nov. 22 and Dec. 26-30. "Honky Tonk Angels: Country Christmas Show," Nov. 23-Dec. 6 and Dec. 19-23 (dark Dec. 7-16). Latin Breeze, Fri.-Sat. indf. Ballroom dancing and free dance lessons with disk jockey Larry Taylor on Tues. Sunday Tea Dance Party with Larry Taylor. Free drama workshop, 9:30-11:30am Sat.

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

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

Hard Rock Hotel • 702-226-4650: The Joint: 311 with One Side Zero, Nov. 1. Gregg Allman Band appears Nov. 2.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 702-369-5111: Clint Holmes Theatre: Clint Holmes, musical variety show (dark Sun.). Comedy Cabaret: Improv, nightly except Mon. "Skintight," musical production (dark Thurs.). Mac King Comedy Magic Show, 1 and 3pm Tues.-Sat. Carnaval Court: Cook E. Jarr, midnight-2am. Fri.-Sat. Bands play outdoors till 1:30am. Music nightly in the La Playa Lounge.

Imperial Palace • 702-794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert," celebrity impersonator show (dark Sun.). Kabuki Lounge: Bands play 4:30pm-1:40am.

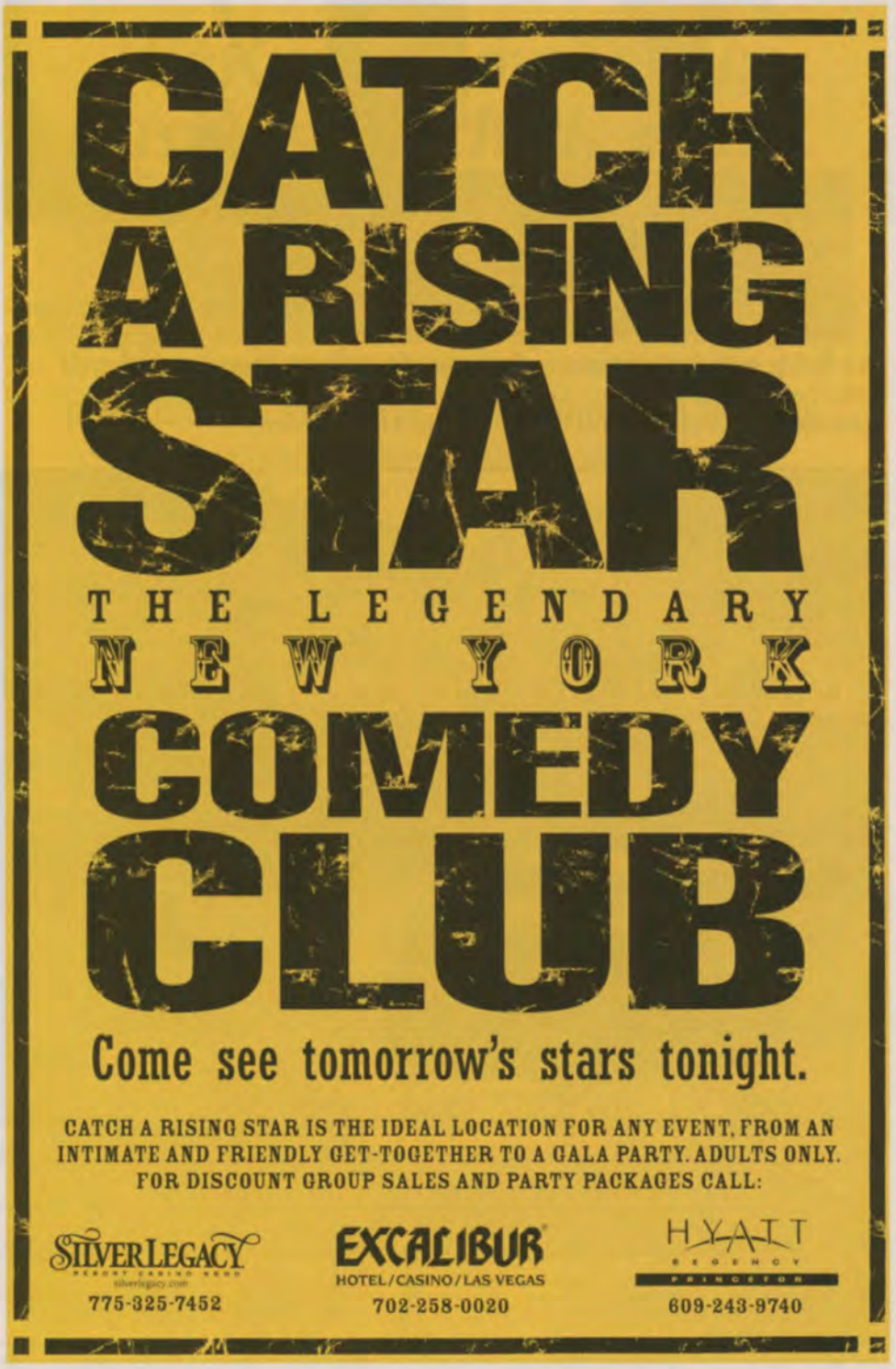
Key Largo • 702-733-7777: Sand Bar Lounge: Bands provide live entertainment.

Lady Luck • 702-477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lady Luck Theater: "Stars of the Strip," comedy impersonators, 2 and 3:30pm Mon.-Fri.

Hot Pair

U2 and No Doubt will play the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas on November 18 for a night of serious rock music. U2, indisputably the most popular group of the '80s in Britain, still brings in crowds. No Doubt made believers with its album "Tragic Kingdom" in 1996.

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Not-So-Secret Society

The Society of Seven brings an upbeat brand of music, comedy routines, and right-on impressions to the NightClub at the Las Vegas Hilton. The Hawaiian show group, known as SOS, pokes fun at famous performers while offering a musical tour of Las Vegas. Subjects include Liberace, Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Wayne Newton, and Sonny and Cher. During the SOS show in the 350-seat NightClub, audience members may be pulled onstage for hula lessons.

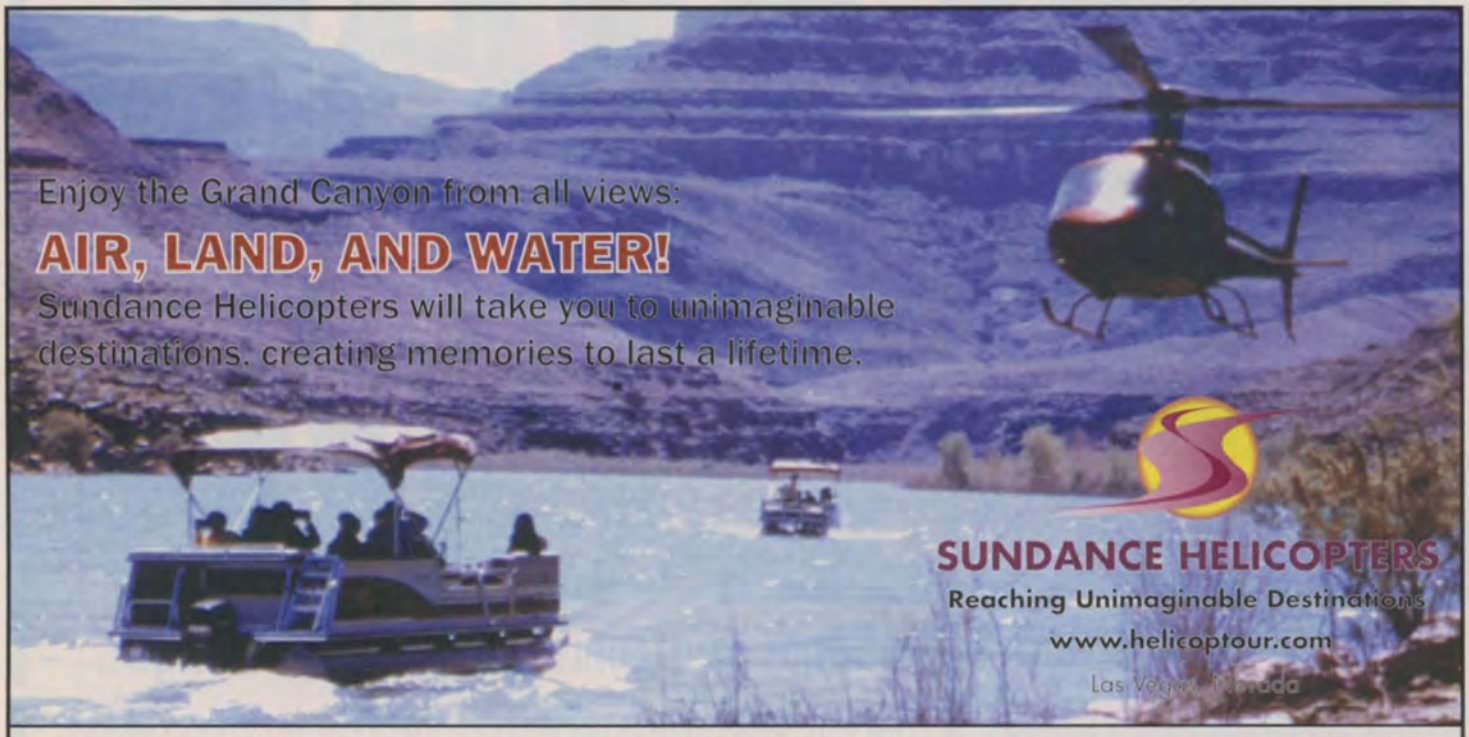
Las Vegas Hilton • 702-732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Sinbad, Nov. 1-3. Wynonna, Nov. 15-17. Commodores, Nov. 29-Dec. 1. Brooks and Dunn, Dec. 10-12. Brad Paisley, Dec. 13-15. The NightClub: Society of Seven, musical-comedy group. Jazz in the Benihana Lounge, 4-8pm Mon.-Sat.

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

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

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Events Center: Gloria Estefan, Nov. 3. Final Judgement: Hasim "The Rock" Rahman v. Lennox Lewis heavyweight fight. Andrea Bocelli, Dec. 29. Mandalay Bay Theatre: "Storm," Latin production show (dark Tues.). House of Blues: A New Found Glory with H2O, Thrice, and RX Bandits, Nov. 20. Incubus with One Side Zero, Nov. 23. Dance music, 11pm Thurs.-Sun. Gospel Brunch, 10am and 1pm Sun. Live blues Thurs.-Sat. in the Courtyard. Bands play in the Island, Orchid, and Coral Reef lounges.

MGM Grand • 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111: EFX Theatre: "EFX Alive," starring Rick Springfield, special-effects production show (dark Sun.-Mon. and Dec. 11-15). Grand Garden Arena: "Britney Spears, Live From MGM Grand," Nov. 18, the pop star hosts an HBO special at 3 pm. Hollywood Theatre: Paul Anka, Nov. 1-7 (dark Nov. 4). Carrot Top, Nov. 8-14. Rodney Dangerfield, Nov. 16-28 (dark Nov. 18). Carrot Top, Nov. 29-Dec. 23. La Femme Theatre: Topless Crazy Horse production from Paris (dark Tues.). Studio 54: Dancing nightly. Live entertainment in the Dome/Show Bar and Hollywood Brown Derby lounges.



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Pop Princess

Britney Spears performs November 18 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. The HBO special will be the singer's first live television concert.

The Mirage • 702-792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theater: "Siegfried and Roy," magic spectacular (dark Wed.-Thurs. and Dec. 7-27). Paul Anka, Nov. 29-Dec.4. Danny Gans Theatre: Impressionist Danny Gans performs nightly (dark Fri. and Mon. and Nov. 22 and Dec. 24-27). Entertainment in the Lagoon Saloon and Corner and Baccarat bars. Samba Grill: Brasilia 2000, Fri.-Sat.

Monte Carlo • 702-730-7000: Lance Burton Theatre: "Lance Burton, Master Magician" (dark Sun.-Mon. and Dec. 2-17). Top 40, disco, country, and classic-rock dance music nightly in the Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery.

New Frontier • 702-794-8200: Roundtable Showroom: "Thunder From Down Under," Australian male revue (dark Tues. and Nov. 1-20). "The King in Concert," Elvis tribute, 4pm. "All Shook Up" with the Inspirations, 7pm. "The Magic of David Darkstone," noon and 2pm (dark Mon.). "Ol' Blue Eyes," a tribute to Frank Sinatra, 5:30pm. Gilley's Saloon: Bands play nightly Tues.-Sat.

New York-New York • 702-740-6969: Broadway Theatre: "Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance" (dark Mon. and Dec. 22-31). Cabaret Theatre: Rita Rudner, 8pm Mon.-Sat. Bands play in the Empire Bar. The N.Y.P.D. (New York Piano Duos) dueling pianos play 8pm-2:15am nightly in the Bar at Times Square.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Showroom: Righteous Brothers, Oct. 31-Nov. 11 (dark Nov. 5). Jerry Lewis, Nov. 15-18. Everly Brothers, Nov. 21-25. Lorrie Morgan, Dec. 7-9. Tanya Tucker, Dec. 12-15. "Mame," Broadway musical, Dec. 21-30 (dark Dec. 24). Bourbon Street Cabaret: Performers play nightly (dark Mon.) at the Orleans.

Palace Station • 702-367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Laugh Trax Comedy Club: Comedians perform Thurs.-Sat. Sound Trax Nightclub: Bands play Thurs.-Sat. Palace Saloon: Entertainers Wed.-Sat.

The Palms • 702-942-7777: New hotel opens mid-November. Nightclub: Entertainment TBA. Palapa Lounge: Bands play nightly. Ghostbar Lounge: Observation deck with city views.

Paris Las Vegas • 800-237-SHOW: Le Theatre des Arts: Brian McKnight, Nov. 2-3. Jay Mohr, Nov. 9-11. Al Jarreau, Nov. 16-17. Legends of Motown: Temptations, Marvelettes, and Martha Reeves, Nov. 22-24. Kevin James, Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Dwight Yoakam, Dec. 7-9. Clint Black, Dec. 11-13. Natalie Cole, Dec. 14-16. Tony Bennett, Dec. 29-31. Bands play in Le Cabaret Show Lounge (dark Tues.). Napoleon's Cigar Bar: Jazz trio plays nightly except Tues.

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

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Regent Las Vegas • 877-869-8777: J.C. Wooloughan Irish Pub: Entertainment Wed.-Sun. Addison's Lounge: Doo-Wopp.com, Tues. and Thurs. Karaoke Night takes place on Wed. Local bands, Fri. Regent Live Nightclub, Sat. Jazz bands, Sun.

Rio Suite Hotel • 702-252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Copacabana Entertainment Complex: The Scintas (dark Wed.-Thurs.). Earl Turner, Wed.-Thurs. Pavilion: Entertainment TBA. Masquerade Show in the Sky: Carnival-themed parade with exotic floats and costumes above the casino daily at 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10pm. Samba Theatre: Penn and Teller, thru Nov. 11. David Cassidy, Nov. 22-24. Jeff Foxworthy, Dec. 6-8. "Nutcracker," Dec. 20-23, Nevada Ballet Theater performance. Smokey Robinson, Dec. 27-30. RioBamba Cabaret: Bands play nightly Tues.-Sat. Entertainment in the Ipanema Piano Bar and VooDoo Lounge. Club Rio: Nightclub open for late-night dancing Wed.-Sat.

Riviera • 702-794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," production show. Royale Pavilion: The Colors of Christmas, Dec. 11. Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Dec. 31. La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues.). Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls Fantasy Revue," adult revue (dark Mon.). "Riviera Comedy Club," comedians appear nightly. Le Bistro Lounge: "Tribute to Elvis" with Jim LeBoef, 4-7:30pm Fri.-Sun. Jazz on the Strip, Mon. Lon Bronson's All-Star Band, Sat. Bands play Tues.-Sun. in the lounge.

Sahara • 702-737-2515: Sahara Theatre: Magician Steve Wyrick, indf. (dark Tues. except Dec. 25, and dark Nov. 12-18 and Dec. 31-Jan. 13). Congo Room: "The Rat Pack Is Back" (dark Thurs. and Nov. 12-18 and Dec. 31-Jan. 6). Michael Holly Off-the-Wall Comedy Hour, 1 and 3pm (dark Sun.-Mon.). Entertainment also offered in the Casbar Lounge.

Vegas Goes Country

When the National Finals Rodeo rides into Las Vegas on December 7-16, a posse of country-western singers will mount the casino stages. The lineup includes Brooks and Dunn at the Las Vegas Hilton, Lorrie Morgan and Tanya Tucker at the Orleans, and Dwight Yoakam and Clint Black at Paris.

Sam's Town • 702-454-8048: Sam's Town Live: Gladys Knight, Nov. 2-3. Ronnie Milsap, Nov. 10. Pam Tillis Christmas Show, Dec. 2. Late Night: Music and dancing 11pm-3am Fri.-Sat. Roxy's Saloon: Bands play. Mystic Falls Park: Laser and water show at 2, 6, 8, 10pm.

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

Santa Fe • 702-658-4900: The Lounge: Entertainment TBA. Jerry Tiffe and His Orchestra, 7-11pm Wed. Bands play Fri.-Sat.

Silverton • 702-263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Rattlesnake Rickey's Saloon: Chris LeDoux, Dec. 12-14. Bands play nightly.

Stardust • 702-732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Wayne Newton Theatre: Wayne Newton, Oct. 28-Nov. 11. Don Rickles, Nov. 15-18. B.B. King, Nov. 23-25. Wayne Newton, Nov. 26-Dec. 6. Bill Engvall, Dec. 7-8 and 13-15. Pavilion: Ricky and the Redstreaks, Dec. 5-16. Bands play in the Stardust Lounge.

Stratosphere • 702-382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: Broadway Showroom: "American Superstars," impersonator revue



Ricky Redux

Favorites of National Finals Rodeo fans, Ricky and the Redstreaks will play for the post-rodeo crowd at the Stardust Pavilion December 15-16.

(dark Thurs.). "Viva Las Vegas," musical revue, 2 and 4pm daily except Sun. Outdoor Events Center: Beach Boys, Nov. 3-4. Entertainment in the Top of the World and Oasis lounges.

Suncoast • 702-636-7111: Showroom: Christopher Cross, Nov. 2-4. Eddie Money, Nov. 9-11. Bobby Rydell and Steve Rossi, Nov. 16-18. Frankie Randall with the Vincent Falcone Orchestra, Nov. 23-25 and Dec. 29-30. Rich Little, Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Debbie Reynolds, Dec. 7-9. Don Ho Christmas Show with Hoku Ho and the Kids Next Door, Dec. 14-16. Kingston Trio, Dec. 21-23. Tony Orlando, Jan. 11-13. Tower of Power, Jan. 24-26. Charlie Prose, Feb. 16-17. Bands play nightly except Mon.-Tues. Jimmy Fitzgerald's Band plays for dancing on first Wed.

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

Treasure Island • 702-894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère" (dark Mon.-Tues. and Dec. 5-16). Music in Captain Morgan's piano bar. Hideaway Lounge: Music nightly.

Tropicana • 702-739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "The Best of the Folies Bergere" (dark Thurs. and Nov. 9-16 and Dec. 12-25). "Illusionary Magic of Rick Thomas," 2 and 4pm daily except Fri. and Nov. 9-16. Tropics Lounge: "The Birdman of Las Vegas," 11am, 12:30pm, and 2pm except Thurs. "T Fox and the Fox City Show" (dark Mon.-Tues.). Celebration Lounge: Bands play nightly. Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly.

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

Venetian • 702-733-5000: Showroom at the Venetian: "Melinda: First Lady of Magic," indf. (dark Wed.). "Beats of Passion," Latin revue (dark Sat.).

Westward Ho • 702-731-2900: Crown Room: Grubstake Jamboree, dinner and show, Wed. and Sat., thru Nov. 10. Bands play nightly except Sat.-Sun. in the lounge.

Wild West Gambling Hall • 702-740-0000.

LAUGHLIN

Avi • 702-535-5555: Arrowweed Lounge: Bands nightly.

Colorado Belle • 702-298-4000: Bands play in the Boiler Room Microbrewery and Restaurant at the hotel-casino.

Edgewater • 702-298-2453: Kokopelli's Lounge: Music nightly.

Flamingo Laughlin • 702-298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo: "Reflections of the Rat Pack," Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr. impersonators (dark Thurs.). Flamingo Ballroom: Pam Tillis Christmas Show, Nov. 30.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 702-298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Nightclub: Bands play. Karaoke on Tuesdays.

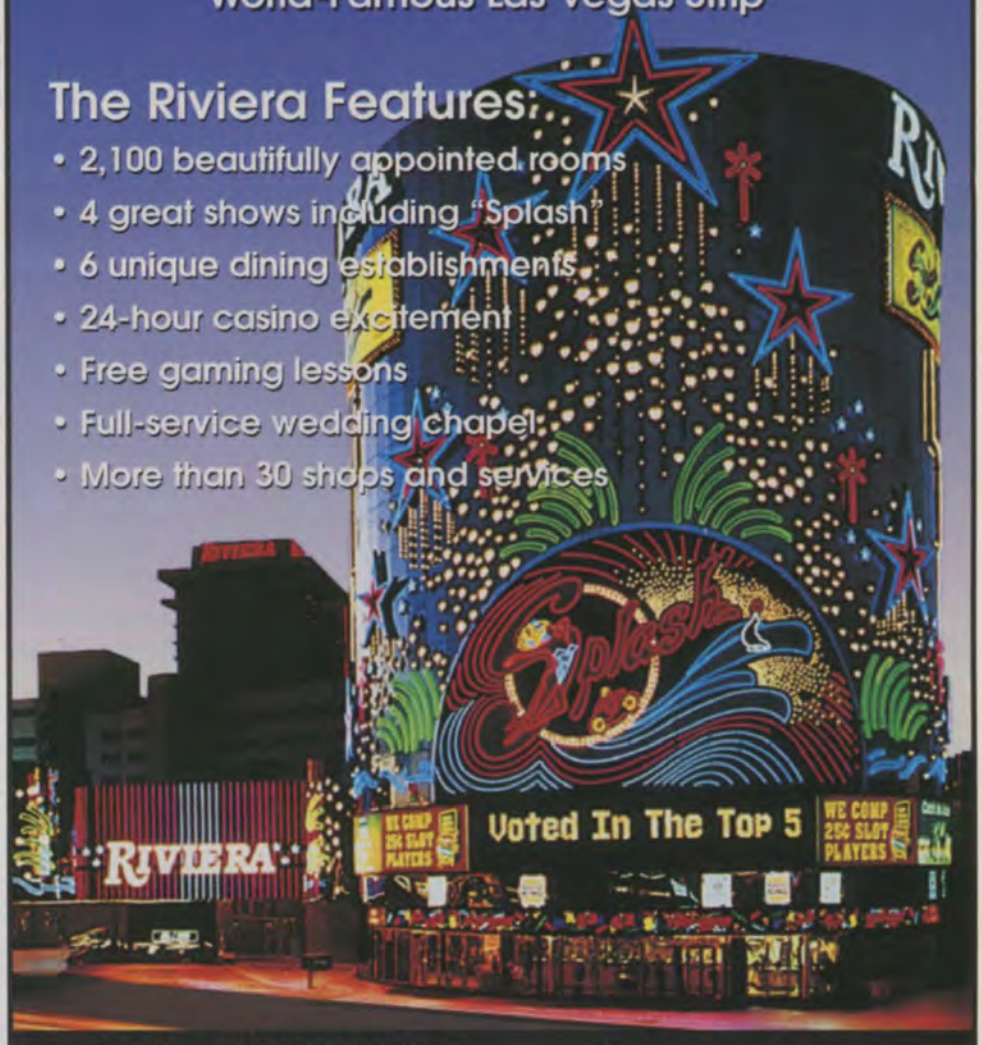
Harrah's Laughlin • 702-298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: "The American Game Show," thru Dec. 8. Sherrie Austine and Chalee Tennison, Nov. 15-17. Ayala, magic show, Dec. 29-May 12. "Laughternoon in Laughlin," starring juggler Tyler Linkin, 2pm Tues.-Sat.

Pioneer • 800-634-3469: Gunfighter demonstration 7pm Fri.-Sat.

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Ramada Express • 702-298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theatre: "Driving Miss Daisy" starring Sherman Hemsley, Oct. 27-Nov. 3. "Broadway Tonight" starring Patti Bell, Nov. 4-6, vignettes from Broadway plays. "Shout: A Tribute to the '50s" starring the Swing Sisters, Nov. 7-8. "That Sentimental Swing: A Tribute to the '40s," Nov. 12-13, variety show. Travel Cooking Show, Nov. 15, demonstrations and freebies. Mickey Finn Show, Nov. 17-21, honky-tonk and ragtime music. Comedian John Pinette, Nov. 23-24. Arizona Jamboree, Dec. 25-29, holiday show. Lounge: Bands play nightly at teh Ramada Express except Mon. Karaoke Madness, Mon. Swing and Latin dance contests are offered 5pm daily. Train rides also are available at the Ramada Express.

River Palms • 702-298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Bands or DJ music nightly in the Bermuda Club Lounge. Karaoke with Don West, 4-7pm Wed.

Riverside Resort • 702-298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Phyllis Diller, Oct. 31-Nov. 4. Roy Clark, Nov. 6-11. Ricky Van Shelton, Nov. 20-25. Charlie Prose, Jan. 10-Feb. 14.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Showroom: Don Williams, Nov. 17. Comedy shows Fri.-Sat. when there is no headliner onstage. Bands entertain nightly except Mon. in the CasaBlanca Resort's Skydome Lounge.

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

Oasis • 702-346-5232 or 800-621-0187: Redd Boot Saloon: Video and live DJ, Fri. and Sat. Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club on Sat. Cabaret Lounge: Bands play.

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



Scoot Your Boots

Country Western stars Brooks and Dunn headline December 10-12 at the Las Vegas Hilton in time to entertain folks attending the National Finals Rodeo. Showgoers can expect to hear such tear-jerkers as "Mama Don't Get Dressed Up for Nothing." The National Finals Rodeo is scheduled for December 7-16 in Las Vegas.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Fiesta Casino • 702-631-7000: Roxy's Theatre: Roy Ayers, Dec. 1. Roxy's organist plays Sun.-Wed. Bands play Thurs.-Sat. in the Cabo Lounge.

Jerry's Nugget • 702-399-3000: Royal Street Lounge: Dance bands play Fri. and Sat.

Texas Station • 702-631-1001: Dallas Events Center: The Whispers, Nov. 9. Johnny Gill, Nov. 17. The Armadillo: Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm Sun. Loveshack, 10pm-2am Fri. and Sat.

PRIMM

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

Primm Valley • 800-FUN-STOP: The Piano Bar: Pianist Thurs.-Sun.

Whiskey Pete's • 800-FUN-STOP: Entertainment to be announced at Whiskey Pete's.

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CARSON AREA

Carson Nugget • Carson City, 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Nugget Show Bar: Bands like the Stingrays play Tues.-Sun.

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

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Shannon Ballroom: Comedy Night Live, Nov. 16. Cabaret Lounge: Whiskey Ridge, Oct. 30-Nov. 4. Gary and Terry, Nov. 1-3. Tommy Bell, Nov. 6-11. White Wing, Nov. 13-18. The Gardners, Nov. 19-20. City Zu, Nov. 20-25. Turquoise, Nov. 22-24 and Nov. 30-Dec. 1. Tony Vee, Nov. 27-Dec. 2. American Made Band, Dec. 4-9. Blue Flame, Dec. 6-8 and 13-14. Freeride, Dec. 11-16. Louie Fontaine, Dec. 18-23. The Gardners, Dec. 20-21 and 27-31. Promise, Dec. 25-30. Shake, Rattle, and Roll, Dec. 31-Jan. 13.

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

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

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

Dinner and a Show

Many Nevada hotels offer dinner-and-show packages. For instance, Flamingo Reno showgoers can attend "Jubilation" before or after dining at the Top of the Flamingo or the Benihana Japanese Steakhouse for about $35 to $50 per person.

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 775-825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Grand Ballroom: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly in the Center Stage Cabaret.

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

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

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

Eldorado • 775-786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada). Eldorado Showroom: "Les Folie's des Paris," musical production, thru Dec. 2 (dark Mon.). Peking Acrobats, Dec. 22-28. Paul Anka, Dec. 31. Brew Brothers: Bands play nightly at the microbrewery. Piano music in Roxy lounge. BuBinga Lounge: Dance to DJs and bands.

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

Fitzgeralds • 775-785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands like White Wing, Speedy Garfin, and Whiskey Ridge perform nightly.

Flamingo Reno • 775-785-7080: Flamingo Showroom: "Jubilation," adult dance production, thru Nov. 26 (dark

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Tues.). Bottoms Up Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon.-Tues. Top of the Flamingo: Craig Evans, Christine and John, and Colin Ross play in the restaurant (dark Tues.).

Harrah's Reno • 775-788-2900 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Whisper," adult revue, 10pm Sun.-Tues, 7:30 and 10pm Wed., 10pm and midnight Fri., midnight Sat. (dark Thurs. and Nov. 30-Dec. 20). Gordie Brown, one-man theatrical production, 7:30pm plus 9:30pm Sat. (dark Wed.-Thurs. and Nov. 30-Dec. 20). The Plaza at Harrah's Reno: Entertainment TBA.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 775-356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Celebrity Showroom: Sammy Kershaw, Nov. 2-3. Stars from the Lawrence Welk Show: A Wunnerful Holiday Show, Nov. 4-6. Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Nov. 9-10. Oak Ridge Boys, Nov. 16-17. Tony Orlando, Nov. 22-24. Rose Ballroom: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's. Flamenco guitarist Thurs. and jazz Fri.-Sat. in Restaurante Orozko.

Peppermill • 775-826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tahoe Grand Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Bands play in the Cabaret Lounge.

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

Ramada Inn and Speakeasy Casino • 775-329-7400: Pretty Boy Floyd's Bar features karaoke (Mon.) and live music.

Reno Hilton • 775-789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theater: "Carnival of Wonders," magic revue (dark Fri.). The Garage: Bands play nightly.

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



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

Silver Legacy • 775-329-4777 or 800-225-BASS (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, Nov. 2-3. Rum Bullions Island Bar: Dueling pianos, Thurs.-Mon. Steel Rum Drums, Tues.-Sat. Comedians perform at the Catch a Rising Star comedy club (dark Sun.-Mon.). Silver Baron Lounge: Piano music.

Sundowner • 775-786-7050.

Tamarack Junction • 775-852-3600.

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

STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

Bill's Lake Tahoe • 775-588-2455.

Caesars Tahoe • 775-588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: Temptations, Nov. 10. Pat Benatar, Nov. 23-24. "The Nutcracker," Nevada Ballet presentation, Dec. 1-2. Wynonna, Dec. 29-30. Styx, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve show. Nero's 2000 nightclub has live music. Cleo's Bar and Entertainment Lounge: Pianist Arthur Hervey.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: The Improv at Harrah's (dark Sun.), thru Nov. 3. Penn and Teller, Nov. 23-24. "Tap Dogs," Dec. 7-8. "Ebenezer Scrooge," Dec. 20-23, Christmas play. Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Dec. 28-29. Jim Belushi and the Sacred Hearts, Dec. 30-31. Bands play in the Casino Center Stage.

Happy 2002

The Chicago-based quintet Styx will help ring in the new year at Nero's 2000 nightclub at Caesars Tahoe December 31. At Harrah's Lake Tahoe, comedian-actor and sometime musician Jim Belushi and the Sacred Hearts will play.

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

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

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

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

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

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

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

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

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

Rural Nevada

AMARGOSA VALLEY

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

BEATTY

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

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

ELKO

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

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



Unforgettable

Natalie Cole will sing for generations of Cole family fans at Le Theatre des Arts at Paris Las Vegas on December 14-16. Daughter of the late Nat "King" Cole, she earned seven Grammy awards for the duet album she cut, using the recorded voice of her father.

High Desert Inn • 775-738-8425: Comedy show Fri.
Red Lion • 775-738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Club Max Showroom: Ricochet, Nov. 10-11. Williams and Ree, Nov. 23-24.
Stockmen's Hotel • 775-738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada): Bands play in the Stockmen's Showroom.

ELY

Hotel Nevada • 775-289-6665.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 775-423-6031.
Fallon Nugget • 775-423-3111.

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 775-945-3322: Bands like Memphis Rising, George Pickard, and Naked City play in the casino lounge.
Joe's Tavern • 775-945-2302.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 775-755-2341.
Cactus Petes • 800-821-1103: Gala Showroom: Entertainment TBA.
Horseshu Casino • 775-755-2321. Horseshu Cabaret: Entertainment TBA.

LOVELOCK

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

PAHRUMP

Mountain View Casino and Bowl • 775-727-7777: Bowling alley at the Pahrump casino.
Saddle West Hotel, Casino, and RV Park • 775-727-1111. Club West: Nightclub, 9pm Fri. Dance to live bands second Sat.
Terrible's Town Casino • 775-751-7777.
Terrible's Lakeside • 775-751-7770.

TONOPAH

Banc Club • 775-482-5409: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.
Station House • 775-482-9777: Shotgun Willie's Saloon: Bands play nightly except Mon.

WENDOVER

Peppermill • 775-664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play nightly except Mon.
Rainbow Casino • 775-664-4000: Cabaret Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon. in the casino's lounge.
Red Garter • 775-664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada).
Silver Smith • 775-664-2231 or 800-354-3671: Jim's Bar: Live entertainment nightly except Mon.
State Line • 775-664-2221, 800-354-3671: Stateliner Lounge: Entertainment nightly.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 775-623-2511: Bands play nightly.
Model T Hotel • 775-623-2588. Bands play Wed.-Sun.
Holiday Inn Express • 775-775-625-3100.
Sundance Casino • 775-623-3336.
Red Lion • 800-633-6435.

YERINGTON

Casino West • 775-463-2481: Weekend music.
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All in the Family

After two decades on the road, the Scintas have found a new home in Las Vegas.

By Kathy Espin

It's official. Now that Momma (Mary) Scinta has sold her house in Buffalo and purchased a condo in Las Vegas, the Scinta family of comedian-musicians has made the transition to its new home.

It has been a whirlwind year and a half for the Scintas (pronounced "Shin-tahs"), the Sicilian family act now headlining in the Copacabana Room at the Rio. The group, which includes sister Chrissi, brothers Frank and Joe, and friend Peter O'Donnell, hit the big time after two decades of one-night stands. They arrived in Las Vegas in May 2000 to play the 325-seat NightClub at the Las Vegas Hilton. One year later they moved to the 720-seat room at the Rio with a bigger musical-variety show, offering liberal doses of sibling comedic insults and physical comedy.



The Scintas, who play the Rio in Las Vegas, include (from left) Frank, Chrissi, Mary (Momma-in-charge), Joe, and (rear) honorary Sicilian Peter O'Donnell.

Recently, in a group interview backstage at the Rio, the Scintas talked about the transition to life in the gilded desert of Las Vegas.

"They have finally adjusted. They love it here," Chrissi, the big-voiced lead singer, said of the spouses and children that make up the extended family.

Her brother Frank—singer, banjo player, keyboardist, and top banana—agrees. "When we went back to Buffalo the last time, my daughters finally looked at me and said, 'We want to go home,' meaning Las Vegas. It took awhile. It was hard," he said of the adjustment made by his 12- and 14-year-old daughters.

For the first time in years the group that also includes brother Joe, the bass player and comic foil, and emotionally adopted brother Peter O'Donnell on drums, gets to live and work in the same town, and they are reveling in the joys of home and family life. Chrissi and Frank both have new dogs; Chrissi's is a West Highland terrier, and Frank's is a Maltese, a present from Wayne Newton. Owning a dog is a luxury, as is going home to their families after work every night.

The Scintas used to set up their own equipment, break it down, and then drive to the next show.

However, the Scintas didn't enter this new life without trepidation. "One of my biggest fears was how much I would miss the road," Frank said. The Scintas used to haul their own equipment, set it up, break it down, and then drive to the next show in Syracuse, Detroit, Akron, or Cleveland.

Then there are the memories. Like the time Joe fell off the back of a stage and narrowly missed impaling himself on an empty microphone stand. In the retelling, what must have been a terrifying experience becomes hilarious. "I could hear him back there going, 'Heeeee, heeeee,'" said Frank, crossing his eyes and imitating Joe's wheezing as he tried to catch his breath.

Joe remembers when the Scintas had citizens' band radios in their trucks and would talk to each other and to truckers as they drove from town to town. He also fondly recalls the people. "We have met literally thousands and thousands of great people in the Midwest over 25 years that have been super to us," he said.

For more than two decades the Scintas played cities all over the country, including Las Vegas. The Las Vegas jobs were mostly corporate events at hotels like the Bellagio, Riviera, and Venetian.

"We were making good money back then, but we were at the top of the ladder for where we were," Frank recalled. "We always wanted to make it bigger than we were."

That chance came when a friend they performed for in Detroit offered to back them at the Las Vegas Hilton. They rented the room and footed all the bills in what is known as a "four-wall" arrangement. The

hotel was to pay for advertising, but resources were limited due to a change in ownership.

"We came at the worst time we could have, but we did it, and we did it by the people. They made us successful in this town," Frank said. "I'd say four major hotels came to us and wanted our show, but the Rio really stepped up to the plate and sought out the Scintas."

The Rio has supported the group with a highly visible advertising campaign. Family members say they are humbled and delighted by the attention. They still get a thrill out of seeing their names and pictures on the big signs. They are especially thrilled by the huge display over the baggage area at McCarran International Airport.

"It's the biggest one out there," Joe said enthusiastically. "OK, maybe it's not the biggest, but it seems like it to us."

O'Donnell chimed in. "It's huge. My forehead is THIS BIG," he said, holding his arms wide.

The whole family is a little overwhelmed by it all, including absent brother Tony, a homicide detective in Buffalo. He was seen crying like a baby throughout the opening-night celebration at the Rio.

The Scintas still get a thrill out of seeing their names and pictures at McCarran International.

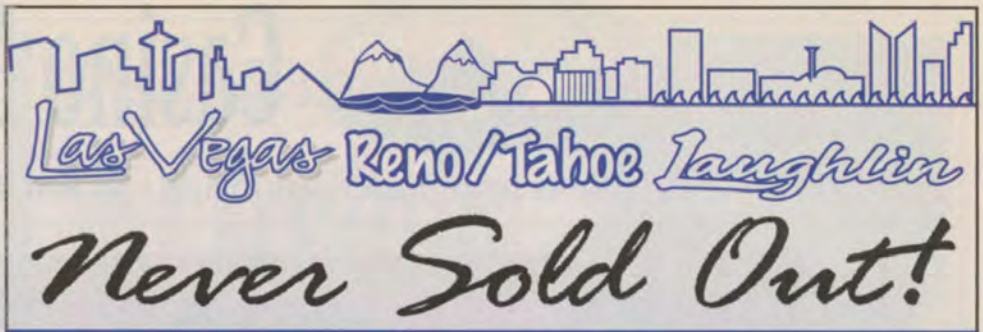
"He could break us all in half, but he is the sweetest guy in the world," Joe said of Tony. "He was crying with joy and pride. He can't believe we are here. And a big thing was that our father wasn't here to see it." Joe Scinta Sr. died six years ago, and his loss is still felt by the family. A tribute to his memory provides a dramatic moment in the show. Tony, the big strapping policeman, becomes mush.

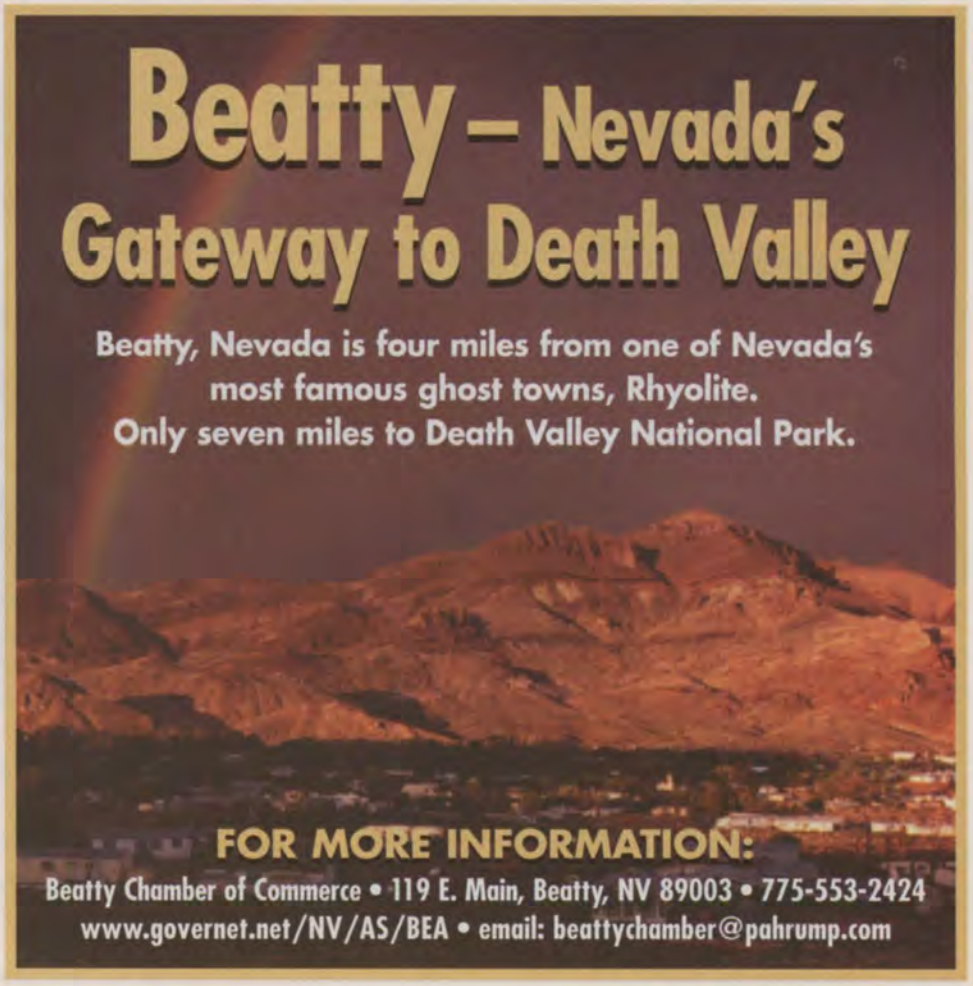
"Everybody says, when Tony comes to the show, get a bucket. He cries the whole time," Momma Scinta explained with a wave of her hand.

Tony plans to retire next year and join the rest of the family in Las Vegas. Then the family circle will be complete again. It is all part of a grand design, Frank said.

"This is where God wanted us. All those hard times when we were on the road were worth every second."

Kathy Espin is a Las Vegas freelance writer.





Casino Notes

News from hotel-casinoland. **By Ann Henderson**

Las Vegas Territory

Calder Foundation Lends Artworks: A new exhibition of works by Alexander Calder, "The Art of Invention," will be on display at the **Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art** through February 3. The Bellagio exhibition, organized in collaboration with the Calder Foundation, consists of works the artist produced between 1926 and 1976 and includes mobiles, toys, jewelry, and household objects. Calder (1898-1976) is noted for inventing the mobile in the 1930s. Visit www.calder.org for more information.



A giant canopy will be part of the Fashion Show Mall's new look on the Strip.

Chic Shop: The **Fashion Show Mall** on the Strip will double in size when a $350-million construction project is completed in two stages in fall 2002 and fall 2003. The 1.9-million-square-foot redevelopment will include a three-story-high atrium, an 80-foot-long runway for fashion shows and live events, and an architectural element called the Cloud, a 600-foot-long canopy that floats 180 feet above a 72,000-square-foot plaza. The developer, the Rouse Company, engaged Altoon and Porter Architects to guide the transformation. Anchor stores are Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, Saks Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdale's Home Store, Macy's, Robinsons-May, Dillard's, and Lord and Taylor.

Veterans Remembered: The Moving Wall, a replica of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., will be on display November 8-14 at the **Ramada Express** in Laughlin. The Ramada is known for its museum of war-era memorabilia—much of it donated by hotel customers—and a video tribute to America's military men and women that is part of the museum tour.

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Reno-Tahoe Territory

Real Long Necks: Customers at the Brew Brothers microbrewery at the **Eldorado** in Reno can order a Girafe, a personal beer tap that holds 2.5 or 5.0 liters of beer. The small dispenser holds eight brewskis and the larger container 16. The Girafe, which was created in France, is being praised by hotel officials for its technology. Beer lovers praise the guzzle.

Island Paradise: The **Silver Legacy** in Reno opened its new Rum Bullions Island Bar, where drinks such as daiquiris, mai tais, and flaming kava kavas are served. Dueling pianos provide entertainment.

Tamarack Junction Opens: Reno's newest casino, **Tamarack Junction**, opened in September with slots and video-poker machines, a sports book, bar, lounge, and family-oriented restaurant. The 22,275-square-foot casino is located on South Virginia Street near the Mount Rose and Virginia City turnoffs, about eight miles south of downtown Reno. "A lot of thought and research has gone into the planning and designing of this project," said owner Don Carano, who is also principal owner and CEO of Reno's Eldorado Hotel. "We wanted to bring to south Reno a quality facility." Call 775-852-3600 for information.

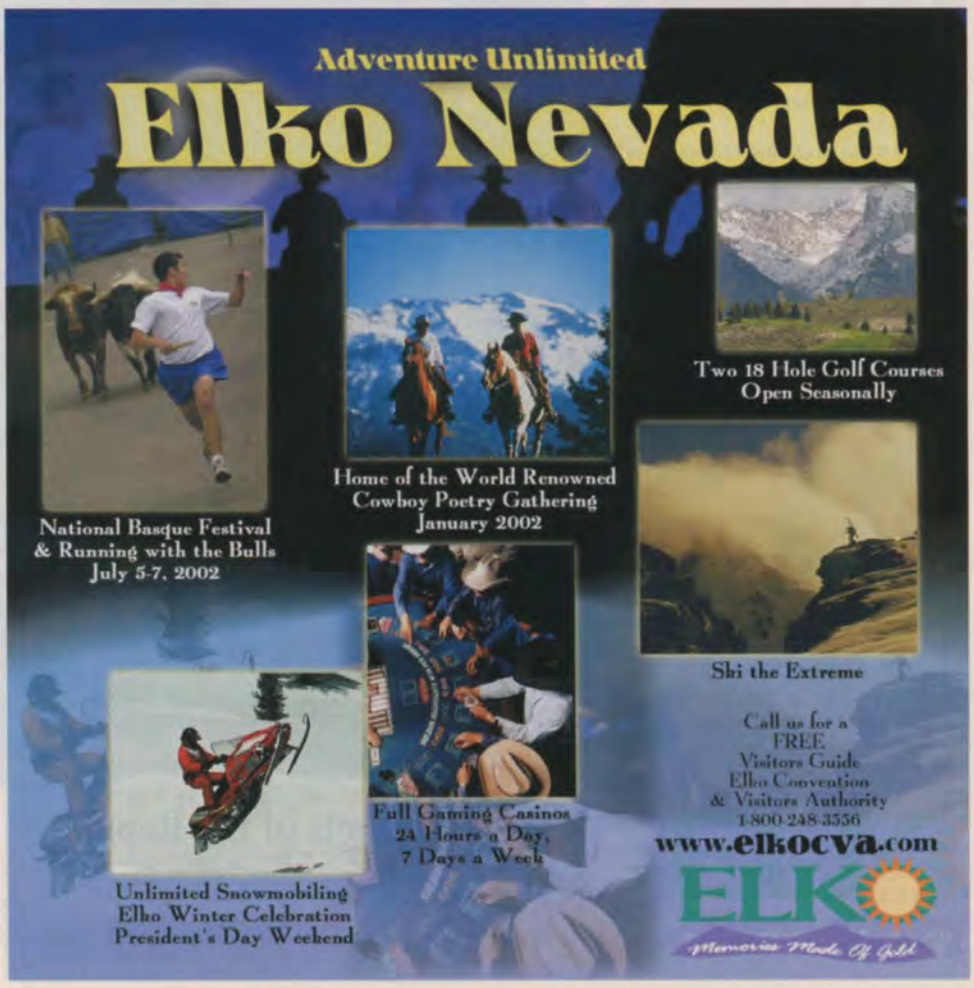
Entertainment Notes

Two Decades: "Jubilee!" the musical spectacular at **Bally's Las Vegas**, has been shedding feathers on the Strip for 20 years. A Las Vegas classic in the tradition of big-budget costumes, staging, and sets, "Jubilee!" opened on July 30, 1981, at a cost of $10 million. The show's 16-minute opening act alone has a price tag of $3 million. "Jubilee!" has a timeless quality that still works, from the sinking of the *Titanic* to Samson's destruction of the temple.

Society Event: The Society of Seven, a group of Hawaiian comedian-impressionists, literally fills the small stage of the NightClub at the **Las Vegas Hilton**. SOS, as fans call the group, is comprised of excellent musicians, and no performer from Liberace to Michael Jackson is spared their barbs. In fact, SOS's takeoff on Jackson's "Thriller" ranks as one of the best impersonator bits you'll ever see. Humor aside, SOS's show stopper is the closing number, "Proud to Be An American," which pulls the audience to its feet.

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







Attractions, Tours & Museums

Places to go and things to do around the Silver State.

Visitors will find many intriguing attractions when they explore the Silver State's museums, resorts, and state and national parks. For details on attractions, tours, and museums, call the information phone numbers provided.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Black Canyon River Raft Tours • 702-293-3776 for information.

Boulder City Historic District • Walking tours. 1305 Arizona St., 702-293-2034.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Skydive Las Vegas.com • Tandem jumps. 702-293-1860.

St. Jude's Ranch for Children • Chapel tours. 100 St. Jude's St., 702-294-7100.

HENDERSON

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

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

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

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

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

LAS VEGAS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Forum Shops at Caesars • Hourly shows at Festival and Atlantis fountains. 702-893-4800.

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

Gameworks • Climbing wall and arcade. Showcase Mall, 702-597-3122.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lied Discovery Children's Museum • Science and other learning exhibits. 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 702-382-KIDS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Planet Hollywood Las Vegas • Movie memorabilia. 702-791-7827.

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

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



Symbols of the Republic

Forty tons of statuary bronze were used by sculptor Oskar J.W. Hansen to create the "Winged Figures of the Republic" at Hoover Dam. A star map at the statues' base shows the position of major celestial bodies when the dam was dedicated on September 30, 1935.

Photo: Chris Leedham

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area • 702-363-1921.
Richard Petty Driving Experience • Drive NASCAR-style cars. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-643-4343.
Rio Suite Hotel • Free carnival-themed sky parade. 702-252-7777.
Sahara Hotel • Speed: The Ride roller coaster, virtual-reality car racing. 702-737-2735.
Sam's Town Sunset Stampede • Water and laser show. 702-456-7777.
Santa Fe Station • Ice arena. 4949 N. Rancho Dr., 702-658-4900.
Scandia Family Fun Center • 702-364-0070.
Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay • Exhibit of sharks, sea predators, and aquatic creatures. Visitors can ask questions of divers. 702-632-7777.
Shelby American • Shelby Cobra auto museum and factory tour. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-643-3000.
Spring Mountain Ranch State Park • Red Rock Canyon, 702-875-4141.
Star Trek: The Experience • Las Vegas Hilton, 702-697-8700.
Stratosphere • Roller coaster, Big Shot ride, and Strat-O-Fair midway. 702-380-7777.
Treasure Island • Sea battle every 90 minutes from 4 to 11:30pm. 702-894-7111.
Tropicana • Birds and gambling museum. 702-739-2222.
Venetian Hotel • Gondola rides on the hotel's Grand Canal. 702-733-5000.
Walker African-American Museum and Research Center • Exhibits and records, by appointment only. 702-647-2242.
Wetlands Park • Nature center and walking trails. 7050 E. Tropicana Rd., 702-455-7522.
Wet 'n Wild • Water theme park; closed for the season. 702-765-9700.

LAUGHLIN

Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area • Nature and water sports. Four miles south of Laughlin, 702-298-1859.
Colorado Belle • Cyber Roller Coaster and Boiler Room Microbrewery. 702-298-4000.
Colorado River Museum • Arizona Hwy. 95, 520-754-3399.
Davis Dam • Self-guided exterior tours. 520-754-3623.
Del Rio River Tours • 520-754-4391.
Grapevine Canyon • Seven miles west of Laughlin. Inquire about road conditions, 702-298-2214.
Laughlin River Tours • Colorado River, 702-298-1047.
Ramada Express • American Heroes Museum. 702-298-4200.
Riverside Resort • Classic cars, river tour boat, and bowling center. 702-298-2535.

MESQUITE

Virgin Valley Heritage Museum • 702-346-5705.
Oasis • Gun club, hayrides. 702-346-5232.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

The Planetarium • Community College of Southern Nevada, 702-651-4759.
U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds • Tour of demonstration squadron's facility, 2pm Tues. and Thurs. Nellis Air Force Base, 702-652-7200.

OVERTON

Lost City Museum of Archaeology • Ancient Pueblo culture in the Moapa Valley. 702-397-2193.
Valley of Fire State Park • 702-397-2088.

PRIMM

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

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Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Authority

SEARCHLIGHT

Paddle River Art.com • Art gallery. 702-297-1540.
Searchlight Museum • Area history. 702-455-7955.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

CARSON CITY

Brewery Arts Center • 449 W. King St., 775-883-1976.
Carson and Mills Park Railroad • Mills Park, 775-887-2523.
Children's Museum of Northern Nevada • Educational exhibits. 813 N. Carson St., 775-884-2226.
Kit Carson Trail • Walking tour. 775-687-7410 or 800-NEVADA1.
Nevada State Capitol • 775-687-5030.
Nevada State Library and Archives • State Constitution exhibit. 100 Stewart St., 775-684-3310.
Nevada State Museum • 600 N. Carson St., 775-687-4810.
Nevada State Railroad Museum • S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 775-687-6953.
Nevada Supreme Court • Tours. 775-684-1617.
Roberts' House Museum • 1207 N. Carson St., 775-882-2174.
Stewart Indian Museum and Cultural Center • 5366 Snyder, closed for remodeling.
Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum • 777 S. Stewart St., 775-887-2210.

DAYTON

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

GARDNERVILLE

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

GENOA

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

LAKE TAHOE

Hard Rock Cafe • Harveys, Stateline, 775-588-2411.
Heavenly Gondola • Stateline, 775-586-7000.
Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park • Sand Harbor, 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 775-831-0494.
M.S. Dixie II Paddlewheeler • Zephyr Cove, 775-588-3508.
Ponderosa Ranch • Seasonal hours. 775-831-0691.
Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler • Tahoe City, 530-583-0141.
Tahoe Rim Trail • 150-mile system. 775-588-0686.
Tallac Historic Site • Closed for the season. South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-5227.
U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center • Stream-profile chamber. 530-573-2600.
Vikingsholm • Tours. 530-525-7232.
Zephyr Cove Resort • Cruises, boat rentals. 775-588-6644.

RENO

Animal Ark • 10 mi. north of Reno on U.S. 395, then 12 mi. on Red Rock Road, 775-969-3111.
Bartley Ranch Regional Park • Hiking, horse arena, and one-room Huffaker Schoolhouse. 775-828-6612.
Fleischmann Planetarium • Stargazing programs. U of N campus, 775-784-4811.
Galena Creek Regional Park • Mount Rose Hwy., 775-785-4319.
Harrah's Reno • Laser show nightly at the outdoor plaza. 775-786-3232.
Liberty Belle Slot Collection • Liberty Belle Saloon, 4250 S. Virginia St., 775-825-1776.
National Automobile Museum (the Harrah Collection) • 10 Lake St. S., 775-333-9300.
National Bowling Stadium • Tournaments and IWERKS theater. 300 N. Center St., 775-334-2695.
Nevada Historical Society Museum • 1650 N. Virginia St., U of N campus, 775-688-1190.
Nevada Museum of Art, E.L. Wiegand Gallery • During construction of new museum gallery is located in the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts. 775-329-3333.
Kiddie Playland • Rides, picnicking. Idlewild Park, 775-329-6008.
Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk • 775-334-2077.
Reno Hilton • Water golf, Ultimate Rush thrill ride, putting course, go-kart center. 775-789-2000.
Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy • Classes. 1313 S. Virginia St., 775-329-5665.
Riverside Artist Lofts • Arts and cultural center. 775-329-2787.
Sierra Arts Center Gallery • Gallery and offices. 200 Flint St., 775-329-2787.
Sierra Safari Zoo • 10 mi. north of Reno at Red Rock Rd., 775-677-1101.
Silver Legacy • Giant mining machine and laser shows every hour. 800-MUSTSEE.
Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden • Rancho San Rafael Park, 775-785-4153.
Wilbur D. May Great Basin Adventure • Rancho San Rafael Park, 775-785-4064.
Wilbur D. May Museum • Rancho San Rafael Park, 775-785-5961.

PYRAMID LAKE

Numana Hatchery Visitors Center • 775-574-0290.

SPARKS

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

VERDI

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

VIRGINIA CITY

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

WASHOE VALLEY

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

Rural Nevada

AUSTIN

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

BEATTY

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

ELKO

Northeastern Nevada Museum • 1515 Idaho St., 775-738-3418.
Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge Wilderness Area • 775-752-3357.
Sherman Station Complex • Restored 1875 ranch, tours, visitor information. 775-738-7135.
Western Folklife Center • 501 Railroad St., 775-738-7508 for information.
Wild Horse State Recreation Area • 65 miles north of Elko, 775-758-6493.



A Neon Buzz

Reno once boasted 77 neon cocktail glasses, including this sign from the Phone Booth, a bar that opened in the '50s on First Street. Today, the historic sign is on display at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno, where it continues to glow and hum in its neon glory.

ELY/GREAT BASIN PARK

Cave Lake State Recreation Area • 15 miles south of Ely, 775-728-4467.
East Ely Railroad Depot Museum • Tours. 775-289-1663.
Great Basin National Park • Hiking, camping, ancient bristlecones, and tours of Lehman Caves. Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 775-234-7331.
McGill Historical Drug Company • Call for tours of an old-fashioned drugstore. McGill, 775-235-7082.
Nevada Northern Railway Museum • Train rides on historic locomotives. 1100 Ave. A, East Ely, 775-289-2085.
Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site • 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely, 775-728-4467.
White Pine Public Museum • Exhibits on history of Ely area. 2000 Aultman St., 775-289-4710.

EUREKA

Eureka Opera House • Open for tours Mon.-Fri. or by appointment. 775-237-6006.
Eureka Sentinel Museum • 775-237-5010.

FALLON

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave • Tours. 1050 S. Maine St., 775-423-3677.
Fort Churchill State Historic Park • Eight miles south of Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.
Sand Mountain • Giant sand dune 20 miles east of Fallon, 775-885-6000.
Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge • 15 miles east of Fallon, 775-423-5128.

FERNLEY

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

GABBS

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park • Dinosaur fossils and ghost town of Berlin. 20 miles east of Gabbs, 775-964-2440.

GOLDFIELD

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

HAWTHORNE

Mineral County Historical Museum • Exhibits on the history of the Hawthorne area. 400 10th St., 775-945-5142.
Walker Lake State Recreation Area • Fishing, camping, and birdwatching. 775-945-5896.

LOVELOCK

Giant Tufa Park • West of Lovelock, 775-273-7213.
Pershing County Marzen House Museum • Lovelock-area history. 775-273-7213.

PAHRUMP

Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Pahrump, which is 58 miles east of Furnace Creek. 775-727-5880.
Pahrump Valley Winery • Tours. 3810 Winery Rd., 775-727-6900 or 800-368-WINE.

PIOCHE/CALIENTE

Box Car Museum • Railroad and local history. Caliente, 775-726-3129.
Cathedral Gorge State Park • 10 miles south of Pioche, 775-728-4460.
Elgin Living History Schoolhouse Museum • Open for weekend tours or by appointment; 21 miles south of Caliente. Write Lynn Wood, Box 266, Caliente, NV 89008.
Kershaw-Ryan State Park • Three miles south of Caliente, 775-728-4460.
Lincoln County Historical Museum • Pioche, 775-962-5207.
Million Dollar Courthouse • Closed for the season. Pioche, 775-962-5182.
Spring Valley State Park • 775-728-4460.
Stone Cabin Living History Museum • One mile north of Spring Valley State Park, seasonal. 775-728-4460.

ROUND MOUNTAIN

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

SILVER SPRINGS

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

TONOPAH

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site • 50 miles north of Tonopah, 775-867-3001.
Central Nevada Museum • Tonopah-area history. 775-482-9676.
Tonopah Historic Mining Park • 775-482-9274.

WENDOVER

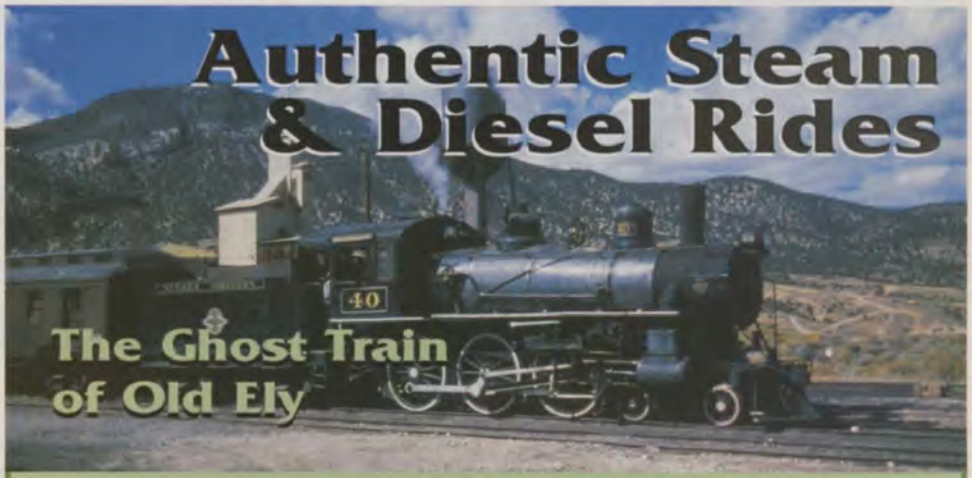
Bonneville Salt Flats • 801-977-4300.

WINNEMUCCA

Buckaroo Hall of Fame • 775-623-2225.
Humboldt Museum • Area history. 775-623-2912.
Midas Schoolhouse • Call for tours; 46 miles by dirt road, east of Winnemucca, 775-529-0302.

YERINGTON

Lyon County Museum • Exhibits and photos on the history of the Yerington area. 775-463-2245.



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Nevada Northern Railway Museum
P.O. Box 150040, East Ely, Nevada 89315
For reservations and information:
(775) 289-2085 • www.nevadanorthernrailway.net

Photo: Candice Towell

Dining Directory

The following Nevada dining directory includes current magazine advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes, whether breakfast, lunch, and dinner (B, L, D) are served. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to $10 ($), $11 to $20 ($$), $21 to $30 ($$$), and more than $30 ($$$$). Nevada's area codes are 702 in the Las Vegas area and 775 in the rest of the state. Major credit cards are accepted at the restaurants unless otherwise noted.

Las Vegas Area

AMERICAN

Bally's Las Vegas/Big Kitchen Buffet—967-7999. Peeled shrimp, snow crab legs, prime rib, and Chinese specialties. B, L, D. $$.

Bally's Las Vegas/Sidewalk Cafe—967-7999. Salads, sandwiches, and light snacks. B, L, D. $$.

Bally's Las Vegas/Terrace Cafe—967-7999. Located on the pool deck, offers sandwiches, salads, and hamburgers. B, L, D. $$.

Caesars Palace/Caesars Magical Empire—731-7333. Three-course feast in one of 10 dining chambers hosted by a wizard. After dinner explore the attractions. D. $$$$.

Caesars Palace/Cafe Lago—731-7731. Twenty-four hour cafe overlooking the Garden of the Gods pool complex, a la carte or buffet. B, L, D. $$$.

Caesars Palace/Palatium—731-7731. Buffet dining. B, L, D. $$$.

Caesars Palace/La Piazza—731-7731. Food court in the Forum Casino. Chinese stir-fry, Italian pizza, pastas, deli sandwiches. L, D. $$.

Imperial Palace/Betty's Diner—794-3261. Shakes, malts, sundaes, sandwiches, soup, bakery. B, L, D. $.

Imperial Palace/Burger Palace—794-3261. Burgers, fries, and other fast-food items. B, L, D. $.

Imperial Palace/Emperor's Buffet—731-3311. Buffet carving station, roast baron of beef. B, L, D. $.

Imperial Palace/Imperial Buffet—794-3261. Prime rib and champagne dinner nightly at the Imperial Buffet. B, L, D. $.

Imperial Palace/Rib House—794-3261. Barbecued ribs, chicken, blackened entrees. D. $$.

Imperial Palace/Teahouse—731-3311. Carving station with prime rib. Weekend brunch. B, L, D. $.

MGM Grand/Nobhill—891-3110. Sautéed Monterey Bay abalone, Michael's lobster pot pie, fresh products direct from the Bay Area. D. $$$$.

MGM Grand/Mark Miller's Coyote Cafe & Grill Room—891-7349. Cowboy rib steaks, blue corn pancakes, portabello mushroom tamales. B, L, D. $$$$.

Paris Las Vegas/Le Cafe Ile St. Louis—946-4364. American and French dishes as well as a selection of European coffees. B, L, D. $$.

MGM Grand/Rainforest Cafe—891-8580. Rumble in the Jungle turkey pita, Primal steak, and Gorillas in the Mist cheesecake. L, D. $$.

Riviera/Kady's Coffee Shop—794-9403. Coffee shop selections. B, L, D. $-$$.

ASIAN

Bally's Las Vegas/Chang's at Bally's—967-7999. Hong Kong-style dishes to seafood specialties. D. $$.

Caesars Palace/Empress Court—731-7731. Serving authentic Chinese dishes. D. $$$.

Caesars Palace/Hyakumi—731-7731. Japanese restaurant and Sushi bar, international beers, sake, and wines. Teppan Yaki-style cooking and Japanese a la carte dining. L, D. $$$$.

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—794-3261. Mandarin and Cantonese cuisine, abalone, kung pao shrimp, roast duck. D. $$.

Paris Las Vegas/La Chine—946-4663. Stir-fry vegetables, beef, chicken, fish, pork, and noodles. D. $$$.

Riviera Hotel/Rik' Shaw—794-9537. Pineapple duck, orange roughy with black pepper sauce. D. $-$$.

CONTINENTAL

Bally's Las Vegas/Seasons—967-7999. Fresh Maine

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The Steakhouse at the Best Western Piñon Plaza in Carson City serves six cuts of steak, as well as lamb and shrimp.

lobster, champagne-glazed veal medallion. D. $$$$.
Caesars Palace/808—731-7731. Euro-Pacific and Hawaii cuisine. D. $$$$.
MGM Grand/Neyla, A Mediterranean Grill—736-2100. Paella Valencia, chicken, prawns, mussels, clams and scallops, saffron rice and vegetables, osso bucco. D. $$$$.
Paris Las Vegas/du Parc—946-6829. French styled pizza (pissaladiere), fresh albacore tuna, grilled capon breast served over mesclun and country mustard vinaigrette. L, D. $.
Paris Las Vegas/Eiffel Tower Restaurant—948-6937. Gourmet French dishes. D. $$$$.
Paris Las Vegas/La Provencal—946-4656. French-Italian cuisine including Tapanade, Bouillabaisse, and Estoufad. L, D. $$$.
Paris Las Vegas/Mon Ami Gabi—944-4224. Pastries, French onion soup, traditional cassoulet, and shallot steak. L, D. $$$.
Paris Las Vegas/Le Village Buffet—967-7999. Duck, rock crab salad, sautéed sea bass, and fricassee of scallops with roasted forest mushrooms. B, L, D. $$$.
Paris Las Vegas/Ortanique—946-3908. Featuring filet mignon and jerked chicken. D. $$$.

INTERNATIONAL

Riviera Hotel/Mardi Gras Food Court—734-5110. Nine quick-service eateries featuring international cuisine. B, L, D. $, no credit cards.
Riviera Hotel/World's Fare Buffet—794-9400. International cuisines plus prime rib at the Riviera buffet. B, L, D. $.

ITALIAN

Bally's Las Vegas/Al Dente—967-7999. Italian pasta dishes, gourmet pizzas. D. $$$.
Caesars Palace/Terrazza—731-7731. Poolside Italian dining in the Palace Tower overlooking the Garden of the Gods pool area. D. $$$$.
Circus Circus/Stivali Italian Ristorante—691-5820. Pastas, homemade pizzas, salmon filet Sicilian, and stuffed portabella mushroom. D. $$.
Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, salads. L, D. $.
MGM Grand/Olio—891-7775. Neo-Italian dining. D. $$$$.
Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano—794-9363. Lobster Francaise, fresh seafood. D. $-$$$$.

MEXICAN

Circus Circus/Blue Iguana Las Vegas—836-6526. Tacos, burritos, and fajitas with over 30 tequilas in the Cantina Bar. L, D. $.
MGM Grand/Ricardo's—736-4970. Hot-or-not specialties, sizzling fajitas, traditional Mexican fare. L, D. $$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Bally's Las Vegas/Bally's Steakhouse—967-7999. Steaks, chops, and seafood. Mesquite-grilled 20-oz. sirloin and 20-oz. porterhouse steak. D. $$$.
Caesars Palace/Neros—731-7731. Seafood, Maine lobster, chicken, and USDA prime steaks. D. $$$.
Circus Circus/The Steak House—794-3767. Mesquite-grilled steaks, prime rib, lamb chops, and seafood. D. $$$$.
Imperial Palace/Embers—794-3261. Steaks and continental dishes, 28 menu choices. D. $$.
Imperial/Palace/Seahouse—794-3261. Alaskan crab legs, seafood salads. D, $$.
MGM Grand/Emeril Lagasse's New Orleans Fish House—891-7374. New Orleans style Creole and Cajun cooking. Maine scallops, Midwestern pike, Alabama chicken. D. $$$$.
MGM Grand/Hollywood Brown Derby—891-3110. Cobb salad, Chateaubriand for two, 44-ounce T-bone steak, and original Brown Derby grapefruit cake. D. $$$$.
Paris Las Vegas/Les Artistes Steakhouse—946-4663. Bone-in filet mignon, grilled striped bass. D. $$$$.
Riviera Hotel/Kristofer's—794-9233. Steak, seafood, and chicken. D. $$.

Reno-Carson Area

AMERICAN

Best Western Piñon Plaza Resort/Branding Iron Cafe and Margarita Saloon—Carson City, 885-9000. Western favorites at moderate prices. B, L, D. $-$$.
Carson Nugget/Buffet—Carson City, 882-1626. Sunday champagne brunch, Saturday breakfast buffet, Friday seafood buffet. B, L, D. $.
Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop—Carson City, 882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $.
Carson Station/Station Grill and Rotisserie—Carson City, 883-8400. Baby back ribs, fish specials. L, D. $$.
Carson Station/Station Restaurant—Carson City, 883-0900. Homestyle cooking. B, L, D. $.
Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 783-6650. Steaks, seafood, and nightly specials. D, $$.
Carson Valley Inn/Katie's—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers, and breakfast specials. B, L, D. $-$$.
Carson Valley Inn/Michael's—Minden, 782-9711. Rack of lamb and seafood creations. D. $$.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Farm House Coffee Shop—Sparks, 356-3300. Old-fashioned home cooking, omelettes, pancakes, and fried chicken. B, L, D. $.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Gabe's Pub and Deli—Sparks, 356-3300. Quick-service deli offers snacks, sandwiches, desserts, pastries. B, L, D. $.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, giant apple pancake, seafood Louis, Sunday brunch. B, L, D. $.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Rotisserie—Sparks, 356-3300. Buffet, Sunday brunch. B, L, D. $-$$.
Peppermill/Food Court—Reno, 826-2121. Mexican, Asian, Italian, hamburgers, and salad bar. B, L, D. $.
Peppermill/Island Buffet—Reno, 826-2121. Chicken,

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www.theelviswedding chapel.com

seafood, prime rib, salads. B, L, D. $.
Peppermill/Peppermill Restaurant—Reno, 826-2121. Hamburgers, salads, seafood, chicken. B, L, D. $-$$.

ASIAN
Eldorado/Golden Fortune—Reno, 786-5700. Hong Kong-style cuisine. D. $$.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. $$.

BASQUE
Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. Fourth St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes, served family-style. L, D. $$.

BREW PUBS
Eldorado/The Brew Brothers—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet pizzas, ribs, barbecue shrimp, and sausages at the brew pub. L, D. $.

CONTINENTAL
Peppermill/White Orchid—Reno, 826-2121. Filet mignon, seared ahi, medallions of elk, lobster. D. $$$-$$$$.

INTERNATIONAL
Eldorado/Roxy—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet dishes include Chilean sea bass with Yukon gold potatoes and creamed spinach. D. $$.
Eldorado/Chefs Buffet—Reno, 786-5700. USDA prime rib, homemade pastas, Mongolian grill, salad bar, dessert bar. B, L, D. $.
Eldorado/Choices—Reno, 786-5700. Deli, espresso bar, bakery, Asian Noodle Kitchen. B, L, D. $.
Eldorado/Tivoli Gardens—Reno, 786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant. B, L, D. $.

ITALIAN
Eldorado/La Strada—Reno, 786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine featuring a variety of veal, chicken, and seafood entrees. The restaurant has an award-winning wine list. D. $$.
Peppermill/Romanza Ristorante Italiano—826-2121. Osso Bucco Alla Romanza, Salmone Affumicato con fettuccini nere alla vodka, costolette D'Agnello, ravioli di zucchine dolci. D. $$.

MEDITERRANEAN
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Restaurante Orozko—Sparks, 356-3300. Veal medallions saltimbocca, braised lamb shank, paella valenciana. D. $$-$$$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD
Best Western Piñon Plaza Resort/ Steakhouse—Carson City, 885-9000. Specialty dishes include Southwestern shrimp, rack of lamb dijonaise, six cuts of steak. Wed.-Sun. from 5-10pm. D. $$.
Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—Carson City, 882-1626. Clam chowder, fish and chips, pan roasts. L, D. $.
Carson Nugget/Steak House—Carson City, 882-1626. Veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce. D. $$.
Eldorado/The Grill Steakhouse—Reno, 786-5700. Prime rib, seafood, and grilled entrees. D. $$.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. $$.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak, and lobster. L, D. $$.
Peppermill/Steak House—Reno, 826-2121. Steaks, seafood, chicken, salads. D. $$$-$$$$.

Lake Tahoe

AMERICAN
Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. $-$$.

ASIAN
Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. $$.

CONTINENTAL
Harveys Tahoe/Llewellyn's—588-2411. Views of Lake Tahoe with contemporary cuisine. L, D. $$-$$$$.

ITALIAN
Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola. D. $$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD
Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. D. $$.

Around the State

LOVELOCK: Ramada Inn/Sturgeon's—273-2971. Coffee shop open 24 hours, family dining room. Fiesta Room supper club Tuesday-Saturday. Steaks, seafood, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. $-$$$.
PAHRUMP: Saddle West Hotel/Silver Spur—727-1111. T-bone steak dinner. Filet mignon and lobster, chicken cordon bleu, 8 oz. swordfish dinners. B, L, D. $.
WINNEMUCCA: Model T/Casino Restaurant—623-2588. Chicken strips, chicken-fried steak, prime rib special, ribeye steak, fried prawns. B, L, D. $.

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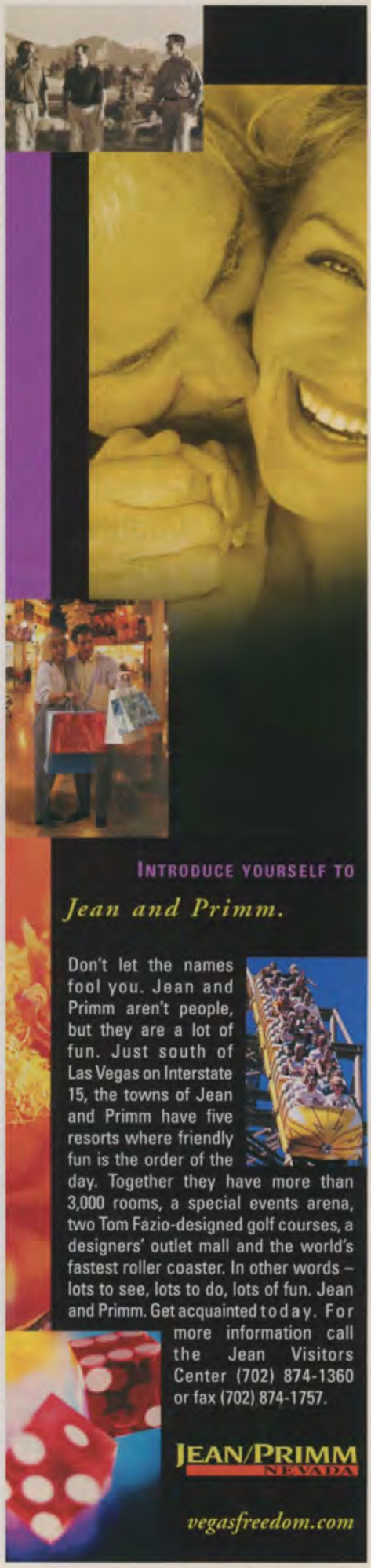
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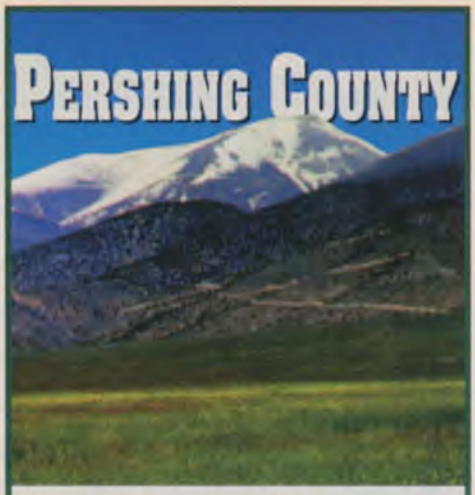
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Vacation Hot Lines

Where to call or write for Nevada travel tips.

When planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information. Also, Internet users can visit the Web sites listed. If you plan to stop by a chamber of commerce (C of C) office, chances are it will be open in the daytime Monday through Friday.

Statewide Information

Nevada Commission on Tourism: 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701; www.travelnevada.com; 775-687-4322 or 800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada.

Las Vegas Territory

Asian C of C: 900 E. Karen, No. C217, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 702-737-4300.

Boulder City C of C: 1305 Arizona, Boulder City, NV 89005; www.bouldercitychamber.com; 702-293-2034.

Boulder City Visitor Center: 100 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 702-294-1252; www.vegasfreedom.com.

Henderson C of C: 590 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, NV 89015; www.hendersonchamber.com; 702-565-8951.

Henderson Convention Center: 200 Water St., Henderson, NV 89015; www.cityofhenderson.com/convention; 702-565-2171.

Hoover Dam Visitors Services: Box 60400, Boulder City, NV 89006; www.hooverdam.com; 702-294-3524.

Jean Visitor Center: Interstate 15 South, Exit 12, Box 19470, Jean, NV 89019; www.vegasfreedom.com; 702-874-1360.

Las Vegas C of C: 3720 Howard Hughes Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89109; www.lvchamber.com; 702-735-1616.

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 3150 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109; www.vegasfreedom.com; 702-892-0711.

Latin C of C: 829 S. Sixth St., Las Vegas, NV 89125; www.LasVegasLatincc.com; 702-385-7367.

Laughlin C of C: Box 77777, Laughlin, NV 89028; www.laughlinchamber.com; 702-298-2214 or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada.

Laughlin Visitor Center: 1555 Casino Dr., Box 502, Laughlin, NV 89029; www.visitlaughlin.com; 702-298-3321 or 800-4LAUGHLIN.

Mesquite Area C of C: 850 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite, NV 89027; www.mesquite-chamber.com; 702-346-2902.

Mesquite Visitor Center: Interstate 15, Exit 122, 460 Sandhill, Mesquite, NV 89027; 702-346-2702, 877-MESQUITE.

Moapa Valley C of C: Hwy. 169, Box 361, Overton, NV 89040; www.moapavalley.com; 702-397-2160.

North Las Vegas C of C: 2290 McDaniel, North Las Vegas, NV 89030; www.nlvchamber.com; 702-642-9595.

Urban C of C (formerly Nevada Black C of C): 1048 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106; www.lvurbanchamber.org; 702-648-6222.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Carson City C of C: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701; www.carsoncitychamber.com; 775-882-1565.

Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701; www.carson-city.org; 775-687-7410 or 800-NEVADA-1 in U.S.

Carson Valley C of C and Visitors Authority: 1513 Hwy. 395, Gardnerville, NV 89410-5283; www.carsonvalleynv.org; 775-782-8144 or 800-727-7677 in U.S.

Dayton Area C of C: 200-B Main St., Box 2408, Dayton, NV 89403; www.daytonnvchamber.org; 775-246-7909.

Greater Reno-Sparks C of C: 1 E. First St., Reno, NV 89501; www.reno-sparkschamber.org; 775-686-3030.

Incline Village/Crystal Bay C of C: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; www.laketahoechamber.com; 775-831-4440 for travel information.

Lake Tahoe, Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; www.gotahoe.com; 775-832-1606 or 800-GO-TAHOE anywhere in U.S.

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 1156 Ski Run Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; www.virtualtahoe.com; 530-544-5050, 800-AT-TAHOE in U.S.

North Lake Tahoe C of C: 245 N. Lake Blvd., Box 884, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.tahoefun.org; 530-581-6900.

North Lake Tahoe Resort Association: 245 North Lake Blvd., Box 5459, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.tahoefun.org; 530-583-3494 or 800-824-6348.

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Box 837, Reno, NV 89504; www.renolaketahoe.com; 775-827-7600 or 800-FOR-RENO in U.S.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council: 98 Colony Rd., Reno, NV 89502; 775-329-2936.

South Lake Tahoe C of C: 3066 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; www.tahoeinfo.com; 530-541-5255.

Sparks C of C: 831 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431; www.sparkschamber.org; 775-358-1976.

Tahoe-Douglas C of C: Box 7139, Stateline, NV 89449; 195 Hwy. 50 at Round Hill, Zephyr Cove; www.tahoechamber.org; 775-588-4591.

Virginia City C of C: 131 S. C St., Virginia City, NV 89440; www.virginiacity-nv.com; 775-847-0311.

Cowboy Country

Battle Mountain C of C: Box 333, Battle Mountain, NV 89820; 775-635-8245.

Elko C of C: 1405 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801; www.elkonevada.com; 775-738-7135.

Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV 89801; www.elkocva.com; 775-738-4091, 800-248-3556 outside Nevada.

Jarbidge Community Association: Trading Post, 72 Main St., Box 260072, Jarbidge, NV 89826; jarbidge@aol.com; 775-488-2315.

Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; 775-273-7213.

McDermitt Information: Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421; 775-532-8742.

Wells C of C: 395 Sixth St., Box 615, Wells, NV 89835; www.wellsnv.com; 775-752-3540.

Winnemucca C of C: 30 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; www.winnemucca-nv.org; 775-623-2225.

Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau: 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; www.winnemucca.nv.us; 775-623-5071 or 800-WMCA-NEV.

Pony Express Territory

Austin C of C: Box 212, Lander County Courthouse, Austin, NV 89310; 775-964-2200.

Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center: 150 Sixth St., Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; www.elynevada.net; 775-289-3720.

Eureka County C of C: 111 N. Main St., Box 1078, Eureka, NV 89316; 775-237-5484.

Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 775-423-4556 or 800-874-0903.

Fernley C of C: 70 N. West St., Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; www.fernleynevada.net; 775-575-4459.

Great Basin Business and Tourism Council: Information on Baker and Great Basin National Park. Box 166, Baker, NV 89311; 775-234-7323.

Greater Fallon Area C of C: 65 S. Maine St., No. B, Fallon, NV 89406; 775-423-2544.

Silver Springs EDASS (Econ. Dev. Authority of Silver Springs): Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 775-577-2069.

White Pine Chamber of Commerce: 636 Aultman, Ely, NV 89301; www.elynevada.net; 775-289-8877.

Pioneer Territory

Amargosa C of C: HCR 69-2, Box 401W, Amargosa, NV 89020; www.armagosavalley.com; 775-372-1515.

Beatty C of C: 119 E. Main St., Box 956, Beatty, NV 89003; www.governet.net/nv/as/bea; 775-553-2424.



End of the Day

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Gabbs Information: 509 Main St., Box 176, Gabbs, NV 89409; 775-285-4019.
Goldfield C of C: Box 219, Goldfield, NV 89013; members.xcom.com/gfldchamber; 775-485-3560.
Greater Smoky Valley C of C: State Route 376 at Carver's, Box 1977, Round Mountain, NV 89045; 775-377-2490.
Lincoln County C of C: Box 915, Panaca, NV 89042; www.lincolncountynevada.com; 775-728-4282.
Mason Valley C of C: 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV 89447-2536; www.tele-net.net/lceda; 775-463-2245.
Mineral County C of C: 932 E St., Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; www.mineralcountynvchamber.org; 775-945-5896.
Pahrump Valley C of C: 1021 S. Frontage Rd., Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; www.pahrumpchamber.com; 775-727-5800.
Pioche C of C: Box 127, Pioche, NV 89043; 775-962-5544.
Tonopah C of C: 301 Brougher Ave., Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; www.tonopahnevada.com; 775-482-3859 for Tonopah information.
Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, 301 Brougher Ave., Tonopah, NV 89049; www.tonopahnevada.com; 775-482-3558.

Indian Territory

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada: 680 Greenbrae Dr., No. 265, Sparks, or Box 7440, Reno, NV 89510; 775-355-0600.
Indian Territory: Nevada Commission on Tourism, 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701; www.travelnevada. com; 775-687-4322 or 800-NEVADA-8.

State and National Parks

Death Valley National Park: Beatty Visitor Center: 307 Main St., Beatty, NV 89003; 775-553-2200. Park: Death Valley, CA 92328; 760-786-2331.
Great Basin National Park: Nevada Hwy. 488, Baker, NV 89311; www.nps.gov/grba; 775-234-7331.
Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; www.nps/gov/lame; 702-293-8907.
Nevada Division of State Parks: 1300 S. Curry St., Carson City, NV 89710; www.state.nv.us/stparks; 775-687-4370.
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: HCR 33, Box 5500, Las Vegas, NV 89124; www.redrockcanyon.blm.gov; 702-363-1921.

More Outdoor Activities

Bicycling in Nevada: Nevada Department of Transportation: 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712; www. bicyclenevada.com; 775-888-RIDE.
Bureau of Land Management: Main office: Reno, www.nv. blm.gov, 775-861-6400; Las Vegas, 702-647-5000; Elko, 775-753-0200; Winnemucca, 775-623-1500; Carson City, 775-885-6000; Ely, 775-289-1800; Caliente, 775-726-8100; Battle Mountain, 775-635-4000; Tonopah, 775-482-7800.
Nevada Division of Wildlife: Main office: 1100 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89512; www.nevadadivisionofwildlife.org; 775-688-1500; Southern Nevada: 4747 W. Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89108; 702-486-5127.
Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510; www.pyramidlakefisheries.org; 775-476-0500 for Pyramid Lake Fisheries information..
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/htnf/; 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 775-331-6444; 2881 S. Valley View, Suite 16, Las Vegas, NV 89102; 702-873-8800; 2035 Last Chance Rd., Elko, NV 89801; 775-738-5171.



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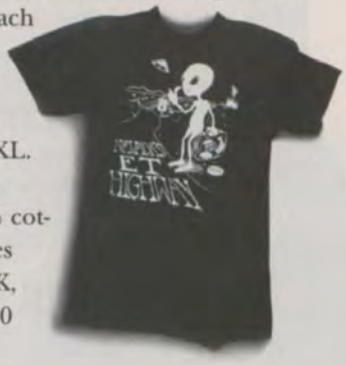
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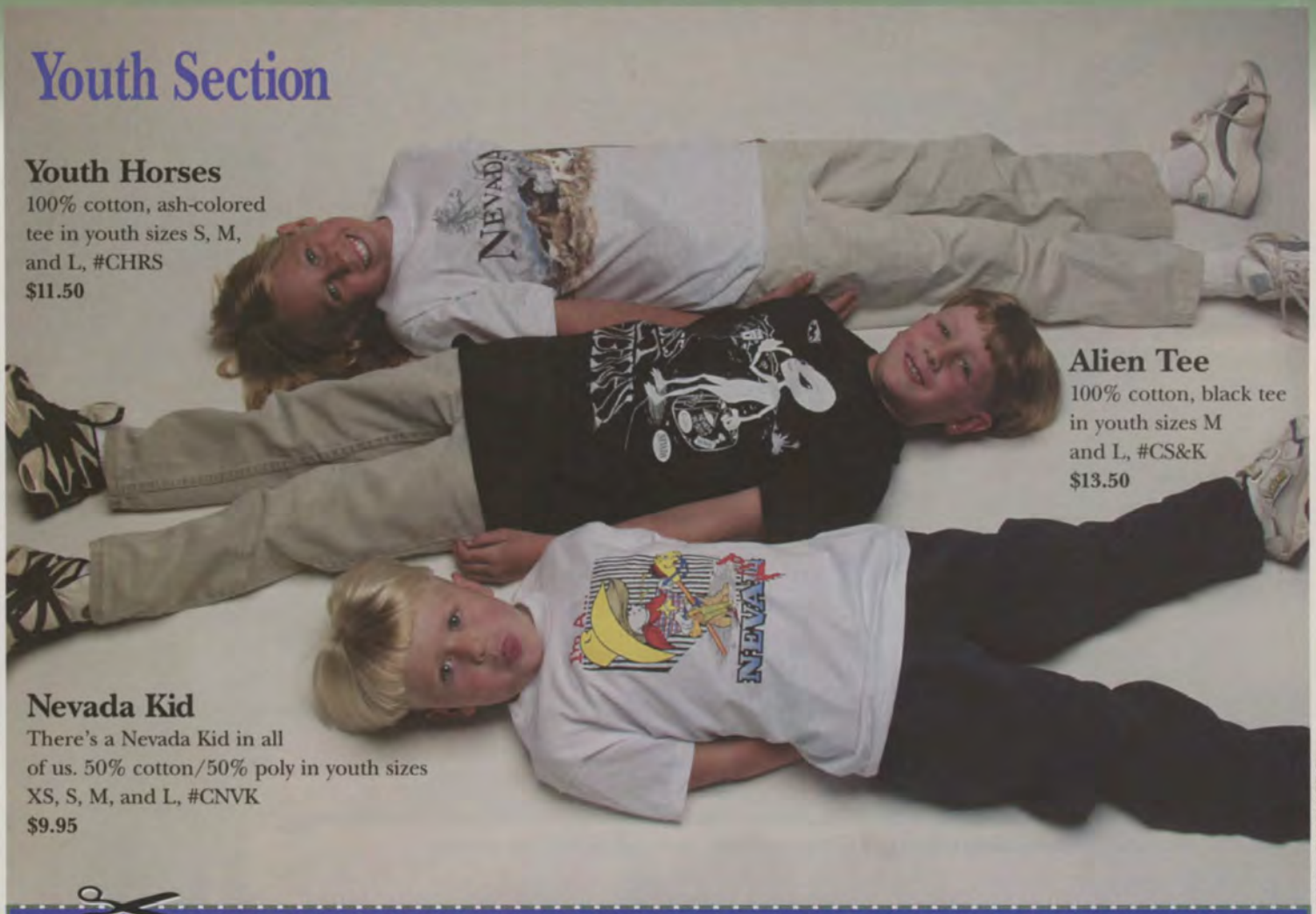
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French Twist

"Les Folie's de Paris" offers a dreamy parade of performers at the Eldorado in Reno. **By Kim Pryor**



Magician Jacques Simard presents a flashy illusion in "Les Folie's de Paris," the French import at the Eldorado.

No Paris revue would be complete without a can-can number.

Paris, France is known as the fashion capital of the world. It's appropriate, therefore, that "Les Folie's de Paris," the musical revue at the Eldorado in Reno, should feature enough costumes to outfit several stage shows. There are headdresses shaped like butterflies and Egyptian robes studded with faux gems. Bananas dangle from Carmen Miranda-style skirts. The show's 500 costumes are worth half a million dollars.

"Les Folie's" creator Claude Thomas has combined the colorful costumes with fantastical scenes, impersonators, and a few bizarre twists. The production, which hails straight from Paris, has been Americanized to appeal to Reno showgoers. The result is a variety show worth seeing.

As the audience is seated in the showroom, magician Stephane Vanel pulls cards out of the air—one card even emerges from his mouth. A giant movie screen shows scenes from Paris and Reno and sets the entrance for dancers wearing white wigs and regal 18th-century attire. The female dancers, in gold and purple dresses with swaying hoop skirts, offer their hands to the males, who lead their partners in a stately minuet.

After the colorful opening, the story line doesn't seem to make sense when a Celine Dion impersonator mingles with Egyptian pharaohs. The producer's intent soon becomes apparent: to make the audience feel as if it has stepped into a bizarre and entertaining dream.

"I'm bored. I want to be entertained," the Egyptian queen, dressed in sparkling gems, tells the pharaoh. So the pharaoh brings in entertainers such as a magician, who waves his cape, and suddenly, ET, the extraterrestrial from the popular movie, is standing on stage. Then "Michael Jackson" rocks the house with "Billy Jean."

The parade of performers culminates in one of the show's best scenes. Marie Andree Larochelle, who portrays Dion, teams up with Bernard Blanchard, who impersonates Barbra Streisand, in a parody of the duet, "Tell Him." In keeping with the light-hearted atmosphere, the piano in the background rises in the air and turns upside down as Celine and Barbra sing. The pianist continues to play as the revolving piano takes him on a 360-degree ride.

Some of the show is lip-synched, but "Les Folie's" also features several French singers. The most memorable is Chantal Cote, who performs a French love song, "Hymme a l'Amour." Cote communicates a sweet longing that transcends the language barrier.

"Les Folie's" cast members often interact with the audience. During one scene, male dancers hand roses to women sitting near the aisles. Also, cast members greet everyone entering and leaving the theater.

"People like to have this contact with the cast members. They can share and tell what they liked," says Marie Helene Fortin, company manager and art director. "Part of the French cabaret experience is sharing emotion with the people."

Show Notes

"Les Folie's de Paris" appears nightly except Monday at the Eldorado Hotel in Reno. Show times are 7 and 9:30 p.m. Ticket prices start at $25.95 and do not include drinks. Children are welcome to attend the family-friendly show. Tickets can be purchased at the Eldorado's promotion center, the showroom box office, and the mezzanine-level show ticket booth. Or call 800-648-5966 or 775-786-5700 for reservations.

Kim Pryor is a feature and entertainment writer based at Lake Tahoe.



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Back to the River

Reno's new Siena Hotel aims to draw residents and visitors with Italian wines, food, and riverside service.

By Joyce Hollister

The Italian-themed Siena Hotel, which opened July 31 in downtown Reno, promises to be something different for the Biggest Little City. The former Holiday Hotel has just 214 rooms and suites, but its $70-million renovation and location on the Truckee River make it a destination worthy of attention.

You might start a visit to the Siena with a stop at the wine bar downstairs. Leather chairs and soft music create an inviting hideaway, where you can sample from a list of 200 wines by the glass. Next to the lounge is the Enoteca, or wine cellar. The cellar has 18,000 bottles, vintages in barrels, and a large wooden table where guests may partake in special tastings. Five days a week the Enoteca offers seven-course meals hosted by a chef or master sommelier Barrie Larvin, the former wine guru at the Rio in Las Vegas.

The dining room overlooks the Truckee, and in good weather you can eat outdoors at umbrella-shaded tables.

Lexie's Ristorante, named after owner Barney Ng's wife, could be your next stop, with its elaborate appetizers and seafood, pasta, and beef dishes presented in the European fashion. Crusty bread and fresh vegetables cooked *al dente* are served with crab, salmon, lobster, filets of beef, and pasta. Chianti, olive oil, garlic, and red and yellow pepper *coulis* are used lavishly. The dining room overlooks the Truckee, and in good weather you can eat outdoors at umbrella-shaded tables. Although the view is of empty buildings, Ng and Reno city officials hope this area will attract upscale boutiques and art galleries.



The Siena Hotel in Reno was designed to recall the buildings of Siena, an ancient town in Tuscany, Italy.

Sipping cognac in the cigar room after dinner, you may meet a Reno resident at the table next to you or a visitor from San Francisco at another. And that is the idea. Ng wants to lure well-heeled travelers from the Bay Area to his re-creation of Siena, Italy, and provide a place for Northern Nevadans to go on a night out.

If you're staying in the hotel, treat yourself to a suite. You may not want to leave it. On the all-suite floor, you can call on a butler to serve you. Textured wallcoverings in each guest room combine with sleek modern furniture and fine linens to create a luxurious atmosphere. Drop in unexpectedly during the day, and you might find room attendants dressed in black-and-white uniforms—straight out of a 1930s movie—making your bed.

You can find tranquility in the spa. Locals may mingle with hotel guests in the Serenity Room, where you can relax before or after a treatment in one of the 11 treatment and massage rooms. For excitement, there's gaming. The walls of the cavernous casino are painted to resemble crumbling Roman ruins. Rock videos blare from the latest in video technology. You can play slots and table games or make a bet in the race and sports book.

But if the clatter of the casino is too much, you can return to the Enoteca for a quiet glass of port or order a nightcap in the Rotunda Bar, which is shaped like the temple ruins you might find traveling in the ancient region of Tuscany.

A Siena Holiday

The Siena Hotel, Spa, and Casino in Reno offers hotel and bridal packages. Room rates range from $99 to $199, suites from $225 weekdays, $325 weekends, to $1,000. For reservations call 877-743-6233 or visit www.sienareno.com.

Joyce Hollister is the associate editor of Nevada Magazine.

Photo: David Webb

The Duke's Last Ride

Twenty-five years ago John Wayne and Carson City starred in the actor's final movie.

By Liz Moore



Wayne played a dying gunfighter in *The Shootist*, which he made with an all-star cast in Carson City.

In 1976 John Wayne made *The Shootist* in Carson City. During filming, Mountain Street was covered with tons of sand and decomposed granite to help Carson resemble a Western town in 1901. Tracks were laid for the trolley cars. Extra trees were brought in. The street was closed, and interested locals were kept 30 feet away.

Wayne played gunfighter J.B. Books, who moved into a boardinghouse to spend the final eight days of his life. In the movie, Books was dying. In real life, Wayne would die three years later from the cancer that already had cost him half a lung and his vigor. For Wayne, crusty veteran of more than 80 feature films, *The Shootist* would be his last movie.

The Duke arrived in Carson City that January to shoot exterior scenes with director Don Siegel and costars Lauren Bacall, Ron Howard, and Hugh O'Brian. Wayne and most of the cast and crew stayed at the Ormsby House.

Ailing or not, Wayne drew people to him. Many of his castmates realized it might be their last chance to work with the star of *Stagecoach* and *Rio Bravo*. The locals who served as extras adored him. Today, 25 years later, residents and visiting movie fans still recall how Wayne and Carson City starred in the actor's last picture.

It helped that Wayne wore his celebrity like a trail-worn Stetson. Residents were impressed with his down-to-earth ways. "John Wayne's presence here ... lent a good many people a certain amount of delight because they actually saw the Great Man," *Nevada Appeal* columnist Guy Shipler noted. "Maybe it's because he epitomizes whatever is left of the Old West. Since Nevada is one of its last strongholds, its residents probably still feel more comfortable with someone who relates to sagebrush and sand and the sweeping blue sky than a slick and brittle casino entertainer."

Wayne seemed larger than life, and certainly taller than the average hotel guest, to Vic Kangas, the assistant food and beverage manager at the Ormsby House. Kangas remembers that Wayne's hotel room had to be modified to accommodate the actor's six-foot, four-inch frame. "Me and my dad took a mini-refrigerator to his room, where the chandelier had been taken out because he kept bumping his head. He was telling my dad about how he got started in the business. He was a great guy."

Kangas remembers Wayne playing craps in the casino. One night, the appearance of Wayne and Bacall at Dominique's restaurant caused such a commotion that Kangas had to escort the pair through the kitchen and up the service elevator to their rooms.

Other concessions were made. "Mr. Wayne liked Bombay gin, and I had to lay in a store while he was in town," Kangas says. "He mostly ate the fruits and vegetables he kept in his mini-refrigerator. And he boxed every morning to keep in shape—shadowboxed and sparred."

Some residents contrived to meet Wayne and the other actors by becoming extras. Before filming began, an open casting call was held at the community center. About 200 people vied for 30 jobs as stand-ins and extras.

Smokey Lawrence, an area musician, was chosen as an extra. After a scene in which he carried guests' bags out of the boardinghouse, he asked Wayne if he could take a photograph between takes.

PHOTOS: MARILYN NEWTON/RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL





Wayne and Lauren Bacall film a scene at the Krebs-Peterson house, which portrayed a boardinghouse in the movie. Top: Wayne shows Ron Howard how to shoot at David Walley's Hot Springs near Genoa.

Lawrence recalls, "He told me to 'shoot away. He didn't have to, but that was the kind of man he was."

Photographer Don Boone, now retired and living in Southern California, vividly remembers the Duke "walking toward the mountains at sunset, after a full day of work, holding a white handkerchief." Boone adds, "I figured what it was for when he started coughing, but didn't know how sick he was."

Due to Wayne's health problems—his reduced lung capacity was further weakened by flu—he had to use portable oxygen canisters to help him breathe at Carson's 4,700-foot altitude. One day on the set Kathy Barber, who worked for the oxygen-supply company, told Wayne she'd like to meet him. He held out an arm and said, "Come here, little one." Barber was short enough to stand below his outstretched arm. She put her own around his waist. "He asked if I'd like to meet 'Miss Lauren Bacall. I can feel the excitement to this day."

Bacall, Howard, and O'Brian also blended into the local scene during the 10-day shoot. Howard, a newlywed, rushed back to his wife, Cheryl, whenever he wasn't needed on the set. O'Brian and director Don Siegel, who several years earlier had filmed *Charley Varrick* in the area, mingled with locals at an event honoring *The Shootist* cast and crew. One day Wayne visited the post office and caused a stir among excited patrons and employees. During a rally at the National Guard Armory he spoke in support of Ronald Reagan's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination. Guy Shipler noted that when Wayne appeared at the rally, "people swarmed at him, more eager to touch him than to hear what he had to say."

The rest of *The Shootist* was filmed in Burbank on a $400,000 set built at what is now Warner Brothers. Other members of the all-star cast, such as John Carradine, Richard Boone, and Jimmy Stewart, shot their scenes there. When the movie was released in July, Siegel and O'Brian attended its premiere at Carson's Frontier Theaters.

During a Republican campaign rally at the National Guard Armory, Wayne spoke in support of Ronald Reagan. "I'm a Reagan man," the Duke declared.

Watching the movie today, one will notice changes that have occurred to the Carson-area settings. Jacks Valley, backdrop for Wayne's ride in the opening scenes, now is dotted with development. Washoe Valley looks much the same as it did during Wayne's buggy ride with Bacall. So do the neighborhoods on the west side of Carson City.

Each summer, residents and visitors take the Kit Carson Trail tour of capital's historic west side. When open for public viewing, the Krebs-Peterson house, which served as Bacall's boardinghouse in *The Shootist*, is one of the tour's highlights. Visitors enjoy seeing the memorabilia room kept by present owner Bob McFadden. The exterior has seen minor changes. The front porch is no longer screened, and the rails have been removed from the roof.

But for Nevada movie fans, it remains a special place. This is the house where John Wayne—Western hero, photo subject, and political speaker—made his last stand against the fading of the Old West.

Liz Moore, a big fan of the Duke, lives in the Carson City neighborhood filmed in The Shootist. *Former Carsonite Marilyn Newton photographed the movie's filming for the* Reno Gazette-Journal.

Buckeye Blake

The self-taught artist brings a show of his Western art to Carson City.



Raised in Carson City by a rodeoing father and an artist mother, Buckeye Blake returns to his hometown to celebrate Nevada Day and install a show of 20 paintings, posters, and bronzes.

Dominating the Blake exhibition at the Great Basin Art Gallery is an image of three mustangs, a four-by-five-foot oil on loan for the show. Blake chose the image for his first Nevada calendar. "The mustangs are unique," Blake says. "They're a controversial issue but a very valid symbol of the West, no matter what side of the political line you're on."

Blake, 54, was born in California and moved to Nevada as a youngster. He attended all grades of school in Carson City, entering the Nevada Day and other art shows as a teenager. After graduation he worked on and off in Hollywood, painting movie sets. "I was never able to go to art school," he says. "I took a lot of workshops and studied my whole life. I'm constantly learning." In 1975, he and his family moved to a Montana ranch.

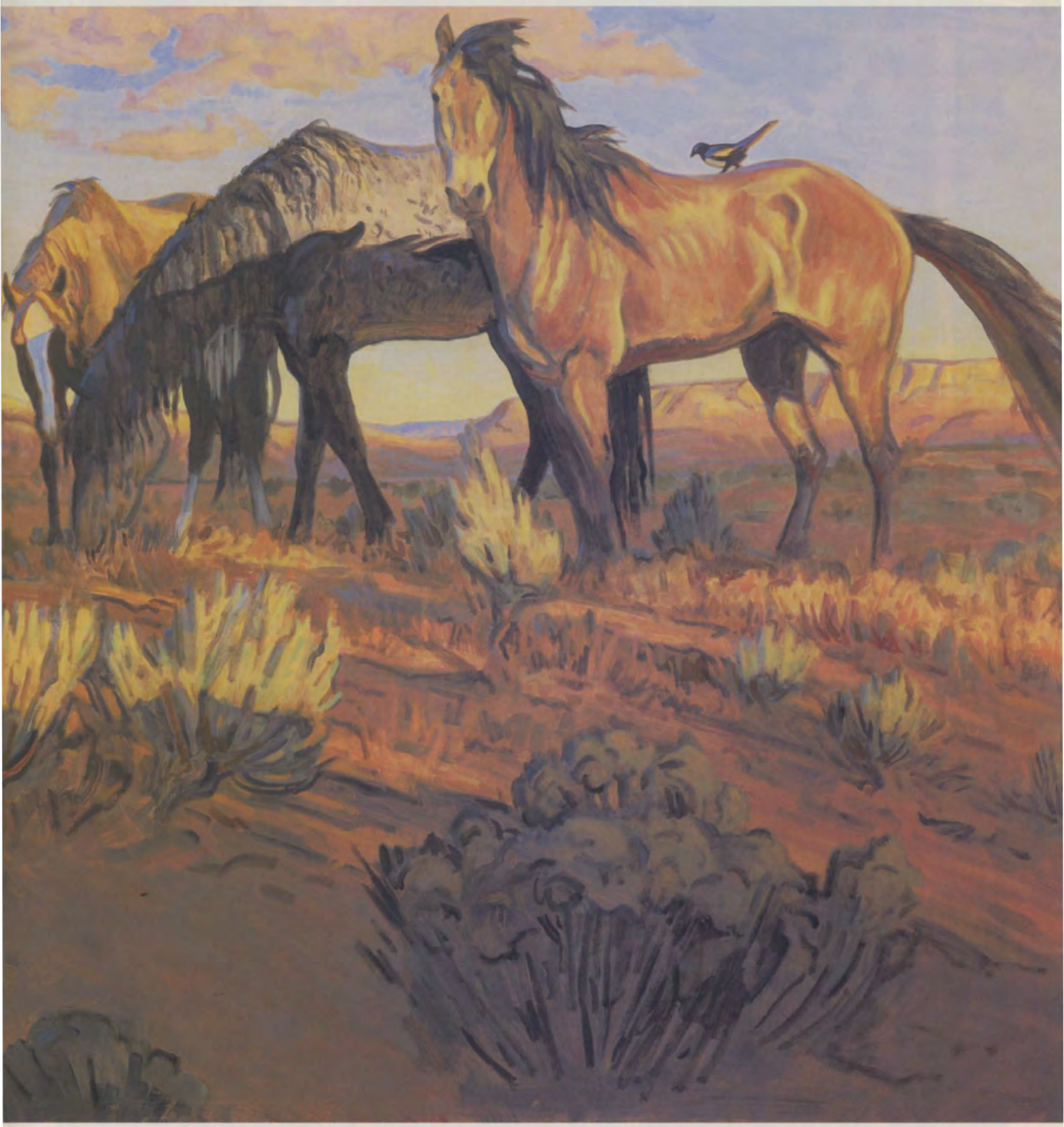
In 1989 Blake's life-sized sculpture of Kit Carson was installed at the Legislative Mall in Carson City. Blake's bronze of Charles M. Russell and his horse Monte graces downtown Great Falls, Montana. Blake, who has designed posters for the Reno Rodeo and Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering, exhibits his work at the Big Horn Gallery in Cody, Wyoming.

Art and rodeo are threads running through his family. Now residents of Bellevue, Idaho, Blake and his wife, Tona, ride cutting horses. Tona is a clothing designer. Son Teal, 22, lives in Texas, where he rides rodeo and paints.

Blake's show runs October 26 to November 14 at the Great Basin Art Gallery, located at 110 S. Curry Street, a block west of the Capitol in Carson City. For information on his 2002-2003 calendar call 800-482-8505 or, in Carson City, 775-882-8505, or visit www.nevadaweb.com/gbart. The gallery will hold a reception at 5 p.m. on October 27, and Blake plans to sign calendars.

—Joyce Hollister





"Nevada": Mustangs graze on a plateau representing the Nevada landscape in an oil painting by Buckeye Blake. A magpie perches on the back of the horse on the right. "The birds often preen horses' manes and tails," the artist says. The image decorates an old-fashioned, two-year calendar Blake is publishing.



Visitors relax on the porch of the Boulder Dam Hotel, which opened its guest rooms after an eight-year renovation. The inn entertained movie stars in the '30s.

Dam Hotel Revival

Boulder City's classic 1930s inn reopens for guests.

Story by Joyce Hollister, Photos by Darryl W. Martin

Guests again may relax in quiet Southwestern style at the Boulder Dam Hotel, where in 1934 Bette Davis chain-smoked in the lobby and Will Rogers twirled a rope in the dining room. The hotel was once the centerpiece for the federal government's model town of Boulder City, the community created 23 miles southeast of Las Vegas to house Hoover Dam's builders. The hotel had reached almost flophouse status by the early 1990s, but now the classic inn has been resurrected.

Eight years ago, a group of residents formed the Boulder Dam Hotel Association and began a $2-million rehabilitation, funded by donations and grants. Association members painted the walls and weeded the gardens. Offices, a restaurant, and shops have been open for three years, and at last the rooms are ready for guests.

The inn was noted for its air conditioning and art-deco details when it opened in 1933.

"People put their heart and soul and elbow grease into the hotel," says association vice president Linda Faiss. "It's really paid off. Everybody is so proud. It's an icon for the whole community. When it was in disrepair, I think everybody felt a certain level of despair because it identified us to the world. Now that it's back, there's a whole new energy downtown."

The building's exterior is Dutch Colonial, but the inside is pure '30s. The inn was noted for its air conditioning and art-deco details when it opened in 1933. Its 18 guest rooms, three suites, and a full apartment reopened in June, featuring original light fixtures and woodwork. Each room has a bath, TV, and phone. Much of the period-style furniture came from Las Vegas hotels. Park Place Entertainment donated 22 rooms' worth



A vintage newspaper announces President Franklin D. Roosevelt's dedication of the dam in 1935.

of furniture from Caesars Palace, and Mandalay Resorts executive Dave Belding paid for several items from the MGM Grand. One guest room features pieces from the hotel's heyday that Boulder City resident Sara Denton rescued and stored.

The hotel, operated like a bed and breakfast, throws a wine and cheese reception each evening for guests and provides fresh-baked cookies in the lobby. Guests receive a full breakfast and passes to the Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum downstairs. The Boulder Dam Hotel Café serves three meals daily. Downstairs, shops sell jewelry, crafts, and gifts relating to Hoover Dam, located eight miles east of Boulder City. The hotel, registered as a National Historic Landmark, also houses the Boulder City Art Guild Gallery and the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce.

Guests can explore the shops and neighborhoods of historic Boulder City, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. Community events include the town's Christmas parade December 1 and Luminaria December 6. Visitors may play an 18-hole golf course, swim at the Boulder pool, play racquetball and tennis, take tours of Hoover Dam, and boat, fish, and water-ski on Lake Mead.

Visitors and residents welcome the revival of the historic inn. Faiss recalls that when she and her husband took evening walks downtown in the late 1980s, they mourned the forlorn state of the grand old hotel. "The town had a choice of tearing it down or doing something about it," she says. "The community started pooling resources to make it a viable place. Now, it's just wonderful. Everybody loves it."

Staying Overnight

The Boulder Dam Hotel's rates begin at $99 per couple per night. For reservations call 702-293-3510. Look for the hotel's listing in the latest *Historic Hotels of America Directory* published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Call the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce, 702-293-2043, or visit www.bouldercitychamber.com regarding area attractions.

Joyce Hollister is associate editor of Nevada Magazine. *She toured the Boulder Dam Hotel during its grand opening weekend in June.*



A guest sits in the art-deco lobby, where wine and cheese are served in the evening. The furniture was donated by Las Vegas hotels and casino executives.

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Nevada Bookshelf

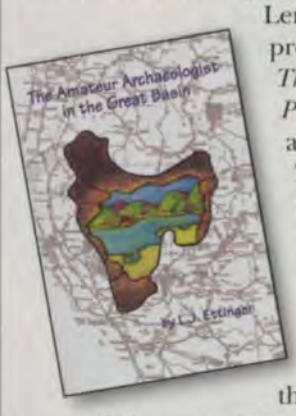
Recent releases of Nevada interest.

Moon Handbooks: Nevada

By Deke Castleman. Avalon Travel Publish-ing, 5855 Beaudry Street, Emeryville, CA 94608. 580 pages, $19.95, paper (ISBN: 1-56691-276-8). Originally written by Reno author Deke Castleman, and updated for this sixth edition by Nancy Keller and Kathleen Dodge, *Moon Handbooks: Nevada* remains one of the most comprehensive guidebooks on the state. The book includes information on the state's history, geology, environment, economy, people, recreation, attractions, and special events as well as recommendations on where to stay and eat. Castleman, a frequent *Nevada Magazine* contributor, has a witty writing style that shines throughout the book.

The Amateur Archaeologist in the Great Basin

By L.J. Ettinger. Published by L.J. Ettinger, 1991 Saddleback Road, Reno, NV 89511, 775-847-9303. 120 pages, $14.00, paper (ISBN: 0-9614840-6-3). Reno geologist and author Len Ettinger, who previously wrote *The Rockhound and Prospector's Bible* and *U.S. 395 Travelguide: Reno to Los Angeles*, has written an informative introduction to archaeology in Nevada and the Great Basin.



Ettinger provides an overview of prehistoric cultures in the region, and he notes archaeological sites that have been explored and the types of weapons and tools that have been found. A useful chapter on archaeological law describes state and federal regulations on digging for artifacts in the Great Basin. Read this book before you dig.

Fifty Miles From Home: Riding the Long Circle on a Nevada Family Ranch

Photographs by Linda Dufurrena, text by Carolyn Dufurrena. University of Nevada Press, Mail Stop 166, Reno, NV 89557, www.nvbooks.nevada.edu. 176 pages, $34.95, hardcover (ISBN: 0-87417-443-0). For many years, Linda Dufurrena, who resides on her family's ranch in the Quinn River Valley, has photographed the Western lifestyle and the magnificent landscapes of Northern Nevada. Her images have appeared in a number of publications, including *Nevada Magazine*, often focusing on working cowboys. In this new book, Dufurrena joins her daughter-in-law, writer and teacher Carolyn Dufurrena, to describe the family ranch's territory (roughly a 50-mile circle around the ranch—hence the book's title) and the daily challenges of life on the range. The Dufurrenas' marriage of photos and words provides a poignant look at a Western lifestyle that is slowly disappearing.

The Lobster Kids' Guide to Exploring Las Vegas



By Heidi Knapp Rinella. Lobster Press, 1620 Sherbrooke Street, W., Suites C & D, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3H 1C9, www.lobsterpress.com. 232 pages, $12.95, paperback (ISBN: 1-894222-29-6). Heidi Knapp Rinella, a Las Vegas-based journalist, describes kid-friendly places to visit and explore in Glitter City. With the help of her daughters, Aynsley and Aubrey, Rinella visited more than 150 attractions and rated them based on their kid appeal (one to three lobsters). The book includes such parent-useful information as birthday party suggestions, hotels and restaurants that welcome children, and the locations of bathrooms throughout the city.

Telling Lies and Getting Paid: More Gambling Stories



By Michael Konik. Huntington Press, Las Vegas, NV 89103, www.huntington-press.com. 256 pages, $22.95, hardcover (ISBN: 0-929712-73-0). Michael Konik, who previously penned the provocatively titled *The Man With the $100,000 Breasts and Other Gambling Stories*, presents

another book about the often bizarre exploits of serious gamblers. Konik is fascinated by those who can succeed in the ultra-cutthroat world of wagering—and why they do it. In this new collection, he writes about a Chicago nun who consistently outperforms professional bookies with her pro football picks and profiles the man who is considered the world's greatest backgammon hustler. The title story is an account of Konik's participation in the World Series of Poker.

Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps Atlas

By Stanley W. Paher. Nevada Publications, Box 15444, Las Vegas, NV 89114. 208 pages, $39.95, hardcover (ISBN: 0-913814-09-1). Eight years ago Stan Paher published an atlas companion to his classic study, *Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps.* This new atlas edition features more than 500 ghost-town photographs by the late author Nell Murbarger and 62 beautifully updated maps by Paul Cirac's White Sage Studios of Virginia City. The Reno-based author notes that his atlas is "specially designed for adventurers who love backcountry exploring and ghost-towning." Paher's book, which also comes in regional volumes, provides information on emigrant trails, gem-hunting areas, and hundreds of historic sites around the Silver State.

Building Hoover Dam: An Oral History of the Great Depression

By Andrew J. Dunar and Dennis McBride. University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557, www.nvbooks.nevada.edu. 376 pages, $24.95, paper (ISBN: 0-87417-489-9). Andrew J. Dunar, professor of history at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and Nevada historian Dennis McBride, a Boulder City resident and regular *Nevada* contributor, have compiled firsthand accounts of the men and women who built Hoover Dam in the 1930s. Originally published in 1993, *Building Hoover Dam* describes the process of selecting the dam site, building construction camps, working and living conditions, and recreational diversions such as the nearby city of Las Vegas. Dunar and McBride have performed an invaluable service by collecting oral histories from dozens of government officials, river men, engineers, journalists, and laborers.



101 Nevada Columns

By Rollan Melton. Halcyon Imprint of the Nevada Humanities Committee, Box 8029, Reno, NV 89507. 312 pages, $16.95, paper (ISBN: 1-890591-11-4). Rollan Melton has written a regular column for the *Reno Gazette-Journal* since 1978. Over the years Melton, the newspaper's former publisher, has profiled Reno's famous and not so famous, editorialized about local controversies, reminisced about earlier times in Nevada, and shared more than a few clever punch lines and quotes. The book, which collects 101 of his best columns since 1987, represents a tour de force for the dean of Northern Nevada journalists, with topics from the Mapes to his experiences as a "cub" computer user.—*Richard Moreno*

Books Now: Ordering Service

To order any of the above-mentioned books, call Books Now at 800-BOOKS-NOW or 800-266-5766 (24 hours, 365 days) or visit the Books Now Web site at www.BooksNow.com/nevadamag.



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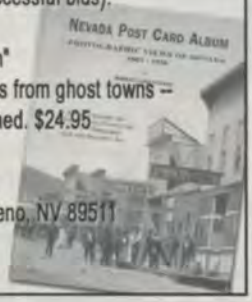
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Holiday shoppers may find gifts for their family and friends through Nevada businesses that offer unique Nevada products. Such gifts include Nevada books, food, wine, Native American jewelry, home decorations, gambling devices, and gift baskets filled with Nevada-made items.

The **Aladdin Flower and Gift Shop and Freezedry Company** in Gardnerville sends freeze-dried flowers and arrangements to customers all over Nevada. Owner Debbie Fleischer and her mother, Ethel, offer both fresh and freeze-dried flowers. After being freeze-dried, which captures the flowers' colors and textures, the flowers are treated with chemicals to keep them soft to the touch. The flowers are arranged in baskets, fine crystal, or porcelain. "We can make up anything and custom-fit colors for your home," Debbie says. Flowers for a wedding can be freeze-dried for safekeeping after the ceremony. Call 775-782-2655 or 800-235-9744 or visit www.afdco.com. The shop at 1432 U.S. 395 is open daily except Sunday.

Fred Holabird Americana of Reno offers four to six auctions a year in which carefully researched American and Western historical materials, including most of the Nevada items available on the market, are sold to collectors throughout the U.S. "Our expertise," Holabird says, "is the history of the American West and the history of mining in America." Holabird supplies a dozen museum gift shops around the country. He deals in such items as coins, tokens, bottles, photographs, letters, billheads, and maps. Holabird was in the mining business for more than 20 years. He and his wife, Robin, own the business, which doesn't have a retail outlet, and they conduct their sales through catalogs. For details call 775-852-8822 or visit www.holabird.org.

The **Intellectual Cowboy Bookstore** on the main street in Caliente specializes in Nevada books. The store carries about 200 books written by Nevada authors as well as volumes about Nevada people, history, and travel, says Larry Wissbeck, who owns the bookstore and gift shop with his wife, Cathy. He does a large mail-order business and can order any book not in stock. Wissbeck carries Robert Laxalt's books and most University of Nevada Press titles, and he says he has "a pretty good handle" on books by and about Will James. Call 775-726-3823 or e-mail newsman@caliente.lincoln-nv.com. The bookstore is open daily except Sunday.

Napa-Sonoma Grocery Company in Reno has been carrying foodstuffs made in Nevada since it opened more than 15 years ago, says store spokesperson Fred Boyd, the original owner. Current owners are Marty and Paula Kloska. Visitors can find numerous Nevada items, such as Wolf Pack jerky, Davidson's teas, Bags-O-Beans, stroopwafels (a kind of Dutch cookie), and Mrs. Auld's gourmet foods, all made in Reno. The store carries Pahrump Valley wines, MacDougall Honey from Lovelock, Killer Salsa from Gardnerville, and Country Cupboard cake mixes from Virginia City. Nevada gift boxes and baskets are specialties, and hundreds are shipped each year. The store, located at 294 East Moana Lane, is open daily except Sunday. Call 800-621-9044.



The gift shop at the **Lost City Museum**, 721 South Moapa Valley Boulevard in Overton, focuses on Native American-made items, such as jewelry, crafts, Kachinas, dream catchers, rugs,

Lost City Museum



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Gift shop open daily
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Nevada



and pottery representing Hopi, Zuni, and Navajo tribes. Paiute baskets and beadwork items are available. Books on Nevada and Native Americans can be purchased via the Web site http://dmla.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/museums/ or at the shop. The museum was opened in 1935 to tell the story of the ancient Pueblo people who originally settled in the area, says museum director Kathryn Olson. Visitors may see displays of prehistoric artifacts and pueblo houses constructed on ancient foundations. The museum is open daily except major holidays. Call 702-397-2193.

The **Gamblers General Store** in Las Vegas is "the world's largest gambling superstore," says manager Wendy Rock. "We sell quality casino items for home use." There are slot machines, personalized poker chips with cases (which make nice gift items), casino-type dice, cards, gaming tables, bingo supplies, books—the product line covers all needs, including award wheels which companies buy to add fun to their prize giveaways. The store can customize logos on poker chips and help players select denominations and colors. Nickel and quarter slot machines range from $999 to $3,295. The store ships worldwide, and customers can purchase its catalog. The Gamblers General Store, at 800 South Main Street, is open daily. For more information on the store call 800-322-2447 or 702-382-9903 or visit www.gamblersgeneralstore.com.



The **Bay Area Biscotti Company** began in 1991 when Arlene Damele left California, moved to Las Vegas, and bought a small bakery. Her recipes call for fresh ingredients and no preservatives, which make the delicious biscotti easy to chew. She reopened the store as a combination coffee shop and bakery, and then in 1995 moved the business to a larger facility at 3125 Ali Baba Lane in Las Vegas. In a Food Network's nationwide search for the best biscotti, Damele's product was selected. In a few days the camera crew was at her door. "Food Finds," a popular Food Network show, is scheduled to feature Damele's company in November. The Bay Area Biscotti Company is open Monday through Friday. Call 800-497-9556.

The **Nevada State Museum Gift Shop** in downtown Carson City carries items depicting the state's history and culture. There are bronze commemorative medallions stamped by the former U.S. Mint's oldest coin press. The medallions celebrate Genoa, the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, and—just for fun—Butch Cassidy's mythical Winnemucca bank robbery. A medallion made of two ounces of silver costs $35. "We've got the finest collection of books on Nevada history in the world," says manager Eleanor Phillips. The shop carries children's books, T-shirts, maps, gold-panning kits, and items under $5, such as real gold in a vial. The shop, open daily except major holidays, is in the museum's north annex. Call 775-687-4810.

Frank Balcerzak's Slot Machine Report is in its second year. He also writes and publishes the Casino News newsletter. Noting the house advantage that casinos have over gamblers, he publishes the report to educate players on the machines and help reduce their losses. Balcerzak toured over 100 casinos, interviewed hundreds of slot players and slot manufacturers, and studied state gaming reports before issuing his 53-page publication, which he updates periodically, in November 2000. He says the secret to winning and to reducing losses is to know which machines to play. The Slot Machine Report is available ($27.75) from Frank J. Balcerzak, 81 Unger Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14210. When requesting a sample of the Casino News newsletter, include a large self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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The Greening of Mesquite

(Continued from page 19)

Black family.) Refurbishments are planned for the Oasis' guest rooms and casino. The Oasis has its own ranch, where guests can go on a hayride, dine at a Western barbecue, and trapshoot.

Like the CasaBlanca, the Oasis has a popular spa. "Our spa experience is very tranquil and comforting," says Nannette Nelson, manager of the Spa at the Oasis. "Overall it produces a very calm feeling. Each day we have a different theme, with different colors, scents, and tea." Spa guests appreciate the uplifted atmosphere, she says. "The spa complements the casino because it's a place to unwind. It's nice to have a contrast with all the casino action."

The golf course is another good place to unwind in Mesquite. Each of the town's layouts has memorable holes and qualities. On the 18th hole of Wolf Creek at Paradise Canyon, a manicured green sits at the foot of a waterfall, and gila monsters live in the brush near the 13th and 14th fairways (don't hunt for balls there). At the Palms Golf Club, golfers face a 120-foot drop from the tee on the par-five 15th. Several holes on the Cal Olson-designed CasaBlanca Golf Club border the Virgin River. The Oasis Golf Club, designed by Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay, was named one of *Golf Magazine's* 1996 "Top 10 You Can Play." The Oasis also has the nine-hole Vistas course and the Oasis Golf Academy. Yet another 18-hole course, Falcon Ridge, is expected to open early in 2002.

"Now that we have Wolf Creek, we have four-and-a-half really good layouts," says Ken Turner, head pro at the Palms. He notes that nature gives Mesquite advantages as a golf destination. Golfers can play year-round, and the rugged country creates memorable 18s. "This area has much more varied terrain than other parts of the country. It's desert but mountainous, which makes for interesting courses."

Turner adds, "Being here in Mesquite you can beat the crowds but also have the casinos. That way you have your gambling at night and golf in the day." He points out that the links are busiest October through November and March through May, when the golf weather is ideal, "but winters are





Manager Nannette Nelson pauses in the Oasis spa's Relaxation Room, where guests unwind before and after treatments. Top: The palm-lined grounds of the Oasis with the spa and swimming pools.

Photos: Chris Leedham



The Eureka Hotel Casino is known for its Tumbleweed Cafe food specials and ventilation system.

mild and really kind of slow, so it's a good time to beat the crowds."

Mesquite's location also allows for a variety of day trips. Go southwest on I-15, and you can visit the Lost City Museum, which describes the ancient Pueblo people who lived in the Overton area, as well as Valley of Fire State Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Hoover Dam, and Las Vegas.

Go northeast on I-15, and you can explore the national parks of Utah and Arizona. To reach Zion National Park, 90 miles northeast of Mesquite, you'll drive 15 miles through the scenic Virgin River Gorge. The Grand Canyon, Bryce, and other national parks can be reached beyond Zion and the town of St. George, 37 miles northeast of Mesquite.

St. George is close enough that many casino employees live there and commute to Mesquite. Other employees live in Las Vegas and make the 80-mile trip twice each day. And quite a few Mesquite residents have jobs in Las Vegas—so there is a lot of cross-commuting taking place on the interstate.

When they drive into Mesquite, visitors and all those commuters experience a certain buoyancy when they gaze upon the Virgin Valley and the river that runs through it. At that moment, the greening of Mesquite is just as evident as it is from the 18th green at Wolf Creek.

Residents appreciate the transition. "As you come over the mesa, you see the river gorge and the alfalfa fields and all the greenery," says Jim Cheshier. "It's a beautiful sight."

Kelly Kozeliski is a Las Vegas writer and golfing vacationer.



When You Visit Mesquite

Mesquite, 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas, packs many forms of entertainment and recreation into a community the length of the Las Vegas Strip. Mesquite sits on the Nevada-Arizona border 37 miles southwest of St. George, Utah, and about 360 miles from Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, and Phoenix. The town's attractions include golf courses, spas, casinos, and the great outdoors.

Climate: Mesquite claims 310 days of annual sunshine with the mercury peaking at 110 degrees in summer and in the low 60s in winter. Most tourists visit in spring and fall, when the weather is pleasant and mild.

Lodging and Hotel-Casinos: Mesquite accommodations range from lavish resorts to budget motels.

CasaBlanca: 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., 702-346-7529 or 800-459-PLAY, www.casablancaresort.com. Rooms: 486. Restaurants: Katherine's (fine dining), CasaBlanca Buffet, Purple Fez Coffee Shop, Swensen's Ice Cream. CasaBlanca Spa, salon, RV park, pool, tennis courts, sand volleyball, time shares, CasaBlanca Golf Club.

Oasis: 897 W. Mesquite Blvd., 702-346-5232 or 800-621-0187 www.oasisresort.com. Rooms: 1,000. Restaurants: Charmaine's (fine dining), Garden Room Coffee Shop, Paradise Buffet, ice cream parlor, Pizza Pub. Spa at the Oasis, six pools, two tennis courts, RV park, go-kart track, miniature golf, Palms Golf Club. The Oasis Ranch and Gun Club offers hayrides, horseback riding, and trapshooting.

Virgin River: 100 Pioneer Blvd., 800-346-7721, www.virginriver.com. Rooms: 724. Restaurants: Victoria's

Photo: Richard Cummins

Buffet, Chuckwagon Coffee Shop, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts. RV park, pool, four cinemas, bowling center with cosmic bowling, and a race and sports book.

Eureka: 301 Mesa Blvd., 800-346-4611, www.eurekamesquite.com. Rooms: 215. Restaurants: Tumbleweed Cafe, Jose's Taco Shop. Exercise facility, pool, bands for dancing at Wild Cactus and Scorpion Bar.

Budget Inn Suites: 390 N. Sandhill Blvd., 702-346-7444 or 800-463-6302, www.budgetinnmesquite.com. Rooms: 67. Pool.

Desert Palms Motel: 92 W. Mesquite Blvd., 702-346-4321. Rooms: 21.

Stateline Motel and Casino: 490 W Mesquite Blvd., 702-346-5752, Rooms: 11. Restaurant: Burjono's.

Valley Inn Motel: 791 W. Mesquite Blvd., 702-346-528. Rooms: 21. Pool, six apartments rented weekly or monthly.

Vacation Packages: All of Mesquite's hotel-casinos offer room packages related to golf, spas, weddings, gaming, and other themes. For example, the CasaBlanca and Oasis offer a ***"Golf Mesquite"*** package that gives guests their choice of hotel for three nights and play on any three of the town's five golf courses. Off-season packages start at $64 per night per person and in-season packages at $109 per night per person. Call 866-720-7111 for details.



General manager and doughnut connoisseur Lex Hall samples a Krispy Kreme at the Virgin River.

RV Parks: Those visiting Mesquite in RVs will find hookups at four parks. The area's biggest is the ***Desert Skies RV Resort*** (800-818-2773), located one mile up the interstate in Arizona. The park has 190 RV sites and an overnight rate of $30; snowbirds can pay a monthly rate of $340 or less. Mesquite's three largest hotel-casinos have RV parks, too. The ***Oasis*** has 86 sites and a $10 nightly fee, the ***CasaBlanca*** offers 45 sites and a $12.50 nightly fee, and the ***Virgin River*** has 42 sites and a $12.50 nightly fee. The fees may vary seasonally.

Golf Courses: During the past decade Mesquite has grown into a year-round golf destination with several challenging championship courses.

CasaBlanca Golf Club: 702-346-6781 or 888-711-GOLF, www.golfmesquite.com. 7,011 yards, par 72. Course, designed by Cal Olson, skirts the Virgin River on several holes.

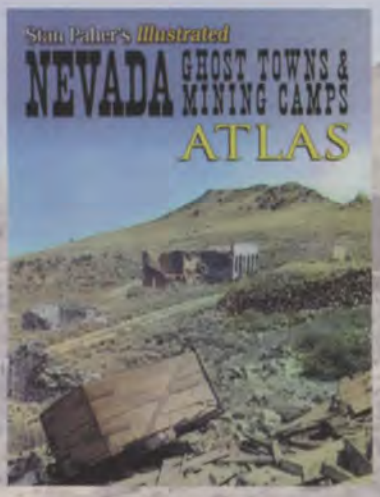
Falcon Ridge Golf Course: 702-346-6438, www.falconridgemesquite.com. 6,168 yards, par 72. New course is scheduled to open in early 2002. Architect is Dennis Rider of Horizon Golf, who designed Wolf Creek.

Oasis Golf Club: 702-346-7820, www.theoasisgolfclub.com. 6,982 yards, par 72. Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay designed the Oasis links, named one of "Top 10 You Can Play" by *Golf Magazine* in 1996. ***Vistas Course:*** 3,524 yards, par 37 Nine-hole course. ***Oasis Golf Academy:*** 702-346-7820. Personal lessons for beginners through experts.

Palms Golf Club: 702-346-5232 or 800-621-0187 7,008 yards, par 72. Designed by William Hull, the Palms' front nine is desert with water, and the back nine is more mountainous. The Palms is the host of the RE/MAX World Long Drive Championship in October.

Wolf Creek at Paradise Canyon: 866-252-4653, www.playthewolf.com. 7,018 yards, par 72. Designed by Dennis Rider, new award-winning course has bleached white sand, creeks, and dramatic canyon cliffs.

Mesquite Recreation Center: 100 W. Old Mill Rd., 702-346-8732. The community center welcomes nonresident visitors to use the indoor and outdoor pools, two racquetball courts, two full-size gymnasiums, fitness rooms, dance studio, lockers,



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NEVADA MAGAZINE GIFT SHOP

Photos: Chris Leedham



Music, disco lasers, and cosmic bowling take over the Virgin River's alleys on weekend nights.

showers, and skate park. There are two outdoor lighted basketball courts and an adjoining park with soccer and baseball fields. A daily pass costs $1.75 to $3.

Virgin Valley Heritage Museum: 31 W. Mesquite Blvd., 702-346-5705. Memorabilia from first casinos, Old West, and local history. Free admission.

Western Outings: The ***Oasis Ranch and Gun Club*** (702-346-8750 or 800-621-0187) has trap and skeet shooting, horseback rides, barbecues, and hayrides. ***Tamarack Trails at the Hafen Ranch*** (702-346-3505) offers a wagon ride and steak fry with Western entertainment.

Parks and Other Outings: Visitors can take Nevada day trips to ***Valley of Fire State Park***, the ***Lost City Museum***, and ***Lake Mead National Recreation Area***. National parks in nearby Utah and Arizona include ***Zion***, ***Bryce***, and the ***Grand Canyon***.

Events: Holiday events this year include the ***Festival of Trees*** on November 14-17 and ***Hometown Christmas*** with Santa Claus, caroling, hayrides, entertainment on December 7, both at the Mesquite Recreation Center. On February 16-17 the ***Mesquite Festival of the Arts*** will have art and craft vendors, food, and entertainment sponsored by the Mesquite Arts Council. ***Mesquite Days*** on May 2-4 celebrates the town's pioneer heritage with a parade, fireworks, carnival, fun run, junior rodeo, bull riding, golf tournament, food, music, entertainment, and contests. The ***Cinco de Mayo Celebration*** on May 5 has a dance, food, and music. The town celebrates ***Independence Day*** on July 4 with fireworks, three-on-three basketball tournament, home-run hitting contest, tug-o-war, booths, food, and music. The ***RE/MAX World Long Drive Championship*** takes place each October at the Palms Golf Course. On November 11, the ***Veterans Day Parade*** has a plane display, exhibits, food, and music. Call the Mesquite Arts Council, 702-346-2902, or the City Events Office, 702-346-3868, for event information.

Mesquite Information: When in town drop by the ***Mesquite Visitor Center***, 460 Sandhill Blvd., 702-346-2702 or 877-637-7848, www.visitmesquite.com. Also contact the ***Mesquite Area Chamber of Commerce***, 805 W. Mesquite Blvd., 702-346-2902, www.mesquite-chamber.com.

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B. Paid Circulation:		
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2. Mail subscriptions	56,646	54,997
C. Total paid circulation	58,789	57,074
D. Free distribution	10,908	10,654
E. Total distribution	69,696	67,728
F. Copies not distributed		
1. Office use, leftover unaccounted, spoiled	5,611	8,016
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Taking Aim

The winning photographers in *Nevada Magazine's* 24th annual Great Nevada Picture Hunt were in the right spot at the right time.



First: "Seyler Lake, Big Smoky Valley" • Barry Melvin Glazier, Round Mountain



Second: "Carson Valley Barn" • Steve Johns, Carson City

One warm September afternoon three years ago, Barry Melvin Glazier of Round Mountain drove up Big Smoky Valley to take pictures of rabbitbrush. He went home with the first-place photo in the 2001 Great Nevada Picture Hunt.

His image of Seyler Lake captured not only the rabbitbrush but also a dramatic sunset with a glint of silvery water. "The lake is seldom full of water at that time of year," he says. "This year, it's pure dry. That was a lucky year."

Glazier took the photo using his regular equipment, a medium-format Mamiya camera and a tripod. "I shoot Fuji Velvia slide film, 50 speed. It's extra slow," Glazier says. "Because I use the medium-format, the photo could be enlarged almost to poster size. It would be good for a dentist's or a doctor's office—anyplace where you don't want to be."

Glazier, 48, an electrician for Round Mountain Gold, hopes to someday make a living as a photographer. He takes his camera with him wherever he goes, and he has shot some of his best photos in Big Smoky Valley, which stretches between Austin and Tonopah. He earned second place last year with a color slide of the valley's Park Canyon Mill.

Steve Johns of Carson City, this year's second-place winner, also took his photograph on a fall day a few years ago. He originally shot "Carson Valley Barn" with color-slide film. The cottonwood leaves were a brilliant yellow. Johns says, "What made me take that image was the trees—they were really lit up. It was beautiful. What's interesting, too, is within a few days, the barn burned down."

Johns, 74 and retired from AT&T, has taken photos for more than 50 years and does his own developing and printing. Using a computer, Johns often manipulates images in Photoshop. He was sorting through his slides one day and ran across



Third: "Alexandria" • Philip Metscher, Palomino Valley

the barn picture. After scanning the image into his computer, Johns converted it to black and white. Then he returned the barn to its original brown color and printed the picture on photograde computer paper. The result: The trees appear to be covered in pogonip, with snow and ice coating the adjoining pasture and fence. "I played around with the image until it came out pretty good," he says, "so I figured I'd enter it."

Philip Metscher won third place with the first black-and-white photo to finish in the top five in the last five years. Metscher photographed Alexandria, his 90-year-old mother, as she chopped kindling for her wood stove. Later that day, Mrs. Metscher and her sons took the 1914 Model T Ford out of the woodshed to sell it. The car, Philip says, had been parked in the woodshed for 40 years, and the license plates on the walls had been nailed there by his father, William, who died 30 years ago. "I said, 'Hey, Ma, let me take your picture while you're in there. She said, 'Do you really want to do that?'" The judges were drawn first to Mrs. Metcher's face, because "it's so full of character," says *Nevada Magazine* Art Director Denise Evans. "When we looked closer at the picture, we could see that it also was a well-composed photo."

A lifelong resident of Tonopah, Philip Metscher moved this year to Palomino Valley north of Sparks after retiring from the Nevada Department of Transportation. Metscher, 59, says he took up photography after he and his brothers, William and Allen, started the Central Nevada Museum and Historical Society in Tonopah in the 1960s. For the museum, he made copies of historic photographs. He owns several cameras but took his winning photograph with a Pentax K-1000 using T-Max 100 black-and-white film.

Carolyn Fox won fourth place with "Tilted Outhouse and Stop Sign at Luning," a color transparency the judges called an "interesting composition." Fox, who lives in Jackson, California, took first place in 2000 for "Chevy Pickups in Carlin." Unusual images are her specialty, such as golfers riding bicycles in the Black Rock Desert, dressed-up mailboxes on country roads, and outhouses. She took the photo last March in Luning, a tiny railroad town located on U.S. 95 between Hawthorne and Mina. Since then the stop sign has disappeared, she says.

Larry Cantrall of Newberg, Oregon,

Fourth:

"Tilted Outhouse and Stop Sign at Luning"
Carolyn Fox, Jackson, CA



Fifth:

"Sunset East of Tonopah"
Larry Cantrall, Newberg, OR



placed fifth with "Sunset East of Tonopah." Cantrall snapped the color slide using Fuji Velvia film when he was driving east toward Ely one evening in May. The windmill is located across the road from a rest area on U.S. 6. He also was awarded Best Historic for "Las Vegas and Tonopah RR Station, Rhyolite." To get that photo, he woke up extra early on a summer morning to take a VIP tour offered by the mining company that owned the railroad station. The historic ghost town is now BLM property. Cantrall, a photojournalist who writes for *RV Journal*, visits the Silver State several times a year and uses an RV park in Pahrump as his Nevada home base.

Judges for the 2001 Great Nevada Picture Hunt were Richard Stephens, a teacher and photographer from Beatty; Ira Mark Gostin, a professional photographer



Best Photo Art:

"A Sunny Shade Above" • Lainie Thompson, Crystal Bay



Best Wildflower:

"Desert Friends, Pine Creek at Red Rock" • Tom Jones IV, Las Vegas

from Reno; and Evans. A show featuring a dozen of the winning photographs will tour the state, and the locations will be noted in the Nevada Events and Shows section of *Nevada Magazine*. Several of the images will appear on the magazine's Web page, www.nevadamagazine.com.

—Joyce Hollister

2001 Great Nevada Picture Hunt

Top 5 Winners

First: Barry Melvin Glazier, Round Mountain, "Seyler Lake, Big Smoky Valley," color transparency ($200).

Second: Steve Johns, Carson City, "Carson Valley Barn," computer-enhanced black and white print ($100).

Third: Philip Metscher, Palomino Valley, "Alexandria," black and white print ($75).

Fourth: Carolyn Fox, Jackson, CA, "Tilted Outhouse and Stop Sign at Luning," color transparency ($50).

Fifth: Larry Cantrall, Newberg, OR, "Sunset East of Tonopah," color slide ($25).

Category Awards

Best Action: Tom Jones IV, Las Vegas, "Shoe Fly, Junior Rodeo," color print.

Best Black and White: Dr. Benjamin J. Rodriguez, Las Vegas, "Home From Class," black and white print.

Best Event: Gordon Gebhardt, Sparks, "Burning Man 2000," color print.

Best Historic: Larry Cantrall, Newberg, OR, "Las Vegas and Tonopah RR Station, Rhyolite," color slide.

Best Humor: Joy Bowles, Jean, "Now Listen to Me! Red Rock Canyon," color print.

Best Photo Art: Lainie Thompson, Crystal Bay, "A Sunny Shade Above," photo art, hand-modified instant film.

Best Scenic: Donna Lee Murphy, Spring Creek, "Lamoille Canyon," color print.

Best Sunset: Jacki Falkenroth, Carson City, "Morning Has Broken, Washoe Lake," color print.

Best Wildflower: Tom Jones IV, Las Vegas, "Desert Friends, Pine Creek at Red Rock," color print.

Honorable Mention

Mary Alexander, Las Vegas, "Mojave Yucca at Red Rock," monochrome print painted with photo oils.

Larry Angier, Jackson, CA, "RIP Door, Nevada Northern Railway Yards, East Ely" and



Best Scenic:

"Lamoille Canyon" • Donna Lee Murphy, Spring Creek

"Quarter Past One on the Playa, Black Rock Desert," color prints.
Larry Collins, Sparks, "Reno," color print.
Cynthia A. Delaney, Elko, "Temoke Powwow 2000" and "Cherry Springs, Mustang in Snow," color slides.
Diane Kay Griffin, Gardnerville, "Stagecoach Willie, Berlin," color print.
Charles Haire, Hunters, WA, "Fort Churchill Ruins," color print.
Steve Johns, Carson City, "Fly Geyser, Black Rock Desert," color print.
Dave Kelley, Incline Village, "Moonrise, Pyramid Lake," color slide.
Brent Land, Las Vegas, "New Year's Eve 2000," color slide.
Terry Long, Ely, "No. 40, Ely Steam Train" and "Barrel and Pump, Belmont," color prints.
John H. Mowbray, Las Vegas, "The Great Comet of the 20th Century" and "Venus and Jupiter Over Red Rock," color prints.
Jens Peermann, Carson City, "Yield! To What?" color print.
Janice Phillips, Las Vegas, "Twilight Transition, Las Vegas Strip," color slide.
Marcus Prazniak, El Cerrito, CA, "Light of the Grass Moon, Tonopah," color print.
Eileen Rosenthal, Henderson, "I Only Have an Eye for You" and "The Posse Strikes a Pose: Red Rock Burros," color prints.

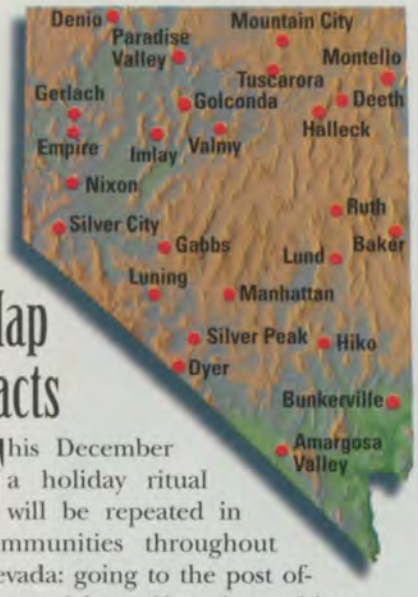


Best Humor:

"Now Listen to Me! Red Rock Canyon" • Joy Bowles, Jean

Nevada Almanac

(Continued from page 102)



Map Facts

This December a holiday ritual will be repeated in communities throughout Nevada: going to the post office to pick up gift packages. It's a special rite in small towns, where residents trudge through cold and snow to reach the P.O., happy to find both the heater and conversation turned up. For everyone wishing to mail a Christmas card in Nevada's outback, here are 25 of the state's smallest towns with post offices.

Contest

Stories of the "Nevada Spirit"

Nevada residents and visitors have joined the nationwide outpouring of assistance following the September attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. In that spirit, we invite readers to share their memories or historical knowledge—to describe a moment in the state's past in which Nevadans rallied to support their fellow citizens in time of need.

The moment can relate to a war, natural calamity, or local emergency that brought out the "Nevada Spirit." It may involve a statewide effort, or simply the faith and heroism of a single person, in any era of Nevada history. The story's length should be 200 words or less and can derive from personal experience or historical research.

Rather than a formal contest, this will be a chance to share stories of the "Nevada Spirit." Next issue we'll run as many readers' stories as possible, and three responding readers will be chosen to send a free one-year *Nevada Magazine* gift subscription or a 2002 Nevada Historical Calendar to the charity of their choice. Send your "Nevada Spirit" story by November 9, 2001, to Nevada Almanac, Nevada Magazine, 401 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701; fax 775-687-6159; e-mail dave@nevadamagazine.com. Be sure to include your mailing address and daytime telephone number. We're looking forward to sharing memorable Nevada stories.

Help Wanted

For Railroad Buffs: The Lyon County Museum in Yerington is seeking volunteers to help refurbish Switch Engine No. 6, a gasoline-driven, 30-ton Plymouth engine manufactured by the Fate-Root Heath Company. The engine was used in the 1940s on the Nevada Copper Belt Railroad between Yerington and Wabuska. Call the Lyon County Information Center, 775-463-2245, for further information.

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New State Flag Contest

Answering the call of last issue's New State Flag Contest, readers have submitted a number of innovative designs. Watch for them in next issue's "Nevada Almanac." For other views of the "blob-or-beautiful" flag debate, see this issue's "Letters" and also the following:

Flag or Song?

I know the New State Flag Contest in last issue's "Nevada Almanac" was "just for fun," but we don't really need a new flag. The grouping of the star, sagebrush, and scroll says it all, and its placement in the upper-left-hand corner is distinctive from the other drab blue state flags with the complicated state seals in the middle.

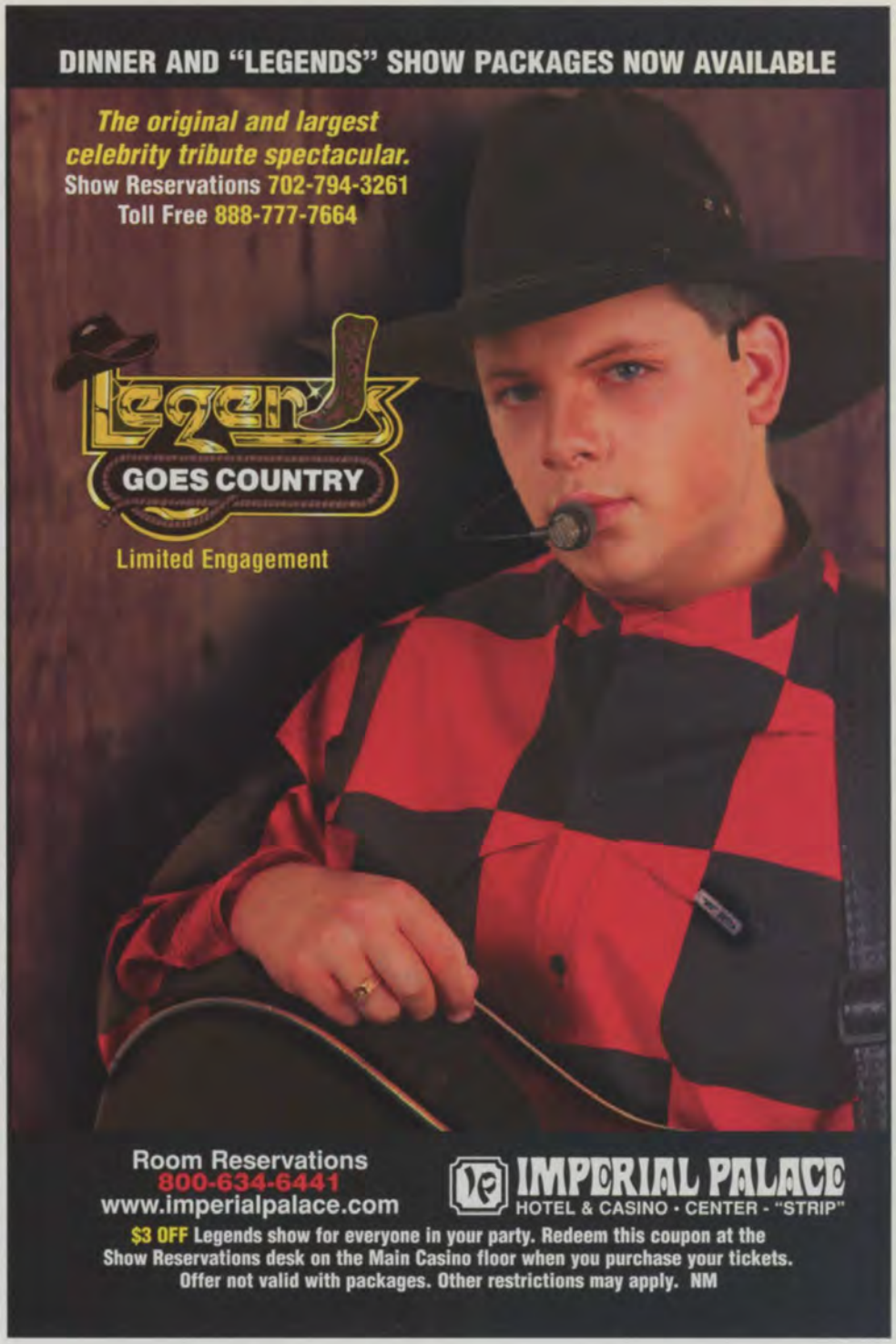
Rather needed, one might think, is a new state song. "Home Means Nevada," written by schoolteacher Bertha Raffetto several eons ago, sings the praises of the Truckee River and Northern Nevada. I'm willing to bet that not one Nevadan out of 100 has ever heard the music, much less the lyrics. It's kind of bouncy, but really nothing special.

Consider other state songs. Probably the best is "Oklahoma" by Rodgers and Hammerstein. Do you think that maybe Andrew Lloyd Webber could write a "Nevada" into his next musical? "O, Fair New Mexico" has a great rumba beat, and the lyrics recall its history by using the Spanish "Nuevo Mejico." This state song could make the top 10 in Hispanic contemporary music any time.

Several state songs are traditional. Kansas uses "Home on the Range." Florida has Stephen Foster's "Swanee River." Connecticut uses "Yankee Doodle Dandy." Kentucky has adopted "My Old Kentucky Home." Some songs are just pretty. "Here We Have Idaho," which salutes our neighbor to the north, sings of the Rockies in very nice waltz tempo.

At the other extreme, I grant you, are some unimaginative state songs that make "Home Means Nevada" sound pretty good. At least four states have lyrics to "O Tannenbaum"—Maryland, Michigan, Iowa, and New Jersey. California uses a most boring "I Love You, California." It's criminal that they don't change it to "California, Here I Come," but they do things sort of goofy over there. Ditto with Texas in using "Texas, Our Texas" instead of "The Yellow Rose of Texas," but at least they do have a great state flag.

Anyway, with apologies to Bertha Raffetto, let's get us a new state song. Andrew Lloyd Webber, are you out there somewhere?—*Ray Downing, Las Vegas*





Nevada Almanac

Trivia, the Nevada Spirit, and readers' recommendations.

Nevada Trivia

Q What did Austin shop owner Reuel Gridley do in 1864 after losing an election bet?

A Gridley carried a 50-pound sack of flour a mile and a quarter through town. A crowd gathered, and Gridley auctioned the sack, with the proceeds donated to the Sanitary Fund, the predecessor of the Red Cross. The sack was resold several times that day, generating nearly $5,000 for the Sanitary Fund and its Civil War relief efforts. Word of Gridley's famed sack spread, and he was invited to communities throughout the West to hold charity auctions of the sack. He ultimately raised nearly a quarter of a million dollars for the Sanitary Fund.

Q Who was the first woman mayor in Nevada?

A Dorothy Porter, a former Ziegfeld dancer, was the first woman in Nevada elected to a major city council, in 1953, and then was elected mayor of North Las Vegas by her fellow council members the following year.

—from The Nevada Trivia Book *by Richard Moreno (Gem Guides, 1998)*



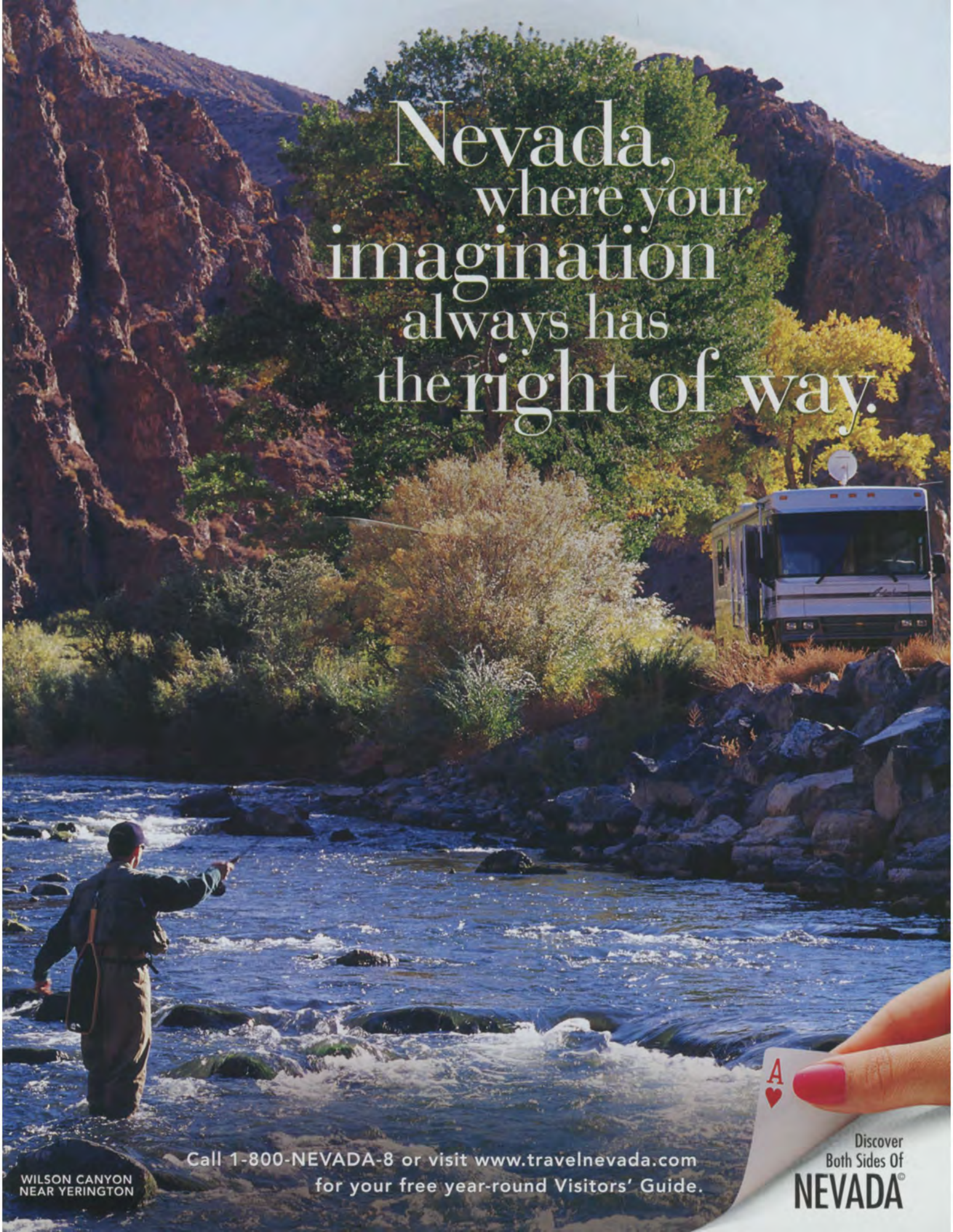
Photo Finish Grazing bovines and a mailbox bow offer homey signs of the holiday season in Northeastern Nevada. Carolyn Fox, the roving photographer from Jackson, California, unwraps this scene on a snowy stretch of State Route 225 between Elko and Mountain City.

Reader Recommended

Sky Show: Whenever I have friends and relatives visiting from out of town, they want to know the best and cheapest places to go in Las Vegas. They always come home happy after I send them to the Rio Suite Hotel to see the "Masquerade Show in the Sky," the hotel's free show. Everything happens at one time: Acrobats drop out of the ceiling, dancers perform on a stage, and Mardi Gras floats circle the room suspended from a track on the ceiling. It's possible to watch from the casino floor (the show takes place every hour except 7 p.m. between 4 and 10 p.m.), but the best view is from the second-floor balcony. After the show, I tell my house guests to take the elevator to the Rio's 51st floor and proceed to the trendy VooDoo Lounge, where they can take in a panorama of the real Las Vegas.—*Heidi Johnson, Las Vegas*

Do you have a Nevada travel recommendation to share with other readers? *Write Nevada Almanac, Nevada Magazine, 401 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701; fax 775-687-6159; or e-mail dave@nevadamagazine.com (be sure to include your town and state).*

(Continued on page 100)


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