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## NEVADA EVENTS & SHOWS

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# Welcome to Nevada Events & Shows

If you are reading this edition of *Nevada Events & Shows*, produced by *Nevada Magazine*, there's a good chance you're in the Reno-Tahoe International Airport or already on the road and wondering what you're going to do during your stay in Nevada.

Well, you're in luck.

This information-packed guide to Lake Tahoe, Las Vegas, Reno, and rural Nevada will help you plan your trip—both now and in the future. Our stories and photos capture the latest and greatest events and shows in the Silver State.

For more than 75 years, *Nevada Magazine* has been the premier source for Nevada travel news, and we're happy to add to that tradition with this edition of *Nevada Events & Shows*.

Happy travels, and enjoy your stay in the Silver State.

Janet M. Geary, Publisher  
jmgeary@nevadamagazine.com

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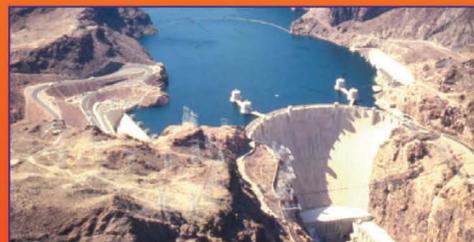
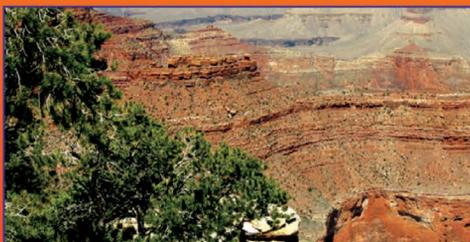
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- Meet your hosts, the Hualapai Indians
- Visit spectacular Guano Point
- Enjoy a Native American BBQ Luncheon
- Descend 4000 ft below the rim to the Canyon floor by Helicopter
- Remarkable pontoon boat ride along the Colorado river
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# A Perfect Blend

CHARLIE JOHNSTON

Las Vegas and Reno offer an eclectic mix of coffee hangouts.

New York City might be the *city* that never sleeps, but the 24-hour culture that permeates Nevada makes it the *state* that never sleeps. If buzzing neon and casino action aren't enough to keep you wide-eyed during your next Nevada adventure, an array of energetic espresso enclaves offers a cup—or two—for you.

## Lattes in Las Vegas

BY CAROLINE HORWITZ

### THE BEAT COFFEEHOUSE AND RECORDS

What happens when you combine a coffeehouse with a record store, art gallery, and bar? You get The Beat, a downtown Las Vegas hangout that sells vinyl albums, coffee, food, beer, and cocktails.

Attached to the Emergency Arts gallery, The Beat invites customers to peruse works by local artists, shop for records, and attend open mic and trivia nights. At 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday, The Beat becomes a bar. The beer taps face the espresso machines, and the turntable next to the cash register adds to the eclectic atmosphere. “We don’t do a lot of super-fancy coffees, just good coffee and real food made with real ingredients, not frozen and pre-made,” managing partner Jennifer Cornthwaite says.

The interior is downtown chic, with concrete floors, wooden furniture, old couches, and groups of 20-somethings hovering over their drinks and chatting animatedly. “The Beat is really a hub,” Cornthwaite adds. “It’s a place people meet and hang out. The people are what make it; we just try and provide the best neighborhood feel that we can.”

### COFFEE PUB

The old-fashioned-looking exterior at Coffee Pub conceals some of the best coffee and friendliest servers in Las Vegas. More of a restaurant than a coffee shop, the Pub is close to the Strip and has been serving patrons since 1984.

It’s only open until 3 p.m. (2 p.m. on weekends) but offers full breakfast and lunch menus and a smoothie bar with a variety of coffee options, including frozen drinks made with blended espresso, non-dairy gelato, and numerous flavor options. Their spin on a caramel macchiato is frothy and satisfying, and the house blend is a rich and savory way to caffeinate as well.

The generous sizes and reasonable prices are welcome perks. Better still are the conversational and kind staff members, who are attentive and know regulars by name. One waitress even engaged me in a discussion about the book I was reading: *Consider the Lobster* by David Foster Wallace. Coincidentally, she had read another book penned by Wallace.

Those who live or work close by don't even have to stop in—Coffee Pub delivers within a two-mile radius.

## THE MADHOUSE COFFEE

Part of the allure of The MadHouse is that it's open 24 hours—a serious plus in a city that never sleeps. “If you come here at night, you'll really see it busy,” says owner Marco Prestia.



CAROLINE HORWITZ

The best word to describe this Summerlin night owl is funky, from its colorful décor and seating to a sign at the door that reads: “Please no outside food, drinks, drugs, or nuclear weapons.”

Coffee items that stand out include blended drinks, such as the Red Velvet Mocha, which combines the flavors of coffee and red velvet cake without being overly sugary. Its bright red color is a bit startling to see in a coffee cup, but it just adds to the personality of the shop.

Coffee purists needn't worry—the menu is full of traditional caffeinated beverages, too. The MadHouse has a convenient drive-thru and also serves sandwiches and a variety of desserts and pastries that are baked and prepared in-house. Peppy music, paintings, and modern art splash the place with a little extra funk.

In addition to the original MadHouse on Desert Inn Road, a second location on Eastern Avenue ensures coffee crusaders all over the Las Vegas Valley can get their fix.

## SAMBALATTE TORREFAZIONE

It's not uncommon to find every table at Sambalatte Torrefazione—and there are many—occupied, even on a weekday afternoon. In business for two-plus years, it's become a hot spot to caffeinate. Owner Luiz Oliveira attributes the success to several

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### The Beat Coffeehouse and Records

520 Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89101  
thebeatlv.com  
702-385-2328

#### Coffee Pub

2800 W. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89102  
coffeepublv.com  
702-367-1913

#### The MadHouse Coffee (two locations)

8470 W. Desert Inn Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89117  
702-360-4232  
8899 S. Eastern Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89123  
702-260-0430  
madhousecoffeelasvegas.com

#### Sambalatte Torrefazione

750 S. Rampart Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89145  
sambalatte.com  
702-272-2333



NEIL LOCKHART

Opposite page: Barista Ally Sewell prepares a latte at Walden's Coffeehouse in Reno.

factors, including high-quality products from local vendors. Its central location in the trendy Boca Park shopping area doesn't hurt either, he says.

Sambalatte prepares coffee in a variety of ways, such as coffee extraction, which is used to make iced coffee through a cold drip that takes 12 hours. "It's time-consuming, but the process removes all of the acidity and bitterness in the coffee and leaves a completely smooth drink," Oliveira says.

The shop's Nutella latte is one of its most popular drinks. Oliveira got the idea from his home country of Brazil, where Nutella is a prominent food item. The latte version is creamy and has just the right amount of chocolate and peanut butter flavors.

Aside from the delicious coffee, there are ample reasons for patrons to linger. Sambalatte offers couches, café tables, a long wooden table with electrical outlets for laptops and chargers, a balcony with a flat-screen TV and bookcases, and an outside patio that even has water bowls for canine companions.

## Roasts of Reno

BY SAM DISALVO

### DREAMER'S COFFEE HOUSE & DELI

After Dreamer's closed in 2009, many Renoites feared they'd lost their all-encompassing, homey coffee shop. Fortunately, the place has recently kicked back into gear in the MidTown District. Perhaps in homage to MidTown's hip attitude, the new Dreamer's Coffee House & Deli is pointedly more chic than its predecessor, with a bright red ceiling and bold color scheme, modern art, and subtle industrial touches.

Besides traditional coffee fare made from beans of local roasters, Dreamer's has always catered to folks with a sweet tooth, providing options such as the Milky Way Mocha—with caramel flavoring—and the tried-and-true combination of the creamy peanut butter mocha.

Dreamer's also offers an entire menu devoted to milkshakes, featuring the mocha milkshake that's just the right mix of chocolate and espresso. It's thick enough to satisfy, but thin enough to not put up a fight when sipped through a straw.

In addition to coffee, guests can choose from a wide variety of breakfast-bagel combinations, which include everything from standard eggs, ham, and cheese to nostalgic Nutella and peanut butter. The bookshelf in the den, located in the back of the shop, holds another element of home, with volumes of *National Geographic* and a collection of worn novels from Grisham to Bronte.

### JAVA JUNGLE

A haven for local artists, Java Jungle and its next-door addition, Jungle Vino, serve as environments for creators to work and perform and provide beverages to get the creative juices flowing. The décor confirms Java Jungle's artist-hangout image with whimsical



PHOTOS: CHARLIE JOHNSTON

wall murals that blend into the animal-print menus, a brightly colored mosaic tile floor, and an ostentatious neon "cappuccino" sign above the counter.

Java offers concoctions like the Eye Opener—best experienced iced—made with two shots of espresso and coffee and sure to inspire even the philistine to create something of worth. The shop also offers a wide variety of sandwiches and pizzas.

Besides monthly art shows at both locations, Java Jungle holds an open mic night on Mondays. Vino holds weekly tastings, but the selection isn't limited to wine. The bar offers beer and unique cocktails crafted from high-quality liquors.

Keeping the artist's salary in mind, Vino offers a great value on fresh-baked pizza with up to three toppings and two glasses of sangria: \$15 from 6-10 p.m. nightly. Both Jungles are open late to match the artist's working hours and serve cups of inspiration when yours might have run dry.

### SWILL COFFEE & WINE

A newcomer to the Reno coffee scene, Swill Coffee & Wine is making a splash with its unique coffee concoctions and wine tastings. Swill baristas are put through rigorous training to make sure they can turn anything from a French Press order to a soy and honey Sunny Latte. The Swill Chill is a refresher that's made from espresso, chocolate, condensed milk, and various secret ingredients that the baristas would surely be punished for leaking.

Swill's impressive collection of bottled beers features everything from pale ales to stouts, and nightly specials—such as \$15 wine tastings and food pairings every Saturday—showcase Swill's extensive wine ensemble. The coffee shop includes a casual lounge with intimate seating and a community table that's perfect for making



Read about more Nevada coffeehouses at [nevadamagazine.com](http://nevadamagazine.com). 

new friends. Local art adorns the lounge's walls and local musical acts make occasional appearances.

Plastered next to the menu, the definitions of the word "swill" (such as: "2. to drink greedily or in large quantity") are a tongue-in-cheek effort to redefine coffee culture.

## WALDEN'S COFFEEHOUSE

There is something familiar about being in Walden's Coffeehouse, even if you've never been there before. An emphasis on comfort and friendliness are present in everything from the invitingly large armchairs to the handwritten daily specials. Perhaps this soothing feeling comes from the vast tea

selection, as there has always been an aspect to tea that is more pacifying than commerce-paced coffee. Walden's offers classic Earl Grey black tea, gunpowder green tea, white spiced peach tea, and plenty more worth sipping.

When it comes to coffee, Walden's offers plenty of flavoring options that will add a kick to any morning routine, and patrons can choose from more than 300 flavors, including cheesecake and toasted marshmallow.

The lunch menu has almost as many choices as the drink menu. There is an unmatched generosity in the atmosphere at Walden's, giving the impression that you could stay all day and no one would mind. 

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Dreamer's Coffee House & Deli**  
701 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89501  
775-322-8040

**Java Jungle**  
246 W. 1st St., Reno, NV 89501  
[javajunglevino.com](http://javajunglevino.com)  
775-329-4484

**Swill Coffee & Wine**  
3366 Lakeside Ct., Reno, NV 89509  
[swillreno.com](http://swillreno.com)  
775-823-9876

**Walden's Coffeehouse**  
3940 Mayberry Dr., Reno, NV 89519  
[waldenscoffeehouse.net](http://waldenscoffeehouse.net)  
775-787-3307



CHARLIE JOHNSTON

Opposite page: Swill Coffee & Wine, one of Reno's newest places to relax over a cup of coffee, offers comfortable seats, an unhurried vibe, and logo-laden cups. Java Jungle in downtown Reno (above) has an eclectic mishmash of design features, including a mosaic tile floor, animal-print-framed menu boards, local art, and even glowing neon.

TIM MCGRAW  
AND FAITH HILL  
BRING "SOUL2SOUL"  
TO THE VENETIAN

# VEGAS GOES COUNTRY

Collectively, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill have sold 70 million albums and won eight Grammy Awards. Starting in December, country music's most famous couple will bring its Soul2Soul act to The Venetian Las Vegas for a limited engagement through April 2013.

The show—what The Venetian has called the biggest musical event in its history—officially opens December 7 in the 1,815-seat Venetian Theater. The event will mark the first time in six years that McGraw and Hill have performed together in the United States, promising country-music fans a whole new concert experience.

"We are creating a show that will be completely different from what we've done before—and might ever do again," McGraw and Hill said in August. "In arenas and stadiums, you're always faced with the challenge of finding ways to make people feel closer to the action... Now everyone will be close, so it opens up all kinds of creative possibilities, and we're looking forward to exploring those so that we can really give our fans something truly special."

McGraw and Hill have been dominating the music charts since the early '90s and began performing together in 2000 in their record-breaking original Soul2Soul tour, becoming that year's top-grossing U.S. tour. Their success continued in 2006 when Soul2Soul II became the highest-grossing country music tour of all time.

## WHERE

The Venetian

## WHEN

Dec. 7-8, 14-15  
Jan. 18-19, 25-26  
Feb. 1-2, 15-16, 22-23  
Mar. 1-2  
Apr. 12-13, 26-27  
Showtime: 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## TICKETS

[ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com), 888-TAF-SOUL  
Starting at \$95.50

## WORTH A CLICK

[timmcgraw.com](http://timmcgraw.com)  
[faithhill.com](http://faithhill.com)

## ALSO NEW AT THE VENETIAN

### "Rock of Ages"

Dark Mon. starting Dec. 18  
[venetian.com](http://venetian.com), 866-641-7469



## DON'T MISS

### SHANIA TWAIN

Caesars Palace

Dec. 1-2, 5-6, 8-9, 11-12, 14-15  
Mar. 19, 20, 23-24, 26-27, 29-30  
Apr. 2-3, 5-6, 9-10

Tickets: [thecolosseum.com](http://thecolosseum.com), 866-574-3851; starting at \$55

Not to be outdone by Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, Twain makes her much-anticipated return (the show was announced in summer 2011) to the stage at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace on December 1. "SHANIA: STILL THE ONE" will feature the hits that have made Twain the top-selling female country artist of all time, with more than 57 million albums sold in the U.S. and Canada. Twain joins mega-stars Celine Dion, Elton John, and Rod Stewart, who also have ongoing shows at The Colosseum.

Showtime: 7:30 p.m.



## COUNTRY EVENTS & SHOWS

### Garth Brooks | Wynn Las Vegas

Nov. 16-17 (final shows)  
Tickets: [wynnlasvegas.com](http://wynnlasvegas.com),  
877-654-2784

### Miss Willie Brown | The Mirage

Dec. 6  
Tickets: [mirage.com/rodeovegas](http://mirage.com/rodeovegas)

### National Finals Rodeo, Cowboy Christmas Gift Show, & Cowboy FanFest

Citywide  
Dec. 6-15  
Tickets: [nfrexperience.com](http://nfrexperience.com),  
702-260-8605

### Josh Thompson | The Mirage

Dec. 7  
Tickets: [mirage.com/rodeovegas](http://mirage.com/rodeovegas)

### Lonestar | The Orleans

Dec. 7-8  
Tickets: [orleanscasino.com](http://orleanscasino.com),  
888-365-7111

### Merle Haggard

Golden Nugget Las Vegas  
Dec. 7-8  
Tickets: [goldennugget.com](http://goldennugget.com),  
866-946-5336

### Charlie Daniels Band

Golden Nugget Las Vegas  
Dec. 8-9  
Tickets: [goldennugget.com](http://goldennugget.com),  
866-946-5336

### Craig Morgan | The Mirage

Dec. 8  
Tickets: [mirage.com/rodeovegas](http://mirage.com/rodeovegas)

### Sam Riddle | The Mirage

Dec. 9-12  
Tickets: [mirage.com/rodeovegas](http://mirage.com/rodeovegas)

### Oak Ridge Boys

Golden Nugget Las Vegas  
Dec. 11-12  
Tickets: [goldennugget.com](http://goldennugget.com),  
866-946-5336

### Daryle Singletary & Justin McBride | The Mirage

Dec. 13-14  
Tickets: [mirage.com/rodeovegas](http://mirage.com/rodeovegas)

### Randy Travis

Golden Nugget Las Vegas  
Dec. 13-14  
Tickets: [goldennugget.com](http://goldennugget.com),  
866-946-5336

### LeAnn Rimes | LVH

Dec. 13-15  
Tickets: [thelvh.com](http://thelvh.com), 800-222-5361

### Jamey Johnson | Riviera

Dec. 14  
Tickets: [rivierahotel.com](http://rivierahotel.com),  
855-468-6748

### Chris Cagle | The Mirage

Dec. 15  
Tickets: [mirage.com/rodeovegas](http://mirage.com/rodeovegas)

### Trace Adkins | Riviera

Dec. 15  
Tickets: [rivierahotel.com](http://rivierahotel.com),  
855-468-6748

### "Country Superstars"

Golden Nugget Las Vegas  
Ongoing: Dark Sun. & Mon.  
Tickets: [goldennugget.com](http://goldennugget.com),  
866-946-5336

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**Elko, Nevada — a land of adventure full of life and leisure beckoning visitors to slow down and enjoy a taste of the simple life.**

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- 29th Annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering: *January 28 - February 3, 2013*



**Elko Convention & Visitors Authority**

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**www.ExploreElko.com**

## Austin, Nevada. Where Christmas comes alive.



### **17th Annual Live Nativity, December 11th, 2012**

Visit the quaint and nostalgic town of Austin and get into the true spirit of Christmas. A live nativity replays the first Christmas, followed by cookies and hot chocolate along with the annual turkey raffle, sponsored by the merchants of Austin. This is truly a good ol' fashioned Christmas celebration.

The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce ~ 775.964.2200 ~ AustinNevada.com



## OTHER CIRQUE SHOWS

**The Beatles LOVE** | Mirage  
Dark Tues. & Wed.  
Tickets: mirage.com, 800-963-9634

**CRISS ANGEL Believe** | Luxor  
Dark Sun. & Mon.  
Tickets: luxor.com, 800-557-7428

**KÀ** | MGM Grand  
Dark Sun. & Mon.  
Tickets: mgmgrand.com, 800-929-1111

**Mystère** | Treasure Island  
Dark Thurs. & Fri.  
Tickets: treasureisland.com, 866-712-9308

**O** | Bellagio  
Dark Mon. & Tues.  
Tickets: bellagio.com, 888-488-7111

**ZUMANITY, the Sensual Side of Cirque du Soleil** | New York-New York  
Dark Wed. & Thurs.  
Tickets: newyorknewyork.com, 866-606-7111

### SIMILAR

**Bite** | Plaza Hotel & Casino  
Dark Tues.  
Tickets: 800-793-9332

**Le Rêve—The Dream** | Wynn Las Vegas  
Dark Wed. & Thurs.  
Tickets: wynnlasvegas.com, 702-770-9966

## ZARKANA DEBUTS ARIA WELCOMES NEWEST CIRQUE PRODUCTION

**M**ove over Elvis. There's a new Cirque du Soleil show in town. Replacing "Viva Elvis" at the Aria at CityCenter in Las Vegas is "Zarkana."

Scheduled to premier Thursday, November 1, "Zarkana" is an acrobatic rock experience blending circus arts with the surreal to create a world where physical virtuosity rubs shoulders with the strange. Described as a visual vortex, the show is set in a twisted musical and acrobatic fantasy universe where, little by little, chaos and craziness give way to a true celebration.

The diverse cast of more than 75 international artists transports the audience into a fantastical and suspenseful world, blurring the boundaries between the real and imaginary.

### WHERE

Aria Las Vegas

### SHOWTIME

Dark Wed. & Thurs.  
& Nov. 5-6, 9-10  
7 & 9:30 p.m.

### TICKETS

arialasvegas.com  
855-927-5262

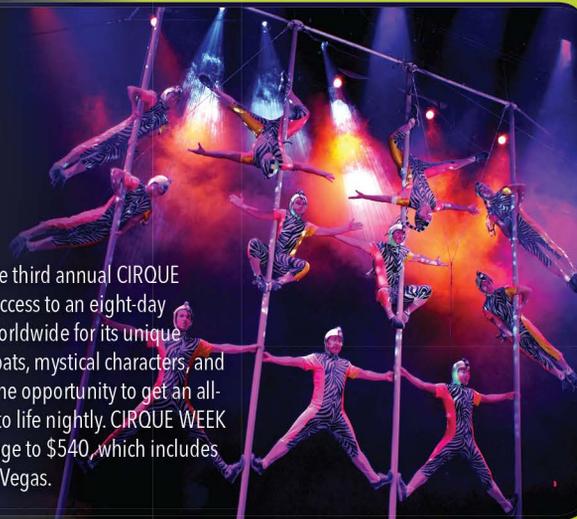
## DON'T MISS

### CIRQUE WEEK

Various locations  
Dec. 1-8

Tickets: cirquedusoleil.com/cirqueweek

Back by popular demand, Cirque du Soleil presents the third annual CIRQUE WEEK, offering fans the experience of a lifetime with access to an eight-day series of exclusive events. Cirque du Soleil is known worldwide for its unique entertainment experiences featuring high-flying acrobats, mystical characters, and state-of-the-art technology. CIRQUE WEEK offers fans the opportunity to get an all-access look into how these extraordinary shows come to life nightly. CIRQUE WEEK packages range from \$150 for a two-show ticket package to \$540, which includes tickets to all seven Cirque du Soleil productions in Las Vegas.



## HOLIDAY EVENTS & SHOWS

### **Ethel M Chocolates Holiday**

**Cactus Garden** | Henderson

Nov. 14-Jan. 1

Info: ethelm.com

### **Holiday Craft Bazaar** | Eureka Opera House

Nov. 16-17

Info: eurekacounty.com, 775-237-6006

### **Hummin'bolt Quilter's Guild**

**Christmas Bazaar** | Wells

Nov. 17

Info: wellsnevada.com, 775-752-3540

### **Polar Express** | Nevada Northern Railway, Ely

Starts Nov. 17

Tickets: nnry.com, 866-407-8326

### **Christmas Tree Lighting**

**Ceremony** | Downtown Reno

Nov. 20

Info: reno.gov, 775-333-7741

### **Mannheim Steamroller Christmas-**

**Vegas by Chip Davis** | The Palazzo, Las Vegas

Nov. 20-Dec. 30

Tickets: palazzo.com, 866-641-7469

### **Magical Forest** | Opportunity Village, Las Vegas

Nov. 21-Jan. 6

Tickets: opportunityvillage.org, 702-259-3741

### **The Nutcracker Ballet** | Carson City

Nov. 23-25

Tickets: visitcarsoncity.com, 800-NEVADA-1

### **Polar Express** | Virginia & Truckee Railroad

Nov. 23-Dec. 23, Fri.-Sun.

Tickets: visitcarsoncity.com, 800-NEVADA-1

### **The Great Santa Run** | Town Square Las Vegas

Dec. 1

Tickets: opportunityvillage.org, 702-259-3741

### **Zappos.com Rock 'n' Roll Marathon**

**& Half Marathon** | Las Vegas Strip

Dec. 2

Tickets: stripatnight.com, 310-854-4800

### **Santa Train** | Nevada Southern Railway, Boulder City

Dec. 8-9, 15-16, 22-23

Tickets: nevadasouthern.com, 702-486-5933

### **Live Nativity** | Austin

Dec. 11

Info: austinnevada.com, 775-964-2200

### **Reno Santa Crawl** | Downtown Reno

Dec. 15

Tickets: renosantacrawl.com

# GLITTERING LIGHTS

LAS VEGAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY  
CONTINUES SPECTACULAR  
HOLIDAY TRADITION

**G**littering Lights, the holiday drive-through spectacular, brightens Las Vegas Motor Speedway with the world's largest light tunnel and more than 450 animated light displays along a 2.5-mile racetrack.

This season, Glittering Lights is expanding with more displays that include a NASCAR scene and Avenue of Trees. The largest regional holiday light show is all LED, a more energy-efficient way to entertain Las Vegas nightly from November 16 through Jan. 6, 2013. "Visitors will be able to enjoy the festivities from the warmth and comfort of their vehicles," says Shannon Bentham, co-founder of Ivory Star Productions, which oversees the event.

The Avenue of Trees showcases more than 55 charities with custom dedication signs and trees decorated by each charity. Speedway Children's Charities receives a portion of ticket sales and provides funding for hundreds of children's charities throughout Southern Nevada. Goodwill of Southern Nevada will provide \$2 off admission with a donation of gently used items at any of the 30-plus sites in Southern Nevada or at the gates of Glittering Lights.



**WHERE**

Las Vegas Motor Speedway

**WHEN**

Nov. 16-Jan. 6, 2013  
 5:30-9 p.m., Mon.-Thurs.;  
 5:30-10 p.m., Fri.-Sun.

**TICKETS**

glitteringlightslasvegas.com  
 \$15/vehicle Mon.-Thurs.;  
 \$20 Fri.-Sun

**WORTH A CLICK**

ivorystar.com



# HOLIDAY RIDE

## DON'T MISS RSCVA'S WASHOE WILLYS VEHICLE

**T**his summer, the Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority rolled out its customized 1951 Willys Jeep four-wheel drive Station Wagon, which it calls "Washoe Willys." The Jeep's mission will be to represent the Reno/Lake Tahoe region by promoting the wide variety of attractions, festivals, and activities available in the area to crowds at conventions, tradeshows, and high-profile events in Northern Nevada, California, and farther afield.

It's slated to make an appearance at the Sparks Hometowne Christmas celebration, November 30-December 1.

**WHERE**

Sparks

**WHEN**

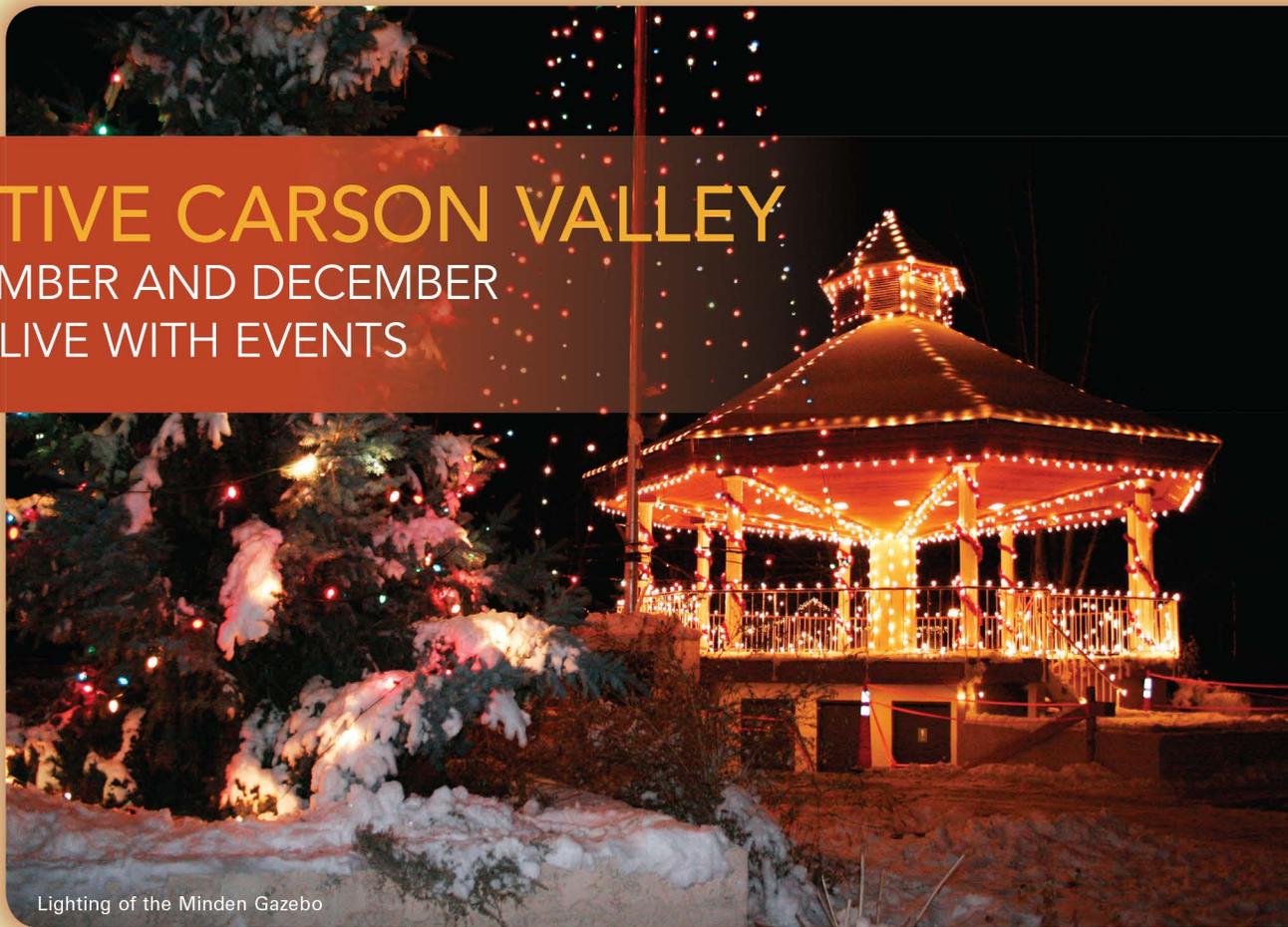
Nov. 30: Tree-Lighting Ceremony, 6:30 p.m.  
 Dec. 1: Hometowne Christmas Parade, noon-4 p.m.  
 Dec. 1: Book Drive & Craft Faire, noon-4 p.m.

**INFO**

cityofsparks.us/christmasparade  
 775-353-5555

# FESTIVE CARSON VALLEY

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER  
ARE ALIVE WITH EVENTS



Lighting of the Minden Gazebo

**NOV. 2-4**

**Scholarship Art Show**  
CVIC Hall, Minden  
775-782-8035

**NOV. 10**

**Holiday Shopping Bazaar**  
St. Galls Catholic Church, Gardnerville  
775-782-8027

**NOV. 17**

**Carson Valley Kiwanis  
Annual Turkey Bingo**  
CVIC Hall, Minden  
775-265-9443

**NOV. 28**

**Carson Valley Christmas  
Season Kick-Off**  
Heritage Park, Gardnerville  
775-783-7134

**NOV. 30**

**Christmas in Genoa  
Tree Lighting**  
Genoa  
775-782-8696

**Elks Annual Spaghetti Feed  
& Christmas Tree Bingo**  
CVIC Hall, Minden  
775-265-4523

**Lighting of the Minden Gazebo  
& Tree**  
Minden Park, Minden  
775-782-2444

**NOV. 30-DEC. 1**

**German Christmas Marketplace**  
Esmeralda Avenue, Minden  
775-782-2444

**DEC. 1**

**Breakfast with Santa**  
Genoa Community Center  
775-782-8696

**17th Annual Parade of Lights**  
Hwy. 395 from Gardnerville to Minden  
775-782-8144

**Holiday Gala Gallery of Trees  
& Cookie Walk**  
Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center,  
Gardnerville  
775-782-2555

**DEC. 2**

**East Fork Gallery  
Christmas Reception**  
East Fork Gallery, Gardnerville  
775-782-7629

**DEC. 8**

**Christmas in the Sierra Concert**  
Genoa Town Hall, Genoa  
775-782-8696

**MORE INFO**  
[visitcarsonvalley.org](http://visitcarsonvalley.org)



BELINDA GRANT

CARSON VALLEY  
**HIGH ROLLER**

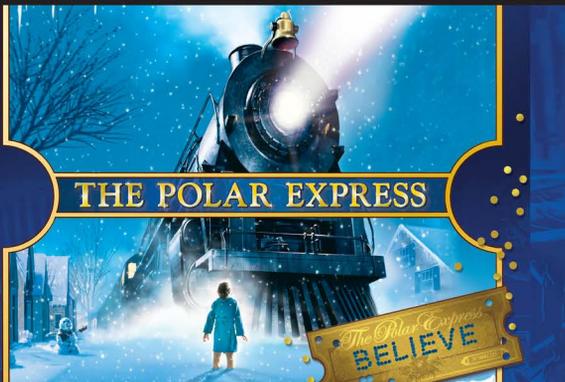


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**THE NUTCRACKER BALLET • NOV. 23-25**

A holiday classic that continues to delight audiences of all ages.

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**VISITCARSONCITY.COM** ❖ **800-NEVADA-1**

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JILL HARPER

## EVENTS & EXHIBITS

### El Dia de Los Muertos

Nevada State Museum, Carson City  
Nov. 10  
Info: [nevadaculture.org](http://nevadaculture.org),  
775-687-4810 x.237

### "BEYOND WILD"

Wilbur D. May Museum, Reno  
Thru Nov. 15  
Main event: Nov. 16-18  
Info: [wildwomenartists.com](http://wildwomenartists.com)

### What Continues the Dream: Contemporary Arts & Crafts from the Powwow Tradition

Pershing County Library, Lovelock  
Thru Nov. 16  
Info: [nac.nevadaculture.org](http://nac.nevadaculture.org), 775-273-2216

### "A Salute to the Military"

Sparks Museum & Cultural Center  
Thru Nov. 17  
Info: [sparksmuseum.org](http://sparksmuseum.org), 775-355-1144

### Namaste: Faces of India & Nepal

Southern Nevada Museum of Fine Art, Las Vegas  
Thru Jan. 5, 2013  
Info: [snmfa.com](http://snmfa.com)

### Dr. Entomo's Palace of Exotic Wonders! | Origen Museum at Springs Preserve,

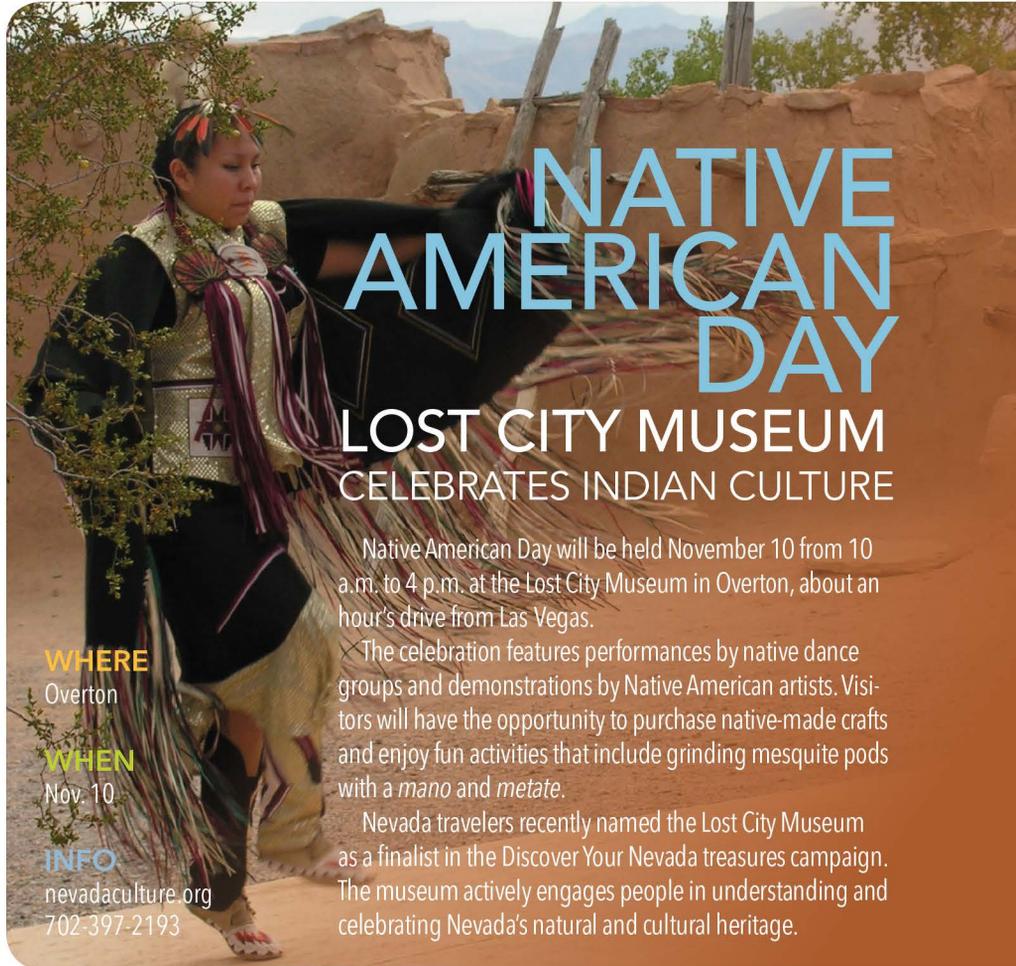
Las Vegas  
Thru Jan. 13, 2013  
Info: [springspreserve.org](http://springspreserve.org), 702-822-7700

### Da Vinci—The Genius | The Venetian, Las Vegas

Thru Jan. 2013  
Info: [venetian.com](http://venetian.com)

### The Light Circus: Art of Nevada Neon Signs | Nevada Museum of Art, Reno

Thru Feb. 10, 2013  
\*Michael Crow lecture on Nov. 16  
Info: [nevadaart.org](http://nevadaart.org), 775-329-3333



#### WHERE

Overton

#### WHEN

Nov. 10

#### INFO

[nevadaculture.org](http://nevadaculture.org)  
702-397-2193

# NATIVE AMERICAN DAY

## LOST CITY MUSEUM CELEBRATES INDIAN CULTURE

Native American Day will be held November 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lost City Museum in Overton, about an hour's drive from Las Vegas.

The celebration features performances by native dance groups and demonstrations by Native American artists. Visitors will have the opportunity to purchase native-made crafts and enjoy fun activities that include grinding mesquite pods with a *mano* and *metate*.

Nevada travelers recently named the Lost City Museum as a finalist in the Discover Your Nevada treasures campaign. The museum actively engages people in understanding and celebrating Nevada's natural and cultural heritage.

COURTESY LOST CITY MUSEUM

## DON'T MISS

Nevada Museums Association conference: *Museums in a Time of Change* | Fourth Ward School, Virginia City

Nov. 8-9  
Tickets: [nevadamuseums.org](http://nevadamuseums.org)

The annual conference includes a workshop titled *Keys to a Successful Museum Store* that will be presented by Andrew Andoniadis, a nationally recognized museum consultant. The focus of this half-day workshop is on giving store management—and a broad range of museum administrators—a practical outline of components to be monitored and evaluated to assure the maximization of visitor satisfaction and revenue.



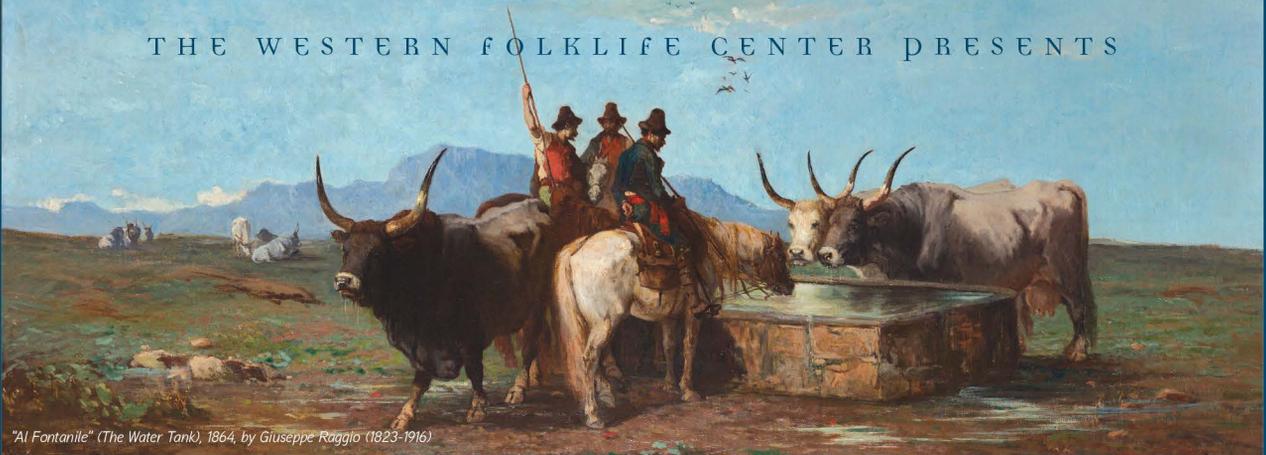
Fourth Ward School, Virginia City

## NEVADA POETRY OUT LOUD

Registrations for high school competition are due December 1.

High school teachers and students are invited to get involved in Nevada Poetry Out Loud, the dynamic poetry program focused on literary heritage through memorization and performance of classic and contemporary poetry. Registration for the competition is open to all Nevada public, private, charter, parochial, and alternative schools and home school associations. [nac.nevadaculture.org](http://nac.nevadaculture.org), 702-486-3738

THE WESTERN FOLKLIFE CENTER PRESENTS



"Al Fontanille" (The Water Tank), 1864, by Giuseppe Raggio (1823-1916)

THE NATION'S OLDEST AND LARGEST COWBOY POETRY AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

THE 29TH NATIONAL

# COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 2, 2013 • ELKO, NEVADA



**Featuring *butteri*, cowboys from the Tuscany region of Italy.**

With Baxter Black, Don Edwards, Cowboy Celtic, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Waddie Mitchell, The Quebe Sisters Band, Tom Russell, Dave Stamey and many more! For tickets and information:

**[www.westernfolklife.org](http://www.westernfolklife.org) or 888.880.5885**

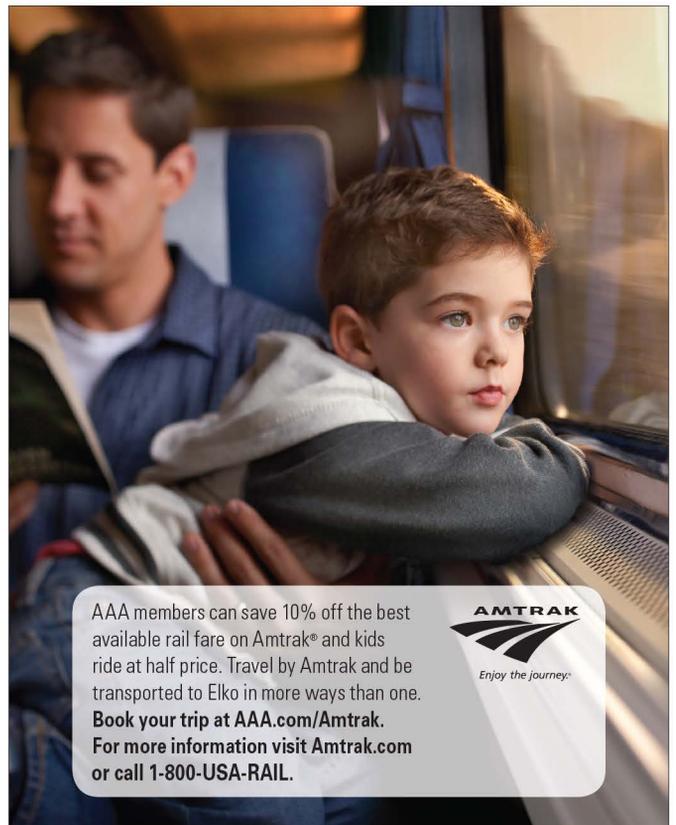
## TROUT CREEK WELLS, NEVADA



**Nov 17 • Hummin'bolt Quilter's Guild Christmas Bazaar**  
**Nov 17-18 • Chariot Races**

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Fares, routes, schedules and services are subject to change without notice. Three (3) day advance reservations are required. AAA members and immediate family receive 10% off the Adult rail fare. Up to two kids, ages 2-15, may ride at 50% off per adult rail fare purchased. Blackout dates and other restrictions may apply. Amtrak and Enjoy the journey are registered service marks of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.



# Print is Not Dead

Douglas County authors event proves that the written word is still in demand.

STORY & PHOTO BY CHARLIE JOHNSTON

William Hill (shown above) lights up when a young reader approaches him to ask for an autograph. The shy girl warms immediately as Hill holds up an array of colored pens and asks her which she would like him to use.

Hill writes fantasy novels—titles such as *Chasing Time*, *The Magic Bicycle*, and *Wizard Sword* give a good idea of the nature of his work—catered to children and young adults. His passion for writing those stories is rivaled only by his passion for teaching his young audience about the art of writing itself.

Elizabeth Leiknes is a seventh-grade English teacher at Carson Valley Middle School and author of *The Sinful Life of Lucy Burns* and *The Understory*. While she says her students should probably be a few years older before reading her novels, that doesn't stop her from fervently trying to instill her love of books in them. "Whenever we start a new book in class," she says with a chuckle, "we smell it first. There is nothing like the smell of a new book."

Hill and Leiknes were just two of more than 20 Nevada authors in attendance at the Douglas County Public Library's "An Evening with Local Authors" event in Minden on October 3. In a time when books and printed words seem to be increasingly fading from public interest, the event, and the authors and library employees who make it possible, are breaths of fresh air. What's more, the event is a hit. Dozens of people cluster around the authors and the tables displaying their books, and few people leave without purchasing a stack of titles.

Some people even inquire ahead of the event to ensure that their favorite Nevada authors will be in attendance. "Quite a few people called to ask if Todd Borg would be here," collection development librarian Luise Davis says. Borg's work, like Hill's and Leiknes', is fiction. Probably the most well known of the authors at the event, Borg's 10-volume Owen McKenna Mystery Series

is very popular, so much so that his on-hand stock of the series' most recent installment, *Tahoe Trap*, sold out.

Novelists aren't the only Nevada authors on hand, either. George E. Gruell says he and Sherman Swanson spent decades researching *Nevada's Changing Wildlife Habitat: An Ecological History*, which was released this year by the University of Nevada Press. Maggie Anthony's works, such as the latest book in her Hank Faro Mystery Series, *Death is a Crapshoot*, weave her storytelling into historical fact.

Sandie La Nae and Janice Oberding have a penchant for the paranormal and have each authored books about ghost tours and ghost hunting in the Silver State. La Nae says she is also a psychic and wrote a book about the power and uses of psychic stones, her medium of choice. Oberding is also a historian and has written about Nevada's often-obscure past, such as *Under a Cruel Moon: Floyd Loveless' Story*, an account of the 1944 execution of 17-year-old Floyd Loveless, the youngest man to ever be put to death at the Nevada State Prison in Carson City. ▾

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Vegas Valley Book Festival

Nov. 1-3

Most events free & open to public

[vegasvalleybookfestival.org](http://vegasvalleybookfestival.org)

702-229-5431

### Lecture—Virginia City & its Archaeology: A Thirty-Year Overview

Nov. 15 at Nevada State Museum, Carson City

Includes book signing of Ron James'

*Virginia City: Secrets of a Western Past*

[nevadaculture.org](http://nevadaculture.org)

775-687-4810 x. 237

# Winnemucca

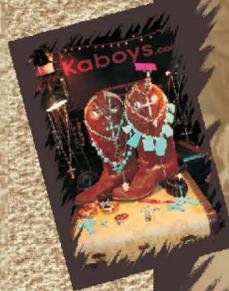
*There's More Than Meets the Eye...*

## WINNEMUCCA RANCH HAND RODEO WEEKEND

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Or Visit:  
[www.cowboycountry.com](http://www.cowboycountry.com)  
[www.travelnevada.com](http://www.travelnevada.com)



# POMEGRANATE ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

## LOGANDALE HOSTS DOWNHOME COUNTRY FAIR

**T**he 17th annual Pomegranate Arts & Crafts Festival takes place November 2-3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at the Clark County Fairgrounds in Logandale. It is an old-fashioned country fair sponsored by the nonprofit Moapa Valley Art Guild and enjoyed by all ages. There is no admission charge.

Fine art created by local artists, handmade crafts, juicy pomegranates, pomegranate jelly, and outstanding fair food will be on sale. There will be ongoing raffles of art, craft, and sponsor gift items. Free entertainment and artist demonstrations will be provided. It's an opportunity for the whole family to have a great time without spending a lot of money.

Funds raised by this event will help the Moapa Valley Art Guild carry out its goal of promoting the visual arts in the area, which includes awarding up to \$3,000 each year in college scholarship funds to local high school graduates in the visual arts.

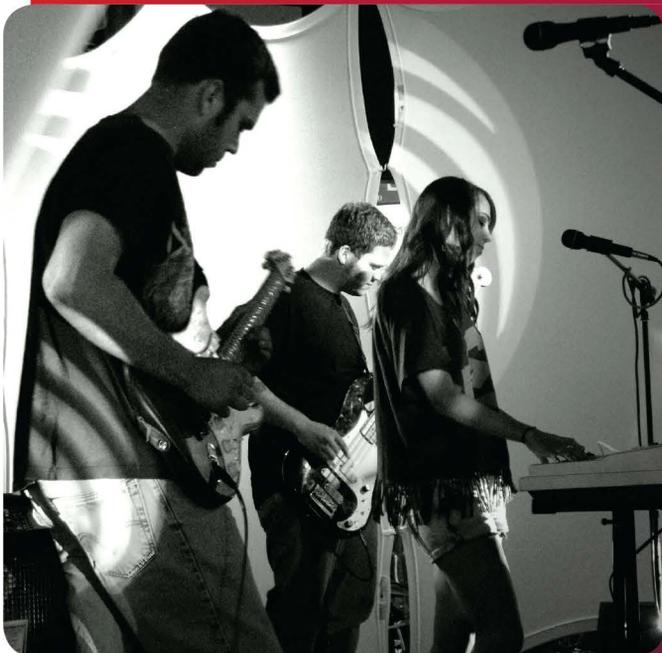
The Moapa Valley Art Guild is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in its 53rd year.



**WHERE**  
Logandale

**WHEN**  
Nov. 2-3

**INFO**  
moapavalleyartguild.net  
702-397-6444



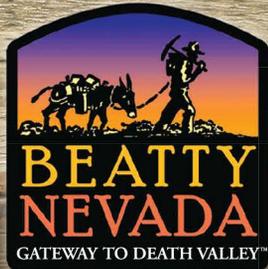
## DON'T MISS

Maryland Parkway Music Festival  
Las Vegas  
Nov. 2-4  
Tickets: 702-353-8178  
or e-mail [marylandpkwymusic@yahoo.com](mailto:marylandpkwymusic@yahoo.com)

This three-day event will feature music, art, poets, vendors, exhibits, demonstrations, and more. The festival takes place in and around the neighborhoods of Maryland Parkway and features local as well as touring bands and musicians. The goal is to showcase the diverse cultures, businesses, talents, and neighborhoods around this historic Las Vegas street.

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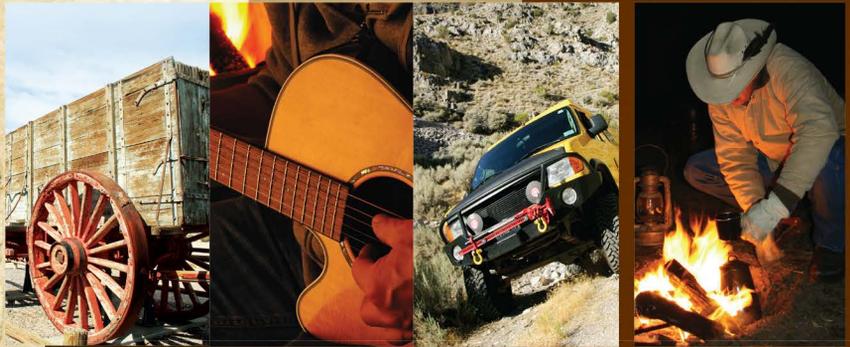


Ph: 1.866.736.3716

[www.beattynevada.org](http://www.beattynevada.org)



## THE SPIRIT OF THE GOLD RUSH!



### DEATH VALLEY '49ERS ENCAMPMENT

**[NOVEMBER 7-11]** Celebrate the spirit of 1849 and welcome the wagon trains just as they did during the days of the gold rush. This 5 day event includes **Western Music, Art Show, Crafts, Off-road Tours, Parade, Cowboy Poetry and more!** And, located just 7 miles from Death Valley, **Beatty, Nevada** is the perfect place to stay and play while enjoying the Death Valley '49ers Encampment.

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# FILM FESTIVALS

RENO AND LAKE TAHOE OFFER ACTION-PACKED MOVIES



"The Mono Lake Story"

**WHERE**

Reno

**WHEN**

Nov. 8

**TICKETS**

wildnevada.org

Adults: \$10; or \$12 at door;

Students: \$5

**T**he Nevada Wilderness Project's annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival will be held November 8 at the Grove in Reno.

This year's lineup of films includes "A Skier's Journey," documenting an exhilarating ski trip to Argentina; "Connecting the Gems," a 520-mile hike through one of the Northern Rockies' premiere wildlife corridors; and "The Mono Lake Story," which documents how a plucky group of conservationists defeated Los Angeles' plan to drain the lake.

The Grove is located at 95 Foothill Road at the corner of South Virginia Street in south Reno.

There will be live music, refreshments, environmental displays, free swag, and raffle tickets sold for cool products from Osprey, Patagonia, and other outdoor retailers. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the films start at 7 p.m.

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival is a fundraiser for the Nevada Wilderness Project. NWP has been protecting the wild places of Nevada since 1999, working for wildlife habitat conservation and wild lands preservation.

## DON'T MISS

### TAHOE ADVENTURE FILM FESTIVAL

Stateline, Dec. 8

Tickets: [laketahoeilmfestival.com](http://laketahoeilmfestival.com)

The 11th annual Tahoe Adventure Film Festival offers a fast-paced, high-energy series of films that premiere Saturday, December 8 at MontBleu Resort in Stateline.

The spectrum of heart-pounding sports include wing-suit base jumping, skiing, snowboarding, kayaking, rock climbing, skating, and mountain biking. Many of the segments are exclusive edits, including previews of movies that have not yet been released. The main event starts at 7 p.m. showcasing glimpses from the best action sports films of the year.



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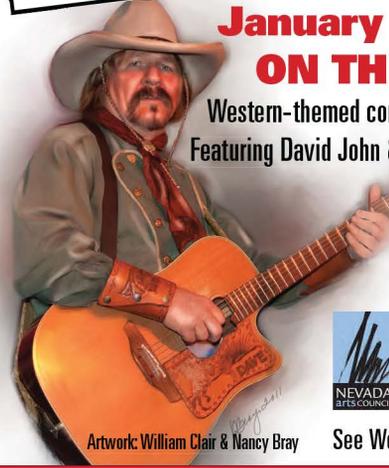


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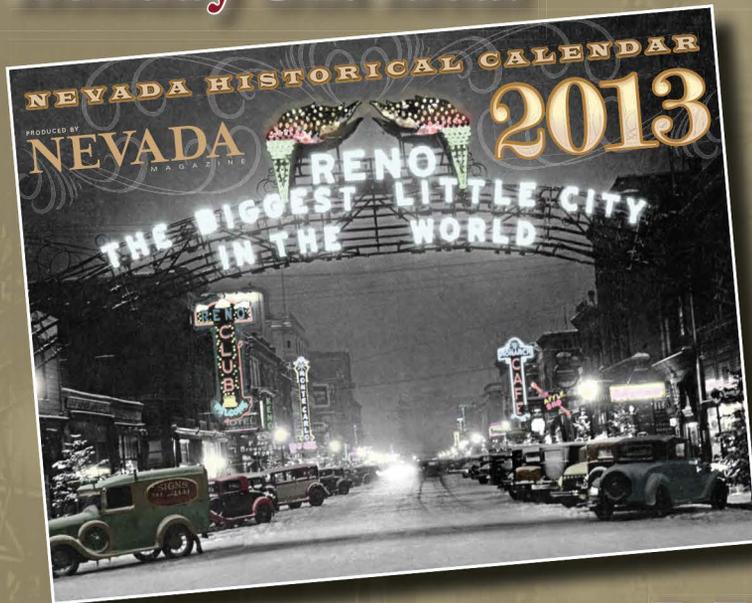


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**NEVADA**  
MAGAZINE



DINI ESPLIN

# Ice Fishing

A six-pack of Nevada waterways that make winter anglers work a bit harder for their catch.

BY CHARLIE JOHNSTON

News anchor Tom Brokaw once said, “If fishing is a religion, fly-fishing is high church.” If that’s the case, then ice fishermen—the most devoted and patient of all anglers—are surely monks. Luckily for those monastic men and women, Nevada is home to a hallowed few frozen temples of the tackle box.

Despite the state’s desert reputation, the ice at Cave Lake, Comins Lake, Eagle Valley Reservoir, South Fork Reservoir, Wild Horse Reservoir, and Wilson Reservoir is generally safe through much of the winter, and the water below it produces fish that make the long, cold hours worth every numb finger and toe.

## CAVE LAKE

Perhaps the most popular ice-fishing destination in Nevada, Cave Lake sits 15 miles southeast of Ely via U.S. Highway 93 and State Route 486. The main attraction of Cave Lake State Park, the reservoir is a favorite fishery in all seasons and produces wild brown trout and stocked rainbow trout.

The angler-centric organization Take Me Fishing recently named Cave Lake State Park to its list of the top eight state parks in the country, due in no small part to the lake’s reputation as a stalwart location to drop a line.

The lake’s winter ice can reach up to two feet thick during the coldest part of winter thanks to its high altitude (7,300 feet) and

abundant shade provided by the imposing ridges of the Schell Creek Range. During Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend in mid-January, Cave Lake hosts the White Pine Fire & Ice Show. The event features an ice- and snow-sculpting competition on the lake’s frozen surface followed by an exceptional fireworks display. Fishermen take the lake back in force the following weekend during the Ely Rotary Club’s annual Cave Lake Ice Fishing Derby.

## COMINS LAKE

Just off Highway 93, a few miles south of Ely, Comins Lake was created in 1953 to facilitate a highway realignment. Today, the shallow 410-acre reservoir is a frequently visited eastern Nevada fishing hole that produces brown and rainbow trout, and invasive Northern Pike. Cold winters produce ice of a safe thickness to fish, but warm afternoons can make the shoreline ice very soft.

## EAGLE VALLEY RESERVOIR

The southernmost of Nevada’s ice-fishing destinations, Eagle Valley Reservoir in Spring Valley State Park owes its occasional winter ice to its diminutive size (65 acres at capacity), relatively high altitude (5,836 feet), and the deep, shaded canyon it occupies. Though challenging to reach when winter snow blocks S.R. 322 from Pioche, the lake produces sizeable rainbow trout to make up for the added effort of accessing it.



Opposite page: Todd Esplin (front) and his son, Rorke, get an early start on the ice at South Fork Reservoir. This page, left to right: Madi Murray and Bryce Vorwaller proudly display their catch at Wild Horse Reservoir. Murray and Gracie MacGregor try to spot fish under the ice at Wild Horse.

## SOUTH FORK RESERVOIR

*Nevada Magazine* blog contributor and ice-fishing skeptic Jay Dudley was won over by the fishing at South Fork State Recreation Area (read his story by searching “ice fishing” at [nevadamag.blogspot.com](http://nevadamag.blogspot.com)) when friends convinced him to give it a try in March 2010. Perhaps Dudley was impressed by the lake’s ease of access from Elko and Spring Creek (16 and nine miles, respectively, via S.R. 228, S.R. 227, and Lower South Fork Road) and by the plump two-pound brown, cutbow, and rainbow trout that anglers reportedly pull from beneath the ice. Typically slower to freeze and faster to thaw than neighboring ice-fishing destinations such as Wild Horse and Wilson Reservoirs, South Fork’s ice-fishing season usually spans January to February.

## WILD HORSE RESERVOIR

The centerpiece of Wild Horse State Recreation Area, 67 miles north of Elko via S.R. 225, is Wild Horse Reservoir. A popular year-round fishing destination, the lake’s high altitude (6,205 feet) and latitude make it one of the state’s beloved ice-fishing destinations. Most anglers at Wild Horse pursue rainbow trout, but the lake also holds German brown trout and yellow perch.

Winters at Wild Horse are among the coldest in Nevada, and though the ice varies from year to year, it is generally safe to fish from December through March. The annual Wild Horse Ice Fishing Tournament is held in February—weather and ice conditions permitting.

## WILSON RESERVOIR

Perhaps the hardest to reach of all of Nevada’s ice-fishing destinations, Wilson Reservoir’s unpaved access road is occasionally rendered impassible by winter storms. Anglers who endure the 90-mile one-way trek from Elko by way of S.R. 225, S.R. 226, and various dirt roads are rewarded with what the Elko Convention and Visitors Authority calls “great trout fishing” and all the solitude their hearts desire. Fishermen are encouraged to call the Bureau of Land Management’s Elko District Office for road conditions before trekking to Wilson. ❄️

## EDITOR’S NOTE

Though the ice at all of these lakes is generally thick enough to fish starting in December or January, conditions can vary greatly, so much so that Cave Lake State Park had to cancel the White Pine Fire & Ice Show and the Ely Rotary Club’s annual fishing derby this year. Inquire locally for up-to-date ice conditions, and be prepared to change ice-fishing plans on short notice.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### Cave Lake State Park

PO Box 151761  
Ely, NV 89315  
[parks.nv.gov](http://parks.nv.gov)  
e-mail: [cavelake@mwpower.net](mailto:cavelake@mwpower.net)

#### Eagle Valley Reservoir

Spring Valley State Park  
HC 74 Box 201  
Pioche, NV 89043  
[parks.nv.gov](http://parks.nv.gov)  
775-962-5102

#### South Fork State Recreation Area

353 Lower South Fork #8  
Spring Creek, NV 89815  
[parks.nv.gov](http://parks.nv.gov)  
775-744-4346

#### Wild Horse State Recreation Area

HC 31 Box 265  
Elko, NV 89801  
[parks.nv.gov](http://parks.nv.gov)  
775-385-5939

#### Wilson Reservoir

Bureau of Land Management,  
Elko District  
3900 E. Idaho St.  
Elko, NV 89801  
[blm.gov](http://blm.gov)  
775-753-0200

### WORTH A CLICK

#### Elko Convention and Visitors Authority

[exploreelko.com](http://exploreelko.com)

#### Fish the West

[fishthewest.com](http://fishthewest.com)

#### Nevada Department of Wildlife

[ndow.org/fish](http://ndow.org/fish)



# A Bird's-Eye View of the Reno Air Races

The 49th annual TravelNevada.com Reno Air Races attracts fans and participants from around the globe.

STORY & PHOTOS BY ERIC CACHINERO



Pure-pumping adrenaline coupled with incredible horsepower perfectly complemented the heart-pounding vessels traveling near the speed of sound. Although inaudible over the screaming engines of the T-6s, the crowd's cheers acted as a catalyst to these beautiful machines, pushing them faster and faster as they roared around the next pylon.

I attended the 49th annual TravelNevada.com Reno Air Races on Friday, September 14 at Reno Stead Airport. Every year, the five-day event draws thousands of national and international spectators to be humbled by this one-of-a-kind spectacle. From daredevil aerobatics performed by David Martin and his Breitling CAP-232, to the neck-and-neck air battles engaged by the Formula Ones, the event has something for all plane enthusiasts.

As pilots warmed their engines in the mid-morning heat and spectators began to find their bearings amongst the crowded grandstands and aircraft pits, a familiar tune rang over the crackling arena speakers. As I removed my hat and squinted toward the sky, the first view of our magnificent stars and

stripes being waved in front of the crowd by parachute came into view. I watched on as parachutist and double-amputee Dana Bowman eloquently guided down the flag. The subsequent scream of F-15s signaled that the welcoming ceremony was a success.

Continuing my way through the pits, I met with Reno pilot David Hulst, who guided me through the different classes of aircraft and explained the rules of the races. In a small, ornate hangar, Hulst proudly displayed a plane he occasionally pilots, the 8KCAB Super Decathlon, or as he describes it, "the plane the old-school guys learned to fly on." Like most pilots who attend this event, Hulst is fascinated with the races and admires their unique nature. "It's one of the only events of its kind," Hulst said. "It pulls people from all over the place."

As Hulst and I neared the next hangar, a yellow biplane with giant batwings painted on the underside came into view. Appropriately named "The Batplane," the Pitts S-1S gleamed as it awaited its big moment in the races. Owner and racing pilot Casey Erickson has been flying for 20 years and said the 900-pound Batplane is just perfect for her. "I've never flown anything as difficult," she said. "And I absolutely love it." Erickson owns a flight school in Southern California and never misses a chance to make the annual trek to Reno.

In the distance appeared an icon which I found myself drawn to like a moth to a flame: a tower that prides itself as the symbol that officially greets pilots and participants alike, the air traffic control tower. Militantly painted on each side of this familiar tower are the words "Welcome to Reno Stead Airport Ele. 5,046."

As a member of the media, I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to climb the tower, which offered truly the best seats in the house. I made my way up the seven-story stairwell of the tower and reached the top deck just in time to hear the starting announcement for one of the greatest displays of the day.



8KCAB SUPER DECATHLON PLANE

With an ear-piercing thunder, The Patriots Jet Team took to the sky in a brilliant display of skill and precision matched with an equally impressive display of color. I watched on as six L-39 jets danced in an aerobatic exhibition that had the crowds on their feet.

Impressing both the seasoned pilots with their razor-close passes and families with their vivid trails of red, white, and blue smoke, the Patriots truly earned their place as "the Premier Civilian Owned Jet Aerobatic Team."

The high-octane, need-for-speed mentality that lives in every single pilot will undoubtedly continue to shine through here for years to come. As Erickson sums it up, "When the flag drops, it's full throttle; it's game on." ▀

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: AIRRACE.ORG, 775-972-6663**



## DON'T MISS

Aviation Nation  
Nellis Air Force Base, Nov. 10-11  
Tickets: nellis.af.mil, 702-652-2750

The largest free public event in Nevada returns to Las Vegas November 10-11 when the U.S. Air Force hosts Aviation Nation 2012, which is the Nellis Air Force Base open house airshow. Several military air demonstration teams, including the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and the F-22 Aerial Demonstration Team, will participate. The two-day event includes static displays of military aircraft, historical displays, community exhibits, and a Kids' Zone.

# The Great Reno Balloon Race

STORY & PHOTOS BY AMY VIGEN

If you've ever ridden in a hot-air balloon, you probably know how exhilarating it is. And if you've ever helped prepare a hot-air balloon for flight, you surely know how much hard work it entails. I got my first taste of that hard work early on Thursday, September 6 at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park as pilots prepared and tested their balloons for The Great Reno Balloon Race.

As I entered the park, Sheldon Grauberger and Randy Pote greeted me. Grauberger would be my pilot, and Pote his "team." The pair have been best friends since high school, and both became interested in hot-air balloons shortly after that. I was rattled about riding in a hot-air balloon for the first time, but Grauberger calmed my nerves by telling me that he had been flying balloons 19 out of the last 24 days. He is a real estate agent in Las Vegas and guides tours from a Remax balloon. Today, we were going to be flying in a balloon given to him by his piloting tutor.

As dark clouds moved and expanded overhead, we began by spreading tarps over the grass. "This is easy," I thought as I dragged a corner of the tarp. I had no idea what hard work lay ahead. The balloon's basket came next. Square and resembling wicker material, it looked to me like a giant Easter basket—I guess that would make its passengers the "eggs." We hefted the basket out of the trailer and onto the tarps. Slowly, everything was coming together.

We then dragged the balloon out of the trailer and out of its bag; the thing was enormous! 105,000 square feet to be exact. Grauberger explained to me that 105,000 basketballs could fit inside, giving some perspective on the sheer size of the balloon. Colorful ripstop nylon fabric billowed out onto the tarps. "Joseph's Coat" was the balloon's name, a biblical reference to Joseph's "coat of many colors" in Genesis.

Now came the exciting part—inflating the balloon with a large fan. Grauberger and I held up the outside opening of the balloon as Pote started the fan, pulling a lever like the starter cord on a lawnmower. Loud noise and a rush of air surrounded me as the balloon gradually started to inflate.

As the air pumped into the balloon, Grauberger instructed us to go under it to loosen it up. At first I was apprehensive—wouldn't we suffocate under all of that fabric? I didn't suffocate, but I did have fun. We burrowed under the colorful nylon, Grauberger in the lead, throwing our arms back and forth, up and down, like we were swimming through a gigantic wave of color. I barely remember being scared or worried because I was laughing so hard.



Once the balloon had enough air in it, we got to walk around inside, too. This part was my favorite—I felt as if I was in elementary school P.E. again, when we got to play inside those massive, rainbow-colored parachutes. After just five seconds inside of that balloon, I went from 22 to eight years old again, running around the perimeter and basking in the bright, vivid colors.

A few minutes after we exited the balloon, it started to rise. This was mesmerizing—seeing it transform from a flat cloth of colors to a three-dimensional giant lifting itself skyward. Other balloons around us also started to elevate, and soon the fields of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park were blooming with everything from giant Pepsi cans to strawberries and even Darth Vader's head.

All of a sudden, the sky darkened as thunderclouds moved in above us. People in neon orange baseball caps rode around in golf carts warning the pilots of an approaching rainstorm that meant no take-off until it ended. However, like most desert storms in Nevada, it ended as quickly as it had begun, the sun peeked through the clouds, and it was time to get back to work.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

renoballoon.com  
775-826-1181



Thunderstorms and sporadic rain showers on Thursday, September 6 prevented *Nevada Magazine* editorial intern Amy Vigen from taking the hot-air-balloon ride she had expected, but she still enjoyed the morning with the balloon's pilot and crew and was able to take a tethered ride after all.

Grauberger called me over to check out the burners for the balloon. He said one of them uses enough propane to heat 120 houses! Our balloon had two burners, but some use up to four. The purpose of these is to heat the air inside the balloon, which helps it to rise and stay in the sky. Grauberger pulled the two burner

triggers and a loud, unsettling noise made me jump. He laughed and told me it was my turn to test them out.

I got into the basket and nervously grabbed the triggers, not really wanting to be that close to the noise, but also not wanting to seem like a wimp. I pulled them at the same time and closed my eyes. Heat waves baked the top of my head, making me fear that my hair would catch on fire.

Next came the waiting. A wave of nervousness engulfed me as we waited for the event organizers to tell us to prepare for take-off. Assembling and preparing the balloon all morning had kept me from thinking about how nervous I was to go up; now there was nothing to do but wander around and nothing to take the edge off. Just as I was beginning to feel calm and more excited than nervous, an event organizer told Grauberger that the field was closed and that there would be no flying in the balloons today. Way to burst my bubble—or should I say balloon?

Grauberger must have seen the disappointment on my face be-

cause he offered to tether the balloon, which meant it would be tied to the ground but that we could go up in the air about 10-20 feet. While this would never be the same as 10,000 feet, I was still excited to go up.

With Pote on the ground holding onto one rope, and another tethered to Grauberger's truck, we gradually lifted into the air. This part was bizarre to me—I suppose I figured that it would be a bumpy ride. Instead, I felt nothing under my feet and didn't even realize that we were off the ground until I was looking down at the trees.

After coming back to the ground, I felt satisfied with the day. I didn't get to ride in a hot air balloon the way I expected, but it was still quite the experience. I may not yet have an appreciation for the beautiful views one might see while thousands of feet up in a balloon, but I definitely have gained an appreciation for pilots—putting those monsters together and preparing them for flight is quite the job. ▀



## DON'T MISS

### HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL

Mesquite, Jan. 26-27, 2013

Tickets: [casablancaresort.com](http://casablancaresort.com), 877-438-2929

The first balloon lifts off with the Stars and Stripes to begin the festivities. The other balloons follow as they chase the lead balloon and race around Virgin Valley. Tethered balloon rides will be available at the CasaBlanca Resort parking lot following the morning mass ascension of balloons. As the sun goes down, a balloon glow offers spectators a breathtaking view of inflated balloons lighted by their burners. Balloons will be on display with the opportunity to chat with the pilots.

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reno.gov, 775-334-INFO

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**Battle Mountain (Lander County Convention & Tourism Authority)**  
battlemountaintourism.com, 775-635-1112

**Black Rock Desert (Friends of Black Rock High Rock)**  
blackrockdesert.org, 775-557-2900

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explorecarlinnv.com, 775-754-6354

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**Elko Convention & Visitors Authority**  
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**Eureka County Economic Development Program**  
eurekacounty.com, 775-237-5484

**Fallon Convention & Tourism Authority**  
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cityoffernley.org, 775-784-9800

**Gardnerville (Town of)**  
gardnerville-nv.gov, 775-782-7134

**Genoa (Town of)**  
genoanevada.org, 775-782-8696

**The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce**  
austinnevada.com, 775-964-2200



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**Hawthorne Convention Center**  
visitmineralcounty.com, 775-945-5854

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jackpotnevada.com, 800-821-1103

**Jarbidge**  
jarbidge.org

**Lovelock**  
loverslock.com, 775-273-7213

**Minden (Town of)**  
townofminden.com, 775-782-5976

**Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation**  
pyramidlake.us, 775-574-1000

**Sparks (City of)**  
cityofsparks.us, 775-353-5555

**Spring Creek (Association)**  
springcreeknv.net, 775-753-6295

**Virginia City Tourism Commission**  
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 800-718-7587

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winnemucca.nv.us, 800-962-2638

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**City of Las Vegas**  
lasvegasnevada.gov, 702-229-6011

**Las Vegas Convention  
& Visitors Authority**  
visitlasvegas.com, 702-892-0711

**Beatty Chamber of Commerce**  
beattynevada.org, 866-736-3716

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bouldercitychamber.com, 702-293-2034

**Goldfield Chamber of Commerce**  
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lincolncountynevada.com, 877-870-3003

**Mesquite (City of)**  
mesquitenv.gov, 702-346-5295

**Moapa Valley Chamber of Commerce**  
moapavalleychamber.com, 702-398-7160

**Pahrump**  
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primmvalleyresorts.com, 888-386-7867

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**Tonopah (Town of)**  
tonopahnevada.com, 775-482-6336

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cowboycountry.com

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nevadaindianterritory.com, 775-687-8333

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lvtterritory.com, 702 348-4708

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nevadasilvertrails.com

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ponyexpressnevada.com, 888-359-9449

**Reno-Tahoe Territory**  
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**Brüka Theatre, Reno**  
bruka.org, 775-323-3221

**Eureka Opera House**  
eurekacounty.com, 775-237-6006

**Misfits Theater Group, Dayton**  
misfitstheatergroup.org

**Oats Park Art Center, Fallon**  
churchillarts.org, 775-423-1440

**Pioneer Center, Reno**  
pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6600

**Piper's Opera House, Virginia City**  
piperslive.com, 775-847-0433

**Western Folklife Center, Elko**  
westernfolklife.org, 775-738-7508



**Yerington Theatre for the Arts**  
yeringtonarts.com, 775-463-1783

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**Great Basin National Park**  
nps.gov/grba, 775-234-7517

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nps.gov/deva, 760-786-3200

**STATE PARKS**

**Nevada State Parks**  
parks.nv.gov, 775-684-2770



COURTESY RENO ACES

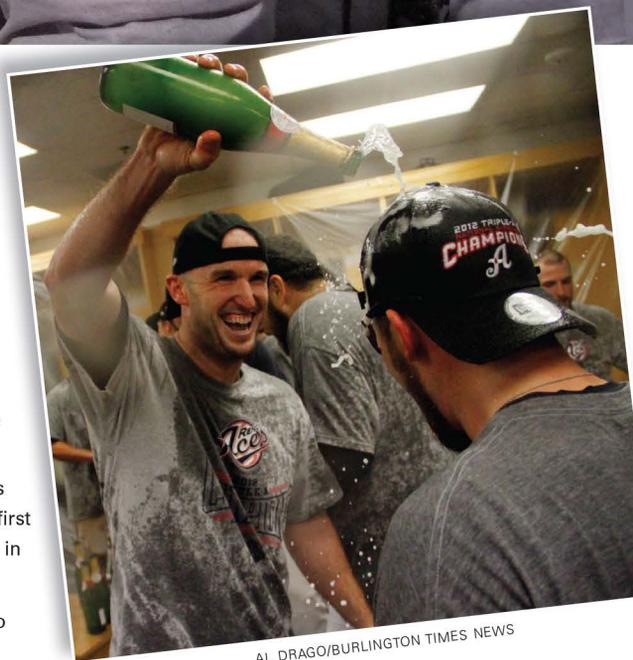
The Reno Aces baseball team basks in the postgame glory after their big win on September 18 in Durham, North Carolina. Right: Pitcher Jensen Lewis, who threw a scoreless eighth inning in the Aces' Triple-A National Championship victory over the Pawtucket Red Sox, douses infielder Taylor Harbin with celebratory champagne as the players took the festivities from the field to the locker room.

## Reno Aces Win 2012 Triple-A Championship

On September 18, the Aces baseball team made Reno proud when they scored the game's first eight runs and never trailed, knocking off International League champion Pawtucket, 10-3, at Durham Bulls Athletic Park in North Carolina to win the Triple-A National Championship.

The victory over the Rhode Island squad capped the most successful season in the franchise's short four-year history—a 2012 campaign that included a club-record 81 wins and the team's first Pacific Coast League title. The Arizona Diamondbacks affiliate also captured the championship in 2006 as the Tucson Sidewinders, before the franchise moved to Reno in 2009.

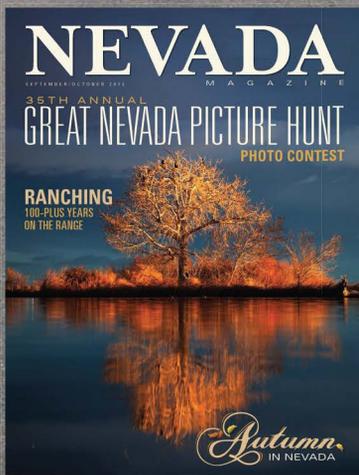
The Aces will begin their title defense in April 2013. Aces Ballpark in downtown Reno will also host the 2013 Triple-A All-Star Game on July 10, 2013. [renoaces.com](http://renoaces.com), 775-334-4700



AL DRAGO/BURLINGTON TIMES NEWS

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Extraterrestrial Highway

# NEVADA

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