

# NEVADA

MAGAZINE

December 1998

INSIDE:  
Complete Guide  
to Events & Shows

## Gourmet Buffets

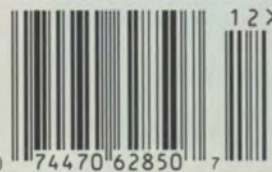
An appetizing history, and  
where to find the  
state's best spreads  
for the holidays

## Skiing Nevada

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at casino smorgasbords



**On the Cover:**  
Executive chef Chet Teel  
(left), server Jennifer  
Harris, and buffet chef  
Don Loan at Main Street  
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Buffet in Las Vegas.  
Photo by Chris Leedham

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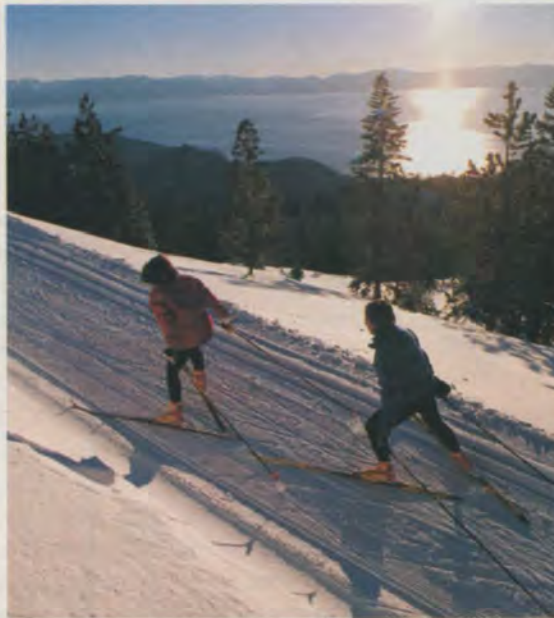
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# The Culinary Traveler

**Connie Emerson** is known primarily as a travel writer. The Reno resident has written six travel books, with *Family Fun Guide to Las Vegas* her latest, as well as four books for writers and hundreds of magazine articles. But Connie also has a reputation in another field—as a competitive cook. This fall she traveled to Napa Valley to compete in the Build a Better Burger Contest sponsored by Sutter Home Winery. She has competed in the Pillsbury Bake Off and the National Chicken Cooking Contest. She won \$10,000 in a beverage contest for inventing a holiday drink, the Mardi Gras Mango Mint Twister.

"I find that contest cooking and writing are extremely compatible," she says. "You have to fashion titles. You have to find the best angle. It's very synergistic." Connie focuses on food in this issue's story, "Made in Nevada," in which she follows up her 1989 review of Nevada's specialty-food entrepreneurs. "I have an affinity for people who like food," she says. "I was interested in how hard they all work. I also was impressed with the advances in packaging."



Connie Emerson browses the Carson Farmer's Market.

Connie and her husband, Ralph, have lived in Reno for 27 years, but she still travels the world. In the past year alone she has visited Bangkok, Tokyo, Vienna, Trinidad, Norway, and Israel. But even when she's writing, her mind tends to stir. "I like to interrupt my writing and go to the supermarket. I like to wander the aisles, see what the new products are," Connie says. "The whole food business fascinates me."

**Martha R. Goodrich**, who recalls "A Goldfield Christmas Eve" in this issue, grew up in Goldfield near her husband, Ken. They were born the same year, on the same street, but after high school the two followed different paths, got married, and raised families. "I didn't see Ken for nearly 50 years," says Martha. When she looked him up while attending a convention in Reno in 1991, both were single. "My father wouldn't let me date in high school," Martha recalls, "but I always had the biggest crush on Ken." Reunited, the two Goldfielders were married and today live in Sparks.—David Moore

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# Letters

Dayton, Genoa, and sole searching in the Rubies.

## Nevada's Oldest Town?

"What's Nevada's Oldest Town?" by Martin Griffith last issue revealed untold truths about Nevada's earliest settlement and was the talk of the town in Dayton. Conversations about the article between old-timers and newcomers brought cheers and smiles. A sign on the Dayton Depot marquee was changed to read, "Dayton, Nevada's oldest town." Everyone loved it.

As a result of the article in *Nevada Magazine* revealing that Dayton is at least a few weeks older than Genoa, the Dayton Town Council is considering changing its stationery letterhead, using "Nevada's earliest settlement" as a motto.



Billie Rightmire of Genoa and Ray Walmsley of Dayton discuss which town was first.

Most important, the story sets Nevada's history straight. Old-time Daytonites have always maintained that Dayton is Nevada's earliest settlement. To them, it is an especially good feeling to give the community its rightful place in history. Thank you to Martin Griffith for believing Dayton folks' historic contentions about the town enough to do years of research and to State Archivist Guy Rocha for his quest for truth in Nevada history despite criticism from others.

By the way, Daytonites still believe the community was settled permanently in 1849 when gold was discovered by Mormon guide Abner Blackburn, and the quest for such documented truth continues. Gold-camp

dwellings may not have been fancy, but, it can be said, "One man's dugout is another man's castle."

Laura Tennant  
Dayton

## What's Under Foot?

I received my Sept/Oct issue of *Nevada Magazine* and came upon "The Trail to Liberty" by Richard A. Lovett. That picture with the hiker wearing thongs was a riot. Was this picture staged or were his feet hot? I have hunted deer and elk, hiked many a mountain, wrapped my feet in duct tape, used nonslip socks and good hiking boots and still had blisters. If the fellow in the photo is hiking in his thongs, he is one tough hombre.

Vernon Carlson  
Ashland, OR

## Shoe and Tell

Thank you for providing us with an interesting and informative magazine. We look forward to receiving each issue.

The Sept/Oct issue had an article about hiking in the Rubies by Richard A. Lovett entitled "The Trail to Liberty." I question the validity of the photo on page 74. Did the gentleman shown in the picture actually hike the trail wearing that type of footwear (thongs)? As my husband and I have many hiking miles to our name, we find it a little difficult to believe that someone would actually risk a foot injury to hike in that type of footwear. If he actually does his hiking in those shoes, I feel sorry for his feet.

Bob and MaryAnne Napper  
Las Vegas

## Rooting for the Root Beer

My husband and I travel to Las Vegas every summer for a two-week vacation. We flew to Reno for a couple of days in the middle of our Las Vegas trip this year. After reading "Carhops and Root Beer" by Gigi Orlowski in the July/August issue, we decided to take a little side trip to Bob's Root Beer in Fallon. What a nice little place! The root beer was awesome, we happened to hit 69-cent hamburger day (Tuesdays, and the burgers were absolutely great), and our carhop, Jenny, couldn't have been

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more pleasant or accommodating. She was a bit surprised that we traveled from New Hampshire to visit Bob's, and when we told her about the article in *Nevada Magazine*, she directed us to the plaque out back recording your visit. Please keep up with the little ditties on out-of-the-way places in Nevada. It gives us different things to do each trip and makes us love your state even more.

**Paula Hamilton**  
Brentwood, NH

### Basque Trip Follow-Up

As a follow-up to our story, "Basque Road Trip," in the July/August issue, there are a few changes that we noted during our annual tour of Nevada's Basque restaurants on the way to the National Basque Festival in Elko last July. On a sad note, the Santa Fe Hotel in Reno had a sign saying, "Temporarily closed." This year the Winnemucca Hotel was open when we dropped by for lunch, and we were not disappointed. Mike Olano Sr. was a gracious host. Lunch was \$6 each for platters of great food plus soup, bread, and wine.

Elko and its people were grand as usual. (We think Elko is a gem in the Silver State.) We've definitely come to a conclusion as to which is the best Basque restau-

rant in Nevada. However, we think another year or two of research needs to be completed to make sure of our choice.

**Steve Bass and Larry Errea**  
Bakersfield, CA

### The Long Way to Jarbidge

We recently had a wild excursion. My husband and I had never been to Jarbidge. We read "Way Up North" by Carolyn Fox in the July/August issue and decided that it would make a nice little outing. We left home about noon and gassed up the Dodge Dakota 4x4 in Carlin. According to our Nevada map, it was no problem taking the Elburz exit off the interstate and following the road right up.

Somewhere we missed a turn. We saw a lot of old ruins and adobe houses and some beautiful flowers and cactus blooming, which we wouldn't have seen if we hadn't gotten lost. We finally found the right road again, but there was no sign posted at the south end of the entrance saying the road was closed. We found out later that the road usually doesn't open until after the Fourth of July.

Anyway, we drove through a few patches of snow before we came to the avalanche that blocked the road. You can't say "die" to my husband. He found the fire road,

which had no space on either side. We couldn't have gotten out if we had wanted to, and you sure as heck could not turn around. It was steep going down the hill and steep coming back up. We actually ended up on the mountain next to the avalanche.

It took us seven hours to get to Jarbidge, but we did make it. We had a nice dinner at the Outdoor Inn and took the north road out of town. Unfortunately, we got lost again. When we finally reached blacktop it was pitch black, and we were 71 miles into Idaho with half a tank of gas. We figured we had plenty of gas to get home.

Wrong! We got a little past Mountain City in Nevada when the gas-tank light came on. We turned back to Mountain City, and of course, all gas stations were closed. We called AAA, and they had to come from Elko. It was 2:30 a.m. when they showed up with the gas. That got us back to Carlin, and we arrived home at 5:30 in the morning on Saturday.

On our excursion we did see deer and field after field of yellow flowers blooming. But I was never so glad to get home in my life. If we ever go to Jarbidge again, it will not be that way.

**Barbara Montgomery**  
Crescent Valley

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# Roadside Attractions

King Tut, Mark Twain, and shopping Big Smoky Valley.

## Take a Flying Leap

**JEAN**—If you would like an unobstructed view of the towers and pyramids of Las Vegas, consider the unique perspective when you leap out of an airplane from 13,000 feet, freefall for nearly a minute at 120 mph, and parachute toward a landing pad in the desert.

**Las Vegas Skydiving Center**, based at the Jean Airport, offers three levels of jumping—tandem, accelerated freefall, and static-line, all with breathtaking views. Jumpers can see the MGM, New York-New York, the Stratosphere, Lake Mead, the Spring Mountains, and the Black Mountains. Owner A.J. Moler says, “On a good, clear day you can even see the tail end of the Grand Canyon.”

Most beginners take the tandem jump. After 20 minutes of training, jumpers are harnessed with an expert instructor. He or she handles all the details, and you get the thrill of pulling the ripcord. Jumpers must be at least 18 years old. Cost is \$179, which includes a free rental car for the day.

The accelerated freefall jump is designed for people seeking to become competent skydivers in the shortest time possible. Two expert instructors take the first plunge with you to coach, assist, and evaluate your jump. The first jump costs \$300 and includes six to eight hours of classroom and ground training.

The static-line jump is designed to build



Gold-leaf reproductions of statues, scarabs, artwork, and other treasures from King Tut's tomb are on display at the museum in the Luxor.



Dione Grillo (bottom) catches some air above Las Vegas with tandem partner and instructor A.J. Moler.

your parachute skills. You jump from only 3,000 feet, and a static-line attached to the airplane automatically triggers the chute. Your parachute is equipped with an automatic safety device, and a ground instructor, via radio, helps you descend and land. The first jump includes four to six hours of training and costs \$195. After you have completed five jumps, you may engage in the freefall. Accelerated freefall and static-line jumpers must be at least 16 years old with parental consent to jump. A six-jump package costs \$299.

Las Vegas Skydiving Center is located 22 miles south of downtown Las Vegas at the Jean Airport. Each jumper receives a T-shirt, and a video and photographs of jumps are available for a fee. Las Vegas Skydiving Center is open daily, year-round, from 8 a.m. to dusk and offers group rate specials. Call 702-877-1010 for information and reservations.—*Candice Towell*

## Tut's Tour

**LAS VEGAS**—The showpiece of **King Tut's Tomb and Museum** at the Luxor on the Strip is a full-scale replica of King Tutankhamun's burial chamber exactly as it was found by archaeologist Howard Carter in 1922.

Located on the resort's Attractions

Level, the exterior of the museum entices visitors with music and a reproduction of the pharaoh's ceremonial chariot from the 14th century B.C. On the left as you enter, this ornately decorated piece stands about four feet high and is covered in gold.



Joe Curtis of Mark Twain's Bookstore in Virginia City goes to great heights to stock Nevada books.

Just beyond the entrance, visitors sit on faux-stone benches to view a five-minute narrated movie about Carter and his discovery of the tomb. The film includes black-and-white movie clips from his landmark dig in Egypt.

Following the dimly lit corridor—which simulates the flickering candlelight used by Carter—visitors will notice glass cases containing shabtis (sha-wab-tis) figures, which helped the deceased in the afterlife, as well as jewelry and mini sarcophaguses.

At the end of the hallway, you will receive an audio tape and headset for a 15-minute, self-guided tour. Told through Carter's eyes, the taped tour leads you to various chambers—the Treasury, Antechamber, and Annex. There you will see hundreds of reproductions of statues, vases, paintings, baskets, and pottery as well as the Canopic Shrine, which contained the embalmed organs of the young king. The organs were considered vital to continued life in the next world.

Three coffins in the burial chamber enclosed the body of Tutankhamun. The outside coffin is made of cypress wood and gesso, a type of plaster, then finished in gold foil. It also has the face of the boy king, and the elongated beard and crossed arms holding the crook and flail are symbols of Osiris, lord of the afterlife.

Everything in the museum is precisely labeled, and the audio complements the exhibits, guiding you to such details as a model boat or the jackal-headed god Anubis, lord of embalming. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and till 11:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Cost for the tour is \$4. Call 702-262-4555 for more information.—*Katherine McDonnell*

## Mark's Books

VIRGINIA CITY—The first thing most visitors notice when they walk into **Mark Twain's Bookstore and Other Records of History** is the Mark Twain mannequin. The gray-haired, white-suited Twain figure is seated with cigar in hand next to an old pot-bellied stove near an appropriate section of the bookstore: the Archives of Antiquities.

Joe Curtis, who owns the C Street bookstore with his wife, Ellie, stocks the compact but complete shop with a wide range of books, antiques, and old documents. "We offer the Western experience," Joe says. The store naturally has an extensive Mark Twain section—from recent reprints of *Roughing It* to a first edition of *Huckleberry Finn*. Bookworms will find

# Traveler's Advisories

## Big Daddy in Reno

Fans of Rat Fink, the crazy-eyed, hot rod-driving rodent created by Big Daddy Roth and popular in the 1960s and '70s, will have another reason to visit Reno.

Last summer, Roth donated his latest custom car, a 1994 "Beatnik Bandit II," to the National Automobile Museum in downtown Reno. The car joins the original 1960 Beatnik Bandit in Gallery Four at the museum. The Beatnik Bandit II is characterized by its "lemon-meringue pie" paint, Rat Fink designs on the sides, and an instrument panel that gives a digital readout of the car's latitude and longitude.

**702, Meet 775** This winter you'll have to reprogram your speed dial for some Nevada phone numbers. Beginning December 12, Nevada will have a second area code. Clark County, which encompasses Las Vegas, Henderson, Laughlin, and Mesquite, will remain 702, but all other counties in Nevada will become 775. The change will be voluntary until May 15, when the dialers incorrectly using 702 will have to hang up and redial 775. The new area code was added because of Nevada's need for more phone numbers, especially in rapidly growing Las Vegas, which was caused in part by the huge number of cellular phones in the state. "There are five million telephone numbers in use in Nevada—and that's for 1.5 million people," says Kathy Kollar, consumer education coordinator for the Public Utilities Commission. Most of the state's residents—more than a million—live in Las Vegas, so Clark County got to keep 702. "There will be fewer people impacted by the change," Kollar says, adding that of the five million phones in use, three million are in Clark County. She adds, however, that if Southern Nevada contin-



The Beatnik II is parked at the National Automobile Museum in Reno.

ues to grow at its current rate, another area code may be needed in five to six years.

**Goldfield Chamber** Visitors in Goldfield this winter can find information about the town and surrounding areas at the new chamber of commerce office that opened last summer. The chamber, formerly located in the Glory Hole gift and antique shop, moved to its new digs in June. Volunteers spent more than a dozen years raising funds and completing the renovations on the building, a refurbished 1908 church rectory on U.S. 95, which now serves all businesses in Esmeralda County. The chamber is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday. Phone 702-485-3560 for more information on Goldfield's attractions and services.

**A Magical Tour** If you'd like a sneak peek at Caesars Magical Empire, the "subterranean dining" and magic show at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, you can check out the free Luminaria show. Visitors can explore the catacombs of Caesars Magical Empire that lead to a 70-foot-tall rotunda, where the Luminaria show explodes with flames and high-tech special effects. The free tour, which is offered daily between 10:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m., begins at the Caesars Magical Empire Box Office.



The Luminaria show at Caesars Magical Empire is free and features flames and special effects.

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## LAS VEGAS INFOPAK



Roxane Cook and daughter Rachel can make arrangements for flowers or fishing at D&S Shopping World in Big Smoky Valley.

tomes on women's studies, Western explorers, Native Americans and railroads. Extensive sections are devoted to local and regional authors and subjects. There are drawers filled with rare documents, most notably mining stocks and maps from the Comstock's heyday. Curtis also has an extensive collection of historical photographs, and customers can order reprints.

Curtis is a fountain of information about Comstock history. His parents purchased the building in 1959 and opened the Mark Twain Museum of Memories. Over the years they amassed a huge collection of antiques and memorabilia.

Joe and Ellie closed the museum in 1996 and opened the bookstore, arranging the volumes between soda-pop signs and Nickelodeon player pianos, which visitors can activate by depositing a quarter. The building was constructed in 1862, and the creaky wood floors and high ceilings recall what it must have been like to shop on the Comstock in the 1880s. The building originally was Frederick's Paints, Oils, and Hardware, and the Frederick's window shade sign is proudly displayed near the cash register.

Mark Twain's Bookstore, located on C Street across from the Ponderosa Saloon, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone 702-847-0454 or e-mail mtwain1861@reno.quik.com.—*Carolyn Graham*

## Shopping Big Smoky Valley

BIG SMOKY VALLEY—Savvy tourists as well as residents are discovering the diverse offerings of D&S Shopping World. The store carries everything from fishing poles to champagne glasses. You'll find

stained glass and silver trays, horse feed and hair ornaments. There's even a nursery with fresh-cut flowers.

The store is housed in a sprawling one-story building just north of Round Mountain on State Route 376, a long stretch of road between Tonopah and Austin in Big Smoky Valley.

"My husband and I opened a small fishing-supply store here 13 years ago," remembers owner Sue Boyer. "The wives got bored waiting for the men to choose just the right lure, so I put in jewelry. It just grew from there."

It grew to include one-of-a-kind creations by local crafts people such as Katie

Anderson, who specializes in stained glass. There are mylar balloons, a paperback book exchange, and Indonesian wood carvings that one would expect to find in a big-city boutique. In keeping with the store's original focus, D&S carries sporting goods and camping supplies.

The floral section of D&S offers arrangements of fresh flowers—from bridal bouquets to table displays—designed by Boyer, her daughter Roxane Cook, and Jennifer Marshall. "A lot of men around here seem to forget birthdays and anniversaries," says Boyer with a smile. "So I drag them out of the doghouse at the last minute with a special bouquet." D&S has potted plants and in the summer an outdoor nursery. You can buy a U.S. Forest Service tag to cut your own Christmas tree and firewood or a permit to build a campfire.

The jewelry is a popular attraction at D&S. Local artist Duane Cooley creates pins, belt buckles, rings, and bracelets using turquoise from the mines in Austin and Eureka. Cooley knows the miners, who, he confides, "save me the best pieces."

Boyer says the D&S crew will gladly direct visitors to the spots where the fish are biting or where to camp. "Tourists stop here to get information and end up doing their Christmas shopping," Boyer says.

D&S will gift wrap and ship anywhere. Flowers can be wired or hand-delivered to Austin and Tonopah. The store is located on State Route 376, 58 miles north of Tonopah and 65 miles south of Austin. The spot is marked "Carver's Station" on some maps. D&S, 702-377-2490, is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.—*Anna Macdonnell*

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# Gourmet

From chuck wagons to action stations, casino buffets go all out during the holidays. Here's an appetizing history of Nevada's native cuisine.

**By Deke Castleman**



Chefs fry up entrees made to order at "action" preparation buffets like this one at Harrah's Laughlin.

**W**hat is it about the casino buffet, that perfect venue for gluttony of unabridged proportions? You know, the all-you-can-eat smorgasbord, with thick, juicy prime rib sliced by white-hatted carvers, bananas Foster flambéed to perfection, and 60 other mouth-watering selections lined up for your culinary edification. Why is the buffet so popular, such an enduring icon of the Nevada experience?

For nearly 60 years, Nevada, particularly Las Vegas, has been synonymous with overindulgence: gambling, drinking, carousing, and eating—all to excess. Unlike blackjack, booze, and other forms of ballyhoo, prodigal piggishness is more

acceptable and easily accommodated. Anyone with a few bucks, a loose belt, and a lapsed diet can be transported to hog heaven in nearly every major casino in the state, and without recrimination (other than of a digestive sort).

In Nevada, buffets are plentiful, convenient, and high quality. Gourmands will find more than three-score full-scale buffets in the state. The big-city spreads in Las Vegas and Reno are open from morning till night and serve three squares a day. Except for prime meal times, you can walk right in, grab a plate, and be shoveling home the volume in 60 seconds flat. Thus, buffets are great for parents with kids who have to have food right now. Buffets also are efficient for travelers, who can fill up in the morning and go till dinner.

And cheap? In Las Vegas, Circus Circus' dinner buffet goes for all of \$5.99, a little less than a salad at a casino coffee shop. One of the most expensive buffets in the

whole state, the steak and seafood spread at Atlantis in Reno, is \$17.99, the price of an average entree in a gourmet room. Buffets also are the most common comp in the casino, an easy freebie that rewards you for merely a couple of hours at the machines or an hour on the tables.

These days, the level of competition among buffets is intense, which guarantees across-the-board good quality and variety. The competition also inspires some casinos to compete for the title of Best Buffet. Even at these top-notch buffets, such as those at the Rio, Fiesta, Texas Station, Main Street Station, and Reserve in Las Vegas and the Atlantis, Harrah's, and John Ascuaga's Nugget in the Reno area, you can stuff yourself silly on a gargantuan selection of excellent food at giveaway prices.

## Chuck Wagons and Hunt Breakfasts

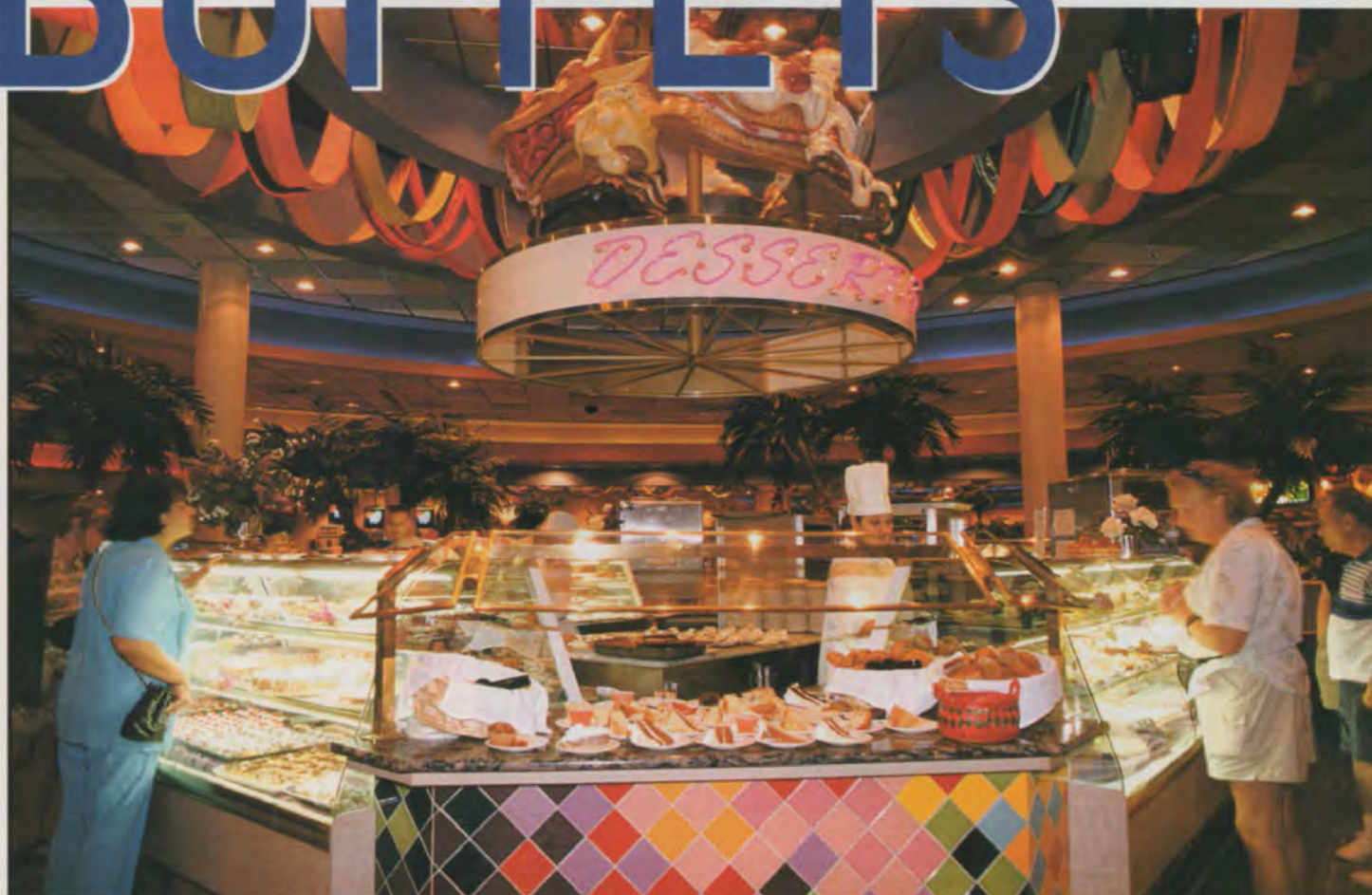
**N**evada buffets have had a reputation for quality and value for more than 50 years. El Rancho Vegas, the first casino on the Las Vegas Strip, inaugurated the buffet in the late 1940s. The club put

### Buffet Tips

**B**uffet lines are often long and slow moving. To beat the crowd, go early for breakfast (before 8:30 a.m.) and early or late for lunch (before noon or after 1:30 p.m.) and dinner (before 5:30 or after 8:30 p.m.).



# BUFFETS



Connoisseurs of cream puffs, cookies, and other confections circle the massive dessert island at the Rio's Carnival World Buffet, the largest in Las Vegas.

out an amazing late-night spread designed to keep patrons in the casino after the second show. In keeping with the Western theme of the town at the time, the buffet was called a "chuck wagon."

In the beginning, the El Rancho Vegas laid out a "groaning board" that sagged from the weight of fine foods: fresh crustaceans and smoked fish, a meat-carving station, fruits and vegetables galore, and sinful desserts. You paid your dollar on the way out and then worked off the big meal at the tables.

Why the El Rancho Vegas? Don Payne, who ate his first chuck wagon soon after it was introduced and went on to head the Las Vegas News Bureau for several decades, says, "The El Rancho Vegas was an innovator, because it was the favorite spot for the locals. It was a mile closer in than the Last Frontier and the Flamingo. It had the best lineup of big-league stars. And it had KENO, the only radio station in town.

The locals caused the El Rancho to come up with this particular food innovation."

Other casinos followed suit, instituting their own \$1 graveyard-shift chuck wagons, and ensured the quality early on. In *Playtown U.S.A.*, published in 1955 and perhaps the best book ever written on Las Vegas, Katherine Best and Katherine Hillyer described the chuck wagon as "one of the more esoteric and thoroughly splendid phenomena of little old folksy Las Vegas. Every Strip hotel has one, presenting from midnight to 6 a.m. buffets of princely proportions.

"The chuck wagon, which bears about as

much resemblance to its cowpuncher namesake as cherries jubilee to a Popsicle, is where gourmets may choose, with discrimination, stone crabs from Florida, Maine lobster in aspic, imported Danish ham, prosciutto in melon, odorful Liederkrantz gently warm from the oven. This also is the element of the glutton, who may heap the plate chaotically high and come back for more. All you can eat for one buck fifty."

One night in 1954 Best and Hillyer counted 96 items offered in the Flamingo chuck wagon. Why only midnight to 6 a.m.?

"In those days nobody

## Buffet Tips

If you're visiting a buffet for the first time, always inspect the food and check the price before you cough up the dough. It's the only way to determine whether the former is worth forking over the latter.





In the late 1940s El Rancho Vegas (above) inaugurated the late-night chuck wagon, which evolved into the three-meal spread. About 10,000 people per day dine at the Circus Circus buffet in Las Vegas (below).



thought about families or eating at regular hours," explains Dick Odessky, Las Vegas newspaperman and public relations executive in the '50s and '60s. "Gamblers didn't go to bed till the sun came up, so they had their dinner at the chuck wagon. In the wee hours, you could get a chuck

wagon for a dollar-fifty or a regular bacon-and-eggs breakfast for free."

The next development in the all-you-can-eat department was the switch from late-night to daytime hours. Starting in the late 1950s, the Last Frontier (now the New Frontier) served the first "hunt breakfast,"

### Buffet Tips

It's a good idea to get another long look at the selections once you've paid and have plate in hand. That way you can make informed decisions about what to stuff your face with.



essentially a chuck wagon with eggs. The hunt breakfast's name, again, reflected the casino's Wild West orientation. It suggested that guests could chow down at the brunch buffet and then stroll

over to the stables at Doby Doc's Last Frontier Village to go horseback riding in the desert behind the hotel. The hunt breakfast's purpose was similar to the chuck wagon's: to get people into the casino during the slow morning hours.

Dick Odessky recalls that the resorts were dead in the mornings and early afternoons. "I'm still taken aback when I walk into a coffee shop at 10 a.m. and it's full of people," he says.

Gradually, the hunt breakfast turned into the weekend champagne brunch, with its elaborate selections from all three meals. And as the hunt breakfast evolved, so did the buffet, which incorporated simple breakfast and dinner spreads.

"Circus Circus was one of the first resorts to offer daily buffets. They might not have originated them, but they certainly popularized them and proved that they were financially feasible," Payne recalls. "That would put the beginning of the modern Las Vegas buffet in the late 1960s."

Prices remained low. As late as 1976, in *Las Vegas: Food, Shelter, Sex*, author Bert Lane noted that the average buffet cost less than \$2 for breakfast and \$3 for dinner. The city's fanciest and most expensive buffet at the time was at the 24th-floor Top of the Dunes and cost \$3.75. The dinner buffet at the Silver Slipper cost \$1.98 and was served in the Red Velvet Room, with its "flocked red walls, crystal chandeliers, and stuffed chairs—Victoriana at its ultimate," according to Ralph Peck in the 1975-76 edition of the *TWA Getaway Guide to Las Vegas*, a forerunner of Frommer's.

The casinos held the line on buffet prices well into the 1980s. By the late '80s, prices had gone up to \$3 to \$7. By then, lunch had been added to the mix, catching some casino executives by surprise.

"Why and how lunch snuck in there we could never figure out," Odessky chuckles. "Gamblers never ate lunch. The lunch buffet is still not a very good draw, but it's usually a better deal. It's essentially the same food as dinner but at two or three dollars cheaper."

The buffet had finally become the full-fledged, three-meal, separate-room restaurant that we know today.

### Action and Super Buffets

In the late 1980s, Palace Station retooled its traditional buffet and introduced a radical new concept—"action" preparation—that foreshadowed another revolution of the smorgy scene in the new Las Vegas. At the Feast Buffet, Palace Station

cooks flipped omelettes, burgers, and steaks in full view of the salivating hordes. Bally's followed suit with its Big Kitchen Buffet, and the two shared honors as the city's best buffet for half a decade while solidifying Las Vegas's reputation as the buffet capital of the world.

Then, in early 1993, the Rio opened the Carnival World super buffet, and Las Vegas hasn't been the same since. The Carnival World originated the buffet-within-a-buffet, with separate serving stations for different fare: American, Mexican, Italian, Chinese, salads, and desserts. The Rio also introduced the Mongolian grill, where action cooks stir-fried vegetables and meats selected by the customer. In late 1994, the Rio expanded the Carnival World, adding stations for sushi and teppanyaki, burgers and fries, seafood and steaks, and a full-service bar.

Most of the newer casinos have opened with super buffets. Fiesta, Boulder Station, Texas Station, Main Street Station, Stratosphere, Sunset Station, and the Reserve have all entered the best-cudfest fray. In addition, Harrah's remodeled its buffet to compete for the glutton crowd. And the Rio one-upped everyone else again by opening a daily (lunch and dinner) seafood buffet that is so sumptuous it harkens back to the fancy spreads of the old chuck wagons.

Some casinos, notably Luxor and Sahara, remodeled their buffets in the traditional style. New York-New York is the only Las Vegas casino in recent memory that opened without a buffet at all. Could New York-New York's unusual decision be the wave of the future for the buffet in Las Vegas? It'll be interesting to see what transpires in the all-you-can-eat department at the fancy new joints, such as Bellagio, Paris, Venetian, Mandalay Bay, the Regent at Summerlin, and Monte Lago at Lake Las Vegas.

## Meanwhile, Up in Reno

**T**oday, gourmands in the Reno-Tahoe area can bask in major buffets at hotels like the Eldorado, Harrah's in Reno and Tahoe, Silver Legacy, Peppermill, and Atlantis, but the buffet was an idea that took its sweet time coming to Northern Nevada. A noncasino restaurant called Bits of Sweden Smorgasbord had opened on Virginia Street in 1941, charging \$1.25 for dinner, but it barely lasted a year. Las Vegas had spent more than 15 years elevating the buffet to an art form

*(Continued on page 108)*

# The Parlay Buffet

**W**hat if you were the designer of a new buffet at, for example, the Venetian in Las Vegas, and wanted to create the undisputed superstar of smorgasbords? Incorporating the most attractive features of Nevada's best buffets, here's what the new Parlay Buffet might look like.

First, you'd want a room that resembles the Rio's Carnival World Buffet, the most colorful, curvaceous, and cacophonous smorgy setting of them all. You might want to add a million dollars' worth of silk and plastic flowers, ferns, and shrubs, like the Peppermill Buffet in Reno. It would have to be the size of Excalibur's Roundtable Buffet, which seats nearly 1,500. You'd also take a cue from Harrah's Tahoe's Forest Buffet, which is on the 18th floor, and put the Parlay Buffet on the top of the hotel's highest tower for the view.

You'd be wise to start with the Rio's dozen different serving stations, including an expanded Mongolian grill, and then add elements borrowed from the other buffets-within-a-buffet. Of course, at the Venetian your first priority would be the Italian station, and here you could combine the fantastic antipasto bar at Monte Carlo's Market City Caffe with pizza from Main Street Station's Garden Court Buffet and the pasta bar from Palace Station's Feast Buffet.

From the Fiesta's Festival Buffet, you'd take the Texas-sized fire-pit barbecue, with its



The pizza comes fresh at the Main Street Station's buffet.

side-of-beef rotisserie and hot grills charbroiling everything from pork ribs and smoked sausage to brisket and shish-kabob. The chili bar—bandito verde, howlin' coyote, old buffalo breath, and vegetarian among the selections—from the Market Street Buffet at Texas Station would go perfectly next to it. You might want to copy the Market Street's cooked-to-order fajitas as well.

Wong's Wok for steaming Asian entrees could be lifted from Bally's Big Kitchen Buffet, along with its baked potato bar. The Rotisserie Buffet at John Ascuaga's Nugget could provide some gourmet recipes, such as calamari with hazelnut butter, pot roast with red cabbage, Madras lamb curry, and Hunan beef with wild rice.

The Rio's Village Seafood Buffet might lend some oysters Rockefeller, Manila steamers, lobster tails, blackened snapper, bouillabaisse, scampi, and chowders. From the Las Vegas Hilton's Buffet of Champions, you'd get all-you-can-eat cold

king-crab legs and peel-and-eat shrimp; from the Orleans' French Market Buffet, all-you-can-eat crawfish; and from the Silver Club in Sparks, all-you-can-eat six-ounce top sirloins.

The ultimate Parlay Buffet should have made-to-order Caesar and hot spinach salads a la Atlantis' Toucan Charlie's and some of the fresh fruit and vegetable concoctions found at the Reserve's Grand Safari Buffet.

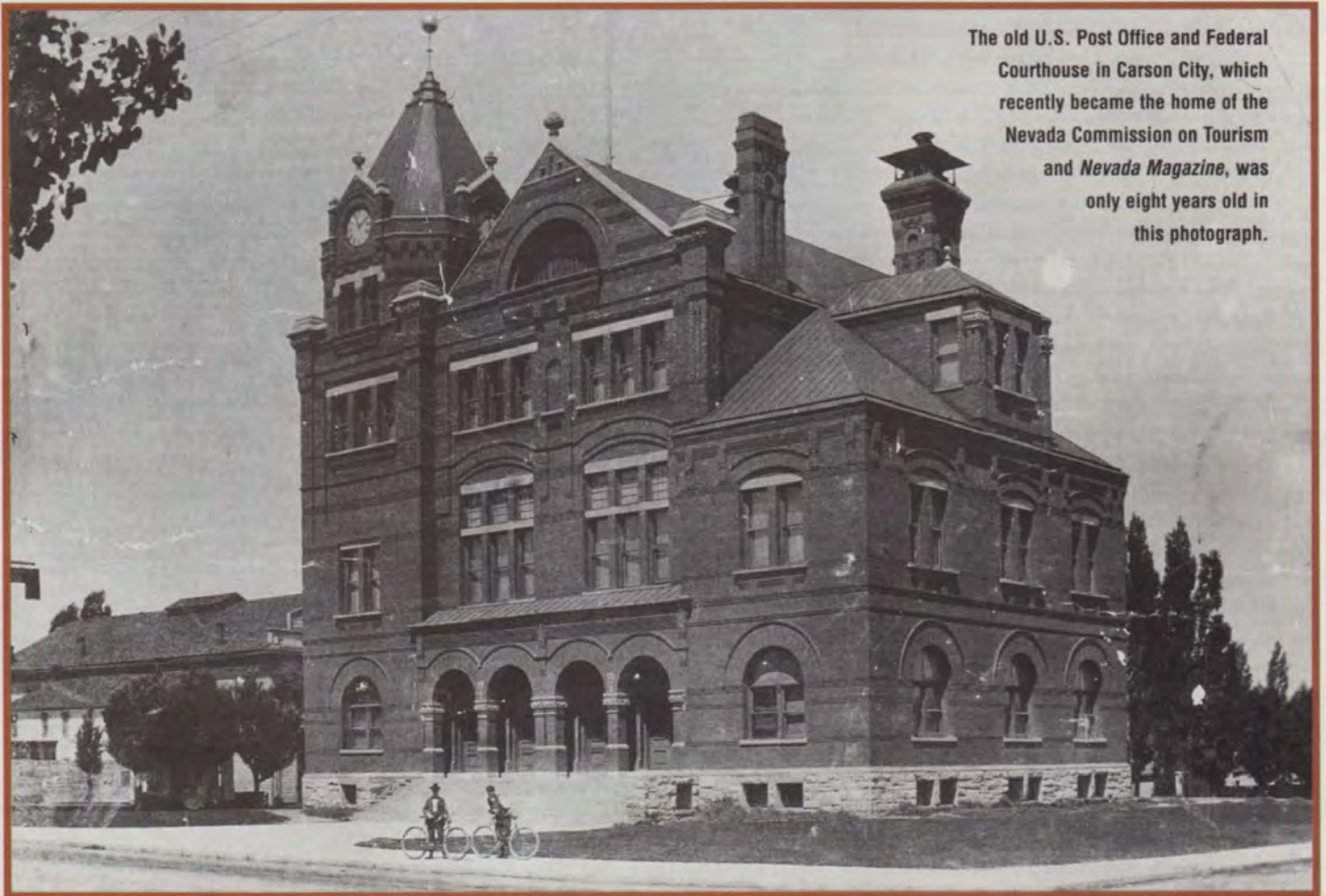
The bulk of the dessert selections, like apricot chocolate cake and piña colada cheesecake, would come directly from the Rio's Village Seafood Buffet. But you'd also want bread pudding from the Golden Nugget Buffet, strawberry shortcake from Boomtown Reno's new Silver Screen Buffet, and scooped ice cream and sherbet from Harrah's Reno's Fresh Market Square Buffet.

Finally, you'd almost have to duplicate the low, low prices of the Circus Buffet: \$3.49 for breakfast, \$4.49 for lunch, and \$5.99 for dinner.—Deke Castleman

# Tales of the Old Federal Building

Nevada Magazine's new home in Carson City had its share of trials and tabulations.

By Richard Moreno



The old U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse in Carson City, which recently became the home of the Nevada Commission on Tourism and *Nevada Magazine*, was only eight years old in this photograph.

The wood-paneled courtroom is quiet now, but in 1895 it buzzed with excitement as Judge Thomas P. Hawley began presiding over the trials of three former employees of the United States Mint in Carson City. The three were eventually convicted of skimming more than \$75,000 from mint vaults. The federal case was a sensation because it exposed the procedure known as "sweating," a method of illegally removing gold from an ingot and replacing it with less-valuable copper. Additionally, during the trials it came out

that an attorney for one of the defendants had paid a witness not to appear.

The courtroom where those trials and many others took place is located on the second floor of the former U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse in downtown Carson City. This fall the old federal building became the new home of the Nevada Commission on Tourism and *Nevada Magazine*.

The Victorian-style building, which cost \$134,605 when it was built in 1891, was designed by Mifflin E. Bell, a prominent 19th-



elevator, a three-story model that was installed in 1935.

The last court case was heard in the building in 1965, after which the federal court moved to Reno. The post office moved to new quarters in Carson City in 1970. Two years later, the Nevada State Library moved into the building and remained there until 1992.

Touring the renovated building reveals reminders of previous occupants. In the basement, you can still find messages—mostly reflecting boredom—scribbled on the painted stone walls by former state library interns. In the clock tower, which is reached only by a ladder, visitors have written names and dates on a brick window sill. The clock, which still works, must be wound by hand every 10 days.

Other unusual aspects of the building include several walk-in vaults, where money and records were once stored. Also, an office to the south of the courtroom has a mystery door high on one wall near the ceiling. There is no evidence of stairs to the door, which leads to a small storeroom, and no one is certain why the storeroom is there.

*Nevada Magazine's* editorial, advertising, and circulation offices are housed on the first floor of the building. The Nevada Commission on Tourism staff is located on the building's second, third, and fourth floors.

Not surprisingly, the centerpiece of the building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the restored second

Judge Thomas P. Hawley, shown here in his office, presided over many trials in the second-floor courtroom during his 16 years on the federal bench (top). Workers pose while laying the foundation for the post office in 1888 (left).

floor courtroom, now a conference room. The courtroom's wooden wall panels, moldings, and doors have been carefully repainted in a faux-style that duplicates the original wood grain.

Judge Hawley would feel right at home. ♡

*Richard Moreno is Nevada Magazine's publisher. Sometimes he likes to read in the walk-in vault in his office.*



century government architect who also designed post offices in Pittsburgh and Brooklyn. As with many of his other structures, Bell included a unique three-faced clock in a tower on the building's northwest corner.

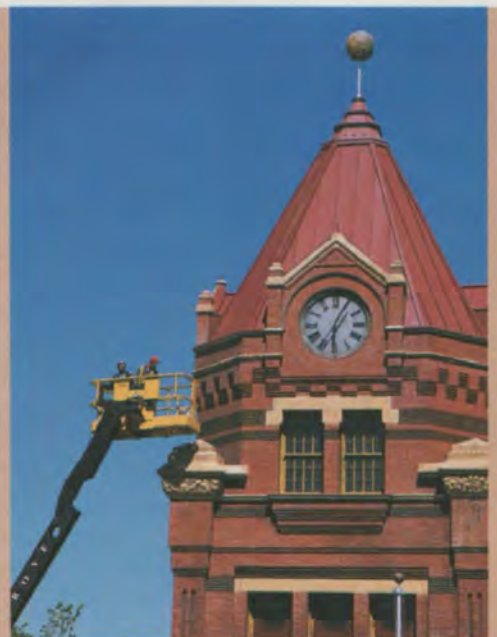
When it opened, the red-brick and yellow-sandstone building housed a post office, courts, the U.S. Weather Bureau, and other federal agencies. Later, the building had Carson City's first



Artist Karen Pecorilla "faux" paints paneling in the former courtroom to duplicate the original grain.

## The Magazine's New Offices

The public is invited to visit the new offices of *Nevada Magazine* and the Nevada Commission on Tourism in the historic former U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse in downtown Carson City. Located at 401 North Carson Street, the building will also house a *Nevada Magazine* gift shop offering magazine products including suspenders, T-shirts, and guidebooks. Additionally, on the first floor visitors will find a statewide information center with brochures about attractions around the state.



Workers inspect the brick face of the clock tower. The clock runs on a lengthy system of weights and gears.

# Skiing Nevada

By Laura Read

For the past two years at Thanksgiving, my husband, Doug, and I have gone skiing in the heart of Nevada. Although we live in North Lake Tahoe near some of the best downhill and cross-country ski resorts in America—Squaw Valley, Northstar, Royal Gorge, and the like—our skis feel best in Nevada's backcountry.

Two years ago we spent Thanksgiving at a friend's mining-claim cabin in the Pilot Mountains between Hawthorne and Tonopah. Finding only a shadow of snow on the ground, we went looking for more depth, visiting the Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park and the mining town of Ione along the way. Our patch of skiable snow finally showed itself next to a dirt road south of Austin. What a lovely patch it was—six inches of cold, velvety crystals stretching several miles along a shadowed gully next to U.S. 50. We spent an entire morning skiing laps on the road until a bitter wind forced us back inside the car.

Last year snow came early, and by Thanksgiving the Santa Rosa Mountains had a solid layer of it. We planned to stay in a friend's cabin on Hinkey Summit outside of Paradise Valley, but we weren't able to track down the key. So instead of falling asleep to the rustling of aspen leaves on a country road, we slept two nights in a Winnemucca hotel room. It wasn't altogether disappointing. At night we danced to the music of the Wheels, a cool country band from Alabama, in the Winners' lounge, figuring that country swing would loosen our limbs for the next day's skiing.

After driving north through Paradise Valley, we found snow a foot deep on 7,900-foot Hinkey Summit. A dirt road built in 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps crested the pass. We rubbed layers of kick wax on the bases of our cross-country touring skis and set off down the road. For a half-hour we glided between bone-bare aspens and clumps of snowy brush. Looking for adventure on the return, we set a zig-zag course up the gentle slopes away from the road. By navigating among sagebrush, spindly



Special wax and climbing skins help skiers ascend.

aspen groves, and barbed-wire fences, we reached the pass in good time.

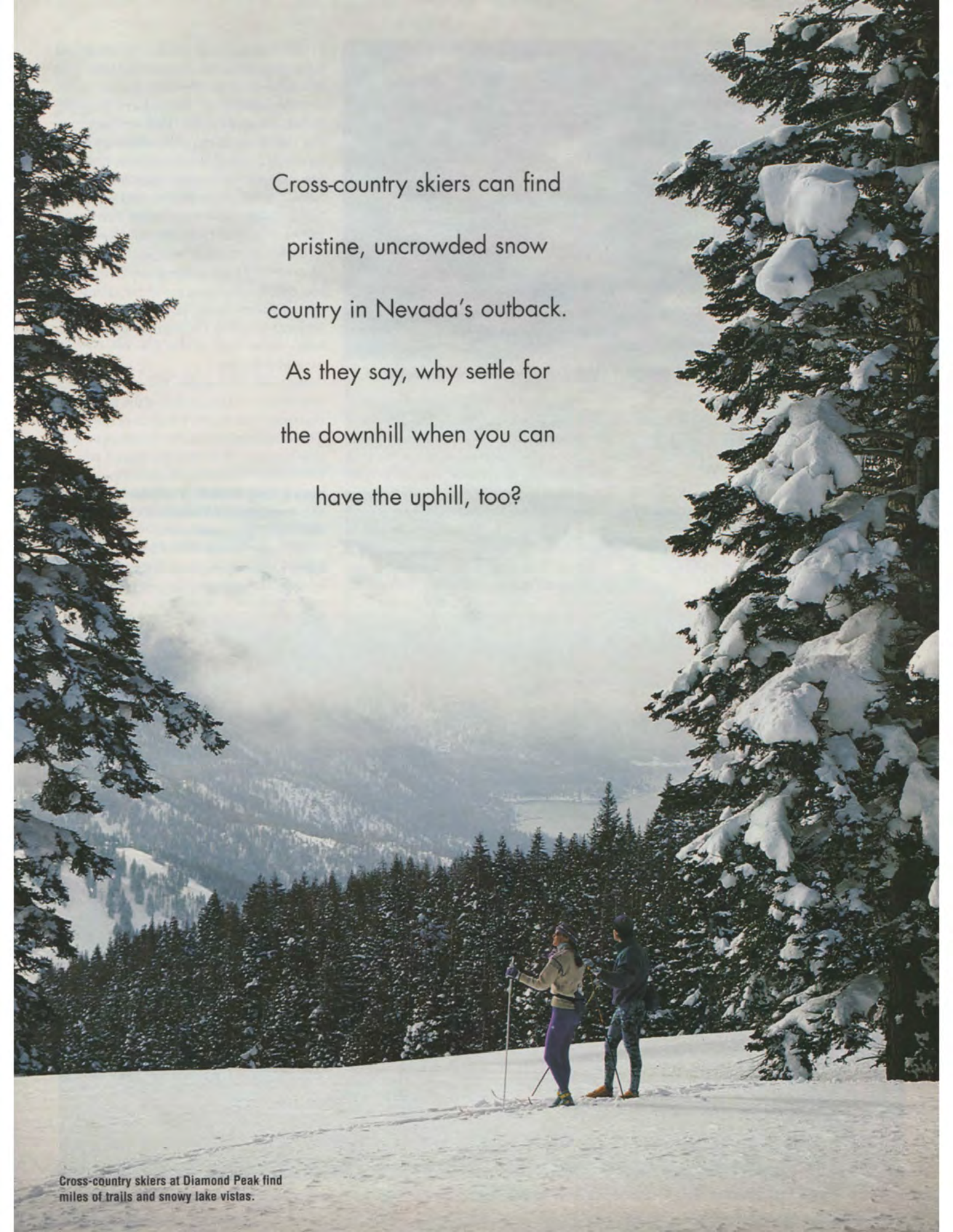
Doug and I love wintertime Nevada because of its austere simplicity, the way the landscape plays out a haunting contrast of brown and white and the hills are wrinkled up like shriveled cheese. Of course, Nevada has a certain dried-out simplicity in summer, as well. But in winter, the bottomless white, the scrawny trees, the snap of the dry, bitter air, the smell of sagebrush as you nip it with your ski tip—here is nothing at all like it.

Also, in winter we find fewer people out there. On skis we can travel to remote areas farther and faster than when we hike in summer. On skis the only motor we use is the heart.

A long mountain ski tour is like a musical crescendo. The trek begins slowly on gradual terrain and

then dips and bobs upward until it reaches steeper slopes. As the distractions of the mind fall away, such features as trees, rocks, and snow crystals intensify. At the top, there is nothing ahead but air and space and distant vistas. The horizon ripples with mountains. I feel as if no one else in the world has stood where I am. Away from the telephone, alarm clocks and cranking machinery, I feel a part of the world.

I didn't initiate our Nevada skiing tradition. It started with Doug. Ten years ago he rented an RV and embarked on a six-week "Ski Nevada" odyssey with the goal of skiing several rural mountain ranges (*Nevada*, Jan/Feb '89). He would meet friends in Austin, Wells, or Winnemucca, and they'd drive off into a valley, stop near a snowy mountain, and camp for the night. The next morning they'd cross-country up a shaded canyon or climb a slope good for Telemark turns. One day a rancher offered to give them a ride up to a canyon near Angel Lake. So they attached long, knotted ropes to his snowmobile, held on, and rode up the mountain like waterskiers.



Cross-country skiers can find  
pristine, uncrowded snow  
country in Nevada's outback.

As they say, why settle for  
the downhill when you can  
have the uphill, too?

Cross-country skiers at Diamond Peak find  
miles of trails and snowy lake vistas.



Doug Read and Randall Osterhuber, sheltered by Read's trusty pickup, greet dawn south of Austin.

By the end of the expedition Doug had explored the Independence, Bull Run, Clan Alpine, Shoshone, East Humboldt, Toiyabe, and White Pine ranges—all on skis. Those weeks produced some funny stories and smelly socks. The trip forever endeared Nevada to Doug. Now when we visit some remote place, he surprises me by pointing to a lonely canyon and saying, "I skied that."

Last winter Doug wanted to return to the Toiyabes, so in February we drove to Austin for a weekend ski vacation. We took two carloads of friends and dogs and stayed two nights in the Pony Express House. On our first day, a cross-country trek up Big Creek Canyon, we started in balmy weather and ended in a blizzard. The next morning there was fresh snow. After bacon and eggs at the International

Hotel, we drove to Austin Summit and took our Telemark skis into the hills. The climbs were short, the turns great.

When skiing in hilly places like Big Creek, we apply sticky "kick wax" beneath the foot zone of our skis, which allows us to climb gradual slopes without slipping. For steeper terrain, we attach climbing "skins," velvet-textured nylon strips, to the bases. With each step, their furry nap prevents the skis from slipping downhill.

Backcountry skiing isn't just for the hills. On cross-country striding or skating skis, you can travel almost anywhere that snow accumulates—high places like Carroll Summit or, when the temperature drops, lower areas such as the flats off U.S. 50 near Middlegate.

Because it engages the entire body, cross-country skiing is one of the few sports that tones almost every muscle of the body. The diagonal-stride ski technique was developed in Scandinavia, where people once relied on skiing for transportation during long winters. It requires a scissors-like movement of the arms and legs as they alternately push and glide.

Recently, Nordic skiers have developed a faster technique called skating, which resembles the movements of ice skating or



On a trip to Wheeler Peak, Scott Schroepfer of Tahoe stands above the South Snake Range. Although the climbing is tough, the skiing down is something else.

in-line skating. Ski skating can be done in the backcountry, too, though it requires a snow surface made smooth and firm by ideal weather conditions combining warm, snow-melting days with freezing nights. On glossy early-morning snow, skating is fast and exhilarating.

I rediscovered that one morning last spring while skiing on Mount Rose Meadow between Reno and Incline Village. The snow was smooth as porce-

## *We took a June ski tour up Wheeler Peak in Great Basin National Park.*

lain—perfect for skate skiing. Since skating on ungroomed snow is a good way to break a delicate ski, I made sure to take along duct tape and a plastic tip. Soon I was under way, and the only sound was the two-beat scratch of my skis sliding through unfettered strokes. For an hour I skied across the sparkling plain, snaking among naked willows and leaping over rodent tracks. As the sun rose, the hard snow warmed to velvet. Now, instead of gliding on top, my skis cushioned pleasantly into the surface. I looked over my shoulder and saw that my tracks had made a lace necklace across the flats. It was too early for snowmobile traffic. The silence felt good.

Over the years I've acquired backcountry knowledge the hard way. As with any sport, the understanding comes in the doing.

During a June ski tour up Nevada's second highest peak, Wheeler Peak in Great Basin National Park, I learned the benefit of having a hard head—and of knowing my limits. That year snow had stayed in the mountains well into summer, and we wanted to ski a sliver of snow left on the 13,063-foot-high peak. We camped on a dirt road in Spring Valley east of the peak, hoping that if we made an early start, the snow would be soft as butter when we skied down at noon. We awoke facing the blue-shadowed Wheeler. I felt tremors of trepidation. The peak was darn high. Would I make it?

We drove to Wheeler Peak Campground, which stands at 10,000 feet, and hiked up the trail in ski boots with our skis strapped to our backpacks. My ski tips were tied together like praying hands over my head. Their proximity to my skull meant that the edges tapped my head nearly

# Nevada Nordic

Nevada and the Tahoe Basin have a wealth of cross-country ski areas—following is a sampling. For details on prices, lessons, and trails, see the "1998-99 Cross-Country and Downhill Skier's Guides" on page 60.

## TAHOE BASIN

**Spoooner Lake, Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park:** A series of trails loop around a lake and meadow with a challenging route to Marlette Lake. Higher trails have dramatic lake views. Log cabins in the woods can be rented overnight. Call 702-887-8844.

**Diamond Peak:** This Incline Village resort offers excellent views and undulating terrain. Call 702-831-3211.

**Mount Rose:** A playground for Reno backcountry skiers, Mount Rose has meadows, bowls, and chutes that appeal to skiers of all skill levels. Those who like the steeps will find open slopes on the east side of the mountain. Park in turnouts on State Route 431. Weekends can be crowded.

**Royal Gorge Cross-Country Ski Resort:** A premier cross-country resort and the largest in the country, Royal Gorge has beautifully groomed trails among the meadows, forests, and peaks near Donner Summit. Call 530-426-3871.

**Tahoe Donner Cross-Country:** This resort in Truckee has challenging hills and picturesque meadows. Call 530-587-9484.

**Lakeview Cross-Country Ski Resort:** A mom-and-pop resort in

Tahoe City with intermediate trails in a forest near the lake. Call 530-583-9353.

## LAS VEGAS AREA

**Mount Charleston:** There's good cross-country skiing on Charleston, 40 miles northwest of Las Vegas, primarily in Lee Canyon (downhillers gather nearby at Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort). Sky's the Limit (702-363-4533) offers Nordic touring, and the U.S. Forest

Service has a recreation hot line (702-222-1597). Steep slopes create avalanche hazards in places.

## RURAL NEVADA

**Santa Rosa Range:** From Paradise Valley take State Route 290; after three miles it becomes a dirt road that leads to Hinkey Summit. Four-wheel drive is usually required.

**Great Basin National Park:** In winter, skiers

usually can park at Upper Lehman Campground and hike four miles to the Wheeler Peak Campground. Four-wheel drive is often required for access to the Forest Service roads. Ask at the visitor center for skiing advice. Call 702-234-7331.

**Toiyabe Range:** You can reach good terrain around Austin and at nearby summits from U.S. 50. Muddy roads in the area require a four-wheel-drive vehicle.—*Laura Read*



David Fenimore  
skis Carroll Summit.

every time I took a step. Also, I was running out of steam. The north shoulder, about 1,000 feet below the peak, was as far as we got. On the way down the snow was indeed soft as butter, and so was my brain.

Backcountry skiing also requires the ability to work through frightening situations. One spring I faced a dangerous move on Boundary Peak, Nevada's highest at 13,145 feet. Doug and I were using Rondenee equipment, downhill-type skis with bindings that leave the heel free for the climb

but can be clamped for downhill parallel turns. We also had wrapped our skis with climbing skins that help grip snow and ice.

Making switchbacks up the mountain on our skis, we had to turn on a patch of wind-blown ice. Because of the slope's angle, Doug couldn't turn uphill. Instead he leaned forward on his poles and, in a remarkable feat of mountainside ballet, whirled his downhill ski around and placed it toe to heel next to the other ski. Then, leaning downhill, he shifted his weight onto his poles and swung the other ski so they were both parallel, toe to toe. He had such grace. My heart stopped.

"No problem," Doug said. "Just don't look down."

On my first swivel, my knees flared out like an accordion. I looked down and saw what appeared to be a 2,000-foot slide to a splat of sagebrush below. Mouth open,



Tahoe residents David Fenimore and Gerald Rockwell in the White Pine Range.

toes pointing north and south, I froze.

"Relax!" Doug yelled from above.

"No way!" my brain screamed. Underneath the inner racket I thought, "This is it."

Then, in less than five seconds, all the things I'd learned about risk, safety, and nerve played out in a thought battle. It came down to standing on that ice forever or taking action. Fortunately, the latter won. I shifted my weight to the poles and ever so slowly swung the uphill ski around to meet the other. Now, standing toe to toe, I was able to slide forward toward Doug.

"Yesssss!" I yelled, listening to my voice bounce a hundred times off the snow-armored slopes around me.

Experienced backcountry skiers never forget the dark side of the mountains. The key to skiing safely in Nevada's outback is to anticipate trouble. Know your terrain, recognize your skills, and analyze the snow conditions. Use a four-wheel-drive vehicle to reach your destination. Know how to use a map and compass, and tell people where you are going and when you will return.

One of the pleasures of winter-time Nevada is that even when there is mountain snow, the valley floors are often dry enough to throw down a sleeping bag. It's important to spread a wide, waterproof canvas tarp on the ground first to avoid an incident with cow patties.

If I'm spending several days camping out, I can't resist at least one local restaurant breakfast, as much for the conversation as for the food. In places like the International Hotel in Austin I've met cowboys, ranchers, waitresses, dog breeders, roofers, miners, jewelry makers, and

gardeners. Remarkably, I have yet to meet any fellow cross-country skiers at breakfast in Central Nevada.

Although the Nevada backcountry can be an exhilarating place to learn cross-country skiing techniques, getting qualified instruction beforehand can assure a safer and more pleasant experience. Instructors can show you the ropes at such Tahoe cross-country areas as Spooner Lake, Diamond Peak, Lakeview, Royal Gorge, and Tahoe Donner.

Two of the best Nordic areas are on the Nevada side of the lake. At the expertly groomed Spooner Lake Cross-Country Ski Area, trails loop around Spooner Lake and a meadow, through lovely aspen groves, and over gentle ridges. Advanced skiers may climb to an exciting series of trails around Marlette Lake. The views of Lake Tahoe from several lookouts are spectacular. One

*Two of the best Nordic areas are on the Nevada side of the lake.*

route, the "Super G," is an unforgettable zig-zag, whoop-dee-doo downhill. Doug and I affectionately call it "Skiing With Smiles."

Diamond Peak Ski Resort near Incline Village also supports a well-groomed track system with deep forests and scenic ridges. It's a great place for a vigorous workout or a pleasant excursion in beautiful terrain.

Some of our downhill skier friends say we are crazy to ski in places where no chairlifts zip you to the top of the run. I say, why settle for only the downhill when you can have the uphill, too? Backcountry skiers generally love the going up as much as the going down. It gives us time to talk with friends, to think, to generate body warmth, to loosen our limbs, and to look around and smell the sagebrush.

Better yet: When passing a lonely Nevada peak that appears untouched by humans, the backcountry skier can say, "I skied that." ❧

*Laura Read of North Lake Tahoe is a freelance writer. She and her husband, Doug, often climb and ski in the mountains that ring the lake.*



The author goes skiing in the Sierra.



Nancy Stout and Max Jones ski-skate a trail at Spooner Lake Cross-Country near Marlette Lake, overlooking Lake Tahoe.

# Picture This

The winners of  
this year's Great Nevada Picture Hunt captured Nevada's scenic side.

**FIRST:**  
"Lake Tahoe Winter"  
William Carr





**SECOND:**

“Fall Color, Stella Lake”

R.A. Griffiths

**W**illiam Carr, a former resident of Lake Tahoe, won the 1998 Great Nevada Picture Hunt with an image that harks back to his former home and a long-ago television show. He says the ponderosas in his winning image, “Lake Tahoe Winter,” remind him of *Bonanza*, the Nevada-based TV Western immortalized by the Ponderosa Ranch in Incline Village. He says, “The cowboys were always on their horses, riding through the ponderosas.” Carr, who also won a merit award for his “New York-New York” view, is a prolific postcard publisher and stock photographer and currently owns a photography business in New Harmony, Utah.

R.A. Griffiths, a Las Vegas resident for more than 30 years, took second place for

his photograph, “Fall Color, Stella Lake.” Griffiths had been hiking in Great Basin National Park just after sunrise. He was watching a herd of deer when he turned to capture Stella Lake. “I couldn’t resist that shot,” he recalls. “It is so pristine.” Griffiths, an engineer at the Excalibur in Las Vegas, also received a merit award for “Nitescape.” He says wildlife photography is his first love. “I think I’m one of the last of the 19th-century explorers,” Griffiths says.

Jane T. Johns had been home-bound in Carson City for four weeks after surgery when her husband, Steve, also a winner in this year’s contest, helped her find the contest’s third-place image, “Slide Mountain, Washoe Lake, and Pogonip on Tree.” Johns, who was not able to walk at

**THIRD:**  
"Slide Mountain,  
Washoe Lake, and Pogonip on Tree"  
Jane T. Johns



the time, says, "I asked my husband to take me for a little ride." They wound up in Washoe Valley, and she was able to stand up outside the car while snapping the photograph with a 35mm Nikon.

Johns says she took up photography in self defense. "When we first got married, he was so in love with photography," Johns recalls of Steve's influence. "I got tired of carrying all of his equipment around. So, I asked how to use his camera, and he never got it back." Steve Johns, by the way, won the best computer enhanced category. He photographed "Barn Owls" at WAIF, a wildlife animal infirmary in Washoe Valley, and used a computer to omit the chicken-wire cage.

Larry Angier of Jackson, California, took fourth place for his photograph, "Rene Zaval at the RO Ranch With Photo of Herself, Smoky Valley." In the photo,

Zaval is 19 and riding her horse, Polly, at the RO. Angier photographed Zaval with a six-by-nine Hassleblad.

Angier, last year's first-place winner, says he decided to be a photographer while in elementary school. "My sister took a photography course, and Ansel Adams was the guest lecturer at Delta College in Stockton, and I got to get out of school to attend," Angier recalls.

Tom Jones IV of Las Vegas earned fifth place for "Follow the Line, Fernley," taken at the 1998 Nevada High School Rodeo State Finals. Jones, a photo-lab worker, also won a merit award for "Family Tree."

More than 125 amateur and professional photographers entered this year's contest. Reno photographer Don Dondero, known for his photographs of celebrities and politicians, served as judge with Nevada art director Denise Barr. He

says he focused on attractive compositions and photographic skills. "The general excellence in this year's entries was remarkable," Dondero says. "They were damn good—it made it really hard to pick."

Some of the winning photos will be displayed in a traveling exhibit—watch the Nevada Events and Shows section for dates. The images also will appear on Nevada Magazine's Web page, [www.nevadamagazine.com](http://www.nevadamagazine.com).

—Candice Towell

## 1998 Great Nevada Picture Hunt Winners

**FIRST:** William Carr, New Harmony, UT, "Lake Tahoe Winter," Color Slide (\$200)

**SECOND:** R.A. Griffiths, Las Vegas, "Fall Color, Stella Lake," Color Slide (\$100)



**FOURTH:**

“Rene Zaval at the RO Ranch With  
Photo of Herself, Smoky Valley”

Larry Angier

**FIFTH:**  
“Follow the Line, Fernley”  
Tom Jones IV



**THIRD:** Jane T. Johns, Carson City, "Slide Mountain, Washoe Lake, and Pogonip on Tree," Color Print (\$75)

**FOURTH:** Larry Angier, Jackson, CA, "Rene Zaval at the RO Ranch With Photo of Herself, Smoky Valley," Color Slide (\$50)

**FIFTH:** Tom Jones IV, Las Vegas, "Follow the Line, Fernley," Color Print (\$25)

## Category Awards

**Best Computer Enhanced:** Steve Johns, Carson City, "Barn Owls," Color Print

**Most Original:** Zoe Sideri, Las Vegas, "Hale Bopp and the Cook Bank," Color Print

**Best Special Effect:** Zoe Sideri, Las Vegas, "The Porter Building," Black and White Print

**Most Humorous:** Robin Cobbey, Healdsburg, CA, "The Nevada Traveler," Color Print

**Best Black and White:** Peggy Martin, Reno, "Virginia City Cemetery," Black and White Print

**Best Personality:** Diane Kay Griffin, Gardnerville, "Let 'er Rip," Color Print

**Best Urban:** William Carr, New Harmony, UT, "New York-New York," Color Slide

## Merit Awards

Doug Bruha, Lamoille, "High Traffic Area, Elko County" and "Roping at the Spanish Ranch," Color Slides

Stephen Chandler, Gerlach, "Juniper Detail, Granite Mountains," Color Slide

Richard Cundriff, Dayton, "Western Swallow Tail Butterfly," Color Print

Linda A. Fields, Gardnerville, "Sunrise Fog on the Lake at Topaz Landing," Color Print

Barry Melvin Glazier, Round Mountain, "Big Smoky Valley" and "Reese River Valley," Color Slides

David Graham, Carson City, "Nevada Beach Sunset," Color Slide

R.A. Griffiths, Las Vegas, "Nitescape," Color Slide

Jerome Hamilton, Las Vegas, "My First Train Ride," Color Slide

Kris Hanneman, Fernley, "Coyote in the Rocks," Color Slide

Ramona Lee Hayes-Bell, Pahrump, "A Lucky Strike," Color Print

Tom Jones IV, Las Vegas, "Family Tree," Color Print

Doug Keister, Albany CA, "Hitchin' a Ride on the Extraterrestrial Highway," Color Print

Patrick L. Kennedy, Virginia City, "Sunday in the Park," Color Slide

Leanna Martin, Gardnerville, "Easter," Color Print

Peter Slingland, Reno, "House on the Hill, Pyramid Lake," Color Slide

Larry D. Taylor, Carson City, "Sagebrush Segoe Lily," Color Slide

Jane E. Thompson, Reno, "Sunset Reflected in Washoe Lake Shallows," Color Print

Rhonda L. Wilson, Reno, "Paiute Land," Color Print



**MERIT AWARD:**  
"My First Train Ride"  
Jerome Hamilton



**BEST URBAN:**  
"New York-New York"  
William Carr

**BEST COMPUTER ENHANCED:**

"Barn Owls"

Steve Johns



**MOST HUMOROUS:**

"The Nevada Traveler"

Robin Cobbey

**MERIT AWARD:**

"Reese River Valley"

Barry Melvin Glazier



# He Came to

Jay Sarno,  
the flamboyant founder of Caesars Palace  
and Circus Circus, lived his fantasies to the limit. **By A.D. Hopkins**

When he hit town, some called him a visionary and a huckster. But in the years after his death in 1984, Jay Sarno's most radical philosophy—that a casino should not be merely a hotel with gambling tables but an island of fantasy in a mundane world—has become gaming industry dogma.

Sarno expressed his fantasy so well that its two original manifestations—Caesars Palace and Circus Circus—remain on every Las Vegas tourist's must-see list nearly 30 years after he built them.

"We had a chance to buy into Caesars Palace and didn't take it," admitted the late Ted Binion, whose family founded Binion's Horseshoe and usually does not make bad decisions in the gaming business. "But he wanted to dress his security guards as gladiators. He wanted to put his pit bosses in togas! In 1966, who'd ever heard of such a thing?"

In retrospect, it does not seem so strange that America bought into Sarno's idea of how to have fun. He knew how. In fact, Sarno was a world-class good-time Charlie whose creativity at making money was born of his joy in spending it. He lived like a Caesar in some Cecil B. De Mille movie and spent his life helping other Americans do the same.

"A lot of what made him tick was recoiling from his youth," said his oldest son, Jay Jr. "He didn't like being poor."

The rest of his family did not enjoy liv-

ing in poverty, either. Jay Sarno's father, a Missouri cabinetmaker, and his homemaker mother managed to save money to help all their seven children attend college.

Sarno was hustling a buck even at the University of Missouri, where he majored in business. He started a laundry delivery service and sold corsages for campus events. In the Pacific during World War II, his government job was operating the communications system on an airplane. On his own time, he cut hair and ran a craps game. After the war he looked up a classmate from Missouri, Stanley Mallin. They became tile contractors in the Miami building boom and expanded into office buildings and motels.

Sarno, born in 1922, was 36 when he met Joyce Cooper, the 23-year-old operator of a beauty and charm school, who was vacationing in Miami Beach with her parents. "He spotted her, and four days later they



Caesars Palace, shown here in the 1960s, set the standard on the Strip. Above, Sarno shares a chariot with French entertainer Lene Rinaud at Caesars' opening.

# Play

were engaged," said their daughter, September. "That was typical of him," September added. "When he set his sights on something he liked, he liked to close the deal." The couple were married a few weeks later in Jackson, Mississippi.

In the late 1950s, Sarno built the Atlanta Cabana, one of the country's first downtown motor hotels. The Atlanta Cabana also marked the first time that Allen Dorfman, the controversial money manager for the Teamsters Union, arranged a loan from its Central States Pension Fund. Sarno met Dorfman and Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa through a Dallas Teamsters official and became friendly with both, said September. "He was better pals with Dorfman because Dorfman's lifestyle was more similar: He liked to gamble and play golf. Hoffa wasn't like that. He never had any fun. But he loved my father all the same. He wouldn't take calls from most people, but he would from Dad."

Cabanas in Dallas and Palo Alto followed. Teamsters money would finance his later ventures, Caesars Palace and Circus Circus, as well as Las Vegas hotels built by others.

Flying from city to city in the course of managing their budding motor hotel chain, the Sarnos often stopped in Las Vegas, where Jay would assault the craps tables. Craps tables, however, were about the only thing Jay liked about Las Vegas hotels.

"He was a man who loathed plain vanilla, and Las Vegas hotels at that time just oozed mediocrity," said September. The few that evoked any identifiable atmosphere at all were stuck in the Western-movie era, which in the popular culture of the 1960s had already ridden into the sunset. "He was building slick, gorgeous hotels and making a modest living. Then he saw modest hotels here making money hand over fist. He realized he wasn't building the wrong kind of hotels; he was building them in the wrong place."

Las Vegas Strip hotels in those days bore names like the Desert Inn, the Dunes, the Sahara. "But those desert themes couldn't be extrapolated into the kind of luxury he



Sarno, who enjoyed gambling, golf, and the high life, poses for a photographer in a rare quiet moment.

wanted," said Jay Jr. Sarno adopted a different theme for the hotel he began building in 1964. "The Roman theme at Caesars fit his fantasy of life."

"He wanted everything around him to be beautiful," said September. "He felt the necessity of eating should be and could be made exciting. He designed the Bacchanal restaurant, the concept of wine goddesses massaging the gentleman diners as they ate. And people would travel from these faraway places just to get a shoulder-and-neck massage from these goddesses."

Despite his popular image as a man with more money than education, Sarno was a

*Sarno loathed plain vanilla. "The Roman theme at Caesars fit his fantasy of life."*

serious student of architecture. "He read about it constantly, and when we went to Europe, that was what he went to see," said his former wife, Joyce. "I don't think he ever went anywhere without a camera. He was always saying, 'Stop the car. I want to take a picture of that cantilever. I don't think any architect ever presented him with an idea; they took his idea and made it work.'" Sarno tried out many appropriated ideas before coming to Las Vegas; the Palo Alto Cabana looked like a miniature Caesars.

The hotel Sarno built on the Strip won the admiration of many architects, includ-

ing Alan Hess, who wrote about it in his book *Viva Las Vegas: After-Hours Architecture*. "The motel prototype used for most Las Vegas resorts since 1941 called for buildings to be arranged casually on the site. A sign or facade was likely shifted to face oncoming traffic. Caesars faced the Strip with a royal presence and bulk that established its own organization in its own domain. It disdained accuracy in favor of vigor."

Miami architect Melvin Grossman worked out details but was helped by Jo Harris, a designer who had worked at all the Cabanas and would later help design Circus Circus. "I believe very strongly that when you select a theme for a hotel, you ought to follow that theme in every aspect of the operation where it is possible to do so," she said in a 1975 interview. "Even your stationery, for instance, ought to bear out the theme." Caesars writing paper looked like weathered Roman parchment.

The casino was full of features that appeared to be architectural whims but were actually planned carefully, said Harris. "The main feature that makes it so good is that the hotel is laid out like a wheel with the casino as hub," she explained. "This means the guest has to walk by the casino to get anywhere. Now, of course this makes it easy for him to gamble, but there's a second important reason for that feature. It gives the guest a sense of being where the action is all the time, and it's one of the reasons people love staying at Caesars."

The famous floating lounge, Cleopatra's Barge, came about because Harris and Sarno were trying to make use of a dry wash on the property. "We thought originally we would make the wash into a pond and float the barge on it. Once we understood this wasn't feasible, we thought the barge idea was too good to abandon, so we moved it indoors."

Sarno loved ovals, and according to his former wife, he never built a rectangular bar in any motel. He thought that they inhibited conversation and that they had a cold feeling about them. He even had dice tables built with specially rounded corners.

Caesars made money from the day it opened in 1966. And Sarno and his family became Las Vegas royalty. "Oh, it was fun. Our little rear ends were sore from everybody kissing them," said September, who was almost seven years old then.

"My brother and I were chubby, and Dad thought we should swim some laps before breakfast, so we had to do that before the pool opened. There would be lifeguards and pool boys out there, all these people looking after two little kids."

Heidi Sarno Straus, the youngest of the Sarno children, was born the year Caesars opened and followed her dad into the hotel business, although she later left it to

about a month every summer, on holidays, on weekends."

Having kids underfoot at the hotel seemed to work fine for Sarno. "We would run into his office and jump on his lap and draw on his papers, and it did not distract him from whatever he was doing," remembered Jay Jr.

He used much the same incentive in home life that he used in business. An "A" on a report card, said September, was worth \$100.

Sarno had no interest in the simple life. "I wanted to go camping once," said Jay Jr. His father tried to indulge him by getting Pug Pearson, a professional card player, to loan him Pearson's Winnebago motor home. Sarno had it brought to the hotel, where Jay Jr. and one of his buddies filled it with provisions. The Sarnos set out for Zion National Park with a chauffeur at the helm. "When we got down in Arizona, he

needle in. That would distract people."

Mel Larson, who was vice-president in charge of marketing at Circus Circus, remembers being in Sarno's suite when four visitors arrived to discuss funding for a huge hotel Sarno wanted to build. The visitors were Wall Street banking types and wore three-piece suits. Sarno received them in his underwear. "They looked a little shocked, but they acted like it was an everyday occurrence," said Larson.

**S**arno always had other things on his mind. Some say he started thinking about a new casino as soon as Caesars opened its doors. Three years after they built Caesars for \$24 million, Sarno and his partners sold it for \$60 million to Lum's, a Miami-based restaurant chain. "I know Sarno regretted selling it later," said Ted Binion. "But lord, that was a lot of money in 1969. Anybody would have sold it."

The sale of Caesars gave Sarno a chance to build a new place. The man who let his children romp through the plushiest adult hotel in America had decided to build one that would serve a family market as well as high rollers.

Circus Circus exploited the excitement of the traditional circus and followed that theme right out the window. Gamblers played while trapeze artists swung overhead, and they were the best trapeze acts in the business. "My dad raped and pillaged the big tops for their best acts," said September. "Everybody wanted to work for him because it was the first chance they'd had to live in one place and have normal lives." There was a midway full of sideshows and carnival games that even children could play. There was a baby elephant, named Tanya, who would pull the handle on an oversized slot machine.

Sarno was so confident of his idea's drawing power that he opened the casino without hotel rooms, figuring people would be drawn from all those plain-vanilla resorts. He planned to build the hotel rooms later.

This time Sarno bet too strongly on himself. Circus Circus was an instant loser.

Maybe because his own powers of concentration were extraordinary, Sarno failed to realize that many high rollers did not



Governor Grant Sawyer (left) joins hotel president Nathan Jacobson (center) and Sarno at Caesars' 1966 opening. Celebrities like Ed Sullivan, Bob Cummings, Gene Kelly, and Andy Williams also attended.

open a flower and gift-basket shop. She said that running a hotel cost the Sarno family some of the closeness it might otherwise have had. "He knew my birthday was in April, and that was about it," she said wistfully of her father.

Jay Jr. credits the opportunity of growing up in a hotel with giving him some of the business acumen that made him a successful designer of slot machines and biomedical equipment. But a normal home life just was not feasible, he admits. "When Dad came home from the office, he was on the phone constantly, because something important was happening at the hotel. He was not a delegator, so it constantly pervaded his existence. The family would go to see Dad because it wouldn't work the other way around. We would go live in the hotel

insisted I drive. I had just turned 15. So the first vehicle I ever drove was a 26-foot Winnebago, out of state and unlicensed, with my whole family in it," said Jay Jr.

Sarno was cordial to other businessmen but informal to a point many found disconcerting. "He was capable of waking up from a deep sleep and immediately talking business. There was no transition," said Jay Jr. The trouble was, Sarno did this during the time he lived at Circus Circus after he and Joyce were divorced in 1974. "He would run straight from his bed to a breakfast meeting with his hair going off in these Einsteinesque directions," said Jay Jr.

"He was a diabetic and had to give himself shots. And in the course of breakfast, without stopping to explain, he'd rub a little alcohol on his tummy and just jam the

*The sale of  
Caesars gave Sarno  
a chance to build  
Circus Circus.*

*Sarno had an even bigger dream. He called it "the Grandissimo."*

want the distraction of trapeze acts. Some dealers couldn't keep their eyes off the acrobats only a few feet above their heads, and card cheats soon learned to make their moves when the dealer looked away.

In 1974, after losing money for more than five years, Sarno turned over the resort to William Bennett, a gaming executive who had worked for the Del Webb organization, and William Pennington, who had manufactured gaming equipment. The new operators proved that Sarno's ideas would work, with just a few modifications. They brought the midway under the hotel's direct control, replacing the more ribald sideshows and the sleazier games. They rearranged the floor plan to give gamblers easier access to the pits, moved out the more distracting acts or moved them farther from the tables.

Most important, they recognized that Circus Circus had been trying to do too many things at once, seeking to attract high rollers with high limits and credit, yet driving them away with distractions. The real potential of a casino that bathed the senses with excitement, they saw, was to attract the casual gambler who would risk a few bucks while taking in the sights. Concentrating on the middle-class market, they put the operation into the black in two months. Circus Circus set the trend of marketing to whole families. When the corporation went public, it became one of the most successful gaming stocks.

**S**arno, meanwhile, had an even bigger dream—so big he called it "the Grandissimo." He never got to build it, however. The Teamsters in the mid-1970s were under heavy pressure to diversify. Sarno never found another source to fund something so big. His dream called for the largest resort ever built—6,000 rooms. It would have had lots of fountains, waterfalls, moving sidewalks, roller coaster rides in the casino.

Sounds a bit like the Mirage, doesn't it?

Steve Wynn's Mirage reflects his own tastes, just as Caesars Palace expressed Sarno's extravagant appetites. But the Mirage—and the MGM Grand, and the Excalibur—are all logical extensions of ideas Sarno pioneered.

Without a casino to run, Sarno found

even more time for his hobbies. According to all who knew him, those hobbies were women, food, golf, and gambling, all pursued to joyous excess.

One of the mysteries of Jay Sarno was how a balding man in his 50s, who stood five-feet-eight and weighed more than 200 pounds, could repeatedly attract beautiful young blondes whom other men only dreamed about. Part of his success was making a great first impression. "If most men meet you and like you, they buy you a drink," explained one woman. "If Jay Sarno met you and liked you, he bought you a mink. He really did that, more than once, on a first meeting."

His skirt-chasing was something the women who loved him simply came to accept. Joyce, who remarried after their 1974 divorce, said, "When we were married, I couldn't have a boyfriend, but he wanted me to play golf with his girlfriends. I had

get cold' philosophy." Sarno's preferred breakfast was filet mignon. "That was when he was on a diet, which was most of the time," remembered Joyce. "When he wasn't dieting, he had salami."

His diet worried his friends. "After he had open heart-surgery, I tried to get him to take care of himself better," said Lem Banker, the famous Las Vegas oddsmaker. "But I'd see him down at Baskin-Robbins, with a double-dip ice cream cone. One in each hand, different flavors."

Freddie said, "He had plenty of warnings about how he could live longer, but he seemed to make a distinct choice to live like he wanted, instead."

The odds caught up with Sarno in 1984. He died in a suite at Caesars Palace. Legend has it that he was sharing the suite with a couple of girls—beauties less than half his age. It would not have been beyond Sarno to start that rumor himself. He



When Sarno opened Circus Circus in 1968, it had a casino big top and circus acts but no hotel rooms.

to divorce him so we could double date."

Sarno pursued golf almost as intently. His younger son, Freddie, was his frequent partner. "He was a club-buying maniac," said Freddie. "In his suite at Circus Circus he had a walk-in closet, and he called it his pro shop. There was one bag in there with nothing but putters—about 30 in all. There was one with wedges, one with drivers."

Sarno lost heavily gambling in casinos, including Caesars. In their divorce action, Joyce Sarno claimed he had lost more than \$2.7 million gambling at three casinos between 1969 and 1971. In an unrelated suit, Sarno admitted losing another million between 1972 and 1974.

He loved food about as much as action. "He was not of the 'wait until everybody is served' school of thought," said Jay Jr. "He was more attuned to the 'don't let it

wanted to be remembered, and it fit his self-image.

Sarno did not leave a lot of money when he died, and his children all work for their livings. "But I don't resent that a bit," said Freddie. "It was his to do what he wanted. And if you knew him, you know that spending it was the only reason he took the trouble to make it." ♡

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*A.D. Hopkins is a writer with the Las Vegas Review-Journal who has introduced Nevada readers to subjects ranging from high rollers to Pioche gunfighters. His story on Jay Sarno is an excerpt from The Players: The Men Who Made Las Vegas, edited by Jack Sheehan and published by University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557-0076. The Players (240 pages, \$18.95 paper) presents essays on Moe Dalitz, Bugsy Siegel, Sam Boyd, Kirk Kerkorian, and other Southern Nevada visionaries.*



# People Page

A trio of champions: hot dogs, ribs, and hula hoops.



Cary De Grosa balances a steady diet of hot dogs.

## He Relishes His Title

Watching Cary De Grosa of Las Vegas eat hot dogs is not a pretty sight. "Douse them in water—then shove 'em in." This technique, explains De Grosa, was the secret to his success when he became the Las Vegas record holder in the second annual hot-dog eating contest last summer at New York-New York. De Grosa downed 13 hot dogs and buns in 12 minutes to win an all-expense paid trip to New York City to compete in the world championship, Nathan's Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest.

The former New Yorker donated the 30 pounds of hot dogs he won in Las Vegas to a homeless shelter and then began practicing for the New York event. "Thank goodness for Las Vegas buffets," he jokes. During his training, a friend timed De Grosa as he ate. He discovered that soggy hot dogs went down twice as fast as dry ones, and that if he tried not to think about what he was doing, he could eat more. The trick, he says, is "mind over matter."

Determined to beat last year's world champion, Hirofumi Nakajima of Japan, who set a world record by gulping down 24½ hot dogs, De Grosa arrived in New York prepared to win the bejeweled Mustard Yellow International Belt. The

jovial five-foot-eight, 200-pound De Grosa danced onto the stage wearing star-spangled shorts and waving the American flag. Alas, when the 12 minutes were over, De Grosa had gobbled down only 11 hot dogs while Nakajima devoured 19. De Grosa recalls, "That was the longest 12 minutes of my life." After consuming more than 6,000 calories in 12 minutes, De Grosa felt a little woozy, but the feeling soon passed. "I must have battery acid in my stomach. The hot dogs were digested, and then I got sleepy," he says.

De Grosa relishes the chance to continue his quest next year. "I love hot dogs. In fact, now I crave hot dogs all the time," he says. "This was my rookie season. Next year I'm going to bring back the gold."—Genevieve Kilpatrick



Rib champ Peter Rathmann (in hat) cooked up kudos from Stephen Ascuaga.

## The Rathmanns Know Ribs

Only the Rathmann Family, owners of B.J.'s Barbecue in Sparks, know the secret ingredients that helped their ribs win first overall in last September's Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off at John Ascuaga's Nugget.

"We cook 'em low and slow," says Kelly Rathmann, who arrived at the cook-off at 4 a.m. on opening day to begin the rib process.

Peter Rathmann, Kelly's father and owner of B.J.'s with his family, says, "I didn't tell anyone what little change I made this year." However, he did reveal that the winning taste was a result of his new "rub," a mixture of seasonings used to flavor the ribs.

B.J.'s Barbecue defeated 23 other rib contenders from around the country at the cook-off, which is invitation-only. No bones about it—the competition is keen, and it can get messy. The ribs are judged by local rib lovers and well-known food editors and critics who don't mind donning a bib. In the first round, ribs without the sauce are

judged for taste, appearance, texture, and flavor. During the second round the cooker's sauce is judged. The top-five ribs receive awards, and the best sauce wins a first-place title. The judges also give a "People's Choice Award."

Word of their ribs is spreading—B.J.'s Barbecue is moving to a bigger location in the Silver State Shopping Center, where they can expand their catering business. Peter Rathmann says the \$7,500 prize will be put toward moving expenses.

"We take a lot of pride in what we do," Peter says. "We don't do anything here different than we did at the cook-off."—Candice Towell

## Hooping It Up

JoAnn Grace of Carson City really knows how to spin a record. Grace showed she had a lot of grace last August when she hula-hooped her way into the Guinness Book of World

Records during Hot August Nights.

Grace earned her record by spinning 41 hula-hoops at once for three complete revolutions. The Southwest Gas Company

pipeline controller, who also teaches swing dance, says she has a knack for keeping one hula hoop spinning for a long time. But it was her two daughters' idea to enter the contest, which was sponsored by KKOH-AM and the Atlantis Hotel in Reno. "I'm up in front



JoAnn Grace gets in the loop for her hula-hoop title.

of people a lot, so I'm used to performing," Grace says. So far she's won "fame and notoriety—which is fun." She also earned a trophy and a free night's stay at the Atlantis.—Candice Towell

## Nevada Ballet Theatre on Its Toes

From Pink Floyd to the classics, the Las Vegas company leaps into its 27th season with a new attitude.

By Scott Dickensheets

It's rare and surprising when a cliché proves precisely apt, but at Nevada Ballet Theatre, everything old really is new again—starting with the name “Nevada Ballet Theatre.” For 25 years the



Principal dancer Ella Gourkova of the Nevada Ballet Theatre in Las Vegas performs in “Raymonda.”

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organization was the Nevada Dance Theatre. Under the artistic guidance of dancer-choreographer-co-founder Vassili Sulich, it became one of the most prominent and stable arts organizations in Las Vegas, and, indeed, the state. That was before Sulich's departure in 1996 and before the organization had to make the transition from charismatic founder-driven outfit to self-perpetuating institution. As part of that change, the company now has a new name, new faces, new spaces, new attitudes. Even an old favorite's been made new—the company's annual holiday blowout, "The Nutcracker," in which the dancers and 75 pint-sized extras will step through new choreography on December 18-27 at Cashman Theater.

The company's name change is in part the handiwork of a major new addition, Artistic Director Bruce Steivel. Although he came on board more than a year ago after stints directing troupes in France, Switzerland, Hong Kong, and Korea, this is the first season to fully bear his stamp. He insists the new label has nothing to do with emphasizing the distinction between Sulich's reign and his own.

"We felt—a lot of people felt the same way—that 'Nevada Dance Theatre' was confusing for people," Steivel says. "We do ballet, and we felt that should be in the title," he says. No amateurs here. All the dancers are trained ballerinas, many of whom have come from Europe to dance with the company.

So the name change isn't about banishing the past. "No. We haven't gotten rid of anything," Steivel says. "It's more a clarification."

It can't be easy filling the toe shoes of a local legend, and, while following Sulich has resulted in an uncomfortable instance or two, Steivel is too diplomatic to elaborate. He engages such circumstances with



Dancers of the Nevada Ballet Theatre surround Bruce Steivel, the company's artistic director. Clockwise from bottom are corps de ballet member Alex Lodigiani, principal dancer Natalia Chapourskaya, principal dancer Clarice Geissel, corps de ballet member Scott Livingston, principal dancer Richard Bradley, soloist Lissa Daniggelis, and soloist Kiera Hansen.

the time-honored mantra of the new guy: Give me a chance. I don't know about the past. He says the proper soothing things: "The biggest challenge here is to forget the past and move ahead. We have to forget the problems, the bad words, and move ahead."

As for the dance, the new season is a mix of old, new, and the old rendered new. Old: Classics like the full-length comic "Coppelia" April 9-11 and "Les Sylphides"—the first ballet to incorporate dancing on the toes—will be paired with two more progressive programs February 26-28. New: "In the Mood," the finale for the November 6-8 program, is an energetic ballet set to Big Band swing.

"I always put programs together that have something classical, something a little more modern, and something fun, a throwaway," Steivel says. Which explains "Good Times," the concluding piece in NBT's February concert. It's a collection of moves set to the distinctly nonballetic music of Pink Floyd.

Steivel first conceived "Good Times" a decade ago at the behest of the Bern Ballet

in Switzerland. It's just what its title suggests. "There's no story to it," Steivel says, "just dancing, movement, color. Audiences always seem to like it."

For Nevada Ballet Theatre, moving ahead will also mean moving out; this, too, is part of the newness. The large company—22 full-time dancers, three trainees (who receive a small stipend), five unpaid apprentices, plus seven office staffers—is currently divided between two locations: A small studio located in eastern Las Vegas and a suite of unassuming offices in an easily overlooked business plaza a few miles away. Neither of the sites makes a bold impression, particularly the studio. "I won't take prospective donors there," Steivel says. "The current facilities

were adequate maybe 10 years ago."

That will change soon. Among the Nevada Ballet Theatre's coming attractions is a 45,000-square-foot office and rehearsal space in Las Vegas' fast-growing Summerlin neighborhood. Ground has been broken for the facility—funded by a \$3.6-million grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation—and although a single brick has yet to be laid, Steivel is confident the space will be ready by April. Along with a 48-by-32-foot main studio, it will have six smaller, state-of-the-art studios (each larger than the troupe's current practice space) along with offices, equipment storage, you name it.

Everything but a performance venue; shows will be staged at the Cashman Theatre at Cashman Field Center. As much as space, the facility will give the company heft.

"A building like this is absolutely necessary for the company to grow," Steivel says. It gives the troupe a tangible presence, a raised profile in the city's cultural landscape. Donors who hesitate about opening their wallets for something as ephemeral



"The Nutcracker" is a highly popular holiday show. Here, Alex Lodigiani is the Nutcracker and Kiera Hansen plays Clara.

as "dance" might be swayed by the building's promise of long-term solidity. "They want to see something standing," he says.

Of course, all the newness doesn't obscure the same old stuff of nonprofit arts work, which is to say, sweating about money. For the upcoming season, Steivel has had to borrow costumes and equipment from old pals in the business.

The group's budget is \$1.8 million annually, which sounds like a lot but isn't nearly enough. "We really need \$3 million to \$4 million" to operate optimally, he says. "So we'll always be calling in favors. That's the nature of the beast."

At least Steivel has the task of channeling the company's creative energies to keep his mind off the checkbook. There are, remember, 30 dancers depending on him for inspiration. The responsibility "frightens me to death," he says.

Take the rehearsals for a recent performance of "Romeo and Juliet," for which Steivel created new steps. "It's the first day of a new creation, and you walk in and everybody's there, and you realize they're waiting for you. You've got to do something. It can be mind-blowing from time to time." And that's one thing that will never change.

*Scott Dickensheets is a lifestyle columnist for the Las Vegas SUN.*

Balanchine, the creator of "The Nutcracker," "Coppelia" is the story of a doll that comes to life and the comedic characters around her.

**"Romeo and Juliet" • August 28-29 •** The tragic story will be performed in an outdoor setting at Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza in Lorenzi Park.



## Finding "The Nutcracker" in Nevada

Several performances of "The Nutcracker" ballet will take place in Nevada this holiday season. Following is a schedule of perform-

ances of the story of a young girl and her nutcracker-turned-prince in Carson City, Reno, and Las Vegas.

**Community Center, Carson City:** November 27-29. The Brewery Art Center and Pinkerton Dance Academy presentation stars Tristi McMaster, formerly of the Atlanta, Richmond, and Washington ballet companies as the Sugar Plum Fairy. Call 883-1976.

**Reno Hilton:** December 18-20. A Nevada Festival Ballet performance features guest dancers and the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra. Call 785-7915 for more information.

**Cashman Theatre, Las Vegas:** December 18-27. Nevada Ballet Theatre is known for its lavish costumes and a growing Christmas tree incorporated in the ballet. The NBT also features related holiday festivities for showgoers including a Sugar Plum Party and a Snowflake Tea. During the Sugar Plum Party, children are invited on-stage to meet and greet characters from "The Nutcracker" following the 2 p.m. matinee on December 19. The cost is \$4 per person, and seating is limited to 150 guests. At the Snowflake Tea, the story of "The Nutcracker" is related over a light luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on December 20. The cost is \$10 per person. Call 2-4-DANCE for further information on the Nevada Ballet Theatre season.



## A New Season

Nevada Ballet Theatre offers a variety of dance programs that range from the classics to the music of Pink Floyd for its 1999 season. Call 702-2-4-DANCE.

**A Celebration of Dance • November 6-8 •** A trio of ballets: "Raymonda" is a classic ballet set during a marriage celebration. "A Handel Celebration" is choreographed by Vincente Nebrada of Venezuela. "In the Mood" has the look of a ballroom and the music of the Big Band era.

**"The Nutcracker" • December 18-27 •** The Sugar Plum Fairy, toy soldiers, and the world of a child's imagination.

**Black and White Ball • January 22 •** Black-tie fund-raiser at the Mirage for the Nevada Ballet Theatre.

**A Classic Good Time • February 26-28 •** Three strikingly different ballets including "Les Sylphides," a pivotal work in ballet history; "In the Glow of the Night," the story of a young girl's journey from youth to maturity; and "Good Times," which is set to the rock music of Pink Floyd.

**"Coppelia" • April 9-11 •** From George

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# Nevada Events

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

Nevada travelers will find a full schedule of winter events throughout the state. Visitors to Las Vegas will find excitement at the NASCAR Winston West and Craftsman Truck Series racing at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Reno hosts the National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals and the Festival of Trees. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following events listing for November and December, divided into areas of interest. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times. Please note that Nevada's area code is 702 until December 12, when the Las Vegas area will remain 702 and the rest of the state will change to 775.

## Las Vegas Territory

### FESTIVALS & HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

**Japan Festival** • Nov. 6-8 • Japanese music, history, dance, and the arts in a cultural event that was named one of the top 100 events in North America by the American Bus Association. Fremont Street Experience, MGM Grand, and Lady Luck Hotel, Las Vegas, 451-0344.

**Veteran's Day Parade** • Nov. 7 • Medal of Honor winners, helicopter fly-over, paratrooper jump, tactical demonstrations. Elementary School, Mesquite, 346-EVNT.

**Holiday Craft Sale** • Nov. 7 • Las Vegas Senior Center, 229-6454.

**Festival Americana** • Nov. 7 • Native American and pio-



### Who Is That Masked Man?

Michael Cooper employs his version of mask-ular mirth in "Masked Marvels and Wondertales" on November 16 in Lovelock.

## NEVADA MAGAZINE

presents

### Nevada Events & Shows

Nevada Events and Shows is a special section of *Nevada Magazine*, the official guide to travel, recreation, people, history, and events in the Silver State. To list an event, please send information at least three months in advance to Events Editor Ann Henderson, 555 E. Washington Ave., Suite 5600, Las Vegas, NV 89101; 702-486-2433; fax 702-486-2789; e-mail ann@nevadamagazine.com. Subscription rates for *Nevada Magazine* are \$16.95 for one year, U.S.; \$22.95 foreign. To subscribe to *Nevada Magazine*, which includes Nevada Events and Shows, call toll-free:

1-800-495-3281

neer crafts, demonstrations, entertainment, food. Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193.

**Turkey Tourney** • Nov. 14 • Families compete in games and contests for holiday turkeys and other prizes. Food ven-

dors, live entertainment. Orr Community Center, Las Vegas, 455-7196.

**Christmas Tree Auction** • Nov. 20 • Sale of decorated artificial trees to raise funds for the renovation of the

# The Nevada Territories



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

## Reno-Tahoe Territory

Reno, Lake Tahoe, Carson City, Virginia City, Minden, and other locales

## Cowboy Country

Lovelock, Winnemucca, Elko, Wells, and other towns along Interstate 80

## Pony Express Territory

Fallon, Austin, Eureka, and Ely along U.S. Highway 50, known as "The Loneliest Road in America"

## Pioneer Territory

From Yerington to Pahrump, Tonopah to Beatty, and Pioche to the Extraterrestrial Highway

## Las Vegas Territory

From the Strip to Boulder City and Lake Mead to Laughlin, Primm, Jean, and Mesquite

## Indian Territory

Encompasses all of Nevada

Boulder Dam Hotel. Boulder City, 293-7731.  
**Magical Forest** • Nov. 21-Dec. 26 • Annual holiday land with train, 10-foot candy canes, trees, animated figures, gingerbread houses. Opportunity Village, Las Vegas, 259-3741.  
**Tree Lighting** • Nov. 28 • Musical program. Frank Crowe Park, Boulder City, 293-2034.  
**"The Messiah"** • Nov. 30 • Performed by the Desert Chorale. Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.  
**Christmas at the Liberace Museum** • Dec. 3 • Tree lighting, Santa in gold lamé, and holiday exhibits, cookies and cider. Admission is a new toy or nonperishable food item to benefit the Salvation Army. Liberace Museum, Las Vegas, 798-5595.  
**Holiday Collage '98** • Dec. 3-6 • Las Vegas Civic Ballet per-

## Lights on the Lake

A flotilla of private vessels, all brightly lit for the holiday season, will parade past the Special Events Beach on Lake Mead on the evening of Saturday, December 5. The annual Parade of Lights motors between Lake Mead Marina and the Special Events Beach, four miles northeast of Boulder City. The beach is a prime spot for spectators.

formance. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 229-6211.

**Downtown Hoedown** • Dec. 3 • Pre-NFR party featuring the Dixie Chicks, Miss Rodeo America queen contestants. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 678-5777.

**NFR Cowboy Christmas Gift Show** • Dec. 3-12 • Anything cowboy, Indian arts, official NFR and pro rodeo souvenirs. Las Vegas Convention Center, 260-8605.

**Downtown Rodeo Stampede** • Dec. 4-13 • Live entertainment nightly from 7-10 p.m. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 678-5777.

**Parade of Lights** • Dec. 4 • Floats and musicians. Mesquite Boulevard, Mesquite, 346-EVNT.

**National Finals Rodeo** • Dec. 4-13 • Rodeo athletes compete for more than \$3.3 million in prize money. Other events include the Cowboy Christmas Gift Show, barbecue, and buckle presentations. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

**Parade of Lights** • Dec. 5 • Decorated boats parade on the lake. Special Events Beach, Lake Mead, Boulder City, 702-293-2034.

**Christmas Parade** • Dec. 5 • Photos with Santa. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 293-2034.

**O Tannenbaum Tree Festival** • Dec. 5-6 • Includes a Christmas bazaar. Virgin Valley Senior Center, Mesquite, 346-3868.

**"Sounds of the Season"** • Dec. 8 • Henderson Civic Symphony performs holiday music with a 300-member choir. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 565-2367.

**Tree Lighting** • Dec. 9 • Holiday treats, music, crafts, and Santa. Government Center Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 455-5534.

**CineVegas International Film Festival** • Dec. 10-13 • Inaugural event includes movie premieres and seminars.

## Nevada's Second Area Code

Beginning Dec. 12, the area code for the Las Vegas area remains 702 while the rest of the state changes from 702 to 775.

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The Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company employs humor and edgy technique when it performs November 8 in Virginia City, November 19 in Crystal Bay, and November 21 in Fallon.

Bally's Hotel, Las Vegas, 477-7530.

**Christmas Gift and Craft Show** • Dec. 11-13 • Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 798-4944.

**"A Christmas Carol"** • Dec. 11-13 and 16-19 • Charles

Dickens' classic tale about the trials of Ebenezer Scrooge. Actors Repertory Theatre, Summerlin Library, Las Vegas, 647-7469.

**Children's Christmas Parade** • Dec. 12 • Santa and his elves.



## Christmas at Liberace's

They'll be decking the halls with candelabra during Christmas at the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas on December 3. The festivities include a tree lighting, holiday music, and Santa in gold lamé.

City Hall, Mesquite, 346-EVNT.

**Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration** • Dec. 12 • Craft and goodie sale, roving carolers, sing-along, hot spiced cider, Santa, make-and-take ornaments, and holiday brunch and dinner. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

**Children's Christmas Parade** • Dec. 12 • Convention Center, Henderson, 565-8951.

**Holiday Festival** • Dec. 12-13 • Crafts, art, and performers. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

**Christmas Music and Dance Concert** • Dec. 13 • Concert and jazz bands, choirs, dance and theater performers, and a sing-along of traditional Christmas songs. Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-LIVE.

**Holiday Jazz Concert** • Dec. 13 • Buddy Charles 19-piece swing band performs. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 565-9784.

**Las Vegas Woodwind Quintet** • Dec. 13 • Concert of holiday classics. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 229-6211.

**Christmas Concert** • Dec. 14 • Desert Chorale performs. Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

**Greg Woodruff: A Country Christmas** • Dec. 14 • Performance by hometown entertainer. Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-2787.

**Holiday Festival** • Dec. 14-26 • Daily entertainment includes the March of the Toy Soldiers, visits by Santa on weekends. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 678-5777.

**"True Magic"** • Dec. 17-20 • Evan Blake's Christmas fable. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

**"The Nutcracker"** • Dec. 18-27 • Nevada Ballet Theatre performs the Christmas classic. Cashman Theatre, Las Vegas, 2-4-DANCE.

**Community Sing** • Dec. 19 • Holiday music. Elementary School, Mesquite, 346-EVNT.

**Winter Wonderland** • Dec. 19 • Frosty visits, reindeer games, ice carving, hands-on craft projects, entertainment, food, and pony rides. Sunset Park, Las Vegas, 455-8206.

**American Music Festival** • Dec. 19-20 • Christmas music. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

**Live Nativity Scene** • Dec. 20 • Candle procession begins at City Hall. Mesquite, 346-EVNT.

**Kujichagulia, "Self Determination"** • Dec. 27 • Cultural celebration of African-American heritage featuring music, dance, poetry, storytelling, and traditional food. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 229-6211.

**New Year's Eve** • Dec. 31 • Bauchman Turner Overdrive and Starship perform to welcome in the new year. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 678-5777.

**Jeff Foxworthy in Concert** • Dec. 31 • New Year's Eve performance, guest starring Ritch Shydrner. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

### PERFORMANCES

**U.S. Army Field Band Concert** • Nov. 2 • Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 565-2367.

**Shangri-La Chinese Acrobats** • Nov. 4 • Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-2787.

**John McEuen and the String Wizards** • Nov. 6 • Music includes McEuen's years with the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and the Old West through his film music. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 229-6211.

**A Celebration of Dance** • Nov. 6-8 • Nevada Ballet Theatre presentation of "Raymonda," "A Handel Celebration," and "In the Mood." Cashman Theatre, Las Vegas, 2-4-DANCE.

**"After Play"** • Nov. 6-8, 12-15, and 20-21 • Comedy by Anne Mera about old friends who become reacquainted after a chance meeting in a restaurant. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 558-PARK.

**Holocaust Memorial: The Spirit of Terezin** • Nov. 11 • The Nevada Symphony Orchestra presents an instrumental and vocal tour of the Nazi concentration camp and the creative forces unleashed under inhumane conditions. Ham Hall, UNLV, 792-4337.

**"Duty"** • Nov. 12-15 and 18-22 • Carleen Jasper's 1940s story of a young woman who has an affair with a soldier shortly before her family calls her home to care for her ailing mother. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

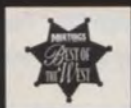
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## Gotcha, Little Dogie

Calf roper Cody Ohi took home the gold buckle during the 1997 National Finals Rodeo. The world's top rodeo cowboys and cowgirls return to Las Vegas on December 4-13 for this year's NFR at the Thomas and Mack Center. Related events include the Downtown Hoedown December 3 at the Fremont Street Experience and the NFR Cowboy Christmas Gift Show December 3-12 at the Las Vegas Convention Center. During the NFR entertainers such as Clint Black and LeAnn Rimes play the showrooms, and Rickey and the Redstreaks sow their musical madness at the Stardust. When they are not competing, some of the rodeo contestants play in a late-night Celebrity Blackjack Tournament December 9 at the Rio Suite Hotel.

**"Portrait of a Girl From Nowhere...an Urban Fairy Tale"** • Nov. 13 • The world of race, identity, growth, and survival is portrayed in dance. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 229-6211.

**"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying"** • Nov. 13-15 and 20-22 • Broadway musical. Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-5483.

**Nevada Jazz Artists Concert** • Nov. 15 • Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

**Nigel Kennedy** • Nov. 18 • Renowned violinist performs in concert. Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

**New Potatoes** • Nov. 19 • Irish folk music. Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-2787.

**Mexico Vivo Dance Company** • Nov. 20-21 • Folk dances. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

**The Five Senses** • Nov. 21 • Blue Palm performers present a family show about the senses of sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 565-2367.

**The Bobs** • Dec. 1 • A-cappella quartet sings about the foibles of modern life. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

**Robert Bluestone** • Dec. 2 • Classical guitarist performs. Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

**Brass Ensemble and Las Vegas British Brass Band** • Dec. 3 • Concert. Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

**"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"** • Dec. 3-6 and 9-13 • Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize-winning drama. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

**"Oliver!"** • Dec. 4-6 and 10-13 • The Rainbow Company presents the Tony Award-winning musical featuring the Artful Dodger, Fagin, and Sikes of the Charles Dickens'

story. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

**Fall Dance Concert** • Dec. 4-5 • Gershwin centennial program. Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-4201.

**"Hansel and Gretel"** • Dec. 5-6 and 12-13 • Children's musical. Las Vegas Little Theatre, 458-7575.

**Jazz Concert** • Dec. 6 • Standards to avant-garde. Black Box Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-LIVE.

**Winter Choral Concert** • Dec. 10 • Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-LIVE.

**Big Bands I and II Concert** • Dec. 11 • Jazz concert. Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-LIVE.

**Tenor Madness IV** • Dec. 13 • Nevada Jazz Artists concert. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

**Italian Medallions** • Dec. 15 • The works of Italian composers such as Rossini and Puccini. Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-LIVE.

### EXHIBITS

**Las Vegas: The War Years** • Permanent exhibit of photographs and artifacts on Las Vegas' coming of age during the 1940s. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205.

**There's No Such Thing as a Fine Arts Emergency** • Thru Nov. 1 • Single image, diptychs, triptychs of Polaroid images. Sahara West Library, Las Vegas, 228-4274.

**History of Mexicans in Southern Nevada** • Thru Nov. 3 • Photographic essay documents the contributions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans to the history of Nevada. Clark County Library Gallery, Las Vegas, 733-

7810 for further information on the exhibition.

**Nature's Treasures: Pegmatite Gem Deposit of the Southwest** • Thru Nov. 8 • Photo exhibit by Jeff Scovil and specimens from the museum collection. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

**Lightsapes** • Thru Nov. 8 • Multimedia exhibit about the visual stimulus of Las Vegas. NICA Gallery, Las Vegas, 434-2666.

**The Vision of Jim Henson** • Thru Nov. 15 • Interactives tell the story of the genius behind such characters as Miss Piggy, Kermit, and Big Bird. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 382-3445.

**Mojave Messages** • Thru Nov. 22 • The desert canyon lands and the Colorado River are exhibited in art and poetry by Native American artist Char Cruz. Enterprise Library, Las Vegas, 269-3000.

**Mystery of the Dinosaur** • Thru Dec. 31 • Exhibit of dinosaur eggs linked to scientific controversy of how and when dinosaurs became extinct. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, 384-DINO.

**Life in the Hot and Dry: Desert Animal Adaptations** • Thru Sept. • Exhibit shows how creatures including lizards, rodents, rabbits, butterflies survive in the desert. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205.

**Protecting the Nest** • Nov. 1 • Unveiling of a dinosaur exhibit depicting a mother duck-billed dinosaur rushing back to her nest as it is being ravaged by prehistoric mammals and a pack of raptors. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, 384-DINO.

**Hoover Dam: The World War II Years** • Nov. 1-15 • Pictorial history, video, and a camouflage model of the dam during the war. Visitor Center, Hoover Dam, eight miles east of Boulder City, 294-3524.

**AIDS Memorial Quilt** • Nov. 12-Dec. 1 • Two sections of the quilt are exhibited. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

**Mark Burns' '50s Memorabilia** • Nov. 12-Feb. 7 • UNLV art professor's collection on exhibit. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 229-6211.



## Great Basin Art

Washoe Valley potter Muffy Vhay (above) and other members of the Great Basin Craftsmen will hold a holiday show and sale November 20-21 at the Nevada State Library and Archives in downtown Carson City. The artisans will display weaving, beadwork, and wood crafts as well as pottery.

Photo: Dan Hubbell/PRCA (top), Marjorie Marshall (bottom)

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**On Location in Clark County** • Nov. 14-Jan. 24 • Photos, memorabilia, and artifacts of the movies filmed in Southern Nevada. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

**Annie Lee** • Dec. 3-Feb. 22 • Paintings depict African-American family life and history. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

**In a Silver State** • Dec. 8-Jan. 26 • Kim Hoffman uses metals, ceramics, and glass to create her animal pieces, many of them humorous. Rainbow Library, Las Vegas, 243-7323.

**Man Made** • Dec. 10-Jan. 20 • Photographer KC Errett's still-life images on hand-coated paper. Sunrise Library, Las Vegas, 453-1104.

**Survival in Post-Soviet Armenia** • Dec. 15-Jan. 25 • Photographer John Esperian depicts a country in transition. West Charleston Library, Las Vegas, 878-3682.

**Joseph House** • Dec. 29-March 2 • Black history is celebrated in images of self-reflection and cultural identification through mixed media, photography, and sculpture. Clark County Library Main Gallery, Las Vegas, 733-7810.

### SPORTS

**UNLV Women's Basketball** • The Lady Rebels play Nov. 2 v. Slovan Bratislava of Slovakia, Nov. 10 v. Lady Rebel Alumni, Dec. 4-5 Four Queens Shootout with South Florida, Tennessee Chattanooga, and Belmont, Dec. 27 v. Long Beach State, Dec. 30 v. U of N, Reno. Thomas and Mack Center and the Lied Gymnasium, Las Vegas, 895-UNLV.

**UNLV Men's Basketball** • The Runnin' Rebels play Nov. 5 v. Global Sports, Nov. 10 v. California All Stars, Nov. 14 v. Sacred Heart, Nov. 16 v. Troy State, Nov. 20 v. USC Trojans, Nov. 24 v. Weber State, Dec. 19 Las Vegas Shootout with Arizona, Iowa State, and Cincinnati, Dec. 22 v. Oklahoma State, Dec. 27 v. Columbia, Dec. 28

v. Southern Utah. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-UNLV.

**World of Outlaws** • Nov. 3-4 • 1/2 dirt track racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.



## Stirring Strings

Classical-music fans will learn about the man behind the instrument when violinist Nigel Kennedy performs December 2 at Artemis Ham Hall at UNLV.

**All-Truck Championship** • Nov. 5 • 3/8 oval track racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.

**1/4-Mile Drag Racing** • Nov. 6 • Top fuel dragsters. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.

**NASCAR Winston West and Southwest Tour** • Nov. 7 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.

**NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series** • Nov. 8 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.

**Turkey Trot** • Nov. 8 • One-mile fun run-walk and 5K and 10K competitive runs, benefit for the Arthritis Foundation. Sam's Town, Las Vegas, 367-1626.

**Las Vegas Thunder** • The International Hockey League team plays Nov. 11 and 13 v. Kansas City Blades, Nov. 18 v. Long Beach Ice Dogs, Nov. 25 and 27 v. Grand Rapids Griffins, Nov. 28 v. Houston Aeros, Dec. 23 v. Long Beach Ice Dogs. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 798-PUCK.

**8-Ball Tournament** • Nov. 10 • Senior pool sharks, at least 55 years old, are invited to compete for prizes. Las Vegas Senior Center, 229-6454.

**PageNet Tour Championship** • Nov. 16-22 • Top 30 LPGA golfers compete in a season-ending tournament for a \$1-million purse. Desert Inn Golf Club, Las Vegas, 733-GOLF.

**Oscar De La Hoya v. Ike Quartey** • Nov. 21 • Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, for tickets call the Caesars Palace Box Office, 702-731-7865, Thomas and Mack, 702-895-3900, or Ticketmaster, 702-474-4000.

**UNLV Football** • The Rebels play Nov. 21 v. Texas Christian. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 895-UNLV.

**USAC Turkey Trot Midgets and Sprints** • Nov. 28 • 1/2 dirt track racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.

**WAC Football Championship** • Dec. 5 • Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 260-8605.

**USA Table Tennis National Championship** • Dec. 16-20 • Las Vegas Convention Center, 719-578-4583.

**Las Vegas Shootout** • Dec. 19 • Featuring the UNLV Runnin' Rebels, Arizona, Iowa State, and Cincinnati. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

**Las Vegas Bowl** • Dec. 19 • Football contest between the WAC champion and an opponent-at-large. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

**Reebok Holiday Prep Classic** • Dec. 19-23 • Tournament featuring 52 top high school basketball teams from 18 states, Canada, and the District of Columbia. Durango and Cimarron-Memorial high schools, Las Vegas, 799-5850, ext. 223.

### GENERAL INTEREST

**Western National Antique Show** • Oct. 31-Nov. 1 • Henderson Convention Center, 382-7043.

**Israeli Film Series** • Nov. 1 and 8 • Nov. 1, *Anou Banou: The Daughters of Utopia*, the story of six women who speak of their hopes and dreams as socialists, Zionists, and feminists. Nov. 8, *The Wooden Gun*, about the harsh landscape and tense atmosphere of Israel in its first years of independence. Both films in Hebrew with English subtitles. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

**Star Chefs of Las Vegas** • Nov. 5 • Fund-raiser for the March of Dimes. Desert Inn, Las Vegas, 732-9255.

**Old Bill Williams: Mountain Man** • Nov. 7 • Living-history program on the colorful character who hid out in present-day Nevada to rest horses stolen from California during the 1840s. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 17 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141.

**Jim Wilson** • Nov. 8 • Living-history program on the Civil War veteran, miner, and rancher who was one of Las Vegas' earliest settlers. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 17 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141.

**Fashion Show** • Nov. 14 • Nieman Marcus children's wear and dessert. Opportunity Village, Las Vegas, 259-3741.

**Experience the Swing** • Nov. 20-21 • Music and entertainment. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 678-5777.

**Pine Creek Fall Color Walk** • Nov. 21 • Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 12 miles west of Las Vegas, 363-1921.

**Master Apprentice Programme Fashion Show** • Nov. 21 • One-of-a-kind garments by American designers including

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# Christmas in Nevada



Ski resorts such as Squaw Valley (above) light up during the holidays with fireworks and torchlight parades. Squaw's festivities will be December 24.



Even the horses get into the Christmas spirit during the Sparks Hometowne Christmas Parade, which this year is December 5.



Revelers gather at the Fremont Street Experience in downtown Las Vegas to greet the March of the Toy Soldiers (above), which takes place during the Holiday Festival, December 14-26. Snowman-building is a popular pastime at Lake Tahoe (right).



Nicole Miller, Oscar de la Renta, and Tommy Hilfiger. Center Court of the Fashion Show Mall, Las Vegas, 369-8382.

**Animal Myth Conceptions** • Nov. 27-28 • Lectures and demonstrations correct common misconceptions about animals in humorous and entertaining ways. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, 384-3466.

**Craft Festival** • Nov. 27-29 • Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 805-481-7100.

**Black Doll Show** • Nov. 28 • Second annual gathering of doll artists and collectors. West Las Vegas Art Center, 647-2242.

**Antique Show** • Nov. 28-29 • Henderson Convention Center, 813-345-4431.

**Miss Rodeo America Pageant** • Nov. 29-Dec. 6 • Entrants are judged on appearance, personality, and horsemanship. Flamingo Hilton, Las Vegas, 719-948-9206.

**Wild West Gun Show** • Dec. 5-6 • Henderson Convention Center, 405-525-3266.

**NFR Celebrity Blackjack Tournament** • Dec. 9 • Rodeo competitors exchange the dirt arena for green felt tables. Rio Suite Hotel, Las Vegas, 247-7895.

**Hillerman Country Revisited** • Dec. 13 • Lecture on Southwestern author Tony Hillerman's new book, *The First Eagle*. Signed first editions of Hillerman's and Ernie Bulow's work and original artwork by Ernest Franklin will be available. Flamingo Library, Las Vegas, 382-3493.

**Celebrating Kwanzaa** • Dec. 15-17 • Lecture on the history, principles, symbols, and ceremonies of Kwanzaa. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 229-6211.

**The Seven Symbols of Kwanzaa** • Dec. 18 • Children's program. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 229-6211.

**Umoja, "Unity"** • Dec. 26 • Welcoming ceremony and an explanation of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 229-4800.

**Sensory Safari** • Dec. 26-27 • Interactive displays allow visitors to experience museum exhibits through touch, smell, sound, and taste rather than sight. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, 384-3466.

#### COMING EVENTS

**Junior College Basketball Invitational** • Jan. 16-20 • Las Vegas, 719-578-4583.

**Laughlin Desert Challenge** • Jan. 21-24 • Laughlin, 702-298-2214.

**International Marathon and Half-Marathon** • Feb. 4-7 • Las Vegas, 702-876-3870.

**African-American Cultural Arts Festival** • Feb. 7-8 • Las Vegas, 702-647-2242.

**Great Mesquite Chili and Art Festival** • Feb. 12-14 • Mesquite, 702-346-5295.

**Winston Cup Las Vegas 400** • March 7 • Las Vegas, 702-644-4443.

**Invitational Native American Arts Festival** • March 26-28 • Henderson, 702-455-7955.

**Laughlin River Stampede** • April 7-11 • Laughlin, 702-298-2214.

**Clark County Fair** • April 8-11 • Logandale, 702-398-FAIR.

**Laughlin River Run** • April 22-25 • Laughlin, 702-298-2214.

**Senior PGA Classic** • April 28-May 2 • Las Vegas, 800-556-5400.

**Spring Jamboree and Craft Fair** • May 1-2 • Boulder City, 702-293-2034.

**Laughlin River Days** • May 29-30, 298-2214.

**Chautauqua** • Sept. 10-11, Boulder City, 294-4365.

**Mesquite Fall Roundup** • Oct. 2-3, 346-3868.

**Bluegrass Festival** • Oct. 8-10, Logandale, 564-5455.

**Magical Forest** • Nov. 20-Dec. 27, Las Vegas, 259-2553.

**O Tannenbaum Christmas Festival** • Nov. 27-28, Mesquite, 346-EVNT.

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# Reno-Tahoe Territory

## FESTIVALS & HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

**Nevada Day Celebration** • Oct. 28-Nov. 1 • 1864 grand ball, single jack rock drilling, concerts, railroad museum steam-up, fireworks, carnival rides, food, vendors, entertainment, games, contests, parade. Carson City, 687-7410.

**LaKa Leibe Nevada Day Powwow** • Oct. 30-Nov. 1 • Indian dancers from Western states, arts, crafts, food vendors, dance and drum contests. Indian Colony, Carson City, 885-9607.

**Veterans Day Parade** • Nov. 11 • C Street, Virginia City, 847-0311.

**Shop and Sherry Sale** • Nov. 19-22 • Holiday sale of jewelry, art books, pottery, cards, toys, games, and books. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.

**Holiday Sales Exhibition** • Nov. 20-21 • Pottery, weaving, stained glass, baskets, beads, dolls, woodwork. Nevada State Library and Archives, Carson City, 882-8937.

**Valhalla Holiday Faire: A Dickens Experience** • Nov. 20-22 • Crafts, boutiques, carolers, music, hot chocolate, spiced cider, and mulled wine. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

**Jazz Fest at the Hyatt** • Nov. 27-28 • Third annual event includes Dave Koz, David Benoit, and Brenda Russell. Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Incline Village, 832-1234.



## Music for "Rent"

The Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning musical "Rent" stops in Reno November 13-15 before traveling to San Francisco. The play is the most honored musical since "A Chorus Line" in 1976.

**"The Nutcracker"** • Nov. 27-29 • 10th annual performance of the traditional Christmas ballet. Community Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

Sparks, 353-2291.

**Valhalla Holiday Gala** • Dec. 5 • Dinner and dancing. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

**Christmas Faire and Antique Show** • Nov. 27-29 • Dake-Hawkins House, Genoa, 782-4951.

**Magic of Santa Christmas Faire** • Nov. 27-29 • Juried show of Nevada and California artists and crafters. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 334-2262.

**East Fork Gallery Christmas Reception** • Nov. 29 • Original Christmas cards, hand-painted ornaments, paintings. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 782-7629.

**Deck the Halls of Valhalla** • Dec. 2 • Christmas decorating party features holiday goodies and carols. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

**Silver and Snowflakes Festival of Lights** • Dec. 3 • Traditional tree-lighting. Downtown Carson City, 882-1565.

**"A Christmas Carol"** • Dec. 4-6 • Adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic story. Reno Little Theater, Reno, 331-1877.

**Christmas Faire and Antique Show** • Dec. 4-6 and 11-13 • Dake-Hawkins House, Genoa, 782-4951.

**Spirit of the Season** • Dec. 5 • Holiday favorites performed by the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra and the UNR Choral Union. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 323-6393.

**Christmas on the Comstock** • Dec. 5 • Night parade, tree-lighting, fireworks. C Street, Virginia City, 847-0311.

**Sparks Hometowne Christmas** • Dec. 5 • Parade, tree-lighting, caroling, crafts, entertainment, and food. Victorian Square,

Visit White Pine County, where the only negatives come from your camera.



### Annual Events

**January**  
Ice Fishing and Ice Skating on Cave Lake  
Nevada Fur Trappers Fur Sale  
**February**  
Indoor Invitational Archery  
Model Railroad Display  
**March**  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Dinner  
Annual Greek Party  
**April**  
Community Choir Performance  
Easter Egg Hunt  
**May**  
Beginning of the Ghost Train season  
Silver State Open Road Challenge  
Eastern NV Paint Horse Show  
Run to the Red Lights-Harley Run

**June**  
Long Steel Rails Festival  
Annual Pony Express Ride  
Men's One-Pitch Tournament  
Eastern NV Umpires Co-ed Tournament  
Rides on the Ghost Train  
**July**  
Fireworks  
Nevada 4-Wheelers Rally  
Jr. Jazz Fund Raiser - Show Pitch Tourney  
Lund Pioneer Days  
More great Train Rides  
**August**  
Bristlecone Arts in the Park  
Senior Olympics  
White Pine County Fair & Horse Races  
S.N.O.R.E.  
Fantasy Classic & Antique Car Show  
Cattlewoman's Deep Pit BBQ

**August (cont.)**  
Coyotes Motorcycle Race  
Budge Stanton Memorial Co-ed Tourney  
More Exciting Train Rides  
**September**  
NV Northern Rail Days  
Ultra-light fly-in  
Silver State Classic Open Road Challenge  
WPC High School Rodeo  
**October**  
Trains Unlimited - Photographer's Weekend  
Merchant's Showcase  
**November**  
Doll & Teddy Bear Show  
Toys for Tots Co-ed Pitch  
Turkey Shoot at Mosier Canyon  
**December**  
Crafter's & Merchant's Bazaar  
Holiday Sweet Tooth Extravaganza

## White Pine County NEVADA

For more information...

Bristlecone Convention & Visitors Bureau 1-800-496-9350  
White Pine Chamber of Commerce 702/289-8877  
Nevada Northern Railway Museum 702/289-2085  
Great Basin National Park - Lehman Caves 702/234-7331

**Silver and Snowflakes Winter Expo** • Dec. 5-6 • Benefit for Carson Advocates for Cancer Victims features a holiday gift and craft show, Santa, music, refreshments. Community Center, Carson City, 887-1294.

**Festival of the Trees** • Dec. 6 • Entertainment, children's activities, street performances, crafts, holiday lights, and Santa. Downtown Reno, 334-2417.

**Christmas Craft Fair** • Dec. 6 • Douglas High School, Gardnerville, 782-4631.

**Christmas Variety Show** • Dec. 6 • Orchestra, vocalists, jugglers, ventriloquist, Santa, sing-along. Community Center, Carson City, 687-4130.

**Victorian Christmas Home Tour** • Dec. 6 • Historic District, Carson City, 882-1805.

**"The Messiah"** • Dec. 12 • Handel classic performed by the Reno Chamber Orchestra and the UNR Concert Choir and Chamber Singers. Location TBA, Reno, 784-6847.

**Santa Train** • Dec. 12-13 • Free steam train rides with Santa. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 687-7410.

**Holiday Treat Concert** • Dec. 13 • The Carson City Symphony and Carson Chamber Singers perform seasonal music. Community Center, Carson city, 883-4154.

**"The Nutcracker"** • Dec. 18-20 • Features guest artists and the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra. Reno Hilton, 785-7915.

**Squaw Valley Torchlight Parade and Fireworks** • Dec. 24 • Squaw Valley Ski Resort, 530-583-6985.

**Christmas Torchlight Parade and Fireworks** • Dec. 26 • Kirkwood Ski Resort, Kirkwood, 209-258-7339.

**New Year's Eve Torchlight Parade and Fireworks** • Dec. 31 • Kirkwood Ski Resort, Kirkwood, 209-258-7339.

**Buck 'n Ball '98** • Dec. 31 • Rodeo, live bands, and dancing. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

**New Year's Eve Dinner Dance** • Dec. 31 • Reno Hilton, 800-648-3568.

#### PERFORMANCES

**"Ravenscroft"** • Nov. 1 • Gothic comedy thriller by Don Nigeo. Elks Club, Reno, 331-1877.

**Trio Voronezh** • Nov. 4 • Russian musicians discovered in a Frankfurt subway station; their repertoire ranges from classical to Russian folk music. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.

**Band Concert** • Nov. 5 • Community Center, Carson City, 883-2219.

**"Educating Rita"** • Nov. 6-7, 12-14, and 19-21 • Comedy about a disillusioned English professor who has his life turned upside down by a forthright hairdresser. Bruka Theatre of the Sierra, Reno, 323-3221.

**Rhymers Rodeo Cowboy Poetry** • Nov. 6-8 • Dinner show featuring tales of the trail and Western lore. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711.

**"No Exit"** • Nov. 7-8 and 12-15 • Play about two women and one man locked in a hideous room in Hell. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 841-5960.

**Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company** • Nov. 8 • Touring company uses inventive and humorous techniques. Middle School Gym, Virginia City, 847-9ART.

**Casual Classics Concert** • Nov. 8 • A dress-down program to introduce classical music to children. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.

**"Rent"** • Nov. 10-15 • Tony Award-winning musical about a community of artists and their struggles and hopes. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 686-6610.

**UNR Orchestra** • Nov. 12 • Phillip Ruder conducts a free concert. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.

**"Angels in America: Part One: The Millennium Approaches"** • Nov. 13-14 and 18-21 • Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning adult play. Redfield Theatre, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.

**"Man of La Mancha"** • Nov. 13-22 • Broadway musical. Community Center, Carson City, 887-3114.

**Virginia Lenz in Concert** • Nov. 14 • Violist performs Schumann's "Fairy Tales, Opus 113" and works by Bach and Hindemith. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.

**Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company** • Nov. 19 • Dance concert employing humor and edgy technique, includes the works of choreographers Tandy Beal, Laura Dean, Bill

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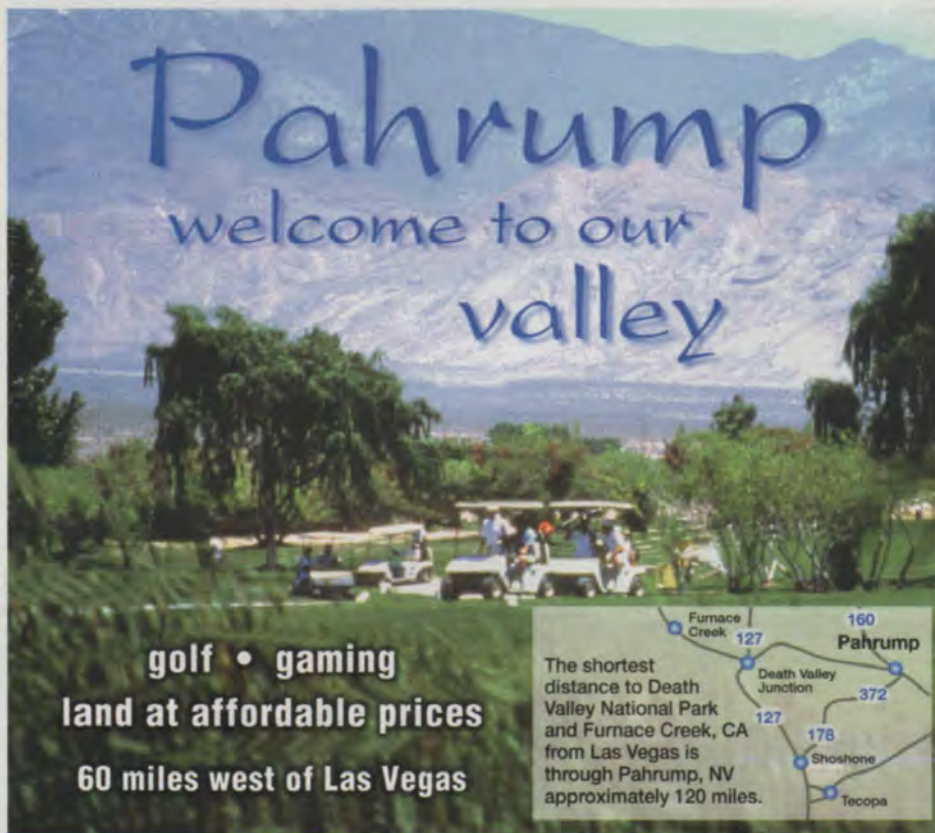
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Evans. Cal-Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, 530-546-4602.  
**MasterClassics 3** • Nov. 24 • Concert features guest conductor James Paul and cellist Borislav Stulev. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 323-6393.  
**"Hansel and Gretel"** • Dec. 1-2 • Musical about two lost children and a gingerbread house. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.  
**Argenta Quartet** • Dec. 4 • Chamber music concert. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.  
**"The Wizard of Oz"** • Dec. 4-5, 10-12, and 17-19 • L. Frank Baum's classic story. Bruka Theatre of the Sierra, Reno, 323-3221.  
**UNR Women's Chorus** • Dec. 9 • Performs choral literature

## Picturing the Sierra

Ansel Adams and Albert Bierstadt are among the artists and photographers featured in the exhibition "From Exploration to Conservation: Picturing the Sierra Nevada" at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno. The show demonstrates how the mountain range has inspired art in the West for the past 150 years.

written for women. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-4046.  
**Magical Moonshine Theatre** • Dec. 12 • Bilingual puppetry theatre, folk tales, songs. Cal-Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, 530-546-4602.  
**"Babes in Toyland"** • Dec. 16-17 • Musical for young people. Community Center, Carson City, 887-3114.

### EXHIBITS

**Carol Tarzier** • Thru Nov. 13 • Sculpture and drawings. C.I.T.Y. 2000 Gallery, City Hall, Reno, 329-1324.  
**Handmade Paper and Mixed Media** • Thru Dec. 3 • Works by artist Ingrid Evans. Sierra Arts Center Gallery, Reno, 329-1324.  
**Model T: America on Wheels** • Thru Jan. 4 • Historical perspective on the Model T. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.  
**Art of the Sierra Nevada** • Thru Jan. 8 • Exhibit focuses on the Sierra Nevada mountain range and the settling of the Far West. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.  
**A Common Thread** • Thru Jan. 10 • More than 30 artists who have been inspired by the theme "Great Basin Landscape." Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.  
**Heart of the Jag** • Thru Jan. 11 • History of the XK engine and a display of Jaguar automobiles. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.  
**Painting and Works on Paper** • Nov. 6-Dec. 3 • Rupert Garcia's work includes politically charged imagery and European, American, and Mexican art. Sheppard Gallery, U of N, Reno, 784-6658.  
**Li Hu** • Nov. 16-Jan. 8 • Figurative oil paintings. C.I.T.Y. 2000 Gallery, City Hall, Reno, 329-1324.  
**Biggest Little Art Show in Nevada III: Playing With a Full Deck** • Dec. 14-Jan. 21 • Juried show of miniature art on playing cards. Sierra Arts Center, Reno, 329-1324.

### SPORTS

**National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals** • Nov. 9-15 • Top cowboys and cowgirls, 40 and older, compete. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 688-5750.

## Nevada's Second Area Code

Beginning Dec. 12, the area code for the Las Vegas area remains 702 while the rest of the state changes from 702 to 775.



## The Art of Reno

Artist Ingrid Evans presents her works in "Handmade Paper and Mixed Media" through December 13 at the Sierra Arts Center Gallery in Reno (above). Other shows in downtown Reno include "Art of the Sierra Nevada," through January 8, and "A Common Thread," through January 10, both at the Nevada Museum of Art.

**University of Nevada Men's Basketball** • The Wolf Pack plays Nov. 10 v. team TBA, Nov. 12 v. California All Stars,

Nov. 23 v. Wyoming, Dec. 2 v. UNLV, Dec. 9 v. San Diego State, Dec. 15 v. St. Mary's, Dec. 17 v. Stanford, Dec. 21

v. Seattle. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 348-PACK.  
**University of Nevada Women's Basketball** • The Lady Pack plays Nov. 21 v. Sacramento State, Nov. 22 v. team TBA, Dec. 9 v. San Francisco, Dec. 12 v. Denver, Dec. 20 v. Wyoming, Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 348-PACK.  
**University of Nevada Reno Football** • The Wolf Pack plays Nov. 14 v. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Nov. 21 v. Southern Mississippi. Mackay Stadium, Reno, 348-PACK.  
**Cross-Country Ski Race** • Dec. 7 • 10K competition for all levels. Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, Kirkwood, 209-258-7248.

### GENERAL INTEREST

**Rink on the River** • Nov. 1-Feb. 28 • Outdoor ice skating rink features open skating, lessons, hockey leagues. Downtown Reno, 334-2417.

**Beer Tasting and Auction** • Nov. 6 • Tasting, food, and auction to celebrate beer making. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

**'50s Sock Hop** • Nov. 6 • Dance to rock 'n' roll favorites. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 882-1626.

**Second Sunday Series** • Nov. 8 • Emmy-winning film maker Eric Perlman will screen an adventure rock-climbing film focusing on disabled athletes. Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village, 851-1314, ext. 3800.

**All That Glitters: Beads of Fashion and Tradition—Ancient, Tribal, and Trade** • Nov. 17 • Lecture by Naomi Lindstrom to benefit the Reno Chamber Orchestra. Silver Legacy, Reno, 348-9413.

### COMING EVENTS

**Sharkey's Serbian Christmas Dinner** • Jan. 7 • Gardnerville, 782-3133.

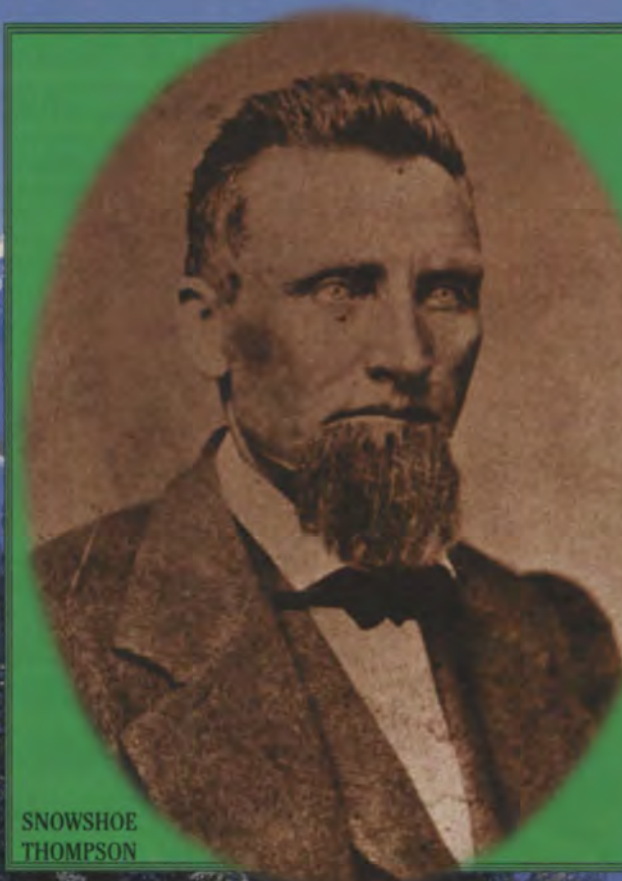
**Snowfest** • March 5-14 • North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-7625.

**Cowboy Poetry and Jubilee** • March 13-14 • Carson City, 883-1532.

**Mountain Oyster Fry** • March 13-14 • Virginia City, 847-0311.

**Reno Jazz Festival** • April 22-24 • Reno, 784-4046.

**Grand Prix Motorcycle Race** • May 8-9 • Virginia City, 837-0311.



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## The Spirit of Japan

Las Vegas' third annual Japan Festival celebrates Japanese dance, music, and history on November 6-8. The festival, which takes place at the Fremont Street Experience, MGM Grand, and Lady Luck, has been named one of the top 100 events in North America by the American Bus Association.

**Comstock Historic Preservation Week** • May 12-16 • Virginia City, 847-0311.  
**Carson City Rendezvous** • June 11-13 • Carson City, 687-7410.  
**Far West Regional Wheelchair Tennis Championship** • June 17-20 • Reno, 530-587-2108.  
**Reno Rodeo** • June 19-27 • Reno, 329-3877.  
**Uptown Downtown ARTown Festival** • July 1-31 • Reno, 329-1324.

## Cowboy Country

### FESTIVALS & HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

**Holiday of Lights** • Nov. 23 • Tree-lighting, singing, Santa. City Park, Wells, 752-3540.  
**Christmas in the Nighttime Skies** • Dec. 5 • Kimberly

Nurseries, Elko, 738-8011.

**Christmas Festival** • Dec. 7-9 • Arts, crafts, Santa, Christmas village. Community Center, Wendover, 664-3289.

**Christmas Ball** • Nov. 28 • Dance for adults only. Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7144.

**Festival of the Trees** • Dec. 5 • Friends of the Library craft fair, community singers. Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7213.

**Family New Year's Eve** • Dec. 31 • Bingo, games. Community Hall, McDermitt, 532-8742.

**New Year's Eve Dance** • Dec. 31 • A celebration for young people. Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7144.

### PERFORMANCES

**Masked Marvels and Wondertales** • Nov. 16 • Entertainer Michael Cooper combines original masks with classical and original stories. Pershing County High School, Lovelock, 273-1614.

### EXHIBITS

**Art Club Exhibit** • Nov. 1-Dec. 31 • Mixed media show. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418.

### SPORTS

**Wendover 100 Hare and Hound** • Nov. 14 • Off-road motorcycle racers compete on 33-mile loops. Morgan Basin, Wendover, 801-971-4222.

**Thanksgiving Turkey and Ham Trap Shoot** • Nov. 22 • Flying Saucer Trap Club, Lovelock, 273-1203.

**Turkey Shoot** • Dec. 20 • Flying Saucer Trap Club, Lovelock, 273-1203.

### COMING EVENTS

**Cowboy Poetry Gathering** • Jan. 25-Feb. 3 • Elko, 738-7135.  
**Shooting the West Photography Seminar** • March 5-7 • Winnemucca, 623-5071.

**National Basque Festival** • July 2-4 • Elko, 738-9691.

**Art in the Park** • July 17-18 • Elko, 738-1553.

**Land Speed Opener** • July 22-24 • Wendover, 801-785-5364.

**Jarbidge Days** • Aug. 13-15 • 488-2311.

**Elko County Fair** • Aug. 28-Sept. 6 • Elko, 738-3616.

**Winnemucca Tri-County Fair** • Sept. 2-7 • 800-WMCA-NEV.



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## Pony Express Territory

### FESTIVALS & HOLIDAYS

**Christmas Tree Lighting** • Dec. 4 • Maine Street, Fallon, 423-4556.

**Christmas Concert: Gift of the Magi** • Dec. 10 • Traditional Christmas music and the story of the Gift of the Magi. Churchill County High School, Fallon, 423-3871.

### PERFORMANCES

**Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company** • Nov. 21 • Touring company uses inventive and humorous dance and performs new works by contemporary choreographers. Churchill County High School, Fallon, 423-1440.

### SPORTS

**NHRA Drag Racing** • Nov. 14 • Pros and amateurs compete. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 423-0223.

**Stockman's Casino Turkey Nationals** • Nov. 27 • Drag racing in pro, sportsman, street, and bike classes. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 800-325-7448.

### GENERAL INTEREST

**Doll and Tedd Bear Show** • Nov. 7 • Exhibits, vendors, workshops, and contests. Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, 289-3720.

**Hidden Cave Tours** • Nov. 14, 28, and Dec. 12, 19 • Free guided tour of Hidden Cave archaeological site. Departs from Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677.

### COMING EVENTS

**Silver State Classic Challenge Auto Race** • May 13-16 • Ely, 289-6267.

**Fernley Fly-In** • May 23-24 • Fernley, 595-4459.

**Gridley Days** • June 18-20 • Austin, 964-2200.

**All-Indian Rodeo, Stampede, and Pioneer Days** • July 16-18 • Fallon, 423-2544.

## Pioneer Territory

### FESTIVALS & HOLIDAYS

**Veterans Day Celebration** • Nov. 7-8 • Memorial service, parade, barbecue, swap meet, games, cook-off, auction. Community Center and Park, Amargosa, 372-5459.

**St. Anne's Holiday Bazaar** • Nov. 14 • St. Anne's Church, Yerington, 463-2245.

**Holiday Crafts Bazaar** • Nov. 21 • Homemade gift items, arts, crafts. Convention Center, Tonopah, 482-3331.

**Pahrump Valley Powwow** • Nov. 21-22 • Dance and drum competitions, hand games, vendor booths. Petrack Community Park, Pahrump, 800-546-1151.

**Christmas Tree Lighting** • Dec. 7 • Santa, gifts, hot chocolate, and singing. Main Street, Pioche, 962-5544.

**Volunteer Fire Department Christmas Bash** • Dec. 12 • Annual dance. Convention Center, Tonopah, 482-3926.

**New Year's Eve Ball** • Dec. 31 • Convention Center, Tonopah, 482-6109.

### PERFORMANCES

**David Lee** • Nov. 4 • Utah's poet laureate gives a presentation. Frank R. Wilcox Auditorium, Panaca, 728-4263.

### SPORTS

**Beatty Gran Prix** • Nov. 7-8 • Motorcycle Racing Assn. of Nevada event with 100 competitors. Beatty, 399-7352.

**Fisherman's Holiday Fish Derby** • Nov. 28 • Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 945-5896.

**Terrible's Town 250** • Dec. 4-5 • Motorcycles, trucks, and quads race the 240-mile course between Pahrump and Beatty. 457-5775.

### COMING EVENTS

**Homecoming Celebration** • May 28-31 • Caliente, 726-3132.

**Jim Butler Days** • July 24-26 • Tonopah, 482-3859.

**Lyon County Fair** • Aug. 19-22 • Yerington, 463-2090.

**Pioche Labor Day** • Sept. 3-5 • Pioche, 962-5544.

**A Reminder:** To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. Nevada's area code is 702 until December 12, at which time the Las Vegas area will remain 702, while the rest of the state changes to 775.

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November 20-21



Ray Charles  
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**Collin Raye - New Year's Eve and January 1-2**

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# Skiing Around the State

A Guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin Ski Areas.

## 1998-99 Downhill Skier's Guide

Area	Website	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical Feet	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Lift Price Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child
<b>TAHOE BASIN</b>								
Alpine Meadows	www.alpineski.com	530-583-4232	8,637	1,800	12	25-40-35	\$48/\$10	\$15
Boreal	www.skiboreal.com	530-426-3666	7,700	500	9	30-55-15	\$28/\$10	\$18/\$12
Diamond Peak	www.diamondpeak.com	702-831-3211	8,540	1,840	6	18-46-36	\$38/\$14	\$20/\$13
Donner Ski Ranch	www.donnerranch.com	530-426-3635	7,751	750	6	25-50-25	\$23/\$10/\$5	\$17/\$10
Granlibakken		530-583-4242	6,480	280	2	50-50-0	\$15/\$8	\$15/\$12
Heavenly	www.skiheavenly.com	702-586-7000	10,040	3,500	26	20-47-33	\$52/\$38/\$24	\$22/\$12
Ski Homewood	www.skihomewood.com	530-525-2992	7,880	1,650	8	15-50-35	\$35/\$25/\$11	\$19/\$12
Kirkwood	www.skikirkwood.com	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	13	15-50-35	\$45/\$35/\$7	\$20/\$14
Mount Rose	www.mtrose.com	702-849-0704	9,700	1,440	5	30-35-35	\$42/\$10	\$25/\$15
Northstar-at-Tahoe	www.skinorthstar.com	530-562-1010	8,600	2,200	12	25-50-25	\$47/\$38/\$10	\$26/\$15
Sierra at Tahoe	www.sierratatahoe.com	530-659-7453	8,852	2,212	11	25-50-25	\$45/\$35/\$7	\$22/\$15
Soda Springs	www.skisodasprings.com	530-426-1010	7,352	652	3	30-50-20	\$15/free	\$15
Squaw Valley	www.squaw.com	530-583-6955	9,050	2,850	30	25-45-30	\$49/\$24/\$5	\$25/\$13
Sugar Bowl	www.sugarbowl.com	530-426-9000	8,383	1,500	12	17-43-40	\$45/\$10	\$23/\$16
Tahoe Donner	www.tahoeonner.com	530-587-9444	7,350	600	3	40-60-0	\$26/\$12	\$20/\$15

### AROUND THE STATE

LV Ski and Snowboard		702-646-0008	9,510	1,000	3	20-60-20	\$28/\$21	\$16
Elko Snobowl		702-738-6125	7,000	650	2	20-60-20	\$6	
Ruby Mountains (Elko)	www.helicopterskiing.com	702-753-6867	Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing offers back country helicopter skiing; \$2,565 per person					

## 1998-99 Cross-Country Skier's Guide

Area	Website	Phone	Trail (km)	Trail Fee Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child	Lessons Adult/Child	Day Lodge
<b>TAHOE BASIN</b>							
Clair Tappaan Lodge	www.sierraclub.org	530-426-3632	14	\$7/\$3.50	\$13/\$9	\$14	✓
Diamond Peak	www.diamondpeak.com	702-831-3211	35	\$14/\$9	\$15/\$7	\$34*	✓
Hope Valley		530-694-2266	80	none	\$14/\$8	\$28/\$20	✓
Kirkwood	www.skikirkwood.com	209-258-7248	80	\$15/\$5	\$15/\$9	\$35/\$20*	✓
Lake Tahoe Basin	www.fs.fed.us//Tahoe	530-573-2600	The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas.				
Lake View		530-583-9353	65	\$15/\$6	\$15/\$9	\$35*	
Northstar-at-Tahoe	www.skinorthstar.com	530-562-1010	65	\$16/\$9	\$16/\$9	\$39/\$25*	✓
Royal Gorge	www.royalgorge.com	530-426-3871	328	\$21/\$8.50	\$16.50/\$9.50	\$20/\$12	✓
Spoooner Lake		702-887-8844	101	\$15/\$9/\$3	\$15/\$9/\$4	\$34/\$25/\$18*	✓
Resort at Squaw Creek	www.squawcreek.com	530-583-6300	18	\$12/\$8	\$13/\$9	\$35*	✓
Tahoe Donner	www.tahoeonner.com	530-587-9484	94	\$16/\$14/\$9	\$15/\$9	\$35/\$29*	✓

### AROUND THE STATE

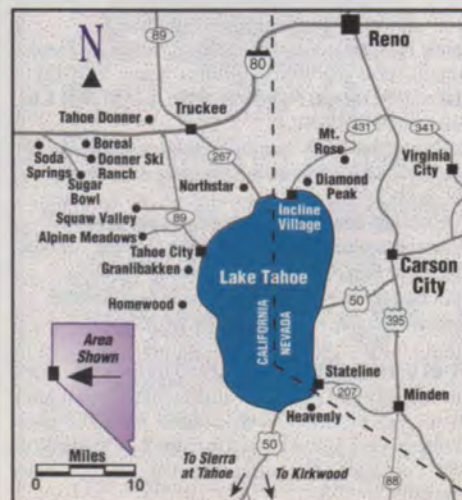
LV Ski and Snowboard		702-252-8077 702-873-8800	The Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions The U.S. Forest Service has info on camping and avalanche conditions				
Spring Valley (Eureka)		702-237-5280	Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides directions				
White Pine (Ely)	(USFS) (BLM)	702-289-3031 702-289-1800	Ward Mt. and Loop Trails info. available from the U.S. Forest Service and BLM				

\*Includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons  
All prices are subject to change. Call resorts for information about children's programs.



**S**kiers will find great views, ski schools, and some of the fastest lifts in the West at the ski resorts that ring Lake Tahoe. The lake's alpine resorts will unveil millions of dollars in improvements for the 1998-99 ski season.

Heavenly has spent \$10 million on capital improvements. Two lifts will be replaced with high-speed detachable quad chairs. Heavenly also has a new on-mountain lodge and expanded kids' center. Sierra at Tahoe will have a new tubing hill with a lift. The snowboard shop is doubling in size. Kirkwood has replaced Sunrise Chair No. 4 with a quad lift that increases capacity from 1,100 to 1,800 passengers per hour. Diamond Peak has added a new surface lift for the children's





Lake Tahoe skiers enjoy awesome terrain and views.

ski school and will rent more snowboards and snowshoes. Also, dogs will be allowed on the Nordic trails for longer hours. **Mount Rose-Ski Tahoe** is completing a renovation of the main lodge, and shuttle service to Reno has increased.

**Northstar-at-Tahoe** is remodeling the Big Springs Day Lodge to add 400 interior seats, a bar, and bakery on an enclosed upper deck. Evening skiing is now available with limited terrain access. **Alpine Meadows** has invested more than \$2.1 million in an upgraded lift system, expanded snowboard-rental shop, and other improvements. **Squaw Valley USA** unveils its new Gold Coast Funitel, a \$20-million high-speed gondola and the first Funitel in North America. Squaw also is building a \$250-million Intrawest Mountain Resort Village with 80 shops and restaurants.

Boreal is changing its name to **Boreal Mountain Playground** to encompass all snow sports. Boreal also has added a new triple chair. **Soda Springs** has enlarged its snowtubing park. **Sugar Bowl** is building a new \$5.5-million lodge with indoor and outdoor dining, bars, rental equipment, retail shop, and ticket area. **Tahoe Donner** has added snowbikes to its rental-equipment fleet this season.

For more information on Reno-Tahoe skiing, call the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, 800-FOR-RENO or [www.playreno.com](http://www.playreno.com).—*Carol Tanis, Reno News Bureau*

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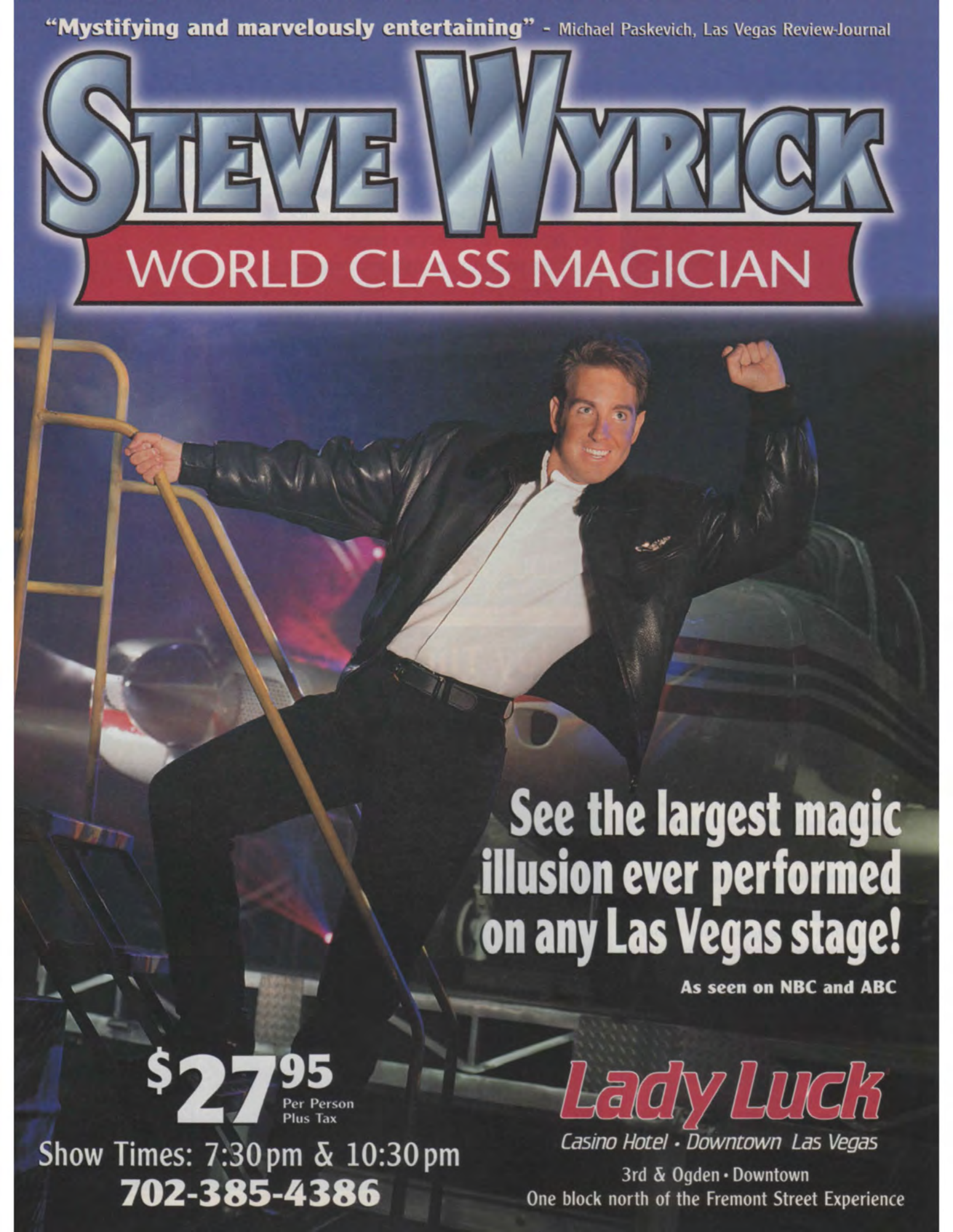
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A photograph of Steve Wyrick, a magician, performing on a stage. He is wearing a black leather jacket over a white shirt and black pants. He is leaning against a wooden ladder-like structure, with one arm raised in a fist. The background is dark with some stage lights and a large, stylized figure of a woman in a red and white outfit.

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# Nevada Showguide

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



## Gone Country

"Red Hot Country," a musical salute to contemporary country stars, scoots into the Reno Hilton December 29-January 31. "Red Hot Country" is booked in the Hilton Theater while "Aireus," the hotel's acrobatic production, takes a three-month hiatus.

Nevada clubs and hotels offer big-name entertainment and production shows. This winter, the Neville Brothers appear at the Orleans in Las Vegas, B.B. King performs at the Eldorado in Reno, and Willie Nelson headlines at Caesars Tahoe. Here, *Nevada Magazine* presents a guide to featured performers. Showrooms often fill fast, so call for show times and reservations. Nevada's area code is 702 until December 12, when the Las Vegas area will remain 702 and the rest of the state will change to 775.

## Las Vegas Territory

### BOULDER CITY

**Gold Strike Inn** • Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam. 293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Will be closed until early 1999.

### HENDERSON

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

**Reserve** • 558-7000: Wasimba's Lounge: Bands play Wed.-Sun.

**Sunset Station** • 547-7777: Sunset Amphitheater: Trace Adkins, Dec. 10-11; Club Madrid: Mon. Night Football; the Fab, Thurs.-Sat.; Disco Inferno on Fri. and Sat.; Sunset Brewing Co.: Entertainment Wed.-Sat.

### JEAN

**Gold Strike Hotel** • 477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands play at the hotel off Interstate 15 (dark Tues.).

**Nevada Landing** • 387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Bands appear nightly except Wed. in the casino.

### LAS VEGAS

**Arizona Charlie's** • 258-5100: Naughty Lady Saloon: Monday night football followed by live music, big-band dancing Fri.-Sun.; bands play nightly; Palace Grand Theatre: The Association and the Buckingham, Nov. 16. **Bally's** • 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.); Celebrity Room: Anne Murray, Oct. 29-Nov. 4; Penn and Teller, Nov. 12-18; Jeff Foxworthy, Dec. 3-6; Martina McBride, Dec. 7-8; Diamond Rio, Dec. 9-10.

**Barbary Coast** • 737-7111: Bands play nightly except Mon.

**The Beach** • 731-9298: Concerts TBA.

**Bellagio** • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil production TBA.

**Boulder Station** • 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: Railhead Saloon: Ricky Skaggs, Nov. 13; Merle Haggard, Nov. 21;

Toby Keith, Dec. 4; Keith Harling, Dec. 5; Tracy Byrd, Dec. 9; Monday night football, bands play weekends.

**Bourbon Street** • 737-7200: Bourbon Street Lounge: Nightly entertainment with bands like Coast to Coast (dark Mon.).

**Caesars Palace** • 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Circus Maximus: Legends of Motown: The Temptations, Mary Wilson, The Marvellettes, Oct. 29-Nov. 1; Vince Gill, Nov. 6-8; Huey Lewis and the News, Nov. 12-15; Drew Carey, Nov. 20-22; Wynonna, Dec. 3-6; Clint Black, Dec. 10-13; Stomp, Dec. 26-30; Jackson Browne, Dec. 31-Jan. 2. Bands play in La Piazza Lounge, Forum Lounge, and Cleopatra's Barge. Magicians perform in the Secret Pagoda and Sultan's Palace theaters at Caesars Magical Empire.

**Casino Royale** • 737-3500: Volcano Room: TBA.

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

**Continental** • 737-5555: Club Continental: Cook E. Jarr, Fri.-Sat. (indf.); Continental Lounge: Van de Guzman, Tues.-Sat.

**Desert Inn** • 733-4566 or 800-634-6909: Crystal Showroom: Rita Rudner, Oct. 29-Nov. 1; Dennis Miller, Nov. 5-7; Bryan White, Dec. 4-6; Charlie Daniels Band, Dec. 10-12; Starlight Lounge: Entertainment nightly.

**Excalibur** • 597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "King Arthur's Tournament," nightly; Wild Bills Saloon and Steakhouse and Minstrel's Theatre Lounge: Dance music nightly;

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Court Jesters Stage: Strolling entertainers 10am-11pm.  
**Fitzgeralds Holiday Inn** • 388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Casino Stage: Entertainers like Doug Price, Lorenzo, and Ray Perez appear nightly.  
**Flamingo Hilton** • 733-3333 or 800-221-7299: Flamingo Showroom: "The Great Radio City Spectacular" starring the Rockettes (dark Fri.); Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre:

**Jackie Gaughan's Plaza** • 386-2110 or 800-634-6575 (U.S. outside Nevada): Plaza Theater: Kenny Kerr Show (indf.); Tribute to Red Skelton by Tom Mullaca, 2 and 4pm (dark Fri.).

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

**Lady Luck** • 477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lady Luck Showroom: "Steve Wyrick: World Class Magician" (dark Mon.).

**Las Vegas Hilton** • 732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Johnny Mathis, Nov. 6-8; Tim McGraw, Dec. 4-5; Loretta Lynn and the Lynns, Dec. 7-8; Prime Time Country, Dec. 7-11; LeAnn Rimes, Dec. 10-13; The NightClub: Louie Louie.

**Luxor** • 262-4000 or 800-288-1000: Showroom: "Imagine: A Theatrical Odyssey," production show; Nefertiti's Lounge: Live entertainment; Ra Nightclub: DJ nightly; concerts TBA.

**Main Street Station** • 387-1896 or 800-713-8933: 777 BrewPub: Shuffleaires, Tues.; "Divine Divas," musical impersonators, Fri-Sat.

**Maxim** • 731-4300 or 800-634-6987: "Comedy Max," comedy nightclub; "Comedy Magic," 1 and 3pm (dark Sun.); entertainment in Muldoon's Room.

**MGM Grand** • 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: Grand Theatre: "EFX" starring David Cassidy (dark Sun.-Mon., Nov. 16-23, and Dec. 14-21); Hollywood Theatre: Tom Jones, Nov. 1-4; Gladys Knight, Nov. 12-25; Carrot Top, Nov. 26-Dec. 9; Randy Travis, Dec. 10-12; Rodney Dangerfield, Dec. 24-31; Grand Garden Arena: Professional Bull Riders Championship, Nov. 6-8; Alan Jackson, Nov. 14; Billboard Music Awards, Dec. 7; "Riverdance," Dec. 11-13; Neil Diamond, Dec. 31-Jan. 1; Catch a Rising Star Comedy Club: Comedians nightly; live entertainment in the Show Bar Lounge, Brown Derby, and Gatsby's; Studio 54: Kristine W, Tues.-Sat., dancing nightly.

**The Mirage** • 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theater: "Siegfried and Roy," magic spectacular (dark Nov. 29-Dec.

26 and Wed.-Thurs. except Dec. 31); Bill Cosby, Nov. 26-28; Lionel Richie, Dec. 2-4; bands play in the Lagoon Saloon and Baccarat Bar (piano bar).

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

**New York-New York** • 740-6969: Broadway Theatre: "Lord of the Dance" (dark Sun.-Mon.); bands play in the



## Wacky Wizards

Penn and Teller's irreverent style of comedic illusion has earned them Emmy Awards and dedicated fans. The two appear November 12-18 at Bally's in Las Vegas.

"Forever Plaid," '50s musical revue (show is dark Mon.).

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

**Gold Coast** • 367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): East Lounge: Kinda Dixie Jazz Band, noon to 6pm Mon.-Fri.; bands play nightly except Mon.; karaoke nightly in the West Lounge; Gold Coast Showroom: The Legendary Jordanaires and Sharon Haynes sing "Musical Memories" of Patsy Cline and Elvis, thru Nov. 15; Mickey Finn Show, Nov. 16-30; Tropical Splash, Sat. (indf.); ballroom dancing with disk jockey Larry Taylor Tues. and Sun.

**Golden Nugget** • 386-8100: Theatre Ballroom: "History of Sex," musical and comedy revue (dark Nov. 14-20); bands in the lounge nightly except Mon.

**Hard Rock Hotel** • 226-4650 or 800-HARD-ROCK: The Joint: Concerts TBA.

**Harrah's Las Vegas** • 369-5222 or 800-392-9002: Spellbound Theater: Rita Coolidge, Dec. 4; "Spellbound" (dark Sun.); "The Improv at Harrah's"; entertainment nightly in the La Playa Lounge; Carnival Court: Nightly outdoor swing parties with live bands (dark Mon.); Nightly live entertainment in the Range Steakhouse and Piano Bar.

**Holiday Inn Boardwalk** • 730-3194: Lighthouse Showroom: "The Dream King" with Trent Carlini (dark Mon.).

**Imperial Palace** • 794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert" (dark Sun.).

Empire Bar, and the N.Y.P.D. (New York Piano Duos) dueling pianos play 3-6:30pm Fri. and 8pm-2:15am nightly in the Bar at Times Square.

**The Orleans** • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Showroom: Smothers Brothers, thru Nov. 1; Everly Brothers, Nov. 3-15 (dark Nov. 9); Righteous Brothers, Nov. 17-25; Willie Nelson, Nov. 26-29; Lorrie Morgan, Dec. 4-6; Hal

## No Respect

Rodney Dangerfield brings his self-deprecating humor to the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on Dec. 24-31. More laughs can be had at the hotel's Catch a Rising Star Comedy Club, which hosts comedians nightly.

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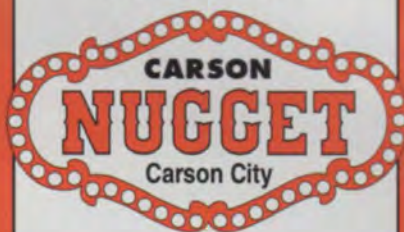
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## Groovy Lou

When some Lou Rawls fans next hear "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine," they'll be celebrating New Year's Eve at Harrah's Lake Tahoe with the gravelly voiced singer. Rawls appears with Nancy Wilson December 31-January 3 at the Tahoe resort.

Ketchum, Dec. 7-9; Ricky Van Shelton, Dec. 10-12; Don Ho, Dec. 18-20; Beach Boys, Dec. 30-Jan. 2; Neville Brothers, Jan. 14-17; Smothers Brothers, Jan. 19-24; Al Martino, Jan. 26-30; Righteous Brothers, Feb. 1-14; Bourbon Street Cabaret: bands play nightly; strolling Orleans Parade Band (dark Sat.-Sun.).

**Palace Station** • 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Palace Saloon:

## Tiny Bubbles in Laughlin

Laughlin will load up on leis and grass skirts during the Don Ho Christmas Show December 8-17 at the Riverside Resort. The Hawaiian singer also will appear at the Orleans in Las Vegas December 18-20.

Krookies Karaoke, Tues.; bands play Thurs.-Sat.

**Rio Suite** • 252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Copacabana Entertainment Complex: Impressionist Danny Gans (dark Mon.-Tues.); "Masquerade Show in the Sky," carnival-themed parade with exotic floats and costumes above the casino, every two hours beginning at noon Sun.-Tues. and 1pm Thurs.-Sat. (dark Wed.); Ipanema Piano Bar, Shuttlers Piano Bar, Voo Doo Lounge, and Cucina, Masquerade, Village, and Mambos bars have live entertainment; Club Rio: Dance-video nightclub Wed.-Sun.

**Riviera** • 794-9301: Grand Ballroom: Billy Ray Cyrus, Nov. 21-22; New Year's Eve Party With Bobby Rydell, Sha Na Na, and The Shangri-las, Dec. 30-31; Top of the Riv: Tommy Davidson, Nov. 6-7; Splash Theatre: "Splash," nightly; La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues.); David Benoit, Nov. 3; X-Rated Fantasy Revue, Nov. 16-19; Maynard Ferguson, Jan. 26; Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls: Sensuality and Passion," adult revue (dark Mon.); "Riviera Comedy Club," comedians appear nightly; Le Bistro Lounge: Groups like Stolen Faces and

Susan McDonald perform; Jazz on the Strip, Mon.; Lon Bronson's All-Star Band, Fri. and Sat. at 1am; bands play Tues.-Sun.

**Sahara** • 737-2515: Congo Showroom: The Coasters, the Drifters, the Platters in Concert, thru Nov. 1; John Pinette, Nov. 2-15; Bill Engvall, Dec. 4-12; John Pinette, Dec. 26-Jan.3 (dark Jan. 1).

**Sam's Town** • 454-8048: Western Dance Hall: Bands play 9pm-3am; Roxy's Saloon: Entertainers such as Phlash and Jumpin' Boots play daily 4pm-6am; Mystic Falls Park: "Festival in the Park," artists, musicians, variety acts, and strolling performers, 11am-5pm Sat.-Sun.

**San Remo** • 739-9000 or 800-522-7366: Parisian Cabaret: "Broadway Cabaret" (dark Sun.); Bon Chance Lounge: National Finals Rodeo parties, Nov. 3-13; New Year's Eve party with Tim Ballard, Dec. 31; entertainers such as Rochelle del Carmen and Lorenzo perform nightly.

**Santa Fe** • 658-4900: Entertainment Tues.-Sat. in the Ice Lounge and nightly in the Atrium; Ice Lounge: Four Freshmen, Nov. 27-28.

**Showboat** • 383-9232 or 800-826-2800: Mardi Gras Room: Sergio Alberti, (dark Mon.); Sylvet and Salsa Machine, Mon.

**Silverton** • 263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Opera House: Entertainment TBA; dinner music nightly except Tues.-Wed.;

Rattlesnake Rickey's Saloon: Bands play nightly.

**Stardust** • 732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Stardust Theatre: "Enter the Night," production show (dark Fri.), family (covered) shows are 7:30pm Tues.-Thurs. and Sat.; Stardust Ballroom: Entertainment TBA; bands play in the Starlight Lounge.

**Stratosphere** • 382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: Broadway Showroom: "American Superstars," impersonator revue (dark Thurs.); "Viva Las Vegas," musical revue 2 and 4pm daily except Sun.; Images Cabaret: "Tap Dogs," musical revue (dark Mon.); Top of the World Lounge: Bobby Dickerson (dark Mon.); L'Isles Bar: Caribbean and reggae music.

**Treasure Island** • 894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère" (dark Mon.-Tues. and Dec. 7-20); entertainment nightly in Captain Morgan's piano bar, the Hideaway Lounge.

**Tropicana** • 739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "The Best of the Follies Bergere...Sexier Than Ever" (dark Thurs.); "The Magic of Rick Thomas," 2 and 4pm daily except Fri.; Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly; bands play in the Atrium Lounge; free Wildlife Walk that includes live birds and monkeys.

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

**Westward Ho** • 731-2900: "Country Generation," country music revue, Wed. and Sat.

**Wild Wild West Gambling Hall** • 736-8988.

**World Trade Center** • 369-5750: International Showroom:

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### LAUGHLIN

**Avi** • 535-5555: Bands play nightly.

**Colorado Belle** • 298-4000: "D" Deck: Riverboat Ramblers, strolling musicians; Boiler Room Brew Pub: Live entertainment (dark Mon.).

**Edgewater** • 298-2453: Kokopelli's Lounge: Danny Gale, thru Nov. 1; Cornell Gunter's Coasters, Nov. 3-8; Wild at Heart, Nov. 10-22; Cornell Gunter's Coasters, Nov. 24-Dec. 6; Louie Fontaine and the Rockets, Dec. 8-13; Perfect Choice, Dec. 15-27; Vincent Hall and the Vision, Dec. 29-Jan. 3; Limelight Orchestra big-band tunes, Dec. 31.

**Flamingo Hilton Laughlin** • 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Silver Bullet Showroom: "Dancing to the Hitz," musical revue (dark Fri.).

**Golden Nugget Laughlin** • 298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Lounge: Bands like the Jets, Person to Person, and Forward Motion play nightly except Mon.

**Harrah's Laughlin** • 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta



## Under Cover

"Enter the Night," the long-running revue at the Stardust, added a 7:30 p.m. covered show Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday.

Showroom: Ronn Lucas, thru Dec. 2 (dark Thurs.); Paul Revere and the Raiders, Jan. 7-9.

**Ramada Express** • 298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theater: That Sentimental Swing, Nov. 1-4 and Nov. 9-11; Mills Brothers and Kay Starr, Nov. 14-15; Lou Ragland's Ink Spots, Nov. 16-18; That Sentimental Swing, Nov. 23-25 and Nov. 28-30; Scrooge, Dec. 13-19; "On the Wings of Eagles: A Tribute to American Heroes," multimedia show, daily on the hour beginning at 9am; Back to the 1940s Speakers, Tuesdays at 1:15pm, free; Caboose Lounge: Karaoke Madness, Mon.; bands play nightly except Mon.

**River Palm (formerly the Gold River)** • 298-2242 or 800-835-

## Nevada's Second Area Code

Beginning Dec. 12, the area code for the Las Vegas area remains 702 while the rest of the state changes from 702 to 775.

7904: Playing in the Crystal Sands Club; Entertainment TBA; DJ music or bands perform nightly in the Bermuda Club.

**Riverside Resort** • 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Ricky Van Shelton, Nov. 3-7; Al Martino, Nov. 18-20; Don Ho Christmas Show, Dec. 8-17; Charlie Prose 10th Anniversary Show, Jan. 17-Feb. 11; Mel Tillis, Feb. 18-22; Roy Clark, March 24-29.

**MESQUITE**

**CasaBlanca** • 346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Theatre: Ricky Skaggs, Nov. 14; Doug Kershaw, Nov. 21; bands play nightly except Mon. in the Cascades Lounge; piano bar afternoons.

**Mesquite Star** • 346-1177: Bands play in the Shooters Bar.

**Rancho Mesquite** • 346-4646: Live entertainment in the Wild Cactus and Scorpion lounges in the hotel-casino.

**Si Redd's Oasis** • 346-5232 or 800-621-0187: Red Boot Club: Big band dancing, Wed.; karaoke, Thurs.; dance contests, Fri.; live bands perform Fri. and Sat.; Casino Lounge: Bands play nightly.

**Virgin River** • 346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Country music bands play in the casino lounge nightly except Mon.

**NORTH LAS VEGAS**

**Fiesta Casino** • 631-7000: Entertainment is presented in the Cantina Bar; Mariachis, 10:30am-2:30pm Sun.

**Jerry's Nugget** • 399-3000: Royal Street Lounge: Dance



**Break My Heart**

Fans can expect country music with a twist when Billy Ray Cyrus takes the stage November 21-22 at the Riviera in Las Vegas.

bands play Fri.-Sun. in the North Las Vegas casino.

**Texas Station** • 631-1000: South Padre: Entertainment TBA; Armadillo Lounge: The Yellowjackets, Nov. 21;

nightly except Mon.

**Circus Circus** • 329-0711: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight. **Club Cal-Neva** • 323-1046: Entertainment TBA.

Dancing to Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm; country, Tues.; Kroakies Karaoke, Wed.; swing dance music and lessons, Thurs.; Loveshack plays Fri-Sat.

**PRIMM**

**Buffalo Bill's Resort** • 382-1111 or 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Foghat, Nov. 22 (free concert); Stage Bar: Bands play Thurs.-Sun.; Carolee's Comedy Club: Michael Rapport hosts guest comedians.

**Primm Valley** • 382-1212 or 800-826-4471.

**Whiskey Pete's** • 382-1212 or 800-367-7383 • Whiskey Pete's Showroom: Entertainment TBA.

**Reno-Tahoe Territory**

**RENO/SPARKS**

**Atlantis** • 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Grand Ballroom: Entertainment TBA; Center Stage Cabaret: Groups like Steppen Stonz, Edy Gainer, and David Proud appear; bands play nightly in the Cabaret, Treasure, Waterfall, Bird, and Atrium bars.

**Boomtown** • 345-6000: Boomtown Cabaret: Bands like Outpsyders, Gary and Sandy, and Madison Avenue play



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**Eldorado** • 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Eldorado Showroom: B.B. King, Dec. 31; Cool and the Gang, Jan. 1; "Spirit of the Dance," an Irish-dance production (dark Mon.); Brew Brothers: Bands play nightly; piano music in Bistro Roxy Wed.-Sun.

**Eddie's Fabulous '50s** • 329-1950: Lounge entertainment.  
**Fitzgeralds** • 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands like Big Tiny Little, Joey Carmon, and Inside Out play in the casino nightly.

**Flamingo Hilton Reno** • 785-7080: Flamingo Showroom: "American Superstars," impersonator revue, thru Dec. 1; Saigon Nights Concert, Nov. 14; Chinese Concert, Dec. 12; bands play in the Show Spot Cabaret; Terry Thompson plays at the Top of the Hilton restaurant overlooking downtown Reno (dark Tues.).

**Harrah's Reno** • 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Broadway Show-stoppers" (indf.) and "Lipstick" (thru Nov. 29) musical revues (dark Thurs.); Sheena Easton, Dec. 30-Jan. 3.

**John Ascuaga's Nugget** • Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Rose Ballroom: Willie Nelson, Nov. 20-21; Ray Charles, Nov. 27-28; The Four Tops, Dec. 31-Jan. 1; Celebrity Showroom: Hal Ketchum/Mac King, Oct. 29-Nov. 11; Ty Herndon/George Miller, Nov. 12-25; Rich Little, Nov. 26-Dec. 9; Robert Earl Keen, Dec. 12; Collin Raye, Dec. 31-Jan. 2; Mickey Gilley/Waddie Mitchell, Jan. 3-20; Lee Greenwood/Milt Abel, Jan. 21-Feb. 3; Mel Tillis, Feb. 4-17; Louise Mandrell/Carol Hughes, Feb. 18-March 3; bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's restaurant at the downtown Sparks hotel-casino.

**Peppermill** • 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Peppermill Showroom: Entertainment TBA; bands play in the Cabaret Lounge.

**Rail City Casino** • Sparks, 359-9440: Side Track Lounge: Entertainers like The Lelands, Tommy Bell, and Speedy Garfin play weekends.

**Reno Hilton** • 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theater: "Aireus," production show (dark Fri.), after Thanksgiving weekend begins a three-month hiatus; Carrot Top, Nov. 6; "The Nutcracker," Nevada Festival Ballet, Dec. 18-22; "Red Hot Country," revue, Dec. 29-Jan. 31; Bill Engvall, Jan. 2; The Improv Comedy Club: Stand-up comedy nightly except Mon.; live music and dancing in the Aspen Lounge and the Pylon Bar Stage.

**Riverboat** • 323-8877.

**Silver Club** • Sparks, 358-4771 or 800-648-1137 (U.S. outside Nevada).

**Silver Legacy** • 329-4777 or 800-225-BASS (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: Anne Murray, Nov.

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### Ski Flick

Just in case there isn't enough action on one of the more than a dozen ski resorts around Lake Tahoe, skiers can schuss into Harrah's Lake Tahoe at Stateline to see Warren Miller's new ski film, *Free Riders*, on November 19 and 21.

6-7; Paul Anka, Dec. 26-27; Johnny Mathis, Dec. 30; comedians perform at the Catch a Rising Star comedy club in the Silver Legacy.

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

### CARSON AREA

**Carson Nugget** • Carson City, 882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Oldies dance to benefit local charities, Nov. 6; New Year's Eve party, Dec. 31; Nugget Show Bar: Bands like Get Ready, Teaser, Blind Date, and Impact play nightly.

**Carson Station** • Carson City, 883-0900: Bands play in the casino lounge.

**Carson Valley Inn** • Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Bands like Zella Lehr, Stew Stewart, and Louie Fontaine play in the Cabaret Lounge; Shannon Ballroom: Rhymers



## Spicing Up the Stratosphere

“American Superstars” at the Stratosphere in Las Vegas features a Spice Girls tribute. The group includes, from left, Melinda Wiltz as Posh Spice, MacKenzie Marshall as Scarry Spice, Brandi Nelson as Ginger Spice, Heather Davis as Sporty Spice, and, in front, Nicole Padberg as Baby Spice.

Rodeer Cowboy Poetry, Nov. 6-7; BackBeat: A Tribute to the Beatles, Nov. 20-21.

Ormsby House • Carson City, 882-1890: Mark Twain

Lounge: Bands provide live entertainment nightly.

Piñon Plaza • Carson City, 885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands play Fri.-Sat.

Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 782-3133: Live music and dancing Fri. and Sat.

Topaz Lodge • Topaz Lake, 266-3339.

### STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

Bill's Lake Tahoe • 588-2455.

Caesars Tahoe • 588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: KC and the Sunshine Band, Feb. 5-6; Moody Blues, Feb. 26-27; Willie Nelson, March 5-6; George Carlin, March 12-13; Wynonna, March 19-20; Steve Miller Band, March 26-27; Nero's 2000 nightclub presents live music; Cleo's Bar and Entertainment Lounge: Pianist Arthur Hervey appears indf.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 588-6606 or 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: Eddie Money, Oct. 30-Nov. 1; Little Feat, Nov. 6-8; Warren Miller's new ski film Free Riders, Nov. 19 and Nov. 21; Tower of Power, Nov. 26-29; "Ebenezer Scrooge," Dec. 17-20; Danny Marona, Dec. 26-30; Lou Rawls/Nancy Wilson, Dec. 31-Jan. 3; bands like Louie Fontaine and the Rockets and Hotel California play nightly in the Casino Center Stage.

Harveys • 588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: Emerald Theatre: "Tap Girls," musical revue; Llewellyn's: Ron Rose Sound.

Lake Tahoe Horizon • 588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Golden Cabaret: "Phantasy," magic and comedy revue (dark Mon.); bands like White Wing play in the Aspen Lounge of the Stateline hotel.

Lakeside Inn • 588-7777: Entertainment TBA.

### NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382: Cal-Neva Showroom: Entertainment TBA.

Crystal Bay Club • Crystal Bay, 831-0512: Crystal Bar: Bands like Madison Avenue play nightly.

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe • Incline Village, 832-1234: Ciao Mein Trattoria Lounge: Entertainment TBA; Stage Bar: Live entertainment nightly except Mon.

Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget • Crystal Bay, 831-7157.

Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 831-0660: Bands play in the Aspen Lounge.

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**BATTLE MOUNTAIN**  
Owl Club • 635-5155.

**ELKO**  
Commercial Hotel • 738-3181: Comedy on Wed.  
Holiday Inn • 738-8425: Piano bar, Tues.-Sat.; dance club, Thurs.-Sat.  
Red Lion • 738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Club Max Showroom: Headliners TBA; Top 40 bands, Thurs.-Sat.  
Stockmen's Hotel • 738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada).

**JACKPOT**  
Barton's Club 93 • 755-2341.  
Cactus Petes • 755-2321 or 800-821-1103: Cabaret Lounge: Dan Seals, Nov. 3-8; Starship, Nov. 10-15; Kitty Wells/Johnny Wright Family Show Featuring Bobby Wright, Nov. 17-22; The Improv, Nov. 24-26; Little River Band, Nov. 27-28; Bobby Bare, Dec. 1-6; The Coasters, Dec. 8-13; The Tokens, Dec. 22-27 and Dec. 29-30.  
Horseshu Casino • 755-2321.

**MILL CITY**  
Burns Bros. Casino • 538-7306: Bands often appear in Mr. B's Lounge at the Mill City casino on Interstate 80.

**WENDOVER**  
Peppermill • 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands like Band on the Run, The Lelands, Tony Vee, Siren, and Artful Dodger play nightly on the stage at the Peppermill.  
Rainbow Casino • 664-4000 or 800-217-0049.

Red Garter • 664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada).  
Silver Smith • 664-2231 or 800-354-3671: Jim's Bar: Live entertainment nightly.  
State Line • 664-2221, 800-354-3671: Stateliner Lounge: Entertainment TBA.

**WINNEMUCCA**  
Winners Hotel • 623-2511: Bands like Dakota Country, Best Friends, and Midnight Riders play nightly in the Winners' lounge.

## Pony Express Territory

**ELY**  
Hotel Nevada • 289-6665.  
**FALLON**  
Bonanza Inn • 423-3111 ext. 47.  
Fallon Nugget • 423-3111.

## Pioneer Territory

**AMARGOSA VALLEY**  
Longstreet Inn • 372-1777: Weekend entertainment.



## A Tip of the Hat to Rodeo

Clint Black will perform December 10-13 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. Several other country stars will appear in showrooms during the National Finals Rodeo, December 4-13.

**BEATTY**  
Stagecoach • 553-2419 or 800-4-BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada): Nightly entertainment.

**HAWTHORNE**  
El Capitan • 945-3322: Entertainment TBA.  
Joe's Tavern • 945-2302.

**PAHRUMP**  
Mountain View Casino and Bowl • 727-7777: Bowling alley, entertainment.  
Saddle West Hotel, Casino, and RV Park • 727-1111 or 800-GEDDYUP: Casino-lounge entertainment.

**TONOPAH**  
Banc Club • 482-5409 • Entertainment TBA.  
Mizpah Hotel • 482-6202: Historic hotel reopened in October after renovations.  
Station House • 482-9777: Bands play nightly.

**YERINGTON**  
Casino West • 463-2481 or 800-227-4661 (U.S. and Nevada): Weekend music in the Wild West Lounge.  
Dini's Lucky Club • 463-2868.

**A Reminder:** To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. Nevada's area code is 702 until December 12, when the Las Vegas area will remain 702 and the rest of the state will change to 775. For hotels' toll-free numbers, call 800-555-1212.

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# Shopping!

A guide to Nevada's malls and shopping meccas.

By Carolyn Graham

## Mall Guide Las Vegas

👜 **Belz Factory Outlet World** is the largest outlet mall under one roof in the United States. In fact, to explore each of the mall's 140 stores you'd better wear your walking shoes. The four-year-old mall on Las Vegas Boulevard a couple miles south of the Strip has undergone two expansions, including the addition of Off Fifth Saks Fifth Avenue outside at the south end of the parking lot. Inside stores include Spiegel, Levi's, Casual Corner, Reebok, Burlington Brands, and others that carry clothing, shoes, home decorating items, and casino logo merchandise. Belz also has two food courts, one of which has an old-fashioned carousel. Phone 702-896-5599.

👜 The **Boulevard Mall** sprawls across 1.2 million square feet with 144 stores, making it Nevada's largest. The mall, which opened in 1968, is big but not overwhelming—the layout is easy to navigate. Anchor stores include Macy's, Dillard's, JC Penney, and Sears. The mall is located at Maryland Parkway and Desert Inn Road, two miles east of Treasure Island on the Strip. Phone 702-732-8949; [www.blvdmall.com](http://www.blvdmall.com).

👜 The **Fashion Show Mall** has always had glamour appeal due to glitzy anchors Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus, Robinson May, Dillard's, and Macy's. The mall, next door to Treasure Island, has more than 130 stores and is known for its trendy eateries, including Sfuzzi, Dive!, and Chin's. The Fashion Show also has interesting specialty shops such as the Discovery Channel Store, Walt Disney Gallery, and San Francisco Music Box Company. Phone 702-369-8382.

👜 Your shopping bags—as well as your senses—will be overloaded at the **Forum Shops at Caesars** with its 105 shops and 10 restaurants. The attractions—the “Race for Atlantis” IMAX motion-simulator ride, Omnimax theater, talking sculptures, and 3-D Cinema Ride—nearly overwhelm the opulent stores and restaurants. Shops include the

Museum Company, Nike-Town, and Versace. Phone 702-893-4800.

👜 **Galleria Mall at Sunset** in Henderson, across the street from the Sunset Station Hotel, is the Las Vegas area's newest mall. Neglected shoppers in the rapidly growing city of Henderson anxiously awaited the February 1996 opening of the mall, where they now enjoy Dillard's, Robinson May, JC Penney, Mervyn's California, and 130 specialty stores. Phone 702-434-0202.

👜 **Las Vegas Factory Stores** is an open-air outlet mall south of Vacation Village at



the far southern end of the Strip. Shoppers will find 41 stores, including Mikasa and Vanity Fair as well as other clothing and specialty shops. Phone 702-897-9090.

👜 A focal point of **Meadows Mall** is its replica turn-of-the-century carousel, where shoppers can reward their weary children (and themselves) with a 50-cent whirl. Meadows Mall, at U.S. 95 North at Valley View Boulevard, is anchored by Macy's, JC Penney, and Dillard's. Phone 702-878-4849.

## Laughlin

👜 The **Horizon Outlet Center** in Laughlin has bargain shopping. The enclosed mall next to the Ramada Express on the southern end of Casino Drive has 55 outlet stores, including Geoffrey Beene, Wild Things, Mikasa (which has a nice view of the river), Bugle Boy, Levi's, and the London Bridge Candle Factory. The mall has a movie theater, food court, and covered parking as well as the Muddy Rudder Pub and Cecil's Market and

Deli, both of which are open 24 hours. Phone 702-298-3003.

## Primm

👜 The outlet mall scene heated up last summer in Southern Nevada when the **Fashion Outlet of Las Vegas** opened in Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas. The indoor mall has a New York Times Square theme, complete with huge billboards and a cityscape look both inside and out. Shoppers can hunt for bargains at the mall's 80 stores. The Williams Sonoma Marketplace, Pottery Barn, and Hold Everything offer home decor items. Clothing stores include Last Call (the clearance store for Neiman Marcus), J. Peterman, Versace, Donna Karan, and Kenneth Cole, among others. The \$75-million mall, which is adjacent to the Primm Valley Resort, is a joint venture between TrizecHahn, which developed the Fashion Show Mall on the Strip, and Gordon Group Holdings, developer of the Forum Shops at Caesars. Phone 702-874-1400.

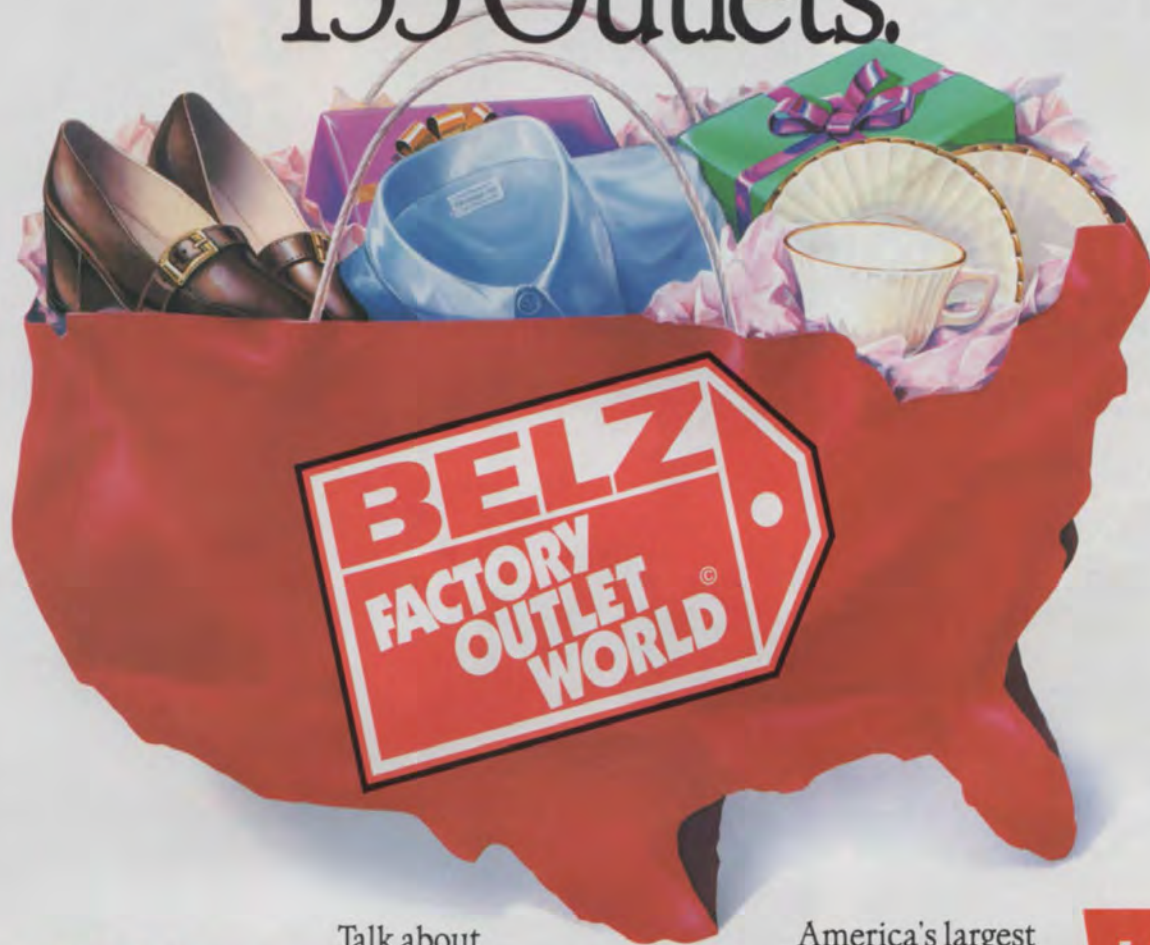
## Reno

👜 **Meadowood Mall** is Reno's largest with 130 stores, including anchors Macy's, JC Penney, and Sears. The mall, located at McCarran and South Virginia, recently added Sears and a food court, where offerings range from hot-buttered pretzels to fresh-squeezed juices. If you're shopping for a new sofa or lamp, you'll find Macy's Furniture Store across Virginia Street. Phone 702-827-8450.

👜 **Park Lane Mall** at South Virginia and Plumb Lane is anchored by Gottschalks and has 77 stores, including Jay Jacobs, Hot Cats, Lin's Imports, and Frederick's of Hollywood, as well as a movie-theater complex. If you like to exercise while getting a leg up on your window shopping, Park Lane opens daily at 7 a.m. for walking. Phone 702-825-9452.

*Carolyn Graham is Nevada Magazine's highly dedicated associate editor who logged many hours in the state's malls, all in the name of research.*

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# Prince of the Rednecks

Jeff Foxworthy is a multi-media good ol' boy.

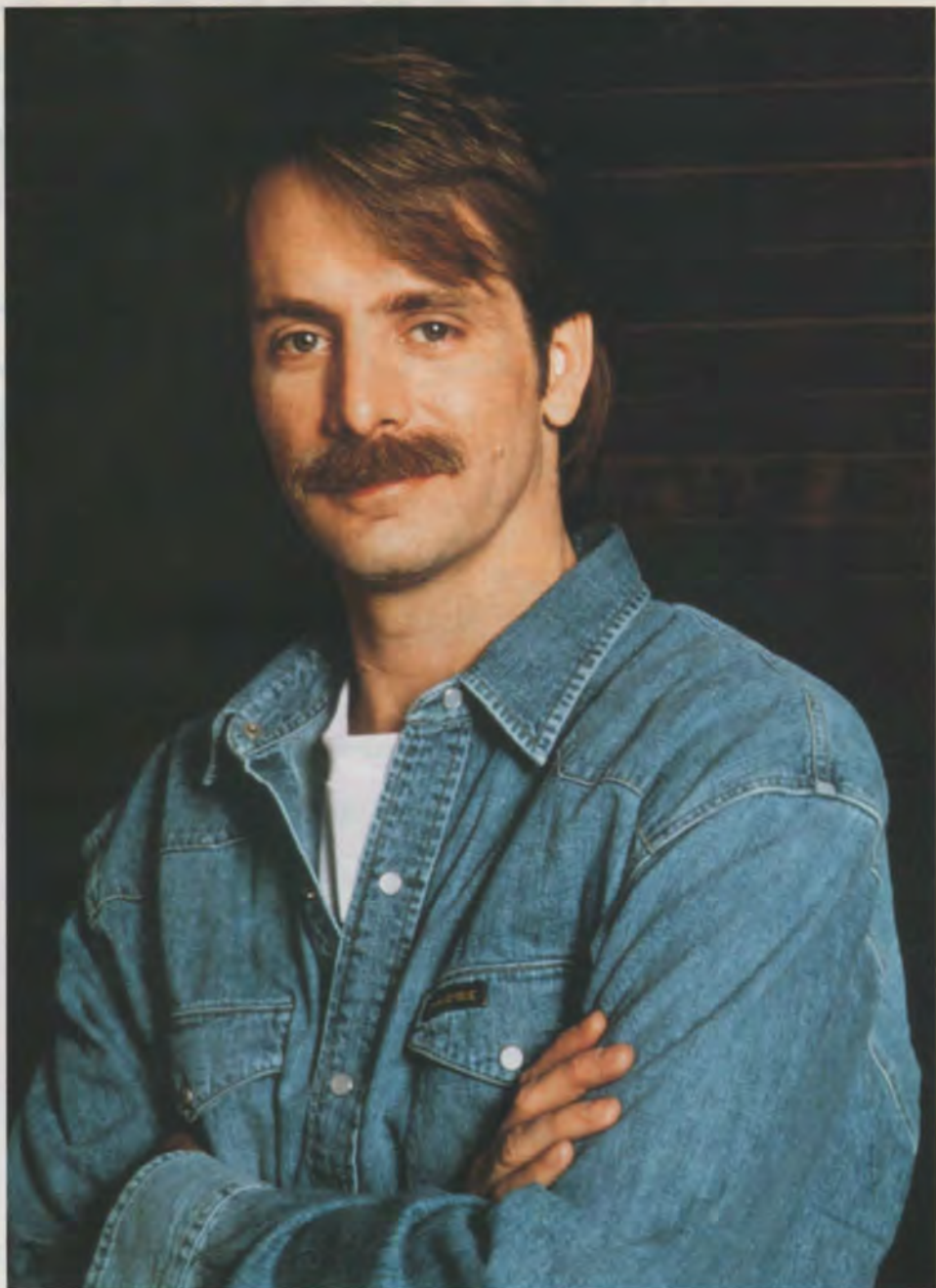
By Pete Mikla

Jeff Foxworthy appears twice in Las Vegas before the new year. On December 3-6 he plays Bally's Celebrity Room, where he performed last spring, and then ushers in 1999 at Thomas and Mack Center on New Year's Eve.

Long before he ever stepped foot in a casino, however, Foxworthy was playing for high stakes. About 10 years ago Foxworthy had a steady job in the computer industry. But he was not happy. He wanted to do stand-up comedy. So with his wife's support he quit his steady job and joined thousands of other hopefuls on the comedy-club circuit, traveling from town to town. At first he made a whopping \$20 per night.

"I did so much traveling, I was on a first-name basis with every Holiday Inn manager in the country," he recalled. "I also mastered the art of sleeping while standing up. That talent comes in handy when you have to wake up at the crack of dawn to do morning radio and TV interviews."

From watching others and studying the comedy greats, the Atlanta native realized he needed a "hook" or theme for his comedy material. He gradually perfected his "redneck humor," focusing on those good ol' boys from the South.



Jeff Foxworthy, who defines "redneck" as a "glorious absence of sophistication," plays the Celebrity Room at Bally's and Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas during December.

As Foxworthy says, "You know you're a redneck if your neighbors think you're a detective because the police are always bringing you home."

It wasn't long before his paycheck soared above \$20 a night. The comedian began getting noticed. He won the Great Southeastern Laff-Off, the Zanic/Pepsi Cola Laff-Off, and the Coors Laff-Off. He spent seven years gaining national recognition, paying his dues, and working on the road about 48 weeks each year.

This time the accommodations were upgraded. He served as opening act for Garth Brooks, the Judds, Eddie Rabbitt, and Wynton Marsalis. He got a chance to open for Jay Leno, which led to appearances on *The Tonight Show* and *Late Night*

with *David Letterman*. He followed with his own situation comedy, *The Jeff Foxworthy Show*, which aired for two seasons.

Foxworthy's fans not only attend his concerts. They also buy his albums and read his books. His first CD, "You Might Be A Redneck If...," became the largest-selling comedy album of all time. His 1995 album, "Games Rednecks Play," went double platinum and received a Grammy nomination. He released "Crank It Up: The Music Album" in 1996. The album, which features "Party All Night" with Little Texas and "Games Rednecks Play" with Alan Jackson, received a Grammy nomination for best vocal collaboration. Foxworthy's fourth CD, "Totally Committed," was released last May in con-

junction with a one-hour HBO comedy special. The debut single and video include cameos by two guys who are familiar with screwballs—pitchers Greg Maddux and John Smoltz of the Atlanta Braves.

As an author, Foxworthy has penned nine books, ranging from *You Might Be a Redneck If...* (now in its 27th printing) to *Hick Is Chic: A Guide to Etiquette for the (Grossly) Unsophisticated*. His 1997 volume, *No Shirt, No Shoes, No Problem!*, made the *New York Times* bestseller list. *No Shirt* is more autobiographical than his other works, recalling his growing up in Georgia and offering amusing, albeit bewildering, stories about the Foxworthy household. The comedian is especially proud of *No Shirt*, saying, "It's a book for the library instead of the back of the toilet."

One thing the comedian is serious about is the Duke University Children's Hospital in Durham, North Carolina. He is the honorary chairman of the Duke Children's Classic Golf Tournament. With Foxworthy's help, the hospital, which specializes in treating children with cancer, has raised more than \$2 million during the past two years.

Meanwhile, Foxworthy is launching a chain of themed restaurants. When Foxworthy's Backyard Bar-B-Q opened its first eatery in Kissimmee, Florida, last spring, the menu included a fried catfish filet, the "Sloppy Jeff" sandwich, and lots of ribs. The restaurants' chefs probably will refer to *The Foxworthy Down Home Cookbook*, which includes recipes from Foxworthy and his father, Big Jim. For diners, the atmosphere will be redneck friendly.

As Foxworthy tells his audiences, "You know you're a redneck if somebody tells you have something in your teeth and you take 'em out to see what it is."

## Show Notes

Jeff Foxworthy appears in the Celebrity Room of Bally's Las Vegas at 10:30 p.m. on December 3, 4, and 6. On December 5, he will perform at 8 and 11 p.m. The ticket price is \$49.50. All performances are cocktail shows, and tickets do not include beverages. Call 702-739-4567 for Bally's reservations. Foxworthy also will give a New Year's Eve performance at Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas at 10 p.m., December 31. Tickets are \$37 and \$57; call 702-895-3900 for details. ❏

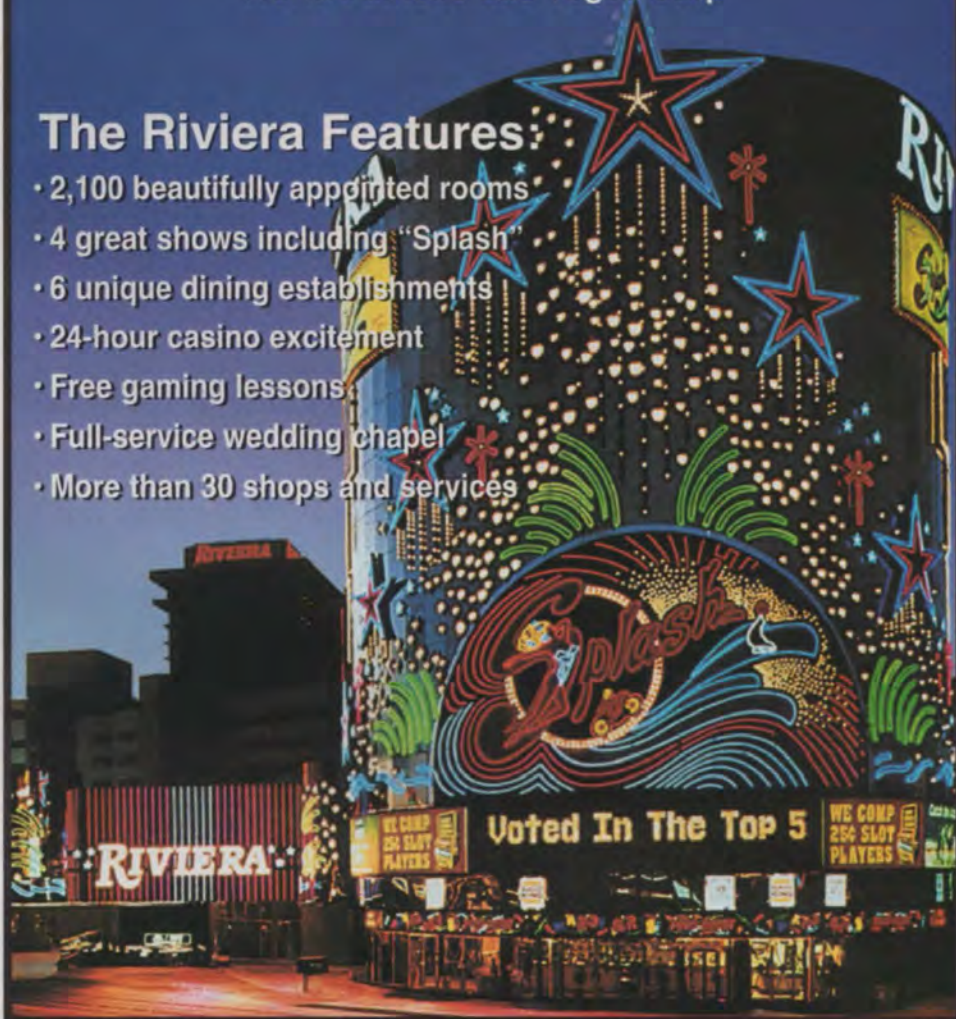
*Pete Mikla is a Las Vegas publicist and a feature writer for What's On Magazine.*

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# Casino Notes

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

## Las Vegas Territory

**Gridiron Girls:** Female football fans can enter the Female Handicapper of the Year contest this season at **Bally's**. Women over the age of 21 can enter the free contest any time during the regular season at Bally's race and sports book. The winner will receive a trip to the Super Bowl. Second- and third-place winners will receive cash prizes. Bally's stadium-themed race and sports book has 250 amphitheater seats, 210 of which have TV monitors.

**Magic in Primm:** New shops and restaurants recently opened at **Buffalo Bill's** in Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas. Magic fans can stroll through Houdini's Magic Shop, which has tricks, gags, masks, and other novelty items. Three new restaurants have been added at the resort, including Frisella's Roastery, which offers roasted-chicken dinners; Panda Express, a Chinese eatery; and Häagen-Dazs Ice Cream.

**Swinging on the Strip:** The **Desert Inn Golf Club** hosts the LPGA's season-ending tournament, the PageNet Tour Championship, on November 16-22. The tourney will bring together the LPGA Tour's top 30 money winners, all of whom will be shooting for part of a \$1-million purse on the venerable Las Vegas Strip course. Competitors are expected to include Se Ri Pak, Dottie Pepper, Karrie Webb, Liselotte Neumann, Betsy King, and defending champion Annika Sorenstam. For spectators, advance ticket prices range from \$15 for a daily pass to \$49 for a "season badge"; call 888-254-GOLF. The week of golf begins with Monday's practice round and the Gillette Shootout on Tuesday, both of which are free to spectators. A pro-am will be held Wednesday (\$10 at the gate), with the four tournament rounds taking place Thursday through Sunday (\$20 each day). ESPN, ESPN2, and ABC Sports will broadcast the tournament.



**Prosperity, the first white lioness born in Las Vegas, moved last summer from Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden at the Mirage to the Cincinnati Zoo.**



**When Paris-Las Vegas opens next fall, visitors to the resort will find a 50-story replica of the Eiffel Tower.**

The Desert Inn links, established in 1952, have long been a stop for professional golfers. Home of the Tournament of Champions in the 1950s and '60s, the D.I. has hosted events for all three major tours—the PGA, LPGA, and Senior PGA—in recent years, including the PGA's Las Vegas Invitational.

**Sports Book News:** The race and sports book at the **Edgewater** in Laughlin recently won top honors in the annual readers' poll of the *Mohave Valley Daily News*. The Edgewater has

the largest sports book on the Colorado River.

**Coffee Club:** **Harrah's Laughlin** has a new hangout designed for coffee lovers—Club Cappuccino, which opened last summer. Club Cappuccino, also located at Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Las Vegas, and Reno, offers gourmet coffee drinks and custom concoctions such as Almond Joy espresso and Milky Way latte. If your tastes run more fruity, Club Cappuccino serves smoothies, featuring flavors like Cookie Monster, Raspberry Dream, Chocolate Kiss, and Orange Oasis. The coffee house offers sweets that are made on the premises.

**Spicy in Laughlin:** **Harrah's Laughlin** has spiced up its La Hacienda Restaurant menu to offer more Mexican entrees. The new menu is heavy on green chile, and one crew is dedicated solely to roasting, peeling, and stuffing the peppers. The cuisine reflects authentic Mexican dishes

including foods from the coastal regions such as Cozumel and Veracruz. Specialties include Mariscos de la Hacienda, jumbo shrimp, and lobster sautéed with Pasilla and Anaheim peppers, scallions, and spices and served over griddled corn cakes.

**Paris in the Fall:** The 2,914-room **Paris-Las Vegas** resort is scheduled to open next fall. The 30-story, \$760-million hotel built by Hilton Hotels Corporation features replicas of famous Parisian landmarks, such as the Paris Opera House, the Louvre, and the Arc de Triomphe. The hotel tower resembles the Hotel de Ville in Paris. The resort also has a 50-story replica of the Eiffel Tower, built to half the scale of the real one, that houses a gourmet restaurant that overlooks the Strip and has a glass elevator that leads to an observation deck.

**Construction Update at the Riv:** The **Riviera** broke ground last summer on the expansion of the hotel's convention center, which will double the hotel's meeting space to more than 150,000 square feet. The \$20-million project, scheduled to be completed in February, will have two phases. Phase 1 will add a 46,000-square-foot ballroom and six conference rooms. Phase 2, which will be completed in mid-2000, will add 12,000 square feet, 12 rooms, and a sky box that overlooks the ballroom. The Riviera also is undergoing a \$17-million renovation. The hotel's 2,071 rooms as well as retail shops and other public areas will be refurbished.

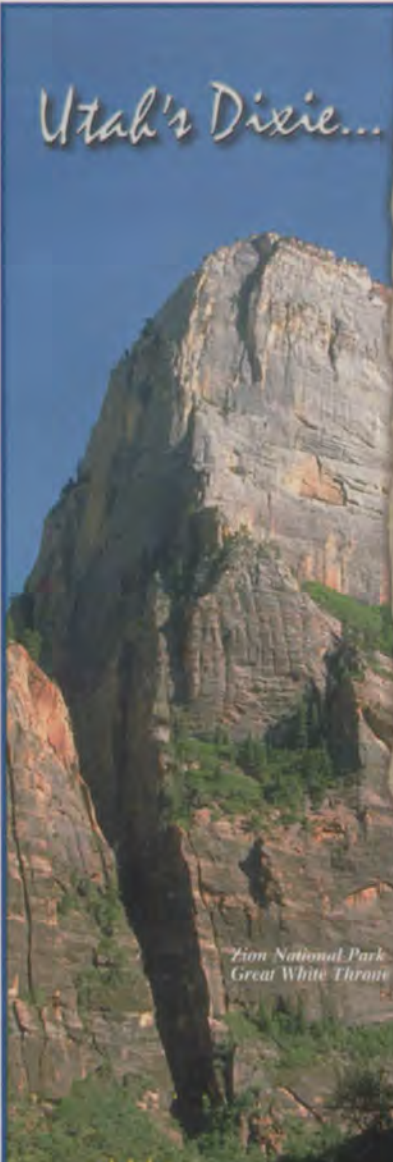
## Reno-Tahoe Territory

**A Lot of Lot:** The **Atlantis** recently completed construction on a new parking lot on the west side of Virginia Street across from the hotel. The seven-acre lot adds more than 800 parking spaces and will be connected to the hotel via a pedestrian bridge, which will be completed in January.

**A New Look for the Sports Book:** The Race and Sports Book at **Harrah's Lake Tahoe** has been refurbished. The new sports-betting room has 27 televisions in the race book, 18 televisions in the sports book, a VIP viewing area and lounge, and new seating and furnishings throughout. Fans can watch up to eight football games on one wall.


**Best of Tahoe:** **Harrah's Lake Tahoe** won several "Best of Tahoe" awards in the annual readers' poll sponsored by the *Tahoe Daily Tribune*. The hotel won for such categories as Loosest Slots, Best Cocktail Service, Best Buffet (for its Forest Buffet), and Best Valet Parking.

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**Really Big Win:** Thirty-eight-year-old Reynald Herren of Daly City, California, won the world's largest progressive slot jackpot while gambling at **Harrah's Reno** last September. Herren had played \$30 when he lined up the Super Megabucks symbols for the \$14,014,994.86 jackpot. Harrah's Reno has been lucky for other Megabucks players in the past. The first Megabucks jackpot of \$4.9 million was hit at Harrah's Reno in 1987, and another player spun the wheels of a Megabucks machine in 1992 for \$9.3 million.

**A Time to Laugh:** Last fall the Improv comedy club replaced Just For Laughs at the **Reno Hilton**. The club is one of 12 Improvs in the United States—Harrah's Las Vegas is the home to the only other one in Nevada. The stand-up comedy club will feature a new 300-seat theater and will attract both future stars and established



Haley Nott performs in last summer's Dynamite Stunt Show at the Silver Legacy. The Reno hotel's giant mining machine gears up throughout the day.



LPGA star Dottie Pepper hopes to have a blast at the PageNet Tour Championship at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas.

headliners. The clubs have been instrumental in launching the careers of such comedians as Jay Leno, Jerry Seinfeld, Steve Martin, and Tim Allen.

**New Chevy's on the Block:** Gamblers at the **Reno Hilton** with a hankering for Mexican food have a new option: Chevy's FreshMex Restaurant, which opened last summer across from the hotel's Grand Canyon Buffet. Diners can watch the flour tortilla-making machine and order Chevy's signature items, including fajitas or margaritas made from guava and other exotic fruits.

## Good Deals

**Dinner and "La Cage":** The **Riviera** offers several dinner and show packages. Las Vegas showgoers can attend "An Evening at La Cage" for \$21.95, "Crazy Girls" for \$18.95, or the comedy club for \$14.95 and pay an extra \$6 per ticket to get dinner at the World's Fare Buffet or \$7.95 for Kady's Dinner Specials. For an additional \$7.50 you can buy VIP seating in the showroom and receive a restaurant line pass.

**A Free Lunch:** Gamblers at the **Virgin River** in Mesquite can get a free lunch when they participate in the casino's weekly tournaments. For a \$10 buy-in gamblers can play in the mini-slot tournament on Tuesday or the blackjack tournament on Friday and get lunch, too. The **CasaBlanca** in Mesquite offers a luncheon buffet with the \$10 entry fee in its mini-slot tournament on Sunday and mini-blackjack tournament on Thursday.

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# Attractions, Tours & Museums

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



## Clowning Around

**F**un House Express, the IMAX Ridefilm at Circus Circus in Las Vegas, revolves around the story of Jimmy, a retired clown who operates a cheesy fun house. Riders on the motion simulator get a 180-degree immersion that takes them through a trap door on a wild four-minute underground ride.

**V**isitors can explore Nevada's diverse attractions—from the holiday festivities at the Fremont Street Experience in Las Vegas to tours of Hidden Cave, 13 miles east of Fallon—when they visit the Silver State's many museums, hotels, and state and national parks.

## Las Vegas Territory

### BOULDER CITY

- Black Canyon River Raft Tours** • 293-3776.
- Boulder City Historic District** • Walking tour. 1305 Arizona, 293-2034.
- Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum** • 1305 Arizona, 294-1988.
- Boulder Dam Hotel** • 1305 Arizona, 293-7731.
- Hoover Dam and Visitor Center** • Tours, theaters, exhibit hall. U.S. 93, 294-3515, 293-8367, 293-8000.
- Lake Mead Cruises/Desert Princess** • Excursion on Lake Mead, 293-6180.

- Lake Mead National Recreation Area** • 601 Nevada Hwy., 293-8906.
- St. Jude's Ranch for Children** • Artifacts, tours, miniature car museum. 100 St. Jude's St., 294-7100.

### HENDERSON

- Clark County Heritage Museum** • 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 455-7955.
- Cranberry World West** • Tours of Ocean Spray facility. 1301 American Pacific Dr., 566-7160.
- Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden** • Tours. 2 Cactus Garden Dr., 458-8864.
- Favorite Brands Marshmallow Factory** • Tours. 8203 Gibson Rd., 564-3878 or 800-234-2383.
- Mountasia Family Fun Center** • 2050 Olympic, 898-7777.
- Ron Lee's World of Clowns** • 330 Carousel Pkwy., 434-1700.

### LAS VEGAS

- A.J. Hackett Bungy** • 810 Circus Circus, 385-4321.
- All-American Sportpark** • Golf, baseball, in-line skating, and NASCAR racing, corner of Las Vegas Blvd. and Sunset Road, 798-7777.
- Caesars Palace** • Dining, magic shows, and special effects at Caesars Magical Empire, 731-7333.
- Crystal Palace In-Line Skating and Hockey Complex** • 9295 W. Flamingo, 253-9832.

- Excalibur** • Dragon battle in front moat, motion simulators, 597-7777.
- Flamingo Hilton** • Wildlife sanctuary. 733-3111.
- Floyd Lamb State Park** • Picnicking and fishing. 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 486-5413.
- Flyaway Indoor Skydiving** • 200 Convention Center Dr., 731-4768.
- Forum Shops at Caesars** • Animatronic attractions, "Race for Atlantis" IMAX 3D motion simulator. Caesars Palace, 893-4800.
- Fremont Street Experience** • Light show on the hour from dusk to midnight. Downtown Las Vegas, 678-5600.
- Gameworks** • Climbing wall and arcade. Showcase Mall, 597-3122.
- Grand Slam Canyon** • Adventure park with rides and attractions. Next to Circus Circus, 800-444-CIRCUS.
- Guinness World of Records Museum** • 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 792-3766.
- Harley-Davidson Cafe** • Motorcycle memorabilia, Harleys on display. The Strip, 740-4555.
- Holy Cow! Casino** • Brewery tours, 732-2697.
- Horseshoe Casino** • \$1 million on display, 382-1600.
- Imperial Palace Auto Collec-tion** • Classic and antique vehicles, 794-3174.
- Las Vegas Art Museum** • 9600 W. Sahara Ave., 647-4300.

**Las Vegas Club** • Sports memorabilia. Downtown, 385-1664.  
**Las Vegas Hilton** • Star Trek: The Experience, 732-5111.  
**Las Vegas Natural History Museum** • From dinosaurs to desert creatures. 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 384-DINO.  
**Liberace Museum** • Pianos and memorabilia. 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595.  
**Lied Discovery Children's Museum** • Science and other learning exhibits. 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS.  
**Luxor** • Motion rides, IMAX Theatre, and King Tut's Tomb and Museum, 262-4000.  
**Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History** • 4505 Maryland Pkwy., UNLV, 895-3381.  
**MGM Grand Adventures** • Theme park, 891-7979.  
**Mirage** • Dolphin habitat, volcano, and Secret Garden with tigers, elephant, lions, and panthers, 791-7111.  
**Motown Cafe** • Memorabilia and entertainment, New York-New York, 740-6440.  
**Mount Charleston** • Recreation info., 222-1597.  
**Nevada State Museum and Historical Society** • Lorenzi Park, 700 Twin Lakes Dr., 486-5205.  
**New York-New York** • Roller coaster, 740-6969.  
**Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort Historic State Park** • 908 Las Vegas Blvd. North at Washington Avenue, 486-3511.  
**Omnimax Theatre** • Caesars Palace, 731-7900.  
**Rainforest Cafe** • Bird habitat and animated creatures. MGM Grand, 891-8580.  
**Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area** • 363-1921.  
**Rio** • Treasures of Russia exhibit thru April 15 and free carnival-themed sky parade, 252-7777.  
**Sahara Hotel** • Virtual reality Indy car racing on the Strip, 737-2777.  
**Sam's Town** • Water and laser show, 456-7777.



## Treasure Recovered

A rare 4,000-pound brass scale represents a historical mystery at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, where it went on display this fall. The bullion scale was shipped to an unrecorded location after the Carson City Mint closed in 1893.

**Santa Fe Hotel** • Ice arena. 4949 N. Rancho Dr., 658-4993.  
**Southern Nevada Zoological Park** • 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 648-5955.

**Spring Mountain Ranch State Park** • Red Rock Canyon, 875-4141.  
**Stratosphere** • Roller coaster and Big Shot ride, 380-7777.  
**Treasure Island** • Sea battle every 90 minutes from 4 to 11:30 p.m., 894-7111.  
**Tropicana** • Wildlife walk and tiger habitat, 739-2222.  
**Ultrazone** • Laser-tag arena, 734-1585.  
**Walker African-American Museum and Research Center** • Exhibits and records, 647-2242.  
**Wet 'n Wild** • Water theme park, seasonal, 734-0088.  
**World of Coca-Cola** • Showcase Mall, 270-5985.

## LAUGHLIN

**Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area** • Nature and water sports, four miles south of Laughlin, 298-1859.  
**Boiler Room Microbrewery** • Colorado Belle, 298-4000.  
**Colorado River Museum** • Arizona Hwy. 95, 520-754-3399.  
**Del Rio Beach Club** • Colorado River sightseeing boat tour, 298-6828.  
**Davis Dam** • Self-guided tours, 298-2214.  
**Grapevine Canyon** • Seven miles west of Laughlin. Inquire about road conditions, 298-2214.  
**Lake Mohave Resort** • 602-754-3245.  
**Laughlin River Tours** • Colorado River, 298-1047.  
**Ramada Express** • WWII museum and multimedia tribute to American war heroes, 298-4200.  
**Riverside Resort** • Classic cars and river tour boat, 298-2535.

## MESQUITE

**Desert Valley Museum** • 346-5705.  
**Si Redd's Oasis** • Gun club, hayrides, 346-5232.

## NORTH LAS VEGAS

**The Planetarium** • Community College of Southern Nevada, 651-5059.

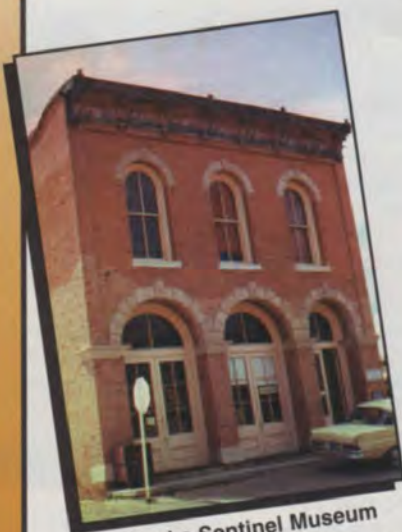
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### OVERTON

Lost City Museum of Archaeology • Pueblo culture, 397-2193.

Valley of Fire State Park • 397-2088.

### PRIMM

Primadonna Resorts • Roller coaster, water flume, and Turbo Drop rides at Buffalo Bill's; cars belonging to Bonnie and Clyde and Dutch Schultz at Whiskey Pete's; Ferris wheel at Primm Valley Resort, Primm, 382-1111.

### SEARCHLIGHT

Searchlight Gallery • 297-1540.

Searchlight Historic Museum • 455-7955.

## Reno-Tahoe Territory

### CARSON CITY

Brewery Arts Center • 449 W. King St., 883-1976.

Carson and Mills Park Railroad • Seasonal, Mills Park, 887-2523.

Children's Museum of Northern Nevada • 813 N. Carson St., 884-2226.

Kit Carson Trail • Walking tour, 687-7410 or 800-638-2321.

Nevada State Capitol • 687-5030.

Nevada State Library and Archives • State Constitution exhibit, 100 Stewart St., 687-5210.

Nevada State Museum • 600 N. Carson St., 687-4810.

Nevada State Railroad Museum • S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-6953.

Nevada Supreme Court • Tours, Stewart St., 687-8616.

Roberts' House Museum • 1207 N. Carson St., 882-1805.

Stewart Indian Museum and Cultural Center • 5366 Snyder, 882-1808.

Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum • 777 S. Stewart St., 887-2210.

### DAYTON

Dayton State Park • 687-5678.

### GARDNERVILLE

Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center • Old Douglas County High School on U.S. 395 S., 782-2555.

### GENOA

Genoa Courthouse Museum • Seasonal, 782-4325.

Mormon Station State Historic Park • Seasonal, 782-4325, 687-4379.

Walley's Hot Springs • 2001 Foothill Rd., 782-8155.

### LAKE TAHOE

Heavenly Aerial Tram • Stateline, 586-7000.

Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park • 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 831-0494.

M.S. Dixie II Sternwheeler • Zephyr Cove, 588-3508.

Ponderosa Ranch • Seasonal, Incline Village, 831-0691.

Pope House • Tours daily except Thurs. thru Sept. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-544-3029.

Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler • Tahoe City, 916-583-0141.

Tahoe Rim Trail • 150-mile system, 588-0686.

U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center • 916-573-2600.

Vikingsholm • Tours, 916-525-7232.

Zephyr Cove Resort • Beach, cruises, boat rentals, 588-5021.

### RENO

Animal Ark • 10 mi. north of Reno, then 12 mi. on Red Rock Road to reach Animal Ark, 969-3111.

Earth Window Museum • Native American artifacts, 100 N. Sierra St., Town Center Mall, 333-2828.

Fleischmann Planetarium • Stargazing programs, U of N, 784-4811.

Galena Creek Regional Park • Mount Rose Hwy., 785-4319.

**Nevada Events & Shows**

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**702-273-7213**

**Liberty Belle Slot Collection** • Liberty Belle Saloon, 4250 S. Virginia St., 825-1776.

**National Automobile Museum (the Harrah Collection)** • 10 Lake St. S., 333-9300.

**National Bowling Stadium** • 300 N. Center St., 334-2695.

**Nevada Historical Society Museum** • 1650 N. Virginia St., closed through Jan. for remodeling, 688-1190.

**Nevada Museum of Art, E.L. Wiegand Gallery** • 160 W. Liberty St., 329-3333.

**Playland** • Train, rides, picnicking, Idlewild Park, seasonal hours, 329-6008.

**Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk and Wingfield Park Amphitheater** • 334-2077.

**Reno Hilton** • Water golf, 789-2000.

**Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy** • Tours, 300 E. First St., Suite 103, 329-5665.

**Sierra Arts Center Gallery** • 200 Flint St., 329-1324.

**Sierra Safari Zoo** • 10 mi. north of Reno at Red Rock Rd., 677-1101.

**Silver Legacy** • Stunt shows, giant mining and laser shows every hour, 325-7396.

**Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden** • Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4153.

**Wilbur D. May Great Basin Adventure** • Seasonal, Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4064.

**Wilbur D. May Museum** • Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-5961.

### PYRAMID LAKE

**Numana Hatchery Visitors Center** • 574-0290.

### SPARKS

**John Ascuaga's Nugget** • Elephant mascots train in their arena, 356-3300.

**Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum** • 355-1144.

**Wild Island** • Seasonal, off I-80, 359-2927.

### VIRGINIA CITY

**Assay Office Museum** • 847-0777.

**The Castle** • Seasonal, 847-0275.

**Chollar Mine** • Tours, seasonal, 847-0155.

**Fourth Ward School Museum** • 847-0975.

**Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum** • 847-9394.

**Liberty Engine Co. No. 1 Comstock Firemen's Museum** • Seasonal, 847-0717.

**Mackay Mansion Museum** • 847-0173.

**Mark Twain Museum of Memories** • 847-0454.

**Nevada Gambling Museum** • 847-9022.

**Piper's Opera House** • Seasonal, 847-0433.

**Ponderosa Mine** • Tours, 847-0757.

**Territorial Enterprise Mark Twain Museum** • 847-0525.

**Virginia and Truckee Railroad** • Seasonal, 847-0380.

**Virginia City Radio Museum** • 847-9047.

**Virginia City Tours** • 786-0866.

**Way It Was Museum** • 847-0766.

**Wild West Museum** • Seasonal, 847-0400.

### VERDI

**Boomtown Family Fun Center** • Climbing wall, motion theater, Ferris wheel, and miniature golf, 345-8668.

### WASHOE VALLEY

**Bowers Mansion Park** • Historic mansion of Comstock millionaires, seasonal, 849-1825.

**Davis Creek Park** • 849-0684.

**Washoe Lake State Park** • East Lake Blvd., 687-4319.

# Cowboy Country

### ELKO

**Jarbidge Wilderness Area** • North of Elko, 208-543-4129.

**Northeastern Nevada Museum** • 1515 Idaho St., 738-3418.

**Western Folklife Center** • 501 Railroad St., 738-7508.

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

### LOVELOCK

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

**Pershing County Marzen House Museum** • 273-7213.

### WENDOVER

**Bonneville Salt Flats** • 801-977-4300.

### WINNEMUCCA

**Buckaroo Hall of Fame** • 623-2225.

**Humboldt Museum** • Winnemucca-area history, 623-2912.

# Pony Express Territory

### AUSTIN

**Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site** • 24 miles east of Austin on U.S. 50.

### ELY/GREAT BASIN N.P.

**Cave Lake State Recreation Area** • 15 miles south of Ely, 728-4467.

**East Ely Railroad Depot Museum** • Tours, 289-1663.

**Great Basin National Park** • Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 234-7331.

**Nevada Northern Railway Museum** • Train rides on historic locomotives, seasonal, 1100 Ave. A, East Ely, 289-2085.

**Ward Charcoal Owens State Historic Site** • 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely, 728-4467.

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

### EUREKA

**Eureka Opera House** • Open Mon.-Fri. or by appointment, tours, 237-6006.

**Eureka Sentinel Museum** • 237-5010.

### FALLON

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

**Fort Churchill State Historic Park** • 30 miles west of Fallon at Silver Springs, 577-2345.

**Sand Mountain** • Unusual giant sand dune, 20 miles east of Fallon, 885-6000.

# Pioneer Territory

### BEATTY

**Beatty Museum** • Mining exhibits, 553-2424.

**Death Valley National Park** • Park can be reached via Beatty, 619-786-2331.

**Rhyolite Bottle House Historic Site** • Four miles west of Beatty, 553-2424.

### GABBS

**Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park** • 23 miles east of Gabbs, 964-2440.

### HAWTHORNE

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

**Walker Lake State Recreation Area** • 945-5896.

### PAHRUMP

**Death Valley National Park** • Park can be reached via Pahrump, 619-786-2331.

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

### PIOCHE/CALIENTE

**Cathedral Gorge State Park** • South of Pioche, 728-4460.

**Kershaw-Ryan State Park** • South of Caliente, 728-4460.

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

**Million Dollar Courthouse** • Landmark courthouse, Pioche, 962-5207.

**Spring Valley State Park** • 728-4460.

**Stone Cabin Living History Museum** • One mile north of Eagle Valley Reservoir near the historic mining town of Pioche, seasonal, 728-4460.

### TONOPAH

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

**Central Nevada Museum** • Artifacts and photographs on Tonopah-area history, 482-9676.

**Tonopah Historic Mining Park** • 482-9274.

### YERINGTON

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

**A Reminder:** To confirm hours of operation, please use the phone number listed with each attraction. Nevada's area code is 702 until December 12, after which the Las Vegas area will remain 702 and the rest of the State will change to 775.



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# Vacation Hot Lines

Where to call or write for Nevada travel tips.

**W**hen planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information. 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. Nevada's area code is 702 until December 12, after which Las Vegas will remain 702 and the rest of the state will change to 775.

## Statewide Information

**Nevada Commission on Tourism:** Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 687-4322 or 800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada.

## Las Vegas Territory

**African American Activities:** 3838 Raymert Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89121; 456-3838.

**Boulder City C of C:** 1305 Arizona, Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-2034.

**Boulder City Visitor Center:** 100 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 294-1252.

**Henderson C of C:** 590 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, NV 89015; 565-8951.

**Hoover Dam Visitors Services:** Box 60400, Boulder City, NV 89006; 294-3523.

**Jean Visitor Center:** Interstate 15 South, Exit 12, Jean, NV 89019; 874-1360.

**Las Vegas C of C:** 3720 Howard Hughes Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89109; 735-1616.

**Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority:** 3150 Paradise, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 892-0711.

**Latin C of C:** 829 S. Sixth St., Las Vegas, NV 89125; 385-7367.

**Laughlin C of C:** Box 77777, Laughlin, NV 89028; 298-2214 or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada.

**Laughlin Visitor Center:** 1555 Casino Dr., Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-3321 or 800-452-8445.

**Mesquite Area C of C:** 250 W. Mesquite Blvd., Box 785, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2902.

**Mesquite Visitor Center:** Interstate 15 Exit 122, Box 1560, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2702.

**Moapa Valley C of C:** Hwy. 169, Box 361, Overton, NV



## Let It Snow

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89040; 397-2160 for information on the Overton area.

**North Las Vegas C of C:** 1023 E. Lake Mead Blvd., North Las Vegas, NV 89030; 642-9595.

## Reno-Tahoe Territory

**Carson City C of C:** 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701; 882-1565.

**Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau:** 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701; 687-7410 or 800-NEVADA-1 in U.S.

**Carson Valley C of C and Visitors Authority:** 1512 Hwy. 395, No. 1, Gardnerville, NV 89410-7814; 782-8144 or 800-727-7677 in U.S.

**Elko Convention and Visitors Authority:** 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV 89801; 738-4091, 800-248-ELKO outside Nevada. **Jackpot Visitor Information:** Box 627, Jackpot, NV 89825; 800-411-2052.

**Jarbridge Community Assn.:** c/o Trading Post, Box 260072, Jarbridge, NV 89826; 488-2315.

**Lovelock C of C:** Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; for information phone 273-7213.

**McDermitt Information:** Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421; 532-8742.

**Wells C of C:** Box 615, Wells, NV 89835; 752-3540.

**Wendover USA Visitors/Convention Bureau:** Box 2468,

**Dayton Area C of C:** 15 Main St., Box 408, Dayton, NV 89403; 246-7909 (open Thurs.-Sun.).

**Greater Reno-Sparks C of C:** 405 Marsh Ave., Reno, NV 89505; 686-3030.

**Incline Village/Crystal Bay C of C:** 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; 831-4440.

**Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors and Convention Bureau:** 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; 832-1606 or 800-GO-TAHOE anywhere in U.S.

**Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority:** 1156 Ski Run Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; 530-544-5050, 800-AT-TAHOE in U.S.

**North Lake Tahoe C of C:** 245 N. Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, CA 96145; 530-581-6900 for visitor information.

**Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority:** 4590 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502; 827-RENO or 800-FOR-RENO in U.S.

**Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council:** 98 Colony Rd., Reno, NV 89502; 329-2936.

**South Lake Tahoe C of C:** 3066 Lake Tahoe Blvd., S. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; 530-541-5255.

**Sparks C of C:** 831 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431; 358-1976.

**Tahoe-Douglas C of C:** Box 7139, Stateline, NV 89449; 588-4591.

**Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau:** Box 5578, Tahoe City, CA 96145; 530-583-3494 or 800-TAHOE-4-U.

**Virginia City C of C:** Chamber of commerce is inside V&T Railroad Car, C St., Virginia City, NV 89440; 847-0311.

## Cowboy Country

**Battle Mountain C of C:** Box 333, Battle Mountain, NV 89820; 635-8245.

**Elko C of C:** 1601 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801; 738-7135.

Wendover, NV 89883; 664-3414 or 800-426-6862.

**Winnemucca C of C:** 30 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-2225.

**Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau:** 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-5071 or 800-WMCA-NEV.

#### **Pony Express Territory**

**Austin C of C:** Box 212, Austin, NV 89310; 964-2200.

**Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center:** 150 Sixth St., Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; 289-3720.

**Eureka County C of C:** Box 14, Eureka, NV 89316; 237-5484.

**Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority:** 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 423-4556 or 800-874-0903.

**Fernley C of C:** 70 N. West St., Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; 575-4459.

**Great Basin C of C:** Information on Baker and Great Basin National Park. Box 90, Baker, NV 89311; 234-7302.

**Greater Fallon Area C of C:** 65 S. Maine St., No. B, Fallon, NV 89406; 423-2544.

**Silver Springs EDASS** (Econ. Dev. Authority of Silver Springs): Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 577-2069.

**White Pine C of C:** 636 Aultman, Ely, NV 89301; 289-8877.

#### **Pioneer Territory**

**Amargosa C of C:** HCR 69-2, Box 401W, Amargosa, NV 89020; 372-5459.

**Beatty C of C:** Box 956, Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2424.

**Caliente C of C:** Depot Building, Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 726-3129.

**Gabbs, City of:** Box 176, Gabbs, NV 89409; 285-4019.

**Goldfield C of C:** Box 219, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-3453.

**Goldfield Historical Society:** Box 178, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-6365.

**Greater Smoky Valley C of C:** Box 1977, State Route 376 at Carver's Station, Round Mountain, NV 89045; call 377-2490 for information.

**Mason Valley C of C:** 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV 89447-2536; 463-2245.

**Mineral County C of C:** 601 Fifth St., Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; 945-5896.

**Pahrump Valley C of C:** Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; 727-5800 or 800-633-WEST.

**Pioche C of C:** Box 127, Pioche, NV 89043; 962-5544.

**Tonopah C of C:** 301 Brougher Ave., Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3859.

**Tonopah Convention Center:** Box 408, Tonopah, NV 89049; for information phone 482-3558.

#### **Indian Territory**

**Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada:** 806 Holman Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 355-0600.

**Indian Territory:** Nevada Commission on Tourism, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 687-4322 or 800-NEVADA-8.

#### **State and National Parks**

**Death Valley National Park:** Beatty Visitor Center: 307 Main St., Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2200. Park: Death Valley, CA 92328; 619-786-2331.

**Great Basin National Park:** Baker, NV 89311; 234-7331 for park information.

**Lake Mead National Recreation Area:** 601 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-8907.

**Nevada Division of State Parks:** Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 687-4370.

**Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area:** HCR 33, Box 5500, Las Vegas, NV 89124; 363-1921.

#### **More Outdoor Activities**

**Bicycling in Nevada:** Nevada Dept. of Transportation: 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712; 687-4997.

**Bureau of Land Management:** Main: Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520; 861-6402; Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126; 647-5000; Box 831, Elko, NV 89801; 738-4071.

**Humboldt National Forest:** 2035 Last Chance Rd., Elko, NV 89801; 738-5171.

**Nevada Division of Wildlife:** Main: Box 10678, Reno, NV 89520; 688-1500; Southern Nevada: State Mail Complex, Las Vegas, NV 89158; 486-5127.

**Pyramid Lake:** Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510; 476-0500.

**Toiyabe National Forest:** 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 331-6444; 2881 S. Valley View, Suite 16, Las Vegas, NV 89102; 873-8800.

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A guide to hotel-casino tourneys.

**G**aming tournaments are designed for players of all levels. Some hotels offer daily, weekly, and monthly tournaments—some of them free. Arizona Charlie's in Las Vegas hosts a video poker tournament every Tuesday for a \$10 entry fee, and the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe at Incline Village has weekly Friday video poker tournaments with a \$25 entry. Call ahead for tournament details.

## Las Vegas Territory

- Super Star Bingo** • Nov. 9-10 • Showboat, Las Vegas, 385-9151.
- Chopsticks Slots** • Nov. 12-15 • MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-929-9410.
- Cleopatra's Challenge Slots** • Nov. 13-15 • Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 800-765-2250.
- Slots** • Nov. 29-Dec. 1 • Sahara, Las Vegas, 737-2111.
- Home on the Range Slots** • Dec. 3-6 • Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5410.
- \$500 Slots** • Dec. 6-9 • Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 800-765-2250.

- Winterfiesta Slots** • Dec. 7-18 • Harrah's Laughlin, 298-4600.
- Slots** • Dec. 13-15 • Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, 800-351-7400, ext. 1.
- Gold Rush Slots** • Dec. 13-16 • MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-929-9410.
- Holiday Slots** • Dec. 14-16 • Rio Suite Hotel, Las Vegas, 800-PLAYRIO.

## Reno-Tahoe Territory

- Winners' Weekend Slots** • Oct. 30-Nov. 1 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177.
- Keno** • Nov. 1-2 • Eldorado, Reno, 800-648-4597.
- Fall Craps** • Nov. 1-2 • Harveys, Stateline, 800-553-1022.
- \$1 Slots** • Nov. 1-3 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177.
- Keno Classic** • Nov. 13-15 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177.
- Super Slots** • Nov. 13-15 • Comstock, Reno, 800-266-7862, ext. 7231.
- Sierra Poker Classic** • Nov. 13-17 • Harveys, Stateline, 800-553-1022.
- Keno** • Nov. 14 • Harveys, Stateline, 800-553-1022.
- Bucks and Benz Slots** • Nov. 14-16 • Eldorado, Reno, 800-648-4597.

- Fall Poker Pai Gow** • Nov. 15-16 • Harveys, Stateline, 800-553-1022.
- Winter Slot Marathon** • Nov. 15-18 • Boomtown, Verdi, 800-648-3790.
- Keno** • Nov. 20-22 • Boomtown, Verdi, 800-648-3790.
- Bountiful Bucks Slots** • Nov. 21-22 • Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-215-7721.
- Keno** • Nov. 28 • Harveys, Stateline, 800-553-1022.
- Pot of Gold Poker** • Nov. 29-Dec. 6 • Reno Hilton, 789-2313.
- Winter Blackjack** • Dec. 4-6 • Flamingo Hilton Reno, 800-950-2946.
- Keno Shootout** • Dec. 4-6 • Comstock, Reno, 800-266-7862, ext. 7231.
- Blackjack** • Dec. 4-6 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177.
- Golden Dollar Slots** • Dec. 6-8 • Eldorado, Reno, 800-648-5966.
- Mini Slots** • Dec. 6-8 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177.
- No Frills Slots** • Dec. 6-9 and 13-16 • Flamingo Hilton Reno, 800-950-2946.
- Winners' Weekend Slots** • Dec. 11-13 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177.
- Jingle Jackpots Slots** • Dec. 12-13 • Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-215-7721.
- Keno** • Dec. 26 • Harveys, Stateline, 800-553-1022.
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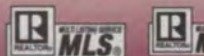
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# Dining Directory

The following Nevada dining directory includes current magazine advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes, whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner (B, L, D) are served, and accepted credit cards. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to \$10 (\$), \$11 to \$20 (\$\$), \$21 to \$30 (\$\$\$), and more than \$30 (\$\$\$\$). To phone from out of state or long distance in-state, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

## Las Vegas Area

### AMERICAN

**Bally's/Big Kitchen Buffet**—739-4111. Shrimp and crab legs, prime rib, and Chinese specialties served on over-sized dishes. B, L, D. \$\$, major.  
**Bally's/Sidewalk Cafe**—739-4111. Cafe dishes. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Caesars Palace/Café Caesars**—731-7110. Gourmet coffee shop featuring muffins, pastries, cookies, and biscotti. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Caesars Palace/Café Roma**—731-7110. Vegetarian "wrap" sandwiches, fettucine alfredo, New York steak, and shrimp scampi. B, L, D. \$\$\$, major.  
**Caesars Palace/Post Time Deli**—731-7110. Tuna salad, Philly cheese steak, hamburgers, and chicken fingers. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Circus Circus/Circus Buffet**—734-0410. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Circus Circus/Pink Pony Cafe**—734-0410. A 24-hour cafe just off the main casino. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Circus Circus/Promenade Cafe**—734-0410. A 24-hour cafe with a cobblestone promenade. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Excalibur/Roundtable Buffet**—597-7777. Hot and cold entrees. B, L, D. \$, major.

**Excalibur/Sherwood Forest Cafe**—597-7777. Burgers, spaghetti, and sandwiches. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Flamingo Hilton Laughlin/Flamingo Diner**—298-5042. Deluxe sandwiches, New York steak, omelets, and malts and shakes. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Flamingo Hilton Laughlin/Fruit Basket Buffet**—298-5042. Buffet serving a variety of dishes including beef, fish, chicken. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Imperial Palace/Betty's Diner**—794-3261. Shakes, malts, and sundaes as well as sandwiches, soup, breakfast bakery. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Imperial Palace/Burger Palace**—794-3261. Burgers, fries, and other fast-food items. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Imperial Palace/Emperor's Buffet**—731-3311. Carving station featuring roast baron of beef. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Imperial Palace/Rib House**—794-3261. Barbecued ribs and chicken, blackened and cajun entrees. D. \$\$, major.  
**Imperial Palace/Teahouse**—731-3311. Carving station featuring prime rib of beef. Weekend brunch. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Riviera Hotel/Kady's Coffee Shop**—794-9318.  
**Monte Carlo/Bufet**—730-7777. Exhibition-style kitchen. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**New York-New York/America Restaurant**—740-6833. B, L, D. \$, major.

**New York-New York/Motown Cafe**—740-6833. Ribs, crab cakes, Philly cheesesteak, and live music. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Sahara Hotel/Caravan Coffee Shop**—737-2407. Crab legs, New York steak. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Sahara Hotel/Casablanca**—737-2407. Prime rib. D. \$\$, major.  
**Sahara Hotel/Sahara Buffet**—737-2407. Variety of entrees including pizza, roast beef, turkey, ham. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Sam's Town Hotel/Mary's Diner**—454-8073. All-American cuisine and blue plate specials in a 1950s-style diner. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Sam's Town Hotel/Smokey Joe's Cafe and Market**—456-7777. 24-hour coffee shop in a market-style atmosphere featuring prime rib and two-pound dungeness crab dinner. B, L, D. \$\$, major.  
**Sam's Town Hotel/The Great Buffet**—456-7777. Variety of entrees and side dishes. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Showboat/Captain's Buffet**—385-9154. Seafood extravaganza, prime rib nights, and steak and scampi buffet. L, D. \$, major.  
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## INTERNATIONAL

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**Caesars Palace/The Palatium**—731-7110. Buffet with fresh breads, salads, desserts, vegetables, and entrees, Friday seafood dinner. B, L, D. \$, major.

**Monte Carlo/Cafe**—730-7777. Traditional fare and specialties. B, L, D. \$, major.

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**Riviera Hotel/World's Fare Buffet**—794-9400. International cuisines presented in buffet, plus prime rib. B, L, D. \$, major.

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**Circus Circus/The Pizzeria**—734-0410. Fresh-baked pizza, calzones, and salads. L, D. \$, major.

**Excalibur/Lance-A-Lotta Pasta**—597-7777. Lasagna, fettuccine alfredo, and 14 different pasta creations. L, D. \$, major.

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**Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano**—794-9363. Vermicelli salsa bella vista, lobster Francaise, fresh seafood. D. \$-\$\$\$\$, major.

**Sam's Town Hotel/Papamios Italian Kitchen**—454-8041. Choose your pasta and sauce with bottomless salad and a glass of wine. D. \$, major.

## ASIAN

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**Caesars Palace/Empress Court**—731-7110. Cantonese and Szechwan dishes. D. \$\$\$, major.

**Caesars Palace/Hyakumi Japanese Restaurant and Sushi Bar**—731-7110. Sushi and teppanyaki, scallops, beef, chicken, and lobster. D. \$\$\$\$ , major.

**Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace**—794-3261. Mandarin and Cantonese cuisine, abalone, kung pao shrimp, roast duck. D. \$\$, major.

**Monte Carlo/Dragon Noodle Company**—730-7777. Authentic Asian noodle dishes, tea emporium, roasted meats, chicken, and fresh seafood. L, D. \$\$, major.

**New York-New York/Chin Chin**—740-6833. Sweet and sour orange chicken, Mongolian beef, chicken with

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garlic and snow peas. L, D, \$, major.

**Riviera Hotel/Rik' Shaw**—794-9537. Entrees include pineapple duck, orange roughy with black pepper sauce. D. \$-\$\$, major.

**Tropicana/Mizuno's Japanese Steak House**—739-2713. Japanese cuisine prepared tableside. D. \$\$\$, major.

## MEXICAN

**Circus Circus/Comida Rica Restaurant**—734-0410. Food from south of the border. L, D, \$, major.

**New York-New York/Gonzalez y Gonzalez**—740-6833. L, D, \$, major.

**Sahara Hotel/Paco's Hideaway**—737-2407. D, \$, major.

**Sam's Town Hotel/Willy and Jose's Mexican Cantina**—454-8044. Combination platters, enchiladas, fajitas, American specialties, margaritas. D. \$\$, major.

## STEAK & SEAFOOD

**Bally's/Bally's Steakhouse**—739-4111. Certified Angus beef, chops, seafood, and poultry. D. \$\$, major.

**Caesars Palace/Neros**—731-7110. Grilled black Angus, New York sirloin, baked salmon, steamed Maine lobster, pan-roasted halibut. D. \$\$\$\$ , major.

**Circus Circus/The Steak House**—794-3767. Steaks cooked over an exhibition-style mesquite grill, prime rib, and lobster. D. \$\$\$, major.

**Excalibur/Camelot**—597-7777. Escargot, sea bass St. Michel, rack of lamb, filet Canterbury. D. \$\$, major.

**Excalibur/Sir Galahad's Prime Rib Room**—597-7777. Prime rib, English-style desserts, entrees with soup, salad, potatoes, creamed spinach, and Yorkshire pudding. D. \$\$, major.

**Excalibur/Wild Bill's Saloon and Steakhouse**—597-7777. Steaks, ribs, fish, and chicken. D. \$, major.

**Flamingo Hilton Laughlin/Beef Baron**—298-5042. Steak, chicken, ribs, and select prime rib. D. \$\$, major.

**Imperial Palace/Embers**—794-3261. Steaks and continental dishes, 28 menu choices. D. \$\$, major.

**Imperial Palace/Seahouse**—794-3261. Alaskan crab legs, seafood salads. D. \$\$, major.

**New York-New York/Gallagher's Steakhouse**—740-6833. D. \$\$, major.

**Riviera Hotel/Kristofer's**—794-9233. Steak, seafood, and chicken. D. \$\$, major.

**Sahara Hotel/Sahara Steak House**—737-2407. Steak and prime rib, open all evenings. D. \$\$, major.

**Sam's Town Hotel/Billy Bob's Steak House**—454-

8031. Entrees include 28-ounce ribeye steak, rotisserie chicken, fresh catch of the day, prime rib. D. \$\$, major.

**Sam's Town Hotel/Diamond Lil's**—454-8009. Mesquite broiled steaks, shrimp scampi, veal loin, king crab legs, smoked salmon. D. \$\$, major.

**Showboat/Plantation Room**—385-9154. Alaskan king crab legs, chicken Pontchartrain, steak and lobster, and blackened catfish. D. \$, major.

**Tropicana/El Gaucho Steak House**—739-2222. Steak and seafood, Sunday brunch. D. \$\$\$, major.

## Reno-Carson Area

### AMERICAN

**Carson Nugget/Buffer**—882-1626. Sunday champagne brunch, Saturday breakfast buffet, Friday seafood buffet. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop**—882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's**—Minden, 783-6650. Steaks, seafood, and nightly specials. D, \$\$, major.

**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, \$-\$\$, major.

**Carson Valley Inn/Michael's**—Minden, 782-9711. Rack of lamb and fresh seafood creations. D. Closed Tuesdays. \$-\$\$, major.

**Fitzgeralds Reno/Molly's Garden**—785-3300. Omelets, prime rib. Open 24 hours. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Fitzgeralds Reno/O'Luck's Buffet**—785-3300. Casino buffet restaurant, open daily. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Napa-Sonoma Grocery Co.**—2309 Kietzke, Reno, 826-0595. Made to order sandwiches, quiche, salads, soups, chef's specials daily. L, \$, AE, MC, V.

**Silver Legacy/Legacy Saloon and Deli Exchange**—Reno, 329-4777. Roast garlic Rosemary chicken with spinach pizza, chicken. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Silver Legacy/Victorian Buffet**—Reno, 329-4777. Buffet with prime rib, shrimp and crab cioppino, homemade ravioli, chicken cacciatore. B, L, D, \$, major.

### ITALIAN

**Eldorado Hotel/La Strada**—Reno, 786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine with veal, chicken, and seafood entrees. Award-winning wine list. D. \$\$, major.

### INTERNATIONAL

**Eldorado Hotel/Choices**—Reno, 786-5700. Express cafe with hofbrau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Eldorado Hotel/Chefs' Pavilion Buffet**—Reno, 786-5700. Rotisserie chicken, mushroom ravioli, salad bar, prime rib. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Eldorado Hotel/Bistro Roxy**—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet dishes include Chilean sea bass with Yukon gold potatoes and creamed spinach. D. \$\$, major.

**Eldorado Hotel/Tivoli Gardens**—Reno, 786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant. B, L, D, \$, major.

## BASQUE

**Louis' Basque Corner**—301 E. Fourth St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. \$\$, major.

## ASIAN

**Silver Legacy/Sweetwater Cafe**—Reno, 329-4777. Baked homemade tortellini, fried shrimp, prime rib, Cantonese pepper steak. B, L, D, \$, major.

## STEAK & SEAFOOD

**Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar**—882-1626. Clam chowder, fish and chips, and pan roasts. L, D, \$, major.

**Carson Nugget/Steak House**—882-1626. Entrees include veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce. D. \$\$, major.

**Eldorado Hotel/Grill and Rotisserie**—Reno, 786-5700. Mahogany-fueled rotisserie and grill, fresh fish, fowl, lamb. D. \$\$, major.

**Fitzgeralds Reno/Limerick's Pub and Grille**—Reno, 785-3300. Scampi St. Patrick, Emerald Isle Herb Chicken, Erin Creme Filet. L, D, \$, major.

**Silver Legacy/Fairchild's Oyster Bar**—Reno, 329-4777. Crab cakes, oyster pan roast. L, D, \$, major.

**Silver Legacy/Sterling's Seafood and Steakhouse**—Reno, 329-4777. Entrees include medallions of filet mignon, spicy roast chicken. D. \$\$, major.

## BREW PUBS

**Eldorado Hotel/The Brew Brothers**—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet pizzas, ribs, barbecued shrimp, sausage sampler. L, D, \$, major.

## MEDITERRANEAN

**John Ascuaga's Nugget/Restaurante Orozko**—356-3300. Veal medallions saltimbocca, braised lamb shank, paella valenciana. Cavatoppi with marinated artichoke hearts. D. \$, major.

## Lake Tahoe

### AMERICAN

**Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma**—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D, \$-\$\$, major.

### ITALIAN

**Caesars Tahoe/Primavera**—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola. D. \$\$, major.

### ASIAN

**Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court**—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. \$\$, major.

## STEAK & SEAFOOD

**Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room**—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. D. \$\$, major.

## Around the State

**LOVELOCK: 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, \$-\$\$\$ , major.

**WINNEMUCCA: Model T/Casino Restaurant**—623-2588. Chicken strips, chicken-fried steak, prime rib special, ribeye steak, fried prawns. B, L, D, \$, major.

**WINNEMUCCA: Model T/Kentucky Fried Chicken Express**—623-2588. L, D, \$, No CC.

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# LORD OF THE IRISH

A new show created by Michael Flatley dances into New York-New York.



The Hibernian hoofers of "Lord of the Dance" are led by Conor James Smith (center).

## By Mike Weatherford

Michael Flatley may be watching the sheep-cloning experiments with intense interest. Flatley is the Chicago dancer-choreographer who helped reinvent Irish step dancing in a pop context in "Riverdance," the PBS pledge-week perennial. He left that show, which he does not own, to create the similar "Lord of the Dance," which he does.

There's only one thing that impedes his vision of making "Lord of the Dance" a franchise with far-flung companies: It was essentially designed as a showcase for his own personality and talents.

Whether Las Vegas showgoers care—or even understand—that Flatley does not perform in this spinoff company may have little affect on the longevity of the revue. Summer crowds were strong for the colorful, energetic show, which replaced "MADhattan" in July at New York-New York.

Not having seen Flatley perform "Lord of the Dance," I can only imagine how it might be with a more charismatic lead and report on what Flatley has offered us instead: A young, spirited cast that wins us over with exuberance.

A few things about "Lord of the Dance" take getting used to. First, the 37 dancers range in age from 16 to 23. Being that young helps when it comes to dancing two shows every night, but in Las Vegas it's initially shocking—and eventually exhilarating—to put your \$60 in the hands of such youth. The night's two female leads, Gwenno Saunders as the "Irish Colleen" and Catriona Hale as the sultry "Temptress," are both commanding. But the Lord himself, as played by Conor James Smith, seems a little *too* young. It's not that he lacks dexterity, just presence.

Second, the show takes a very pop, MTV approach with a sometimes deafening recorded score and the pyrotechnic explosions usually reserved for heavy-metal concerts. Perhaps Flatley is less influenced by Broadway than by "Siegfried and Roy"—both shows begin with hooded acolytes bearing torches in a Stonehenge mystery world, and both include a fair amount of comic-book posturing.

How the show fares in the long run will be telling. Brand names—in both restaurants and entertainment—are the new way of the Strip. Should the country's craze for

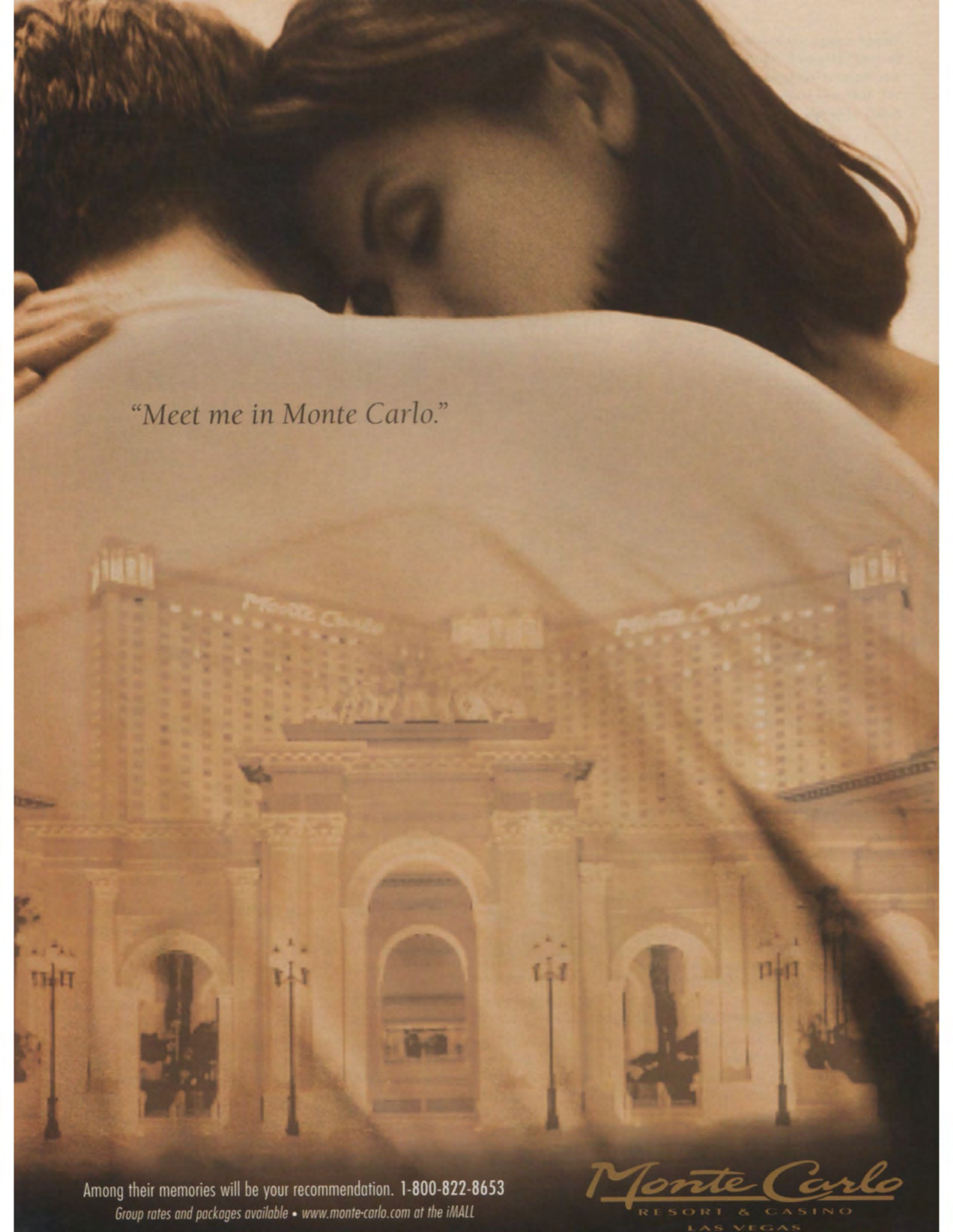
anything Irish begin to cool, the folks at New York-New York might long for something a little more timeless.

But there are factors that may give "Lord of the Dance" a leg up. Ronan Hardiman's music, repetitive but mesmerizing, is one of the few elements from the rock aesthetic that enhance the 90 minutes of Celtic footwork. And it's the dancing that ultimately cuts through the clutter to bring a genuine and deserved response for the young dancers.

## Show Notes

"Lord of the Dance" appears in the Broadway Theater of New York-New York. Show times are 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday and 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday (dark Sunday and Monday). Tickets are \$50 Tuesday through Thursday and \$60 Friday and Saturday and don't include tax or drinks. Call 702-740-6815 or 800-693-6763 for reservations.

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

A romantic couple is shown in a close embrace, their faces nearly touching. The woman's hair is dark and voluminous. The man's face is partially visible as he leans in. The background is a soft-focus, sepia-toned image of the Monte Carlo resort building in Las Vegas, featuring ornate architecture with arches and columns. The name "Monte Carlo" is visible on the building's facade.

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# Nevada Bookshelf

Recent releases of Nevada interest.

## The New Encyclopedia of the American West

edited by Howard R. Lamar. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT, 06520. 1,320 pages, \$60, hardcover. Editor Howard R. Lamar, who teaches at Yale, compiled the first encyclopedia of the American West about 20 years ago. This new, updated version has more than 300 contributors and contains 2,400 entries and 600 illustrations and maps. Entries, which are listed alphabetically, range from writer Edward Abbey to the Zuni Indians.



## The Life and Times of Dan De Quille

by Chic Di Francia. Virginia City Press, Virginia City, NV 89440. 28 pages, \$3.95, paper. Virginia City writer Chic Di Francia believes that 19th-century newspaperman Dan De Quille, whose real name was William Wright, has never been given proper recognition for his contributions to Comstock journalism. Di Francia, who once worked at Virginia City's *Territorial Enterprise* newspaper, has written a brief account of De Quille's considerable achievements. Di Francia points out that De Quille's work was frequently overshadowed by the success of his friend and fellow *Enterprise* scribe, Mark Twain.

## Atlas of the New West: Portrait of a Changing Region

edited by William E. Reibsame. W.W. Norton and Company, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10110. 198 pages, \$35.00 hardcover. This handsome volume looks at the ways in which the American West is changing. Editor Reibsame describes the influx of brew pubs, dude ranches, and gourmet coffee houses to illustrate how the West is being tamed by development and growth. The book is lavishly illustrated with 46 full-color maps as well as dozens of photographs by Peter Goin, professor of art in photography and video at the University of Nevada, Reno. Essays are presented by law

professor Charles Wilkinson and Western historian Patricia Nelson Limerick.

## The Roar and the Silence: A History of Virginia City and the Comstock Lode

by Ronald M. James. University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557. 358 pages, \$27.95, paper. From Julia Bulette, the prostitute who practically gained sainthood after her murder, to "Old Virginny," the miner who allegedly named the town with a broken whiskey bottle, Virginia City has been the source of many colorful myths. In his new book, Ronald M. James, Nevada's state historic preservation officer, has written a comprehensive study of the community that goes a long way toward distinguishing the legends from the truth. James, who reviewed hundreds of primary and secondary sources, offers the most complete picture ever assembled of Virginia City and its inhabitants. The book, which won the Nevada Humanities Committee's prestigious Wilbur S. Shepperson Award, is thorough yet enjoyable to read.

## Hiking Great Basin National Park

by Bruce Grubbs. Falcon Publishing, Box 1718, Helena, MT 59624. 88 pages, \$12.95 softcover. Most visitors to Great Basin National Park in Eastern Nevada don't wander too far from the park's main attractions, like Lehman Caves and the bristlecone-pine grove at the base of Wheeler Peak. Grubbs, author of *The Hiker's Guide to Nevada* (1994), tries to change that habit with his new hiking guide to the park. The book includes trail maps, photos, distances, degrees of difficulty, elevation changes, and hike descriptions.



## A Guidebook to Nevada's Historical Markers

text by Ronald M. James. Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, Carson City, NV 89710. 56 pages, free, paper. Ever wonder where Nevada's historic markers are located? This new publication, produced by the State Historic Preservation Office, is a useful guidebook to more than 250 sites of historic interest. State Historic Preservation Officer Ronald M. James contributes an

informative overview of the state's history as well as brief county histories. Due to space limitations the markers' texts are not included, but James points out that *The Nevada Historical Marker Guidebook* by David Basso provides that information.

## Bones Set Against the Drift

by Bill Cowee. Rainshadow Editions, Black Rock Press, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557-0044. 122 pages, \$12.00. In his first book of poetry, Bill Cowee, a Mound House resident who has served as *Bristlecone* poetry editor and is a founding member of the Ash Canyon Poets, offers 68 poems that touch on a variety of subjects ranging from the special nature of platonic love to the loss of a historic Nevada place.

## Staying Power: Eight Nevadans Over 80 Share Secrets for a Life of Health, Happiness, and Fulfillment

by Michael Sion. Published by Countess Angela Dandini, Box 7829, Reno, NV 89510. 160 pages, \$20 softcover. Sion, a Reno writer, spotlights eight Northern Nevadans over 80 years of age who have attained success as well as longevity. Among those profiled are realtor Preston Q. Hale, philanthropist Moya Lear, businessman Walt Kramer, and Judge Arthur Gladstone. Sion offers a brief personal history for each followed by a Q&A on dietary secrets, life philosophies, and other issues. Proceeds from the book benefit Northern Nevada charities.



## The Tales of Tango

stories by Sally Atkinson, illustrations by Lee Netzel. Tango Grove Publishing, P.O. Box 20074, Carson City, NV 89721. 40 pages, \$14.95 each plus \$3 shipping and handling, both hardcover. Sally Atkinson and Lee Netzel of Carson City have produced two children's books chronicling the adventures of a tangerine-colored kangaroo—a "tangeroo"—named Tango Hopper. *The Brave Lesson* introduces Tango and Smiley the cat, who save Princes William and Harry of England. In *Sticky Situation*, Tango and Smiley visit Buckingham Palace and meet a wise owl.—Richard Moreno

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# Radio Ranchers

Hal Cannon and Teresa Jordan grew up worlds apart but were always tuned to the same frequency.

Story and Photos by Richard Menzies

**T**housands of travelers pass by every day, unaware that the sounds issuing from their car radios originate not in a New York or a Los Angeles recording studio but rather in a red barn on a 40-acre spread south of Interstate 80 and west of Wells. Indeed, even some of the ranch's Starr Valley neighbors are baffled when they hear the sounds of mandolin and recorder mingled with the lowing of cattle and the whinny of horses.

The sounds in question are the result of a happy collaboration between two distinctive but highly compatible creative tal-

**“We get to travel and work together, which is almost too good to be true.”**

ents. Yet the odds that Hal Cannon and Teresa Jordan should wind up sharing the same mailbox in rural Nevada would appear slim, considering the fact the two grew up hundreds of miles apart and under vastly different circumstances.

Cannon was born in Salt Lake City into a prominent family that includes a U.S. senator and a president of the Mormon Church. Some of his relatives are classical musicians, yet for some perverse reason young Hal's ears were always attuned to such things as “twanging banjos and guitars, lonesome melodies, and love-struck blues.” In other words, the sort of music one hears on the car radio while driving across lonely stretches of Eastern Wyoming, which is where Teresa Jordan grew up.



Jordan and Cannon stand in front of the historic Bank of Wells, which the couple bought and restored.



Cannon, a founder of Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering, strums an ode to Starr Valley's wide-open spaces.

Jordan's folks were cattle ranchers, cash poor but rich in everything that mattered. "The house was full of books, and my family loved language," she recalls. "My parents' attitudes were firmly upwardly mobile middle class: You get a good education, and your education will free you from manual work."

Jordan went to college at Northwestern, but she wasn't in Chicago long before she found herself missing the wide-open spaces of Wyoming. She transferred to Colorado State, intending to become a forest ranger. "I just figured I'd be out there with the trees, but then I discovered there's a lot of science involved." She remigrated east, this time to New Haven, where at last she found her niche in Yale's extensive Western Americana collection, among handwritten diaries of pioneers and homesteaders not unlike her great-grandfather J.L. Jordan or her crusty, hard-riding great-aunt Ella Marie.

"It never occurred to me that I could look in my own backyard," Jordan recalls. "And it was just at a time when the American West was getting its first shot in the arm since Frederick Jackson Turner in the 1890s. Historians had just discovered

there were women in the West, and that was an amazing discovery. Everybody was very excited about it."

Sensing she had something to contribute, Jordan bravely set out for New York City, where she promptly secured a contract to write her first book, *Cowgirls*. In other words, she explains, "I went back East to get back West."

Hal Cannon's academic trail also took him to the East Coast and through the Midwest, where, like his future wife, he spent some restless time at Northwestern. It's not that Chicagoans don't know how to sing the blues; it's just that their music lacks that certain adenoidal twang Cannon had come to know and love as a lad growing up in Utah.

For a time he toured the country with the Deseret String Band, a folksy combo he helped organize in high school. On a public-radio affiliate in Salt Lake City he hosted a program called *The Okey Dokey Radio Hour*. Old-time bluegrass and folk music were the staples, with occasional interviews and live performances by \$10-a-night musicians who happened to be passing through town. By and by, Cannon became convinced that backwoods

America was not only a treasure trove of obscure music—it also harbored a wealth of undiscovered literary talent.

"And I was frankly flabbergasted that it had never been considered," he says. "You know, in a lot of other places, folk poetry or oral traditions are really considered the roots of a place's literary tradition—people who recited the traditional verse in a sort of dramatic fashion from memory, and also people who wrote verse. And I think in the case of our country, there was a whole generation of academics who were really ashamed of vernacular poetry."

Determined to set things straight, Cannon became a full-time folklorist, specializing in the then little-known genre known as cowboy poetry.

"I'd met some cowboy poets in Wells and Elko through a little festival we'd held, and we started thinking and talking about it and beating the bush a little bit. We contacted people in different places, and finally we got a grant from the NEA [National Endowment for the Arts] to do some research."

The end result of all that bush beating and research included the Western Folklife Center in Elko and also that community's annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering—now in its 15th year and arguably Northeastern Nevada's premier social event. So big has the poetry slam become, in fact, that four years ago the founding director felt compelled to flee into the countryside—to the 40-acre ranch in Starr Valley that he and Jordan now call home and to the cozy loft above the barn where they work.

Jordan's work station faces north across Starr Valley toward the snowcapped Jarbidge Wilderness. Cannon, meantime, sits with his back to the snowcapped Ruby

## They are creating a series on American places for National Public Radio.

Mountains, a view partially framed by a tower of audio tape decks on which he splices together *Voices of the West*, his signature feature on National Public Radio.

"My producer is in New York," he explains, "the marketing director is in Minneapolis, but somehow we make it work. We travel a bit, but we just love it when we're able to be here."

At present the couple are spending

more time on the road than usual, as collaborators on a special 13-part series on American places scheduled to air weekly on NPR next summer. "So we get to travel together and work together," adds Cannon, "which is almost too good to be true."

Besides the inspirational landscape, what they like best about working in rural Elko County is the fact that there's very little in the way of distractions. Unlike Sun Valley and Aspen, Starr Valley isn't known for its nightlife. The nearest community, Wells, has a thrift shop but no boutique, and the best restaurant in town caters primarily to long-haul truckers. Cannon and Jordan bought the old Bank of Wells and fixed it up with plans to lease it, although now the building looks oddly out of place among its mostly boarded-up neighbors.

The restored bank isn't the only thing around that doesn't exactly fit in, admits Cannon, for whom day-to-day life in the country occasionally plays like an episode of *Green Acres*.

"The transition has been harder for me than it was for Teresa," he says. "For one thing, I didn't realize what things I'd be



Jordan, author of *Riding the White Horse Home*, does just that.

judged on. I had the distinct feeling when we moved here that none of the skills that I had developed really counted for much. I could drive, but otherwise I was sort of an idiot. I wasn't nearly the horseman that my neighbors are. I sort of understood irriga-

tion, but I couldn't see a grade like my neighbor, who can practically make water run uphill. My grass therefore wasn't as thick and as high, and for a while I sort of felt like a failure." Something he doesn't covet is his neighbor's satellite dish—an apparatus Jordan calls "the state flower of Montana."

"We could have a satellite dish out here, but we don't," Cannon explains. "I think I make enough noise in my life without getting sucked into the rest of the noise."

"So we consciously try to keep things a little quieter, because I find that to be the best thing for thinking out things and for planning ideas, and for making them into real projects. I mean, I've got more work done in the last five years being married to Teresa than I got done in the rest of my career. And part of it is that I feel like I've got a partner who's real supportive of

what I do, and part of it is that we've chosen to live in a place that we think is pretty inspiring." ▀

*Richard Menzies is a writer, photographer, and radio listener who is based in Salt Lake City.*

## Two Voices of the West



Surrounded by audio equipment, Cannon produces his *Voices of the West* radio show at the ranch.

Teresa Jordan and Hal Cannon have published numerous books on Western topics. Jordan's *Cowgirls: Women of the American West* presents oral histories of 28 ranchers and rodeo performers; *Cowgirls* first appeared in 1982 and was republished in 1992 (University of Nebraska Press). She edited and photographed *Graining the Mare: The Poetry of Ranch Women* (1994, Gibbs Smith, Salt Lake City) and coedited, with James R. Hepworth, *The Stories That Shape Us: Contemporary Women Write About the West* (1995, W.W. Norton, N.Y.). Her book *Riding the White Horse Home: A Western Family Album* (1993, Pantheon, N.Y.) recalls the pleasures and hardships of four generations on her family's Wyoming ranch. Two years ago Jordan was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Cannon, a guitarist and radio man, has edited seven works on Western folk arts. They include *Old-Time Cowboy Songs* (1988) and *New Cowboy Poetry: A Contemporary Gathering* (1990, both Peregrine Smith Books). With Thomas West he edited *Buckaroo: Visions and Voices of the American Cowboy* (1993, Simon & Schuster, N.Y.), which includes poems by Nevada bards Waddie Mitchell, Rod McQueary, Larry Schutte, and Jack Walther. Cannon hosts the program *Voices of the West* on National Public Radio.

# A Goldfield Christmas Eve

The Yuletide season in our little mining town meant a pageant, angels, and Charlie the Santa.

By Martha Reiley Goodrich



I can still remember the magic of Christmas Eve in Goldfield. On that night, coaxed by our mothers, our Sunday school classes would present a program in the church. There was rarely any snow in Goldfield at that time of year, but the cold air, clear skies, and bright stars made Christmas Eve seem like Bethlehem to me.

Even now I can visualize the big, black pot-bellied stove that stood in the middle of the room. There were rows of old wooden pews on both sides. A brightly decorated Christmas tree stood in one corner by the piano.

The Sunday school was an important diversion for us kids throughout the year. Classes were held in the gray stone church, formerly a Methodist Episcopal church,

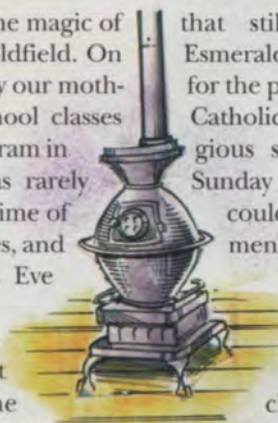
that still stands across from the Esmeralda County Courthouse. Except for the priest who sometimes visited the Catholic church, the town had no religious services—just the community Sunday school, where students who could remember all 10 Commandments and the Psalms got a plaque.

Goldfield, situated halfway between Reno and Las Vegas, was once the largest city in Nevada. But mining had declined, and Goldfield was home to just a few hundred people when our family lived there in the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. My dad worked for the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad, and my mother, a housewife, was active in the community.

I loved living in Goldfield. It was a friendly town with two grocery stores, a couple of gas stations, and a lot of bars.

There were ruins everywhere. Residents had no lawns or flower gardens—only Joshua trees, sagebrush, and tumbleweeds. Everything eaten, worn, or used was shipped into the town by train or truck. Except for a few purchases at the Penney's in Tonopah, all our clothes had to be ordered from Montgomery Wards and Sears Roebuck catalogues.

In winter, there was little for kids to do. We girls would go for walks in the desert. Boys roamed the hills and rode the wild burros. There were tennis courts, and we learned to roller skate on the concrete ramp of the Tonopah and Tidewater



Goldfield Sunday school students pose at pageant time at the church, now a community center. The author's mother, Josephine Reiley, wears the angel wings.

depot below our house. Sometimes we'd drive the 25 miles to Tonopah to see the movie shows at the Butler Theater.

Our school teams were called the Goldfield Tigers. The town's first basketball coach had gone to Princeton, so he named the team the Tigers and established the colors as orange and black after his alma mater. My husband, Ken, played on a team that beat Tonopah and Hawthorne in 1940-41, which was considered a great accomplishment.

When I was in high school, there were three teachers for about 30 students. In 1942, the year Ken and I graduated, the

school had 20 girls and only five boys.

Because there were few activities for children, Sunday school and the Christmas Eve program were an important part of our lives. As the holiday approached, citizens donated money to buy candy and nuts for Santa's gifts to the children. The Ladies Aid Society made Christmas stockings out of red net and stitched around the edges with green yarn. The society members often gathered in



our home to divide up the goodies. I can still picture those wonderful women sitting around our big, square dining-room table as they made sure each child's stocking had the same amount of hard tack, chocolates, and nuts along with a tangerine or orange.

The Christmas program never varied. The younger children presented verses, poems, or songs, and a pageant depicted the first Christmas Eve, when Mary and Joseph found shelter in the stable. Usually a doll played the role of the Christ child, but I recall that in 1940 Betty Jean Fatzinger, only a few months old, lay in the manger as the baby Jesus.

My father made angel wings of wire covered with white gauze and sprayed somehow with gold flakes. Each year I hoped desperately that I would be chosen to be an angel, but someone had determined that the angels had to be blondes. I so envied the blondes who were always chosen—Louise and Blanche Parker, Jackie Thompson, Taimi and Jean Saxberg—because, alas, I was a brunette.

As the scripture from the Bible was read, children in costumes acted out each scene. The congregation and choir sang "Silent Night," "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem," "We Three Kings," and other Christmas songs.

At program's end came another highlight—Santa Claus. He usually was played by Charlie Olsen. With his rotund tummy, Charlie fit the part, and he wore a wig and beard. To keep his identity a secret from the younger kids, he also wore an old Santa mask that truthfully was rather scary. One year, a little girl hid, she was so frightened by Charlie's mask, but most of the kids were just thrilled to see Santa.

Carrying his big sack—filled with the stockings made by the Ladies Aid Society—Charlie would stomp in the front door of the church, ringing sleigh bells and calling, "Ho, ho, ho." Every kid in town got a stocking—I don't think they ever ran short. Not on Christmas Eve. ♡

*Martha Reiley Goodrich, a retired public-health nurse, and her husband, Ken, a retired mathematics teacher, live in Sparks.*



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The author's heart begins to race even before he slides behind the wheel of his 630-horsepower racing machine at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

# A Day at the Raceway

A rookie driver learns about life in the fast lane at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

By Art Nadler

I pace nervously across the asphalt, awaiting my turn. A thousand things race through my mind: What if I hit the wall, ram the pace car, spin out at 100 mph, flip over, get creamed?

Suddenly, a multicolored Chevrolet Monte Carlo roars into the pits of the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Its exhaust pipes bellow the guttural sound of a 630-horsepower engine that is obviously ticked off at having to stop and idle at such a wimpy rpm.

A teenage boy with slicked-back hair and wrap-around sunglasses tells me to put on my helmet and crawl in through the window. Another pit-crew attendant de-

taches the steering wheel so I can squeeze in. The seat is low, tight, and built up on the sides. A racing harness is tightened

**Finally it sinks in.  
I'm actually about to  
drive an authentic  
Winston Cup race car.**

around my upper torso. Instructions are quick and to the point. Three toggle switches to the left kill the engine when

flipped down. A light in the middle of the dashboard lets you know you're in first gear. I'm told to shift into second at 3,500 rpm, and by the time I hit the 1.5-mile track, I should be turning 4,000 to 4,500 rpm. After that, the instructor tells me, I should forget the clutch and keep it in fourth gear until I come back into the pits, when I should downshift.

Finally it sinks in. I'm actually sitting in and about to drive an authentic Winston Cup race car at the legendary stock-car driver Richard Petty's driving school.

My palms start to sweat.

The instructor tells us that two rookies at a time will drive the track. The pace car



Aspiring racers can learn the art of driving side-by-side and maintaining speed in the curves.

will set the speed, and the two rookies will follow about three car lengths apart. We're told to try to stay within the dots painted on the track that denote the best path for traction and stability. The dots sweep down at the turns, rise, and come within a few feet of the wall on the straights.

Then it's time for my run. A friend of mine, *Las Vegas Sun* cartoonist and racing fanatic Mike Smith, gets the position behind the pace car. I'm to follow. We get the "go" signal from the starter and rocket off. The power of the racing engine thrusts me back into the seat at warp speed as I strain to reach forward and shift the lever. I make it through all four gears by the time I hit the track.

Soon we're eating up blacktop at break-neck speed. Trying to spot the zigzagging dots and wedge between them—while maintaining two car lengths—is overloading my sensory circuit board. The centrifugal force going into the turns is unbelievable as I fight to keep my body behind the wheel. Already I'm running on adrenaline fumes.

In a blink, the pace car and Mike pull away on a turn, and I lose sight of them. I had succumbed to the natural reaction to slow down when entering a turn. While that may be practical under normal highway conditions, it's not necessary when you're driving a wide-tire race car that sits two inches off the ground.

I finish my eight laps of the Rookie Experience course and take the checkered flag, the universal signal to head for the pits. While I wait to find out my lap

speeds, Mike and the pace-car driver do two more laps. Mike's doing pretty well, hanging tight to the pace car's every move. Later, Mike would find out that he hit a top speed of 135.2 mph.

"It's a total adrenaline rush," Mike says. "All natural tendencies toward self-preservation go out the window as you crave more speed with each lap. Having your foot on the accelerator of a 630-horsepower machine is like touching a high-voltage power line. My hands are still frozen in a grip position from holding the wheel so tight."

About five minutes later, I get my times.

Top speed: 73.7 mph. Somehow I thought I was going a lot faster, but the timekeeper says it wasn't bad for my first attempt going into the turns. On the straight stretches where they don't measure speeds, I'm told I probably topped 100 mph.

Eric Stelgerwald, general manager for the racing school, sensed my disappoint-

**The G-force from the acceleration is like an out-of-body experience. I'm pushed deep into the seat.**

ment and asked if I'd like to go for a ride in one of the two-seaters with an instructor. Still a little disoriented and rubber-legged, I agree.

Stelgerwald says the cars are designed to handle turns at 160 mph. Unless you hit someone, which is highly unlikely since there are no cars alongside you, the chances of an accident are slim.

Driver Jerry Lowry is more than happy to take me for a ride. As we launch up the pit lane, I gain a real appreciation for how fast these Winston Cup cars really go. As he speed shifts, my head whips back, and suddenly we're on the track doing about 100 mph.

Seconds later, we're at 165 mph going through the turns. The G-force from the acceleration is like an out-of-body experience. I'm pushed deep into the seat, while

## Gearing Up

In addition to watching the racing action at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, gearheads can take several driving courses at the Richard Petty Driving Experience.

The **Riding Experience** offers fans a ride in a two-seater stock car driven by a professional instructor for three laps at speeds up to 160 mph (\$89.99). The three-hour **Rookie Experience** allows you to drive a stock car for eight laps (\$329.99). Drivers race for 16 laps in the **Winston Experience** (\$699.99). The **Experience of a Lifetime** is a 30-lap program run in 10-lap sessions

(\$1,099.99). The **Racing Experience** is a two-day program consisting of 80 laps run in four 10-lap sessions a day and includes exercises in side-by-side driving, building speed, and a final round of one-on-one with the instructor (\$2,199.99). The **Advanced Racing Experience** is a 40-lap session with personal instruction based on the skill level of the student (\$2,499.99). Prerequisites are the Experience of a Lifetime or Racing Experience program.

The Richard Petty Driving Experience is located at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 7000 Las Vegas Blvd. North, Las Vegas, NV 89115. Call 800-BE-PETTY for more information.



Richard Petty (left) makes an occasional pit stop at his Las Vegas racing school to meet fans and instructors like Richard Taylor (right).

at the same time pulled outward, then inward toward center track.

Suddenly, smoke starts filling the cab. I would have been scared, but at this point

I'm struggling to lift my head off the window frame. Jerry is nonchalant. I'm thinking, "Hey, we're on fire here. Are we going to crash and burn or what?"

He quickly downshifts into third and slingshots back into the pits. I expected the transmission to blow from the sudden maneuver, but the car reacts with precision. The pit-crew attendant comes running up, pops the hood, and immediately spots the problem. The oil dipstick has come out a little, and oil has spilled onto the engine, causing it to smoke.

Minutes later, Jerry and I are in another car turning well over 160 mph. Winston Cup drivers race at 190 mph for 500 miles.

Their concentration and strength to hold the wheel on line must be incredible. I'm convinced that no one can really appreciate the skill and endurance required to

drive a professional stock car unless they climb behind the wheel and try it themselves. Which is why Richard Petty started his schools in Las Vegas, Charlotte, Orlando, and Atlanta.

"People don't know what to expect, but when they get out of that car, there's a smile from ear to ear," says Brad Mark, director of sales and marketing. Since the school started at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway in August 1997, Stelgerwald says it has hosted an average of about 300 people a week who want to drive and another 100 who take rides. The top rookie speed so far has been 140 mph.

Mike Smith is already talking about enrolling in the next level at Petty's school. The 30-lap program, called the Experience of a Lifetime, concentrates on establishing a comfortable driving line and building speed.

"If you are a motorhead, you must do this," Mike says. "The key is keeping up with the pace car, stay on his butt, and you'll get a faster ride."

Of course, that's easier said than done when you're driving 100 mph and facing a hard left-hand turn. ♠

Art Nadler is a medical writer for the Las Vegas Sun.

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# Gourmet Buffets

(Continued from page 15)

before a major spread showed up in Reno.

Among casinos, the first buffet finally appeared in 1964 at the Nugget in Sparks. Paul Kirchner, a local realtor and Reno native, recalls the all-you-can-eat Italian feeds in the Rooster Room. "I was no more than eight or nine, but I distinctly remember piling my plate high with spaghetti and meat sauce at the Nugget buffet."

The Nugget had specialty buffet nights—Italian, Basque, and a fish fry on Friday. The Holiday also had a Friday-night seafood buffet. Jane Bowden, who moved to Reno in 1947, recalls the long line for the Holiday's Friday-night spread. "Back then around here, having all the fresh fish

you could eat was fabulous." A bona-fide Las Vegas-style buffet finally hit the area in 1966, when Del Webb exported the concept from his Sahara Las Vegas to his Sahara Tahoe.

In 1969 the third casino buffet (and Reno's first and last spread to be billed as a "chuck wagon") showed up at Bill and Effie's Boomtown, but buffets continued to be scarce in Reno. "Harolds Club, the Riverside, and the Mapes were big deals, and they didn't have buffets," Bowden says, "except once a year when they'd put out a brunch for Mother's Day."

It took the building boom of the late 1970s for the groaning boards to catch on up north. Fitzgeralds opened with the Chef's Pride Buffet in 1978. In 1979, according to Kirchner, "Circus Circus led with its buffet. I'd just graduated college

and was making all of \$500 a month, and the Circus 99-cent lunch buffet kept me alive." In 1980, Harrah's Reno opened the Skyway Buffet, Eldorado introduced the Market Place Buffet, and Del Webb's Sahara Reno offered the Parkside Buffet. The Eldorado upgraded its buffet (and renamed it the Chefs' Buffet) in 1984.

Today, Atlantis' Toucan Charlie's Buffet has Northern Nevada's only Mongolian barbecue and made-to-order Caesar and hot spinach salads. The venerable Nugget buffet boasts high quality and exotic entrees. Boomtown's new Silver Screen Buffet has some action preparation, make-your-own strawberry shortcake, and a smoothie machine.

The Fresh Market Square Buffet at Harrah's Reno comes closest to a Las Vegas-style super buffet, with an action format and separate serving islands of Asian, American, Italian, Mexican, pizza, and carved meats in addition to serve-yourself drinks and real scooped ice cream.

Walking out of a buffet stuffed to the gills with every form of cuisine imaginable and with your wallet only a little lighter than when you walked in, you will understand why the buffet remains one of Nevada's most enduring icons.

*Deke Castleman of Reno is the author of the Nevada Handbook and managing editor of the Las Vegas Advisor.*



The Harrah's Las Vegas buffet occasionally offers grape entertainment (above). The chefs are ready to cook up lobster tail, steaks, or shrimp scampi at Boomtown's Silver Screen Buffet in Verdi (below).



## Buffet Bonanza

The holidays are a time to stuff yourself silly, and there's no better place to do it than Nevada's casino buffets. Here's a guide that gets to the meat of the matter.

By Genevieve Kilpatrick

**W**hich buffet strikes your fancy? The following guide to casino buffets around the state will help you decide. It contains information on prices, discounts, hours, specialty dishes, and holiday celebrations. Most buffets offer discounted prices for children and seniors, and meals are usually free for those under age four.

The guide is comprised of hotel-casinos that responded to a recent survey. Each listing provides a price range for breakfast (B), lunch (L), dinner (D), brunches, and seafood buffets. Prices are per person: up



Diners can get lost in the jungle of cuisines at the Paradise Buffet at Si Redd's Oasis in Mesquite.

to \$5.99 (\$), \$6 to \$10.99 (\$\$), \$11 to \$15.99 (\$\$\$), \$16 to \$20.99 (\$\$\$\$), \$21 to \$40 (\$\$\$\$\$), and over \$40 (\$\$\$\$\$\$). The buffets are wheelchair accessible and seat anywhere from 200 to more than 1,000 people. Las Vegas has three of the state's largest buffets—the buffet room at the Sahara can seat 1,115 guests, the Carnival World Buffet at the Rio can hold 1,050, and the Circus Buffet at Circus Circus has room for 1,005. Most buffets do not take reservations, but exceptions are noted below. It's usually best to arrive an hour

Extravaganza \$\$\$ (4-10), Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$ (9-4), children under 6 free.

**Sunset Station**, 888-786-7389 or 702-547-7777. *Feast Around the World*: Steaks cooked to order seven nights a week, an Italian pasta bar, Chinese, Mexican and American barbecued dishes, two salad bars, and a dessert bar are included in this international menu. B\$, L\$, D\$, Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$ (7-3:30), children half price. Reservations accepted.

### LAS VEGAS

**Arizona Charlie's**, 800-342-2695 or 702-258-5200. *Wild West Buffet*: Prime rib nightly. B\$, L\$, D\$, under 3 free.

**Bally's**, 800-7-BALLY'S or 702-739-4111.

*Big Kitchen Buffet*: Chinese, Italian, and seafood dishes with peel-and-eat shrimp and crab legs. B\$, daily brunch \$\$ (11-2:30), D\$\$\$\$, children \$\$. **Caesars Palace**, 800-634-6661 or 702-731-7499. *The Palatium*: A

## Buffet Tips

**R**emember that the buffet's layout is designed to induce you to fill up on the less expensive foods: vegetables, potatoes, stuffing, gravies, pasta, rice, and the like. You have to wade through the filler stuff to get to the killer stuff: seafood, beef, chicken, and desserts.



early to avoid long lines, especially for Friday-night seafood buffets, Sunday champagne brunches, and holiday specials.

## SOUTHERN NEVADA HENDERSON

**The Reserve**, 888-899-7770 or 702-558-7000. *Grand Safari Buffet*: Cuisines include barbecue, Italian, Chinese, Mongolian barbecue, and Mexican. L\$, D\$, Fri. Seafood

live Maine lobster comes with the meal at the Friday night seafood buffet. Guests can enjoy waffles cooked to order, a frozen yogurt bar, and two dessert islands at the weekend brunch. B\$\$, L\$, D\$\$\$, Fri. seafood buffet \$\$\$\$\$ (4-10), Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$\$ (8:30-3:30). Ages 4-12 half price, under 4 free. *Cafe Roma*: Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$\$ (7-2:30). Ages 4-12 half price, under 4 free. *Terrazza Sunday Champagne Brunch*: Iron Horse Brut



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sparkling wine, pizza from a wood-burning stove, antipasto in the foyer, an open grill on the terrace, desserts in the lounge, and live music. Sun. champagne brunch \$\$\$\$\$ (10-3). Ages 4-12 half price, under 4 free. Reservations accepted for this brunch only.

**Circus Circus**, 800-444-2472 or 702-734-0410 ext. 5168.

**Circus Buffet:** This buffet has been praised by Jay Leno on *The Tonight Show* and featured on the TV sitcom *The Nanny*. Its recently renovated dining room seats 1,005 and serves more than 10,000 customers per day. B\$, L\$\$, D\$\$, Sat. and Sun. brunch \$ (6-4). **Steak House:** This restaurant offers a

Sunday champagne brunch. \$\$\$\$ (10-2 Sun.). Reservations accepted for champagne brunch only.

**Desert Inn**, 800-634-6909 or 702-733-4444.

**Terrace Point:** Rack of lamb, prime rib, omelettes made to order, and lox and bagels are among the offerings at this buffet. B\$\$\$, L\$\$\$, Sun. brunch \$\$\$\$\$ (10-2:30).

**Excalibur**, 800-937-7777 or 702-597-7777.

**Roundtable:** Prime rib and holiday menus. B\$,



The cavernous Grand Canyon Buffet at the Reno Hilton has a lodge atmosphere.

L\$\$, D\$\$, under 4 free at the Roundtable.

**Fiesta**, 800-781-7333 or 702-631-7000.

**Festival Buffet:** Mongolian barbecue, Chinese entrees, pizza, prime rib and crab legs on Friday nights, and a coffee bar. Live Hawaiian music entertains guests at Monday night luau. B\$, L\$\$, D\$\$, Mon. Hawaiian luau \$\$\$\$ (4-10), Wed. seafood buffet \$\$\$ (4-10), and Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$ (7-3).

**Fitzgeralds**, 800-274-LUCK or 702-388-

L\$\$, D\$\$, seafood buffet \$\$\$, Sun. brunch \$\$ (7-3).

**Gold Coast**, 888-402-6278 or 702-367-7111. **The Buffet:** B\$, L\$, D\$\$; Wed. seafood buffet \$\$ (4-10), Sun. brunch \$\$ (8-3).

**Golden Nugget**, 800-634-3454 or 702-385-7111. **The Buffet:** Seafood specialties. B\$, L\$\$, D\$\$, ages 4-10 half price.

**Harrah's**, 800-HARRAHS or 702-369-5000.

**Fresh Market Square:** Food is prepared to order at cooking stations. Sunday champagne brunch offers eggs Benedict, fresh shrimp, crab legs, Belgian waffles, an omelette station, a "designer bagel" station, and a traditional breakfast menu. Roasted turkey, ham and beef, Mexican fajitas, Asian stir-fried meat and vegetables, and Italian pastas for lunch. Desserts include Bananas Foster. B\$\$, L\$\$, D\$\$\$ (10 and under \$), daily seafood buffet \$\$\$ (11-10), Sun. champagne brunch \$\$\$ (10-4), under 4 free.

**Hotel San Remo**, 800-522-7366 or 702-739-9000. **Ristorante Dei Fiori:** Open around the clock, this buffet offers international cuisines, including Italian on Monday and Chinese on Wednesday. B\$\$, L\$\$, D\$\$, Fri. seafood buffet \$\$ (11-2, 5-9), Sat. and Sun. champagne brunch \$\$ (6-2).

**Imperial Palace**, 800-634-6441 or 702-731-3311. **Imperial Buffet:** B\$\$, L\$\$, D\$\$, brunch \$\$, children half price. **Emperor's Buffet:** B\$\$, L\$\$, D\$\$, children half price.

**Lady Luck**, 800-523-9582 or 702-477-3000.

**Lady Luck Buffet:** B\$, L\$\$, D\$\$, seafood buffet \$\$ (4-10).

**Luxor**, 800-288-1000 or 702-262-4000. **Pharaoh's Pheast:** Holiday foods fit the occasion. The dining room seats 800. B\$\$, L\$\$, D\$\$, children half price.

**Main Street Station**, 800-465-0711 or 702-387-1896. **Garden Court Buffet:** Nine action stations serving such cuisines as Hawaiian and

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Sea Mountain Course, hole 4  
Photo: Johnny Post

Italian. B\$, L\$, D\$, Tues. and Thurs. steak night \$\$, Fri. seafood buffet \$\$\$, Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$.  
**MGM Grand**, 800-929-1111 or 702-891-1111. **MGM Grand Buffet:** All-you-can-eat prime rib and shrimp served at stations. Daily brunch \$\$ (7-2:30), D\$\$\$ (4:30-10), ages 4-12 \$, under 4 free.

**The Mirage**, 800-627-6667 or 702-791-7111. **Mirage Buffet:** Low-calorie foods and sugar-free desserts as well as seafood, Mexican, and Asian dishes. B\$, L\$, D\$\$, ages 4-10 \$\$, Sun. champagne brunch \$\$\$ (8-10), under 4 free.

**Monte Carlo**, 800-311-8999 or 702-730-7777. **Monte Carlo Buffet:** B\$, L\$, D\$, Sun. brunch \$\$, under 10 \$.

**The Orleans**, 800-OR-LEANS or 702-365-7111. **French Market Buffet:** Cajun food is the specialty. B\$, L\$, D\$, Mon. seafood buffet \$\$\$ (4-10), Sun. brunch \$\$ (8-3).

**Palace Station**, 800-634-3101 or 702-367-2411. **Feast Gourmet Buffet:** Diners can indulge at the Baskin Robbins/31 Flavors Ice Cream Station and pasta cooked to order. B\$, L\$, D\$, Fri. seafood buffet \$\$ (4-10), Sun. brunch \$\$ (7-3:30), under 3 free.

**Rio Suite Hotel**, 800-PLAY-RIO or 702-252-7777. **Carnival World Buffet:** One of the largest buffets in Las Vegas, with seating for 1,050, the restaurant features the Golden Crane Sushi Bar, the Amazon Grill, Bolo (Western barbecue), and a bar. B\$, L\$, D\$\$\$\$, Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$\$ (8:30-3:30). **Seafood Buffet:** Separate buffet for seafood lovers. Hours: 11-10 Mon.-Thurs., 11-11 Fri.-Sat. L\$\$\$\$, D\$\$\$\$, Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$\$\$\$ (11-3), under 3 free.

**Riviera**, 800-634-6753 or 702-734-5110. **World's Fare Buffet:** International dishes. The menu changes daily, and a view of the pool can be arranged. B\$, D\$, daily brunch \$\$ (10-2 Mon.-Fri., 10-3 Sat.-Sun.).  
**Sahara**, 800-634-6666 or 702-737-2111. **Sahara Buffet:** One of the largest in Nevada, this buffet can seat 1,115 people and offers Italian and Chinese specialties as well as prime rib nightly. B\$, L\$, D\$, under 3 free.

**Sam's Town**, 800-634-6371 or 702-456-7777. **The Great Buffet:** Caramel apples are among of the homemade confections offered at this buffet. B\$, L\$, D\$, Wed. prime rib and crab night \$\$\$, Fri. seafood night \$\$\$, Sun. champagne brunch (8-3) \$\$, ages 3-6 half price, under 2 free.

**Santa Fe**, 800-457-2882 or 702-658-4900. **Mountain Buffet:** Guests watch skaters in the ice arena while dining on Mexican, Italian, vegetarian, and surf and turf. Menu changes daily. B\$, L\$, D\$, Wed. seafood buffet \$\$ (4-9), Sun. brunch \$\$ (7:30-2:30), ages 4-8 half price, under 3 free.

**Showboat**, 800-876-2628 or 702-385-9123. **Captain's Buffet:** Diners can try the enchiladas or pasta on Mexican and Italian nights offered weekly. B\$, L\$, D\$, Thurs. and Fri. seafood buffet \$\$ (4:30-10), Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$ (9-3:30), under 3 free.

**Silverton**, 800-588-7711 or 702-263-7777. **Blue Diamond Buffet:** If snow crab suits your fancy, you can dine here on Saturday nights. On Thursday's and Saturday's dinner menu

it's prime rib. Monday is Italian night, and filet mignon can be ordered on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. B\$, L\$, D\$, Fri. and Sun. seafood buffet \$\$ (4-10), Sun. champagne brunch \$\$ (7-3), ages 4-6 half price, under 3 free.

**Stratosphere Tower**, 800-99-TOWER or 702-380-2000. Bananas Foster and bread pudding in whiskey sauce are among the treats at the dessert station, while cuisines include Southwestern, Italian, and Asian. B\$, L\$, D\$, Thurs. seafood buffet \$\$\$ (4-9), under 4 free.

**Treasure Island**, 800-944-7444 or 702-894-7111. **Treasure Island Buffet:** B\$, L\$, D\$, Sun. champagne brunch \$\$ (7:30-3:30). Reservations accepted.

## LAUGHLIN

**Colorado Belle**, 800-47-RIVER or 702-298-4000. **Captain's Food Fare:** B\$, L\$, D\$, Fri. seafood buffet \$\$ (3:30-11), Sat. and Sun. brunch (6-3) \$, under 2 free.

**Edgewater**, 800-67-RIVER or 702-298-2453. **Grand Buffet:** B\$, L\$, D\$.

**Harrah's Laughlin**, 800-HARRAHS or 702-298-4600. **Fresh Market Square:** Mexican, Asian, and American foods. B\$, L\$, D\$, under 3 free.

**Ramada Express**, 800-243-6846 or 702-298-4200. **Roundhouse Buffet:** Prime rib and low-fat foods are among the choices. Dinner buffet has more than 60 dishes. B\$, L\$, D\$.

## MESQUITE

**CasaBlanca**, 800-459-7529 or 702-346-7529. **The Buffet:** Special nights. B\$, L\$, D\$, Fri. seafood buffet \$\$\$ (4-10), Sat. Hawaiian Night \$\$\$ (4-10), Sun. brunch \$\$ (7-2), under 3 free.

**Si Redd's Oasis**, 800-621-0187 or 702-346-

## Buffet Tips

**E**at slowly and breathe. If you put your fork down between bites and masticate with all due deliberation, you'll not only be able to walk out under your own power—you'll be a better person for it.



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E. Total distribution	69,961	67,277
F. Copies not distributed		
1. Office use, leftover unaccounted, spoiled	5,717	6,853
2. Return from news agents	4,722 est.	4,371 est.
G. Total	80,400	78,501

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5232. *Paradise Buffet*: A tropical island atmosphere is the appeal at this buffet, where every night has a different food theme, including Chinese, Mexican, Italian, and Texas barbecue. There's a bar, too. B\$, L\$, D\$, Sun. brunch \$\$ (7-4), children \$.

*Virgin River*, 800-346-7721 or 702-346-7777. *Victoria's*: Crab legs on Friday nights and New York steak on Tuesday nights. B\$, L\$, D\$, Tues. steak night \$\$, Fri. night seafood buffet \$\$ (4-10), children \$, under 3 free.

### NORTH LAS VEGAS

*Texas Station*, 800-654-8804 or 702-631-1000. *Feast Around the World Buffet*: Texas barbecue is one of the highlights at this buffet, which also has Chinese, Italian, Mexican, and American fare. B\$, L\$, D\$, Fri. steak night \$\$\$, Sat. prime rib night \$\$\$, Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$ (8-3:30), ages 4-8 half price.

### PRIMM

*Buffalo Bill's*, 800-FUN-STOP or 702-386-7867. *Miss Ashley's Boarding House Buffet*: B\$, L\$, D\$, discounts for children, under 4 free.

*Whiskey Pete's*, 800-FUN-STOP or 702-386-7867. *Wagon Wheel Buffet*: B\$, L\$, D\$, discounts for children, under 4 free.

*Primm Valley Resort*, 800-FUN-STOP or 702-386-7867. *Greens Buffet*: B\$, L\$, D\$, discounts for children, under 4 free.

## RENO-TAHOE AREA

### CARSON CITY

*Carson City Nugget*, 702-882-1626. *Comstock Room*: Children ages 3-10 are charged 20 cents per year. Each night offers a special menu, including German cuisine on Monday, Italian on Tuesday, Chinese on Wednesday, and Mexican on Thursday. B\$ (Sat. only), L\$, D\$, Fri. seafood buffet (4:30-9) \$\$\$, Sun. brunch (8-2) \$.

### RENO

*Eldorado*, 800-648-5966 or 702-789-0490. *Chefs' Buffet*: Italian specialties, including mushroom ravioli, often are included on the menu at this buffet, which also has peel-and-eat shrimp on Friday nights and roasted pig on Saturday nights. The Friday and Saturday seafood buffet is served in the hotel's convention center. B\$, L\$, D\$ (Sat. \$\$\$), Fri. and Sat. seafood buffet \$\$\$\$ (Sat. brunch \$\$, Sun. champagne brunch \$\$, discounts for 10 and under.

*Fitzgeralds*, 800-648-5022 or 702-785-3300. *O'Luchys Buffet*: Irish potatoes for breakfast, a carving station with ham and roast beef, and "bottomless" glasses of beer or wine with dinner. B\$, L\$, D\$.

*Flamingo Hilton*, 800-648-4882 or 702-322-1111. *Flamingo Room Buffet and Grill*: Chinese, Mexican, and traditional American fare. B\$, L\$, D\$, daily brunch \$\$ (8-3:30), under 12 half price.

*Harrah's Reno*, 702-788-2921. *Fresh Market Square Buffet*: Brunch \$\$ (8-3), D\$, Sat. steak and seafood night \$\$\$ (Sat. discounts for children ages 5-11, under 5 free).

*Peppermill*, 800-648-6992, 785-826-2121 or 702-826-2121. *Island Buffet*: Food for both meat lovers and vegetarians. B\$, L\$, D\$ (Sun.-Thurs.), Fri. seafood buffet \$\$\$\$ (4-11), Sun. brunch \$\$\$ (9-3), children \$.

*Pioneer Inn*, 800-879-8879 or 702-324-7777. *Sunday Breakfast Buffet*: Made to order omelettes. Sun. brunch \$ (8:30-11).

*Reno Hilton*, 800-648-3568 or 702-789-2000. *Grand Canyon Buffet*: Shrimp and crab are served nightly. International menu features Southwestern on Mondays, French on Tuesdays, Italian on Wednesdays, California Cuisine on Thursdays, and Pacific Rim on Fridays. B\$, L\$, D\$, daily seafood buffet \$\$ (5-9), Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$ (7-3). Reservations accepted for large parties and special events.

*Silver Legacy*, 800-687-7733 or 702-329-4777. *Victorian Buffet*: Chinese, Italian, American, and Mexican food is offered on Saturday nights, and there is a bar inside the buffet on weekends. B\$, L\$, D\$, Fri. seafood buffet \$\$ (4:30-10), Sat. international night \$\$\$ (4:30-10), Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$ (7:30-3).

### SPARKS

*John Ascuaga's Nugget*, 800-648-1177, 800-648-4388 or 702-356-3300. *The Rotisserie*: Every night has a different theme. For example, Tuesday is Chocolate Night with brownies, chocolate quiche, and Chocolate Chip Mirage cake. L\$ (children \$), Mon. and Fri. seafood night \$\$\$, Tues. Chocolate Night \$\$, Wed. Rib Night \$\$, Thurs. Prime Rib Night \$\$\$, Sat. Gourmet Night \$\$\$\$ (children \$\$, Sun. dinner \$\$, Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$ (10-2). Steppin' Out Package (\$21.95) includes buffet dinner and a Celebrity Showroom show.

*Rail City*, 702-359-9440. *Club Car Restaurant and Buffet*: Feast on crab legs nightly or order from the coffee shop-style menu. Asian food a specialty. L\$, D\$ (Sat.-Thurs.), Fri. seafood buffet \$\$ (4-10), Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$ (8-2).

*Silver Club*, 800-905-7774, 775-358-4771, or 702-358-4771. *Steak Buffet*: Dinner-only buffet has barbecued ribs, steaks cooked to order, rotisserie chicken, catch of the day, gourmet pastas, and salad and dessert bars. D\$.

### STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

*Caesars Tahoe*, 800-648-3353 or 702-588-3515. *Roman Feast Buffet*: Wood-fired pizza, pasta, rotisserie meals, an omelette station, a Saturday night steak buffet, and special holiday menus. D\$ (Sun.-Thurs.) \$\$\$ (Sat.),

daily brunch \$\$ (8-2:30), Fri. seafood buffet \$\$\$\$ (4:30-10), discounts for children.

**Harrah's Lake Tahoe**, 800-HARRAHS or 702-588-6611. **Forest Buffet:** Winner of the "Best of Tahoe" Award for four straight years, buffet has views of Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada. The 18th-floor buffet has a huge salad bar, a carving station, and a lavish dessert bar. Arrive early to avoid long lines, especially for the seafood buffet. B\$\$, L\$\$, D\$\$, Fri. seafood buffet \$\$\$\$ (4:30-10), Sun. brunch \$\$\$ (8:30-2), discounts for seniors and children ages 7-12, \$2 for ages 3-6, and under 3 free.

**Harveys**, 800-553-1022 or 702-588-2411. **Garden Buffet:** Menu features Chinese barbecue, Italian, German, Cajun, and seafood as well as a different theme each night. B\$, L\$\$, D\$\$ (Mon.-Thurs.) \$\$\$ (Sat.-Sun.), Fri. seafood buffet \$\$\$\$ (4-10), weekend brunch \$\$ (9-2:30 Sat.) \$\$\$ (9-2:30 Sun.), discounts for children. Reservations for large parties.

#### VERDI

**Boomtown**, 800-648-3790 or 702-345-6000. **Silver Screen Buffet:** For an extra \$5 diners can add lobster tail, a 16-oz. T-bone steak, or shrimp scampi at the surf-n-turf seafood buf-



The Forest Buffet at Harrah's Lake Tahoe offers victuals with a view.

fet or champagne buffet brunch. L\$, D\$\$, Fri. and Sat. seafood buffet \$\$\$ (4-closing), Sat. and Sun. brunch (8-4), children half price, 20-percent discount for seniors.

#### RURAL NEVADA AMARGOSA VALLEY

**Longstreet Inn**, 800-508-9493 or 702-372-1777. **Nebraska Steak House:** The Funeral Mountain Range provides the view for this weekend buffet, which often has live enter-

tainment on weekends. The Saturday buffet changes each week—Italian, American, Chinese, or German. D\$\$ (6-9 Sat.), Fri. seafood buffet \$\$ (6-9), Sun. brunch \$ (10-2). Reservations accepted.

#### ELKO

**Red Lion Inn**, 800-545-0044 or 702-738-2111. **Coffee Garden:** B\$, L\$\$, D\$\$, Fri. seafood buffet \$\$\$ (4-10). Children half price, under 5 free. Reservations accepted.

#### WENDOVER

**Peppermill**, 800-648-9660 or 702-664-2255. **Grand Buffet:** B\$, L\$\$, D\$\$, Fri. seafood buffet \$\$\$ (5-11), Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$ (8-2:30), discounts for seniors and children.

**Rainbow**, 800-217-0049 or 702-664-4000. **Rainforest Buffet:** D\$\$, Fri. seafood buffet \$\$, Sat. and Sun. brunch \$\$, senior discounts.

#### WINNEMUCCA

**Winners**, 800-648-4770 or 702-623-2511. **Pete's Coffee Shop Buffet:** Barbecue on Saturday nights. D\$\$ (Sat. only), Fri. seafood buffet \$\$ (5-10), Sat. and Sun. brunch \$ (7-1), discounts for seniors and children.

*Genevieve Kilpatrick is a Carson City writer and middle-school teacher.*

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## Nevada Logo Shirt

You're in Paris, wearing your classic NEVADA MAGAZINE logo T-shirt. The Parisians are friendly and nice to you because of your astute fashion sense. It could happen. This tee is all-cotton, royal blue with a white NEVADA MAGAZINE logo emblazoned across the chest. Sizes S, M, L, XL, #TNVL, \$13.00; add \$2.00 for XXL.

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## New Traditional Henley Shirt

You can buy anything you want on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills. Except this shirt. Henley T-shirts: Red NEVADA MAGAZINE logo embroidered on pre-shrunk cotton, ash-colored, long-sleeve shirt with three woodtone buttons. Sizes M, L, XL, #THEN, \$24.95; add \$2.00 for XXL.

Please use the handy  
merchandise order form on page 117



## Alien Wear

The man looks at your shirt and asks if you've ever seen them. In Moscow, they know about Area 51. You wonder if he's retired KGB. T-shirts: All-cotton, black with a white fluorescent design. Extra Bonus: You receive a matching key chain with each shirt. Sizes M, L, XL, #TS&K, \$17.95; add \$2.00 for XXL.



## Nevada Suspenders

Your Hamburg friend asks if he can borrow your suspenders to hold up his lederhosen. You beg his pardon. Stretchable suspenders feature the NEVADA MAGAZINE logo on both straps and the cross patch. Available in blue and red in regular and extra-long sizes. Regular suspenders: Blue, #SUSBR; Red, #SUSRR, \$14.50. Extra-long suspenders: Blue, #SUSBX; Red, #SUSRX, \$14.50.

Photos by Jay Aldrich

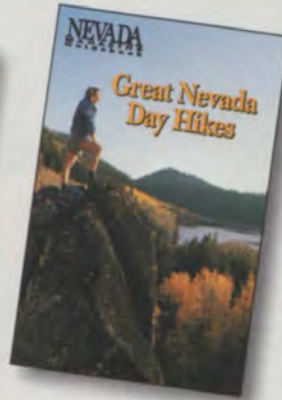


## The Nevada Polo

The view is beautiful at Pebble Beach's 18th hole. You stand at the tee, prepping for your shot, when you hear someone in the next foursome admiring your all-cotton NEVADA MAGAZINE polo shirt. Why wouldn't he? Polo Shirts: White with embroidered blue logo. Sizes M, L, XL, #PORT, \$19.95; add \$2.00 for XXL.

## The Historical Nevada Magazine

They've heard of Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch in Cairo. They know about Mark Twain in Tel Aviv. Both spent time in Nevada. **NEVADA MAGAZINE's** newest publication, "The Historical Nevada Magazine," compiles many of the outstanding historical stories—including tales about the Wild Bunch and Mark Twain—that have appeared in the magazine during the past six decades. 140 pages, #HNVM, \$9.95.



## Great Nevada Day Hikes

Nevada has more mountains than most countries. That's a fact. With more than 300 ranges, the state is a hiker's paradise. This guidebook describes 15 popular day hikes ranging from an easy trail past ancient petroglyphs at Valley of Fire near Las Vegas to challenging walks like the Mount Rose Trail overlooking Reno and Lake Tahoe. 32 pages, #HIKES, \$4.95.



## Nevadatude

Mona Lisa had it. The Sphinx had it. De Gaulle had it. It's attitude. It means you know who and what you are. Show your Nevadatude. T-shirts: Purple with black lettering (#TTDP) or black with gold lettering (#TTDB). Sizes M, L, XL. \$15.50; add \$2.00 for XXL.

## Wild About Nevada

There are few things in the world as beautiful as Nevada wildflowers blooming in the spring. Now you can enjoy them all year. All-cotton T-shirts with puff-printed flowers on red (#TFLR) or white (#TFLW). Sizes S, M, L, and XL, \$19.95; add \$2.00 for XXL. Sweatshirts with puff-printed flowers on red (#SFLR) or white (#SFLW). Sizes S, M, L, and XL, \$25.95; add \$3.00 for XXL.



## Symbolic Nevada

You're riding the Underground in London. Everyone keeps looking at you. You know why. It's the shirt. T-shirts: Full-color design on neutral (beige) (#TSYN) or black (#TSYB). Sizes M, L, and XL, \$17.95; add \$2.00 for XXL. Sweatshirts: Full-color design on black (#SSYB). Sizes M, L, and XL, \$25.95; add \$3.00 for XXL.



## Mountain Bluebird

The New York City street is jammed with yellow cabs, buses, and other vehicles hustling from somewhere, in a hurry to get someplace. At the intersection, a policeman brings all traffic to a stop so you can cross. "I like the shirt," he says. T-shirts: Full-color Mountain Bluebird design (Nevada state bird) on preshrunk cotton, light blue-colored tee. Sizes M, L, XL, #TBIRD, \$17.95; add \$2.00 for XXL.



## The Nevada Magazine Cap

The woman in Barcelona reads your Nevada cap, laughs loudly, and asks if you have snow on your head. You understand. All-cotton blue-and-natural-colored cap with the **NEVADA MAGAZINE** blue logo embroidered on the front, adjustable back. #NVCAP, \$12.95.

## Wild Horses

You're admiring the ancient Buddhist shrine near Yokohama when a group of children politely ask if they can have a photograph taken with you. They tell you they love *Bonanza*. And they really love the wild horses galloping across the shirt. T-shirts: Attractive wraparound design of mustangs on all-cotton, peppercorn-colored tee. Sizes M, L, and XL. #THRS, \$17.95; add \$2.00 for XXL. Sweatshirts: Ash-colored. Sizes M, L, and XL, #SHRS, \$25.95; add \$3.00 for XXL.



## Children's Section

**Junior Symbolic Nevada T-Shirt**  
Natural (beige). Youth sizes S, M, and L, #CSYM, \$11.50.

**Youth Wild Horse T-Shirt**  
Peppercorn. Youth sizes S, M, and L, #CHRS, \$11.50.

**Junior Nevadatude**  
Purple with black. Youth sizes M and L in purple, #CTD, \$11.50.

**Junior Nevada Explorer**  
Forest green with gold. Youth sizes M and L, #CEK, \$11.50.

**Alien Jr.**  
Black with fluorescent white. Youth sizes M and L, #CS&K, \$13.50.



## Hooked on Nevada

You're in a boat off the coast of Florida, watching a white-bearded man wrestle with a marlin. Suddenly, his line snaps. He sighs heavily, falls back in his chair, and wipes his face. Then he looks at your shirt and smiles. T-shirts: Full-color Lahontan Cutthroat Trout design (Nevada state fish) on preshrunk cotton, oatmeal-colored tee. Sizes M, L, XL, #TFSH, \$17.95; add \$2.00 for XXL.



## The Nevada Magazine Tote Bag

In Hong Kong, shopping is like a sport. With the roomy NEVADA MAGAZINE tote bag, you are the victor. Tote bag is made of heavyweight canvas and features a double-thick bottom gusset, an outside pocket, and sturdy fabric handles. Color is natural with navy blue straps and a red Nevada logo. #TOTE, \$17.95.



## The Official Nevadatude Coffee Cup/Travel Mug

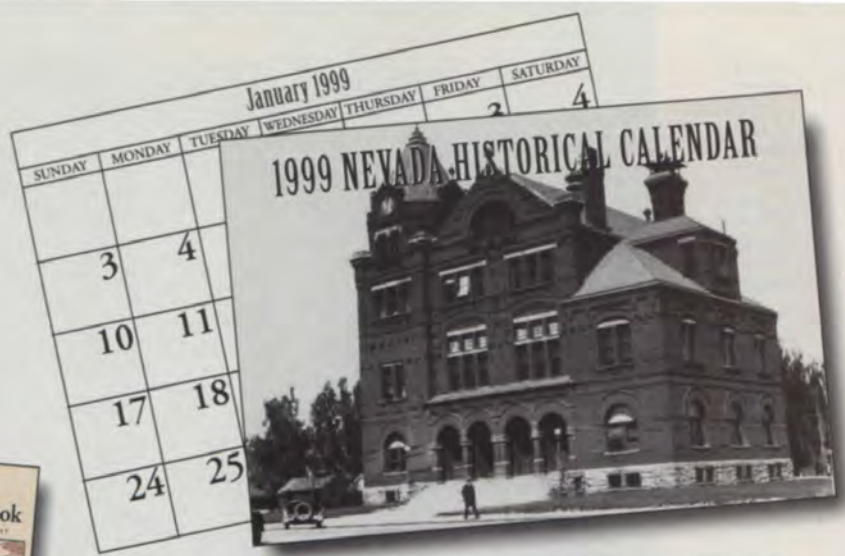
People in Seattle understand coffee. But you've got Nevadatude. This blue plastic insulated coffee mug featuring the little Nevada dude with the 'tude is a perfect marriage. #MUG, \$6.95.

## Nevada Explorer

From Nevada to Nepal, you can chase the rainbows that show the way for even the most reluctant travelers. Wherever you go, you are the explorer. T-shirts: Forest green with gold lettering (#TEK). Sizes M, L, XL, \$15.95; add \$2.00 for XXL.

# 1999 Nevada Historical Calendar

A picture is worth a thousand words. That's an understatement when it comes to the 1999 NEVADA HISTORICAL CALENDAR. Historic black and white photos eloquently tell Nevada's story. Additionally, this year's calendar has new historical dates. This oversized wall calendar has plenty of room for personal notes and includes listings for major Nevada special events. #C99, \$7.95 (retail price is \$8.75).



## The Great Nevada Cookbook

Nevada is international—and this ethnic cookbook shows why. You'll find recipes for everything from Basque picon punch to Italian cioppino. It's eclectic. It's Nevada. 32 pages, #CB, \$4.95.



## The Great Nevada Food Festival Cookbook

Doctor Chili's world championship chili cook-off recipe. The "secret" ingredients for Genoa Candy Dance fudge. Basque garlic soup. Nevada hosts dozens of food festivals ranging from the Las Vegas Greek Food Festival to Reno's Great Italian Festival. Nearly two dozen food-festival-inspired recipes are featured here. 32 pages, #FFCB, \$4.95.



## Nevada Ghost Town Map

They're fun. They're fascinating. And they're dead. There are ten ghost town sites in Nevada for every living community. The full-color Nevada Ghost Town Map shows the historic places where ghosts still haunt the desert. #GTM, \$5.50.



## Nevada Writing Paper

You're in Athens visiting old friends. They're not home. You scribble your hotel's phone number on a page from your Nevada Writing Paper pad and pin it to the door. They'll know it was you. This 64-page notepad features beautiful illustrations of nine of the official Nevada state symbols. One notepad, #1NOTEP, \$4.50. Two notepads, #2NOTEP, \$8.00.

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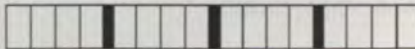
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**The Salvadore Dali:** "I thought Rhyolite would be the perfect setting for the Spanish surrealist. The floating figure is the statue 'Icara' by Belgian artist Andre Peters in Rhyolite's open-air sculpture museum. The ruin is the Overbury Building. The wagon wheel was suggested by the melted clocks in Dali's 'Persistence of Memory.'"

# Richard T. Stephens

The Beatty artist presents Rhyolite in the style of some of his favorite painters.



**H**ow would Salvador Dali have painted Rhyolite? That question helped Richard T. Stephens discover a whole new perspective of the picturesque ghost town that sits over the flank of Sawtooth Mountain from his home in Beatty.

"I always felt that Rhyolite's ruins have a very surrealistic appearance, so I first wondered how the surrealists would have interpreted it," says Stephens, an artist and photographer who teaches English and art at Beatty High School. "From there the project just grew." Stephens found his "Famous Artists Paint Rhyolite" project fulfilled several needs. "It was a challenge—and fun. Also, this would be my

version of going to art museums and copying the works of the masters, as European students do. And third, I hoped it would raise awareness of Rhyolite, which is in dire need of preservation."

Stephens painted the former boom town in the styles of Dali and nine other famous artists: Paul Cezanne, Claude Monet, Vincent Van Gogh, Georges Seurat, Pablo Picasso, Edward Hopper, Giorgio de Chirico, Grant Wood, and René Magritte. All the works were oils except for the Seurat, which was acrylic. "Once I started, I felt committed to the project," he says, "but now I'm looking forward to just painting my way." ▀



**The Vincent Van Gogh:** "The Rhyolite Depot reminds me of the architectural style of some of the buildings Van Gogh chose to paint. I noticed he often used outlines with complementary colors that vibrated against each other."



**The Grant Wood:** "I couldn't resist doing a version of Wood's 'American Gothic' with bottle house caretakers Clint and Ellen Boehringer. I rounded the mountains in homage to Wood's rounded landscapes."



Gourmet brownies. Cantaloupe jelly. Spicy salsa. Savory teas. The Nevadans who create these specialty foods rely on vision, luck, and good taste. **By Connie Emerson**

**N**evada's specialty foods are flying high. You'll find them on Reno Air's inflight snack trays and in the gourmet department of Saks Fifth Avenue in Las Vegas. They stand out in flower shops, gift stores, and supermarkets throughout Nevada and beyond.

Specialty foods were a fledgling industry in the Silver State when *Nevada Magazine* first reported on the subject in 1989. Now, nearly a decade later, the number of Nevada-made specialty foods—exotic preserves, salsa, fancy candies, brownies, even sausage—has soared thanks to the vision, persistence, and discriminating taste buds of their creators.

A few years ago, Mrs. Auld's Gourmet Foods—which Evelyn Auld started after her Sweet and Spicy Pickles won a grand-prize ribbon at the Nevada State Fair—consisted of three products. Today her Reno company makes an array of specialty

items ranging from plum preserves and pasta sauce to Irish soda-bread mix. Mrs. Auld and her son, John, have expanded their markets so their products are currently available at 1,700 locations in the

## **MOST NEVADA SPECIALTY FOODS BEGAN WITH ENTHUSIASM AND A SECRET RECIPE.**

United States, Guam, and Southeast Asia.

Another growing company, Bag O Beans got its start in 1985 when Linda and Stan Averett began packaging combinations of dry beans in the back room of their health-food store at Reno's Park Lane Mall. Now they blend a dozen different soups and one-dish meals—favorites

include Nevada Ranch Chili and Cajun Beans and Rice—and package six varieties of naturally colored popcorn, such as Hopi Blue and Zuni Gold. Marketed throughout the U.S., Bag O Beans products also are sold in the United Kingdom, France, and Japan.

Pahrump Valley Vineyards, according to winery owner Jack Sanders, has increased its yearly production from 1,200 cases in 1990 to 12,000. Based in the former cotton-growing town of Pahrump (*Nevada*, Sept/Oct '98), located 60 miles west of Las Vegas, Sanders has added three new products—a wild raspberry vinaigrette (it's a gorgeous deep-rose color), grapeseed oil, and chardonnay jalapeño mustard—which are sold in Nevada, Idaho, California, and the Pacific Northwest.

John and Sharon Davidson started blending teas and spices on a small scale more than 20 years ago in Reno. Now based in Sparks, Davidson's Teas has more than 400 items in its product line, includ-

## BASEBALL FANS AT YANKEE STADIUM CAN DINE ON ITALIAN SAUSAGES MADE IN CARSON CITY.

However, Confeld, creator of Simply Sinful Gourmet Caramel Brownies of Las Vegas, admits to a time lag between idea and implementation. One rainy Saturday in 1968 at her home in Encino, California, Confeld wanted to do something special for her two little girls, so she made brownies with caramel, chocolate chips, and walnuts. The brownies tasted so good that friends and family told her she should "do something with them." She did—24 years later. Confeld's first attempts at marketing the brownies were less than successful. Finally, she recalls, "I went to the fancy food show in San Francisco to pick up ideas about packaging."

The results were spectacular. Now the extravagantly rich confections—robed in foils, topped with sprinkles, flourished with ribbons, and decorated-to-order for just about every occasion—sell to hotels, gift shops, florists, and basket

a restaurant kitchen in Gardnerville to a 1,800-square-foot plant. "And we're beginning to outgrow that now," she says. Each week Pritchard, with the help of five employees, produces 4,000 to 5,000 pints of salsa for grocery stores in Nevada and Northern California and about 65 gallons a week for restaurants. She recently signed a contract with Rykoff-Sexton Inc., one of the biggest restaurant food distributors on the West Coast.

Chef Patrick Day, another salsa impresario, brought his recipe with him when he moved to Reno from Texas. According to Day, he and a former Gringo Foods partner went into business with "a big white trash can, a wooden paddle, a funnel, and a scoop." Gringo's Crazy Mule Salsa now is distributed to casinos and restaurants throughout Nevada and Northern California, and their Jalapeño Relish, Day says, is in "all Smith stores between Reno and El Paso." Day's current partners include his brother, Andy, and plant manager Blair Tonelli.

Armed with that important secret recipe, specialty-food entrepreneurs often find additional impetus from changes in their personal lives. Take the case of Arlene Damele. When Damele left her job as a recruiter for a national job-search organization's office in Oakland, she had to sign a one-year noncompetition agreement. With a whole year's time on her hands, she listened to friends who praised her biscotti and urged her to go into the bakery business.

Damele established the Bay Area Biscotti Company in California, but her vacation condo in Las Vegas kept beckoning. "I wanted to spend more time in the sun," she says. So in 1992, Damele opened a full-line Italian bakery and coffee shop in Las Vegas (*Nevada*, July/Aug '94). She later sold the bakery in order to concentrate on the biscotti business. She now sells eight flavors of Biscotti Dameli and her Biscotti Chocolate Bars to coffee houses, gift-basket companies, hotel gift shops, and specialty-food stores around the country.

Elisabeth Galvin, whose parents owned



Since starting Bag O Beans 13 years ago, Linda Averett has been swimming in beans, soups, and popcorn.

ing private-label teas for Hallmark Cards and other companies. Davidson's offers dessert teas such as Vanilla Creme Spice and standbys like Earl Grey. The company has about 7,000 points of sale nationally, and the teas are available in Canada, Europe, and Japan. Also, Davidson's usually holds a big outlet sale between Thanksgiving and December at its Sparks headquarters.

Some successful companies, like Ruthie Confeld's, began in the early 1990s.

shops as well as mail-order customers.

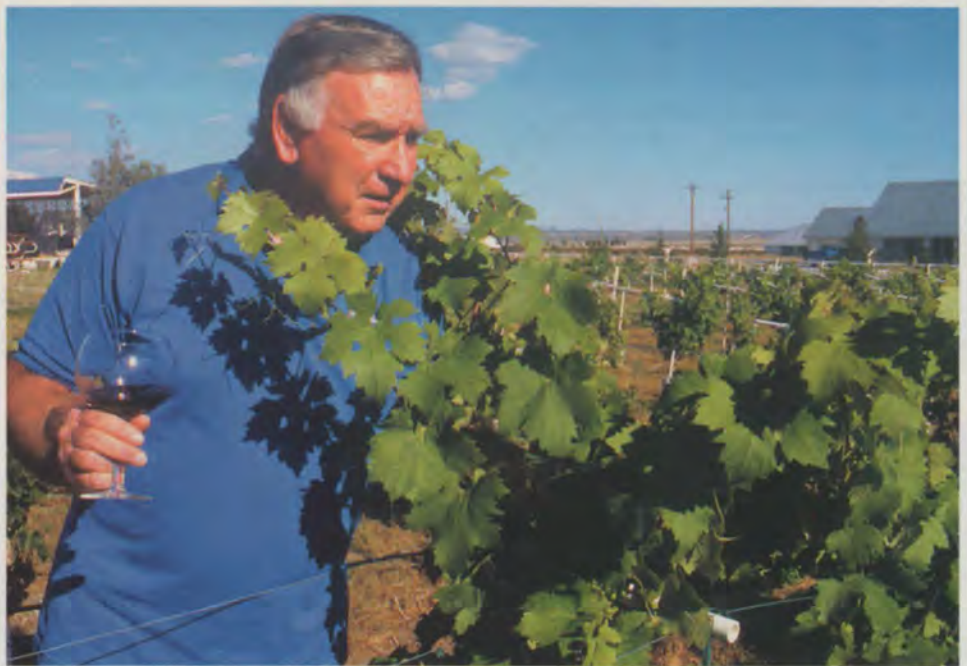
While a few of Nevada's specialty-food businesses started operations on the grand scale—primarily those that moved from another area—most began with little more than enthusiasm and a favorite recipe.

Fran Pritchard, whose background is in food service, recalls launching Panchita's Killer Salsa five years ago "with a recipe developed while living in Tucson, a bunch of vegetables, and 50 plastic jars." Since then she has moved from the rented corner of

a bakery in southern France, came to Reno and attended the University of Nevada. "I fell in love with Nevada and decided to stay," she says, "so in 1992 I opened a tiny candy factory next to the Bonanza Casino. My English was terrible—no one could understand me—but they could understand my candy."

A regular customer who enjoyed Galvin's French praline almonds and praline peanuts worked for Reno Air when the airline was beginning operations. Galvin says, "One day she came into the shop and asked me if I could provide 22,000 snacks a month. Of course, I said yes." Her company, named Delyse ("delicious" in French), supplied all the snacks for Reno Air for six years. Now, besides supplying airline snacks, Galvin and her brother Philippe, who has a bakery in Southern California, sell a gourmet line of goodies as corporate gifts and to basket shops. Also, Delyse's French Country Breakfast Bar retails at supermarkets.

A hungry husband led Viva Redding of Reno to develop the concept for her Cookie Jar mixes. "He's a big man," she says of her husband, Jeff. "Six-foot-five. Always hungry. He used to get up in the middle of the night to make himself something to eat. I'd go into the kitchen the next morning, and what a mess! So I started putting out cookie ingredients in jars, layering them in order of use. That way, the only things that needed washing were the mixing bowl and cookie sheet." Of Redding's half-dozen Cookie Jar varieties, Peanut Butter Chocolate Chewies and Chocolate Chip are the best sellers.



Pahrump is prime grape-growing country, as Pahrump Valley Vineyards owner Jack Sanders discovered.

Quality products deserve quality packaging, say specialty-food purveyors. "If you're going retail, trademark recognition is so important," says Patrick Day of Gringo Foods. For instance, Gringo's Crazy Mule products show a mule facing a traffic signal that indicates the product's heat. Mrs. Auld's Gourmet Food labels, designed by Patty Atcheson-Melton of Wow Design Marketing in Reno, have won a number of honors, including an Excellence in Package Design Award from *American Corporate Identity* 9, a prestigious design publication.

Bag O Beans was the first company of its kind to use stand-up bags. In their quest

for the perfect packaging, the Averetts have used suppliers in the U.S., Japan, and Israel. Biscotti maker Arlene Damele went so far as to change the spelling of her last name on her labels because, she says, "'Dameli' with an 'i' looks better with 'biscotti.'"

More than a dozen other specialty-food businesses in Nevada provide a pantry full of products.

Country Cupboard, which moved to Virginia City from Eureka, California, produces everything from apple-pie jelly to a pasta-salad mix—65 products in all. Besides operating a store in Virginia City, owners Mel and Beverly Cowan sell their products through retail outlets and by mail-order.

Baseball fans at Yankee Stadium in New York can dine on Italian sausages made at the Sausage Factory in Carson City. Master sausage maker Otto Sandmeier and Joseph Tonino, assistant vice president of the company owned by his family, produce 30 kinds of sausage at the factory. Also on the meat front, Ranch House Beef Jerky, owned by Chris McCabe of Mountain Merchants, converts hundreds of pounds of raw beef into jerky each week in Incline Village.

Mrs. Moberley's Cakes are made special-order. Odette Moberley, former owner of Odette's restaurant in Reno, creates four-layer cakes such as chocolate Grand Marnier with raspberries and lemon mousse with apricots.



Arlene Damele of Las Vegas offers Hazelnut, Orange Decadence, and other Biscotti Dameli flavors.

Also in Reno, Bernard Venneman formed Bernard's Cookie Company to make syrup waffles, or, as the Dutch call them, *stroopwafels*. The cookies, which consist of two thin wafers with a caramel filling, are considered a national treat in Holland.

Lattin Farms of Fallon, known for fresh produce, makes jams and jellies with out-of-the-ordinary flavors like raspberry rhubarb and cantaloupe. Kawasumi Teriyaki Sauce is produced in Reno, MacDougall Honey in Lovelock. Frank & Frankie's barbecue sauces and vegetable salsa are made in Dayton.

When in Henderson, visitors can take a connoisseur's tour of Ethel M Chocolates, the company founded by candy man Forrest Mars and named for his mother. After tasting free samples, you can explore the elaborate cactus garden next to the factory. (Two other big-scale food operations in Henderson, the Favorite Brands Marshmallow Factory and Ocean Spray's Cranberry World West, also offer tours.)

Some of the state's most widely con-



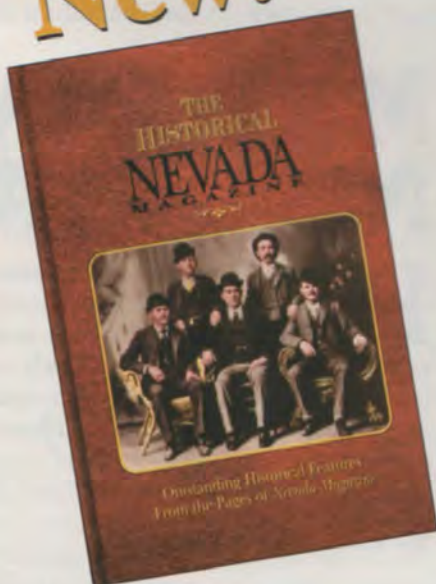
Ruthie Confeld made her first Simply Sinful Brownies on a rainy day.

sumed products bear no identification as made-in-Nevada. For example, hundreds of thousands of the tortillas served at restaurants and casinos in Southern Nevada are produced by Los Arcos

Tortilleria in Las Vegas. Basic Food Flavors, Inc. of Las Vegas transforms crushed soybeans and flavorings into the seasonings used by such companies as McCormick, Maruchan, Nissan, and Hormel.

Diane Pargeon of Sparks, who with her husband, Mike, owns Chef Montan, Inc., says that people often underestimate both the work and the costs involved in a specialty-food enterprise. Pargeon, whose Chef Montan products—a ham glaze, spinach salad dressing, and a seasoning mix—are identified by rose and gold foil labels, says she phoned 50 companies in search of the right packaging. "And everything costs money," she says. "You have to rent or lease a facility that will pass health department regulations. Each product has to have a bar code assigned to it. You have to register your trademark. Every product that contains calories must have a nutrition label, which means about \$500 for having the product analyzed by a lab. And the minute you crack an egg, it costs \$10,000 because regulations say you have

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to have an integrator [a device that separates waste]."

Faced with high costs and their driven natures, Nevada food entrepreneurs have their own recipes for success. Brownie maker Ruthie Confeld says, "You've got to sell the sizzle." Evelyn Auld and her son, John, say their participation in trade shows has helped their company grow. Fran Pritchard, who does her own salsa demonstrations in supermarkets, says her business has flourished because "I have a good product. It's very consistent, and people say it tastes like salsa their mother made or they make."

Developing a distinct flavor for one of the world's most familiar beverages—beer—occupies Steve and Maggie Safford at their ranch south of Wells near Nevada's northeastern corner. Proprietors of Ruby Mountain Brewmasters, the Saffords make Angel Creek Amber Ale, Wild West Hefeweizen Beer, and other brews, which have won silver and bronze medals at the Great American Beer Festival in Denver in the past two years. Steve notes, "We'll be heading that way looking for the gold this year." Meanwhile, the couple plan to expand their market beyond Nevada and into Idaho.

*Connie Emerson is a Reno author and member of the Society of American Travel Writers. Her latest book is Family Fun Guide to Las Vegas (Carol Publishing Group, Secaucus, N.J.).*

# MADE IN NEVADA

Following is a sampling of businesses that carry Nevada-made foods. It's best to call ahead to inquire about hours and products. The entire state's area code is 702 until December 12, when Southern Nevada remains 702 and the rest of the state changes to 775.

## CARSON CITY

**Butler Meat Co.:** 1909 N. Carson St., 883-0211. As well as his own hams, bacons, and 45 different kinds of sausages, owner David Theiss makes and sells jerky, snack sticks, and salamis, all sealed with a "Made in Carson City, Nevada" sticker.

**Carson City Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center:** 1900 S. Carson St., 882-7474. The visitor center shop next to the Nevada State Railroad Museum sells



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**For great holiday gift ideas from the Silver State, see the special advertising section Nevada's Best on pages 126-127.**



Proprietors Paula and Marty Kloska pose outside Napa-Sonoma, a Reno specialty-food store that offers made-in-Nevada products.

Nevada-made products such as Country Cupboard foods.

**Gift Baskets, Etc.:** 110 W. Fourth St., 841-0175. Nevada gift baskets.

**Kitchen Emporium:** 312 S. Carson St., 887-0555. Owner Pam Gardner carries dozens of Nevada-made food products including Mrs. Auld's, Frank & Frankie's barbecue sauces, Lattin Farms, Davidson's Teas, Edwardo's salsas, and Chef Montan and Country Cupboard products.

**Marlo's Ltd.:** 111 W. 10th St., 841-5610. Owner Marv Johnson stocks Nevada products like Pahrump Valley wines and Lattin Farms jams, jellies, and preserves.

**Sausage Factory:** 882-8110. Minimum 10-pound direct purchase. Its Smoke House line, franks, and links are sold at Scolari's, Albertson's, and Smith's.

## CARSON VALLEY

**A Country Carousel:** 1420 Hwy. 395, Gardnerville, 782-8178. Owner Sandy Anderson carries Mrs. Auld's Gourmet Foods.

**Nevada Gourmet Groceries:** 1596 Esmeralda Ave., Minden, 782-1226. Owners John Campbell and Martha Kinder stock Mrs. Auld's, Davidson's Teas, and Pahrump Valley wines.

## ELKO

**Lillian's Gift House:** 524 Fifth St., 738-3079. Store carries Davidson's Teas.

## LAKE TAHOE

**Gourmet Barn:** 930 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, 831-2772. Store carries Country Cupboard products and Bernard's Cookie Co. syrup waffles. "People are always asking for things made in this area, or made in Nevada in general, to give as gifts or take home as souvenirs," owner Rose Strohmaier says.

## LAS VEGAS & HENDERSON

**A French Bouquet:** 2121 E. Tropicana, 739-8484. Gourmet and fruit baskets.

**Basket Case:** 2450 Losee Rd., North Las Vegas, 399-

8585. Owner Marie Hanlon carries Simply Sinful Brownies, Mrs. Auld's products, and Danielle's Chocolates of Las Vegas.

**Baskets With Pizzazz:** 433-2923. Gift baskets.

**Bay Area Biscotti:** 3125 Ali Baba Ln., Suite 706, 795-8700 or 800-497-9556. The biscotti company, a wholesale manufacturer, also has a retail shop that sells its Biscotti Dameli and Chocolate Biscotti Bars. During the winter holidays it offers Italian-themed gift baskets.

**Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden:** 1 Sunset Way, Henderson, 458-8864. Free tours and samples. Ethel M candies also are sold at the Las Vegas and Reno airports.

**Images of Nevada:** 6275 S. Harrison Dr., Suite 8, 739-1973. Owner Greg

Dreyer uses Country Cupboard products, Biscotti Dameli, and sweets from several Las Vegas candy makers in his gift baskets. "I wish there were more Nevada products—we get lots of requests for them," Dreyer says.

**Java Centrale** has two Henderson locations, 1300 W. Sunset Rd. (898-8060) and 2295 N. Green Valley Pkwy. (702-434-3112). The shops carry Nevada-made food products.

**Simply Sinful Gourmet Caramel Brownies of Las Vegas:** Phone Ruthie Confeld, 800-451-9962 or 702-434-9722, for price list. Her Web site is [www.simplysinfulbrownies.com](http://www.simplysinfulbrownies.com).

**Village Meat and Wines:** 5025 S. Eastern Ave., 736-7575. Owner Emily Hare's 21-year-old gourmet shop carries several Nevada-made items including Clay Gourmet mustards of Las Vegas, Mrs. Auld's products, and Davidson's Teas.

**Wild Oats Community Market and Cafe** has all-natural food markets at 3455 E. Flamingo Rd. (434-8115) and 6720 W. Sahara Ave. (253-7050) that carry locally made honeys, cookies, and juices.

## RENO

**Andrea's Kitchen Conspiracy:** 8175 S. Virginia St., 852-6968. This gourmet cookware store carries Cookie Jar and other products.

**Bernard's Cookie Co.:** Call 888-4-WAF-FLE for information on the Reno-made syrup waffle.



Viva Redding displays Peanut Butter Chocolate Chewies and other Cookie Jar products. The Reno entrepreneur developed the mixes in response to her cookie-craving husband.



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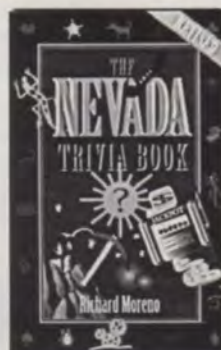


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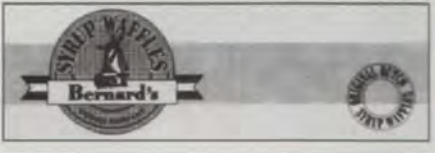
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# Roamin' the Forum

Seeking gods, goddesses, and Gucci at holiday time.

By Justin Cord Hayes

A funny thing happened on my way to the Forum Shops at Caesars. I was standing behind three mature ladies on the moving walkway that runs between the Las Vegas Strip and the Forum Shops, and I couldn't help overhearing their conversation.

"They have statues that come to life and walk around the crowd," one said.

"I've heard they have a ceiling that's really a movie of the sky changing from day to night," said another.

"And good-looking men dressed like Roman soldiers will carry your packages for you," said the third woman, who then whispered, "or anything else you want them to do."

The other ladies laughed because they had a good idea their friend's comment was pure fantasy. In fact, most of their comments were part truth, part myth. The popular mall does have statues that come to life, only the characters don't walk around. The ceiling-sky slowly changes from day to night, but the burly men dressed like Roman soldiers are only for decoration—and they don't do your bidding.

The Forum Shops, a 562,000-square-foot over-the-top Parthenon of gods and goddesses and Gucci, is the kind of place that inspires myths. Its facades and shops resemble a Roman village with stone walk-

**If you visit between Thanksgiving and Christmas, you can listen to strolling carolers.**

ways and outdoor cafes. The ambiance is one of elegance and extravagance—Cleopatra would have fit right in.

Even eating at the Forum Shops is an experience. You dine at Bertolini's, the Cheesecake Factory, Palm Restaurant, or Wolfgang Puck's Spago and watch for celebrities. But just staring at the ceiling is



The romance of Rome is captured at the Forum Shops, where visitors can dine alfresco at Spago.

entertaining, since the sky changes from morning sun to evening stars over the course of an hour. If you visit between Thanksgiving and Christmas, you can listen to strolling carolers.

The retail stores are upscale. You can find that special tie, for instance, at Bernini's, Hugo Boss, Structure, or Vasari. You might encourage your in-laws to travel far away by getting them luggage from Gucci, El Portal, or Louis Vuitton. Women can scour the fashions at bebe, DKNY, Ann Taylor, or Gianni Versace.

The Forum Shops recently expanded to nearly twice its original size, adding fresh sights that are likely to give rise to a new set of myths. Take the Trojan Horse. This Greek comes bearing gifts; it's the mascot for the world's largest F.A.O. Schwarz. Inside you can enjoy the sights: the cantina band from Star Wars, talking trees, the giant wing devoted solely to everybody's favorite impossibly proportioned doll, Barbie.

Just down the via is a giant fish tank and all-new fountain show that features animatronic statues, underwater earthquakes, fire, and the destruction of the lost continent of Atlantis. After you've witnessed the collapse of an entire civilization, you can satisfy any remaining entertainment needs at the Virgin Megastore, where records, books, software, and a cafe await you.

As I walked out of the Forum past NikeTown, the Disney Store, Emporio Armani, and some other stores whose names I can't even pronounce, I never again saw the trio of women I had met coming in. Perhaps they really had found a brawny Roman soldier to carry their packages. Or maybe they were lunching on pasta at Spago, listening to carolers, and waiting in vain for animated statues to come and take their drink orders. ▀

*Justin Cord Hayes is a Ph.D. candidate in English at UNLV and the Las Vegas Weekly's editorial assistant.*



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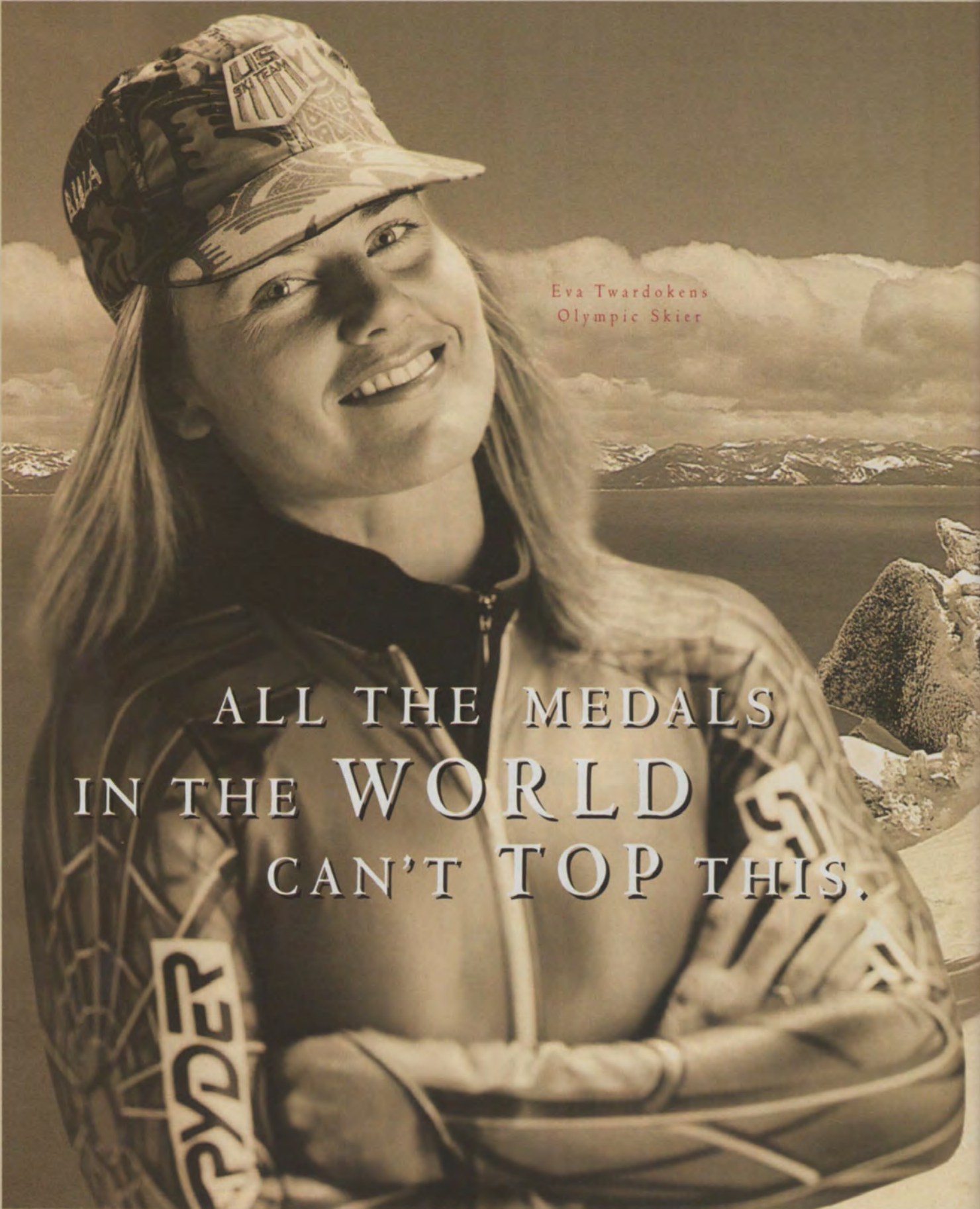
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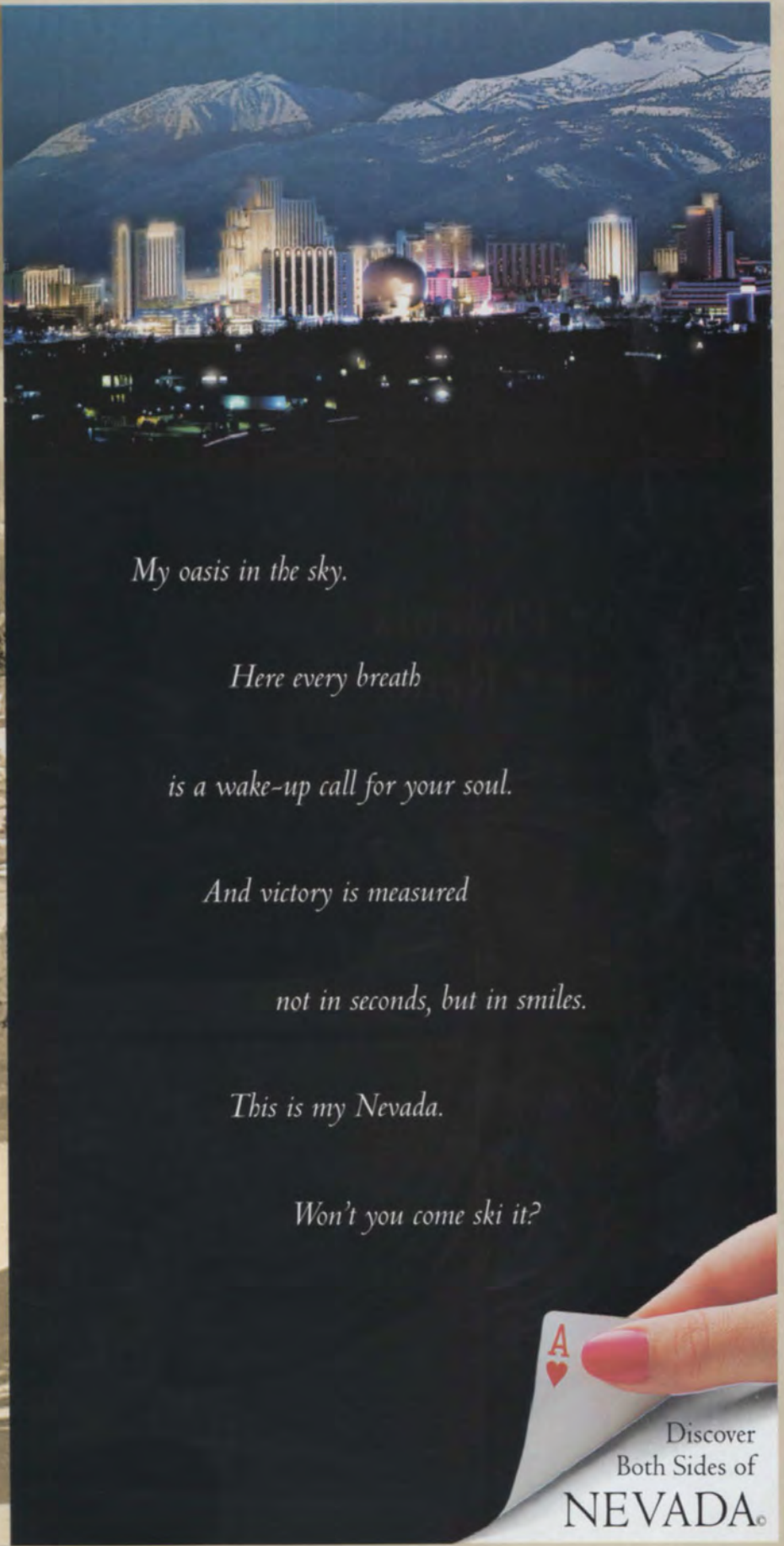
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