

NEVADA

MAGAZINE

March/April 2004

INSIDE:
Complete Guide to
Events & Shows in Nevada

Adventure Places From A to Z

26 action-
packed Nevada
getaways

Dining Out:
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A telephone line is an indication of nothing other than somebody once passed through while building it.
—Former rural mail deliverer Jim Andersen



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Doug Tirpak hits the rapids at Reno's Truckee River Whitewater Park.
Photo by Matt Smith

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Writers on the Road

Norm Johnson has spent most of his professional life writing, crashing race cars, or practicing some combination of the two. "The worst crash I've ever seen? I was in it," the 70-year-old Las Vegas says. "I came up a bank at Riverside in a single-seat dune buggy, flipped three times, and popped right back onto the wheels. I was a little banged up, but the roll cage mostly protected me."



Norm Johnson

This issue, Norm describes NASCAR's racing action at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway in "The Need for Speed." Norm, who began racing in junior high school, moved to Las Vegas to work for the *Las Vegas Sun* in 1965, the year he was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the Watts riots. In 1967 he helped launch the Mint 400, a chaotic off-road dash held annually until 1995. "That first race was wild," he says. "Everybody got lost. We had guys showing up in Beatty before the checkpoint was even set up. Parnelli Jones crashed three times and blew all four tires twice."

Last year Norm drove in the Nevada Open Road Challenge in May, the Silver State Gold Rush Challenge in July, and the Silver State Classic in September. He says, "Anybody can run in the tourist class. All you need's a fire extinguisher and a helmet."—*Matt Farley*

Austin Justice of the Peace **Jim Andersen** leaves his tropical-themed Christmas decorations up all winter. The lights on the plastic alligator and an imitation palm tree keep the doldrums at bay. "I love Austin, but I do get tired of the long winters," the humor writer says. Jim discovered the Central Nevada town by accident 30 years ago. As he tells it, "I was driving through town when my car broke down, and I never left." He says he was glad to get away from the hectic Bay Area. "Austin is a mellow place. You don't feel rushed. The people are wonderful, and the air is clean."



Jim Andersen

Jim drove the Reese River mail route for about a year and the Kingston route for more than eight years (see "A Mail Route Runs Through It" in this issue). Jim is retired from the mail route and the sheriff's office, and although he's Austin's JP and a judge for the Yomba Shoshone Indian Reservation, he says he now has more time for writing.

Jim's wife, Val, is an Austin native and middle school teacher, and they have a daughter, Withanee, 16. The Andersens are happy in their hilltop home. "We can see maybe 50 miles, a mountain range, and all across the valley," the longtime *Nevada* contributor says. "There's no claustrophobia in Austin."—*Joyce Hollister*

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Letters

The loneliest road, mysterious oysters and the Wigwam.

Oyster Mystery Solved?

I am a transplanted Nevadan living in Texas. I enjoy reading the *Nevada Magazine* and especially enjoy the stories about the old days. In the Jan/Feb issue I liked "My Dearest Marie" by Carolyn Fox, who described the letters written in 1918 by her great-aunt, Minnie Henco, a schoolteacher in Kaolin.

The author commented that she wondered where her great aunt got the oysters she wrote about in her letters. I think these oysters were probably of the mountain variety, harvested at branding time.

Bill Wilson
Medina, TX



Schoolteacher Minnie Henco (above) wrote her sister Marie about dining on oysters near Overton.

A Regular Moe

Since I am a regular customer at Moe and Mary's Wigwam (my favorite lunch item is the Little Moe With Cheese), last issue's "Famished in Fernley" by Joyce Hollister caught my eye. It was an interesting article about the Wigwam and the city. As a follow-up, Fernley is the newest city in Nevada, incorporated on July 1, 2001. The current population is about 12,000 residents, and our growth rate is 12.2 percent, the fastest for a city in Nevada. Also, the Wigwam has one of the best Native American museums around.

Not many people remember that Fernley is the beginning of the "Loneliest Road in America" program if you're heading east. The Wigwam is one of the places where you can get your card stamped.

Gary A. Bacock
City Manager, Fernley

Sand Mountain. A front tire blew, and I was stuck. Standing beside the road with my shredded tire, I could see for 20 miles in each direction. Not a car in sight. Finally, off to the east I spotted what appeared to be a very bright car or truck approaching. When it neared, I recognized what it was: an ambulance with its emergency lights on.

I stuck out my thumb, and damned if it didn't stop! There was a ranch hand in the back with a busted foot who didn't seem to mind. The driver—and to this day I wish I had gotten his name—took me to the gas station at Salt Wells.

Tire repaired, I went back to the side of the highway to thumb a ride. The first car stopped and took me to my vehicle, which was exactly the way I had left it. Ten minutes later I was on my way to Ely and romance.

Now that's hospitality, Nevada style.

Joe Merica
Las Vegas

Nevada Hospitality

"The Loneliest Road in America" is also the friendliest, in my view. I was reminded of that by last issue's "Life in the Slow Lane," with photos by Larry Prosor and story by Richard Moreno.

Years ago I was a penniless student going to the University of Nevada in Reno. My love interest at the time, unfortunately, lived 320 miles distant in White Pine County. My old beat-up Ford station wagon could get me there and back, but just barely.

Traveling east on Highway 50 without a spare tire, my luck finally ran out around

'Best of Nevada' REMINDER

Please be sure to send in your "Best of Nevada" ballot, which you will find near the front of this issue. This is the sixth annual *Nevada Magazine* readers' poll, and we want to know your favorite places and things to do in the Silver State. The "Best of Nevada" voting results will appear in the July/August issue.

Thanks,
Richard Moreno, Publisher

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Wild Moments

Photographer **Tanja Henderson**
takes aim at wildlife





ne summer day Tanja Henderson watched as a hummingbird moth flitted among the flowers in her garden in Cherry Creek. “I had my camera with me, so I captured the moment,” Henderson says of the image (above). “It was really pretty light. I liked the light and the colors.” She also liked the spring-green background framing the fawn on the opposite page. Probably an orphan, the young deer was eating hay at a ranch in Steptoe Valley near Ely. Henderson and her husband, Roderick, both from the Netherlands, are working on four photography books about the American West. As a photographer, Tanja (pronounced “Tanya”) says she is intrigued by Nevada’s wide-open spaces and the fact that “nature is so close to people.” Her landscape, wildlife, and cowboy images can be seen at www.pointzeroarts.com/tanjahenderson.—*Joyce Hollister*



Roadside Attractions

A remembrance garden, wild horses, and Dooby Lane.

Helping Wild Horses

VIRGINIA CITY—Wild horse aficionados can help preserve a herd of free-roaming equines by buying gifts at the Let 'em Run Foundation's **Comstock Wild Horse and Mining Museum** on C Street.

About 1,200 head of wild horses live on mostly private property in the Virginia Range north of Virginia City, and pending development could cut their habitat in half, according to the museum's director, Olivia Fiamengo. The federal Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 protects animals only on public land. "These horses fell through the cracks and are offered no federal protection at all," she says.

Fiamengo and the foundation's president, country singer Lacy J. Dalton, hope to create a 100,000-acre preserve for the horses, which are descendants of domestic horses gone wild during 19th-century mining days. The foundation is negotiating for 500 acres near Six Mile Canyon Road for a sanctuary headquarters.

"The horses earned their place here," Dalton, a Comstock resident, says. "They need to be protected—they need to be wild and free."

The Comstock Wild Horse and Mining Museum relates the history of the Nevada wild horse and features photographs of horses during the Comstock era. Gifts



Lacy J. Dalton (left), founder of the Let 'em Run Foundation, and Olivia Fiamengo, director of the Comstock Wild Horse and Mining Museum, chat inside the Virginia City attraction.

include jewelry, note cards, photographs, paintings, stuffed animals, and hats, all with a wild horse theme.

The museum, located in the historic Virginia and Truckee Railway mail car No. 13 at 131 South C Street, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday to Monday in the off season and daily beginning Memorial Day weekend. Visit www.letemrun.com or call 775-847-9453 for details.—*Joyce Hollister*

Dooby's Desert Drive

GERLACH—The road overlooks the Black Rock Desert playa about 110 miles north of Reno. Structures in wood and stone and huge figures—such as a metal-clad Elvis and a lumpy Aphrodite—dot the roadside. White lettering on a big rock reminds visitors, "No matter what you think of this road, remember the price is right."



Wall Power

An 80-foot mural on the back wall of the Lyon County administrative offices in Yerington honors early-day mining, agriculture, and railroading in the region. The mural depicts historical figures such as Wovoka, Kit Carson, and Dr. Mary Fulstone, a Smith Valley physician from 1919 to 1979. Wall artists Pat Fietta, George Le Maitre, and David McGowan painted each day of the summer of 2001. Fietta says, "Since the mural faced west, we had to stop painting by noon because the paint on our brushes kept drying in the intense heat."

Although a signpost reads "Guru Road," residents of the Gerlach area call it **Dooby Lane** after its creator, DeWayne Williams, who was nicknamed "Doobie" (also spelled "Dooby") and sometimes known as the "Guru of Gerlach."

Each year thousands of motorists drive the road slowly, reading the rocks. The inscriptions offer such advice as "Life is nothing but a big joke; kick back and watch the show" and "One life to live; you must have something to do, someone to love, something to believe; believe in yourself and be sure." A stick teepee invites visitors to "leave their hangups." Visitors have responded by hanging caps, underwear, bottles, notes on paper scraps, and other miscellany from the teepee's framework.

A Gerlach native, Williams lived in Florida until he retired in 1972. Shortly after returning to the Black Rock area he began working on his mile of road on



DeWayne "Doobie" Williams created sculptures with bones and beer bottles (above) and painted inscriptions on roadside boulders near Gerlach.

Bureau of Land Management land. He continued inscribing messages until his death in 1995. In 1996, the Black Rock Press at the University of Nevada, Reno released *Dooby Lane: A Testament Inscribed in Stone Tablets* (Black Rock Press, University of Nevada, Reno, www.library.unr.edu/blackrock).

Dooby Lane is located next to State Route 34 about two miles north of Gerlach. Watch for the sign that says, "Guru Road."—*R. Asher Ausbrooks*

Photo: Steve Chandler (left)

Traveler's Advisories

Backstage at "Jubilee!" Visitors can meet a showgirl and see what goes on behind the scenes during Bally's stage show, "**Jubilee!**," which has run for 23 years at the Las Vegas Strip hotel. The All Access Backstage Walking Tour is offered at 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday to everyone over age 13. Tickets cost \$15, or \$10 with the purchase of a "Jubilee!" show ticket. Tour-goers will hear anecdotes from their showgirl guide and learn about costume and scenery changes, makeup, and set design. Call 702-946-4567 for information.

Lake Mead Closures

Officials at **Lake Mead National Recreation Area** report that Goldstrike Canyon and all land-based access to the canyon (off U.S. 93 near the 1.5 mile marker) are closed to motor vehicle travel, hiking, and other recreational uses because of construction of the **Hoover Dam Bridge Bypass**. Water-based activities and access from Black Canyon to the hot springs are not affected by this closure, which will remain in effect until December 31. Visit www.nps.org/lame or call 702-293-8907 for more information.

A Tahoe Vista

Fans of the **Tahoe Rim Trail** can adopt their own vistas—such as serene meadows or scenic overlooks—and help pay for improvements on the trail at the alpine lake cradled on the Nevada-California border. The Tahoe Rim Trail Association's Adopt-a-Vista program allows donors

to name their vistas, and the names are placed on signs near the closest trailheads. Adopt-a-Vista donors are also posted on the association's Web site, www.tahoerimtrail.org, and receive framed certificates. Visit the Web site or call 775-298-0012 for information.

Vacation Information

The **Reno-Tahoe Territory's Visitors Guide** is a compact booklet offering information on winter and summer outdoor adventures, special events, and attractions in Reno-Sparks, Carson City, Carson Valley, Virginia City, and Dayton. RV parks and campgrounds, golf courses, and stables are listed, and details on beaches and marinas at Tahoe, Pyramid, and Topaz are included. The guide is available at Reno-Tahoe Territory visitor centers or by calling 775-588-4591. The **Elko Nevada Visitors Guide 2004** details events, lodging, dining, and services, but also offers a look at the cultures—Native American, Basque, cowboy,



"Jubilee!" showgirls give backstage tours.

and Hispanic—that thrive in the Northeastern Nevada county. Elko nightlife, shopping, and outdoor adventures are featured. Call 800-248-ELKO or visit www.elkocva.com for a copy.

Surfing Nevada

Vegas.com recently added a Spanish version, www.espanol.com. The site contains travel, show, hotel, and attractions information, and Spanish-speaking visitors can book hotel rooms and reserve show tickets online.

Las Vegas Oasis

LAS VEGAS—The wild life here isn't confined to casinos and showrooms. Birds, animals, and surprising wetlands can be found far beyond the glamour at the **Clark County Wetlands Park**. Tucked along the valley's eastern edge and bordering the Las Vegas Wash, the park is a 2,900-acre oasis of wildlife, ponds, plants, and walking trails.

The park's centerpiece is a 130-acre nature preserve that gives visitors the chance to witness wetlands ecology—nature's way of filtering pollutants out of the water supply and preventing erosion. Park-goers may see coyotes, beavers, rabbits, lizards, and a multitude of birds such as ducks, geese, egrets, herons, and cranes.

"We're a favorite of the schoolchildren," says park volunteer Therese Werst. "We have guides who take students out and acquaint them with the areas they otherwise wouldn't know about."

Besides education, the park encourages recreation and relaxation. Concrete trails lead to tranquil ponds, picnic areas, and benches. "Outside the nature center you can bike and walk your dog," Werst says. Plans call for equestrian trails, a visitor center, classrooms, and a scenic drive.

The Clark County Wetlands Park (702-455-7522), open daily from dawn to dusk, is located on Wetlands Park Lane off Tropicana Avenue past the Boulder Highway, about nine miles east of the Strip. A temporary visitor center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Volunteers are



The 2,900-acre Clark County Wetlands Park near Las Vegas offers picnic areas, walking trails, and a 130-acre nature preserve where park-goers can see ducks, lizards, and the occasional coyote.

available to answer questions and give tours of the park.—*Kristine McKenzie*

Garden of Remembrance

LAS VEGAS—About 400 hand-carved, gray-granite cobblestones from the Warsaw Ghetto pave the floor and are incorporated into the wall of the **Warsaw Remembrance Garden** at Temple Beth Sholom. Visitors are welcome to tour the garden, a memorial to the Jews who were trapped in the Polish ghetto before being sent to concentration camps during the Holocaust of the 1930s and '40s.

"When people walk into the garden, there's a reverence that you feel, walking

on the stones. The hair on the back of your neck seems to stand up," says Irwin Goldberg, president of the Temple Beth Sholom Men's Club. Goldberg and club members Henry Kronberg and Mark Scheiner raised the money to build the garden, and Scheiner arranged for the stones to be shipped from the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

Six eternal flames commemorate the six million Jews who were put to death, but water trickling down the wall represents the renewal of life, Goldberg says. In the center of the circular granite structure stands a round monument, carved with a street map of the ghetto. "We know the exact street—Chlodna—where our stones



Water trickles down metal panels beneath two of the six eternal flames at the Warsaw Remembrance Garden.

came from," Goldberg says. Many members of the temple's congregation are Holocaust survivors, and Kronberg's wife, Lillian, a survivor, lived for two months on Chlodna Street.

Visitors may call the temple office, 702-804-1333, to arrange a tour. Temple Beth Sholom is located at 10700 Havenwood Lane off Town Center in Summerlin. Visit www.bethsholomlv.org for more information about the garden or the Temple, which houses the first formal Jewish congregation in Las Vegas. The congregation was organized in 1946.—*Joyce Hollister*



More May

RENO—The recent remodeling of the **Wilbur D. May Museum** has added a gallery for exhibiting local artists' work, revamped the lobby, and enlarged the gift shop.

"People are just amazed at the results of the \$450,000 project," says

Masks from around the world are displayed at the May Museum.

Bambi Fehling, spokeswoman for Washoe County Parks and Recreation, which operates the museum. "It's much more welcoming than it used to be."

Museum visitors can see rotating art shows and artifacts from around the world, such as Oriental pottery, Egyptian scarabs, Eskimo scrimshaws, and even a shrunken head from South America. A Reno resident for more than 40 years, May was a pilot, rancher, world traveler, big-game hunter, and philanthropist.

The museum is one of three components of the Wilbur D. May Center at San Rafael Regional Park, 1595 North Sierra Street, north of downtown Reno. The May Arboretum and Botanical Garden consists of ponds, waterfalls, and paths set among various gardens. The Great Basin Adventure, a summer theme park for children, has play structures and a log flume ride.

From March 1 to May 31 the museum will house "Backyard Monsters," a traveling display that features four giant robotic insects and an exhibit of live exotic insects such as hissing cockroaches and preying mantises. Call 775-785-5961 or visit www.maycenter.com for information.—*Andy Bouelle*

Welcome to Tonopah

Our past

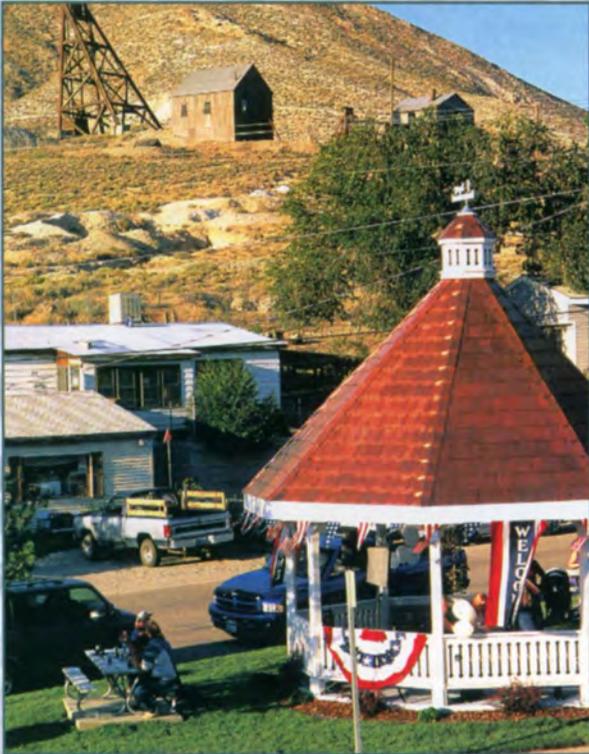
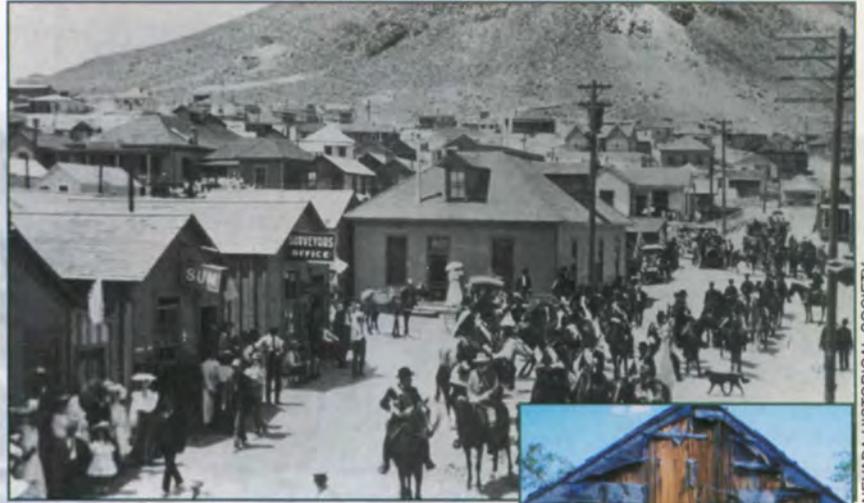


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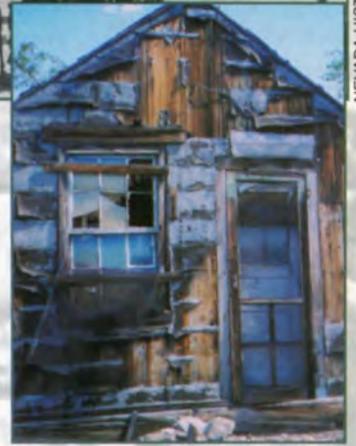


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People Page

Librarians on bikes and a dedicated rockhound.

Bikers and Books

By Lynn Goya

“Knock, knock.”
“Who’s there?”
“Little old lady.”
“Little old lady who?”
“I didn’t know you could yodel!”

The kids laugh at the old joke. **James Bowen**, professional storyteller and librarian for Martha P. King Elementary School in Boulder City, grins back. This was the reaction he and librarian Scott Hensley were seeking when they dreamed up Bookin’ Bikers.

Each summer 12 librarian-storytellers ride their motorcycles to small-town libraries and public spaces in Nevada, Arizona, and California to recite tall tales, sing songs, distribute books, and stir up a good-natured ruckus. “In Ely, we all walked in, dressed in black leather. Everybody looked up, and someone said, ‘Oh, my gosh!’” Bowen says. “Librarians have a bad rap, but they are cool.”

The Bookin’ Bikers visit as many small towns as possible because they know that rural libraries are constantly pinching

“We donate books in Boulder City, and they end up in South America.”

pennies. At each stop the group distributes about 500 new and used books.

The group, which grew out of the Boulder City Folk Festival two years ago, has given away almost 20,000 books. “We met some girls going to South America in the Peace Corps, and they wanted to take some books with them. It is exciting to see how far books are reaching out,” says Bowen. “We donate books in Boulder City, and they end up in South America.”



Bookin’ Bikers Laura Hensley (left), Scott Hensley, Rachelle Freeman, Joan Wright, Rick Nedrow, Linda Rauenbuehler, Laura Taulu, Shawn Bowen, James Bowen, Jan Coleman, and Kip Keckler give away books on their summer tours.

The Bookin’ Bikers 2004 summer tour, “Tales and Tunes of the Mines,” will feature the leather-clad librarians telling mining stories and singing mining songs in Nevada and California (visit www.bookinbikers.org for information). As the tours grow, so does the group’s mission. “I’d like to see every biker in the West join us to show their support of literacy, reading, and public libraries,” Bowen says.

He adds with laugh, “We feel like Robin Hood, getting on our steeds and taking books from those who have them and giving them to those who don’t.”

Lynn Goya of Boulder City writes about the Nevada outdoors, culture, and history and is a writer-producer for Outdoor Nevada, broadcast on the Las Vegas PBS station, KLVX.

Wally’s World

By Paula Riley

The road that led Canadian-born **Wally Marks** to owning the Highway 50-95 Rock Shop began when he discovered a Catholic grotto in Iowa made of crystals

and stones embedded in concrete. It was 1975, and after retiring from two careers—long-haul trucking and selling real estate—he was touring the U.S., pulling a travel trailer. He became interested in crystal hunting, and later that year he found specimens the size of his fist and larger. “I was hooked,” he says.

Wally, as he is known in Fallon, was driving from Arkansas to a Reno rock and mineral show in 1976 when he spied the shop for sale. He says he liked Nevada because there were so few trees to get in the way of rock hunting, so he bought the place. The shop sits on the south side of U.S. 50 three miles west of Fallon—you can’t miss the white 1979 Mustang with the monstrous black boulder on the roof parked in front. Wally is fond of all kinds of rocks, from carved stones and geodes and jade to agatized timbers and staurolite in matrix. Thousands of specimens fill his shop and yard.

But he likes people, too, saying of the daily stream of visitors, “It’s good company.” He’s generous with directions, including to his mining claim for Nevada



Wally Marks has welcomed travelers to his Highway 50-95 Rock Shop in Fallon since 1976.

Wonderstone (banded rhyolite) about 18 miles from the shop. "All rockhounds are welcome to go out there to dig and pick," he says.

Wally knows his calcite from wulfenite and likens his rock-recognition skills to "getting to know your way around your

new home town." He says, "First, you learn the main drag [the crystal forms of minerals], then the smaller arteries [quartz, semiprecious and precious stones]. Rocks are the same thing."

Now 76, Wally looks 10 years younger in his trademark plaid shirt and oversized

turquoise belt buckle. He follows his father's early advice to eat a variety of foods. "I grow most of what I eat. I've been doing it most of my life," he says. His small orchard of apple, cherry, and walnut trees and his large vegetable garden are pesticide-free. He makes jellies and cans his

Wally Marks says the daily stream of visitors to his Fallon shop is "good company."

fresh produce, such as tomatoes, squash, and rhubarb, after the shop hours he keeps seven days a week. Last year he put up chokecherry and black currant jelly. And he's no couch potato. "I'm up at five in the morning, and until eight I do my yard work," he says.

Wally has operated his rock shop for 27 years but concedes one possible future adventure. "If I ever sell this place, I'd like to make another tour of North America and see all the changes to the places I saw the first time. I've saved all the brochures." ❏

Paula Riley is a Reno writer and photographer.

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**NEVADA
MAGAZINE**

Adventure Places

From A to Z

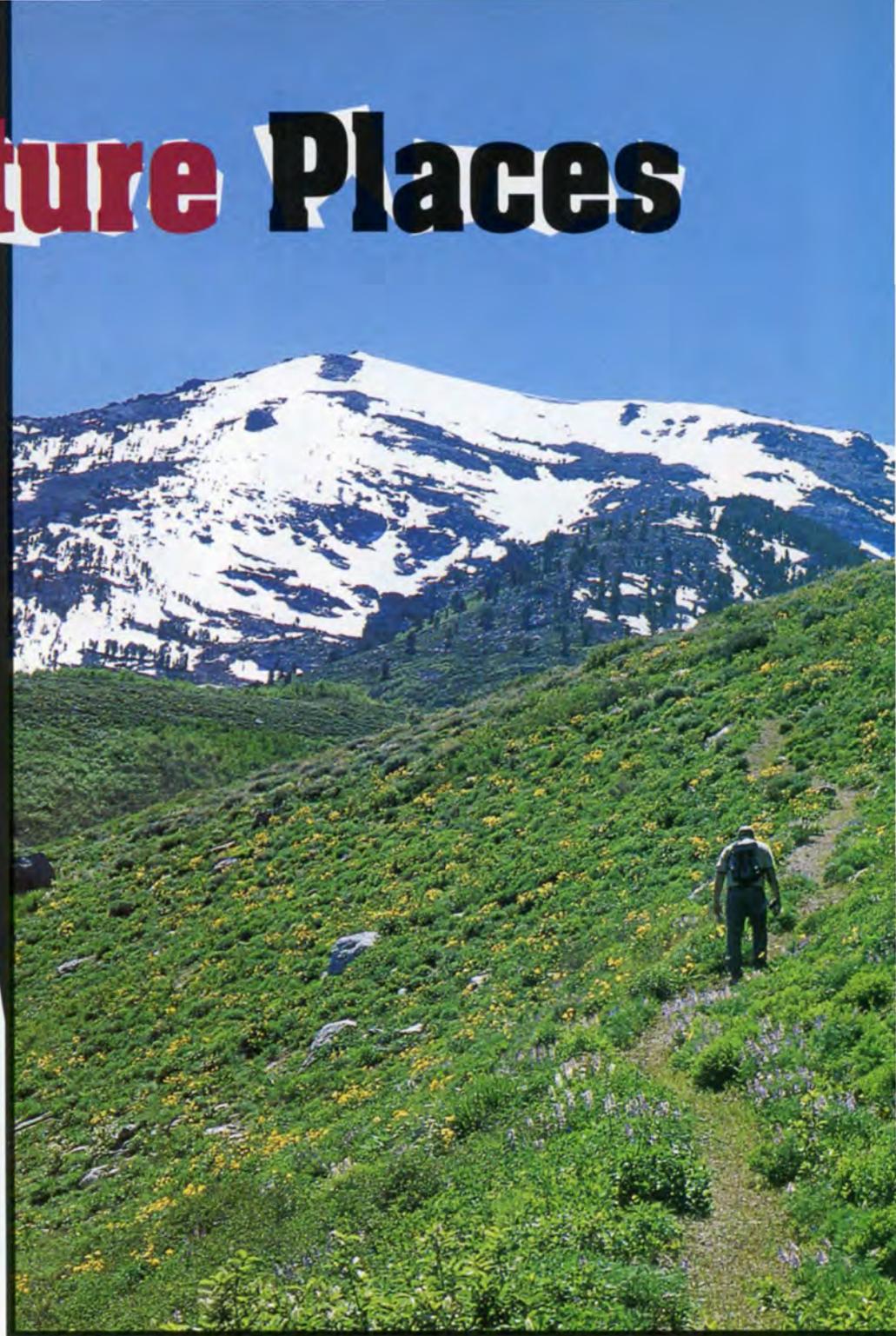
This summer, these **26 Nevada getaways** spell action, serenity, and undiscovered country

By Virginia E. Lee

Whether a person's idea of adventure is a week of rock climbing or an afternoon of casting for wily mountain trout, the most memorable experiences often are forged in unlikely places. From A to Z, here are 26 Nevada adventure spots, many of them undiscovered by the traveling crowd. When exploring these locales—no matter where they fall in the alphabet—be sure to carry the proper provisions and gear (see "When You Go" on page 21). Also take maps, water, companions, and an adventurous spirit.

The road to **ANGEL LAKE** is closed in winter, but the summer views are worth the wait. State Route 231, the 12-mile Angel

A Lake Scenic Byway southwest of Wells, takes you 3,000 feet up the east side of the East Humboldts to the natural lake. Secluded and scenic, Angel offers camping, picnicking, and hiking on the Greys Lake, Winchell Lake, and Smith Lake trails. *Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Wells, 775-752-3357, www.fs.fed.us/htnf.*



A hiker winds his way up the Winchell Lake Trail near Angel Lake southwest of Wells.

B Burning Man turns part of the **BLACK ROCK DESERT** into a teeming human art gallery around Labor Day, but the playa is relatively peaceful the rest of the year. Some weekends you'll encounter rocketeers counting, "Three, two, one..." and landsailors riding their three-wheeled ships up and down the playa. Afterward you can brush off the dust over cocktails and raviolis at Bruno's Country Club in Gerlach. *BLM, Winnemucca, 775-623-1500, www.nv.blm.gov/winnemucca/blackrock.*

The **COPPER BASIN MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL SYSTEM** near Battle Mountain winds through canyons and over ridges of the north flank of the Battle Mountains. Bikers can ride single and double track trails that offer technical and aerobic challenges for beginners and experts.

C "The new Long Canyon Loop will be ready for action this spring," says BLM recreation planner Robert Perrin. When that section is completed, the Copper Basin system will offer 35

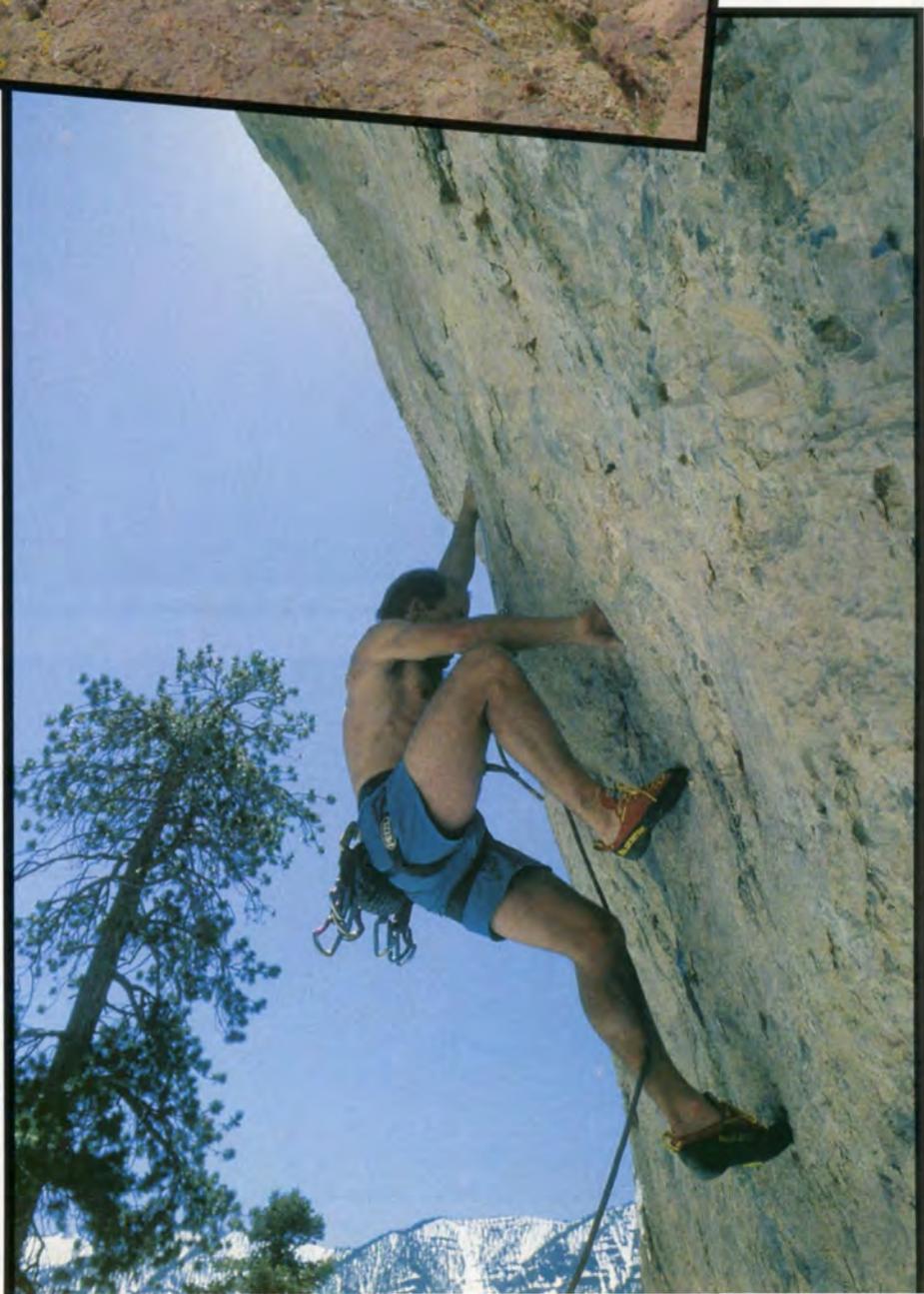


Pam Jarnecke clears a boulder at the Copper Basin Mountain Bike Trail System near Battle Mountain (above). At right, Doug Englekirk tackles the Hood in Kyle Canyon, one of Mount Charleston's best-known climbing spots.

miles of trails. BLM, Battle Mountain, 775-635-4000, www.nv.blm.gov/bmountain/recreation/copper_basin_bike_trail.htm.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK lies primarily in California, but a corner of the park pokes into Nevada, and Beatty and Pahrump are proud to be gateways to the place with astonishing scenery and summer heat (the weather is mildest October to March). The white-knuckle drive on one-way Titus Canyon Road begins in Nevada seven miles west of Beatty. Hold onto your seat when the road follows the cliff edge. *Death Valley National Park*, 760-786-3243, www.nps.gov/deva.

Visitors can learn about life in a 19th-century mining town by taking a self-guided tour of **EUREKA**. Most of the 48 sites are historic buildings located on or near the main street, U.S. 50. The restored Eureka County Courthouse (1879), Eureka Opera House (1880), and Jackson House Hotel (1877) operate as they were originally designed. A walking-tour brochure is available at the Eureka Sentinel Museum (open May-October, 775-237-5010). *Eureka*, www.co.eureka.nv.us.



American white pelicans and black-necked stilts are among the thousands of migratory and resident birds that can be seen at the **FALLON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**, one of three refuges in the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The Fallon and Stillwater sanctuaries lie east of Fallon off U.S. 50. The third is Anaho Island National Wildlife Refuge at Pyramid Lake. Visitors to the Fallon refuge will need a four-wheel drive vehicle, but tours can be arranged by calling ahead. The area has scrublands and alkali flats that 12,000 years ago were under 300 feet of water. *Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Fallon, 775-428-6452, <http://stillwater.fws.gov>.*

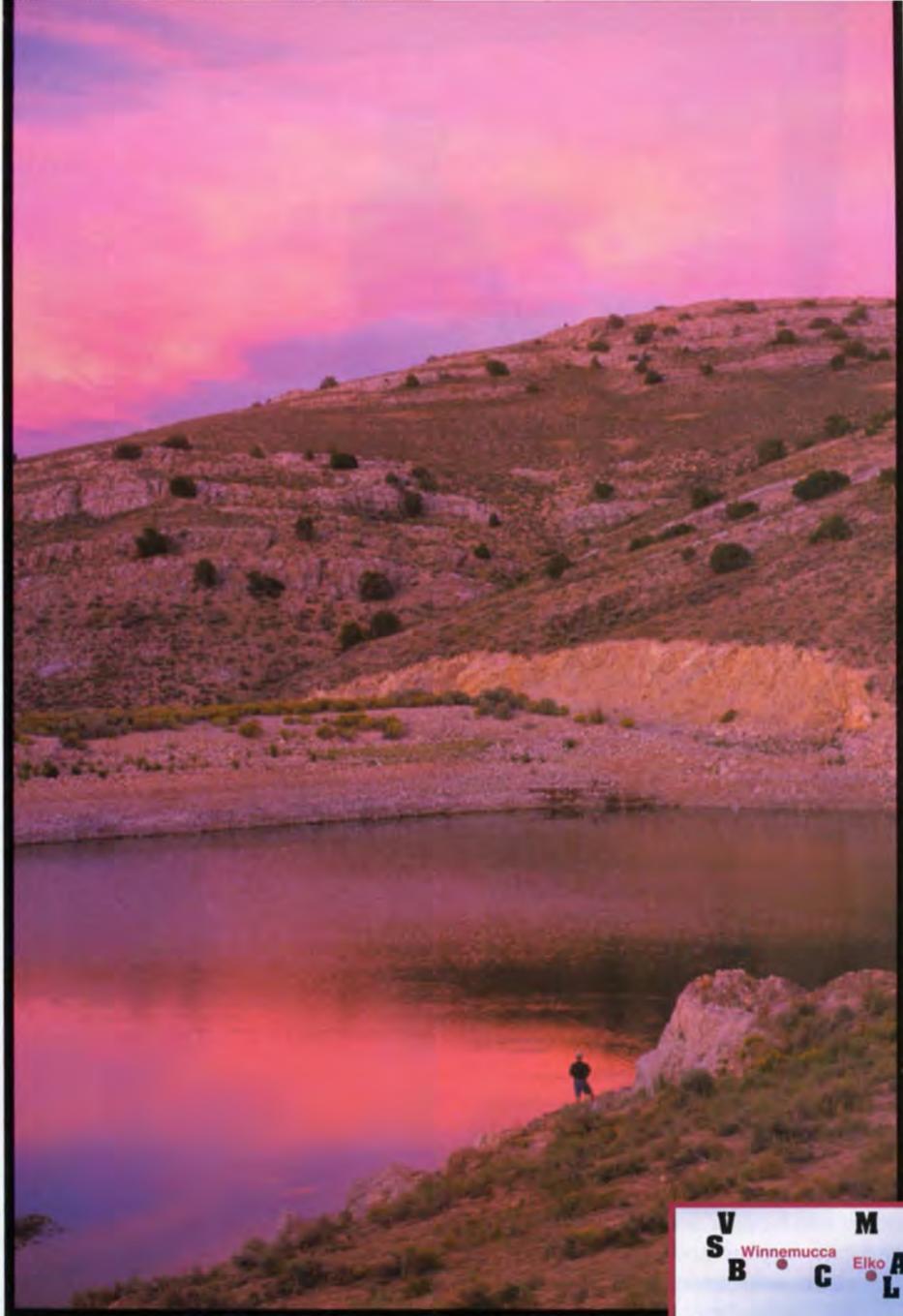
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GOLDFIELD was Nevada's largest city in 1907. Today, mountain bikers ride the 3.5-mile Goldfield Bike Trail past Stone Quarry, Slaughterhouse Canyon, and other landmarks of the former boom town. Historic tours visit the courthouse and the Goldfield Firehouse and Antique Fire Museum, which opens weekends. During Goldfield Days, August 20-22, the county auctions land and buildings to adventurous out-of-towners (who instantly become locals). *Goldfield C of C, 775-485-3560.*

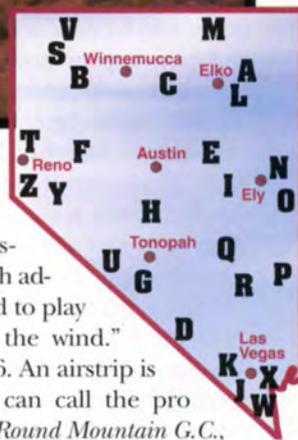
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Golfers who enjoy a challenge should consider the links of **HADLEY**. There, Round Mountain Gold operates the Round Mountain Golf Course, a remote but green and undulating layout with three lakes and nice vistas of Big Smoky Valley. Fifty miles north of Tonopah, this is the longest nine-hole course in Nevada (7,138 yards for 18 holes) and one of the highest (5,726 feet), so you

H



A lone angler casts for brown trout at Illipah Reservoir west of Ely.



A black-necked stilt stalks the waters of the Fallon National Wildlife Refuge.

can whack the ball a good distance. Pro Leo Vath advises, "Be prepared to play against and with the wind." Green fees are \$16. An airstrip is nearby, so fly-ins can call the pro shop for pick-up. *Round Mountain G.C., 775-377-2880, www.bigsmokyvalley.com.*

A BLM campground sits on a bluff over **ILLIPAH RESERVOIR**, where hungry trout await. "Illipah can have fantastic fishing for rainbows and browns," says Chris Crookshanks, fisheries man in the Nevada Department of Wildlife office in Ely, 35 miles to the east. "Also, the hills are good for wildlife viewing. You might see mule deer and elk, and

I



Jon Gnass relaxes on Lamoille Creek about three miles from Liberty Lake, where wild trout lurk.

the area is a prime breeding ground for sage grouse." In summer, a high-clearance vehicle will allow you to visit the ruins of ghost towns like Hamilton and Shermantown. *NDOW, Ely, 775-289-1655, ndow.org/fish/waters.*

J Flying high over the desert in a glider, also known as a "whisper ship," no sound of an engine mars your flight. "Almost like ballooning, it's very quiet," says Michael Henderson, who operates the new Las Vegas Glider Rides at the airport in **JEAN**, 25 miles south of Las Vegas. Henderson offers half-hour rides for one or two people daily and plans to begin glider instruction in May. *Las Vegas Glider Rides, Jean Airport, 866-697-6274.*

Like Red Rock Canyon, **KYLE CANYON** on Mount Charleston has become world-famous as a rock-climbing area. On any day you will hear French, German, and Italian as climbers call out to each other on the limestone cliffs of the Hood and other vertical places. Forty miles northwest of Las Vegas—and more than 5,000 feet higher than the city—Kyle has a hotel, a lodge, stables, USFS campgrounds, and hiking trails that lead to bristlecone pines and 11,918-foot Charleston Peak. *Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 702-515-5400, www.fs.fed.us/htnf/smnra. For climbing see rockfax.com.*

If you like fishing for wild trout, try **LIBERTY LAKE** in the Ruby Mountains Wilderness. "Most people do catch and release," says U.S. Forest Service information

officer Debbie Knudsen. "It's not hard fishing." Take the Ruby Crest Trail at the end of Lamoille Canyon Road. Hike past Dollar and Lamoille lakes, over Liberty Pass, and drop down to the lake—about three miles of moderate hiking. The Rubies are dotted with more than 20 lakes, some with fish. *Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Wells, 800-764-3359, www.fs.fed.us/htnf. For hiking information visit rubymountains.org/lamoille.*

West of Jarbidge, **MOUNTAIN CITY** is surrounded by wild country and a spider web

of dirt roads and trails. Visitors can fly fish the Owyhee River, go mountain biking at Merritt Mountain, and climb the granite formations north of the tiny town. For camping, Dave Prall, a sheriff's sergeant who has explored the area by bike, ATV, and ski, recommends Wild Horse Crossing. "It's beautiful, set in the canyon right on the river, with aspens around the camp sites." Stop at the Mountain City Visitor Center for tips. *Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 775-763-6691, www.fs.fed.us/htnf.*

N At the **NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY** in Ely you can sit in the engineer's seat and operate a steam or diesel locomotive (for \$550 or \$300 respectively). If you simply want to ride, the tourist railroad runs three trains on Saturdays and two on Sundays in May; two trains daily, Wednesday to Monday, Memorial Day through Labor Day; and one train daily, Wednesday to Monday, until October 1. Pahrump Valley wine and hors d'oeuvres are served on the monthly Wine Train. *Nevada Northern Railway, Ely, 866-40 STEAM, www.nnry.com.*

The **OSCEOLA DITCH TRAIL** at Great Basin National Park is broken in some places, but careful hikers can walk beside the ditch that was hand-dug in 1889-1890. It was designed to carry water 18 miles from Lehman Creek to the Osceola placer



Kayakers practice maneuvers in the Truckee River Whitewater Park at Wingfield in downtown Reno.



Cowboy-hatted Robb Oates joins Soldier Meadows Guest Ranch guests and wranglers at an after-dinner campfire.

mining operations. Low-grade marble, chopped by construction crews into large rectangular pieces, glisten in the sun. At the pullout on Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive, walk three tenths of a mile through pine and fir to the ditch. *Great Basin National Park, 775-234-7331, www.nps.gov/grba.*

The mining town of **PIOCHE** offers a bonanza of five nearby state parks—Spring Valley, Echo Canyon, Cathedral Gorge, Beaver Dam, and Kershaw-Ryan—where anglers, campers, and nature lovers can find retreat. History buffs can relive Pioche’s rough-and-tumble early days at the Million Dollar Courthouse and the county museum. Pioche’s golf course is an adventure in itself. You can startle the locals by pronouncing Pioche “Pee-oach,” just as they do. *Pioche C of C, 775-962-5544, www.piochenevada.com. Nevada Division of State Parks, 775-728-4460, www.parks.nv.gov.*

Backpackers like the **QUINN CANYON WILDERNESS** because it’s so remote, says Barbara Walker of the USFS Ely Ranger District. Walker advises, “It’s good to have

a map, compass, and a knowledge of orienteering.” Hikers use the non-fee Cherry Creek campground as a jumping-off place for exploring the wilderness. Trekkers can visit the Troy Canyon ghost town and the Sunnyside swimming area, which is managed by BLM. Water sources are not reliable. *Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely, 775-289-3031, www.fs.fed.us/htnf. Also www.nevadawilderness.org.*

We are not alone. That belief has made **RACHEL** a gathering place for UFO watchers who discuss sightings at the Little A’Le’Inn, try to peer into top-secret Area 51, and stay one step ahead of the white government jeeps. On May 1-2 cyclists can join the seventh annual X Rides, organized by Tahoe-based Bike the West, and cruise State Route 375 (a.k.a. the Extraterrestrial Highway) to the infamous Black Mailbox. *Bike the West, 800-565-2704, www.bikethewest.com. Also www.littlealeinn.com.*

SOLDIER MEADOWS GUEST RANCH is a family-owned cattle ranch in the Black

Rock Desert north of Gerlach. As a guest you can take a desert jeep tour, hike, bird-watch, fish, mountain bike, and dine with the cowboys. You might even sleep in a bunkhouse and go on a cattle drive. Guides will take you to see pioneer graffiti at High Rock Canyon, where 19th-century wagon ruts are still visible. *Soldier Meadows Guest Ranch, 530-279-4881, www.soldiermeadows.com.*

Kayakers will get plenty of action at the **TRUCKEE RIVER WHITEWATER PARK AT WINGFIELD** in Reno. Sculpted channels offer 2,600 feet of rapids and a 1,200-foot racing course. Onlookers can sit on flat boulders to watch or have a picnic on the park’s grassy area. The kayak course, a few blocks from Reno’s casinos, is the first phase of a plan that calls for eight more boating sites on 24 miles of the Truckee River. *City of Reno, 775-334-2414, www.renowhitewaterpark.com.*

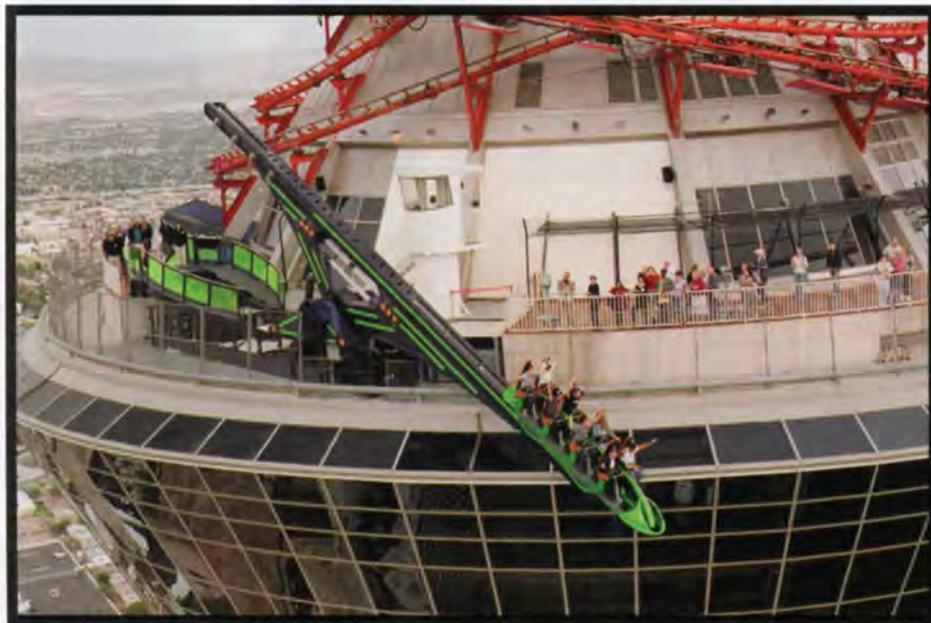
You think U.S. 50 is lonely? Try **U.S. 6** for mile-after-mile solitude as well as good places to camp, hike, and explore. Also known as the Grand Army of the Republic Highway, U.S. 6 marches 307 miles across the state’s midsection, saluting Great Basin National Park, the towns of Ely and Tonopah, the curiously carved Lunar Crater, Columbia Salt Marsh, and 13,140-foot Boundary Peak. *Nevada Commission on Tourism, visit www.travelnevada.com. Pony Express Territory, www.ponyexpressnevada.com. Pioneer Territory, www.pioneerterritory.org.*



Pedal boats stand in rows at Zephyr Cove Resort. The Lake Tahoe marina also rents kayaks and water-skiing boats.

The Roebing Opal, a dazzling one-and-a-half pound stone on display at the Smithsonian, was found in **VIRGIN VALLEY** in 1917 and opal hunters have tried to match it ever since. You can dig for opals at two mines in the valley 30 miles west of Denio. The Hodson family invites diggers to their Rainbow Ridge Mine. The Wilson family's Royal Peacock Mine offers digging, an RV park, laundry, shower, and campground for opal seekers. *Rainbow Ridge*, 775-941-0270. *Royal Peacock*, 775-941-0374, www.royalpeacock.com.

Visitors will find dense stands of old-growth forest at **WEE THUMP JOSHUA**



We all scream for X-Scream, the latest thrill ride near the top of the Stratosphere Tower in Las Vegas.

TREE WILDERNESS, 45 miles south of Las Vegas on State Route 164. The Audubon Society has designated Wee Thump as an Important Bird Area, one of 30 critical bird habitats in Nevada. Ash-throated flycatchers are abundant, and a gilded flicker has been sighted. "You get some really interesting birds showing up there," says Don McIvor, Audubon's Nevada director of bird conservation. "A lot of woodpeckers and mountain bluebirds." The name Wee Thump is thought to be derived from ancient Paiute words whose meanings are unclear. Hikers can park at several unmarked highway pullouts. *BLM, Las Vegas*, 702-515-5000, www.nv.blm.gov. Also www.nevadaaudubon.org.

A giant teeter-totter near the top of the tallest observation tower in the U.S., the **X-SCREAM** thrill ride launches riders 29 feet off the Stratosphere Tower's edge at

30 mph. The ride is one of three at the Las Vegas hotel. The other two, Big Shot and High Roller, also operate more than 800 feet above the Strip. *Stratosphere Tower*, 702-380-7777, 800-998-6937, www.stratospherehotel.com.

Visitors to **YERINGTON** pass the broad, green farm lands of Mason Valley on the way to several outdoor sports spots. Anglers can wet their feet fishing for trout in the Walker River or bob in a float tube while casting for largemouth bass at Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area—known as "the ponds"—where eagles and hawks sometimes swoop low to catch fish in shal-

low water. Mountain bikers can ride a series of old river paths and mining roads collectively known as the North Yerington Trails. *Mason Valley C of C*, 774-463-2245, www.masonvalleychamber.com. *MVWMA*, 775-463-2741. *BLM*, 775-885-6000.

While parasailing above the blue waters of Lake Tahoe you can look down on **ZEPHYR COVE**, where your family paddles about in kayaks. Boats can be rented at the Zephyr Cove's marina, where the *M.S. Dixie II* paddlewheeler and the *Woodwind II* catamaran are docked. You can waterski, play on the beach, and stay overnight in the campground, the RV park, or a cabin. *Zephyr Cove Resort*, 775-589-4907, www.zephyrcove.com.

Virginia E. Lee is a Silver State explorer whose favorite Nevada getaway begins with "S."

When You Go

Always be prepared when exploring Nevada's hinterlands. Many remote areas are subject to extreme temperatures and have few marked trails and no water. Hikers and backpackers should be well equipped and capable of cross-country navigation. Be sure to take plenty of water, emergency food, extra clothing, hats, and sunscreen. It's best never to travel alone in the backcountry. Also, be sure to let others know where you're going and when you expect to return.

Nevada Adventure Guide

For further information on Nevada's adventure places contact the **Nevada Commission on Tourism** by calling 800-NEVADA-8 or visiting www.travelnevada.com and request a copy of *The Dirt: Your Nitty-Gritty, Down-and-Dirty Guide to Nevada, the Wildest Adventure State in the Lower 48*. The pocket-size, 110-page Adventure Guide describes good places to go mountain and road biking, hiking, horseback riding, skiing, fishing, sandboarding, kayaking, scuba diving, hang gliding, and other activities in Nevada. The Adventure Guide also is available online at www.travelnevada.com.

Outdoor Services

Various individuals and companies can help plan your Nevada excursions. Following is a brief sampling of adventure services. Contact local chambers (see "Hot Lines," www.nevadamagazine.com) and www.travelnevada.com for additional information.

Outfitters and Guides: Guided pack trips can include fishing, hunting, photography, camping, and general sightseeing. The **Nevada Outfitters and Guides Association** (c/o Todd Schwandt, JAZ Ranch, Box 281388, Lamoille, NV 89828, phone 775-777-3277, www.nevadayoutfitters.org) has more than 50 members.

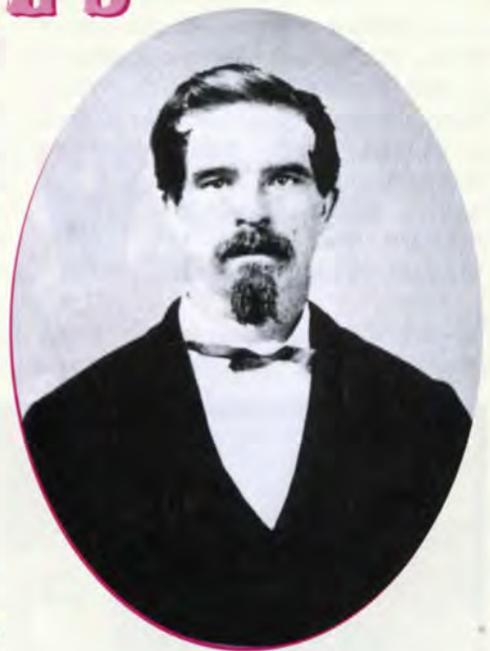
Dude Ranches: Several guest ranches offer horseback riding, ranch work, and even cattle drives. They include the **Cottonwood Ranch** north of Wells (775-755-2231, www.cottonwoodguestranch.com), **Soldier Meadows Guest Ranch** (see story), 60 miles north of Gerlach (530-279-4881, www.soldiermeadows.com), and **Tyson's Canyon Ranch** near Virginia City (775-847-7223, www.nevadaduderranch.com).

Other Activities: **Sky's the Limit** offers a climbing school and guide service at Red Rock Canyon and Mount Charleston near Las Vegas (800-733-7597, www.skysthelimit.com). Several companies conduct photo excursions, such as **Adventure Photo Tours** out of Las Vegas (888-363-8687, www.adventurephototours.com). **dufurrena** and **dufurrena Adventures** leads groups on nature and artistic seminars in Northwestern Nevada (775-941-0357, www.wildroserecords.com/adventures). In addition, www.nevadadventures.com and www.nevadawilderness.org have information on outdoor recreation in the state.

JULIA BULETTE'S BOUDOIR



Julia Bulette,
prostitute and clotheshorse.



John Millian,
Julia's murderer.

The legendary prostitute's probate records reveal much about her life in Virginia City's "entertainment district," as described in this excerpt from *Uncovering Nevada's Past*.

Introduction by Susan James

On the morning of January 20, 1867 Comstock prostitute Julia Bulette was strangled for a few pieces of costume jewelry and some fancy dresses. The discovery of her body caused a sensation when Virginia City newspapers reported the details of the grisly crime scene. Then interest in the story all but disappeared until a French immigrant named John Millian was arrested, tried, and hanged for the murder over a year later. The combination of sex, violence, and a public execution inspired one of the Comstock's most enduring legends.

"Jule" Bulette began plying her trade in the booming mining district in the early 1860s. By 19th-century standards she was a midrange prostitute, several notches above streetwalkers and the concubines of the community's Chinatown. Bulette competed for business with the fancy brothels as well as other independent operators like herself. She lived and worked in a small rented crib on the northeast corner of D and Union streets in the heart of Virginia City's "entertainment district." Probate records and inquest testimony indicate that Bulette was sick and in debt at the time of her death.

Later folklore would propel Bulette into the role of magnificent prostitute, brothel owner, and philanthropist. The idea that she was a grand courtesan became a cor-

nerstone of her evolving story. One author incorrectly asserted that she rode through the streets of Virginia City "in a lacquered brougham upon whose side-panels were emblazoned her crest—an escutcheon of four aces, crowned by a lion couchant."

Later folklore would propel Bulette into the role of magnificent prostitute and philanthropist.

Others have written of lavish parties that placed the demimonde at the center of Comstock culture.

Twentieth-century chroniclers perpetuated the exaggerated version of oral tradition, partly because Bulette fulfills a Western archetype of the whore with a heart of gold. Her story employs the motif of an intrinsically kind, wealthy prostitute whose morals may have fallen but who still wishes to engage in good works. The altered account of Bulette's life insulates

readers from the miserable reality of the sex trade. Her legend, far removed from fact, has proven more powerful than truth.

Today only a few primary sources offer a glimpse into Bulette's actual existence. The following list of property was associated with the probate of her will, the result of a failed effort to raise enough funds to cover her debts. From the document housed in the clerk's office at the Storey County Courthouse, it is clear that Bulette was a clotheshorse who invested in the finery that might have given her an edge in the competitive world of sexual commerce. ▣

The preceding is an excerpt from Uncovering Nevada's Past: A Primary Source History of the Silver State, edited by John B. Reid, a history professor at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, and Ronald M. James, Nevada's state historic preservation officer, and published by the University of Nevada Press. Historian Susan James of Carson City wrote about Julia Bulette ("Queen of Tarts") in the Sept/Oct '84 issue and in The Historical Nevada Magazine. The book Uncovering Nevada's Past (288 pages, paper, ISBN 0-87417-567-4, \$19.95) will be available in May from bookstores and the University of Nevada Press, Mail Stop 166, Reno, NV 89557-0076, 877-NVBOOKS, www.nvbooks.nevada.edu.

Appraisement of Estate of Julia Bulette Deceased February 5, 1867

Item	Value	Item	Value	Item	Value
1 Double Mahogany Bedstead	\$ 12.00	Amount Brot Forward	\$173.00	Amount Brot Forward	\$377.25
1 Red Saloon Table	1.00	1 Bolster	1.00	11 Pair Assorted Drawers @ .25	2.75
7 White Lace Curtains	8.00	2 Pair White Blankets Cal.	8.00	1 Table Clock	.25
2 Pair Damask Curtains	5.00	1 Pair White Mars. Spread	1.00	1 Double Sheet	1.00
1 Parlor Set:		1 Fancy Bed Spread	2.00	1 Gilt Frame Picture	.50
4 Black Walnut A.C. Chair		1 Black and Striped Silk Dress	15.00	1 Bandbox containing 3 Assorted Hats	2.00
1 Black Walnut A.C. Rocker		1 Brown Col. Silk Dress	15.00	1 Lot Glassware Tea Bell, etc.	5.00
1 Black Walnut A.C. Sofa	Total 30.00	1 Stone Col. Silk Dress	15.00	2 Baskets Books	3.00
3 Maple C. S. Chairs	3.75	1 Black Fig Silk Dress	15.00	1 Basket fancy Box Basket Fruit	1.00
1 Dark C. S. Rocker	3.00	1 Solferino Skirt	5.00	3 Trunks	10.00
1 Mahogany Whatnot	7.00	1 Brown Wrapper	5.00	1 Basket & 1 Bag Calamities	.50
1 Double Spring Mattress	13.00	4 Wool Dresses @ 2.50	10.00	4 Double Sheets	4.00
1 Double Hair Mattress	14.00	1 Grey Marino Suit	5.00	14 Towels	1.50
1 Mahogany Bureau with Glass	14.00	15 Linen Cotton & Calico Dresses @ 1.50	22.50	3 Sacks @ .50	1.50
1 Mahogany Parlor Table	5.00	2 Riding Habits @ 5.00	10.00	1 Chemise	1.00
1 Black Walnut Marble Top Table	9.00	1 Riding Skirt	4.00	1 Double White Mars. Spread	1.00
2 Large Parlor C. O. Lamps @ 2.50	5.00	2 Silk Cloaks @ 3.00	6.00	2 Handkerchiefs	.25
3 Pieces Brussels Carpet as is		1 Red & 1 Black Velvet Coat @ 1.00	2.00	2 Pair Drawers	1.00
1 Piece Ingrain Carpet as is	Total 10.00	2 Cloaks	2.50	1 Small Dressing Case with Glass	1.00
1 Door Rug	.50	3 Assorted Sacks	1.00	1 Diamond Ring & Purse	50.00
1 Small Box Stove 7 Pipe 1 Elbow 1 pc. Zinc	5.00	1 Red Circular Cloak	2.50	1 Opera Glass	5.00
1 Mahogany Wash Stand enclosed	6.00	1 Red and Black Wool Cloak	1.50	1 Pair Gold Bracelets	30.00
1 Large Iron Stove	8.00	1 Cashmere Shawl	2.50	1 Gold Chain & Locket	6.00
1 Double Pulu Mattress	3.00	1 Box Hair	.50	Coin	1.50
4 Buff Window Shades	1.00	1 Parasol	.50	1 Small lot assort. Jewelry	1.50
3 Gilt Cornices	.50	5 Pair Stockings	1.00	1 Hair Dagger & Breast Pin	1.00
1 B. S. Spittoon		16 Assorted Skirts @ 1.00	16.00	1 Coral Necklace	2.50
1 Feather Duster	Total 1.00	15 Assorted Chemise @ 1.00	15.00		
1 Lot Assorted Tinware	1.00	6 Assorted Flannel Skirts @ 1.00	6.00	Amount Carried Forward	\$512.00
2 Washbowls, 1 Pitcher, 1 Chamber [pot],		12 Assorted Jackets @ .50	6.00	1 Gold Buckle and Belt	5.00
2 Spittoons	Total 2.00	2 Corsets	.50		
1 Bucket, 1 Waiter	Total .25	1 Pair Shoes & 1 Pr. Slippers	.25	Total Amount	\$517.00
2 Feather Pillows & Slips	5.00	4 Pillow & Bolster Cases	5.00		
Amount Carried Forward	\$173.00	2 Bolster Cases 1 Tidy & 2 Pillow Cases	2.00		
		Amount Carried Forward	\$377.25		



A Mail Route runs Through it

The Reese River mail delivery offers a few perils and a peerless ride. **By Jim Andersen**

Nevada has a lot of empty space, which is why a lot of us who live here live here. We like the sprawling vastness of it, the openness, the linear distance between clutter. You find a good dirt road, and you can sometimes drive for hours—at washboard speed, of course—without seeing a single Democrat.

There are other civilization indicators you can look for, though. A barbed-wire fence line with cedar posts was probably built by a rancher who lives nearby. A barbed-wire fence line with iron posts was probably erected by a government agency who lives far away, like the BLM, USFS, and such.

A telephone line is an indication of nothing other than somebody once passed through while building it.

But a mailbox, ah. A mailbox not only marks a house somewhere close by, it means somebody comes through on a regular schedule delivering mail.

Not a Postal Service employee, though. Nosireebob.

As a group, they're much too smart for a gig like this.

No, these routes are covered by contracts that are bid upon by otherwise seemingly normal people. The lowest qualified bidder is awarded the whole four-year enchilada, which comes wrapped in the hindsight of what they *ought* to have bid.

By and large, though, the contractors are happy with what they've got. They're pretty much on their own, yet they draw a steady paycheck, which represents the best of both worlds, at least to those of us who've been unfortunate enough to have punched a time clock *and* been in business for ourselves.

Most of the really rural routes are run once weekly or, like the Reese River route in Central Nevada, three days a week.

On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, as it has for the past several decades, the mail loaded at the Austin Post Office is taken up the Reese River Valley as far as the Yomba Shoshone Indian Reservation, then over the Shoshone Mountains to the small community of Ione, then south to Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park. For some people, it's easier to drive the route than to read the stops. People like me.

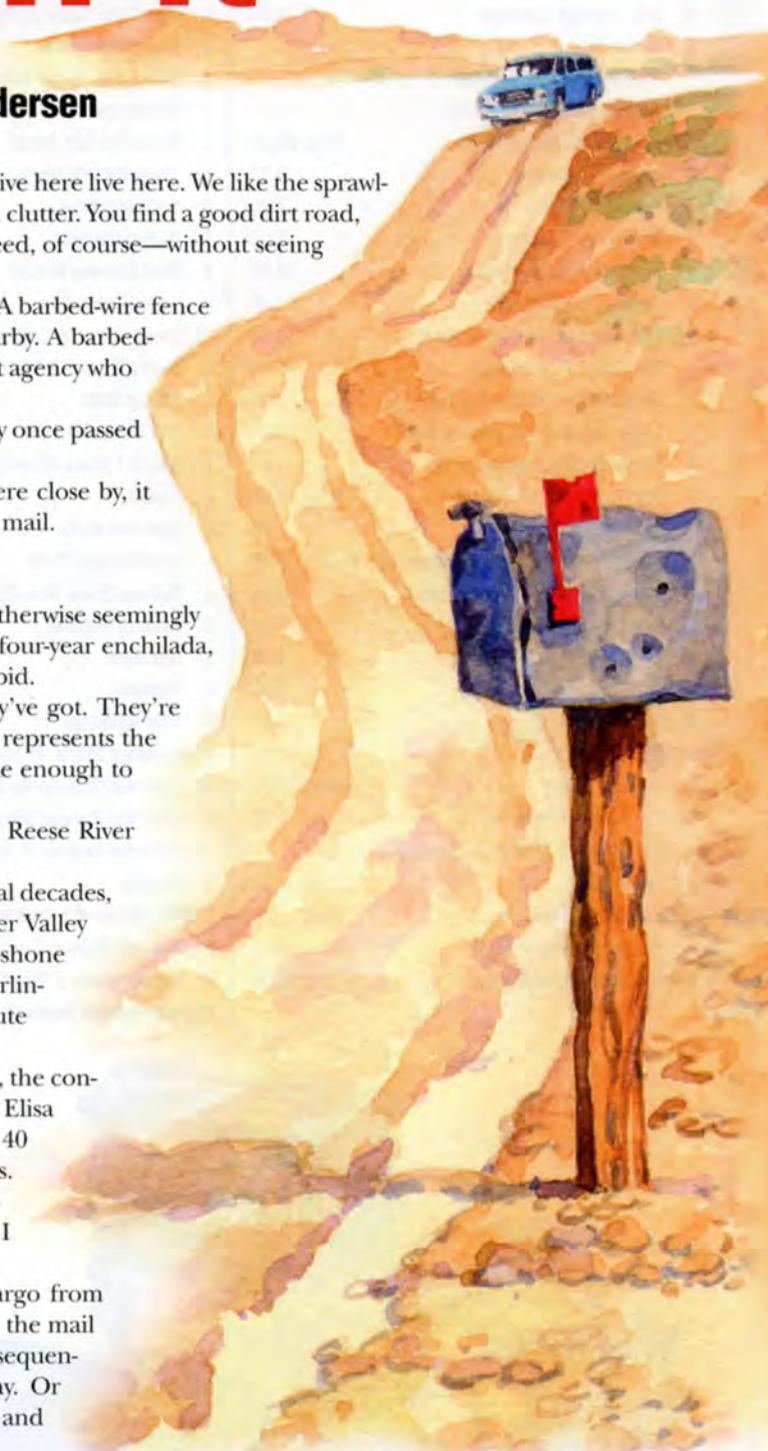
I drove the route for a year in the mid-'80s for Mike McGuinness, the contractor and Austin resident who won the bid after Reese and Elisa Gandolfo retired. Reese and Elisa were fixtures on the route for 40 years, having survived the days of unreliable cars and unreliable tires.

Those things still haven't quite been perfected, but everything—except common sense—was a whole lot more dependable when I drove.

After the connecting mail trucks arrive in Austin with their cargo from Fallon and Ely, the stage driver (yes, he's still called that) first sorts the mail for each box on the route. Then he "cases" it—puts it in a carton sequentially from the last stop to the first—and goes on his merry way. Or miserable way, depending on the weather. Although the contractor and his help are not affiliated with the Postal Service, they're still bound to complete their appointed rounds regardless of rain, sleet, snow, or the ever-troublesome Gloom of Night.

The first 10 miles is good paved road. The second 10 miles used to be. The rest isn't.

The first 10 miles is good paved road.
The second 10 miles used to be. The rest isn't.



Twenty-eight miles south of Austin, just beyond Elkhorn Road, you come to Gonagetcha Rock. I named it that because it is clearly going to get somebody, hopefully not me. It's a boulder about 30 feet tall, standing on end at the west edge of the road, that must weigh three tons or more. For the past few eons it's sort of been cradled in an adjoining cliff, but any fool can see that's not going to last.

Every time I approach Gonagetcha Rock, in each direction, I have to make the agonizing decision whether to speed up or slow down. If I speed up and it starts to topple, I may not have time to stop before I enter the squash zone. On the other hand, if I slow down, I may get caught without enough speed to get out of the way. This is a tough decision, and I use all my skill and knowledge, approaching the rock with an eye to wind direction and velocity, moisture conditions, and road traction. Taking all this into account I then try to figure out what Wile E. Coyote would do on this particular day, and then I do the opposite. So far, so good.

Eighteen miles and a few ranch stops south of the rock you come to the Yomba Shoshone Indian Reservation, where most of the mail is dropped off at a cluster of boxes near the administration building/community hall/tribal court/ambulance barn. This used to be the really interesting part of the trip, until progress put the kibosh to people leaving grocery lists and money in their mailboxes in hopes the stage driver would run a few errands. It wasn't usually a problem, either, as the items needed would have to be so few and so small as to fit in the mailbox on the return trip. Occasionally I'd even take a whole person over the mountain pass to the store in Ione so he or she could do his or her own shopping. That was even better, as I could often leave them with the other lists and money while I finished the route.

Of course, it did help that there was a store in Ione back then. It also helped that the Post Office allowed a little leeway when it came to regional quirks, as did other agencies and businesses. You had a whole lot more latitude in those days than you do now. I sincerely do not know if that was better or worse.

The mountain pass between Yomba and Ione deserves a few words, but, of course, I'll not use those words in a magazine article.

In the summer it is an enjoyable drive, winding as it does through sagebrush and piñon pine, with eagles and hawks drifting above against a sky so blue it hurts your

eyes. The grade isn't all that steep, the curves aren't all that tight, the road isn't all that narrow, and problems are something the other fellow has.

Fast forward to the unplowed icy winter road, and one's demeanor collapses to this: "Aaarghaaa!! Whoawhoawhoawhooooooo oooooooooeeow!! Turnturnturnayayayayowowow!!!!!!Aaaaaaeewwwwww!!!!. " and so it goes all the way to the summit and all the way down the other side. "Yiyiyiyiyiyioooooo!! Mymymy!! Whoa, whoa, whoooooo!!!!"

I never had repeat riders in the winter-time.

West of Ione the road forks, with the right fork winding over Burnt Cabin Summit and on to old State Route 722, eventually. The left fork goes to Gabbs, eventually. The mail route takes the left fork to the next left fork, which is the entrance road to Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, and thence to the end of the route,

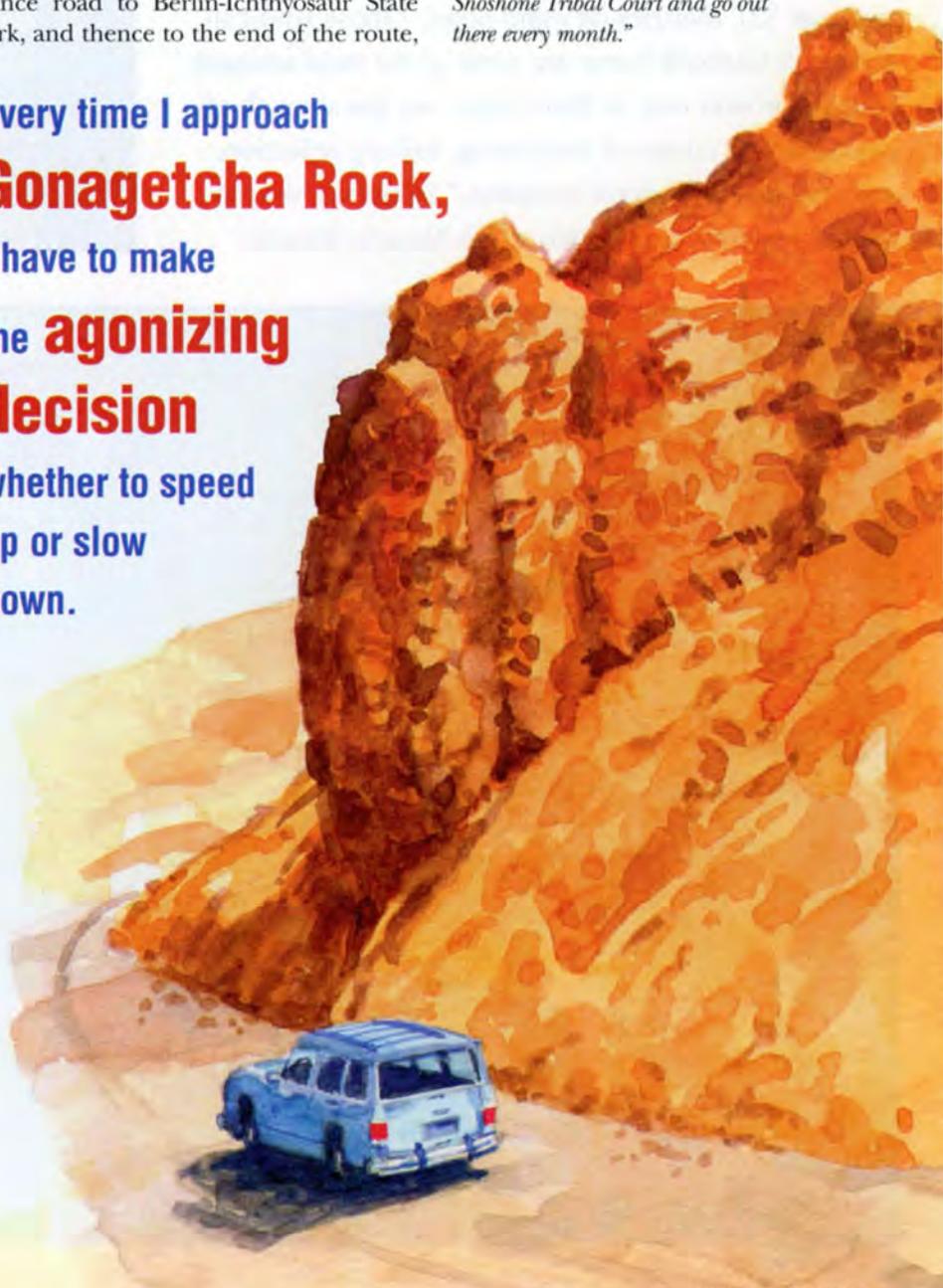
where it seems the Sons of the Pioneers should be grouped around the final wooden mailbox singing "Happy Trails to You."

Today, the Reese River route is part of a larger contract that includes two other routes, a weekday morning run as far as Campbell Creek on Old Highway 50 and a Tuesday afternoon delivery to Italian Canyon and Boone Creek by the Battle Mountain Highway. The routes currently are attended to by Ray and Rhonda Williams of Austin.

There's not a shred of evidence to suggest they'd be any more normal doing something else. ♣

Jim Andersen is a freelance writer and Austin's justice of the peace. The longtime Nevada contributor says, "I still contend with Gonagetcha Rock because I am the judge of the Yomba Shoshone Tribal Court and go out there every month."

Every time I approach
Gonagetcha Rock,
I have to make
the **agonizing**
decision
whether to speed
up or slow
down.



Passing

Photographer **Richard Menzies** finds character in Nevada characters in his Winnemucca show.

During the Shooting the West photography gathering this March 12-14 in Winnemucca,

Through

Richard Menzies presents "Passing Through," a retrospective composed of more than 40 black-and-white photographs depicting places and faces from across the Great Basin. He took the photos during four decades of cruising the West's back roads by means of various VW buses and motorcycles from his home in Salt Lake City (also see page 52). Menzies (at right) notes, "Those who call America's Outback home are some of the most unusual people I've ever met. In their faces I see the strength of character that comes of hard living, solitary reflection, and very poor television reception." Longtime *Nevada* readers may recognize many of his Nevada images.





Probably my all-time favorite subject, **FLOYD EATON** lived for many years at Wendover's municipal dump, where over time he managed to build and furnish a comfortable home and "office." Born to moonshiners on the banks of the Mississippi River, Floyd was a lifelong drifter and gifted storyteller. Using a typewriter he salvaged from the dump, Floyd pecked out action-packed thrillers with such intriguing titles as *Sheriff Jessie* and *the Dissatisfied Corpses*.

At his homemade shrine on Interstate 80 at Imlay **FRANK VAN ZANT**, a.k.a. Chief Rolling Mountain Thunder, posed with his young son, David, a.k.a. Thunder Mountain Thunder. Shot in 1977 with a 50-year-old Leica camera, the picture is an echo of Dorothea Lange's "Migrant Mother."



One of my favorite pictures, **THE BONEYARD BOYS** features three youths from a boarding school for orphaned and displaced children situated in remote Antelope Valley. In place of a playground, the boys had a junkyard, where they would assemble ersatz vehicles and embark on make-believe journeys.



For over half a century **EUGENE DIGRAZIA** was the de facto "mayor" of Valmy, a wide spot beside Interstate 80 between Battle Mountain and Golconda. Gene pumped gas, ran the post office, and drove the school bus while his wife, Julie, raised kids, tended swans, and ran a first-rate restaurant. Today a plaque posted at a nearby rest stop commemorates the many years of service the DiGrazias rendered to lonely travelers in Northern Nevada.



At the time I picked him up on the outskirts of Elko, double amputee **STANLEY GURCZE** had been hitchhiking the highways and byways of America for 15 years. Stanley told me he was particularly fond of Nevada, where he had once been given a lift by then-Governor Paul Laxalt.



Following the 1980 premiere of *Melvin and Howard*, **MELVIN DUMMAR** became something of a worldwide celebrity. The following year I accompanied Melvin and his wife **BONNIE** on a tour of Melvin's boyhood stomping grounds in and around Fallon. And where better to pose the would-be heirs to the Howard Hughes fortune than on the ever-shifting dunes of Sand Mountain?

The otherworldly terrain at **CATHEDRAL GORGE** reminded me of a set from the movie *Star Wars*. Then I happened upon this trash can, and it became instantly clear where George Lucas got his inspiration for his little droid, R2D2. ▣



Puttin' on the Ritz

Nevada adds a new resort and a restaurant to AAA's and Mobil's top lists.

By Wilma LaRocca



The Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas has a Mediterranean theme.

Like a Mediterranean villa, the **Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas** sits beside a 320-acre lake and offers shaded galleries, vine-covered balconies, and a Florentine garden. Guests can soak at the spa, stroll down MonteLago Village's cobblestone streets, or go boating on the lake. Golfers can play on courses designed by Jack Nicklaus and Tom Weiskopf.

Just months after opening in February last year, the Ritz-Carlton was awarded five diamonds—the highest rating—in the American Automobile Association's *AAA TourBook*. The Henderson resort's **Medici Café and Terrace** earned four diamonds.

"I like the Medici Café because it offers specialty items like foie gras and truffles," says Kelly Bell of AAA media relations. "And I like the golf courses, the shops, the lake—it's all so peaceful."

The Ritz-Carlton and the Medici Café and Terrace join 32 other lodgings and restaurants in Las Vegas, Henderson, Reno, Lake Tahoe, and Jackpot that have earned top awards from AAA and ExxonMobil's *Mobil Travel Guide*. With the addition of the Ritz and the upgrade of **Bellagio's Le**

Cirque to five diamonds, Nevada now has six five-diamond honorees—two more than last year. All are in the Las Vegas area, which, says AAA spokesperson Sean Comey, "has more winners per square mile than any

"Years ago guests brought their own hair dryers and irons. Today hotels provide fresh flowers and robes and slippers."

other place in the world." Several Nevada hotels claim double-digit consecutive award-winning years, including Las Vegas' **Golden Nugget's** 27 years, the **Mirage** in Las Vegas, 14 years, and **Cactus Petes** in Jackpot, 12 years.

The Ritz-Carlton opened with a legacy for luxury. The tradition began with César Ritz, who managed the Ritz hotel in Paris and the Carlton hotel in London in the

early 1900s. To this day the hotelier is remembered in songs like "Puttin' on the Ritz" and the term "ritzzy."

As vacationers demand more luxury and service, hotels and restaurants have to work harder to keep them happy. Bell says, "Years ago guests brought their own hair dryers and irons. Today hotels provide fresh flowers and robes and slippers and everything they want."

The following guide presents the 34 Nevada and Tahoe-area hotels and eateries that have received the two auto groups' top endorsements for 2004. The *AAA TourBook* confers diamonds and the *Mobil Travel Guide* stars. Four stars or diamonds means "outstanding" and five "world class."

For an extended, up-to-date "Diamonds and Stars" guide noting prices and amenities, please visit www.nevadamagazine.com and click on "Nevada's Top-Rated Hotels and Restaurants."

Las Vegas Area

Bellagio: ♦♦♦♦♦ and ★★★★★. 888-987-6667, 702-693-7111, www.bellagiolasvegas.com. **Aqua:** ★★★★★. 702-693-7223. **Le Cirque:** ♦♦♦♦♦. 702-693-8100,

www.lecirque.com. Picasso: ♦♦♦♦♦ and ★★★★★. 702-693-7111.

Caesars Palace: ♦♦♦♦. 800-CAESARS, 702-731-7110, www.caesars.com.

Four Seasons: ♦♦♦♦♦ and ★★★★★. 877-632-5000, 702-632-5000, www.fourseasons.com/lasvegas.

Golden Nugget: ♦♦♦♦. 800-634-3454, 702-385-7111, www.goldennugget.com.

Green Valley Ranch: ♦♦♦♦. 702-617-7777, 866-782-9487, www.stationcasinos.com.

Hyatt Regency Lake Las Vegas: ♦♦♦♦. 800-55-HYATT, 702-567-1234, www.hyatt.com.

Mandalay Bay: ♦♦♦♦. 877-632-7000, 702-632-7777, www.mandalaybay.com. 3950: ♦♦♦♦. 702-632-7414. Aureole: ♦♦♦♦ and ★★★★★. 702-632-7401.

Michael's (Barbary Coast): ♦♦♦♦. 702-737-7111.

The Mirage: ♦♦♦♦. 800-627-6667, 702-791-7111, www.themirage.com. Renoir: ♦♦♦♦♦ and ★★★★★. 702-791-7353.

Nobu (Hard Rock Hotel): ★★★★★. 800-HRD-ROCK, 702-693-5090.

Paris Las Vegas: ♦♦♦♦. 888-266-5687, 702-946-7000, www.paris-lv.com. Eiffel Tower Restaurant: ♦♦♦♦. 702-948-6937.

Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas: ♦♦♦♦♦. 800-244-3333, 702-567-4700, www.ritzcarlton.com. Medici Café and Terrace: ♦♦♦♦. 702-567-4700.

TI (Treasure Island): ♦♦♦♦. 800-944-7444, 702-894-7111, www.treasureisland.com.

Venetian: ♦♦♦♦ and ★★★★★. 800-494-3556, 702-414-1000, www.venetian.com. Lutece: ★★★★★. 702-414-2220.

Lake Tahoe

Harrah's Lake Tahoe: ♦♦♦♦. 800-HARRAHS, 775-588-6611, www.harrah.com. The Summit Restaurant: ♦♦♦♦. 800-HARRAHS, 775-588-6661, www.harrah.com.

Harveys: ♦♦♦♦. 800-HARVEYS, 775-588-2411, www.harrah.com. Llewellyn's: ♦♦♦♦. 800-HARVEYS, 775-588-2411, www.harrah.com.

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe: ♦♦♦♦. 800-233-1234, 775-832-1234, www.laketahoehyatt.com.

Resort at Squaw Creek: ♦♦♦♦. 800-404-9917, 530-583-6300, www.squawcreek.com. Glissandi: ♦♦♦♦. 530-581-6621.

Squaw Valley Lodge: ♦♦♦♦. 800-922-9970, 530-583-5500, www.squawvalleylodge.com.

Reno

Harrah's Steak House (Harrah's Reno): ♦♦♦♦. 800-HARRAHS, 775-788-2929, www.harrah.com.

White Orchid (Peppermill): ♦♦♦♦. 800-282-2444, 775-689-7300, www.peppermillreno.com.

Jackpot

Cactus Petes: ♦♦♦♦. 800-821-1103, 775-755-2321, www.ameristars.com. ❏

Wilma LaRocca, a Nevada Magazine staff writer, enjoys dining in elegant surroundings.

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* Late fees will apply.

Spring Fling

Bare-armed boarders and T-shirted skiers follow the sun in a Tahoe rite of spring.



Skiers need only the bare essentials at Heavenly (shown here) and other Tahoe resorts.

By Sam Bauman

There's a rare beauty to spring skiing in the Sierra Nevada. You dress lightly, you enjoy cut-rate prices on lifts and rooms, and season-end sales of gear are everywhere. During April and May there's also little fear of being run over by mobs of snowsporters, as is common during the Christmas and Presidents' Day holidays. Bay Area snowsporters think the season is over and are playing tennis, poor chumps.

Of course, you have to start earlier in the day. The cold nights freeze the snow, and the morning sun warms it into small fragments that skiers call "corn." Experienced Lake Tahoe skiers and boarders follow the sun as it travels across the mountains. As the morning progresses, the corn softens and gets slushy, so you move to the next area where the corn is still firm.

That means you ski and board all kinds of runs, from expert to beginner. It's fun.

The technique is much like skiing in powder, where you have to lift the skis momentarily off the snow. Just a little hump, and the turn will be as smooth as if it were January on fresh pack. One bonus of these technological times is the development of the shaped ski and board. (Boards always were shaped to some degree, but ski mak-

ers took several years to catch on.) With the shaped ski it's merely a matter of getting on the edges to make turns in corn. The curve of the ski's sides does the turning for you.

When selecting your attire, almost anything goes, from bikinis to lederhosen, from T-shirts to bare chests for he-men. If

When selecting your spring skiing attire, almost anything goes—from bikinis to lederhosen.

you're not an expert and may fall, you should think twice about shorts and bikinis. The snow may be softer, but the crystals can still burn the skin.

Sunblock is a must, as are sunglasses. Goggles aren't necessary at this time of year—smart Ray Bans will give you that skibum look.

Resort choices are more limited in

spring because the smaller areas close down earliest. Smart snowsporters can choose from Heavenly, Diamond Peak, Mount Rose, Kirkwood, Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, and Sugar Bowl. Each has its own special stashes of fine snow for the spring adventurer. Here, resort instructors and execs offer some tips:

Alpine Meadows: Kevin Gallegos at the Sporting Rage shop in Carson City says, "I have had many days slushing through the trees and groomed slopes of Alpine Meadows. You can't really beat getting a good start with the warm sun radiating on your head, skiing in a T-shirt and shorts on a 60-degree day, no crowds or lift lines, catching your early season tan. Then at 2 p.m. loading your skis up and driving downtown to Incline Beach, pulling out the kayak and paddling for a couple of hours."

Heavenly: Chief operating officer Blaise Carrig of Heavenly, the only two-state ski resort in North America, offers this advice: "I would spend the morning on the north side of Mott Canyon in the corn snow and then head to Gunbarrel for the slush bumps in the afternoon."

Squaw Valley: Michael Gross, Squaw's safety risk manager, says, "The Sun Bowl

off Headwall serves up the best early morning. Almost 1,000 vertical feet of creamy, smooth turns. Even better, if you hike the Palisades and ski the Kitchen Wall, you increase the vertical drop to almost 1,600 feet. Ski patrol manages the area to ensure conditions remain pristine as long as possible." Squaw director of planning Mike Livak adds, "One of my favorite runs is the east-facing shoulder of Olympic Lady, closest to Red Dog Ridge. The area remains smooth and gets nicely warmed up in the morning, resulting in about 800 vertical feet of perfectly smooth corn snow."

Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe: Rusty Crook, a veteran ski instructor at Mt. Rose, gives this program for an ideal spring ski or snowboard day: "Hit Sunrise first, then Silverado, Bonanza, Bruce's, Zephyr, then Kit Carson Bowl. You'll follow the sun." His tips for spring skiing: "Ski as you always do, feet apart, carve slicing and dicing, as opposed to pushing to snow. Quit early and enjoy the sun deck."

Sierra-at-Tahoe: "In the spring, you can find the best corn snow in Sierra-at-Tahoe's West Bowl. The west-facing slopes get excellent sun exposure, and you're guaranteed some incredible turns on Powderhorn and Pyramid," says avid skier Nicole Belt, who works in the marketing department of Sierra-at-Tahoe and Northstar-at-Tahoe.

Northstar-at-Tahoe: Belt's advice: "The best spring run at Northstar is West Ridge because it gets excellent sun exposure in the early morning. In the afternoon, follow the sun over to the back side for some excellent corn snow."

Kirkwood: This resort is mostly north facing, so it's an ideal spring venue. Tracy Miller, a longtime Kirkwood snowsporter, says, "The back bowl off chair four offers the Wave run. Keep on going and you wind up on Fawn Ridge, strictly awesome in the spring. And The Wall and Sentinel Bowl last well into spring."

Sam Bauman, a writer for the Nevada Appeal in Carson City, likes to see the bikini-clad skiers on Tahoe's snow-clad slopes in springtime, but he says he doesn't stare.

Skiing in the Sierra

Skiers and snowboarders can learn about Reno-Lake Tahoe skiing, rentals, events, and room and ski bargains from the **Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority**, 800-FOR-RENO or ski.renolaketahoe.com, and **Ski Lake Tahoe**, 800-588-SNOW or skilake.tahoe.com.

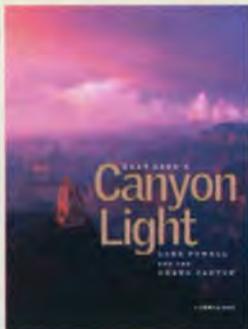
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Tales of Techatticup

Tour takers will hear strange and true stories at the historic mine in Eldorado Canyon.

By Deborah Wall



A man suddenly appeared holding a four-foot rattlesnake whose midsection was wrapped tightly around his neck. “Look,” he yelled. “I just caught this one out the back door!”

The rattler was a Mojave green, one of the most dangerous snakes in the Southwest. The snake appeared to be struggling against the man’s grip. Since there were other people in the room, I tried to stay cool, smiling nervously yet thinking this was not the least bit funny. Not until everybody laughed did I realize that I was the only one not in on the joke. Yes, the snake was real—but frozen.

The practical joker was Brent Holden, cousin of brothers Kent and Tony Werly, who with Tony’s wife, Bobbie, own what remains of the Techatticup Mine, a rustic tourist attraction in Eldorado Canyon 42 miles south of Las Vegas. The Techatticup was the site of one of Southern Nevada’s biggest mineral bonanzas. In the 1880s more people lived in Eldorado Canyon than in Las Vegas. During the Techatticup’s 80 years of operation, which began

Claim jumping, mayhem, and murder were part of the boom.

in 1861, millions of dollars in gold and silver were produced.

But it wasn’t all good news. Claim jumping, mayhem, and murder were part of the boom. Eldorado Canyon was a lawless place where the sheriff didn’t venture, even for a murder. In the 1880s the nearest law was more than 200 miles north, a week’s ride away in Pioche, then the county seat.

In part because of its rough-and-tumble past, the Techatticup Mine has gained new life under the stewardship of the Werlys. They moved to the area 10 years ago from

Boulder City with no idea of developing the site. Their plans changed when they found the mine entrance. Tony said, “We didn’t even know about the mine until three days before escrow. We were looking around and found a three-foot hole that you could crawl into.”

Once they made the decision to open the mine to the public, the Werlys enlisted help from friends and family in restoring the property. “We built the barn first for all our junk,” Tony said. After checking photographs and locating the cornerstones, the Werlys reconstructed the original mining camp’s dining and recreation buildings to serve as their home and business headquarters.

At the mine across the road, they spent three months mucking out 80 tons of tailings. After that they worked weekends welding walkways, securing railings, checking airways, and installing lights and emergency phones. “The Bureau of Mines then came to inspect it and made sure everything was safe for tours,” said Tony. The public has been visiting the site since 1999.



Kent (left), Bobbie, and Tony Werly revived the Techatticup mining camp in Eldorado Canyon (opposite page).

Our tour began in the headquarters with a history lesson from Tony. He said in 1861 Paiutes showed miners a large gold vein. In exchange the Indians wanted only *techatticup*, meaning bread (or hungry), hence the mine's name. Framed photographs of Paiutes and miners line the walls, and tables hold tools and antiques. Tony told me, "We want people to feel like they are stepping back into the past. There are lots of memories for people here."

Tony told us of Hollywood's interest in Techatticup. Scenes have been filmed here for such movies as *Breakdown* (1999), starring Kurt Russell, and *3,000 Miles to Graceland* (2001), starring Russell and Kevin Costner, as well as commercials for Harley-Davidson and Ford Explorer.

Bobbie led us on the five-minute walk to the mine, using the same route hundreds of miners took every morning. At the entrance we signed a log and walked single file into the well-lit tunnel. The tour was easy with no inclines or steep areas to negotiate. We visited several side corridors,

including one where you could see how the miners had made their way up and down rickety ladders.

Bobbie flipped a switch to show how dark it was without artificial lighting. There were a few squeals from our group when she told tales of ghosts and after we saw a skeleton with a large metal spike through its skull. Bobbie told us that a miner had died when he put blasting powder into a hole with a metal rod instead of a wooden one. She admitted that this wasn't the actual skeleton, but the miner was buried just outside the mine, or so the story goes.

If you have time, you can rent a canoe or kayak from the Werlys' Colorado River Tours and drive the five miles down the paved road to the river. There you can launch or take a guided kayak-canoe tour. A 10-stamp mill once was located at the river, and steamboats docked there. After Davis Dam turned this part of the river into Lake Mohave in the 1950s, a popular marina developed at the site, Nelson's Landing. In the summer of 1974, a flash

flood roared down Eldorado Canyon, killing nine people and obliterating the marina in the region's worst flash-flood disaster. Nelson's Landing was never rebuilt, but the canyon mouth remains popular with fishermen, kayakers, and wildflower viewers. Visitors are now required to park on higher ground, and the smart ones go somewhere else when they see rain clouds.

Although the lawlessness of Techatticup is a thing of the past, modern-day pranks aren't, so when you visit, beware. The joke may be on you, especially if it involves a frozen snake.

Touring Techatticup

The Techatticup Mine in Eldorado Canyon features tours of an 1880s-era silver and gold mine as well as trips on the nearby Colorado River. Spring and fall are good times to visit the canyon.

Directions: The mine is 42 miles south of Las Vegas. From Las Vegas, take U.S. 93/95 south about 20 miles to the Laughlin-Needles exit. Continue on U.S. 95 south 10 more miles and turn east on State Route 165. Follow the road for about 11-1/2 miles to Nelson, then another 1-1/2 miles to the Techatticup Mine. The mine headquarters are on your left.

Services: No services. Fill your tank in Las Vegas or Boulder City.

Mine Tour: 1 to 1-1/2 hours. Adults \$10, children 12 and under \$5. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Mine Tour With Canoe and Kayak Trip: Plan on a tour of about five to six hours on the river. Adults \$75, children \$55. Lunch and snacks included. Reservations are required.

Canoe and Kayak Rentals: \$25 per boat for one day, \$15 each day after. Reservations recommended.

Information: Call 702-291-0026 or visit www.coloradorivertour.com.

Deborah Wall is a Boulder City freelance writer.



Hot Stuff

Ringing the fire bell in three Vegas eateries. **By Ken Van Vechten**



Chef Rodhel Ibay displays an enchilada dish called "Los Colores" and the chiles that he uses to make it for patrons at Gardunios in the Fiesta Henderson.

Spice is a culinary rush. It ignites the tongue, enhancing flavors all across the palate. The brain's release of endorphins in response to the hot, hot stuff delivers a sense of euphoria, like being in Las Vegas. And across town chefs are tossing it together with a ton of flavor and a bit of fire, so if you want some spicy rice to go with those hot dice, you've come to the right place.

The **VooDoo Café** sits near the top of the Masquerade Tower of the Rio All-Suite Hotel. To say the view is divine—or wicked, given the Louisiana black magic in the air—is an understatement. In fact, day or night, it's flat out hot.

VooDoo has a revamped menu, with New Age-meets-Cajun/Creole replacing more mainstream fare; think cayenne in the rub yet less fat in the gumbo. Assistant Executive Chef Alan McLennan says he offers a modern interpretation of this country's first fusion cuisine—that melting pot of Spanish, African, Native American, and Acadian tastes and techniques that marks the food of southern Louisiana.

Cajun/Creole celebrates the freshness and bounty of ingredients found in local waters and on the land: pork, fowl, beef, freshwater and saltwater fish, prawns and mudbugs, vegetables, greens, tubers, and herbs. The result is spice infusion, build-

ing layers and textures within the food.

Although the Rio is a long way from Lake Pontchartrain, the VooDoo offers the same-day indigenous quality that marks N'awlins cuisine. The appetizer menu is sea-happy—oysters, coconut-battered shrimp, crab—and many of the main courses were once swimmers (try the BBQ shrimp). The meat-inclined should consider blackened prime rib or a bayou-reminiscent medley of pork offerings with red beans and rice.

VooDoo's mission isn't to simply sweat its patrons, so if you go looking to blister a tongue, you will be disappointed. If you seek an explosion of flavors with some

piquancy and a touch of sear—"whack-you-upside-the-head kind of flavor," in McLennan's words—you are in the right place.

"It's not just the heat," the chef explains. "It's the complexity of the mouth—heat, spice, sweetness, layers. There's no pure satisfaction just from heat."

Dinner, with an appetizer, starter, entrée, and side dish, runs about \$65 per person. Reservations are suggested. *VooDoo Café at the Rio, 3700 West Flamingo Road, 800-PLAY-RIO. www.harrahs.com.*

Another place that doesn't shy away from the fire bell is **Garduño's**, an Albuquerque icon now in three Las Vegas casinos—the Palms, Fiesta Rancho, and Fiesta Henderson. Chile is the watchword at Garduño's, specifically Hatch chiles from

bowl of chile colorado (beef stew) or chile verde (pork stew). If either is a little too *fuego* for you—the green is typically hotter—leave the beer and water on the table and reach for the milk or anything else with a touch of fat in it.

A margarita, entrée, and order of guacamole will set you back less than \$30. *Fiesta Rancho, 2400 North Rancho Drive, North Las Vegas, 702-638-*

style fare with its Laotian influences—lime juice, fish sauce, papaya, an abundance of fresh chiles and herbs, varied meats such as freshwater fish and crustaceans, beef, and chicken, and glutinous rice, which is favored in the north to the less sticky jasmine variety of the south.

Two standout appetizers are *nua dad deaw*, Issan beef jerky, and *man kao tod*, a yin-yang mixture of sour sausage (go ahead, it's fine), scallion, fresh chile, ginger, peanuts, crispy rice, and lime juice.

For entrées consider *koi soy*, a Thai spin on steak tartare in which lime juice and fresh herbs and chiles figure prominently. Or try *hoh mok*, cabbage, egg, and curry paste cooked in a bowl with fish or chicken. As co-owner Bill Chutima says, "The food is vibrant and vivacious." Like McLennan at VooDoo, Chutima speaks to culinary balance and harmony. If a customer wants a scorch setting, the answer isn't simply another handful of minced chiles.

"Heat is not just for heat's sake," he says. "You must increase all ingredients to complement the [added] heat. If not, the rest of the flavors fall down. It's the layers of the flavors that have to be there."

Lotus gives some quarter on the flame-o-meter, letting you set the knob between one and 10. Four has a happy little touch to it, maybe Tabasco-esque in intensity. Six and seven sing nicely. Roll the dice from there at your own risk or reward.

Most appetizers, soups, salads, and main

Lotus gives some quarter on the flame-o-meter, letting you set the knob between one and 10.

courses cost under \$10. Lotus has an encyclopedic list of German wines, which, with low alcohol and high sugars, offer a good counterpoint to the heat, as does a glass of milk. *Lotus of Siam, 953 East Sahara Avenue, Suite A-5, 702-735-3033.* ▀

Ken Van Vechten, a freelance writer living in Riverside, California, often sets his personal flame-o-meter up to nine.

Hot Stuff

Chile Verde with Pork

Garduño's Executive Chef Lorenzo Gomez offers this recipe for pork chile verde to serve at a good-sized family-and-friends gathering. You can make it well ahead of time.

5 pounds diced Hatch green chile

2 gallons water

4 pounds diced pork (blade or pork rump)

1 tablespoon roasted garlic, minced

1/8 cup salt (or to taste)

1 teaspoon black pepper

1/2 teaspoon ground oregano

1/4 cup chicken base

2 yellow onions, diced

3 medium tomatoes, diced

1/2 cup salad oil



Procedure: In a large stock pot, add oil, onions, and garlic. Sauté until onions are transparent. Add pork and cook until dark brown. Add water and seasonings, stir well, and bring to a full boil. Add diced tomatoes, cover, and simmer for 20 minutes. Skim and remove from heat. Serve in a bowl with fresh corn or flour tortillas. For additional flavor add four large diced peeled potatoes when adding the tomatoes. The result is a savory stew with a New Mexican attitude.

**"It's not just the heat.
It's the complexity
of the mouth—heat, spice, sweetness, layers."**

the Land of Enchantment. They are used green, parched, and peeled in green sauce, chile verde, and rellenos as well as ripened red and dried for red sauce and chile colorado. This is *New Mexican* fare.

On the menu you'll find tacos, burritos, frijoles, guacamole (made tableside), carne asada, fish, and posole—a good number of which play to the more timid diner. Then there are the enchiladas—flat, stacked enchiladas, napped in red or green sauce, sitting center-stage on a plate.

"The essence of New Mexican cuisine was the enchilada, as an entrée. It was the centerpiece. Too often now it's just part of a package," says John Johnstone, Garduño's president.

Garduño's recognizes that New Mexico chiles are much more flavorful, meatier, darker colored, and hotter than their California cousins, the long, pale green "Anaheim" chiles seen in most markets. Like grapes, chiles grown in one plot display different characteristics than those grown over the next hill or across the river, and the Hatch chiles from southern New Mexico's Mesilla Valley pack more wallop than most. For a true measure order a

3751. Fiesta Henderson, 777 West Lake Mead Drive, Henderson, 702-558-7000, www.fiesta-casino.com. The Palms, 4321 West Flamingo Road, 866-942-7777, www.thepalmslasvegas.com.

A mile east of the Strip, in a huge box of a shopping center that looks like the UN of dining, sits one of Las Vegas' best restaurants, **Lotus of Siam**.

Thai food, done right, is nearly without peer. You get balanced heat, complexity, and the sensory rush of a spice merchant's cornucopia of seasonings. The cuisine's base is native, but the foods have been influenced by other cultures. Even that popular image of Thai cuisine, the skinny Thai (or bird's-eye) chile, came to Southeast Asia from the Americas courtesy of the Portuguese.

And Lotus does Thai right. The menu features the coconut-milk-pervaded dishes of Bangkok and southern Thailand and the mild curries of the north that came from Burma and India. Yet the distinguishing mark is northeastern or Issan-



Sand Man

Paul Ford uses natural materials for his landscapes.



Cottonwood Seedlings on the Carson River:

"I took an early winter walk along the Carson River about an hour before sunset. Millions of two-inch cottonwood seedlings were backlit with the low light. Their small leaves shimmered like gold coins against the water."

Paul Ford carries a camera, scoop, and pillowcase in his backpack. With the camera he takes photographs of scenes that please him. With the scoop he gathers soil to haul home in the pillowcase.

With nods to Tibetan mandala-makers and Native American artists, the Carson High School art teacher creates what he describes as "contemporary environmental" sand paintings of the places he photographs. "I'm inspired by a love for the

environment and my intense love for plants and gardening and the outdoors," Ford says.

Since he and his wife, Gail, live in Carson Valley with views of Jobs Peak and the Carson River, Ford often finds inspiration simply driving to work. The couple hikes or snowshoes at Carson Pass, Washoe Lake, and Lake Tahoe, where Ford also employs his camera and scoop.

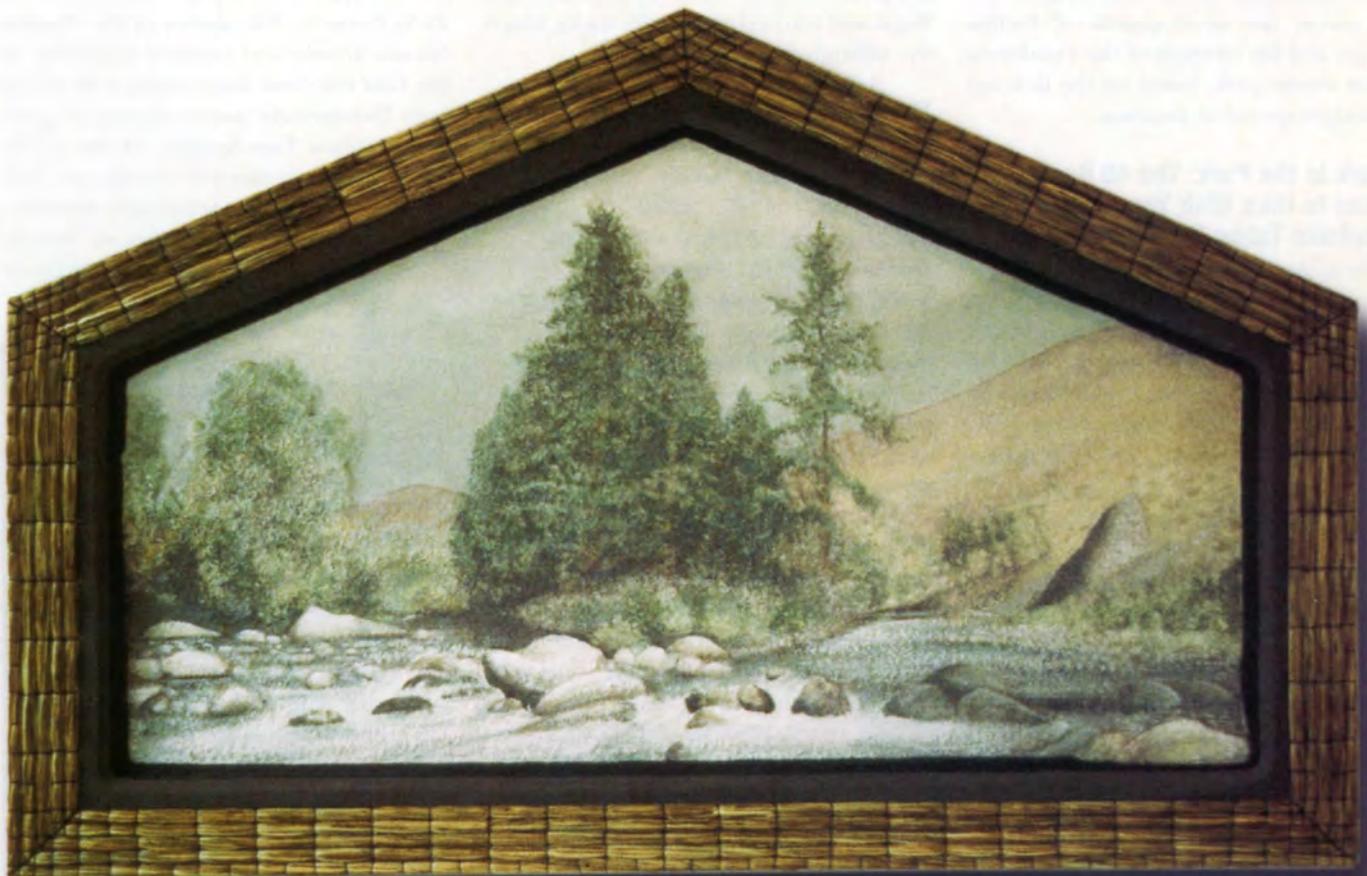
In his home studio Ford sieves the soils—yellow sulfur, white gypsum, orange

and gray decomposed granite, green and blue copper ore—and stores them in plastic jugs according to color and size. Ford roughs out a scene on plywood and coats it with an acrylic medium that acts as glue for the sand, which he adds in layers.

Ford says his pieces are translations of the joy he experiences outdoors. "I'm using the soil as a basis for creating my images and framing them with the materials that grow out of that earth," he says.

—Joyce Hollister

Nevada Beach: "It was an absolutely perfect midwinter afternoon at Nevada Beach at Lake Tahoe. I took a walk with the dogs, and we passed by this tree. I've met so many people who have seen the piece, and they say, 'I know that tree. I love that tree. It makes me feel good I captured it.'" Ford finishes his paintings with handwoven frames made of Great Basin rye, coyote willow, or meadow grass.



Truckee River Near Verdi: "This is a secret fishing spot. I took my camera and my sketchpad, and I had the luxury of time to sketch the location as well as photograph the various details. I sat on the rock and listened to the water. I really cherish that day."



Nevada Bookshelf

Recent releases of Nevada interest.

Bill's Big Bonanza

By William A. Anderson, Box 251, Dayton, NV 89403. 150 pages, \$19.95 (\$26.00 mail), paper (ISBN 0-9745115-0-1). Nearing his 80th birthday, Dayton resident Bill Anderson collaborated with Reno editor Michael Sion on

the autobiography. Anderson, a third-grade drop-out, spent seven years on the road as a youth. In often colorful language Anderson describes his family's *Grapes of Wrath*-like migrant life in the

Depression, his success in the war-surplus business and Lake Tahoe real estate, the development of Incline Village, and his creation of the Ponderosa Ranch theme park, based on the fictional Cartwright spread in *Bonanza*.



A Bark in the Park: The 40 Best Places to Hike With Your Dog in the Reno/Lake Tahoe Region

By Sherril Steele-Carlin, Cruden Bay Books, Box 467, Montchanin, DE 19710, www.hikewithyourdog.com. 144 pages, \$12.95, paper (ISBN 0-9744083-0-1). For those who like to hike with their canine friends, this book can be an invaluable resource. Steele-Carlin gives details—locations, fees, trail histories—while briefly noting 50 other public trails, for a total of 90 dog-friendly treks.

Ag Man, The Comic Book

By Baxter Black, Coyote Cowboy Co., Box 2190, Benson, AZ 85602, www.baxterblack.com. 92 pages, \$14.95, paper (ISBN 0-939343-36-3). A cross between *Mad* magazine and *USDA Today*, this series of comic strips is written by cowboy humorist Baxter Black and illustrated by his brother Bob. A star of Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Black presents characters like Corn Silk, a daring female reporter; Farm Boy, a computer-savvy teenager; and Ag Man, an agri-



cultural super hero. Strip titles range from "Feedlot Fiasco" to "Mad Cow Smugglers" while the artwork crams in details like an animal-rights T-shirt reading, "Neuter vets, not dogs."

More Frugal Gambling

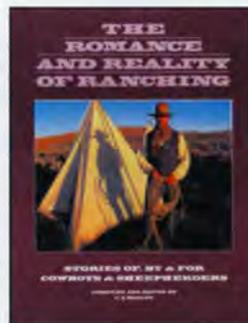
By Jean Scott and Angela Sparks, Huntington Press, 3687 S. Procyon Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89103, 406 pages, \$14.95, paper (ISBN 0-929712-41-2). Jean Scott, the self-described "Gambling Grandma," has updated and expanded her popular 1998 book, *The Frugal Gambler*. In this new version, cowritten by her daughter, Angela Sparks, Scott describes how low rollers can qualify for casino "comps," such as free rooms and meals. Scott has moved from Indiana to Las Vegas and learned a few more tricks, which she willingly shares with readers.



The Divorce Seekers: A Photo Memoir of a Nevada Dude Wrangler

By William and Sandra McGee, BMC Publications, 1187 Coast Village Rd., Suite 1-155, Santa Barbara, CA 93108, www.bmcpublications.com. 444 pages, 502 b&w photos and illustrations, \$49.94, hardcover (ISBN 0-9701678-1-4). Bill McGee spins funny and fact-filled tales of his days as a young wrangler at the Flying M E, a Washoe Valley ranch for prospective divorcees, in the late 1940s. The reader meets Clark Gable,

Ava Gardner, New York heiresses, and other ranch visitors at their most relaxed. The excellent photos, like the words, capture the rustic glamour of that bygone era.



Icons: Las Vegas, Vintage Graphics From Sin City

Edited by Jim Heimann, introduction by W.R. Wilkerson III, Taschen, Los Angeles, www.taschen.com. 192 pages, \$9.95, paper (ISBN 3-8228-2620-0). *Icons: Las Vegas* is a case where a picture truly is worth a thousand words. In fact, there are only six

and a half pages of text in this 192-page book, a compilation of classic photos and advertisements depicting Las Vegas from the early 1940s to the '60s. Flipping through the pages you'll find historic images of since-imploded resorts like the Landmark, Sands, Dunes, and Hacienda. The introduction is written by the son of the Flamingo's original owner, and a Las Vegas timeline is printed in English, German, and French.

Squaw Tom Speaks: Stories From Old Nevada

Stories by Tom Sanders, edited by David W. Toll, Gold Hill Publishing Co., Drawer F, Virginia City, NV 89440, www.nevadaweb.com/squawtom. 157 pages, \$15.95, paper (ISBN 0-940936-13-5). David W. Toll, author of the *Complete Nevada Traveler* and onetime publisher of the *Gold Hill News*, has compiled 29 stories from Tom Sanders' award-winning *News* column, "Squaw Tom Speaks," of the 1970s. Toll's fond introduction recalls the self-

made storyteller who describes life on the fringes of Nevada society in tales like "Hoover Times," "Double Row of Teeth," and "The Old Woman's Gold."

The Romance and Reality of Ranching

Edited by C.J. Hadley, Purple Coyote Corp. and Range Magazine, Carson City, 800-RANGE-4-U, www.rangemagazine.com. 164 pages, 222 photos, \$29.95, softcover (ISBN 0-9744563-0-6). *Range* publisher C.J. Hadley has compiled a collection of stories and photographs of Western ranch life that would ride well on any cowboy coffee table. The photos—by such photographers as Larry Turner, Linda Dufurrena, Joel Sartore, Cynthia A. Delaney, Eric Grant, Bob Moorhouse, Jay Dusard, and Hadley herself—are particularly striking. As Hadley writes, "This book is applause for the cowboys and sheepherders who care about critter and country."—*The Editors* ▣

For additional "Nevada Bookshelf" notices and reviews see www.nevadamagazine.com.

Subject: Guy's week out
 Mission: Double shot of God's Country
 with a Las Vegas chaser.
 Strategy: "Shotgun!"



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Booth Canyon Trails -
 Got sick
 Bad Taco.

Red Rock -
 Jeff wanted to climb "Panty Wall."
 Can't argue with that.

Chris streaked the trail for all-time Shotgun rights.

Yep, running water in Nevada

Bottle House, Rhyolite Ghost Town -
 Haven't seen that many empty bottles since college.

Rhyolite
 Valley of Fire -
 No one for miles and
 we get neighbors.
 3 low students from
 AZ (the female
 variety, nice!)
 Just chilled.
 Recharged for final
 destination.
 Vegas, Baby!



Las Vegas, Nevada

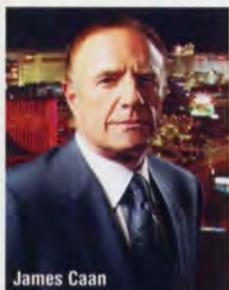
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Nevada Almanac

TV's *Las Vegas*, Nevada Trivia, and a new contest.

Stars Reveal Their Vegas 'Faves' By Frank Barron



James Caan

The first-year NBC series *Las Vegas* follows in the tradition of most Glitter City television and movie productions by focusing on bullet-riddled bodies, glamorous women, and shadowy underworld figures. Created by Gary Scott Thompson, who wrote *The Fast and the Furious*, the show involves an elite surveillance team at a major resort-casino. Recently I asked *Las Vegas*' actors about their favorite pastimes and experiences in Las Vegas.

James Caan (*The Godfather, Honeymoon in Vegas*): The biggest kick for me is the people-watching. You'll see everything in Vegas, so just hanging out and watching everything that's going on is just fantastic. The Mandalay Bay is great. That's where we filmed, and they were very nice."

Nikki Cox (*Nikki*): "Hands down, my favorite thing to do is see a little performer by the name of Cook E. Jarr. Many Vegas regulars are familiar with him. He's a tremendously talented lounge singer who sings at Harrah's."

Josh Duhamel (*All My Children*): "For me the appeal is not so much the casinos anymore, because, in the past, when I'd gamble, I'd lose more often than I'd actually win. So now I like to go and just soak up the outrageousness of the pools they have at the resorts, like Mandalay Bay."

Molly Sims (*House of Style*): "Experiencing the excitement of the Strip is what I love about Las Vegas, probably because it's so unlike any other. And I love the spectacular Cirque du Soleil shows, like "O" [at Bellagio] and "Mystère" [at Treasure Island]."

James Lesure (*For Your Love*): "I like going to Slots of Fun because it's a casino with a \$2 to \$3 minimum. Me and my friends don't have much money, so we go there and hang out all night."

Vanessa Marcil (*90210*): "My girlfriends and I like to drive to Vegas and go to the strip clubs and tip all the girls more than the boys."

Marsha Thomason (*Black Knight*): "I'm from England, so it's all new for me, outrageous and fabulous. I'm just discovering Vegas now."

Frank Barron, former editor of the Hollywood Reporter, lives in Van Nuys, California.



Nikki Cox



Josh Duhamel



Molly Sims



James Lesure



Vanessa Marcil



Marsha Thomason

Nevada Trivia

Q When was the first automobile road race staged in Nevada?

A On August 31, 1913, Earl Jackson and Chester Milberry, both of Reno, won the first organized road race, which followed a 70-mile loop from Carson City to Reno, then to Virginia City and back to Carson City. It took them three hours and 22 minutes.

Q What popular British rock 'n' roll quartet performed two concerts at the Las Vegas Convention Center in 1964?

A The Beatles made their only Nevada appearance in August 1964. The group played to capacity crowds of 8,500 at each show.

—The Nevada Trivia Book by Richard Moreno (*Gem Guides*, 1998)

NEW CONTEST: Nevada TV Shows

In light of the popular television show *Las Vegas*, we wondered about the many TV series that have been made in or whose plots centered on the Silver State. Thus, the newest *Nevada Magazine* contest: How many Nevada TV series can you recall? For each show, name at least one of the actors and give a one-sentence description of the plot line. The randomly chosen winner will receive a great Nevada gift. E-mail your entry to jhollister@nevadamagazine.com or mail it to Nevada TV Contest, Nevada Magazine, 401 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701 The deadline is April 1. Winning entries will be published in a summer issue.

NEVADA *Events & Shows*

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

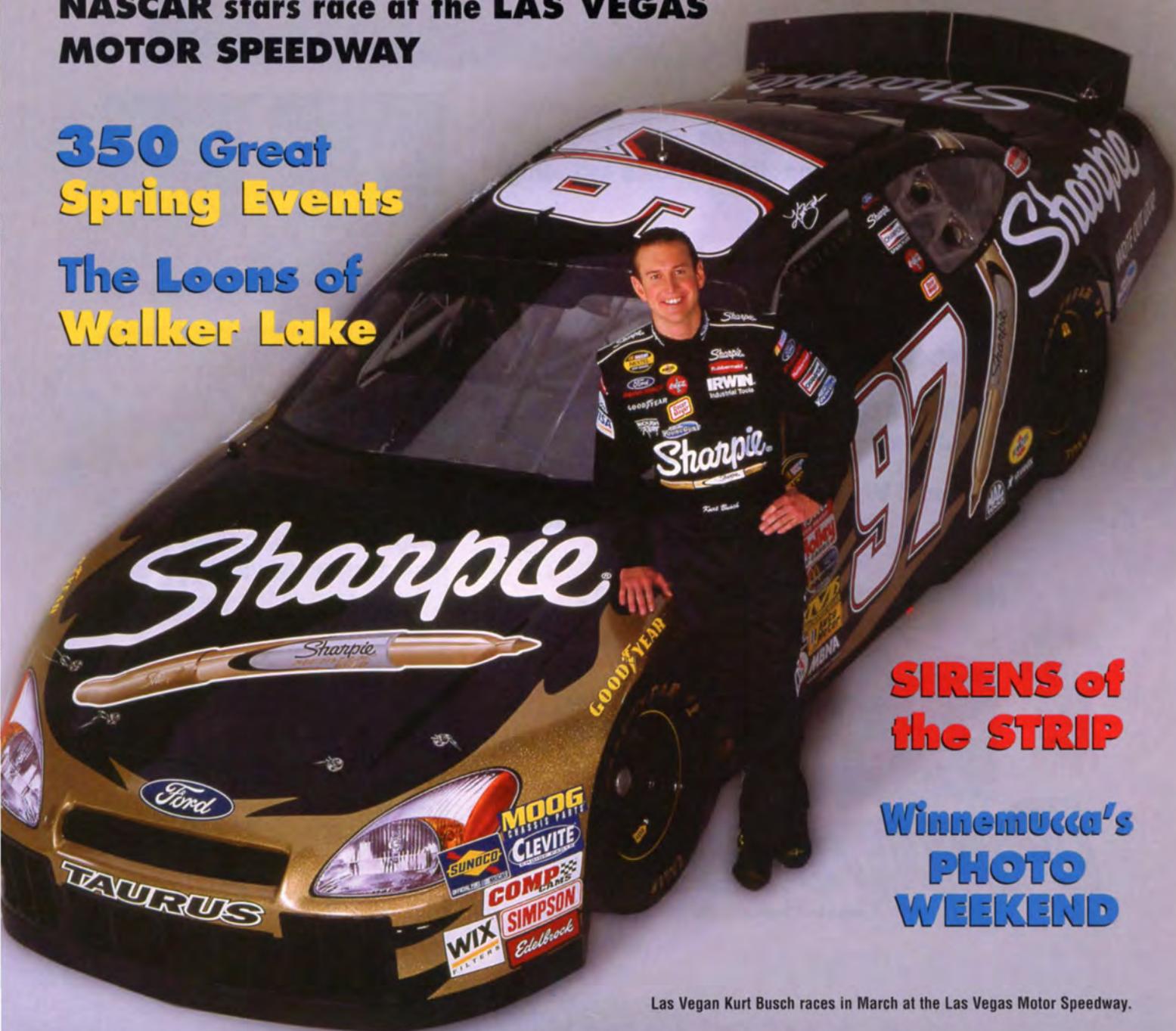
March/April 2004

The Boys of Thunder

**NASCAR stars race at the LAS VEGAS
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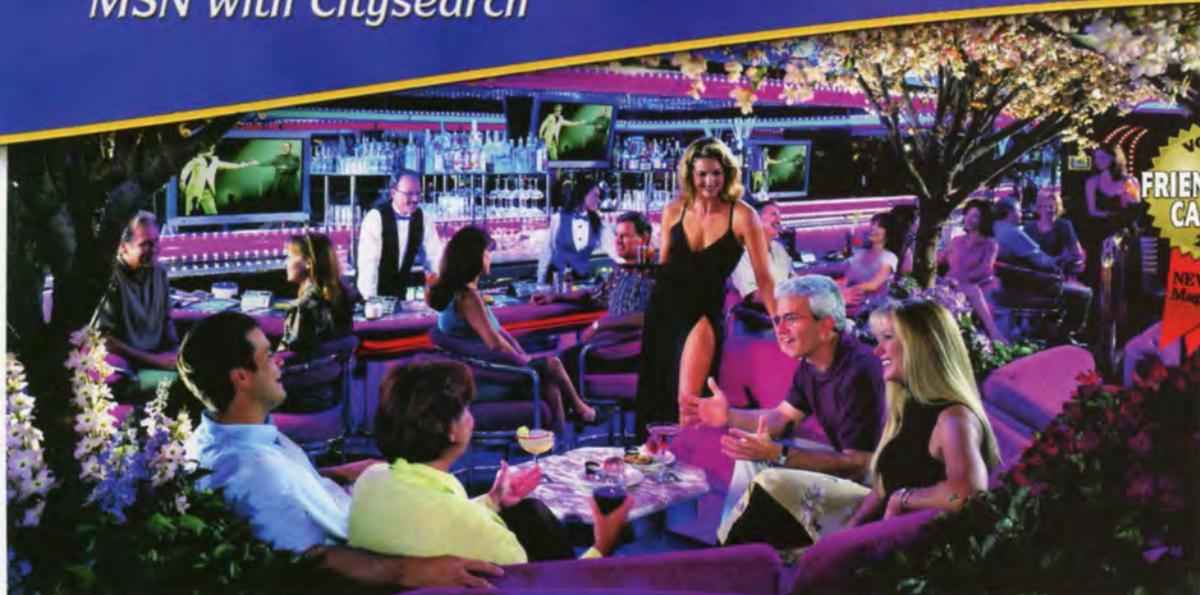
**SIRENS of
the STRIP**

**Winnemucca's
PHOTO
WEEKEND**

Las Vegas Kurt Busch races in March at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

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Signs of Spring

Fast cars, baseball, and sharks. **By Ann Henderson**



A great hammerhead is a first for the Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. Visitors can watch the shark as she swims among stingrays, barracudas, and sea turtles.

The noise level at the **Las Vegas Motor Speedway** will be intense when pros like **Jeff Gordon**, **Dale Jarrett**, and Las Vegas **Kurt** and **Kyle Busch** and **Brendan Gaughan** line up March 6-7 for the **Sam's Town 300** and **UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400**. (See "The Need for Speed," page 46.) Las Vegas' population swells by 140,000 race residents who gather for the NASCAR excitement. Many spectators declare their loyalty to their favorites by wearing logo gear and other signs of support—even down to painted fingernails. As an experiment, count the number of female race fans who have adorned a nail with a "3" to honor the late **Dale Earnhardt**.

Railroad buffs will show their enthusiasm with a tip of the cap when they learn to operate a 1926 diesel-powered railcar April 30-May 2 at the **Nevada State Railroad Museum** in Carson City. The \$120 registration fee for the "**Be an Engineer**" program includes a rulebook, hosted barbecue, and engineer's cap.

Major league baseball comes to Las Vegas April 2-3 during **Big League Weekend** when the **Texas Rangers** play the **Colorado Rockies** in exhibition games. Tickets are \$15 and \$20. Also at Cashman Field, the **Las Vegas 51s**, the Los Angeles Dodgers' AAA team, open their home season April 8-11 against the Portland Beavers. The 51s' name derives from Nevada's super-secret Area 51 testing facility and reputation for things extraterrestrial.

Speaking of oddities, the **Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay** in Las Vegas is the new home of a female **hammerhead shark**. Her tank-mates are stingrays, sea turtles, green sawfish, barracuda, and five different sharks. The six-foot-long hammerhead, considered a juvenile, is the first in the United States to be displayed in a closed-system aquarium. The Shark Reef is open 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

In entertainment news, **Sarah Brightman** plays two Nevada

dates when **John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks hosts the singer at **Lawlor Events Center** on March 5, followed by a show at the **MGM Grand** in Las Vegas on March 13. **Britney Spears** also headlines at the MGM on March 6.

In a rare appearance, the **Mormon Tabernacle Choir** headlines at the **Orleans Arena** on April 20. Also at the Orleans, **Bill Medley** answers the question about his future following the death November 4 of **Bobby Hatfield**, his partner of 42 years. Medley is booked monthly from March to July in a show he calls "**Bill Medley Celebrates the Music of the Righteous Brothers**."

Reno's dance card includes "**Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance**" (April 2-4) and "**Saturday Night Fever**" (April 30-May 1) at the **Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts**. "**The Spirit of the Dance**," another Irish revue, and "**Broadway! The Star-Spangled Celebration**" play at the **Eldorado**.

Snow lovers will have lots to do at Lake Tahoe. Snowshoe and ski races, plus the polar bear swim, are on tap February 27-March 7 at the **North Tahoe Snow Festival**. At South Tahoe on March 18-28, the **Big Chill** party features the **U.S. Freestyle National Championships** and an appearance by **George Thorogood and the Destroyers** at **Harrah's Lake Tahoe**. A first-time event, **SledFest 2004**, scheduled for April 1-4, will appeal to the snowmobile crowd.

Plans are being made for the **Reno Whitewater Festival** on May 14-16. The festival will be the inaugural event at the recently completed **Truckee River Whitewater Park at Wingfield**. Kayaking competitions and entertainment will take place on the river, which flows through downtown Reno. ▀

Ann Henderson is Nevada's entertainment and events editor.



The Need for Speed

The Las Vegas Motor Speedway becomes speed city this spring.

By Norm Johnson

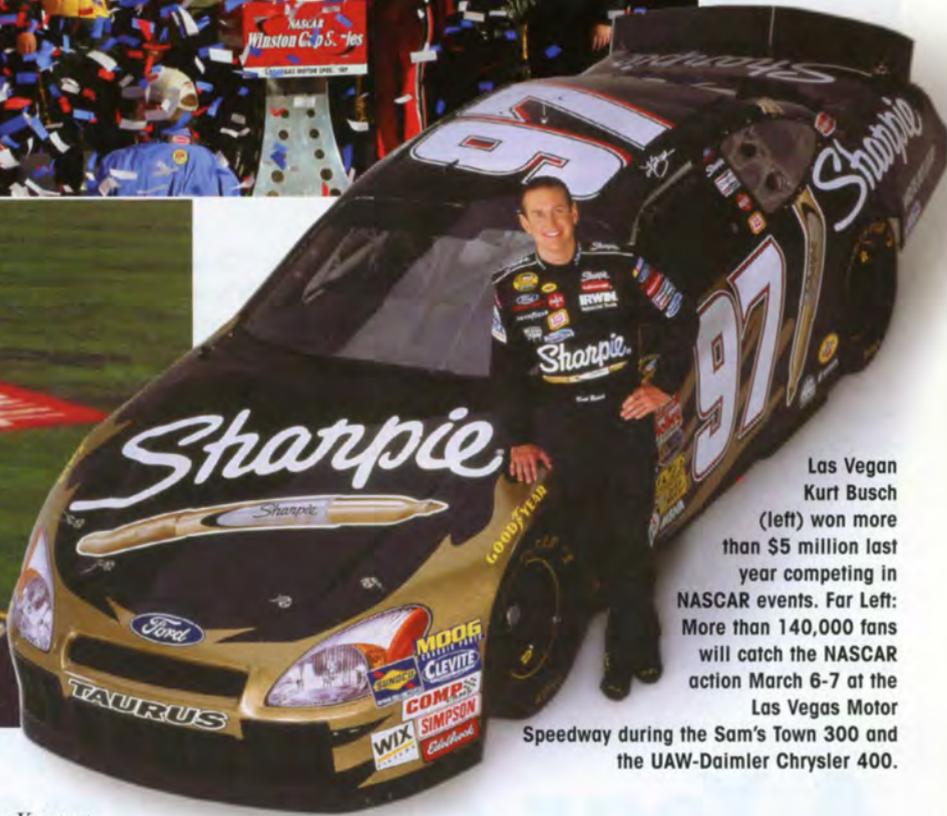
The first weekend in March, the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, a 1,600-acre racing complex, becomes Nevada's fourth largest city. More than 140,000 spectators are expected March 6 for the Sam's Town 300 Busch Series race and March 7 for the NASCAR Nextel Cup's UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400. Fans will cheer superstar drivers like Jeff Gordon, Matt Kenseth, Tony Stewart, Bobby Labonte, Dale Jarrett, and Bill Elliott. The Boys of Thunder will be back in town.

That weekend three Las Vegas favorites—brothers Kurt and Kyle Busch and Brendan Gaughan—will be competing on the track, and every move will be closely followed.

Both Busch brothers grew up in Las Vegas and graduated from Durango High School. They began racing in weekly events on the three-eighths-of-a-mile oval Bullring track at the speedway. Their father, Tom, who formerly drove on local tracks, schooled them in



Matt Kenseth celebrates his 2003 win on Victory Lane at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.



Las Vegas Kurt Busch (left) won more than \$5 million last year competing in NASCAR events. Far Left: More than 140,000 fans will catch the NASCAR action March 6-7 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway during the Sam's Town 300 and the UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400.

the art of racing, beginning with Dwarf Cars for Kurt at age 15 and Legend Cars for Kyle at age 13. Kurt, 25, who will race in the NASCAR 400-mile event, finished the 2003 season 11th in Winston Cup championship points with four wins and earnings of more than \$5 million.

Kyle, who turns 19 in May, signed to race for Hendrick Motorsports last year. Kyle will drive full-time in the Busch Series. He competed in five Busch races in 2003, finishing second at Lowes Motor Speedway in Charlotte, North Carolina, just 22 days after becoming eligible to race in NASCAR. Rules had prevented him from racing until he turned 18.

"This is really a fantastic opportunity for me," Kyle says. "It gives me the chance to race full-time with a proven race team, which is what I always dreamed about. And I'm really looking forward to racing before my hometown crowd," he says, referring to his Busch race Saturday and an attempt to qualify a NASCAR car for the big Sunday race.



Las Vegas Brendan Gaughan.



Kyle Busch, another Vegas driver.



Jeff Gordon is mobbed at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway by eager fans wanting an autograph and an opportunity to meet-and-greet the NASCAR star.

Gaughan, 28, earned Rookie of the Year honors in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series in 2002 and came within a hair (actually an accident) of winning the championship and nearly \$800,000 in 2003. Prior to his experience with Craftsman, the Georgetown University graduate had won five off-road championships and back-to-back NASCAR Winston West titles.

The seed to race was planted when, as a six-year-old, Gaughan watched his father, Michael, owner of the Coast Casinos in Las Vegas, compete in off-road races. However, at one time the elder Gaughan refused to

let his son race. "That lasted about a week," Brendan says. "When I first got involved in off-road racing, my dad had to drive me out to the races because I didn't have a driver's license. Of course, he's been my biggest booster along with Mom."

Gaughan and the Busch brothers, like all NASCAR drivers, go through a learning process, usually beginning with races at local tracks and eventually moving up to regional stock car series. For the novice spectator there's little difference between NASCAR Cup or Busch race cars. The big differences are in the size of the purse,

length of the race, and experience of the drivers. When both series are at the same track, such as the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, many drivers will compete both Saturday and Sunday.

On race day, astute spectators begin to arrive at the track even before the sun peeks over the horizon. Many will be setting up for tailgate parties. Race-team flags will be unfurled. The massive parking lots turn into miniature neighborhoods, where folks gather for pre-race and post-race parties. Some enterprising fans park

A Year of Racing

This year fans will take up weekend residency at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway during events offered at the Superspeedway, Bullring, Strip, and Dirt Track courses.

Races at the **Superspeedway** include the Sam's Town 300 (NASCAR Busch Series) on March 6, the UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400 (NASCAR Nextel Cup Series) on March 7, and a NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series event on September 25.

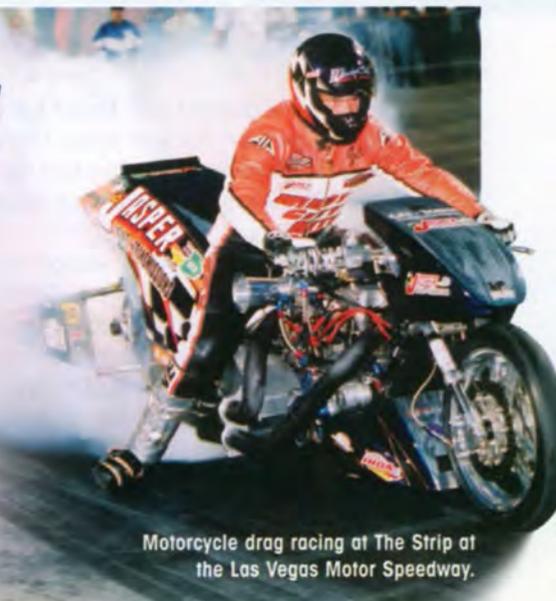
The **Dirt Track** presents the O'Reilly World of Outlaws on March 4-5 and November 5-6.

The **Bullring** has competitions from March 17 to September 18 featuring the big Super Late Models,

the Premier Series, and Legend Cars, which are five-eighths scale and provide drivers entry-level experience. The Night of Fire on July 2 offers racing and fireworks.

The **Strip** has weekly drag racing through October 9, including the street-legal Midnight Mayhem, an alternative to illegal street racing. A program for kids under 16 teaches them how to drag race. The Strip hosts the NHRA Summitracing.com Nationals on April 1-4 and the AC Delco Las Vegas Nationals on October 28-31.

—Ann Henderson



Motorcycle drag racing at The Strip at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.



NASCAR drivers Jeff Gordon, number 24, and Scott Winner, number 22, roar past race spectators.

Motor-home owners pay \$3,100 for a coveted space on "Gucci Row."

their party vehicles on Friday and leave them until Monday morning while sharing rides into town with fellow tailgaters.

There are other ways of getting to and from the speedway. Public buses make special nonstop runs beginning early Saturday morning from the downtown depot and locations on the Strip. Many hotels provide private bus transportation for guests. Of course, there is the more costly mode of transportation provided by Maverick Helicopters and other Las Vegas-based companies. "We pick our customers up at their hotel, fly them out to the track in the morning, and return them to the hotel that evening," says John Buch, director of sales for Maverick. The cost is \$319.

Race-weekend activity for competitors begins on Thursday, March 4, when more than 100 trucks hauling race cars and decorated with such names as Dale Jarrett, Dale Earnhardt Jr., and Tony Stewart arrive in the speedway parking lot. Another 200-plus semis, carrying merchandise and painted with logos of drivers or sponsors, will set up at the midway area outside the grandstands. One can purchase anything from a \$300 leather jacket (with logos) to

\$6 cufflinks at the midway. You can also have a photo taken sitting inside a race car, such as Jeff Gordon's No. 24.

Fans with motor homes begin to arrive from various points on the map about noon on Wednesday. These RVers pay from \$129 to \$249 for a spot with no extras outside the track (reservations are a must). Rates for parking a motor home inside the track range from \$550 to \$1,050 and include six grandstand tickets for Friday and Saturday plus wristbands for Sunday. The wristbands allow access to the infield and grandstand areas. The most preferred parking lot for a motor home is "Gucci Row" atop a small hill overlooking the back straightway. These limited spots rent for \$3,100 each.

New this year is the 22,000-individual-seat Earnhardt Terrace located above turn four. The multimillion-dollar edifice was named after seven-time Winston Cup champion Dale Earnhardt, who was killed while competing in the Daytona 500 in 2001. An annual pass for a seat in the Earnhardt Terrace costs \$333.

The speedway has consistently been a top draw for fans, drivers, and sponsors. Matt Kenseth, 31, who went on to win the 2003 NASCAR Winston Cup championship, registered his only win of the season in Las Vegas last year. Former Winston Cup champion Bill Elliott, 48, who recently announced he was cutting back the number of races he would compete in, said he would definitely make the March weekend. "There's no way I would miss racing at Las Vegas," Elliott says. "It's one track and city where I can have a good time." Shawna Robinson, 39, one of a handful of female drivers competing in NASCAR (with an all-girl pit crew) makes it a point to bring her Aaron's-sponsored

In the Driver's Seat

You can drive a race car or take a tour of the Las Vegas Motor Speedway thanks to programs that are offered by the following companies:

Derek Daly Academy: The driving experience and school uses Open-Wheel Formula Ford 2000 cars, which can reach up to 140 mph on a road course. Programs range from three laps to five days and cost \$100 to \$7,000. Call 888-GO-DEREK or visit www.derekdaly.com for information.

Driving 101: Get behind the wheel of a full-size, 600-horsepower Indy-style race car and drive at speeds up to 200 mph. Distances range from six to 66 laps and prices from \$75 to \$2,999. Call 702-651-6300 or 877-DRIVE101, or visit www.driving101.com for information.

Freddie Spencer Riding School: Two- and three-day advanced motorcycle riding classes are conducted on Honda CBR 600s. Costs are \$2,265 and \$2,845. A pro category is available for \$2,900. Call 888-672-7219 or visit www.fastfreddie.com for information.

Las Vegas Motor Speedway: One-hour guided tours of the 1,600-acre complex are offered every hour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Cost is \$8 adults and \$6 seniors, military, and Nevada residents. Call 702-644-4444 or visit www.lvms.com for information.

Richard Petty Driving Experience: Here's a chance to drive Nextel Cup stock cars at up to 160 mph. Distances range from eight to 80 laps, programs from a ride-a-long to rookie through advanced solo driving. Prices are \$99 to \$2,999. Call 702-643-4343 or 800-BE-PETTY, or visit www.1800BEPETTY.com for reservations and information.

—Ann Henderson

truck to the speedway for the annual Craftsman Truck race in September.

Each day after the race, smoke rises from the parking lot as barbecues are fired up and fans gather to relive the day, already making plans for next year's big NASCAR weekend in March.

Information: For tickets to Las Vegas' NASCAR races on March 6-7 call 702-644-4444 or visit www.lvms.com. See "In the Driver's Seat" and "A Year of Racing" for additional information. ▀

Norm Johnson is a former racer and a Las Vegas-based motorsports writer.

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NEVADA
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Photographic Memory

Each March photographers give it their best shot at Winnemucca's Shooting the West.

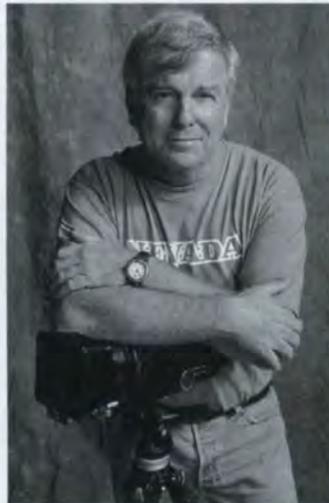
By C.J. Hadley

It's Saturday night at the Winnemucca Hotel, and Mike Olano Jr. is in the kitchen fixing a huge family-style dinner of oxtails, steak, and lamb stew while his dad, Mike Sr., stands behind the bar, mixing picon punches as fast as he can. It's an onslaught. Photographers from all over the West have converged on this Basque eatery to celebrate two days that have gone and a morning that is to come.

Marilyn Newton of the *Reno-Gazette Journal* is holding forth at the bar. Richard Menzies is entertaining a group with tales of driving to Winnemucca from Salt Lake City in his Volkswagen Campmobile. Ace technoid Larry Angier is using his Russian panoramic to get a photo of several dozen photographers grinning atop their picon punches.

And, after 15 years of Shooting the West, these are just the regulars.

Shooting the West, scheduled for March 12-14, began in 1988 as a workshop-refuge to allow photographers—from smooth pros to rank amateurs—to share their images and learn more about their craft. Founders Linda Dufurrena, a rancher and photographer, and Sheri



Richard Menzies (left) presents a retrospective, John O'Neill discusses wildflowers, and John Sexton focuses on black and white.

Shooting the West began in 1988 as a workshop-refuge for photographers to learn more about their craft.

Allen, the Humboldt County librarian, persuaded the Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority that the event would help boost tourism. They said, "With a little money to promote it, we think we can bring photographers in for a few days from all around the West."

It sounded far-fetched, but these two women, with the help of a valiant core of working volunteers, pulled it off. They

brought in the best in photography: William Albert Allard, Sam Abel, Annie Griffiths Belt, and Joel Sartore from *National Geographic*; Franz Lanting, one of the world's greatest wildlife photographers; George Lepp, a leader in digital photography; Galen Rowell with his extraordinary photos of Asia; and Richard Menzies, whose "Passing Through" photo show will appear at the Winnemucca





The group portrait in the Winnemucca Hotel is a Saturday-night ritual at Shooting the West. The author is standing on the bar between Marilyn Newton (left) and Larry Turner.

Attendees have the chance to sample Winnemucca's world-famous Basque saloons and restaurants.

gathering this March. So will this self-described hippie in the orange VW bus. If you can get next to Menzies, maybe some of that talent will rub off. If it doesn't, at least you'll be entertained.

Menzies will share the stage with such

luminaries as John Sexton of Carmel Valley, California, whose work has been featured on the CBS *Sunday Morning Show*, and Al Weber of Carmel, California, a former consultant for Polaroid, Kodak, and Hasselblad. Adam

Jahiel of Story, Wyoming, will share his wonderful photos of Great Basin cowboys. Other photographer-presenters include Deon Reynolds of Warren, Oregon, and John O'Neill of Carson Valley. Doug Keister, another regular, of Chico, California, will discuss new ways to archive your photos.

Shooting the West attendees shouldn't miss the slide shows, panel discussions, workshops, exhibits, and, lastly, the "Give It Your Best Shot" photo awards in the West Hall of the Winnemucca Convention Center. Some photographers go home with prize money in their pockets. As Menzies says, "All come away energized by what they've seen and heard." Everyone also has the chance to sample Winnemucca's world-famous Basque saloons and restaurants.

For further information on Shooting the West XVI, March 12-14, call the Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority, 800-962-2638, or visit www.winnemucca.nv.us. When you get there, try a picon punch, enjoy the photography, shoot a few images yourself, and don't forget to say hello to Linda, Sheri, Mike, and Mike. ♡



Event cofounder Linda Dufurrena took this photo of her granddaughter Julia at the sheep corrals in Lovely Valley.

C. J. Hadley will be a speaker at Shooting the West XVI in Winnemucca. She is publisher of Range Magazine and former publisher of Nevada Magazine.

The Sirens' Call

"The Sirens of TI" makes a sexy splash on the Las Vegas Strip.

By Ken Van Vechten



Sirens rule in the re-vamped sea battle at Treasure Island.

Odysseus and his men resisted the Sirens' lure with the help of wax and a length of rope. Several score centuries later, on a sea far, far removed from the ancient Aegean, another intrepid captain pilots his craft dangerously near the sea nymphs. Yet when the sirens' song and a squall scuttle his ship, the voyagers are neither drowned nor crushed on the rocks. They get to boogie with the ladies and perhaps play some roulette.

This latter-day odyssey is "The Sirens of TI," the splashy new sea battle at Treasure Island. With more Las Vegas entertainment appealing to grownups, TI has thrown out kiddy corn and the British captain but not the kitsch. It's now "Captain

TI has thrown out kiddy corn and the British captain but not the kitsch in "The Sirens of TI."

Mac" and his band of brigands engaging the alluring "Sin" and her crew of temptresses.

"The Sirens of TI" is a sexed up version of the tried-and-true pirate battle that for

10 years raged across the waters of Buccaneer Bay fronting the Strip. The show, which opened in October, incorporates most of the old hardware renamed and re-fashioned. This edition has flashier pyrotechnics and better lighting, sound, and water cannons, but don't be surprised if it is the new software that catches your eye (hubba, hubba).

"The Sirens of TI" plays fast and loose with the portals of time as square-rigged, cannon-bristling vessels confront the sirens of Greek lore in a Caribbean-esque harbor with the action set to a searing nightclub rhythm. Call it Melville meets Homer (not Simpson) meets Mariah Carey, or maybe the movie Russell Crowe

really wanted to make, *Master, Commander, and Minotaur*. The battle at Treasure Island erupts following the requisite taunts, which are more risqué than those exchanged by the pirates and the British in the previous version. When stuff blows up and a ship sinks, the show doesn't end. Rather, it further erupts, with pirates and sirens lighting up the deck of the appropriately named *Song*—the pirate vessel is the *Bull*—with high-energy, live lyrics, and dance. It's an oceanic bacchanal.

Tabbatha Mays is one of the many lovely sirens. Experienced in short films and the stage, she moved to Nevada from the City of Angels after being offered a role in the production.

"I've lived all over, and Vegas is growing in all ways," Mays says. "This show is an example of how entertainment in Vegas has evolved. It has stunts, beautiful women, great music, sensuality, and athleticism." And for those on the distaff side she could have added that the pirates aren't exactly potbellied slouches.

The troupe consists of 21 sirens and 17 pirates. Each show features a cast of 13 women and 11 men, and every one is an athlete, actor, dancer, or singer. Eight pirates carried over from the earlier iteration, and a ninth is now a technician.

When "Sirens" opened, the show ran 30 minutes. Within a month six minutes were lopped off, and if a few more sweeps of the clock hand have been shaved since this article went to print, it's not going to hurt the production. "Sirens" is evocative of both continuity and change and the continued tradition of providing Las Vegas' most extravagant free spectacle.

Is "The Sirens of TI" a bit over the top? Sure. But that's all right. This is Las Vegas, and from day one it's always been about myth-making.

Show Notes

"The Sirens of TI" can be seen at 6, 8, and 10 nightly from Treasure Island's boardwalk on the Las Vegas Strip. The show is free. For more comfortable viewing, spectators can pay \$5 to watch the show from the Battle Bar on the outside deck. The price includes a drink. There is a VIP area for hotel guests. For information call 702-894-7111 or visit www.treasureisland.com. Live Web cams in Siren's Cove present a preview of the show on viewers' home computers. 📺

Ken Van Vechten is a Riverside, California, freelance writer.

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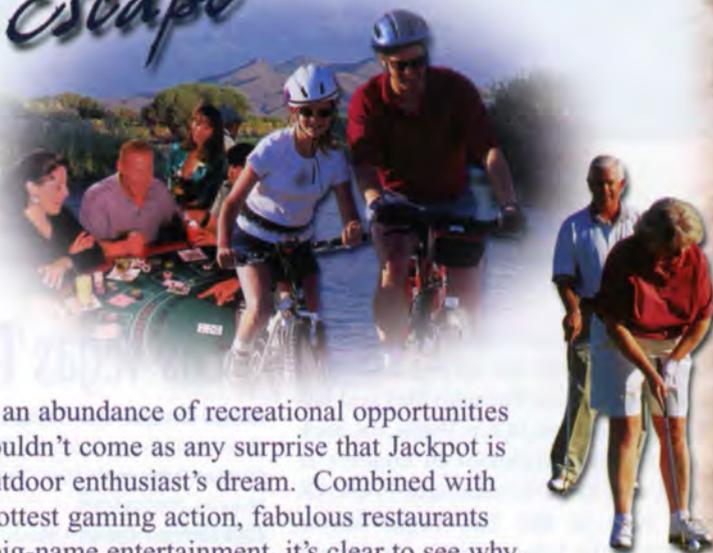
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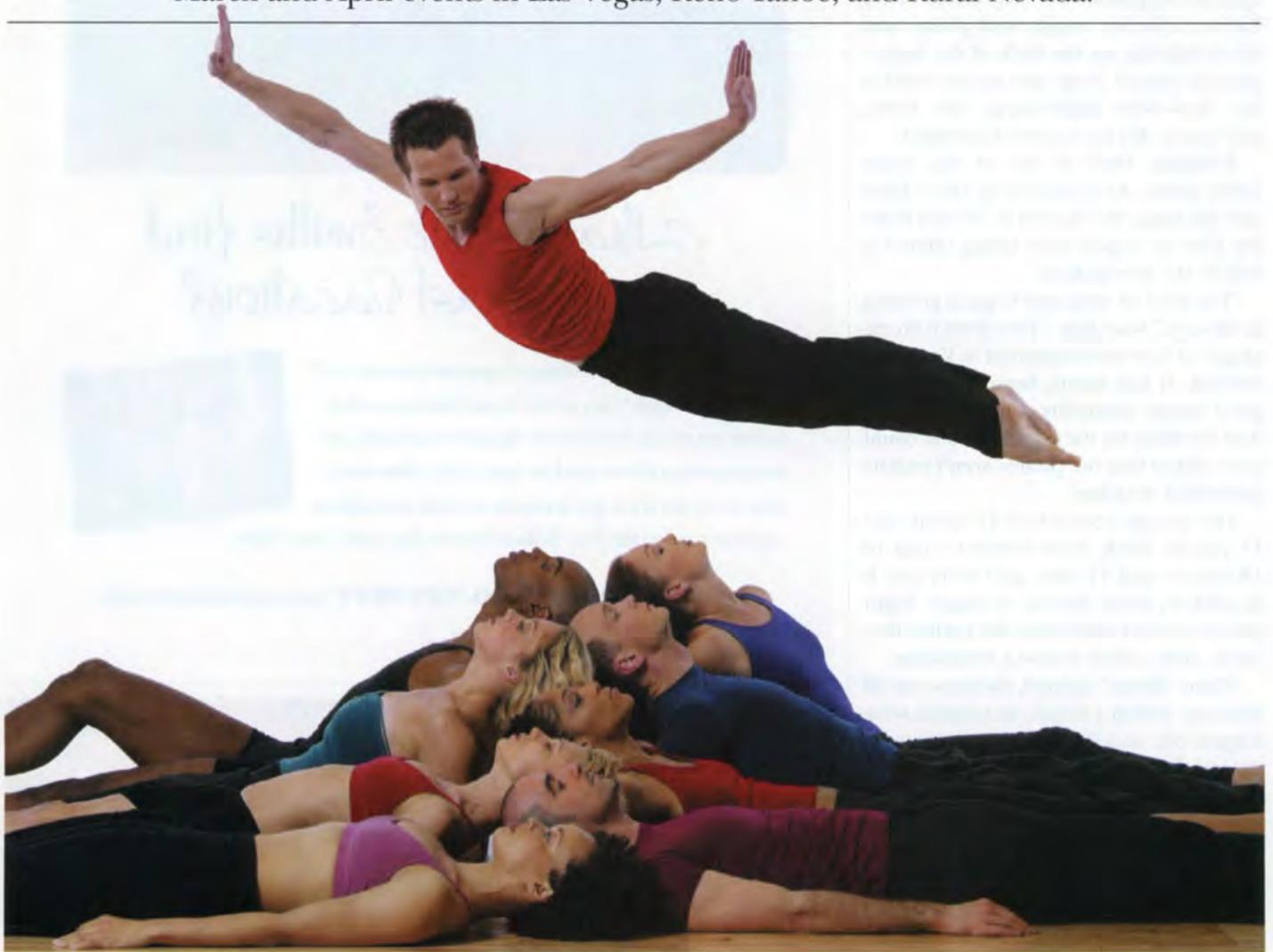
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Nevada Events

March and April events in Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe, and Rural Nevada.



Leap of Faith

The Parsons Dance Company, known for its athleticism, high energy, and humor, will perform April 16 at UNLV's Artemus Ham Hall in Las Vegas. The company's choreographer, David Parsons, has choreographed more than four dozen contemporary works.

Nevada communities and casinos offer a variety of events this spring, including Irish feasts on St. Patrick's Day and lavish Easter brunches. In Las Vegas, the rock group Metallica performs in concert at Thomas and Mack Center, and NASCAR drivers race at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Lake Tahoe visitors can attend North Tahoe's Snow Festival, South Tahoe's Big Chill, and SledFest 2004, a celebration of all things snowmobile. The Celtic group Battlefield Band appears in Elko and Henderson. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following events and celebrations for March and April. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and details.

Las Vegas Territory

- National Collegiate Cheerleading Championships** • Feb. 29-March 1 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 800-886-4872.
- Blackjack Tournament** • March 1 • \$10 buy-in. Oasis Resort, Mesquite, 800-21-OASIS.
- CCSN Orchestra Concert** • March 1 • Selections from the Baroque and classical periods. Nicholas Horn Theater, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.
- Slot Tournament** • March 2 • \$10 buy-in. Virgin River, Mesquite, 800-346-7721.
- American Heroes Speaker: Bob Dowding** • March 2 • His book, *A Few Survived*, recounts his days as a POW during WWII. A POW reunion is planned March 1-3. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

- "Emerald Eagle"** • March 3-7 • Premiere of Jim Moran's play about a skydiver reflecting on his life. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.
- Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra** • March 4 • Composers Chopin and Tchaikovsky, and pianist Navah Perlman featured. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.
- World of Outlaws** • March 4-5 • Dirt track racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.
- NASCAR Nextel Pole Day** • March 5 • Pre-race competition. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.
- UNLV Opera and Symphony Orchestra** • March 5-7 • Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.
- Pioneer's \$25,000 Blackjack Tournament** • March 5-7 • Pioneer Hotel, Laughlin, 800-634-3469.
- "Come Blow Your Horn"** • March 5-7, 11-14 • Comedy

centers on a father's relationship with his two sons. Black Box Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.

Dam Dance • March 6 • 31st annual square and round dance festival. Boulder City Recreation Center, Boulder City, 702-451-1288.

Cheerleading Competition • March 6 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 972-840-4037.

Henderson Drum Fest • March 6 • Performances and audience participation in drum circles, workshops, and discussions. Henderson Pavilion, Henderson, 702-267-4849.

Sandstone Canyon Hike • March 6 • Three-hour, moderate to strenuous hike. Long pants and hiking shoes advised. Bring water and lunch. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Native American Arts

The history and artistry of Indian crafts and cultures are celebrated April 2-4 during the Invitational Native American Arts Festival at the Clark County Museum in Henderson.

Sam's Town 300/NASCAR Busch Series • March 6 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400/NASCAR Nextel Cup Series • March 7 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Jazz Ensemble III Concert • March 8 • Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Catch the Royal Video Poker Tournament • March 10 • \$25 buy-in. CasaBlanca, Mesquite, 800-459-PLAY.

Big Bucks Slot Tournament • March 11-14 • Pioneer Hotel, Laughlin, 800-634-3469.

Newport Jazz Festival 50th Anniversary Tour • March 12 • Performers include Terence Blanchard, Cedar Walton, and Peter Washington. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

"It Ain't All Confetti" • March 12-14, 19-21 • Comedian Rip Taylor stars. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Todd Green • March 13 • One-man orchestra on string, flute, and percussion instruments. Black Mountain Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-267-4849.

Metallica/Godsmack • March 13 • Concert. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Cornhusk Dolls • March 13 • Children's program includes a tour and refreshments. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Gun and Knife Show • March 13-14 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 563-927-8176.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration • March 13-17 • Music, food, pool, darts in Murphy's Irish Pub. The Irish Rovers appear in the showroom. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

Nevada Territory Map

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

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

\$1 Million Slot Tournament III • March 15 • Monthly qualifying tournament for the finals on April 10. Paris Las Vegas, Las Vegas, 702-946-7000.

American Heroes Program: Andrew Anderson • March 16 • WWII and Korean veteran. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

2004 Gaither Homecoming • March 17 • Concert. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Jazz Ensemble Concert • March 18 • Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

\$1 Million Blackjack Tournament II • March 18-20 • Monthly qualifying tournament for the finals May 13-15. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 702-732-5111.

Cruise Night • March 19 • All years, makes, and models welcome. Location TBA, Las Vegas, 702-643-0000.

Glass Craft and Bead Expo • March 19-21 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 702-734-0070.

Las Vegas Philharmonic • March 20 • An evening with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Performance includes the debut performance by the Las Vegas Philharmonic Chorus. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-258-5438.

Hector Pimentel and Ensemble • March 20 • Spanish classical guitarist plays Nuevo Flamenco music for dancers. Henderson Pavilion, Henderson, 702-267-4849.

A Soldier's Life • March 20 • Historical program on the Civil War. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Monster Jam World Finals 2004 • March 20 • Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

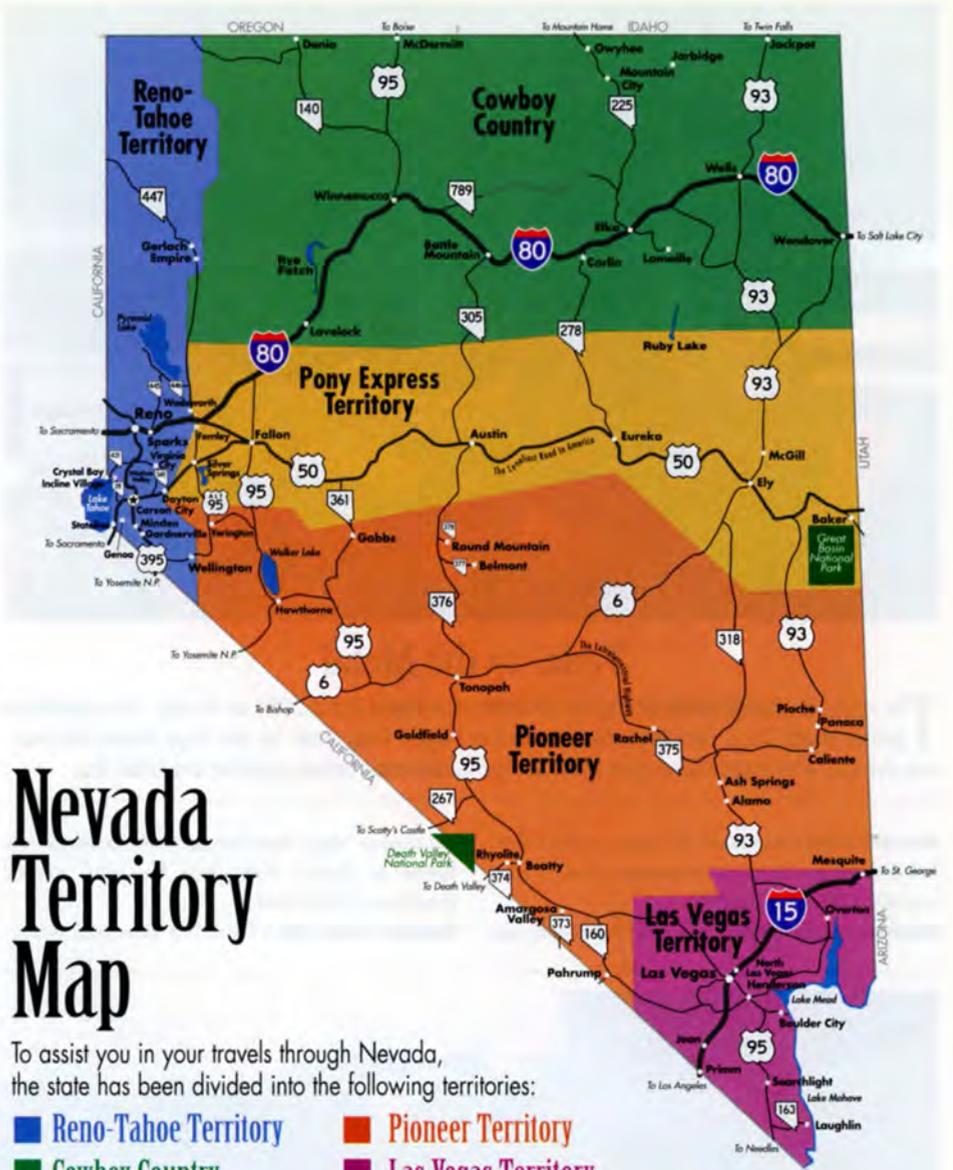
Ten Minute Play Festival • March 24-28 • Paul Harris Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Sir James Galway • March 26 • Classical flute performance. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

"Classic Crossings" • March 26-28 • Classical and contemporary ballet features Korean choreographer James Jeon. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Spring Gift and Craft Festival and Easter Egg Hunt • March 26-28 • Entertainment, Hawaiian dance group, balloonists, clowns, and dance and school recital competitions. Location TBA, 702-568-7109.

Kelly Clarkson and Clay Aiken • March 27 • Concert. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.



Nevada Events & Shows
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Pedal to the Metal

The action is unpredictable during the Monster Jam World Finals 2004 as the top 16 competitors gather March 20 at Sam Boyd Stadium in Las Vegas. Fans cheer for the huge trucks and fearless drivers, who make 180-degree turns and jump obstacles before crossing the finish line.

Astronomy at Red Rock • March 27 • Night viewing 6-9pm. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-515-5350.

Henderson Civic Symphony • March 28 • Young artist con-

cert features "Magic Flute Overture" and "Variations on a Theme by Haydn. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-267-4849.

Sandstone Canyon Hike • March 28 • Three-hour, moder-

ate to strenuous hike. Long pants and hiking shoes advised. Bring water and lunch. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

American Muscle Car Show • March 28 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Two For One Slot Tournament • March 31-April 1 • \$139 fee for two entries. Paris Las Vegas, Las Vegas, 702-946-7000.

Laughlin River Stampede • March 31-April 4 • Rodeo with more than \$225,000 in prize money. Event includes Stampede Cowboy Poker Game and rodeo displays. Laughlin Events Center, Laughlin, 800-227-5245.

NHRA Summitracing.com Nationals • April 1-4 • Drag racing. The Strip, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Big League Weekend • April 2-3 • Exhibition major-league baseball games between the Texas Rangers and Colorado Rockies. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 702-798-7825.

The Great Las Vegas Craft Show • April 2-4 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 805-481-7100.

Buffalo Bills 400 • April 2-4 • Truck and buggy off-road race. 43 miles south of Las Vegas on Interstate 15, Primm, 702-452-4522.

Invitational Native American Arts Festival • April 2-4 • 15th annual event features arts, crafts, demonstrations, dance, music, lectures, films, and Native American foods. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Three-Card Poker Tournament • April 2-4 • Pioneer Hotel, Laughlin, 800-634-3469.

"Tales From Hans Christian Anderson" • April 2-4, 8-11 • Rainbow Company Youth Theatre's adaptation. Reed Whipple Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Battlefield Band • April 3 • Ancient and modern Celtic in-

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Heavy Duty

Fans who remember the good old days as the '80s and '90s can relive the music when Metallica performs March 13 at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas. The heavy metal band is touring with Godsmack.

struments and vocals. Henderson Pavilion, Henderson, 702-267-4849.

"On the Divide: Stories of Willa Cather" • April 3 • Oscar winner Eva Marie Saint and her husband, Jeffrey Hayden, portray the life and words of Pulitzer Prize winner Willa Cather and her stories of pioneer experiences. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Sandstone Canyon Hike • April 3-4 • Three-hour, moderate to strenuous hike. Long pants and hiking shoes advised. Bring water and lunch. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

\$1 Million Blackjack Tournament II • April 8-10 • Monthly qualifying tournament for the finals May 13-15. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 702-732-5111.

Clark County Fair and Rodeo • April 8-11 • PRCA rodeo, carnival, and concerts featuring Blackhawk and Ricochet. Clark County Fairgrounds, Logandale, 702-398-3247.

River Rick's Video Poker Tournament • April 9-11 • Pioneer Hotel, Laughlin, 800-634-3469.

Empresa Frias • April 10 • Latin dance. Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 714-835-0216.

\$1 Million Slot Tournament III • April 10 • Finals. Paris Las Vegas, Las Vegas, 702-946-7000.



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Jug Band Music

The Juggernaut Jug Band drags out the washboards, washtubs, kazoos, and jugs for a jazz and blues concert April 24 at the outdoor Henderson Pavilion. Members of the band are (from left) the Amazing Mr. Fish, Roscoe Goose, Smiley Habenero, and Big Daddy T.

LPGA Takefuji Classic • April 12-17 • The 144-player, 54-hole tournament for women pros on the LPGA Tour has a total purse of \$1.1 million. Las Vegas Country Club, Las Vegas, 702-898-GOLF.

American Heroes Museum: Ray Hernandez • April 13 • Vietnam War veteran. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

Nevada Pedestrian and Bicycle Conference • April 13-15 • Sessions cover design, advocacy, enforcement, communities, and education. Location TBA, Las Vegas, 775-888-7433.

Catch the Royal Video Poker Tournament • April 14 • \$25 buy-in. CasaBlanca, Mesquite, 800-459-PLAY.

Community Band Concert • April 14 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Parsons Dance Company • April 16 • Modern dance performance. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Spy Kids • April 16 • Movie Madness Series features free movie. Bring your own picnic basket. Eldorado Park, North

Las Vegas, 702-633-1612 for further series information.

Cruise Night • April 16 • Car dealer's classic cars on display, with free hot dogs and drinks. Fairway Chevrolet, Las Vegas, 702-643-0000.

"Floyd Collins" • April 16-18 and 21-25 • Bluegrass musical. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

"Sweeney Todd" • April 16-18 and 23-25 • A tale of revenge in 19th-century London. Nicholas Horn Theater, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.

Candle Making • April 17 • Learn pioneer techniques and what it was like to travel to Las Vegas in the 1800s. Event includes a tour and refreshments. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Regional Dance Competition • April 17 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 208-939-2015.

Wildflowers of Valley of Fire • April 17 • Guided tour from 1-3pm in search of wildflowers. Ask at the Visitor Center for directions to Mouse's Tank. Valley of Fire State Park, 51 miles north of Las Vegas via I-15, 702-875-4141.

"Matilda" • April 17 • Deaf and hearing actors create the adventures and supernatural powers of Matilda. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-267-4849.

Jerry's Nugget Championship Drag Racing Series • April 17 • Points race. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Red Rock Day • April 17 • Volunteers pitch in to spruce up the canyon. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-515-5350.

Living History: Spinning and Weaving • April 18 • Demonstrations on the pioneer art. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

UNLV Symphony Orchestra Concert • April 20 • Concerto competition. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Slot Tournament • April 21-22 • \$99 entry. Bally's, Las Vegas, 702-739-4111.

Slot Tournament • April 21-22 • \$139 entry. Paris Las Vegas, Las Vegas, 702-946-7000.

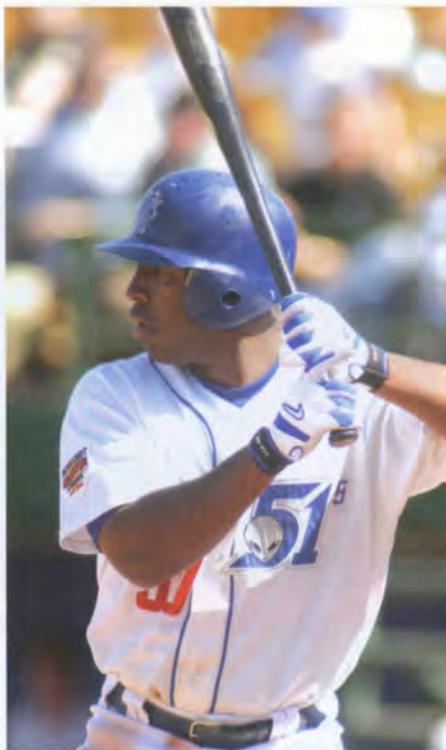
Laughlin River Run • April 21-25 • More than 60,000 motorcycle enthusiasts gather for stunt shows, Harley-Davidson trade show, custom bike show, Miss River Run contest, and motorcycle poker run. Citywide event, Laughlin, 800-357-8223.

POCA Las Vegas Fun Rally • April 21-25 • Street display of Pantera automobiles on Fremont Street from 10am-4pm April 24. Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas, 909-305-8004.

Slot Tournament • April 22 • \$10 buy-in Virgin River, Mesquite, 800-346-7721.

Symphonic Winds Concert • April 22 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Invitational Choral Festival • April 23 • Artemus Ham Hall,



Batter Up

Second baseman Joe Thurston of the Las Vegas 51s steps up to the plate at Cashman Field. Thurston was named the Los Angeles Dodgers' Minor League Player of the Year in 2002.

UNLV, Las Vegas, 7092-895-ARTS for more information.

Juggernaut Jug Band • April 24 • Jazz, blues, ragtime, and swing concert on washboards, jugs, washtubs, and kazoos. Henderson Pavilion, Henderson, 702-267-4849.

City of Lights Jazz Festival • April 24 • Past headliners have included the Jazz Crusaders and Norman Brown. See www.mspjazz.com for 2004 lineup. Desert Breeze Park, Las Vegas, 425-875-0808.

Astronomy Day • April 24 • Day-long activities and night-viewing 6-9pm. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-515-5350.

Festival of Nations • April 24 • Food and costumed ethnic dancers. Clark County Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-451-7924.

Arohi Ensemble • April 24 • Music based on the rhythms of India, Africa, Middle East, and Eastern Europe. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Boulder City Fine Arts Festival • April 24-25 • More than 140 artists are featured. Event includes a classic car show, food, drink, ice cream, and Dam Rod Run. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

Wildlife Program • April 24-25 • Rangers explain park wildlife. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Jazz Ensemble Concert • April 27 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Ho-Waiian Luau \$150,000 Slot Tournament • April 28-May 1 • Westward Ho, Las Vegas, 800-223-1709.

Wind Orchestra Concert • April 29 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Mesquite Days • April 29-May 1 • 20th anniversary celebration includes a parade, carnival, and food. Citywide,

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ONGOING EVENTS

Events are color coded according to territory (see map in "Nevada Events").

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

Art Shows and Exhibits

Abstract Reflections: Thru March 2. Sculptor and abstract expressionist Thaddeus Foster's exhibit is part of African American Heritage Month. Sahara West Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3630.

Modbroads: Irreverent Reflections on Modern Femininity: Thru March 2. Touring exhibit of Elisabeth Shurtleff's satirical collages. West Charleston Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3940.

Simple.tech: Thru March 5. Guest curator Joseph Delappe. Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6658.

The Many Sides of Cotti: Thru March 6. Watercolors range from flowers to African and Native American subjects. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Susan Taber Avila: Thru March 7. Fabric and stitching medium. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4674.

Death Valley Is Alive: Thru March 12. Traveling exhibit tells the story of Death Valley today. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

Alan Bell: Thru March 14. Paintings of architecture. Sunrise Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

African American Heritage Month: Thru March 16. Painter Harold Bradford's recent works. West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3980.

Art at the College: Thru March 20. Boulder City Art Guild exhibition. Community College of Southern Nevada, Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

Fascinating Amaryllis: Thru March 21. Vija Hamilton's mixed media show on the life cycle of a flower. Enterprise Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3760.

All Fired Up: A Contemporary Ceramics Experience: thru March 21. Collection features works by 11 artists. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4674.

Pictorial Space: Thru March 23. Acrylic works by Dolores Nast. Whitney Library, Las Vegas, 702-452-1022.

Vintage Racers: Speeding Through Time: Thru March 26. Restored race cars. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Nevada Camera Club: Thru March 28. Photo exhibition. Clark County Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-



The *Empire*, which ran on the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, is one of the 16 models crafted by George L. Richardson and exhibited during 2004 in "Locomotive Stories of the V&T" at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City.

3400 for further Nevada Camera Club information.

Lost City Museum Art: Thru March 31. Paintings on exhibit. Lost City Museum, Overton, 702-397-2193.

An International Legacy: Selections from the Carnegie Museum of Art: Thru April 4. Touring show of 48 works covers 30 years of artistic styles. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.

Whimsical Wildlife and More: Thru April 6. Watercolor illustrations by Las Vegas artist Karen Wheeler based on puns. Spring Valley Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3820.

Rodeo Action in Clark County Through the Eye of the Camera: Thru April 11. Exhibition by photographer Joe Chernicoff. Rainbow Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3710.

Botero Posters and Contemporary Latin American Art: Thru April 18. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Don Lytton Touring Exhibit: Thru April 25. Las Vegas photographer's favorite images of weathered buildings. Green Valley Library, Henderson, 702-507-3790.

From Renoir to Rothko: Thru May 2. Works from the late 19th century through the 1960s. Guggenheim Hermitage Museum, Venetian, Las Vegas, 702-414-2107.

Asian Art Now 2004: Thru June 19. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

100 Years of Nevada History: Frontiers Revisited: Thru June 20. Nevada Historical Society's 100th anniversary exhibit. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

Celebration of Basketweaving: Thru June 20. Forty baskets and 20 photographs represent the

role of the art among Arizona's Native Americans. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955 for further exhibition information.

Occupied Space: Connecting Artists With Public Spaces: Thru June. Collection of paintings, drawings, ceramics, photography, and sculpture. East Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

Locomotive Stories of the V&T: Thru Dec. Exhibit features models of Virginia and Truckee Railroad locomotives, photographs, and artifacts. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Whales: Thru Dec. Scale models, live sharks in a 3,000-gallon tank, and shark egg hatchery highlight the exhibit. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-384-DINO.

Tireless and Unremitting: The Chinese and Nevada's Railroads: Thru Jan. 2006. Explores the relationship of Chinese immigrants with the railroad and other aspects of their culture and daily life in Nevada. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Women's History: March 2-April 27. Keepsakes, journals, boxes, and collages. Summerlin Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Vintage Quilt Display: March 2-April 30. Collection includes a quilt more than 100 years old. Sparks Heritage Museum, Sparks, 775-355-1144.

Jonnie Andersen: March 4-April 13. Photo exhibit. West Charleston Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

John Mason: March 15-April 13. Sculpture exhibition. Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6658.

The 1950s: Cold War, Hot Cars: March 15-Sept. 27. Display of the political and social aspects with photos of the Nevada Test Site by Peter Goin and a fallout shelter. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

David Robertson Photographic Works: March 16-April 15. Stillwater Hall Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

James Ransome: March 18-May 4. African American illustrator. West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Robin Stark: March 23-May 2. Ceramic tiles exhibition. Enterprise Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Cover Me: March 25-April 22. Quilts by Rachel Bruner. Marjorie Barrick Museum, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-3381

Town of Gardnerville's 125th Birthday: April 5-Sept. 22. The history of the Carson Valley community. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

The Record-Courier's 100th Anniversary: April 5-Indf. Permanent exhibit celebrates the newspaper's coverage of the Carson Valley. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

Year of the Basket: April 21-Sept. 1. Focus on Indian basket makers of North America. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

Spirit: June 24-Sept. 11. Works by Frederick Hart. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Music, Lectures, Tours

Goldfield Historical Firehouse and Museum: Antique equipment on display weekends from 10am-4pm. Firehouse was built in 1908. Goldfield, 775-485-6303.

Free Concerts: Tues.-Sat. at the Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777

Monthly Wednesday Railroad Lecture: March 10, April 14, May 12. Program on railroad history. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Hidden Cave Tours: March 13 and 27 April 10 and 24, May 8 and 22. Guided tour of Hidden Cave archaeological site includes self-guided tour of Grimes Point petroglyph site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon. Confirm tour dates, 775-423-3677

Sporting Events

Drag Racing at the Strip: Thru Oct. 9. Weekly events include Midnight Mayhem alternative to street racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Top Gun Raceway Drag Racing Season: March-

Nov. NHRA, pro, amateur, and circuit competitions. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.

UNR Men's Basketball: The Wolf Pack plays March 4 vs. Hawaii, March 6 vs. San Jose State. Lawlor Events Center, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6900.

UNLV Men's Basketball: The Runnin' Rebels play March 6 vs. BYU. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Las Vegas Gladiators: The Arena Football League Western Division team plays March 14 vs. Arizona Rattlers, April 4 vs. Chicago Rush, April 25 vs. Detroit Fury, May 2 vs. Indiana Firebirds, May 16 vs. San Jose Saber Cats, May 30 vs. Columbus Destroyers. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Racing at the Bullring: March 17-Sept. 18. Weekly competitions feature cars such as Super Late Models and Legend Cars. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Las Vegas Wranglers: The West Coast Hockey League team plays March 19-20 vs. Idaho Steelheads, March 26 vs. Fresno Falcons, March 27 vs. Bakersfield Condors, March 30 vs. Idaho Steelheads, April 2 vs. Anchorage Aces. Orleans Arena, Las Vegas, 702-471-PUCK.

Las Vegas 51s Baseball: The Los Angeles Dodgers AAA team plays April 8-11 vs. Portland Beavers, April 12-15 vs. Tacoma Rainiers, April 24-27 vs. Sacramento Wild Cats, May 3-6 vs. Tucson Sidewinders, May 11-14 vs. New Orleans Zephyrs, May 15-18 vs. Oklahoma City Red Hawks, May 28-31 vs. Tacoma Rainiers, June 1-4 vs. Edmonton Trappers, June 14-17 vs. Portland Beavers, June 18-21 vs. Edmonton Trappers, July 1-3 vs. Fresno Grizzlies, July 8-11 vs. Salt Lake City Stingers, July 19-22 vs. Tucson Sidewinders, July 23-26 vs. Sacramento Wild Cats, Aug. 5-8 vs. Memphis Red Birds, Aug. 9-11 vs. Nashville Sounds, Aug. 25-29 vs. Fresno Grizzlies, Sept. 3-6 vs. Salt Lake City Stingers. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 702-798-7825.

El Capitan Annual Fishing Derby: Thru April 30. Biggest fish caught at Walker Lake wins monthly prize money. El Capitan, Hawthorne, 775-945-3321 ext. 239

Lahontan Auto Racing Association Season: May-Oct. Oval dirt track racing. Rattlesnake Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-7483.

Farmer's Markets

Boulder City Farmer's Market: Thursdays. Bicentennial Park, 702-293-5933.

Henderson Farmer's Market: Thursdays. Water Street, Henderson, 702-565-2181

Las Vegas Farmer's Market: Tuesdays at Gardens Park in Summerlin, Wednesdays at Bruce Trent Park. Las Vegas, 702-562-CORN for further farmer's market information.

Mesquite, 702-346-2902 for further event information.

Nitro at Night Good-Guys • April 30 • Dragster qualifying competition. The Strip, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Choral Ensembles Concert • April 30 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Tastes and Tunes • April 30-May 1 • Music, food, arts, crafts celebrate diversity. Cinco de Mayo theme on Fri., multicultural on Sat. City Hall, North Las Vegas, 702-633-1612.

"A View From The Bridge" • April 30-May 1 and May 5-8 • Nevada Conservatory Theatre presentation of Arthur Miller's play about betrayal. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Las Vegas Home Improvement and Decorating Show • April 30-May 2 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 760-720-7181.

THQ World Supercross GP Finals • May 1 • Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

North Tahoe Snow Festival • Feb. 27-March 7 • Feb. 27: Opening ceremonies, fireworks, party, and dance. Feb. 28: Mardi Gras in the Mountains Parade, Polar Bear Swim. Feb. 29: Monster Dawg Pull, Sunnyside Resort luau. March 1: Mardi Gras party. March 2: Pro Patrollers Ski Race. March 3: Fastest bartender contest. March 4: John Moors Memorial Pool Tourney. March 5: Tricycle races. March 6: Dress-Up-Your-Dog-Contest, Kiddie Kapers Parade. March 7: The Great Ski Race, Nike ACG U.S. National Snowshoe Championships. North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-5605.

Pot O' Gold Slot Tournament • March 1-3 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Reno Philharmonic Concert • March 2 • Composers Wagner, Ravel, Davies, and Schumann are featured. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.

Doing Your Family Genealogy • March 2 • Workshop of re-

Strictly Fresh

Shoppers will find fresh produce, arts, crafts, and entertainment in farmer's markets in Boulder City, Henderson, and Las Vegas year-round. Look for others in Carson City, Carson Valley, Fallon, and Sparks to open by early summer.

searching roots. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

Pro Patrol Race • March 2 • Ski patrol teams from different resorts compete. Event starts with the Tahoe Taco Feed. Homewood Mountain Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-525-2992.

Blackjack Tournament • March 2 • \$20 buy-in. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-882-1626.

Chance at a Mil Blackjack Tournament • March 2 • Siena Hotel, Reno, 800-339-6051.

"Just So" • March 3-7 • Musical based on Rudyard Kipling's fables. Redfield Theatre, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

UNR Chamber Orchestra Concert • March 4 • Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Squaw Valley Challenge • March 4, 18, April 17 • Recreational ski race series. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Chris Proctor • March 4-5 • Classical guitar concert. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0433.

Full Moon Snowmobile Tour • March 4-6 • Northstar-at-

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Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-2267 for more information.

Expression Session • March 5 • Snowboarder and skier competition. Boreal Mountain Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-3666.

Invitational Pai Gow Tournament • March 5-7 • Eldorado, Reno, 775-786-5700.

Tribe Tahoe • March 5-8 • Black gay and lesbian weekend event includes a barbecue, snowball, ski race, and concert. Embassy Suites and Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, www.tribetravelandevents.com.

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert • March 6 • Cellist Torleif Thedeen is featured. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-348-9413.

"Hansel and Gretel" • March 6 • Missoula Children's Theatre presentation. Incline Village High School, Incline Village, 530-546-4602.

Full Moon Snowshoe and Nordic Tour • March 6 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-2267.

Sugar Bowl Ski Club Eagle Race • March 6 • Giant slalom race. Sugar Bowl Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-9000.

Last Tracks • March 6, 13, 20, 27 • Apres-ski wine-tasting in the Snowflake Lodge. Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Incline Village, 775-832-1177.

Spring Fling Slot Tournament • March 6-7 • \$100 entry. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Millionaire Maker Slot Tournament • March 6-7 • Harrah's Reno, Reno, 800-HARRAHS.

Celebrity Special Olympics • March 6-7 • Heavenly Ski Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

MS Society Ski-A-Thon • March 7 • Fundraiser for multiple sclerosis. Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Incline Village, 775-832-1177.

Women in History: Weaving Our Colorful History • March 7 • A reception and permanent exhibit honor Carson Valley women. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

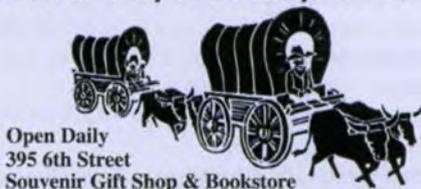
Comstock Celtic Celebration and Parade • March 7 • St.

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Happy Birthday

The Town of Gardnerville marks its 125th anniversary and the *Record-Courier* newspaper its centennial with exhibits opening April 5 at the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center in Gardnerville.

Patrick's Day party. C Street, Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Lake Tahoe Gay and Lesbian Winterfest • March 7-14 • Multiple venues, South Lake Tahoe, 877-777-4950.

Kirkwood Special Olympics • March 8-11 • Kirkwood Ski Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.

Jazz and Poetry • March 9 • Vocalist Sheryl Adams performs with the 17-piece Mile High Jazz Band. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

Toshiko Akiyoshi Quartet • March 11 • Grammy-nominated pianist, composer, and conductor. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

\$100,000 Bucks and Benz Slot Giveaway Weekend • March 11-15 • Eldorado, Reno, 775-786-5700.

Nevada Opera • March 12 • Touring production presentation. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0433.

Luck of the Irish Blackjack Tournament • March 12-14 • Siena Hotel, Reno, 800-339-6051.

Physicians Spouses Rummage Sale • March 13 • 53rd annual event offering everything from white elephant items to antiques. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-829-1303.

Snowbomb.com Sick and Twisted Slopestyle Contest • March 13 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-1010.
Virginia City Mountain Oyster Fry • March 13 • Prizes awarded for the best Rocky Mountain oysters. Bucket of Blood Saloon parking lot, Virginia City, 775-847-0311.
Puttin' on the Ritz • March 13 • Music, appetizers, wine, and silent auction. St. Gall's Community Hall, Gardnerville, 775-782-3416.
St. Patrick's Day Irish Buffet • March 13 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711.
\$20,000 Spring Tri-Game-A-Thon • March 13 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711.
\$100,000 Bingo Blowout • March 13 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177.

Got Stamina?

On March 20, Nordic skiers will test themselves in the Echo to Kirkwood Tour and Race, a 14-mile point-to-point trek from Echo Summit near South Lake Tahoe across the Sierra Crest to Kirkwood.

Cowboy Poetry and Jubilee • March 13 • 10th annual show includes poets Paul Zarzyski and Sourdough Slim and musicians Don Edwards, John McClain, and Paul Carelli. Community Center, Carson City, 800-NEVADA-1.

Sierra Ski Classic • March 13-14 • Corporate ski competition involving more than 100 Fortune 500 companies. Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-544-7551.

Top O' the Mornin' Fun Run/Walk • March 14 • Event includes a costume contest for the best-dressed leprechaun. Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-353-7815.

Great Chef's Race • March 16 • Lake Tahoe restaurants compete in skiing and cooking event. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-2288.

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

St. Patrick's Day Four Leaf Clover Hunt • March 17 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-1010.

Lake Tahoe's Big Chill • March 18-28 • Winter carnival events include U.S. Freestyle National Championship, barbecue, karaoke competitions, and an appearance by George Thorogood and the Destroyers. Lake Tahoe casinos, Stateline, 800-786-82-08.

World Poker Challenge IV • March 18-April 1 • World Poker Tour event requires \$200 buy-in. Winner receives paid entry into the tour championship. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Dice Challenge Tournament • March 19-20 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

\$15,000 Keno Tournament • March 19-21 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177.

\$70,000 Winner Takes All Slot Tournament • March 19-21 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177.

Sugar Bowl Ski Team, Inter-Squad Race, and Steep and Deep Freeride Event • March 20 • Private race open to spectators. Ski area also hosts the Tiki Cup, which features dancers, flame-throwers, food, and canoes filled with mai tais. Sugar Bowl Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-9000.

San Francisco 49er Celebrity Ski Classic • March 20 • Football players and Olympic medalists compete for charity. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-7188.

Echo to Kirkwood Tour and Race • March 20 • 14-mile point-to-point trek beginning at Echo Summit and crossing the Sierra Crest to Kirkwood. Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski

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Dummy Downhill • March 20 • Contestants build contraptions to launch on a huge jump. The crazier the better. Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Incline Village, 775-832-1177.

Keno Tournament • March 20-21 • Harrah's Reno, Reno, 800-HARRAHS.

Woodwind Quintet Concert • March 22 • Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Blackjack Tournament • March 23 • Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-882-1626.

Savage Jazz Dance Company • March 23 and 27 • Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0433.

North American Freeskiing Championships • March 24-26 • Skiers and snowboarders challenge the Cirque, known for its steep terrain. Kirkwood Ski Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.

The 1950s: Cold War, Hot Cars Symposium • March 24-27 • Event includes Chautauqua performances of Harry Truman, lectures and discussions on the political and social aspects of the 1950s, the automobile, atomic testing in Nevada, and music. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300

Savage Jazz Dance Company • March 26 • Blend of jazz and improvisational movement. Cal-Neva Resort Showroom, Crystal Bay, 530-546-4602.

\$15,000 Craps Tournament • March 26-28 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177.

"Elixir of Love" • March 26-28 • Fable presented by Nevada Opera. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-786-4046.

Spring Home and Garden Show • March 26-28 • Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, 775-829-2810.

\$25,000 Video Poker Tournament • March 26-28 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177.

Benefit Bash • March 27 • Dancing, music, wine and microbrew tasting, food, and silent auction for the Tahoe Adaptive Ski School. North Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-4161.

Nevada SnowMaster Adventure Ski Race • March 27 • Big Blue Adventure event features multidiscipline styles including backcountry, Nordic, map and compass skills, and snowshoeing. Hosted by Spooner Lake Cross Country Ski Area, Lake Tahoe-Nevada State Park, www.bigblueadventure.com.

Saab Saloman Crossmax Series • March 27 • Skiercross and halfpipe competition. Kirkwood Ski Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.

Carson Chamber Singers Spring Concert • March 27 • Traditional and contemporary music. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

A Concert of American Music • March 27 • Lyric Opera Theatre presents vocalists Jon Fay and Gary Aldrich. Laxalt Theatre, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Birds of Paradise • March 27 • Dancers, luau, and an appearance by "Elvis" at the 17th annual Carson City Kiwanis event. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-841-9673.

Nevada Events & Shows

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New Tahoe View

Airdevils gather for the U.S. Freestyle National Championship during Lake Tahoe's Big Chill March 18-28 at Stateline. The event features George Thorogood and the Destroyers and karaoke competitions. Other winter parties include the North Tahoe Snow Festival, February 27-March 7

Mad Hatter Craps Tournament • March 27-28 • \$100 entry. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Blackjack Tournament • March 27-28 • Harrah's Reno, Reno, 800-HARRAHS.

Sierra Ski Classic • March 27-28 • Corporate race open to company teams. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-7188.

Nordic and Snowshoe Tour • March 28 • Northstar-at-Tahoe,

Truckee, 530-562-2475 for further event information.

Blackjack Tournament • March 30 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711.

Chance at a Mill Blackjack Tournament • March 30 • Siena Hotel, Reno, 800-339-6051.

Preserving Your Family Treasures • March 30 • Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

SledFest 2004 • April 1-4 • Snowmobile festival at Lake Tahoe includes a consumer trade show in Reno. Lake

Spring Rides in Laughlin

Rodeo cowboys compete March 31-April 4 for \$225,000 in prize money during the Laughlin River Stampede. Then on April 21-25 the Laughlin River Run will attract more than 60,000 motorcycle enthusiasts.

Tahoe venues and the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

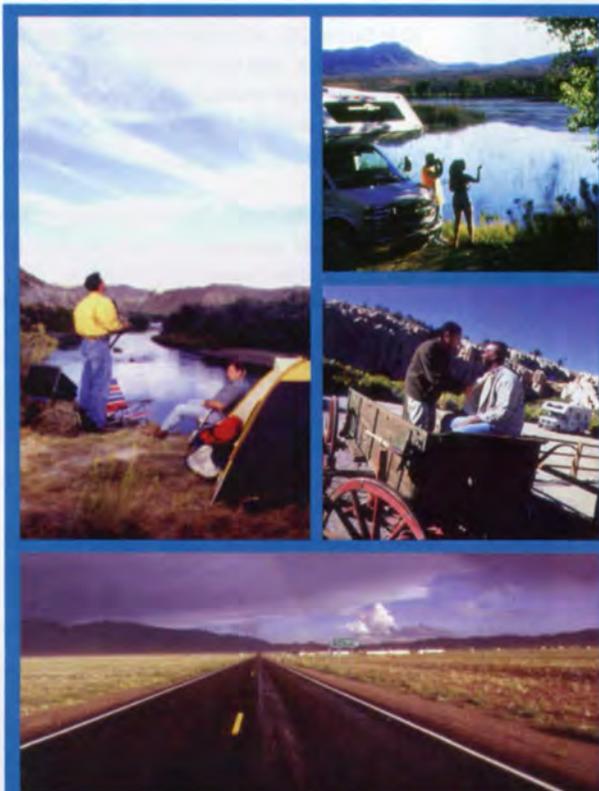
Best Family Photo Contest • April 1-4 • Prizes for the best photos taken between April 1-3 at the ski resort. Homewood Mountain Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-525-2992.

Full Moon Snowmobile Tour • April 2-3 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-2267.

\$50,000 Winner Takes All Blackjack Tournament • April 2-4 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177.

Spring Fling Slot Tournament • April 2-4 • Siena Hotel, Reno, 800-339-6051.

"Lord of the Dance" • April 2-4 • Broadway Comes to Reno presentation of Michael Flatley's dance troupe. Pioneer



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www.pioneerterritory.org

Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 800-714-5331.

Three-Card Poker Tournament • April 2-4 • \$100 entry. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Golf on the Snow • April 3 • Play nine holes on the snow. Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Incline Village, 775-832-1179.

Full Moon Snowshoe and Nordic Tour • April 3 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-2475.

Antique Show and Sale • April 3 • Event includes appraisal clinic. Town Hall, Genoa, 775-782-4951.

Far West Masters Championships • April 3-4 • Sugar Bowl Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-9000.

Gardnerville Birthday and Record-Courier Anniversary Celebrations • April 5 • The Town of Gardnerville will celebrate its 125th birthday with a living-history presentation at Heritage Park in Gardnerville at 4pm. Nearby, at 5pm, an opening reception for exhibits honoring the town's

birthday and the 100th anniversary of the *Record-Courier* newspaper, created when the Gardnerville *Record* and the Genoa *Courier* consolidated in 1904, will be held at the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center. Gardnerville, 775-782-7134 (town), 775-782-2555 (museum).

Ham Bingo • April 5 • CVIC Hall, Minden, 775-783-0875.

Tot Egg Hunt • April 5 • Ages five and under. Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-782-9828.

UNR Choir Concert • April 6 • Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Blackjack Tournament • April 9 • \$10 buy-in. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-882-1626.

Savoy Express • April 9-10 • Performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's music. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0433.

"Susannah" • April 9-11, 16-18 • Lyric Opera Theatre pre-

sentation of the tale of bigotry and betrayal. Laxalt Theatre, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

April Showers Slot Tournament • April 9-11 • \$100 entry. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Spring Jam VII • April 9-11 • Halfpipe, slopestyle, skier, and boardercross competition. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Easter Eggstravaganza • April 10 • Search for a golden egg hidden on the mountain. Homewood Mountain Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-525-2992.

Push, Pull, or Pedal Eco-Parade • April 10 • Floats made from recycled materials. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Billy Dutton Uphill • April 10 • Ski, run, or snowshoe 3.2 miles up to High Camp. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Carson High School Rodeo • April 10-11 • Fuji Park, Carson City, 775-782-0331.

Slot Tournament • April 10-11 • Eldorado, Reno, 775-785-5700.

Easter Sunday Champagne Brunch • April 11 • Ladies receive a flower. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-882-1626.

Easter Festivities • April 11 • Egg toss, fun race, egg hunt, and the Easter Bunny. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-1010.

Easter Egg Hunt, Church Service, and Scavenger Hunt • April 11 • Eggs offer discounts on food and lift tickets. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Salute to Elvis Slot Tournament • April 11-12 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

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Sounds of the Range

The 10th annual Cowboy Poetry and Jubilee, March 13 in Carson City, will present comedian-yodeler Sourdough Slim, poet Paul Zarzyski, fiddler Randy Pollard, and singer-musicians Don Edwards, Tom Russell, and Andrew Hardin.

Third Anniversary Jazz • April 13 • Music, dancing, and cake mark beginning of appearances by the Mile High Jazz Band. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

Percussion Ensemble Concert • April 13 • Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

UNR Orchestra Concert • April 15 • Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Blackjack Tournament • April 16-17 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Carson Valley Pops Orchestra • April 17 • Spring concert. CVIC Hall, Minden, 775-265-2841.

Suzi Bock Memorial Race • April 17 • Two giant slalom races for charity. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-587-7517.

Reno Doll and Teddy Bear Show • April 17 • Event includes speakers and an appraisal clinic. Reno-Sparks Convention

Nevada Events & Shows

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Out in Left Field

Scotland's Battlefield Band plays bagpipes, synthesizers, fiddles, and guitars during concerts April 1 at the Elko Convention Center and April 3 at the Henderson Pavilion. Members are (from left) Pat Kilbride, Mike Katz, Alasdair White, and Alan Reid.

Center, Reno, 775-348-7713 for further information.

Millionaire Maker Slot Tournament • April 17-18 • Harrah's Reno, Reno, 800-HARRAHS.

Topaz Sertoma Chili Cook-Off and Craft Fair • April 17-18 •

Chili tasting, food, beer, and wine. Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 775-266-3468.

Earth Day Celebration • April 18 • Event includes music, educational booths, and food and drink specials. Northstar-

at-Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-1010 for more information.

Nightingale Quartet Concert • April 19 • Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Exhibit Opening • April 21 • Opening reception for "Year of the Basket: North American Indian Basket" exhibit, first of three themed exhibits. Carson Valley Museum and

Off-Road Mania

A torturous 20-mile loop hammers riders and machines during the Grand Prix at Virginia City, a motorcycle race April 24-25 around the hills of the Comstock town.

Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555 for details.

Reno Jazz Festival • April 22 • Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

\$25,000 Dollar Slot Marathon • April 23-25 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177.

Eagle Valley Muzzle Loaders Spring Rendezvous • April 23-25 • Encampment includes trappers, traders, and black-powder shoot. Call for directions, Carson City, 775-883-7736.

"Symphonic Dances" Concert • April 24 • Carson City Symphony features soloist Sam Weber and premieres Dwyne Walker's "Symphonic Dances." Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

Fish Hatchery Open House • April 24 • Learn the history of the Lahontan cutthroat trout. Lahontan National Fish Hatchery, Gardnerville, 775-265-2425.

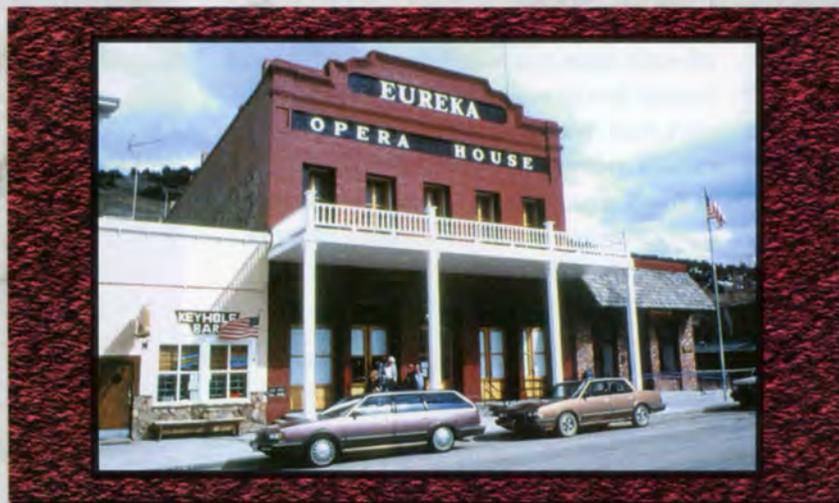
Grand Prix at Virginia City • April 24-25 • Off-road motor-

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cycle race includes freestyle jumping, supermoto, and adult 50 races. 20-mile loop around Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Mustang Rockin' Street Hop • April 25 • Show and shine car show, which is open to all makes and models, includes music, games, and food. Diamond's Casino-Holiday Inn, Reno, 775-324-3445.

Ski-Sail Regatta • April 25 • Competitors, who include former Olympians, race on the waters of Lake Tahoe and the slopes of Squaw Valley. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-4584.

The Chairman Dances: Fox Trot for Orchestra • April 25 and 27 • Reno Philharmonic concert featuring Molly Carr on viola. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.

Blackjack Tournament • April 27 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711.

UNR Symphonic Band Concert • April 28 • Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Utah Shakespeare Company • April 28-30 • Touring company presentation. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0433.

UNR Wind Ensemble Concert • April 29 • Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Argenta Quartet Concert • April 30 • Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Blackjack Tournament • April 30 • \$10 buy-in. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-882-1626.

"Saturday Night Fever" • April 30-May 1 • Broadway Comes to Reno presentation of the disco musical. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 800-714-5331.

Reno-Tahoe Wine and Food Festival • April 30-May 2 • Wine and food tasting, marketplace, seminars, and a winemaker's



Jazz Singer

Grammy-nominated jazz singer Karrin Allyson performs March 12 at the Barkley Theater in Fallon. Allyson performs selections ranging from Ira Gershwin to Joni Mitchell.

dinner. Reno Hilton, Reno, 800-443-3105 for information.
Be an Engineer Training Program • April 30-May 2 • Learn to operate a 1926 diesel-powered railcar. The \$120 fee in-

cludes barbecue. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953 for more information.

Rural Nevada

Slot Tournaments • Mon.-Thurs. and Sat. • Saddle West, Pahrump, 800-433-3987.

Elko Community Concert • March 1 • Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-5475.

"Footloose" • March 4-6 and 8 • Musical about kids who want to dance. Town Hall, Pioche, 775-728-4446.

Pick of the Remuda Sale and Trade Show • March 5-6 • Cow and performance horse sale and demonstrations. Events Complex, Winnemucca, 775-623-2220.

Pahrump Valley High School Rodeo • March 5-6 • McCullough Arena, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.

An Evening with the Arts • March 6 • Fund-raiser and silent auction. Convention Center, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Ranch Hand Rodeo • March 6-7 • Ranch hands spend weekend in town competing in working events such as saddle bronc riding and wild cow milking. Events Complex, Winnemucca, 775-623-2220.

NCAA National Collegiate Ski Championships • March 8-12 • Sugar Bowl Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-9000.

Shrine Circus • March 10 • Spring Creek Horse Palace, Spring Creek, 877-479-1259.

Karrin Allyson • March 12 • Grammy-nominated jazz singer. Barkley Theater, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

"Twelfth Night" • March 12 • Utah Shakespearean Festival performance. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

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2004 Events Calendar

April 24	Rainbow Ridge Mtn. Bike Challenge
May 7-9	Spring Wings Bird Festival
June-August	Fallon Farmers Market Season
Jun. 29-Jul. 4	Silver State Int'l Rodeo
July 16-18	Nevada Indian Days Pow Wow & Rodeo
Aug. 13-14	Nevada Motocross Championships
Aug. TBD	Overland Hotel Chili Cook-off
Sept. 3-6	Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival
Sept. 24-26	Senior Pro Rodeo
Oct. 9	Waterfowl Hunting Season, Opening Day (Date subject to change)
Dec. 3-4	Hometown Christmas
TBD 2004	Fallon Air Show

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A Touch of Texas

Texas songwriter Ray Wylie Hubbard and his band perform April 3 at the Barkley Theater in Fallon. A prolific songwriter, Hubbard is known for his meditations on good and evil and for musical styles that range from outlaw country to Muddy Waters.

BYU International Folk-Dance Ensemble • March 12 • Forty musicians, singers, and dancers perform Irish style clogging, and Cossack and Hungarian styles. Pershing County High School, Lovelock, 775-273-1614 for information.

Shooting the West XVI • March 12-14 • Professional and amateur photographers gather for Nevada's long-running photographic conference. Event includes speakers, slide shows, and portfolio critiques. Convention Center,

Winnemucca, 800-962-2638 for more event information.
Stallion Service Auction • March 13 • Northeastern Nevada Horseman's Association event. Elko County Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-738-8028.
St. Patrick's Day Celebration • March 13 • Corned beef and cabbage dinner. Honeysuckle Park, Pahrump, 775-751-2400.
Perch Fishing Derby • March 13-14 • Wildhorse Resort, 60 miles north of Elko, 775-758-6471.
Peppermill Keno Tournament • March 14-15 • Peppermill, Wendover, 800-648-9660, ext. 521.
Turning of the Green Slot Tournament • March 19-20 • \$250 buy-in includes three-night stay. Red Lion Inn, Elko, 775-753-0579.
\$10,000 Poker Tournament • March 25-28 • Rainbow, Wendover, 800-648-9660, ext. 521.
Battlefield Band • April 1 • Ancient and modern Celtic instruments and vocals. Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-5475.
Spring Cribbage Tournament • April 2-4 • Winners Hotel, Winnemucca, 775-623-2511.
Ray Wylie Hubbard and Band • April 3 • Texas singer-songwriter's subjects cover the outlaw country of "Redneck Mother" to "Rainer Marie Rilke." Barkley Theater, Fallon, 775-423-1440.
Silver Springs Chamber of Commerce Open House • April 3 • Showcases businesses, events, and new Web site. Chamber Offices, Silver Springs, 775-577-4336.
Fallon High School Rodeo • April 3-4 • Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-7676.
Slot Tournament • April 4-5 • Peppermill, Wendover, 800-648-9660, ext. 521.

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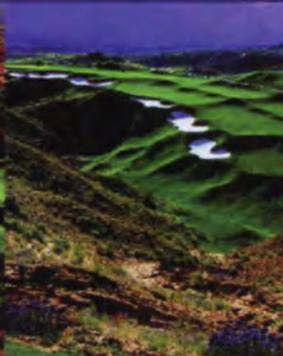
Oasis Golf Club



Palms Golf Club



Wolf Creek Golf Club



Coral Canyon Golf Course



Easter Egg Hunt • April 10 • LaCombe Ballfields, Wendover, 866-299-2489.

Sounds of Spring • April 10 • Ranger-led easy walk. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Easter Egg Hunt • April 11 • City Park, Ely, 775-289-8877.

Easter Egg Hunt • April 11 • McDougal Sports Complex, Lovelock, 775-273-1932.

Easter Egg Hunt • April 11 • For ages one to 10. Laura Mills Park, Fallon, 775-423-4745.

Santa Fe Saloon Easter Celebration • April 11 • Easter egg hunt for children and bonnet contest for adults. Santa Fe Saloon, Goldfield, 775-785-3560.

Blackjack Tournament • April 11-12 • Rainbow, Wendover, 800-648-9660, ext. 521.

Nevada April Circuit American Quarter Horse Show • April

15-18 • Event includes working cow horse, cutting, reining, roping, halter, and rail classes for open, amateur, and youth. Events Complex, Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Ruby Mountain Symphony • April 17 • Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-4187.

Walker Lake Loon Festival • April 17 • Eco-event features boat tours to view the birds and lectures on the lake's biology. Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 775-945-8243.

Spring Stars • April 17 • Night viewing at 7:30pm. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Craps Tournament • April 17-18 • Peppermill, Wendover, 800-648-9660, ext. 521.

Pershing County High School Rodeo • April 17-18 • Rodeo Grounds, Lovelock, 775-273-2968.

Rainbow-Peppermill-Montego Bay One-Man Golf Scramble

• April 19-20 • Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 800-648-9660, ext. 514.

Central Nevada Historical Society • April 20 • Monthly meeting, Central Nevada Museum, Tonopah, 775-482-9676.

Terrible's Town 250 • April 23-25 • Best in the Desert off-road race. Terrible's Town Casino, Pahrump, 702-457-5775.

Rainbowridge Challenge • April 24 • Mountain bike race. Churchill County Fairgrounds and surrounding area, Fallon, 775-423-7733.

Bird Brains • April 24 • Slide show explores which winged creature is the most intelligent. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Confederate Memorial Service • April 24 • Events feature music, poems, readings, and costumed participants. Fallon Cemetery, Fallon, 775-423-8797.

Rural Roundup 2004 • April 24-25 • Nevada Commission on Tourism's conference for rural Nevada's tourism industry. Saddle West, Pahrump, 775-687-4322.

Baker to Vegas Foot Race • April 24-25 • 20th annual law enforcement off-road race. Pahrump Valley, 775-727-5800.

Ruby Mountain Vintage Wine Tasting • April 30 • Red Lion Inn, Elko, 775-777-8308.

Stock Car Races • April 30 • Summit Raceway, Lamoille, 775-753-5936.

Coming Events

Spring Wings Bird Festival • May 7-9 • Fallon, 775-428-6452.

Cinco de Mayo • May 7-9 • Reno, 775-770-5006.

Reno Whitewater Festival • May 14-16 • Truckee River Whitewater Park at Wingfield, Reno, www.renowhitewater-park.com.

Cultural Corridor Treasure Hunt • May 15 • Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Hot Club of San Francisco Concert • May 15 • Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Tastes and Tunes: A Festival for Your Senses • May 17 • North Las Vegas, 702-633-1612.

Hal Holbrook as Mark Twain Tonight • May 22 • Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Run-A-Mucca Motorcycle Rally • May 28-30 • Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Memorial Day Homecoming Celebration • May 28-31 • Caliente, 775-726-3109.

Wild West Tour: Kit Carson Trail • May 29 • Carson City, 775-687-7410.

Stampede Car Show • June 12 • Reno, 775-324-3445.

26th Annual Basque Festival • June 12-13 • Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Reno Rodeo • June 18-26 • Reno, 775-329-3877.

Vegas to Reno Off-Road Race • June 24-27 • 702-457-5775.

Run What Cha Brung Car Show • June 25-27 • Carson City, 775-882-0892.

Wings of Change Fly-In • June 25-27 • Minden, 775-782-9871.

Artown • July 1-31 • Reno, 775-322-1538.

Elko Basque Festival • July 2-4 • Elko, 775-738-1240.

"Kiss Me Kate" • July 7-24 • Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Las Vegas, 702-873-0191.

American Century Celebrity Golf Championship • July 13-18 • Lake Tahoe, 530-544-5050.

Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival at Sand Harbor • July 15-Aug. 22 • Incline Village, 800-747-4697.

Big Easy Cajun Festival • July 16-18 • Sparks, 775-358-4771.

Bonneville Speed Week • Aug. 14-20 • Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 866-299-2489.



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Nevada Showguide

Where the stars and shows are playing in March and April.

Nevada's casinos and hotels offer big-name entertainment and production shows. In Las Vegas, Britney Spears headlines at the MGM Grand while the Mormon Tabernacle Choir performs at The Orleans. George Thorogood plays Harrah's Lake Tahoe, and David Crosby appears at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following guide to featured performances. Schedules may change, so call ahead for show times and reservations.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

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

HENDERSON

Casino MonteLago at Lake Las Vegas • 702-939-8888: Special events TBA.

Fiesta Henderson • 702-558-7000: Bands play in the Lava Lounge on Fri.-Sat.

Green Valley Ranch • 702-454-0544: Jazz Club: Entertainment Fri.-Sat. Whiskey Amphitheater: TBA.

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

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

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

Sunset Station • 702-547-7777: Club Madrid: Paula Poundstone, March 6. Michael Martin Murphey, March 19. Hank Thompson, Farewell Concert Tour, April 3. Strunz and Farah, Nov. 20. Amphitheater: Gary Allan, April 10. Montgomery Gentry and Cledus T. Judd, April 24.

JEAN

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

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

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 877-333-WISH: Aladdin Theater for the Performing Arts: "Rent," March 19-21. "42nd Street," May 5-9. "Cats," June 23-27. For tickets call 702-798-5090. Steve Wyrick Theater: Magician Steve Wyrick, dark Tues. Sinbad's Lounge: Bands play until 3am. Music in the Curve night-



Life Is a Cabaret, Old Chum

Dancers strike a sultry pose as they pay tribute to the musical "Cabaret" during "Broadway! The Star-Spangled Celebration" playing at the Eldorado in Reno. Three decades of shows from the Great White Way, including "Chicago," "Cats," and "Mamma Mia" are highlighted in the production.

club 10:30pm-5am Fri.-Sat. The Living Room inside Curve opens nightly at 6pm.

Arizona Charlie's • 702-258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Groups such as Six-Five-0, Smooth, The Checkmates, and Jump, Jive, and Wail appear in the lounge. Karaoke 8:30pm-1:30am Mon. Bands play Tues.-Thurs. Jerry Tiffe's Band plays 4-7pm Fri.

Arizona Charlie's East • 702-951-5800: Palace Grand Lounge: Randy Anderson, The Checkmates, John Encino, Christy Bryant, and other entertainers appear. Bands play 4-7pm Fri.-Sun.

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

Barbary Coast • 702-737-7111: Barbary Coast Lounge: Pete Vallee as "Big Elvis," 3-6pm Tues.-Fri. Bands play in the lounge. Karaoke, Mon.-Tues.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf., dark Mon.-Tues. Light Nightclub, 10:30pm-4am Thurs.-Sun.

Caramel Bar, 5pm-4am Mon.-Sun. Musicians play in the Petrossian Lounge and Baccarat Bar. Fontana Room: Jimmy Hopper, 9:30pm-1am Tues.-Thurs., 6:30-10pm Fri.-Sat. Bands play nightly.

Boardwalk Casino • 702-735-2400: Lighthouse Lounge: Spectrum, Motown sound, indf., dark Mon. Purple Reign, a tribute to Prince, dark Mon. Gi.Gi.Girls, Sun.-Mon.

Boulder Station • 702-432-7777 or 800-683-7777: The Railhead: Morris Day and The Time, March 20. Sammy Kershaw, April 2. Kenny Rankin, April 17. Bill Engvall, Aug. 21. The Four Aces and The Four Lads, Oct. 1. Jerry Tiffe plays 2-4pm Thurs. KIXX: Shooting Stars Karaoke, Thurs.-Sat.

Bourbon Street • 702-737-7200: Big Easy Showroom: "Shock," 10:30pm Fri.-Sat. "Hypnolarios with Terry Stokes, 9pm., dark Mon.-Tues.

Caesars Palace • 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544: The Colosseum Showroom: Celine Dion stars in "A New Day...," dark Mon.-Tues. and thru March 2 (call 877-4-CE-

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Got It?

Britney Spears returns March 6 to the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. It is the first time the singer has performed on the Strip in more than two years, except for her impulsive marriage-slash-divorce last January.



Rockin' Comic

Comedian Chris Rock spins his outrageous humor March 5 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas and March 6 at the Reno Hilton.

LINE). Elton John plays March 23-April 4. Shadow Bar: Dancers and flair bartenders perform nightly. DJ 9pm-2am Wed.-Sun. Entertainment in the Café Lago Restaurant, Terrazza Lounge, Cleopatra's Barge Nightclub, and Galleria Bar.

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

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

Egg and I Restaurant • 702-364-9686: "Marriage Can Be Murder," interactive dinner theater has guests playing detective, 7pm Wed.-Fri., 6pm Sat.

Excalibur Hotel • 702-597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "Tournament of Kings, jousting-dinner show. Merlin's Theater: "Thunder From Down Under," all-male revue plays at 7:30pm Sun.-Wed., 7:30 and 11:30pm Fri.-Sat., dark Thurs. "Money and Madness Show," starring Jeff Hobson, comedy-variety show, 10pm Sat.-Thurs. and 7:30pm Thurs., dark Fri. Catch a Rising Star Comedy Club: Comedians perform at 10pm nightly and 7:30pm Thurs. Court Jesters Stage: Strolling entertainers, 10am-10pm daily. Minstrels Lounge: Live bands and dancing. Music in the Regales and Camelot restaurants.

Fitzgeralds • 702-388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Fitzgeralds Showroom: "Two Girls and a Guy," music and magic, 5pm Thurs.-Mon. "Spirit of the King" starring Steve Connolly, 7:15pm Thurs.-Mon. Wild Billy Tucker, comedian, 9:15pm Thurs.-Mon. (Shows have a one-drink minimum per person; must be 21 for Wild Billy Tucker.) Paul Casas, musical comedy, 5pm Tues.-Wed. Bobby Ruffin's Tribute to the Drifters, 7:15 and 9:15pm, Tues.-Wed. Bands play on the First Floor Stage.

Flamingo Las Vegas • 702-733-3333 or 800-221-7299: Flamingo Showroom: Gladys Knight, 7:30pm, dark Sun.-Mon. "Bottoms Up," comedy revue, 2 and 4pm, dark Sun. Second City Theater: "Second City," improv comedy sketches, 8pm Thurs.-Tues., 10:30pm Mon., Thurs., Sat.-Sun. Flamingo Late-Night Lounge: DJ and dance music, midnight-4am Thurs.-Sun.

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

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

Fremont • 702-385-3232.

Gold Coast • 702-367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): Lounge: Kinda Dixie Jazz Band, noon-6pm. Bands play nightly except Mon. Gold Coast Showroom: "Honky Tonk Angels, country music tribute, dark Tues. Latin Breeze, Fri.-Sat., indf. Ballroom dancing with disk jockey Larry Taylor 7-10pm Tues. Dance lessons 6-7pm. Sunday Tea Dance Party with Larry Taylor from 1-4pm. Dance lessons noon-1pm. Free drama workshop, 2-4pm Tues.

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

Golden Nugget • 702-385-7111: Theatre Ballroom: "Spirit of the Dance, resumes March 6. The Amazing Johnathan, bizarre magic, 10pm, dark Mon. Bands play in the Show Bar Lounge.

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

Greek Isles • 702-737-5540: Magic Theater: "Tribute to Frank, Sammy, Joey, and Dean," dark Fri. Sixties Mania, dark Mon.-Tues. Sandy Hackett Comedy Club, dark Fri. Divas of Comedy, Fri.

Hard Rock Hotel • 702-693-5066: The Joint: TBA.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 702-369-5111: Clint Holmes Theatre: Clint Holmes, musical variety show, dark Sun. Comedy Cabaret: Improv, nightly except Mon. "Skintight, adult musical revue, dark Thurs. "Mac King Comedy Magic Show" appears at 1 and 3pm Tues.-Sat. Carnival Court: Bands appear Fri.-Sat. Dueling pianos nightly in La Playa Lounge, karaoke party 6-9pm nightly except Tues.-Wed., and jazz in the Range Steakhouse Lounge. View nightclub opens in the Range Steakhouse at 11pm.

Howard Johnson Hotel • 702-798-1111: TBA.

Imperial Palace • 702-794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert, impersonator revue, 7:30 and 10:30pm, dark Sun. Casino Floor: Celebrity impersonators deal blackjack to gamblers. Entertainment nightly in the Kabuki Lounge and Fri.-Sun. in the Nomiya Lounge. Tequila Joe's: "Be a Legend" Amateur Celebrity Impersonator Karaoke Contest, third Thurs.



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Key Largo • 702-733-7777: Sand Bar Lounge: One plays nightly 8pm-2am.

Lady Luck • 702-477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lady Luck Theater: Entertainment TBA. Lucky Louie's Lounge: Bands play Thurs.-Sun.

Las Vegas Hilton • 702-732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Elvis impersonator Trent Carlini "The Dream King," thru March 7, dark Mon. The Fab Four: The Ultimate Tribute to the Beatles, March 9-May 9, dark Mon. and March 20. Kenny Rogers, March 19-20. George Lopez, March 26-27. Doobie Brothers, April 9-10. Paul Rodriguez, April 16-17. Trent Carlini "The Dream King," May 11-June 27, dark Mon. NightClub: Dance music Wed.-Sat.

Luxor • 702-262-4555: Luxor Theatre: "Blue Man Group: Live at Luxor," percussion theater. Pharaoh's Theater: "Midnight Fantasy," production show, dark Mon. Ra Nightclub at Luxor: DJs Wed.-Sat. Entertainers play nightly in Nefertiti's Lounge. Movies in the IMAX theater.

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Theatre: "Mamma Mia!," the Broadway musical based on the music of Abba, dark Tues. Matinee Sun. at 5pm. Mandalay Events Center: Entertainment TBA. House of Blues: Dropkick Murphys w/Slapshot, March 18. Kansas, June 10. Dance music, Thurs.-Sun. Gospel Brunch, 10am and 1pm Sun. Bands play in the Orchid, Island, and Coral Reef lounges. The Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay is open daily.

MGM Grand • 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111: Hollywood Theatre: George Carlin, thru March 3. Howie Mandel, March 4-10. Paul Anka, March 11-17, dark March 14. Carrot Top, March 18-31. David Copperfield, April 1-14 (3pm matinee on April 3 and 10-11). Paul Anka, April 15-21. Tom Jones, April 22-May 5. MGM Grand Garden Arena: Chris Rock: The Black Ambition Tour, March 5. Britney Spears: In the Zone Tour, March 6. Sarah Brightman, March 13.



Twice Bright

Singer Sarah Brightman plays two Nevada dates this spring when John Ascuaga's Sdates this spring when John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks hosts her at Lawlor Events Center on March 5, followed on March 13 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

La Femme Theatre: "La Femme," Topless Crazy Horse production from Paris, dark Tues. Studio 54: Dancing Tues.-Sat. Entertainment in the Tabu and Zuri lounges, Craftsteak Restaurant, and the Entertainment Dome. Fashion show 10pm Wed. in Tabu. EFX Theatre: Cirque du Soleil show TBA.

The Mirage • 702-792-7777: Danny Gans Theatre: Impressionist Danny Gans performs in his showroom nightly except Fri. and Mon. Entertainment in the Onda and Ava lounges and Baccarat Bar.

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

New Frontier • 702-794-8200: Gilley's Saloon: Mud wrestling 11pm Wed. Free line dance lessons 7:30pm Thurs. Bikini bull riding midnight Fri.-Sat. Karaoke 9pm Sun.

New York-New York • 702-740-6969 or 800-693-6763: Broadway Theatre: "Zumanity," adult Cirque du Soleil production, 7:30 and 10:30pm, dark Sun.-Mon. Cabaret Theatre: Comedienne Rita Rudner performs nightly. The Pub at Nine Fine Irishmen: Food and entertainment. Coyote Ugly: Dance nightclub opens at 6pm. The N.Y.P.D. (New York Piano Duos) dueling pianos play from 8pm nightly in the Bar at Times Square. Bands play in the Big Apple Bar. Manhattan Express Roller Coaster opens daily at 10am.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Arena: Mormon Tabernacle Choir, April 20. FSX World Snocross Championship, April 23-24. Orleans Showroom: Charlie Daniels Band, March 4-7. Ray Stevens, March 11-14. Bill Medley Celebrates the Music of the Righteous Brothers, March 17-21. Red Mountain Music Company, March 26. Desert Chorale: Let's Go to the Movies, March 27. Neil

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DAYTON VALLEY DAYS - DAYTON

OCTOBER

SMITH VALLEY FUN DAY - WELLINGTON



Sedaka, March 30-April 4. Burt Bacharach, April 15-18. Manhattan Transfer, April 22-25. Lou Rawls, April 29-May 2. Bill Medley Celebrates the Music of the Righteous Brothers, May 5-9 and 12-16. Tower of Power, May 21-23. Air Supply, May 27-30. Neil Sedaka, June 4-6. Frankie Avalon and Bobby Rydell, June 10-13. Bill Medley Celebrates the Music of the Righteous Brothers, June 16-20 and 23-27. Dion, July 15-18. Bill Medley Celebrates the Music of the Righteous Brothers, July 21-25 and July 28-Aug. 1. Mrs. United States Pageant, Aug. 2-5. Engelbert Humperdinck, Aug. 6-8 and 12-15. Neil Sedaka, Aug. 17-22. Bourbon Street Cabaret: Performers appear nightly except Mon. Brendan's Irish Pub: Bands play nightly. Jazz on Tues., Blues Zydeco on Wed., Blues on Thurs., Jazz on Fri.-Sat., Irish acoustic sing-a-long on Sun. "Rock This Town Live," tribute to Elvis, Buddy Holly, and Jerry Lee Lewis, 7-8pm, Mon.-Thurs. Sazio Restaurant: "Ba-Da-Bing," interactive dinner show 7:30pm nightly.

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

The Palms • 702-942-7777: Rain in the Desert: Concerts TBA, cabana area, water booths, special effects. Skin Pool Lounge: Entertainment TBA. Entertainment nightly in the Palapa Lounge. Ghostbar on the 55th floor has an indoor-outdoor lounge.

Paris Las Vegas • 800-237-SHOW: Theatre des Arts: Entertainment TBA. Bands play in Le Cabaret Lounge, Napoleon's Lounge, and Ah Sin Restaurant, entertainment nightly. Dancing 10pm-1am Wed.-Sun. in the Risque nightclub. Eiffel Tower rides 10am-1am daily.

The Plaza • 800-634-6575: Plaza Theatre: Dirk Arthur: "The New Art of Magic," 7pm Wed.-Sat., 3 and 7pm Sun. "Stars of the Strip," impersonator show, 1 and 3pm Tues.-Sat.



Natural Man

Singer Lou Rawls brings his soulful sound to John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks and The Orleans in Las Vegas during April.

Omaha Lounge: Dusty Barron/The Sun Spots Tues.-Sun.
Rampart Casino at the Resort at Summerlin • 877-869-8777:
 Addison's Lounge: Rock, oldies, and R&B bands perform 8pm-midnight Fri.-Sat. Open mike for musicians on Thurs.
 Round Bar: Entertainment Tues.-Sat.

Rio All-Suite Hotel • 702-252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO: Scinta Showroom: The Scintas, musical-comedy show, dark Thurs. Ronn Lucas, comic-ventriloquist, 3pm Sat.-Thurs., dark Fri. Samba Theater: Penn and Teller, comedy-magic show, dark Tues. "Showgirls," late-night adult musical revue at 11pm, dark Tues. Club Rio: "Chippendales: The Show," dark Tues. Club Rio Nightclub is open for late-night dancing Thurs.-Sat. Calypso Room: "Tony 'n Tina's Wedding," off-Broadway interactive dinner theater, nightly. Masquerade Show in the Sky: Carnival-themed parade above the casino daily at 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 7, 8, 9, and 10pm. Bikinis Beach and Dance Club: Nightclub opens 10pm Thurs.-Sun. Sexy swimwear competition on Thurs. Entertainment in the Ipanema Bar and VooDoo Lounge.

Riviera • 702-794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," production show, dark Fri. La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage, celebrity female impersonators revue, 7:30pm, dark Tues. Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls" adult revue, dark Thurs. "Riviera Comedy Club," nightly. Le Bistro Theatre: Singer Marlene Ricci, 8:30pm Tues. and 7pm Fri.-Sat. "America's Neil Diamond Tribute: Portrayed by Jay White," 7pm Sun.-Thurs. The Exotic Hypnotics, featuring Genie and Richard, 11:30pm Wed.-Sun. Lon Bronson's All-Star Band plays at 1:15am Sat. Dr. Scott Lewis: Outrageous Comedy Hypnotist, 10pm Mon.

Sahara • 702-737-2515: Sahara Theatre: "World's Greatest Magic Show," dark Tues., indf. Congo Room: The Platters, Cornell Gunter's Coasters, and Beary Hobb's Drifters. Bands play in the Casbar Lounge.

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

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San Remo • 702-739-9000 or 800-522-7366: Parisian Cabaret: "Showgirls of Magic," revue, dark Mon. Entertainment in the Bonne Chance Lounge.

Santa Fe Station • 702-658-4900: The Green Room Comedy Corner: Entertainment TBA. Nightclub open for dancing. Jerry Tiffe and His Orchestra, 7-11pm Wed. Memphis Championship Barbecue: John Earl and the BoogieMan Band perform Fri.-Sat.

Silverton • 702-263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Rattlesnake Riskey's Saloon: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly.

Stardust • 702-617-5577 or 888-217-9565: Wayne Newton Theatre: Wayne Newton, thru March 7. Chicago, March 10-13. Anthony Cools, "The Uncensored Hypnotist," 11pm Wed.-Sat. Stardust Lounge: Bands play nightly.

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

dark Thurs. "Viva Las Vegas," musical revue, 2 and 4pm daily except Sun. Outdoor Events Center: Entertainment TBA. Images Lounge: Bands play nightly. Entertainment in the Top of the World Lounge, Crazy Armadillos: Latin/Disco Night, Mon. Karaoke on Tues.-Wed. DJ on Thurs. Bands play Fri.-Sat. Band showcase, Sun.

Suncoast • 702-636-7111: Showroom: Sergio Mendes Brasil 2004, March 5-7. Tony Danza, March 12-14. Alter Ego, March 19. Chuck Mangione, March 20-21. George Shearing, March 27-28. The Four Freshmen, April 2-4. Debbie Reynolds, April 16-18. Chris Bottie, April 23-25. Ray Price, April 30-May 2. Al Martino, May 7-9. Vicki Lawrence and Mama, May 14-16. The Osmond Brothers, May 21-23. Paul Williams, June 4-6. Bill Acosta, impersonator, June 18-20. Air Supply, July 16-18. Roger Williams, July 23-25. Debbie Reynolds, Aug. 6-8. Rich Little, Aug. 13-15. Vicki

Lawrence and Mama, Aug. 20-22. Jack Jones, Aug. 28-29. Suncoast Lounge: The Limey Bar Stewards, 9:30pm-midnight Tues. Spazmatics, 10:30pm-1:30am Wed. Bands play nightly except Mon.

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

TI (formerly Treasure Island) • 702-894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère," dark Wed.-Thurs. Entertainment in the Mist and Breeze lounges. "The Sirens of TI," the hotel's pirate-battle attraction, plays at 6, 8, and 10pm outside on the Strip.

Tropicana • 702-739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "Les Folies Bergere," dark Sun. "The Magic of Rick Thomas," 2 and 4pm daily except Sun. Tropicans Lounge: "The Tropicana Bird Show," 11:30am, 1:30 and 2:30pm except Thurs. "I. Fox and the Fox City Show," dark Mon.-Tues. Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly. Celebration Lounge: Entertainment nightly. "Air Play," aerialists perform above the Tropicana casino at 11am, 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9pm.

Venetian • 702-733-5000: Showroom at the Venetian: "V: The Ultimate Variety Show," nightly, specialty and daredevil acts.

Westward Ho • 702-731-2900: Crown Room: "Ho-Waiian Luau," dinner and show Wed. and Sat. March 14-June 12, except April 28. Bands play nightly except Mon. in the lounge.

Wild West Gambling Hall • 702-740-0000.

Westin Casuarina • 866-837-4215: David Brenner Theatre: Comedian David Brenner performs nightly.

LAUGHLIN

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

Colorado Belle • 702-298-4000: Oldies duos play in the Boiler Room Microbrewery and Restaurant. Dixieland band strolls on D Deck.

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

Flamingo Laughlin • 702-298-5111 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo Showroom: "A Really Big Shew: A Tribute to Ed Sullivan," hosted by Jerry Hoban and featuring the Villiams, jugglers, thru April 11. Flamingo Ballroom: Charo, March 13. Tanya Tucker, March 27. Flamingo Amphitheater: Entertainment TBA.

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

Harrah's Laughlin • 702-298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: Laughternoon in Laughlin featuring Nick Lewin, 2pm. Rio Vista Outdoor Amphitheater: Entertainment TBA.

Pioneer • 800-634-3469.

Ramada Express • 702-298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theatre: "Fiddler on the Roof," March 1-7. The Irish Rovers, March 22-24. Caboose Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon. Karaoke Madness is scheduled on Mon. American Heroes Museum of Memories: Military memorabilia and speakers.

River Palms • 702-298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Crystal Sands Room: "Celebrities on Stage," starring impersonators the Edwards Twins, thru June. Bands or DJ music nightly in the Bermuda Club Lounge. Karaoke, 4-7pm Wed.

Riverside Resort • 702-298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Smothers Brothers, March 2-7. Debbie Reynolds, March 9-14. Tony Danza, March 16-21. Chris LeDoux, March 25-26. Mel Tillis, March 30-April 4. The Fifth Dimension, April 7-11. Hollywood Men, May 13. Gallagher, May 27-30. Vicki Lawrence and Mama, Nov. 3-7. Lightning Strikes Nightclub: Karaoke, Sun.-Mon. Boogie Night, Wed. Tequila Fever, Thurs.

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Back Home

Mezzo-soprano Dolora Zajick comes home for a benefit concert April 10 at the Reno Hilton. Zajick began her career with Nevada Opera when she was a pre-med student at UNR.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Showroom: Kip Ataway, March 5-6. Tanya Tucker, March 20. Michael Mezmer, April 9-10. Eric Burdon and The Animals, April 17. "A Tribute to the Blues Brothers," May 14. Comedy Club: Weekends when no performers are

scheduled. Entertainers like Touch of Silk and Perfect Choice play in the Skydome Lounge nightly except Mon.

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

Oasis • 702-346-5232 or 800-621-0187: Club Xtreme: Dance music Wed., dance contest Fri. Cabaret Lounge: Bands like Drifters Review and Champagne on Ice play nightly except Mon.

Virgin River • 702-346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Bands like Susan Rey, The Outlaws, and Randy Anderson play in the casino lounge nightly except Mon.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Cannery • 702-507-5700: The Club: Johnny Fortuno as Elvis and Oldies Dance Night, March 3. Frankie Moreno, March 5-7. Nathan Owens Motown Soul Review and Oldies Dance Night, March 10. Direct from Motown: The Detroit All-Stars, March 12-13. State of the Art and Oldies Dance Night, March 17. Wolfcreek, March 19. Rock Steady, March 20. Huck Daniels Review with Mr. Charles and Lawrence T and Oldies Dance Night, March 24. Mustang Sally, March 26-27. Pin-Ups Bar: Lenny Albanese, March 2-28. Bands play nightly except Mon.

Fiesta Rancho • 702-631-7000: Club Tequila: Average White Band, July 23. Cabo Lounge: Doo-Wopp.com, '50s and '60s music, 7-11pm.

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

Texas Station • 702-631-1001: Dallas Events Center: Oak Ridge Boys, April 30. Keith Sweat, May 8. Ray Charles, Aug. 28. The Armadillo: Kroakies Karaoke, Wed. Loveshack plays music from the '80s Fri.-Sat. Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert

Arena: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly in the Stagebar Lounge.

Primm Valley • 800-FUN-STOP: Show Bar Lounge: Entertainment Fri.-Sun.

Whiskey Pete's • 800-FUN-STOP: Whiskey Pete's Comedy Club: Comedians perform 10pm Fri.-Sat. Show Bar Lounge: Entertainment Fri.-Sat.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

CARSON CITY

Carson Nugget • 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Nugget Show Lounge: Entertainers such as The Motifs, David Proud, Madison Avenue, and Band on the Run appear Tues.-Sun. Special Events: St. Patrick's Day Party and Easter Champagne Brunch with free flowers for women.

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

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

CARSON VALLEY

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Cabaret Lounge: Four-Way Street: A Tribute to Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young, March 2-7. Garratt Wilkin and the Parrotheads: A Tribute to Jimmy Buffet, March 9-14. Bands play nightly except Mon.

Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 775-782-3133.

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

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 775-825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Grand Ballroom: Danny Marona, March 5-7. Bands play in the Center Stage



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Cabaret. Dancing is offered in the Atlantis Nightclub.

Boomtown • 775-345-6000: Can-Can Theater and Dancehall: Stew Stewart, March 2-7. Gary and Sandy, March 9-14 and 16-21. Chazz, March 23-28. Amy Clawson, March 30-April 4. David Proud, April 6-11. Lelands, April 13-18 and 20-25.

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

Circus Circus • 775-329-0711: Circus Cabaret: Entertainment daily except Tues.-Wed. Free daily circus acts, 11am-10:30pm.

City Center Pavilion • 888-288-1833: Entertainment TBA.

Eldorado • 775-786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Eldorado Showroom: "Broadway! The Star-Spangled Celebration" and "Spirit of the Dance." Musical revues rotate show times; both are dark Mon. Bands play nightly at the Brew Brothers microbrewery. Piano music in the Roxy Lounge. BuBinga Lounge: Dance to DJs and bands Tues.-Sat. Bands play in the Casino Cabaret Thurs.-Sat.

Fitzgeralds • 775-785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands perform nightly in the Fitz Showbar.

Golden Phoenix • 775-785-7100: Showroom: Entertainment TBA.

Harrah's Reno • 775-788-2900 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "The Price Is Right Live," patterned after the television game show; audience members compete for prizes, thru March 20. Bands play Thurs.-Mon. in the Sapphire Lounge. Xtreme Park: Seasonal thrill rides.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 775-356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Lawlor Events Center: Sarah Brightman, March 5. Rose Ballroom: Entertainment TBA. Celebrity Showroom: Glenn Miller Orchestra, March 3. Harry James Orchestra, March 10. Guy Lombardo's Royal Canadians Featuring Al



Chillin' at the Lake

George Thorogood and the Destroyers headline March 19-20 at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. The band's appearance is part of the Lake Tahoe Big Chill festival March 18-28.

Pierson, March 17, Count Basie Orchestra, March 24. Banff Mountain Film Festival, March 29. David Crosby, April 2-3. Lou Rawls, April 22-24. Bands play in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's. Flamenco guitarist plays Thurs. and jazz Fri.-Sat. in Restaurante Orozko.

Peppermill • 775-826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tahoe Grand Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Cabaret Lounge: Bands like City Zu, Tony Vee, Madison Avenue, Louie Fontaine, Lonnie Lawless, and Sidro's Armada play nightly. Ron Perry performs in the Steakhouse Lounge through March.

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

Reno Hilton • 775-789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theater: Chris Rock: The Black Ambition Tour, March 6. Nevada Opera presents Dolora Zajick: A Night With the Diva, April 10. Montgomery Gentry, April 23. Bands play nightly in The Garage.

Sands Regency • 775-348-2200: Tequila Bar: Music nightly except Mon.-Tues. Comedians perform in the Just For Laughs Comedy Club, dark Mon.-Tues. Herb McQuay performs March 17-21, May 26-30, June 30-July 4, Aug. 4-8, and Sept. 1-5. The Happy Hypnotist, Mon.-Tues.

Siena • 775-337-6260: Lexie's Lounge: Jammin' With

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- 11th Annual Cowboy Jubilee & Poetry with BBQ dinner. Carson City, March 13
- 13th Annual Mountain Oyster Fry Virginia City, March 13
- Eagle Valley Muzzle Loaders Spring Rendezvous. Trappers, traders... Carson City, April 23-25

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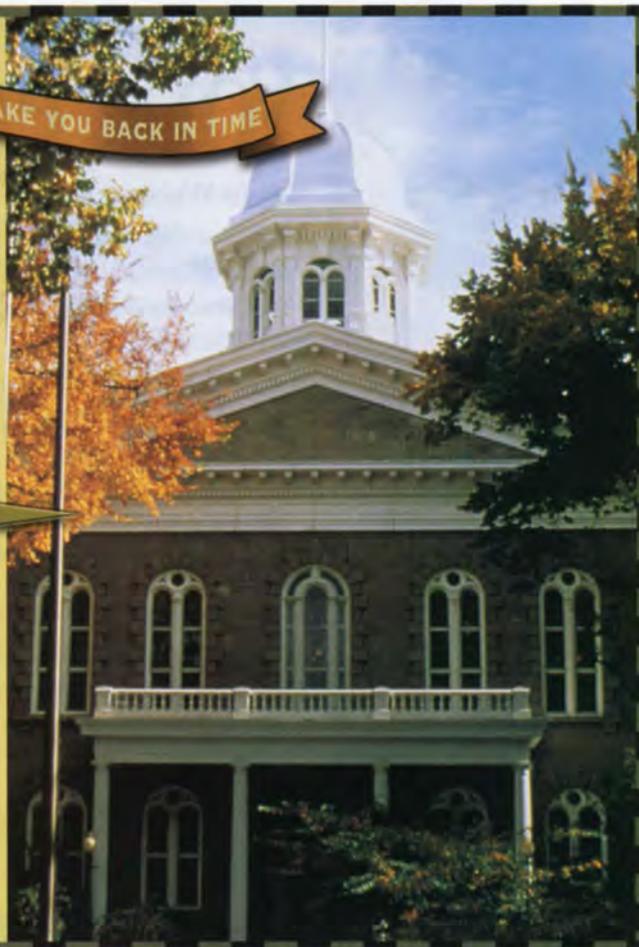
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the Siena Jazz Ensemble Fri.-Sat. Corky Bennett performs Wed.-Sun. in Lexie's Lounge.

Silver Club • Sparks, 775-358-4771 or 800-905-7774 (U.S. outside Nevada): Entertainment in the lounge Wed.-Sun.
Silver Legacy • 775-329-4777 or 800-687-8733 (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, March 5. David Spade, March 27. Music in the Rum Bullions Island Bar. Comedians perform at the Catch a Rising Star comedy club, dark Mon.
Silver Baron Lounge: Piano music.

Tamarack Junction • 775-852-3600.

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

STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

Bill's Lake Tahoe • 775-588-2455: William's Back Door Blues Club: Bands play 9:30pm-12:30am Thurs.-Sat.

Caesars Tahoe • 775-588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus



Dana's World

Comedian Dana Carvey unpacks his bag of Characters March 10-20 at Caesars Tahoe in Stateline. Carvey performs right-on impressions of politicians and entertainers.

Maximus: Dana Carvey, March 10-20. Live Boxing, March 27. The Club Nero nightclub has music for dancing.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: George Thorogood and The Destroyers, March 19-20. California Bar: Arthur Hervey, Tues.-Sat. Bands play in the Casino Center Stage.

Harveys • 775-588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: Cabaret: The Improv, comedians perform nightly except Mon. "X: An Erotic Adventure, adult musical revue, dark Tues.

Lake Tahoe Horizon • 775-588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Golden Cabaret: Entertainment TBA. Bands play in the Aspen Lounge Thurs.-Sun.

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

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 775-832-4000 or 800-225-6382.

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

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

Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0660: Music nightly 8pm-1am Tues.-Sun.

Rural Nevada

AMARGOSA VALLEY

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

BEATTY

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

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

ELKO

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

Gold Country Casino • 800-621-1332: Music on weekends.

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

Red Lion • 775-738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Showroom: "Ooh La La, musical revue, Tues.-Sun. thru March 21. Left of Centre dance band, thru March 24. Oak Ridge Boys in Concert, 8 and 10pm May 1.

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

ELY

Hotel Nevada • 775-289-6665.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 775-423-6031.

Fallon Nugget • 775-423-3111.

HAWTHORNE

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

Joe's Tavern • 775-945-2302.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 775-755-2341.

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

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

LOVELOCK

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

PAHRUMP

Pahrump Nugget • 775-751-6500.

Saddle West Hotel, Casino, and RV Park • 775-727-1111: Club West Nightclub: Bands perform on select Sat.

Terrible's Lakeside • 775-751-7770.

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

SILVER SPRINGS

Silver Springs Nugget • 775-577-4263.

TONOPAH

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

Tonopah Station Ramada Inn • 775-482-9777: Bands play on weekends.

WENDOVER

Montego Bay • 775-664-9100: Entertainment nightly.

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

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

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

State Line Nugget • 775-664-2221.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 775-623-2511: Winners Lounge: Bands like Mike Furlong, Audiobox, Jeff Palmer, Rivers Turnin' Broxton, Rock 'n Horse, and Topper play on weekends.

Model T Hotel • 775-623-2588: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.

Holiday Inn Express • 775-625-3100.

Sundance Casino • 775-623-3336.

Red Lion • 800-633-6435.

YERINGTON

Casino West • 775-463-2481: Weekend music.

Dini's Lucky Club • 775-463-2868: Weekend music.

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Tourism Authorities/Chambers of Commerce

- 101 Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce**—Located in the high desert mountain region of U.S. 50 ("The Loneliest Road in America"), Austin features many historic sites, recreational opportunities for mountain biking, hunting, prospecting, and more. For information: 775-964-2200, www.mountainsage.org.
- 102 Beatty Chamber of Commerce**—Between Las Vegas and Tonopah on U.S. 95, the desert community of Beatty is referred to as the Gateway to Death Valley National Park. Four miles west is Rhyolite, one of the state's most photographed ghost towns. For information: 866-736-3716, www.beattynevada.org.
- 103 Boulder City Chamber of Commerce**—"The city that built Hoover Dam," Boulder City is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the first planned community in America. Golf, outdoor sports, Hoover Dam, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area. 866-297-4336, www.bouldercitychamber.com.
- 104 Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau**—Nevada's capital city, rich in recreation and history, Carson City is a short drive from Lake Tahoe, Dayton, Virginia City, Reno, Minden-Gardnerville, and Genoa. Historical landmarks, "Divine 9" golf courses, lodging, and gaming. 800-NEVADA-1, 775-687-7410, www.visitcarsoncity.com.
- 105 Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau/Seniors Strike Silver Cards**—For ages 50 and over, discounts on lodging, meals, museums, recreation, and gaming from participating Carson City merchants. 800-NEVADA-1, www.carson-city.org.
- 106 Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Authority**—Genoa (Nevada's oldest town), Minden-Gardnerville, and Topaz Lake make up the Carson Valley located south of Carson City on U.S. 395. Views of the Sierra and Jobs Peak. A short drive to Lake Tahoe. Visitor Guide, 800-727-7677, www.carsonvalleynv.org.
- 107 White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board**—Home of ancient bristlecone pines, Great Basin National Park, and Cave Lake State Park. Fishing, hunting, boating are available. In Elv visitors enjoy wall murals and the Nevada Northern Railway's steam locomotive. 800-HY6-9350, www.elynevada.net.
- 108 Eureka Opera House**—Built in 1880 and restored in 1993, the Eureka Opera House has full convention and meeting services. Located on U.S. 50, the Loneliest Road in America, Eureka offers history and recreation. 775-237-6006, www.co.eureka.nv.us.
- 109 Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority**—The Oasis of Nevada, Fallon boasts Hearts O' Gold cantaloupes, the Latin Farms corn maze, and waterfowl hunting. Home to the Navy's Top Gun flight school and nearby Sand Mountain and Lake Lahontan. Free brochure, 866-4FALLON, www.fallontourism.com.
- 110 Elko Convention and Visitors Authority**—Elko, in Northeastern Nevada, is located on Interstate 80 and offers outdoor recreation and history. Casino Express Airlines flies in visitors from around the country. Elko has hotels, casinos, and 50,000-square-foot convention facility. Visitors Guide, 800-248-3556, www.elkocva.com.
- 111 Jackpot Tourism**—Located near the Idaho border on U.S. 93, Jackpot is a Northeastern Nevada resort town with entertainment, casinos, restaurants, golf, and respite for adventure seekers who desire the luxury of a hotel. 775-755-2229, www.jackpot-nevada.org.
- 112 Nevada Commission on Tourism**—The State of Nevada's tourism authority guides the visitor to all that the Silver State has to offer, from unlimited outdoor adventure to world-class resorts. Nevada Visitors Guide, 800-NEVADA-8, www.travelnevada.com.
- 113 Tahoe Casino Express**—Nonstop, year-round motorcoach service from Reno-Tahoe International Airport to Lake Tahoe's South Shore resort-casinos. Guests can enjoy *Nevada Magazine*, found in seatbacks, for their reading pleasure. 800-446-6128, 775-785-2424, www.tahoecasinoexpress.com. Tahoe-Douglas visitor information, 775-588-4591, www.tahoechamber.org.
- 114 Tonopah Chamber of Commerce**—Midway between Las Vegas and Reno on U.S. 95 Tonopah offers hotels, casinos, restaurants, and shopping, yet is firmly rooted in Nevada's historical mining past. Convention center can accommodate 500. Jim Butler Days every Memorial Day weekend. 775-482-3859, www.tonopahnevada.com.

- 115 Virginia City Convention and Tourism Authority**—Virginia City is an Old West town where time stands still. Mine tours, train rides, mansions, opera house, museums, shops, restaurants, and events. Located 23 miles from Reno and 15 miles from Carson City. 775-847-7500, www.virginiacity-nv.org.
- 116 Lander County Convention and Tourism Authority**—Battle Mountain, 70 miles west of Elko on Interstate 80, has been made famous by its appellation, "Armpit of America." by the *Washington Post*. Battle Mountain invites visitors to annual Old Spice-sponsored festivities. 775-635-1112, www.battlemountain.org.
- 117 Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority**—On Interstate 80 between Reno and Elko, Winnemucca boasts Basque restaurants, adventure, outdoors, history, events, nightlife, gaming, plus a 12,400-square-foot convention center and large events center. In March it hosts the Shooting the West photography conference. Visitors Guide, 800-962-2638, www.winnemucca.nv.us.
- 119 Pony Express Territory**—The Pony Express Trail (1860-1861) paralleled U.S. 50 through the heart of Nevada, now called the Pony Express Territory. U.S. 50 is called "The Loneliest Road in America," and history prevails throughout the region. 800-HY6-9350, www.ponyexpressnevada.com.
- 120 Truckee-Donner Chamber of Commerce**—Located just north of Lake Tahoe, Truckee has dramatic views of the Sierra Nevada and is close to six world-class ski resorts and Donner Memorial State Park. Historic downtown offers quaint shops, restaurants and inns. 866-245-4347, www.truckee.com.
- 121 Lyon County Information Center**—Yerington, Fernley, Dayton, and other Lyon County areas offer an adventure seekers' paradise with 1,200 miles of trails for mountain biking, four-wheeling, hiking, or horseback riding, plus hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. 775-463-2245, www.lyontourism.info.
- 122 Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority**—Visitor information for Las Vegas restaurants, shopping, entertainment and shows, events, gaming, lodging, golf. Las Vegas Guide Book, 877-VISITLV, www.vegasfreedom.com.
- 128 Wells Chamber of Commerce**—At Interstate 80 and U.S. 93, Wells is the jump-off point for California-Oregon Trail sites. Wells was founded in 1869 by the Central Pacific Railroad, and its history is documented at the Emigrant Trail Center. Hunting, fishing, golf, and trails. 775-752-3540, www.californiatrailinterpretivecenter.com.
- 129 Greater Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce**—North of Las Vegas, Lincoln County includes Alamo, Caliente, Rachel, Pioche, and Panaca. Home to ghost towns and mining camps, geological wonders, trails, five state parks, and the Pahrangat National Wildlife Reserve. 775-962-5271, www.lincolncountynevada.com.
- 132 Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority**—California and Nevada's official Lake Tahoe guide to "The Blue World" of Tahoe hotels, cabins, vacation rentals, lodging, rates, reservations, and vacation packages. 800-AT-TAHOE, www.virtualtaho.com.
- 133 City of West Wendover**—An hour from Salt Lake City on the Nevada-Utah border, West Wendover is a small town with big-city entertainment. Swimming, golfing, horseback riding, fishing, and migrating-bird watching. Casinos offer hotels, dining, and entertainment. 866-BZCITY, 775-664-3081, www.westwendovercity.com.

Hotels/Casinos

- 202 Carson Nugget, Carson City**—The Carson Nugget has 600 video and slot machines, table games, keno, and bingo. Free valet parking, restaurants and buffet, children's lounge, beauty salon, gift shop, entertainment, and Prospector's Club. 800-426-5239, www.ccnugget.com.
- 203 Carson Valley Inn, Minden**—Hotel, motor lodge, and RV park at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden. Convention center available for banquets, meetings, receptions. Wedding chapel, pool, spa, fitness facility, gift shop, four restaurants, and casino. 800-321-6983, www.cvin.com.
- 207 Imperial Palace, Las Vegas**—Centrally located on the Las Vegas Strip, the Imperial Palace has a casino, 2,700 rooms, and 10 restaurants. Entertainment includes "Legends in Concert"; call 702-794-3261 or 888-777-7664 for reservations. Full-service business center, spa and convention and wedding space. 800-634-6441, www.imperialpalace.com.

- 208 John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks**—Off Interstate 80 three miles east of downtown Reno, John Ascuaga's Nugget offers slot, video, table, keno, bingo games, and John's Club Card. Eight restaurants, wedding chapel, pool, gift shop, health club, and convention and meeting space. 800-648-1177, www.jannugget.com.
- 209 Peppermill, Reno**—The hotel-casino on S. Virginia St. has gaming, seven restaurants, 12 themed bars, free cabaret entertainment, pool and health club, salon and spa, with senior specials. Business center, convention facilities. For reservations: mention HNV MAG 1, 800-648-6992, www.PeppermillReno.com.
- 215 Saddle West, Pahrump**—Saddle West, 60 miles west of Las Vegas, has rooms and suites, 24-hour restaurant and buffet, an RV resort, golf packages, and convention and banquet facilities. Also, Players Club and slot tournaments. 800-433-3987, www.saddlewest.com.
- 216 CasaBlanca, Mesquite**—In addition to 500 tower rooms, CasaBlanca has 200 kitchenette-studio and one bedroom units, a 45-site RV park, and Vacation Club timeshares. The hotel-casino has convention space available for weddings and groups, gaming, spa and salon, pool, tennis courts, 18-hole golf course with golf packages, and three restaurants. 800-711-4653, www.casablancacaresort.com.
- 217 Oasis, Mesquite**—One hour north of Las Vegas, Oasis offers 1,000 rooms and suites, five restaurants including an ice cream parlor, an RV park with 50 spaces, 5,000 square feet of convention space, golf, spa, gaming, and entertainment in the Lounge or Club. Golf and spa room packages. 888-711-4653, www.oasisresort.com.
- 218 Harrah's Laughlin**—Themed after a Mexican resort, 1,571 rooms and suites. Slot players can enjoy Harrah's Total Rewards. Top-named entertainment in the showroom or amphitheater, five restaurants, outdoor activities on the river, meeting and banquet facilities. www.harrah.com, 1-800-HARRAHS, ask for offer LAUNVMAG1 when making reservations.
- 221 Flamingo Laughlin**—The 1,900-room Flamingo has convention space, wedding facilities, ballroom, and executive board rooms. Leisure or business visitors can enjoy gaming, entertainment, Colorado River boat tours, pool, tennis, fitness center, and nine restaurants. 800-FLAMINGO (conventions 800-292-3711), www.flamingolaughlin.com.
- 222 Carson Station and Piñon Plaza Resort, Carson City**—Two Best Western locations: Carson Station on U.S. 395 offers 92 hotel rooms, cabaret lounge with entertainment and dancing, and two restaurants. 800-501-2929, www.carsonstation.com. Piñon Plaza Resort on U.S. 50 East has 148 hotel rooms, 70 RV spaces, pool, spa, sauna and fitness center, three restaurants, and a lounge. 877-519-5569, www.pinonplaza.com.
- 227 Atlantis Casino Resort, Reno**—On S. Virginia St., 1,000 hotel guest rooms, concierge tower, health spa, nine restaurants, gaming, and Club Paradise Player's Club, 24,000 square feet of meeting space. For reservations mention NEVADA. 800-723-6500, www.atlanticasino.com.
- 229 Cactus Petes Resort, Jackpot**—At the Idaho-Nevada border on U.S. 93, 300 hotel rooms and suites, live entertainment and concerts, five restaurants, 25,000 square feet of gaming. 800-821-1103, www.cactuspetes.com.

Golf

- 301 Golf Mesquite, Nevada**—Mesquite, one of the fastest growing communities in the nation, is situated on Interstate 15, 80 miles north-east of Las Vegas on the Nevada-Arizona border. The warm climate is ideal for golf. Mesquite has five 18-hole courses and one nine-hole course; there also are courses in nearby St. George, Utah. Golf-hotel packages are available. 866-720-7111, www.golfmesquitenevada.com.

Lodging

- 402 Lake Tahoe Accommodations**—A management service for Lake Tahoe rental properties throughout the Tahoe Basin. Visitors can make reservations for rental homes or condominiums in North or South Tahoe near ski, golf, and water outdoor recreation. 800-544-3234, www.laketahoeaccommodations.com.

Attractions, Galleries, Museums

- 602 Liberate Museum, Las Vegas**—The museum at 1775 E. Tropicana Ave. (at Spencer) features the jewelry, wardrobe, and costumes worn by the late Liberace. A re-creation of his Palm Springs bedroom, custom-

Attractions, Galleries, Museums (Cont.)

car collection, and pianos are on display. The nonprofit Liberace Foundation supports arts scholarships. 702-798-5595, www.liberace.com.

603 Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely—Starting in 1905, 140 miles of track were laid to transport copper ore, and the Nevada Northern Railway operated until the late 1970s. Train rides on 32 miles of track begin in East Ely. 866-40-STEAM, www.nnry.com.

Events

703 Pioneer Territory—Covering the south-central third of Nevada, Pioneer Territory encompasses the area from Death Valley, the lowest point in the U.S., to Boundary Peak, the highest peak in Nevada at 13,140 feet. The territory includes famous mining towns, seven state parks, and seven wilderness areas where you can mountain bike, ski, camp, or hike. 800-357-8754, www.pioneerterritory.org.

704 Nevada's Cowboy Country—Following Interstate 80 from Lovelock eastward to Wendover, Cowboy Country offers a mix of hotels, casinos, and gaming with outdoor adventure, cattle ranches, rodeo, Basque culture, and gold mines. 877-626-9268, www.cowboycountry.org.

Wedding Chapels

801 Viva Las Vegas Weddings and Viva Las Vegas Villas—Las Vegas-themed wedding chapel and honeymoon villas offer traditional, themed, and Elvis weddings. Packages include limos, flowers, and photos. 800-574-4450, www.vivalasvegaweddings.com.

Recreation

901 Lake Mead Cruises—On Lake Mead and near Hoover Dam, minutes from Las Vegas, you can enjoy excursions on the *Desert Princess* or *Desert Princess Too*. Paddlewheelers accommodate 149 passengers for events and weddings. 702-293-6180, www.lakemeadcruises.com.

902 Tonopah Historic Mining Foundation—The Tonopah Historic Mining Park is on the site of Belle and Jim Butler's original 1900 claim, which started the rush to Tonopah, the "Queen of the Silver Camps." Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the 100-acre outdoor museum. 775-482-9274, www.tonopahnevada.org.

903 Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopter, Las Vegas—The company is certified to fly the south and west rims of the Grand Canyon with three landing sites at the bottom. Helicopter-bus tour combinations, hotel and show packages, weddings, and group charters. Las Vegas tours depart from McCarran International Airport. When making reservations, mention NVMAG-03. 888-635-7272, www.papillon.com.

905 Nevada Department of Transportation Bicycle Safety Program—Developed to enhance and encourage Nevada's bicycling adventure. Web site has information on safety and statewide events and sells state bicycle jerseys. 775-888-RIDE, www.bicyclenevada.com.

908 Adventure Photo Tours/Las Vegas—Interactive four-wheel-drive tour packages from Las Vegas into the Mojave Desert offer photographic stops. Guides, vehicles, photographic assistance, and 35mm cameras available. 702-889-8687, 888-363-8687, www.adventurephototours.com.

911 Look Tours, Las Vegas—Offers sightseeing tours of the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam by helicopter or airplane. Bus and van tours, horseback riding, most meals, and riverboat combinations offered. Pick-up at Las Vegas hotels. 800-LOOKTOURS, www.looktours.com.

Restaurants

1001 Louis' Basque Corner—Authentic Basque food served family style in downtown Reno, 301 E. Fourth St., since 1967. Banquet room. Open for dinner nightly and lunch Tues-Sat. 775-323-7203.

Real Estate

1101 Liberty Realty Relocation Division—You can relocate to Nevada with a relocation team of specialists. For information on available homes or to have a Liberty Relocation professional help find Nevada real estate for you, call 800-296-1802, www.LibertyRelocationDivision.com.

Retail Shopping

1203 Gamblers General Store, Las Vegas—Huge store has 8,000 square feet devoted to casino products. Antique slots, slot machines, books, chips, chip cases, roulette wheels, and tables are among the 5,000 items sold in the store and online and shipped worldwide. 800-322-2447, www.gamblersgeneralstore.com.

Reservations

1301 Hotels.com—Internet site for hotel, suite, and vacation rental reservations. Many package deals are available, including hotel, air, rental cars, and group travel. Check online for specials, destination planning, and helpful currency converter. 800-2-HOTELS, www.Hotels.com.



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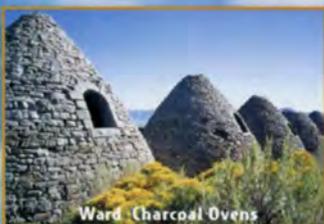
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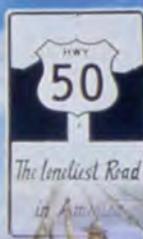


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Casino Notes

News from hotel-casinoland. By Ann Henderson

Las Vegas Territory

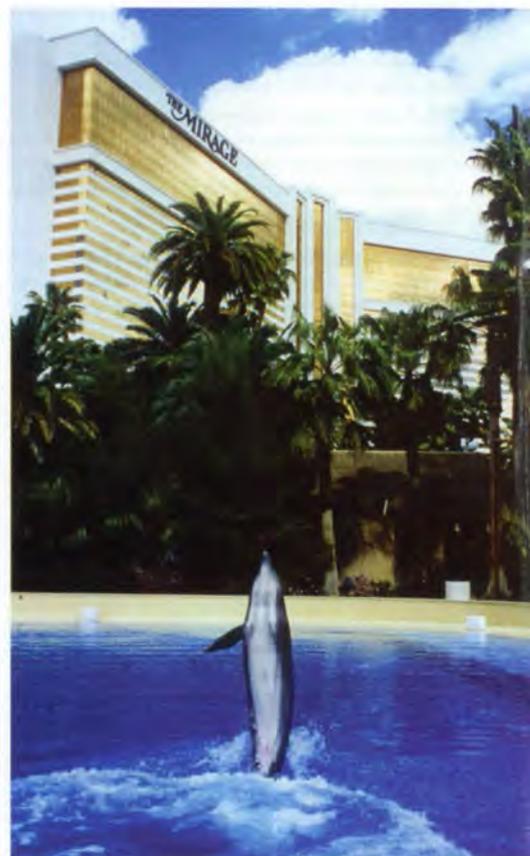
The Tuscan-themed \$100-million **Casino MonteLago** opened at the Lake Las Vegas luxury resort area in Henderson. Casino MonteLago is the gaming anchor for the **MonteLago Village**, a retail center that includes the **Ritz-Carlton Hotel**. Exterior features of the casino, which houses a 20,000-square-foot gaming floor, are a mix of stone and Tuscan colors. A tower bell rings on the hour.

The **Colorado Belle** in Laughlin has converted a floor of standard rooms to two- and three-room suites, bringing its total number of suites to 49. The hotel offers 1,128 standard, river-view, and pool-view rooms at the Colorado River property 93 miles south of Las Vegas. The Colorado Belle also has opened a full-service spa and salon.

Following a \$5-million makeover, the former Pot O' Gold Casino in downtown Henderson emerged as the **Emerald Island Casino**. The Irish-themed property features slot machines, a restaurant, and a deli.

Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville opened in January at the **Flamingo Las Vegas**. The multilevel entertainment complex features two outdoor patios overlooking the Strip, a tropical-themed restaurant, five bars, indoor and outdoor entertainment, and a 3,000-square-foot retail store. Stiltwalkers create parrothead balloon hats for guests. Margaritaville opens daily at 11 a.m. Margaritaville follows other changes at the Flamingo, which include the addition of 18,000 square feet of meeting space and two new restaurants with distinctive cuisines, the Pink Ginger and Ventuno Ristorante. Pink Ginger offers Japanese, Korean, Cantonese, and Thai dishes, while the oval-shaped Ventuno has an Italian menu.

White lions, Bengal tigers, an Asian elephant, and Atlantic bottlenose dolphins reside in Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat at the **Mirage** in Las Vegas. Visitors can view the animals and listen to an audio tour as they wander the garden area. Dolphins live in a 25-million-gallon habitat that has four



Atlantic bottlenose dolphins cavort at Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat, which is open daily at the Mirage in Las Vegas.

connected pools, an artificial coral reef, and sandy bottom that replicate their natural environment. Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat is open daily from 11 a.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. weekends and holidays. Admission is \$12. Children 10 and under are admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

The **Rio All-Suite Hotel** has announced plans to build "The World's Tallest Observation Wheel," a 600-foot structure that will feature 30 orbitor cabins and a 20,000-square-foot nightclub. The wheel, which will be located on the southeast side of the Rio parking lot, will be visible from the Las Vegas Strip. The wheel will be similar to the London Eye, a British attraction, and has an estimated opening date of July 2005.

THEhotel at Mandalay Bay, a stand-alone 43-story, 1,120-suite property next to Mandalay Bay on the Strip, opened in



Visitors to Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville, which opened in January at the Flamingo Las Vegas, can lounge on two outdoor patios overlooking the Strip. The Caribbean-themed restaurant has five bars and a three-story volcano.

December. The hotel has its own entrance, lobby, lounges, café, gym, and spa. Business suites are located next to the 5,000-square-foot conference space on floors three to six.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Katie's Country Kitchen at the **Carson Valley Inn** reopened in January following a remodeling project. Changes to the 24-hour restaurant's menu include soda fountain desserts such as shakes, malts, and sugar-free items. Expanded selections for seniors feature more manageable portions and "early bird" pricing for diners who arrive between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. For dieters watching carbs, there is the Atkins Special Breakfast and turkey, garden, and chicken breast burgers.

Recent improvements to the **Eldorado** in Reno include a new casino cabaret, which will feature free entertainment Thursday through Saturday, and the addition of a high-limit slot area. The hotel has previously installed 500 ticket-in/ticket-out coinless slot machines to its 81,000-square-foot casino and is working on a \$4-million room renovation. The technology is part of phase one of the Eldorado's casino expansion. The Eldorado is also replacing indoor signage with bronze, gold, and marble sconces, slot toppers, directional signs, and light fixtures.

John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks is celebrating its 49th birthday on St. Patrick's Day. The Nugget opened on March 17 1955, at 11 a.m. as a lunch counter. Birthday cake will be served in honor of the anniversary.

Rural Nevada

The **Hillside House Bed and Breakfast** in Ely offers two guest rooms, full breakfast, and a sitting room. The inn is furnished with antiques, and home-baked pastries are served to visitors.

The **Holiday Inn Express** in Fallon

added 42 rooms, bringing the property's total to 98 in March. Additionally, the \$1.8-million project enabled two guest rooms to be converted to meeting space.

An extensive remodeling project at **Montego Bay Casino** in Wendover included renovations to 250 rooms, 700 new slot machines, a gaming pit with 24 table games, three themed bars, two restaurants, pool and spa, sports book and bar, and cabaret lounge. At the Montego's sister property in Wendover, the **Peppermill Hotel Casino**, the gaming area was increased by 18,000 square feet. The addition includes eight new gaming tables and 250 slot machines. Also, a 24-hour restaurant, *Coco Palms*, opened, and a Texas barbecue was added to the Grand Buffet.

In entertainment news, the Oak Ridge Boys perform in concert May 1 at the **Red Lion Inn** in Elko. There will be shows at 8 and 10 p.m., tickets are \$28 in advance or \$33 the day of the show. At the Red Lion, "Ooh La La," a musical revue, will run through March 21. The Left of Centre dance band will open March 24 for an indefinite run at the Elko casino. ♡

Ann Henderson is Nevada's entertainment and events editor.

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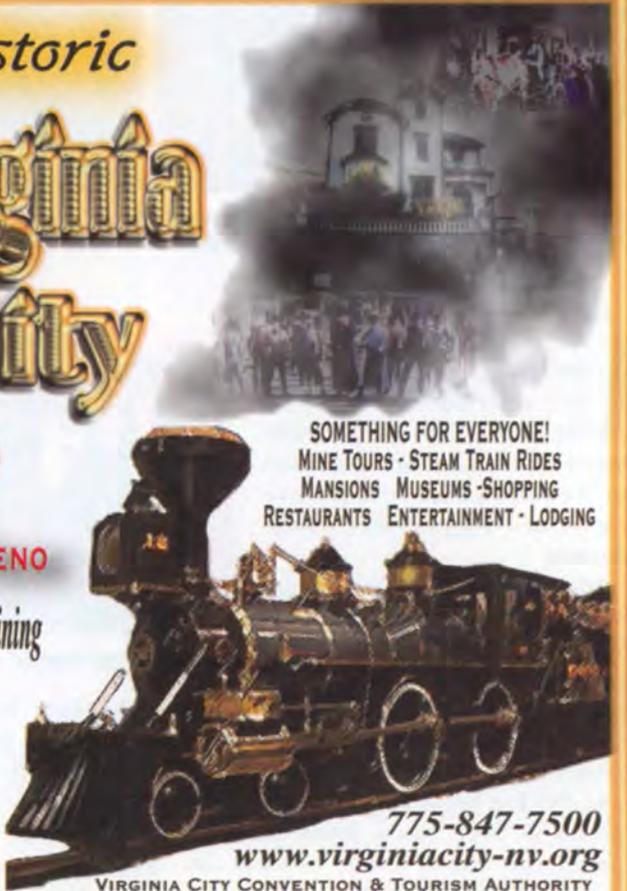
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Masterpieces in Las Vegas

The Guggenheim displays a century of paintings at the Venetian.

By Jack Bulavsky



Auguste Renoir painted "Woman with Parrot" (oil on canvas, 36-1/4"x25-5/8") in 1871 (left). Gino Severini depicted the ravages of World War I in his "Red Cross Train Passing a Village" (oil on canvas, 35"x45 3/4"), which he painted in the summer of 1915. The paintings show two different forms of modern art—Impressionism and Cubism.

A hotel-casino is perhaps one of the last places you'd expect to find a prestigious art gallery. But wander into the Venetian Resort on the Las Vegas Strip and you'll encounter the internationally acclaimed **Guggenheim Heritage Museum**.

Adjacent to the main hotel lobby, the 7,600-square-foot museum is a partnership between the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City and the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia. Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Rem Koolhaas, the Las Vegas Guggenheim, which opened in 2001, has a somewhat stark interior that allows visitors to focus on the distinguished artworks. In the current exhibition that includes "Woman With



Joan Miró created "Painting" (oil on canvas, 76-3/4"x148-3/4") in 1953.

Yellow Hair" by Pablo Picasso and "Ocean Greyness" by Jackson Pollock.

"When Mr. Guggenheim created his foundation in 1937" says Thomas Krens, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation's director, "he wanted to educate the public about pure artistic invention. What better place to do that than Las Vegas,

where over 30 million tourists visit here yearly. However, while the museum has grown to encompass a wide range of pure artistic invention or contemporary art, it is masterpieces, such as the ones on display now, that remain at the heart of the collection."

Krens is referring to "A Century of Painting: From Renoir to Rothko," the exhibition appearing at the Las Vegas Guggenheim through May 2. The show includes 37 examples of Impressionism, Cubism, Expressionism, and Abstract Expressionism with works by Paul Cezanne, Marc Chagall, Georges Braque, Claude Monet, Paul Gauguin, Henri Matisse, and other influential 19th- and 20th-century artists.

"Everything on display is from the

museum's permanent collection in New York," says Krens. "It's the first time many of these priceless paintings have been west of the Mississippi, and we're seeing over 1,000 people a day walk through the gallery."

Las Vegas resident Patrick Duffy is an avid art collector who has visited galleries around the world. He says the museum has arranged the paintings well.

"Simply put, this exhibit is a short

"It's the first time many of these paintings have been west of the Mississippi."

course in the history of modern art," explains Duffy. "Start at the beginning of the exhibit because there is a wonderful juxtaposition of a Picasso and a Braque that gives the viewer a keen awareness of the similarities between the two painters.

"However, by looking closely and studying the two pieces, you'll also discover the differences and dual influences. Keep in mind that when Renoir showed his very first piece, it was controversial for the time. But then those who followed were able to go one step further in adapting variations in color, material, and theme."

"A Century of Painting: From Renoir to Rothko" is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Guggenheim Heritage Museum in Las Vegas. The cost is \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$11 students, and \$7 children six to 12; children under six enter free. Call 702-414-2493 for information.

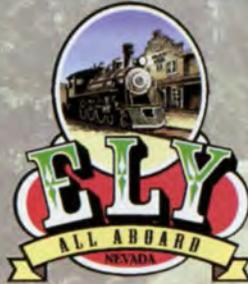
Jack Bulavsky is a Las Vegas writer.

More Attractions on the Web

Art lovers in Las Vegas also can visit the **Donna Beam Art Gallery** (702-895-3893) at UNLV, the **Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art** (702-693-7871), the **Las Vegas Art Museum** (702-360-8000), and the **Wynn Collection** (702-733-4100). The **Nevada Museum of Art** in Reno displays permanent as well as traveling exhibits (775-329-3333), and the **Sheppard Gallery of Fine Art** at the University of Nevada, Reno offers contemporary fine art (775-784-6658). To learn more about places to visit in the Silver State, visit *Nevada Magazine's* Web site, www.nevadamagazine.com, go to "Nevada Events and Shows," and click on "Attractions, Tours, and Museums." ❏

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Loon Lake

Free boat rides take visitors to see migratory birds at the Walker Lake Loon Festival.

By Joyce Hollister

Diane Thelen looks for loons at last year's Walker Lake Loon Festival. Dedicated birdwatchers, Thelen and her husband, Jeff, live in Truckee, California.

Migrating loons gulp fish and make haunting calls when they stop at Walker Lake near Hawthorne each spring. At the **Walker Lake Loon Festival** on Saturday, April 17 boats will take you to see the black-and-white fish-eating birds—and if you're lucky, you'll hear them yodel.

"The loons are in their breeding plumage, and they're absolutely gorgeous," says Lou Thompson, chairman of the Walker Lake Working Group, which hosts the festival. "They have bright red eyes and white necklaces around their necks. They're almost the size of a Canada goose—much bigger than people would imagine."

The birds spend about six weeks at Walker Lake, diving for tui chub, their favorite food, and building strength for the trip to their breeding grounds in Saskatchewan. "They're refueling. They're out of gas when they get to the lake," says Thompson, who adds that most biologists think the birds winter in Baja California.

Loons make surreal-sounding calls—one-, two-, and three-note wails, tremolos, and yodels—as well as a hoot, a short "wooning" sound they use to communicate with each other. Although Thompson can't guarantee you'll see loons close up, boats

and barges filled with visitors are occasionally able to drift among groups of loons and hear the birds call back and forth.

"One boatload I took out, we lucked into a situation where a loon came within a few yards of us with a big fish in his mouth," says Thompson. "We circled the bird for about five or 10 minutes while he was trying to get that chub down his throat."

Due to drought and agricultural diversions of the Walker River, the level of Walker Lake has steadily declined, causing a buildup of solids, primarily alkali, that endangers the lake's food chain, according to Thompson. The Walker Lake Working Group was formed 11 years ago to encourage public support for a long-term solution.

During the April 17 festival boats will launch from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Sportsman's Beach on Walker's west shore, 12 miles north of Hawthorne on U.S. 95. Boats are loaned to the festival by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, and NDOW scientists give lectures on lake biology. Paiute storytellers talk to visitors about the

tribe's ancestral connections to the lake.

Festival-goers can buy hats, T-shirts, and food. Raffle prizes include locally produced artwork (watercolors of loons are popular). Proceeds fund the Walker Lake Working Group's educational programs. For information visit www.walkerlake.org or call Thompson at 775-945-8243. If you go, dress warmly and take binoculars along with your camera. ▣

Joyce Hollister, Nevada Magazine's associate editor, bought home-baked bread at last year's Walker Lake Loon Festival.



A loon bobs gently on Walker Lake during a spring visit.



Subject The heartbroken Kara Muñoz

Mission How to get over a guy in 7 days

Strategy Fight fire with fire. Shake the loneliness on the nation's loneliest road

Shoe Tree: Kara happily hung up the 'gym shoes' that Jeff gave her for Christmas. Good riddance.

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Great Basin: Gained up with a really fun family. The park is Great. And so was the trip - great friends, great times, never felt more a part of something than on the loneliest road in America... Kara's cured.

Lake Tahoe: Beautiful - alpine peaks, towering pines, crystal clear waters... mountain climbers. Kelly caught one! But our rule was strictly "CATCH & RELEASE."



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