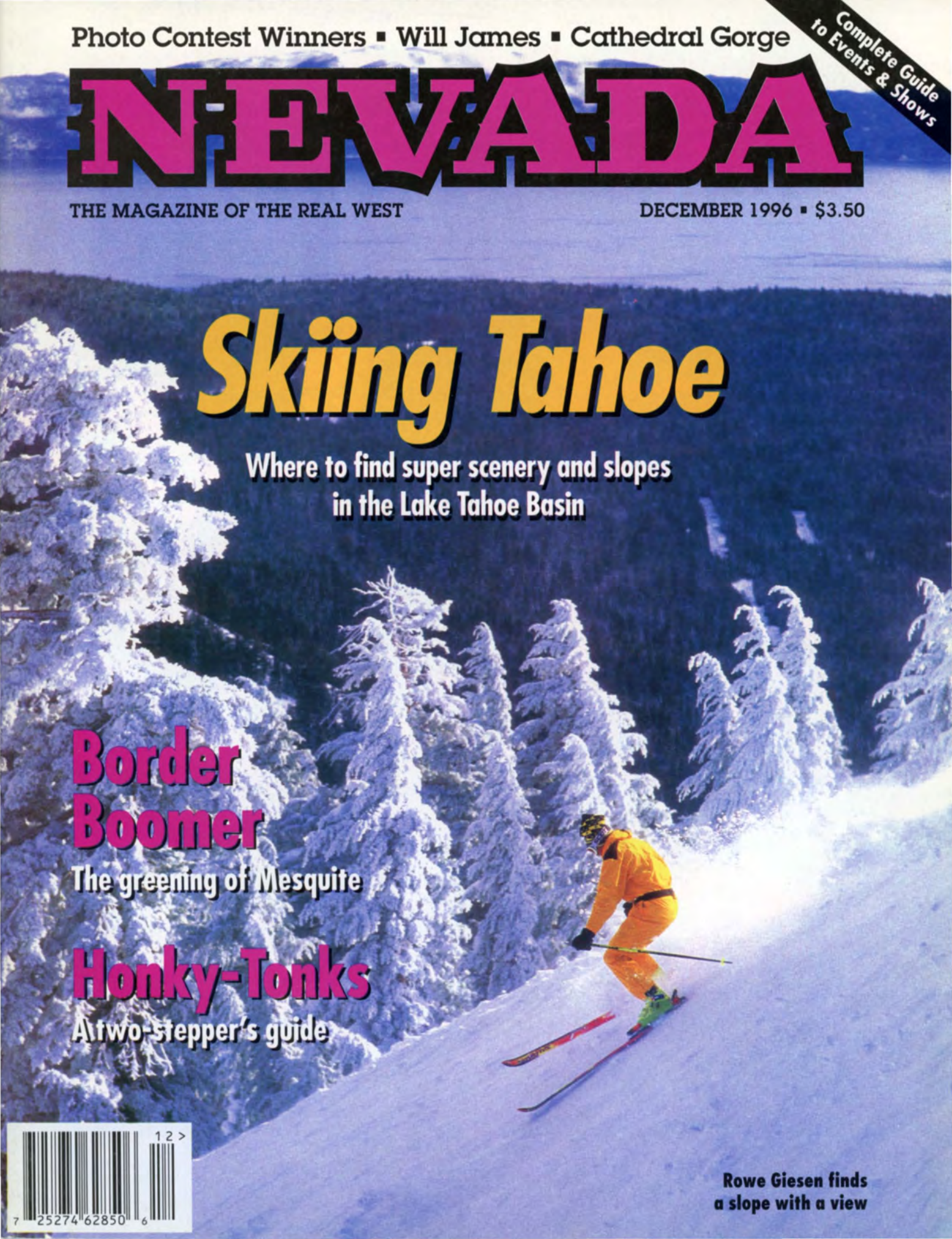
Photo Contest Winners ▪ Will James ▪ Cathedral Gorge

Complete Guide to Events & Shows

# NEVADA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST

DECEMBER 1996 ▪ $3.50



## Skiing Tahoe

Where to find super scenery and slopes in the Lake Tahoe Basin

## Border Boomer

The greening of Mesquite

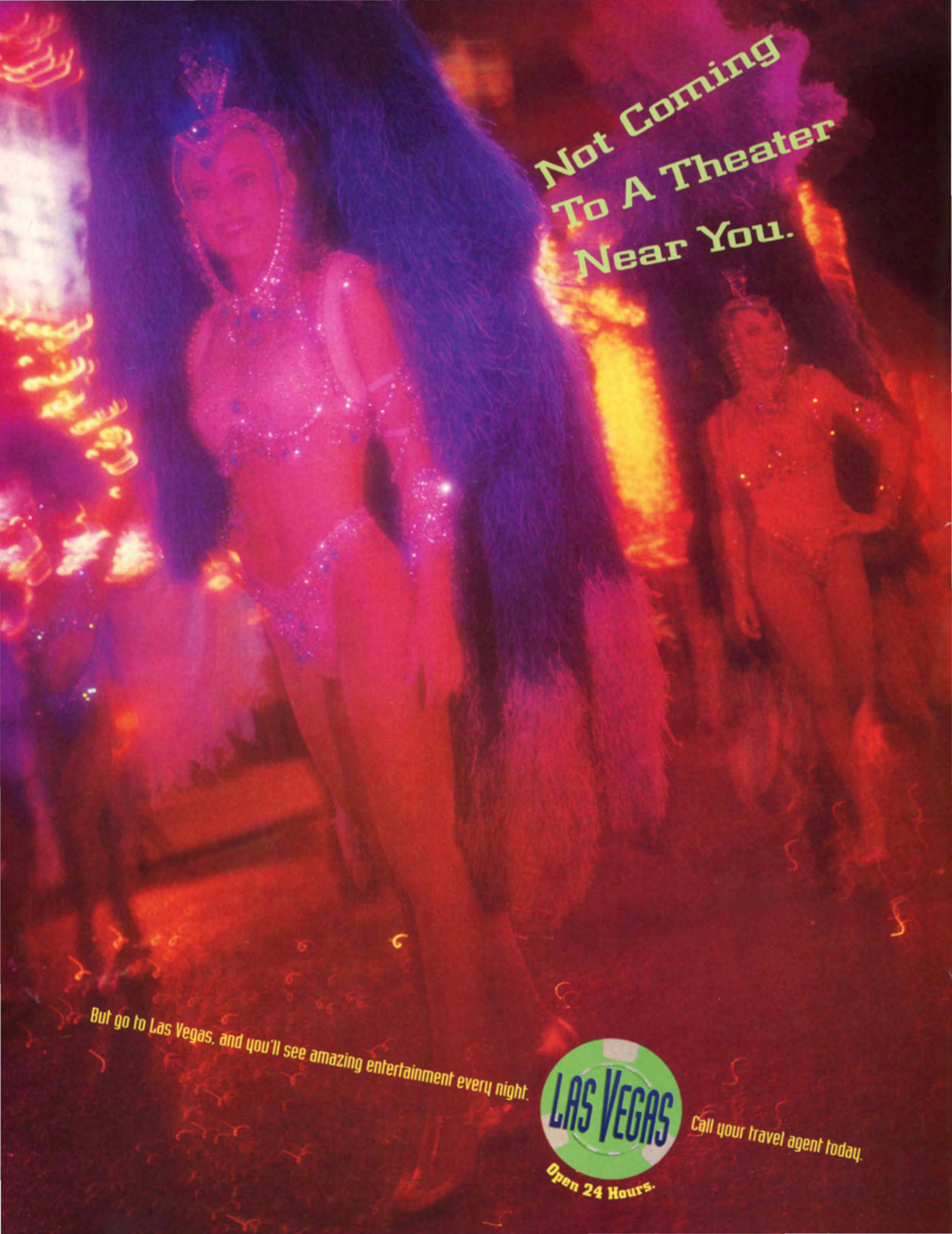
## Honky-Tonks

A two-stepper's guide

Rowe Giesen finds a slope with a view

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*On the Cover:*
*Rowe Giesen skis at Alpine Meadows. Photo by Larry Prosor*

Photos (from top to bottom): Larry Prosor, Robin Daugherty, Sal Maimone




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EDITOR'S NOTE

# Views

When he was six years old, **Charles "Chaz" Kasper** learned to ski on the bunny slope at Ski Incline, the forerunner of Diamond Peak. He soon graduated to the black-diamond runs where only experts dare to ski. Ever since he has enjoyed the moods and beauty of skiing at Lake Tahoe, especially with the lake as a backdrop. In this issue's cover story, "Skiing Tahoe: An Enthusiast's Guide," he reviews the ski resorts that ring the water.

"Each place is unique, but the lake is the binding element," says Charles, who has skied all over the West. "It's more than being on some range on the Continental Divide, far from water."

Charles, who lives in South Lake Tahoe, is studying for a master's in English at the University of Nevada, Reno. When he served as an intern at *Nevada Magazine* last summer, we discovered that Charles is a true Tahoe Renaissance man who writes, paints, photographs, collects coins, fixes cars, can put on chains in a blizzard, and operates a gold-miner's dredge with the same ease that he glides through powder the day after a storm. As a skier, he says, he enjoys the lake's almost mystical presence. "Tahoe is great because it makes you feel whole. You're part of the environment," Charles explains with a smile. "The lake pulls you in."

The most popular slopes in Mesquite are on the town's new golf courses, as **Lyman Hafen** describes in "Border Boomer." Golf and gaming are major attractions there, but the small-town atmosphere of Old Mesquite survives. "Despite the amazing growth, the Mesquite I remember as a kid is still there," says Lyman, who is the editor of *St. George Magazine* and a former Utah high-school rodeo champion.

Also in this issue, Las Vegas native **Eileen Sisk** doesn't dance around as she reviews "10 Great Honky-Tonks." **Deke Castleman** introduces Howard Schwartz, the "Librarian to the Gamblers" and late-night sage of the Gambler's Book Club in Las Vegas.

Be sure to see "Photo Finish" and the gallery of winners in this year's photo contest, the 19th annual Great Nevada Picture Hunt. Art Director **Denise Barr** says, "I was especially impressed with the photographers' effective use of color. Overall, it was a really good photo contest."—*David Moore*


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# LETTERS

Desert encounters and memories of McGill.

### Back to McGill

Great story last issue about McGill Drug by Dan Robrish. I grew up in McGill and spent a lot of hours with my brothers and friends in the drugstore. After the preliminary teasing from Jerry Culbert, you would ask Donna Parker for your lime rickey or 10 cents' worth of penny candy, then try to read two or three comic books before you bought one. Also, it was great to read about Dan Papez, the judge, since I went to school with him.

Brady Wright
Roseville, CA

### The Mysteries of Nevada

Congratulations on the Sept/Oct issue. Of course, the Robert Laxalt piece, "Autumn's Spell," about the stillness that enveloped Reno and the changes of the season from summer to fall, is the thing that Laxalt does better than anyone else—absolutely beautiful poetry written as prose.

The piece on "The Mysterious Demise of Key Pittman" by Guy Louis Rocha is a real service. We have heard so many versions of this story that learning what actually happened is of interest to all who care about Nevada history.

"The Road to Dreamland" by Howard Siegel was fascinating beyond description. We knew for many years that a new airplane, the Stealth, was being developed in secret somewhere near Tonopah. Now a motorcyclist who is also a good writer tells of how he stumbled onto something secret in the same area. Wouldn't you like to know what it is? I would.



Don Lynch
Sparks

### Monte Carlo and the Dunes

I enjoyed reading the Sept/Oct issue, but I must point out a mistake in "The World Comes to Vegas." The story describes the Monte Carlo as being built "on acreage of the old Dunes Hotel." Please note that the Bellagio Resort is being built on the old Dunes property. Also, Jean Harlow does not have an "e" on the end of her name as noted in the story "R&R at B&Bs."

W.H. Painter
Las Vegas

*W.H., thanks for taking a keen eye to the issue. Cindy Robertson, advertising and publicity manager at the Monte Carlo, says it's true that the Monte Carlo was not built exactly where the Dunes Hotel stood. However the new hotel is located on old Dunes property once occupied by the Dunes Country Club.—Ed.*

### Photo Contest Out of Focus

I will no longer be interested in entering your photo contest, the Great Nevada Picture Hunt. Some of the pictures you have printed in your magazine show no talent or any interesting subjects. I'm disappointed in your magazine.

Mary Ellen Floyd
Boulder, CO

### Traveling to Tybo

I read with great interest the article "Tybo Time Travel" by Stanley W Paher in "Great Guides" in the March/April '96 issue. Later several friends and I met in upper Tybo Canyon and made the 12-mile hike, visiting three of the four sites that have charcoal kilns. All of us are history buffs and thoroughly enjoy the great public lands of the West with their hidden treasures. Unfortunately, so many of them are merely empty sites, ravaged by time and unthinking people.

We had a wonderful time treading along trails and old stage roads and will always have memories to share through the dozens of pictures we took. We camped overnight and the next day spent part of the day photographing the buildings along this beautiful canyon. I hope others will take the time to appreciate it as we did without destroying anything.

Jerry Bowen
Vacaville, CA


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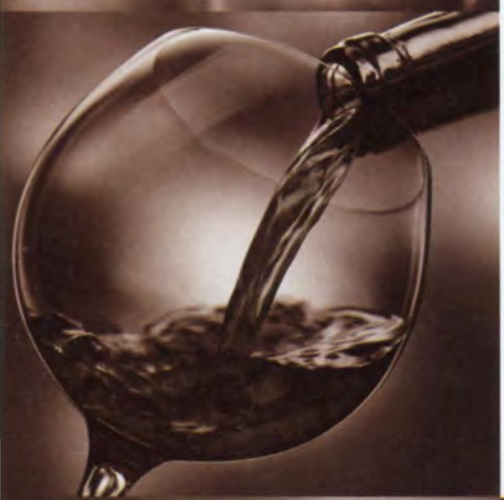
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## ICE SKATING

### New Ice Age

LAKE TAHOE—Ice-skaters will have a new place to carve figure eights when the **South Tahoe Ice Center** opens at South Shore this winter.

The new 85-by-200-foot rink at the South Lake Tahoe Recreational Center is scheduled to open Thanksgiving Day Hockey players will find plenty of pucks at the open-air rink, which was built to pro-hockey specifications. The Reno Renegades will practice at the new rink, where fans can watch from the grandstands. The rink will offer hours for open skating and hockey leagues. Call the South Tahoe Ice Center, 916-542-4700, for prices and hours.



**Lake Tahoe now has twice the ice.**

The **Olympic Ice Pavilion** at Squaw Valley opens for the season November 16. The open-air rink is perched at 8,200 feet and offers an expansive view of the snow-covered terrain. Prices are $19 for adults and $10 for kids (ages 12 and under) and includes skate rentals and the cable-car ride to the rink at the High Camp Bath and Tennis Club. The rink is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Call 916-583-6985 for more information.—*Carolyn Graham*

## WEB SITES



### Dam Good Sites

THE INTERNET—If you've never escaped the lights of Las Vegas to take the tour at **Hoover Dam**, the Bureau of Reclamation has come to the rescue, bringing the dam to you via a well-designed Web site (http://www.hoover-dam.com).

The site has a virtual visitor center where you can read about Hoover Dam's history and current happenings at the real visitor center. The centerpiece is the virtual tour, where linking pages take you on a guided exploration of the dam. The text mirrors what you would hear on the real tour. Pictures of the dam's interior and exterior give you a sense of being there. Also, to help you plan a real visit to the dam, the site offers links to services, schedules, rates, and maps. This is an entertaining site that adds to the experience of seeing (or planning to see) the real thing.

Train buffs surfing the World Wide Web can hop onto the **Nevada Rails** home page (http://pages.prodigy.-com/jbryant/index.htm), developed by train fan Jim Bryant of Reno. The site focuses on the Southern Pacific, the Union Pacific, the Virginia and Truckee in Virginia City, the Nevada Northern in Ely, and the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City.

Each month, Bryant spotlights a different train-watching location with a short narration. You can browse previous months to see what you may have missed. Train buffs with photos to trade can add their name to the list in the Print Exchange link.

The Nevada State Railroad Museum section of Nevada Rails is a comprehensive site with the museum's hours and steam-ups. A link to hotel listings helps train fans plan their trips, and they can even check the weather in Nevada before they leave.—*Steve Graham*

## HORSEBACK RIDING

### Dudes at the Dam

LAS VEGAS—The **2R Riding Stables** offer hour-long horseback rides near Hoover Dam. The trail follows an old railroad bed that cuts through rugged desert terrain. During the ride, cheerful owner and wrangler Don Ray points out native plants and the well-camouflaged bighorn sheep that frequent the area.

At the halfway point, the horses carry riders up a mountain trail to an overlook with a good view of Lake Mead. The trained horses, which are matched to the riders' skills, follow each other at a leisurely pace.



**Dudes can mount up at the 2R Stables near Hoover Dam.**

The 2R Riding Stables are one mile west of Hoover Dam on U.S. 93. One-hour rides are conducted daily from 9 a.m. until dusk, weather permitting. Cost is $20 and includes an optional helmet, riding instruction, and a water bag. Children under 12 must be with a parent or guardian (little buckaroos need to be at least seven years old to ride). The 2R also conducts half-day trips in Red Rock Canyon and cattle drives at State Line near Whiskey Pete's. For information call the 2R office, 702-256-7433, or the stables, 702-275-7227.—*Kate Butler*



Photos: Larry Prosor (top left), Kate Butler (right)

# THE BARGAIN ADVISOR

*By Deke Castleman*

The "parlay stroll" is a walk that you take up and down casino strips, ducking into joints, picking up funbooks and coupons and souvenirs, and snacking on inexpensive refreshments. A recent parlay stroll on **Virginia Street** in Reno turned up a 99-cent shrimp cocktail (regularly $2.95), a $10 matchplay coupon (play $10, win $20), half a roll of free nickels, and a two-for-one show offer. The bargains themselves change from day to day and from town to town, but their availability remains constant, and as often as not they're a good value. Always look at the coupons you're handed outside casinos.

"American Superstars" is a full-scale high-energy main-showroom production revue that you can see up close for a mere $4.50 (the cost of two drinks) in the Images Lounge at the **Stratosphere** in Las Vegas (702-380-7777). Or see it free at a slight distance from outside the lounge, which is open to the casino. Or sit at the video poker bar that surrounds the lounge, buy in for a roll of quarters, and sip your free drink to the accompaniment of Charlie Daniels, Madonna, Michael Jackson, Little Richard, and the other superstar impersonations in the show.

The best place to stretch your legs on the drive between Reno and Las Vegas is historic Tonopah. The best place in Tonopah to grab some good, quick, cheap road food is the snack bar at the **Station House** at the south end of town (702-482-9777). Nothing on the menu of tacos, burritos, burgers, franks, milkshakes, and root-beer floats costs more than $3.

Perhaps the most upscale collection of Nevada antiques is on display in the old Senate chambers on the second floor of the **Capitol** in downtown Carson City (702-687-5030). Highlights include a silver trowel from the 1869 Capitol cornerstone ceremony, the crystal goblets used by Territorial Governor James Nye and civic leader Abe Curry to toast statehood, and the 36-star American flag commemorating Nevada's admission to the Union. Admission is free.




**Downtown Reno holds a bevy of bargains.**

*Deke Castleman is managing editor of the* Las Vegas Advisor, *a monthly newsletter on the Las Vegas bargain scene.*

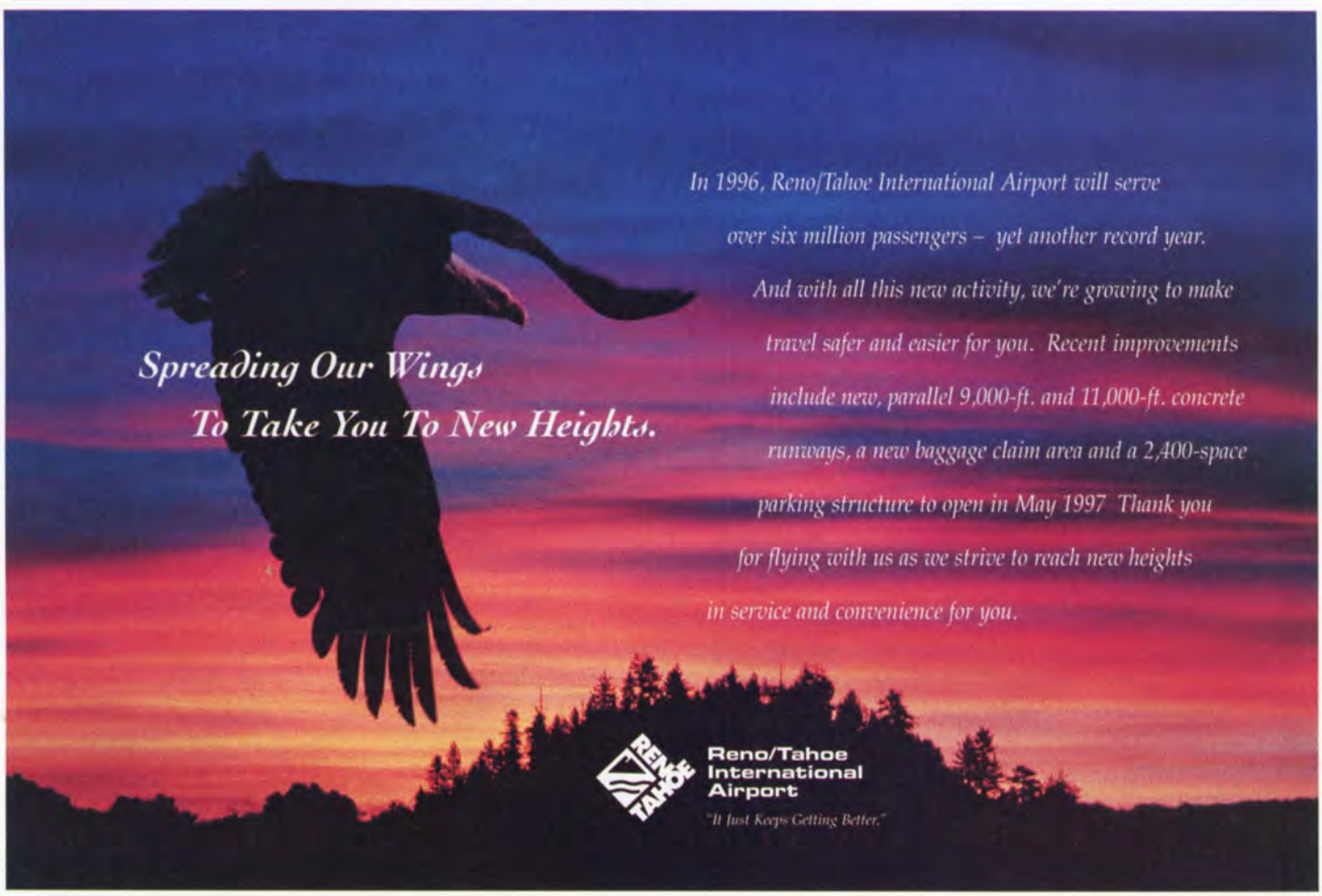



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## SHOPPING




**Curry Street has numerous antique shops and gift boutiques.**

### Gift Gathering on Curry Street

CARSON CITY—Christmas shoppers in the capital will find a downtown corridor of antique stores and gift boutiques on Curry Street, one block west of Carson Street.

The residential street is lined with tiny shops that carry items ranging from antique wedding dresses to Austrian-crystal beads. Shoppers can park and begin the tour near Third and Carson streets (across from the Legislature) at the **Frontier Antique Mall** (702-887-1466), a roomy row of shops with memorabilia, soda-pop signs, and old milk bottles. Two blocks north on Curry, **Art and Antiques** (702-882-4447) on King Street has old books and papers and an antique back bar.

**Chapel Antiques** (702-885-8511) on the corner of Curry and Musser has antique furniture, and **Calli's Corner** (702-885-9185) one block north has a large collection of fine china, antique teacups, and crystal vases. A slight detour east on Telegraph Street will lead to **The Bristlecone** (702-882-0123), a gift shop that has Christmas ornaments, decorative birdhouses, kitchen items, and a simmering pot of hot cider near a Christmas tree.

**Harington's Hall Closet** (702-883-7707) at 206 North Curry has kitchen collectibles, old hats, and a section devoted to the Beatles. **Beauty and the Beads** (702-887-1377) sells beads of every shape, color, and design for jewelry and craft projects. Vintage-clothing collectors will find old-style fashions at **Revelations** (702-885-9645), which has dresses, jewelry and hats from the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. The shop also rents clothing and costumes.

Christmas shoppers will find unusual gifts and a bit of history at the **Abell House** (702-883-5300), several blocks north at 1114 North Curry Street. The rooms of the house, built in 1874, are filled with home accessories and gifts such as gourmet pastas, collectible figurines, and soaps and candles.

*—Carolyn Graham*

## WILDLIFE WATCHING

### Elk Is on the Way

ELY—Big-game watchers can see elk grazing at the **Ely Elk Viewing Area**, a nine-mile-long stretch of sagebrush that begins six miles south of Ely on U.S. 50. A pleasant pull-off 11 miles south of town has covered picnic tables, barbecue pits, and interpretive signs.



**Travelers on U.S. 50 can see the big herd at the Ely Elk Viewing Area.**

Elk are native to the Ely area but were scarce until the present herd, which now numbers 1,500 animals, was introduced in 1932. Several miners from nearby McGill wanted to hunt elk, so they paid a day's wages to bring 32 elk from Yellowstone National Park.

The pullout leads to a mile-long dirt road that parallels the highway (Be sure to watch for hunters during rifle season, which is late November to early December.) Dawn and dusk are the best times to see the elk. The animals come down to the valley from the higher elevations in the fall. The bulls usually move to higher pastures in mid-November, but the cows and calves stay in the valley until early summer.

For a brochure, contact the Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office, HC 33, Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301, or call 702-289-4865.—*Kate Butler*



Photos: Sallie Pryce (top), Kate Butler (bottom and inset)

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The city also boasts numerous new shopping options, a senior citizens center, a library, numerous churches, the Desert Valley Museum, and all the amenities that have made Nevada famous around the world. We're pioneering with pride in Mesquite. We invite you to visit us soon.

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# COVER STORIES

The magazine's cover subjects have faced the fuss while finding fame and friendships.

**By Richard Moreno**

During the past 60 years *Nevada Magazine's* covers have spotlighted celebrities like Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, and Wayne Newton. Occasionally, they've been graced by less familiar personages such as long-distance hiker Martin Griffith and businessman Keith Boone.

The famous are accustomed to the fuss that comes with having your face on a magazine cover. Other subjects, however, have been pleasantly surprised and sometimes startled by the attention.

"It was a strange sensation to go out for a haircut one day and have a new barber say, 'Where have I seen you before?'" recalls Sparks resident Martin Griffith, the trail-blazing Associated Press reporter who appeared on the May/June '94 cover. "I told him I was on the cover of *Nevada Magazine*. He picked up a copy from the table, looked at the cover, and said, 'That's where I saw you.'"

In that issue Griffith had written an article about his 500-mile hike on the Emigrant Trail across Nevada, and he posed during the cover shoot for photographers Larry Angier and Carolyn Fox near Winnemucca. Sadly, despite his newfound fame, the trail expert still had to pay for his haircut.

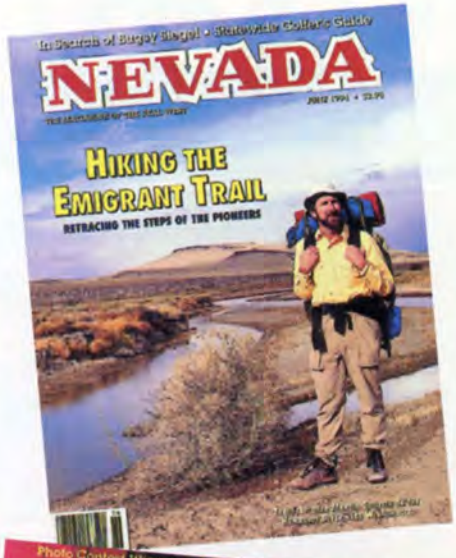
Some cover subjects lose more than their anonymity Mark Twain impersonator McAvoy Layne, who was photographed by Ira Mark Gostin at the Delta Saloon in Virginia City for the Nov/Dec '95 cover, says people frequently expect him to buy a round for the house.

"I'm holding a glass of beer on the cover, which ties into a story about old-time saloons," Layne says. "Being on the cover of *Nevada Magazine* has cost me because now people always want me to buy them a drink." The Incline Village resident adds that his cover appearance introduced him to a wider audience. "I received a lot of notoriety from it," he says.

**Some cover subjects were surprised by the attention.**

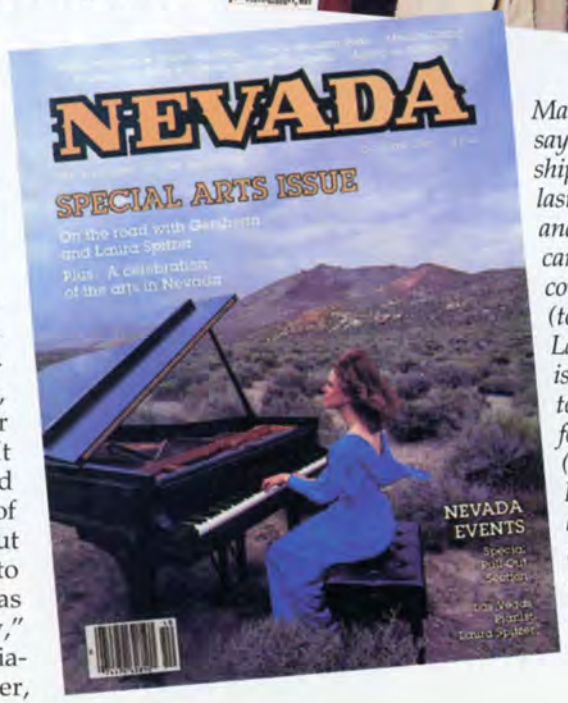
For her Sept/Oct '88 cover turn, pianist Laura Spitzer played a Steinway in a field of sagebrush near Beatty. "We found out that a piano doesn't roll on that dirt—it sinks," she says with a laugh. Photographer Richard T Stephens wanted the piano properly placed. Fortunately, three men who were target shooting drove up. Then a geologist appeared, followed by a miner and his son in law "People came out of nowhere to help us," she says.

While the guys helped wrestle the 850-pound piano into position, the weather turned ugly "It clouded up, and we lost the view of the mountains, but my cape began to float. It really was an amazing day," says the California-based performer,







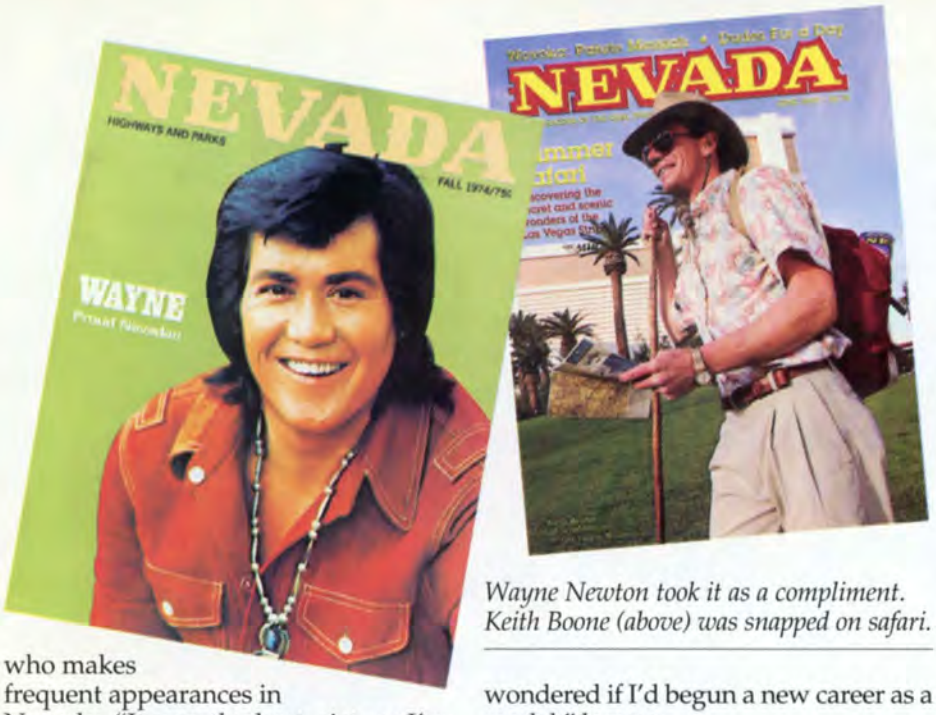



*Martin Griffith says new friendships have outlasted the fame and fortune that came from his cover appearance (top). McAvoy Layne says he is now expected to buy a round for the house (middle). Laura Spitzer appeared on this classical cover set near Beatty (left).*




**60th Anniversary Feature**

This article is one of a series recalling *Nevada Magazine's* 60 years of publication, which began in 1936.




*Wayne Newton took it as a compliment. Keith Boone (above) was snapped on safari.*

who makes frequent appearances in Nevada. "It was the best picture I've ever had taken of me."

Las Vegas businessman Keith Boone struck a jaunty pose as a Strip explorer for Kate Butler's May/June '92 cover photo. Boone says he wasn't besieged with autograph requests, but he did hear from some old friends. "They didn't know I was back in town and wondered if I'd begun a new career as a model," he says.

Speaking of celebrities, Wayne Newton remembers several appearances in the magazine, most notably on the Fall '74 cover. "The feedback was great," he says. The Midnight Idol adds, however, that "a lot of people said, 'I saw you on the cover of *Arizona Highways*, which I took as a compliment, and so should *Nevada Magazine*, as it was being compared at that time to an older, more established magazine."

Oh, well.

Still, being on the cover provides a certain entree. More than a year after the barber recognized him from his cover photo, Martin Griffith was hiking the Emigrant Trail near Lovelock when he met a couple in a pickup.

"Are you the guy who was on the cover of *Nevada Magazine*?" the woman asked. Griffith said yes, and they introduced themselves as Mr. and Mrs. Duncan of the Salinas Ranch. The Duncans, who have lived in the Lovelock area since 1946, told him about the region's history and the location of forgotten emigrant camp sites.

Initially "a reluctant cover boy," Griffith says he values the friendships he's made while exploring the paths of the pioneers. "I go out on the trail now, and it seems everybody I run into knows me because of the article," he says. "I can't tell you how many interesting people I've met as a result of that cover."

*Richard Moreno is* Nevada Magazine's *publisher He recently appeared on a* Nevada Magazine *cover but no one recognized him.*

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**A snowy glide through the trees at Homewood puts a smile on this well-bundled skier's face.**

# Skiing Tahoe: An Enthusiast's Guide

**A veteran skier of the steep offers an insider's look at Lake Tahoe's alpine resorts and their unique personalities.** By Chaz Kasper

High above Lake Tahoe's cobalt-blue waters, skiers glide down silken slopes of pearled white. No place else on Earth offers the same mind-pulling experience: cruising a vast, vertical world as a beautiful alpine lake dominates the horizon.

From a skier's perspective, the Tahoe Basin offers a great variety of terrain, massive snow accumulation, and views that remain peerless. Each of Tahoe's dozen downhill resorts has its own attractions. Starting at the lake's south shore, here's an insider's view of Lake Tahoe's ski areas and their unique personalities.

> Just above Heavenly's main lodge, Gunbarrel is rated one of the steepest runs in the U.S.

## Heavenly: A Bistate Giant

Two miles south of the Stateline casinos, Heavenly is the only resort in the country that straddles two states. Last year Heavenly celebrated its 40th anniversary, and with 25 lifts, 79 trails, and the greatest vertical drop at Tahoe—3,500 feet—it's still growing. *Snow Country Magazine* calls Heavenly's 4,800 skiable acres the most of any resort in America.

Some folks call Heavenly "the upside down mountain" because several ad-



**Heavenly has Tahoe's greatest vertical drop and outstanding views.**

Photos: John C. Clausen (left), Larry Prosor (right)



**Skiers at Squaw Valley enjoy great "steep" and an Olympic tradition.**

vanced runs like Gunbarrel, the Face, and East Bowl are located at the bottom of the hill. Just above the main lodge, Gunbarrel is rated one of the steepest runs in the U.S.

Heavenly has day lodges that are easy to pull into, with the exception of the Top of the Tram, where the descent to the restaurant and bar on ancient wooden stairs gives you something to grimace about on the way back up. The view is worth it, though, and it's a good place for skiers and nonskiers to rendezvous.

Watch for the Park Avenue Project, a proposed gondola system that is designed to transport skiers and sightseers to Heavenly directly from the Stateline casinos.

## **Kirkwood:** Lots of Snow

Kirkwood, 35 miles south of South Lake Tahoe, gets an awesome amount of snow Last winter Kirkwood maintained the deepest snow of any resort in North America: a total of 794 inches at the base area and 915 inches on the upper mountain.

Kirkwood is an advanced skier's playground, with plenty of steep for powder days. There is a healthy competition between Kirkwood and Squaw Valley for bragging rights to the "steep of Tahoe."

Snowboarders have a special affinity for Kirkwood—the terrain somehow fits the wild explorer-seeker in the sport. Worth checking out is the Avid Skier Card, which earns you a complimentary lift ticket after four days.

## **Sierra-at-Tahoe:** Back at the Ranch

Formerly named Sierra Ski Ranch (which brought to mind horses more than skiing), this is the closest major resort to Sacramento and San Francisco via U.S. 50. There is a pleasant sense of purpose here. The lodge is located close to parking and lifts. The hill has some toasty steep and the kind of intermediate runs that leave you smiling and looking to kick it up a notch.

The skiing should be enhanced by three new Doppelmayr quad chairs, part of a $6.5-million refurbishment. Good deals include Vertical Plus, which gives you lift-ticket discounts, food, lodging, and ski equipment based on how many vertical feet you ski. You slide a personalized wrist band over the reader at the Vertical Plus gate entering the chair, and a computer records the tally on your personal account.

## **Ski Homewood:** Western Lake Frontage

On the rustic west shore, Homewood has an easygoing atmosphere, and it's a good place to escape the long lines of larger resorts. After a good snow you can find nice powder and—because the slopes face the water—great views of the lake.

Homewood considers itself a pioneer for snowboarders with its events, clinics, and welcoming attitude. On Wild Wednesdays, all skiers can get two-for-one all-day lift tickets. There is also a Frequent Flier Program with lift-ticket discounts.

## **Granlibakken:** Tahoe City Slope

If you're learning how to ski, Granlibakken at Tahoe City offers low-price tickets for surface lifts and a way to get your skis on the snow The area



**Snowboarder Dave Matzke soars at Diamond Peak in Incline Village.**



Photos: John C. Clausen

has been in operation since 1950. Granlibakken means "a hillside sheltered by fir trees" in Norwegian, and the name fits since the hill's 300 vertical feet are tucked in the trees.

## Alpine Meadows: Snowboards at Last

This ski area is one of the most varied at the lake. The slopes seem to go on forever, as lifts ascend cornice-capped walls, bowls, and basins with mountains falling dramatically into all forms of alpinescape. The ski season here also seems to go on forever—sometimes lasting till June and even July.

From the High Traverse you have extraordinary views of Lake Tahoe and mountain ranges drifting far into Nevada. To the west are views of the descending Sierra all the way to Sacramento and beyond to the Coastal Range.

**Alpine Meadows, one of Tahoe's last purist holdouts, has opened its slopes to snowboarders.**

Alpine, one of the last purist skis-only holdouts in the basin, has opened its slopes to snowboarders this season. The appearance of the once-forbidden boarders should add even more zest to the hill, which has always had an avant-garde energy with live bands and sunny decks.

This season Alpine is installing the first six-passenger detachable Doppelmayr chair ("the six-pack") in the Far West. The resort also is home of the Tahoe Adaptive Ski School for skiers with disabilities.

## Squaw Valley: Olympic Sights

Right over the mountain from Alpine Meadows is Squaw Valley, site of the 1960 Winter Olympics. As you drive through Olympic Valley to the base area, Squaw Peak, Snow King, KT-22, and other peaks form an awesome, giant horseshoe around you.

Squaw has 33 lifts, the most in the basin, and more than 4,000 acres of slopes. The lifts have a unique and helpful feature: The chairs are color coded



**The lodge is a hub of activity at the Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort.**

# Skiing Las Vegas

During the winter, you can be strolling in shirt sleeves in Las Vegas one moment and an hour later be carving slalom turns at 8,800 feet. The Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort, Southern Nevada's only alpine-skiing playland, is 45 miles northwest of the city and a long snowball's throw above the desert cacti that grow at the base of Mount Charleston.

Amid the evergreens and mountain scenery, the ski area at Lee Canyon began four decades ago with a rope tow on a truck. Today the resort has three double-chair lifts, a snowboard area, night skiing, snow-making equipment, a lounge, ski shops, and free transportation from Las Vegas.

Although showgirls and celebrities often ski there, the resort still has a mom-and-pop atmosphere. Lee is an excellent place to learn to ski because of its gentle beginner slope and patient ski instructors. Marcel Barel, the ski-school owner who has taught there for the past 31 years, leads flocks of students while demonstrating his smooth, free-flowing descents.

The area has good intermediate slopes with a few moguls and a narrow run that requires quick turns. Nonskiers will find plenty of action on the resort's sunny porch.—*Kate Butler*

# Snobowled in Elko

If you ever wondered what skiing was like in the good old days, take a trip to Elko Snobowl. This hill has everything the nostalgic skier could ask for: dirt-road access, a muddy parking lot, and canned chili served from a truck. No high-speed detachable chairs here—just two rope tows that take you up 650 vertical feet in the Adobe Mountains.

Elko Snobowl was opened three years ago by volunteers who were determined to give Northeastern Nevada its own ski hill. The bowl has several runs and aspects to chose from, and a five-minute walk to the top allows you to drop into an adjacent drainage (watch for the barbed-wire fence at the bottom). From the top you have a good view of the Ruby Mountains 20 miles away

To discover the true pioneering spirit of skiing, follow Interstate 80 to Elko. Find Fifth Street and head four miles north to the parking lot. Rope-tow enthusiasts should hit the Snobowl slopes this year—a new double-chair lift is planned for the 1997-98 season.—*Thorne Butler*

Photo: Kate Butler

# Skiing Around the State

A guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin Ski Areas.

## 1996-97 Downhill Skier's Guide

| Area | Phone | Top Elevation | Vertical | Lifts | Rating Bg-Int-Adv | Lift Price Adult/Child | Rental Adult/Child | Snow-boards |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TAHOE BASIN** | | | | | | | | |
| Alpine Meadows | 916-583-4232 | 8,637 | 1,800 | 12 | 25-40-35 | $46/$18 | $22/$15 | Yes |
| Boreal | 916-426-3666 | 7,700 | 500 | 9 | 30-55-15 | $27/$10 | $17/$12 | Yes |
| Diamond Peak | 702-831-3211 | 8,540 | 1,840 | 6 | 18-46-36 | $37/$14 | $17/$11 | Yes |
| Donner Ski Ranch | 916-426-3635 | 7,751 | 750 | 6 | 25-50-25 | $22/$10 | $15/$10 | Yes |
| Granlibakken | 916-583-4242 | 6,480 | 280 | 2 | 50-50-0 | $15/$8 | $15/$12 | No |
| Heavenly | 702-586-7000 | 10,040 | 3,500 | 25 | 20-45-35 | $47/$31/$20 | $20/$10 | Yes |
| Ski Homewood | 916-525-2992 | 7,880 | 1,650 | 8 | 15-50-35 | $35/$25/$11 | $19/$12 | Yes |
| Kirkwood | 209-258-6000 | 9,800 | 2,000 | 13 | 15-50-35 | $42/$32/$20 | $20/$14 | Yes |
| Mount Rose | 702-849-0704 | 9,700 | 1,440 | 5 | 30-35-35 | $38/$14 | $20/$12 | Yes |
| Northstar-at-Tahoe | 916-562-1010 | 8,600 | 2,200 | 12 | 25-50-25 | $45/$37/$10 | $24/$15 | Yes |
| Sierra at Tahoe | 916-659-7453 | 8,852 | 2,212 | 10 | 25-50-25 | $42/$32/$5 | $22 | Yes |
| Soda Springs | 916-426-1010 | 7,352 | 652 | 2 | 30-50-20 | $15/free | $15 | Yes |
| Squaw Valley | 916-583-6955 | 9,050 | 2,850 | 32 | 25-45-30 | $46/$5 | $25/$13 | Yes |
| Sugar Bowl | 916-426-9000 | 8,383 | 1,500 | 10 | 17-43-40 | $41/$10 | $20/$13 | Yes |
| Tahoe Donner | 916-587-9444 | 7,350 | 600 | 3 | 40-60-0 | $26/$12 | $18/$13 | Yes |
| **AROUND THE STATE** | | | | | | | | |
| LV Ski and Snowboard | 702-646-0008 | 9,510 | 1,000 | 3 | 20-60-20 | $27/$20 | $15 | Yes |
| Elko Snobowl | 702-738-6125 | 7,000 | 650 | 2 | 20-60-20 | $6 | No | Yes |
| Ruby Mountains (Elko) | 702-753-6867 | Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing in Lamoille offers helicopter skiing | | | | | | |

## 1996-97 Cross Country Skier's Guide

| Area | Phone | Trail (km) | Trail Fee Adult/Child | Rental Adult/Child | Lessons Adult/Child | Day Lodge |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TAHOE BASIN** | | | | | | |
| Clair Tappaan Lodge | 916-426-3632 | 12 | $5/$2.50 | $13/$8.50 | $14 | √ |
| Diamond Peak | 702-831-3211 | 35 | $14/$9 | $15/$7 | $23* | √ |
| Kirkwood | 209-258-7248 | 80 | $15/$5 | $15/$9 | $35/$23* | √ |
| Lake Tahoe Basin | 916-573-2600 | The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas. | | | | |
| Lake View | 916-583-9353 | 65 | $15/$6 | $15/$9 | $35* | |
| Northstar-at-Tahoe | 916-562-1010 | 65 | $16/$8 | $16/$9 | $44/$25* | √ |
| Royal Gorge | 916-426-3871 | 328 | $19.50/$8.50 | $16.50/$9.50 | $18/$12 | √ |
| Sorensen's | 916-694-2266 | 80 | none | $12/$8 | $26/$18 | √ |
| Spooner Lake | 702-887-8844 | 101 | $15/$9 | $15/$9 | $34/$25* | √ |
| Squaw Valley | 916-583-6300 | 18 | $12/$10 | $13/$8 | $35* | √ |
| Tahoe Donner | 916-587-9484 | 70 | $15/$13 | $15/$9 | $29/$21* | √ |
| **AROUND THE STATE** | | | | | | |
| LV Ski and Snowboard | 702-252-8077<br>702-873-1120 | The Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions<br>The U.S. Forest Service has info on camping and avalanche conditions | | | | |
| Spring Valley (Eureka) | 702-237-5280 | Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides directions and transportation | | | | |
| White Pine (Ely) | 702-289-3031 (USFS)<br>702-289-1800 (BLM) | Ward Mt. and Loop Trails info. available from the U.S. Forest Service and BLM | | | | |

** Includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons*

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

according to the rating of the terrain: green for beginner, blue for intermediate, and black for expert.

Another attraction is the complex at High Camp (8,200 feet). There you can try the outdoor skating rink, night skiing, stylish restaurants, shopping, swimming lagoon, spa, Olympic museum, and even bungee jumping.

## Sugar Bowl: Since 1939

Sugar Bowl is the Kirkwood of the north when it comes to incredible snowfall. It always dumps up near Donner Summit, at times burying everything—houses, cars—under massive drifts. With all its snow, Sugar Bowl has great balance, from beginner slopes to super powder chutes and bowls at a black-diamond clip.

The resort opened in 1939, when the first chairlift in California went up Mount Disney, named after Walt Disney, one of the resort's first stockholders. The lodge—Le Grand Hotel Sugar Bowl—helped establish Tahoe's early après-ski standards and is still a fine place to watch the scene.

## Donner Ski Ranch: Another Lake

This ski area has a lake view—of Donner Lake, a smaller version of Tahoe named for the infamous pioneer party that spent the winter of 1846-47 huddled nearby.

Donner Ski Ranch has 400 acres and 750 vertical feet of relaxed skiing. Because the lifts are laid out with good ex-

**After a strenuous morning on the moguls, Homewood skiers gather for a slope-side smorgasbord.**



Diamond Peak's Snowflake Lodge has the best day-lodge view on the lake.

posure on both sides of the mountain, you can follow the sun all day.

## **Boreal:** Skiing at Night

Boreal, like Donner Ski Ranch, is just off Interstate 80 at Donner Summit. Boreal is known for its night skiing—a fine way to enjoy a Sierra sunset. The area gets a good blasting of snow, which, with the help of snow-making equipment, often allows Boreal to be the first resort to open each winter.

## **Soda Springs:** Free for the Right Age

Soda Springs, established in 1931, has low ticket prices and small crowds. The Donner Summit ski area features three large bowls where intermediates might prosper the most. Good deals include free skiing for ages seven and under and 70 and over.

## **Tahoe Donner:** Truckee Resort Slopes

Located close to Truckee and I-80, this area is part of a resort community and offers some open bowls with trails for beginners and intermediates. The runs are groomed for easy cruising.



## **Northstar-at-Tahoe:** Mount Pluto

Some folks used to say this hill was designed just so intermediates could feel good about themselves. Not true. The mountain has range, and from the time you pull up to the lodge area, you are on a good ride: a comfortable alpine village setting that features restaurants, bars, and shops.

The day lodge has a great sun deck, and there is another summit lodge with a barbecue and bar setup on top of Mount Pluto (8,610 feet). From there you can hit the backside of Northstar. Skiing down Challenger, you can admire a panorama of the Sierra Crest, including Squaw Valley and the peaks of Alpine Meadows.

Northstar has limited ticket sales—when the parking lot is full, that's it. The cutoff is at about 9,000 people, and it was reached only once last year, but it's still a good notion. Like Sierra-at-Tahoe, Northstar offers Vertical Plus.



**Tina Vindum eases down a hair-raising run at Alpine Meadows.**

## **Diamond Peak:** Inclined to the Lake

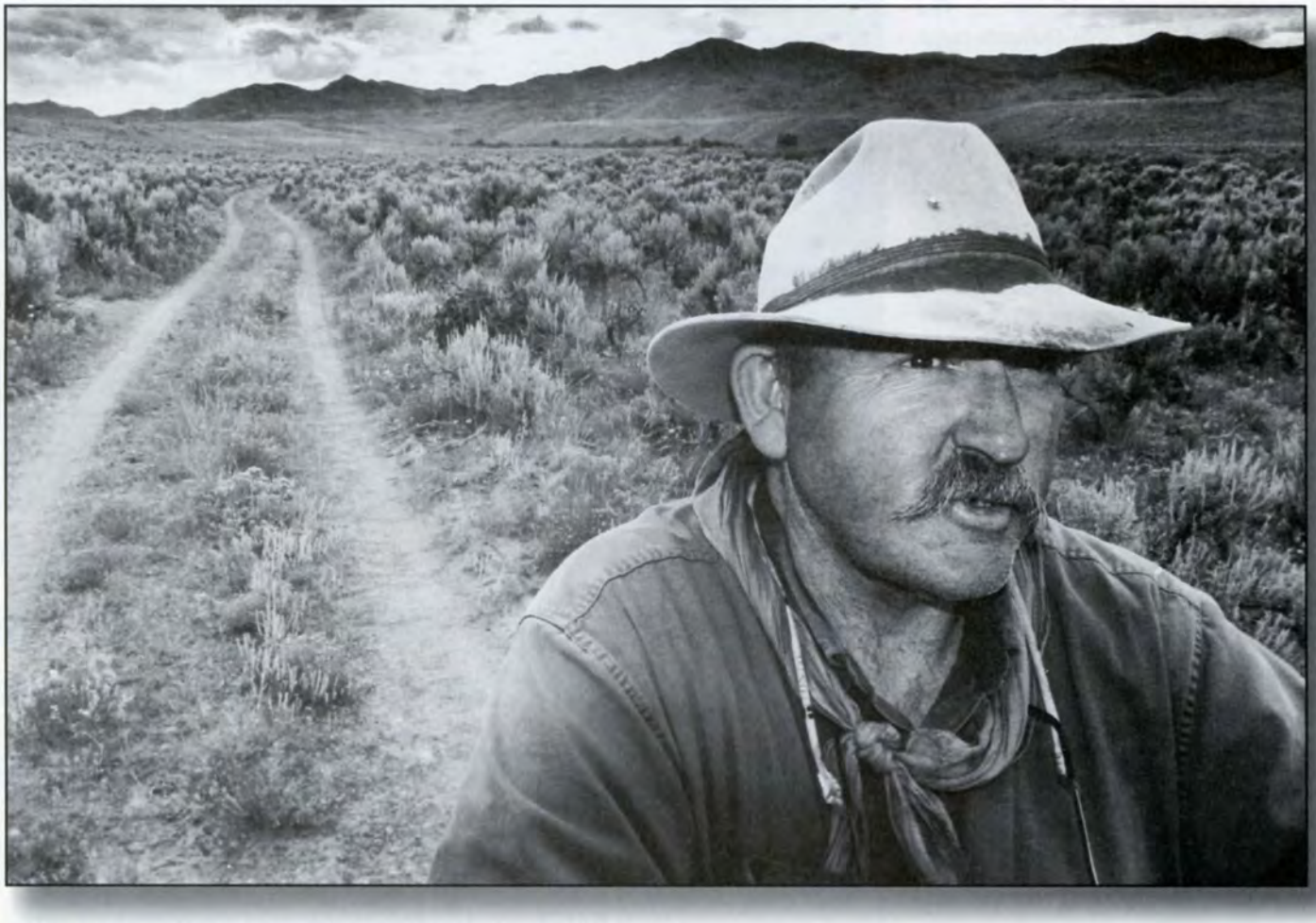
The view of Tahoe from Incline Village's ski area is one of the lake's best. Riding the Crystal quad chair to the top of Diamond Peak (8,540 feet) takes you to good intermediate and expert runs. The subsequent drop down Crystal Ridge toward the lake will blow your

*(Continued on page 83)*

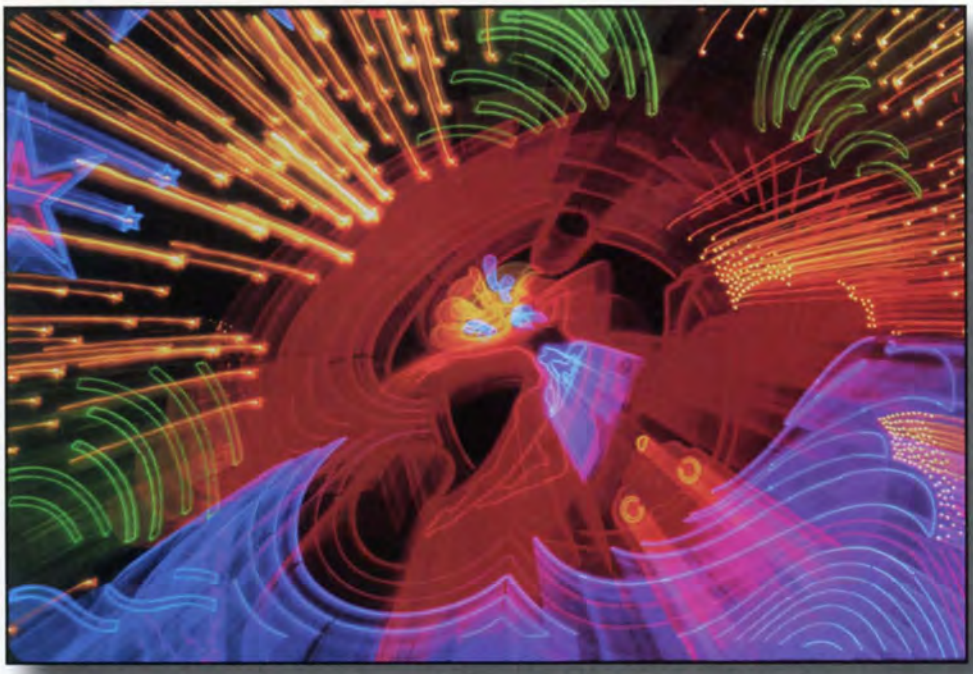
Photos: John C. Clausen (bottom), Larry Prosor (right)

# Photo Finish

## Expressive faces and intriguing places took top honors in this year's Great Nevada Picture Hunt.



**FIRST: "Sam, Ranch Hand at the Cottonwood Ranch"**
Robin Daugherty, South Lake Tahoe, CA



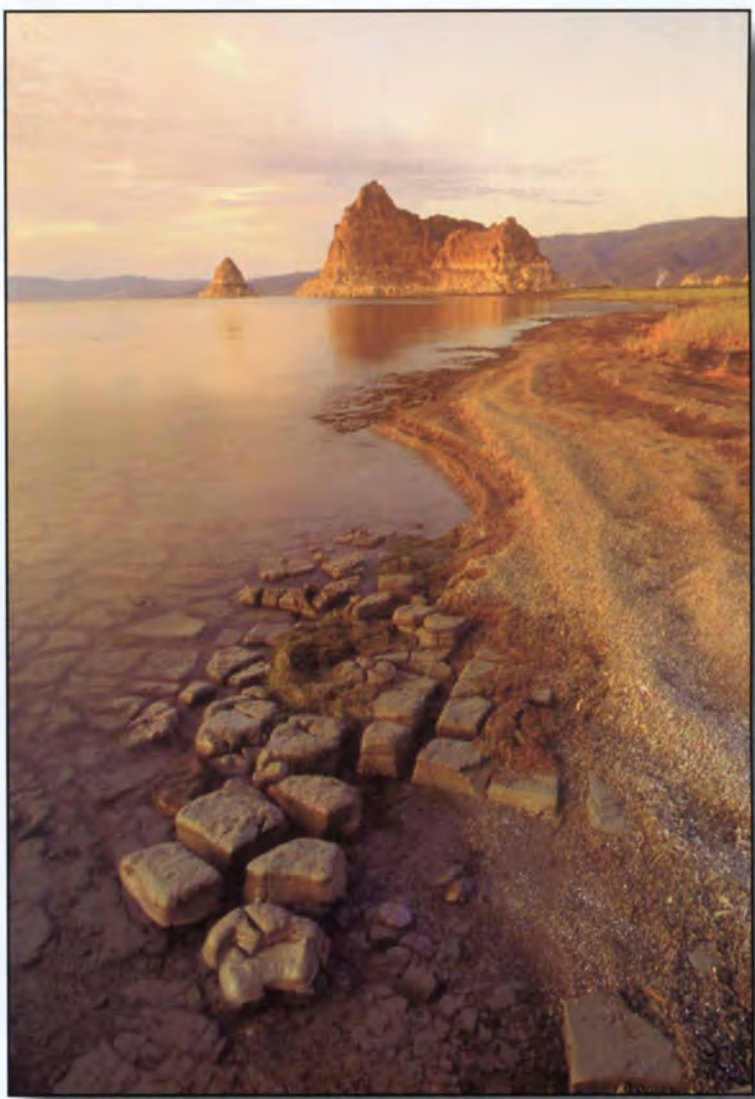
**SECOND: "Zoom Shot of Neon Lights, Las Vegas"**
Mary W Temple, Walnut Creek, CA

"Sam is the real McCoy," says Lake Tahoe photographer Robin Daugherty. "He mirrors what rural Nevada really is."

Sam Bohannon is a hard-working, mustachioed resident of Elko County and the subject of Daugherty's photo, "Sam, Ranch Hand at the Cottonwood Ranch." The black-and-white portrait won first place in this year's Great Nevada Picture Hunt, *Nevada Magazine's* 19th annual photo contest.

"I think this photo shows the land and the person and how they're interconnected," Daugherty adds. Sam was leading a group of female city slickers on a three-day pack trip in Northeastern Nevada when she captured him in repose. "He was in the back of the pickup, having a cold beer," recalls Daugherty, who described the trip in her story, "Motor City Slickers," in the May/June issue.

Mary W Temple of Walnut Creek, California, says she is drawn to the bright lights of Las Vegas even though she isn't a gambler. "I just like to photograph the neon," she says. Her "Zoom Shot of Neon Lights, Las Vegas" won second place in the contest. Temple, a retired elementary-school teacher, was on a photo-club trip when she used a zoom lens to capture the kaleidoscopic reds, greens, and blues of the Riviera's "Splash" sign. "With zoom photography, you're never quite sure



**THIRD: "Mud Cracks, Pyramid Lake"**
William Sides, Willits, CA



**FOURTH: "Alpenglow on Lee Peak, Ruby Mountains"**
Doug Bruha, Lamoille



**FIFTH: "Cooling Off at Lake Mohave"**
Cynthia Pancher, San Francisco, CA

what you're going to get," she says. "I just look for color and design."

Professional photographer William Sides accentuated nature's colors and designs in his photo, "Mud Cracks, Pyramid Lake." Sides, who lives in Willits, California, took his third-place photo at sunrise. He and his family were camping at Pyramid Lake, and the eager photographer awoke at dawn to explore the lake's unusual formations through his lens. "It was just magical," he says. "Pyramid is such a unique and special place."

Doug Bruha of Lamoille found the Rubies awash in a pink-and-purple sunset when he took his fourth-place photo, "Alpenglow on Lee Peak, Ruby Mountains." As Bruha, a full-time photographer, says, "The clouds were just right."

Cynthia Pancher of San Francisco won fifth place with "Cooling Off at Lake Mohave." Pancher grew up in Southern California, and her family often took weekend jaunts to Lake Mohave. During a return trip last year, she focused on her brothers taking a dip. "We practically grew up on the lake," she says. "I just noticed how natural my brothers seemed. It was like they could breathe underwater."

The judges for this year's Great Nevada Picture Hunt were Richard T Stephens, a Beatty teacher, photographer, and artist and frequent *Nevada* contributor; Nolan Preece, photographer and owner of Sun Mountain Artworks in Virginia City; and Denise Barr,



**SIXTH: "John and His Princess of the Sage"**
Patrick Kennedy, Virginia City



**SEVENTH: "Reflections Above Virginia Street"**
Carolyn Fox, Jackson, CA



**EIGHTH: "Dinner at the Hotel Winnemucca"**
Larry Angier, Jackson, CA



**NINTH: "Desert Storm"**
Chris Leedham, Henderson

*Nevada's* art director. More than 140 amateur and professional photographers entered this year's contest. Barr says the judges focused on technique and composition. "We saw a lot of really nice ideas, some of which were eliminated because of technical problems," she says. "But the winners went a little further to create some interesting effects."

The 10 winning images will be part of a photo show that will travel to galleries and museums throughout Nevada. Show dates will be announced in the Nevada Events and Shows section of upcoming issues.—*Carolyn Graham*

## 1996 Great Nevada Picture Hunt Winners

First: Robin Daugherty, South Lake Tahoe, CA, "Sam, Ranch Hand at the Cottonwood Ranch," Black and White Print ($200)

Second: Mary W Temple, Walnut Creek, CA, "Zoom Shot of Neon Lights, Las Vegas," Color Slide ($100)

Third: William Sides, Willits, CA, "Mud Cracks, Pyramid Lake," Color Transparency ($75)

Fourth: Doug Bruha, Lamoille, "Alpenglow on Lee Peak, Ruby Mountains," Color Slide ($50)

Fifth: Cynthia Pancher, San Francisco, CA, "Cooling Off at Lake Mohave," Color Slide ($25)

Sixth: Patrick Kennedy, Virginia City, "John and His Princess of the Sage," Color Print ($25)

Seventh: Carolyn Fox, Jackson, CA, "Reflections Above Virginia Street," Color Slide ($25)

Eighth: Larry Angier, Jackson, CA, "Dinner at the Hotel Winnemucca," Color Print ($25)

Ninth: Chris Leedham, Henderson, "Desert Storm," Color Slide ($25)

Tenth: Michael Lubiarz, Las Vegas, "Ice Box Canyon Waterfall, Red Rock," Color Print ($25)

## Honorable Mention

### (Prize: Nevada T-shirt or Historical Calendar)

Greg Beasley Elko, "Lamoille Church at the Crossroads," Black and White Print

Eric Gignoux, Gardnerville, "Early

Morning Light on Job's Peak, Carson Valley," Color Slide

Richard Holmberg, Carson City, "Watching Over Virginia City," Color Slide

Chaz Kasper, South Lake Tahoe, CA, "Desert Time Machine," Black and White Print

Mary S. McKee, Reno, "Smokey Drops In, Great Reno Balloon Race," Color Print

Stina Patnoude, Fallon, "Looking for Stray, Churchill County," Color Slide

Janice Phillips, Las Vegas, "First Highlight of Ivory, Mount Charleston," Color Transparency

Bonnie Rannald, Las Vegas, "Spring Morning at Red Rock," Color Print

Jess Smith, Winnemucca, "Photographing Fly Ranch Geyser," Color Slide

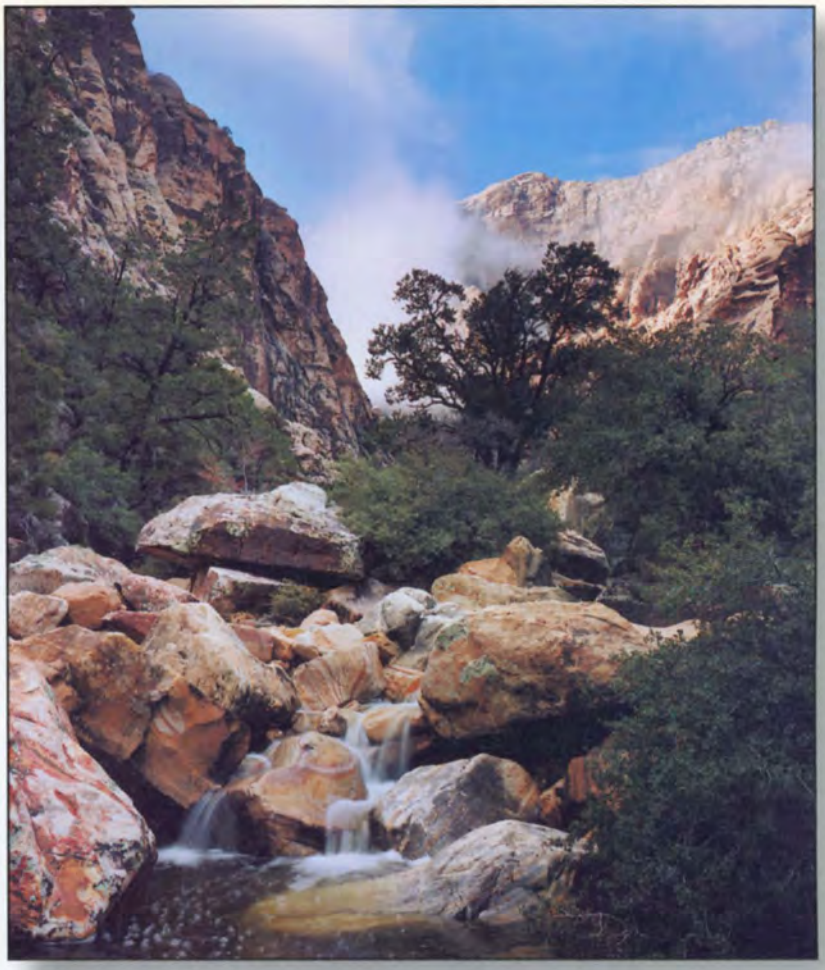
April Sorenson, Henderson, "Lightly Dusted, Red Rock Canyon," Color Slide

Sakae Tsuda, Fallon, "Cold and Dusty, Kents Cattle Drive, Stillwater," Color Slide

George Vincent, West Chicago, IL, "Lake Tahoe Sunset," Black and White Print

Mark Vollmer, Reno, "The Pyramid at Sunset, East Shore Pyramid Lake," Color Slide

Day Williams, Carson City, "Curious Calves," Color Print



**TENTH: "Ice Box Canyon Waterfall, Red Rock"**
Michael Lubiarz, Las Vegas



**HONORABLE MENTION: "Looking for Stray, Churchill County"**
Stina Patnoude, Fallon




**HONORABLE MENTION: "Smokey Drops In, Great Reno Balloon Race"** Mary S. McKee, Reno






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# Border Boomer



Before Interstate 15 replaced old U.S. 91 in the early 1970s, you drove straight through the heart of Mesquite whether you wanted to or not. Bound for Las Vegas from Utah, you rolled past the Joshua trees on the Beaver Dam Slope, cut across the northwestern corner of Arizona, and dropped into this unassuming little border town. After a sharp right at the Corner Bar, it was a straight, two-mile cruise down the town's main street past motels, cafes, homes, markets, and malt shops. Behind the buildings, green fields of alfalfa stretched all the way to the Virgin River.

**At either end of this burgeoning desert town you're greeted by resort hotels and golf courses.**

Today the freeway will hurtle you right over the town if you're not careful, but these days a fair portion of the automobiles sailing down I-15 are not on their way through Mesquite but on their way *to* it. At either end of this burgeoning desert town you're greeted by resort hotels and golf courses. New



Photos: Sal Maimone

## The greening of Mesquite was begun by Mormon farmers a century ago. Now the town is being reshaped by Si Redd, Merv Griffin, and even Arnold Palmer as it grows on the border. By Lyman Hafen





**Players Island, a lavish Merv Griffin production, opened last year on the west side of Mesquite (left). The town's four golf courses include the Palms, which has lots of water, hills, and, of course, palm trees (above).**

subdivisions emerge from the Virgin Valley's dusty slopes almost monthly.

Indeed, Mesquite seems to be two communities existing side by side. On both ends of town, the neon lights of the New Mesquite beckon visitors to the resorts and their well-watered links. The new town is connected to the growing hotel-casinos, retirement housing, and other new industries such as the Primex Plastics plant. In between you can find the Old Mesquite where most of the old-time residents live, many of them descendants of Mormon pioneers. The pace of life is slower, harking back to Mesquite's beginnings more than a century ago.

"These days we've got the people who remember and the people who never knew," says longtime resident George Jeffs. He agrees that Mesquite has, in many ways, become two communities. "The social and economic structures of the town have changed immensely the last few years," he says.

Jeffs moved to Mesquite 23 years ago from Las Vegas, where he'd taught school. "Mesquite looked to me like small-town America at its best," he says. "So we moved up here, and I became principal of what was then kindergarten through 12th grade." Jeffs is retired now, and he enjoys carrying his camera on long walks around the valley. Month to month he documents the changing face of the town. "Seems



**The Oasis Golf Club was designed by Arnold Palmer and is home to one of Arnie's exclusive golf academies.**

like if you blink, you miss something," he says.

Jeffs recalls a series of photos he began taking in April 1994 of the Hafen Dairy property on the west end of Mesquite. The first shot shows fields, cattle, and fences. By December, a huge building seemed to have popped right out of the ground. By the next June, the Players Island hotel-casino was complete with fountains, lawns, and palm trees. Now the surrounding area is covered with the rolling green fairways of Players Island Golf Course.

**The Virgin River resort gave the town something it had long waited for—movie theaters.**

Such change does not surprise or alarm Ken Carter, Mesquite's mayor. In fact, he's expected it since he was a kid growing up in what was a dusty, hard-scrabble town. "When I was about 16," Carter says, "I vividly remember standing beside my great-grandfather on a hillside east of town. We were overlooking a barren stretch of sand, tumbleweeds, creosote bushes, and sagebrush. He stretched his arm out and said, 'Someday, you will see this all green and beautiful.'"

Today it *is* all green and beautiful. The verdant view can be partly attributed to the Mormon pioneers whose descendants still operate farms, ranches, and dairies that are surrounded by fields of alfalfa. Also responsible are modern-day Mesquite pioneers like dollar-slot innovator Si Redd, former talk-show host Merv Griffin, and even Arnold Palmer.

The transformation of Mesquite began in the late 1970s, when Si Redd, founder of International Game Technology, bought a motel and truck stop on the west end of town (see *Nevada*, May/June '90). In 1981 the property became the Peppermill Resort. With a casino, swimming pools, and low room rates, the Peppermill showed that Mesquite could be more than a quick stop on the way between Salt Lake City



**Players Island Golf Club designer Cal Olson (left) and Duke Rohlffs, golf operations VP, look over the new links.**



Photo: Sal Maimone (top)



**Mayor Ken Carter recalls his great-grandfather's vision of a green valley.**

and Las Vegas. The Peppermill also built a palm-lined golf course, the Palms, just over the border in Arizona.

In 1990 the Virgin River hotel-casino was built near the east interchange of I-15. The Virgin River not only doubled the lodging and entertainment options in Mesquite but also gave the town something it had long waited for—movie theaters.

A couple of years ago the Peppermill was renamed Si Redd's Oasis. Redd, a pioneer in dollar slots and video poker with IGT, and his associates brought in Arnold Palmer and his design partner, Ed Seay, to create the Oasis Golf Club in the rolling sand hills north of town. Palmer also established the West's only Arnold Palmer Golf Academy in Mesquite.

Adding to the green-carpeted valley envisioned by Ken Carter's great-grandfather is the newly opened Players Island Golf Club on the west end of town. Several holes have lakes, and five holes skirt the Virgin River.

The course is part of a resort masterminded by Merv Griffin, the casino magnate and *Wheel of Fortune* creator. Players Island embraces a complex of pink buildings, purple pools, white fountains, and lush, green lawns that have transformed the western entrance to Mesquite.

"We'd been anxious to build a land-based casino in Nevada for a long



**Mesquite has the feel of fortune to hotelier Merv Griffin.**

time," Griffin says in a telephone interview from his headquarters in Atlantic City. "But we weren't ready to enter the Las Vegas foray." Having traveled through Mesquite many times, he was familiar with the area. "As we began to consider Mesquite, we fell in love with

*(Continued on page 88)*

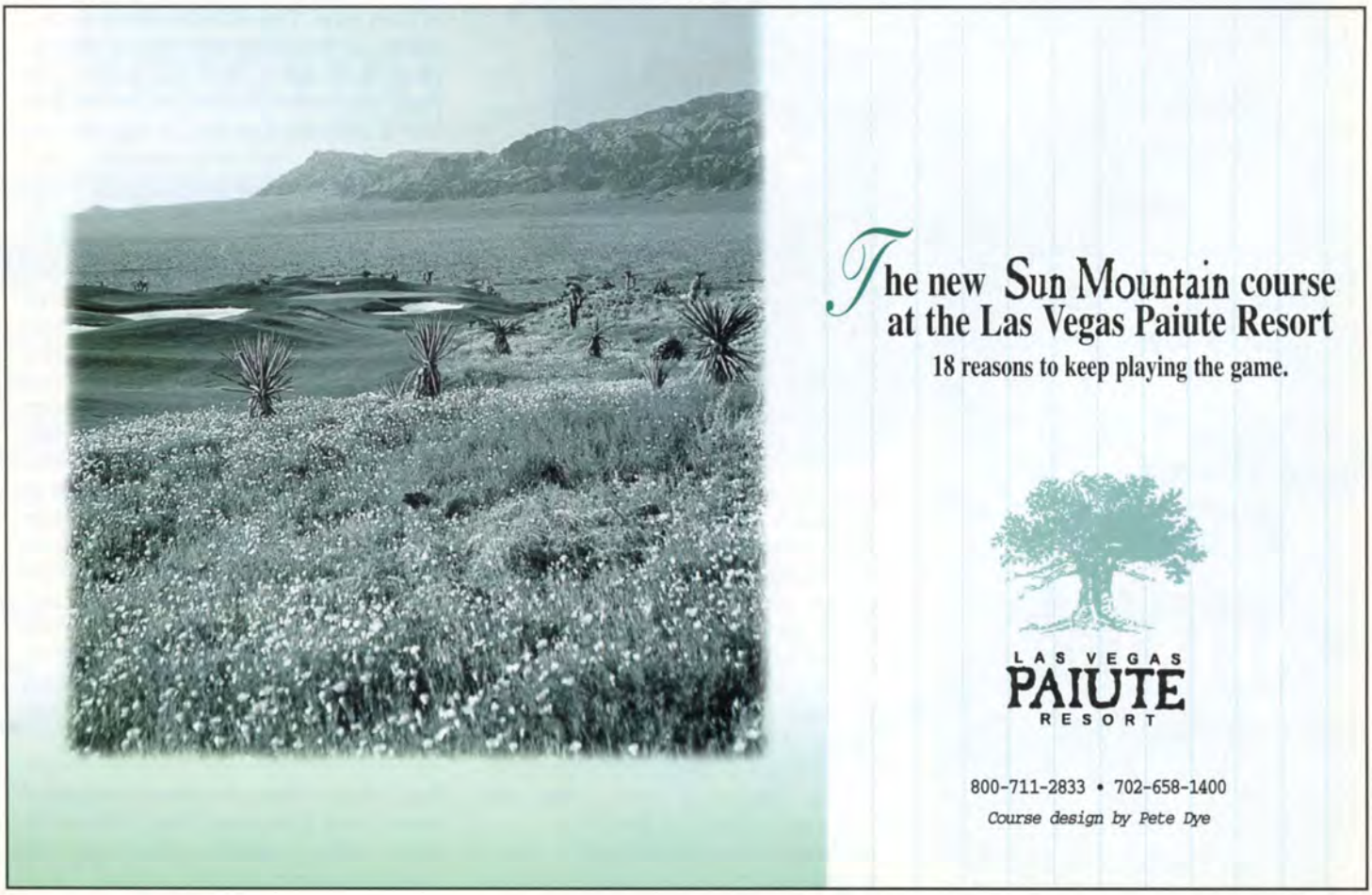



Photo: George Jeffs (left)

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# DINING OUT

Organic entrees at the Blue Heron.




*Healthy organic recipes sprout from the Blue Heron's owner-chef, Steve Flack.*

## Mega Nachos, Soups, and Spinach Pie

*By Kay Fahey*

It may be the only place in Reno where you can get a glass of freshly squeezed, organically grown wheatgrass juice. It's definitely a place where you will find thick slices of homemade bread, hefty vegetarian sandwiches, steaming bowls of soup, and huge platters of daily specials like Moroccan stew and spinach pie.

The Blue Heron Natural Foods Restaurant is a down-to-earth eatery whose tone is set by owner-chef Steve Flack. He's both a Buddhist and an avid skier, and he has a passion for healthy foods. Flack has a farm outside Davis, California, and he makes regular trips over the mountains to bring organic produce to the restaurant he founded 14 years ago.

"I just love cooking," says Flack, who often works in the Blue Heron's kitchen. "I love the richness and depth of the colors of steamed vegetables, and the flavors of fresh bread and sesame and roasted chiles."

Although Blue Heron food is strictly vegetarian, even the most devoted meat-lover will be tempted by the aromas of curries, saffron, basil, and brown rice. The whole-wheat enchiladas are bursting with spicy vegetables and cheese flanked by tender pinto beans (wonderful with a mug of Sierra Nevada Pale Ale or Blue Heron Ale, Flack's own microbrew). Such dishes are $6.95 a la carte and $8.95 when served with homemade bread and either soup or a salad of romaine and mesclun. Daily specials are a dollar more. Sandwiches are $5.50. Mega Nachos, at $5.25, are loaded with guacamole, olives, salsa, cheese, and tomato.

If the harvest in Davis has been abundant, Flack sells some of the produce he has trucked over the Sierra. Customers can then pick up a sack of juicy apricots or tangy tangerines to keep them happy and healthy on their own travels.

*Blue Heron Natural Foods Restaurant: 1091 South Virginia Street, a half-mile south of downtown Reno, 702-786-4110, fax 702-786-9317 Open daily for lunch and dinner Entrees $5.50 to $9.95. MasterCard and Visa are accepted.*

*Kay Fahey of Reno is a former restaurant owner who loves good food. She writes about cooking and dining for magazines and for the* Reno Gazette-Journal.

Photo: Aaron Lynch

# Honky-Tonks

Lookin' to kick up your heels? Here are 10 places where country is more than cool.

**By Eileen Sisk**

Folks who believe there are only two kinds of music—country and Western—will find the right tunes and company at Nevada honky-tonks. These clubs have live music or deejays, a local following, cheap eats, cheap beer, cowboys, cowgirls, and a jukebox full of country songs.

Following is an armchair tour of notable Nevada honky-tonks. Be sure to call ahead for band dates or hours of operation, which often change. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

**1 Dylan's Dance Hall and Saloon,** *4660 Boulder Highway, Las Vegas, 451-4006.* Dylan's is a kicking "young country" hangout where expatriate cowboys from Texas and Oklahoma in Ropers and Wranglers mix right in with the new breed dancing the Watermelon Crawl. Saturday-night action picks up about 11 and doesn't quit till dawn. A disc jockey selects the music, a mix of old and new with Western music to boot. Plans include bull riding—with real bulls—for professional cowboys.

**2 Stagecoach Lounge,** *U.S. 95, Beatty, 553-2419.* In Nevada some country cabarets are set in casinos like the Stagecoach. Nevertheless, this lounge has the trappings of a real honky-tonk: live country music, a jukebox, country satellite TV, and a fireplace. Beatty residents and folks from outlying Nevada and California towns come here to line or square dance on the wooden-tile floor. Bands perform every Friday and Saturday night. Line-dance lessons are offered periodically.

**Cow Camp Saloon regulars "shake and bake" on what was once a dirt parking lot next to the pig pits.**




*The boots hit the boards during line-dancing sessions at the Rodeo Rock Cafe in Reno.*

**3 Station House Lounge,** *1100 Erie Main Street, Tonopah, 482-9777* The casino lounge at the Station House is a real pickers-and-grinners place where the focus is on music and spirits, not dancing. The bandstand is elevated above the bar, and the tiny tile dance floor, conducive only to "buckle-shining," is tucked in a far corner so patrons can have an unobstructed view of the band. Bands play every night except Monday at the Station House, and the music runs about three parts country to one part rock and roll.

**4 Cow Camp Saloon,** *633 E Street, Hawthorne, 945-1000.* In an outdoor setting reminiscent of a Texas beer garden, Cow Camp regulars pick guitars, sing, and "shake and bake" on what was once a dirt parking lot next to the horseshoe and pig pits. With a hitching post out front for real horses, the Cow Camp is a favorite haunt of cowboys, many of whom bed down there for the night after closing time.

**5 Donna's Midnight Roper Bar and Grill,** *945 East Stillwater Avenue, Fallon, 423-4191.* Hay bales in the parking lot and the Old West storefront bespeak the Roper's authenticity The rustic wooden dance floor, with a hand-carved roping cowboy in the center, accommodates everybody from two-steppers to 10-steppers, especially on Friday and Saturday when a live band performs. In operation since 1991, the club is closed only from midnight Sunday until 8 a.m. Monday.

**6 Country Junction,** *55 West Main Street, Fernley, 575-0322.* The Junction opened just a year ago, but it holds honky-tonk standards high with frigid beer—the chilliest in the state at 30

Photo: Aaron Lynch

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*Stan Smith runs the Dubble SS in Winnemucca with daughter Terah, who keeps pace on the saloon's dance floor*

degrees Fahrenheit, according to staff—and warm tequila as bar staples. Co-owner Craig Harrison, a veteran honky-tonk singer who once toured with Vern Gosdin (the license plate behind the bar is from Gosdin's bus), sings with his band Thursday through Saturday nights. In the works: A BYOB (Bring Your Own Brand) Party after spring roundup during which area ranchers will sear the walls.

7 **Rodeo Rock Cafe,** *1537 South Virginia Street, Reno, 323-1600.* This is the main game in town for those who dance country And dance they do—everything from the Rodeo Rock Shuffle to the Western swing on 3,075 square feet of parquet. The club hits its stride during the Reno Rodeo in late June. Be careful on the mechanical bull, however; the operator runs it full tilt to get more bang for the two bucks a head. Free dance lessons are offered Wednesday through Saturday. There is a cover charge on weekends and alternative-music nights.

8 **Crazy Corners,** *off Interstate 80 one mile east of Lovelock, 273-2405.* The tile floor is way too small for live music or much dancing, but a jukebox full of George Strait, George Jones, and Dwight Yoakam should satisfy any country-music addict. The appeal here is the cowboys. Local ranchers have "branded" the ceiling, and autographed photos of bull riders like Cody Custer and Gary Laffew adorn the walls (Laffew graciously called Crazy Corners

Photo: Jess W. Smith



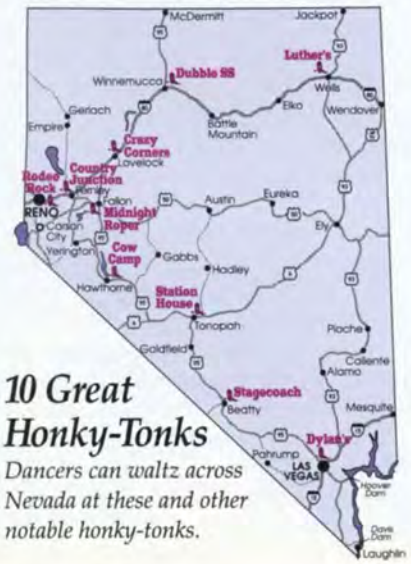
"the best damn bar in the West"). Be sure to check out the men's room as well as the mount of a "Wild Bludger" (a running gag) by the bar—just two of the reasons that "Crazy" is this club's first name.

**9 Dubble SS Saloon,** *350 Bridge Street, Winnemucca, 623-1331.* A one-barrel operation, the Dubble SS is a brew pub that serves its own pale ale. Owner Stan Smith (the double SS) and daughter Terah, an avid country dancer who manages the club, book bands as often as possible so the 640-square-foot hardwood floor won't go to waste. The club is open 24 hours a day, year-round except on Christmas. Free turkey dinners are served at the Dubble SS on Thanksgiving.

**10 Luther's Saloon,** *479 Sixth Street, Wells, 752-3700.* The slogan on Luther's calendar says, "Where the locals party." And it is the only place in this Northeastern Nevada town that offers live country music, albeit once in a blue moon. But it has a great country jukebox and one of the smoothest hardwood dance floors in the state. If you're passing through Wells, take a dance partner and a pocketful of quarters so you can enjoy two-stepping with or without the crowd.

---

*Eileen Sisk, a native Las Vegan who now resides in Virginia, is the author of* Honky-Tonks: Guide to Country Dancin' and Romancin' *(HarperCollinsWest, 1995).*




***10 Great Honky-Tonks***

*Dancers can waltz across Nevada at these and other notable honky-tonks.*

Map: *Nevada Magazine*


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# Librarian to the Gamblers

Howard Schwartz rides herd on the expanding universe of the gambling book business in Las Vegas. **By Deke Castleman**




**Howard Schwartz keeps tomes and tabbies at the Gambler's Book Club.**

During the day, the front room of the Gambler's Book Club in Las Vegas lives up to its name—a "book club" in the old-fashioned literary-fellowship sense of the term. From nine to five, the compact store is usually crowded with customers, diligently perusing the well-stocked shelves or engrossed in deep discussion. But when the sun goes down and the store closes, the action moves to the back rooms, where 56-year-old Howard Schwartz, research and marketing director of the Gambler's Book Club for the past 17 years, rides herd on the expanding universe of the gambling book business.

"I'm a night person," Schwartz shrugs, greeting a visitor as the short hand approaches the witching hour. "When everybody's asleep, I'm alert." For company, Schwartz has three cats and a guard dog. Every available surface in his office is piled high with boxes full of—well, there's no telling what.

"Here, for instance," Schwartz says as he dives headfirst into a box, "are a few of the books I've been looking at lately. A biography of Elvis, a book on lotteries, a new title on the Cleveland mob, a strange self-published pamphlet on fixing college football games, how to lie with statistics. Uh, oh, what's this?" He emerges from the bottom of the box with a purchase order, dated six months prior and signed but never sent. "Oh, well, no harm done. This book's already out of print."

The deadpan delivery, the accent and inflection, even the occasional punch line are reminiscent of Woody Allen, but the running commentary is pure Damon Runyan as Schwartz launches into a monologue that ranges

**Every available surface in his office is piled high with boxes full of—well, there's no telling what.**

so near and far—from Las Vegas to Brooklyn, from marriage to gambling, but always returning to his favorite topics, books and "the store"—that it lasts deep into the night.

"I had an aunt and uncle in Las Vegas. They'd migrated from Brooklyn, where I come from. Eventually I followed them here, but not before I'd lived in at least 20 other places. I left Brooklyn when I was 18, the same year that the Dodgers left for Los Angeles. I figured they knew something. I wanted out of New York so bad that I enlisted in the Army. They sent me all the way to Fort Dix, New Jersey! Couldn't tell Jersey from Brooklyn—except that I was in a tent." Schwartz did stints in Korea, Texas, Georgia, and Washington, D.C., before attending journalism school at the University of Montana. "It took eight years to get my bachelor's in journalism. I kept dropping out to go somewhere and work," he says.

"But I loved school. I studied and read like there was a gun to my head. I went on to earn two master's degrees. One from Kansas State in medical science writing. Closest I got to using that was writing 15 obits a day for the *Kansas City Star* The other was secondary education in reading from the University of Northern Colorado."

Howard then taught school, where his teaching style proved unorthodox. "I'd bring racetrack programs, FBI wanted posters, telephone books, newspapers, and job applications for the students to read. Poetry and Shakespeare were fine, you could use that on a quiz show, but I wanted my kids to know how to apply for a job, pass a driver's license test. Hands-on street-



Photo: Chris Leedham

smart stuff. I taught for five years in Kansas and Colorado, until I got sick of the cold and snow I'd much rather sweat than freeze."

That was in 1979, when Howard finally settled down in Las Vegas and was hired by John Luckman, late founder of the Gambler's Book Club. "When John Luckman opened GBC in 1964, he envisioned a place where gamblers could meet, talk, read, sit around tables, and drink coffee at their leisure. Thirty-one years later, it's still that way. More often than not, the customers sell each other the books. Luckman strongly believed that people should have books to tell them what they're up against, give them the proper odds, slow up their losses, teach them moderation, show them that casino gambling is supposed to be for fun."

He was originally hired to be an editor and writer for a couple of magazines Luckman was publishing at the time. Schwartz now works for the late owner's wife, Edna Luckman, who also is a late-night fixture at the store. Over the past 17 years, Schwartz has become the store's director of marketing and research. "Things have changed a lot around here since 1979. When I first got here, there were six books on sports betting. Now there're 36 just on football. Back then, the catalog was 16 pages. Now it's 32. GBC had about 22,000 customers. Now it's double, 45,000 or so," Howard says.

"Still," he adds, "our free catalog is mailed to people in every state and in 60 countries. We're the world's largest mail-order distributor of gambling literature."

**"Las Vegas is a microcosm of the world, and the store is a microcosm of Las Vegas," he says.**

Although Schwartz has never been married, matchmaking is one of his professional pleasures. "We could've just been a bookstore. You want a book on craps? It's over there in the crap section. But we facilitate, we network. I try to put people in touch with other people. I consider myself a research coordinator, a utility infielder, a librarian for gamblers." Howard writes book reviews for half a dozen gambling periodicals and has several filing cabinets full of clips, copies, and information pertinent to gambling and books.

"I'm never bored," he claims. "The characters around here are fascinating. I talk to show business people, gaming regulators, systems researchers, stockbrokers, computer buffs, mob historians, geniuses, the little guy, compulsives, fanatics, magicians, all kinds of risk takers, even people who are against gambling.

"Las Vegas is a microcosm of the world, and the store is a microcosm of Las Vegas. I feel like the whole world comes to us. It's perfect for me, because I'm interested in the whole world."

As the sun comes up, Howard grabs a jacket and a leash. "What other job," he asks rhetorically, "would involve marketing, PR, advertising, public speaking, and dog walking?"

*Deke Castleman, author of* Nevada Handbook *and* Las Vegas, *can often be found eavesdropping at the Gambler's Book Club. Readers can write the Gambler's Book Club at 630 South 11th Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101 or phone 800-522-1777*



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**Great Nevada Day Hikes**

This *Nevada Magazine* guidebook focuses on eight hiking trails, from Red Rock Canyon to Great Basin National Park, each with a map and photo. Five additional hikes in the Silver State are also listed. "Great Nevada Day Hikes" has 32 pages, with a 5-1/2" x 8-1/2" format. Send $4.95 plus $1.50 for shipping and handling to *Nevada Magazine*, 1800 Hwy. 50 East, Suite. 200, Carson City, NV 89710.

# Skiing Tahoe

*(Continued from page 19)*




mind—it looks as if you're skiing into blue. Perched below on the mountain's edge, Snowflake Lo3dge has the best day-lodge view on the lake. It's also one of Tahoe's better places to rendezvous to discuss life.

Diamond Peak has the fourth-best vertical drop at the lake (1,840 feet) and a well-known ski school. The resort is taking out its 30-year-old Lodgepole double chair and putting in a quad chair to help skiers and snowboarders get up the mountain more quickly.

## Mount Rose: Reno Rendezvous

This resort 25 miles south of Reno has the highest base elevation (8,200 feet) of any Tahoe ski area. Winter storms can blast away, but once the clouds and wind move on, the snow has a fantastically dry feel—it carves like powdered air. Where it's groomed, the snow has a certain squeaky firmness that is great to carve your edges into.

The top of the mountain has a dynamite view of Washoe Lake and Washoe Valley—one of those "I think I'm in a jet at 30,000 feet" modes common to Heavenly and Diamond Peak. The whole area flows upward from the lodge, where you can be sociable and catch some rays, a popular Tahoe sport known as deck skiing.

*Chaz Kasper of Lake Tahoe is a writer, photographer, artist, and longtime skier He learned to ski at Diamond Peak (then called Ski Incline) and has been on the ski patrol at Heavenly, Mount Rose, and Diamond Peak.*



James painted this oil of a cowboy wrestling a stampeding steer four years after selling his first art to the Reno Rodeo program.




Photography: Jay Aldrich

# Will James Returns

## A Nevada couple uncover little-known works by the cowboy artist.

Even when seen from a distance, the rider in the painting is clearly the work of Will James. The cowboy has the square jaw, dark hair, and intensity of the artist himself. The bull's horns and the horse's legs are poised in a rodeo moment, when man and beast seem nearly out of control. The image conveys the feeling that James, as Charles Russell once put it, "had felt a horse under him."

When Carson Valley collector Dick Wetzell saw the oil and five drawings by James in a Los Gatos, California, home two years ago, he knew he wanted them. "They were beautiful," says Wetzell, an avid Will James collector. "It was amazing. Basically, this stuff has not been seen since 1925."

**James had taken up drawing in the Nevada State Prison while serving time for rustling.**

The works date back to the early 1920s, when Will James lived in Washoe Valley and was beginning to establish himself as an artist and author. It had been several years since he'd taken up drawing—in the Nevada State Prison in Carson City, where he served time for rustling cattle near Ely. Afterward he had sold stories and illustrations to *Sunset* and *Scribners*. He had married Alice Conradt, sister of one of his rodeo buddies. Ensconced in a cabin on Franktown Road with Alice, James worked on *Smoky*, which would become




**At Elsman's request, James apparently based these two drawings (above and right) on earlier Sunset art.**

the most famous of his 24 books.

Among James' friends in those days was Ralph Elsman, who visited Washoe Valley during his Nevada vacations. A captain of industry, Elsman was the 35-year-old boss of a New York City gas company when he appeared on the cover of *Forbes* in 1920. During 1922 and 1923 James gave or sold Elsman the oil painting and five drawings. When Elsman moved to Los Gatos and became chief executive of the San Jose Water Works, he hung the drawings and painting in his home.

There they stayed for nearly 70 years, until they were acquired by the Wetzells. Dick, a stockbroker with an office in Stateline, and Dianne, an expert on Early American antiques, have collected scores of James' prints, paintings, and first editions. Dick helped get James inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1992. Two years ago the Wetzells moved to their five-acre Carson Valley ranchette—from Los Gatos, coincidentally—after spending many vacations in the Reno-Tahoe area. As active members of the Will James Society, the Wetzells showed some of their items last year at the group's convention at John Ascuaga's Nugget—including the seldom-seen oil painting from Elsman's collection.

"Mr. Elsman met Will James in the early 1920s in Washoe Valley and rode with him," Dick says. "He probably saw Will's drawings in *Sunset* in 1921 and said to Will, 'I really like those. Could you do a couple like them for me?'

"The Elsman children remembered the artwork as part of the ordinary furnishings in their house. His daughter told me that her brother once threw a pencil at her and it became imbedded in the painting.

"I looked, and sure enough, there was the pencil wound in the canvas. Imagine that—throwing something at a Will James oil," Dick adds, only half laughing.—*David Moore*



Will and Alice James in Washoe Valley.

**"Mr. Elsman met Will James in Washoe Valley and rode with him."**



Collectors Dianne and Dick Wetzell.




James was admired for his portrayal of horses in action, but here the horse stands firm, protecting its owner.

Photos: Nevada Historical Society (top left), Wetzell Family Collection (top right)

# Border Boomer (Continued from page 31)






**Si Redd's Oasis, formerly the Peppermill, launched Mesquite into the resort era. Redd (right) hit the jackpot in the 1980s as a dollar-slot guru and founder of IGT**

it—the lovely mountain views, the red rock, the Virgin River. The terrain was perfect for golf, and we agreed it was an excellent alternative to Las Vegas."

In fact, Griffin sees Mesquite as a perfect getaway for folks who live in Las Vegas. "Vegas is way out there in the desert, and there aren't many places for people to go on a couple of days off," Griffin says. "We decided a hotel that offered golf, a health club, and all kinds of water displays, with plenty of parking, would be appealing to Vegas folks who wanted to get away from the congestion of the city. In other words, we would build a resort for a resort."

Other hotels have opened recently Budget Inn and Suites has 67 rooms and a pool for the hot Mesquite summers. The Rancho Mesquite Casino and Holiday Inn has opened its first phase—the 215-room Holiday Inn part—with the casino to follow shortly.

Mesquite's phenomenal growth in the past decade has obviously ruffled the fabric of what was once a low-key town. Yet, most of the action is concentrated on the two ends of town, with Players Island and Si Redd's Oasis on the west and the Virgin River, Budget Inn, and Rancho Mesquite on the east. New projects such as the Mesquite Star are under construction, and the city's master plan allows for future resorts in specified corridors on the town's edges.

The resorts have stirred a land rush that has tripled the town's population in six years. In 1980 there were just 922 people living in Mesquite. By 1990 there were 1,960 residents. Today more than 6,500 people live in Mesquite, making it Nevada's fastest growing city by population percentage over the past five years. Homes sell as quickly as they are built, and city officials claim to be geared up to handle a population of 20,000 a decade from now.

**Today in Old Mesquite you can drive down a country lane amid grazing cows and horses.**

Currently only about 70 percent of Mesquite's work force actually lives in town, although that percentage will be boosted by the town's current building boom. The rest commute from neighboring communities such as St. George, Utah, 37 miles to the northeast.

Those who live in Mesquite find diversion in the wide-open country, the golf courses, and the activities organized by the chamber of commerce and Mesquite Arts Council. The city ball fields host tournaments year-round, and special events like Mesquite Days, Fourth of July, and Christmas Village spice up the calendar with parades, entertainment in the park, good food, displays, and fireworks. The Mesquite Arts Festival features artists from throughout the West.

Residents are planning a new park system with trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. A 340-acre regional park with rodeo grounds and fairgrounds will be built as well as a municipal golf course and more baseball fields. Residents and visitors can take day trips to Lake Mead, Valley of Fire, and the national parks of Southern Utah when they want a break from the bustle of the resort scene.

Meanwhile, Old Mesquite remains relatively quiet and little different from any other small town. You can still stop on the two-mile stretch of Mesquite Boulevard and eat at the local grill, grab some groceries at the market, or drive down a country lane amid grazing cows and horses.

A telling symbol of pioneer Mesquite is the Desert Valley Museum on West Mesquite Boulevard. Here you can step off the street and into another era. You can see Anasazi pottery, gaze upon a petrified dinosaur egg, and rub your hand across the posts of a pioneer bed. There are quilts and antique dolls and photos of the original Mormon farmers who fought drought and floods in the 1890s and barely survived as they made the Virgin Valley their home.

If you're lucky, you'll find Verde Hughes at the museum. Verde has lived more than a half-century in Mesquite while raising 12 children. A dedicated historian, she will show you two dozen



Photo: Sal Maimone (top)

# Your Home On The Range



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**Edith Brocato, Nora Hughes, and Verde Hughes (from left) dispense history and lore at the town's museum, which once served as Mesquite's library.**

fat folders of newspaper clippings, photographs, maps, and letters that document the valley's history.

"The problem here was always water," Verde says. "Too little or too much of it." She will marvel at how the town has grown and how quickly things have changed in the Virgin Valley.

Yet some things haven't changed, and never will, for Verde. "I love to watch the moon come up," she says softly. "The grandkids come over, and we sit outside together in the mild twilight and wait for the first silvery gleam to appear over the Virgin Mountains."

Meanwhile, over on Interstate 15, car after car approaches Mesquite. Many of them pull off, lured by the flashing neon at either end of town and by the green, rolling fairways of the golf courses. Still others are drawn to the center of town, where they might find a remnant of what Verde Hughes was talking about.

*Lyman Hafen lives just across the border from Mesquite in Santa Clara, Utah. He is editor of* St. George Magazine *and author of five books, including* Roping the Wind: A Personal History of Cowboys and the Land, *much of which is set in Nevada.*

# Mesquite

## Places to go, things to do.

Mesquite hugs the Arizona border 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas on Interstate 15, a route that follows the old Mormon Trail between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles. In interstate terms, Mesquite has a highly central location: It's the same distance—about 360 miles—to Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Salt Lake City The Utah town of St. George is 37 miles northeast.

The Virgin Valley has a mild winter


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WHITE PINE COUNTY

Annual Events

**JANUARY**
Ice Fishing at Cave Lake

**MARCH**
Annual Greek Party
Fine Arts Festival
"March Madness" Basketball
Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation Dinner

**APRIL**
Ice Breaker Slo-Pitch Tournament

**MAY**
Season Start "Ghost Train of Old Ely"
Nevada Open Road Challenge
"Ely After Dark" Train Ride

**JUNE**
Annual Pony Express Reride
Bristlecone Bowman Championship
American Baskir Horse Show
Men's 1-Pitch Tourney
Connie Etchegaray Memorial Tourney
"Ely After Dark" Train Ride

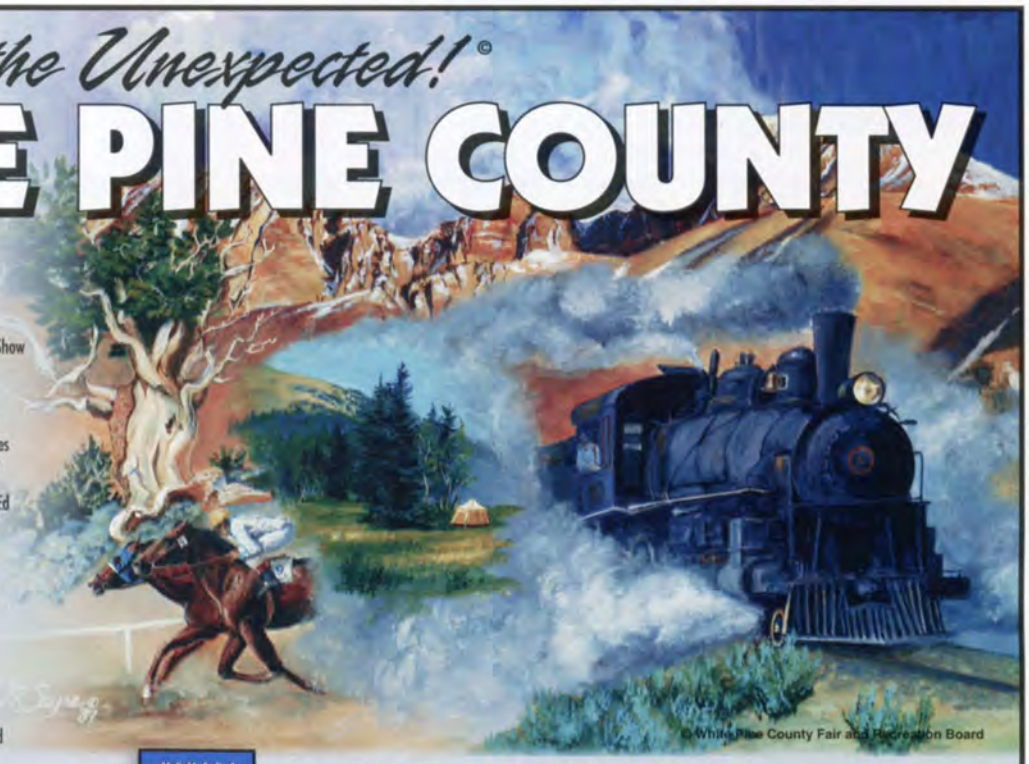
**JULY**
4-Wheel Drive Rally
Fireworks Trainride
Lund Pioneer Days
NSA Softball Tourney-Men's Slo-Pitch/Jr Jazz Benefit
"Ely After Dark" Train Ride

**AUGUST**
Amateur Golf Tournament
Eastern Nevada Paint Horse Show
Bristlecone Arts in the Park
Basque Festival
White Pine County Fair
Cattlewomen's Deep Pit BBQ
White Pine County Horse Races
Fantasy Classic & Antique Car Show
Budge Stanton Memorial Co-Ed Tourney
"Ely After Dark" Train Ride

**SEPTEMBER**
Nevada Northern Railway "Battle of the Rails"
End of summer run "Ghost Train of Old Ely"
Annual Ultralight Fly-In
Two-Man Best Ball Golf Tournament
Silver State Classic Open Road Challenge

**OCTOBER**
"Photographers Special" Trainride

**NOVEMBER**
Rotary Club Art Auction
Toys for Tots Co-Ed 1-Pitch







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Photo: George Jeffs

climate. Daytime summer temperatures reach above 100 degrees, while mid-winter highs hover at 60. Spring and fall are pleasantly warm.

The area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

**Hotels and Casinos:** Si Redd's Oasis is the oldest and largest of Mesquite's casino-resorts. Established 15 years ago as the Peppermill, Si Redd's Oasis has 1,000 rooms, four restaurants, six swimming pools, spas, tennis courts, three golf courses, and, of course, a big casino. Call 346-5232 or 800-621-0187

Also on the west end of Mesquite Boulevard, Players Island opened in 1995, landscaped with a lagoon and waterfalls. The hotel-casino has 500 rooms, three restaurants, a golf course, tennis courts, beach volleyball, and a spa offering mud baths. The Bali Hai Theater presents Vegas-style revues. Call 346-PLAY or 800-896-4567



**The 700-room Virgin River was the first resort to open on Mesquite's east side. This casino has cinemas and a new truck stop.**

The Virgin River opened in 1990 on Mesquite's east end. The hotel-casino has 700 rooms, two restaurants, pools, and the self-proclaimed "world's longest bar." The Virgin River has four movie theaters. A bowling alley and a truck stop are in the works. Call 346-7777 or 800-346-7721.

The Budget Inn and Suites has 67 rooms, including the Presidential Suite, and swimming pool and Jacuzzi. Call 346-7444 800-463-6302.

The 215-room hotel of the new Rancho Mesquite Casino and Holiday Inn opened in September. The casino is due to open this winter. Call 346-4600 or 800-346-4611.

Motels include the Desert Palms (346-5756), Stateline (346-5752), and Valley Inn (346-5281).

**RV Camping:** Si Redd's Oasis, Players Island, and the Virgin River all have RV parks.

**Restaurants:** Visitors at the Oasis will find surf and turf in the Redd Room steakhouse and delicious milkshakes at Peggy Sue's, a '50s-style diner. Also, the hotel makes its own beer at the Muddy River Brewery and Sports Pub. Players Island has a nice gourmet room, the Plantation

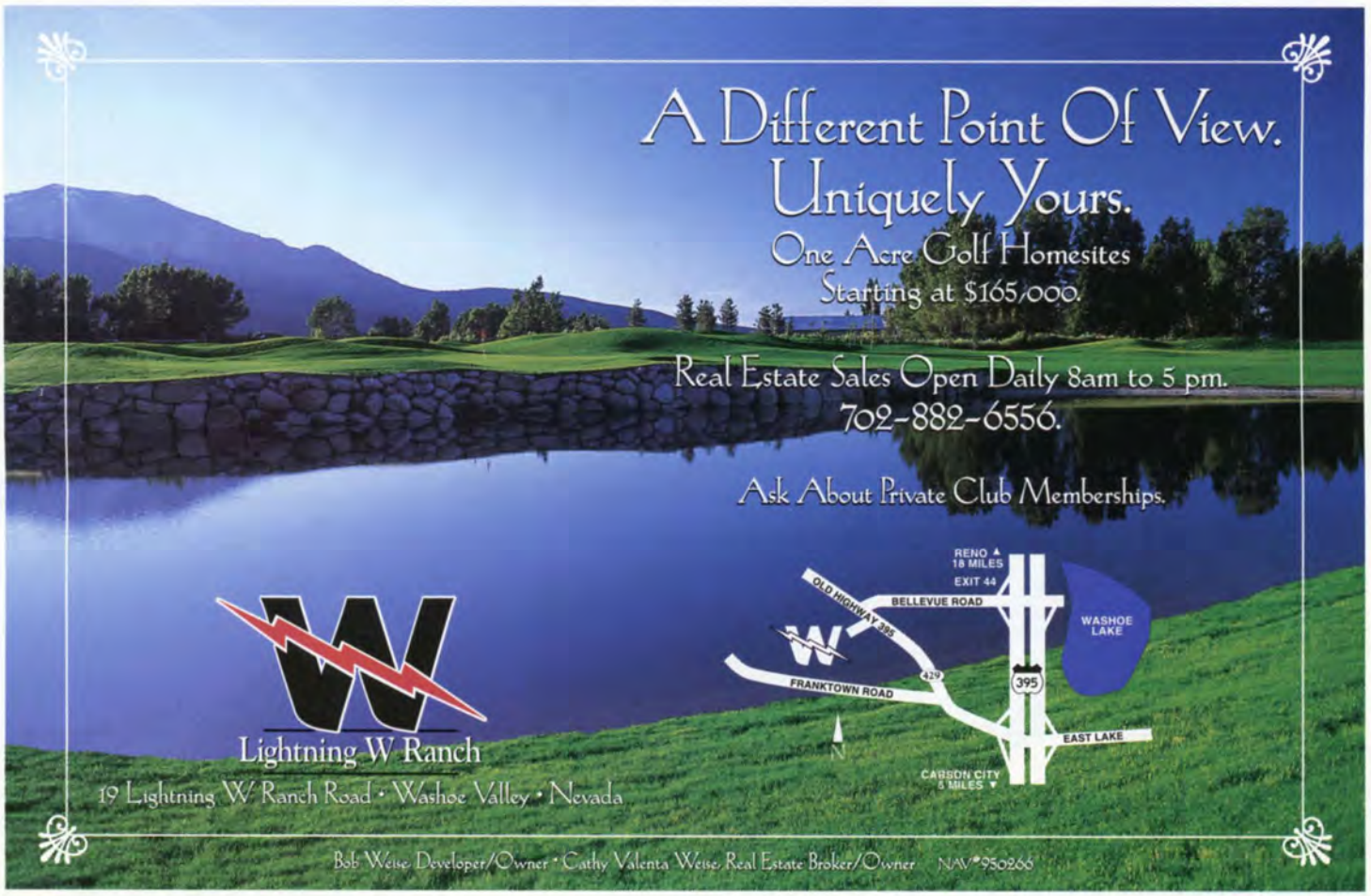





Photo: Sal Maimone

House, and the Virgin River leaves its mark with the Branding Iron Buffet.

Noncasino dining choices include the 19th Hole, which has a bar menu; Carollo's, known for its barbecued ribs, steaks, and seafood; the Chalet Cafe, a hometown-style restaurant; Mexican food at Pances and Cielito Lindo; Bella Pizza, Red Sands Pizza, and Pizza Pantry; the Little Bakery and Deli for morning pastries; and good Chinese lunch specials at the Panda Garden. Coffee lovers can brace for the day at Java Junction.




**Golf:** All four Mesquite courses are open to the public. Hotel guests get a break on green fees.

The Oasis Golf Club, designed by Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay, opened last year. The desert course has elevated tees and challenging desert terrain and is the site of the West's only Arnold Palmer Golf Academy. The Vistas nine-hole course is nearby. The Palms Golf Club, Mesquite's oldest course, opened in 1989. The Palms has a watery front nine and hilly back nine. For tee times at all three courses call Si Redd's Oasis, 346-7820 or 800-621-0187

Players Island Golf Club, designed by Cal Olson, opened this fall. It has several holes along the Virgin River. Call toll-free 888-711-GOLF.

Beaver Dam Golf Course is a nine-hole layout 10 miles to the east in Arizona. Call 800-626-5006.

**Tours and Attractions:** Oasis Ranch and Gun Club, affiliated with Si Redd's Oasis, offers skeet and trap shooting, barbecues, hay rides, and other Western activities. Call 800-621-0187

Hafen's Tamarack Trails can arrange barbecues and campfire programs directly (346-3505) or through the Virgin River Hotel.

The Desert Valley Museum, 31 West Mesquite Boulevard, describes the area's Indian and Mormon history with artifacts and displays.

Every day the Oasis conducts a free 30-minute sightseeing tour of Mesquite by bus. Tour-takers should gather at the hotel registration desk at 11 a.m. Call 800-621-0187

The region has parks aplenty In Nevada, Lake Mead and Valley of Fire State Park are 55 miles south. In Utah, Zion National Park is 80 miles north-

**Every day the Oasis conducts a free 30-minute sightseeing tour of Mesquite by bus.**

east, and Bryce Canyon and the Grand Canyon's North Rim are beyond.

**Real Estate:** The booming Mesquite area (pop.. 6,500) has several residential developments. Mesquite Vistas is a master-planned community on the Oasis golf course. Others include Rock Springs, Sun Pointe, Morning Star, and Mesquite Mesa.

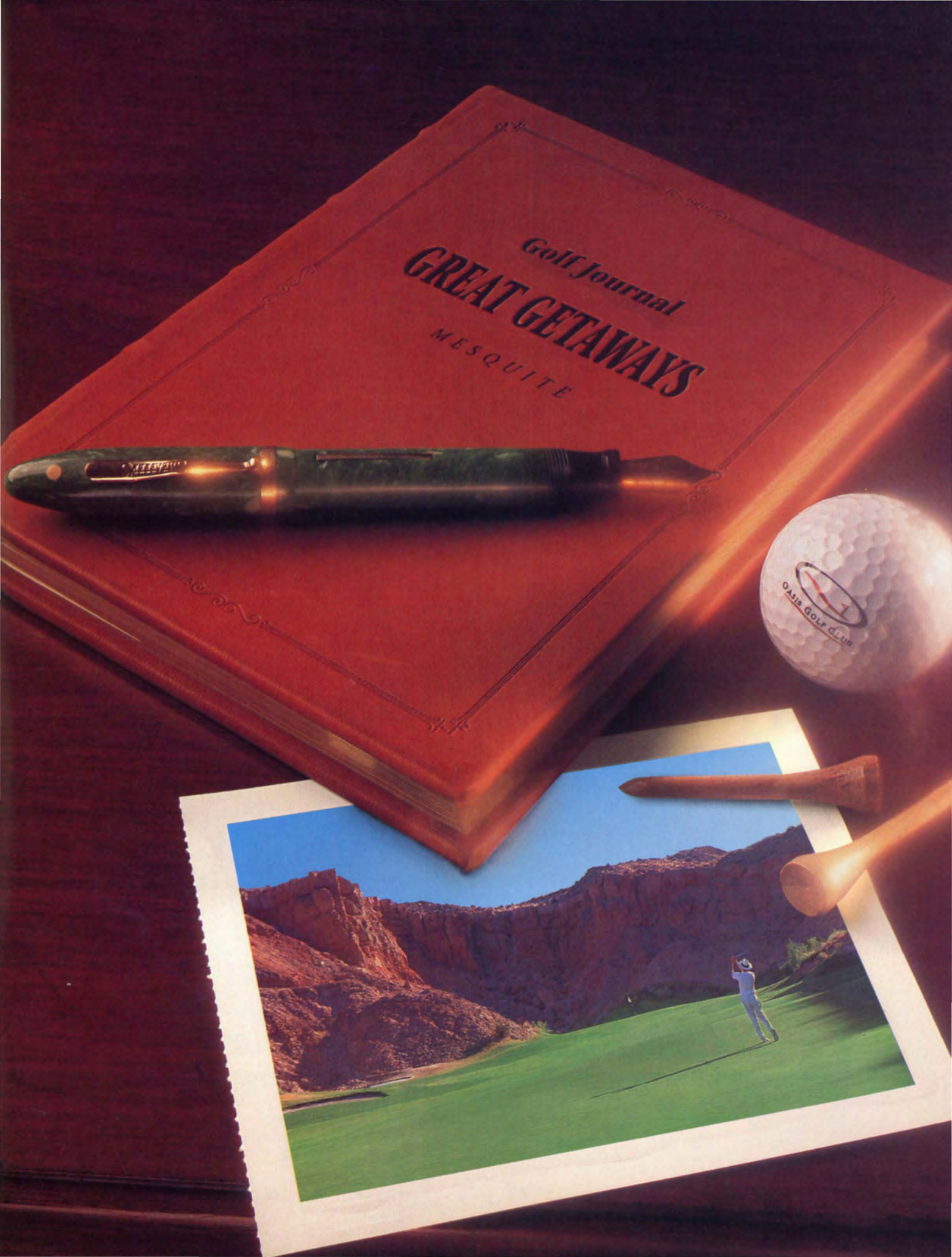
**Tourist Information:** Mesquite Visitors Center, Exit 122 on Interstate 15, Box 1560, Mesquite, NV 89024; call 346-2702. For residential and commercial information, contact the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce, 250 West Mesquite Boulevard, Box 785, Mesquite, NV 89024; call 346-2902.

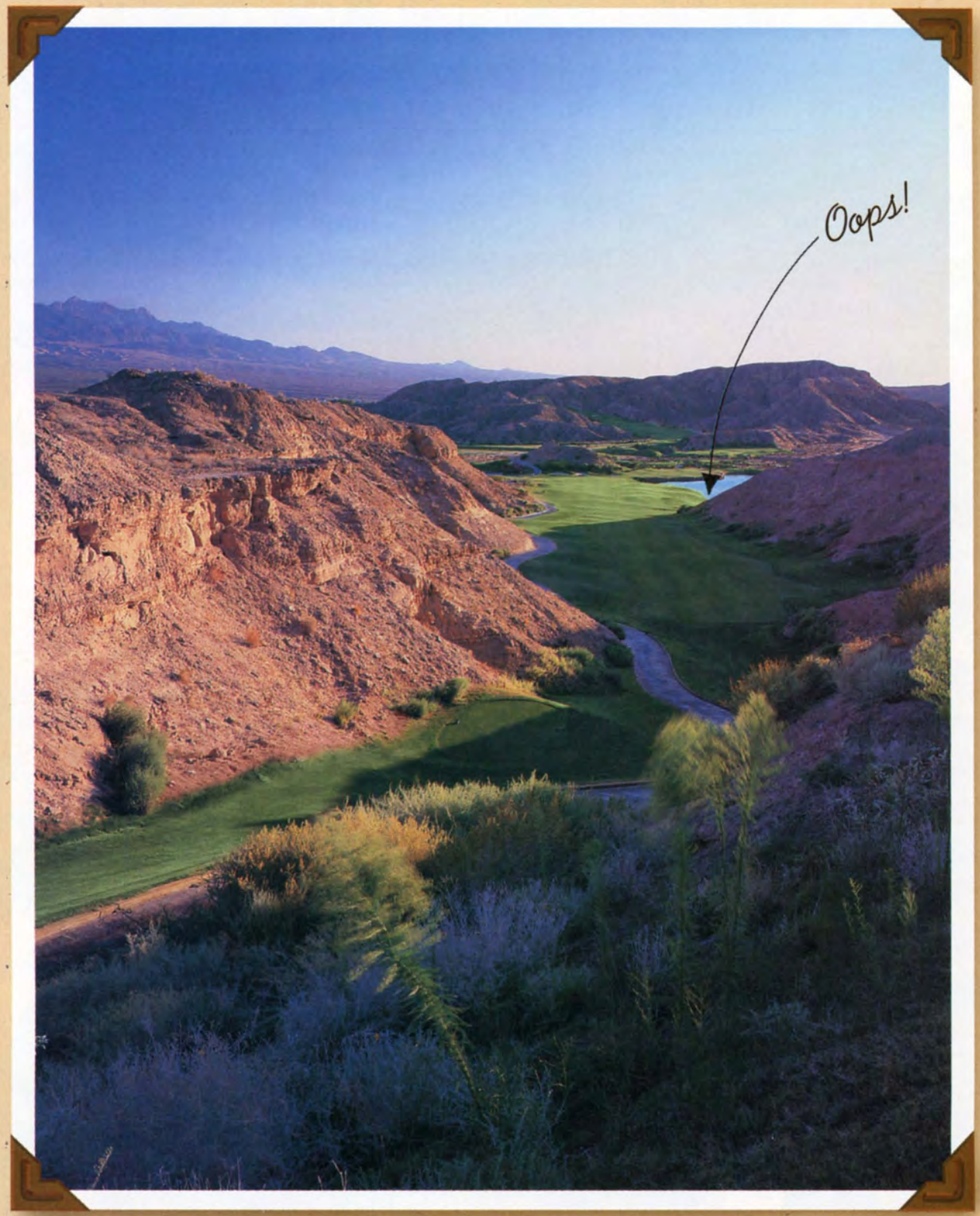







Map: Gary Elam


Golf Journal
GREAT GETAWAYS
MESQUITE
OASIS GOLF CLUB




#8 Oasis Golf Course

Today we played the Grand Canyons. Terrifying! Exhilarating! Arnold Palmer designed the Oasis, and as we played one incredible canyon after another, we all agreed this one's his masterpiece.

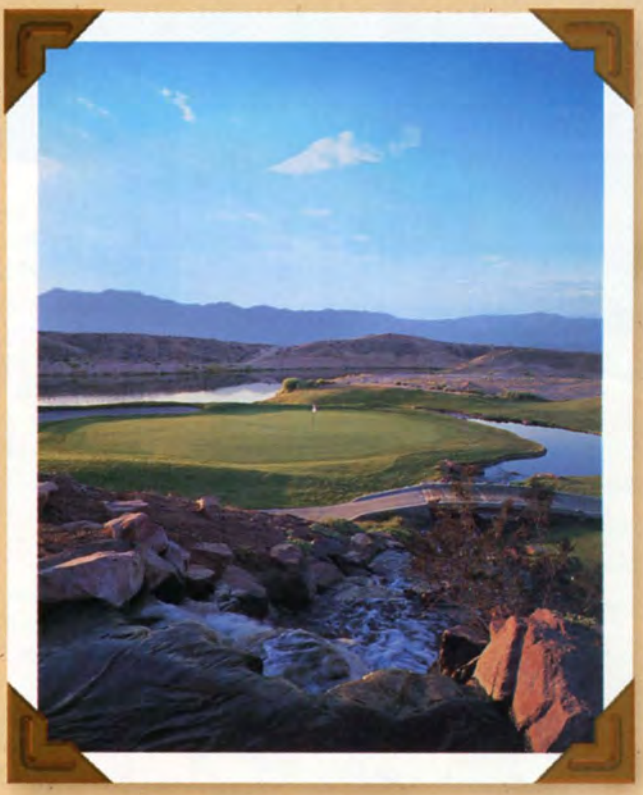
Almost drove the pond. Oh, well, like Arnie says, "Go for it, and have fun doing it."

# Golf Journal



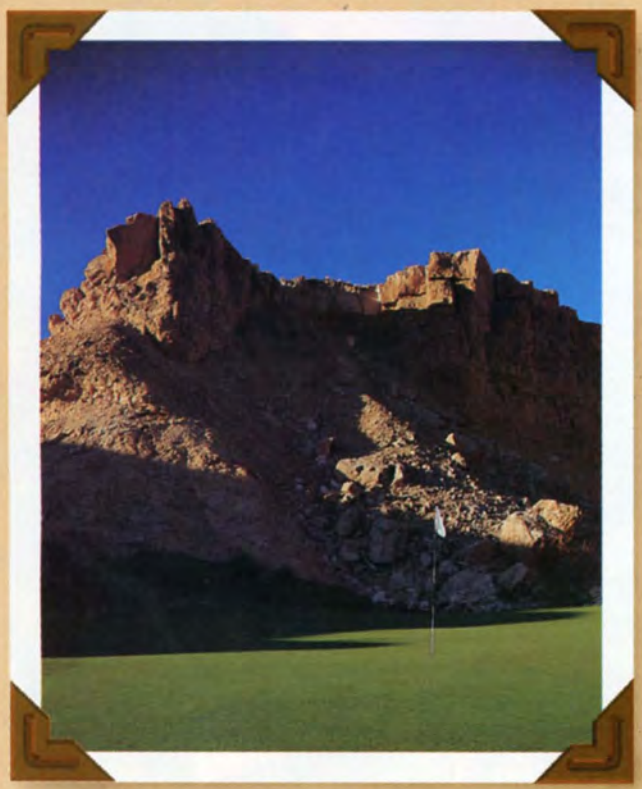
#12 Oasis Golf Course

*After the desert canyons we moved on to the tropics. Talk about contrasts! No wonder "Golf Digest" named the Oasis one of the five best new resort courses in North America. 549 yards from the back tees. Got a bogey. No complaints.*



#3 Vistas Golf Course

*Played a different course on Friday—the Vistas is next to the Oasis, and it's nine holes of beauty and challenge. Look at that green. Lush. Trust me, it breaks right.*



#6 Oasis Golf Course

*This is Arnold Palmer's favorite hole at the Oasis. Mine, too. The green is in a box canyon – when the ball drops, you hear the echo. Six a.m. on #6 is as close as you can get to heaven. Give me my putter.*




The Arnold Palmer Golf Academy

*After #8, we agreed it was time I checked into the Arnold Palmer Golf Academy. Had no idea it was right here in Nevada. Best instruction and inspiration I've ever experienced.*

*With my swing fine-tuned, we headed back out for an even more enjoyable round of golf. Just call me "Ace."*




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Mesquite Vistas is located just about an hour northeast of Las Vegas on I-15 at the Nevada-Arizona border.

# NEVADA BOOKSHELF

Recent releases of Nevada interest.

**Great Basin: The Story Behind the Scenery** *by Michael L. Nicklas. KC Publications, Las Vegas. 52 pages, $6.95 softcover* Nevada's Great Basin National Park is the subject of this latest addition to KC Publications' series of photo books on America's national parks. The book is lavishly illustrated by some of the West's best-known photographers, including Jeff Gnass, Galen Rowell, and George Wuerthner. The informative text was written by Nicklas, a National Park Service naturalist who worked for four years at the Eastern Nevada park.

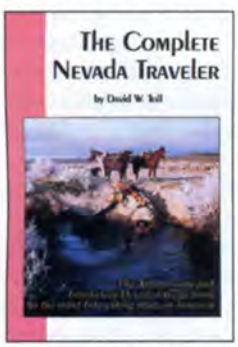



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**The Black Book and the Mob** *by Ronald A. Farrell and Carole Case. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison. 294 pages, $17.95 softcover, $44 hardcover* Farrell and Case, criminal-justice professors at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, trace the history of Nevada's "Black Book," the list of "undesirables" banned from the state's casinos. The authors present evidence suggesting the state has focused on listing high-profile, mob-related criminals while ignoring other equally deserving but less visible hoods.

•

**The Complete Nevada Traveler** *by David W Toll. Gold Hill Publishing, Virginia City. 256 pages, $14.95 softcover* Toll presents the sixth edition of his popular guidebook, now in its 20th year of publication. The book's entertaining commentary is complemented by new photos, an index, maps, and intriguing "Where Am I?" photos taken in little-known corners of the state.




•

**Forward With Enthusiasm: Midas, Nevada, 1907-1995** *by Dana R. Bennett. Great Basin Press, Reno. 184 pages, $9.50, softcover* Bennett, a legislative researcher who spent vacations of her youth in Midas, has crafted a readable history of that Northern Nevada mining town and the cast of characters who lived there.

•

**Tumbleweed Heart** *by Tess Farraday. Jove/Berkley Books, New York, N.Y 293 pages, $5.99 softcover* Verdi-based Terri Sprenger, writing under the pseudonym Tess Farraday, has penned a rollicking historical romance set in the 1870s on a ranch in the Black Rock Desert. A quiet but handsome cowboy, a feisty but beautiful widow, a cute little girl, and lots of dust and sagebrush—this is classic horse opera by a veteran romance writer.

•

**Nevada: Magnificent Wilderness** *with photographs by Scott T Smith, Westcliffe Publishers, Englewood, CO. 128 pages, $39.95 hardcover* Smith, a frequent *Nevada* contributor, presents five years' worth of Nevada photos in a handsome coffee-table book. Hal Rothman, history professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, wrote the provocative foreword.

•

**Night Game** *by Carol Davis Luce. Zebra Books, New York, N.Y 445 pages, $4.99 softcover* This Sparks mystery writer mixes page-flipping suspense with romance in the fourth of her series of "Night" books, which include *Night Stalker, Night Prey,* and *Night Passage.* After a rash of grisly murders takes place in the fictitious Kings Club in Sparks, Kasey Atwood, an undercover surveillance expert, is hired by the dashing young chief executive of the family-owned hotel-casino. The novel's plot twists and surprises will leave readers sleeping with the lights on.




*—Richard Moreno, Carolyn Graham, and David Moore*

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*To order any of the above-mentioned books, call Books Now at 800-962-6651, ext. 1700 (24 hours, 365 days) or visit the Books Now Web site at http://www.booksnow.com/nevadamag.*



# THE FIRST PIANO IN CAMP

*A classic short story by Sam Davis recalls the rites of Christmas in frontier Nevada.*

In 1859—it might have been five years earlier or later; this is not history for the public schools—there was a little camp about 10 miles from Pioche, occupied by upwards of 300 miners, every one of whom might have packed his prospecting implements and left for more inviting fields any time before sunset. When the day was over, these men did not rest from their labors, like the honest New England agriculturist, but sang, danced, gambled, and shot each other, as the mood seized them.

One evening the report spread along Main Street (which was the only street) that three men had been killed at Silver Reef and that the bodies were coming in. Presently a lumbering old conveyance labored up the hill, drawn by a couple of horses, well worn out with their pull. The cart contained a good-sized box, and no sooner did its outlines become visible through the glimmer of a stray light here and there, than it began to affect the idlers. Death always enforces respect, and even though no one had caught sight of the remains, the crowd gradually became subdued, and when the horses came to a standstill, the cart was immediately surrounded. The driver, however, was not in the least impressed with the solemnity of his commission.

"All there?" asked one.

"Haven't examined. Guess so."

The driver filled his pipe and lit it as he continued.

"Wish the bones and load had gone over the grade."

A man who had been looking on stepped up to the man at once.

"I don't know who you have in that box, but if they happen to be any friends of mine, I'll lay you alongside."

"We can mighty soon see," said the teamster, coolly "Just bust the lid off, and if they happen to be the men you want, I'm here."

The two looked at each other for a moment, and the crowd gathered a little closer, anticipating trouble.

"I believe that dead men are entitled to good treatment, and when you talk about hoping to see corpses go over a bank, all I have to say is, that it will be better for you if the late lamented ain't my friends."

"We'll open the box. I don't take back what I've said, and if my language don't suit your ways of thinking, I guess I can stand it."

*The teamster revealed to the astonished group something which puzzled all alike. "Boys," said he, "this is a pianner."*

With these words the teamster began to pry up the lid. He got a board off, and then pulled out some old rags. A strip of something dark, like rosewood, presented itself.

"Eastern coffins, by thunder!" said several, and the crowd looked quite astonished.

Some more boards flew up, and the man who was ready to defend his friend's memory shifted his weapon a little. The cool manner of the teamster had so irritated him that he made up his mind to pull his weapon at the first sight of the dead, even if the deceased was his worst and oldest enemy Presently the whole of the box cover was off, and the teamster, clearing away the packing, revealed to the astonished group the top of something which puzzled all alike.

"Boys," said he, "this is a pianner."

A general shout of laughter went up, and the man who had been so anxious to enforce respect for the dead muttered something about feeling dry, and the keeper of the nearest bar was several ounces better off by the time the boys had given the joke all the attention it called for.

Had a dozen dead men been in the box, their presence in the camp could not have occasioned half the excitement that the arrival of that lonely piano caused. By the next morning it was known that the instrument was to grace a hurdy-gurdy saloon, owned by Tom Goskin, the leading gambler in the place. It took nearly a week to get this wonder on its legs, and the owner was the proudest individual in the State. It rose gradually from a recumbent to an upright position, amid a confusion of tongues, after the manner of the tower of Babel.

Of course everybody knew just how such an instrument should be put up. One knew where the "off hind leg" should go, and another was posted on the "front piece."

Scores of men came to the place every day to assist.

"I'll put the bones in good order."

"If you want the wires tuned up, I'm the boy."

"I've got music to feed it for a month."

Another brought a pair of blankets




for a cover, and all took the liveliest interest in it. It was at last in a condition for business.

"It's been showin' its teeth all the week. We'd like to have it spit out something."

Alas! there wasn't a man to be found who could play upon the instrument. Goskin began to realize that he had a losing speculation on his hands. He had a fiddler and a Mexican who thrummed a guitar. A pianist would have made his orchestra complete. One day a three-card monte player told a friend confidentially that he could "knock any amount of music out of the piano if he only had it alone a few hours to get his hand in." This report spread about the camp, but on being questioned he vowed that he didn't know a note of music. It was noted, however, as a suspicious circumstance that he often hung about the instrument and looked upon it longingly, like a hungry man gloating over a beefsteak in a restaurant window. There was no doubt but that this man had music in his soul, perhaps in his fingers'-ends, but did not dare to make a trial of his strength after the rules of harmony had suffered so many years of neglect. So the fiddler kept on with his jigs, and the Mexican pawed his discordant guitar, but no man had the nerve to touch that piano. There were, doubtless, scores of men in the camp who would have given 10 ounces of gold-dust to have been half an hour alone with it, but every man's nerve shrank from the jeers which the crowd would shower upon him should his first attempt prove a failure. It got to be generally understood that the hand which first essayed to draw music from the keys must not slouch from its work.

*Alas! there wasn't a man to be found who could play upon the instrument.*

It was Christmas Eve, and Goskin, according to his custom, had decorated his gambling hall with sprays of mountain cedar and a shrub whose crimson berries did not seem a bad imitation of English holly. The piano was covered with evergreens, and all that was wanting to completely fill the cup of Goskin's contentment was a man to play the instrument.

"Christmas night, and no piano-pounder," he said. "This is a nice country for a Christian to live in."

Illustrations by John Hunt




*As the old man wove his chords together the music laid its spell upon every ear and heart.*

Getting a piece of paper, he scrawled the words:

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### To a Compitant Pianer Player.

This he stuck up on the music rack, and, though the inscription glared at the frequenters of the room until midnight, it failed to draw any musician from his shell.

So the merry-making went on; the hilarity grew apace. Men danced and sang to the music of the squeaky fiddle and worn-out guitar, as the jolly crowd within tried to drown the howling of the storm without. Suddenly, they became aware of the presence of a white-haired man, crouching near the fire-place. His garments—such as were left—were wet with melting snow, and he had a half-starved, half-crazed expression. He held his thin, trembling hands toward the fire, and the light of the blazing wood made them almost transparent. He looked about him once in a while, as if in search of something, and his presence cast such a chill over the place that gradually the sound of the revelry was hushed, and it seemed that this waif of the storm had brought in with it all of the gloom and coldness of the warring elements. Goskin, mixing up a cup of hot egg-nogg, advanced and remarked cheerily:

"Here, stranger, brace up! This is the real stuff."

The man drained the cup, smacked his lips, and seemed more at home.

"Been prospecting, eh? Out in the mountains—caught in the storm? Lively night, this!"

*"Stranger, do tackle it," said Goskin, "and give us a tune!"*

"Pretty bad," said the man.

"Must feel pretty dry?"

The man looked at his steaming clothes and laughed, as if Goskin's remark was a sarcasm.

"How long out?"

"Four days."

"Hungry?"

The man rose up, and walking over to the lunch counter, fell to work upon some roast bear, devouring it as any wild animal would have done. As meat and drink and warmth began to permeate the stranger, he seemed to expand and lighten up. His features lost their pallor, and he grew more and more content with the idea that he was not in the grave. As he underwent these changes, the people about him got merrier and happier, and threw off the temporary feeling of depression which he had laid upon them.

"Do you always have your place decorated like this?" he finally asked of Goskin.

"This is Christmas Eve," was the reply.

The stranger was startled.

"December 24th, sure enough."

"That's the way I put it up, pard."

"When I was in England I always kept Christmas. But I had forgotten that this was the night. I've been wandering about in the mountains until I've lost track of the feasts of the church."

Presently his eye fell upon the piano.

"Where's the player?" he asked.

"Never had any," said Goskin, blushing at the expression.

"I used to play when I was young."

Goskin almost fainted at the admission.

"Stranger, do tackle it, and give us a tune! Nary man in this camp ever had the nerve to wrestle with that music-box." His pulse beat faster, for



Illustrations by John Hunt

he feared that the man would refuse.

"I'll do the best I can," he said.

There was no stool, but seizing a candle-box he drew it up and seated himself before the instrument. It only required a few seconds for a hush to come over the room.

"That old coon is going to give the thing a rattle."

The sight of a man at the piano was something so unusual that even the faro-dealer, who was about to take in a $50 bet on the tray, paused and did not reach for the money Men stopped drinking, with the glasses at their lips. Conversation appeared to have been struck with a sort of paralysis, and cards were no longer shuffled.

The old man brushed back his long, white locks, looked up to the ceiling, half closed his eyes, and in a mystic sort of reverie passed his fingers over the keys. He touched but a single note yet the sound thrilled the room. It was the key to his improvisation, and as he wove his chords together the music laid its spell upon every ear and heart. He felt his way along the keys, like a man treading uncertain paths; but he gained confidence as he progressed, and presently bent to his work like a master. The instrument was not in exact tune, but the ears of his audience, through long disuse, did not detect anything radically wrong. They heard a succession of grand chords, a suggestion of paradise, melodies here and there, and it was enough.

"See him counter with his left!" said an old rough, enraptured.

"He calls the turn every time on the upper end of the board," responded a man with a stack of chips in his hand.

The player wandered off into the old ballads they had heard at home. All the sad and melancholy and touching songs that came up like dreams of childhood, this unknown player drew from the keys. His hands kneaded their hearts like dough, and squeezed out the tears as from a wet sponge. As the strains flowed one upon the other, they saw their homes of long ago reared again; they were playing once more where the apple blossoms sank through the soft air to join the violets on the green turf of the old New England States; they saw the glories of the Wisconsin maples and the haze of the Indian summer, blending their hues together; they recalled the heather of Scottish hills, the white cliffs of Britain, and heard the sullen roar of the sea as it beat upon their memories, vaguely Then came all the old Christmas carols, such as they had sung in church 30


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years before; the subtile music that brings up the glimmer of wax tapers, the solemn shrines, the evergreens, holly mistletoe, and surpliced choirs. Then the remorseless performer planted his final stab in every heart with "Home, Sweet Home."

When the player ceased, the crowd slunk away from him. There was no more revelry and devilment left in his audience. Each man wanted to sneak off to his cabin and write the old folks a letter. The day was breaking as the last man left the place, and the player, laying his head down on the piano, fell asleep.

"I say, pard," said Goskin, "don't you want a little rest?"

"I feel tired," the old man said. "Perhaps you'll let me rest here for the matter of a day or so."

He walked behind the bar where some old blankets were lying, and stretched himself upon them.

"I feel pretty sick. I guess I won't last long. I've got a brother down in the ravine—his name's Driscoll. He don't know I'm here. Can you get him before morning? I'd like to see his face once before I die."

Goskin started up at the mention of the name. He knew Driscoll well.

"He your brother? I'll have him here in half an hour."

As he dashed out into the storm the musician pressed his hand to his side and groaned. Goskin heard the word "Hurry!" and sped down the ravine to Driscoll's cabin. It was quite light in the room when the two men returned. Driscoll was pale as death.

"My God! I hope he's alive! I wronged him when we lived in England 20 years ago."

They saw the old man had drawn the blankets over his face. The two stood a moment, awed by the thought that he might be dead. Goskin lifted the blanket and pulled it down astonished. There was no one there!

"Gone!" cried Driscoll, wildly.

"Gone!" echoed Goskin, pulling out his cash drawer. "Ten thousand dollars in the sack, and the Lord knows how much loose change in the drawer!"

The next day the boys got out, followed a horse's tracks through the snow and lost them in the trail leading toward Pioche.

There was a man missing from the camp. It was the three-card monte man, who used to deny point-blank that he could play the scale. One day they found a wig of white hair, and called to mind that the "stranger" had pushed those locks back when he looked toward the ceiling for inspiration, on that cold December night.

# A Christmas Classic

"The First Piano in Camp" by Sam Davis (1850-1918) has appeared in *Nevada Magazine* in past eras, but because 16 years have elapsed since the last printing, we decided it was time to dust it off and share this classic Christmas story

The author was one of Nevada's best and most prolific frontier newspapermen. Sam Davis, a native of Connecticut, worked as a reporter for the *Virginia City Evening Chronicle* before moving to Carson City in 1879. Soon he not only assumed the editor's duties at the *Morning Appeal* but also married the paper's owner, Nellie Mighels.

During his two decades at the *Appeal* Davis was known for such spoofs as "The Mystery of the Savage Sump," in which he invented an underground link between Lake Tahoe and the Virginia City mines (see *Nevada*, March/April '82). Davis also wrote elegant stories like "The First Piano in Camp," which first appeared in the *Chronicle* in the 1870s or '80s. The story recalls the spirit of the state's early days and Davis' love of a good tale.



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# People Page

A presidential visit, a lightning man, and Wayne on a rope.

## Elko Hails the Chief

Just a few short years ago, he was the most powerful man in the world. But on a stop in Elko in September, **George Bush** found that women and children exert a peculiar power even former presidents can't fight.



The ex-president meets teacher Corey Solberg.

Bush was visiting the Elko area to help dedicate Barrick Goldstrike Mines' massive Meikle underground gold mine. While he and his escort of Secret Service and Nevada Highway Patrol officers were streaming down the Lamoille Highway, Bush noticed a group of Spring Creek High School students holding aloft a sign welcoming him. Unable to resist the opportunity, and surprising the rest of the convoy, Bush ordered his driver to stop at the school grounds. There, the former Commander in Chief jumped out and delighted the surprised faculty and students with an impromptu speech. The students presented him with a school jacket naming him an "honorary Spartan."

Bush, a member of Barrick's international advisory board, spent much of the rest of his trip being reminded of just who is the universally popular member of his family.

"Tonight we have here party representatives, Republican and Democrat. We have judges, we have doctors, we have all the leaders of Elko, and it's a great pleasure for me to be here," Bush good-naturedly told an invited reception crowd at the Elko Convention Center. "And if one more of you says to me, 'I'm sorry Barbara's not here,' I'm gonna hit you right square in the face!"

*—Lin Anderson*

## The Lightning Bug

Incline Village resident **Keith Kent** likes to chase lightning storms with his camera. Kent is one of the world's leading lightning photographers, and his electrifying images have appeared in magazines such as *Omni* and *National Geographic* and in encyclopedias. His work has shown up in ads for Volkswagen, General Electric, and the Monsoon Perfume Company. Lightning watchers also can see a striking display of his photography at Cliffhanger Collectibles (702-832-2622) in Incline Village.



Keith Kent ignites a gallery at Lake Tahoe.

Kent says he is sparked by a desire to educate people about lightning. "I want people to learn through my work. The eyes don't see lightning well at all. It's just a flash. My work shows the structure of lightning."

The nature photographer traveled the world before settling at Lake Tahoe for the past six years. He lived in Tucson, Arizona—"the lightning capital of the world," Kent says—where many of his lightning shots were taken. Each image captures a millisecond of time, during which a storm can fill the entire sky over a city or ignite just the inside of a cloud "like a light bulb," as he describes it.

Kent follows the monsoon season all over the world, capturing the zaps with his 4x5 camera while perched at a comfortable distance. He always keeps the van door open just in case. The photographer has never been jolted but has had some close calls. "I've felt lightning sparking on the back of my neck," he says. "It feels like bee stings." Despite the danger, Kent continues to follow his electric muse. "Everywhere I go there is lightning," he says. "So I just make sure I always have a camera."

*—Carolyn Graham*



**Wayne Newton and "EFX" dancers Tanya Morgan (left) and Jennifer Bachler are sky-high about becoming the first to ride the SkyScreamer.**

## Las Vegas Swingers

Recently **Wayne Newton**, rather than his fans, was screaming with delight. The singer became the first swinger to bravely board the SkyScreamer, the new thrill ride that opened in September at the MGM Grand Adventures Theme Park in Las Vegas. The 25-story ride takes flyers to the top of a 220-foot launch tower. Riders pull the ripcord to begin a 100-foot free fall, followed by a 70-mph swing beneath the ride's massive archway.

Other celebrities took a turn during the ride's opening day. On a wild hair, boxing promoter **Don King** went for a swing, as did a pair of gymnasts who are famous for their flips: **Bart Conner** and **Nadia Comaneci**. All-Around Cowboy and champion bull rider **Ty Murray** also rode the SkyScreamer—which, no doubt, offered a thrill that lasted longer than eight seconds.

*—Carolyn Graham*



Photos: Loretta Reed (top left), Keith Kent (bottom left)

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SIDE TRIP

# Curious Gorge

Cathedral Gorge is an in-spiring state park. **By Donna Ikenberry**

Cathedral Gorge is a quiet oasis two miles west of the little farming town of Panaca in Lincoln County. The state park's buff-colored spires and canyons offer dramatic overlooks, easy hikes, an intriguing set of "caves," and an almost nautical sense of space.

During my visit I stood admiring the cathedral-like formations with a fellow camper. A former Coast Guard captain, he looked surprised when I asked if he missed the sea.

"No," he said, "the desert is just like the ocean to me. Both take away your aches, your worries, your anxieties. They all just disappear."




We agreed that Cathedral Gorge is a place where you can savor nature's majesty and quiet. From the campground it's a short walk to trails that wind through the rocks. Near the picnic area you begin a one-mile trail that leads through a narrow canyon to the overlook at Miller Point. Another camper—one of the RVers who return to the park frequently for desert R&R—told me that he saw lots of "cathedrals" on the hike and even the rounded top of a Russian Orthodox church.

The curious configurations of Cathedral Gorge are part of the Panaca Formation and the remnants of an ancient lake bed that covered the Meadow Valley area a million years ago. As the lake drained, gravel and other sediments were left behind. Following uplift, rainwater and melting snow sculpted the siltstone and clay, widening cracks into canyons and creating a wonderful maze of spires and "caves." The latter are not really caves but places where the canyon walls are so narrow that you feel as though you are enclosed.

Native Americans have lived in the region for centuries. From about 500 A.D. to 1300 A.D., the Anasazi and Fremont people visited the area while hunting, gathering, and trading. Southern Paiutes hunted deer and rabbits and gathered piñon nuts.

In 1864, Mormon pioneers settled Panaca. The nearby towns of Pioche and Caliente were established by miners and railroad officials respectively Today the cemetery of Bullionville, a mill town, lies inside the park's boundaries.

In the old days, the badlands were called Panaca Gulch. As auto traffic increased in the 1920s and '30s, residents staged pageants using the spires as backdrops, and the place acquired the name Cathedral Gorge. In 1935, the gorge became one of Nevada's first state parks.

The park's interpretive signs describe local flora and fauna.





*The author explores a "cave," where water has carved a long, narrow passageway. At left: the badlands.*

The loamy soil supports narrow-leaf yucca, sagebrush, salt bush, juniper trees, and wildflowers like the dune primrose, which lives on tiny sand dunes. Avian residents include kestrels, ravens, and roadrunners. Skunks and coyotes live in the area. Deer hang out near the Miller Point overlook and sometimes descend into the gorge in late fall and winter.

The park, 165 miles north of Las Vegas, has an entrance fee of $3 per vehicle on season (April 1 to November 15) and $1 off season; the additional camping fee is $7 and $3. Due to cold weather, showers and flush toilets are closed in the off season.

Last summer, a new visitor center opened on U.S. 93 near the park's entrance. Attendants there can direct you to the campground and trails. Then you can begin exploring the inspiring corners of this water-sculpted place.

*Donna Ikenberry is a traveling journalist and outdoor-guide author Write Cathedral Gorge State Park, Box 176, Panaca, NV 89042; phone 702-728-4460; or stop by the visitor center on U.S. 93.*



Photos: Donna Ikenberry Map: Gary Elam

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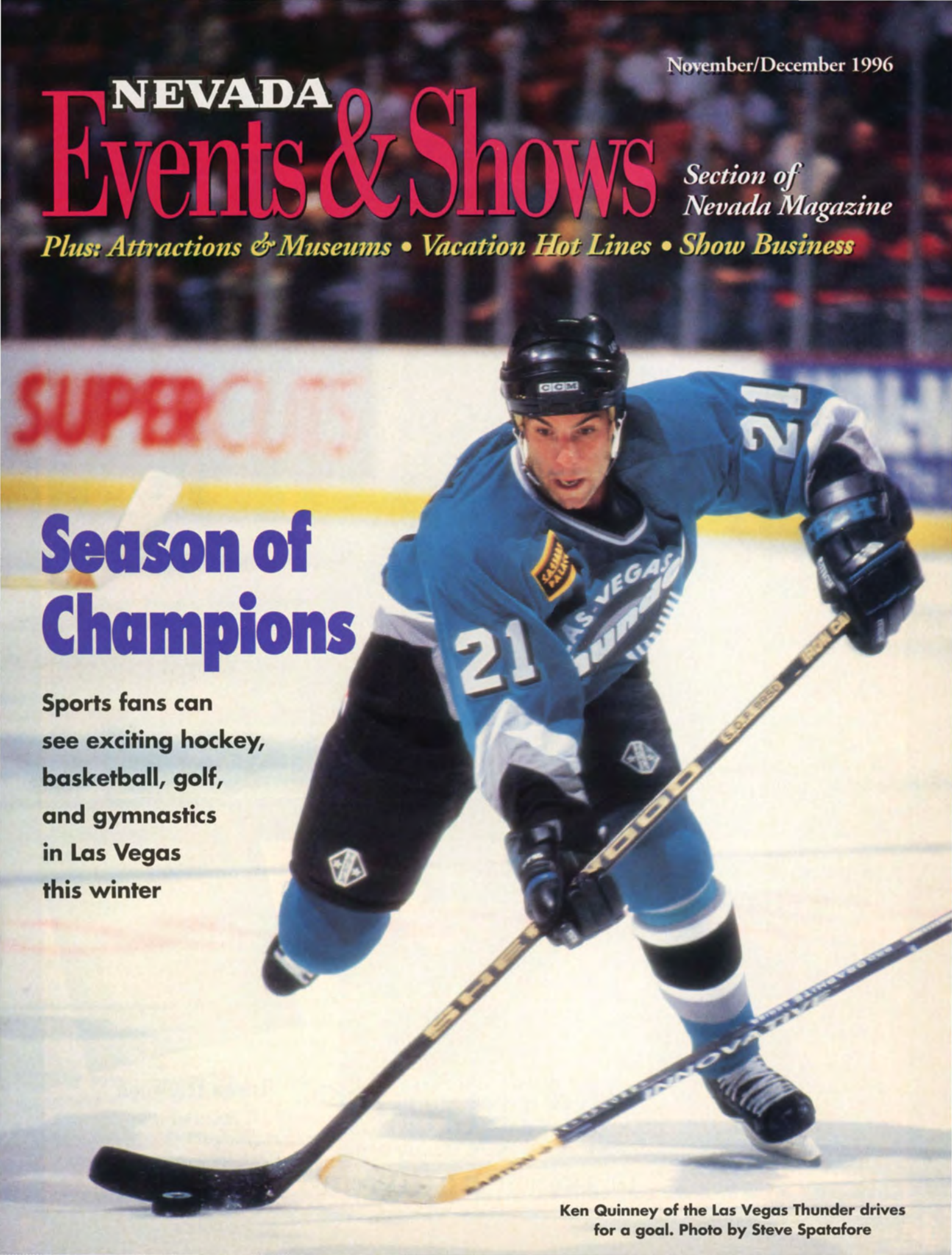
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# NEVADA Events & Shows

*Section of Nevada Magazine*

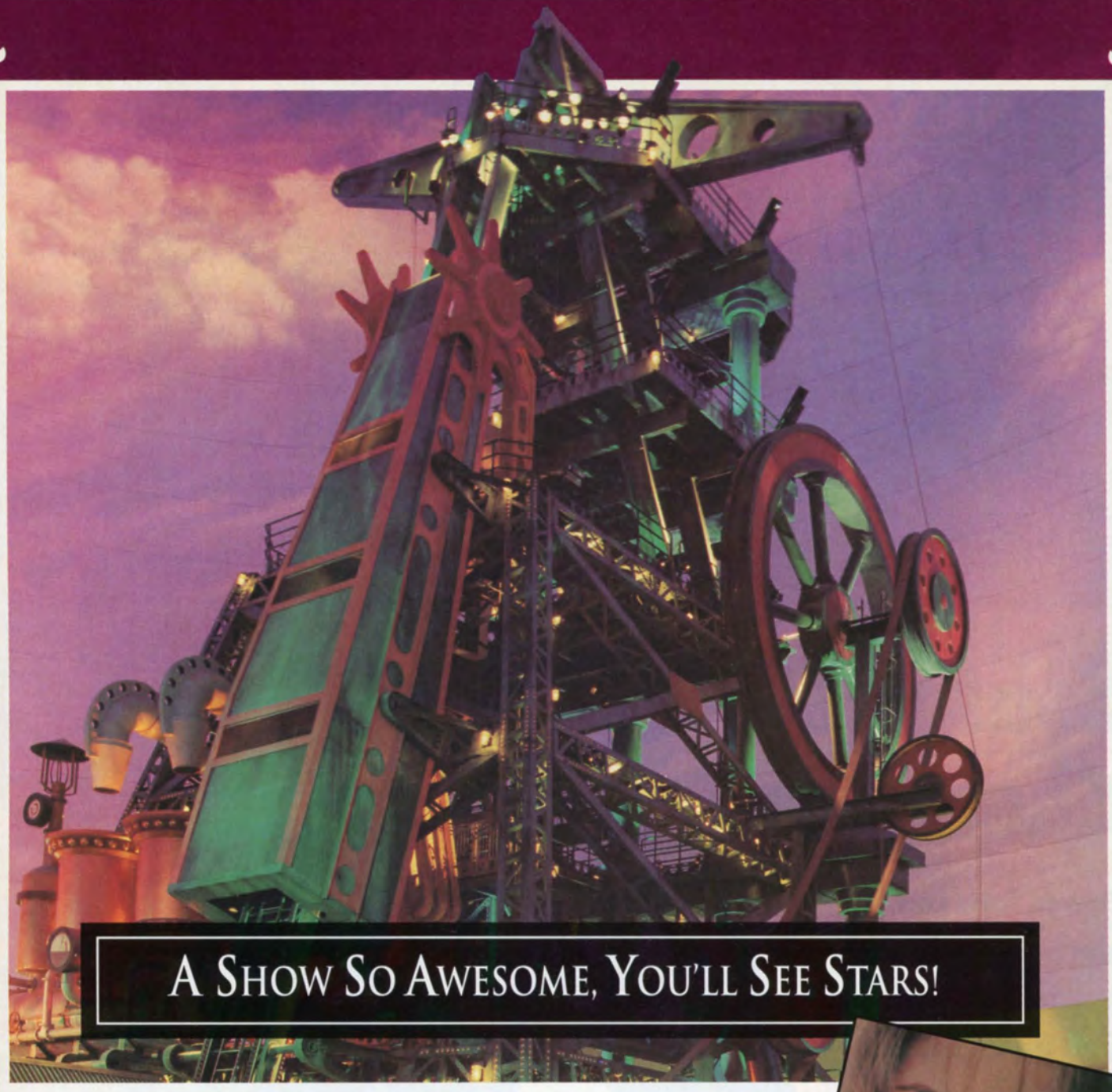
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## Season of Champions

**Sports fans can see exciting hockey, basketball, golf, and gymnastics in Las Vegas this winter**

Ken Quinney of the Las Vegas Thunder drives for a goal. Photo by Steve Spatafore



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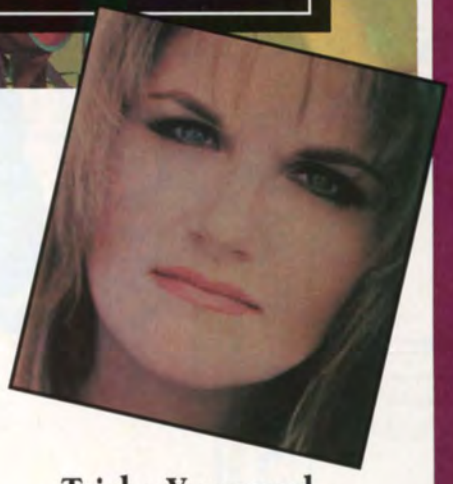


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**Trisha Yearwood**

November 16

# A Championship Season

## Bull riders, golfers, and other athletes compete this winter in Las Vegas' best of the best.

By W.G. Ramirez

When residents of other parts of the country are checking out snow-blower ads and dreading the onset of cabin fever, sports followers will be taking advantage of Southern Nevada's mild winter climate. Every weekend during November and December, fans will have their choice of a major championship or tournament in Las Vegas.

**Start Your Engines:** Big-time auto racing has roared into the recently opened 107,000-seat Las Vegas Motor Speedway. The first such motor-sports complex to be built in the Southwest in more than two decades, the speedway offers 24 venues for racing and testing. The complex has a 1.5-mile super speedway, a 2.5-mile road course, a 4,000-foot drag strip, paved and dirt short tracks, motocross circuits, Go-Kart and Legends Cars tracks, Junior Drag racing strips, and BMX courses.

The NASCAR circuit's Winston West Finale takes place November 2 at the speedway. Racing continues on November 3 with the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Finale. On November 6, the "King of the Outlaws" will be crowned in the World of Outlaws Sprint Car Final Showdown.

**Icy Action:** The Las Vegas Thunder boasts low ticket prices, hard hits, and excitement for hockey fans. The Thunder enters the International Hockey League season as a secondary affiliate of the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes (formerly the Winnipeg Jets). Returning Thunder players include scoring leader Patrice Lefebvre and newly acquired defenseman Chris Dahlquist.

**Hoping for Two Rounds:** Mike Tyson is set to defend his World Boxing Association heavyweight title on November 9 against former champ Evander Holyfield. Fans unhappy with Tyson's brief bout with Bruce Seldon in September hope for a better match between Tyson and Holyfield at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

**Doing Flips:** The 1996 Tour of World Gymnastics Champions vaults into the Thomas and Mack Center November 16. The two-hour exhibition will feature members of the U.S. Olympic women's gymnastics team that won a gold medal in Atlanta. Participants include Shannon Miller, Amy Chow, and Dominique Dawes. Members of the U.S. Olympic men's gymnastics team also will perform.

**UNLV Sports:** The UNLV football team, playing its first season in the Western Athletic Conference (WAC), hosts





In December bronc riders take a wild ride at the National Finals Rodeo. Also this winter, the UNLV Runnin' Rebels take aim on their first season in the Western Athletic Conference. At top: Warren Rosegreen dishes off.

Photos: Steve Spatafore (top), Chris Leedham (bottom)

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Shannon Miller shows her Olympic style November 16 during the 1996 Tour of World Gymnastics Champions.

conference powerhouse San Diego State November 16 at Sam Boyd Stadium. The contest will be the Rebels' last home game.

The UNLV basketball season begins on an optimistic note: This year's recruits were rated number one in the country by *College Basketball Weekly*. The Runnin' Rebels' first home game is November 23 against Cal State Northridge at the Thomas and Mack Center. During the Las Vegas Shootout I doubleheader on December 21, former UNLV coach Jerry Tarkanian, chewing towel and all, brings his Fresno State Bulldogs to the Thomas and Mack, which was fondly called Tark's Shark Tank during Tarkanian's winning seasons at UNLV. Fresno State plays Texas Tech in the first game while UNLV faces Tulane in the second.

**Swinging in Style:** Two prestigious golfing awards may be decided during the $700,000 ITT LPGA Tour Championship at the Desert Inn Country Club on November 18-24. The top 30 players on the money list of the women's tour will compete for the Rolex Player of the Year Award and the Vare Trophy for lowest scoring average when they converge in Las Vegas, one of the few cities that hosts all three major pro golf tours.

**Spikes and Volleys:** The WAC's annual women's volleyball tournament takes place November 26-30 at the MGM Grand Garden. Last year five WAC volleyball teams finished in the NCAA's top 25. Preseason favorite Hawaii and BYU figure to top the field.

**Grapplers Invited:** The 15th Annual Cliff Keen's Collegiate Wrestling Championships will hit the mats December 5-7 at Buffalo Bill's Arena at State Line, 43 miles south of Las Vegas. The largest in-season, all-collegiate invitational features grapplers from 36 college teams.

**Eeee-haw:** A sellout every year at Thomas and Mack, the National Finals Rodeo will offer a live video feed for rodeo fans at 26 Southern Nevada hotels on December 6-15. For information call Las Vegas Events, 702-731-2115.

As part of the NFR celebration, the $70-million Fremont Street Experience, the Glitter Gulch promenade with a one-of-a-kind light-and-sound show, hosts a Downtown Hoedown on December 5. Also, NFR fans can shop at the Cowboy



There will be $700,000 at stake when Meg Mallon (above) and other LPGA stars play the Desert Inn.



Photo: Michael Cohen (bottom)

Christmas Gift Show in Cashman Field Center.

**Championship Football:** The WAC football championship game makes its inaugural appearance at the 40,000-seat Sam Boyd Stadium on December 7 The winner will go to the Cotton Bowl or Holiday Bowl, while another WAC team will try to prove its mettle at the Copper Bowl.

**Former UNLV basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian brings his Fresno State Bulldogs to town.**

The Las Vegas Bowl, which kicks off the college bowl season, pits the champions of the Big West and Mid-America conferences at Sam Boyd Stadium on December 19. For the teams and their visiting fans, a week of festivities lead up to game day.

**Don't Call It Ping-Pong:** Two-time champions Amy Feng and Jim Butler return for the 21st Annual USA Table Tennis National Championship December 18-22 at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Feng and Butler were members of the 1996 U.S. Olympic team.

**High Hoops:** The nation's largest in-season high school boys' basketball tournament hits the entertainment capital December 19-23. The Reebok Holiday Prep Classic will feature 54 powerhouse teams from 17 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and England. It will be the 20th staging of the prestigious hoops tourney.



This fall's gridiron clashes at Sam Boyd Stadium include the WAC championship game and the Las Vegas Bowl.

*W.G. Ramirez is a reporter for the View section of the* Las Vegas Review-Journal.


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Photo courtesy of the Nevada State Museum

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Photo: Steve Spatafore

# Nevada Territories




***To assist you in your travels through Nevada, the state has been divided into five territories: Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe, Cowboy Country, Pony Express, and Pioneer. Indian Territory encompasses all of Nevada.***



Map: Nevada Commission on Tourism

# Las Vegas Territory

## EVENTS

The Las Vegas area hosts many holiday and sporting events. You can watch bronc riders at the National Finals Rodeo or the graceful choreography of "The Nutcracker" performed by the Nevada Dance Theatre. The following listing is divided into areas of interest. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times. Nevada's area code is 702.

## November & December

### HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

**Holiday Craft Fair** • Nov. 2 • Homemade crafts. Fairgrounds, Logandale, 397-8088.

**Holiday Craft and Bake Sale** • Nov. 2 • Las Vegas Senior Citizens Center, 229-6454.

**Setting a Festive Table** • Nov. 9-Jan. 19 • Tableware and decorations used by generations of Southern Nevadans. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

**International Holiday Parade and Art Festival** • Nov. 16 • Food, crafts, and entertainment. North Las Vegas, 642-9595.

**Magical Forest** • Nov. 23-Dec. 28 • Animated displays, giant gingerbread house, a passenger train, and Santa Claus. Fund-raiser, Opportunity Village, Las Vegas, 259-3743.

**"Amahl and the Night Riders"** • Nov. 30 • Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-2787.




The hockey action's wild at Las Vegas Thunder games.




Vessels sparkle during the annual Parade of Lights on December 7 from Lake Mead Marina to Hemenway Harbor.

**Christmas at the Liberace Museum** • Dec. 5 • Santa Claus in a gold suit, tree-lighting ceremony, benefits the Salvation Army. Liberace Museum, Las Vegas, 798-5595.

**Las Vegas Christmas Gift and Craft Show** • Dec. 5-8 • Las Vegas Convention Center, 798-4944.

**NFR Cowboy Christmas Gift Show** • Dec. 5-14 • More than 350 exhibitors of Western wear, arts and crafts, and official rodeo souvenirs. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 731-2115.

**Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** • Dec. 7 • Rio Suite Hotel, Las Vegas, 252-7706.

**Parade of Lights** • Dec. 7 • 20th annual evening parade of decorated boats from Lake Mead Marina to Hemenway Harbor. Lake Mead, 457-2797.

**Valley Voices** • Dec. 9 • Christmas concert. Theatre for the Performing Arts, Moapa Valley High School, Overton, 398-3090.

**Las Vegas Marimba Quartet** • Dec. 9 • Christmas program. Performing Arts Center, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3801.

**"The Nutcracker"** • Dec. 12-28 • Nevada Dance Theatre performance (dark Dec. 16 and 23-26). Judy Bayley Theater, UNLV, Las Vegas, 732-3838.

**Luminaria** • Dec. 13 • Boulder City's Bicentennial Park is decorated with lighted candles in paper bags following a Southwestern tradition, Christmas music. 293-2034.

**Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration** • Dec. 14 • Roving carolers, buffet brunch and dinners, music, booths, and Santa Claus. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

**Fremont Street Experience Holiday Festival** • Dec. 15-27 • Concerts and festivities. Downtown Las Vegas, 678-5600.

**New Year's Eve Dance** • Dec. 31 • Ballroom dancing to big band sounds. Las Vegas Senior Citizens Center, 229-6454.

### PERFORMANCES

**Opera Scenes: The Macabre and the Mystical** • Oct. 31-Nov. 1 • Judy Bayley Theater, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3801.

**Jazz Concert** • Nov. 3 • Judy Bayley Theater, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3801.

**Lamanite Generation** • Nov. 9 • BYU students perform songs, dances, and rituals of the American Indians, Polynesian Islands, and Latin America. Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-2787.

**Japan Festival Jazz Concert** • Nov. 10 • Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 252-0277.

**Eth-Noh-Tec** • Nov. 13 • Asian storytelling, dances, and music. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

**"Children of the Idol Moon"** • Nov. 14-17 and Nov. 20-24 • Original play about novelist and poet Emily

**Nevada Events & Shows**

**Nevada Events & Shows** is a section of **Nevada Magazine.** To list an event, contact Events Editor Ann Henderson: 702-486-2433 • fax 702-486-2789 • 555 E. Washington, Suite 5600, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Subscription rates for **Nevada Magazine** are $15.95 for one year, U.S.; $21.95 Foreign. To subscribe call toll-free, 1-800-495-3281.

Photo: Gene Hertzog (top), Steve Spatafore (bottom)

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Bronte. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3535.
**National Songs and Dance Company of Tibet** • Nov. 18 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3801.
**"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"** • Nov. 18-25 • Musical version of the classic fairy tale. Fern Adair Conservatory of the Arts, Las Vegas, 458-7575.
**Itzhak Perlman** • Nov. 19 • Violinist in concert. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3535.
**"Heaven's Cafe"** • Nov. 22-23 • Rock opera. Huntridge Theater, Las Vegas, 365-9162.
**Wind Symphony Concert** • Nov. 26 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3801.
**Boston Pops** • Dec. 2 • MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 895-3801.
**"A Midsummer Night's Dream"** • Dec. 4-8 • Shakespeare's fantasy. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3535.
**"Cinderella"** • Dec. 13-15 and 19-22 • Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

## EXHIBITS

**Mine and Mining Promotions of Southern Nevada and Death Valley** • Thru Nov. 2 • Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.
**City Series in Desert Form: Sculptured Bowls and Teapots** • Thru Jan. 7 • Ceramic sculptures by Robin Stark. West Charleston Library, Las Vegas, 878-3682.
**Beyond Gum San: The Story of the Chinese in Nevada** • Thru May 18 • Exhibit honors the importance of the Chinese people in the history of Nevada. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205.
**Paintings and Pomegranates** • Nov. 9 • Moapa Valley Art Guild's annual art show. Overton, 397-8323.

## SPORTS & COMPETITIONS

**Las Vegas Thunder** • Competing in the International Hockey League, the Thunder plays Nov. 1 v. Long Beach Ice Dogs, Nov. 9 v. Phoenix Roadrunners, Nov. 12 v. Utah Grizzlies, Nov. 15 v. Phoenix Roadrunners, Nov. 22 v. Houston Aeros, Nov. 30 v. Long Beach Ice Dogs, Dec. 26 v. Phoenix Roadrunners, Dec. 27 v. Long Beach Ice Dogs. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 798-PUCK.
**NASCAR Winston West Series Finale** • Nov. 2 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4444.
**NASCAR Craftsman Truck Finale** • Nov. 3 • Racing action at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4444.
**World of Outlaws Sprint Car Final Showdown** • Nov. 6 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4444.
**Evander Holyfield v. Mike Tyson** • Nov. 9 • Heavyweight title bout. MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, 800-919-1111.
**UNLV Basketball** • The Runnin' Rebels play Nov. 14 v. Global Sports (exhibition game), Nov. 17 v. USDBL (exhibition game), Nov. 23 v. Cal State Northridge, Nov. 26 v. Jacksonville University, Nov. 29 v. University of Miami, Dec. 21 v. Tulane during Las Vegas Shootout I doubleheader, Dec. 23 v. Southern Utah State, Dec. 28 v. USC, Dec. 30 v. Northern Arizona. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3614.
**UNLV Football** • Nov. 16 • Rebels face San Diego State in last home game. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 895-3614.
**1996 Tour of World Gymnastics Champions** • Nov. 16 • Olympic team members perform. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900.
**ITT LPGA Tour Championship** • Nov. 18-24 • Top 30 players on the women's tour compete. Desert Inn Country Club, Las Vegas, 733-4288.
**WAC Women's Volleyball Championship Tournament** • Nov. 26-30 • MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, 800-929-1111.
**Cliff Keen's Collegiate Wrestling Championships** • Dec. 5-7 • 15th annual all-collegiate invitational. Buffalo Bill's Arena, State Line, 800-FUN-STOP.
**National Finals Rodeo** • Dec. 6-15 • Top pro-rodeo athletes compete. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 731-2115.
**WAC Football Championship Game** • Dec. 7 • Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 895-3900.
**USA Table Tennis National Championship** • Dec. 18-22 • Olympic team members turn out for the 21st annual competition. Las Vegas Convention Center, 895-0711.
**Las Vegas Bowl** • Dec. 19 • Football champions of the Big West and Mid-America conferences meet. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 895-3900.
**Reebok Holiday Prep Classic** • Dec. 19-23 • High school boys' basketball tournament featuring 54 teams. Durango and Cimarron-Memorial high schools, Las Vegas, 799-5850 ext. 223.
**Las Vegas Shootout I** • Dec. 21 • College-basketball TV doubleheader, first game Fresno State v. Texas Tech,



Dogs have their day November 2 during the Strut Your Mutt canine gathering at Dog Fancier's Park in Las Vegas.




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second game UNLV Runnin' Rebels v. Tulane. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3614.

## FESTIVALS, SHOWS & OUTINGS

**Festival Americana** • Nov. 2 • Native American food, craft demonstrations, and entertainment. Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193.

**Chuckwagon and Trail Cooking Program** • Nov. 2 • Living history, with samples. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141.

**Strut Your Mutt** • Nov. 2 • Crazy canine contests. Dog Fancier's Park, Las Vegas, 455-8206.

**Pioneer Women Program** • Nov. 3 • Living history. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141.

**Doll Show** • Nov. 7-10 • Las Vegas Doll Club. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 565-1500.

**Travel Adventure to Bullfrog and Rhyolite** • Nov. 9 • Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

**Old Bill Williams: Mountain Man Program** • Nov. 9 • Living history about early rancher. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141.

**Jim Wilson Program** • Nov. 10 • Living history of Civil War veteran, miner, and Las Vegas settler. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141.

**Family Fall Festival** • Nov. 16-17 • Arts and crafts show. Henderson Convention Center, 268-8417.

**Western National Antique and Collectible Show** • Nov. 23-24 • Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 382-7043.

**Downtown Hoedown** • Dec. 5 • Western entertainment in conjunction with National Finals Rodeo. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 678-5600.

**Southwest Weapons Collectors Show** • Dec. 21-22 • Henderson Convention Center, 855-8095.

**Stories on the Mountain** • Dec. 27 • Storytelling for children. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141.

## COMING EVENTS

**Paris Opera Ballet** • Jan. 10 • Performing Arts Center, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3801.

**Las Vegas International Marathon and Half-Marathon** • Feb. 9 • Las Vegas, 876-3870.

**Laughlin River Roundup** • March 3-6 • 298-2214.

**WAC Men's and Women's Basketball Championship** • March 3-8 • Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 892-0711.

**Las Vegas Senior PGA Classic** • April 21-27 • 382-6616.

**Wilderness Circuit Rodeo** • April 24-27 • Laughlin, 298-2214.

**City of Lights Jazz Festival** • April 26 • Las Vegas, 798-6405.

**Helldorado Days and Rodeo** • May 13-18 • Las Vegas, 870-1221.

**Mesquite Days** • May 29-31 • 346-2902.

**Laughlin River Days** • May 30-June 1 • 298-2214.

## SHOWGUIDE

The Las Vegas area offers big-name entertainment and production shows at many clubs and hotels. Neil Diamond will appear at the MGM Grand, and the Riverside Resort in Laughlin will celebrate the holiday spirit with performances of "The Nutcracker." Showrooms often fill fast, so call ahead for show times and reservations.

## BOULDER CITY

**Gold Strike Inn** • Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Country-western entertainment.

# Lost City Celebration

Native American drummers and mariachi musicians will play during the Lost City Museum's seventh annual Festival Americana on Saturday, November 2, in Overton.

The festival is a celebration of Native American and early pioneer crafts and lore. Moapa Paiutes will demonstrate and sell beadwork. Other crafts for sale will include Navajo silver jewelry, baskets, cradle boards, dolls, wreaths, flutes, and kachinas.

For entertainment, festival-goers will find Native American dancing, St. John's Folklorico, the Muddy River Cloggers, storytelling, singing, and fiddling. Festival foods will include Navajo fry bread, Mexican dishes, hot dogs, chili, and baked goods.

The Festival Americana will be held from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and admission to the Lost City Museum will be free. The museum, which tells the story of the area's ancient Indian cultures, is on the southern end of Overton, 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas. Call 702-397-2193 for more information.—*Kathryne Olson*



Native American dancers perform at the Festival Americana November 2 at the Lost City Museum in Overton.




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## HENDERSON

**Eldorado** • 564-1811: Margaritaville Lounge: Dance bands play Wed.-Sun.
**Joker's Wild** • 564-8100: Live entertainment Wed.-Sun.

## JEAN

**Gold Strike Hotel** • 477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands play (dark Tues.).
**Nevada Landing** • 387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Live entertainment (dark Wed.).

## LAS VEGAS

**Aladdin** • 736-0240 or 736-0419: "Country Tonite," revue (dark Tues.); Sinbad Lounge: Entertainment nightly; Theatre for the Performing Arts: TBA.
**Arizona Charlie's** • 258-5100: Naughty Lady Saloon: Live music Tues.-Sun.; Palace Grand Theatre: TBA.



Singer Lynn Anderson (above) and other Western stars headline during the National Finals Rodeo in December.

**Bally's** • 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.); Celebrity Room: Entertainment TBA; bands play nightly in the Panda Lounge.
**The Beach** • 731-9298: Concerts.
**Boomtown** • 263-7777 or 800-588-7711: "Outlaw Women of Boomtown," revue, (dark Mon.).
**Boulder Station** • 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: Railhead Saloon: Headline entertainer monthly, dance bands nightly, comedy night on Wed. (thru Nov.).
**Bourbon Street** • 737-7200: Basin Street Lounge: Entertainment TBA.
**Caesars Palace** • 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Circus Maximus: David Copperfield, thru Nov. 17; Moody Blues, Nov. 21-24; Wynonna/Kim Richey, Dec. 5-8; Randy Travis, Dec. 12-15; Huey Lewis and the News, Dec. 27-31; live bands play in the La Piazza Lounge, Olympic Lounge, and Cleopatra's Barge.
**Circus Circus** • 734-0410 or 800-444-CIRCUS: Free

circus acts are presented from 11am to midnight.

**Continental** • 737-5555: Upstairs Silver Slipper Theater: "Guys Will Be Dolls," female-impersonator revue, Thurs.-Mon.

**Country Star American Music Grill** • 740-8400 • "Superstars of Country," free impersonator show with tributes to Reba McEntire and others (dark Thurs.).

**Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Hotel** • 7-DEBBIE or 800-633-1777: Star Theatre: "The Debbie Reynolds Show Featuring the Uptown Country Singers" (dark Sun.); "Boylesque! Starring Kenny Kerr and His Women of Hollywood" (dark Sun.).

**Desert Inn** • 733-4566 or 800-634-6909: Crystal Room: Smokey Robinson, Nov. 6-10; Dennis Miller, Nov. 19-24; the Temptations, Nov. 27-Dec. 1; Martina McBride, Dec. 6-8; the Mavericks, Dec. 12-15; the Golden Boys, Dec. 29-31; Starlight Theatre: TBA.



**Excalibur** • 597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "King Arthur's Tournament," nightly; "An Evening in Vienna," starring the Royal Lipizzaner Stallions, Sat.-Thurs.; Wild Bills Saloon and Steakhouse: Dance music nightly; Minstrel's Theatre Lounge: Entertainment nightly; Court Jesters Stage: Strolling entertainers 10am-11pm daily.

**Fitzgeralds Holiday Inn** • 388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Don Cloe (dark Tues.), Ray Perez (dark Wed.-Thurs.).

**Flamingo Hilton** • 733-3333 or 800-221-7299: Flamingo Showroom: "The Great Radio City Spectacular" with the Rockettes (dark Fri.); Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre: "Forever Plaid," '50s musical revue (dark Mon.).

**Four Queens** • 385-4011 or 800-634-6045: Nightly entertainment in the French Quarter.

**Gold Coast** • 367-7111 or 800-331-5334 (U.S. outside Nevada): East Lounge: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, noon to 6pm Mon.-Fri.; bands play in the East and West lounges; Dance Hall and Saloon: Gold Coast Orchestra, thru Nov. 4; Randy Anderson, Nov. 27-Dec. 30; ballroom dancing with deejay Larry Taylor, 7:30-11:30pm Tues. and 1-5pm Sun.; Latin Big Band, 11pm-3am Thurs.-Sat., thru Nov. 30.

**Golden Nugget** • 386-8100: Theatre Ballroom: "Country Fever," look-alike variety revue (dark Fri.); entertainment nightly in the lounge.

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

**Harrah's Las Vegas** • 369-5222 or 800-392-9002: Commanders Theatre: "Spellbound: Starring Mark Kalin and Jinger" (dark Sun.); "The Improv at Harrah's" (dark Mon.); entertainment nightly in the Court of Two Gators Lounge.

**Holiday Inn Boardwalk** • 735-2400: Lighthouse Showroom: The Unknown Comic (dark Mon.).

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

**Jackie Gaughan's Plaza** • 386-2110 or 800-634-6575 (U.S. outside Nevada): Plaza Showroom: "Xposed," adult revue (dark Fri.).

**King 8 Hotel** • 736-8988: Bands play nightly except Mon.

**Lady Luck** • 477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Entertainment TBA.

**Las Vegas Hilton** • 732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Starlight Theatre: Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Starlight Express" (dark Fri.); also appearing are Judy Collins, Nov. 8; Loretta Lynn, Nov. 22-23; Suzy Bogguss/LeAnn Rimes, Dec. 2; Lorrie Morgan Dec. 9-10.



The holiday spirit is on glowing display at Opportunity Village's Magical Forest from November 23 to December 28.

**Luxor** • 262-4000 or 800-288-1000: Entertainment TBA.

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

**MGM Grand** • 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: Grand Theatre: "EFX" (dark Thurs.); Hollywood Theatre: Gladys Knight, thru Nov. 6; Tom Jones, Nov. 7-20, Wayne Newton, Nov. 21-27; Center Stage Cabaret: "Catch a Rising Star," comedy-variety club; bands play during Late Night after the comedy; Bobby Dickerson, nightly except Mon. in the Flying Monkey Bar; entertainment


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Ocean Spray


Photo: Chris Leedham

in the Santa Fe Lounge; Grand Garden: KISS, Nov. 2; Neil Diamond, Dec. 27-29.

**The Mirage** • 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theater: "Siegfried and Roy," magic spectacular (dark Wed.-Thurs. and Nov. 29-Dec. 26); Alabama, Dec. 9-14; bands play in the Lagoon Saloon and Baccarat Bar (piano bar).

**Monte Carlo** • 730-7777: Lance Burton Theatre: "Lance Burton, Master Magician" (dark Sun.-Mon.).

**New York-New York** • 740-6969: "Madhattan," opens May 1.

**The Orleans** • 800-ORLEANS: "Gone Country," opening date TBA.

**Palace Station** • 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Dancing to bands nightly in the Loading Dock Lounge.

**Rio Suite** • 252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Copacabana Supper Club Theater: "Copacabana Dinner Show," revue, thru mid-Dec. (dark Sun.-Mon.); Ipanema Piano Bar: Entertainment nightly; Club Rio: Dance-video nightclub, Wed.-Sat.; Mambo's Lounge: Sergio Alberti nightly except Sun.

**Riviera** • 794-9301 (477-5274 Splash): Splash Theatre: Jeff Kutash's "Splash II, Voyage of a Lifetime," nightly; Grand Ballroom: Jackie "The Joke Man" Martling, Nov. 1-2; Pointer Sisters, Dec. 30-31; Mardi Gras Showroom (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues.); Mardi Gras Showroom (second floor): "Crazy Girls: Sensuality, Passion, and Pudgy!" adult revue (dark Mon.); "Bottoms Up," burlesque-style revue, 2 and 4pm (dark Sat. and Sun.); "Riviera Comedy Club"· Le Bistro Lounge: "Jazz on the Strip," Mon.; music Tues.-Sat.

**Sahara** • 737-2515: Congo Theatre: TBA; Casbar Lounge: The Emeralds, Tues.-Sun.

**Sam's Town** • 454-8048: Western Dance Hall: Bands play 9pm-3am; Roxy's Saloon: Entertainment noon-5am.

**San Remo** • 597-6028 or 800-522-7366: Parisian Cabaret: "Showgirls of Magic," 8 and 10:30pm (late show for adults only); bands play in the Bon Chance Lounge.

**Santa Fe** • 658-4900: Live entertainment Tues.-Sat. in the Ice Lounge.

**Showboat** • 383-9232 or 800-826-2800: Mardi Gras Room: Monday Night Jazz 10pm-2am and jazz in the afternoons daily; "Rain," Beatles tribute, Nov. 19-24 and Dec. 31; Lynn Anderson, Dec. 6-15.

**Stardust** • 732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Stardust Theatre: "Enter the Night," production show (dark Fri.); bands play in the Starlight Lounge.

**Stratosphere** • 382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: Images Cabaret: "American Superstars," impersonator revue (dark Thurs.); show bands play nightly; Broadway Showroom: Danny Gans, comic impressionist, thru Dec. 16 (dark Tues.-Wed.); L'Isles Bar: Caribbean and Reggae music; Big Sky Lounge: Country music nightly.

**Treasure Island** • 894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère" (dark Mon.-Tues. except Dec. 30-31 and dark Dec. 2-15, Dec. 25, and Jan. 1-2); entertainment nightly in Captain Morgan's piano bar and the Doubloon Saloon.

**Tropicana** • 739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "Folies Bergere" (dark Sat.); Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly; bands play in the Tropics Lounge.

**Vacation Village** • 897-1700 or 800-658-5000: Koo Koo's Lounge: Entertainment and dancing Tues.-Sun.

**Westward Ho** • 731-2900: "Hurray America," starring Robbie Howard and Red Hot Mama and the Goodtime Jazz Band (dark Sat.).





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## LAUGHLIN

**Avi Casino** • 535-5555.

**Colorado Belle** • 298-4000: Riverboat Lounge: Entertainment nightly except Mon.; the Riverboat Ramblers, strolling musicians; entertainment on "D" Deck.

**Edgewater** • 298-2453: Kokopelli's Lounge: TBA.

**Flamingo Hilton Laughlin** • 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo Room: "Country Dreamin' " musical revue.

**Gold River** • 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Cody's Saloon: Entertainment Tues.-Sun.

**Golden Nugget Laughlin** • 298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Lounge: Entertainment Tues.-Sun.

**Harrah's Laughlin** • 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: "The Great American Wild Wild West Show," musical revue (dark Thurs.); "Hot Salsa," production show (dark Thurs.); Club La Bamba: Entertainment nightly except Mon.

**Ramada Express** • 298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Entertainment in the lounge.

**Regency** • 298-2439.

**Riverside Resort** • 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Harry Blackstone, Oct. 30-Nov. 3; Kay Starr and John and Donald Mills of the Mills Brothers, Nov. 5-10; Debbie Reynolds, Nov. 12-16; Jim Nabors, Nov. 17-20; Smothers Brothers, Nov. 26-30; Pat Boone, Dec. 1-14; "The Nutcracker," Dec. 18-22; Charlie Prose, Jan. 5-Feb. 13.

## MESQUITE

**Players Island** • 346-7529 or 800-459-7529: Bali Hai

# CasinoNotes

**Forest of Praise:** Bally's earned the Elmer H. Anderson Park Excellence Award from the Nevada Recreation and Park Society for the design, construction, and landscape of Bally's Plaza, a 2.85-acre area at the front of the hotel. The plaza was designed with emphasis on ease of use by people with disabilities. The area is lushly landscaped with trees and 15,000 other plants, shrubs, and flowers irrigated by a water-conserving system.

**Whirlybird Magic:** Illusionist Dirk Arthur recently joined the lineup of specialty acts in "Jubilee!" at Bally's. At the end of his act, Arthur makes a 26-foot-long helicopter appear onstage.

**That's the Ticket:** Raynard Goodman, an engineer from Huntsville, Alabama, recently won $1 million on a $3 keno ticket at the Flamingo Hilton. Goodman was paid the entire sum on the spot, becoming the first person to win the Flamingo Hilton's $1-million progressive jackpot, the largest such win in the United States.

**Football Fantasy:** Football bettors can wager on a "Fantasy Football Match-Up" this season at the Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook. Each week sports-book manager Chuck Esposito creates two fantasy teams made up of top NFL players. Bettors choose the team they think will produce the most points through touchdowns, field goals, and extra points with bonus points for yardage.

**Pyramid Power:** The Luxor's $240-million expansion includes two pyramid-shaped towers and two new restaurants: a steakhouse and an Italian restaurant. A 1,500-seat showroom, wedding chapel, spa, and 17,000 square feet of convention space will be added. The Luxor is redesigning interior areas such as the Nile River ride. The expansion is expected to be completed by Christmas.

**Main Street Opens:** The Boyd Gaming Corporation plans to reopen the casino at Main Street Station in downtown Las Vegas at year's end. The casino will have 25 table games, 900 slot machines, a 500-seat buffet, two restaurants, a brew pub, and an oyster bar. While the casino was closed, Main Street Station's 404 rooms were used for overflow from the Boyd-owned Fremont and California hotels.

**Mono a Mono:** The MGM Grand-Bally's Monorail celebrated its first anniversary last summer. More than five million riders took the one-mile, four-minute trip during the monorail's first year. The monorail offers free rides between the two hotels from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily.



The Gotham skyline will beckon visitors when New York-New York opens this winter on the Strip.

**Big Apple in Vegas:** A 150-foot-tall replica of the Statue of Liberty will greet visitors when the Strip's newest resort, New York-New York, holds its grand opening, which is scheduled for December. The 2,035-room hotel brings the New York skyline to the Strip's busy Tropicana intersection through the re-creations of landmarks like the Empire State Building and Brooklyn Bridge. New York-New York is a joint project of MGM Grand and Primadonna Resorts.

**The Suite Life:** The Rio Suite Hotel opened a high-limit gaming lounge this fall. In the Salon, high-limit players have access to their own kitchen, where they can request any type of fine cuisine. The room has its own butler and provides hors d'oeuvres and rare scotch, cognac, and champagne.

**Down by the Riverside:** The Riverside Resort in Laughlin celebrated its 30th anniversary this year. Don Laughlin bought a tiny motel on the Colorado River in August 1966 and transformed it into a 28-story, 1,405-room resort.

**A Towering Ride:** The Stratosphere has reduced the prices of rides to the top of the tower to $5 for adults, $4 for seniors, military, Nevada residents, and children ages four to 12, and free for kids under three. The top of the tower has a roller coaster, the Big Shot ride, an observation deck, a revolving restaurant, and three wedding chapels.

**Stars at the Trop:** The Tropicana Hotel, home of the long-running "Folies Bergere," also is presenting stars in its Tiffany Theatre. Manhattan Transfer, Vikki Carr, and Asleep at the Wheel are among the entertainers who have been scheduled on special weekends.

Theater: "Hot Country Nites," look-alike musical revue, thru Nov. 30; bands play nightly in the Cascades Lounge.
**Si Redd's Oasis** • 346-5232 or 800-621-0187: Entertainment nightly in the Cabaret Lounge.
**Virgin River** • 346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Entertainment TBA.

## NORTH LAS VEGAS

**Fiesta Casino** • 631-7000: Entertainment in the Cantina Bar; Mariachis, 10:30am-2:30pm Sun.
**Texas Station** • 631-1000: Nightly music in the Armadillo Honky Tonk Lounge.

## STATE LINE

**Buffalo Bill's Resort** • 382-1111 or 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Entertainment TBA; Carolee's Theatre: "Carolee's Comedy Club," Fri.-Sun.
**Primadonna** • 382-1212 or 800-826-4471.
**Whiskey Pete's** • 382-1212 or 800-367-7383.

# GAMING TOURNAMENTS

**Slots** • Oct. 30-Nov. 3 • Westward Ho, 800-223-1709.
**Great Heights, Parisian Nights Slots** • Nov. 11-14 • Stratosphere, 383-4752.
**Blast From the Past Slots** • Nov. 11-14 • MGM Grand, 800-929-9410.
**A Holiday in Rome Slots** • Nov. 11-14 • Caesars Palace, 800-262-2502.
**Fall Triathlon: Blackjack, Slots, Video Poker** • Nov. 11-14 • Lady Luck, 800-523-9582.
**Blackjack** • Nov. 15-16 • Santa Fe, 800-457-2882 ext. 4371.
**Luck Be a Lady Craps** • Nov. 15-17 • Four Queens, 385-4011.
**Slots and Golf** • Nov. 23 • Flamingo Hilton, 800-225-4882.
**Chocolate Fantasy Slots** • Nov. 24-26 • Tropicana, 800-521-8767.
**Slots** • Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 • Flamingo Hilton, 800-225-4882.
**Orient Express Slots** • Dec. 9-12 • Stratosphere, 383-4752.
**Celebrity Blackjack** • Dec. 11 • Rio Suites, 252-7706.
**Mad Money Slots** • Dec. 15-18 • Lady Luck, 800-523-9582.
**Island Bowl Slots** • Jan. 17-19 • Tropicana, 800-521-8767.
**World Championship of Video Poker** • Jan. 21-22 • Santa Fe, 800-457-2882 ext. 4371.

# ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

## BOULDER CITY

**Black Canyon River Raft Tours** • 293-3776.
**Boulder City Historic District** • Walking tour. 1497 Nevada Hwy., 293-2034.
**Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum** • 444 Hotel Plaza, 294-1988.
**Hoover Dam and Visitor Center** • Tours, theaters, exhibit hall at Hoover Dam. U.S. 93, 293-8367, 293-8000, or 293-8419.
**Lake Mead Cruises/Desert Princess** • 293-6180.
**Lake Mead National Recreation Area** • 601 Nevada Hwy., 293-8906.

## HENDERSON

**Clark County Heritage Museum** • 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 455-7955.
**Cranberry World West** • Tours of Ocean Spray facility. 1301 American Pacific Dr., 566-7160.
**Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden** • Tours. 2 Cactus Garden Dr., 458-8864.
**Kidd Marshmallow Factory** • Tours. 8203 Gibson Rd., 564-3878 or 800-234-2383.
**Ron Lee's World of Clowns** • Free factory tours. 330 Carousel Pkwy., 434-1700.

## LAS VEGAS

**A.J. Hackett Bungy** • 810 Circus Circus, 385-4321.
**Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Movie Museum** • Tours, 733-2334.
**Floyd Lamb State Park** • Picnicking and fishing. 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 486-5413.
**Fremont Street Experience** • Light show on the hour from dusk to 11pm. Downtown Las Vegas, 678-5600.
**Grand Slam Canyon** • Adventure park with rides and attractions. Next to Circus Circus, 800-444-CIRCUS.
**Guinness World of Records Museum** • 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 792-3766.
**Holy Cow! Casino** • Brewery tours, 732-2697.
**Imperial Palace Auto Collection** • 794-3174.
**Las Vegas Art Museum** • 6130 W. Charleston Blvd., 647-4300.
**Las Vegas Museum of Natural History** • 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 384-DINO.
**Liberace Museum** • 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595.

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**Lied Discovery Children's Museum** • 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS.
**Luxor** • Dragon battle and motion rides, 262-4000.
**Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History** • 4505 Maryland Pkwy., UNLV, 895-3381.
**MGM Grand Adventures** • Theme park, 891-7979.
**Mirage** • Dolphin habitat, white tigers, 791-7111.
**Mount Charleston** • Recreation info., 222-1597.
**Nevada State Museum and Historical Society** • Lorenzi Park, 700 Twin Lakes Dr., 486-5205.
**Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort Historic State Park** • 908 Las Vegas Blvd. N. at Washington (enter from Cashman Field parking lot B only), 486-3511.
**Omnimax Theatre** • Caesars Palace, 731-7900.
**Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area** • 363-1921.
**Southern Nevada Zoological Park** • 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 648-5955.
**Spring Mountain Ranch State Park** • Red Rock Canyon, 875-4141.
**Sam's Town** • Water and laser show, 456-7777.
**Treasure Island** • Pirate battle, 894-7111.
**Wet 'n Wild** • 2601 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 737-SURF.

## LAUGHLIN

**Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area** • Four miles south of Laughlin, 298-1859.
**Lake Mohave Resort** • 602-754-3245.
**Riverside Resort** • Classic cars, 298-2535.

## MESQUITE

**Desert Valley Museum** • 346-5705.
**Si Redd's Oasis** • Gun club, hayrides, microbrewery, 346-5232.

## NORTH LAS VEGAS

**The Planetarium** • Community College of Southern Nevada, 651-5059.

## OVERTON

**Lost City Museum of Archaeology** • Pueblo culture, 397-2193.
**Valley of Fire State Park** • 397-2088.

## SEARCHLIGHT

**Searchlight Gallery** • 297-1540.
**Searchlight Historic Museum** • 455-7955.

## STATE LINE

**Buffalo Bill's** • Roller coaster and water-flume ride, 382-1111.

### A Reminder:

To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For hotels' toll-free numbers, call 800-555-1212.


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# Reno-Tahoe Territory

## EVENTS

The Reno-Lake Tahoe area offers plays, historic tours, sports events, and festivals. You can be there for Reno's Buck 'n Ball on New Year's Eve or watch the annual Sparks Hometowne Christmas Parade. The following listing is divided into areas of interest. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times. Nevada's area code is 702.

## November & December

### HOLIDAY EVENTS

**Holiday Festival on Ice** • Nov. 1 • Olympic skating champions tape two-hour television special. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

**Celtic New Year Celebration** • Nov. 1-2 • Largest pipe band competitions in the U.S. Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

**Veteran's Day Parade** • Nov. 11 • C Street, Virginia City, 847-0311.

**"The Nutcracker"** • Nov. 29-Dec. 1 • Carson City Community Center, 883-1976.

**Christmas on the Comstock** • Nov. 30 • Parade, tree lighting, fireworks. Virginia City, 847-0311.

**Magic of Santa Christmas Faire** • Nov. 30-Dec. 1 • Reno Livestock Events Center, 334-2265.

**East Fork Artists Christmas Reception** • Dec. 1 • Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 782-2555.

**Silver and Snowflakes Tree Lighting** • Dec. 5 • Music, candlelight procession, and Santa Claus. Carson City, 687-7410.

**Lighting of Minden Park** • Dec. 6 • Food, music, and Santa Claus. 782-2444.

**Tree Lighting** • Dec. 6 • South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-5255.

**Sierra Women's Ensemble Christmas Concert** • Dec. 6 • Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-6145.

**Sparks Hometowne Christmas** • Dec. 7 • Parade, music, tree-lighting ceremony, crafts. Victorian Square, 353-2291.

**Genoa Christmas Faire** • Dec. 7-8 • Genoa Town Hall, 782-TOWN.

**Festival of the Trees** • Dec. 8 • Entertainment, street performers, crafts, Santa Claus. Downtown Reno, 334-2414.

**Kit Carson Trail Victorian Christmas Tour** • Dec. 8 • Decorated Victorian homes. Carson City, 687-7410.

**"The Nutcracker"** • Dec. 8 • Virginia City Middle School, 847-ART.

**Boars Head Feast** • Dec. 12 • Fifth annual Yuletide party with Celtic music and entertainment. Delta Saloon, Virginia City, 847-9ART.

**"The Messiah"** • Dec. 14-15 • Christmas classic. Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 348-9413.

**Holiday Treat Concert** • Dec. 15 • Carson City Chamber Orchestra, Community Center, Carson City, 883-4154.

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

### SKI EVENTS & FESTIVALS

**Foam Fest** • Nov. 2 • Beer tasting, food, dancing. Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 916-581-4161.

**Northern Lights Winter Festival** • Dec. 7-17 • Free skiing, parties, and discounts at local merchants. Incline Village/Crystal Bay, 800-468-2463.

**WinterFaire** • Dec. 8 • Ski and snowboard races, contests. Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, 916-659-7453.

**Northern Lights Ski-Free Days** • Dec. 15-17 • Ski free at Diamond Peak Ski Resort and Cross-Country Center with lodging reservation through 800-GO-TAHOE. Incline Village, 832-2277.

**Learn-to-Ski** • Dec. 16-20 • Discounted ski lessons for people with disabilities. Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, 916-581-4161.

**Flying Kilometer** • Dec. 21 • Race against the clock over 1K course. Royal Gorge Cross-Country Resort, 916-476-3871.

**Torchlight Parade and Fireworks** • Dec. 21 and 31 • Kirkwood Ski Resort, 209-258-6000.

**Candy Cane Children's Race** • Dec. 22 • Kids three-11. Royal Gorge Cross-Country Resort, 916-426-3871.

**Children's Christmas Race** • Dec. 24 • Ages four-12. Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, 916-583-4232.

**Torchlight Parade** • Dec. 24 • Squaw Valley USA, 916-583-6985.

**Ski the Eve** • Dec. 31 • Skiing and après-ski celebration with fireworks and entertainment. Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, 916-583-4232.

**New Year's Eve Fireworks and Party** • Dec. 31 • Northstar-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, 916-541-2462.

**New Year's Eve Party** • Dec. 31 • Live band and fireworks at midnight. Sugar Bowl Ski Resort, 916-426-9000.



Exotic Christmas critters are among the attractions of the Sparks Hometowne holiday parade on December 7 in Victorian Square.

### PERFORMANCES

**"Cosmic Conclusions: The End of All Things"** • Thru Nov. 17 • Theater program. Fleischmann Planetarium, U of N, Reno, 784-4811.

**Greg Brown** • Nov. 1 • Rock and folk music. Carson City Community Center, 883-1976.

**"God's Country" by Steven Dietz** • Nov. 1-3 • Play about white-supremacist movement. Reno Little Theater, 329-0661.

**"Crazy for You"** • Nov. 6-8 • Tony Award-winning musical-comedy about the mythical Nevada town of Deadrock. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 800-714-5331.

**Rhymer's Rodeer Cowboy Poetry** • Nov. 8-10 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 ext. 679.



Photo: Lonnie Peck/Reno News Bureau

PREVIEW

# Pipe Up

Break out the tartan, tune the bagpipe, and don the kilt (if you have one) for Reno's annual Celtic New Year celebration. The November 1-2 party is steeped in Scottish-Irish-Welsh-inspired pageantry, costumes, and music.

Vendor displays and solo bagpipe competitions start Friday afternoon before two of North America's top bagpipe bands, the L.A. Scots and the World Champion Simon Fraser University Pipe Band, mix Highland sounds with a military brass band in the Reno Livestock Events Center's main arena. Saturday, after Highlander athletic demonstrations, more than 20 bands will pipe up during the Western Pipe Band Association Championships. Later that afternoon all the bagpipers will play together.

After the indoor festivities, a parade is set for 6:30 p.m. on Virginia Street under the Reno Arch. Then, exhibitions of Highland dance, Irish step-dancing, Scottish Contra Dance from Gael Force, and music by Clan na Gael and the L.A. Scots will punctuate the evening's festivities at the National Bowling Stadium at 8 p.m. Call 800-FOR-RENO for more information.—*Matt Bonaudi*



Puffing pipers celebrate the Celtic New Year in Reno with traditional music.


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Photo: Lonnie Peck/Reno News Bureau




# Paws for Applause

**J.R. Johns and His Four Best Friends bring their canine capers to the Reno big top.**

By Carolyn Graham

The high-flying hounds of J.R. Johns and His Four Best Friends put on the dog for fans at the Circus Circus midway stage. Above: Lulu, a boxer cross, bounds for a big bone that Johns tosses for her.

Lulu, Peggy, Bink, and Marvin are four of the most focused and talented performers in Reno—as long as there are no cats in the audience.

The four dogs are the stars of J.R. Johns and His Four Best Friends, a canine troupe whose members flip, jump, and twirl their way into the dog-loving hearts of visitors watching the midway stage at Circus Circus Reno.

Johns, the 39-year-old creator of the show, doesn't use fancy costumes or props. Instead, he emphasizes the dogs' comedic talents and plays off their natural traits. He explains, "People don't want to be impressed as much as they want to laugh."

> During the act, each dog performs his or her own special trick.

The show is heavy on slapstick. "Dogs are funny, and they are so incredibly intelligent," Johns says. "These dogs do a lot of their own improv." In fact, the dogs have dreamed up a few of the tricks used in the act, such as when Peggy, a Great Dane-Dalmatian mix, drags Johns off the stage by the back of his neck.

During the act, each dog performs his or her own special trick. Marvin, an energetic Jack Russell terrier, is the smallest dog but has the biggest bark. "He runs the pack," Johns says. Marvin has comedic timing, too. When Johns makes him "disappear" in a magic box, Marvin peeks out a trap door, giving away the trick's secret.

Bink is a schnauzer and "a thinking man's dog," according to Johns. "He's the wise guy—very clever. He's good-natured, but I've always got an eye on him." Bink is the group's star acrobat—he performs backflips during the show's finale.

Lulu, a two-year-old boxer cross, has the energy of a puppy. She likes to jump, and Johns displays her natural abilities by skipping rope with her. Later in the show Lulu catches a giant foam bone while leaping over Johns' back.

Peggy is the big dog of the group. In her signature trick, she stubbornly refuses to jump through a hoop until she lowers it with her paws.

Like other performers in Johns' shows, Peggy and Lulu were down and out before their days in the spotlight. It was



Johns unwinds with pet pals Peggy (left), Marvin, Bink, and Lulu. The friendly foursome often dognaps on the dressing-room sofa between shows.



Photos: Ed Opsitos

nearly curtains for both when Johns rescued them from certain doom at an animal-control pound in Florida. "I got both of them a day before they were 'destined,'" he says.

Johns has been around animals all his life. Growing up in Wisconsin, he had lots of pets—even raccoons and owls. After working with exotic animals at Circus World theme park in Florida, he and a partner developed a show with 15 dogs and a pony in 1982. Johns has dedicated his career—and his life—to the dogs ever since.

"Dogs are always there for you, and they care what you think," he says. He paints in his spare time and is illustrating a children's book, loosely based on his current troupe, called *Marvelous Marvin and His Four Best Friends.*

Johns and the dogs live together in Reno, where the dogs have their own house in the backyard. "They need their own sofas. They deserve the best I can possibly give them," he says.

Johns also shares his digs with 10 retired dogs from his former shows. "These dogs have a lifetime contract with me," he adds. At home, the troupers bone up on routines in his spacious living room, where he says he "opted for no furniture."

For now Johns and his crew have planted their paws at Circus Circus, where the group performs 14 shows per week, six days a week. Before each show, visitors can see Johns wheeling his four best friends through the midway in a cart. The dogs are all tongues and wagging tails as fans greet and pet the canine stars. Johns admits, "They'll lick anybody to death."

## Dog Catching

J.R. Johns and His Four Best Friends perform on Circus Circus Reno's midway stage daily except Sunday. Schedules vary, but you usually can catch the dogs during two evening shows on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, and three afternoon shows on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Call Circus Circus, 702-329-0711, for exact times that Johns and his friends are appearing.

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*Carolyn Graham,* Nevada Magazine's *associate editor, recently taught her dog Bongo how to sing and hopes to one day find her a gig.*


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## Reno-Tahoe

**Reno Philharmonic** • Nov. 12 • Guest artist and photo-choreographer James Westwater sets scenic photos to classical music. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 323-6393.
**"Blood Wedding"** • Nov. 15-16 and 20-24 • Redfield Proscenium Theatre, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.
**Robert Bluestone Concert** • Nov. 20 • Classical guitarist. Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.
**Fall Concert** • Nov. 21 • Capital City Community Band. Community Center, Carson City, 883-2219.
**"The Government Inspector"** • Nov. 22-24 •Virginia City Theater Muckers present play by Nikolai Gogol. Virginia City High School, 847-9ART.
**"Star of Wonder"** • Nov. 25-Jan. 5 • Theater program. Fleischmann Planetarium, U of N, Reno, 784-4811.



Artist Mary Aiwohi-Cisco will show her works, including "Hoofbeats and Thunder" (above), November 3-17 at the Silver State Gallery in Reno. Aiwohi-Cisco, a Fernley veterinarian, primarily paints ranch life.

**"Who's on First"** • Dec. 6-8, 13-15 • Reno Little Theater, 329-0661.
**Lorie Line in Concert** • Dec. 13-14 • Pianist (a Reno native) with pop chamber orchestra. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 348-4600.

## EXHIBITS

**The Works of Gene Speck** • Thru Nov. 19 • Oil paintings portray ranch scenes and Indian encampments. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 324-2323.
**The Black Rock Press: The Art of the Book** • Thru Dec. 12 • Explores book-art press located at U of N. Nevada State Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.
**Memories and Vision: Self-Taught and Outsider Artists West of the Rockies** • Thru Dec. 31 • Sheppard Gallery, U of N, Reno, 784-6658.
**Fantastic Plastic** • Thru Jan. 3 • Model car display. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.
**Charles M. Russell: The West on Paper** • Thru Jan. 5 • Paintings and illustrated letters from the collection of the C.M. Russell Museum of Great Falls, Montana. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.
**Royal Elegance** • Thru March 31 • Rolls-Royce exhibit. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.
**Mary Aiwohi-Cisco Exhibit** • Nov. 3-17 • Watercolor and pen and ink. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 324-2323.
**Fiber Celebrated VI** • Nov. 21-Dec. 22 • Baskets, gourds, jewelry, weavings from fiber artists. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 324-2323.
**Beyond Category: The Musical Genius of Duke Ellington** • Dec. 12-Jan. 24 • Exhibit organized by the Smithsonian Institution. Workshop, lectures, concerts, displays related to Ellington and the jazz era. Carson City Library, 887-2244 ext. 1021.

## GENERAL INTEREST

**Nevada Landmarks Society Yard Sale and Craft Faire** • Oct. 31-Nov. 3 • Roberts House Park and Museum, Carson City, 887-2174.
**Reno Winter Book Festival** • Dec. 8 • University of Nevada Press readings and book signings. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 784-6573.

## SPORTS & COMPETITIONS

**North American Shuffleboard Championships** • Oct. 28-Nov. 3 • Sands Regency, Reno, 348-2200.
**University of Nevada Football** • The Wolf Pack plays Nov. 2 v. New Mexico State, Nov. 16 v. Arkansas State at Mackay Stadium, U of N, Reno, 348-PACK.
**National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals** • Nov. 4-10 • Top athletes, 40 and older. Reno Livestock Events Center, 746-0141.
**Veterans Day Cribbage Classic** • Nov. 8-10 • Sands Regency, Reno, 348-2200.
**Turkey Poker Run** • Nov. 17 • Car-club event. Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 265-7074.
**University of Nevada Women's Basketball: Holiday Inn Classic** • Nov. 22-23 • Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 784-6166.
**Silver State Classic Electronic Darts** • Nov. 22-24 • Competition attracts avid dartists. Sands Regency, Reno, 348-2200.
**Reno Open Pool Tournament** • Dec. 3-15 • Sands Regency, Reno, 348-2200.
**University of Nevada Men's Basketball** • The Wolf Pack plays Dec. 14 v. UNLV, Dec. 16 v. Oregon, Dec. 18 v. Portland, Jan. 6 v. St. Mary's Texas, Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 348-PACK.

## COMING EVENTS

**"The Sound of Music"** • Jan. 27-29 • Touring Broadway company. Reno, 686-6600.
**Snowfest** • Feb. 28-March 9 • North Lake Tahoe, 916-583-7625.
**Big West Conference Basketball Tournament** • March 7-9 • U of N, Reno, 348-PACK.
**Cowboy Jubilee and Poetry** • March 8 • Carson City, 883-1532.
**Delta Saloon International Mountain Oyster Fry** • March 15 • Virginia City, 847-0311.
**Mother Earth Awakening Powwow** • March 14-16 • Carson City, 882-1808.
**Fiesta Nevada Celebration** • May 2-4 • Sparks, 353-2284.
**"Kiss of the Spider Woman"** • May 13-15 • Touring Broadway company. Reno, 686-6600.
**Celebrate the River** • June 6-8 • Reno, 265-5281.
**Night Curves** • June 6-8 • Reno, 329-7469.
**Reno Rodeo** • June 21-29 • 329-3877.

# Keep on Buckin'



Country-music and rodeo fans can ring in the new year at Reno's Buck 'n Ball. The celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. with an indoor rodeo as 45 top bareback, saddle-bronc, and bull riders compete for $40,000 in prize money at the Reno Livestock Events Center. Announcing team Bob Tallman and Bob Feist will call all the buckin' and landin'

Following the rodeo, a dance floor will replace the dirt for two-stepping as country crooner Lee Roy Parnell headlines the Buck 'n Ball concert. Parnell's top-10 hits include "A Little Bit of You," "When a Woman Loves a Man," and "Heart's Desire." An indoor fireworks display will signal the arrival of 1997 Tickets range from $35 to $45.

Earlier Buck 'n Ball festivities include celebrity bowling on December 29 at the National Bowling Stadium and a "Cowboy Up" video-poker tournament on December 30 at the Diamonds Casino at the Holiday Inn. For more information and Buck 'n Ball tickets, call 800-444-BUCK.

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The Oakland Ballet performs "The Nutcracker" December 7-8 in the Circus Maximus Showroom at Caesars Tahoe.

# SHOWGUIDE

The Reno-Lake Tahoe area offers production shows and big-name entertainment. The Moody Blues sing at Caesars Tahoe, Wayne Newton rings in the New Year at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, and a new revue opens Christmas Day at Harrah's Reno. It's always wise to call ahead for show times and reservations. Nevada's area code is 702.

## RENO/SPARKS

**Atlantis** • 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Center Stage Cabaret: Bands such as Memphis Exchange, Wild Angel, and Band on the Run play nightly.

**Circus Circus** • 329-0711: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight.

**Comstock** • 329-1880.

**Eldorado** • 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Steppen' Stonz, thru Nov. 17; Rob Hanna's Salute to Rod Stewart, Nov. 19-Dec. 1; Rubber Biscuit: Tribute to the Blues Brothers, Dec. 25-31; Brew Brothers: Crazy Copper Keys (Sun.-Thur.).

**Eddie's Fabulous '50s** • 329-1950.

**Fitzgeralds** • 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada).

**Flamingo Hilton Reno** • 785-7080: Flamingo Showroom: "American Superstars" (dark Tues.); Showspot Cabaret: "Fierce," revue (dark Mon.); music at Top of the Hilton restaurant (dark Tues.).

**Harrah's Reno** • 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: Frank Sinatra Jr. and the Frank Sinatra Orchestra, Dec. 27-Jan. 1; "Playboy's Ectasy," thru Dec. 2; "The Great Reno Wild Wild West Show" (dark Dec. 3-24); a new production show opens Dec. 25.

**John Ascuaga's Nugget** • Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177 (U.S. and Nevada): Celebrity Showroom: Rich Little, Oct. 31-Nov. 13; Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Nov. 14-27; Tammy Wynette, Dec. 27-30 and Jan. 1-8; Wayne Newton, Dec. 31; Rose Ballroom: The Mavericks, Nov. 29-30; Wayne Newton, Dec. 30; bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's restaurant.

**Peppermill** • 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Bands such as Spiral Staircase, Prime Time, and Blue Flame play nightly.

**Plantation Station** • Sparks, 359-9440.

**Reno Hilton** • 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theatre: Jeff Kutash's "Splash" (dark Thurs.), thru Dec. 1; Aspen Lounge: Bands play Tues.-Sun.; Just for Laughs Comedy Club: Stand-up comedy nightly except Mon.

**Reno Hotel** • 788-2000.

**Riverboat** • 323-8877.

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

**Silver Legacy** • 329-4777 or 800-225-BASS (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grand Exposition Hall: Trisha Yearwood, Nov. 16; Silver Legacy Gazebo: Wally Jones and Perry Joe Schirmer, afternoons; Gary Xavier, evenings till midnight; bands play in the Legacy Saloon 9pm-3am.

**Virginian** • 329-4664.

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

## CARSON CITY/CARSON VALLEY

**Carson Nugget** • 882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): The Four Tunes, Justine, Big Tiny Little, and other bands play in the Nugget Showbar.

**Carson Station** • Carson City, 883-0900: Bands.

**Carson Valley Inn** • Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Entertainment Tues.-Sat.

**Ormsby House** • Carson City, 882-1890: Entertainment nightly in the casino lounge.

**Piñon Plaza** • Carson City, 885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.

**Sharkey's Nugget** • Gardnerville, 782-3133.

**Topaz Lodge** • Topaz Lake, 266-3339.

## STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

**Bill's Lake Tahoe** • 588-2455.

**Caesars Tahoe** • 588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: Moody Blues, Nov. 29-Dec. 1; "The Nutcracker," featuring the Oakland Ballet, Dec. 7-8.

**Harrah's Lake Tahoe** • 588-6606 or 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: "New York, New York" and "Playboy After Hours," production shows, thru Dec. 2; "Ebenezer Scrooge," Dec. 18-21; Tower of Power, Dec. 26-29; Four Tops, Dec. 30-Jan. 1; Casino Center Stage: Nightly bands.

**Harveys** • 588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883 (U.S. and Nevada): Emerald Theatre: "Dick Clark's American Bandstand, Live at Harveys," musical revue with Dick

Clark as video host (dark Wed.); Llewellyn's: Ron Rose Sound; Bands play in the Emerald Party Lounge.
**Lake Tahoe Horizon** • 588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Grande Lake Theater: Gallagher, Nov. 28-30; Paula Poundstone, Dec. 30-31; Golden Cabaret: "Phantasy," magic and comedy revue (dark Mon.); bands play nightly in the Aspen Lounge.
**Lakeside Inn** • 588-7777.

### NORTH LAKE TAHOE

**Cal-Neva Resort** • Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382.
**Crystal Bay Club** • Crystal Bay, 831-0512: Entertainment nightly.
**Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe** • Incline Village, 832-1234.
**Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget** • Crystal Bay, 831-7157.
**Tahoe Biltmore** • Crystal Bay, 831-0660: Music and dancing nightly in the Aspen Lounge.

## GAMING TOURNAMENTS

**Poker** • Weekends • Peppermill, 826-2121.
**Keno** • Sundays and Dec. 6-7 • Peppermill, 826-2121.
**Blackjack** • Tuesdays • Peppermill, 826-2121.
**Mr. O'Lucky's Slots** • Nov. 1-3 • Fitzgeralds, 786-3663.
**Blackjack** • Nov. 1-3 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300.
**Disco Blackjack** • Nov. 3-4 • Peppermill, 826-2121.
**Blackjack** • Nov. 3-4 • Lake Tahoe Horizon, 588-6211.
**$60,000 Slots** • Nov. 7-8 • Silver Legacy, 800-215-7721.
**$30,000 Keno** • Nov. 10-11 • Silver Legacy, 800-215-7721.
**Slots** • Nov. 16-17 • Lake Tahoe Horizon, 588-6211.
**Slots** • Nov. 16-17 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300.
**Slots** • Nov. 18-19 • Peppermill, 826-2121.
**Slots** • Nov. 24-27 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300.
**Craps** • Nov. 29-Dec. 1 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300.
**Slots** • Dec. 1-3 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300.
**Slots** • Dec. 5-7 • Silver Legacy, 800-215-7721.
**Blackjack** • Dec. 6-8 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300.
**Slots** • Dec. 6-8 • Flamingo Hilton, 800-950-2946.
**Blackjack Tournament of Champions** • Dec. 10 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983.
**Blackjack** • Dec. 13-15 • Flamingo Hilton, 800-950-2946.

## ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

### CARSON CITY

**Brewery Arts Center** • 449 W. King St., 883-1976.
**Carson and Mills Park Railroad** • Seasonal, Mills Park, 887-2523.
**Children's Museum of Northern Nevada** • 813 N. Carson St., 884-2226.
**Kit Carson Trail** • Walking tour. 687-7410 or 800-638-2321.
**Nevada State Capitol** • 687-5030.
**Nevada State Library and Archives** • State Constitution exhibit. 100 Stewart St., 687-5210.
**Nevada State Museum** • 600 N. Carson St., 687-4810.
**Nevada State Railroad Museum** • S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-6953.


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HOTELS

# Casino Notes

**Readers' Favorites:** The Atlantis in Reno received seven awards in the *Reno Gazette-Journal's* 16th annual "Best of Reno" poll. "Best Buffet" went to Toucan Charlie's Buffet and Grille, "Best Cafe" was given to the Alfresco Restaurant, and the Atlantis was named "Best Late Night Hang-Out." Other awards included "Loosest Slots," "Best Salad Bar" in the Purple Parrot Restaurant, and the "Best Sunday Brunch."

**Earning Power:** VIP Club members at Circus Circus can accumulate cash payback points faster on slot or video poker machines. Instead of one point for every $10 worth of coins or credits put into the machines, members now earn four points.

**New Games in Town:** A seven-foot-tall Wheel of Gold slot machine and the Let It Ride stud poker machine are ready for play at the Eldorado in Reno. Wheel of Gold players can win multiple payouts and bonus spins on the machine's roulette-type wheel. Let It Ride gamers have a chance to win $25,000 with a royal flush.

**Ohh-La-La:** Bistro Roxy, a Parisian-style restaurant, will open its doors in December at the Eldorado. Decorated in seven distinct architectural motifs, the eatery will feature wood-roasted meats, fish, and chicken along with country breads and desserts created in an exhibition kitchen and bakery.

**Traditional Japanese:** A personal chef prepares food tableside and entertains diners at the Benihana Steakhouse at the Flamingo Hilton. The new $850,000, second-floor restaurant opened this summer and features 11 U-shaped tables and a sushi bar-style counter.

**Buffet Bounty:** At Harrah's Reno the air in the new $3.7-million Fresh Market Square Buffet is filled with the smell of garlic sizzling in the wok and Bananas Foster cooking in the pastry shop. The various aromas and



Energetic chefs add flavor at the Benihana Steakhouse in the Flamingo Hilton Reno.

decor in the 400-seat eatery reflect its themes of Fisherman's Wharf, Chinatown, Little Italy, and Farmer's Market.

**A Progressive Game:** Progressive stud poker made its nationwide debut last summer at Harveys Lake Tahoe. Played much like the traditional seven-card stud poker, the player progressively increases wagers with one major difference: Gamblers play against the dealer, not other players.

**New Heights:** Twenty-two floors of the new $80-million west tower at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks opens on December 27 The grand opening of the hotel's expansion is scheduled for March 1997, the Nugget's 42nd anniversary. The construction also included 28,000 square feet of meeting space, more casino space, and a 350-seat restaurant. The opening date of the upscale, gourmet restaurant with a Spanish-Mediterranean theme will be announced at a later date.

**Silver Shines:** Reno's newest hotel-casino, the Silver Legacy, celebrated its first birthday last summer by opening a sports book, health spa, arcade, and keno lounge.

**Take a Lap:** Visitors wanting to go sightseeing around Lake Tahoe can board the Tahoe Lake Lapper. Two buses make four circuits of Tahoe per day, with a nighttime trip on Friday and Saturday. There are 20 stops on the route and service in both directions. For information on the bus service call 916-542-5900.

**Nevada Supreme Court** • Tours. Stewart St., 687-8616.
**Roberts' House Museum** • 1207 N. Carson St., 882-1805.
**Stewart Indian Museum and Cultural Center** • 5366 Snyder, 882-1808.
**Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum** • 777 S. Stewart St., 887-2210.

## DAYTON

**Dayton State Park** • 687-5678.

## GARDNERVILLE

**Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center** • Old Douglas County High School on U.S. Highway 395 South, 265-2889.

## GENOA

**Genoa Courthouse Museum** • Seasonal, 782-4325.
**Mormon Station State Historic Park** • Seasonal, 782-4325, 687-4379.
**Walley's Hot Springs** • 2001 Foothill Rd., 782-8155.

## LAKE TAHOE

**Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park** • 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 831-0494.
**M.S. Dixie II Sternwheeler** • Zephyr Cove, 588-3508.
**Ponderosa Ranch** • Seasonal, Incline Village, 831-0691.
**Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler** • Tahoe City, 916-583-0141.
**Tahoe Queen Sternwheeler** • South Lake Tahoe, 800-23-TAHOE.
**Tahoe Rim Trail** • 150-mile system, 588-0686.
**U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center** • Stream chamber in creek, 916-573-2600.
**Vikingsholm** • Tours, 916-525-7232.
**Zephyr Cove Resort** • 588-5021.

## RENO

**Animal Ark** • 10 mi. north of Reno, then 12 mi. on Red Rock Road, 969-3111.
**Earth Window Museum** • 500 N. Sierra St., Town Center Mall, 333-2828.
**Fleischmann Planetarium** • U of N, 784-4811.
**Galena Creek Regional Park** • Mount Rose Hwy., 785-4319.
**Liberty Belle Slot Collection** • Liberty Belle Saloon, 4250 S. Virginia St., 825-1776.
**National Automobile Museum** • 10 Lake St. S., 333-9300.
**National Bowling Stadium** • Domed theater. 300 N. Center St., 334-2695.
**Nevada Historical Society Museum** • 1650 N. Virginia St., 688-1190.
**Nevada Museum of Art, E.L. Wiegand Gallery** • 160 W. Liberty St., 329-3333.
**Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk and Wingfield Park Amphitheater** • 334-2077.
**Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy** • Tours. 300 E. First St., Suite 103, 329-5665.
**Sierra Safari Zoo** • 10 mi. north of Reno at Red Rock Rd., 677-1101.
**Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden** • Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4153.
**Wilbur D. May Great Basin Adventure** • Seasonal, Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4064.
**Wilbur D. May Museum** • Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-5961.

## PYRAMID LAKE

**Numana Hatchery Visitors Center** • 574-0290.

## SPARKS

**Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum** • 820

Victorian Ave., 355-1144.
**Wild Island** • Seasonal, Off I-80, 359-2927.

## VIRGINIA CITY

**Assay Office Museum** • 847-0777.
**The Castle** • Seasonal, 847-0275.
**Chollar Mine** • Tours, seasonal, 847-0155.
**Fourth Ward School Museum** • Historical displays in 1876 school, 847-0975.
**Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum** • 847-9394.
**Liberty Engine Co. No. 1 Comstock Firemen's Museum** • Seasonal, 847-0717.
**Mackay Mansion Museum** • 847-0173.
**Mark Twain Museum of Memories** • 847-0454.
**Nevada Gambling Museum** • Old gaming tables, devices, and other memorabilia, 847-9022.
**Piper's Opera House** • Seasonal, 847-0433.
**Ponderosa Mine** • Tours, 847-0757.
**Territorial Enterprise Mark Twain Museum** • 847-0525.
**Virginia and Truckee Railroad** • Tourist train to Gold Hill, seasonal, 847-0380.
**Virginia City Radio Museum** • 847-9047.
**Virginia City Tours** • Narrated trolley tour of Virginia City, 786-0866.
**Way It Was Museum** • 847-0766.
**Wild West Museum** • Seasonal, 847-0400.



Gallagher, the food-throwing comedian, will make a mess November 28-30 at the Lake Tahoe Horizon.

## VERDI

**Boomtown Family Fun Center** • 345-8668.
**Bull Creek Ranch** • Trail, wagon, and sleigh rides, 345-7600.

## WASHOE VALLEY

**Bowers Mansion Park** • Historic mansion of Comstock millionaires, with picnic grounds near the mansion. Seasonal, 849-1825.
**Davis Creek Park** • 849-0684.
**Washoe Lake State Park** • Picnicking, camping. E. Lake Blvd., 687-4319.

## A Reminder:

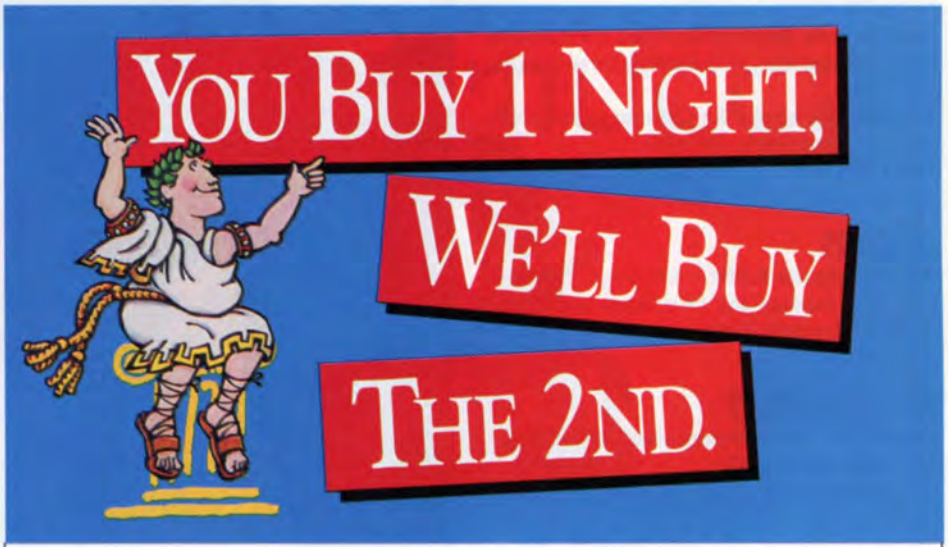
To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. For out-of-state callers, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.





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# Rural Territories

## EVENTS

Rural Nevada presents fairs, festivals, and car races in November and December. Visitors can tour the Hidden Cave archaeological site near Fallon, celebrate Christmas at Elko's Festival of Trees, or ring in the new year across Nevada. The listing is presented by territory and area of interest. Please call ahead to confirm dates and times. Nevada's area code is 702.

## November & December

### COWBOY COUNTRY

#### HOLIDAY EVENTS

**Pre-Holiday Show** • Nov. 22-23 • Holiday booths. Elko Convention Center, 738-7135.

**Festival of Trees** • Dec. 2-5 • Decorated trees, wreaths, gingerbread houses, entertainers. Elko Convention Center, 738-4091.

**"The Nutcracker Ballet"** • Dec. 5 • Elko Convention Center, 738-4091.

**Christmas in the Nighttime Sky** • Dec. 7 • Fireworks, music, hot chocolate, chili. Kimberly Nurseries, Elko, 738-7135.

**Nurses' Bazaar** • Dec. 7-8 • Christmas arts and crafts. Elko Convention Center, 738-4091.

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

#### EXHIBITS

**Museum Collection Exhibit** • Nov. 1-Dec. 15 • Andy Gialy sand paintings and Ansel Adams and Edward Westin photographs. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418.

#### PERFORMANCES

**Horse Sense** • Nov. 6 • Western music, storytelling, history. Lovelock, 273-2197.

**Clan na Gael Concert** • Dec. 5 • Celtic music. Martin Hotel, Winnemucca, 623-5507.

#### GAMING

**Hallowin Slot and Keno** • Nov. 1 • State Line and Silver Smith hotels, Wendover, 800-354-3671.

**Craps** • Nov. 21-22 • State Line and Silver Smith hotels, Wendover, 800-354-3671.

### PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

#### HOLIDAY EVENTS

**Christmas Arts and Crafts Faire** • Nov. 2 • Dayton Intermediate School, 246-0550.

**Christmas Craft Fair** • Nov. 23 and Dec. 4 • Fallon Convention Center, 867-3176.



Horse Sense duo Justin Bishop (left) and John Nielsen give a farewell performance November 6 in Lovelock. The two plan to disband their act after several years of touring.

**Churchill County High School Christmas Craft Fair** • Dec. 6-7 • Fallon, 423-6696.

**Kid's New Year's Eve Party** • Dec. 31 • Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-7733.

**New Year's Eve Dance** • Dec. 31 • Dance and midnight lunch to greet 1997. Fire station, Austin, 964-2447.

#### PERFORMANCES

**Undone Divas With Madelene Capelle** • Nov. 15 • Opera program. Eureka Opera House, 237-6006.



Photo: Jay Dusard

**Robert Bluestone** • Nov. 22 • Classical guitarist in concert, Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 237-6006.
**Virginia City Theatre Muckers** • Dec. 7 • Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 237-6006.

## GENERAL INTEREST

**Marine Corps Ball** • Nov. 8 • Fallon Convention Center, 423-7733.
**Photographer's Special** • Nov. 9-10 • Photo opportunities with railroad equipment and facilities, includes box lunch and barbecue. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 289-2085.
**Hidden Cave Tours** • Nov. 9, 23, and Dec. 14, 28 • Hike to view archaeological site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677.
**Ducks Unlimited Dinner** • Nov. 16 • Fallon Convention Center, 423-7733.

## COMPETITIONS

**Turkey Shoot Nationals: Big Bucks Bracket Drag Races** • Nov. 29-30 • Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 423-2544.
**Kris Kringle Charity Classic Auto Race** • Rattlesnake Speedway, Fallon, 423-7483.

# PIONEER TERRITORY

## HOLIDAY EVENTS

**St. Anne's Guild Annual Holiday Bazaar** • Nov. 9 • Yerington, 463-3842.
**Veterans Day Celebration** • Nov. 9-10 • Parade, food, entertainment, swap meet, auction. Community center, Amargosa, 372-5459.
**Desert Dancers Theater Christmas Bazaar** • Dec. 7 • Hawthorne, 945-3030.
**Silver Tappers Christmas Show** • Dec. 7 • Dance program. Community center, Amargosa, 372-5459.
**Feel the Country Magic: Christmas in Mason Valley** • Dec. 7 and 14 • On Dec. 7, Santa Claus arrives on 1926 fire truck, town holiday lighting, performance of the musical "Curious George." On Dec. 14, decorating contest, light parade, music, caroling, Holiday Faire. Yerington, 463-2245.
**Christmas Program** • Dec. 21 • Caroling, plays. Community center, Amargosa, 372-5459.

## EXHIBITS

**60 Years of *Nevada Magazine*, 1936-1996** • Thru Dec. 15 • Exhibit on the magazine's 60 years of publishing. Central Nevada Museum, Tonopah, 687-5416.

## GENERAL INTEREST

**Beatty Grand Prix** • Nov. 2-3 • Off-road motorcycle race. Beatty, 553-2424.
**Mining Competition** • Nov. 2-3 • Beatty, 553-2424.

# COMING EVENTS

**Nevada State Cowboy Action Shooting Championship** • Jan. 17-19 • Pahrump, 564-7762.
**Cowboy Poetry Gathering** • Jan. 25-Feb. 1 • Elko, 738-7508.
**Walker Lake Fishing Derby** • Feb. 17-19 • Hawthorne, 945-5896.
**Bordertown Bike Challenge** • May 6 • Wendover, 664-3414.
**Pioche Heritage Days** • May 8-10 • 962-5544.
**Desert Oasis Bluegrass Festival** • May 16-18 • Fallon, 423-2544.
**Jim Butler Days** • May 23-26 • Tonopah, 482-3859.


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# SHOWGUIDE

Casinos often bring stage shows and star entertainers to rural Nevada. For example, Janie Fricke and Juice Newton are scheduled to appear at Cactus Petes in Jackpot. Many lounges in rural Nevada casinos have comedy or karaoke during the week and bands on weekends. Call ahead for show times. Nevada's area code is 702.

## COWBOY COUNTRY

### BATTLE MOUNTAIN

**Owl Club** • 635-5155.

### ELKO

**Commercial Hotel** • 738-3181: Comedy on Wed.
**Holiday Inn** • 738-8425: Piano bar, Tues.-Sat.; dance club, Thurs.-Sat.
**Red Lion** • 738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Club Max Showroom: Comedians and a country band, Tues.-Sun.
**Stockmen's Hotel** • 738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada).



Clan na Gael performs ancient, traditional, and contemporary Celtic music December 5 at the Martin Hotel in Winnemucca.

### JACKPOT

**Barton's Club 93** • 755-2341.
**Cactus Petes** • 755-2321 or 800-821-1103: Cabaret Lounge: "An Evening at the Improv," thru Nov. 3; Sylvia, Nov. 5-10; Juice Newton, Nov. 12-17; Janie Fricke, Nov. 19-24 and 26-28; Williams and Ree, Nov. 29-30; "Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles," Dec. 3-8.
**Horseshu Casino** • 755-2321.

### MILL CITY

**Burns Bros. Casino** • 538-7306: Bands often appear in Mr. B's Lounge at the Mill City casino on Interstate 80.

### WENDOVER

**Nevada Crossing** • 664-2900 or 800-537-0207.
**Peppermill** • 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada).
**Rainbow Casino** • 664-4000 or 800-217-0049.
**Red Garter** • 664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada).

PREVIEW

# Bright Lights, Small Town

For anyone who's ever longed for a small-town Christmas, Elko is the place. A fresh blanket of snow often appears at holiday time, and downtown shopkeepers pour plenty of hot cider to keep Christmas shoppers warm.

Elkoans demonstrate their holiday spirit with several events that benefit the less fortunate. During the Festival of Trees on December 2-5, clubs, businesses, and individuals decorate trees, wreaths, and gingerbread houses for auction at the Elko Convention Center. Local choirs lead browsers in Christmas carols, and Reno's Nevada Festival Ballet presents "The Nutcracker" at 7 p.m. on December 5.

Following the ballet, the decorated items are auctioned. This year's proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society for children's research.

On December 7 Elko will ignite during Christmas in the Nighttime Sky, a fireworks display set to Christmas music. The festivities at Kimberly Nurseries, 2223 North Fifth Street, begin at 5 p.m. with a warm-up party featuring hot chili, hot chocolate, hot cider, and music by choral groups and a handbell choir. Admission is free, although Santa Claus will be on hand to collect donations of toys.

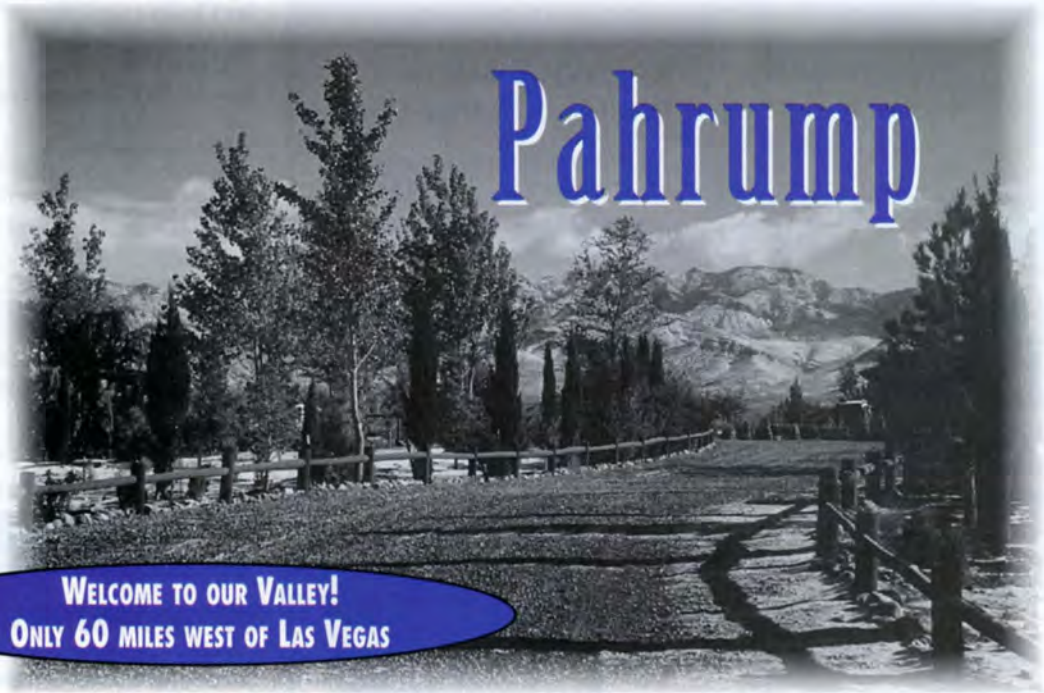
"We want people to be able to come and have a good time without having to spend a dime," says Jacque Orr, owner of Kimberly Nurseries. "The fireworks show only lasts about 10 minutes, but it's powerpacked."

A week later is Elko's Parade of Lights. Past participants have created floats out of hot tubs, Caterpillar tractors, and other conveyances. This year's parade will make its way down the town's main drag at 6 p.m. on December 14. Call the Elko Chamber of Commerce, 702-738-7135, for more information about holiday events.—*Sandy Miller*




Lavishly decorated trees are judged December 2-5 in Elko's Festival of Trees.

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Photo: Sandy Miller/Elko Daily Free Press

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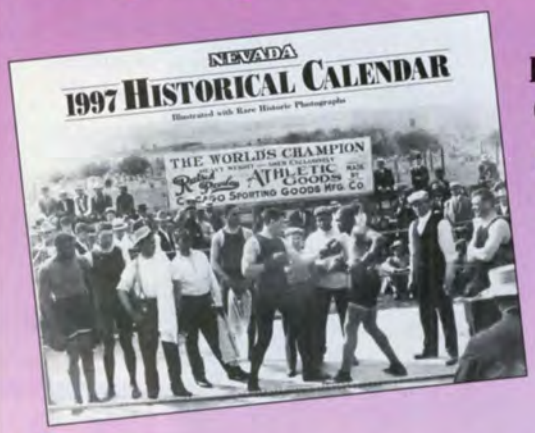
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## Rural

**Silver Smith** • 664-2231 or 800-354-3671.
**State Line** • 664-2221 or 800-648-9668.

### WINNEMUCCA

**Winners Hotel** • 623-2511: Madison Avenue, thru Nov. 3; R.C. and Lonesome Heart, Nov. 5-17; Band on the Run, Nov. 19-24; Candi Baker, Nov. 26-Dec. 1; Ego Maniacs, Dec. 3-8; Madison Avenue, Dec. 10-15; Paul Perryman, Dec. 17-22; R.C. and Lonesome Heart, Dec. 24-Jan. 5.

## PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

### ELY

**Hotel Nevada** • 289-6665.

### FALLON

**Bonanza Inn** • 423-3111 ext. 47.
**Fallon Nugget** • 423-3111.

## PIONEER TERRITORY

### AMARGOSA VALLEY

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

### BEATTY

**Stagecoach** • 553-2419 or 800-4-BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada): Nightly entertainment.

### HAWTHORNE

**El Capitan** • 945-3321: Sierra, thru Nov. 3; Soft Touch, Nov. 6-10.
**Joe's Tavern** • 945-2302.

### PAHRUMP

**Mountain View Casino and Bowl** • 727-7777: Bowling alley, entertainment.
**Saddle West Casino** • 727-1111 or 800-GEDDY-UP: Casino-lounge entertainment.

### TONOPAH

**Mizpah Hotel** • 482-6202.
**Station House** • 482-9777: Lounge entertainment includes Lonesome Hearts, thru Nov. 3.

### YERINGTON

**Casino West** • 463-2481 or 800-227-4661 (U.S. and Nevada).
**Dini's Lucky Club** • 463-2868.

## ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

### COWBOY COUNTRY

**Bonneville Salt Flats** • Wendover, 801-977-4300.
**Buckaroo Hall of Fame** • Winnemucca, 623-2225.
**Giant Tufa Park** • West of Lovelock, 273-7213.
**Humboldt Museum** • Winnemucca, 623-2912.
**Jarbidge Wilderness Area** • North of Elko, 208-543-4129.
**Northeastern Nevada Museum** • 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 738-3418.

SHOW PEOPLE

# Juice in Jackpot

When singer Juice Newton appears at Cactus Petes on November 12-17, it will mark her fourth visit to Jackpot. With a population of 1,000, Jackpot may be a small casino town, but it manages to attract big-name entertainers like Newton, Charley Pride, and Lacy J. Dalton to the plateau country on the Nevada-Idaho border.



Juice Newton makes her fourth showroom appearance in Jackpot.

Newton says she likes performing in the hotel's 360-seat Gala Showroom. "The audience wants to have a good time, and this really enhances the performance," says the Grammy Award winner. "The intimate setting allows you to lower your energy and relate one-on-one with the audience. It allows you to really sing." Showgoers will hear Newton's passionate renditions of "Angel of the Morning," "Love's Been a Little Bit Hard on Me," "The Sweetest Thing," and "Queen of Hearts," among other hits.

Away from the stage, her hits mainly come at the Jackpot Golf Club, where Newton enjoys spending free time while in town. She recalls a memorable moment at the local links: While she was playing one day, a large crow swooped down, grabbed her ball, and flew away. That was one birdie she won't forget.

*—Kathleen Boyd*

## Dig Newton

Juice Newton appears November 12-17 at Cactus Petes in Jackpot. The Gala Showroom is open Tuesday through Sunday, with a dinner show at 8 p.m. and a cocktail show at 11 p.m. Dinner-show prices start at $14.95 ($17.95 Saturday). The cocktail show is $10 ($12.50 Saturday). Call 800-821-1103 for reservations.

**Pershing County Marzen House Museum** • Marzen Ln., Lovelock, 273-7213.
**Western Folklife Center** • 501 Railroad St., Elko, 738-7508 or 800-748-4466.
**Wild Horse State Recreation Area** • 65 miles north of Elko, 758-6493.

## PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

**Cave Lake State Recreation Area** • 15 miles south of Ely, 728-4467.
**Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave** • Tours. 1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, 423-3677.
**East Ely Railroad Depot Museum** • 289-1663.
**Eureka Opera House** • Open Mon.-Fri. or by appointment, tours. Eureka, 237-6006.
**Eureka Sentinel Museum** • Eureka, 237-5010.
**Fort Churchill State Historic Park** • Silver Springs, 577-2345.
**Great Basin National Park** • Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 234-7331.
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PREVIEW



Classical guitarist Robert Bluestone performs November 22 at the Eureka Opera House.

# Bluestone in Eureka

The Central Nevada mining town of Eureka will resound with Latin American melodies on November 22 when classical guitarist Robert Bluestone presents a concert at the historic Eureka Opera House.

Bluestone, who has played Carnegie Hall in New York and small schoolhouses in rural Nevada, is known for his mastery of the guitar and a relaxed stage presence. "I talk a lot in my concerts, adding humor and anecdotes that I hope will bring the music to life," he explains. In Eureka, his program will concentrate on the influence of South American folk music on the classics. The audience can expect an homage to Bach by way of the Brazilian jungle, children's songs from Uruguay, and the flamenco-style "Leyenda" by Albéniz.

Bluestone is a frequent visitor to Nevada. He is appearing at the University of Nevada, Reno two days before his Eureka concert. In October he was scheduled to play in Overton, Laughlin, Sandy Valley, and Mesquite. "Rural Nevada reminds me of my home state of New Mexico," says the Santa Fe-based guitarist. "I meet so many great individuals that truly embody the Western spirit."

He recalls a lucky casino encounter. "I was in Virginia City to do a concert and met a man who had just won a video poker tournament," Bluestone says. "He had to explain what that meant. The next night after a concert in Carson City, I decided to play video poker, and on my first try I won $210 and a casino hat—my lucky hat." —*Ann Henderson*

**Nevada Northern Railway Museum** • Seasonal, 1100 Ave. A, East Ely, 289-2085.
**Sand Mountain** • 20 miles east of Fallon, 885-6000.
**Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site** • 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely, 728-4467.
**White Pine Public Museum** • 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710.

## PIONEER TERRITORY

**Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site** • 50 miles north of Tonopah, 867-3001.
**Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park** • 23 miles east of Gabbs, 964-2440.
**Cathedral Gorge State Park** • Panaca, 728-4460.
**Central Nevada Museum** • Tonopah, 482-9676.
**Death Valley National Park** • Via Beatty or Pahrump, 619-786-2331.
**Lincoln County Historical Museum** • Pioche, 962-5207.
**Lyon County Museum** • Yerington, 463-2245.
**Million Dollar Courthouse** • Pioche • 962-5207.
**Mineral County Historical Museum** • 400 10th St., Hawthorne, 945-5142.
**Pahrump Valley Winery** • Tours. 3810 Winery Rd., 727-6900 or 800-368-WINE.
**Rhyolite Bottle House, Historic Site** • Four miles west of Beatty, 553-2424.
**Stone Cabin Living History Museum** • One mile north of Eagle Valley Reservoir, seasonal, Pioche, 728-4460.
**Walker Lake State Recreation Area** • Hawthorne, 945-5896.

## A Reminder:

To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

# Nevada Gift Shop

**Nevada Magazine** makes it easy for you to have a memorable holiday season with true Nevada treasures from The Loneliest Gift Shop of the Real West. The shop is located in the magazine's main office at 1800 Hwy. 50 East in Carson City. You can do your shopping in person (and say "hi" to members of the staff) or order by mail. Either way, you'll want to consider the new Nevada Explorer's Kit. It's perfect for your Nevada outings—and as a gift.

## T-Shirts and Sweatshirts

T-shirts are either 100-percent cotton or 50/50 cotton/poly, as noted below. All sweatshirts are 50/50 cotton/poly.




### Explorer T-Shirt

**The Five P's**—Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance. You'll be ready to explore Nevada with your forest-green T-shirt, emblazoned with the Nevada Explorer logo and complementing your Nevada Explorer's Kit. The shirt is 50/50 cotton/poly in adult sizes M, L, and XL, #EKT, $15.50 (add $2.00 for XXL), and in children's sizes M and L, #CEKT $11.50

## Just for Kids

### Symbolic Junior T-Shirt

Sure to warm the hearts of many, the Symbolic Nevada Junior T-shirt is now available in natural (beige). The shirt is 50/50 cotton/poly in sizes S, M, and L, #SYMK, $11.50

### Nevada Kid T-Shirt

Your children will squeal with delight when they wear this Nevada kids-only shirt. It's 50/50 cotton/poly and available in white in sizes XS, S, M, and L, #NKID, $11.50

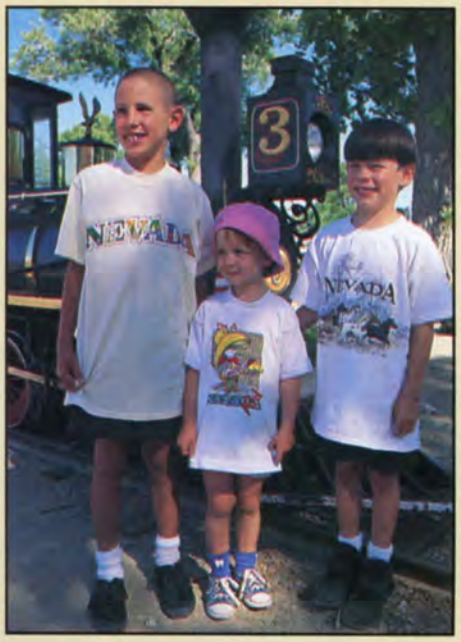
### Children Love Horses

Children's eyes grow as big as saucers when they discover their own T-shirts match their parents' shirts. Nevada wild horses are printed on the front. This shirt is available in sizes S, M, and L, #CHORS, $11.50




### Celebrating Wild Horses

Wild horses have been captured in a wrap-around design on peppercorn-colored, all-cotton T-shirts in sizes M, L, and XL, #HORT $17.95. Add $2.00 for XXL. Image also is printed on ash-colored sweatshirts in sizes M, L, and XL, #HORS, $25.95. Add $2.50 for XXL.




### Wild About Nevada

A patch of Nevada wildflowers has been puff-printed on scooped-neck T-shirts, which are 100-percent cotton. You can pick red or white in sizes S, M, L, and XL, $19.95. Add $2.00 for XXL. Red T-shirt, #FLRTR. White T-shirt, #FLRTW. The design also is available on sweatshirts in sizes M, L, and XL, $25.95. Red sweatshirt, #FLRSR. White sweatshirt, #FLRSW. Add $2.50 for XXL.



## Traditional Favorites

### T-Shirts

Still among our most popular items are the traditional white and blue **Nevada** T-shirts. Close behind are the maroon and teal T-shirts with white lettering. They are 100-percent cotton in sizes S, M, L, and XL, $14.50. White with blue lettering T-shirt, #NVTW. Blue with white lettering T-shirt, #NVTB. Maroon with white lettering T-shirt, #NVTM. Teal with white lettering T-shirt, #NVTT Add $2.00 for XXL.

### Sweatshirts

Offering a warm, classic look, **Nevada's** blue and white sweatshirts are still available in sizes S, M, L, and XL, $23.95. White with blue lettering sweatshirt, #NVSW. Blue with white lettering sweatshirt, #NVSB. Add $2.50 for XXL.



# Nevada Gift Shop




## Symbolic Nevada

For those who have a special fondness for Nevada, the cat's meow is the Symbolic Nevada T-shirt showing the Silver State's diverse attractions. The image is printed on the front of an all-cotton T-shirt, in sizes M, L, and XL, $17.95. Add $2.00 for XXL. Neutral (beige) T-shirt, #SYMN. Black T-shirt, #SYMB. The image also is printed on black sweatshirts in sizes M, L, and XL, #SYMBS, $25.95. Add $2.50 for XXL.

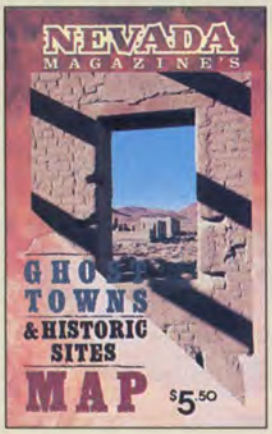



## Nevada Writing Paper

Award-winning artist Brenda Locke-Knight of Carson City illustrated many of Nevada's official emblems, from the bristlecone pine to the tule duck decoy, for the Great Nevada Notepad. The 6-1/2" x 10" tablet has 64 pages, with eight Nevada symbols alternating throughout. One notepad, #1NOTEP $4.50. Two notepads, #2NOTEP $8.00

## Nevada Ghost Town Map

You can explore Nevada from a different point of view with the Nevada Ghost Towns and

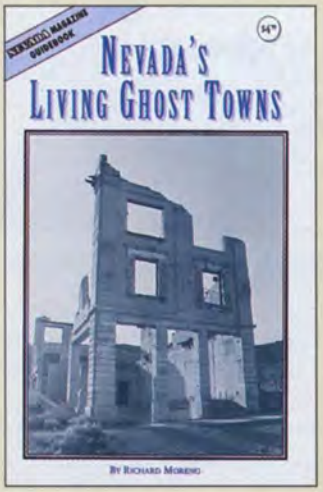



Historic Sites Map. It points out long-forgotten mining camps that were thriving cities in their bonanza days. Included are major parks and their facilities, museums, and hot lines for vacation tips. #GTM, $5.50

## Nevadatude




A treasure, tempting enough to buy more than one! The Nevadatude shirts are for adults and children. The shirt is 50/50 cotton/poly and available in purple in adult sizes M, L, XL, #CHIP $15.50 (add $2.00 for XXL), and in youth sizes M and L, #CCHIP $11.50. Black shirts with white lettering are available in adult sizes M, L, XL, CHIPB, $15.50. Add $2.00 for XXL.




## Nevada's Living Ghost Towns

This well-illustrated guidebook highlights the history and legends surrounding nine of Nevada's living ghost towns—ranging from Goldfield to Virginia City—with brief descriptions of another dozen. 32 pages, 5-1/2" x 8-1/2" format. #LGT $4.95

## Additional Gift Shop Items

"**Nevada Magazine** Index: 1980-1993," #INDX, $14.95

Binder for storing **Nevada Magazine** Collections, #BIND, $5.50

Necklace with Nevada petroglyph patterns, #NECK, $10.00

Nevada logo neckties, navy blue, #BTIE; or maroon, #RTIE, #5.00



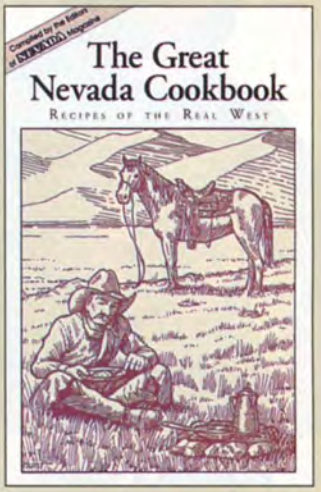

## Suspenders

Here's a jaunty way to show your affection for the Silver State—**Nevada** logo suspenders. The red or blue suspenders are embossed with the white **Nevada** logo and have sturdy leather crosspatches. The sizes are regular and extra-long; both sizes are adjustable. Regular suspenders: Blue, #SUSBR; Red, #SUSRR, $14.00. Extra-long suspenders: Blue, #SUSBX; Red, #SUSRX, $14.00

## The Nevada Cap

For shady protection while fishing, gardening, or watching a ballgame, try this classic cap. The cap is available in blue with a white **Nevada** logo, #BCAP and in white with a blue **Nevada** logo, #WCAP Size is adjustable. $7.50




## The Great Nevada Cookbook

You can enjoy recipes for many of the special dishes of Nevada's varied cultures—from Italian to Basque, from African-American to Greek, and more. Book has 32 pages, 5-1/2" x 8-1/2" format. #CB, $4.95

# 1997 Nevada Historical Calendar

"NEVADA MAGAZINE'S *Historical Calendar is always a knockout!*"

—Freddie Little, Carson City resident and 1969 Junior Middleweight Champion of the World

You too can enjoy the most popular gift in our catalogue, the Nevada Historical Calendar with the large format and more precious photos from Nevada's past, not to mention historical information, holidays, and current events. Order your 1997 Nevada Historical Calendars today and give them as gifts—everyone likes to know how the Real West really was. (Retail price is $8.25.) #C97 $7.75







# The Great Nevada Explorer's Kit

Exploring Nevada's backcountry is popular with folks of all ages. Whether hiking, biking, or running, you'll enjoy our new Nevada Explorer's Kit, which includes a fanny pack, sports bottle, bandanna, compass, the new guidebook, **"NEVADA MAGAZINE'S Great Nevada Day Hikes,"** and a free Nevada state map.

The **fanny pack** has a compartment for your valuables, and the **sports bottle** attaches to the front. The **sports bottle holder** is conveniently designed to carry most one-pint bottled-water containers. The multipurpose **bandanna** can be worn around the neck or on the head. Both the bandanna and fanny pack feature the special Nevada Explorer's logo. The guidebook **"NEVADA MAGAZINE'S Great Nevada Day Hikes"** focuses on eight hiking trails in the state, each with a map and photos, and lists four additional hikes. Completing the kit is a **compass**, to help you find your way around the Silver State. (The Nevada Explorer T-shirt, not included in the kit, is available in the T-Shirt section of this gift-shop catalogue.) #KIT $24.95

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| $35.01 to $60.00 | $6.50 |
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**Foreign orders: Please multiply shipping and handling charges by three.**

# Dining Directory

The following Nevada dining directory includes current magazine advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes, whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner (B, L, D) are served, and accepted credit cards. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to $10 ($), $11 to $20 ($$), $21 to $30 ($$$), and more than $30 ($$$$). To phone from out of state or long distance in-state, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

## Las Vegas Area

### AMERICAN

**Country Star**—740-8400. Western cooking featuring hickory-smoked barbecued ribs and chicken, certified Angus beef, buffalo steaks, and burgers. L, D. $, major.

**Imperial Palace Hotel/Emperor's Buffet**—731-3311. Carving station featuring roast baron of beef. B, L, D. $, major.

**Imperial Palace Hotel/Imperial Buffet/Teahouse**—731-3311. Carving station featuring prime rib of beef. Weekend brunch. B, L, D. $, major.

**Riviera Hotel/Kady's Coffee Shop**—794-9318. Deli-style restaurant open 24 hours with daily specials, deli, and kosher items. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

### INTERNATIONAL

**Riviera Hotel/Mardi Gras Food Court**—734-5110. Nine quick-service restaurants serving food from around the world. B, L, D. $, no CC.

**Riviera Hotel/World's Fare Buffet**—794-9400. Restaurant features a variety of international cuisines plus prime rib served nightly. B, L, D. $, major.

### ITALIAN

**Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace**—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, salads. L, D. $, major.

**Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano**—794-9363. Vermicelli salsa bella vista, lobster Francaise, fresh seafood. D. $-$$$$, major.

### ASIAN

**Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace**—794-3261. Mandarin and Cantonese cuisine, abalone, kung pao shrimp, roast duck. D. $$, major.

**Riviera Hotel/Rik' Shaw**—794-9537. Pineapple duck, orange roughy with black pepper sauce. D. $-$$, major.

### STEAK & SEAFOOD

**Caesars Palace/Caesars Magical Empire**—731-7333. Fine dining with illusions and magic. L, D. $$$, major.

**Carvers Steaks and Chops**—Henderson, 433-5801. Choice steaks, chops, prime rib, seafood, and poultry dishes. D. $, major.

**Imperial Palace/Seahouse**—794-3261. Alaskan King crab legs, hot and cold appetizers, seafood salads. D. $$, major.

**Riviera Hotel/Kristofer's**—794-9233. Steak, seafood, and chicken. D. $$, major.

## Laughlin

**Ramada Express/Dining Car Coffee Shop**—298-4200. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $, major.

**Ramada Express/Passaggio Italian Gardens**—298-4200. Homemade pastas and pizzas. D. $, major.

**Ramada Express/Roundhouse Buffet**—298-4200. B, L, D. $, major.

**Ramada Express/The Steakhouse**—298-4200. Specializing in flame-broiled meats. D. $, major.

## Reno-Carson Area

### AMERICAN

**Carson Nugget/Buffet**—882-1626. Sunday champagne brunch, Saturday breakfast buffet, Friday seafood buffet. B, L, D. $, major.

**Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop**—882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $, major.

**Carson Station Hotel/Station Restaurant**—883-0900. Prime rib, biscuits and gravy, eggs benedict, chicken-fried steak, daily specials. B, L ,D. $, major.

**Carson Station Hotel/Station Grill and Rotisserie**—883-8400. Wood-oven-roasted lamb shanks, baby back ribs, bruscetta pizza. L, D. $, major.

**Carson Station Hotel/Station Snack Bar**—883-0900. Tacos, burgers, thick sandwiches, homemade desserts. B, L, D. $, major.

**Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's**—Minden, 782-4347. Steaks, seafood, veal. L, D, Sunday brunch. $-$$, major.

**Carson Valley Inn/Katie's**—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

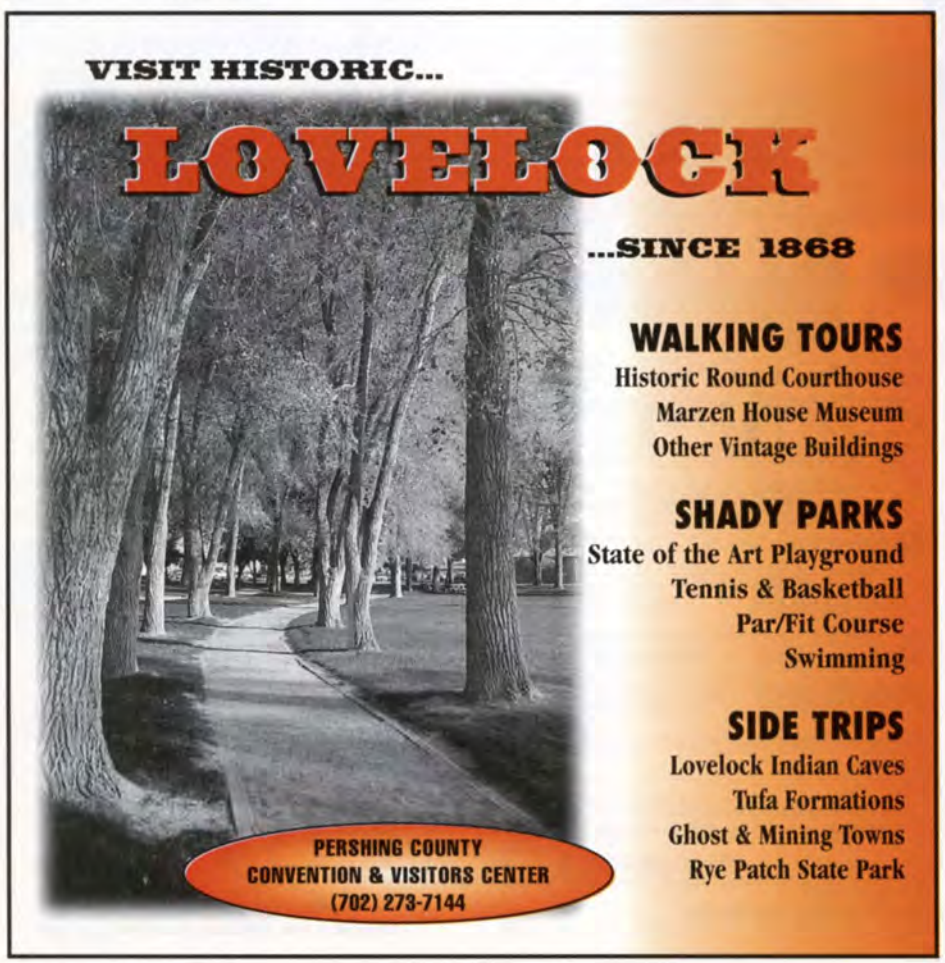
**Carson Valley Inn/Michael's**—Minden, 782-9711. Rack of lamb and fresh seafood creations. D. Closed Tuesdays. $-$$, major.

**Eldorado/The Brew Brothers**—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet pizzas, ribs, barbecued shrimp, sausage sampler. L, D. $, major.

**Fitzgeralds Reno/Molly's Garden**—785-3300.



*Country Star serves steaks and ribs with a Western flair.*




Omelets, prime rib, sandwiches, salads. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $, major.

**Fitzgeralds Reno/O'Lucky's Buffet**—785-3300. Casino buffet restaurant, open daily. B, L, D. $, major.

**Holiday Hotel Casino/Shore Room**—Reno, 329-0411. Salmon in chive sauce, chicken, prime rib, steamed vegetable basket. B, L, D. $, major.

**Ormsby House Hotel/Buffet**—882-1890. Sunday champagne brunch, Friday seafood, daily prime rib. L, D. $, major.

**Ormsby House Hotel/Coffee Shop**—882-1890. Open 24 hours, breakfast special, one-pound T-bone steak. B, L, D. $, major.

**Ormsby House Hotel/Sports Grill**—882-1890. Sandwich and appetizer specials. L, D. $, major.

**Peppermill Hotel/Coffee Shop**—Reno, 826-2121. Filet of chicken croissant, Mediterranean omelet, stuffed shells Florentine. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

**Peppermill Hotel/Island Buffet**—Reno, 826-2121. Seafood buffet Friday. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

**Silver Legacy/Legacy Saloon and Deli Exchange**—Reno, 329-4777 Roast garlic Rosemary chicken with spinach pizza, chicken, warm lamb and feta cheese salad, deli sandwiches. B, L, D. $, major.

**Silver Legacy/Victorian Buffet**—Reno, 329-4777 Prime rib, shrimp and crab cioppino, homemade ravioli, chicken cacciatore. B, L, D. $, major.

**Virginian Hotel/Ranch Restaurant**—Reno, 329-2673. Gambler's Breakfast, prime rib, New York steak. B, L, D. $, AE, MC, V.

### BASQUE

**Louis' Basque Corner**—301 E. Fourth St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. $$, major.

### FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

**Peppermill Hotel/White Orchid**—826-2121. Halibut with black pepper and Japanese bread crumbs, mint vinaigrette, medallions of elk with caramelized apple and pears, currant sauce. D. $$, major.

### INTERNATIONAL

**Eldorado/Choices**—Reno, 786-5700. Express cafe with hofbrau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D. $, major.

**Eldorado/Chefs' Pavilion Buffet**—Reno, 786-5700. Rotisserie chicken, mushroom ravioli, salad bar, prime rib. B, L, D. $, major.

**Eldorado/Tivoli Gardens**—Reno, 786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant. B, L, D. $, major.

**Peppermill Hotel/Food Court**—Reno, 826-2121. Manicotti marinara, prime rib, kung pao shrimp, chicken fajitas. B, L, D. $, major.

### ITALIAN

**Eldorado/La Strada**—Reno, 786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine with veal, chicken, and seafood entrees. Award-winning wine list. D. $$, major.

### ASIAN

**Silver Legacy/Sweetwater Cafe**—Reno, 329-4777 Baked homemade tortellini, fried shrimp, prime rib, Cantonese pepper steak. B, L, D. $, major.

### MEXICAN

**Bertha Miranda's/Reno**—786-9697 Chile rellenos, chicken tamales, pork carnitas, and seafood soup. B, L, D. $, V, MC.

**Bertha Miranda's/Sparks**—356-1310. Chile rellenos, chicken tamales, pork carnitas, and seafood soup. B, L, D. $, V, MC.

### STEAK & SEAFOOD

**Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar**—882-1626. Seafood and pan roasts. L, D. $, major.

**Carson Nugget/Steak House**—882-1626. Veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce, escargot. D. $$, major.

**Eldorado/Grill and Rotisserie**—Reno, 786-5700. Mahogany-fueled rotisserie and grill, fresh fish, fowl, lamb, soup and salad bar. D. $$, major.

**Fitzgeralds/Limerick's Pub and Grille**—Reno, 785-3300. Scampi St. Patrick, Emerald Isle Herb Chicken, Erin Creme Filet. L, D. $$, major.

**Ormsby House Hotel/Baron's**—882-1890. Supper club with tableside preparation and live piano music. Steak, pasta, and seafood. D, $$, major.

**Silver Legacy/Fairchild's Oyster Bar**—Reno, 329-4777. Louisiana crab cakes, oyster pan roast, jambalaya, chef's seafood salad. L, D. $$, major.

**Silver Legacy/Sterling's Seafood and Steakhouse**—Reno, 329-4777. Medallions of filet mignon, spicy roast chicken, seafood fettucine. D. $$, major.

## Lake Tahoe

### AMERICAN

**Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma**—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

### ITALIAN

**Caesars Tahoe/Primavera**—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola. D. $$, major.

### ASIAN

**Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court**—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. $$, major.

### STEAK & SEAFOOD

**Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room**—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. D. $$, major.

**Caesars Tahoe/Pisces**—Stateline, 588-3515. Salmon, lobster, sea bass. Flown in fresh daily. D. $$, major.

## Around the State

**Elko: Stockmen's Motor Hotel**—738-5141. Coffee shop, evening dinner house. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

**Lovelock: Sturgeon's**—273-2971. Coffee shop open 24 hours, family dining room. Fiesta Room supper club Tuesday-Saturday. Steaks, seafood, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. $-$$$, major.

**Mesquite: Carollo's Supper Club**—346-2818. Ribs, scampi, filet mignon, fettucines. B, L, D. $$, major.

**Tonopah: Station House/Mary's Kitchen**—482-9777. Hamburgers, steaks, seafood. B, L, D. $, AE, MC, V.

**Winnemucca: Winners Hotel/Grandma's Dinner House**—623-2511. Prime rib, Maine lobster, T-bone steak, chicken cordon bleu. D. $, major.

**Winnemucca: Winners Hotel/Pete's 24-Hour Coffee Shop**—623-2511. Cafe and buffet. B, L, D. $, major.


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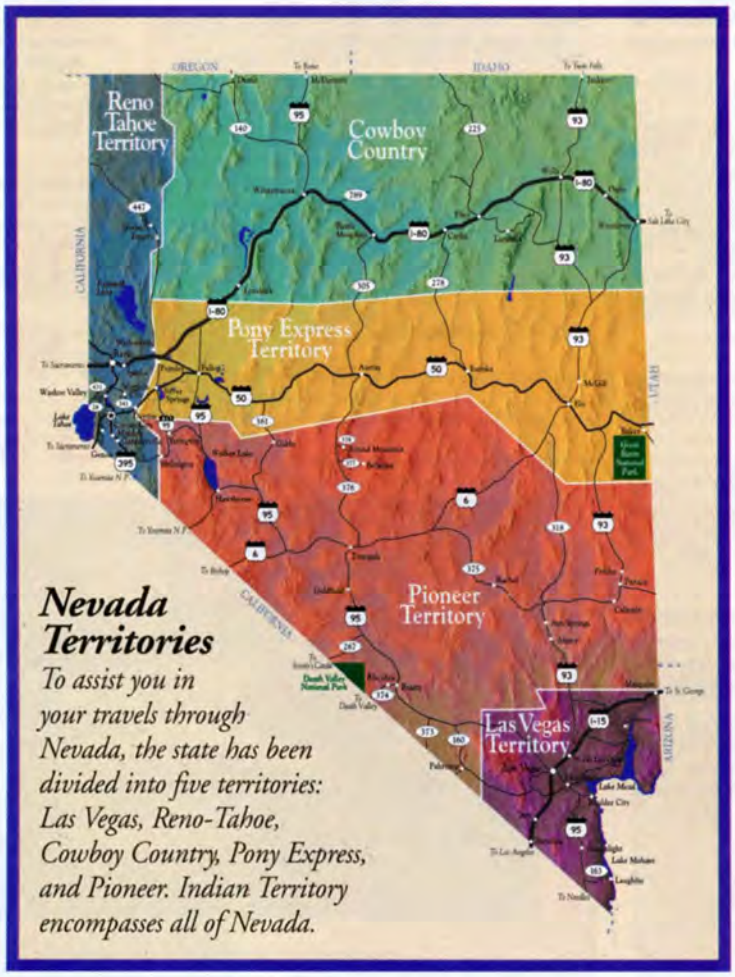
# Vacation Hot Lines

## Where to call or write for travel tips.

When planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information.

If you plan to stop by a chamber (C of C) office, chances are it will be open in the daytime Monday through Friday.

When calling long distance within Nevada, be sure to first dial the state's area code (702).




***Nevada Territories***

*To assist you in your travels through Nevada, the state has been divided into five territories: Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe, Cowboy Country, Pony Express, and Pioneer. Indian Territory encompasses all of Nevada.*

### Statewide Information

**Nevada Commission on Tourism:** Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 687-3636 or 800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada

### Las Vegas Territory

**African American Activities:** 3838 Raymert Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89121; 456-3838

**Boulder City C of C:** 1497 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-2034

**Boulder City Visitor Center:** 100 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 294-1252

**Henderson C of C:** 590 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, NV 89015; 565-8951

**Hoover Dam Visitors Services:** Box 60400, Boulder City, NV 89006; 294-3523

**Jean Visitor Center:** Interstate 15 Rest Area (8 mi. south of Jean), Jean, NV 89019; 874-1360

**Las Vegas C of C:** 711 E. Desert Inn Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 735-1616

**Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority:** 3150 Paradise, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 892-0711

**Latin C of C:** 829 S. Sixth St., Las Vegas, NV 89125; 385-7367

**Laughlin C of C:** Box 77777, Laughlin, NV 89028; 298-2214 or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada

**Laughlin Visitor Center:** 1555 Casino Dr., Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-3321 or 800-452-8445

**Mesquite Area C of C:** 250 W. Mesquite Blvd., Box 785, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2902

**Mesquite Visitor Center:** Interstate 15 Exit 122, Box 1560, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2703

**Moapa Valley C of C:** Hwy. 169, Box 361, Overton, NV 89040; 397-2160

**North Las Vegas C of C:** 1023 E. Lake Mead Blvd., North Las Vegas, NV 89030; 642-9595

### Reno-Tahoe Territory

**Carson City C of C:** 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701; 882-1565

**Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau:** 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701; 687-7410 or 800-NEVADA-1 in U.S.

**Carson Valley C of C and Visitors Authority:** 1524 Hwy. 395, No. 1, Gardnerville, NV 89410-7814; 782-8144 or 800-727-7677 in U.S.

**Greater Reno-Sparks C of C:** 405 Marsh Ave., Reno, NV 89505; 686-3030

**Incline Village/Crystal Bay C of C:** 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; 831-4440

**Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors and Convention Bureau:** 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; 832-1606 or 800-GO-TAHOE anywhere in U.S.

**Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority:** 1156 Ski Run Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; 916-544-5050, 800-AT-TAHOE in U.S.

**North Lake Tahoe C of C:** 245 N. Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, CA 96145; 916-581-6900

**Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority:** 4590 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502; for information call 827-RENO or 800-FOR-RENO in U.S.

**Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council:** 98 Colony Rd., Reno, NV 89502; 329-2936

**South Lake Tahoe C of C:** 3066 Lake Tahoe Blvd., S. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; 916-541-5255

**Sparks C of C:** 831 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431; 358-1976

**Tahoe-Douglas C of C:** Box 7139, Stateline, NV 89449; 588-4591

**Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau:** Box 5578, Tahoe City, CA 96145; 916-583-3494 or 800-TAHOE-4-U

**Virginia City C of C:** V&T Railroad Car, C St., Virginia City, NV 89440; 847-0311

### Cowboy Country

**Battle Mountain C of C:** Box 333, Battle Mountain, NV 89820; 635-8245

**Elko C of C:** 1601 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801; 738-7135

**Elko Convention and Visitors Authority:** 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV 89801; 738-4091 or 800-248-ELKO outside Nevada

**Jackpot Visitor Information:** Box 508, Jackpot, NV 89825; 755-2321 or 800-821-1103 (Cactus Petes)

**Jarbidge Community Assn.:** c/o Trading Post, Box 260072, Jarbidge, NV 89826; 488-2315

**Lovelock C of C:** Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; 273-7213

**McDermitt Information:** Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421; 532-8742

**Wells C of C:** Box 615, Wells, NV 89835; 752-3540

**Wendover USA Visitors/Convention Bureau:** Box 2468, Wendover, NV 89883; 664-3414 or 800-426-6862 outside Nevada

**Winnemucca C of C:** 30 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-2225

**Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau:** 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-5071 or 800-WMCA-NEV

### Pony Express Territory

**Austin C of C:** Box 212, Austin, NV 89310; 964-2200

**Dayton Area C of C:** 15 Main St., Box 408, Dayton, NV 89403; 246-7909 (open Thurs.-Sun.)

**Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center:** 150 Sixth St., Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; 289-3720

**Eureka County C of C:** Box 14, Eureka, NV 89316; 237-5484

**Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority:** 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 423-4556 or 800-874-0903 anywhere in U.S.

**Fernley C of C:** 485 Truck Inn Way, Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; 575-4459

**Great Basin C of C:** Information on Baker and Great

Basin National Park. Box 90, Baker, NV 89311; 234-7302
**Greater Fallon Area C of C:** 379 W. Williams Ave., Fallon, NV 89406; 423-2544
**Silver Springs EDASS (Econ. Dev. Authority of Silver Springs):** Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 577-2069
**White Pine C of C:** 636 Aultman, Ely, NV 89301; 289-8877

## Pioneer Territory

**Amargosa C of C:** HCR 69-2 Box 401W, Amargosa, NV 89020; 372-5459
**Beatty C of C:** Box 956, Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2424
**Caliente C of C:** Depot Building, Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 726-3129
**Gabbs, City of:** Box 176, Gabbs, NV 89409; 285-4019
**Goldfield C of C:** Box 219, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-3453
**Goldfield Historical Society:** Box 178, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-6365
**Greater Smoky Valley C of C:** Box 2020, State Route 376 at Carver's Station, Round Mountain, NV 89045; 377-2490
**Mason Valley C of C:** 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV 89447-2536; 463-2245
**Mineral County C of C:** 601 Fifth St., Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; 945-5896
**Pahrump Valley C of C:** Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; 727-5800 or 800-633-WEST
**Pioche C of C:** Box 127, Pioche, NV 89043; 962-5544
**Tonopah C of C:** 301 Brougher Ave., Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3859
**Tonopah Convention Center:** Box 408, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3558

## Indian Territory

**Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada:** 806 Holman Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 355-0600
**Indian Territory:** Stewart Indian Cultural Center and Museum, 5366 Snyder Ave., Carson City, NV 89701; 882-1808

## State and National Parks

**Death Valley National Park:** Beatty Visitor Center: 307 Main St., Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2200. Park: Death Valley, CA 92328; 619-786-2331
**Great Basin National Park:** Baker, NV 89311; 234-7331
**Lake Mead National Recreation Area:** 601 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-8907
**Nevada Division of State Parks:** Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 687-4370
**Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area:** HCR 33, Box 5500, Las Vegas, NV 89124; 363-1921

## More Outdoor Activities

**Bicycling in Nevada:** Nevada Dept. of Transportation: 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712; 687-4997
**Bureau of Land Management:** Main: Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520; 785-6402; Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126; 647-5000; Box 831, Elko, NV 89801; 738-4071
**Humboldt National Forest:** 2035 Last Chance Rd., Elko, NV 89801; 738-5171
**Nevada Division of Wildlife:** Main: Box 10678, Reno, NV 89520; 688-1500; Southern Nevada: State Mail Complex, Las Vegas, NV 89158; 486-5127
**Pyramid Lake:** Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510; 476-0500
**Toiyabe National Forest:** 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 331-6444; 2881 S. Valley View, Suite 16, Las Vegas, NV 89102; 873-8800


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REVIEW

# When Legends Play

## Impersonators get personal in "Legends in Concert."

By Mike Weatherford

Variety in the old-fashioned, Ed Sullivan-show sense is slowly dying on the Las Vegas Strip. The jugglers and dancers from Las Vegas' early days carry on in a few revues that stubbornly cling to the formula in the face of high-tech, high-concept productions such as "Mystère" and "EFX."

But variety in the jukebox sense keeps "Legends in Concert" alive and pumping. One song in the impersonator revue (Madonna's "Vogue") may have nothing to do with the one before it (Tom Jones' "Delilah") except that both were hits and bring a smile to your face.

What's more, "Legends" is a jukebox with killer moves. After 13 years the modest show at the Imperial Palace no longer impresses with its once cutting-edge video side screens or jolts of green laser. No, it's the human energy that works here—enthusiastic performers copping the greatest theatrics of the greatest showpeople. Where else can you see the karate swipes and facial contortions of Tom Jones and then, later in the same show, see the man Tom pulled them from, one Elvis Presley?

"Legends" uses minor variations on a tested formula to adapt to the times. When producer Jon Stuart introduced the show in 1983, the idea was to let audiences make believe they were getting a chance to see performers no longer with us: Buddy Holly, Marilyn Monroe, Judy Garland. The emphasis was on authenticity—rumors swirled about whether a certain Elvis had undergone plastic surgery to enhance his resemblance to the King.

Now it's more about celebrating good music than trying to fool you. Some impersonators, such as Jay White's Neil Diamond, look authentic enough from the back row to provoke a nervous laugh. But in Trent Carlini's recent turn as Elvis, the nervous laughs were onstage. Rarely has anyone seemed so ill at ease in a white-sequined jumpsuit. But it was OK. Rather than the melodrama of Elvises past, his embarrassment was almost to say, "Hey, we're just having fun here, right?"

The six acts in each show rotate. Except for the Elvis finale, acts drop in and out as they move on to the half-dozen other "Legends" companies in places such as Branson, Missouri, and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Eight dancers add choreography that is sometimes MTV, sometimes hokey Vegas. A seven-piece band, one of the last live bands on the Strip, energetically tries to keep up with the rapidly shifting musical styles. In the best Vegas tradition, if you don't like what you see, wait three songs and someone else will be on. Some nights there's a lot of chest hair and testosterone—Elvis *and* Tom *and* Neil Diamond?—while the pop melodrama intensifies: Do they drop the flag for Neil's "America" or wait for Elvis' "American Trilogy"?

But there's one thing all these icons and characters have in common: showmanship. If their careers ever stumbled or faltered in real life, the stars are always "on" in "Legends."

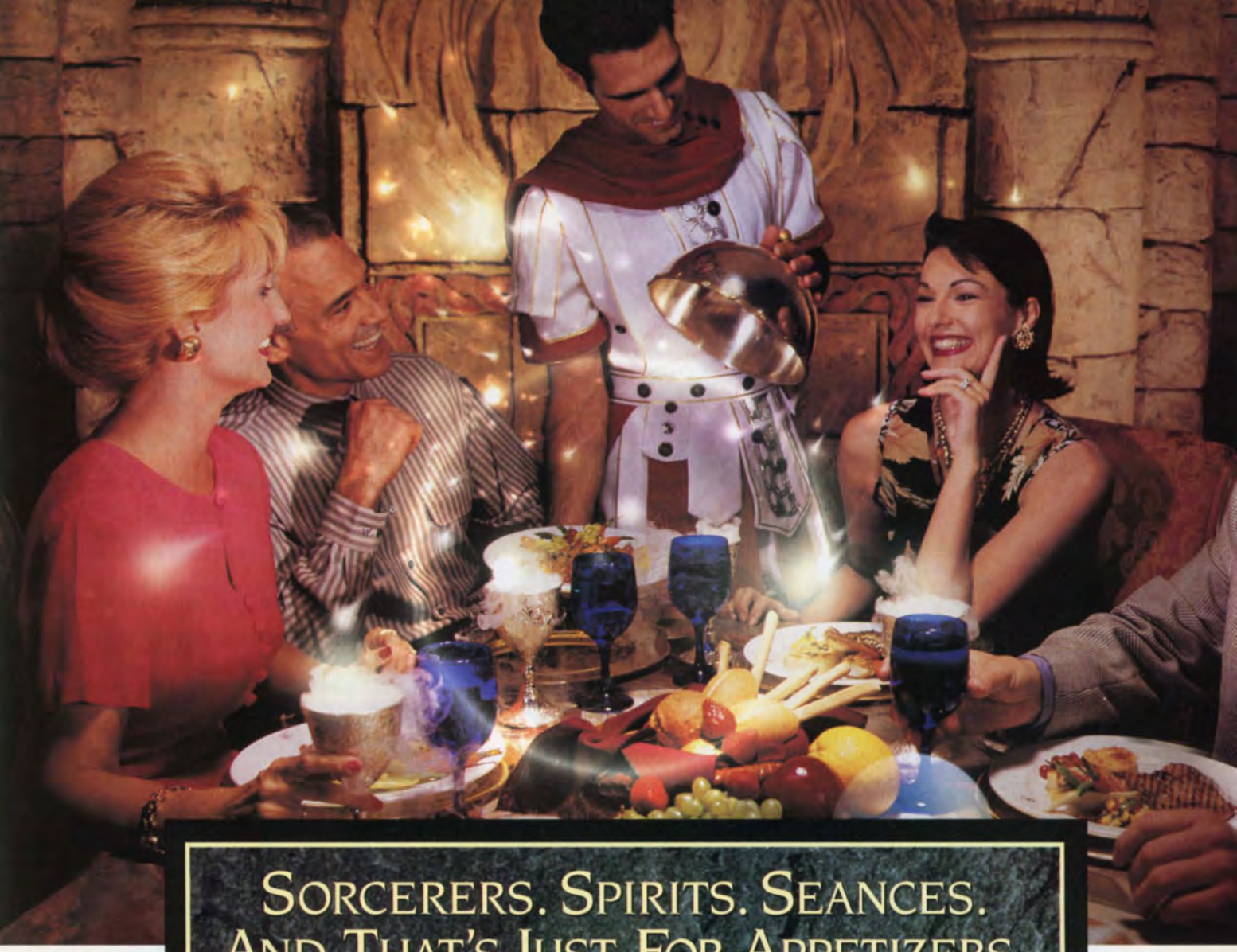
*Mike Weatherford is a writer for the* Las Vegas Review-Journal.



As the Blues Brothers, Carmen Romano (John Belushi) and Eric Martin (Dan Aykroyd) form one of the most popular acts in "Legends." The real duo dates back to a "Saturday Night Live" sketch.

### Show Time

"Legends in Concert" appears indefinitely at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas. Show times are 7:30 and 10:30 nightly except Sunday. Admission is $29.50 (half-price for children under 12) and includes two drinks. Call 702-794-3261.



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