

NEVADA

MAGAZINE

August 2001

INSIDE:
Complete Guide to
Events & Shows in Nevada

Casino Deals

Where to find more than 100 bargains
in Las Vegas, Reno, and around the state

Fat-Tire Festival

Mountain bikers race for history
and glory in Austin

Best of Nevada

Readers choose Lake Tahoe
and other favorites in our
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"Carson City was a polite town. From the time I was a young boy, I said hello to everyone I met on Main Street and they said hello to me."—Robert Laxalt



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Photo by William Carr/Stock Ex

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Travel Hot Line: The Nevada Commission on Tourism also provides travel information: 1-800-NEVADA-8, 775-687-4322, or www.travelnevada.com.



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The Book on Sarah

Five years ago Sally Zanjani began to work on a book about Sarah Winnemucca, the 19th-century Paiute leader and author. "It was a project I'd had on the table for a number of years," the Reno historian recalls. "The more research I did, the more interested I became in Sarah. I came to see how truly remarkable she was. I really admired her willingness to take on anything, no matter what the odds." This issue presents an excerpt from Sally's book, *Sarah Winnemucca*, recently published by the University of Nebraska Press. In the feature Sally describes how Sarah established an innovative school for Indian children, one of many causes the charismatic Paiute woman championed.

As the author of *A Mine of Her Own: Women Prospectors in the American West, 1850-1950* and *Goldfield: The Last Gold Rush on the Western Frontier*, Sally keeps in touch with her own Nevada roots. Her grandparents, Herman and Wilhelmine Springmeyer, settled in Carson Valley in 1868. Her father, George Springmeyer, was an assistant district attorney in Goldfield. Sally grew up in Reno and attended the University of Nevada and then New York University. At NYU she not only earned a Ph.D. in political science but also met her scientist husband, Esmail. The couple eventually moved to Minnesota and finally in 1987 to Reno. Sally muses, "Looking back, I can see we were steadily moving westward."

Today Sally serves on the faculty of the political-science department



Nevada historian Sally Zanjani.

at the University of Nevada in her hometown. Her next work, *The Goldfield Centennial Book: Voices and Pictures From the Last Gold Rush*, is due to be published by the University of Nevada Press in 2002. Meanwhile she has enjoyed the reception for *Sarah Winnemucca*, her seventh book—"my lucky seven," she says.

This issue, readers will visit "A Polite Town" in Robert Laxalt's recollection of the Carson City of his youth. Also, Bob's friend Warren Lerude offers a fond remembrance of the much-honored Nevada author, who died in March after completing his memoir, *Travels With My Royal*. Over the years Bob gave us wise counsel about writing and writers, and *Nevada Magazine* ran excerpts from many of his 17

books. The magazine was proud to publish other articles by Bob, such as "How to Drink Like a Basque," his tongue-in-cheek instructions for drinking wine from a bota bag.

Nevada's loss is Hollywood's gain: Carolyn Graham, associate editor of *Nevada Magazine* since 1992, has moved with her husband, Steve, and daughter, Kate, to Southern California. The associate editor's desk is now occupied by Joyce Hollister, a longtime editor at Gardnerville's *Record-Courier*. We will miss Carolyn's company and her enthusiasm for shopping, Wayne Newton, and the indescribable taste of Krispy Kremes, and we wish her the best as she continues to write travel books while mingling with the movie crowd. —David Moore

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Letters

The Intersection, triple sheeting, and Ely's murals.

In Praise of Triple Sheeting

After reading "Going Under Cover" by Carolyn Fox in the May/June issue, I thought, Why not give it a try? I have to admit, "triple sheeting" sounds rather funny, but it really does make you feel very cozy. In fact, my husband says triple sheeting makes him feel as if he's sleeping at a five-star hotel. I also get a good laugh every time I bring up triple sheeting. Nobody knows what it is, but some of the responses have been hilarious.

Susan Castle
Carson City

More Ely Murals

The Ely Renaissance Society is very grateful for the article, "Painting the Town," by Richard Menzies in the May/June issue. Mr. Menzies did a superb job capturing the essence of how we are celebrating White Pine County's wonderful heritage through art. We are looking



This Ely mural depicts an old-fashioned Fourth.

forward to having more murals in progress this summer in Ely.

Virginia B. Terry

Chairman, Ely Renaissance Society

Heading West

I read with interest "Sumpin' Special," Richard Moreno's May/June article about the Sump west of Tonopah. I'm vacationing in Nevada this summer, and I love vis-

iting places such as this. However, I did note that a high-clearance vehicle is required. I also learned a long time ago that when you Westerners say "steep drops," we Easterners call it "mountains." The terrain is so very different from out here in Pennsylvania. That's why I head West for vacations every year.

We'll be renting a regular car. Is it possible to go so far toward the Sump and then walk the rest?

Cheryl Andre
Pittsburgh, PA

Cheryl, you'd need a high-clearance vehicle because there is a three-foot embankment you must descend into the wash that leads to the Sump. It's probably too far to hike. But there are lots of other attractions around Tonopah, Hawthorne, Manhattan, and Belmont that you can reach in a passenger car during your trip.—Ed.

The Intersection Grows

You'd have to be a good writer to make an article about an intersection interesting to the reader, but Craig Tepper did just this in "The Intersection" in the March/April issue. The history of the junction of Tropicana and Las Vegas Boulevard was well researched and interesting. And the pictures were great.

As a Las Vegas cabdriver and Pythagorean, I noted the intersection may have been shortchanged in one regard. In the story, a slightly different way of counting came up with a total of 27 lanes of traffic. This is two lanes short of what we think must be the world record for lanes at one intersection. Facing east, west, and north, there are seven lanes of traffic entering the intersection. Southbound has eight lanes. This totals 29 lanes. This may seem a minor point to many, but not when we are dealing with world records.

A note to first-timers at this intersection: Do not try to beat the yellow light. You're not going to make it.

Dan Shepard
Las Vegas

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Announces

The Great Nevada Picture Hunt 24th annual photo contest

Show us your view of Nevada...

people, ghost towns, events, adventure, scenic landscapes, hotel-casinos, city life, rural life, water sports, and wildlife. The judges will be looking for the whole range of the Nevada experience.

...and you can win

CASH PRIZES, a role in the Great Nevada Picture Hunt's traveling exhibit, and the chance to be published in *Nevada Magazine* and the *Nevada Visitor's Guide*.

Anyone can enter. The contest is open to all photographers, amateur and professional. You can enter up to 7 photos or slides. Just be sure to send your entries postmarked by August 6, 2001.

Top five winners will receive \$200 for first place, \$100 for second, \$75 for third, \$50 for fourth, and \$25 for fifth. Additional winners will receive the 2001 Nevada Historical Calendar. Winners will be announced in the November/December issue of *Nevada Magazine*.



"Chevy Pickups in Carlin" by Carolyn Fox was last year's first-place winner.

Contest Rules

Photos: All photos must be unpublished and taken in Nevada. (Photos previously printed in local newspapers are eligible.)

Deadline: Postmarked by August 6, 2001.

Entry Form: The entry form in *Nevada Magazine's* July/Aug 2001 issue must be filled out, signed, and included with photos. All entries must be mailed in. Drop-offs will not be accepted at the office.

How Many Photos: You can enter any combination of black-and-white prints, color prints, and color slides, for a maximum total of seven.

Labeling: Your name and address must be on the back of each print or slide, along with title, location, and description.

Presentation: Color or black-and-white prints must be 8"x10" to 11"x14" unmounted. Transparencies must be 35mm slides or larger. Please present slides in plastic sleeve (no metal or glass holders).

Packaging: The simpler, the better. Maximum envelope size should be 12"x16" Only one photographer with up to seven photos per package. Please write "Photo Contest" on the package.

For Return: You must enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your entry to ensure your photos' safe return. (No pickups at the office.)

Judging: Entries will be judged by a panel of experienced photographers and magazine staff.

Permission: Contestants grant *Nevada Magazine* permission to print winning entries in the Nov/Dec 2001 issue, and, if applicable, the Nevada Commission on Tourism permission to print the Tourism Award winner in the next year's state visitor's guide. Contestants also give *Nevada Magazine* permission to make reproductions of winning entries for a traveling art show, Web site display, and Great Nevada Picture Hunt slide-show presentations.

Entry Form: 24th Annual GNPH – Deadline: August 6, 2001

Number of Photos Entered

Color Slides _____

Color Prints _____

Black & White Prints _____

Total Number (Up to 7) _____

Name _____

Address _____ Daytime Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____

Social Security # _____

Signature _____

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Send this form with entries to: Great Nevada Picture Hunt, *Nevada Magazine*, 401 N. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701
Please be advised, although we take great care to return your photos in the condition in which we received them, Nevada Magazine assumes no responsibility for damaged or lost material submitted.



Roadside Attractions

A showman's villa, Heavenly views, and new links.

A Park for Sparks

SPARKS—On the morning of July Fourth a Nevada Army National Guard helicopter will haul an old RF-4C jet fighter to the **Sparks Marina Park** near Interstate 80. As the chopper hovers over the reservoir, an operator will ceremoniously drop the former Nevada Air National Guard jet into the depths, where it will remain as a diving attraction for scuba enthusiasts and a habitat for fish.

The jet's jettison will open the city's Fourth of July Star Spangled Sparks celebration. Events include a race across the reservoir on crafts built from milk cartons and cardboard—"sink or finish" are the only options, says Brian Bessette, city recreation superintendent. That evening, fireworks will fill the sky above Victorian Square.

The Sparks Marina Park is a pleasant summer refuge from metropolitan bustle. The reservoir is open to any boat that can be hand launched. Electric motors are allowed, but not gas. Kayaks and paddleboats can be rented in the summer. The reservoir, a former gravel pit that has filled with water, is stocked with trout. Anglers often gather on the pier, which, like the entire park, is wheelchair-accessible. Daily swimming runs June through Labor Day. Two beaches are manned by lifeguards from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Walkers, skaters, joggers, and bicyclists can circle the reservoir on a two-mile concrete path. Concessions sell smoothies, sodas, and sandwiches. The park also has playgrounds, picnic tables, and grassy areas where you can play Frisbee.

The Sparks Marina Park is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. year-round. Call the City of Sparks Recreation Department, 775-353-2376, for information or group reservations.—*Shannon Montana*

Touring Liberace's Home

LAS VEGAS—A group tour of the **Liberace Villa**, a lesser-known Las Vegas attraction, offers a unique view of Mr. Showmanship's lavish lifestyle. Originally two separate homes, the property was joined and remodeled to create a spacious



Sparks Marina Park, once a gravel pit, provides a sunny place to play, fish, and swim this summer.

residence with several themed rooms and separate quarters for the pianist.

As you explore the home, you'll notice an abundance of mirrors on walls and ceilings. A hall, which Liberace called his Eternal Hallway, is mirrored on both sides so his reflection would bounce on forever. A fountain bubbles at the end of the hall.

During the tour, jaws drop at the sight of Liberace's sunken bathtub with its gilded pillars and chandelier. Then eyes move upward to another reflection of Liberace's extravagant personality: his own image, painted on the ceiling, as if he were hovering in the clouds.

Liberace's bedroom ceiling also has a painting—a reproduction of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, painted by Stefano Angelo Falk, a descendant of Michelangelo. The reproduction cost Liberace \$1.5 million.

Fireplaces and bars are scattered throughout the home, creating several party areas. Liberace, who entertained the likes of Howard Hughes and Frank Sinatra, was able to close ornate double doors and isolate himself from his guests. In the Moroccan Room, a glass ceiling allows guests to enjoy the sunshine in the day and see the stars at night. The room is decorated with deep-blue tile imported

from Morocco and has an ornate, tiled fireplace. The romantic room is rented out for small weddings and vow renewals. The entire home is available for catered events, weddings, and parties.

A tour of the Liberace Villa can be arranged for groups of 15 people or more; call 702-795-8119. The cost is \$15



Liberace's presence can be sensed in each room.

per person with an additional \$200 for a tour guide. The Liberace Villa is located at 4982 Shirley Street, across Tropicana Avenue from UNLV's Thomas and Mack Center.—*Elizabeth Nielsen*

A Lift With a View

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE—The **Gondola at Heavenly**, a system of 138 eight-passenger gondola cars, is whisking visitors from the Stateline casino area to Heavenly Ski Resort and back again. The system, which opened in December, is designed to serve sightseers as well as skiers and boarders.

The Doppelmayr gondola carries passengers smoothly up the mountain at a comfortable but rapid pace, making the 2.4-mile trip in about 12 minutes. Summer and winter, visitors can disembark at the



The gondola links Tahoe casinos to the slopes.

mid-station platform, elevation 7,377 feet, for vistas of the lake and alpine meadows. Then the trip continues to Heavenly's trailheads and ski runs at 9,123 feet.

Riding upward, you cruise high above the treetops and can see all the way to the north shore, 30 miles away. Far below, meadows and forests form a patchwork of green, framing the lake and intensifying the hues of its deep emerald waters. The bird's-eye journey pauses at the middle station, where a small gift shop carries snacks, drinks, souvenirs, and sunscreen. Riders can relax at patio tables and peer through coin-operated telescopes.

The gondola is part of South Lake Tahoe's \$250-million Park Avenue Redevelopment Project, which encompasses 34 acres at the state line and is planned to include two resort hotels, an



Bali Hai, a bit of the South Seas on the Strip, is one of several recently opened courses in Las Vegas.

ice-skating rink, multiplex cinema, and shopping village.

The Gondola at Heavenly operates year-round, weather permitting, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, till 6:30 p.m. Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturday and holidays. The gondola and the mid-station platform are wheelchair accessible.

Round-trip tickets cost \$20 adults, \$18 seniors, \$12 children, and free for ages five and under. For information call 775-586-

7000 or visit www.skiheavenly.com. The gondola entrance is located on U.S. 50 two blocks west of Harrah's and Harveys on the south shore.—*Shannon Montana*

New Public Links

LAS VEGAS & SPARKS—Golfers will find that five new public courses and two ultra-exclusive private clubs have opened for play in Nevada during the past year. Not surprisingly, most of the fresh tracks are

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located in the Las Vegas area, with one new addition in the Reno-Sparks area. Whichever courses you choose to play, be prepared to shell out the bucks. The new links' average green fee is about \$180 during the high season. (Approximate high-season green fees are noted below; call for seasonal rates.)

Golf returns to the Las Vegas Strip with **Bali Hai**, a South Pacific-themed course near Mandalay Bay. Created by Vegas golf developer Bill Walters, the course has a full staff of caddies, nearly 4,000 palm trees, and a clubhouse with a Wolfgang Puck-operated restaurant. Green fees are \$250

to \$300. For information, call 702-450-8000 or visit www.waltersgolf.com.

Designed by the best golf architect you've never heard of (Keith Foster), **D'Andrea** is set in the sage-dotted hills of Sparks. Nearly every tee and green on this course offers a view of the Reno skyline. The layout is varied, fair, and one of the area's best. Compared with the other new Nevada courses, the green fee, \$70 to \$80, is a bargain. Call 775-331-6363 or www.jenamar.com.

Dragon Ridge, a Jay Morrish design routed through rugged desert terrain high in the hills of Henderson, will be-

come private as soon as it meets its membership quota, so play it while you can. Green fees are \$175 to \$195. Call 702-614-4444 or www.dragonridgegolfclub.com.

Sometimes golf-course architects forget that the game is meant to be fun. **Siena** in Las Vegas qualifies as a fun layout. Designed by the same team (Schmidt/Curley) that authored Bali Hai, Siena features convex fairways and five different tee boxes. Nevada residents get a price break here during some periods. Green fees are \$50 to \$90. Call 702-341-9200 or www.sienagolfclub.com.

An exciting new public course is **Wolf Creek at Paradise Canyon**. Set amid dramatic sandstone canyons in Mesquite, 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas, this course has an otherworldly quality. The serpentine par-five 17th features a 100-foot-plus drop to the canyon floor and requires a heroic 240-yard carry over water to reach the green in two. Green fees are \$100 to \$150. Call 866-252-4653 or www.playthewolf.com.

Two new courses are private. **Southern Highlands** in Las Vegas represents a rare design collaboration between Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Jr. The membership ceiling has been set at a mere 360. **Cascata**, a Boulder City course owned by Park Place Entertainment, will be available by invitation only to Park Place casinos' highest rollers.—*Guy E. Torrey IV*

Hoover Dam Advisory

BOULDER CITY—Visitors to **Hoover Dam** this summer may feel as though they've stumbled into an airport. That's because last spring officials at the dam installed X-ray machines and magnetometers similar those used in airport security. Roy Given, deputy director of visitor services at the dam, says the precautions will help protect the dam's 6,000 daily tourists. "We are accommodating visitors while still maintaining security concerns," Given says.

The dam, 35 miles southeast of Las Vegas, is a sensitive site, given its significance as both a major tourist attraction and a controller of the Colorado River. In January 2000, the dam was declared a "presidential infrastructure security zone," so visitors are no longer allowed to bring in purses, backpacks, or camera pouches. Visitors can bring anything that will fit in the seven-by-10-inch X-ray machine except currently prohibited items, such as guns, explosives, food, and drinks. Call 702-294-3517 or visit www.hooverdam.usbr.gov for details.—*Carolyn Graham*

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The Envelope, Please...

Nevada Magazine readers name the "Best of Nevada" in the fourth annual poll. **By Richard Moreno**



Fourth Annual Nevada Magazine Readers' Awards

The readers of *Nevada Magazine* have spoken. The ballots for the fourth annual "Best of Nevada" readers' poll have been counted, and there were a few surprises. Even in categories that traditionally have been locks, voting was extremely tight and produced an unprecedented number of ties. This year's survey included several new categories suggested by readers, such as Best Afternoon Show and Best Magician/Hypnotist. So without further ado—the envelope, please—the following are the winners of *Nevada Magazine's* 2001 "Best of Nevada" readers' poll.

Best Entertainer

The **Wayne Newton** juggernaut continues. For the fourth straight year, Newton, who appears regularly at—naturally—the Wayne Newton Theatre at the



Wayne four-peated as top Southern Nevada star.

Stardust, was voted Southern Nevada's best entertainer. Impressionist-singer Danny Gans, who appears at—naturally—the Danny Gans Theatre at the Mirage, was a close second. In Northern Nevada, the winner in this category was comedian **Danny Marona**, who performs regularly at the Atlantis Hotel in Reno in a theater not named after him.

Best Review or Long-Running Show

The best revue or long-running show in Southern Nevada was the Imperial Palace's "**Legends in Concert**," which features doppelgangers of Madonna, Prince, Elvis, Cher, and other single-name entertainers. "Legends" narrowly outpointed two previous winners, "The Best of the Folies Bergere" at the

Tropicana and illusionists Siegfried and Roy, who appear—big surprise—at the Mirage's Siegfried and Roy Theatre. In Northern Nevada, Reno's Eldorado Hotel continued its dominance in this category (it has won three of four years) with its Celtic-themed "**Spirit of the Dance**" show.

Best Dinner-Show Package

Best dinner-show package was a new category suggested by readers. In Northern Nevada, John Ascuaga's Nugget's "**Stepping Out Package**," which combines dinner, a show, and a room for one low price, was the easy winner. In the Southland, the winner was the Excalibur's "**Tournament of Kings**," a unique dinner show with jousting knights, special visual effects, and a medieval-style feast. Second place was awarded to Caesars Magical Empire.



The Excalibur's "Tournament" was king.

Best New Show/New Entertainer

Readers really, really liked the "**Blue Men RGroup: Live at the Luxor**" in Las Vegas, an edgy, avant-garde music and comedy show with three blue-skinned performers making weird sounds and doing strange things. They also really, really liked "**Bill Acosta: Lasting Impressions**" at the Flamingo in Las Vegas, a traditional Vegas-style show featuring impressionist Bill Acosta, an orchestra, and topless dancers. In fact, the two productions tied for bragging rights as the best new show/new entertainer in the state. Singer Clint Holmes, who appears in the Clint Holmes Theatre at Harrah's Las Vegas, was close behind.



The Eldorado's "Spirit of the Dance" won in the long run.

Best Afternoon Show

The best afternoon show in the state was "The Illusionary Magic of Rick Thomas" at the Tropicana in Las Vegas. Thomas combines magic, illusion, dance, and comedy in his popular show. He edged out the Stratosphere's "Viva Las Vegas" music-and-comedy show and "Bottoms Up," a comedy-dancing-music revue at the Flamingo in Las Vegas.

Best Comedian

Orange-haired comedian **Carrot Top**, who performs regularly at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, was voted top comic in Southern Nevada. In Northern Nevada, two-category winner **Danny Marona**, who



Carrot Top made the comedy competition see red.

has performed his brand of topical humor in the Reno area for many years, was named favorite funnyman.

Best Magician

Magician **Lance Burton**, who performs at the Lance Burton Theatre at the Monte Carlo in Las Vegas, pulled this one out of his hat, gaining more votes than Siegfried and Roy, Rick Thomas, and Melinda, the First Lady of Magic.

Best Hotel/Resort

The big winner in this year's voting for best hotel/resort in the Reno-Sparks area was the **Peppermill Resort**. Close behind were two past winners, the Silver Legacy and John Ascuaga's Nugget, as well as the Atlantis and Harrah's Reno. In Las Vegas, the **Bellagio** narrowly outpolled last

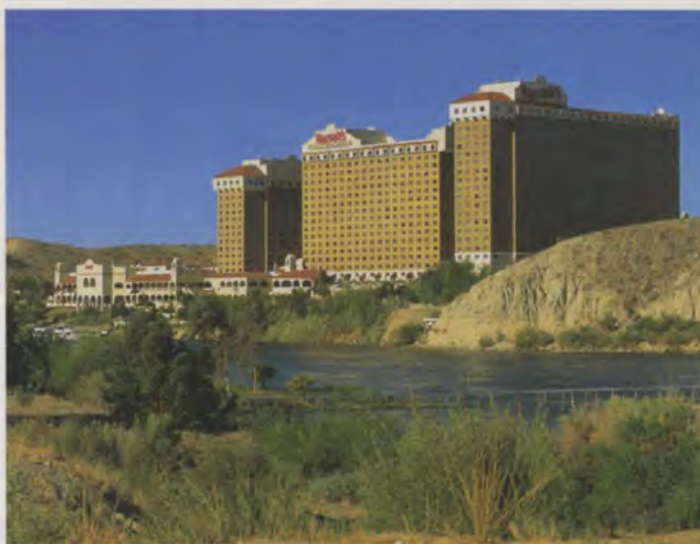
year's winner, the Rio, and Mandalay Bay and the Venetian. At Lake Tahoe, **Harveys** edged Harrah's by one vote and Caesars Tahoe by a handful. The **Piñon Plaza** was voted best hotel/resort in Carson City while **Harrah's Laughlin** was selected best in Laughlin. Readers narrowly picked Minden's **Carson Valley Inn** over two-time winner Cactus Petes of Jackpot as best hotel/resort in rural Nevada. In Mesquite, three-time winner **CasaBlanca** tied with the **Oasis**.

Best Place to Gamble

The **Peppermill** was voted best place to gamble in Reno-Sparks, finishing just ahead of the Atlantis, Harrah's Reno, and John Ascuaga's Nugget. **Sam's Town** was the choice of readers in Las Vegas while **Harrah's Laughlin** was the favorite gambling spot in Laughlin. **Oasis** was voted best place to gamble in Mesquite while the **Carson Valley Inn** was best in rural Nevada. For the third year in a row, the **Carson Nugget** was selected best gambling place in Carson City, and at the lake it was **Harrah's Lake Tahoe**, which knocked off three-time winner Harveys.

Friendliest Casino

Readers were truly conflicted in this category. In Las Vegas, the voting ended in a tie between last year's winner, the Rio, and **Sam's Town**. Ditto for Lake Tahoe, where **Harrah's Lake Tahoe** and **Harveys** tied for friendliest place. In Reno, the **Peppermill** was the clear choice while **Harrah's Laughlin** got



Harrah's Laughlin was a multi-favorite on the Colorado River.

the nod in Laughlin. Readers chose the **Oasis** as friendliest casino in Mesquite and the **Carson Nugget** in Carson City. The **Carson Valley Inn** was the rural winner.

Best Slot Club

When it comes to slot clubs, **Harrah's Total Rewards** program was the favorite. In fact, Harrah's Total Rewards won best slot club for both Northern and Southern Nevada. In rural Nevada, the **Ramada Express** edged the Carson Valley Inn and Elko's Red Lion.

Best Thrill Ride

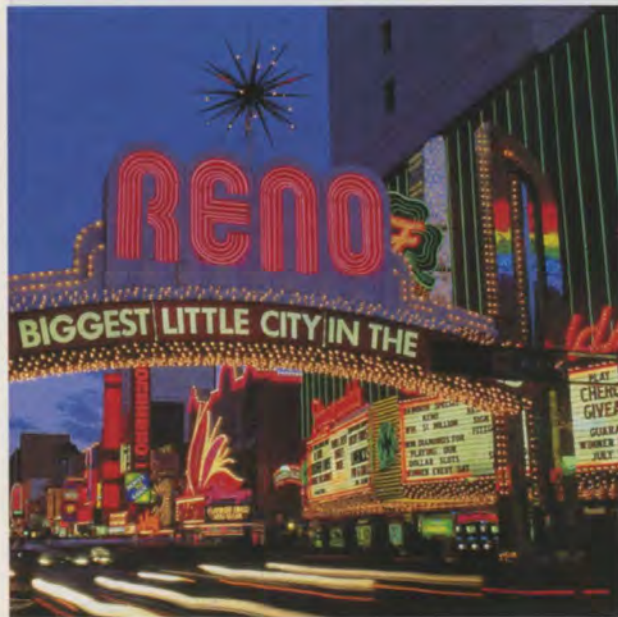
Despite some rather creative answers—including Reno's freeways and cruising the Las Vegas Strip—the winner for best thrill ride for the second straight year was the **Stratosphere** in Las Vegas for its **Big Shot** and **High Roller** rides. The two attractions, perched at the top of the 1,149-foot Stratosphere Tower, narrowly outscored New York-New York's Manhattan Express roller coaster, a two-time winner.



Reno's Peppermill won best northern hotel/resort and six gaming and dining categories in the 2001 poll.

Best Golf Course

The **Legacy Golf Club** in Henderson dethroned a three-time winner, the **Desert Inn Golf Club**, to earn the title of best golf course in Southern Nevada. For the third time in four years, **LakeRidge Golf Course** in Reno was named the top links in Northern Nevada while **The Golf Club at Genoa Lakes** was voted best rural course.



Reno was named the Friendliest Little City in the state.

Best Place to Take A Photo

Readers agreed with Mark Twain, who wrote that **Lake Tahoe** was "the fairest picture the whole earth affords." Tahoe was the overwhelming favorite as best place to take a photo in Northern Nevada. In the south, **Red Rock Canyon** narrowly beat Hoover Dam and Valley of Fire as best place to snap a photo. With its 19th-century charm, **Virginia City** was the best photo spot in rural Nevada.

Best Park

No surprises here as **Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park** four-peated as best park in Northern Nevada. **Valley of Fire State Park**, a previous two-time winner, was picked best Southern Nevada park, and **Great Basin National Park** was top vote-getter in rural Nevada for the fourth year in a row.

Best Place to Ski

There was a new champion in the vote for best place to ski as **Mount Rose Ski Resort** edged three-time winner Heavenly Ski Resort at Lake Tahoe.

Best Hiking Trail

The recently completed **Tahoe Rim Trail** (featured in the May/June '01 *Nevada Magazine*) was voted best hiking trail in the state. The 153-mile route bridges two states and encircles beautiful Lake Tahoe.

Best Place to Camp

Maybe we should retire this category. For the fourth straight year, **Lake Tahoe** was selected best place to camp, blowing by Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Mount Charleston.

Best Spot For Boating

Nevada's largest body of water, **Lake Mead**, also happens to be the readers' preferred spot for boating. And with a surface area of 274 square miles, the lake created by Hoover Dam offers plenty of space for swimming, water-skiing, boating, and fishing.



Boaters hailed Mead as the best place to cruise.

Best Historic Place

It was all **Virginia City** in this category. The Queen of the Comstock's rustic boardwalks and frontier storefronts captured the fancy of readers, who overwhelmingly selected it as the state's best historic place.

Best Place to Take The Kids

Circus Circus' Adventuredome in Las Vegas ran away from the field in the voting for best place to take kids in Southern Nevada.

Friendliest Town

After three years of winners from Southern Nevada—first Laughlin and then Las Vegas two years in a row—this year's choice as Nevada's friendliest town was **Reno**. The "Biggest Little City in the World" can now call itself the "Friendliest Little City in Nevada."



Beach-goers liked Sand Harbor at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, a four-time winner as best park.



The Liberace Museum hit the right keys with voters, capturing "Best of Nevada" for the fourth year.

Nevada. In the north, **Lake Tahoe** was the winner, and **Virginia City** was the kid-friendliest place in rural Nevada.

Best Special Event

There were several close votes in this category with the **National Finals Rodeo** in Las Vegas, which has won three previous times, narrowly beating out Laughlin's River Run as best special event in Southern Nevada. **Hot August Nights** was the readers' choice for Northern Nevada. In the rural category, the **Virginia City Camel Races** edged Elko's National Basque Festival as top special event.

Best Sports Event

Responses in this new category ranged from the defunct XFL football league's Las Vegas Outlaws to NASCAR races at the Las Vegas Speedway. When the dust settled, however, the winner was **boxing**, which occurs in arenas and stadiums throughout the state.

Best Place to Shop

It's hard to beat those talking statues. For the fourth year in a row, the **Forum Shops at Caesars**, which is located next to Caesars Palace on the Strip and boasts animated statues of Roman gods as well as dozens of upscale shops, was voted best place to shop in Southern Nevada. Reno's **Meadowood Mall** was elected best place to shop in Northern Nevada, also for a fourth year. In the rural areas, the **Horizon Outlet Center**, located on Casino Drive in Laughlin, was a repeat winner.

Best Museum

The **National Automobile Museum** in Reno squeaked by the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, a three-time winner, to earn the distinction as the best



The Forum Shops at Caesars took the top spot in the south again.

museum in Northern Nevada. In the south, the candelabra-powered **Liberace Museum**, which celebrates the life and times of the famed pianist, became a four-time winner. This year's winner in rural Nevada was the **Northeastern Nevada Museum** in Elko, a previous honoree.

Best Place for a Romantic Evening

It's got to be the view. For the fourth straight year, the Stratosphere Tower's **Top of the World** restaurant, which looks over the city of Las Vegas from a height of more than 1,100 feet, was voted best place for a romantic evening

in Southern Nevada. In rural Nevada, last year's winner, the **Ramada Express Steakhouse**, repeated. There was a tie for best place for a romantic evening in Northern Nevada between **Lake Tahoe** and the Reno Peppermill's **White Orchid** gourmet restaurant.

Best Buffet

The **Rio's Carnival World Buffet** in Las Vegas fended off challenges from Caesars Palace, Bellagio, and the Mirage to retain its status as Southern Nevada's best buffet. In the north, however, there was a new champion as the **Peppermill's Island Buffet** in Reno outpointed previous winners, Toucan Charlie's at the Atlantis and the Eldorado's Chef Buffet. The repeat winner in rural Nevada was the Canyon Cove Buffet at **Cactus Petes** in Jackpot.

Best Sky's-the-Limit Restaurant

This category generated some of the closest votes—and the most ties. For instance, in Southern Nevada, there was a dead heat in the balloting for best sky's-the-limit restaurant between Bellagio's **Picasso**, which has Pablo Picasso prints and drawings on its walls, and the **Top of the World** at Stratosphere Tower. Likewise, there was a tie in rural Nevada between **Adele's**, a gourmet restaurant in Carson City, and the **Ramada Express Steakhouse** in Laughlin. At the lake, the **Summit at Harrah's Lake**

Tahoe narrowly edged two-time winner Llewellyn's at Harveys. For the second year,



The Rio's Carnival World Buffet offers a global array of dishes.



The Summit at Harrah's Lake Tahoe was best sky's-the-limit.

readers voted the **White Orchid** at the Peppermill as best splurge eatery in the Reno-Sparks area.

Best Themed Restaurant

This category may have generated the largest number of individual entries—68 different places named. The winner for best themed restaurant in the state was the new **Romanza** Italian restaurant at the Reno Peppermill, which triumphed over the Rainforest Café at the MGM Grand and the Hard Rock Café, both in Las Vegas. Readers were impressed by the Romanza's gourmet cuisine and the unique special effects (the elaborately designed ceiling simulates changes in weather and light).

Best Saloon

It was three-peat time for both the **Brew Brothers** at the Eldorado in Reno, named best saloon in Northern Nevada, and Virginia City's **Bucket of Blood**, selected best saloon in rural Nevada. In Southern Nevada, there was a tie between **Gilley's Saloon**, **Dance Hall & Bar-B-Que**, a country-western theme bar tucked into the New Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas,

and **P.T.'s Pub**, a locals' hangout with several locations in Las Vegas.

Best Brewpub

Quality handcrafted lagers and ales earned the **Monte Carlo Brewpub** in Las Vegas the nod as best brewpub in Southern Nevada. In Northern Nevada, **Brew Brothers** at the Eldorado in Reno narrowly beat out the Great Basin Brewery in Sparks as the north's top brewpub.

Best Night Spot

Readers selected the **BuBinga RLounge** at Reno's Eldorado Hotel as best place to dance the light fantastic in Northern Nevada. The **Voodoo Lounge** at the top of the Rio Suite Hotel edged Studio 54 at the MGM Grand and rumjungle at Mandalay Bay as top night spot in Las Vegas.

Best Coffee Shop

For the second year, the **Peppermill Coffee Shop** in Reno coasted to victory as best coffee shop in Northern Nevada. **Sturgeon's Ramada Inn Casino** in Lovelock also repeated as best coffee shop in rural Nevada. The **Caribe Café** at the Mirage in Las Vegas was picked best coffee shop in Southern Nevada.



Brew Brothers won both saloon and brewpub honors.

Best Wedding Chapel

It was a tie for best wedding chapel in Southern Nevada between **Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel**, which specializes in themed nuptials (think Elvis, Star Trek, disco), and **Little Chapel of the Flowers**, which *Bride's Magazine* said has "the prettiest décor of any free-standing wedding chapel in Las Vegas." The Northern Nevada winner was Reno's **Chapel of the Bells**, which has been marrying folks in style since 1962.

Best Helicopter Tour Company

Readers voted **Sundance Helicopters**, which offers aerial rides over the Las Vegas Strip, the Grand Canyon, and other places, as best whirlybird company in the state.

Best Reservation Service

Reservations Plus, which offers discounted hotel accommodations, airline ticketing, sightseeing tours, and other vacation services, edged **Hotel Reservation Network** and **National Reservation Bureau** in the voting for best reservation service.

Best Adventure Tour Company

In the closest competition in the survey, **Black Canyon River Raft Tours** tied with **Guaranteed Tours** and **Valley of Fire Adventures** as best adventure tour company. Black Canyon conducts rafting trips on the Colorado River, below Hoover Dam, while Guaranteed Tours is a Las Vegas-based full-service tour company offering trips to Death Valley, the Grand Canyon, and other places. Valley of Fire Adventures specializes in tours of the Valley of Fire and Lake Mead areas.

Reader Recommendations

Last year readers wanted comedy, so we added the best comedian category. This year, there were a number of write-ins for best comedy club—**Catch A Rising Star Comedy Clubs** at the Excalibur and Silver Legacy and **Comedy Stop** at the Tropicana would have won. Other suggestions: Add best horseback riding and best casino bargain.

Richard Moreno is Nevada Magazine's publisher. He would like to add best statewide magazine about Nevada as a category.

Sarah Winnemucca (1844-1891) has been called the greatest Indian woman of the 19th century. Born at the Humboldt Sink near Lovelock, Sarah grew up during a time when white settlement increasingly threatened the traditional Paiute way of life. Following the example of her father, Chief Winnemucca, and her brother, Natches, Sarah dedicated herself to working for her people. During the Bannock War of 1878, she served the U.S. Army as messenger and interpreter, a most unusual role for a woman. Her epic ride across Southern Oregon to rescue her father's band from the enemy camp is the stuff of Western legend.

In 1880 Sarah Winnemucca traveled to Washington, D.C., to obtain the release of Paiutes exiled to the Yakama reservation in Washington Territory. She met President Rutherford B. Hayes and later testified before Congress. On both the east and west coasts she gave speeches pleading for justice for the Paiutes and criticizing the reservation system. In 1883 she produced her autobiography, *Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims*, the first book written by an Indian woman.

Returning to Nevada, she founded a school in Lovelock with the help of private contributors like Boston reformer Elizabeth Peabody. The school lasted only a few years, but its educational practices were far ahead of their time. Sarah's vision of a school where children would be taught with kindness by teachers who understood their native tongue was one of her most important contributions to her people.

Lovelock lay 75 miles southwest of Winnemucca on the Central Pacific Railroad line in the long valley of the Humboldt Sink. It was bounded on the southeast by the West Humboldt Range and on the northwest by the low barren ranges of the Trinity Mountains—brushed with pastel shades of rose, lavender, and cream—that hugged the valley in what the Paiutes called a “sacred circle.” Unlike Winnemucca, which grew because it served as the transportation point for a large area, Lovelock remained so tiny that “town” was almost a misnomer. But enough ranchers had moved into the Big Meadows to greatly change the land where Sarah was born. As they drained away the waters to grow alfalfa and grain in the deep rich soil, the broad lake where this peculiar inland river had its ending steadily diminished. Sheets of flame lit the night skies as ranchers burned the tules where the Paiutes had once plied their light reed boats.

The Paiute band native to the Big Meadows called themselves the Ground



The vivacious Sarah Winnemucca wore a buckskin dress and red leggings at her lectures (above). As a girl, Sarah learned English while working in the Genoa household of Major William Ormsby. Her 1883 autobiography, *Life Among the Piutes*, was the first book written by an Indian woman. A group of Nevada citizens recently launched a campaign to place a statue of Sarah in the U.S. Capitol.

Squirrel Eaters (Kibidika-a). They stayed on mainly because they had always lived there. Most were descendants of Winnemucca's brother Wahe, the spirit chief, and thus relatives of Sarah and Natches. They had neither reservation nor land, although Natches employed as many as he could on his ranch, and they led an increasingly marginal existence. They found seasonal work on the ranches when they could, gathered pinyon nuts in the

mountains, camped on the outskirts of Lovelock, and begged at the railroad depot. The antelope they once hunted in the Trinities had nearly disappeared, but at least in 1885 they did not go hungry, thanks to an unexplained explosion in the jackrabbit population. It was said that the rabbits reached such large numbers that when they bounded together over the plain, they raised a cloud of dust like a herd of sheep. Indian men rode through town

Paiute Way

Author, lecturer, teacher, and war heroine, Sarah Winnemucca established an innovative school for her people, as historian Sally Zanjani describes in a new biography.

with circlets of freshly killed jackrabbits around their waists.

One hopeful development for Sarah came in early May, when railroad baron Leland Stanford sold Natches the 160-acre ranch on railroad lands about two miles south of Lovelock that Natches had worked for years. However, the \$400 price probably exhausted Natches and Sarah's funds and landed them in debt. With his usual generosity, Natches readily acceded to Sarah's wish to start her school on the ranch.

Sarah's "model school," as Elizabeth Peabody called it, was innovative in more essential ways than its initial location in a brush shelter. U.S. Indian policy in this period aimed to eradicate Indian culture and "civilize" Indians by "education for extinction," in the apt phrase of historian David W. Adams. Conversion to Christianity was the keystone, and the minds and hearts of the young were the battleground. Boarding schools, preferably far removed from tribal culture, would accomplish their assimilation. As a commencement speaker at Carlisle boarding school in Pennsylvania put it: "The Indian is DEAD in you. Let all that is Indian within you die! ... You cannot become truly American citizens, industrious, intelligent, cultured, civilized until the INDIAN within you is DEAD."

Sarah has been called an assimilationist, and to the extent that she did not advocate resistance in the mountains until the last man fell, this was true. It does not, however, convey the nuances of her position. She saw literacy in English as a technology the Paiutes must acquire, much in the same way some Indians saw guns. In her lectures, she spoke of "civilizing" Indians—and she was well aware that no other language could generate *taibo's* [white man's] support—but she meant only selective adoption of some of *taibo's* innovations. Never did she favor the eradication of the Paiute culture she so profoundly valued. Changes

such as the introduction of divorce and the shamans' new practice of charging for treatment as white doctors did saddened her. In her eyes, Indians were morally superior in many ways to whites, with their "cursed whiskey and selfishness and greed," as well as their lying and stealing.

The most innovative feature of Sarah's school, as Peabody penetratingly noted, was that "instead of being, as usual, a passive reception of civilizing influences proffered by white men who look down upon the Indian as a spiritual, moral, and intellectual inferior, it is a spontaneous movement, made by the Indian himself, from himself, in full consciousness of free agency, for the education that is to civilize him." Moreover, at a time when Indian children in government schools often learned a few hymns by rote and failed to master English, it presented a model for education. First, the children learned to understand and speak English by speaking to Sarah in Paiute and learning her English translation. Then they learned to read and write—and became so excited about it that they scrawled the new words all over the fences of Lovelock. Sarah believed that a good interpreter was critical: "The most necessary thing for the success of an Indian school is a good interpreter, a perfect interpreter, a true interpreter, one that can and will do...I attribute the success of my school not to my being a scholar and a good teacher but because... I am my own Interpreter, and my heart is in my work."

To have a school, there must be pupils—far from a foregone conclusion at the government schools. At a time when agents scoured the hills where Indians hid their children, threatened Indian mothers that they must give one child to boarding school or lose the family rations, jailed stub-

born fathers, and shipped orphans without families to conceal them, to Carlisle, Paiute parents willingly sent their children to Sarah's school. Sarah subsequently set forth a strong argument for education in a letter to Paiutes in Inyo County, California, who wanted to start a school like hers:

"You are not asked to give money or horses—only to send your children to school. The teacher will do the rest. He or she will fit your little ones for the battle of life, so that they can attend to their own affairs instead of having to call in a white man. A few years ago you owned this great country; to-day the white man owns it all, and you own nothing. Do you know what did it? Education. You see the miles and miles of railroad, the locomotive, the Mint in Carson where they make money. Education has done it all. Now, what it has done for one man it will do for another... I entreat you to take hold of this school, and give your support by sending your children, old and young, to it, and when they grow up to manhood and womanhood they will bless you."

Mary Dave, who attended Sarah's school as a little girl, told her granddaughter what

a wonderful teacher Sarah had been. She taught them English, naming each thing in Paiute and English. When she said "up," the boys jumped up gleefully to show they understood by lifting the roof of the brush shelter, and Sarah laughed as merrily as they did. At the word "down," they flattened themselves on the ground. When Sarah taught them to write, little Mary Dave puzzled over the letter "Q."

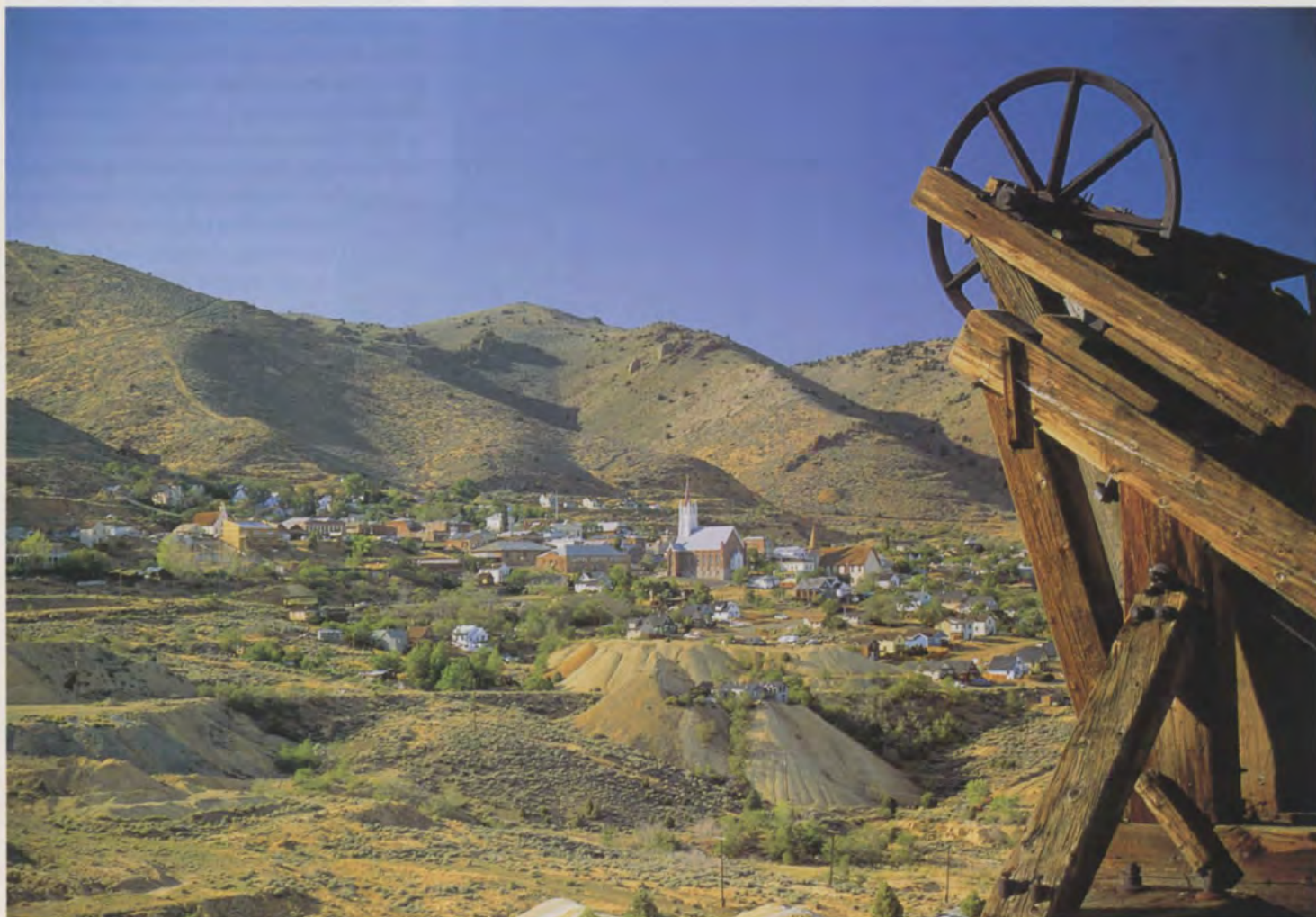
She could understand making the "O" well enough. But how could you get that tail in the "Q"? It seemed a great mystery until Sarah showed her how. ▀



Sally Zanjani, who serves on the faculty of the political science department of the University of Nevada, Reno, is the author of several books, including *A Mine of Her Own: Women Prospectors in the American West, 1850-1950* (University of Nebraska Press, 1997). The preceding article is adapted from her latest book, *Sarah Winnemucca*, published in April by the University of Nebraska Press. Sarah Winnemucca (369 pages, 20 photographs, \$29.95, hardbound, ISBN 0-8032-4917-9) is available from bookstores and the publisher, University of Nebraska Press, 233 North Eighth Street, Lincoln, NE 68588-0255. The publisher's Web site is www.nebraskapress.unl.edu.

Beyond the Boardwalk

Virginia City was the most famous mining town in the world during the Comstock Lode's bonanza days of the 1860s and '70s. Although only about 800 folks inhabit Virginia City today, each summer visitors crowd the old camp, seeking a glimpse of its lively past.



A bullwheel at the Consolidated Virginia Mine is among the remnants of Virginia City's glory years, 1859 to 1878. This view from the southeast hints at the original size of the town, called the greatest silver-producing district of the 19th century. **Photo by Gail Bandini**

Justice isn't blind in Virginia City. The statue that adorns the Storey County Courthouse was originally covered in gold leaf. But the gold leaf weathered, and so did subsequent coats of paint. In 1988, acrylic automotive gold paint restored Justice's luster.

Photo by Sal Maimone



Gunslingers and saloon girls mix with tourists on C Street. The modern tourist bustle recalls the time when 25,000 people lived in Virginia City, the miners worked night and day, and the business district was filled with honky-tonks. (Those interested in the town's current attractions can call 775-847-0311 or visit www.virginia-city-nv.com for information.)

Photo by Larry Angier



A hundred saloons once slaked the thirst of the town's miners. Today, gift shops and museums line the boardwalks, while a dozen remaining thirst parlors echo the past with antique back bars and chandeliers.

Photo by Carolyn Fox

Way Cool

Here are some ways you can beat the heat in Las Vegas this summer.

By Carolyn Graham

There's no argument—Las Vegas gets hot in the summertime. As temperatures routinely creep over the century mark, folks often duck into the shade of casino marquees to dodge the summer sun. But there are better ways to keep your cool in Las Vegas. Here are a few ideas; for phones, see "Attractions, Tours, and Museums" in the "Nevada Events and Shows" section.

Tortoises and other desert critters have the right idea. When it gets hot, they go underground. You can do the same by taking a trip to **Hoover Dam**, 30 miles southeast of Las Vegas. A guided tour of the

Gazing upon the Flamingo's penguins creates a cool state of mind.

dam, which lasts 35 minutes, will take you 550 feet down into tunnels where the temperature is a constant and comfortable 72 degrees. You can delve even deeper by taking a one-hour hard-hat tour. Also, the visitor center's observation deck is well air-conditioned and provides a glass-enclosed view of the surrounding canyons and the Colorado River. Visitors should note the security measures at the dam—all items will be X-rayed.

Aspiring Kristi Yamaguchis and Wayne Gretzkys can cool their heels on the ice



Children drift lazily in the pool at Wet 'n Wild. The Stratosphere Tower (top right) is another cool spot.



The air is perfumed with flowers at the Bellagio Conservatory (above). Inside the Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay (top), chain-mail armor protects divers from the shark (see upper left) lurking above them.

rink at the **Santa Fe Station**, a sprawling, attractive hotel-casino on Las Vegas' north-pole end. The hotel's large rink offers practice space for local hockey teams as well as figure-skating classes and freelance figure-eighters.

If you're in search of ice on a hot summer night, the Red Square night club at **Mandalay Bay** may have the answer. Red Square patrons can keep their vodka cold on the club's ice-covered bar.

While it might be scorching outside, there are cool pockets of nature indoors. You can tiptoe through the tulips at the **Bellagio Conservatory**, a bright atrium where gladiolas, lilies, ivy, and other blooming and nonblooming greenery offer a refreshing garden stroll year-round.

Back outdoors, you can stand downwind of the fountains in front of the Bellagio for a quick cool-down, choreographed to Italian music.

If you don't mind a little humidity, try standing in the misters at the tropical **Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay**, where golden crocodiles and water monitor lizards keep their cool. The coolest spot is deep inside the water tunnel, where the sharks and stingrays glide silently above landlubbers.

Gazing upon the African penguins that reside at the **Flamingo Las Vegas** can put you in a cool state of mind, despite the fact these birds actually prefer the heat. While the penguins take frequent swims, you can see turtles, ducks, koi, and a group of stilt-legged Chilean flamingos. Nearby, the



A guided tour into the tunnels of Hoover Dam (above) is sure to be a cool 35 minutes any time of the year. Some tourists choose to enjoy the view from the visitor center's air-conditioned observation deck. Hotel pools offer relaxation, as at the Tropicana (top), where guests not only can splash in the pool but also may place bets at its famed swim-up blackjack table. Spray from the tow boat cools off a water-skier at Lake Mead (middle).

swimming pool at the Flamingo is a good place for guests to cool off, with its water slides, fountains, and tropical plants.

If you're a guest at the **Tropicana**, bring your waterproof wallet and paddle over to the hotel's famed swim-up blackjack tables. The Tropicana's pool, surrounded by lush tropical foliage, provides a cooling atmosphere, as do other Las Vegas hotel pools. **Caesars Palace** has private cabanas and a series of pools fit for Nero. **Mandalay Bay** has surfing waves, and **Hard Rock Hotel** guests can swim in a sandy-bottom pool.

You can find more water, waves, and

sand at **Lake Mead**, 30 miles east of Las Vegas. There's swimming at spots like Boulder Beach, and water-skiers can rent boats and skis at marinas around the lake (see "Wakes and Wet Suits," page 82).

Sam's Town offers an atrium filled with flowers, animatronic animals, and a huge waterfall where you can catch a cooling mist while you watch the Sunset Stampede laser- and-music show at the hotel's Mystic Falls Park.

The Strip's biggest swimming hole is the **Wet 'n Wild** water park next to the Sahara. Adventurous water lovers can try the

Banzai Banzai, a water roller coaster, or the Black Hole, which sends riders through a twisting black tube on a gushing stream.

There is always a cool breeze to catch atop the 1,149-foot **Stratosphere**, where the observation pod offers 360-degree views of the Las Vegas Valley.

Mount Charleston, 35 miles northwest of Las Vegas, is a quick escape from the summer heat, offering temperatures that often are 10 to 20 degrees cooler than the city. Situated in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, the alpine playground offers hiking, horseback riding, camping, and dining. Expert hikers can shoot for Charleston Peak, elevation 11,918 feet.

Downtown, the canopy of the **Fremont Street Experience** offers a welcome shade from the elements. You can stroll amid such casinos as the Golden Nugget, the

**There is always
a cool breeze
to catch atop
the 1,149-foot
Stratosphere.**

Golden Gate, and the Horseshoe, where you can duck through the blast of cold air at casino entrances that help keep the air-conditioned air from escaping. Here, you also can take advantage of one of downtown's best cooling devices—cheap margaritas. The small but intriguing La Bayou casino offers more than 20 daiquiris. After sundown, the Fremont Street Experience canopy comes to life every hour with light shows.

You also can cool your brow by getting in motion on some of the city's thrill rides. There are several to choose from, including the **Manhattan Express** roller coaster at New York-New York, the **Sky Screamer** atop the Stratosphere, and **Speed: The Ride** at the Sahara. If you want to make a day of it, the five-acre **Adventuredome** at Circus Circus has a variety of rides, including the Canyon Blaster and the Rim Runner, to help you beat the heat. ▀

Carolyn Graham is a Southern California freelance writer who was able to try only two of the 20 daiquiris at La Bayou.



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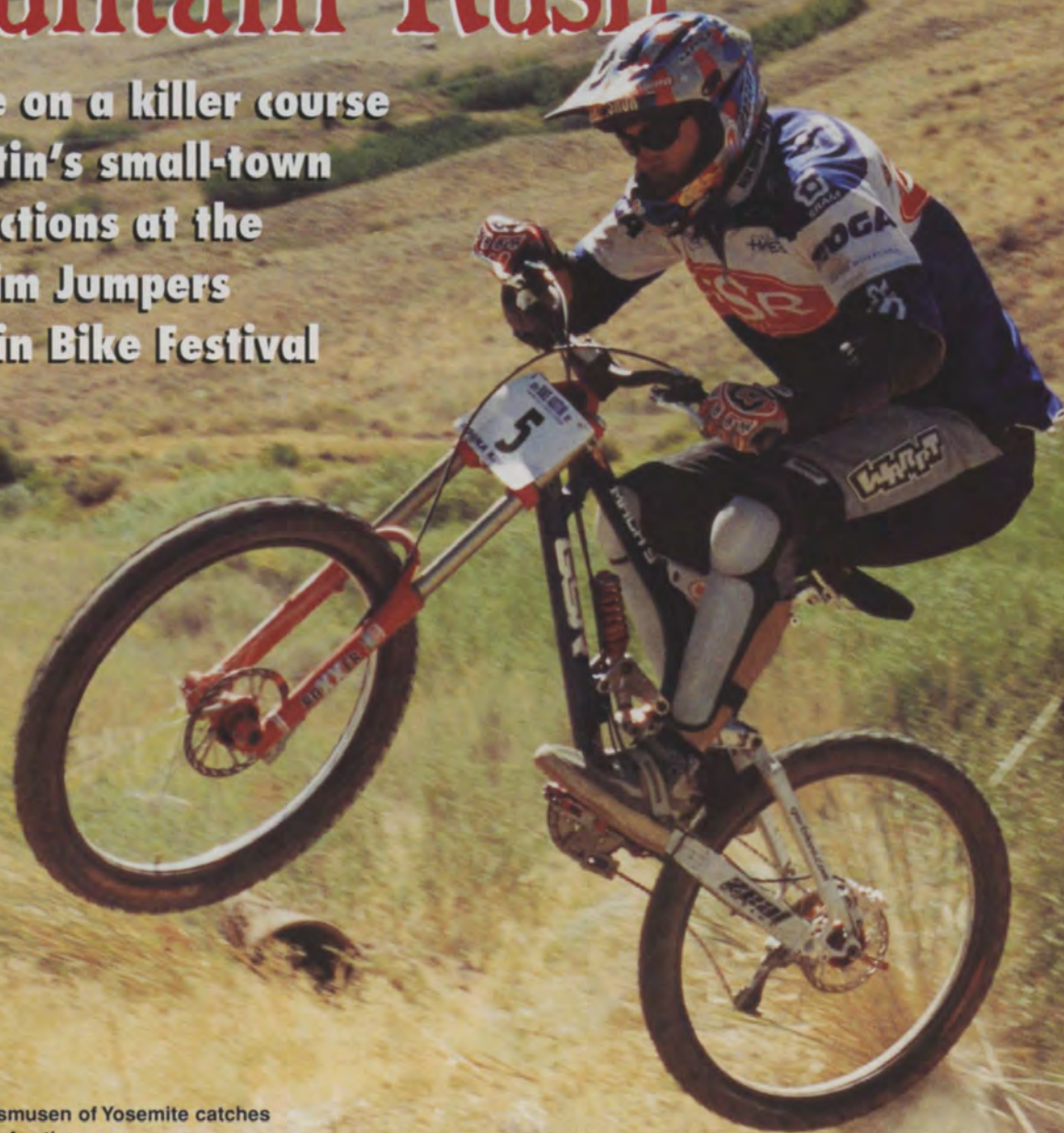
NEVADA *Events & Shows*

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

July/August 2001

Mountain Rush

**Riders take on a killer course
and Austin's small-town
attractions at the
Claim Jumpers
Mountain Bike Festival**



Downhill winner Eric Rasmusen of Yosemite catches air during last summer's Austin races.

Photo: Gary Elam



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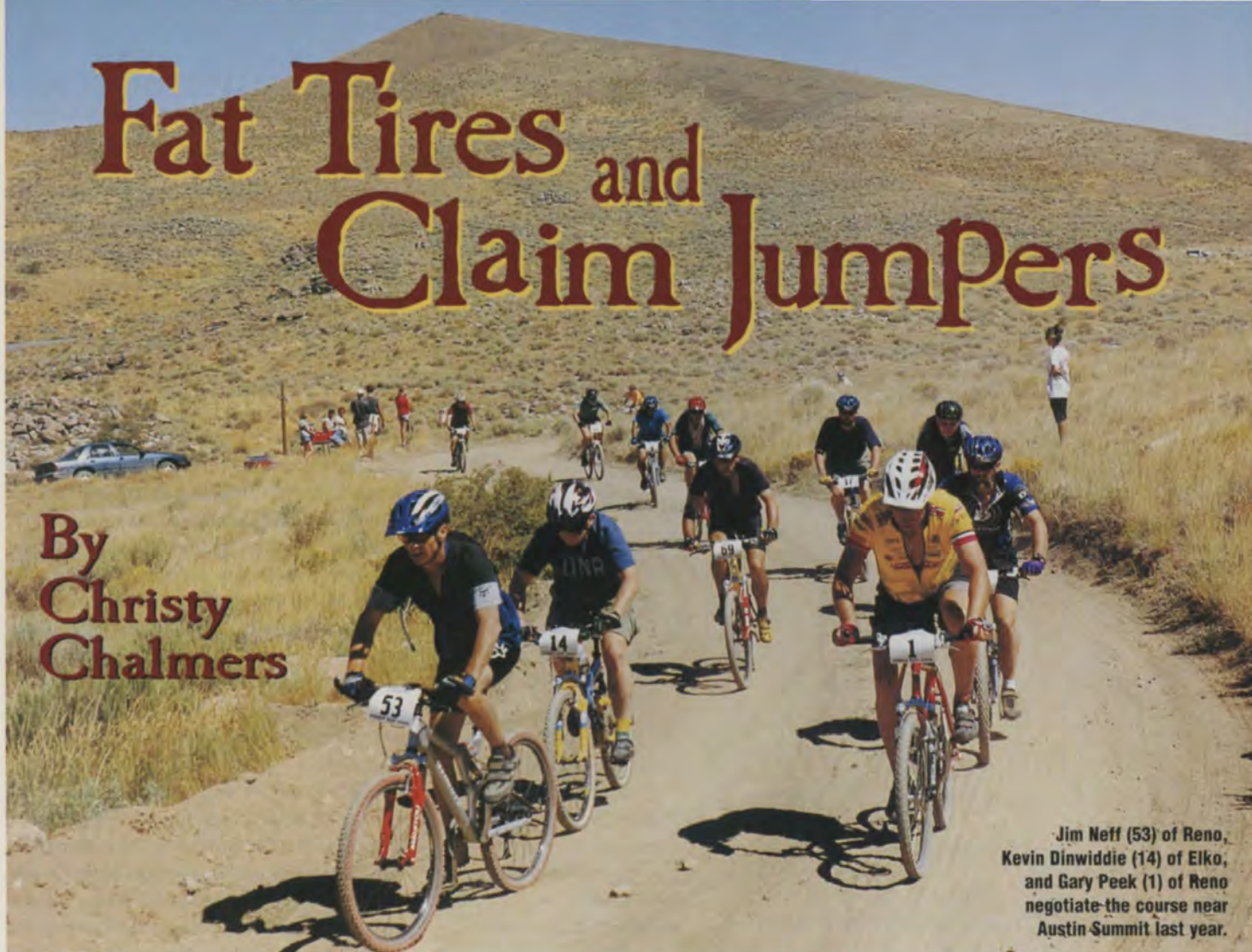


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Fat Tires and Claim Jumpers

By
Christy
Chalmers



Jim Neff (53) of Reno, Kevin Dinwiddie (14) of Elko, and Gary Peek (1) of Reno negotiate the course near Austin Summit last year.

Riders and spectators will gather in Austin this August for the Claim Jumpers Mountain Bike Festival.

At exactly 11 a.m. on a clear August Saturday, an F-18 fighter jet from the Fallon Naval Air Station roared past Austin Summit, tipping a wing as it buzzed a few hundred people awaiting the start of the 2000 Claim Jumpers cross-country mountain bike race.

After the jet's roar faded across the Reese River Valley, the crack of a starter's gun set the racers in motion on a course that would take them around the town of Austin. The journey would climax with a hair-raising slide through a steep, sandy, washed-out ravine that empties at the Austin Rodeo Grounds.

By race's end a few hours later, riders had set new course records in both the men's and women's competitions. Then the real fun started: an afternoon of swimming, relaxing, and socializing at a post-

race barbecue and awards ceremony in the warm summer sun at Austin Park, followed by a street party that lasted into the night. Then riders and spectators arose on Sunday for a challenging downhill race on a brand-new course—and pledges by many of the riders to return in 2001.

"I never expected that from the middle

"The climb was a killer, but the back side was the most fun downhill I've ever done."

of Nevada," said rider Mike Beam, who lives in Gardnerville and visited Austin for the first time to race. "The course was outstanding. The climb was a killer, but the back side was the most fun downhill I've ever done."

The Claim Jumpers Mountain Bike Festival—this summer's edition is scheduled for August 18-19—started in 1996 as the T-Rix Lost World Classic. That first event attracted 25 cross-country riders and a dozen downhill riders. Each year more and more riders and spectators have attended the race, which was renamed the Claim Jumpers to emphasize Austin's mining heritage. The 2000 festival drew 190 riders of all ages and abilities from the Western states and was part of a mountain-bike racing series (see sidebar).

The Claim Jumpers' originator, Rick Crawford, said he started the race to pro-



Downhiller Gary Morrill of Reno heads for the finish line.

mote the area's mountain-biking opportunities. "I didn't have a clue what to expect," admitted Crawford, who is proprietor of Tyrannosaurus-Rix Mountain Bikes in Austin and serves as president of the Central Nevada Mountain Bike Association.

Crawford, once a plumber by trade, owns mountain-bike shops in Fallon and Elko as well as Austin. He got into the fatigue business after deciding he wanted a slower pace. He left Las Vegas, sold everything he owned, and enrolled in a school to learn bicycle mechanics. When his parents, Austin residents Pat and Patsy Waits, sought his help in developing a system of mountain-bike trails, he went to work, marking many of the trails around the old mining camp 170 miles east of Reno.

At 6,577 feet above sea level, Austin offers mountain-bikers plenty of lung-burning climbs on dirt two-tracks and old mining roads. The Claim Jumpers' cross-country trails take riders over a variety of terrain, mixing climbs with descents. Downhill routes pit the rider against gravity and obstacles—the contestants must negotiate a steep course as fast as they dare. All the riders are categorized by age, gender, and ability.

The cross-country Claim Jumper course was designed for all abilities. Advanced cyclists ride about 25 miles, while the begin-

ning and intermediate classes ride shorter distances. The course starts with a grueling climb, followed by a thrilling descent and a sprint through a meadow. After crossing U.S. 50, the riders struggle through another climb to Austin Summit. The trail's steepest section features signs directing those walking their bikes to stay to the right so riders can pass. The riders encourage each other, gasping, "Good job!" and "Almost there!" as they creep up the dusty trails.

At Austin Summit, elevation 7,484 feet, the advanced riders climb the hill again before taking a cutoff that leads to the finish. Beginners barrel down a canyon to Austin and then skirt the town.

Everyone rides the final segment, a harrowing few minutes of teeth-gritting, foot-dragging, white-knuckle slipping and sliding down a chute bounded by a dropoff on one side and a landslide on the other.

The trail catapults riders out of the canyon, between a pair of tires, and over the finish line, where contestants trade congratulations and compare travails.

The camaraderie and small-town atmosphere bring many riders back each year to Austin.

The camaraderie and Austin's small-town atmosphere bring many riders back each year. The 260 residents of Austin all know each other, so they know who's visiting and are happy to answer questions, provide directions, or just chat about whatever is on anyone's mind. Tired riders—or those who want to practice descending the trails—can catch a ride by hailing whoever is driving the pickups that are always tooling around on race weekend.

When they're not checking out bike trails, visiting cyclists can explore Austin, where U.S. 50, known as "the Loneliest Road in America," doubles as Main Street. Austin was founded in 1862, when the discovery of silver caused a rush that drew 10,000 people within two years. A walking tour includes stops at Nevada's oldest bank building, an early home of 19th-century opera star Emma Nevada, several pioneer churches and cemeteries, the Gridley



Speeding out of Marshall Canyon, cross-country riders Jeremy Jarnecke (26) of Battle Mountain, Colin Histed (24) of Spring Creek, and Paul Grossi (224) of Carson City approach the rodeo grounds.

Store, and the old Lander County Courthouse, which has a gallery of photos depicting the town's early days. South of town stands Stokes Castle, a now-crumbling replica of a Roman tower built in 1897 for Anson Phelps Stokes, an Eastern financier with interests in the area.

As the Claim Jumpers grows, Crawford is constantly adjusting and improving the event. He hopes to draw more downhill racers by offering more prize money in 2001. (The three-and-a-half-mile downhill course built last year includes a trailhead and is open throughout the riding season.)

Spectators can see the downhill route from across a canyon, and the grunts and exclamations of the riders are audible, too. The fast ones send up plumes of dust that turn into billowing clouds when they crash. The more timid riders occasionally stop to gather more nerve.

The downhill course got good reviews from last year's contestants. Covered in protective pads from head to toe, they talked of doing "nose stands" on technical drops and "coming off the bars" (losing control).

Asa Salas of Orangevale, California, thought she might have sprained an ankle as she negotiated the course in five minutes, 59 seconds, taking first in the sport women's class. Austin was her second downhill race ever.

"It's definitely not easy, that's for sure," she said. "It's fun, though. Gnarly all the way down."

A few minutes later, a breathless Chris Hooley explained how he passed two people and finished first in the beginner men's 13-and-under class with a time of five minutes and 18 seconds. "I passed one kid by jumping over him, kind of," he said as other boys surrounded him, pounding him on the shoulder and yelling, "Do it again, baby!"

Crawford and other Austinites find that reaction welcome. Mountain-biking promoters have produced a free brochure on several trails around Austin, and Crawford said the word is getting out.

"We have noticed the number of riders keeps increasing," Crawford said. "They used to just drive through on their way to Moab. Now they stop and make Austin a destination." ▀

Christy Chalmers of Carson City is news editor at Gardnerville's Record-Courier. She finished third in the beginner women's age-19-to-34 category at the 2000 cross-country Claim Jumpers and is looking forward to riding in 2001.

Photo: Gary Elam



Austin's Claim Jumpers Festival

The 2001 Claim Jumpers Mountain Bike Festival is scheduled for August 18-19 in Austin. Participants can register in advance (by August 1 to be assured of a T-shirt), and latecomers can sign up the day of the race. The entry fee is expected to be about \$30 each for the cross-country and the downhill events, or \$45 to \$50 for both. Helmets are

required. The event is sanctioned by the National Off-Road Bicycling Association (NORBA). For information on entry fees and registration forms, contact T-Rix Mountain Bikes, Box 504, Austin, NV 89310, 775-964-1212, www.t-rix.com, or the Austin Chamber of Commerce, Box 212, Austin, NV 89310, 775-964-2200.

Also, the chamber can mail its **Austin-Toiyabe Mountain Bike Trail Guide**, which details six trails that visit such sites as Stokes Castle, Austin Summit, Emigrant Pass, and the Toiyabe Ridge. Austin is located 172 miles east of Reno, 326 miles northwest of Las Vegas, and 148 miles west of Ely. The town allows free camping at Austin Park and the rodeo grounds, and the U.S. Forest Service operates campgrounds in the area. Lodging is also available at motels and an RV park.



Other Events and Trails

Besides Austin's Claim Jumpers Mountain Bike Festival, mountain bikers can enter the **BUNR Collegiate Mountain Bike Race**, which has a hill climb and downhill races for NORBA license holders on July 21-22 at Northstar-at-Tahoe. Visit www.nevadacycling.com for information. Another NORBA event, the **Pahrump Fat Tire Festival**, takes place on September 6-8 in Pahrump, 65 miles west of Las Vegas. Call 775-727-5800 for details. For other NORBA events consult www.usacycling.org.

Nevada also has a number of established mountain-bike routes. They include:

Red Rock Canyon Area: Contact the BLM visitor center at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area near Las Vegas, 702-363-1921, or Blue Diamond Bike Outpost, 702-875-4820.

Goldfield Trails: Contact the Goldfield Chamber of Commerce, 775-485-3560; Nevada Department of Transportation, 775-888-7449; or BLM, 775-885-6000.

Reno Trails: Contact the Regional Transportation Commission, 775-348-0480.

Statewide Information: Contact Bicycle Nevada, 775-888-RIDE or www.bicyclenevada.com.

Tahoe Flume Trail: Contact Max Jones' Spooner Lake Outdoor Company, 775-749-5349, or the Nevada Division of State Parks, 775-687-4370.

Tahoe Ski Resorts: Northstar and others offer trails and weekend lift rides in summer. Contact www.skinorthstar.com.

Winnemucca's Bloody Shins Trails: Contact the Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority, 800-962-2638 or www.winnemucca.nv.us; BLM, 775-623-1500 or www.nv.blm.gov/winnemucca; or Bikes and More, 775-625-BIKE.

Yerington Trails: Contact the Mason Valley Chamber of Commerce, 775-463-2245; Nevada Department of Transportation, 775-888-7449; or BLM, 775-885-6000.

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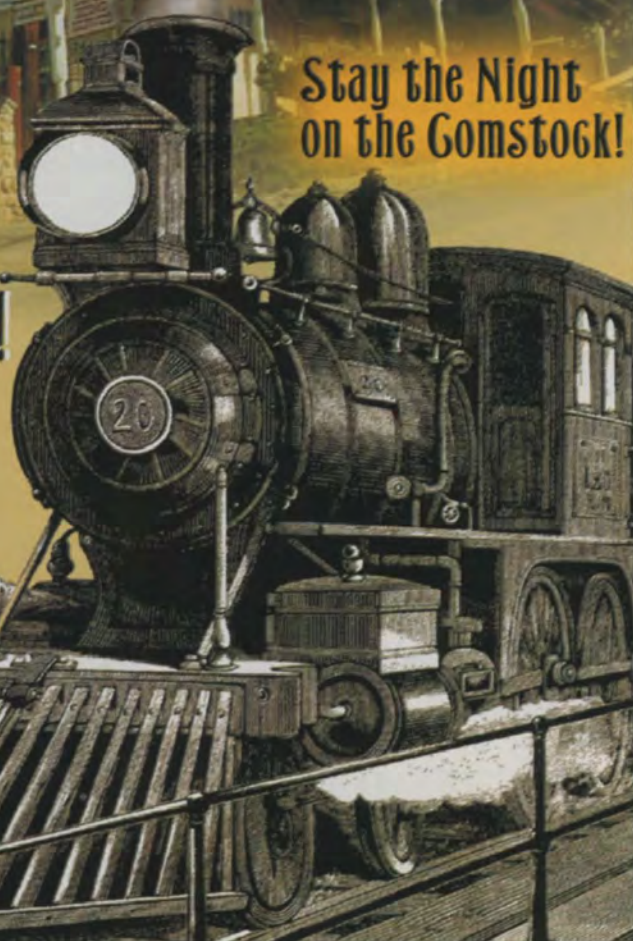
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Nevada Events

July and August events in Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe, and Rural Nevada.

Nevada communities offer a great variety of events this summer. Fourth of July celebrations around the state celebrate America's independence. Summer concerts are popular in Las Vegas, and Reno holds its month-long Artown arts festival in July. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following statewide events schedule for July and August. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times.

Las Vegas Territory

Las Vegas Region SCCA Autocross • July 1 • Texas Station, Las Vegas, 702-897-3774.

NASCAR Weekly Racing and Fireworks Show • July 3 • Drag racing featuring late models, modifieds, legends, thunder roadster, and demo derby. The Bullring, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Red, White, and Boom: A Fourth of July Celebration • July 4 • Music, food for purchase, games, crafts, and fireworks. Desert Breeze Park, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

Mesquite Fourth of July • July 4 • Games and activities at 5pm, fireworks at dusk. Recreation Center, Mesquite, 702-346-5295.

Laughlin's Rockets Over the River • July 4 • 22-minute fireworks display launched above the Colorado River. Laughlin, 702-298-4000.

Damboree • July 4 • Parade, games, patriotic program, food. Evening fireworks at the old airport. Central Park, Boulder City, 702-293-9256.

Henderson Fourth of July • July 4 • Games, entertainment, food concessions, fireworks. Morrell Park, Henderson, 702-565-4260.

Musical Fireworks • July 4 • Concert by Las Vegas Philharmonic; fourth annual event. Hills Park, Summerlin, Las Vegas, 702-258-5438.

Twilight in the Park Series • July 7 • Performance by Latin Breeze. Discovery Park, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Jerry Blake Orchestra • July 7 • Big Band dance. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-228-6383.

Rick Scott Concert • July 12 • Entertainer helps children discover talent through humor and music. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Golf Classic • July 14 • Seventh annual scholarship fundraiser sponsored by the Black Tavern Owners and Retail Beverage Association. Las Vegas National Golf Club, Las Vegas, 702-313-5257.



Star Spangled Sparks

Communities across Nevada celebrate Independence Day with parades, picnics, old-fashioned gatherings, and fireworks. Above, shooting rockets outline John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. During the day, other Star Spangled Sparks events like milk-carton boat races, a volleyball tournament, and a sandcastle-building competition are planned at Sparks Marina Park. Check the "Nevada Events" listing for celebrations around the state.

Las Vegas Region SCCA Autocross • July 15 • Texas Station, Las Vegas, 702-897-3774.

Slot Safari Slot Tournament • July 15-17 • \$350 entry fee. Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 877-480-2747.

Static X • July 18 • Guests include Slayer, Skrape, and Morbid Angel. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

Music Under the Stars • July 20 • Performance by Bill Trujillo Jazz Quintet. Civic Center Plaza, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Las Vegas Cruise Nights • July 20 • Classics, street rods, muscle cars. Location TBA, Las Vegas, 702-260-6960.

Rock 'n Win Slot Tournament • July 24-26 • Ramada Express, Laughlin, 800-343-4533.

Young People's Summer Concert: Dana • July 26 • Children's performer leads hand-clapping, foot-stomping program. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

'N Sync Concert • July 27 • Lance Bass, JC Chasez, Joey

Fatone, Chris Kirkpatrick, and Justin Timberlake perform. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

Las Vegas Region SCCA Autocross • July 29 • Texas Station, Las Vegas, 702-897-3774.

Caesars Palace Slot Tournament • July 29-Aug. 1 • \$1,000 entry fee. Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 888-927-2758.

Gala Event of the Century • Aug. 3 • Tribute to Marilyn Monroe with dinners, tours, and special events, for Marilyn's Children Foundation. MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 702-740-5297.

Music Under the Stars • Aug. 3 • Concert by Ellis Rice and the Blusoul Jazz Band. Civic Center Plaza, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

SNORE: KC Hillites Midnight Special • Aug. 3-4 • 200-mile off-road race. Boulder City, 702-452-4522.

Young People's Summer Concert: Lyle Cogen • Aug. 9 • Kids show earned Cogen the 1998 Parent's Gold Choice Award. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

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Nevada Territory Map

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

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

Moonlight Concert Series: Leo Kottke • Aug. 11 • Concert by guitarist and singer-songwriter. Clark County Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

Las Vegas Region SCCA Autocross • Aug. 12 • Texas Station, Las Vegas, 702-897-3774.

Eric Clapton in Concert • Aug. 13 • Rock singer-guitarist performs; tickets \$77 and \$47. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

Summer Blast Blackjack Tournament • Aug. 13-15 • Ramada Express, Laughlin, 800-343-4533.

Music Under the Stars • Aug. 17 • Nevada Chamber Symphony concert. Downtown Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Las Vegas Cruise Night • Aug. 17 • Classics, street rods, and muscle cars. Location TBA, Las Vegas, 702-260-6960.

Summer's End I Slot Tournament • Aug. 21-23 • Ramada Express, Laughlin, 800-343-4533.

Harvest Festival • Aug. 24-26 • 14th annual early American-themed event with arts, crafts, food, and entertainment. Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 800-321-1213.

Twilight in the Park • Aug. 25 • Performance by Fab, a Beatles-style rock band. Sonata Park, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

USAC Sprints, Silver Crown, and IMCA Mods • Aug. 25 • Dirt-track racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Nite Ride • Aug. 25 • Motorcycle race, no points. Jean, 13 miles south of Las Vegas on I-15. 702-437-6726.

Liberace Scholars Festival of the Arts • Aug. 26 • Third annual event includes performances by scholars from the Las Vegas Music Festival, Nevada Ballet Theater, Liberace String Quartet, and the Nevada School for the Arts. Liberace Museum, Las Vegas, 702-798-5595, ext. 20.

Las Vegas Region SCCA Autocross • Aug. 26 • Texas Station, Las Vegas, 702-897-3774.

Summer's End II Slot Tournament • Aug. 27-29 • Ramada Express, Laughlin, 800-343-4533.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Minden Ranch Rodeo • Thru July 1 • Contestants from local ranches compete in cow milking, saddle-bronc riding, calf branding. Douglas County Fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 775-782-5957.

Fourth of July Cavalcade of Spectaculars • Thru July 4 •

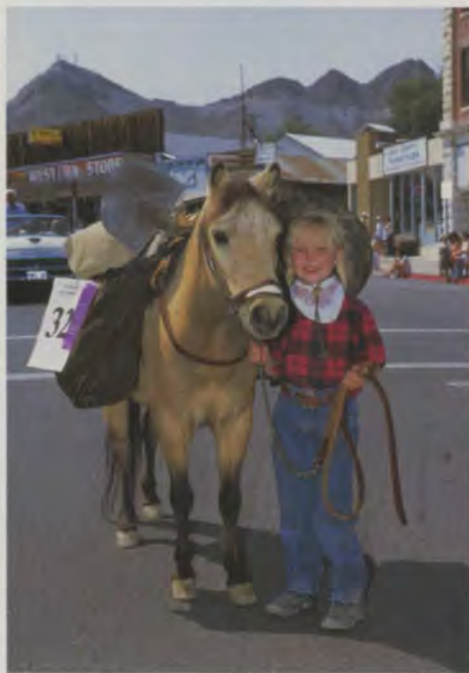


Carnival, food, arts and crafts, fireworks on July 4. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-4680.

HITS Tahoe • Thru July 29 • HITS (Horse Shows in the Sun) hunter-jumper horse show with nationally ranked competitors, Wed.-Sun. Minden, 775-783-8907.

Vans Warped Tour • July 1 • Concert featuring AFI, Less than Jake, Rancid, H2O. Boreal Mountain Resort, Truckee, 530-426-3666.

Artown • July 1-31 • Month-long festival brings together more than 200 events celebrating music, dance, visual arts, opera, film, theater, the humanities, ethnic celebra-



Keep in Step

Tonopah remembers its mining heritage July 27-29 during the annual Jim Butler Days celebration with mining contests, street dances, and a rock and bottle show. Above, Leanna O'Neil shows off her steed during the parade.

tions, and historic tours. Wingfield Park and 49 other locations, Reno, 775-322-1538.

Virginia City Fourth of July • July 4 • Parade, music, fireworks, and barbecue. C Street and Miners Park, Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Pops in the Park • July 4 • Bring a picnic and low-back chair and listen to the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra concert, which begins at 5pm. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

Star Spangled Sparks • July 4 • Volleyball tournament, penny carnival for kids, arts and crafts, food vendors, milk-carton boat races, sandcastle-building competition, fireworks. Sparks Marina Park and Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-353-2291.

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ONGOING EVENTS

Museums and Exhibits

Lida Lowrey: Thru July 7. California artist's oil paintings. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Asian Art Now: 2001: Thru July 8. Artworks from Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Cowboys and Indians: Thru July 17. Art exhibit. East Fork Gallery, Gardnerville, 775-782-7629.

Acquatic Art Exhibit: Truckee River Fish Market: July 14 and Wed. and Fri. evenings thru July. Exhibit of neon fish look as if they are swimming upstream. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-329-ARTS.

Honest Horses: Thru July. Photography exhibit of Nevada's wild horses. Fourth Ward School, Virginia City, 775-847-0975.

Stories From the Sagebrush: July 6-Jan. 15. Original artwork by Ron Oden from the book *Stories From the Sagebrush*, written by Don Cox with photos by Jean Dixon and produced by the Reno Gazette-Journal and the Nevada Humanities Committee. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

The Good Earth: Thru Aug. 18. Chinese folk art and artifacts. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 702-382-3445.

Handmade Books by Sue Cotter: Thru Aug. 27. Exhibit of books made of sticks, rocks, flour sacking, and bark. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Night: Thru Aug. 1. Art show. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

The Only Way to Fly: Bringing Commercial Aviation to Southern

Nevada: Thru Sept. 2. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

The Private Collection of Steve Martin: Thru Sept. 3. Modern and contemporary art assembled by the comedian includes works by Picasso, Edward Hopper, and Roy Lichtenstein. Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art, Bellagio, Las Vegas, 702-693-7722.

Cowboy Up! The History of Rodeo: Thru Sept. 25. Evolution of the working ranch cowboy. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

Porsche Passion: A Private Collection: Thru Sept. 30. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

A Nevada Summer: July 11-24. Exhibit of poets and painters in sync. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 775-324-2323.

Rodin's Obsession: The Gates of Hell: July 12-Sept. 16. Thirty bronze sculptures by French artist Auguste Rodin, from the Iris and B. Gerald Kantor Collection. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Suburban Dreams: July 14-Sept. 11. American culture photographic exhibit by Beth Yarnelle Edwards. Reed Whipple Center, 702-229-6211.

Hot August Fibers VIII: July 27-Aug. 31. Exhibit of fiber art. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 775-324-2323.

Tahoe and the Wooden Boat: Aug. 3-Sept. 3. All-media exhibit depicting the wooden boats of Tahoe. North Tahoe Art Center, Tahoe City, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-2787 for event information.

Seasons and Seasonings: Aug. 3-Sept. 3. One-woman show by printmaker Suzanne Riley. North Tahoe Art Center, Tahoe City, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-

unique to native lands and cultures. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Rollin' on the River: July 6, 13, 20, 27 and Aug. 10, 17, 24. Free summer concerts. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-324-4440.

Ely Summer Tours: Thru Sept. 3. Guided tours of the White Pine Public Museum and the McGill Drugstore. Ely, 775-289-4710.

Sunday Concerts in the Park: July 8-Aug. 12. Free afternoon music. Bring a picnic. Legislative Plaza, Carson City, 775-687-7410.

Broncos and Buckaroos: Cowboy Arts Day

Camp: July 10, 17 and 24. Camp for kids ages eight to 15 to explore the life of the cowboy. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown": July 11-14, 18-21 and 25-28. Evening outdoor performances. Bring a picnic. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-594-PLAY.

Family Film Festival: July 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2. Animated and live-action motion pictures. Bring a picnic. Jaycee Park, Las Vegas, 702-229-6511.

Stargazing at Squaw Valley: July 13-15 and 20-22. View planets, double stars, galaxies, nebula. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Hidden Cave Tours: July 14 and 28, Aug. 11 and 25, and Sept. 8 and 22. Guided tour of Hidden Cave archaeological site includes self-guided tour to nearby Grimes Point petroglyph site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 775-423-3677.

Nevada Shakespeare Festival: "Richard III," July 12-29, and in repertory (alternating) with "Twelfth Night" on Aug. 7-19; "Romeo and Juliet," Sept. 20-Oct. 31. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0600.

Poets' Corner: July 20, and Aug. 16. Established poets and open-mike. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Young Poets' Corner: July 21 and Aug. 17. Young people ages eight to 16 recite poetry. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Sunday Concerts in the Park: July 8-Aug. 12. Free concerts. Bring a picnic. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-7410.

Discovery Day Camp: Summer educational program for children. July 11 Trucks: Big and Tough. July 14, Fantastic Plastic: Model car workshop. July 18, Space Adventure: What's Out There? July 25, Route 66: Get Your Kicks. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Fourth Night: 4th at the 4th: July 25, Aug. 22, and Sept. 26. Presentations by authors, musicians, poets, theater artists. Fourth Ward School, Virginia City, 775-847-0975.

"The Wiz": Aug. 8-11, 15-18, and 22-25. Evening



Second baseman Shawn Gilbert of the Las Vegas 51s prepares for action at Cashman Field. The Los Angeles Dodgers' Triple-A team changed its name from the Stars to take advantage of Area 51's fame.

2787 for more exhibit information.

Serigraphs: Aug. 3-Sept. 30. Prints by artist Russell Brutsche of Santa Cruz, California. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Pottery Show: Aug. 3-Sept. 30. Works by Utah potter Daniel Ortega Micaeas. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Photographs of Africans: Aug. 10-Sept. 21. Exhibit by Vera Viditz-Ward. Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-3381.

Plays, Lectures, Tours

A Journey Into 365 Days of Black History: July 3 and Aug. 7. Discussion on history and customs

outdoor performances. Bring a picnic. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-594-PLAY.

Sporting Events

HITS Tahoe: June 27-July 1 July 4-8, 11-15, 18-22, and 25-29. Hunter-jumper horse show, Wed.-Sun. Minden, 775-783-8907.

Las Vegas 51s: The Los Angeles Dodgers' Triple-A team, formerly the Las Vegas Stars, plays home games on June 30-July 3 v. Memphis, July 12-15 v. Sacramento, July 16-19 v. Oklahoma City, July 20-23 v. New Orleans, Aug. 2-5 v. Colorado Springs, Aug. 10-13 v. Sacramento, Aug. 23-26 v. Fresno. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 702-798-7825.

NASCAR Weekly Racing: Saturday nights thru Sept. 15. Stock-car racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

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

Racing at Reno-Fernley Raceway: Saturdays thru Sept. 29. Racing includes IMCA modifieds, hobby stocks. Reno-Fernley Raceway, Fernley, 775-575-7217.

Top Gun Raceway Drag Racing: July 7 ET race; July 20, test 'n tune; July 21 Funny Car Fever; Aug. 18, ET race; Aug. 28-29, NHRA Junior Dragster Series Race; Sept. 1-2, Turkey Nationals Drag Racing. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.

Rattlesnake Raceway: July 4, points race, fireworks at dusk; July 7 ET race; July 14, points race. Rattlesnake Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-7483.

Champion Speedway: July 6-7 Aug. 10-11 17-18, 31-Sept. 1 Events include all-division, legends, and late-model stock-car races. Champion Speedway, Carson City, 775-888-9777.

NENHA Open Buckle Series: July 15, Aug. 12, and Sept. 16. Open horse show. Competitions include showmanship, English equitation, Western performance, trail, and gymkhana. Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-753-7765.

Farmer's Markets

Seasonal produce, entertainment, and crafts are offered in Nevada farmer's markets.

Carson City Farmer's Market: Wednesdays thru Sept. 12. Pony Express Pavilion, Carson City, 800-NEVADA-1.

Fallon Farmer's Market: Tuesday evenings thru Aug. Valley Plaza Shopping Center, Fallon, 800-874-0903.

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

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

Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market: Thursdays thru Aug. 23, except Aug. 2. Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-353-2291.

Fourth of July Steam Up • July 4 • Take a ride on a steam-powered train. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Star Spangled Fourth • July 4 • Largest fireworks display west of the Mississippi. South Shore, Lake Tahoe, 530-544-5050.

Fourth of July Dinner-Dance Cruise • July 4 • Music, dancing, dinner aboard the Tahoe Queen paddlewheeler, to watch fireworks. Hornblower Cruises, Ski Run Marina, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-3364.

Fireworks Dinner-Dance Cruise • July 4 • The M.S. Dixie II's dinner cruise with music departs at 7:30pm to view the South Shore fireworks. M.S. Dixie Cruises, Zephyr Cove, Lake Tahoe, 775-588-3508.

Celebration of Youth • July 4 • Kids dress up their bikes and march down Virginia Street. Downtown, Reno, 775-334-2262.

Full Moon Hikes • July 5-7 • Guided hikes to the peaks of Squaw Valley USA. Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Winner Take All Slot Tournament • July 6-8 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-468-4388, ext. 3373.

Theater in the Park

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" and "The Wiz" are the summer outdoor performances planned for Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas. Early ticket purchase is recommended for the picnic plays, which usually sell out.

Birds of Prey • July 7 • Nancy Goldwater of the Wild Animal Infirmary of Nevada discusses rehabilitating injured birds and releasing them back into the wild. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.

Junior Trail Steward Workshop • July 7 • Kids ages 11-15 learn the basics of trail building on the Tahoe Rim Trail. Lunch will be provided. Zephyr Cove Library and Tahoe Rim Trail (location TBA), Lake Tahoe, 775-588-0686.

Trans-Tahoe Regatta • July 7 • A mass of colorful sailboats on the move. Tahoe City, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-4700.

American Century Celebrity Golf Championship • July 7-9 • More than 70 of the top names in sports and entertainment participate. Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course, Stateline, 530-544-5050.

Mulligan Stew Golf Tournament • July 8 • Golf and lunch, \$50 fee or a five-pound food donation for the Carson Valley Community Food Closet. Carson Valley Golf Course, Gardnerville, 775-265-3181.

Let's Celebrate America • July 8 • Concerts. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-334-2262.

Reno Chamber Orchestra • July 9 • Selections by Handel and Mozart. Bartley Ranch Park, Reno, 775-348-9413.

Meet the Winemaker • July 9 • Gourmet dinner served with wines from the featured winery. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6611.

Navajo Story Telling and Crafts • July 11 • Indian cultural program. Genoa Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 775-782-4325.

Discovery Day Camp: Trucks, Big and Tough • July 11 • Summer day camp for children. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Artour • July 12-15 • Open-studio tour featuring 48 artists. Maps available at North Tahoe Art Center. Tahoe City, 530-581-2787.

"Richard III" • July 12-29 • Nevada Shakespeare Festival presentation of the evil Richard. Knights of Pythias Hall, Virginia City, 775-847-0600.

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Setting Sail

Fans of elegant sailboats will line the shore of Lake Tahoe to watch the Trans-Tahoe Regatta on July 7 at Tahoe City. On August 10-11, boat lovers gather at the Sierra Boat Company for the Concours d'Elegance, a display of rare wooden boats.

Governor's Dinner • July 13 • Annual fundraiser for University of Nevada, Reno athletics. Governor's Mansion, Carson City, 775-784-4870, ext. 270.

10th Annual Bachelor Auction • July 13 • A fundraiser for cardiac research at the University of Nevada School of

Medicine has 400 women bidding on 50 businessmen. Atlantis, Reno, 775-348-7896.

Summer Family Concert: Pops Orchestra • July 13 • Bring a picnic and listen to Big Band music. Minden Park, Minden, 775-782-9828.

Golden Eagle Rodeo • July 13-14 • Pro rodeo offers gritty action coming out of the chute. Fuji Park, Carson City, 775-882-7741.

Big Easy • July 13-15 • Louisiana food, music, dance, parades, and shopping. Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-353-2291.

Bats • July 14 • Slide show and presentation on bat myths and facts by Dr. George Baumgardner, curator of natural history at the Nevada State Museum. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.

Death Ride: A Cycling Odyssey • July 14 • Bicyclists are challenged by 129-mile course featuring a total climb of 16,000 vertical feet over five mountain passes in Markleeville area. Call for location information. Lake Tahoe, 530-694-2475.

Ice Hot Arts • July 14 • Ice cream, hot-rod car show, art exhibits, entertainment. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Reno Chamber Orchestra • July 14 • Selections by Handel and Mozart. Meadowood Mall, Reno, 775-348-9413.

Sierra Folklife Festival • July 14 • Multi-cultural performances, demonstrations, food, a 3.5-mile walk, and a performance by the Latin jazz sextet, Afro-Rican Ensemble. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-329-ARTS.

Discovery Day Camp: Fantastic Plastic • July 14 • Model-car workshop for children. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Nevada Raptors • July 15 • Nancee Goldwater of the Wildlife Infirmary of Nevada will discuss birds of prey. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

Concert on the Green • July 15 • Program TBA. Town Park, Genoa, 775-782-8696.

Great Basin Chautauqua: The Good War: Experiences of the World War II Generation • July 16-19 • Portrayals of historical figures such as news broadcaster William L. Shirer, Tuskegee airman General Benjamin O. Davis Jr., photo-journalist Margaret Bourke-White, and Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito. Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, 775-784-6587.

Winner Take All Blackjack Tournament • July 20-22 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-468-4388, ext. 3373.

Chautauqua: Eliza Cook • July 21 • Meet the first female doctor in Carson Valley. Stockade, Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

Lunar Lunacy Fun Run • July 21 • Twilight 5K and 10K runs. Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-782-9828.

British-European Vintage Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet • July 21-22 • British-European cars only for show; all makes and years for swap meet. Fuji Park and Silver State Raceway, Carson City, bmtpromo@aol.com.

Great Eldorado BBQ, Brews, and Blues Festival • July 21-22 • Outdoor event featuring food and microbrews. Eldorado Hotel, Reno, 800-648-5966.

Reno Basque Festival • July 21-22 • Traditional food, dancing, Mass, and games for children and adults. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-787-3039.

UNR Collegiate Mountain Bike Race • July 21-22 • Hill climb, fire-road downhill, and World Cup-style downhill are open to NORBA license holders. Entry fees \$5 for women and juniors, \$10 for men. Northstar at Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, www.nevadacycling.com.

Amador Food, Wine, and Wildflower Festival • July 21-22 • Regional wines are paired with dishes from Amador's restaurants. Kirkwood Mountain Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.

Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival at Sand Harbor • July 21-Aug. 26 • "Comedy of Errors" and "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" will be performed in the natural sand am-

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JACKPOT Nevada
Photography by Joseph Royer

phitheater. Bring a snack or gourmet food for a picnic and theater under the stars, Sand Harbor State Park, Incline Village, 775-832-1616.

In the Good Old Summertime • July 22 • Ice cream social. Roberts House, Carson City, 775-882-1805.

Henry Ford's Birthday • July 22 • Bring a picnic and view a display of vintage automobiles from the Sagebrush Model A Club. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

Birthday Party • July 22-23 • Slot tournament. • Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-215-7721.

Summer Family Concert Series: Riff Raff • July 27 • Pack a picnic and listen to a rock and blues concert. Minden Park, Minden, 775-782-9828.

Silver Dollar Car Classic • July 27-29 • Custom car event with rock and roll music, drive-in theater, poker run,

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Earning His Spurs

Buckaroos under 18 compete in calf riding and stick-horse races at the Sierra Nevada Junior Rodeo, July 28-29 in Sparks. Above, Wyatt, a peewee competitor, sizes up the livestock.

show-n-shine. Mills Park, Carson City, 800-NEVADA-1.

Winners' Weekend Slot Tournament • July 27-29 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-468-4388, ext. 3373.

Jeep Posse BBQ • July 28 • Steak and all the trimmings. Old Ice House, Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Bingo Blowout • July 28 • Tournament. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-468-4388, ext. 3373.

4-H Youth Fair • July 28 • Home arts, static exhibits, dog agility trials, animal shows. Fuji Park, Carson City, 775-887-2252.

Life of the Early Washoe • July 28 • Learn how the local Washoe tribe lived before the white man settled in the area. Stockade, Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

Photo: Photos by Martin

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Goldfield Land Rush

Historic auction to be revisited.
Story and Photos by J.J. Balk

I am pleased to see that the citizens of Esmeralda County are holding their second annual Goldfield Millennium Land Rush Festival on August 24-26. I attended the first festival last summer, and I'll never look at Goldfield quite the same way again.

It was a sunny day last June when a friend and I joined the crowd gathered before the historic Goldfield Hotel. Standing on a balcony, Lieutenant Governor Lorraine Hunt addressed the fevered throng of folks who were there in hopes of purchasing a bit of the Old West. She spoke about the glory of the state, the county, and the town. And she planted a seed of hope that the Goldfield Millennium Land Rush would be the start of something big. "After all," she reminded us, "it was a mere 50 years ago that Las Vegas was selling tracts of land for a pittance, and look what happened there!"

So with added fervor my friend and I proceeded to the Esmeralda County Courthouse, where the auction was to take place. We had been mandated by a nine-member consortium of Goldfield aficionados from the Las Vegas area to stake out a piece of this wonderfully eccentric town. As of 9 a.m. that morning nearly 400 people had registered to bid on real estate put on the block because of nonpayment of taxes. Some accounts had been delinquent for more than 75 years. The auction's architect, then-District Attorney Harry Kuehn, and his colleagues



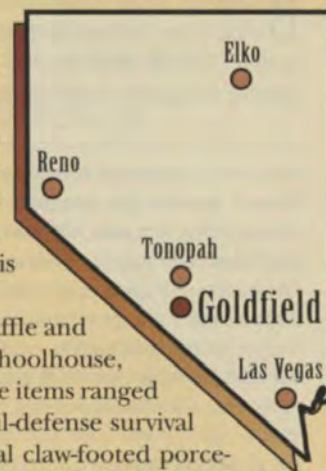
A crowd gathers at last year's Goldfield Millennium Land Rush Festival to bid on lots and antiques. The old schoolhouse stands in the background.

hoped to raise two things—funds for the county and interest in Goldfield. The properties included two important sites, the schoolhouse, a grand building sadly neglected over the years, and the Goldfield Hotel, an elegant symbol of Goldfield's boom-town days.

We positioned ourselves at the edge of the crowd, which ran the gamut. There were denizens of Goldfield and Tonopah. There were ranchers from distant valleys and city slickers who had made the 180-mile drive from Las Vegas. We met a woman from England on her third trip to the West and a German couple who had adopted Central Nevada as their favorite retreat. There were the curious who happened to be passing through town. There were the serious who needed a lot or a piece of highway frontage to plant a business sign.

Auctioneer Ernest Wayne Whipple began the first Goldfield Millennium Land Rush with Item No. 1, Lot No. 378, which opened at \$945 (the taxes owed). The lot sold quickly for \$2,000. Whipple, lead singer of the Awesome Pawsum Band, employed an Elmer Gantry style that caused hesitant bidders to hoist their bidding paddles skyward. By the end of the day, 129 of 137 lots had been auctioned, grossing more than \$200,000 in this "only in Nevada" event.

The land rush was followed by a raffle and an auction of objects from the schoolhouse, hotel, and courthouse basements. The items ranged from an antique roll-top desk to civil-defense survival kits from the Cold War era to several claw-footed porcelain bathtubs. The active bidding generated an additional \$12,000, "all of it found money," as Kuehn noted, to revitalize the county coffers.



Bidding takes place this August 25 during Goldfield's second annual, three-day festival. The historic Goldfield Hotel will be on the bid list once again.

The weekend's festivities included a barbecue the night before at the Goldfield Park, which attracted many townspeople and visitors, as did an unscheduled but vital gathering at the Santa Fe Bar. The rumor mill had churned all weekend regarding potential bidders for the Goldfield Hotel. What would be its fate? As Harry Kuehn put it, "The sale and restoration of the hotel would be a great anchor to the economic development of the entire area."

The hotel was the final auction lot. When the bidding began, the tension was palpable. Whipple shifted gears, and his fading voice magically returned to life. Nevertheless, an eerie silence came over the heretofore boisterous bidders. One could only imagine the thousands of past Goldfield Hotel patrons rustling in their graves, curious still as to its fate. Sadly, no bids were offered, so the partially restored Goldfield Hotel, in all its glory, remains available and in the custody of Esmeralda County.

A final note: The Las Vegas consortium's mandate was to make a serious bid on the aged schoolhouse. Well, the bidding was between one other bidder and us, and as the final call neared, we came dangerously close to exceeding our committed funds. Then a timely Nevada dust devil tore through the crowd, sending hundreds of bid-related documents aloft. As the dust swirled, clarity struck. To quote: "It is an ill wind that blows no good."

We came to our senses and graciously deferred to our opponent, who won the bid. We did acquire a wonderful 100-by-70-foot piece of property next to the Goldfield Park in view of the school and the hotel and all that is wonderful about the town. We intend to gather annually to celebrate our little piece of Goldfield—perhaps to coincide with the second annual Land Rush Festival. 🍷

J.J. Balk is a Las Vegas writer and photographer. The second annual Goldfield Millennium Land Rush Festival is scheduled for August 24-26. The county will auction about 50 land parcels, including the Goldfield Hotel, and various antiques and memorabilia at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 25. Weekend events include a parade, vendors, food, and tours of the town and hotel, which again will be the center of attention. Call 775-485-6352 for more Goldfield festival information.

Sierra Nevada Junior Rodeo • July 28-29 • Rodeo for children under age 18 includes dummy roping, stick horse race, mutton busting, goat decorating and tying. Gondolfo Arena, Sparks, 775-677-2503.

Renaissance Fair • July 28-29 • Jousting, magicians, musicians, jugglers, belly dancers, stage performers. Antiques Plus, Genoa, 775-782-4951.

Hike With a Ranger • July 28-29 • Learn about the flora, fauna, and natural surroundings of the Sierra. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Hot August Nights • July 28-Aug. 5 • Cars and music of the '50s and '60s are celebrated with nightly cruises, show-n-shines, nostalgia faire, prom, sock hop, drag racing, parade, and headliner entertainment of the era. Various locations, Reno and Sparks, 775-356-1956.

\$1,500 Blackjack Tournament • July 31 • \$25 entry fee. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 877-783-7711.

Big Mack Feed • Aug. 3 • Barbecue featuring Mackinaw trout. Event includes silent auction, face-painting, T-shirt printing. Tahoe City Golf Course, Tahoe City, 530-546-5602.

Backcountry Camp • Aug. 3-5 • Work on the final four miles of the 150-mile Tahoe Rim Trail. Food and tools will be provided for the campout. Mud Lake area, North Shore, Lake Tahoe, 775-588-0686.

Stewart School Day • Aug. 4 • Reunion of former students and faculty at school that operated from 1890 to 1980. Stewart Indian School Museum, Carson City, 775-882-6929.

Mountain Run • Aug. 4 • 21st annual 3.6-mile run from Squaw Valley's base village to High Camp. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Return to Sutro • Aug. 4 • Guided tours, music, workshops, lectures, luncheon. Fourth Ward School, Virginia City, 775-847-0975.

Rock'n and Roll'n Slot Tournament • Aug. 5-6 • Slot Tournament. Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-215-7721.

Meet the Winemaker • Aug. 6 • Gourmet dinner served with featured wines. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6611.

Washoe Basket Weaving Demonstration • Aug. 8 • Traditional Indian artistry. Genoa Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 775-782-4325.

Summer Family Concert: Ken Davidson Trio • Aug. 10 • Picnic concert. Minden Park, Minden, 775-782-9828.

Concours d'Elegance • Aug. 10-11 • On-the-water display of rare wooden boats valued at \$10 million highlights the celebration of Lake Tahoe's nautical past. Sierra Boat Company, North Lake Tahoe, 530-581-4700.

Pioneer Children • Aug. 11 • Display and discussion on the way pioneer children lived, followed by a story time. Stockade, Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-25909.

Santa Maria Days • Aug. 11 • Italian harvest festival with music, parade, games, food, crafts. Downtown Dayton, 775-246-0161.

"Carmen" • Aug. 11 • Dinner-opera performed in English by Berkeley Opera Company. Granlibakken at Lake Tahoe, Tahoe City, 530-581-7308.

Keno Tournament • Aug. 11 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-468-4388, ext. 3373.

Nevada Territory Program • Aug. 11 • Slide show and events from Nevada's past presented by Jeff Kintop, manager of Nevada State Archives. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.

Antique Tractor Show • Aug. 11-12 • Display of historic engines and tractors. Food and beverages available. Johnson Lane, north of Minden, 775-267-4816.

Great Truckee Meadows Rubber Duck Race • Aug. 12 • Day

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EVENTS CALENDAR	
Spring Wings Bird Festival,	May 11-13
Fallon Air Show w/Thunderbirds,	June 2-3
Silver State Int'l Rodeo,	July 3-8
Stampede Pow Wow,	July 20-22
Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival	August 31 September 3
Wings Over the Valley Hunting Festival	September 28-30

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Historical Artistry

When Native Americans, mountain men, and gunfighters gather for the Living History Festival on August 10-12 in Fernley, re-enactments, demonstrations, and displays will salute Western history. Other events at Out of Town Park include a craft fair and pro rodeo.

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of music and food culminated with a rubber duck race fundraiser for Make A Wish Foundation. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-861-6319.

Western Nevada Community College Golf Classic • Aug. 13 • College fundraiser. Thunder Canyon Golf and Country Club, Carson City, 775-445-3240.

Greek Festival • Aug. 17 • Music, dancing, drink, food, silent auction. St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church, Reno, 775-825-5365.

Main Street Event Car Show • Aug. 17-19 • Barbecue, music, street dance, show-n-shine. Esmeralda Street in Minden and Lampe Park in Gardnerville, 775-265-7119.

Craps Tournament • Aug. 17-19 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-468-4388, ext. 3373.

Railroads of Nevada • Aug. 18 • Maria Sanchez, curator of education for the Nevada State Railroad Museum, discusses trains, engines, and railways and their part in the Gold Rush era. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.

Virginia City Rodeo • Aug. 18-19 • IPRA-sanctioned competition for prizes and bragging rights. Event includes a parade and barn dance. Rodeo Grounds, Virginia City, 775-847-5240.

Reno Gay Pride Parade and Celebration • Aug. 18-19 • Fifth annual event features educational booths and stage en-

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tertainment. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-825-2117.

Pyramid Lake Triathlon • Aug. 19 • The Friends of Pyramid Lake hold two races. The first is a 1M swim, 25M bike, and 6M run for individuals and teams. The second is a 1/2M swim, 12M bike, and 3M run for individuals. Sutcliffe Marina, Pyramid Lake, 775-786-5531.

Slot Tournament • Aug. 19-22 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-468-4388, ext. 3373.

Silver and Blue Golf Tournament • Aug. 20 • Annual fundraiser for women's athletics at the University of Nevada, Reno. Wolf Run Golf Course, Reno, 775-784-4870, ext. 270.

Reno-Tahoe Open at Montreux • Aug. 20-26 • Week-long PGA competition attracts top professional golfers and features a pro-am event. Montreux Golf and Country Club, Reno, 775-322-3900.

Nevada State Fair • Aug. 22-26 • Livestock exhibits, entertainment, carnival, home arts, games. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-688-5767.

Stargaze • Aug. 24 • Presentation by Reno's Fleischmann Planetarium. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

Gold Hill Days: All the Arts • Aug. 24-26 • Art fair, show, exhibition, music, food, rides on the train from Virginia City to Gold Hill. Various locations, Gold Hill, 775-847-0311 or 775-847-7466.

Winners' Weekend Slot Tournament • Aug. 24-26 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-468-4388, ext. 3373.

Stargaze • Aug. 25 • Telescope viewing of the planets and stars. Bring a jacket and star charts. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.

Sertoma Truck Pull • Aug. 25 • Amateur and professional pullers vie for the longest pull. Food and drink available. Fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 775-267-4208.



Let's Cruise Main Street

Hot August Nights rolls into Reno and Sparks on July 28-August 5. The event features concerts, Hproms, sock hops, drag races, and show-n-shines. Other summer car festivals are scheduled in Carson City, Winnemucca, Wells, Ely, and Gardnerville.

Kids Triathlon • Aug. 25 • Swimming, biking, and running events for kids ages four to 14. Idlewild Pool, Reno, 775-334-262.

Bowers Mansion Encampment • Aug. 25-26 • Civil War military encampment features civilian tents with spinning,

cooking, bullet-making, wood carving, military weapons exhibit. Bowers Mansion, U.S. 395 in Washoe Valley, 775-423-3528.

\$1,500 Blackjack Tournament • Aug. 28 • \$25 entry fee. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 877-783-7711.

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Rural Nevada

Western States Corvette Council Conference • June 30- July 4 • Drag races, parade, show-n-shine featuring more than 100 Corvettes. Airport and Main Street, Yerington, 775-463-2245.

McDermitt Ranch Hand Rodeo • July 3-4 • Ranch hands from Nevada, Oregon, and Idaho compete for prize money. Street contests and dances. McDermitt, 70 miles north of Winnemucca, 800-WMCA-NEV.

Pahranagat Man • July 3-5 • 100th anniversary celebration of the town of Alamo includes a pageant, parade, music, barbecue, fly-over from Nellis Air Force Base. Event is named for a famous petroglyph in the area. Downtown Alamo, 95 miles north of Las Vegas, 775-725-3499.

Silver State International Rodeo • July 3-8 • High school rodeo and trade show, July 4 parade, mud volleyball, teen dances, craft and Western art show. Open to high-schools rodeo champions from 37 states and four Canadian provinces. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-4674.

Rachel Old-Fashioned Picnic • July 4 • Kids games, barbecue. Little A'Le'Inn, Rachel, 775-729-2515.

Winnemucca's Family Fourth of July Celebration • July 4 • Independence day festivities with fireworks, games, food, petting zoo, face painting, dunk tank in City Park. Day includes the Great Winnemucca Duck Race on the Humboldt River. Winnemucca, 800-WMCA-NEV.

Asian Festival • July 4 • Concerts, seafood buffet. State Line Casino, Wendover, 800-354-3657.

Elko Fireworks • July 4 • Independence Day fanfare. Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-735-3085.

Independence Day Celebration • July 4 • Fireworks, horse-shoes, family games. Ore House Saloon, Ione, 775-964-2003.

Lovelock Fourth of July • July 4 • Parade and fireworks. Downtown and McDougal Sports Complex, Lovelock, 775-273-0409.

Mason Valley Fourth of July • July 4 • Barbecue, crafts, entertainment, fireworks. Mt. View Park, Yerington, 775-463-3511.

Nevada Northern Railway Museum Fireworks and Barbecue Train • July 4 • Barbecue in the Plaza followed by a train ride to view the fireworks. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Jarbridge Fourth of July • July 4-7 • Live music, parade, barbecue games, bingo, family activities. Community Hall and Outdoor Inn picnic area, Jarbridge, 775-488-2325.

Don Edwards Concert • July 6-7 • Cowboy balladeer sings the original standards during his annual visit to Eureka. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Running of the Bulls • July 6-7 • Bulls will be released on streets of Elko behind a group of runners to kick off the National Basque Festival. Downtown Elko, 775-738-1240.

Jackpot 200 • July 6-7 • Off-road racing. Jackpot, 801-773-1651.

National Basque Festival • July 6-8 • Cultural celebration with authentic dancing, weight lifting, wood chopping, food, Mass. Fairgrounds and City Park, Elko, 775-7381240.

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Independence Day Roping • July 6-8 • Jackpot team roping. Brotherton's Arena, 30 miles south of Ely in Preston, 775-238-5238.

Flying Saucer Trap Club Trap Shoot • July 7 • Competitive shoot. Flying Saucer Trap Club, Lovelock, 775-273-7859.

PBI Pro Bull Riding Tour 2001 • July 7 • Bull riders compete at Humboldt County Fairgrounds. Winnemucca, 800-WMCA-NEV.

History of the Ward Charcoal Ovens • July 7 • Presentation on the dome-shaped structures used to produce charcoal. Ward Charcoal Ovens State Park, south of Ely, 775-728-4460.

Nature Nut Weekend • July 7-8 • Ranger-led walk to identify wildflowers and birds, an evening stargazing session at Cave Lake, and a nature walk at Ward Charcoal Ovens. Cave Lake State Park and Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park, Ely area, 775-728-4460.

Summer Mixed Ball Tournament • July 8-10 • Golf tournament. Toana Vista Course, Wendover, 775-664-2221.

4x4 Rally • July 12-15 • Four-wheel-drive vehicles make runs in scenic areas for trophies and awards. White Pine County locations, Ely, 775-289-6798.

Silver State 100 • July 13-14 • 100-mile open-road race on S.R. 318 from Lund to Hiko. Ely, 775-631-6166.

Shoshone Traditional Fandango • July 13-15 • Social gathering of Native Americans featuring vendors, games, and food. Shoshone Reservation, Ely, 775-289-3013.

Wells Chili Cook-Off • July 15 • Chili cooks and tasters invited. Wells, 775-752-3540.

After-Dinner Nature Walk • July 14 • Ranger-led walk to identify wildflowers. Spring Valley State Park, Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Fireman's BBQ and Dance • July 14 • Community Hall, Smith Valley, 775-463-2245.



Tasty Treats in Sparks

Rib chefs get cookin' at the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off, August 30-September 3 in Victorian Square in Sparks. While the cooks seek fame and prizes, tasters are generally happy with messy hands and full stomachs as they visit the crafts fair and listen to bands.

Winnemucca Junior Rodeo • July 14-15 • Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 800-WMCA-NEV.

Nevada Casino Golf Tournament • July 14-15 • Amateurs compete for prizes and cash. White Pine Golf Course, Ely, 775-289-4095.

SCCA Reno Region Autocross • July 14-15 • Fallon Naval Air Station, Fallon, 775-828-0608.

Art in the Park • July 14-15 • Demonstrations, food vendors, fine arts, handmade crafts. City Park, Elko, 775-777-7901.

There are a Thousand Things to do in Lyon County

Here are just a few of THEM!

Event

Month

Location

Northern Nevada Living History Festival	August 9-12	Fernley
Lyon County Fair & Rodeo	August 16-19	Yerington
Spirit of Wovoka Days Powwow	August 24-26	Yerington
Dayton Valley Days & Rodeo	Sep 14-16	Dayton
Smith Valley Fun Day	October 6	Smith Valley

We also have museums,
ghost towns, golfing, fishing,
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The Joys of Being Basque

Elko's festival celebrates old and new country traditions.

Photos by Cynthia A. Delaney
Story by Kelly Kozeliski

When a swarm of people in white shirts and red scarves runs down Railroad Street on July 6 during Elko's 38th National Basque Festival, infuriated Mexican bulls will be nipping at their heels. The adrenaline-charged event is scheduled another three times on Saturday, July 7, but the running of the bulls is only one aspect of the annual celebration. The Elko festival, which will be held July 6-8, draws more than 3,000 people to celebrate Basque traditions.

Basque customs, such as the running of the bulls, are deeply rooted in the people who live in the Pyrenees mountains of Spain and France. Beginning in the 1890s Basque sheepherders were welcomed to the Silver State because of their ability to handle the isolation of tending the flocks in remote areas of Northern Nevada. Basques not only brought their skills but also their traditions, which are celebrated each year.

The festival will offer everything from the *jota*, the Basque dance of joy, to contests of strength and endurance. Strong men from around the world will compete in events such as weight lifting, log chopping, and weight carrying; the last requires contestants to tote objects that weigh over 200 pounds in each hand while walking more than 1,000 feet. Non-Basque traditions are acknowledged by a golf tournament.

After Mass on Sunday, July 8, festival-goers will experience a traditional feast of steak, lamb, salad, and shepherd's bread. Wine lovers should bring bibs so they can try to catch a mouthful of the red mid-air while it is being squeezed out of a *bota*, an animal-skin container. Those who want to experience more old-country cuisine will find eateries in Elko such as the Star Hotel, Biltoki, and Nevada Dinner House. If there is a spare moment during the festival activi-



Elko's National Basque Festival in July brings together Basque-Americans and non-Basques, young and old, such as Tony Barrington of Elko (right). Dancers Josette Iribarne and Pierre Lazzano of Elko perform traditional steps (far right) at last year's festival. Speed is essential for those brave participants who run with the bulls near the Stockmen's Hotel (below).



ties, you can visit the Basque exhibit at the Northeastern Nevada Museum.

Not only will the pulsating sound of a running stampede of people and bulls add to the excitement of the celebration, but the traditional Basque war cry known as *irrintzi* will fill the air around Elko throughout the weekend. For more information about the National Basque Festival, call 775-738-1240.

Basque culture is also celebrated at the Reno Basque Festival at Wingfield Park in Reno, July 21-22, with traditional food, dancing, Mass, and games for children and adults; call 775-787-3039. The Winnemucca Basque Festival is held each June; call 775-623-5071. 

Cynthia A. Delaney is an Elko photographer. Kelly Kozeliski of Las Vegas is a Nevada Magazine editorial assistant.

Boyce's Burnout Street Drags • July 14-15 • Pro and amateur street drags. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.

Creepy, Crawly Critters • July 15 • Slide program identifies bugs, lizards, snakes and spiders. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Superior Livestock Auction • July 16-19 • Cattle buyers and sellers from across the nation come together via satellite and in person. Golf tournaments, entertainment. Winnemucca, 800-WMCA-NEV.

White Pine Invitational Golf Tournament • July 20-21 • Women's competition. White Pine Golf Course, Ely, 775-289-4095.

Top Gun Raceway Funny Car Fever • July 20-21 • NHRA pro-amateur circuit drag racing. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.

Reno Goes to the Arts

Artown, Reno's month-long festival devoted to music, dance, opera, film, theater, ethnic celebrations, and historic tours, offers more than 200 events this July.

Nevada All-Around Working Cow Horse Championship • July 20-22 • Western ranching event features top working cow horses. Winnemucca, 800-WMCA-NEV.

Fallon Powwow and Stampede • July 20-22 • All-Indian rodeo, dances, food, crafts. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 800-874-0903.

007 Jackpot Team Roping • July 21 • Steer roping. City Corral, Ely, 775-591-0439.

Sherman Dinner • July 21 • Dinner and auction. Sherman Station, Elko, 775-738-7135.

Dutch-Oven Cooking Demonstration • July 21 • Experienced cooks show how to use a Dutch oven. Spring Valley State Park, Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Trees of the Great Basin • July 21 • Ranger-led hike. Cave Lake State Park, Ely, 775-728-4460.

Elko Days • July 21 • Picnic, games, barbecue, dance. Sherman Station and City Park, Elko, 775-738-7135.

Lovelock 250 Desert Race • July 21-22 • 250-mile desert race comprised of four 60-mile laps. Tufa Rock Motor Sports Facility, Lovelock, 775-246-5545.

The Towns That Time Forgot • July 22 • Slide program showing the historic buildings that are still standing in Eastern Nevada. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.

White Pine BMX Races • July 22 • State qualifier race. BMX Race Track, Ely, 775-289-3217.

Katy Moffatt Concert • July 27 • Texas singer-songwriter sings country, pop, and folk. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Good Times Street Drags • July 27-28 • Race on a public road. Traders Way, Winnemucca, 775-623-5577.

Fifties Fever • July 27-29 • Concerts, parade, street dances, poker run, car show. Downtown Winnemucca, 775-623-4104.

Jim Butler Days • July 27-29 • Annual town party to celebrate Tonopah's founding in 1900 with parade, contests, rock and bottle show, gold panning demonstration. Tonopah, 775-482-3558.

Wells Fun Run Car Show and Cruise • July 27-29 • Fireworks, Main Street cruise, poker run, burnout contest, street dance, snow-n-shine. Wells, 775-752-3540.

G-D Team Roping • July 27-29 • Cowboys compete for pride and prizes. Winnemucca, 800-WMCA-NEV.

Steve Rowley Memorial Motorcycle Race • July 28 • 100-

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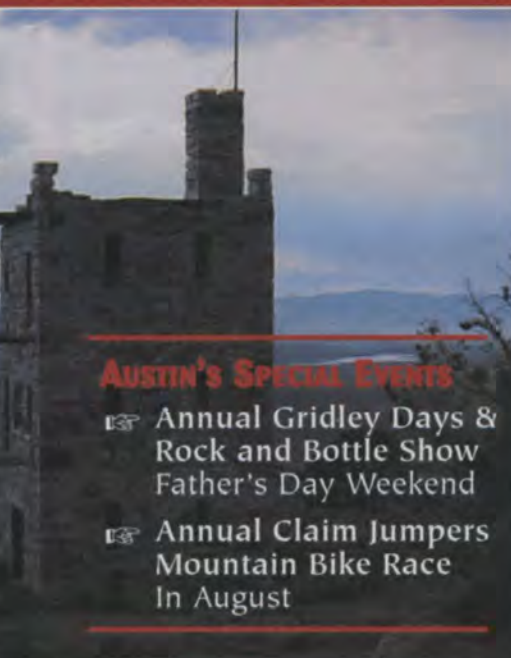
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mile cross-country desert race. Ely, 775-289-9019.

Benefit Sale • July 28 • Community-wide rummage sale. Community Hall, Smith Valley, 775-465-2245.

Sunset at Steptoe Train Ride • July 28 • Sunset train ride featuring wine, hors d'oeuvres, and candlelight. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Katy Moffatt • July 28 • Singer-songwriter performs her compositions. Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 775-635-5444.

Nature Walk • July 29 • Ranger-led walk to identify wildflowers, geological formations, and birds. Kershaw-Ryan State Park, Caliente, 775-728-4460.

Lincoln County Fair • Aug. 3-4 • Rodeo, talent show, entertainment. Lincoln County Fairgrounds, Panaca, 775-729-2514.

Lovelock Frontier Days • Aug. 3-5 • Parade, barbecue, flea market, street dance, arm wrestling, hoot-and-holler contest, horseshoe pitching. Courthouse Park, Lovelock, 775-273-7213.

Moonlight Hike • Aug. 4 • Ranger-led walk through the park's canyons and caves. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Nevada's Best Cow Dog Series • Aug. 4 • Working dogs compete. Frank Delmue Ranch, eight miles northeast of Panaca, 775-728-4682.



What Speed Limit?

Nevada's open spaces often attract thrill seekers setting speed records. Above, BLM ranger Dick Myers gives a ticket to driver Andy Green for driving 763 mph in a 630 mph zone during the land speed record trials by British and American drivers on the Black Rock Desert in 1997. The Bonneville Salt Flats near Wendover will be the site of the annual Speed Week August 11-17. Any tickets issued there will be suitable for framing.

History of the Ward Charcoal Ovens • Aug. 4 • Presentation on the dome-shaped structures where charcoal was produced. Ward Charcoal Ovens State Park, Ely, 775-728-4460.

Beach Blast • Aug. 4-5 • Concerts, races, beach volleyball. Silver Smith Casino, Wendover, 800-354-3657.

Gambler's Run Twin 50 • Aug. 4-5 • 100-mile round-trip road race. Elko and Wild Horse Reservoir, 619-440-6043.

Arts in the Park • Aug. 4-5 • Fine arts and handmade crafts, food vendors. County Park, Ely, 775-289-7072.

White Pine BMX Race • Aug. 5 • State qualifier. BMX Race Track, Ely, 775-289-3217.



Off With Ye Ol' Head

Jousters compete during tournaments at the Renaissance Fair, July 28-29 in Genoa. Spectators will also be entertained by magicians, musicians, stage performers, and belly dancers, which recall the days of damsels, knights, and an occasional dragon.

Eureka County Fair • Aug. 10-12 • Horse show, roping events, exhibits. Eureka County Fairgrounds, Eureka, 775-237-5263.

Living History Festival • Aug. 10-12 • Pro rodeo, craft fair,

cowboys, gunfighters, and historical re-enactments. Out of Town Park, Fernley, 775-575-4459.

Fantasy Classic and Antique Car Show • Aug. 10-12 • Parade, cruise, poker walk and run, barbecue, sock hop,

show-n-shine. City streets, Ely, 775-289-3749 for details.

Jarbidge Days • Aug. 10-12 • Arts and crafts fair, music. Community Hall and Outdoor Inn picnic area, Jarbidge, 775-488-2325.

Stargazing and Meteor Shower Watch • Aug. 11 • Annual Perseid meteor shower between Aug. 9 and 13. Stone Cabin Living History Museum, Spring Valley State Park, Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Nevada Bluegrass Festival • Aug. 11 • The Back Forty, the Northern Nevada Bluegrass Band, and the Western Aliens perform. Fourth annual event includes arts, crafts, kids' games, barbecue. Church Ball Park, Alamo, 775-729-2514.

007 Roping • Aug. 11 • Jackpot event for trophies and cash. Lane's Arena, 30 miles south of Ely in Lund, 775-591-0439.

Nevada Two-Man Best Ball Golf Tournament • Aug. 11-12 • White Pine Golf Course, Ely, 775-289-4095.

Junior High Rodeo • Aug. 11-12 • Pershing County Rodeo Grounds, Lovelock, 775-273-2968.

Hare Scrambles • Aug. 11-12 • Desert motorcycle race. Panaca, 775-728-4582.

Fallon Motocross Festival • Aug. 11-12 • Motorcross races. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-7733.

Speed Week • Aug. 11-17 • Speed trials. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 800-354-3657.

Lyon County Fair and Rodeo • Aug. 16-19 • Rodeo, kids' games, carnival, parade, tractor pull, hay boom, dance, demolition derby. Lyon County Fairgrounds, Yerington, 775-463-2245.

Back Forty and Too Tall for Our Hair • Aug. 18 • Reno-area bands present bluegrass and folk music. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Backpacking Tips and Techniques Workshop • Aug. 18 •

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Keeps on Chugging

A parade of antique farm equipment and a tractor pull will highlight the sixth annual Antique Tractor and Engine Show August 11-12 in Minden. This Fordson tractor (above), built in England by Ford in the 1920s, will be among the 300 tractors and 150 engines expected.

Learn how to prepare for backcountry travel, and techniques to use in case you become stranded. Spring Valley State Park, Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Exotics, Aliens and Invaders • Aug. 18 • Learn what plants and animals have been accidentally, or purposely, introduced into areas, only to become pest species. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Leave No Trace • Aug. 18 • Learn how to hike and camp without damaging resources. Cave Lake State Park, Ely, 775-728-4460.

Claim Jumpers Mountain Bike Festival • Aug. 18-19 • Mountain bike races for all levels. Event includes barbecue, swimming, music. Bike trails in Toiyabe Range, Austin, 775-964-1212.

White Pine County Fair and Horse Races • Aug. 18-19 • Music, entertainment, games, home arts, and horse races with pari-mutuel betting. White Pine County Fairgrounds, Ely, 775-289-7072.

Brotherton's Annual Roping and Races • Aug. 18-19 • Steer roping and barrel races. White Pine County Fairgrounds, Ely, 775-238-5238.

USTRC Northwest Regional Team Roping Finals • Aug. 23-26 • Top team ropers in the West gather for two days of tough competition. Winnemucca, 800-WMCA-NEV.

Nevada's Best Cow Dog Series • Aug. 24 • Working dogs compete. Maggie Creek Ranch, eight miles west of Elko, and Elko County Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-728-4682.

Desert Storm Winged Sprint Cars • Aug. 24-25 • SCOA sprint car races. Hi Desert Speedway, Ely, 775-289-3232.

Goldfield Millennium Land Rush Festival • Aug. 24-26 • Auction of county land parcels and memorabilia from the historic Goldfield Hotel and Esmeralda County Courthouse at 10 a.m. on Aug. 25. Weekend event includes a parade, vendors, food, and tours of the town and the hotel. Downtown Goldfield, 775-485-6352.

Spirit of Wovoka Days Powwow • Aug. 24-26 • Celebration of the dance and vision of Wovoka, the Paiute Messiah and originator of the Ghost Dance religion. Event features Native American dance, food, arts, crafts. Softball

Park, Yerington, 775-463-2350 for event information.

Elko County Fair • Aug. 24-Sept. 3 • Stock horse events, home arts, 4-H events, carnival, horse racing. Elko County Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-738-3616.

Wildfire Program • Aug. 25 • The prevention and control of wild fires. Spring Valley State Park, Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Sky Fair • Aug. 25 • Vintage airplanes, military aircraft, ultra lights, static displays, sky divers. Elko Airport, Elko, 775-738-4091.

SCCA Reno Region Autocross • Aug. 26 • Reno-Stead Airport, Reno, 775-828-0608.

Pine Nuts Program • Aug. 31 • How to gather, prepare, and enjoy the tasty nuts. Cave Lake State Park, Ely, 775-728-4460.

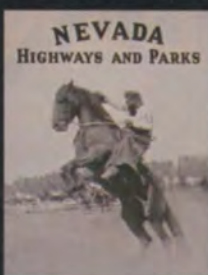
Tri-County Fair and Rodeo • Aug. 31-Sept. 2 • Nevada's oldest continuous rodeo celebrates its 80th year. Activities include parade, street dances, competitions, fair displays, prizes. Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 800-WMCA-NEV.

Bocce Bash • Aug. 31-Sept. 2 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 866-284-7766.

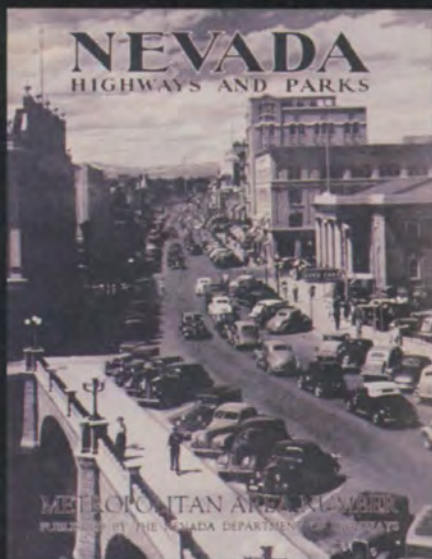
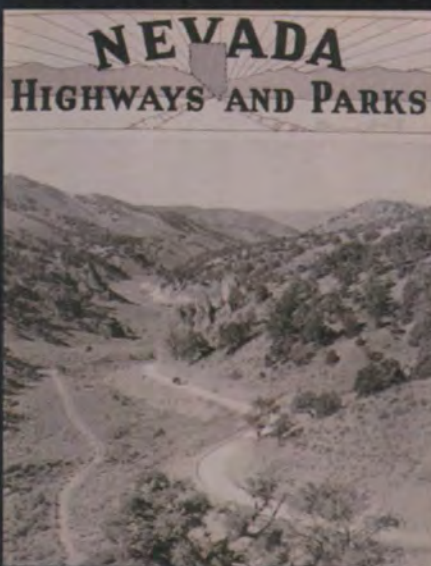
Western Art Roundup • Aug. 31-Sept. 2 • Artists, poets, crafts people, and inductees into the Buckaroo Hall of Fame. Winnemucca, 800-WMCA-NEV.

Trains, Planes, and Automobiles • Aug. 31-Sept. 3 • Event includes Rail Days 2001 featuring steam engine train rides and displays of railroad history; Long Steel Rail Festival, a folk art event with music, hobo camp, art, vendors, games, and workshops; the Ultra Lite Fly-Ins with aviation games, barbecue, and rides; a Cruisin' Car Show; Run to the Red Lights, a motorcycle event with a poker run, bike games, barbecue; and the second annual Model Train Expo. Nevada Northern Railway Museum and other locations, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival • Aug. 31-Sept. 3 • Food, games, carnival, entertainment, farmer's market, crafts, kids rides. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-4556.



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Nevada Showguide

Where the stars and shows are playing in July and August.



In For the Long Stretch

Comedian Rita Rudner dispenses life views in the new theater built for her at New York-New York in Las Vegas. Her soft-spoken observations on the peculiar have earned her an indefinite run on the Strip. Rudner and her husband, Martin Bergman, wrote the script for the movie, *Peter's Friends*.

Nevada's clubs and hotels offer big-name entertainment and production shows. During July and August, Stevie Nicks plays the Aladdin in Las Vegas. Earth, Wind, and Fire holds a dance party at the Reno Hilton, and Counting Crows appears at Caesars Tahoe and the Hard Rock in Las Vegas. Here, *Nevada Magazine* presents a guide to featured performers. Showrooms often fill fast, so call ahead for show times and reservations. Las Vegas Territory's area code is 702; the rest of the state's area code is 775.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

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

HENDERSON

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

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

Reserve • 558-7000: Wasimba's Lounge: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.

Sunset Station • 547-7777: Club Madrid: Pat Cooper, July 14. Paula Poundstone, July 28. B.J. Thomas, Aug. 4. Michael Franks, Aug. 11. Hal Ketchum, Sept. 15. Ahmad Jamal, Oct. 13. Dave Mason, Oct. 27. Don Williams, Nov. 10. Jerry Tiffe and His Orchestra play 2-4pm Wed. Louie Louie plays at 10pm and midnight Wed., and 11pm and 1am on Fri.-Sat. Sunset Amphitheater: Dark Star

Orchestra, July 28. Michael McDonald, Dave Koz, Norman Brown, Brian Culbertson, Aug. 25. Lee Ritenour's Tribute to Bob Marley with Patti Austin, Gerald Albright, and Jonathan Butler, Aug. 31. Charlie Daniels Band and the Kentucky Headhunters, Sept. 29.

JEAN

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

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

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 877-333-WISH: Theater for the Performing Arts: String Cheese Incident, July 27-28. Stevie Nicks, Aug. 25. Broadway Comes to Vegas: "Les Miserables," Sept. 19-23. Victor Hugo's classic story. Sinbad's Lounge: Bands play until 3am. Music in the London Club Lounge. Blue Note Jazz Club: Jam Night, 9pm-2am Wed. Headliners TBA. Club Blue: DJs play midnight-6am Sat., 11pm-6am Sun. **Alexis Park** • 391-4634: Jazz, Fri.-Sat.

Arizona Charlie's • 258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Yellowbrick Road, Mon., Jerry Tiffe's Band, 4-7pm Fri.-Sat. Beatlemania, thru July 1. The Checkmates, July 3-15. The Real Deal, July 17-22. Jonathan and the Music Magic, July 31-Aug. 12. The Checkmates, Aug. 14-26.

Arizona Charlie's East • 951-5800: The Lounge: The Checkmates, thru July 1. Jonathan and the Music Magic, July 3-15. The Checkmates, July 17-29. Christy Bryant, July 31-Aug. 5.

Bally's • 739-4111 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.). Indigo Lounge: Music nightly except Tues.

Barbary Coast • 737-7111: Lounge: Clifton James and the Edge, July 4-8. Elements, July 18-22. Latin Vida, July 25-29. Star Crazy, Aug. 1-5. Pete and Lisa Wilcox, Aug. 8-12. Susan McDonald, Aug. 15-26. Karaoke, Mon.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf. (dark Wed.-Thurs. and Aug. 13-14). Musicians play in the Allegro and Petrossian lounges and Baccarat Bar. Fontana Lounge: Jimmy Hopper.

Boardwalk Casino Holiday Inn • 730-3194: Lighthouse Showroom: Entertainment TBA.

Boulder Station • 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: The Railhead: Ty Herndon, July 3. Don McLean, July 6-7. Billy Ray Cyrus, July 21. Keiko Matsui, Aug. 4. Loretta Lynn, Sept. 6-8. Hal Ketchum, Sept. 15. Jerry Vale, Oct. 26-27. Bands play nightly except Sun., Tues. and Wed. KIXX: Bands play Thurs.-Sat., karaoke on Tues.

Bourbon Street • 737-7200: Bourbon Street Theatre: Dr. Naughty, adult hypnotist show (dark Sun.). "Aloha Elvis," tribute to the King (dark Sun.).

Caesars Palace • 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Caesars Magical Empire: Dinner and magic. Bands play in the Forum and La Piazza lounges, the Terrazza restaurant, and Cleopatra's Barge. Piano music in the Galleria Bar at Caesars Palace.

Casino Royale • 737-3500: Cafe Trilussa: Piano music nightly (dark Tues. and Wed.).

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

Nevada Events & Shows

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

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

Fitzgeralds Holiday Inn • 388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Michael Kennedy's "Tribute to Elvis," Thurs.-Sun. on the casino floor.

Flamingo Las Vegas • 733-3333 or 800-221-7299: Flamingo Showroom: "Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus," musical comedy (dark Tues.). "Bottom's Up," 2 and 4pm, indf. (dark Sun.). "Bill Acosta: Lasting Impressions" (dark Fri.). Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre: "Second City," improv comedy sketches (dark Mon.).

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

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

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

Gold Coast • 367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): East Lounge: Kinda Dixie Jazz Band, noon-6pm. Bands like the Smith Brothers and Rockfield Drive play nightly except Mon. Gold Coast Showroom: "Honky Tonk Angels," impersonator revue with tributes to Dolly Parton, Reba McEntire, Patsy Cline, the Judds, Tammy Wynette, Brenda Lee, and Faith Hill. Latin Breeze, Fri.-Sat. indf.



Las Vegas Blues Note

Members of the wildly successful "Blue Man Group: Live at the Luxor" literally dump on the audience at the end of their comedy routines, which use pipes, drums, and even cereal for props. Sell-out crowds are the rule, so call early.

Ballroom dancing and free dance lessons with disk jockey Larry Taylor Tues. Sunday Tea Dance Party with Larry Taylor. Free drama workshop, 9:30-11:30am Sat.

Golden Gate • 385-1906: Live piano, noon-midnight. Jazz

trio performs on Sun. and Wed. evenings.

Golden Nugget • 385-7111: Golden Nugget Showroom: David Brenner, thru Oct. 31 (dark Thurs.). Bands play in the Oasis Lounge nightly except Mon.

Hard Rock Hotel • 226-4650: The Joint: Ottmar Liebert, July 3. John Leguizamo, July 4-5. Counting Crows, July 7. Cedric the Entertainer, July 15. Boz Scaggs, Aug. 10.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 369-5111: Clint Holmes Theatre: Clint Holmes, musical variety show (dark Sun.). Comedy Cabaret: Comedy club nightly except Mon. "Skintight," musical production (dark Thurs.). Mac King Comedy Magic Show, 1 and 3pm Tues.-Sat. Carnival Court: Cook E. Jarr, 11:45pm Fri.-Sat. Bands play outdoors till midnight. Music nightly in the La Playa Lounge.

Imperial Palace • 794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert," celebrity impersonator show (dark Sun.). Poolside: "Hawaiian Hot Luau," Tues. and Thurs. thru Oct., with buffet dinner, house drinks, and Polynesian production. Kabuki Lounge: Bands play 4:30pm-1:40am.

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

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

Magic and comedy show, Sun.-Thurs. in the downtown hotel-casino.

Las Vegas Hilton • 732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, July 5-7. Hall

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and Oates, July 27-28. Olivia Newton-John, Aug. 24-25. Alabama, Sept. 13-15. Smokey Robinson, Sept. 7-8. Kenny Rogers, Sept. 20-22. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, Oct. 4-6. Kenny Chesney, Oct. 12-13. Johnny Mathis, Oct. 19-20. Brooks and Dunn, Dec. 11-12. The Night Club: Sheena Easton thru Sept. 2. Jazz in the Benihana Lounge, 4-8pm Mon.-Sat.

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

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

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Events Center: Mariachi Festival starring Jose Luis Rodriguez and Ana Barbara, Sept. 8. Fitness Olympia, Oct. 26. Mr. Olympia Judging, Oct. 27. Mr. Olympia Finals, Oct. 27. Mandalay Bay Theatre: "Storm," Latin production show (dark Tues.). Mandalay Bay Beach: B-52's, July 13. Cheap Trick, July 14. Indigo Girls, July 27. House of Blues: Dan Fogelberg, Aug. 13. Echo and the Bunnymen, Aug. 21. BB King, Sept. 8. Brian Setzer, Sept. 19. Dance music, 11pm Fri.-Sun. Gospel Brunch, 10am and 1pm Sun. Live blues Thurs.-Sat. in the Courtyard. Bands play in the Island, Orchid, and Coral Reef lounges.

MGM Grand • 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: EFX Theatre: "EFX Alive," starring Rick Springfield, special-effects production show (dark Sun.-Mon.). Hollywood Theatre: Paul Anka, thru July 4. George Carlin, July 5-18. Rodney Dangerfield, July 19-25. Paul Anka, July 26-Aug. 8. Grand Garden Arena: Sade, July 27. Aerosmith, Aug. 18. Madonna, Sept. 1-2. THQ U.S. Open, Oct. 12-14. Studio 54: Dancing nightly. Live entertainment in the Dome/Show Bar and Hollywood Brown Derby lounges. **The Mirage** • 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theater: "Siegfried and Roy," magic spectacular (dark Wed.-Thurs.). Danny Gans Theatre: Impressionist Danny Gans performs nightly (dark Fri. and Mon. and Aug. 14-16 and 18-19). Entertainment in the Lagoon Saloon and Corner and Baccarat bars. Samba Grill: Brasilia 2000, Fri.-Sat.

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

New Frontier • 794-8200: Roundtable Showroom: "The King in Concert," Elvis tribute, 4pm. "All Shook Up" with the Inspirations, 7pm. The Magic of David Darkstone, noon and 2pm. Spencer: The World's Fastest Hypnotist, 9pm. Gilley's Saloon: Bands play nightly Tues.-Sat.

New York-New York • 740-6969: Broadway Theatre: "Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance" (dark Sun.-Mon.). Cabaret Theatre: Rita Rudner (dark Sun.), indf. Bands play in the Empire Bar. The N.Y.P.D. (New York Piano Duos) dueling pianos play 8pm-3am nightly in the Bar at Times Square. The Lounge at New York-New York: Café Karaoke. Pre-Zone Pool Parties: Thurs. thru July 12, sports-themed events. Saturday Night Poolside Parties: Music, DJ, dancing, contests, thru Sept. 2.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Showroom: Frankie Avalon and Bobby Rydell, thru July 1. Tower of Power, July 6-8. Debbie Reynolds, July 11-15. Jerry Lewis, July 19-22. Everly Brothers, July 25-29. Mrs. U.S.A. Pageant, Aug. 1-2. Smothers Brothers, Aug. 7-12. Gordon Lightfoot, Aug. 24-26. Air Supply, Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Jerry Lewis, Sept. 6-9. Righteous Brothers, Sept. 12-23. Frankie Avalon and Bobby Rydell, Sept. 27-30. Neil Sedaka, Oct. 2-7. Smothers Brothers, Oct. 9-14. Debbie Reynolds, Oct. 18-21. Righteous Brothers, Oct. 31-Nov. 11 (dark Nov. 5). Everly Brothers, Nov. 21-25. Bourbon Street Cabaret:

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Bands play nightly (dark Mon.) at the Orleans.

Palace Station • 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Sound Trax Nightclub: Bands play Thurs.-Sat. Tota Zara plays Wed.-Sat. in the Palace Saloon.

Paris Las Vegas • 800-237-SHOW: Le Theatre des Artes: Natalie Cole, Aug. 3-5. Sinbad, Aug. 17-19. Howie Mandel, Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Julio Iglesias, Oct. 17-21. Clint Black, Oct. 26-27. Legends of Motown: Temptations, Marvelettes, and Martha Reeves, Nov. 22-25. Natalie Cole, Dec. 14-16. Bands play in Le Cabaret Show Lounge (dark Tues.). Napoleon's Cigar Bar: Jazz trio plays nightly except Tues.

The Plaza • 800-634-6575: Plaza Showroom: "Naked Angels," revue (dark Mon.). "Houdini Lives Again," magic show, 4pm Tues.-Sun. Omaha Lounge: Dusty Barron and the Sunspots play daily except Mon.

Regent Las Vegas • 877-869-8777: J.C. Wooloughan Irish Pub: Entertainment Wed.-Sun. Music in Addison's Lounge. Summer Pool Parties: Fridays thru Sept. Music, dancing, food.

Rio Suite Hotel • 252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Copacabana Entertainment Complex: The Scintas (dark Wed.-Thurs.). De La Guarda Theatre: "De La Guarda," avant-garde off-Broadway interactive experience, indf. Masquerade Show in the Sky: Carnival-themed parade with exotic floats and costumes above the casino daily at 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10pm. Samba Theatre: Entertainment TBA. RioBamba Cabaret: Earl Turner and His Band. Entertainment in the Ipanema Piano Bar and Voodoo Lounge. Club Rio: Nightclub open for late-night dancing Wed.-Sat.

Riviera • 794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," production



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Singer Earl Turner, who has been rocking the Rio Bamba Cabaret at the Rio since 1999, has moved up from a lounge performer to a ticketed show. His revamped, high-energy act will remain in the Rio Bamba, where the \$21.95 ticket price guarantees seating. Turner's shows are 9 and 11 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

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show. Top of the Riv: Brett Butler, Aug. 3-4. Jackie "The Joke Man" Martling, Sept. 21-22. Royale Pavilion: Bobby Vee, Tommy Roe, and The Tymes, Aug. 10-11. Tony Orlando, Sept. 1-2. La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues.). Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls Fantasy Revue," adult revue (dark Mon.). "Riviera Comedy Club," comedians appear nightly. Le Bistro Lounge: "Tribute to Elvis" with Jim LeBoef, 4-7:30pm Fri.-Sun.; Jazz on the Strip, Mon.; Lon Bronson's All-Star Band, Sat.; bands play Tues.-Sun. in the lounge.

Sahara • 737-2515: Sahara Theatre: Magician Steve Wyrick, indf. (dark Tues.). Congo Room: "The Rat Pack Is Back" (dark Mon.). Michael Holly Off-the-Wall Comedy Hour, 1 and 3pm, (dark Sun.-Mon.). Entertainment in the Casbar Lounge.

Sam's Town • 454-8048: Sam's Town Live: Tracy Lawrence, June 30. Jeffrey Osbourne, July 20. The Rippingtons, July 27. Patty Loveless, July 28. Little Richard, Aug. 4-5. Laura Branigan, Aug. 11. Gladys Knight, Aug. 25-26. Late Night: Music and dancing 11pm-3am Fri.-Sat. Roxy's Saloon: Bands play. Mystic Falls Park: Laser and water show at 2, 6, 8, 10pm.

San Remo • 739-9000 or 800-522-7366: Parisian Cabaret: "Showgirls of Magic," revue, Sun.-Tues. "The Joe Trammel Show," 10:30pm, adults only. Bonne Chance Lounge: Entertainers perform nightly.

Santa Fe • 658-4900: The Lounge: "Forever Elvis" featuring Dennis Wise, July 21. Jerry Tiffe and His Orchestra, 7-11pm Wed.

Silverton • 263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Rattlesnake Rickey's Saloon: Bands play nightly.

Stardust • 732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Wayne Newton Theatre: Legendary Ladies of Rock 'n' Roll with Lesley

Gore, Shirley Alston Reeves, the Shangri-Las, and Little Peggy March, July 4-8. Original Drifters with Bill Pinkney, Coasters featuring Carl Gardner and Sonny Turner, July 11-15. Wayne Newton, July 16-Aug. 26. Little Anthony and the Imperials and Sonny Turner, Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Don Rickles, Sept. 6-9. Wayne Newton, Sept. 10-Nov. 11. Don Rickles, Nov. 15-18. Stardust Ballroom: Asian Night (Vietnamese entertainment), July 7, Aug. 4, and Sept. 8. Russ Morgan Orchestra, July 14. Ray Anthony and His Big Swing Band, Sept. 22. Les Brown's Band of Renown, Oct. 13. Bands play in the Stardust Lounge.

Stratosphere • 382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: Broadway Showroom: "American Superstars," impersonator revue (dark Thurs.). "Viva Las Vegas," musical revue, 2 and 4pm daily except Sun. Entertainment in the Top of the World and Oasis lounges.

Suncoast • 636-7111: Showroom: Rich Little, July 7-8. Average White Band, July 21-22. Frankie Randall with the Vincent Falcone Orchestra, Aug. 3-5. Little River Band, Sept. 7-9. The Lettermen, Sept. 27-30. Riders in the Sky, Oct. 12-14. Frankie Randall with the Vincent Falcone Orchestra, Oct. 26-28. Eddie Money, Nov. 9-11. Frankie Randall with the Vincent Falcone Orchestra, Nov. 23-25 and Dec. 29-30. Bands play nightly except Mon.-Tues. Jimmy Fitzgerald's Band plays for dancing on first Wed., and DJ Larry Taylor plays on second, third, and fourth Wed.

Treasure Island • 894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère" (dark Mon.-Tues. and Aug. 5 and 8). Music in Captain Morgan's piano bar. Hideaway Lounge: Music nightly.

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

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

Venetian • 733-5000: Showroom at the Venetian: Robert Goulet, July 2-Sept. 4. André-Philippe Gagnon, singing impressionist, indf. (dark Tues. and Thurs.). Melinda: First Lady of Magic, indf. (dark Wed.).

Westward Ho • 731-2900: Crown Room: "Doo Wop 50s," dinner and show, Wed. and Sat. Bands play nightly except Sat.-Sun. in the lounge.

Wild West Gambling Hall • 740-0000.

LAUGHLIN

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

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

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

Flamingo Laughlin • 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo: The Comedy Stop, thru Sept. 6, stand-up comedians. Flamingo Ballroom: Don McLean, July 3. Patty Loveless, July 21. The Commodores, Aug. 12. Olivia Newton-John, Aug. 22. Outdoor Amphitheater: Clay

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Boulder City Calendar of Events

April

Clark County Artist Show

May

Spring Jamboree & Craft Fair
Boulder City Folk Festival

July

Fourth of July Damboree

August

Street Party

September

Chautauqua
Rattlin' Rails Handcar Races
Wurstfest
Lake Mead Boat & Ski Races

October

Art In The Park
Country Store Sale
St. Jude's Ranch Celebration

November

Boulder City High School Rodeo
Community Tree Lighting

December

Doodlebug Bazaar Craft Sale
Christmas Parade & Santa's Party
Lake Mead Parade of Lights

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Walker, Sept. 15. Gladys Knight, Sept. 22. Kenny Rogers, Sept. 29-30. Englebert Humperdinck, Oct. 27. Pam Tillis, Nov. 30.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 294-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Nightclub: Nathan Owens and the Motown Review, thru July 1. Karaoke on Tuesdays.

Harrah's Laughlin • 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: "Bewitched," thru Sept. 3, revue (dark Sun.). "Laughternoon in Laughlin," starring juggler Tyler Linkin, 2pm Tues.-Sat. Rio Vista Outdoor Amphitheater: Jeff Foxworthy, Sept. 8. Trisha Yearwood, Sept. 27.

Ramada Express • 298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theatre: Entertainment TBA. Caboose Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon. Karaoke Madness, Mon. Victory Plaza: Outdoor July 4 celebration with food, drink, two bands, and fireworks. Swing and Latin dance contests,

5pm daily. Train rides also are available at the hotel.

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

Riverside Resort • 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Gallagher, July 5-7. Freddy Fender, Oct. 3-6. Phyllis Diller, Oct. 31-Nov. 4. Roy Clark, Nov. 6-11. Ricky Van Shelton, Nov. 20-25. Charlie Prose, Jan. 10-Feb. 14.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Showroom: Doug Kershaw, July 21. Creedence Clearwater Revisited, Aug. 24. CasaVino Wine Tasting Event, Sept. 8. Charlie Daniels Band, Oct. 5. Don Williams, Nov. 17. Comedy shows Fri.-Sat. when there is no headliner. Bands play nightly except Mon. in the

CasaBlanca Skydome Lounge at the hotel-casino.

Eureka Casino Hotel • 346-4646: Wild Cactus Lounge: Sonny D, Mon. and Wed. Fun Fool's Karaoke, Tues. Bands play Wed.-Sat. Smiley Jones and Majestic, July 4. Parking Lot: July 4 party, barbecue.

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

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

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Fiesta Casino • 631-7000: Roxy's Theatre: Roy Ayers, Dec. 1. Music Thurs.-Sat. Bands play Wed.-Thurs. in the Cabo Lounge. Shooting Stars Karaoke, Fri.-Sat.

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

Texas Station • 631-1001: Dallas Events Center: Rhythm of Love: Jonathan Butler, Will Downing, Chante Moore, July 6. Jose Feliciano, Aug. 3. Kansas, Aug. 18. Charlie Pride, Aug. 25. Najee, Sept. 15. Connie Francis, Oct. 19. The Whispers, Nov. 9. Johnny Gill, Nov. 17. The Armadillo: Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm Sun. Loveshack, 10pm-2am Fri. and Sat.

PRIMM

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

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

Whiskey Pete's • 800-FUN-STOP: Entertainment TBA.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

CARSON AREA

Carson Nugget • Carson City, 882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Nugget Show Bar: Off Our Rockers, thru July 1. Joey Carmon, July 3-8. Killer Tomatoes, July 10-15. Band on the Run, July 17-22. Stevie and the Stingrays, July 24-29. The Act, July 31-Aug. 5. Madison Avenue, Aug. 7-12. Louie Fontaine, Aug. 14-19. Teaser, Aug. 21-26. Killer Tomatoes, Aug. 28-Sept. 2.

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

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Shannon Ballroom: Entertainment TBA. Bands play in the Cabaret Lounge for dancing nightly except Mon.

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

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

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

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Grand Ballroom: Gary Puckett, July 20-21. Hot August Nights Concert Weekend, Aug. 10-11, performers TBA. Danny Marona, Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Bands play nightly in the Center Stage Cabaret.

Boomtown • 345-6000: Boomtown Cabaret: American Made Band, thru July 1. Buddy Balue, July 3-8. Gary and Sandy, July 10-15 and 17-22. Shake Rattle and Roll, July 31-Aug. 5. Joey Carmon, Aug. 14-19. Lelands, Aug. 21-26 and Aug. 28-Sept. 2.

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

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The Lady From Grease

Olivia Newton-John plays multiple dates in Nevada this summer: Reno Hilton on August 10, Caesars Tahoe on August 11-12, Flamingo Laughlin on August 22, and Las Vegas Hilton on August 24-25.

Eldorado • 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada). Eldorado Showroom: "Les Folie's des Paris," musical production (dark Mon.). Brew Brothers: Bands play nightly at the microbrewery. Piano

music in Bistro Roxy. BuBinga Lounge: Dance to DJs and bands.

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

Fitzgeralds • 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands perform nightly.

Flamingo Reno • 785-7080: Flamingo Showroom: "Jubilation," adult dance production (dark Tues.). Bottoms Up Lounge: Entertainment nightly except Mon.-Tues. Top of the Flamingo: Craig Evans, Christine and John, and Ron Perry play in the restaurant (dark Tues.).

Harrah's Reno • 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Whisper," adult revue, 10pm Sun.-Tues, 7:30 and 10pm Wed., 10 and midnight Fri., midnight Sat. (dark Thurs.). Gordie Brown, one-man theatrical production, 7:30pm, plus 9:30pm Sat. (dark Wed.-Thurs.). The Plaza at Harrah's Reno: Truckfest, July 4-8. Motorcycle Exhibition, July 14-15. Craft fair, July 20-22. Lydia Pense, July 21-22, free concert. Car show, July 28-29. Craft show, Aug. 17-19. Ray Charles, Sept. 2, gated concert. Craft show, Sept. 7-9. Volleyball, Sept. 8 at the Plaza.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Celebrity Showroom: Ty Herndon, July 5-7. Charo, July 12-14. Asleep at the Wheel, July 20-21. Rich Little, July 27-28. Pam Tillis, Aug. 10-11. America, Aug. 17-18. Eric Burdon and the New Animals, Sept. 21-22. Marty Stuart, Sept. 28-29. Gordon Lightfoot, Oct. 5-6. Sammy Kershaw, Nov. 2-3. Oak Ridge Boys, Nov. 16-17. Bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's at the Nugget. Jazz Thurs.-Sat. in the Restaurant Orozko.

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

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

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

Reno Hilton • 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theater: "Carnival of Wonders," magic revue (dark Fri. and July 27-Sept. 7). Olivia Newton-John, Aug. 10. Moody Blues, Aug. 24. The Garage: Bands play nightly. Hilton Outdoor Amphitheater: Earth, Wind, and Fire Dance Party, July 5. Mary Chapin Carpenter and Steve Earle, July 17. Journey, Peter Dinklage, John Waite, Aug. 6. An Evening with James Taylor, Sept. 22 at the amphitheater.

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

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

Silver Legacy • 329-4777 or 800-225-BASS (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: Johnny Mathis, July 6-7. John Tesh, July 14. Alan King/Norm Crosby, July 21. George Carlin, Aug. 24-25. Chicago, Sept. 7-8. Huey Lewis and the News, Sept. 14-15. Styx, Sept. 21-22. Anne Murray, Sept. 28-29. Tony Bennett, Oct. 5-6. Comedians perform at the Catch a Rising Star comedy club (dark Sun.-Mon.). Silver Baron Lounge: Piano music.

Sundowner • 786-7050.

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

STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

Bill's Lake Tahoe • 588-2455.

Caesars Tahoe • 588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: The Wallflowers, thru July 1. Earth, Wind, and

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Let's Groove

Earth, Wind, and Fire, who have been popping out hits since the '70s, perform for a dance party at the Reno Hilton's outdoor amphitheater on July 5 and then play Caesars Tahoe July 7-8. The group is known for songs like "Got to Get You Into My Life" and "After the Love Is Gone."

Fire, July 7-8. Counting Crows, July 21-22. Williams and Ree, July 26-27. Bad Company featuring Paul Rodgers, July 28-29. Olivia Newton-John, Aug. 11-12. Moody Blues, Aug. 25-26. Yo Quiero Comedy Jam starring Paul

Rodriguez, Sept. 15-16. Nero's 2000 nightclub has live music. Cleo's Bar and Entertainment Lounge: Pianist Arthur Hervey appears indf.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore

Room: The Improv at Harrah's (dark Sun.). Casino Center Stage: Entertainment TBA.

Harvey's • 588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: Cabaret: "Full Body Rock," musical revue (dark Mon.).

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

Lakeside Inn • 588-7777: Entertainment TBA.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382:

Frank Sinatra Celebrity Showroom: Entertainment TBA.

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

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

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

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

Cowboy Country

ELKO

Commercial Hotel • 738-3181: Bands play nightly.

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

High Desert Inn • 738-8425: Comedy show Fri.

Red Lion • 738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Club Max Showroom: Entertainers TBA.

Stockmen's Hotel • 738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada): Bands play in the Stockmen's Showroom.

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JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 755-2341.

Cactus Petes • 800-821-1103: Gala Showroom: Sons of the Pioneers, July 3-8. Bowzer, July 11-15. Danny Marona, July 17-22 and 24-29. Revolution: A Beatles Tribute, Aug. 1-5. Gary U.S. Bonds, Aug. 15-19. Lesley Gore, Aug. 22-28. Chuck Negron of Three Dog Night, Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Phyllis Diller, Sept. 12-16. Legends of Comedy, Sept. 26-30. Williams and Ree, Oct. 3-6. Danny Marona, Oct. 16-21 and 23-28. Outdoor Concerts: Diamond Rio, July 29. Lonestar, Sept. 9.

Horseshu Casino • 755-2321. Horseshu Cabaret: Entertainment TBA.

LOVELOCK

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

WENDOVER

Peppermill • 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play nightly except Mon.

Rainbow Casino • 664-4000: Cabaret Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Red Garter • 664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada).

Silver Smith • 664-2231 or 800-354-3671: Jim's Bar: Live entertainment nightly except Mon.

State Line • 664-2221, 800-354-3671: Stateliner Lounge: Entertainment nightly.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 623-2511: Bands play nightly in lounge.

Model T Hotel • 623-2588. Bands play Wed.-Sun.

Holiday Inn Express • 775-625-3100.

Sundance Casino • 623-3336.

Red Lion • 800-633-6435.

Pony Express Territory

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Hotel Nevada • 289-6665.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 423-6031.

Fallon Nugget • 423-3111.

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AMARGOSA VALLEY

Longstreet Inn • 372-1777: Weekend entertainment.

BEATTY

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

Exchange Club • 553-2368: Karaoke on Fri.

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 945-3322: Bands like Midnight Riders play in the casino lounge.

Joe's Tavern • 945-2302.

PAHRUMP

Mountain View Casino and Bowl • 727-7777: Bowling alley at the Pahrump casino.

Saddle West Hotel, Casino, and RV Park • 727-1111.

TONOPAH

Banc Club • 482-5409: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.

Station House • 482-9777: Shotgun Willie's Saloon: Bands play nightly except Mon.

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The Family Man

Rick Springfield puts the rock in "EFX" while striving to be a "regular working dad." **By Mike Weatherford**

Is it conceivable that Rick Springfield, the '80s pop star who can still turn the knees of female fans to gelatin, could ever be lonesome?

Well, sort of.

"I love being by myself at home," says the Australian, who lives in California but is spending a year as a part-time Las Vegas, starring in "EFX Alive" at the MGM Grand Hotel. Springfield decided to commute, flying home to Malibu after the end of the second show each Saturday and back to Las Vegas in time for the first show on Tuesday.

Still, he was looking forward to summer vacation—not for him, but for his sons Liam, 15, and Josh, 12, who would be coming to Las Vegas with his wife, Barbara, to spend the summer in his rented house. The singer postponed any major outings until they arrived, because he doesn't like to sightsee—or go to dinner or even a movie—by himself. "That's sort of like throwing your own birthday party for yourself," he says.

Springfield hasn't had much free time anyway. When he became the fourth star of the MGM's supersized spectacle—following Michael Crawford, David Cassidy, and Tommy Tune—he envisioned sleeping late, then noodling on new rock songs in his home studio until show time.

"That hasn't happened yet," he says with a laugh, although he does get to sleep in most days. "Last night I came home so tired I fell asleep with the light on," he noted last May, a day after driving from California instead of flying so he could bring his dog back with him. "I poured myself a glass of soy milk, and when I woke up, it was all over the floor."

Anyone who has seen "EFX Alive" wouldn't be surprised. Like his predecessors, Springfield, 51, serves as the "Effects Master" who guides the audience through four fantasy worlds, stepping briefly into the guises of Merlin the magician, P.T. Barnum, Harry Houdini, and H.G. Wells.

But in retooling the show from "EFX" to "EFX Alive," Springfield sought to pump it up even more. "Basically, I'll be me, bringing my energy and my personality to the show," he said upon joining the show last January. "I think people come to Vegas to party. It's not Broadway—it's Vegas. Making it more rock 'n' roll and having more fun with it I think is the way to go."

To that end, he worked with hot Broadway choreographer Jerry Mitchell—fresh from back-to-back hits in "The Full Monty" and "The Rocky Horror Show"—to strip away some of the clutter and integrate two new pop songs by Springfield into the production. The show also slows down long enough for the singer to offer brief versions of his own hit songs, such as "Human Touch" and "Jessie's Girl."

After the first three months, "I still look forward to every show, which is a good sign," he noted. Unlike some of his past stage work, "there's no segment I dread or look forward to being over. It's really, really fun." Because of the time he spends away from his family, the dramatic Houdini segment is his favorite. "I like what it says." According to biographies that Springfield has read, Houdini was deeply devoted to his wife, "but love took a back seat to his career."

The rocker, who began his music career in 1971, can relate. "I have been very driven, and sometimes my relationship has suffered." The song he wrote as a duet between Houdini and his wife, "Forever," addresses that compulsion "that can drive you away from the true meaning in life."



Rick Springfield, the Australian singer known for "Jessie's Girl" and a turn on *General Hospital*, took over "EFX" from Tommy Tune.

With that in mind, Springfield is trying to stay as close to his family as "any regular working dad." And looking forward to some sightseeing: "I truly love the whole desert vibe."

Show Notes

Rick Springfield stars in "EFX Alive," a reproduction show with a cast of 70 singers and dancers, at the MGM Grand's EFX Theatre in Las Vegas. Show times are 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Tickets cost \$75 and \$55; children's tickets (ages five to 12) are \$40. Drinks are extra. Call MGM Grand Reservations, 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111, for reservations. ■

Mike Weatherford is an entertainment writer for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

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

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Shelby American • Shelby Cobra auto museum and factory tour. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 643-3000.
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LAUGHLIN
Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area • Nature and water sports, four miles south of Laughlin, 298-1859.
Colorado Belle • Cyber Roller Coaster and Boiler Room Microbrewery, 298-4000.
Colorado River Museum • Arizona Hwy. 95, 520-754-3399 for more information.
Davis Dam • Self-guided exterior tours, 530-754-3623.
Grapevine Canyon • Seven miles west of Laughlin. Inquire about road conditions, 298-2214.
Lake Mohave Resort • 602-754-3245.
Laughlin River Tours • Colorado River, 298-1047.
Ramada Express • WWII museum and multimedia tribute to American war heroes, 298-4200.
Riverside Resort • Classic cars, river tour boat, and bowling center, 298-2535.

MESQUITE
Desert Valley Museum • 346-5705.
Oasis • Gun club, hayrides, 346-5232.



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U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds • Tour of demonstration squadron facility, 2pm Tues. and Thurs. Nellis Air Force Base, North Las Vegas, 652-4018 for information on Thunderbirds tours.

OVERTON

Lost City Museum of Archaeology • Pueblo culture, 397-2193.

Valley of Fire State Park • 397-2088.

PRIMM

Primadonna Resorts • Roller coaster, water flume, cyber coaster, and Turbo Drop rides at Buffalo Bill's; cars belonging to Bonnie and Clyde and Dutch Schultz and Clyde's bullet-riddled shirt at Primm Valley Casino, 382-1111.

SEARCHLIGHT

Searchlight Gallery • 297-1540.

Searchlight Historic Museum • 455-7955.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

CARSON CITY

Brewery Arts Center • 449 W. King St., 883-1976.

Carson and Mills Park Railroad • Mills Park, 887-2523.

Children's Museum of Northern Nevada • Museum has educational exhibits, 813 N. Carson St., 884-2226.

Kit Carson Trail • Walking tour, 687-7410 or 800-638-2321.

Nevada State Capitol • 687-5030.

Nevada State Library and Archives • State Constitution exhibit, 100 Stewart St., 687-5210.

Nevada State Museum • 600 N. Carson St., 687-4810.

Nevada State Railroad Museum • S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-6953.

Nevada Supreme Court • Tours, Stewart St., 687-8616.

Roberts' House Museum • 1207 N. Carson St., 882-1805.

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Stewart Indian Museum and Cultural Center • 5366 Snyder, 882-6929.

Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum • 777 S. Stewart St., 887-2210.

DAYTON

Dayton State Park • 687-5678.

Dayton Historic Society Museum • Open weekends in the 1865 Old Dayton Schoolhouse on Shady Lane.

GARDNERVILLE

Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center • Old Douglas County High School on U.S. 395, 782-2555.

Sharkey's Nugget • Boxing, rodeo memorabilia, 782-3133.





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GENOA

Genoa Courthouse Museum • 782-4325.
Mormon Station State Historic Park • 782-2590, 687-4379 for park information.
David Walley's Hot Springs • 782-8155.

LAKE TAHOE

Hard Rock Cafe • Harveys, Stateline, 588-2411.
Heavenly Aerial Tram • Stateline, 586-7000.
Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park • Sand Harbor, 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 831-0494.
M.S. Dixie II Sternwheeler • Zephyr Cove, 588-3508.
Ponderosa Ranch • 831-0691.
Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler • Tahoe City, 530-583-0141.
Tahoe Rim Trail • 150-mile system, 588-0686.
Tallac Historic Site • Tours daily through Sept., South Lake Tahoe, 530-544-3029.
U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center • Stream-profile chamber, 530-573-2600.
Vikingsholm • Tours, 530-525-7232.
Zephyr Cove Resort • Cruises, boat rentals, 588-3833.

RENO

Animal Ark • 10 mi. north of Reno on U.S. 395, then 12 mi. on Red Rock Road to reach Animal Ark, 969-3111.
Bartley Ranch Regional Park • Hiking, horse arena, and one-room Huffaker Schoolhouse. Reno, 828-6612.
Earth Window Museum • Native American artifacts, 100 N. Sierra St., Town Center Mall, 333-2828.
Fleischmann Planetarium • Stargazing programs, U of N campus, 784-4811.
Galena Creek Regional Park • Mount Rose Hwy., 785-4319.
Harrah's Reno • Laser show nightly at the outdoor plaza, 786-3232.
Liberty Belle Slot Collection • Liberty Belle Saloon, 4250 S. Virginia St., 825-1776.
National Automobile Museum (the Harrah Collection) • 10 Lake St. S., 333-9300.
National Bowling Stadium • Tournaments and IWERKS theater. 300 N. Center St., 334-2695.
Nevada Historical Society Museum • 1650 N. Virginia St., U of N campus, 688-1190.
Nevada Museum of Art, E.L. Wiegand Gallery • 160 W. Liberty St., 329-3333.
Playland • Rides, picnicking. Idlewild Park, 329-6008.
Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk • 334-2077.
Reno Hilton • Water golf, Ultimate Rush thrill ride, putting course, go-kart center, 789-2000.
Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy • Tours. 215 S. Wells Ave., 329-5665.
Riverside Artist Lofts • Arts and cultural center. 775-329-2787.
Sierra Arts Center Gallery • Gallery and offices, 200 Flint St., 329-2787.
Sierra Safari Zoo • 10 mi. north of Reno at Red Rock Rd., 677-1101.
Silver Legacy • Giant mining machine and laser shows every hour, 325-7396.
Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden • Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4153.
Wilbur D. May Great Basin Adventure • Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4064.
Wilbur D. May Museum • Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-5961.

PYRAMID LAKE

Numana Hatchery Visitors Center • 574-0290.

SPARKS

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

VERDI

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

VIRGINIA CITY

Assay Office Museum • 847-0777.
The Castle • 847-0275.

Chollar Mine • Tours of workings, 847-0155.
Fourth Ward School Museum • 847-0975.
Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum • 847-9394.
Liberty Engine Co. No. 1 Comstock Firemen's Museum • 847-0717.
Mackay Mansion Museum • 847-0173.
Mark Twain Museum of Memories • 847-0454.
Nevada Gambling Museum • 847-9022.
Piper's Opera House • 847-0433.
Ponderosa Mine • Tours, 847-0757.
Territorial Enterprise Mark Twain Museum • 847-0525.
Virginia and Truckee Railroad • 847-0380.
Virginia City Radio Museum • 847-9047.
Virginia City Tours • 786-0866.
Way It Was Museum • 847-0766.
Wild West Museum • South C Street, 847-0400.

WASHOE VALLEY

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

Cowboy Country

ELKO

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

LOVELOCK

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

WENDOVER

Bonneville Salt Flats • 801-977-4300.

WINNEMUCCA

Buckaroo Hall of Fame • 623-2225.
Humboldt Museum • Winnemucca-area history, 623-2912.
Midas Schoolhouse • Call for tours of the two-room schoolhouse located in Midas, 46 miles by dirt road from the Golconda exit east of Winnemucca on I-80. 529-0302.

Pony Express Territory

AUSTIN

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

ELY/GREAT BASIN NAT. PARK

Cave Lake State Recreation Area • 15 miles south of Ely, 728-4467.

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum • Tours, 289-1663.

Great Basin National Park • Hiking, camping, ancient bristlecones, and tours of Lehman Caves. Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 234-7331.

McGill Historical Drug Company • Call for tours of an old-fashioned drug store. McGill, 235-7082.

Nevada Northern Railway Museum • Train rides on historic locomotives. 1100 Ave. A, East Ely, 289-2085.

Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site • 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely, 728-4467.

White Pine Public Museum • Exhibits on history of Ely area. 2000 Aultman St., 289-4710.

EUREKA

Eureka Opera House • Open Mon.-Fri. or by appointment, tours, 237-6006.

Eureka Sentinel Museum • 237-5010.

FALLON

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave • Tours. 1050 S. Maine St., 423-3677.

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

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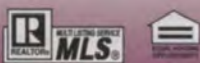
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Nevada Maze • Walk through a cornfield puzzle Aug. 11-Oct. 31. Farmer's market. Lattin Farms, 867-3750.

Sand Mountain • Giant sand dune, 20 miles east of Fallon, 885-6000.

Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge • 15 miles east of Fallon, 423-5128.

FERNLEY

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

SILVER SPRINGS

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

Pioneer Territory

BEATTY

Beatty Museum • Mining exhibits, 553-2424.

Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Beatty, 553-2200.

Rhyolite • Historic bottle house and the Gold Well Open Air Museum sculpture exhibit, four miles west of Beatty, 553-2424.

GABBS

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park • Dinosaur fossils and ghost

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town of Berlin, 20 miles east of Gabbs, call 964-2440.

GOLDFIELD

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

HAWTHORNE

Mineral County Historical Museum • Exhibits on the history of the Hawthorne area, 400 10th St., 945-5142.

Walker Lake State Recreation Area • Fishing, camping, and birdwatching, 945-5896.

PAHRUMP

Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Pahrump, 727-5880.

Pahrump Valley Winery • Tours. 3810 Winery Rd., 727-6900 or 800-368-WINE.

PIOCHE/CALIENTE

Box Car Museum • Railroad and local history. Caliente, 726-3129.

Cathedral Gorge State Park • South of Pioche, 728-4460.

Elgin Living History Schoolhouse Museum • Open for week-end tours or by appointment. Located 21 miles south of Caliente via Rainbow Canyon. Write Lynn Wood, Box 266, Caliente, NV 89008.

Kershaw-Ryan State Park • South of Caliente, 728-4460.

Lincoln County Historical Museum • Pioche, 962-5207.

Million Dollar Courthouse • Pioche, 962-5207.

Spring Valley State Park • 728-4460.

Stone Cabin Living History Museum • One mile north of Spring Valley State Park near Pioche, seasonal, 728-4460.

ROUND MOUNTAIN

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

TONOPAH

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site • 50 miles north of Tonopah, 867-3001.

Central Nevada Museum • Tonopah-area history, 482-9676.

Tonopah Historic Mining Park • 482-9274.

YERINGTON

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

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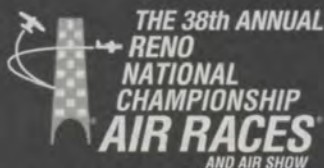


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Casino Notes

News from hotel-casinoland. By Ann Henderson

Las Vegas Territory

Living Free: The winner of the "Live Free For a Year" promotion at the **Edgewater** and **Colorado Belle** in Laughlin will receive a monthly cash prize equal to the individual's mortgage or rent, car, utility, insurance, and gas expenses, up to \$36,000. Entry information on the promotion, which ends August 26, can be obtained at the Player Club booths at each hotel.

Really Big Bite: Two rare golden crocodiles have joined the three resident crocks at the Shark Reef at **Mandalay Bay**. The addition means the attraction in the Strip hotel is home to nearly half of the known golden crocodile population. Other than a facility in Thailand, Las Vegas is the only place in the world where visitors can view the yellow-skinned predators with golden eyes.

Agents Choose: Travel agents from more than 25,000 agencies in 182 countries voted the **MGM Grand** in Las Vegas as the top resort in North America for meetings and conventions. The selection was made during the eighth annual World Travel Awards, which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Beauty and the Beasts: Visitors to Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat at the **Mirage** on the Strip start with a close-up guided tour that offers a below- and above-ground view of the dolphins' playground. Escorts point out the personalities and history of the sleek mammals, and lucky groups can see them interact with their caretakers. After watching the dolphins, you can take a self-guided walk through the shady compound that is home to the jungle cats and an elephant. The lions and tigers and their cousins—made famous by magicians Siegfried and Roy—usually show more interest in naps than the throngs of people admiring the animals. During the summer, the attraction is open at 11 a.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. weekends and holidays.

Hotel Awards: The **Regent Las Vegas** and **Bellagio** in Las Vegas have been selected as Connoisseur's Choice properties for 2001 by the *Connoisseur's Guide to the World's Best*.



A resident of Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden at the Mirage poses for Las Vegas visitors. The tiger shares attention with lions, a panther, an elephant, and the complex's dolphin habitat.

The magazine selects hotels and resorts worldwide based on the property's commitment to quality, service, and overall guest experience.

Boulder Strip Winner: **Sam's Town** received a number of "Best of" awards in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal's* annual readers' poll. Sam's Town, which is located six miles east of the Strip on the Boulder Highway, was named Best Locals Hotel, Best Mexican Restaurant, Best RV Park, and Best Bingo Parlor.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Two-Fer: Happy hours are an after-work Institution that allows reasonable people to meet, greet, gripe, and discuss current events at local watering holes. The Xanadu Lounge at the **Atlantis** in Reno offers an additional perk during its daily happy hours from 3 to 7 p.m. Sign up for a free Club Paradise Card and well drinks, domestic beer, and house wines are all two-for-one.

Keep Your Mojo Workin': Slot players at **Boomtown**, located nine miles west of

Reno on I-80, can be entertained by comedy super spy Austin Powers thanks to new psychedelically themed machines developed by IGT. The nickel slots present five save-the-world scenarios that are cued by pay lines. For example, if three Dr. Evil symbols line up, the player then chooses a bonus round, which is not revealed until henchmen are brought to justice. Other entertainment-oriented machines added recently to Boomtown include television's *Munsters* and *Neon Nights*, which features Las Vegas signs and symbols.

Party Nights: **Caesars Tahoe** in Stateline is playing to the summer party crowd with themed promotions in its Club Nero. Mondays are \$1 you-call-it drinks, Tuesday features Top 40 Latin dance music, \$2 cervezas and \$1.50 tequila drinks, Wednesdays DJ Frankie Lake plays all requests, Thursday is ladies night with a Mr. Hot Buns Contest and \$1 well drinks, Friday and Saturday laser lights and go-go dancers liven the action, and on Sundays there is a \$250 Shadow Box Contest, free champagne for women, and \$1 pints.

Turtle Special: The **Carson Valley Inn** in Minden offers a Wagon Master's Package

for RV groups that includes three nights in the Carson Valley RV Resort, two breakfast coupons per person, and a group buffet dinner with wine in a private banquet room. The cost is \$125 per couple, which includes all taxes and banquet gratuities.

Roddy's Show: Harrah's is letting guests try the new nickel Price is Right video slot machine at its six casinos. The machines, which feature Rod Roddy's voice and theme music from the television show, can be found at Harrah's Reno, Harrah's Tahoe, and Bill's Casino in Northern Nevada, and Harrah's Las Vegas, the Rio Suite, and Harrah's Laughlin in Southern Nevada.

Bar of California: Martinis and flair bartenders are features of the California Bar, the recently opened casino cocktail lounge at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. The circular bar is elevated, allowing patrons a bird's-eye view of the casino action. Televisions broadcast as many important sporting events as can be squeezed into a 24-hour schedule, and tables allow for intimate gatherings. Patrons can order 30 different martinis, including the Governor Stanford, which is made with gin, a dry Cointreau rinse, and almond-stuffed olive, and choose from selected beers and a long wine list. The flair bartenders, patterned after Tom Cruise in *Cocktail*, promise to juggle shakers spectacularly but safely.

Reno's New Boutique Hotel: The Siena Hotel Spa Casino, a new boutique hotel in Reno, is scheduled to open July 31. The \$70-million, 214-room hotel, located on the banks of the Truckee River, will have a full-service day spa, 24-hour casino, eclectic art, and riverside fine dining. Designed by architect Mark Whipple of the Russell Group, the property was modeled after its Italian namesake. The hotel's Floor dei Nobili will be an all-suite floor with butler service. Rooms and suites will have robes, coffee makers, high-speed Internet access, Web TV, data lines, safes with chargers for laptop computers and cell phones, and two-line speakerphones. Hotel services also include daily newspaper delivery and turn down service. Call 877-SIENA33 for reservations or more information.

Super spy Austin Powers pays out for players in Reno casinos such as Boomtown. The new IGT slots are among many new games with entertainment themes.



Dining Notes

Free Wine: Dinner patrons at Josef's Brasserie and Steakhouse, a French-style bistro located in the Desert Passage at the Aladdin, receive a complimentary bottle of wine with dinner. One bottle of wine is served per table of two or more.

Lucky Number: A new restaurant, Seven, will open this summer on the Strip on the site of the former Country Star Restaurant. The exterior's jukebox facade will be replaced with trendy touches such as a zero-gravity waterfall, fire torches, and a backlit marble sushi bar.

The menu will include vanilla-infused lobster bisque with lobster ravioli and asparagus, crispy salmon, and toasted orzo.

Best of: Austins Steakhouse, which opened last November in Texas Station, was selected by the editors of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* as the Best New Hotel Restaurant in its Best of Las Vegas poll.

Entertainment Notes

Get Soaked: Before paying \$45 a ticket to see "De La Guarda," the off-beat show at the Rio in Las Vegas, there are a few things you need to know. You will be expected to lock your purse and other valuables in a locker before entering the cavernous showroom. "De La Guarda" appeals to a younger audience that does not mind being uncomfortable; there are no seats, so showgoers must stand for more than an hour. The production has a dress code; wear your grubbies because you will get wet. The first 10 minutes of the show are exciting as aerialists drop from the ceiling and the intensity of the dousing and vibrating sound increases. "De La Guarda" is an edgy experience with its cacophony of sights and sounds that are best enjoyed if you know what to expect.

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

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Vacation Hot Lines

Where to call or write for Nevada travel tips.

When planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information. Also, Internet users can visit the Web sites listed. If you plan to stop by a chamber of commerce (C of C) office, chances are it will be open in the daytime Monday through Friday.

Statewide Information

Nevada Commission on Tourism: 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701; www.travelnevada.com; 775-687-4322 or 800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada.

Las Vegas Territory

African American Activities: 3838 Raymert Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89121; 702-456-3838.

Asian C of C: 900 E. Karen, No. C217, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 702-737-4300.

Boulder City C of C: 1305 Arizona, Boulder City, NV 89005; www.bouldercitychamber.com; 702-293-2034.

Boulder City Visitor Center: 100 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 702-294-1252.

Henderson C of C: 590 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, NV 89015; www.hendersonchamber.com; 702-565-8951.

Henderson Convention Center: 200 Water St., Henderson, NV 89015; www.cityofhenderson.com/convention; 702-565-2171.

Hoover Dam Visitors Services: Box 60400, Boulder City, NV 89006; www.hooverdam.com; 702-294-3524.

Jean Visitor Center: Interstate 15 South, Exit 12, Box 19470, Jean, NV 89019; www.vegasfreedom.com; 702-874-1360.

Las Vegas C of C: 3720 Howard Hughes Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89109; www.lvchamber.com; 702-735-1616.

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 3150 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109; www.vegasfreedom.com; 702-892-0711.

Latin C of C: 829 S. Sixth St., Las Vegas, NV 89125; www.LasVegasLatincc.com; 702-385-7367.

Laughlin C of C: Box 77777, Laughlin, NV 89028; www.laughlinchamber.com; 702-298-2214 or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada.

Laughlin Visitor Center: 1555 Casino Dr., Box 502, Laughlin, NV 89029; www.visitlaughlin.com; 702-298-3321 or 800-4LAUGHLIN.

Mesquite Area C of C: 850 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite, NV 89027; www.mesquite-chamber.com; 702-346-2902.

Mesquite Visitor Center: Interstate 15, Exit 122, 460 Sandhill Blvd., Mesquite, NV 89027; 702-346-2702 or 877-MESQUITE.

Moapa Valley C of C: Hwy. 169, Box 361, Overton, NV 89040; www.moapavalley.com; 702-397-2160.

North Las Vegas C of C: 2290 McDaniel, North Las Vegas, NV 89030; www.nlvchamber.com; 702-642-9595.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Carson City C of C: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701; www.carsoncitychamber.com; 775-882-1565.

Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701; www.carson-city.org; 775-687-7410 or 800-NEVADA-1 in U.S.

Carson Valley C of C and Visitors Authority: 1512 Hwy. 395, No. 1, Gardnerville, NV 89410-5283; www.carsonvalleynv.org; 775-782-8144 or 800-727-7677 in U.S.

Dayton Area C of C: 200-B Main St., Box 2408, Dayton, NV



Nevada's Oldest Trees

Hikers trek near Wheeler Peak to inspect a grove of bristlecone pines, the world's oldest living inhabitants. Bristlecones thrive at high elevations, between 9,500 and 11,000 feet. A major attraction at Great Basin National Park, 70 miles southeast of Ely, the trees can live 4,000 years or more.

89403; www.daytonnvchamber.org; 775-246-7909.

Greater Reno-Sparks C of C: 1 E. First St., Reno, NV 89501; www.reno-sparkschamber.org; 775-686-3030.

Incline Village/Crystal Bay C of C: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; www.laketahoechamber.com; 775-831-4440 for travel information.

Lake Tahoe, Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; www.gotahoe.com; 775-832-1606 or 800-GO-TAHOE anywhere in U.S.
Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 1156 Ski Run Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; www.virtualtahoe.com; 530-544-5050, 800-AT-TAHOE in U.S. for Lake Tahoe information.

North Lake Tahoe C of C: 245 N. Lake Blvd., Box 884, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.tahoeinfo.com; 530-581-6900.

North Lake Tahoe Resort Association: 245 North Lake Blvd., Box 5459, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.tahoeinfo.com; 530-583-3494 or 800-824-6348.

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Box 837, Reno, NV 89504; www.renolaketahoe.com; 775-827-7600 or 800-FOR-RENO in U.S.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council: 98 Colony Rd., Reno, NV 89502; 775-329-2936.

South Lake Tahoe C of C: 3066 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; www.tahoeinfo.com; 530-541-5255 for information.

Sparks C of C: 831 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431; www.sparkschamber.org; 775-358-1976.

Tahoe-Douglas C of C: Box 7139, Stateline, NV 89449; 195 Hwy. 50 at Round Hill, Zephyr Cove; www.tahoechamber.org; 775-588-4591.

Virginia City C of C: C St., Virginia City, NV 89440; www.virginiacity-nv.com; 775-847-0311.

Cowboy Country

Battle Mountain C of C: Box 333, Battle Mountain, NV 89820; 775-635-8245.

Elko C of C: 1405 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801; www.elkonvada.com; 775-738-7135.

Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV 89801; www.elkocva.com; 775-738-4091, 800-248-3556 outside Nevada.

Jarbridge Community Association: Trading Post, 72 Main St., Box 260072, Jarbridge, NV 89826; jarbridge@aol.com; 775-488-2315.

Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; 775-273-7213.

McDermitt Information: Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421; 775-532-8742.

Wells C of C: 395 Sixth St., Box 615, Wells, NV 89835; www.wellsnv.com; 775-752-3540.

Wendover Area Chamber of Commerce: 735 Wendover Blvd., Box 2468, West Wendover, NV 89883; www.wendover.org; 775-664-3414 or 877-WENDOVER.

Winnemucca C of C: 30 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; www.winnemucca-nv.org; 775-623-2225.

Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau: 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; www.winnemucca.nv.us; 775-623-5071 or 800-WMCA-NEV.

Pony Express Territory

Austin C of C: Box 212, Lander County Courthouse, Austin, NV 89310; 775-964-2200.

Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center: 150 Sixth St., Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; www.elynevada.net; 775-289-3720.

Eureka County C of C: 111 N. Main St., Box 1078, Eureka, NV 89316; 775-237-5484.

Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 775-423-4556 or 800-874-0903.

Fernley C of C: 70 N. West St., Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; www.fernleynevada.net; 775-575-4459.

Great Basin Business and Tourism Council: Information on Baker and Great Basin National Park. Box 166, Baker, NV 89311; 775-234-7323.

Greater Fallon Area C of C: 65 S. Maine St., No. B, Fallon, NV 89406; 775-423-2544.

Silver Springs EDASS (Econ. Dev. Authority of Silver Springs): Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 775-577-2069.

White Pine Chamber of Commerce: 636 Aultman, Ely, NV 89301; www.elynevada.net; 775-289-8877.

Pioneer Territory

Amargosa C of C: HCR 69-2, Box 401W, 821 E. Farm Rd., Amargosa, NV 89020; www.armagosavalley.com; 775-372-1515.

Beatty C of C: 119 E. Main St., Box 956, Beatty, NV 89003; www.governor.net/nv/as/bea; 775-553-2424.

Caliente C of C: Depot Building, Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 775-726-3129.

Gabbs Information: 509 Main St., Box 176, Gabbs, NV 89409; 775-285-4019.

Goldfield C of C: Box 219, Goldfield, NV 89013; members.xcom.com/gfldchamber; 775-485-3560 for Goldfield information.

Greater Smoky Valley C of C: State Route 376 at Carver's Station, Box 1977, Round Mountain, NV 89045; 775-377-2490.

Mason Valley C of C: 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV 89447-2536; www.tele-net.net/lceda; 775-463-2245.

Mineral County C of C: 932 E. Street, Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; www.mineralcountynvchamber.org; 775-945-5896.

Pahrump Valley C of C: 1021 S. Frontage Rd., Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; www.pahrumpchamber.com; 775-727-5800.

Pioche C of C: Box 127, Pioche, NV 89043; 775-962-5544.

Tonopah C of C: 301 Brougner Ave., Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; www.tonopahnevada.com; 775-482-3859 for Tonopah information.

Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, 301 Brougner Ave., Tonopah, NV 89049; www.tonopahnevada.com; 775-482-3558.

Indian Territory

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada: 680 Greenbrae Dr., No. 265, Sparks, or Box 7440, Reno, NV 89510; 775-355-0600.

Indian Territory: Nevada Commission on Tourism, 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701; www.travelnevada.com; 775-687-4322 or 800-NEVADA-8.

State and National Parks

Death Valley National Park: Beatty Visitor Center; 307 Main St., Beatty, NV 89003; 775-553-2200. Park: Death Valley, CA 92328; 760-786-2331.

Great Basin National Park: Nevada Hwy. 488, Baker, NV 89311; www.nps.gov/grba; 775-234-7331.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; www.nps.gov/lame; 702-293-8907.

Nevada Division of State Parks: 1300 S. Curry St., Carson City, NV 89710; www.state.nv.us/stparks; 775-687-4370.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: HCR 33, Box 5500, Las Vegas, NV 89124; www.redrockcanyon.blm.gov; 702-363-1921.

More Outdoor Activities

Bicycling in Nevada: Nevada Department of Transportation; 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712; www.bicyclenevada.com; 775-888-RIDE.

Bureau of Land Management: Main office: Reno, www.blm.gov; 775-861-6400; Las Vegas, 702-647-5000; Elko, 775-753-0200; Winnemucca, 775-623-1500; Carson City, 775-885-6000; Ely, 775-289-1800; Caliente, 775-726-8100; Battle Mountain, 775-635-4000; Tonopah, 775-482-7800 for BLM information.

Nevada Division of Wildlife: Main office: 1100 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89512; www.state.nv.us/cnr/nwwildlife/; 775-688-1500; Southern Nevada: 4747 W. Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89108; 702-486-5133.

Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510; www.pyramidlakefisheries.org; 775-476-0500 for Pyramid Lake Fisheries information.

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/htnf/; 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 775-331-6444; 2881 S. Valley View, Suite 16, Las Vegas, NV 89102; 702-873-8800; 2035 Last Chance Rd., Elko, NV 89801; 775-738-5171.

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Dining Directory

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

Las Vegas Area

AMERICAN

Imperial Palace/Betty's Diner—794-3261. Shakes, malts, sundaes, sandwiches, soup, bakery. B, L, D. \$.

Imperial Palace/Burger Palace—794-3261. Burgers, fries, and other fast-food items. B, L, D. \$.

Imperial Palace/Emperor's Buffet—731-3311. Buffet carving station, roast baron of beef. B, L, D. \$.

Imperial Palace/Imperial Buffet—794-3261. Prime rib and champagne dinner nightly. B, L, D. \$.

Imperial Palace/Rib House—794-3261. Barbecued ribs, chicken, blackened entrees. D. \$.

Imperial Palace/Teahouse—731-3311. Carving station with prime rib. Weekend brunch. B, L, D. \$.

Riviera/Kady's Coffee Shop—794-9403. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

ASIAN

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—794-3261. Mandarin and Cantonese cuisine, abalone, kung pao shrimp, roast duck. D. \$.

Riviera Hotel/Rik' Shaw—794-9537. Pineapple duck, orange roughly with black pepper sauce. D. \$-\$\$.

INTERNATIONAL

Riviera Hotel/Mardi Gras Food Court—734-5110. Nine quick-service eateries featuring international cuisine. B, L, D. \$, no credit cards.

Riviera Hotel/World's Fare Buffet—794-9400. International cuisines plus prime rib. B, L, D. \$.

ITALIAN

Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, salads. L, D. \$.

Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano—794-9363. Lobster Francaise, fresh seafood. D. \$-\$\$\$\$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Imperial Palace/Embers—794-3261. Steaks and continental dishes, 28 menu choices. D. \$.

Imperial Palace/Seahouse—794-3261. Alaskan crab legs, seafood salads. D. \$.

Riviera Hotel/Kristofer's—794-9233. Steak, seafood, and chicken. D. \$.

Laughlin

AMERICAN

Ramada Express/Carnegie's 24-Hour Dining Car—298-6231. Reproduction of a railroad dining car. B, L, D. \$.

Ramada Express/Roundhouse Buffet—298-4200. More than 100 items, carving station. B, L, D. \$.

Ramada Express/Station Cafe—298-4200. L, D. \$.

Ramada Express/Under the Stairs Cafe—298-4200. Sandwiches, hot dogs, salads, shrimp cocktails, pastries. B, L, D. \$.

ITALIAN

Ramada Express/Passaggio Italian Gardens—

298-4200. Chef Rafi's Italian-with-attitude variations, homemade pastas and pizzas. D. \$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Ramada Express/The Steakhouse—298-4200. Flame-broiled meats. D. \$.

Reno-Carson Area

AMERICAN

Best Western Piñon Plaza Resort/Branding Iron Cafe and Margarita Saloon—Carson City, 885-9000. Western favorites at moderate prices. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

Carson Nugget/Buffet—882-1626. Sunday champagne brunch, Saturday breakfast buffet, Friday seafood buffet. B, L, D. \$.

Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop—882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$.

Carson Station/Station Grill and Rotisserie—883-8400. Baby back ribs, fish specials. L, D. \$.

Carson Station/Station Restaurant—883-0900. Homestyle cooking. B, L, D. \$.

Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 783-6650. Steaks, seafood, and nightly specials. D. \$.

Carson Valley Inn/Katie's—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers, and breakfast specials. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

Carson Valley Inn/Michael's—Minden, 782-9711. Rack of lamb and seafood creations. D. \$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Farm House Coffee Shop—Sparks, 356-3300. Old-fashioned home cooking, omelettes, pancakes, and fried chicken. B, L, D. \$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Gabe's Pub and Deli—Sparks, 356-3300. Quick-service deli offers snacks, sandwiches, desserts, pastries. B, L, D. \$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, giant apple pancake, seafood Louis, Sunday brunch. B, L, D. \$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Rotisserie—Sparks, 356-3300. Buffet, Sunday brunch. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

Peppermill/Food Court—826-2121. Mexican, Asian, Italian, hamburgers, and salad bar. B, L, D. \$.

Peppermill/Island Buffet—826-2121. Chicken, seafood, prime rib, salads. B, L, D. \$.

Peppermill/Peppermill Restaurant—826-2121. Hamburgers, salads, seafood, chicken. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

ASIAN

Eldorado/Golden Fortune—Reno, 786-5700. Hong Kong-style cuisine. D. \$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. \$.

BASQUE

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. Fourth St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. \$.

BREW PUBS

Eldorado/The Brew Brothers—Reno, 786-5700.

Gourmet pizzas, ribs, barbecue shrimp, sausage sampler. L, D. \$.

CONTINENTAL

Peppermill/White Orchid—826-2121. Filet mignon, seared ahi, medallions of elk, lobster. D. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado/Bistro Roxy—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet dishes include Chilean sea bass with Yukon gold potatoes and creamed spinach. D. \$.

Eldorado/Chefs Buffet—Reno, 786-5700. USDA prime rib, homemade pastas, Mongolian grill, salad bar, dessert bar. B, L, D. \$.

Eldorado/Choices—Reno, 786-5700. Deli, espresso bar, bakery, Asian Noodle Kitchen. B, L, D. \$.

Eldorado/Tivoli Gardens—Reno, 786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant. B, L, D. \$.

ITALIAN

Eldorado/La Strada—Reno, 786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine featuring a variety of veal, chicken, and



Canyon Cove Buffet, Cactus Petes, in Jackpot.

seafood entrees. The restaurant has an award-winning wine list. D. \$.

Peppermill Hotel Casino/Romanza Ristorante Italiano—826-2121. Osso Bucco Alla Romanza, Salmone Affumicato con fettuccini nere alla vodka, costollette D'Agnello, Ravioli di zucchini dolci. D. \$-\$\$, major.

MEDITERRANEAN

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Ristorante Orozko—Sparks, 356-3300. Veal medallions saltimbocca, braised lamb shank, paella valenciana. D. \$-\$\$\$\$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—882-1626. Clam chowder, fish and chips, and pan roasts. L, D. \$.

Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce. D. \$.

Eldorado/The Grill Steakhouse—Reno, 786-5700.

Prime rib, seafood, and grilled entrees. D. \$\$.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. \$\$.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak, and lobster. L, D. \$\$.
Peppermill/Steak House—826-2121. Steaks, seafood, chicken, salads. D. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$.

Lake Tahoe

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

ASIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. \$\$.

CONTINENTAL

Harveys Tahoe/Llewellyn's—588-2411. Spectacular views of Lake Tahoe with contemporary innovative cuisine. L, D. \$\$.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola. D. \$\$.

MEXICAN

Harveys Tahoe/El Vaquero—588-2411. Traditional Mexican dishes and gourmet southwestern specialties. D. \$\$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. D. \$\$.
Harveys Tahoe/Sage Room—588-2411. Western themed steak house featuring tableside preparation. D. \$\$.
Harveys Tahoe/Seafood Grotto—588-2411.

Around the State

JACKPOT: Cactus Petes Resort Casino/Canyon Cove Buffet—821-1103. International buffet nightly as well as carved prime rib. Seafood on Fri. and Sat. nights, plus Sat. and Sun. brunch. B, D. \$.

JACKPOT: Cactus Petes Resort Casino/Canyon Cove Deli Buffet—821-1103. Sandwiches fixed to order. Homemade soups and salads, plus a selection of desserts. L. \$.

JACKPOT: Cactus Petes Resort Casino/Coyote Cafe—821-1103. Offers breakfast and grilled menu selections. B, L, D. \$.

JACKPOT: Cactus Petes Resort Casino/Gala Showroom—821-1103. A fine-dining restaurant in a classic, Las Vegas-style showroom setting. D. \$\$.
JACKPOT: Cactus Petes Resort Casino/Desert Room—821-1103. Specializing in American and Chinese favorites 24 hours a day. B, L, D. \$.

JACKPOT: Cactus Petes Resort Casino/Plateau Room—821-1103. Continental cuisine, desserts, moderately priced regional wines. D. \$\$.
LOVELOCK: Ramada Inn/Sturgeon's—273-2971. Coffee shop open 24 hours, family dining room. Fiesta Room supper club Tuesday-Saturday. Steaks, seafood, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. \$-\$\$\$.

PAHRUMP: Saddle West Hotel/Silver Spur—727-1111. T-bone steak dinner. Filet mignon and lobster, chicken cordon bleu, 8 oz. swordfish dinners. B, L, D. \$.

WINNEMUCCA: Model T/Casino Restaurant—623-2588. Chicken strips, chicken-fried steak, prime rib special, ribeye steak, fried prawns. B, L, D. \$.

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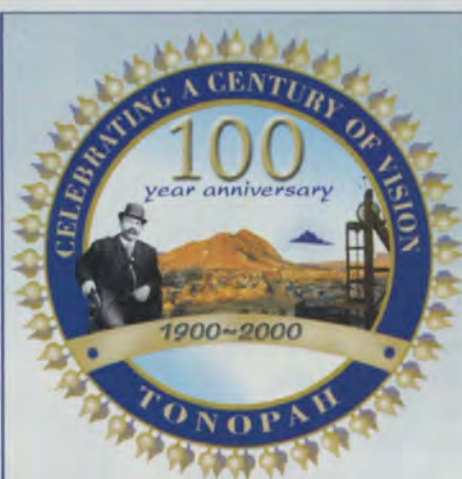
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An Adult 'Jubilation'

"Jubilation" presents comedy, song, and other revelations at the Flamingo Reno. **By D. Brian Burghart**

When the seven topless dancers walked on stage during a recent performance of "Jubilation" at the Flamingo Reno, a woman in the audience greeted them with a nervous cackle. But that junior-high moment soon passed as the audience became comfortable with the fact that these human bodies were not only beautiful but also among the best parts of the show.

Among, I say. There are other good reasons to see "Jubilation," an adult dance revue from producers Breck Wall and Patrick Maes. The costumes are eye-candy pure enough to rot your teeth. The dancing is better than competent. The music, which ranges from salsa to techno to '50s rock 'n' roll, gets your pulse jumping.

You might think that naked flesh would make this a show for guys. That's not necessarily true. The featured entertainers, comedienne Pudgy! and singer Alana Holland, are particularly wholesome.

Pudgy!—some entertainers have last names; she has an exclamation mark—is a singing comedienne who draws spectators onstage to become part of her act. Those selected must be careful, though. If they don't cooperate, they will be zinged. Pudgy!, known in the daytime as Beverly

**During the show
there's a feeling that each
of the dancers is
having a good time and
inviting the audience
to have some fun, too.**

Wines, stops by nearly every table in the showroom during her "I Will Survive" number, offering a comment to each showgoer.

The singing star of "Jubilation" is Alana Holland, a dreamy-eyed waif who can



Dancers Jamie Karrh, Erin Titoni, and Vickie Krops show how to wear feathers in "Jubilation."

really belt out a tune. Her renditions of "Glamorous Life," "Jubilation," and "Let's Get Loud" make Holland almost worth the price of admission.

If you look for a theme that you could put your finger on and say, "This show is about ...," you won't find one. A lack of continuity is probably "Jubilation's" weakest element.

But it's impossible to miss one of the show's best qualities, the joy that the dancers exhibit. Of particular note is the swing-dance number that comes shortly after Pudgy!'s act. As one of the dancers enters on a bungee cord, swinging from the ceiling, the audience takes a deep collective breath.

During the show there's a feeling that each of the dancers is having a good time and inviting the audience to have some fun, too. Given their beautiful surround-

ings, it would be easy to believe that "Jubilation's" two male dancers, Brian Warner and Greg Matthews, have the best jobs in town.

Show Notes

The adult dance revue "Jubilation" appears daily except Tuesday in the Flamingo Showroom of the Flamingo Reno. Show time is 8 p.m., with an additional show at 10:30 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets cost \$21.95 plus tax (\$24.95 plus tax on Saturday and holiday weekends), and the hotel offers three dinner-show packages at \$29.95, \$39.95, and \$49.95. Showgoers must be 18 or older. Call the Flamingo Reno box office, 775-785-7080, for reservations. ▀

D. Brian Burghart is a Reno freelance writer.

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Dining Out

Romanza and 808 bring more than themes to casino dining.

Romancing Romanza

By Deke Castleman

When the Peppermill opened Romanza, its new Italian restaurant, as part of a \$65-million expansion a year and a half ago, the Reno hotel-casino followed the lead of the Mirage, Excalibur, and other Las Vegas resorts that have come since: When you design a casino restaurant, the room has to be as much of an attraction as the food.

Romanza provides that kind of attraction. The circular room is surrounded by Corinthian columns and a thick curtain that, amazingly, blocks out most of the casino noise. Inside are Olympic-style gas-lit torches and a skydome that projects meteor showers, northern lights, and 3-D lasers. A 17-foot-tall statue of the Roman hero Antinous and two maidens-in-waiting is mounted on a rotating platform. Many Romanza regulars recommend asking for a table on the upper level, where the sky and statue are close at hand.

Throughout the restaurant, tables are spaced to provide intimate settings. Soft Italian opera and light classical music add a romantic touch, and each table has a dial, so you can adjust the volume. No expense has been spared on the table settings. Versace china, German crystal, Italian linen, gold-inlaid silverware—for a party of four, the table service for dinner will have run around \$2,000.

But all the Italian linen and flaming torches don't overshadow Romanza's menu and culinary excellence. Appetizers include carpaccio served in oil and lemon with lamb's lettuce (\$10.25) and calamari fritti with marinara (\$7.95).

For an entree you might choose linguine with baby clams (\$15.95) or fettucine tossed with grilled shrimp and shiitake mushrooms (\$17.95). You might tuck your fork into wood-fired double lamb chops with mascarpone-white truffle mashed potatoes (\$26.95). Desserts—

tiramisu, cheesecake, and Italian ice cream—complete dinner.

Additional pleasure comes from the fact that you can look into Romanza's kitchen. There, white-uniformed chefs produce sauces that are delicate, not overpowering, and servings that are generous, not Promethean. Meanwhile, the sky dome slowly changes colors as the clouds redden in a Roman sunset.

Romanza, Peppermill Hotel-Casino, 2707



Chef Massimo Riggio and Antinous preside over the Romanza, the Peppermill's Italian restaurant, where the sky is always changing.

South Virginia Street, Reno, 775-689-7474. Open daily for dinner. Reservations recommended. Early-bird specials may be offered 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Major credit cards are accepted.

Deke Castleman, senior editor of the Las Vegas Advisor, often explores Reno's finer eateries.

Hawaii 808

By Guy E. Torrey IV

Add "Euro-Pacific" to the culinary vocabulary of Las Vegas with the recent opening of 808 (a reference to Hawaii's only area code) at Caesars Palace. Far from

another over-the-top "themed" restaurant, 808 offers subtly excellent dining.

The decor of 808, previously the home of the Bacchanal restaurant, is understated and comfortable. Check out the ceiling's copper ovals, which the designer likens to a river-rock bed. The staff is fresh-faced and eager to please, and the chefs will come to your table upon request to discuss how dishes are prepared.

The menu features a mix of flavors from Hawaii and the Pacific Rim. The appetizer list is inventive and tantalizing. My favorites include the delectable Kailua pork potstickers (\$10), the new-wave bento (\$17), an assortment of Asian appetizers served in a lacquered box with a roll-up bamboo door, and the Deconstructed Ahi Roll (\$14), a generous portion of raw tuna served with white truffle dressing, crab ceviche, and avocado salad.

There are seven fish selections and five meat entrees on the typical 808 menu. Try the miso-crusted Chilean sea bass (\$27), served with wasabi puree and steamed clams, or the steamed Asian-style ono (\$26). On the land-dwelling side of the menu, the grilled lamb chops (\$36), served with Chinese black bean sauce, are a standout. Each entree and appetizer includes a helpful wine suggestion, prepared by a team of sommeliers.

After dinner the coffee-tea-aperitif cart is wheeled directly to your table, where beans and teas are ground or pressed on the spot.

Only upon leaving the premises will you realize that this restaurant lies mere steps from a main gaming floor. During dinner, 808 will have transported you to an entirely different area code.

808, Caesars Palace, Las Vegas Strip, 702-731-7110. Open for dinner, with reservations recommended. Major credit cards are accepted.

Guy E. Torrey IV of Sparks writes about golf, restaurants, and travel.

Creature Comforter

Bird and animal lover William O. Gilcrease operates his own wildlife sanctuary near Las Vegas.

By Paulette Licitra

A stroll down Cockatiel Causeway leads past a huge aviary with dozens of cockatiels perched in elegant poses. If you wander through Love Bird Lane, you can spy on the chattering couples. Down Dove Drive, the white doves flutter and coo. A shrub-lined dirt path leads to a face-to-face greeting with an Australian emu, a tall ostrich-like bird with a small head and eggplant shaped body that is covered with fluffy brown-black feathers.

Here, William O. Gilcrease, caretaker and owner of the Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, pauses to pet the huge bird. The emu returns the affection by putting his head on Mr. Gilcrease's shoulder.

"I've always loved animals," says Mr.

Gilcrease, a tall man with a quiet demeanor and easy smile. More than 80 years ago, the Gilcrease family moved from Reno to Las Vegas, where William and his brother, Ted, grew up on a chicken and turkey farm.

"I came here in 1921 when I was a year old," Mr. Gilcrease says. "As a little kid I asked my mom to get me my own chickens to take care of. When I was eight, I became fascinated with wild quail. I loved the way the young followed them around."

The Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, located 12 miles northwest of Las Vegas, was once a zoo where lions and other exotic animals roamed in cages. But 25 years ago Mr. Gilcrease took over and decided to convert the neglected zoo into a safe haven for disowned pets and lost or injured wildlife.

Now Mr. Gilcrease is best friend to all of the animals at his sanctuary. He walks into every habitat. He knows where the silver pheasant likes to be scratched. Visiting a feisty white cockatoo, he plays a game of twirling a hoop around its head. The bird happily spins around trying to catch it. "Cockatoos are more interested in people than

birds," he says, tickled by the bird's antics.

Most of the birds live in big enclosures near the entrance, but Mr. Gilcrease has been building a nature walk with homes for other animals, such as the group of rare sheep from the Nile, amid the desert surroundings. The sanctuary is home to ravens, quail, royal palm turkeys, Reeve's pheasant, African gray parrots, white and blue peacocks, and rare chickens like the Chinese silky chicken, a fuzzy rather than feathery bird with an extra toe. Near the pot-bellied pig barn is a pond, surrounded by shade trees, that is home to geese, ducks, and swans.

School groups visit often, and sometimes teachers take chicken eggs to hatch them in their classrooms. "Educated chickens!" Mr. Gilcrease exclaims, adding that the whole sanctuary experience is a good education for the kids. "Most Las Vegas schoolchildren haven't seen a barn."

Many of the animals were cast off as pets and, like the lovable Australian emu, have found a comfortable home at the sanctuary.

"Someone had one as a pet that they couldn't take care of anymore. Then some-



William O. Gilcrease knows all the animals in his refuge. Here he greets a llama as a cockatoo watches from his shoulder.



A llama, her baby, and a goat meet visitor Alison Leedham at the sanctuary, located near Floyd Lamb State Park.

body else abandoned an emu. Now we've got emu babies," says Mr. Gilcrease, adding that an emu egg takes 53 days to hatch and that it's the father who sits on the egg.

"See this roadrunner?" says Mr. Gilcrease, pointing to a shy bird in his own large habitat. "He sort of lost his way and had an injured foot. As soon as he gets better, we'll return him to the wild."

He pointed out a turkey buzzard in another area. "He's recuperating from losing a wing in a road accident. The people who brought him in said he'd been knocking on their door."

The newest residents are ostriches and iguanas. One of the iguanas recently laid an egg. The sanctuary continues to evolve, and the latest addition is Lizard Cove, where the iguana lounges. Mr. Gilcrease also added some heated buildings where the tropical birds can spend their winters.

"I thought they might feel a little penned up in there, but you go in and they're all shouting at you. Sounds like a jungle," he says with a laugh.

Last year the sanctuary became a non-profit organization in hopes of getting extra funding to maintain this increasingly growing habitat.

"So many animals come in every year I've just about exceeded my income," explains Mr. Gilcrease, who has lived off proceeds from lands sales and the orchard he shares with his older brother. "We need somebody else donating besides myself."

Of course, no one could donate more time than he has put into the sanctuary—just ask the emu.

Seeking Sanctuary

The Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary is located at 18103 Racel Street in the Tule Springs area, 12 miles northwest of downtown Las Vegas via U.S. 95 and Durango Drive. The refuge stands next to the south end of Floyd Lamb State Park. William O. Gilcrease and his staff of six assistants welcome visitors to the sanctuary Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 702-645-4224 for information. Admission is by donation. Nearby you'll find the Gilcrease Orchard with pick-your-own produce. Call 702-645-1126 for hours. The orchard recently started making apple juice. Depending on the season you'll find peaches, figs, tomatoes, pears, melons, squash, and other fruits and vegetables at the orchard. 🍏

Paulette Licitra is a freelance writer based in New York. Her stories have appeared in Bird Watcher's Digest, the Chicago Tribune, Tea magazine, and Urban Desires.

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Ghost Park

Berlin, which resembles the German capital only in name, is the lone Nevada ghost town that is a state park.

Story by Richard Moreno, Photos by Larry Angier

A few years ago, I took a German travel writer and a photographer to Berlin, Nevada. They wanted to see how the early 20th-century mining town compared to their famous city.

They were mildly amused.

The truth is that Nevada's Berlin is at best a footnote in the state's rich and colorful mining history. At its peak, Berlin could claim about 300 residents, and its mines produced only a trickle of silver.

Berlin's most significant contribution might be that it has survived nearly intact. This distinction has allowed it to become the only ghost town in Nevada that is a state park. While Berlin certainly is not as large as Bodie, the ghost town that is a California state park, it makes for a worthwhile side trip for anyone traveling through Central Nevada.

Berlin was one of many camps that cropped up around the time of Nevada's second mining boom, which was spurred by the discovery of silver in Tonopah in 1900. In Berlin's case, silver was discovered in 1895. About two years later, the town was established in the remote Shoshone Mountains, 160 miles southeast of Reno.

In 1900, Berlin gained its own post office, and by 1905, it had saloons, a school, an auto-repair shop, an assayer's office, and a large stamp mill. The initial boom ended less than two years later when the mine and mill were shut down. Berlin's fortunes revived in 1909, when the mine was reopened, and a cyanide ore processing plant was built below town. The mine was closed again in 1918, and this time Berlin began a permanent decline. During the next few decades, the mine's tailings were occasionally reworked, and the town remained the property of a mining company, which maintained the structures.

Although the large, wooden mill was stripped of its metal stamps and other equipment during the Second World War, it remains the most impressive structure



The 103-year-old Berlin Mill is one of 13 historic buildings still standing at Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park.

in the town. Berlin was acquired by the Nevada Division of State Parks in the 1970s, and its buildings have been maintained ever since as part of Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park.

These days, visitors to Berlin can take a guided tour with park rangers, who recreate the mood of the mining camp's early days. When you enter one of the drafty miner's shacks, you can't help admiring the residents' toughness and spirit. A cot, cast-iron stove, metal tub, table, and chair were the main furnishings.

One of the cabins that is in particularly good condition was used by the mining company's caretaker until the park system

took over. It's a remarkable little cottage that illustrates how residents used all kinds of construction materials, such as the cardboard boxes they nailed to the interior walls for insulation.

Other structures in the park—about a dozen remain standing—include an assay office and a machine shop. Behind the mill you can find an ore cart trestle-and-track system leading to several shafts dug into the hills above town.

Near the mines, there are ruins of an equipment building, ore bins and chutes, cables, and other mining paraphernalia. You can also find the remains of an unusual, multi-hole outhouse. If you search



Meeting Berlin's Ghosts & Fish

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park is located 160 miles southeast of Reno. The closest community is the hamlet of Gabbs, 20 miles to the west, which offers gas, food, and limited accommodations. The park has 14 campsites with picnic tables, barbecue grills, water, and an RV dump station. Fees are \$3 per day to enter the park and \$10 per night to camp. The remoteness provides for a quiet vacation spot far from bright lights and traffic.

Guided tours of Berlin are offered at 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Memorial Day through Labor Day. At other times, visitors may wander the site on their own. The ichthyosaur site is protected by an enclosed interpretive shelter. Nearby, a large sculpture wall displays a representation of a life-size, 56-foot-long ichthyosaur—which gives you some idea of how big these fish were in their time. Guided tours of the shelter are offered at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day; 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and by request on Saturday and Sunday from March 18 to Memorial Day and Labor Day to November 13; and by advance reservation from November 14 to March 17. In addition, you can tour the Diana Mine by reservation, 11 a.m. to noon, April 16 to October 14. The park is open year-round, but passage in and out may be difficult in winter.

For more information, call 775-964-2440, write Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, HC 61, Box 61200, Austin, NV 89310, or visit www.state.nv.us/stparks.



Park rangers conduct tours of several of Berlin's structures such as this miner's shack (above).
Left: A giant wall sculpture depicts an ichthyosaur.

first to find the ichthyosaur bones. The miners, however, weren't sure what to make of the bits and pieces of skeleton they uncovered. Some even used the large, round disks from the creatures' spines as dinner plates.

In the late 1920s, the bones came to the attention of Professor Siemon W. Muler, a geologist at Stanford University. While he identified them as ichthyosaur bones, he did not have the resources to study the site. In 1954, Dr. Charles L. Camp, a Berkeley paleontologist, began formal excavations. Camp discovered that the ichthyosaurs in the Shoshone Mountains had characteristics that made them unique among the species and named them "Shonisaurus" in honor of their location.

In 1955, the state created Ichthyosaur State Monument, which later became Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park. Additionally, in 1977 the ichthyosaur was named Nevada's official state fossil.

By the way, Berlin was named after the more famous German city of the same name. The German journalists thought that was pretty funny, too. 🐉

Richard Moreno is publisher of Nevada Magazine and author of six Nevada travel-history books. This adaptation is from his newest, Backyard Travels in Northern Nevada. The 350-page book retails for \$14.95 and is available in bookstores and from the publisher, the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada, 1813 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701, 775-884-2226. All proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada.

the sagebrush around the buildings, you may stumble onto other remnants of Berlin. About a half mile south of town you can spot a saloon's former site by all the broken glass on the ground.

The ghost town of Berlin isn't the only reason to visit Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park. The second part of the park's name refers to the fact that it also encompasses an archaeological site where the remains of 37 prehistoric ichthyosaurs (the name means "fish lizard") have been found. You wouldn't want to meet an ichthyosaur in a dark alley. Extinct for more than 200 million years, ichthyosaurs measured 50 to 60 feet in length and weighed nearly 50 tons. They had long snouts lined with hundreds of razor-sharp teeth.

The park has the world's greatest concentration of fossils of these ancient marine reptiles. Millions of years ago, the site was at the bottom of a huge inland sea. Later geological upthrusting raised the ground to its current elevation of about 6,000 feet. Scientists believe the big lizards may have consumed toxic organisms and died of food poisoning.

Interestingly, miners at Berlin were the



Lainie Thompson

Photo technique lets Incline Village woman find new artistic expression.



Great Reno Balloon Race: "Sometimes I barely touch the sky in the photos that I work with. In this case, I made the swirls in the sky in order to emphasize the size and color of the balloons."

Lainie Thompson brings a dream-like quality to pictures of old buildings, classic cars, hot-air balloons, and flowers with a technique that she calls "photo art."

Incline Village resident Thompson has been a lifelong photographer—she still has negatives she took with her childhood Kodak Brownie camera. She discovered what is humorously called "scratching" a

year ago and has made it a large part of her creative life ever since. Using a vintage Polaroid SX-70 instant camera, Thompson envisions her completed image as she looks through the viewfinder. After she takes the picture and the photo emerges from the camera, she waits a couple of minutes as the color appears. Then, working quickly, Thompson manipulates portions of the photo with a wooden cuticle

stick, creating swirls, eddies, and a soft, impressionistic look.

"That's where my fun begins," she says. "I often have less than an hour to do the major modifications. I will hone it and fine tune it as I go along."

Thompson's friend John Thomas of Thomas Photography in Incline Village makes copy negatives so the small photos can be enlarged for display. It was Thomas



Corvette, Hot August Nights 2000: "I'm trying to capture memories for the people of that era as well as the thrill of seeing the classic cars in our midst."



Paul Laxalt Building, Carson City: "That sepia quality was an interesting effect on the state tourism building. Sometimes, the original will fade like that."

who first introduced her to the photo-manipulation process.

"I'm now able to emphasize what I'm actually seeing and experiencing. It's been very fulfilling to me," she says. "It's allowed me the opportunity to find that artistic expression I've been longing for. Since then I've had a hard time picking up my other cameras." Thompson has worked with a 35mm camera for many years and won the 1999 Garden Writers Association of America's Quill and Trowel award for newspaper photography for a cover shot for the *North Lake Tahoe Bonanza's Action*, an entertainment and events magazine.

As a gardener and a photographer, she is always aware of the angle of the sun. "I have to wait until the light is right. I plan my photo trips based on where the sun will be for me," she says.

Thompson often photographs historic buildings, such as the Genoa Courthouse Museum, old mansions and churches in Virginia City, and the Paul Laxalt Building, the former federal building and now the home of the Nevada Commission on Tourism (and *Nevada Magazine*) in Carson City. "One of my interests is capturing as many of the historic buildings as I can. I believe so strongly in preserving our history," says Thompson, who has lived in Incline Village for 21 years, coming from Oregon and Southern California.

She says she photographs events such as the Great Reno Balloon Race and Hot August Nights because they are especially colorful and "uniquely Nevada." Classic cars are the subject of another series, "Dream Machines." Thompson also did a series on her brother's 1955 Chrysler, and several of those works along with photos of historic buildings were shown at Sierra Nevada College's student art show in May. Thompson attends and works at the college in Incline Village.

Thompson is a certified nurseryman and has taught garden classes at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno. She took a break from her busy schedule of writing and lecturing to devote time to her photo art. She also photographs flowers, historic locomotives at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City, nature scenes, vintage wooden boats at Lake Tahoe, and dolls.

Greeting cards made of Thompson's photo art are sold at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno and Greenhouse Garden Center in Carson City.—*Joyce Hollister*

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Reno Rodeo, A History: The First 80 Years



By Guy Clifton. Reno Rodeo Foundation, Box 30000, Reno, NV 89510, www.renorodeo.org. 184 pages, \$45.00, hardcover. Guy Clifton, a Reno Gazette-Journal reporter who has covered the Reno Rodeo for many years, has produced a comprehensive history of the event. Clifton shows great affection for the rodeo, which began in 1919 as the Nevada Round-Up, and notes past participants such as Casey Tibbs and Ty Murray. He includes interesting Reno Rodeo trivia, such as the fact that famed Western artist Will James drew the first Nevada Round-Up poster. This attractive, well-written publication is lavishly illustrated with photographs gleaned from the archives of the Reno Gazette-Journal and the Nevada Historical Society.

Cult Vegas: The Weirdest! The Wildest! The Swingin'est Town on Earth!

By Mike Weatherford. Huntington Press, 3687 South Procyon Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89103. 247 pages, \$19.95, paper (ISBN: 0-929712-71-4).

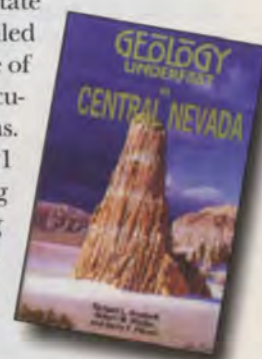
Mike Weatherford has reported on the Las Vegas entertainment scene for the Las Vegas Review-Journal for 14 years. Cult Vegas is his take on the history of Southern Nevada entertainment, with an emphasis on the 1950s and '60s, when the city captured the world's attention as an



entertainment mecca. With a breezy writing style, Weatherford recalls the days when Frank Sinatra and the Rat Pack ruled the Strip, as well as the up-and-down career of Elvis Presley, who flopped during his Vegas debut in 1956 but rebounded more than a decade later to become one of the city's biggest stars. Weatherford has collected dozens of funny anecdotes about the comedians, singers, dancers, and showgirls who have appeared on Vegas stages. (For instance, did you know that Bonanza star Lorne Greene once performed—badly—as a singer at the now-defunct Hotel Bonanza?) A chapter devoted to movies and television shows filmed in Las Vegas—many have been downright goofy—is a hoot.

Geology Underfoot in Central Nevada

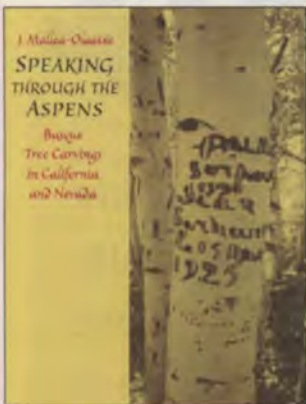
By Richard L. Orndorff, Robert W. Weider, and Harry F. Filkorn. Mountain Press Publishing Co., Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806. 272 pages, \$16.00, paper (ISBN: 0-87842-418-0). Richard L. Orndorff, a University of Nevada, Las Vegas geologist, and paleontologists Robert Weider of the California Department of Agriculture and Harry F. Filkorn of Kent State University, have compiled a useful guide to some of Nevada's most spectacular geologic formations. The authors offer 21 driving and walking tours to sites ranging from glacier-carved Emerald Bay on Lake Tahoe to the black lava flows and cinder cones of the Lunar Crater Volcanic Field, located 83 miles northeast of Tonopah. Each tour includes detailed directions to the site, historical background, and descriptions of the geological aspects that make it noteworthy.



Speaking Through the Aspens: Basque Tree Carvings in California and Nevada

By J. Mallea-Olaetxe. University of Nevada Press, Mail Stop 166, Reno, NV 89557. 256 pages, \$39.95, hardcover (ISBN: 0-87417-358-2). Anyone who has done much hiking in Nevada's mountains has probably stumbled upon unusual inscriptions carved on aspen trees. On a trip in 1968, Joxe Mallea-Olaetxe, an instructor in Basque history at the University of Nevada, Reno, made the same discovery and later decided to find out who carved them and what they meant. Mallea-Olaetxe writes that the carvings, known as arborglyphs,

were the work of Basque sheepherders, who often conveyed in them their private feelings and longings, political philosophies, and personal observations. Since the early 20th century, sheepherders have marked the bark of thousands of aspen



trees in the mountains of Nevada and California with symbols, drawings, initials and names, human and animal figures, and words. Mallea-Olaetxe's interviews with many of the old sheepherders helped him identify the

major arborglyph artists. In addition to uncovering new information about a little-known Western art, the book provides valuable insight into the ambitions, dreams, and way of life of Basque sheepherders.

The River Underground: An Anthology of Nevada Fiction

Edited by Shaun T. Griffin. University of Nevada Press, Mail Stop 166, Reno, NV 89557. 408 pages, \$22.00, paper (ISBN: 0-87417-364-7). Virginia City poet and author Shaun T. Griffin has collected more than two dozen short stories and book excerpts written by the cream of Nevada's contemporary literary community. Authors range from best-selling authors like the late Robert Laxalt, Steven Nightingale, and Teresa Jordan to talented newcomers like Mike Henderson and Marilee Swirczek. While all the au-



thors have a connection to Nevada, not all the stories are set in the Silver State. Griffin has selected pieces that frequently touch readers on an emotional level. These stories deserve to be read slowly—perhaps one a night—and savored. After the reader

has finished the book, only one question remains—when will the next volume be published?—Richard Moreno

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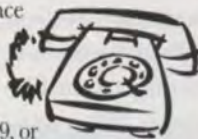
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Great Casino Deals

By Wilma LaRocca

From **remarkable** room rates to **splashy spa specials**, here are more than **100 bargains** to help you stretch your vacation pleasure at Nevada's casinos this summer.

Summer is a great time to take advantage of Nevada's casino-vacation bargains. As temperatures rise, prices often go down, especially in Southern Nevada, and hotels-casinos offer deals on room rates, buffets, slot play, and golf packages. Some Nevada casinos offer noteworthy bargains all year long, from elegant spa treatments to five-cent coffee.

Casino bargains, of course, provide more than mere monetary savings. Discovering just the right deal is a thrill—like finding money you didn't know you had. A good casino bargain will help you extend your vacation, upgrade to gourmet meals and elegant rooms, and add shows to your evenings.

Recently *Nevada Magazine* conducted a statewide survey of great casino deals, both summer and year-round, and the following hotels and casinos responded. Prices are subject to change, and it's best to call ahead if you have questions. Here are more than 100 money-saving attractions, beginning in Southern Nevada.

Las Vegas

Breakfast at Arizona Charlie's:

Breakfast is a special event for bargain hunters at Arizona Charlie's, where the Sourdough Café offers a steak-and-eggs breakfast for \$2.49 around the clock. On weekdays between midnight and 7 a.m. you can choose from seven 77-cent breakfasts, including eggs with bacon or sausage and toast and half a grapefruit with toast. Another graveyard-shift deal is Arizona Charlie's steak dinner for \$3.99. Call 800-342-2695 or 702-258-

5111 or visit www.azcharlies.com.

Bally's Rates: Romantic weekenders will find Bally's room rates starting at \$59 during July and August. Also, for \$220, Sunday through Thursday, guests at the Strip hotel can get two nights' lodging, two tickets to "Jubilee," two breakfast buffets, and discounts at the spa. Call 800-634-3434 or 702-739-4111 or visit www.ballyslv.com.

Bellissimo Bellagio: The Bellagio may be a grand hotel, but it also has its bargains. A water show with lights and classical music takes place every half-hour, day and night, in front of the resort. The show is free, as is a self-guided tour of the courtyard flower gardens near the lake. The Bellagio Gallery of Fine Arts features works by Picasso, and until September 4 the gallery will display comedian Steve Martin's art collec-



tion, which includes paintings by Edward Hopper and Roy Lichtenstein. Admission is \$12 general, \$6 Nevada residents, and \$10 students. Also, Bellagio rooms are a relative bargain at \$139 to \$159 per night April through September. Call 888-987-6667 or 702-693-7111



or visit www.bellagiolasvegas.com.

Castaways' Lanes: You can roll a few frames for under 10 bucks at the Castaways, home of the nation's largest bowling center (106 lanes). The center is open 24 hours and charges \$2.25 per game, or \$1.75 for juniors and seniors. The Family Fun package for \$19.95 covers 90 minutes of bowling for up to four people, shoe rental, snack, and soft drink. The Castaways also has RV hookups for under \$20 per night. Call 800-826-2800 or 702-385-9123 or visit www.castaways.com.

Fitzgeralds Puts on the Fitz:

At Fitzgeralds, Fitz Card holders can earn O' Lucky bucks and take part in nightly, weekly, and quarterly drawings. Prizes range from a new Lexus RX 300 to autographed sports memorabilia. The downtown casino gives away 32,000 nickels (\$1,600) every night. Call 800-274-LUCK or 702-388-2400 or visit www.fitzgeralds.com.

Golden Gate Shrimp: Old-timers know this deal, but first-time visitors have a surprise in store when they visit the Golden Gate Casino downtown. The Golden Gate's shrimp cocktail, made with ocean shrimp and served in a tulip-shaped glass, costs just 99 cents. Call 800-426-1906 or 702-385-1906 or visit www.goldcoastcasino.com.

Golden Nugget Deals: The Golden Nugget offers several deals as well as upscale accommodations in the heart of the Fremont Street Experience. From May 1 to October 31 guests who arrive Sunday through Thursday receive a \$50 food and beverage credit per person. Room rates,



not overpriced for a luxury hotel, are \$59 on those days. Call 800-634-3454 or 702-385-7111, or visit www.goldennugget.com.

Gold Spike Specials: The 24-hour snack bar at the Gold Spike, on Ogden Street a block from the Fremont Street Experience, offers such bargains as a ham or roast beef dinner for \$2.20, 50-cent cocktails, \$1 margaritas, and, for a quick boost between slot sessions, a \$1.10 cheese sandwich. Full breakfasts cost only 99 cents before 10:30 a.m. Bingo starts early—it



Spa at the Regent Las Vegas

runs from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. Call 800-634-6703 or 702-384-8444 or visit www.goldspikehotelcasino.com.

Driving a Hard Rock Bargain: Through August 23 guests at the Hard Rock Hotel receive a \$75-value booklet of coupons that includes a drink, free dessert, two-for-one margaritas at the Pink Taco, \$5 off at the RockSpa, and 25 percent off salon service. The special is valid for midweek check-in. Another deal: You can dine on steak and shrimp in Mr. Lucky's for \$5.95. Call 800-HRD-ROCK or 702-693-5000 or visit www.hardrockhotel.com.

Imperial Palace Pleasures: Rooms at the Imperial Palace start at \$55 until August 29. At check-in guests can select the Imperial Dine



"Legends in Concert" at the Imperial Palace

Around program and receive a \$50 food credit, honored at all the hotel's restaurants. There's also a \$39.50 dinner-show package for "Legends in Concert," which has its permanent home at the Strip hotel. Call 800-634-6441 or

702-731-3311 or visit www.imperialpalace.com.

New Bargain Frontier:

Each month the New Frontier awards \$25,000 to the winner of a 25-player slot tournament. Gamblers Reward club members may also get two free nights' lodging per month by accumulating 1,000 points. Call 800-421-7806 or 702-794-8400, or visit www.frontierlv.com.

Regent Spa Special: The Regent Las Vegas in Summerlin offers a number of golf and spa vacations. One deal includes two nights' lodging, two 50-minute spa treatments (massage or facial), and two dinners at the Market Buffet for \$299. There's also a "Romance Package" for \$275. Call 887-869-8777 or 702-869-7777, or visit www.resortsummerlin.com.

Off to Rio: Six times every day Rio Suite

Hotel patrons can watch a free show take place on stage and over their heads. Featuring a parade of dancers and exotic floats, "The Masquerade Show in the Sky" levitates above the casino floor at 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 p.m. daily. Call 888-746-7482 or 702-252-7777 or visit www.playrio.com.

Sahara Sup and Show: The Sahara has a double deal for car buffs. At the NASCAR Café they can marvel at 20 special stock cars, including Carzilla, the world's largest stock car, a souped-up Pontiac Grand Prix that weighs more than three tons. There's a \$36.95 package that combines dinner at the NASCAR Café and a ticket to Steve Wyrick's magic show (dark Tuesday). Not-so-high rollers can play at several \$1 and \$2 blackjack tables. Also, Sahara room rates start at \$39 through August 30. Call 888-696-2121 or 702-737-2111.

Sam's Town Specials: Visitors who head to Sam's Town on the Boulder Highway will find free entertainment and other bargains. Every day at Mystic Falls Park there's a laser-light and water-fountain show at 2, 6, 8, and 10 p.m. From Sunday through Thursday rooms are \$39, with a free breakfast for two. Breakfast and dinner specials are \$3.99. Call 800-634-6371 or 702-456-7777 for information.

San Remo Specials: The Hotel San Remo, located next to the Tropicana, offers two 24-hour food deals—a prime-rib dinner and a steak-and-eggs special, each for the friendly price of \$5.95. Call 800-522-7366 or 702-739-9000 or visit www.sanremolasvegas.com.

Stratosphere Tower Thrills: At the top of the Stratosphere you can scream your head off—twice—for \$15. That's the cost of a ticket for the hotel's top-of-the-tower rides. Shooting skyward



on the Big Shot, you'll feel your hair stand on end as you free fall back to the launch pad.

The High Roller roller coaster carries you around the top, 100 floors above the Strip. Back at ground level, slot and table players can join the Players Club and take part in the Guaranteed Winners program, which covers new cardholders' losses up to \$125 for the first 30 minutes of play. Call 800-99-TOWER or 702-380-7777 or visit www.stratlv.com.

Treasure Island Sea B's: Treasure Island visitors can watch the *H.M.S. Britannia* fire on a pirate ship during a full-scale sea war that takes place on Buccaneer Bay every 90 minutes from 4 to 11:30 p.m. The show is free. Also, room rates at Treasure Island start at \$59 per night from May 27 to September 6. Call 800-944-7444 or 702-894-7111 or visit www.treasureisland.com.

Westward Ho Joe: You can cool off with a free ice-cream cone from noon to 4 p.m. at the Westward Ho, where food prices seem to be stuck in the Eisenhower era. Westward Ho offers a five-cent cup o' joe, or a coffee with a choice of flavors such as chocolate macadamia nut for 25 cents, and light snacks for 50 cents. Call 800-634-6803 or 702-731-2900, or visit www.westwardho.com for bargain information.



Laughlin



Colorado Belle River Deal: The Colorado Belle offers two nights' lodging (double occupancy) for \$67 Sunday through Thursday and \$95 on weekends. Each guest receives a \$5 restaurant certificate, free drink, Colorado River cruise, free slot and blackjack tournament entry, and a free night to be used on another visit. Call 800-47-RIVER, 702-289-4000, or visit the Web site www.coloradobelle.com.

Edgewater and Colorado Belle: In this summer's "Live Free for a Year" promotion, the Edgewater and Colorado Belle, both Mandalay Bay properties, will jointly give away a \$36,000-value grand prize on August 26. Also, each

casino will hold \$2,250 drawings on July 1 and August 5. Guests can enter in numerous ways, such as applying for a Player's Card or getting three of a kind in Caribbean stud. The grand prize is a monthly payment to cover mortgage or rent, car, utilities, insurance, and gas for one year, up to \$36,000. Call the Edgewater, 800-677-4837, 702-298-2453, or www.edgewater-casino.com, or the Colorado Belle, 800-47-RIVER, 702-298-4000, or www.coloradobelle.com.

Harrah's Laughlin Reward: Harrah's Total Rewards has a deal for those who play nickel or higher slots. Harrah's will give back \$100 for the first 30 minutes of play, mailing the \$100 voucher, which is redeemable during the player's next trip to Harrah's within nine months. Call 800-447-8700 or 702-298-4600 or visit www.harrah.com.

Ramada Express Rates: Those looking for really, really low room rates will note that the Ramada Express has rooms starting at under \$20 per night, Sunday through Thursday. When you're hungry, the Dining Car restaurant has a \$6.99 T-bone

steak and a \$6.99 New York steak-and-shrimp dinner. Call 800-243-6846 or 702-298-4200, or visit www.ramadaexpress.com.

Mesquite

CasaBlanca: Summertime rates are low for golfers at CasaBlanca in Mesquite, 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas. One Sunday-to-Thursday deal includes one night's room and two rounds of golf, with a tee time between 5:30 and 10 a.m., for \$86. For those who don't mind the heat, the price drops \$20 if you tee off after noon. Other golf packages also vary by hour and day of the week. Call 800-459-PLAY or visit www.casablancaresort.com.

Virgin River Rollin': Guests at the Virgin River can expect to pay less than \$21 for a room. The Chuckwagon Coffee Shop has a breakfast special of ham and eggs for \$3.49. On Tuesday in Victoria's Buffet the New York steak dinner is \$9.99, and Friday's all-you-can-eat buffet with crab legs costs \$9.99. Call 800-346-7721 or 702-346-7777.

Pahrump

Saddle West Golf: Guests can get away for golf

in Pahrump with the Saddle West golfer's package: lodging (double occupancy) and a round of golf for two at Willow Creek Golf Course for \$80. RVers can join the Saddle West Players Club and redeem 1,000 points (\$1 cash redemption) for a complimentary night in the RV park. Call 800-433-3987 or 775-727-1111 or visit www.saddlewest.com.

Terrible's Town Tantalizers: Recently opened in Pahrump, Terrible's Town specializes in buffets, with breakfast \$4.99, lunch \$6.99, dinner for \$9.99, a Thursday seafood special \$12.99, and Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch \$8.99. If you're looking for a morning jolt, Terrible's offers coffee and a doughnut for 99 cents. Call 800-640-9777 or 775-751-7770 for details.

Primm

Buffalo Bill's High Roll: Want to feel like a high roller? Buffalo Bill's has one of the world's highest roller coasters, the Desperado, which boasts a 225-foot drop. Conversely, the price is a low \$6. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until midnight on weekends, at the hotel on the Nevada-California state line. Call 800-FUN-STOP or 702-382-1111 or visit [primadonna.com](http://www.primadonna.com).

Searchlight

Searchlight Nugget Dime Deal: Coffee is a bargain in Searchlight, the mining town located on U.S. 95 between Las Vegas and Laughlin. Open 24 hours and serving breakfast at all hours, the Nugget Café in the Searchlight Nugget sells a cup of java for 10 cents and biscuits and gravy for 95 cents. Call 702-297-1201.

Reno/Sparks

Atlantis Golf: The Atlantis rolls out the green carpet to golfers. Packages from \$89 to \$209 include two nights' tower room accommodations, two breakfasts, health spa, limousine, and a round of golf at Red Hawk, LakeRidge, Wolf Run, ArrowCreek, or Rosewood golf courses. Call 800-723-6500 or 775-825-4700 or visit www.atlantiscasino.com.

Blackjack Bonanza: In the spirit of the Old West, the Bonanza Casino on North Virginia Street has a deal for blackjack players: \$1 tables, single deck. Call 800-808-3303 or 775-323-2724.



Club Cal Neva-Virginian: In business for 40 years in downtown Reno, the Club Cal Neva-Virginian offers '50s-style bargains. Guests can make a \$1 minimum bet on roulette or craps. A ham-and-egg breakfast costs 99 cents, a hot dog and Heineken \$1.50, and a giant margarita \$3.95. For out-of-town guests there's a "Welcome to Reno" packet with free breakfast, prime-rib dinner, cocktail, and keno bonus. Call 877-777-7373 or 775-323-1046 or visit www.clubcalneva.com.

Eldorado Show and Room: At the Eldorado this summer you can gain both a room and tickets to "Les Folies de Paris" for \$49.95 per person, Sunday through Thursday, through September 9. Also, the Tivoli Gardens coffee shop offers a ham-and-egg breakfast for \$2.99, and the Grill has a steak-and-lobster dinner for \$11.99. Call 800-648-5966 or 775-786-5700 or visit www.eldoradoreno.com for information.

Flamingo Reno Video: The video-poker machines at the Flamingo Reno reward players with chances to win dinner, show tickets, and \$100 in cash. Players can also win \$200 cash for a four-of-a-kind card of the day on any second-floor video-poker machine. Call 888-565-8259 or 775-785-7000 or visit www.flamingoreno.net.

John Ascuaga's Nugget Links: Golfers can stay and play at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, where a two-night package costs \$119 per player and includes a tower room, one round of golf with cart per person, and buffet meal. Players may choose from 35 courses in the Reno-Tahoe area. Packages for John Ascuaga's Nugget Amateur Open (July 22-26) start at \$799 per golfer for four nights. Call 800-648-1177 or 775-356-3300 or visit www.janugget.com.



John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks

Lake Tahoe

Harveys Player's Deal: Harveys has a two-night summer getaway Player's Package for \$109 per



Red Hawk Golf Club

night, Sunday through Thursday, that lasts until September 2. It includes a \$10 dining credit and \$5 in gaming chips. Call 800-HARVEYS or 775-588-2411 or visit www.harveys-tahoe.com for package details.

Lakeside Inn Two-fer: At certain bars in Stateline's Lakeside Inn you can order a Heineken, martini, or virtually any other drink for \$2. The Lakeside also is known for its \$7.95 prime-rib dinner. Call 800-624-7980 or 775-788-7777, or visit www.lakesideinn.com.

Carson City

Cactus Jack's News: The coffee shop in Cactus Jack's offers daily specials such as a \$3.95 soup and sandwich. Slot-club members receive a quarterly newsletter, *The Hot Slots Tribune*. Call 775-882-8770.

Carson Nugget Deals: You can dig into a prime-rib dinner for \$4.95 between 4 and 10 p.m. at the Carson Nugget. The casino's Prospector's Club rewards slot-machine

Carson Station, or visit www.pinsonplaza.com or www.carsonstation.com for information on deals and packages.

Hawthorne

El Capitan Sports: Outdoor enthusiasts can design their own getaways at the El Capitan. For starters, a one-night stay with dinner at the El Cap costs \$24.95. Then you can add \$40 for 18 holes of golf for two, or \$99 per person for a full day's guided trip fishing for cutthroat trout on Walker Lake. Call 800-922-2311 or 775-945-3321 for room reservations, 775-945-2525 for guide reservations.

Jackpot

Cactus Petes Golf: For \$89 double occupancy, Cactus Petes offers a tower room for one night, two free drinks, and green fees and cart at the Jackpot Golf Course. The offer lasts till September and is valid Sunday through Thursday. Call 800-821-1103 or 775-755-2321 or visit www.ameristars.com.

Lovelock

Ramada Inn/Sturgeon's Specials: The Ramada coffee shop has breakfasts such as eggs with ham or bacon for \$1.99 to \$2.22. The Log Cabin Restaurant offers a steak or prime-rib dinner for \$9.25, and seniors get a 10-percent discount on food and beverages 24 hours. Rooms are \$47 per night. Call 888-234-6835 or 775-273-2971 or visit www.ramadainn.com for bargain details.

Winnemucca

Model T Time: The Model T is geared to dining specials. The casino restaurant offers a \$1.99 breakfast of eggs, toast, and choice of ham, bacon, or sausage from 10 p.m. to 10 a.m. Another special is the prime-rib dinner, with soup or salad bar, potato, and vegetable, for \$7.95 (seniors \$6.95). The hotel-casino also has a Quality Inn and RV park. Call 800-645-5658 or visit www.modelt.com.

Winners Bargain: The Winners offers a good Winnemucca deal with its year-round "Drive Down Package." For \$45 (that's per couple) you and your companion get a room, and you each also get a prime-rib dinner, breakfast, free drink, and gaming coupon. Call 800-648-4770, 775-623-2511, www.winnerscasino.com.

Wilma LaRocca of Carson City is a Nevada Magazine editorial assistant. She enjoys finding casino bargains during her travels around the state.



players one point for every \$2 played, and blackjack players can try the \$2-minimum tables. Guests who stay at the Nugget's City Center Motel for \$46 per couple get the second night's room for \$35, plus meal and gaming coupons per day worth \$98.33. Call 800-338-7760 or 775-882-5535 for City Center Motel reservations. For the casino call 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239.

Carson Horseshoe Specials: The Horseshoe has a little snack bar with big bargains. A popular morning special is bacon and eggs for \$2.50, while the luncheon crowd gravitates to bargains like the fried-egg sandwich (\$2) and BLT (\$2.85). Call 775-883-2211.

Piñon Plaza and Carson

Station Rewards: Piñon Plaza and Carson Station in Carson City offer Capital City Rewards, a slot player's club without a card. Table games also earn Rewards points for blackjack, 7-7-7, or 6-7-8 same suit. On Tuesday and Wednesday, senior players at Carson Station receive two-for-one meals and free bingo and keno. Call 775-885-9000 for Piñon Plaza, 775-883-0900 for



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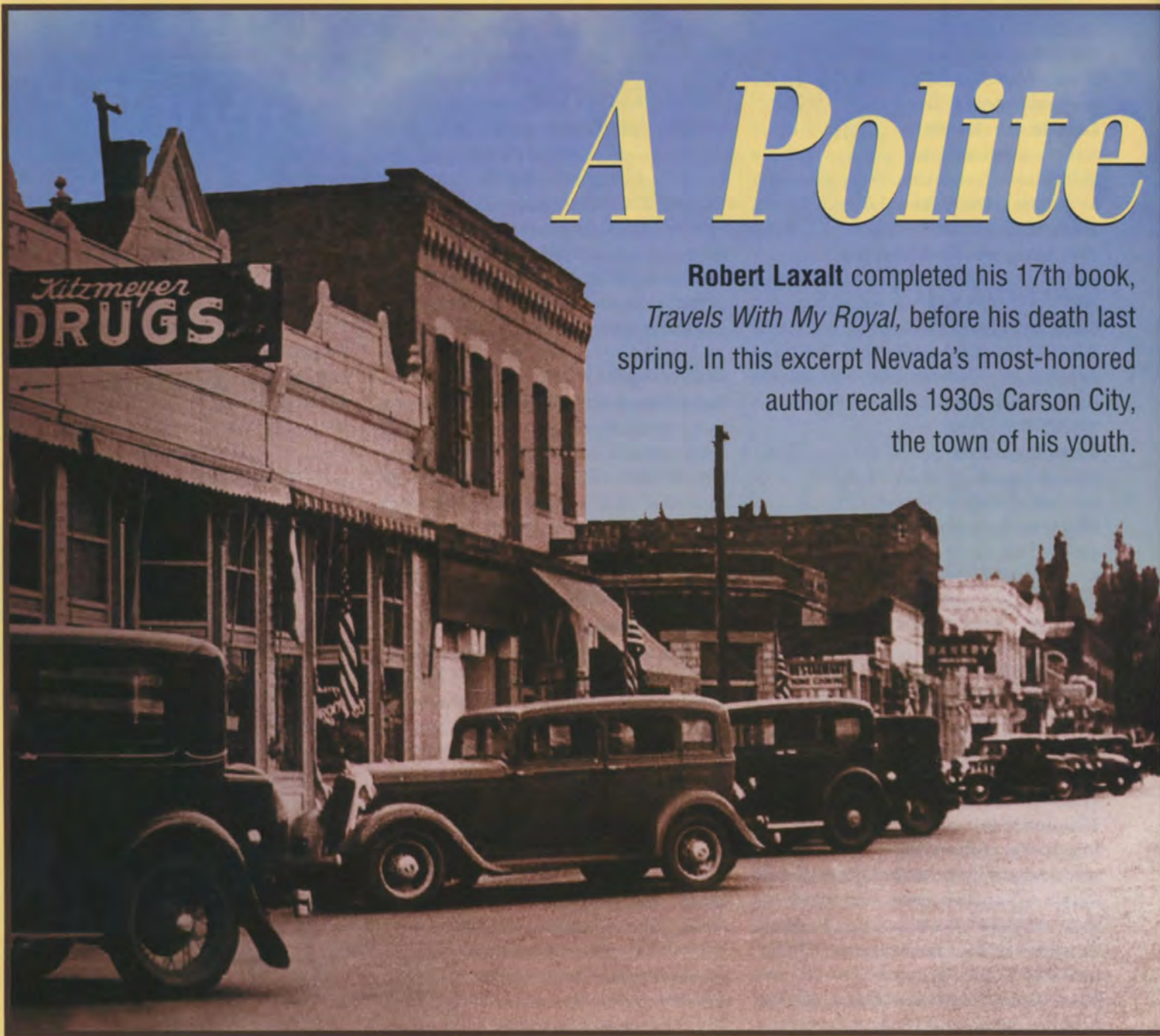
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A Polite

Robert Laxalt completed his 17th book, *Travels With My Royal*, before his death last spring. In this excerpt Nevada's most-honored author recalls 1930s Carson City, the town of his youth.



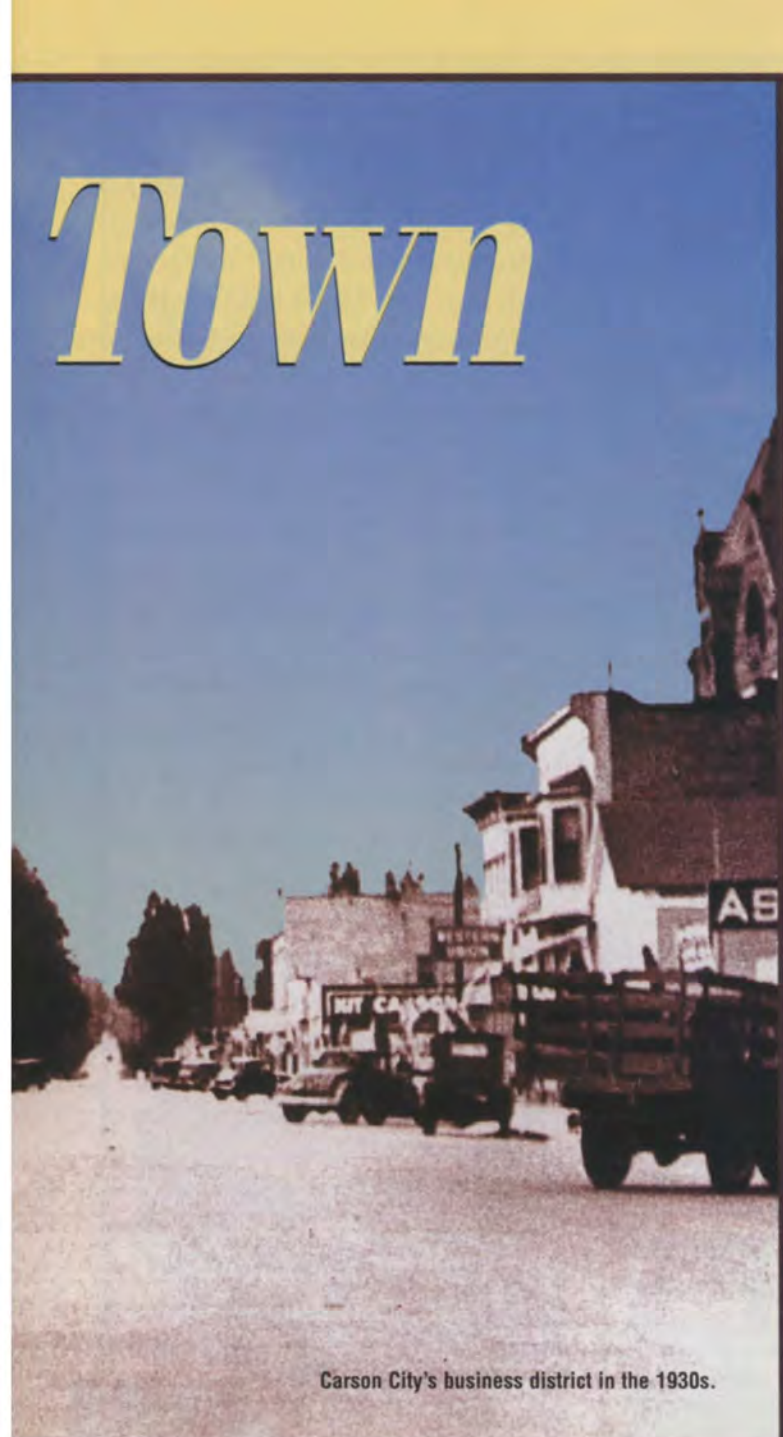
As far as Western towns went, Carson City was a polite town. From the time I was a young boy, I said hello to everyone I met on Main Street and they said hello to me. Nobody said I had to. It was just the accepted thing to do, from the governor on down to the town drunk who swamped out the whorehouses just off Main Street.

Carson City wasn't a poor town, but it wasn't a rich town either. Reno was where the people who had gotten rich off the silver and gold mines went to bank their money and build mansions overlooking the Truckee River.

The fact that Carson was a small town obviously had

something to do with it. I could walk from one city limit to the other in half an hour. Main Street meant a grocery store, a butcher shop, a shoe store, a clothing store for men and one for women, a couple of cafés, the pool hall, a hardware store, and five saloons. Interspersed between them were the ponderous stone buildings that housed the courthouse, the U.S. Post Office, the State Library, a one-time U.S. Mint, the depot where the Virginia and Truckee short-line railway stopped, and of course, in the middle of town, the State Capitol of Nevada with its spiraling dome and winding balconies in a setting of sprawling green lawns and dark elms.

Town



Carson City's business district in the 1930s.

To find someone's house, it really wasn't necessary to know all the street signs, because houses were identified by their occupants, not their location. The west side was the high-toned part of town, spreading down from the Governor's Mansion. Its gracious lawns and flower gardens lay under a canopy of cottonwood trees, and the western edge of town was defined by a long line of sentinel poplars to blunt the force of the winds that swept down from the Sierra.

The east side of Carson held smaller homes, and beyond them were the Indian shacks, Chinatown until it was burned down by design of the volunteer fire department, the

Orphan Home, and the grim stone outlines of the Nevada State Prison.

On Main Street, people who worked in government wore suits, neckties, and hats. Their wives wore proper dresses and summer frocks and hats. The so-called working class wore blue overalls; the ranchers wore high boots and big hats; Indian men wore cast-off clothes, and their women who sat against the buildings on Main Street wrapped themselves in blankets to help the sun warm their old bones.

The merchants on Main Street were singular characters. My favorite was old Bert Lindsay, who owned the bakery and grocery store. He was a gangling, gray-haired man who wore wire-rimmed glasses perched on his nose so that he could look down through them when he was doing his accounting and over them when he was talking to people. He wore a wrinkled shirt with arm garters and a bow tie, but no coat. He perched on a high stool beside his high desk so that he could keep an eye on his help and the people who came in to buy doughnuts and bear claws and such or a can of something they couldn't find elsewhere.

In the one summer I worked there doing odd jobs, he would call on me to come to him for an admonition: "If you're going to smoke when you're a man, don't smoke cigarettes. They're for pimps. Smoke cigars. They are for men." He would end his ritual by blowing cigar smoke in my face and then go back to his accounting. Later, when I read Dickens, I likened old man Lindsay to one of the many accountants in high chairs that worked in old London Town.

Buck Muller was my second favorite merchant on Main Street. He ran a clothing store that catered to men only. He had a poker face and always wore a derby hat when he went outdoors. What intrigued and puzzled me about him was that everyone said he was the best liar in Nevada. This created a contradiction in my mind that lasted through my childhood on Main Street. I thought people meant he was a bad man whose word was not to be trusted. It wasn't until much later that I learned there was a society of liars in every town, and that Buck Muller had earned his distinction as a champion liar through the tall tales he told in the tradition of Mark Twain. Twain had lived in Carson City for a spell during his Nevada Territorial days when his brother was secretary of the territory, and he was known for the tall tales he wrote for Virginia City's *Territorial Enterprise*.

The man I worked with was named Blarney. He was in his twenties and a prototype of Carson City "boys" who went from high school with no ambitions but to get a job, usually in menial labor, and make enough money to get drunk on Saturday night and go to the whorehouses. Others, more ambitious, went on to work in one of the state departments.

Blarney's job in the store where we worked was to wash

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the windows after work and to haul up canned goods from the basement and stock the shelves. When I wasn't called upon to man the sales counter, my job was to help Blarney with his chores.

Because I wanted a future higher than holding down a menial job and getting drunk on Saturday night and going to the warehouses, Blarney didn't take a liking to me. I was the butt of his jokes and jibes.

I was a little afraid of him because he did crazy things. Periodically, he would take a bite out of a beer glass or burn a prostitute's initials into his arm with a glowing cigarette. Once, he was bitten by a black widow spider in the store basement. He refused to go to a doctor and kept on working with a swollen leg.

When World War II came, he was drafted and went into action as an infantryman. When he returned, he was a changed man—freshly shaven, trimly uniformed, and standing upright. Across his chest was a row of medals for heroism in combat. From his standing as town bum, he was suddenly a hero, leaving me to wonder what was the stuff of heroes. ▀

Robert Laxalt, a shepherd's son who became Nevada's most celebrated author, died last March at age 77. This story is an excerpt from his 17th book, *Travels With My Royal: A Memoir of the Writing Life*, published in the spring by the University of Nevada Press. In *Travels With My Royal*, Laxalt describes growing up in Carson City, serving in wartime Africa, attending the University of Nevada in Reno, founding the University of Nevada Press, writing for National Geographic, and the process of writing his books on his trusty Royal typewriter. *Travels With My Royal* (192 pages, \$21.95, hardbound, ISBN 0-87417-485-6) is available through the University of Nevada Press, Mail Stop 166, Reno, NV 89557-0076, 877-NVBOOKS, www.nvbooks.nevada.edu, or from bookstores throughout the state.



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Robert Laxalt: A Remembrance

By Warren Lerude

Monique Laxalt spoke softly through the phone. "We lost Pop this morning." I knew that her father, Robert Laxalt, Nevada's finest author and my close friend, had been ill for many months. But the news of his death in Reno last March came with shocking clarity.

Tears welled. Monique, whom we call Nicky, and I consoled each other. Thousands of admirers of Bob Laxalt would do the same in the days that followed. From the academic halls of the University of Nevada to the pristine Sierra Nevada beyond, the stories of Bob Laxalt were to be recalled again and again by grieving family and friends.

Some called him Frenchy. They were his old friends who went way back to his high school days in Carson City, where, because of his good looks, he had been given the nickname Casanova. His teen-aged friends shifted the tag to Frenchy, partly because it sounded romantic and partly because he was, in fact, of French Basque descent.



Bob wrote books and stories on his trusty Royal.

Everyone called him Robert when referring to his 17 books, among them classics like *Sweet Promised Land* and *A Man in the Wheatfield*. Those books earned him a place in the roster of fine American writers and the Distinguished Author's Chair at the University of Nevada.

But most just called him Bob—Bob Laxalt, the quiet, studious, humorous, good friend to all who met him, be it political dignitary or young student.

Bob's good friend Charles Kuralt gave students this advice several years ago at a journalism banquet on the Reno campus: If you want to be a fine writer, do not emulate me on television, but go to the mountain. When you reach the top of the mountain, Robert Laxalt will be there for you.

Bob was there for me that day in the early 1980s when he asked me to meet him in his University

of Nevada Press office in the basement of Morrill Hall. "I think there is a good book for you to write," he told me. A book? I'd never written a book. I had no idea how to write a book. But Bob put it this way: "Look, you've written hundreds of feature stories for newspapers. A book is just a bunch of feature stories called chapters. You just tie them together so they flow from one to another. Don't look at it as a book to write. Just look at the stories and tell the stories." I tried to do that in the months that turned into years of researching and writing *American Commander in Spain*, the story of a young University of Nevada couple and the Spanish Civil War. And Bob was always there for me, a soft, guiding voice, just as he was for so many writers whom he nurtured into authorship.

Some of the best stories were about Bob himself. Take, for instance, those cowboy boots. They were real. Bob Laxalt was no drugstore cowboy. His boots wore the grit of the Sierra Nevada. He was a man born to ride a horse, and he did so most of his life in the mountains where his father had herded sheep, 2,000 feet above Tahoe at Marlette Lake. Those cowboy boots were natural on horseback.

But when Bob climbed into our sailboat at Lake Tahoe, well, those cowboy boots weren't exactly deck shoes. At first, Bob took to the water with near alarm. He immediately demanded a life preserver, which he wrapped around himself as though we were heading for the high seas. His wife, Joyce, Norwegian blood in her veins, rode the bouncing bow like a Viking. Eventually, Bob took the helm, reminding us that the Basques were sea-faring as well as mountain people.

I'll never forget the day Bob pointed out to some friends that there was no national monument to the Basque sheepherder. Bob prodded us into action. Soon, Bob and I were touring the Basque Country of France and Spain urging bankers and provincial governors to join our campaign to erect a great statue at Rancho San Rafael Park in Reno to commemorate the Basque immigration to the American West.

Bob would never let you know it, because he was shy and modest, but those Basque bankers and governors treated him as the celebrity that he was. He had, after all, in his books and *National Geographic* articles, immortalized the Basques from the Pyrenees and the Bay of Biscay of the old country to the mountains and deserts that would become the sweet promised land of America.

Sweet Promised Land. Bob told me many times he simply could not write the book. He was too close to it. The words would not come. And then, when



Bob often beat writer's block by chopping wood.

he was about to give up, he put one more blank sheet of paper into the Royal typewriter, and his fingers began to move.

"My father was a sheepherder, and his home was the hills." The prose flowed. *Sweet Promised Land* won home-state love and international appreciation. The book told the story not simply of his father or of the Basque people but of all immigrants who came to America and settled across the great land in a new, free life. In my newspaper days, I bought about 50 copies of *Sweet Promised Land* and gave them to editors and others around the country, mostly Easterners, so they could learn what the American West was all about.

Bob's storytelling continued to move through the old Royal as he wrote year after year, book after book. And his words came to life once again when his daughters, Monique and Kristin, read from *Sweet Promised Land* to a hushed memorial gathering on March 28 at the University of Nevada's Nightingale Hall.

Monique once recalled how, as a little girl, she would hear her father typing in the basement of the family home on Cardinal Way in Southwest Reno. She poignantly described the beauty and strength of Bob Laxalt's dedication:

"The typewriter was the background music of our home." ▀

Warren Lerude and the late Myrick Land, fellow professors at the Reynolds School of Journalism, twice nominated Robert Laxalt for the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, for *A Cup of Tea in Pamplona* and for *The Basque Hotel*.



Wakes and Wet Suits

Water-ski action swings into summer on Nevada's lakes.

By Joyce Hollister

Cutting through a wake at more than 20 miles per hour, the spray in your face and the wind in your hair—water-skiers describe their sport in terms of heightened exhilaration. That level of enjoyment will rise again this summer as water-skiers cruise lakes and reservoirs throughout Nevada. Locals tow their boats and provide their own equipment, while visitors can rent everything they need for a day on the water.

The water-skiing's fine all year at **Lake Mead**, 30 miles east of Las Vegas, and **Lake Mohave**, just north of Laughlin. In summer, it's hot enough—highs are usually over 100 degrees—that the lakes' temperature in the 80s feels cool. For those who want hours of uninterrupted water-skiing, the lakes' basins are well cast. "We have over 700 miles of shoreline. That's a lot of area

to ski in," says Charlotte Sherwood of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area public affairs office. Water-skiing is best in the mornings, when the water is calm.

Water-ski races are held on Mead each summer. All ages compete in circle races, which feature two-and-half-mile laps, and marathons, which involve one hour of water-skiing for men and 45 minutes for women. "Mead is a wonderful place to race," says Rich Landreth, president of the National Water Ski Racing Association. Region II NWSRA circle races are set for August 11-12 and a 50-mile marathon on September 8-9. Water-skiers from around the globe will converge on Mead's Boulder Beach for the 2001 World Racing Open Championships on October 13-21. Spectators are welcome, and concessionaires will sell refreshments, food, and souvenirs.

A rooster's tail fans behind a water-skier cutting through the glassy surface of Lake Tahoe. Water-skiing usually is best early in the morning when the water is smooth.

Marinas on Mead and Mohave rent powerboats from \$50 per hour to \$300 plus gas for a full day. Ski packages, including skis, knee boards, wake boards, ropes, and life vests, cost \$20 to \$25 per package. Mead rentals are available at Lake Mead Marina, 702-293-3484; Echo Bay, 702-394-4000; Callville Bay, 702-565-8958; Las Vegas Bay Marina, 702-565-9111; and Temple Bar Resort, 520-767-3211. Mohave rentals are available at Cottonwood Cove, 702-293-1464, and Katherine Landing, 520-754-3245. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/lame, www.sevincrown.com, or www.foreverresorts.com. Reservations are recommended.

At **Lake Tahoe**, water-skiing is a summer sport. Because the surface of the lake is 50 degrees—down around your dangling ankles it's in the 40-degree range—Tahoe water-skiers wear wet suits even in July. Hard-core skiers will tell you it's best to start early—at 6 a.m.—when the lake is glassiest. Boat traffic and winds create choppy waves later in the day.

A popular place to water-ski is around Sand Harbor, located on the lake's north shore in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. Seasonal ranger Amy Bray says boaters like the many coves and inlets where they can pull up on shore. A couple of "clothes-optional" beaches draw attention, too. "Our boat ramp gets a lot of use because we have a sheltered cove. On windy days, you can get in and out easily," she says. It costs \$6 to enter Sand Harbor and \$7 to launch a boat. Call 775-831-0494 or visit www.state.nv.us/stparks for more Sand Harbor information.

At Zephyr Cove Marina, four miles north of the Stateline casinos, powerboat rentals range from \$109 to \$139 per hour plus gas, with price breaks at four and eight hours, including one free set of skis, vest, and tow rope. Other equipment is \$25 per piece. Call the marina, 775-588-3833, to make reservations.

To rent ski boats at the north shore, try Tahoe City Marina, 530-583-1039. Goldcrest Water Ski School in Kings Beach offers lessons during July and August; call 530-546-7412. High Sierra Water Ski School, 530-525-1214, at Sunnyside also has boat and equipment rentals. At the south shore, Camp Richardson has boat and equipment rental rates that are comparable to those

found at Zephyr Cove Marina. Call Camp Richardson Marina, 530-541-1801.

Topaz Lake, on the Nevada-California border on U.S. 395, is a popular spot for water-skiing. No rentals are available, but a water-ski instructor there gives lessons. For information, call Topaz Landing, 775-266-3550.

Lahontan State Recreation Area, between Silver Springs and Fallon, is popular with water-skiers, and two boat ramps are available for launching. Fees are \$3 to enter the park and \$5 to launch a boat. However, the water level is low this year, and park rangers say the reservoir may be

closed to boating sometime during July.

The Nevada Division of State Parks also offers boat launching at **Big Bend of the Colorado** near Laughlin, **Cave Rock** at Lake Tahoe, **Rye Patch State Recreation Area** north of Lovelock, **South Fork State Recreation Area** near Elko, and, in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management, **Walker Lake State Recreation Area** near Hawthorne. Rentals are not available at these sites. For information, visit www.state.nv.us/stparks.

Joyce Hollister, Nevada's associate editor, once jumped the wakes at Lahontan.

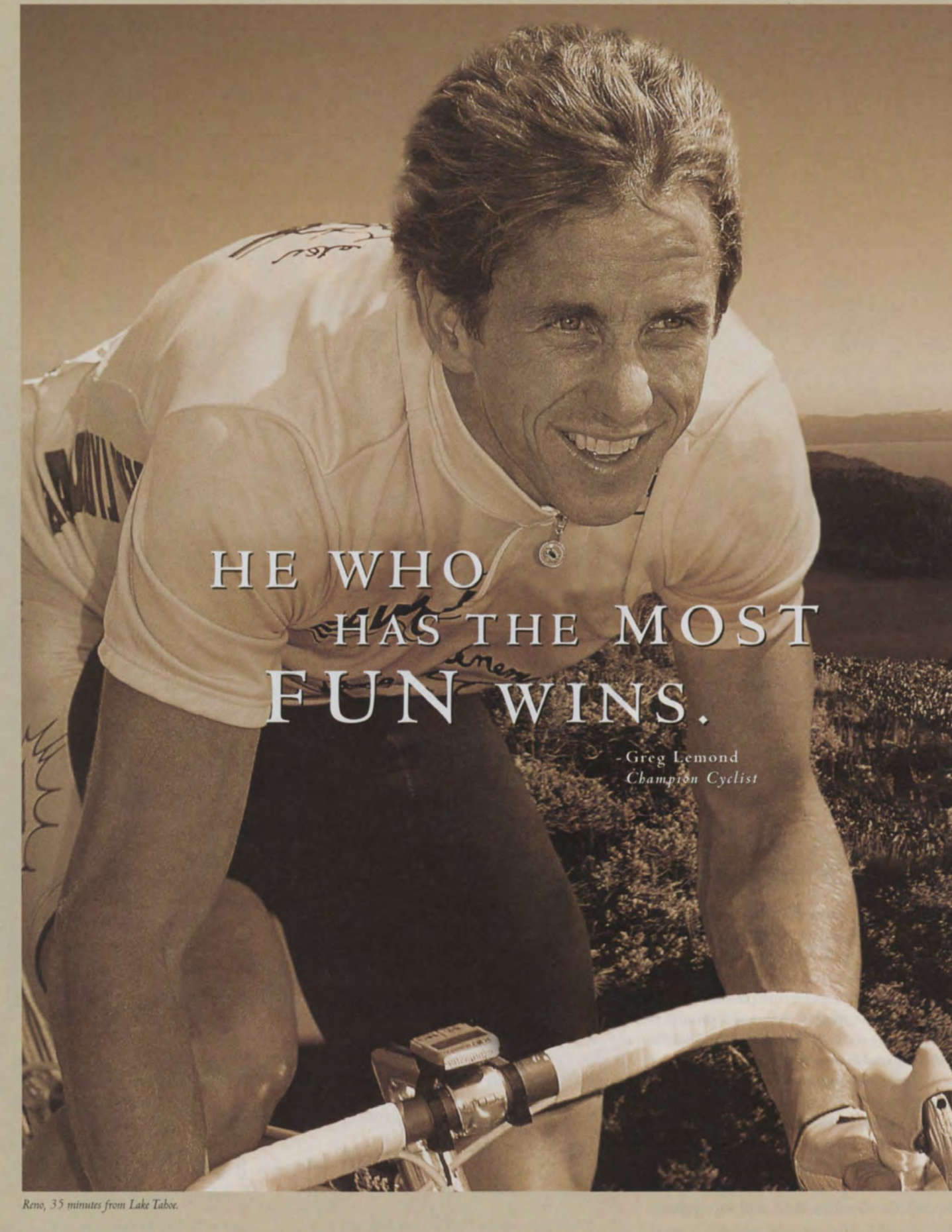
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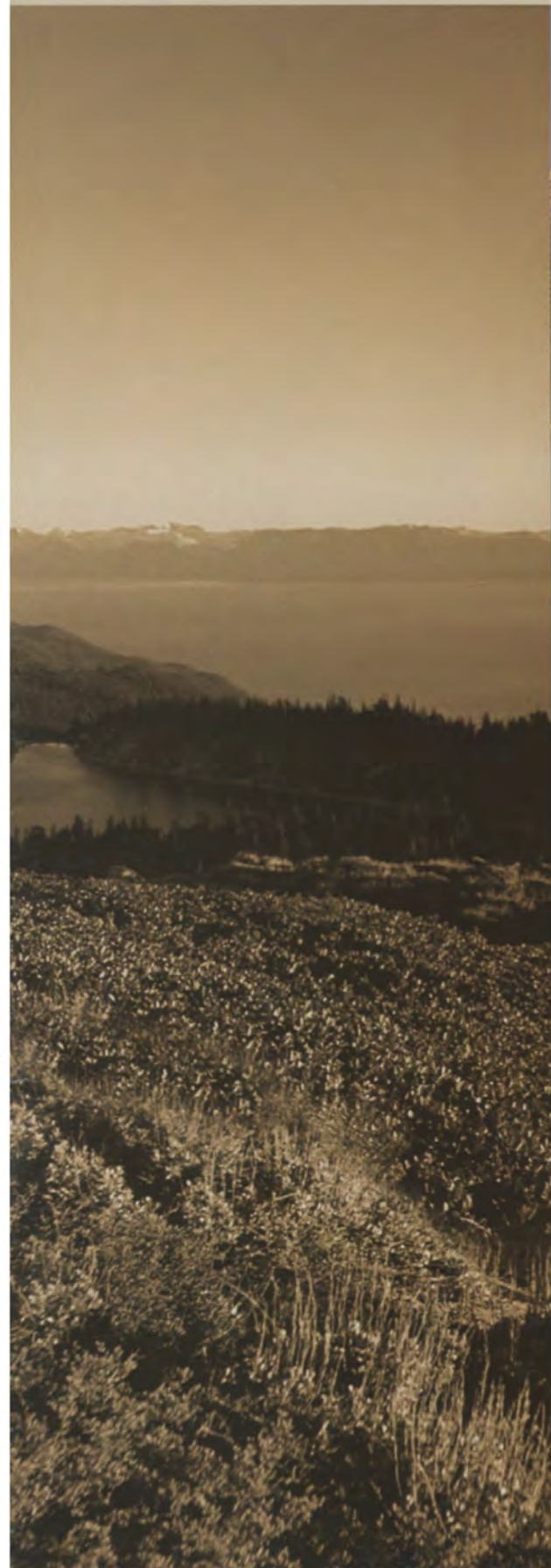
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